

Safer Bucks Plan

(The Buckinghamshire Community Safety Agreement)

Draft

2015 - 16

1 Our aims

In Buckinghamshire, we aim to continue to see crime reduce. We also aim to support those who are most vulnerable to crime and those who are most fearful of crime and enable them to feel safer. People can be vulnerable for a number of reasons - including who they are, where they live, the condition or environment in which they live. People can also be vulnerable at different times of the day or year for example night time or winter when access to services is harder for some. The Community Safety Partnership across Bucks aims to work with other services to support individuals when they need it.

Lastly, we aim to see improved locations that help communities and individuals to be safe and feel safe. In order to do that, we will continue to work with our partner agencies, both locally and across the county. We are committed to ensuring that our decision making is based on sound evidence and reflects the feedback from our communities. Where it is sensible, we will join things up across the county to achieve as much as possible for a lower cost.

2 The reason for our work

Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities and is consistently highlighted as a high priority by our residents. The impact of crime and disorder on the quality of life of individuals and whole communities means that it affects everyone who lives, works and is a visitor in Buckinghamshire.

It is widely recognised that tackling community safety issues cannot be achieved solely by the police. It requires the work of a number of organisations, in partnership, along with the community to raise the issues and identify solutions to those issues; and then to work together to put those solutions into action.

This need for partners to work together was made statutory in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and brings together a number of organisations to form Community Safety Partnerships. In Buckinghamshire these are:

- Thames Valley Police
- County and District Councils
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company
- Clinical Commissioning Groups

3 The purpose of this document

Part of our duty within the Crime & Disorder Act is to create a "Community Safety Agreement" every year. This document needs to identify:

- how the agencies within this partnership can work together to deal with the most important issues in the county. These issues are based on analysis of last year's crime and disorder data and on feedback from the community;
- the issues that will be fed into the work of the partnership across the county and set out how the partners will cooperate to deliver the priorities.

Some crimes can be tackled more effectively through joint working between a variety of agencies. In some cases, there may be a few agencies that do similar work and can benefit from working together more closely to share experience and resource. This strengthens their ability to achieve their outcomes.

4 How we set our priorities

Buckinghamshire benefits from a partnership analyst and close working with the police to prepare an annual partnership 'Strategic Assessment' which contains analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse for a year. The latest Strategic Assessment mostly looked at the data from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. For some areas of analysis a larger amount of data was used (up to 5 years) – this was where long term trends were needed to best understand the nature of crime. This work helps to provide the information needed to set our priorities.

4.1 The evidence base (Strategic Assessment)

Review of Partnership Performance over 2013/14

(compared to 2012/13)

- Total crime decreased in Bucks by 5%
- 11% of all reported crime took place in our town centres: Aylesbury (5%) and High Wycombe (6%)
- Violence was down in Bucks (-2%) except in Aylesbury Vale (+8%)
- Shoplifting increased (+11%) despite a drop in total acquisitive crime by 6%
- 50% of town centre crime was stealing (esp. shoplifting)
- Police recorded anti-social behaviour dropped by 20%
- Sexual offences increased by 29%

Victimisation

- 20% of all crime victims were between 40-49 years and this was primarily property related crime, such as burglary and vehicle crime
- Younger people were more likely to be victims of a crime against a person (such as violence 18-26, robbery 15-21 and sexual offences 12-15)
- 18-26 year olds made up 41% of victims of town centre violence
- People over 70 were at greater risk of fraudulent offences, such as scams and bogus callers & traders
- Tools (hardware or garden) and jewellery were the top items that stolen. Tools from vehicles and sheds/garages etc. and jewellery from people (robbery)

Offending

- Looking at population vs offending on all crime in general, 3 times more 18-26 year olds were offending than would be proportional for their population
- 18-26 year olds made up 41% of offenders of town centre violence
- Looking at sexual offences, 21% of the detected incidents were committed by those 17 and under and a further 23% by those between 18-26 years of age
- Repeat offending in adults accounted for 68% of all detected crime and 94 offenders (1.6%) committed more than 10 offences in 12 months studied
- The misuse of drugs remains one of the most significant known contributory factors to volume crime and re-offending

- The nature of drug misuse is changing rapidly and is related to changes in offending patterns, most notable mephedrone (illegal) and new psychoactive substances (legal highs).

Each of the four districts in Buckinghamshire also use the Strategic Assessment to help identify priorities for their work. They are required under the Crime and Disorder Act to produce a 3 Year Partnership Plan for each local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which is to be refreshed annually. The requirement for the annual Community Safety Agreement between the County Council and the partners is delivered as a countywide plan which should complement but not duplicate the work carried out at local levels. It should also complement the Police & Crime Plan.

