



AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Democratic Services

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28 March 2019

CABINET

A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held at **6.30 pm** on **Tuesday 9 April 2019** in **The Olympic Room - Aylesbury Vale District Council**, when your attendance is requested.

NOTE: There will be an informal session starting at 6.15 pm to give Members the opportunity to comment on issues on the Agenda. The press and public may attend as observers.

Membership: Councillors: A Macpherson (Leader), S Bowles (Deputy Leader), P Irwin, H Mordue, C Paternoster, Sir Beville Stanier Bt, P Strachan, J Ward and M Winn

Contact Officer for meeting arrangements: Bill Ashton; bashton@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk;

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March, 2019, copy attached as an appendix.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE AND ANNUAL PLAN (Pages 5 - 38)

Councillor Winn
Cabinet Member for Communities

To consider the attached report.

Contact Officer: Chris Oliver (01296) 585005

5. SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT (Pages 39 - 52)

Councillor Winn
Cabinet Member for Communities

To consider the attached report.

Contact Officer: Chris Oliver (01296) 585005

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CABINET

12 MARCH 2019

PRESENT: Councillor A Macpherson (Leader); Councillors P Irwin, C Paternoster, Sir Beville Stanier Bt and M Winn. Councillor Stuchbury attended also.

APOLOGIES: Councillors S Bowles, H Mordue, P Strachan and J Ward.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of 12 February, 2019, be approved as a correct record.

2. NEW HOMES BONUS - MICRO GRANTS UPDATE

Members recalled that in June, 2017, approval had been given to the introduction of a micro grant scheme to run alongside the already established New Homes Bonus (NHB) project grants scheme. The micro grant scheme helped to mitigate the loss of the Aylesbury Vale Community Chest funding and also increase access to the NHB initiative to all Parishes, not just those larger Parishes taking growth. Micro grants also enabled voluntary and community organisations to apply for funding where the relevant Parish supported the proposal. Up to £1,000 per project was currently available for a variety of projects, including village hall refurbishment and the purchase of new equipment.

The applications were assessed by the Council's Grants Officer and the level of funding was determined by a scoring system. The Grants Officer's recommendations were sent to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and a nominated representative from the Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils for confirmation. The budget for the micro grants scheme was met from the existing 20% NHB allocation set aside for Town and Parish Councils, which equated to £80,000 pa in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Cabinet received a schedule detailing the 60 grants made so far via the scheme. Monitoring feedback had demonstrated that the funding was appreciated by the smaller Parishes and voluntary/community associations. The number of applications received was comparable to those received under the Community Chest scheme. The micro grants scheme was however under-subscribed and would be topped back up to £80,000 with effect from 1 April, 2019. It was suggested and agreed by Cabinet that the maximum grant should be increased from £1,000 to up to £2000 and accordingly it was,

RESOLVED –

That approval be given to an increase in the maximum New Homes Bonus micro grant from £1,000 to up to £,2000.

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Cabinet
9 April 2019

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE AND ANNUAL PLAN

Councillor M Winn

Cabinet Member for Communities

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To enable Cabinet to consider a summary of activity on the delivery of the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership Plan 2018/19 and to receive an update on some of the recent and future changes taking place in connection with community safety.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members thank the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee for its input and note the content of the report (attached as an Appendix to this report).

3. Supporting Information

- 3.1 Attached is a copy of a report considered by the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 March, 2019. This gives details of recorded crime levels during the past year and provides information about activities completed to date from the AVCSP Action Plan, including on drugs exploitation, thefts from vans and prevention of burglary to homes. The report also provides an update on the use of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) legislation to deter offending that impacts upon communities.

- 3.2 Overall, the Scrutiny Committee was supportive of the Plan and the proposed content. The Committee commented generally as follows:-

- A coordinated approach to tackling aggressive begging in Aylesbury Town Centre was considered a useful allocation of resources as it could identify those that genuinely needed help and could be assisted through the Rough Sleeper Initiative.
- It was appreciated that modern slavery would be covered in the Policy Statement referred to elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda.
- It was noted that the current terror threat was severe nationally and had been consistently for the last 3 to 4 years, with some fluctuation up to critical, and that there was a protocol in place for Council premises. The Committee was advised that further assessments of risk were on-going.

4. Options Considered/Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 To keep Cabinet up to date with community safety activity.

4. Resource Implications

These are set out in the Scrutiny Committee report.

Contact Officer: Chris Oliver (01296) 585005.

Background documents: These are listed in the attached report.

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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 2018/19, and an update on some of the recent and future changes taking place in connection with community safety.

2 Recommendations

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| 2.1 That Members note the content of the report and comment as to what they might like to see included or amended in the refreshed 2019/20 plan. |
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3 Executive summary

- 3.1 Total recorded crime for the year to date, is currently showing an increase of 3%. This equates to an increase of 318 crimes, as compared with the same period 2017/18. This increase was anticipated in line with national trends.
- 3.2 The report provides information about activities completed to date from the AVCSP 2018/19 action plan such as work around drugs exploitation, thefts from vans and prevention of Burglary to homes.
- 3.3 This report provides an update on use of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) legislation to deter offending that impacts on communities.

4 Supporting information

An upward trend in all crime has now been seen for the second year running, in particular Violent Crime. This has attracted national media interest and recent homicides amongst younger people involving knives, mainly in the London area, have prompted debate on police resourcing and cuts in Local Authority spending. Fortunately, the incidence of knife crime in the Vale of Aylesbury remains low. However, exploitation of young people into dealing and handling of illegal drugs remains a concern.

- 4.1 Domestic homicide has seen an increase of one offence compared to the previous year. The onus is on the Community Safety Partnership to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) into the circumstances and journey of the deceased prior to their death. The review process, under an independent chair, seeks to establish whether there was sufficient access to services and relevant support offered that might have prevented the death of an individual. The aim of each review is to identify lessons that can be learned by the supporting agencies and to make meaningful recommendations for improvement, where appropriate. The process is overseen by the Home Office and lessons learned collated and shared across the partnership. The executive summary of the review reports are published on the AVDC website. The costs and administration fall to the district council, although some funding

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, National Probation Service, Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group, VAHT and HMYOI, Aylesbury. * Figures to be updated at end of year.

has been secured through the Police Crime Commissioner's annual Community Safety Grant. AVCSP currently has three DHRs underway, with a fourth set to conclude and report finally to the Home Office. The administration of this process has occupied a considerable amount of officer time and the number of concurrent reviews is unprecedented locally. This has had some effect on the Community Safety Plan and has, understandably taken priority, at times.

- 4.2 Partnership working with the police and AVDC continues to focus on organised crime and Operation Stronghold, a Thames Valley Police initiative, is supported by a range of partners including AVDC and the Community Safety Partnership. Burglary to homes and thefts from work vans are often products of organised crime groups and considerable focus has been put into reducing such offences. The seizure of two containers full of stolen power tools made a huge impact and led to a temporary reduction in this crime type. AVDC Community Safety officers support community engagement and crime reduction events in both urban and rural areas and assisted in returning stolen tools at an event arranged by police partners. Engagement and crime reduction events, in particular those held around the daylight saving changes to the clocks has augmented the intelligence led enforcement activity by police and to keep Burglary rates lower than seen in neighbouring areas and forces. Modern Slavery remains a focus and the joint initiative named Hotel Watch has proven successful in raising awareness amongst staff and managers in premises that may be used to commit exploitative crimes against young people.
- 4.3 Hate Crime continues to be a focus and the new Interfaith Network is developing in strength. The Inter-Faith breakfast hosted at The Gateway will see a gathering of representatives of nearly all the recognised religions in Aylesbury, Buckingham and surrounding villages. Hate Crime continues to be a major consideration of this group, going forward. The Independent Advisory Group is a Thames Valley Police meeting that provides an interface between the local Area Commander and the Vale's community. An average attendance of 20 or so invited members of the public act as "critical friend" to the police, feeding back on such issues as Hate Crime and Stop & Search.

