



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26TH MARCH 2026
Subject	WEST OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Geoff Saul, Executive Member for Housing and Social Care Email: geoff.saul@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Phil Martin, Director of Place Email: phil.martin@westoxon.gov.uk
Report author	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager Email: heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To note the activities of the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership during 2025/2026 and the latest insights around crime and the fear of crime in West Oxfordshire and the county as a whole.
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to: I. Note the report
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Putting Residents First• A Good Quality of Life for All• A Better Environment for People and Wildlife
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report sets out the context and responsibilities of the Council in relation to the Community Safety Partnership and related work. The report also sets out the priorities for 2025/26 and activity undertaken as a result by the Community Safety Partnership members over the past 12 months.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** A Community Safety Partnership is a statutory requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This places a duty on responsible authorities for a local government area to formulate and implement a strategy for:

- the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social behaviour),
- combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area,
- the reduction of re-offending in the area,
- for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area as, well as reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

- 2.2** West Oxfordshire District Council, Police, Fire and Rescue, Health Partners (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire (West) Integrated Care Board) and Probation Services are all Responsible Authorities and are collectively known as the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnerships (WOCSP) and the statutory requirements are as follows:

- The Group is ultimately responsible for preparing and implementing a Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Partnership Plan to tackle crime and disorder,
- Each of the five responsible authorities must be represented on the partnership,
- At least one of the representatives from each of the five responsible authorities must hold a senior position within their home organisation,
- Where there is an elected member responsible for community safety on the council for the district/unitary area, they must also be a member of this group.

- 2.3** In addition to the Responsible Authorities other external partners on the WOCSP are Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Adult Social Care, OCC Targeted Youth Support; Oxfordshire University Hospitals Emergency Department; Youth Justice and Exploitation Service; Cottsway Housing; Oxfordshire Modern Slavery and Exploitation Coordinator. The specialist voluntary sector is represented by Turning Point drug and alcohol service (adults) and Cranstoun Here4YOUth drug and alcohol service (young people) due to the fact that Drugs and Alcohol are a priority area for the WOCSP.

- 2.4** Duties of the Community Safety Partnership are:

- Bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities,
- Undertake a Strategic Intelligence Assessment - an annual strategic assessment is undertaken on behalf of all Community Safety Partnerships in Oxfordshire.
- Conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews - this is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person appears to have resulted from

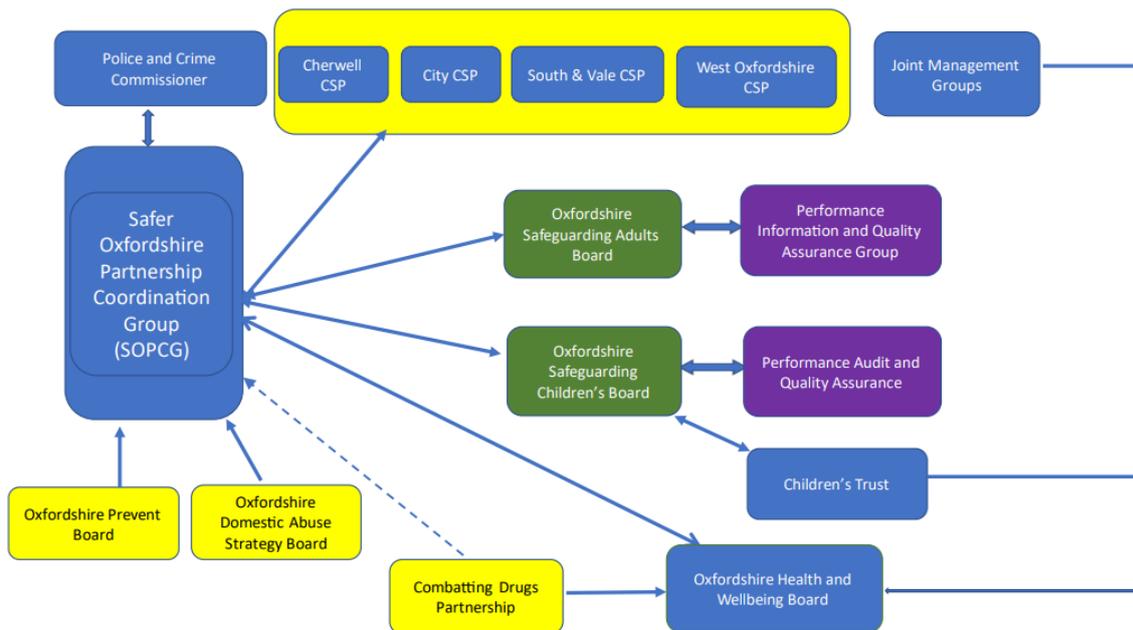
violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were or had been in an intimate personal relationship.

