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# Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership.



**Community Safety Strategy 2017 to 2020**

**and**

**Annual Plan 2017 to 2018**

## Vision statement

*To make everyone who lives, works and visits Aylesbury Vale feel safer.*

## Background

Aylesbury Vale is one of the safest places to live and work in the Thames Valley. We strive to keep it that way working with local people to tackle crime and disorder and its root causes. The current population of the Vale sits at 188,707. The total number of crimes per 1,000 population in the Vale in 2015/16 was 48.15, as compared with 55.41 crimes per 1,000 in the Thames Valley area.

Community Safety is the term used to describe the work we undertake with communities and partners to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. The Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP) was established in 1998 following the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act, which made this way of working a statutory function. Section 17 of the Act imposes a duty on responsible authorities to:

“Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it -

- to have due regard to the likely impact of all of their daily functions and services on crime and disorder, and;
- to take reasonable and proportionate action with regard to crime and disorder reduction in all areas of their work.”

Later amended by further legislation to include,

“anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending...”

The Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following organisations:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council (this includes the Youth offending Service)
- Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Thames Valley Police (Aylesbury)
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- HMP Young offenders (HMYOI)

## Previous achievements

The Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership has a good track record of reducing crime within the Vale, with 'all crime' levels falling over the last ten years. With crime being at lower levels and taking into consideration further changes in recording rules, fluctuations are to be expected and sexual and violence offences have seen a small increase in the last year. This will inform our renewed strategy.

## Setting the strategy

The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires all Community Safety Partnerships to undertake a strategic assessment once a year. In addition to this, the partnership engages with communities to gain a better understanding of the issues that are of most concern to them. For the last seven years AVCSP have consulted with communities about the priorities for its annual action plans. This has been done each year by sending a crime survey using various means of the media.

Crime has followed similar temporal trends to previous years with Burglary Dwelling peaking in the winter months and Sexual Offences peaking in the summer/autumn months. Shoplifting continues to occur primarily during the early afternoon hours and Domestic Violence occurs primarily in the after work hours of the early evening. The exception is Violent Crime, which has shifted from the traditional peak of the early hours of the morning during the night-time economy, to after school hours in the late afternoon. Reducing numbers of younger victims in communities is a priority for the partnership.

Burglary to homes continues to cause concern, despite reductions in numbers over the last few years. This is especially true in rural areas where communities feel vulnerable due to their more isolated position. Although similar crimes thought to be committed by the same individual or group have been identified through the police tasking process, the Strategic Assessment did not identify any specific areas for focussed activity. The partnership is linked in to the police tasking process and live crime trends, such as rural burglaries, are managed accordingly.

Crime subject areas new to this strategy, such as Modern Day Slavery and Serious Organised Crime are not crimes in themselves but describe clusters of crime types which fall within their definition, e.g. drug dealing could be spontaneous and isolated in nature or could be part of more serious organised criminal activity.

There is intelligence emerging around a small number of Organised Crime Groups active within the Aylesbury Vale. Some action within the partnership has already taken place to disrupt the activity of these groups and further work is needed to understand the underlying issues and to address the conditions under which these groups find it possible to operate.

The referendum on the UK's status in Europe, (now known as Brexit), has produced minimal repercussions in the Aylesbury Vale, against the national trend. The strategic assessment shows a 4% increase in reports against a Thames Valley average of 34%. Hate Crime<sup>1</sup>, however, continues to be under reported<sup>2</sup>, highlighting the need to support greater cohesion within our communities.

Anti-Social behaviour is at a lower level than 2015/2016 showing a 21% reduction. There are localised issues in neighbourhoods that have responded well to partnership intervention, involving the communities themselves. There are national examples of neighbourhood based resolution models that have proven successful in supporting communities to deal with specific and localised issues. This will be a focus for our new strategy.

**This information supports two strategic priorities for the period of the strategy, these being:**

- **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.**

Based on our consultation survey, Burglary and Cyber enabled crime were of most concern for residents, with over 80% of respondents feeling fairly or very worried about becoming a victim of this type of crime. These will continue to be priorities within AVCSP Annual Plan.

Problem-Solving and dealing with underlying causes is a key element of our new strategy. We will work hard with partners and communities to identify areas of vulnerability and high demand to achieve solutions that are sustainable and that make a lasting impact. There will be a greater emphasis on helping communities to identify ways to improve their safety and resilience through restorative approaches<sup>3</sup>, Neighbourhood Watch and warden schemes.

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<sup>1</sup> Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic.

<sup>2</sup> 'Challenge it, Report it, Stop it – The Government's Plan to Tackle Hate Crime'

<sup>3</sup> Restorative approaches are a process through which parties with a stake in a specific offence collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath.

Whilst the Partnership Strategy is for the period 2017 to 2020, the Plan will be revised annually to reflect any emerging or changing trends.

