

## AYLESBURY VALE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Members with a summary of activity in 2012/13; an update on the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Plan so far in 2013/14; and an opportunity to comment on the emerging 2014-17 strategy.

### 2 Recommendations

That Members:

- 2.1 Note the progress against 2013/14 Community Safety Partnership Plan,
- 2.2 Note and comment upon the proposed priorities for the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2014-17,
- 2.3 Highlight any matters to be brought to the attention of the Cabinet Member for Community Matters.

### 3 Executive summary.

- 3.1 In 2012/13 total crime reduced by 5% but there was a 3% increase in serious acquisitive crime (SAC) related offences.
- 3.2 The main areas of concern were thefts from vehicles and robbery, and two new initiatives were launched in the Vale, catalytic converter engraving and a student led awareness raising film about the risks and consequences of robbery.
- 3.3 During 2013/14 (to October) we have experienced an increase in total crime of 4%. The main crime types of concern are violence against the person, non dwelling burglary and theft from vehicles, which have been the focus of initiatives so far this year.
- 3.4 The current Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP)<sup>1</sup> strategy comes to an end in March 2014 and work is underway on the new strategy for 2014-17. The Strategic Assessment alongside the PCC plan and public consultation will shape the strategy and annual plan identifying priority work areas for the Vale.
- 3.5 Key emerging priorities for the strategy are safer town centres and dealing with issues that have significant impact on victims and communities.
- 3.6 The Police and Crime Commissioner was elected in November 2012 and has written a PCC plan setting out how to tackle crime and disorder in Thames Valley. We have a reciprocal duty to have regard to each others plan.
- 3.7 Reductions in funding from the PCC to local authorities will impact on some areas of work within the Vale, with 6% less budget for Buckinghamshire than previous years. The budget currently funds work around domestic violence, ASB and offender management.
- 3.8 Other key challenges for the forthcoming strategy include the Police and Antisocial Behaviour Bill which will change existing ASB powers and tools; the transformation agenda within the Probation service; and ongoing budget cuts affecting responsible authorities.

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<sup>1</sup> The partnership Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Thames Valley Police, Thames Valley Police Authority, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Thames Valley Probation and Buckinghamshire Clinical Care Commissioning group.

- 3.9 CCTV Continues to be a useful tool in Aylesbury town centre, helping with the arrest of 399 offenders during 2012/13. However Thames Valley Police is currently liaising with local authorities about the level and distribution of its contribution for CCTV across the region.
- 3.10 We recently conducted the tri annual evaluation of CCTV as part of the partnership agreement and updated our Codes of Practice to ensure that they are compliant with the Information Commissioner's new guidelines.

#### **4 Summary of activity and statistics for 2012/13**

- 4.1 From 1st April 2012 to end of March 2013 overall crime reduced by 5% compared to previous year.

Domestic Burglary	363 (down 72)	16% reduction
Theft of Vehicles	93 (down 43)	31% reduction
Theft from vehicle	774 (up 144)	22% increase
Robbery	64 (up 13)	25% increase
Total crime	7741 (down 408)	5% reduction
SAC <sup>2</sup> offences	1294 (up 42)	3% increase

The crime reduction target for SAC crime for the year was a 5% reduction, or 62 less offences than the previous year. The increases in SAC were in relation to thefts of catalytic converters (theft from vehicles) and thefts of iphones etc (robbery).

- 4.2 Examples of successful projects in 2012/13 include:

- i) The AVCSP maintained the Purple Flag Award<sup>3</sup> for Aylesbury town centre.
- ii) A new initiative was launched to reduce the effects of alcohol fuelled crime and disorder which targeted information at venues holding under 18 nights. A new poster campaign was also taken up by all licenced premises which provided tips on safety.
- iii) Reducing burglary was a key focus over the year and saw an overall reduction of 16%. During the summer campaign our first youtube video entitled "Don't let thieves house-sit this Summer" was launched on our website and the wintertime campaign was a series of awareness raising events in which 900 households received information packs.
- iv) The AVCSP concern about a rise in robbery on young people resulted in the Mandeville School writing and directing a film called "Snatched" which was then shown in all secondary schools' assemblies in the Vale, supported with a property marking session to mark their personal property. Over 12,000 students watched the film, and a further 2500 people viewed the film via our website.

<sup>2</sup> SAC is a term used for Serious Acquisitive Crime, and represents a total of the crime types listed in point 3.1.

<sup>3</sup> The Purple Flag aims to raise the standards and broaden the appeal of town centres between 1700hrs and 0600hrs. It is an award independently assessed by the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM).