- Undertake Community Trigger Reviews - This allows residents to ask the Community Safety Partnership to review their responses to complaints of anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce reoffending - to protect communities from crime and to deliver a more effective and economically just system

3. SAFER OXFORDSHIRE PARTERSHIP

3.1 The Partnership provides a coordinated approach to responding to shared community safety priorities across the four-district & City level CSPs. Representation on the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership includes the county council (children’s social care, fire and rescue, public health), the district/ city councils (who chair the four CSPs), as well as the police, probation service, community rehabilitation company, prison service, Integrated Care System, and the voluntary sector. Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Coordination Group (SOPCG)’s broad membership ensures strong links between other strategic partnerships, such as the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the newly formed Combatting Drugs Partnership.

3.2



3.3 Each year the partnership produces a [Oxfordshire Strategic Needs Assessment](#) for Oxfordshire. The assessment is a snapshot of crime and community safety. It describes future threats and opportunities and helps us to understand crime and disorder issues. The assessment uses data from Thames Valley Police, the Home Office, and the Office for

National Statistics. The SNA, together with the strategic objectives of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and the priorities of the district/ city Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plans, provide the evidence base to agree our countywide priorities.

4. SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

4.1 The Serious Violence duty is set out in law under the Police, Crime and Sentencing Act (Chapter 1, Part 2) and requires authorities within a local government area to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including domestic abuse.

“Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines drug dealing”.

4.2 This is an agreed Thames Valley wide definition and Community Safety Partnerships – working together across Oxfordshire - have a responsibility to report back to the Home Office on the following crime types as part of this duty:

- Group 1: All homicide / All grievous bodily harm / All knife crime - inclusive of all ages, location types (public/private) and domestic flags.

4.3 Whilst not being reported back to the Home Office, consideration is also given to the following when reviewing the risks around serious crime in our communities:

- Group 2: All actual bodily harm / All drug supply/trafficking / All sexual assault / All rape.

4.4 The Safer Oxfordshire Partnership have developed a Violence and Vulnerability Plan on behalf of all partners and this can be viewed on the Council’s website.

5. OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (OPCC)

5.1 West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) have a duty to have regard to each other’s plans. The CSP invites a representative from the OPCC as an invited member of the Partnership and we consult with them on the formulation of the CSP plan.

5.2 Matthew Barber is the current Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, this is an elected post. The Police and Crime Plan is created and published by the Police and Crime Commissioner and outlines his priorities for the area and how he will work with partners to achieve them - <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/>

5.3 The current priorities in the Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029 are:

- Protecting Property
 - Residential burglary; Retail crime; Vehicle crime; Rural crime; Cybercrime and Fraud
- Protecting Communities
 - Crime Prevention; Neighbourhood Policing; Road Safety; Anti-social behaviour; Building confidence
- Protecting People