Crime Type (TVP priorities)	Crime figures (year to date, as of 12.3.19)	% change compared with 2017/18
All Crime (excluding fraud)	Up 318 offences	3% Increase
Violent Crime with Injury	Up 45 offences	4% Increase
Burglary (homes)	Down 20 offences	6% Decrease
Domestic Violence	Up 58 offences	20%
Anti-Social Behaviour	Down	% Reduction

Please note – these figures will be updated at end of year.

5 Update On The Community Safety Plan 2018/19

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 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 2019/20 is in draft form, the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group has reviewed and agreed its priorities. It will be published at: <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/communitysafety-partnership-news-and-events>

5.2 Purple Flag

Renewal of the Purple Flag Award was featured in the 18/19 plan. Having held the Purple Flag Award in Aylesbury town centre since 2010 though, a review has been conducted as to its effectiveness. The award recognises how the partnership currently works together to make town centres safer places for visitors and residents. Following the submission of a new full application and consequent assessment evening on the 6th April, where Aylesbury partners showcased the town centre evening and night-time economy as a safe and vibrant environment, commensurate with a town of its size; a decision was made not to renew. This was based on the following concerns:

- The cost in terms of officer time and financial outlay did not match the benefits perceived to have been gained by holding the Purple Flag status.
- The award does not attract sufficient national marketing from the awarding body (ATCM – Association of Town Centre Management).
- That during street surveys held in Aylesbury the general public seemed unaware of its existence and purpose; despite local marketing and signposting.

The “Night Moves” group will continue its focus on making Aylesbury Town Centre safer, to the same standard that achieved the award, as before. The group will decide actions to reduce crime and disorder in the night-time economy. It will link in with other groups such as the proposed stakeholder group around “Aggressive begging” (see below).

5.3 Criminal Drugs Exploitation

Following the previous Locality Review which was focussed on “County Lines” drugs exploitation, and carried out by the Violence and Vulnerable Exploitation Unit in the previous year’s plan, governance recommendations have been adopted and the partnership now represents on a county-wide tactical Serious Violence Group. This is a sub-group of the Safer & Stronger

Bucks Partnership Board and will take forward elements of the government and Thames Valley Police Serious Violence Strategies, with a strong focus on Criminal Drugs Exploitation and County Lines. This tactical group will draw up plans to tackle the issues identified within the Vale of Aylesbury as part of a wider Bucks initiative. The joint agency Vulnerable Tenancy Group, which takes cognisance of those individuals exploited in their homes for the purposes of drugs supply, was held up as good practice within the review's report and remains in place locally for the Vale.

National and regional campaigns in relation to security and personal safety have been supported and social media employed to focus messages on key demographics, for example the "Hidden Harm" campaign aimed at raising awareness of Modern Slavery, Online Child Abuse, Honour Based Abuse. Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime.

5.4 Other Partnership Activity

The AVDC Community Safety Team continue to take key roles at a strategic level in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery/exploitation, Cyber Crime and the county-wide substance misuse strategy groups; along with other partners within the CSP. This interaction informs CSP actions in the annual plan. Housing and Community Safety Officers from AVDC have supported a number of Modern Slavery police operations to safeguard suspected victims of Modern Slavery in the Vale and neighbouring CSP areas. One major operation utilised a Reception Centre identified from AVDC's Emergency Plan.

Crime reduction and engagement events have been carried out across the Vale, especially in the rural areas, offering home safety and tool marking advice. Bucks Fire and Rescue Service continue to provide crime reduction advice as part of their events and Home Safety checks.

5.5 Emergency Planning & Community Resilience

Emergency Planning and Resilience, are aligned with the Community Safety sector in AVDC. This year, training of Senior Managers has been conducted by the national Emergency Planning College in their roles around Integrated Emergency Management. The emergency plan, and AVDC's response in partnership with the wider Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum, was tested on two occasions this year. The first being as part of a regional and national exercise, Evolving Formula, where officers attended and played their roles at both tactical and strategic levels; at Upper Heyford and Kidlington respectively. The second table-top exercise sought to put Incident Managers and Crisis Management Team officers through their paces in an adverse weather scenario. The exercise was supported by partners in Bucks County Council, Milton Keynes Council and the Met Office; as well as a retired Police officer from Thames Valley Police. The temporary Community Safety and Emergency Planning Support Officer post has been made permanent to ensure AVDC meets its commitments under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, and to the wider Thames Valley Resilience Forum. Work streams now include HS2 and EU Exit contingencies, which are emerging as priority areas, going forward.

6 Examples of upcoming projects/initiatives for 2019/20 include:

A problem-solving, demand reduction approach involving as wider partnership as possible will continue to be “business as usual” in tackling crime and disorder, whilst empowering communities to be more resilient. The Community Safety Partnership will continue to focus activity on acquisitive crimes, such as burglary to homes, and supports a multi-agency approach to raise awareness of home and personal security. Partners will continue to tackle some of the highest priority crimes, such as Domestic Violence.

6.1 **Aggressive Begging**

A co-ordinated approach to the issue of “Aggressive Begging” in Aylesbury town centre will explore ways in which those engaging in such activity can be deterred and diverted to more positive behaviours. A stakeholder group is to be formed to agree an action plan. This will ensure that those genuinely homeless receive full support, under the Rough Sleeper Initiative, whilst those engaging wilfully in anti-social activity are held to account. The raising of public awareness of alternative giving methods will form part of this work. Scoping work is underway to assess the current impact.

6.2 **Criminal Drugs Exploitation – Youth Project**

The original youth project involving Youth Concern, Thames Valley Police and AVDC aimed at vulnerable young people who are in danger of being trapped into County Lines and other criminal activity delivered sessions promoting social cohesion. Participants also discussed subjects such as the practice of Stop and Search by the police. This initial engagement has now been developed into a larger project which will focus on mentoring young people who are engaged in, or on the cusp of involvement in criminal activity. Interventions supported by a wider partnership have been planned to encourage a motivation to learn basic work skills and to engage in positive activities that will steer them towards healthier choices. This project will be a pilot for six months and has attracted joint funding from partners, such as Bucks Learning Trust. Other partners including Thames Valley Police and the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust have shown interest in supporting the initiative.

7 **Annual plan 2019/20**

7.1 Due to resourcing issues Aylesbury Vale CSP was unable to secure a bespoke Strategic Assessment this year. There is currently a recruitment process underway to secure a jointly funded partnership analyst. Crime data supplied by Thames Valley Police and the annual public consultation exercise has assisted in identifying priorities for the new Community Safety Annual Plan for 2019/20.

(i) Violent crime has seen increases across the UK and this is reflected in the Aylesbury Vale. This is similar to the rise in the previous year. A new crime reduction analyst post, jointly funded by partners, has been created to carry out further analytical work to provide the partnership with more information around violent crime, such as high-risk locations, victims and offenders. AVDC will employ the analyst on a fixed-term who will be hosted at the police station in Aylesbury, to facilitate access to crime recording data.

ii) Each year the AVCSP circulates a consultation survey to residents, members and partners about the priorities for the refreshed action plan. People are asked to tell us how safe they feel in the Aylesbury Vale, how

informed they feel about the emerging areas of crime and where they would seek information. The results of the survey will help to shape the activities and awareness raising campaigns during the 2019/20 plan. This year saw record returns with 752 responses, compared with 425 the previous year – a 56% increase. The channels for response were:

Newsletter - 58
 Connect - 22
 Partner Emails - 134
 Social Media - 538

This year respondents were asked how safe they feel in Aylesbury Vale on a scale of 1 (completely unsafe) to 3 (completely safe). 26.46% reported feeling completely safe, 63.30% neither safe or unsafe, with 10.24% saying they felt completely unsafe. A free text box was provided for comments as to the reason respondents felt safe or unsafe. Comments varied from poor street lighting, to speeding and lack of police visibility. It remains a strategic priority to build community resilience, helping people to prevent themselves from becoming victims. When asked “Do you know how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of crime” 38.96% responded –Yes. Only 5% felt they did not know how to prevent themselves from becoming victims. Respondents were asked to say which three crime types from a menu of 10 choices they think the CSP should prioritise in their 2019/20 action plan. The results were as follows:

Cyber Crime	13.30%
Child Exploitation	47.24%
Domestic abuse	18.39%
Adult Exploitation	10.61%
Violent Crime	60.68%
Hate Crime	7.92%
Burglary	41.44%
Vehicle Crime	16.69%
Drug Crime	40.74%
Anti-Social Behaviour	39.46%

(iii) Serious Violent Crime has become a national priority. The organised supply of controlled drugs adopting the “County Lines” model involves the exploitation of children, some as young as nine years in some areas. Often violence is used as a form of intimidation and recent isolated incidents have shown that the Vale of Aylesbury is not immune. The 2019/20 plan will reflect the priority placed on this, the CSP working as a partner on the Serious Violence sub-group that will sit directly under the Safer & Stronger Partnership Board. This will provide effective governance to work carried out across Buckinghamshire and respond tactically to pervading and emerging issues. The Crime Reduction Analyst post will be crucial to focusing work on priority areas identified.

AVCSP has worked closely with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner and other CSPs across the Thames Valley Police area to support the successful bid to the Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF) raised by the Home Office. The initial cap was 700k but due to the strength of the bid, the full amount of the original application for 822k has been secured. The Thames Valley-wide bid was selected from 106 others, including 10 from the

London area. This money will support identified projects including mentoring and intervention programmes within schools, aimed at helping children make better choices.

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

- 8.1 Due to re-structuring, Thames Valley Police no longer has a designated Anti-Social Behaviour officer for the Aylesbury police area. The decision to delete the post was queried by the lead member for Communities with the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police but his position remained unchanged. The previous incumbent before that role was deleted came up to retirement and has now been recruited by AVDC. He replaces AVDC's ASB Officer who has moved on to another position within the authority. The police retain a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Anti-social behaviour and have provided enhanced training for all officers likely to deal with such matters.

A new Anti-social behaviour policy outlining the response of AVDC to ASB contacts has been drafted and passed through both Scrutiny and Cabinet.

- 8.2 Reducing ASB incidents is one of the AVDC's key objectives. There has been a general decrease in reported incidents of Anti-Social behaviour in most areas across the Vale, compared to previous years. Some of the partnership activity contributing to this includes problem-solving activity around open spaces, such as Edinburgh playing fields, use of closure orders as a tool in tackling County Lines drug dealing; and as a tactic in tackling the persistent anti-social behaviour of a family in Bedgrove.
- 8.3 Consideration going forward is around strengthening the position of AVDC as an active partner in ASB processes and ensuring residents receive appropriate support in the event that they become a victim. Work continues through the Tactical Advisory Group (TAG) to support housing providers to tackle ASB within their stock.

9 Other information

- 9.1 The transition to the new unitary authority has identified a number of work streams that include Emergency Planning, Finance, Customer Service, Etc. to ensure a "safe and legal" authority in April 2020. AVDC Community Safety officers are assigned to this work, alongside officers from all the current authorities in Buckinghamshire. This is not seen as a particularly contentious area as the processes are already in place under the Local Resilience Forum, with a long history of collaborative working aimed at providing a co-ordinated response to emergencies or major incidents.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Chris Oliver - Community Safety Advisor ext. 5005
AVDC Annual Plan 2016/17 AVDC Strategy 2017-20
& Annual Plan 2017/18

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CSP 2018/19

Priority 1: Supporting communities and town centres to become safer, more resilient and cohesive places to live and work.

Target	Activity	Lead Agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	RAG
To retain the purple flag in 2018/19	Implement the purple flag action plan 2018/19 for Aylesbury town Centre.	NTE group, Partnership resources	April 2018/2019	Purple Flag won, NTE Group continuing to meet . Action Plan agreed. No longer continuing with this initiative into 2019/20.	GREEN
	Work towards reassessment of the Purple Flag award in April 2018 and light touch reassessment in April 2019- raising awareness of the status encouraging a safer Night-time Economy (NTE).	AVDC lead, Partnership resources	April 2018/2019	Purple Flag Award won – May 18 No longer continuing with this initiative into 2019/20.	GREEN
Reduce violent crime, related to the night time economy in Aylesbury Vale’s town centres. (compared with 2017/18)	Working with Police, AVDC Licensing and the NTE Group in Aylesbury to conduct publicity campaigns in and around licensed premises warning of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption and behaviour expectations, conducting innovative joint operations at key times.	TVP/AVDC/Night-time Economy Group	January 2019	AVDC Licensing conducted a number of joint enforcement visits with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to licensed premises in Aylesbury town- promoting the “Drinkaware” campaign. Full licencing inspections have now been carried out on all the late licensed alcohol premises in Aylesbury town. Joint visits were also performed with the Security Industry Authority where door supervisor registrations were checked.	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead Agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	RAG
	Continue to Roll out 'Ask For Angela' initiative across Aylesbury Vale increasing the number of supporting businesses and sexual violence awareness amongst the Community.	AVDC	March 2019	AVDC Community Safety/AVDC Licensing- 12 premises in Aylesbury Town centre are now supporting the scheme. Four in Buckingham and two in villages. More coming on board as scheme becomes known.	GREEN

Priority 2: To reduce crimes that are of highest concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community through a coordinated partnership approach.

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Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	RAG
Reduce Burglary compared with 2017/18 in both the towns and rural areas.	Use the police tasking process to identify areas of the Vale which are experiencing higher levels of burglary and provide crime prevention advice/campaigns.	AVDC Community Safety team	March 2019	Tasking meetings attended by AVDC Community Safety. Predictive analysis to drive engagement /crime prevention events	GREEN
	Include as part of the wintertime and summertime burglary campaigns, specific information in regards to outbuildings, sheds and garages- attending further events than 2017/18 due to the increase in overall crime rate.	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	TVP comms. re-tweeted by AVDC and partners re. crime prevention messages. TV Alerts used to present messages. BAU	GREEN
	Visit farms and provide crime prevention advice to reduce theft; encourage sign up to Country Watch and the Thames Valley Alert system. Encouraging the Farmers	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	Thames Valley Police Operation Agriculture, "Patrols around the Parishes" Rural crime operation run twice this year in March and October.	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	<p>association to attend the Independent Advisory Group in order to increase information sharing in relation to rural crime.</p>			<p>These included cross-border operations with neighbouring forces.</p> <p>Particular highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 x vehicles seized (2 x for being used in crime and 2 x for having no insurance or bearing cloned plates) • 5 x arrests made (one for conspiracy to steal tools from vans and obstructing police) • Over 120 farm premises visited. Crime reduction surveys and/or advice given, where appropriate. • Intensive engagement at Gypsy, Roma, Traveller sites where intelligence indicated suspected criminality. • TVP Aylesbury Vale Facebook account utilised to raise awareness and present crime reduction messages to the public; and publicising the new Rural Crime Reporting Line. Re-tweets and shares carried out by AVDC and partners. • Operation Alliance/Torby established as regular monthly joint operations with Northants & Beds police on Northern and Eastern borders to tackle cross border organised crime groups involved in rural crime. • Regular Farmer representatives attend the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) • 8% reduction in rural crime this year compared to last year (TVP 	