## 5. Crime figures 2013/14 to the end of October 2013 and key highlights

5.1 From April 2013 to the end of October 2013, there has been a 4% rise in overall crime (176 more crimes than the same period last year).

Burglary	174 (down 18)	9% reduction
Theft from Vehicle	468 (up 83)	21% increase
Theft of Vehicle	70 (up 9)	15% increase
Robbery (Business)	3 (down 1)	33% reduction
Robbery (Personal)	25 (down 11)	31% reduction
SAC Offences	748 (up 62)	9% increase

5.2 The SAC reduction target for 2013/14 is to achieve a 2% reduction on the previous year.

Although the above figures show a rise in crime in the current year it is worthy to note that all crime and SAC have reduced by 30 and 33% respectively since 2006/07.

4.2 Examples of successful projects in 2013/14 include:

i) Night Time economy (NTE) events have taken place in Buckingham and Aylesbury town centres during August, in which partners have engaged with users of the NTE to give advice about safety and drinking sensibly. We continue to work with Buckingham University to address issues around ASB associated with students after nights out, reducing complaints. In Aylesbury town centre we have recently completed the reassessment process for the Purple Flag and a decision is expected on the 27<sup>th</sup> November.

ii) Operation Ranger is a new TVP rural crime initiative which has 'action weeks' throughout the year. During the first week of action 1600 addresses were visited in rural communities giving crime prevention advice and getting people to sign up to TVP alert (717 new sign ups). In addition 18 heritage sites and 89 farms were visited and we attended the cattle market in Buckingham to provide rural businesses crime prevention advice.

iii) Thefts from vehicles started to rise during 2012/13, mainly due to thefts of catalytic converters. The increased value of the metal they contain, and ease of stealing them from high sided vehicles, such as vans, makes this an easy crime to commit, and a fairly difficult crime to detect. Etching catalytic converters makes them less attractive due to the potential of being caught with them; 18 vehicle servicing garages across the Vale now offer this service, with about 500 residents taking up the offer to date.

iv) Burglary has a challenging 2% reduction target for 2013/14. Our current position is a reduction of 9% as we enter the key risk period of Winter. Operation Arctic<sup>4</sup>, launched at the end of September for the winter period, is targeting at risk locations.

## 6. Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017

6.1 Current legislation<sup>5</sup> requires the AVCSP to produce a three year partnership strategy with an annual action plan.

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<sup>4</sup> Operation Arctic is an partnership operation to reduce the wintertime burglary, by raising awareness about not leaving homes in darkness, as this shows a would be offender your house is unoccupied.

<sup>5</sup> Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

6.2 The development of the strategy is informed by a strategic assessment carried out by TVP, the results of community consultations, and ongoing monitoring of crime trends across the district. The following paragraphs identify current crime series and trends. This information should be considered in the context that Aylesbury Vale is consistently a low crime area when compared to other districts within the county and Thames Valley region<sup>6</sup>.

6.3 During the strategic period all crime had seen an increase which was predominately caused by rises in three offence types, theft from vehicles, violence against the person and burglaries non dwelling (such as sheds and garages).

When looking at violent crime 53% of this crime occurs in four locations within the vicinity of the town centre. Analysis shows that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of these offences still occur during the period 9pm to 5am period and are assumed to be alcohol related. We therefore propose that safer town centres remains a priority within the new strategy.

6.4 It is also proposed to retain the priority of “dealing with issues that have a significant impact on victims and communities”. Two crime types that sit within this priority are urglary non dwelling, which has no specific hotspot locations and any emerging trends/locations are identified throughout the year, and theft from vehicles, which continues to rise.

6.5 Throughout the last two years of the current strategy AVCSP has conducted public consultation to shape the activities within the annual action plans. Communities have informed us that domestic burglary, bogus callers, ASB, and burglary non dwelling are areas of concern. A new online consultation launched 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 will help to inform the new strategy<sup>7</sup>.

## **7. Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel.**

7.1 The election of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) in November 2012, replaced Police Authorities which were statutory members of the CSP. The PCC is not a statutory member of the CSP but does have a duty to have regard to the CSP priorities. There are six strategic aims of the Police and Crime Plan (see appendix 1) which the AVCSP strategy 2014-2017 will give regard to. A refresh of the PCC plan is expected during 2014/15.

7.2 The PCC holds all the funding for Community Safety Partnerships that used to come from Government. Reductions in core funding have been made in the last 2 years and in 2014/15 a further budget cut will be applied across Thames Valley. Using an agreed Formula, the PCC has allocated funding to countywide areas and in Buckinghamshire the overall reduction will be 6% (approx. £30,000). Decisions about how this will affect the area are yet to be determined by the Safer and Stronger Partnership Board.