- Rape and sexual offences; Domestic Abuse; Night-time economy; Serious violence; Abuse and exploitation
- 5.4 The PCC provides funding to 'Alternatives to Conflict' (previously Mediation Bucks) to provide a free mediation service you can access if you are having problems with your neighbour(s) – please visit the <http://www.mediationbucks.org.uk/> website for more information.
- 5.5 The PCC chairs the Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board and is working with them to reduce re-offending and improve the experience for victims and witnesses.
- 5.6 The PCC's Retail Crime Strategy (2024) sets out to tackle business crime, particularly focussing on the retail industry in response to evidence that annually approximately 14,000 shoplifting offences are recorded across the Thames Valley. <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Retail-Crime-Strategy-PUBLICATION-VERSION-FINAL.pdf>
- 5.7 The PCC's Road Safety Strategy (2024) prioritises the areas that present the greatest risk, with the long-term objective of reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured in Thames Valley. <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Road-Safety-Strategy-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>
- 5.8 *Victims First* is managed by the OPCC. Three services operate under this umbrella. Victim Support is delivering the Thames Valley Adult Victims Service; SAFE! has been recommissioned to deliver the Thames Valley Children and Young People's Support After Crime Service for victims aged 5–18; and the Thames Valley Sexual Violence Service will be delivered by Hope After Harm (formerly Thames Valley Partnership).

6. THAMES VALLEY POLICE

- 6.1 Thames Valley Police's strategic plan sets out 4 pillars:
- Serving victims - *and always placing them at the centre of our service;*
 - Fighting crime - *focusing on preventing, disrupting, and pursuing those responsible;*
 - Building trust - *by treating everyone with fairness and respect;*
 - Valuing our people - *working hard to attract, develop, retain and support our people.*

Serving Victims	Fighting Crime	Building Trust	Valuing Our People
Increase victim satisfaction and ensure victims' needs are met	Bring more offenders to justice	Increase public trust and confidence in Thames Valley Police	Prioritise the welfare and continuous professional development of TVP officers and staff
Improve call answering times	Improve outcomes for domestic abuse and violence against women and girls offences	Prioritise local engagement through excellent neighbourhood policing	Continue the build a workforce that protects and represents Thames Valley communities
Improve incident response times	Pursue and actively manage outstanding suspects and repeat offenders	Prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities in line with the neighbourhood guarantee	Improve retention of officers and staff across TVP
Improve TVP's management and support of vulnerable individuals	Maintain low levels of knife enabled crime	Ensure transparent use of powers	Effectively manage sickness levels and ensure consistent provision of appropriate work-based support
Improve investigation quality and timeliness	Target and disrupt serious organised crime	Increase internal trust and confidence	Support operational readiness through improved use of organisational data

6.2 Between January and December 2025 Thames Valley Police reported the following data across Oxfordshire:

- All crime - decrease in offences by 2.4%
- Violence with injury; Personal robbery; Vehicle crime; Theft from a vehicle; Theft of a vehicle; Burglary and Shoplifting – showed a decrease in offences overall.
- Violence against the person; Hate Crime; Racial Hate crime and Robbery (not personal) – showed an increase in offences overall.

6.3 Through ongoing survey work TVP continues to measure the public's perceptions of police trustworthiness:

- *Perception of crime and safety* – on average, 9 in 10 residents in TVP's policing area feel safe, however 2 in 3 are still worried about crime in their local area, with anti-social behaviour, public harassment and serious violence being residents' primary concerns.
- *Perceptions of TVP* – on average, 7 in 10 residents think TVP is doing an excellent/good job, this falls to 6 in 10 among women and 4 in 10 among residents aged 55+
- *Communication and Visibility* – on average, 7 in 10 residents see police patrolling monthly or more regularly and feel very or fairly informed on TVP's local policing activities. More visible patrols, community space/event visits and social media posts are desired.
- *Emerging technology* – overall, 8 in 10 residents support Thames Valley Police using emerging technologies, with crime data to support patrolling and facial recognition technology to identify suspects being the most favoured (69% and 62% respectively).