## Links with other plans

AVCSP has a reciprocal duty to have regard to the Police and Crime Commissioners Plan and its priorities. There are other plans which are taken into consideration when developing this strategy, which consider countywide areas of common interest, which ensures that together we are more effective and efficient. These include:

- Thames Valley Police Strategic Assessment of Crime
- The Safer Bucks Plan
- Countywide Domestic Abuse strategy

In two-tier local authority areas (such as ours) there is a strategic requirement for the 'County Strategy Group' (the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board) to prepare an annual 'Community Safety Agreement'. This Agreement should identify:

*“(a) the ways in which the responsible authorities and partners in the county area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in the strategic assessment through coordinated or joint working; and*

*(b) how the responsible authorities and partners in the county area might otherwise reduce crime and disorder or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working.”<sup>4</sup>*

In Buckinghamshire this is called the Safer Bucks Plan. For some issues it is appropriate to work at a local level and for others it may be more appropriate to work at countywide level for example, on domestic abuse services and treatment services for drug and alcohol misuse. We are committed to working in partnership to deliver the most sensible approach to respond to local need.

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<sup>4</sup> New duty for county councils in the Police and Justice Act.

## Future Challenges 2017-2020

The community safety agenda continues to see significant changes in funding, resources, partners, monitoring arrangements and policy framework. Some of this work is ongoing and we have highlighted the key challenges that we know we need to be addressed over the next three year period. These are:

- Further reductions in funding –
- Pressure on partners' budgets; for example for CCTV services, which has initiated a review of the service requirements for Aylesbury, this is on-going. AVDC is conducting a root and branch review to equip itself for the total withdrawal of central government funding in 2020.
- Housing development leading to an increase in population, and further growth expected. This means that partners will need to work ever closer to find ways of reducing demand on their services whilst maintaining a safe environment in which communities and businesses can thrive. Since the last Community Safety strategy was agreed, Thames Valley Police have reviewed their processes and are reviewing their current structures.

## Future Opportunities –

More than ever, the AVCSP recognises the important role it has to play in providing communities with information and resources to help them build strong and resilient neighbourhoods, examples include:

- Neighbourhood Watch and similar schemes, such as Street Associations and Community Wardens.
  - Aylesbury Street Angels scheme, organised by local churches provide additional support to users of the town centre economy in the evenings.
  - Thames Valley Alert, websites and social media; such as Twitter and Facebook provide opportunities to allow individuals within communities to hear about crime and disorder issues that are pertinent to the area they live or work, and obtain advice on taking appropriate action to prevent themselves and their families becoming victims of crime.
  - Country Watch, working in partnership with rural businesses and communities to help prevent them becoming victims of crime.
  - Liaising with Parish Council's about local issues/concerns and keeping them updated on current crime campaigns.
- The key principles to underpin the Partnership strategy are:
- The development of relationships between the AVCSP and local groups.

- Open and clear communication with the public.
- Making community safety engagement 'worthwhile' for local groups.
- Understanding the diverse groups and respective needs within the Vale.

This Plan will be shared with communities in order to inform them of the priorities. We keep them and partners informed of progress via the following ways;

- Local Area Forums
- Local press/radio
- Quarterly newsletters
- Crime reduction initiatives i.e. posters, bill boards, community awareness roadshow
- Twitter, Facebook, and Thames Valley Alert.
- AVDC website [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/emergencies-safety-and-crime](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/emergencies-safety-and-crime)
- Annual Community Safety Survey
- Thames Valley Police website, your neighbourhood.
- Parish Council's meetings
- Community communications channels such as Parish newsletters.

AVCSP continues to support and work with groups like these to identify issues of greatest concern as well as ways of tackling crime.

## Annual Plan 2017/18.

The main targets that the Community Safety Plan 2017/18 seeks to achieve, are also reflected in the Thames Valley Police plan and include;

- A reduction in overall crime compared to 2016/17.

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

Following the Purple Flag accreditation process we formed a working group of interested parties to help deliver the priorities for action in Aylesbury town centre and to ensure our success in the reassessment in 2018.

The Buckinghamshire Substance Misuse Strategy was introduced in 2016 to cover the next 5 years and AVCSP will work with partners to deliver on this plan.

As outlined in the strategy there are also a number of projects which the CSP will continue to support because of the valuable role they play in creating a safer town centre and these include:

- The CCTV Partnership
- Aylesbury Business Against Crime group (ABACG)<sup>5</sup>
- Pubwatch

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<sup>5</sup> This group was rebranded in 2012 to include organisations outside the retail sector.