7.3 One of the key activities for the PCC is to consult with local communities. The PCC has held a series of local events around the Thames Valley area and is coming to Aylesbury Vale on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Multicultural Centre, Aylesbury.

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<sup>6</sup> In 2012/13 The total numbers of crimes per 1,000 population in the Vale was 44.46 crimes compared to 58.90 in Thames Valley Region.

<sup>7</sup> The consultation can be found at [www.aylesburyvalecd.c.gov.uk/communitysafetysurveydec2013](http://www.aylesburyvalecd.c.gov.uk/communitysafetysurveydec2013)

## **8. Challenges for the period 2014/2017**

- 8.1 Reductions in funding continue to be a challenge for community safety services. We currently receive a grant of £15,000 from the PCC to help provide diversionary activities for ASB which will be at risk with a smaller Community Safety Fund (CSF) next year. Other funding streams which provide the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) will be facing budget reductions of around 6%. This will have an impact on the numbers of young people they can work with and the number of drug users who access treatment.
- 8.2 Due to reductions in funding over coming years some of our countywide services are being reviewed to see if they can be re-commissioned on larger scales to achieve efficiencies. Such services include domestic violence, drug and custody intervention schemes.
- Within Buckinghamshire concerns over funding and future proofing services, has led to the re-commissioning of a Bucks wide domestic violence service. The current Women's Aid organisations in Wycombe and Aylesbury are working more closely together to ensure they are fit for purpose to bid for providing local services.
- 8.3 ASB powers are still being reviewed by Government, which has been on-going since 2010. The Police and Antisocial Behaviour Bill is currently making its way through the House of Lords. We believe the implementation of the new powers will now be during 2014/15. Some of the new powers, such as the Community Trigger<sup>8</sup> and the Community Remedy, will take time to embed and may increase demand on the service in the short term.
- 8.4 The Probation service is facing a major transformation. 35 Probation Trusts covering England and Wales are being abolished to create 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies to deliver outsourced services. Thames Valley's five probation Local Delivery Units will be retained but within two clusters, Berkshire and Oxon/Bucks/MK.
- 8.5 In May 2011 a new duty was placed on community safety partnerships to conduct domestic homicide reviews. The purpose of the review is to establish if any lessons can be learnt by responsible authorities about the support the victim received in the time leading up to their death. The average cost of a review is £5,000 and is an unpredictable expense.

## **9. CCTV**

- 9.1 CCTV continues to be a valuable tool in the reduction and detection of crime and disorder. Since April 2011 CCTV has been used to capture 2052 incidents and has supported 399 arrests. In particular it is worthy to note that public order incidents have decreased by 12 (285 in total). CCTV footage has assist in 177 arrests for these offences.
- 9.2 During 2012/13 we commissioned Global MSC to undertake the tri-annual evaluation of the CCTV system which is part of our CCTV partnership agreement with TVP. An action plan has been developed, based on the recommendations of the report, which is currently being considered.

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<sup>8</sup> The Community Trigger is gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour that has previously been ignored. The trigger could be activated by a member of the public, a community or a business if repeated complaints about anti-social behaviour have been ignored, by making an application for a case review to the local Community Safety Partnership.

- 9.3 The Information Commissioner<sup>9</sup> published new guidelines for the use of CCTV in June 2013 to ensure that the use of CCTV was more transparent and accountable. The review conducted by Global MSC ensured that the town centre operating policy (Codes of Practice) were current and compliant to the new guidelines.
- 9.4 Thames Valley Police is currently consulting local authority partners on potential CCTV budget savings. The proposed savings would impact on the control room operation in Aylesbury and options are currently being investigated around the future provision of CCTV using the council's new business model methodology.

## **10. Resource implications**

- 10.1 There are no additional financial implications for the Council associated with the publication and implementation of the Community Safety Partnership Strategy.

## **11. Response to Key Aims and Objectives**

- 11.1 Reducing crime and ASB are corporate plan targets for 2011-2014.

Contact Officer  
Background Documents

Kay Aitken 01296 585005  
Community Safety Partnership plan 2011-14  
Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011  
Police and Crime Commissioners Strategy 2013-2017

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## **Appendix 1 – Police and Crime Commissioner Strategic objectives.**

The strategic objectives of the PCC plan are:

1. To cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community
2. To increase the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and fear of crime and reassure communities.
3. To protect the public from harm arising from serious organised crime and terrorism.
4. To communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime, and build trust and confidence with our communities.
5. Work with criminal justice partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses.
6. To ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

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<sup>9</sup> The Information Commissioner's Office is an independent official body. The Information Commissioner is appointed by the Queen. The Commissioner is responsible for administering the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.