6.4 According to the Strategic Needs Assessment 2025, West Oxfordshire had the second lowest number of valid crimes in 2024, with 4,725. The lowest was South Oxfordshire with 4,478 whilst the highest was Oxford city with 17,002. Rural Crime is reported to have reduced by 20%.

7. WEST OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES 2025/2026

7.1 The West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership has a rolling plan 2024-2027 which is informed by the Strategic Needs Assessment. Annually the CSP refresh actions to address the priorities. The priorities for the CSP rolling plan 2024-2027 are:

- Serious Violence
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Rural Acquisitive Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Fraud
- Modern Slavery
- Counter Terrorism

7.2 The members of the West Oxfordshire CSP have undertaken the following activities in 2025/2026:

- The Council along with all local authorities in Oxfordshire and the OPCC are continuing to fund the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service which includes Helpline, Outreach, Support groups and Refuge services. The Council has agreed funding will continue for a further 2 years – 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- TVP hosted the Annual Rural Crime Conference at Blenheim Palace in 2025
- TVP hosts the multi-agency Joint Agency Tasking and Coordination Group (JATAC) to tackle cases of concern around anti-social behaviour, welfare and domestic abuse at an operational level;
- The Council has been working closely with TVP in regard to the CCTV cameras and monitoring arrangements across the district. The Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of the existing cameras using an external contractor who supports TVP with the wider camera network across the region. As a result of the review all the cameras that were retained are in the process of being upgraded and additional cameras are being installed in Chipping Norton Town centre and other locations in Witney. The Council has also signed the new agreement with TVP which outlines the move to the centralization of monitoring arrangements, which will improve overall resilience and reduce operating costs.
- The Safe Places scheme continues to operate across the district to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities have somewhere safe to go for help if they are ever feeling unsafe whilst out in our towns and villages. The network has 59 members across West Oxfordshire. The venues are located in Bampton, Burford, Carterton, Chipping Norton, Witney and Woodstock. They include Shops, Café's, Hair Salons, GP Surgeries, Leisure centres, Community centres, Town Halls, Libraries, Churches, Care homes and visitor attractions e.g. Blenheim Palace, Cogges Farm and the Oxfordshire Museum.

- Three deployable CCTV cameras are now operational in Chipping Norton and Woodstock.
- The Problem Solving officer has been following up on the priority areas identified in the Environmental Visual Audits report – deploying a small amount of funding to introduce lighting at a bus stop in Brize North / Carterton. They are also responding to issues relating to acquisitive crime in the wider Chipping Norton area;
- The Council's Youth Development officer, the Violence Against Women and Girls Coordinator and a small subgroup has designed a Theatre based VAWG intervention and secured significant funding from the Council as fundraising continues;
- Four West Oxfordshire secondary schools have registered for the Chelsie's Story Theatre production, aimed at Yr 9/10's – Henry Box, Bartholomew, Carterton and Woodgreen. 25 shows are available across South, Vale, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire.
- The Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation coordinator has provided support to the team at the Asylum Hotel and Housing colleagues, along with health and social care professionals working in the district;
- Neighbourhood police teams have been attending banks when vulnerable customers present to withdraw large amounts of cash
- Domestic Abuse commissioned training continues to be delivered to anyone working in Oxfordshire (Including Champions training). Training for community members is also being hosted at Leisure centres in Carterton and Witney on 11th March.
- TVP host Serious Organised Crime meetings monthly – attended by numerous CSP partners;
- Much stronger relationships between TVP and the Young Farmers, National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) have been developed following the Rural Crime project and work by the Rural Crime Task Force at TVP.
- Sexual safety charter for GP's, pharmacy, opticians and dentists has been launched by the BOB ICB and promoted in West Oxfordshire.
- Cottsway Housing are providing a Domestic Abuse Safety Officer (DASO) to victims of convicted perpetrators;
- WODC Housing team has commissioned the Sanctuary scheme to undertake activity to make the home environment safer for those at risk of abuse. They have also provided repeat victims of crime and high-risk victims of stalking and domestic abuse with tailored support around safety planning and target hardening;
- TVP has sent Domestic Abuse awareness packs to Slimming World groups and have reached out to WI groups in rural areas;
- Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue teams undertaking Safe and Well visits have been trained to look out for a range of vulnerabilities – including Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery and Exploitation;