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
				source -11/3/19)	
Reduce tool thefts from vans compared with 2017/18	Raise awareness of tool thefts, providing information on how to keep vehicles secure, arranging tool marking events in areas which have previously been affected or are likely to be hit.	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	Tool marking events carried out by NHPTs, supported by AVDC Community Safety Team. Social media comms. conducted by TVP, shared by AVDC.TVP led event held in Milton Keynes to reunite owners with stolen items, mainly tools. Supported by partners (AVDC). Publicised on ITV/BBC. Tool marking events and local engagement carried out in partnership with AVDC Community Safety officer. 20% reduction currently in thefts from vehicles.	GREEN
Reduce the level of Violent Crime.	Reduce the levels of repeat victimisation in domestic abuse by raising awareness of support services and supporting campaigns.	TVP/AVDC	March 2019	TVP Domestic Violence (op Accomplish) meeting attended by AVDC ASB Officer by invitation. Repeat cases reviewed at Tasking Meetings. This focus has been successful in reducing incidence of repeat domestic violence/abuse in identified cases. Lessons learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews being collated and shared Bucks and TVP-wide. Campaigns supported via social media- White Ribbon Day, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
				Women and Girls.	
	Reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending through the reinvigoration of Integrated Offender Management.	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	IOM reviewed by TVP. AVDC Community Safety Advisor now attending Steering Group meetings. IoM cohort developed to include Domestic Violence perpetrators.	GREEN
	Promote and develop Domestic Violence champions within partnership organisations.	AVDC/BCC	March 2019	Ongoing promotion events via AVDC and Bucks CC Community Safety. Information re. DV Champions Network circulated to partners. Promotional events held at AVDC and partners premises. DV champions training supported and attended.	GREEN
	Use the police tasking process to identify areas of the Vale which are experiencing higher levels of violent crime, especially involving younger victims.	TVP/AVDC	March 2019	TVP and AVDC engaged in Tasking meetings to identify opportunities. BAU	GREEN
	Explore avenues for providing analytical products where focussed information can be provided to the partnership and targeted work to reduce the levels of Violent Crime can take place.	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board has reached agreement to employ a Crime Reduction Analyst. AVDC to employ and TVP to host. Job description has been advertised and the interview for the role took place at the beginning of March. No successful candidates, so going ahead for re-advertisement. [11.3.19]	AMBER

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
Reduce the level of ASB.	Continue to impact on persistent and resistant ASB through closer partnership problem-solving, E.g. Tactical Advisory Group	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	TAG meeting, BAU. Close liaison with TVP ASB Officer in relation to CBO and CPNs	GREEN
	Encourage the take up of Community Warden Schemes and work with Parish and Town Councils to build robust processes to support crime prevention.	AVDC	March 2019	Conversations continued with local councils in Aylesbury and Buckingham to raise awareness of potential schemes. Potential to re-visit as circumstances develop.	GREEN
	Provide support and advice to private landlords on ASB in relation to their tenants.	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	Processes to be drawn up. Training provided at Private Landlords Forum in October. AVDC Website pages have been updated.	GREEN
	Continue to use powers and tools, such as the Community Trigger and Closure Orders to tackle ASB. Explore better use of civil injunctions; and other powers.	AVDC/TVP/VAHT	March 2019	Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) obtained re. a prolific resident making inappropriate calls to services. This successfully resolved issues. A prolific Shoplifter was controlled by use of CBO imprisoned on breach. CBO effectively used to control an individual consistently engaging in ASB and drunkenness. Community Trigger process has been updated and publicised on AVDC website. AVDC ASB Policy reviewed and updated to provide clarity on service levels and responses.	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Support communities by communicating various methods of reporting ASB, using IT, leaflets, Etc.	AVDC	March 2019	Production of leaflet in-hand Submitted to Comms. & Marketing. AVDC Website has been fully updated to provide guidance on how to report ASB.	AMBER
	Coordinate regular problem solving partnership meetings in order to discuss reoccurring ASB issues within Aylesbury Vale.	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	Edinburgh Playing Fields/Alfred Rose Park meetings held. Partners including AVDC, Thames Valley Police, Aylesbury Town Council etc. Now BAU	GREEN
	Build community resilience by using restorative approaches – Community Resolution Project	AVDC	March 2018	Liaison with Office of the Police Crime Commissioner continues, aim to review criteria to make Restorative Justice more accessible. ASB Officers to conduct research and visit to Durham authority to observe good practice. However, work now on hold due to competing demand and transition of new ASB Officer. [11.3.19]	AMBER
Contribute to an increased sense of community awareness and social responsibility in Year 6 school children.	Encourage young people to get involved with their local communities by organising a Community Safety Schools event based on the Community Cards initiative. ¹	AVDC	July 2018 (planning since September 2017)	Successful event at The Gateway held in July 2018. Very favourable feedback from all involved, especially teachers. The event will also go ahead in 2019.	GREEN

¹ Community Cards is a fun competition for year 6 school children which encourages engagement with diverse faith groups, emergency services and other community based services to broaden awareness and encourage citizenship.

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
Reduce levels of crime associated with drug dealing and substance/alcohol misuse and raise awareness amongst the community regarding the related risks.	Run drug awareness initiatives in areas of high concern- signposting to supporting agencies.	BCC/AVDC	March 2019	Planning of initiative around child/parent education, as well as licensing trade. (scratch and sniff cards). Work now on hold due to Domestic Homicide Reviews taking higher priority.	AMBER
	Explore key recommendations from the 2017 Institute of Community Safety local assessment of gangs and organised crime groups. Work with partners around governance, identifying good practice.	AVDC/TVP	March 2019	Now forms part of county-wide debate re. Serious Violent Crime/Drugs Exploitation. There has been a formation of a new Serious Violence Crime group based at BCC- a countywide report has been produced where key recommendations have been developed in relation to gangs and organised crime groups.	GREEN
	Work in partnership to tackle Organised Crime Gangs, taking an "Achilles Heel" approach and supporting Operation Stronghold principles.	TVP/AVDC	March 2019	AVDC Community Safety attend TVP OCG/PCG meetings by invitation. A Community Youth Project has been set up in partnership with a number of agencies including TVP. This will be based around Southcourt and aims to address youth exploitation (specifically around County Lines).	GREEN
	Work in partnership to improve relations between BME Youth Groups and Aylesbury Vale Police Force around stop and search operations through the Police and Crime Commissioner funded Youth Social Cohesion Project.	AVDC/TVP	May 2018	First meeting on 21/8/18. Attended by eight young people from the Black-African community. Followed up by a second meeting with young Muslim youths. In subsequent meetings good discussions held	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
				and positive feedback came from attendees. This effective work has provided the basis for a more comprehensive youth project which is currently being supported by several partners, including Bucks Learning Trust, VAHT, TVP and other charitable groups engaged in mentoring. This will carry forward in an action within the 2019/20 plan. The successful PCC funding bid under Early Intervention Youth Fund has been supported and this will facilitate further youth intervention schemes in the new financial year.	
<p>Raise awareness of cyber crime and online safety in line with the Thames Valley Cyber Crime Strategy 2017-2020.</p>	<p>Raise awareness of scams that target older people linking with trading standards</p>	<p>BCC/TVP</p>	<p>March 2019</p>	<p>Current trading Standards initiatives being supported by AVDC Comm. Safety Team. Links made with TVP lead for Cyber-Crime and material now being shared and used locally. Cyber Resilience week in November fully supported. AVDC is now a "Friends Against Scams" organisation. Internal and external communications carried out via social media.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Raise awareness amongst young people on how to use the internet safely- supporting schools and young carers.	BCC/AVDC/TVP	March 2019	Events being carried out by Thames Valley Police with schools and other vulnerable groups. McAfee internet security conducted input on AVDC schools event in July. AVDC supported Cyber Resilience Week concentrating on the exploitation of children and young people linking in with Trading Standards and Natwest Community Bankers to run a countywide "Friends Against Scams" event as well as promoting via social media channels.	GREEN
Improve the protection of vulnerable people by working with our partners to ensure that the most at risk are identified and the risk is reduced.	Continue running the joint Vulnerable Tenancy Group/ Complex Needs Group. Identify those at risk of exploitation by gangs and organised criminals. Improve information sharing between police and partners supporting vulnerable migrants and rough sleepers.	AVDC	March 2019	VTG now re-aligned with TAG for greater efficiency and promotion of "buy-in" from Housing providers. Developments have occurred meaning VTG now part of TAG process. Complex Needs to be brought under "housing". Approx. At least 8 rough sleepers housed under recent initiative, having secured funding from the MHCLG. Physical Rough Sleeper counts to be conducted every 2 months. BAU Complex Needs meetings are now chaired by AHAG. (Aylesbury Homeless Action group).	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Develop the Safe Places Scheme to cover more premises in the towns of Aylesbury and Buckingham; and wider as appropriate.	AVDC	March 2019	Wide coverage now in Aylesbury, Buckingham has taken up the scheme with 30 premises signing up. Now nearly 100 SP sites across the Vale, premises companies/groups now requesting sign-up. Vulnerable persons groups engaged. Macintyre charity and Talkback have conducted "mystery shopping" initiative. Bucks New Uni App continues to be rolled out across the Vale-visits are being conducted with the NHPT's - Safe Place staff now have access to further training and guidance, they can also log incidents in relation to the scheme providing information on who is making use of this and why.	GREEN
	Promote and support Scams awareness programmes aimed at younger people, especially in relation to identity fraud.	Trading Standards/ AVDC	March 2019	AVDC linking in with Trading standards using Social Media AVDC now "Friends Against Scams" Above re, engagement	GREEN
	Continue to identify those at risk of child sexual exploitation and radicalisation, and those who seek to exploit them.	Safeguarding Boards	March 2019	AVDC Community Safety Officer engaged with CSE Bucks-wide Awareness Raising sub-group. Links with TVP Safeguarding maintained and TVP Tasking meeting attended where Missing People are regularly reviewed. BAU	GREEN
	Continue to promote "Hotel Watch" to local hotels/guest houses in the Vale area. Measuring effectiveness through 'mystery-shopping' activity.	AVDC/TVP/Bucks F&RS	March 2019	Work continuing, in partnership with AVDC and TVP officers. More training has taken place, based in Buckingham and Aylesbury.	AMBER