We consider a range of information when setting our priorities including:

- ⇒ **Volume of crime** – the actual numbers of reported incidents
- ⇒ **Predicted direction of travel** – whether an issue is known to be getting worse and would continue to do so without intervention
- ⇒ **Impact on the community** – some people are repeat victims of a crime, and some crimes cause more harm than others
- ⇒ **Performance** – what has and has not been achieved in the last year
- ⇒ **Community concern** – some issues are raised more frequently than others by those who live in the county and these issues are seen as important to our communities

4.2 The Police & Crime Plan (2013-2017)

The Thames Valley police area covers 13 policing areas, of which 3 are within Buckinghamshire. Thus the Police & Crime Plan priorities are at a much high level than those that are identified for the county or district areas. They are also not all linked to partnership working as some are specifically for the police as an organisation.

The Police & Crime Priorities are:

- Cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and reduce reoffending
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Work with partner agencies to put victims and witnesses at the heart of the Criminal Justice System
- Ensure police and partners are visible, act with integrity and foster the trust and confidence of communities
- Communicate with the public to learn of their concerns, help to prevent crime and reduce their fear of crime
- Protect the public from serious organised crime, terrorism and internet based crime

5 The county level priorities

- 5.1 Protecting children and young adults:** Improving our understanding of the things that increase the risk of young people becoming victims or offenders and using that information to tackle things like Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence, Domestic Abuse, Gangs and exploitation into terrorism.
- 5.2 Protecting adults who are vulnerable due to who they are or where they live:** Identifying ways to protect older people (e.g. from doorstep crime, online/telephone /face-to-face fraud); adults who are targeted for reasons such as race, disability (e.g. into terrorism); and any exploitation/vulnerability connected with rural isolation or other location factors.
- 5.3 Protecting children and young adults:** Improving our understanding of the things that increase the risk of young people becoming victims or offenders and using that information to tackle things like Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence, Domestic Abuse, Gangs and exploitation into terrorism.
- 5.4 Substance misuse:** Dealing with the increase in dangerous substance misuse and behaviour such as mixing substances, sharing needles, and the rapidly changing nature of legal highs and other drugs. Recognising that drug and alcohol abuse is often a driver of crime.
- 5.5 Dealing with hidden crime:** Improving the information and knowledge we have to better tackle crimes that are under reported (e.g. Hate Crime, Human Trafficking), and use this to help earlier identification, support and prevention.

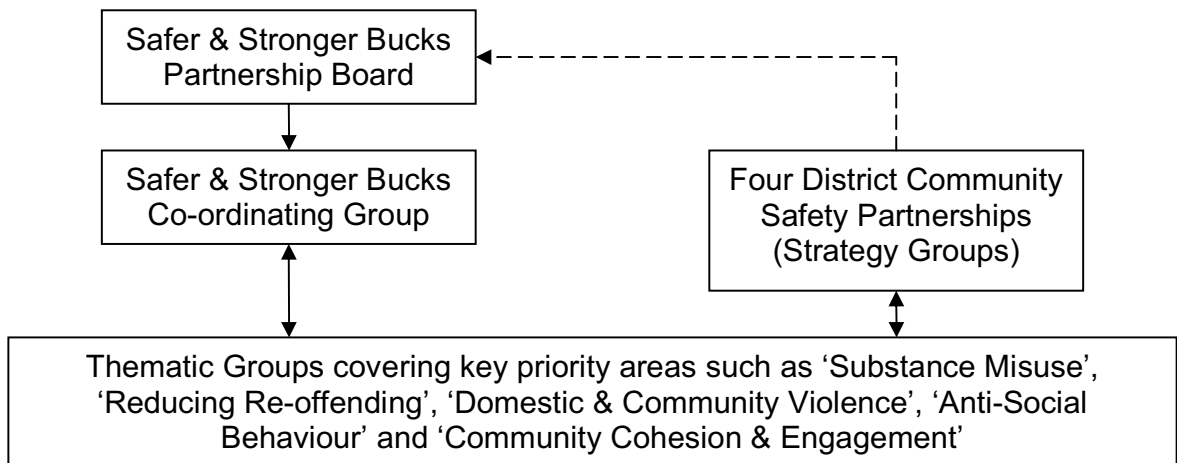
6 The local priorities (District based)

Community Safety work happens at a number of levels and, the Safer Bucks Plan is a county level plan. However, in line with legislation, each of the local district-based Community Safety Partnerships has developed a Partnership Plan. Having these two levels of plans is important as there are often issues that are of more concern in one area than in any other and these are more appropriately addressed at that local level. Equally, there are local issues which provide opportunities for activity at a county level, such as large awareness raising campaigns, rather than each local area doing something different. For your information the district priorities are listed in [appendix 1](#).

7 Who is involved in developing a Safer & Stronger Buckinghamshire

7.1 Partnership Structure

Buckinghamshire benefits from a clear partnership structure with long standing governance arrangements that compliment the two-tier (County and District) authority environment.



7.2 Partnership working

The Community Safety Partnership contains a number of statutory partners, as listed at the start of this document, and there is a commitment between them all to continue to work together to achieve better outcomes for the community.

