

**COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE & ANNUAL PLAN 2018-19**

**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 (AVCSP<sup>1</sup>) Plan in 2017/18, and an update on some of the recent and future changes taking place in connection with community safety.

**2 Recommendations/for decision**

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| 2.1 | That Members note the content of the report |
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**3 Executive summary**

- 3.1 Total recorded crime for the year to date, is currently showing an increase of \*16.1%. This equates to an increase of 1324 crimes, as compared with the same period 2016/17. An increase was anticipated due to the fact that crime rates had been generally falling year on year to relatively low levels.
- 3.2 The report provides information about activities completed to date from the AVCSP 2017/18 action plan such as the Purple Flag<sup>2</sup> application, work around drugs dealing/exploitation and prevention of Burglary to homes.
- 3.3 The AVCSP Strategy for 2017-20 was put in place at the beginning of this year, and the Annual Plan for 2017/18 compiled. A Strategic Assessment identifies priorities for the partnership based on the crime and disorder risks, as well as the Thames Valley Police Strategic Assessment; and a public consultation has also helped inform us of residents' priorities.
- 3.4 This report provides an update on use of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) legislation to deter offending that impacts on communities.

**4 Supporting information**

- 4.1 Crime has generally been falling in the Vale for the last few years and the Community Safety Partnership did not set numerical targets in the 2016/17 plan as it was felt unlikely that crime would continue to fall. An upward trend in crime can now be seen in Violent Crime, Thefts of pedal cycles and theft from motor vehicles, in particular tool thefts from unattended work vans. From 1st April 2017 to the end of February 2018 overall crime has increased by \*16.1% compared to the same period last year. A breakdown showing the changes in different types of crime is provided below. Due to the changes in recording practice a new norm is being established in certain crime types, such as Violent Crime. In order to provide some context, the table below also shows the percentage change for the same categories, over the same time period, for the Thames Valley area.
- 4.2 Notwithstanding the earlier changes in Home Office recording rules, Violent Crime has seen an increase. The Strategic Assessment and further snapshot

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<sup>1</sup> 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, Thames Valley Probation, Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group, VAHT and HMYOI, Aylesbury. \* Figures to be updated at end of year.

<sup>2</sup> For information about Purple Flag visit

[https://www.atcm.org/programmes/purple\\_flag/WelcometoPurpleFlag](https://www.atcm.org/programmes/purple_flag/WelcometoPurpleFlag)

analysis has shown an increase in reporting of violent crime involving young people in schools. Other institutions also account for higher percentages of crime compared with the wider community. The Young Offenders Institute (HMYOI) has its own particular challenges and the governor now sits on the CSP to provide the prison's perspective.

- 4.3 Partnership working with the police and AVDC continues to focus on Burglary to homes and other acquisitive crimes. AVDC Community Safety officers support community engagement and Crime Reduction events in both urban and rural areas. This has seen Burglary rates remain lower than seen in neighbouring areas and forces.
- 4.4 Hate Crime saw a spike this year following the London and Manchester attacks, such crimes have since been reducing month on month and returning to levels seen prior to these events. However, it is recognised that Hate Crime continues to be under-reported and an exciting initiative has been undertaken with a new Interfaith Network being formed, following the Police Crime Commissioners support for Hate Crime Champions being withdrawn. Hate Crime will be a major consideration of this group, going forward.

Crime Type	Crime figures <sup>3</sup> (ytd 1st Apr 2017 – 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018) Aylesbury Vale	% change compared with 2016/17 Aylesbury Vale	% change in crime figures across Thames Valley
<b>TO BE UPDATED AT END OF YEAR</b>			
All Crime (excluding fraud)	9569 (up 1324 )	16.1% Increase	9.4% increase
Violent Crime	Up 386	18.7% Increase	11.4% increase
Robbery	Up 26	57.8% Increase	34.6% increase
Burglary (homes)	Down 27	3.3% Reduction	9.1% increase
Racist Incidents	Up 56	81% Increase	25.8% increase
Homophobic crime	Up 1	6% Increase	17.2% increase
Theft From Vehicle	Up 214	35.4% Increase	12.9% increase
Anti-Social Behaviour	Down 2	-2% Reduction	No comparisons

<sup>3</sup> Year to date figures above supplied by Thames Valley Police, sourced 23rd March 2017.

