

Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership.



Community Safety Strategy 2017 to 2020

and

Annual Plan 2018 to 2019

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 area. We strive to keep it that way, working with local partners to tackle crime and disorder and its root causes. The total number of crimes per 1,000 population in Aylesbury Vale in 2016/17 was 60.03, as compared with 74.94 crimes per 1,000 in the Thames Valley area.¹

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 (AVCCG)
- Thames Valley Police (Aylesbury)
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

¹ TVP to provide population crime figures for 2017/18 at the end of the working year.

- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT)
- HMP Young offenders (HMYOI)

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 eight 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. Violent Crime has seen a rise in offences linked to the early hours of the morning during the night time economy in Aylesbury Vale between the later end of 2017/early 2018 compared with the same period in 2016/17. Reducing numbers of younger victims in communities is a priority for the partnership.²

Burglary to homes continues to cause concern despite lower numbers than the Thames Valley Police force-average. This is especially true in rural areas where communities feel vulnerable due to their more isolated position. The partnership is linked in to the police tasking process and live crime trends, such as rural burglaries, are managed accordingly.

Tool Theft from vans across Aylesbury Vale has seen a 27% increase over 2017/18 compared with 2016/17- with a 36% rise in Buckingham, many of these incidents were down to the same group of individuals who have now been identified through the police tasking process and the majority took place in the rural areas.

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.

² TVP to provide updated crime figures for 2017/18 at the end of the working year.

Hate Crime³, however, continues to be under reported⁴, highlighting the need to support greater cohesion within our communities⁵ along with increased partnership working.

Anti-Social behaviour has increased by 8% across Aylesbury Vale over the last three years. There are localised issues in neighbourhoods where we will continue to use 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.**
- **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.**

Based on our consultation survey 2017/18, Burglary and Cyber enabled crime were of most concern for residents, with over 80% of respondents reporting feeling a little worried to extremely 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 are key elements 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 approaches⁶, Neighbourhood Watch and warden schemes.

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

³ 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.

⁴ ‘Challenge it, Report it, Stop it – The Government’s Plan to Tackle Hate Crime’

⁵ TVP to provide Hate crime figures for 2017/18 at the end of the working year.

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.”⁷

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.

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:

⁷ New duty for county councils in the Police and Justice Act.

- 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 have conducted 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 have implemented a new operating model.

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.
- Ask For Angela initiative, sexual violence campaign aiming to help individuals feel safe when they are on a night out.
- Safe Places scheme, providing safe havens for vulnerable individuals if they need help/reassurance when they are out in the community.
- 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
- Thames Valley Police Have Your Say Events
- Twitter, Facebook, and Thames Valley Alert.
- AVDC website 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 2018/19.

The main priorities that the Community Safety Plan 2018/19 are working towards, are also reflected in the Thames Valley Police plan and include;

- Reducing crime compared to 2017/18 and preventing harm.

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.

The Thames Valley Cyber Crime Strategy and Buckinghamshire Exploitation Strategy were introduced in 2017 to cover the next 3 years- the AVCSP will work with partners to deliver on these plans.

As outlined in the strategy there are also a number of projects which the AVCSP 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)⁸
- Pubwatch

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 |
|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 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 | |
| | 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 greater NTE. | AVDC lead, Partnership resources | April 2018/2019 | |

⁸ This group was rebranded in 2012 to include organisations outside the retail sector.

| Target | Activity | Lead Agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| <p>Reduce violent crime, related to the night time economy in Aylesbury Vale's town centres. (compared with 2017/18)</p> | <p>Working with AVDC licensing and the NTE Group in Aylesbury - to conduct a publicity campaign in licensed premises warning of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption and reminding people of how to stay safe when travelling home.</p> | <p>Night time Economy group</p> | <p>January 2019</p> | |
| | <p>Continue to Roll out 'Ask For Angela' initiative across Aylesbury Vale increasing the number of supporting businesses and sexual violence awareness amongst the Community.</p> | <p>AVDC</p> | <p>March 2019</p> | |

