

AYLESBURY VALE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE 2014

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Members with a summary of activity on the delivery of the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP) Plan so far in 2014/15 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. |
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3 Executive summary

- 3.1 This report gives an overview of the year to date crime statistics for 2014/15 and an update on the key activities outlined in the AVCSP action plan. Total recorded crime is currently showing a reduction of 13% compared to the same period in 2013/14.
- 3.2 Superintendent Olly Wright from Thames Valley Police will be attending the meeting.
- 3.3 The ASB, Crime and Policing Act gained royal assent in March 2014, bringing with it the biggest change in ASB powers since their introduction in 1998. This report provides an overview of the work of the Public Safety Team's (PST) use of existing ASB powers and appendix 1 gives an overview of the new powers.
- 3.4 CCTV continues to support safer town centres, with 438 incidents being recorded since April 2014, and assisting with 171 arrests. Work is currently underway to explore options to achieve efficiency savings whilst retaining an effective CCTV monitoring service.
- 3.5 In November 2012, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) were elected for the first time. Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) were also introduced to provide a scrutiny of the PCC. The report refers Members to the annual reports for both the PCC and PCP and Cllr Mrs Pam Pearce will be attending to give an overview of her role on the Panel.

4 Summary of statistics 2014/15

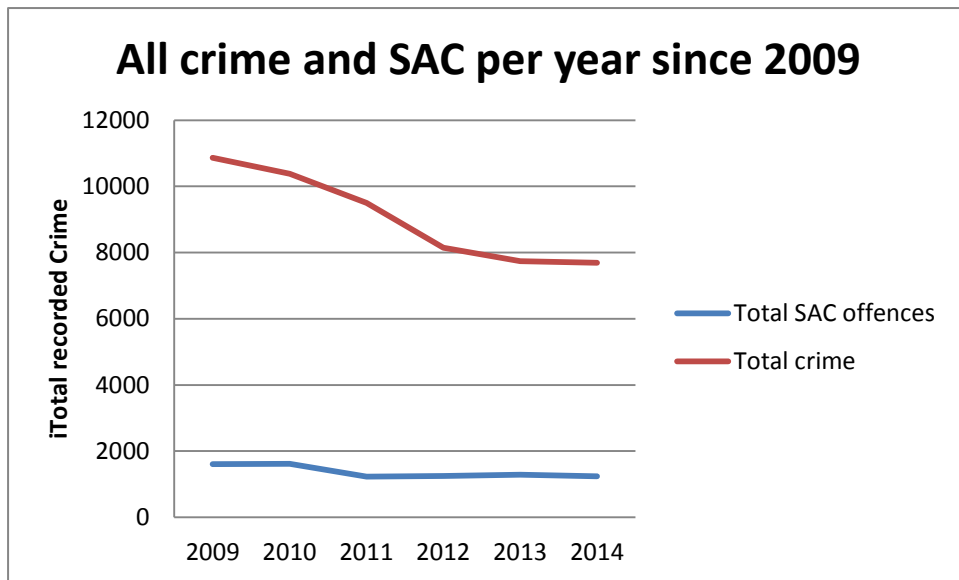
- 4.1 The last community safety update to this committee was in March 2014, when a review of the crime figures for 2013/14 was presented alongside the new Community Safety Strategy for 2014-2017.
- 4.2 From 1st April 2014 to end of October 2014 overall crime has reduced by 13% compared to the same period last year.

Burglary	166 (down 10)	6% reduction
Theft of vehicle	47 (down 21)	26% reduction
Theft from vehicle	374 (down 98)	21% reduction
Robbery (business)	4 (up 2)	100% increase
Robbery (personal)	23 (down 2)	8% reduction

SAC ¹ offences	611 (down 132)	18% reduction
Total crime	4136 (down 607)	13% reduction

The current strategy does not have any numerical crime reduction targets unlike previous years, instead the target is to achieve a reduction in overall crime compared to 2013/14.

- 4.3 By comparing crime data over a number of years we can see that overall crime levels have been reducing year on year since 2009. This is illustrated below in figure 1.