<b>Target</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lead Agency /resource</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
To retain the purple flag in October 2018.	Implement the purple flag action plan 2017/18 for Aylesbury town Centre.	NTE group, Partnership resources	October 2018	People using the night time economy in Aylesbury town centre feel safe
	Apply for reassessment of the award in October 2018.	AVDC lead, Partnership resources	November 2019	People using the night time economy in Aylesbury town centre are safe.
Reduce violent crime, related to the night time economy in Aylesbury Vale's town centres. (compared with 2016/17).	Working with AVDC licensing and the NTE Group in Aylesbury (including Pubwatch) - to conduct publicity campaign in licensed premises warning of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption and reminding people of how to stay safe when travelling home.	Night time Economy group	May 2018	People are educated about alcohol misuse and are less likely to become involved in violence and disorder.
	Identifying good practice from the Purple Flag work and roll out initiatives to other town centres.	TVP	March 2018	
Reduce the level of ASB associated with Street drinking in Aylesbury Town Centre.	Identify perpetrators and develop supporting action plans to reduce their persistent alcohol and drug misuse and associated ASB.	AVDC, TVP	March 2018	Residents and customers using Aylesbury town centre feel safer and report fewer incidents.

<b>Target</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lead Agency /resource</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Ensure that changes to licensing legislation are deployed when applicable to control late night licensing in Buckingham town centre.	Collect data from police, community safety and environmental health noise survey and determine whether the current licencing policy for Buckingham is appropriate.	AVDC Licensing Services Manager	March 2018	Residents and customers of Buckingham town centre feel safer and there are fewer incidents.

**Priority 2: 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.**

<b>Target</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lead agency /resources</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Outcomes.</b>
Reduce Burglary compared with 2016/17.	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	Ongoing	Burglary dwelling is reduced.
	Include as part of the wintertime burglary campaign, specific information in regards to outbuildings, sheds and garages.	AVDC and neighbourhood teams	March 2018.	Opportunities for theft and burglary are reduced and residents feel safer.
Reduce the level of Violent Crime.	Reduce the levels of repeat victimisation in domestic abuse by raising awareness of support services.	TVP	March 2018	Communities feel safer and better informed about how to protect themselves.

Target	Activity	Lead agency /resources	Timescale	Outcomes.
	Promote and develop Domestic Violence champions.	AVDC		
	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 2018	Communities feel safer and better informed about how to protect themselves.
Reduce the levels of rural burglary, both to homes and outbuildings.	Visit farms and churches and provide crime prevention advice to reduce theft; and encourage sign up to Country Watch and the Thames Valley Alert system.	TVP & AVDC	March 2018	Opportunities to steal from farms and homes are reduced
Reduce the level of ASB.	Address persistent and resistant ASB through closer partnership problem-solving, E.g. TAG	Public Safety Team	March 2018	Residents feel safer in their communities
	Continue to use powers and tools, such as the Community Trigger and Closure Orders to tackle ASB.	Public Safety Team	March 2018	Residents feel safer in their communities
	Build community resilience by using restorative approaches – Community Resolution Project	AVDC	March 2018	Communities feel safer by using a community remedy approach.
Reduce levels of ASB	Encourage young people to get involved with their local communities by implementing the Community Cards initiative. <sup>6</sup>	AVDC	March 2018	Incidents within schools are reduced.
Reduce the community concern about drug dealing	Run drug awareness initiatives in areas of high concern	BCC	March 2018	Residents feel better informed about drug misuse support

<sup>6</sup> 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 /resources	Timescale	Outcomes.
and substance and alcohol misuse as identified by the Community Safety Survey 2016.	Re-invigorate Vulnerable Tenants Group to identify those at risk of exploitation.	AVDC		services in their localities.  Vulnerable people are identified and safeguarded.
	Work with the Institute Of Community Safety to conduct a Local Assessment of Gangs and organised crime groups.	AVDC/TVP		
	Work with partners to tackle Organised Crime Gangs, taking an “Achilles Heel” approach.	TVP		
Raise awareness of cyber crime and online safety.	Raise awareness of scams that target the elderly.	BCC/TVP	March 2018	Residents are well informed about crime prevention and are more vigilant and aware about this type of crime.
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.	Promote the “Cyber Streetwise” campaign in 2014/15. <sup>7</sup>  Promote and support Scams awareness programmes. AVDC	Trading Standards/ AVDC	March 2018	Residents feel safer and better able to recognise risks to the community.

<sup>7</sup> More details can be found at <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk>

Target	Activity	Lead agency /resources	Timescale	Outcomes.
	Continue to identify those at risk of child sexual exploitation and radicalisation, and those who seek to exploit them by safeguarding the vulnerable and bringing to justice the perpetrators.	Safeguarding Boards	2018	
	Roll out Chelsea's Choice to all secondary schools in the Vale area, to raise awareness to CSE.	Safeguarding working group	March 2018	Young people are well informed about CSE and how to prevent becoming a victim.
	Arrange awareness raising events at school parents evenings.	AVDC/BCC	March 2018	Parents are well informed and able to identify the signs of
	Roll out Hotel Watch to local hotels in the vale area. Measuring effectiveness through 'mystery-shopping' activity.	AVDC/TVP	March 2018	Managers and staff are well informed about spotting the possible signs of CSE.
	Raise awareness and encourage reporting of Hate Crime through further development of Hate Crime Champions and working closely with the Hate Crime Network.	AVDC/TVP	March 2018	Residents feel better informed and feel confident to report such crimes, either directly or through a third party.  Numbers of reports increase appropriately.