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
				<p>Due to a TVP restructure, test purchasing has been put on hold whilst .</p> <p>Training is being explored with Oxford Brookes University based around the COMBAT toolkit which is designed to help hotels proactively fight human trafficking by helping them to identify potential signals of trafficking throughout the 'victim's journey'. AVDC Community Safety, Licensing and TVP are due to be trained to ensure a consistent countywide approach.</p>	
	<p>Raise awareness and encourage reporting of Hate Crime through further development of Hate Crime Champions. Continue running the Hate Crime Network with the view that the Interfaith Network could potentially take on.</p>	<p>AVDC</p>	<p>September 2018</p>	<p>Discussion has been held around development through the Interfaith Group. Members wishing to build relationships, with Inter-faith breakfast being held. This is opening up channels to provide Hate Crime information and understand issues from within communities. This is becoming an informal Hate crime champion group. AVDC Community Engagement Officer working with TVP around Hate Crime Plan 2019. Hate Crime Week in October supported via social media. A small cohort of Hate Crime Champions still exist.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Align Prevent & Tackling Radicalisation training packages with the Buckinghamshire wide Prevent Training Strategy- working with partners to coordinate community awareness campaigns in relation to tackling terrorism and serious organised crime.	AVDC/TVP/BCC	March 2019	AVDC Community Safety Advisor chairs T&F Group ensuring Training Strategy is embedded across partner agencies incorporated in the WRAP sessions.	GREEN
	Provide space for Victim Support to engage with clients on a six monthly trial basis.	AVDC	March 2019		Removed, as no longer supporting initiative
	Encourage early intervention and victim support amongst partner agencies to complement AVDC's revised Housing duties under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017	AVDC	March 2019	Homeless Reduction Act funding supporting intervention work with people and families at risk. This includes encouragement around early intervention. Equalities Impact Assessment carried out around AVDC Strategy for Homelessness Housing Strategy.	GREEN
	Improve awareness of more hidden forms of abuse such as coercive control, stalking, harassment, honour based abuse, Female Genital Mutilation and forced marriage.	TVP/AVDC/HEALTH	March 2019	Social media campaigns supported by AVDC Community Safety. TVPs Hidden Crime campaign fully supported- topics covered during TVP Have Your Say's and during awareness days.	GREEN
Raise community awareness around the risks of Modern Slavery as identified by the 2017	Support the PCC Funded 'Rahab Project' -arranging training sessions for all front line staff members in relation to spotting the signs and	AVDC/BCC	March 2019	Rahab has evolved and rebranded as the Willow Project- this is supported by the PCC. The Willow Project have provided	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
annual consultation.	the reporting process.			internal awareness raising sessions to AVDC and BCC frontline staff along with other agencies at The Gateway. Depot staff and Residential Social landlords have also received an awareness-raising input. BCC are developing a new specific Modern Slavery E-Learning package for new starters- AVDC, TVP and the Willow Project along with other agencies are also feeding into this.	
	Working with local businesses and the RAHAB charitable organisation to educate on the signs of Modern Slavery, encouraging the posting of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statements, (where necessary), and advising on their update and review. Identifying good practice through the Thames Valley and Buckinghamshire Anti-Slavery Network.	TVP	March 2019	Modern Slavery statement for AVDC has been drafted following liaison with Contracts and Procurement team to produce Safeguarding assessment process for all new major contracts. This will ensure more robust checks within services and the supply chain. TVP have now had sign off on their Modern Slavery Transparency Statement and produced awareness raising materials for the construction industry (posters and stickers). These will be shared with construction industry representatives. RAHAB is now known as the Willow Project training Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust have sent people to the training.	GREEN

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Support the TVP 'Hidden Harm Campaign' – raising awareness of abuse and encourage reporting across Buckinghamshire.	TVP	March 2019	Links established between AVDC and TVP Comms. leads, ensuring Hidden Harm campaign is supported via Social Media. Anti-slavery day in October being targeted for a campaign in partnership TVP and AVDC. Includes consideration of communications to employees (using language-neutral techniques) of certain trades to raise awareness of exploitation.	GREEN
Prevent and Identify risks or incidents that are likely to cause Community Tension.	Sharing information with partners in order to put together Community Tension reports -prevention work to be put in place in order to prevent future incidents/tensions.	AVDC/TVP	Quarterly	Community tension Reporting method updated to the CTLP process of recording. No significant tensions reported to-date BAU	GREEN
	Engage with Gypsy Roma Traveller sites in order to reduce levels of ASB and community tension.	AVDC/TVP/BCC	March 2019	TVP engagement with Oaksview Park has seen a reduction in incursions on neighbouring land. Problem-solving at Marroway site supported by variety of partners. Incidents have reduced considerably.	GREEN
Improve safety on our roads through partnership initiatives aimed at reducing casualties and promoting good driver behaviour.	Establish a multi-agency Task & Finish group to develop work in areas, such as "Community Speedwatch" , cyclists, pedestrians and younger driver behaviour.	BCC/AVDC/TVP/Bucks F&RS	March 2019	Greater links made with BCC team around Road Safety. Action plan to be finalised. Supporting campaigns via Social media. BAU	GREEN
Raise the profile of AVCSP Communications	Explore options to host a webpage and Twitter page- sending out regular communications based around the work of the CSP.	AVDC	March 2019	Community Safety Comms. plan drafted for discussion. CSP discussion held, actions being worked up.	This action has been postponed due to other

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
					work around Unitary and Brexit being prioritised.

DRAFT CSP 2019/20

Priority 1: Supporting communities and town centres to become safer, more resilient and cohesive places to live and work.

