

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE & ANNUAL PLAN 2017-18

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Members with information about current crime levels, a summary of activity on the delivery of the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP¹) Plan in 2016/17, and an update on some of the recent and future changes taking place in connection with community safety.

2 Recommendations/for decision

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| 2.1 That Members note the content of the report |
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3 Executive summary (if longer than 2 pages)

- 3.1 Total recorded crime in 2016/17 is currently showing an increase of 4.4% (286 crimes, year to date) compared to the same period in 2015/16. An increase was anticipated due to the changes in Home Office crime recording practice in April 2015 and the fact that crime rates had been generally falling year on year to relatively low levels.
- 3.2 The report provides information about activities completed to date from the AVCSP 2016/17 action plan such as the Purple Flag² Renewal and work to roll out the "Chelsea's Choice" drama, as well as forthcoming activities.
- 3.3 The AVCSP is currently developing the new Strategy for 2017-20 and the Annual Plan for 2017/18. A Strategic Assessment identifies priorities for the partnership based on the crime and disorder risks, and a public consultation has also helped inform us of residents' priorities.
- 3.4 This report provides an update on use of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) legislation, as well as updates on new initiatives around community-based solutions to ASB.
- 3.5 CCTV continues to be a valuable tool in the reduction and detection of crime and disorder. The final outcome of the ongoing Thames Valley Police review is awaited.
- 3.6 A number of new duties were implemented during 2015 which are Community Safety related, such as the Prevent duty and the duty to report Modern Day Slavery.

4 Supporting information

- 4.1 Crime has generally been falling in the Vale for the last few years and the Community Safety Partnership did not set numerical targets in the 2016/17 plan as it was felt unlikely that crime would continue to fall. This has been borne out. From 1st April 2016 to the end of December 2016 overall crime has increased by 4.4% compared to the same period last year. A breakdown showing the changes in different types of crime is provided below. Due to the changes in recording practice a new norm is being established. In order to

¹ The Partnership Plan is drawn up by the AVCSP, which is made up of Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Thames Valley Probation, Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group

² For information about Purple Flag visit https://www.atcm.org/programmes/purple_flag/WelcometoPurpleFlag

provide some context, the table below also shows the percentage change for the same categories, over the same time period, for the Thames Valley area.

- 4.2 In April 2015, the Home Office changed the way that Police forces in England and Wales record crime. This was predicted to most likely increase crime levels, in particular those of Violent Crime. The Strategic Assessment highlighted an increase in reporting of violent crime involving young people outside of school hours.
- 4.3 A series of burglaries to homes and outbuildings, especially focussed along the eastern and northern borders of the Vale, accounted for an increase in this particular crime type. At the time of writing, a considerable amount of work in partnership with police, AVDC Planning, and others, has led to the disruption of a number of Organised Crime Groups who are suspected of being responsible. This has brought the rate of incidents down considerably.
- 4.4 Whilst Racially and Religiously Aggravated offences are down overall, offences relating to religion have seen a small increase. This increase was not necessarily due to the Brexit vote, as incidents of Hate Crime increased by only two reports in the month following the referendum. It is recognised that Hate Crime is, however, still significantly under-reported. Homophobic crime is also greatly under reported so increases in this type of crime could be interpreted as being a positive indication of increasing confidence in victims.

Crime Type	Crime figures ³ (ytd April – Dec 2016) Aylesbury Vale	% change compared with 2014/15 Aylesbury Vale	% change in crime figures across Thames Valley
All Crime (excluding fraud)	6804 (up 286)	4.4% increase	6.4% increase
Violent Crime	1685 (up 143)	9.3% increase	7.9% increase
Robbery	35 (up 5)	12.9% increase	4.8% increase
Burglary (homes)	273 (up 83)	43.7% increase	10.3% increase
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Crime	46 (down 18)	28% reduction	2.6% reduction
Homophobic crime	15 (up 2)	15% increase	0.9% reduction
Vehicle Crime	700 (down 9)	1.3% reduction	9.6% increase

³ Year to date figures supplied by Thames Valley Police, sourced 9th March 2017.