5. Community Safety Partnership plan 2014/15 update

- 5.1 Examples of projects undertaken to date in 2014/15 include:

v) During April we ran the spring time burglary campaign focusing attention on reducing risks of thefts from sheds and outbuildings. We ran 6 events in various garden centres in Aylesbury, Buckingham and Waddesdon, giving advice on security. We engaged with over 400 people at these events and gave out a number of crime prevention products.

i) "Don't get burnt by burglars", our awareness raising campaign in response to summer burglary risks. This campaign was distributed to GP surgeries, pharmacies, catteries, kennels and parents (via the school/parent email system) giving advice about making your home look lived in during the holiday period.

ii) Operation Ranger, was delivered in rural communities throughout September, raising awareness of crime prevention initiatives that reduce risk such as Tac marking, Cesar², Selecta DNA. These types of initiatives reduce the opportunities to sell on stolen goods and therefore reduces their attractiveness.

¹ SAC is a term used to refer to serious acquisitive crime and is the total number of burglary, theft from and of vehicles and robbery offences.

² Cesar Datatag is a system that has literally thousands of unique identification marks or tags which can be permanently hidden within property. More information can be found at <http://datatag.co.uk/cesar-agriculture.php>

iii) Chelsea's Choice³, a play about how a young girl becomes involved in child sexual exploitation (CSE), was rolled out to 9 of the 11 local secondary schools in the Vale. The play allows teenagers to see that certain risky behaviours may lead them into dangerous situations, illustrating that this type of crime can happen to anyone. The play is followed up with a session run by R U Safe and the drama group to give practical advice to young people who have concerns about themselves or friends.

iv) "R u wise to it" is an online campaign raising awareness about CSE for young people and parents/carers, launched in partnership with Barnardo's to support the work of Chelsea's Choice.

(vi) We have submitted our (light touch) renewal application for the Purple Flag for Aylesbury town centre and expect to hear the results in November 2014.

5.2 Examples of upcoming projects for 2014/15 include:

(i) Operation Arctic was launched at the start of October, our annual seasonal burglary reduction campaign to make residents more aware of the increased risk of burglary during the darker evenings.

(ii) Christmas alcohol awareness campaign will be rolled out during December to raise awareness about responsible drinking.

5.3 During the next few months we will be drafting the new community safety action plan for the period 2015/16. We are currently awaiting our strategic assessment which, alongside feedback from public consultation, helps us to set out our priorities for action.

5.4 Early indications from the Thames Valley Police strategic assessment highlighted that the Vale should concentrate efforts on raising awareness of new and emerging crime trends such as cyber crime, child sexual exploitation and legal high misuse. This year's consultation will therefore be used to help the AVCSPP understand residents' awareness of these types of crime.

5.5 Whilst recorded crime levels continue to decline across the Vale a challenge for the partnership is to respond to these emerging types of criminal activity and raise awareness with the community.

6 Changes within Community Safety in 2014/15

Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

6.1 On 13th March 2014, the ASB, Crime and Policing Act gained royal assent.

6.2 This new Act mainly focuses on the new provisions around anti-social behaviour powers and tools, bringing with it the biggest change in ASB powers since their introduction in 1998 (through the Crime and Disorder Act). Whilst the Act looks at some other areas of work within Crime and Policing, such as forced marriages and firearms, the focus of this report is on the ASB parts of the Act (parts 1-6 of the Act). The Act, which applies in England and Wales, introduces measures to:

- focus the response to anti-social behaviour on the needs of victims
- empower communities to get involved in tackling anti-social behaviour

³ More information about Chelsea's Choice can be found at <http://www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk/chelseas-choice/>

- ensure professionals can protect the public quickly through faster, more effective powers and speed up the eviction of the most anti-social tenants

The antisocial behaviour (ASB) provisions in the Act consolidate the existing 19 ASB powers into 6 more flexible powers. Two new powers have also been introduced to help focus the response to such behaviour on the needs of victims. These are the Community Trigger and Community Remedy.