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 |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <p>Reduce Burglary compared with 2017/18 in both the towns and rurals.</p> | <p>Use the police tasking process to identify areas of the Vale which are experiencing higher levels of burglary and provide crime prevention advice/campaigns.</p> | <p>AVDC Community Safety team</p> | <p>March 2019</p> | |
| | <p>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.</p> | <p>AVDC/TVP</p> | <p>March 2019</p> | |
| | <p>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 association to attend the Independent Advisory Group in order to increase information sharing in relation to rural crime.</p> | <p>AVDC/TVP</p> | <p>March 2019</p> | |

| Target | Activity | Lead agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
|---|---|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| | Reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending through the reinvigoration of Integrated Offender Management. | AVDC/TVP | March 2019 | |
| | Promote and develop Domestic Violence champions within partnership organisations. | AVDC/BCC | March 2019 | |
| | 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 | |
| | 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 | AVDC/TVP | March 2019 | |

| Target | Activity | Lead agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| | place. | | | |
| 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 | |
| | 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 | |
| | Provide support and advice to private landlords on ASB in relation to their tenants. | AVDC/TVP | March 2019 | |
| | Continue to use powers and tools, such as the Community Trigger and Closure Orders to tackle ASB. | AVDC/TVP | March 2019 | |
| | Coordinate regular problem solving partnership meetings in order to discuss reoccurring ASB issues within Aylesbury Vale. | AVDC/TVP | March 2019 | |
| | Build community resilience by using restorative approaches – Community Resolution Project | AVDC | March 2018 | |

| Target | Activity | Lead agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
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| 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. ⁹ | AVDC | July 2018 (planning since September 2017) | |
| 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 | |
| | 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 | |
| | Work in partnership to tackle Organised Crime Gangs, taking an "Achilles Heel" approach and supporting Operation Stronghold principles. | TVP/AVDC | March 2019 | |

⁹ 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 |
|--|---|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| | 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 | |
| Raise awareness of cyber crime and online safety in line with the Thames Valley Cyber Crime Strategy 2017-2020. | Raise awareness of scams that target older people linking with trading standards | BCC/TVP | March 2019 | |
| | Raise awareness amongst young people on how to use the internet safely- supporting schools and young carers. | BCC/AVDC/TVP | March 2019 | |
| | Continue to support the Home Office “Cyber Segmentation” Initiative. Identifying effective engagement and education with at risk groups including businesses. | TVP | March 2019 | |

| Target | Activity | Lead agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>AVDC</p> | <p>March 2019</p> | |
| | <p>Promote and support Scams awareness programmes aimed at younger people, especially in relation to identity fraud.</p> | <p>Trading Standards/ AVDC</p> | <p>March 2019</p> | |
| | <p>Continue to identify those at risk of child sexual exploitation and radicalisation, and those who seek to exploit them.</p> | <p>Safeguarding Boards</p> | <p>March 2019</p> | |
| | <p>Continue to promote "Hotel Watch" to local hotels/guest houses in the Vale area. Measuring effectiveness through 'mystery-shopping' activity.</p> | <p>AVDC/TVP</p> | <p>March 2019</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</p> | <p>AVDC</p> | <p>September 2018</p> | |

| Target | Activity | Lead agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
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| | view that the Interfaith Network could potentially take on. | | | |
| | 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 | |
| | Provide space for Victim Support to engage with clients on a six monthly trial basis. | AVDC | March 2019 | |
| | 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/OXFORD AGAINST CUTTING | March 2019 | |
| Raise community awareness around the risks of Modern Slavery as identified by the 2017 annual consultation. | Support the PCC Funded 'Rahab Project' -arranging training sessions for all front line staff members in relation to spotting the signs and the reporting process. | AVDC/BCC | March 2019 | |

| Target | Activity | Lead agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
|--|--|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| | <p>Working with local businesses-educating them on the signs of Modern Slavery ensuring that their Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement is updated/reviewed annually.</p> <p>Identifying good practice through the Thames Valley and Buckinghamshire Anti-Slavery Network.</p> | TVP | March 2019 | |
| | <p>Support the TVP 'Hidden Harm Campaign' – raising awareness of abuse and encourage reporting across Buckinghamshire.</p> | TVP | March 2019 | |
| <p>Prevent and Identify risks or incidents that are likely to cause Community Tension.</p> | <p>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.</p> | AVDC/TVP | Quarterly | |
| | <p>Work with Gypsy Roma Traveller sites in order to reduce levels of ASB and community tension.</p> | AVDC/TVP/BCC | March 2019 | |
| <p>Improve safety on our roads through partnership initiatives aimed at reducing casualties and</p> | <p>Establish a multi-agency Task & Finish group to develop work in areas, such as “Community Speedwatch” , cyclists, pedestrians and younger driver</p> | BCC/AVDC/TVP | March 2019 | |

| Target | Activity | Lead agency or resource | Timescale | Updates |
|--|--|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| promoting good driver behaviour. | behaviour. | | | |
| 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 | |

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