## 5 Update On The Community Safety Plan 2017/18

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 2018/19 is in draft form, and is submitted pending comment from the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group on Thursday 15 March 2018. It will be published at:

<http://www.aylesburyvalecd.gov.uk/section/communitysafety-partnership-news-and-events>

Aylesbury town centre has held Purple Flag status since 2010. This award recognises the partnership working together to make town centres safer places for visitors and residents. The Community Safety Team have assisted in the submission of a new full application in January 2018. An assessment evening has been arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> April where Aylesbury partners will be able to showcase the town centre evening and night-time Economy as a safe and vibrant environment, commensurate with a town of its size. The “Night Moves” group has been re-invigorated and this is now focused on activity to support the Purple Flag assessment.

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 action groups; along with other partners within the CSP. This interaction informs CSP actions in the annual plan.

Crime reduction and engagement events had been carried out throughout the Vale, especially in the rural areas, offering home safety and tool marking advice. A public meeting called by police in response to community concerns in Buckingham demonstrated a joint approach to a spike in tool thefts from contractors vans. Bucks Fire and Rescue Service continue to provide crime reduction advice as part of their events and Home Safety checks.

The CSP undertook a Locality Review in November 2017, which was carried out by the Violence and Vulnerable Exploitation Unit, a team aligned with the Home Office. This was focussed on “County Lines” drugs exploitation and involved the wider partnership from Social Care, Drug and Alcohol services, as well as youth services and voluntary groups. The full report provided recommendations that will inform this year’s CSP plan. The joint agency Vulnerable Tenancy Group, which takes cognisance of those individuals exploited in their homes, was held up as good practice within the review’s report.

National campaigns in relation to security and personal safety have been supported and social media employed to focus messages on key demographics, for example the “White Ribbon” campaign aimed at the reduction of male violence against women and girls, as well as Thames Valley Police’s Hidden Harm campaign around Modern Slavery.

Housing officers from AVDC supported a police operation to safeguard suspected victims of Modern Slavery in a neighbouring CSP area. Housing Advisors were on standby but not eventually required.

**6 Examples of upcoming projects/initiatives for 2018/19 include:**

The Aylesbury Vale CSP Strategy and Annual Plan builds on the closer partnership working from the previous year's plan. A problem-solving approach involving as wider partnership as possible will continue to form the basis of tackling crime and disorder, whilst empowering communities to be more resilient. Emergency Planning and Resilience, having been aligned with the Community Safety sector in AVDC has seen a temporary increase in resource to ensure the responsibility under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 is carried out.

The Community Safety discipline will continue to focus activity on acquisitive crimes, such as burglary to homes, and support a multi-agency approach to raise awareness of home and personal security. Joint events are likely increase due to the overall increase in crime across Aylesbury Vale.

At the same time, partners will continue working to tackle some of the highest priority crimes, such as organised drug dealing gangs who exploit the vulnerable. Initiatives such as the Complex Needs and Vulnerable Tenancy Group will continue to support those at risk of losing their homes or those who have already lost their homes through being exploited by criminal gangs.

Anti-Social Behaviour, along with crime is often the symptom of complex issues within families and communities and one that can lead to homelessness should it not be resolved. As homelessness duties for AVDC change in line with the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, (which sees a shift change to prevention through early support and intervention), emphasis will be placed via the ASB Tactical Advisory Group (TAG) on encouraging partner agencies to offer earlier intervention, assistance and signposting of perpetrators to relevant support agencies in order to further reduce the risk of homelessness. Support and advice on anti-social behaviour for private landlords has also been identified as an emerging area of need and one that will be a point of focus.

Youth Concern, TVP and AVDC have received funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner to run a youth project in partnership aimed at vulnerable young people who are in danger of being trapped into county lines and other criminal activity in the district. The project will deliver sessions on grooming and exploitation, addressing social cohesion between young people from BME and those from white communities. Participants will also discuss practises of Stop and Search operations.