At a county level, there are roles that seek to ensure that there is a co-ordinated and complete response to the issues across the county where that is appropriate. There is also responsibility to deal with the issues that have been identified across the county with the statutory partners and also to provide support and add value to the resource and experience of partners in local district areas.

Partnership working developed in a new direction in response to the Police and Crime Act, in November 2011, including the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner. The Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board and the Community Safety Partnerships in Bucks continue to work together with colleagues from across Thames Valley to ensure that the Community Safety Partnership priorities are understood and help to shape the future Police and Crime Plan which the Police and Crime Commissioner will produce.

8 How we will contribute towards a Safer & Stronger Buckinghamshire

8.1 Supporting those who are most vulnerable

While crime and disorder affects a broad range of people, it is those who are least able to help themselves that often are most affected by being a victim of crime and need the most support. There are individuals or sometimes groups in our communities who are particularly at risk even within areas that generally have lower crime levels or less fear. It is often harder to identify these people who need more help but the impact on crime or the fear of crime on them can have a significant negative impact on their quality of life.

People can be vulnerable due to their physical characteristics such as disabilities, age and health issues. Others can be disadvantaged due to their location whether that be those in rural areas having poorer access to services or those in poorer areas having less opportunities to make use of existing and basic services such as education and

health services. Some people are victims because of their own characteristics such as in cases of hate crime and harassment.

In many instances there will be people who can be put in contact with vulnerable individuals/group that can help them to improve their quality of life. Some may need specialist help and others just need better information. In times of reduced funding, there is a commitment from the partnership that those who need the most help should be the key focus for some of our resources and is the basis for being a countywide priority.

8.2 Effective information sharing and data analysis

The ability to achieve outcomes and see improvements in our communities depends, in part, on being able to check that the work to tackle crime and disorder is having the effect we expect. Equally, we need to know where our limited resources need to be used to make the most significant difference.

To do these things, we rely on data and information that is useful, accurate and up to date. The information we need comes from a number of different places from police crime data to survey results to single pieces of information that are given to us by our own residents, through reporting.

We will use data and intelligence (E.g ACORN data, Vulnerable Localities Index) to identify our most vulnerable populations and work with them to reduce their fear of crime. We will provide information in the most appropriate format for individuals. We will use our analysis to identify vulnerable properties and locations and promote target hardening.

The need to do the right thing and prove that the work is making a difference has long been a core function of the partnership. The inclusion of this as a key focus for the county demonstrates that getting data and information right is one of the best ways to help achieve the outcomes of all of the other priorities for the county and locally within districts. This will help us to:

Target our resources effectively: For example, better understand crimes against our residents (e.g. burglary, violence) vs. crimes against our community locations (e.g. shoplifting, bilking, business crime) so we can target prevention and re-assurance messages better, more relevantly and direct resources effectively.

Be evidence led and nimble: Stay ahead of emerging concerns, changes in crime and other factors that impact the safety and security of Buckinghamshire residents. Ensure enough time is spent understanding the issues so that time and resource is proportional.

9 How we will measure progress

The partnership, both at a local and county level, meets regularly to make sure those actions are owned and are being progressed. Any barriers are raised and dealt with through appropriate escalation routes. The necessary reporting structures are already in place (see section 7.1).

Where there are additional activities which either cut across more than one group or sit separately, these will be addressed in partnership and will be monitored by the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board.

10 How the partnership fund work against these priorities

The funding that is provided to Community Safety Partnerships has reduced year on year. Buckinghamshire has made a great deal of effort to retain the most critical or valuable services that are provided across the county. The spend plan for the Community Safety Fund (PCC grant) for 2015/16 is as follows:

Community Safety Fund Plan	2015/16
Drugs Interventions Programme	£85,910
Substance Misuse Community Links Project	£22,000
Youth Offending Prevention workers	£86,141
The Youth Offending Service	£121,466
Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)	£85,000
Partnership Crime Analysis Capacity	£20,000
Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme	£30,000
Retained funding to respond to in-year needs	£49,525
Total Plan	£500,042

In addition to this, Buckinghamshire County Council has further invested in work to tackle crime and disorder in the county. Their investment in 2015/16 is as follows:

Police Community Support Officers	£161,000
Additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)	£195,000
Domestic Violence Projects	£106,000
Reducing Re-offending	£50,000

Appendix One

District Community Safety Partnership Priorities (need updating from last year)

Aylesbury Vale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe and secure town centres 2. Dealing with crimes that are significant to victims (burglary, metal theft, ASB, DV) 3. Reducing re-offending
Chiltern	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce serious acquisitive crime and violent behaviour in our communities 2. Reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities 3. Community Integration / Cohesion and Prevent 4. Reduce the fear of crime and perception of ASB by effective communication
South Bucks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce burglary 2. Reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour in our community 3. Reduce vehicle crime 4. Protect vulnerable individuals and communities 5. Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
Wycombe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling anti-social behaviour (including gangs) 2. Tackling property related crime (particularly burglary, car crime and theft of metal) 3. Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence 4. Reducing night time related assaults, disorder and personal robbery