- Mandatory Prevent training is in place for all practitioners working across Oxfordshire including Council staff. Specialist Counter Terrorism practitioners can support with case management. The Council has produced a booklet for Councillors.
- A new network/working group of providers of social housing has been established to focus on topics relevant to the CSP and Housing – for example Anti-Social Behaviour
- The Council supported TVP with a public space protection order under anti-social behaviour crime and policing act 2014
- A new Youth Partnership has been established in West Oxfordshire. Identification of available services has taken place. More opportunities for young people are being developed and delivered in West Oxfordshire.

8. ACTIVITIES AND INTERVENTIONS FUNDED IN OXFORDSHIRE AND THE REGION IN 2025/26

8.1 The Community Safety Partnership Fund provided by the OPCC supports a wide range of county-wide and district-based initiatives across Oxfordshire. The county-wide programmes serving West Oxfordshire for 2025-2027 are:

- Violence Against Women and Girls Coordinator
- Modern Slavery Coordinator hosted by Oxford City Council,
- Problem Solving Officer hosted by Oxford City Council,
- Nightsafe Manager hosted by Oxford City Council.
- STRIVE (trauma informed support to young people identified as at risk of serious violence, exploitation, and offending)
- Drug Diversion programme (a treatment-based response to possession-only offences by children)
- Turnaround Project (MOJ) programme for young people in contact with the Police in past 3 months / those at risk of becoming full time entrants to the Criminal Justice system)
- Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Champions Network (25/26 only)
- Chelseas Choice – school workshops to cover Oxfordshire
- Restorative Justice project with Youth Justice
- PC Ben – book circulated to schools across Oxfordshire

8.2 The fund is distributed through Oxfordshire County Council. Community Safety officer leads from all Councils are involved in the decision making around which projects receive funding. Projects are delivered through partners including local authorities, Public health teams, youth justice services, and voluntary sector organisations, with several core posts and programmes serving the whole of Oxfordshire including West Oxfordshire. In 2025/26 and 2026/27 the total fund available to Oxfordshire is £804,385.

8.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed that the fund faces significant financial pressure in 2027/28 following the Police Funding Settlement, with the Home Office grant being almost £9 million lower than previously anticipated. Whilst it had been expected that a further sum of £804,385 would be available in 2027/28, Oxfordshire partners are now working on a likely reduction of 40% and reviewing all potential projects accordingly. Some funding will be set aside to cover the costs of running Domestic Homicide Reviews.

9. LOOKING AHEAD – 2026 ONWARDS

9.1 The activities of the Community Safety Partnership will continue to be informed by the [Oxfordshire Strategic Needs Assessment](#) which captures data reflecting the whole of Oxfordshire. In addition, the insights and real time intelligence coming forward from partners including Thames Valles Valley Police will ensure that we can adjust our approach as necessary throughout the year.

9.2 The Partnership is entering Year 3 of a rolling plan and whilst the priorities set out in 7.1 remain the same, we will adjust our resources to focus on some priorities more than others, where we receive intelligence that this is a greater priority at the time.

9.3 It is expected that of the 8 priorities the CSP will pay particular attention in the year ahead to Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, Anti social behaviour and the support of vulnerable groups and young people.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

10.1 (This section must be completed and include details of why identified alternative options are not preferred.)

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

13.1 There are no risks identified in this report.

14. EQUALITIES IMPACT

14.1 As this report is for noting there are no negative equalities impacts resulting from this report.

15. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

15.1 This report is exempt from a SIA following review by the climate team for the following reason:

- The decision involves noting activities of an external partnership with limited council control.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None