- 6.3 In November, Members received a briefing note about the implementation of the new powers and this is attached in Appendix A for information.
- 6.4 Members may be interested to note AVCSP's use of the existing powers since 2009. In 2007, a co-located Police and council officer team, The Public Safety Team (PST), was established and has played the lead role in using the formal powers. In Aylesbury Vale between 2009 and 2014, the number of formal powers used were:
- 1 x ASBO issued,
 - 1 x Drink Banning Order
 - 1 x Dispersal Order
 - 0 x Injunctions.
- 6.5 The PST has a high level of success in dealing with ASB issues using lower level sanctions which are agreed and enforced by partners, for example the Yellow and Red cards scheme. Yellow cards are issued to young people who are causing ASB in the community, as a first warning. A Red card is issued as a second warning. If further ASB continues an acceptable behaviour contract (ABC) is formally written and a meeting involving the PST, parents and the young person takes place to agree the prohibitions in the agreement. An ABC is a voluntary sanction and is not enforceable, but does demonstrate someone's willingness to address behaviour, which is used as evidence should an escalation of enforcement be needed.
- 6.6 Examples of the use of lower sanctions across Aylesbury Vale in the last 6 years include:
- Good Neighbour Agreements x 8
- ABC's x 69
- Yellow Cards issued x742
- Red Cards issued x 68

Changes to Partnership structures

- 6.7 As part of a joint approach to commissioning we have been working with partners across the county to review domestic violence services. Over the past 12 months a countywide service needs assessment in relation to domestic violence has been completed to help develop a countywide tender. This work is ongoing and it is hoped that a new service will be commissioned by April 2016.
- 6.8 Probation Services transformation is well under way, with the National Probation Service splitting into two service organisations in every part of the country. In each area, the National Probation Service will manage all high risk offenders while the new Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company will manage lower risk offenders. More information can be found at <http://www.thamesvalleycrc.co.uk/>

- 6.9 Our own Community Safety team has been restructured, resulting in the loss of a part time post. This reflects the reducing demands for crime prevention in relation to traditional crimes such as SAC, and the increased use of social media to communicate with our residents.
- 6.10 As part of the Environmental Health and Licensing restructure there is a proposal for the deletion of the Handyman post which has been receiving fewer referrals over recent years, again reflecting falling crime levels.

7 Review of CCTV

- 7.1 CCTV continues to be a valuable tool in the reduction and detection of crime and disorder. In 2013/14 CCTV was used to capture 525 incidents and supported 307 arrests. So far this year (April to October) CCTV has been used to capture 438 incidents and supported 171 arrests.
- 7.2 Members will be aware, from last year's update and subsequent information items, that TVP have been consulting local authority partners on potential CCTV budget savings. As part of the partnership agreement with the police we provide and maintain the CCTV equipment and contribute to the costs of staffing the control room, which is managed by the police.
- 7.3 The structure and function of CCTV control rooms across the region have been reviewed to identify options to save money whilst retaining an effective monitoring service. The current preferred option is to create a single control room for Buckinghamshire, based in Milton Keynes police station. The control room in Milton Keynes was refurbished in 2010 and is the only one in Buckinghamshire with the capacity to monitor cameras from other areas.
- 7.4 Work is now underway on a feasibility study to explore the costs associated with transmitting images from other areas of the county to Milton Keynes; the technical issues associated with the proposal; and the operational implications of the proposed arrangement. Once this information is available all partners will be able to determine the viability of this option, which has the potential to deliver savings of up to £75,000 per annum for the council.

8 Police and Crime Panels

- 8.1 Police and Crime Commissioners came into being in November 2012 as part of the review to make Police services more accountable. The Thames Valley PCC's first Police and Crime Plan was published at the end of 2012, running until 2017. A copy can be found at <http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/Priorities/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx> the 2013-14 annual report can be found at <http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/Priorities/Annual-Report.aspx>
- 8.2 Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) were appointed following the PCC elections and in Thames Valley the panel consists of one councillor from each local authority area. The Panel is independent of the office of the PCC and oversees the work of the PCC. Its role includes:
- reviewing the PCC's proposals for the amount of council tax local people pay towards policing. It has the power to veto these proposals if it considers the amount is inappropriate
 - considering the PCC's Police and Crime plan and annual report
 - considering the PCC's proposals for the appointment of a new Chief Constable, with the power to veto
 - investigating complaints about the PCC