Target	Activity	Lead Agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	RAG
Reduce violence associated with Criminal Drugs Exploitation (CDE)	Recruit analyst on behalf of the wider partnership to provide Predictive Harm Analysis on CDE	SSBPB/AVDC	Mar 2020		RED
	Case management through Bucks- wide Serious Violence Group	SSBCG	Mar 2020		RED
	Conduct and evaluate multi-agency prevention and diversion Youth Project	AVDC	Mar 2020		RED
	Raise awareness of County Lines, targeting key priority demographics.	AVDC/wider partnership	Mar 2020		RED

Target	Activity	Lead Agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	RAG
	Work in partnership to tackle Organised Crime Gangs, taking an “Achilles Heel” approach and supporting Operation Stronghold principles.	AVDC/TVP	Mar 2020		RED
	Use of powers and tools, such as Criminal behaviour Orders, Injunctions and Closure Orders to tackle ASB to support reduction of violent crime and drugs exploitation.	AVDC/TVP	Mar 2020		RED
Reduce violent crime, related to the night time economy in Aylesbury Vale’s town centres. (compared with 2018/19)	Night-time Economy Group in Aylesbury Town Centre to identify strategies and operations aimed at reducing assaults and Anti-Social behaviour.	TVP/AVDC/Night-time Economy Group	Mar 2020		RED
	Continue to Roll out the ‘Ask For Angela’ initiative in both Aylesbury and Buckingham town centres, increasing the number of supporting businesses.	AVDC	Mar 2020		RED

Priority 2: To reduce crimes that are of highest concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community through a coordinated partnership approach.

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
Reduce Burglary compared with 2018/19 in both the towns and rural areas.	Conduct predictive analysis to drive engagement/crime prevention events.	AVDC/TVP	Mar 2020		
	Support focused wintertime and summertime burglary campaigns.	AVDC/TVP	Mar 2020		RED
	Use analysis to direct prevention campaigns in rural communities.	AVDC/TVP	Mar 2020		RED
Reduce tool thefts from vans compared with 2018/19	Raise awareness of tool thefts, providing information on how to keep vehicles secure, arranging tool marking events in areas which have previously been affected or are likely to be targeted.	AVDC/TVP	Mar 2020		RED
Reduce the level of Domestic Violence.	Support the reduction in levels of repeat victimisation in domestic abuse by raising awareness of support services and supporting	TVP/AVDC	Mar 2020		RED

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	campaigns.				
	Increase numbers of Domestic Violence champions within partnership organisations.	AVDC/BCC	Mar 2020		RED
	Ensure lessons learned from Domestic Homicides are appropriately shared and action plans are circulated to key partners.	AVDC	Mar 2020		
Reduce levels of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Conduct predictive analysis and target areas of persistent and resistant ASB	AVDC	Mar 2020		RED
	Encourage the take up of Community Warden Schemes and work with Parish and Town Councils to build robust processes to support crime prevention.	AVDC/TVP	Mar 2020		RED
Raise awareness of Cyber Crime and online safety in line with the Thames Valley Cyber Crime Strategy 2017-2020.	Raise awareness of scams through "Friends Against Scams" initiative.	AVDC	Mar 2020		RED

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Support Actions in the Cyber Crime strategy and support campaigns to promote safety on-line.		Mar 2020		RED
Improve the protection of vulnerable people and improve community cohesion.	Utilise the Vulnerable Tenancy Group to identify those at risk of criminal exploitation.	AVDC	Mar 2020		RED
	Increase coverage of Safe Places Scheme over more premises in the towns of Aylesbury and Buckingham; and wider as appropriate.	AVDC	Mar 2020		RED
	Conduct "Hotel Watch" quarterly operations with local hotels/guest houses in the Vale area.	AVDC/TVP/Bucks F&RS	Mar 2020		RED

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Raise awareness and encourage reporting of Hate Crime through further development of Hate Crime Champions.	AVDC	Mar 2020		RED
	Work with local businesses and the "The Willow Project" to educate on the signs of Modern Slavery.	TVP	Mar 2020		RED
	Support the TVP 'Hidden Harm Campaign' – raising awareness of abuse and encourage reporting across Buckinghamshire.	TVP	March 2020		RED
	Repeat the successful Community Safety Schools event based on the Community Cards initiative to encourage young people to get involved with their local communities ¹	AVDC	Mar 202		RED
	Share information with partners in order to compile Community Tension reports.	AVDC/TVP	Quarterly		RED

¹ Community Cards is a fun competition for year 6 school children which encourages engagement with diverse faith groups, emergency services and other community based services to broaden awareness and encourage citizenship.

Target	Activity	Lead agency or resource	Timescale	Updates	
	Raise awareness and support appropriate levels of Prevent referrals through increase in frequency of WRAP training.		Mar 2020		
Improve safety on our roads through partnership initiatives aimed at reducing casualties and promoting good driver behaviour.	Work with a range of partners to promote campaigns and support initiatives.	BCC/AVDC/TVP/Bucks F&RS	Mar 2019		RED

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Cabinet
09 April 2019

SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY STATEMENT

Councillor M Winn

Cabinet Member for Communities

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet of the new Safeguarding Policy and Modern Day Slavery Statement.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To thank the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee for its input to this subject and to note the attached draft Safeguarding Policy and to approve for publication the proposed Modern Day Slavery Act Statement attached to this report.

3. Supporting Information

- 3.1 Following an internal audit of the Council's safeguarding policies and procedures in 2018, officers had been working to improve awareness, highlighting the importance and reminding both officers and Members of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. A new mandatory e- learning training module was rolled out to all staff and a training session for Members was delivered at a Council meeting in 2018. To complement this, a decision was taken to introduce a new Safeguarding policy, a copy of which is attached.

Officers have also drafted a new modern day slavery statement for approval and publication on the Council's web site, a copy of which is also attached.

The Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee received a similar report at its meeting on 27 March, 2019 and was supportive of both the Safeguarding Policy and the Modern Day Slavery Act Statement. The Committee had been advised of individual police operations within the Thames Valley area.

4. Options Considered/Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 None as such. The Council takes its safeguarding role extremely seriously hence the introduction of a formal policy. The Modern day slavery statement affirms the Council's commitment to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business or supply chains.

4. Resource Implications

None.

Contact Officer: Chris Oliver (01296) 585005.

Background documents: These are listed in the attached report.

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SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY STATEMENT

Tracey Aldworth

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform members of the new Safeguarding Policy

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the attached draft Safeguarding Policy and the proposed Modern Day Slavery Act Statement

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 Following an internal audit of the council's safeguarding policies and procedures in 2018 various officers have been working to improve the awareness, highlighting the importance and reminding both officers and members of their responsibilities in relation to Safeguarding. A new mandatory e-learning training module has been rolled out to staff and a training session involving members was delivered at a previous Council meeting in 2018.
- 3.2 To complement this, a decision was taken to introduce a new safeguarding policy which is attached in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 At the same time officers are recommending a new Modern Day Slavery Statement is adopted by the council and published on its website. Whilst developing this statement officers have been working together to ensure that the relevant safeguarding criteria is complied with within our supply chain. This statement is included in Appendix 2.

4 Resource implications

- 4.1 None

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Chris Oliver 01296 585005

Policy for Safeguarding and Protecting Children, young people and vulnerable adults – draft v3

1. Policy Statement

Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) is fully committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults to whom we provide services directly or indirectly and with whom we come into contact.

We recognise our responsibilities to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and neglect.

AVDC acknowledges its duty to act appropriately with regards to any allegations towards a member of staff or volunteer, or towards any disclosures or suspicion of abuse.

AVDC recognises its duty of care to safeguard children as detailed under the Children Acts' 1989 and 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

Although overall responsibility for Children's Services and Social Services in Buckinghamshire lies with Buckinghamshire County Council, AVDC has a duty to protect and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, both as a provider of services and as a partner within local Safeguarding arrangements.