5 **Update On The Community Safety Plan 2016/17**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP) to produce a three year partnership strategy and annual action plans to achieve the priorities set in the strategy. The draft strategy (2017-2020) has two key priorities:

- **Supporting communities and town centres to become safer, more resilient and cohesive places to live and work.**
- **Work closer in partnership to cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.**

- 5.1 The Annual Plan for 2017/18 is in draft form, to be ratified at the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group on Thursday the 30th March 2017. It will be published at:

<http://www.aylesburyvalecd.gov.uk/section/communitysafety-partnership-news-and-events>

Aylesbury town centre has held Purple Flag status since 2010. This award recognises the partnership working together to make town centres safer places for visitors and residents. The Community Safety Team have assisted in the submission of our annual renewal application. This led to the successful outcome of Aylesbury town centre being accredited Purple flag status in December 2016.

The Community Safety Team continue to take key roles in the CSE Awareness Raising sub-group, to the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board, as well as playing a partnership role on the county-wide substance misuse action groups. These are identifying tactical and operational activities to reduce the supply, prevent misuse and protect vulnerable individuals from drugs and alcohol misuse.

Community Safety officers have supported Thames Valley Police in crime reduction and engagement events throughout the Vale, especially in the rural areas, offering advice on keeping homes safe and offering tool and other property marking equipment.

National campaigns in relation to security and personal safety have been supported and social media employed to focus messages on key demographics, for example the "White Ribbon" campaign aimed at the reduction of male violence against women and girls.

6 **Examples of upcoming projects/initiatives for 2017/18 include:**

In the light of review and restructure in our key partner agencies there is increasing need to work ever more closely. Whilst resources are shrinking, the responsible authorities identified within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 should not be seen to be retreating; instead, identifying innovative ways to tackle Crime and Disorder and supporting our communities to be more resilient. Within AVDC, Community Safety has been highlighted as a priority by our partners and residents and so the CSP has undertaken a review of its membership and adopted a problem-solving, demand reduction operating model. The Strategy and Annual Plan has been designed to introduce tangible actions to employ these key principles, focusing on early intervention and prevention of crime and disorder, whilst empowering communities to be

more resilient. Emergency Planning and Resilience have now been aligned with the Community Safety sector within AVDC.

The Community Safety discipline will continue to focus activity on acquisitive crimes, such as burglary to homes, and supporting a multi-agency approach to raise awareness of home and personal security.

At the same time, partners will work together to tackle some of the highest priority crimes, such as organised drug dealing gangs who exploit the vulnerable by employing the “County Lines”⁴ model. Initiatives such as the Vulnerable Tenancy Group will seek to support those at risk of losing their homes through being exploited by criminal gangs. We will work together with organisations, including the Institute Of Community Safety, to gain a greater understanding of the landscape of organised crime and gang activity in the Vale. This will support our work with the police to disrupt and dismantle such organisations.

Anti-Social Behaviour, along with crime is often the symptom of complex issues within families and communities. We will be working with the Police Crime Commissioner, housing providers and the police on a project to support communities to address ASB issues and to aid their resolution, using Community Based Resolution . This voluntary method of intervention has been highly successful in other areas of the country and it is hoped that this pilot will replicate the success within the Vale. Alongside this initiative the Community Safety Team are reviewing AVDC’s ASB policy, along with those of our partner housing providers to ensure effective and efficient interventions are in place to deal with those residents that display less social responsibility.

7 Annual plan 2017/18

7.1 The new Community Safety Annual Plan for 2017/18 has been drafted . The recent strategic assessment⁵ (2014-2015) identified that the two priorities of the current strategy are still valid. A summary of key points around these areas are:

(i) Violent crime accounts for 24.8% of all reported crime in Aylesbury Vale. An increase of 9.3% on the previous year. Some of this is related to the night time economy which is referenced in point two below. A proportion of this relates to younger victims outside of school hours. Further analytical work will take place to provide the partnership with more information around violent crime, such as high risk locations, times or dates.