- 8.3 Councillor Mrs Pam Pearce, AVDC's representative on the PCP, will be attending the meeting to give an overview of the work of the Panel. A copy of the PCP's annual report is available at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/about-your-council/scrutiny/thames-valley-police-and-crime-panel/>

9 Resource implications

- 9.1 There are no additional financial implications for the Council associated with the implementation of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act, but this will be reviewed in 6 months time.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Kay Aitken (01296) 585005
ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014

On the 13th of March 2014, the ASB, Crime and Policing Act gained Royal Assent.

This new Act introduces legislation to deal with dangerous dogs, firearms, sexual harm and forced marriage but the main focus of the Act is to bring into power new provisions and tools around anti-social behaviour, bringing with it the biggest change in ASB powers since their introduction in 1998 (through the Crime and Disorder Act). Parts 1-6 of the Act, (which apply in England and Wales) take forward measures to:

- focus the response to anti-social behaviour on the needs of victims
- empower communities to get involved in tackling anti-social behaviour
- ensure professionals can protect the public quickly through faster, more effective powers and speed up the eviction of the most anti-social tenants

The ASB provisions in the Act consolidate the existing 19 ASB powers into 6 more flexible powers. These are:

- Part 1 - Civil Injunctions (CI)
- Part 2 -The Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO)
- Part 3 - Dispersal Power (DP's)
- Part 4 (1) - Community Protection Notices (CPN's)
- Part 4 (2) - Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)
- Part 4 (3) - Closure Orders (CO's)

In addition the Act brings into power two new community involvement tools to help focus the response to antisocial behaviour on the needs of victims. These are the Community Trigger and Community Remedy.

A summary of each new power is given within this briefing note, however more details can be obtained in the Home Office Guidance available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-bill-anti-social-behaviour>

Civil Injunctions

This is a civil power the district council can apply for, which offers a quicker and more effective protection to victims and communities, stopping the perpetrator's behaviour from escalating. The case will be heard in a County Court where, if the behaviour meets the nuisance and annoyance test (using civil standard of proof on the balance of probabilities), an injunction will prohibit an individual from certain behaviours for 2 years and can require them to do something to address their behaviour (i.e. address a substance misuse problem, with support services). A breach of the order can result in maximum 2 years imprisonment, as its considered to be a contempt of court.

AVDC currently uses informal approaches to behaviour management such as yellow/red cards, warning letters and acceptable behaviour contracts (ABC's) which have been very successful. It is envisaged that the use of lower level sanctions will continue to be used before considering the need to use an Injunction.

Lead officer for more information contact, Kay Aitken, Community Safety Manager.

Community Behaviour Orders (CBO)

These orders replace the antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) and are available on conviction for any criminal offence in a criminal court. Breach of these orders is a further criminal offence, with a maximum sentence of five years in custody for an adult, and a 2 year detention order for those under 18 years. These orders will be implemented by the Police.

Lead officer for more information contact Joanne Loftus, ASB co-ordinator

Dispersal Power (DP)

This is a Police power and replaces the existing dispersal order. This will enable officers to require a person who commits, or is likely to commit, ASB to leave a specified area and not return for up to 48 hours. A police officer of at least the rank of Superintendent must authorise the use of the powers in a particular area.

Lead Officer for more information contact, Kay Aitken, Community Safety Manager.

Community Protection Notices (CPN)

The CPN is intended to deal with nuisance or annoyance that is persistent and unreasonable and has a detrimental impact on the community. . District councils and the Police can issue CPNs. These powers are similar to, but do not replace, the Statutory Nuisance powers used by Environmental Health for complaints such as bonfires noise and rubbish under section 79 and 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990..

A CPN can be issued by council or Police officers where they are¹satisfied on reasonable grounds that the conduct is:

- having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and
- is persistent or continuing in nature, and
- is unreasonable

The process is a staged response, an initial written warning letter is given, if behaviour continues then a formal notice (CPN) is issued. If this is breached a sanction for non compliance is issued such as a fixed penalty notice (FPN), remedial works or prosecution.