AVDC believes that:

- The welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, ethnicity, religious or spiritual beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse
- All allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to in a swift and appropriate manner

AVDC will ensure that:

- All children young people and vulnerable adults will be treated equally and with respect and dignity
- The welfare of each child, young person and vulnerable adult will always be of highest priority
- Bullying (in any form) is neither accepted nor condoned
- Action will be taken to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour
- There is a clear line of accountability with regards to safeguarding concerns
- Staff and volunteers will be kept updated with regards to changes in legislation and policies for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Staff and volunteers will undertake relevant and appropriate development and training in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults
- All staff and volunteers within the organisation are fully aware of their responsibilities to safeguarding and their duty to the children, young people and vulnerable adults in their care, and that they fully understand the correct process for reporting concerns.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989 and 2004: and in line with the following:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2015.

Where reference is made to “employees”, this includes paid staff, volunteers, agency and casual workers and contract personnel.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

All AVDC employees, workers, volunteers and agency workers must:

- Understand the different categories of abuse and neglect, and how to recognise the signs.
- Recognise that some parents/carers may require additional support for example as a result of mental health issues, substance misuse or domestic abuse.
- Understand their responsibility to report any concerns that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is being, or is at risk of being, abused or neglected. This includes reporting any concern they may have regarding another staff member or volunteer’s behaviour towards a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Understand the line of accountability for reporting safeguarding concerns, and be fully aware of the organisation’s safeguarding lead and their role within the organisation.
- If appropriate; liaise with other agencies, contribute to safeguarding assessments and attend child protection meetings / core groups / conferences.

3. Recognising the signs of abuse

Abuse and Neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child, young person or vulnerable adult. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child, young person or vulnerable adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children, young people and vulnerable adults may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others and can be carried out by an adult, or adults, or another child or children.

Further information on categories and signs of abuse can be found at

<http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/information-for-the-public/types-of-abuse/>

4. Details of Safeguarding Lead

All organisations working with children and young people should have a Safeguarding Lead in place. The Safeguarding Lead will provide a direct point of contact for any staff member or volunteer who has a child protection concern, record any concerns in a clear (and secure) manner, and ensure that the appropriate action is taken. The Safeguarding Lead should also ensure that the child protection policy is being fully adhered to.

The Safeguarding Lead for AVDC is Assistant Director Will Rysdale, who can be contacted on 01296 585561.

If the Safeguarding Lead is not available (due to annual leave, sickness etc.), staff and volunteers should report to the Deputy Safeguarding Lead who is Chris Oliver, who can be contacted on 01296 585005.

If neither the Safeguarding Lead nor Deputy Safeguarding Lead is available, advice should be immediately sought from: The First Response Team on 0845 4600001 (outside of office hours call: 0800 999 7677) email: secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gov.uk NB. This email address is only secure if emailing from another secure account.

Members

The Cabinet Member for Communities will support the process to prioritise Safeguarding actions within in AVDC. If Members become aware of child protection concerns, or are worried about a vulnerable adult they should contact the Safeguarding Lead.

5. What to do if you are concerned about a child, young person or vulnerable adult

Disclosure of abuse: If a child, young person or vulnerable adult discloses to you that abuse or inappropriate behaviour has / is taking place, you should:

- Listen to the child. Allow them to tell you what has happen in their own way, and at their own pace. Do not interrupt a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Remain calm. Be reassuring and supportive but try not to respond emotionally.
- Do not ask leading questions. Only ask questions if you are seeking clarification about something they have said. Use TED; Tell, Explain, Describe.
- When you are able to, make an accurate record of what you have been told, taking care to note any times, dates or locations mentioned. Use the child's own words where possible. Do not substitute anatomically correct names for body part names used by the child.
- Reassure the child that they did the right thing in telling someone and you are glad they told you. Reassure the child that they have not done anything wrong.
- Do not promise to keep their disclosure a secret, but reassure the child that you will only share the information with the right people who will be able to help them. Explain what you will do next.
- At your earliest opportunity, speak to the Safeguarding Lead regarding the disclosure. If your Safeguarding Lead and deputy Safeguarding Lead are not available, ring First Response for advice.

To report concerns about a child

Contact Buckinghamshire Multi agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) First Response: **01296 383962 (0800 999 7677** out of hours)

Link to [Multi Agency Referral Form \(MARF\)](#)

To report concerns about a vulnerable adult

Contact Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Team **0800 137 915 (0800 999 7677** out of hours)

Link to [REFERRAL FORM](#)

Link to [REFERRAL FLOWCHART](#)

**If there is immediate risk of harm to a child young person or vulnerable adult
DO NOT DELAY, ring 999**

6. Policies and Procedures

Those services that work closely with children and young people have written guidance and/or joint protocols with other agencies on acceptable behaviour and good practice when interacting with children and young people. Good practice guidance is intended to:

- Promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- To minimise the risks of an individual being harmed,
- Reduce the opportunities for abuse taking place,
- To help prevent unfounded allegations being made.

It would not be appropriate to go into detail about standards of behaviour. Those services specifically targeted at children and young people have specific guidance and standards covering how they relate to and work with children and young people. However, the Council seeks to promote a positive culture in which children and young people are listened to, consulted and involved in service development and in which staff act as positive role models.

Similar high standards of practise should be followed in relation to vulnerable adults.

Recruitment and Selection

There is Safer Recruitment guidance within the policies are on Box which contains advice on safe recruitment and selection practices. This guidance is designed to minimise the opportunities for unsuitable people to gain access to work with children and young people. The guidance complies with the minimum standards defined by the BSCB/BSAB and can also be found on their websites. A similar approach should be followed to minimise the opportunities for unsuitable people to gain access to work with vulnerable adults. Further advice can be sought from People and Culture.

7. Allegations or concerns regarding a member of staff or volunteer

Any concerns about a member of staff must be reported to the relevant Assistant Director within 24 hours of the concerns being identified and advice must be sought from People and Culture. The appropriate Designated Senior Manager must be informed at the same time. The Senior Manager is Alison Stone, extension 5146. The BSCB/BSAB procedures for managing allegations against staff must be followed.

It is important that a referral is made to the Local Authority Designed Officer, Social Care (LADO) on 01296 382070 and the Police (if appropriate) as soon as possible so that any action does not jeopardise either an investigation or the person involved. **No action should be taken internally until this advice has been sought.** It may be necessary to complete a Multi-agency Referral Form.

A multi-agency strategy meeting may be called to consider whether the allegation should be subject to a formal enquiry. The employer will be required to attend the strategy meeting and supply all relevant details about the employee and the allegation. Where a formal enquiry has been completed or is not required, the matter will be referred back to the employer to be dealt with in accordance with normal employment procedures.

Any concerns that involve potential poor practice of a member of staff or an allegation of abuse against a member of staff should be dealt with as a potential misconduct issue in line with the Council's Disciplinary Procedure. This Procedure can be found on Connect.

Consideration will be given to temporary suspension or transfer to other duties pending an investigation. The employee should not be suspended until the LADO has been contacted. Such incidents may be investigated internally using the Council's Disciplinary Procedure. The timings and process will depend on external investigations, and care will be taken that any internal investigation does not jeopardise the outcome of an external investigation. Full records of the investigation and the outcome must be recorded and kept in accordance with BSCA.BSAB minimum procedures. Where the relevant thresholds are met, the employer has a duty to refer details of the investigation to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Whatever the decision or action, the welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult must come first.

Access to advice and support

As part of our duty of care towards children, young people and vulnerable adults, who come into contact with us, we will ensure that all vulnerable people are directed towards appropriate advice and support.

We will ensure that staff who come across abusive situations in the course of their work know where to get advice and support.

Any employee who is the subject of an allegation relating to the protection of children or vulnerable adults will be provided with information and given access to advice and support.

8. Training

Employees and volunteers engaged in roles that have direct contact with children and young people, will be made aware of relevant policies and procedures relating to child protection and will be provided with child protection awareness information and training. All relevant staff will also be given further training according to their role profile. Staff who work with vulnerable adults will receive suitable training to ensure that staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities and have the opportunity to discuss and review performance standards and development needs. Refresher training will also be regularly provided (at least every three years). All staff and volunteers working with children and young people will undertake basic safeguarding awareness training.