(ii) 5% of all crime in Buckinghamshire takes place in Aylesbury town centre. The most frequent crime being public order followed by shoplifting and violence. The majority of offenders in the Night Time Economy being male between the age of 18-24.

(iii) Other areas of crime include CSE, “County Lines” model of drug dealing and other forms of exploitation such as Modern Day Slavery. Work is continuing to help the partnership understand the scale of these crimes in the Vale, and across Buckinghamshire. Whilst the number of victims of these

⁴ County Lines typically involves an urban criminal gang travelling to smaller locations to sell heroin and crack cocaine. The group will use a single telephone number for customers ordering drugs, operated from outside the area, which becomes their ‘brand’.

⁵ CSP’s have a duty to conduct annual reviews of crime, known as strategic assessments, to help identify priorities for action.

types of offences is low, they have a high impact on the victims and the local community.

- 7.3 Each year the AVCSP consults with residents about the priorities for the new action plan. We also ask people to tell us how safe they feel in their neighbourhood, town centre or place of work, how informed they feel about the emerging areas of crime and where they would seek information. The results of this year's survey will help to shape the activities and awareness raising campaigns during 2017/18.

8 Update on the Antisocial Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014.

- 8.1 Reducing ASB incidents is one of the AVCSP's objectives. From 1st April 2016 to end of February 2017 incidents of ASB have decreased by 18%, overall.
- 8.2 A partnership approach continues to be taken towards tackling ASB. A co-located team working from AVDC offices or Aylesbury police station is staffed by the AVDC ASB Officer and a police constable. They work with partners, giving tactical advice to neighbourhood police teams, local housing providers and other partners to deal with incidents of ASB. Through the multi-agency Tactical Advisory Group, priority cases are discussed and recommendations made around utilising ASB powers as well as lower level sanctions to disrupt ASB activity. In 2016/17 there were three requests for a review of ASB cases where the applicant considered that no action was being taken (otherwise known as the Community Trigger). These resulted in recommendations being made and the relevant grievances being resolved.

9 Other information

- 9.1 Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) were appointed following the first Police Crime Commissioner elections and in Thames Valley the panel consists of one councillor from each local authority area. The Panel is independent of the office of the PCC and oversees the work of the PCC. The AVDC Member who sits on the Panel is Cllr Mrs Angela Macpherson.

Its role includes:

- reviewing the PCC's proposals for the amount of council tax local people pay towards policing. It has the power to veto these proposals if it considers the amount is inappropriate
- considering the PCC's Police and Crime plan and annual report
- considering the PCC's proposals for the appointment of a new Chief Constable, with the power to veto
- Investigating complaints about the PCC

- 9.2 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, including local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Statutory guidance has been published regarding the duty and how it relates to different sectors and institutions. One of the key issues is effective partnership working and co-operation, and this takes place locally through the AVCSP and the countywide Safer and Stronger Partnership Board. All members of the CSP are represented at the Bucks Prevent

Network meetings where actions from the county Prevent Action Plan are discussed and implemented. The Workshop to Raise Awareness about PREVENT (WRAP) has been rolled out to AVDC staff. 40% of all AVDC staff are now WRAP trained (over 90% of all frontline staff and managers covered). The training programme continues.

10 Resource Implications

- 10.1 In the unfortunate event of a Homicide resulting from Domestic Violence it falls to the CSP for the area, and ultimately the District Authority to commission a Domestic Homicide Review. This requires engagement of a suitably accredited independent chair and typically attracts an average cost of £5,000. This authority currently has one review open, with a second potentially identified. This raises questions around the sustainability around single-agency funding for such work.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

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AVCSP Annual Plan 2016/17 AVCSP Strategy 2017-20
& Annual Plan 2017/18