## 7 Annual plan 2018/19

7.1 The new Community Safety Annual Plan for 2018/19 has been drafted. The strategic assessment<sup>4</sup> has been updated and shows the two priorities of the current strategy are still valid. A summary of key points around these areas are:

(i) Violent crime accounts for 25.4% of all reported crime in Aylesbury Vale. This is similar to the previous year which showed 25.12%\*\* . There has been a rise in offences linked to the early hours of the morning during the night time economy. A proportion of this also relates to younger victims outside of school hours. Further analytical work will take place to provide the partnership with more information around violent crime, such as high risk locations, times or dates.

iii) Within the 2017/18 CSP Consultation, Burglary and Cyber Crime were the crimes where members of the community felt the most concerned of them or their family becoming a victim. Only 11% reported not feeling worried about Burglary and 18% reported not feeling worried about Cyber Crime with the remaining feeling a little worried to extremely worried. Although Aylesbury Vale Burglary levels are down for 2017/18 compared with 2016/17 it remains important to increasingly reassure members of the community, providing information as to how they can prevent themselves from becoming victims. Within the CSP Consultation over 45% of responders felt that the CSP should prioritise Burglary within the Annual Plan 2018/19.

iiii) The National Crime Agency (NCA) estimates that the cost of cyber-crime to the UK economy is billions of pounds per annum and growing. Under reporting by organisations and individuals means that the full scale of the cyber-crime threat in the UK is unknown. In line with the Thames Valley Cyber Crime Strategy 2017-20, the CSP will work to prevent and deter people who could be, or are, drawn into cyber criminality as well as providing public awareness messages through training and campaigns to those who are vulnerable of becoming a victim.

(iiiiii) Other areas of crime include CSE, "County Lines" model of drug dealing and other forms of exploitation such as Modern Day Slavery, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation. Work is continuing to help the partnership understand the scale of these crimes in the Vale, and across Buckinghamshire. Whilst the number of victims of these types of offences is low, they have a high impact on the victims and the local community and these crimes achieved the lowest results in the 2017 CSP consultation in relation to how informed individuals felt about the risks of these crime types.

7.2 Each year the AVCSP consults with residents about the priorities for the new action plan. We also ask people to tell us how safe they feel in their neighbourhood, town centre or place of work, how informed they feel about the emerging areas of crime and where they would seek information. The results of this year's survey will help to shape the activities and awareness raising campaigns during 2018/19.

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<sup>4</sup> CSP's have a duty to conduct annual reviews of crime, known as strategic assessments, to help identify priorities for action. \*\* As at March 2018 (TVP)

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

- 8.1 Reducing ASB incidents is one of the AVCSP's objectives. During 2017/18 there has been an decrease of -2% in incidents of Anti-Social behaviour.
- 8.2 A partnership approach continues to be taken towards tackling ASB. A co-located team working from AVDC offices or Aylesbury police station is staffed by the AVDC ASB Officer and a police constable. They work with partners, giving tactical advice to neighbourhood police teams, local housing providers and other partners to deal with incidents of ASB. Through the multi-agency Tactical Advisory Group, priority cases are discussed and recommendations made around utilising ASB powers as well as lower level sanctions to disrupt ASB activity. In 2017/18 there have been no requests for a review of ASB cases where the applicant considered that no action was being taken (otherwise known as the Community Trigger); compared with three cases in 2016/17.

## **9 Other information**

- 9.1 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, including local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". One of the key enablers in carrying out this duty is effective partnership working and co-operation, and this takes place locally through the AVCSP and the countywide Safer and Stronger Partnership Board. All members of the CSP are represented at the Bucks Prevent Network meetings where actions from the county Prevent Action Plan are discussed and implemented. The Workshop to Raise Awareness about PREVENT (WRAP) has been rolled out to AVDC staff and elected members, and complies with the new county-wide Prevent Training Strategy. Training figures including frontline staff and managers will be available from April 2018. The training programme continues with two AVDC officers now accredited by the Home Office to provide WRAP sessions.

**This report is amended following the Community Safety Partnership Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and is subject to comments from the Environment & Living Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

**The Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2018-19 has been amended to include:**

- i) Expansion of action around joint Night-time Economy activity with police and AVDC enforcement.**
- ii) Exploration of Civil Injunctions in partnership with VAHT.**
- iii) Removal of Cyber Segmentation activity, pending further form the Home Office.**
- iv) Addition of supporting Community Warden schemes.**
- v) Amendment to wording around Modern Slavery Statements.**
- vi) Addition of action around communication of reporting methods in regards Anti-Social behaviour.**