All employees must undertake the following mandatory E Learning modules:

Safeguarding: Your Responsibility

This course explores the different types of abuse and the indicators of abuse, information about Prevent, Modern Day Slavery and local reporting procedures. (Approx 30 minutes). This must be completed within the first week of employment within the authority.

Hate Crimes

The aim of this course is to familiarise all staff with the terminology relating to hate incidents and hate crimes and what actions should be taken if they witness or are a victim of such behaviour. (30 mins)

Other training – Workshop to Raise Awareness Around ‘Prevent’ (WRAP)

Employees receive this mandatory in-house Prevent training in accordance with the Buckinghamshire Prevent training strategy. The Prevent Duty is applicable to the local authorities in Buckinghamshire, as well as partner agencies. AVDC is a member of the Safer and Stronger Buckinghamshire Partnership Board which has the strategic oversight for the Prevent Duty in Buckinghamshire.

9. Recording and Record Retention

Records will be made of all referrals made and held in accordance with GDPR guidelines. Records will only be retained where it is necessary for the purposes of Safeguarding individuals.

Confidentiality and information sharing

If concerns around the protection of a child or vulnerable adult are raised, confidentiality must not be guaranteed. If an allegation is made that indicates that a vulnerable adult or child is being harmed or is at risk of harm, then the person making the allegation should understand that the information will be shared with the appropriate agencies on a need to know basis.

When sharing information with other agencies, that information is likely to be personal and sensitive, and AVDC must take care to meet its obligations under the data protection act. Individuals should be advised that AVDC intends to share information with another agency in order to safeguard the welfare of a child or adult, unless to do so would put a child or adult at risk of harm.

Where there is doubt about the appropriateness of sharing information with other agencies, the BSCB and BSAB Information Sharing Protocols should be followed (See Safeguarding pages on Connect)

10. Escalation, challenge and whistleblowing

The protection of children will always be an area in which there may be differences of opinion about the best course of action. It is very important that all those working with children and families feel able to air their views and constructively challenge the action of others. This includes cases where the difference of opinion is with professionals who are more senior or experienced. Similarly, agencies or professionals should not be defensive if challenged. It is important that staff feel confident that they can raise any concerns they have about actions or decisions relating to safeguarding that are made by other professionals or agencies. The Bucks Safeguarding Children's Board Escalation, Challenge and Conflict Resolution Procedure provides a clear process for concerns to be raised. Within AVDC any safeguarding issue requiring escalation should be done through the Safeguarding or Deputy Safeguarding Lead; or in their absence any member of the AVDC Safeguarding Group

- Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing occurs when an employee or worker raises a concern about a dangerous or illegal activity that they are aware of through their work that may affect others, e.g. customers, members of the public, or their employer. Concerns could cover a variety of areas, including safeguarding concerns about children and young people. Your Child Protection Policy should provide information on how staff and volunteers can access your organisation's Whistleblowing Policy (AVDC policy on this is currently being updated.)

11. E-Safety

Technology is playing an ever increasing role in the lives of children and young people. As such, it is important that staff and volunteers understand the responsibility they have to use this technology appropriately when working with children and young people

Employees should familiarise themselves with the following policies on Box;

[IT and Communication Technology Acceptable Use Policy](#)

[Mobile Devices Acceptable Use Policy](#)

[Rules for Personal use of IT Systems](#)

12. Photography and use of images of children

As confirmed in the Data Protection Act, AVDC will ensure written consent is sought from the parent or carer of any child under the age of 18 using our services before any photographs are taken. If consent is given, AVDC will make a clear agreement with the parent or carer as to how the image will be used (for example, in a school brochure or on a drama school website) and how widely (as part of a school's bulletin for all parents, on the child's individual development record etc) Due consideration will be given to the appropriateness of clothing and posture, and details such as a child's name or age will not be shared unless integral to the use of the image (such as the acceptance of an award) in particular when additional identifiers (i.e. a school or uniform logo) are being shared.

13. **Visitors**

All visitors, including contractors, to AVDC premises will be subject to the Safeguarding principles within this policy and will be signposted to it as circumstances dictate.

14. **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually and monitored by the Safeguarding Lead, through the AVDC Safeguarding Group.

DRAFT

Modern Slavery Act Statement

This statement sets out the actions of Aylesbury Vale District Council to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and the steps it has taken that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business or its supply chains. This statement relates to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

As part of local government, the council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to preventing slavery, exploitation and/or human trafficking in all its forms. Modern slavery in its wider sense is commonly accepted to include forced or bonded labour, human trafficking, child slavery, anything involving offences under the Protection of Children Act 1978 or the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and forced or early marriage. Whilst at the present time the council is publishing this statement on a voluntary basis rather than under a statutory duty, it does so recognising that this is good practice as a public authority. The council also recognises its responsibilities as an employer and procurer / commissioner of services and acknowledges its duties as a district council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and to take action and work with other responder agencies under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The council is absolutely committed to doing all it can reasonably do to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and/or human trafficking. The statement below sets out practices already in place at the council in 2019 to 2020 following the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Corporate strategy

The council's corporate strategy clearly states its aim to support and develop the people it employs, growing their knowledge and skills, now and for the future.

Policies

The council has a robust ongoing policy review programme which has input from employees, team leaders, management team, HR, trade union and members. The policy review programme is an ongoing key piece of work in the HR work plan to ensure that the council's policies and procedures remain compliant and fit for purpose.

The following policies and procedures are considered to be key in meeting the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.

Employee's code of conduct

The council's employee code of conduct has been reviewed in 2015 to 2016 and makes clear to employees the actions and behaviours expected of them when representing the council. The council strives to maintain the highest standards of employee conduct and ethical behaviour and alleged breaches are investigated by line managers. The council has a process in place for employees to make declaration of outside interests where appropriate including other paid employment.

The council has a programme of mandatory training that all relevant employees and members must complete, including Safeguarding Awareness Training. Training enables officers in community-facing and regulatory roles to look out for, identify and report incidents of abuse and neglect, including modern slavery and trafficking to the relevant agencies.

Recruitment

The council's recruitment processes are transparent and reviewed regularly. This includes robust procedures in place for the vetting of new employees and ensures they are able to confirm their identities and qualifications, and they are paid directly into an appropriate, personal bank account.

Agency workers

Where the need arises to source resources from alternative agencies, the council will verify the practices of any new agency it is using before accepting workers from that agency.

Pay

The council through its HR policies ensures that all employees are paid fairly and equitably.

Our due diligence processes for slavery and human trafficking

Whistleblowing

The council publishes its “whistle blowing” confidential reporting policy as part of its constitution. This encourages all its employees, and others the council deals with who have serious concerns about any aspect of the council’s work to come forward and voice their concerns, and lays out a process for doing so, which complies with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 so that if necessary employees may make disclosures, without fear of reprisal or victimisation.

Corporate complaints system

The council operates a complaints procedure to deal with complaints about its services, and this can be used to report community concerns such as overcrowding or issues which might reveal slavery or trafficking and which merit investigation or reporting to a partner agency.

Safeguarding

The council embraces its responsibility to develop, implement and monitor policies and procedures to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and protect them from harm. The council has a comprehensive policy which all staff and councillors are expected to read and work within. The council works within multi-agency partnerships to protect and safeguard people.

Contractors and service providers

Where the council awards a new contract for goods services or works in which there is a significant risk of modern slavery abuse the council will seek reassurance that the contractor has policies, procedures and training in place to detect and deter such abuse. There is a risk assessment process relating to larger contracts included within the procurement process.

Approval

This statement has been approved by the Council’s [Standards Committee \(on 5 June 2018\)](#) and is supported by [Full Council \(on 16 July 2018\)](#), and will be reviewed and updated annually.

The statement and any actions included with it will be reported to the Standards Committee and where appropriate other committees each year for monitoring and assurance purposes. **(Update upon approval).**