Issuing a CPN does not discharge the council from its duty to issue an abatement notice where the behaviour constitutes a statutory nuisance under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. A CPN can be used to deal with issues that are causing annoyance to the community but may not constitute a statutory nuisance, Environmental Health Officers and Technical Officers will initially take the lead role on issuing CPN's for the council,

¹. The Government are still considering allowing local authorities to delegate the power to issue CPN's to registered social landlords (RSL's). A decision on this will be made by Spring 2015, after local authorities and police have had time to embed the new powers.

working in partnership with other council services such as the Community Safety team who will remain responsible for dealing with lower level sanctions to deal with ASB. Environmental Health will be delegated the new powers under the council's current scheme of officer delegations.

Lead officer for more information contact Richard Hiscock, Environmental Health and Licencing Manager.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

These are aimed at dealing with nuisance or problems in a particular public area that are detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can enjoy public spaces.

These orders replace existing powers (designated public place orders, gating orders and dog control orders) and are aimed at dealing with nuisance or problems in a particular public area that are detrimental to the local community's quality of life. Existing orders will remain enforceable until 2017 after which they will be treated as PSPO. The power to make orders is exercised by the local authority.

PSPO's can prohibit certain activities (e.g. drinking alcohol) or require certain actions (e.g. keeping dogs on leads). Orders must be reviewed at least every 3 years and can be varied or discharged at any time.

Any breach of the order makes the offender liable to an FPN (up to £100), or on summary conviction a fine, not exceeding £1,000. Council Officers, PCSO's or Police can issue FPNs but would need to witness the breach and have given the offender a previous warning to correct behaviour, i.e. asked a dog walker to put the dog on a lead or asked someone to stop drinking.

As current DPPO's are regulated via the Licensing Committee a report will be presented to this committee early next year to review the implications on the existing orders. Procedures for making new orders will also be developed and Members will be kept updated.

Lead officer for more information contact Richard Hiscock, Environmental Health and Licencing Manager.

Closure Orders (CO)

This power allows local authorities and Police to close any premises that are causing nuisance or disorder to communities (including licensed premises).

The closure order can be issued for a 24 hour period by councils or police (a superintendent can extend this initial period to 48 hours where necessary). An extended period of closure can be made upon application to the magistrates court within 48 hours of the original notice being served.

Lead officer for more information contact Kay Aitken, Community Safety Manager.

Community Trigger

The community trigger gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour if they feel it has previously been ignored. The process starts with a review of their case, if the locally defined threshold is met. A victim or third party acting on behalf of the victim (i.e. MP or Councillor) can activate this process.

The basic procedure for a trigger involves:

- A victim, or third party, making an application to use the Trigger,
- The ASB co-ordinator will decide whether the threshold has been met,
- If yes, then relevant bodies share information about the case, review what previous actions have been taken and consider if further information is needed,. Where further action can be taken a plan is agreed and activity monitored.

Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP) has worked with other CSPs within the Thames Valley region to set a suitable threshold for a trigger and has adopted the Home Office suggestion. In Aylesbury Vale, a trigger can be enacted where the individual has reported 3 related incidents of ASB in the previous 6 month period, or where 5 reports have been made in the previous 6 months by a collective group in a locality about a related issue.

Having a community trigger procedure is a statutory duty for district councils, Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and registered social landlords (RSLs). A process for completing reviews for the Vale was adopted by AVCSP in October 2014 and this is now live and published on our website at <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/community-living/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour/community-trigger/>

Lead officer for more information contact Joanne Loftus, ASB co-ordinator.

Community Remedy

This gives victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour a say in the punishment of offenders that would replace the need for court action. This means that victims will get justice quickly, and the offender has to face immediate and meaningful consequences for their actions.

This provision is a duty for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and is enacted by the local investigating Police Officer. The Thames Valley PCC has undertaken consultation on the proposed sanctions and a full list will be available soon.

The Home Office Guidance is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-bill-anti-social-behaviour>.

Lead officer for more information contact Kay Aitken, Community Safety Manager.

For more information contact

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