

SUBJECT:	<i>Community Safety Update</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Cllr Paul Kelly – Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Katie Galvin 01494 732265 kgalvin@chiltern.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on crime figures and community safety activity in South Bucks. (Chief Inspector Mark Baxter will be attending the meeting to answer any questions)

RECOMMENDATION:

To note the report and discuss how the Council can help the Police in reducing crime.

2. Content of Report

- 2.1 As of 31st December 2016 all crime in South Bucks had increased by 20.8% when compared to the same period in 2015/16. All crime categories including violence against the person, burglary, burglary non-dwelling and theft of and from vehicles have increased. The information provided in the Crime Tables detailed in Appendix 1 provides the year to date crime figures.
- 2.2 Crime in South Bucks is influenced by the accessibility to key transport infrastructure routes, with perpetrators accessing the district to carry out crime. A key priority of the police has been to invest in the intelligence network to address cross border crime which includes organised crime, burglary, vehicle crime and burglary non-dwelling.
- 2.3 In addition to the crime types detailed in Appendix 1 the Community Safety Plan highlights the priorities of safeguarding vulnerable individuals. These may be vulnerable due to age, disability, illness or ethnicity etc.
- 2.4 A key requirement of talking crime and disorder is to build community resilience and supporting communities and individuals to take responsibility for their actions or lack of action.
- 2.5 The Community Safety team works in partnership with the Police to build community resilience and reduce levels of crime. This report will include examples of activities the team have undertaken, often in partnership with the Police.

Violence Against a Person

- 2.6 Violence against a person has increased by 15.8% when compared to the previous year. Whilst an increase has been reported this is consistent with the anticipated increases arising from victims being more confident to report crime and follows national and local trends.

- 2.7 Changes in crime reporting practice means that crimes that are otherwise not reported to police but are identified by other means (for example reports on child welfare that reveal physical abuse) are now recorded regardless of whether they are to be investigated. The increases in concerns in relation to domestic violence, children and young people safeguarding has meant that more cases are being brought to the attention of police and recorded.
- 2.8 As part of safeguarding front line staff from the council and other agencies are being enabled to report concerns over a range of issues including domestic violence, exploitation, modern day slavery and trafficking. Community groups such as taxi drivers, faith groups, and hotels alongside housing services, planning, environmental health, welfare organisations, schools, voluntary groups are participating in training and awareness raising, leading to greater reporting.
- 2.9 As well as the Council funding advice and assistance services to support victims of domestic abuse, within the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Police Area, the Police have employed a Domestic Abuse Engagement Officer (using funding from TVP, BCC and SBDC). This Officer will call all victims of domestic abuse who have been classified as standard risk in order to signpost them to services with the aim that the abuse reduces and there are less reports. Data is currently being captured so analysis can take place at the end of the year to evaluate the impact of the service and the outcomes for victims.
- 2.10 Other support that has been provided in the community includes raising awareness of dementia through supporting communities to become dementia friendly, identifying places to be Safe Places in the event of a vulnerable person requiring assistance.
- 2.11 The Community Safety team has also launched the 'Ask for Angela' campaign. (<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/askforangela>) This focuses on licensed premises to raise awareness of sexual abuse and assault. The aim is to stop harassment that some people experience in social situations by enabling people who are feeling unsafe or threatened while on a date to alert bar staff so they can then defuse the situation or arrange a safe way of getting home.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- 2.12 The team attends the monthly Safeguarding meetings with the Police to identify and support anyone identified at risk of exploitation or domestic violence. Resultant activity includes;
- The taxi trade participation in the Night Safe scheme raising awareness of vulnerable persons and how to report concerns.
 - In partnership with the Police we are working to establish a Hotel Watch. This involves training reception and cleaning staff in recognising the signs of child sexual exploitation. Once the training has taken place the Police will carry out test purchasing to ensure the messages have been understood.
 - The police and local authority has also worked in partnership to address concerns over repeat missing children resulting in a review of looked after children placement practices by a neighbouring authority.
 - We have supported the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board with raising awareness of CSE for parents in the evenings.

Theft from Motor Vehicles

- 2.13 Theft from motor vehicles has increased by 23.9% when compared to the previous year. These offences related to personal belonging left in vehicles or tool thefts from vehicles targeted in more isolated areas in the South. Analytical work is on-going and a Police team has been dedicated to provide targeted patrols to combat this and non-dwelling burglaries which are likely linked to the theft of tools and trades equipment.
- 2.14 The team has recently made links with the Head Ranger for Bucks Country Parks. They would like to be more involved with community safety work and have asked to take part in the 'clear car campaign'. This will really help us with reducing theft from motor vehicles by reminding people not to leave items on display in their cars – particularly in beauty spots. The Community Safety team has also worked closely with the Police organising and attending events to mark tools and other property that may be at risk of being stolen. We are supporting the neighbourhood team with rural crime week in February.

Burglary

- 2.15 Burglaries have increased this year – up by 43.6% compared to the previous year. However the recent decline in dwelling burglaries is possibly due to the arrests of "cross border" criminals following the intelligence, analytical work and collaborative work with other forces. The community safety team will continue to focus on prevention work moving forward.
- 2.16 The Community Safety team leads on Neighbourhood Watch – both the administrative side of it and establishing new schemes in roads where a burglary has occurred. Working closely with the Neighbourhood teams, we have seen an increase in the number of schemes – particularly in Iver recently. Research has shown that areas where active neighbourhood watch schemes are in existence have a lower level of burglary than those that don't have a scheme.
- 2.17 The team sends out letters to all burglary victims offering them crime reduction advice. We regularly issue advice via community newsletters to remind residents how they can keep themselves and their properties safe.

Police restructure

- 2.18 The Police have announced that there is going to be a restructure in the way that it delivers local policing. There will be a small reduction in frontline resources on local police areas but the ethos behind the restructure is to provide the right resources, in the right place, with the right skills to be able to deliver a good service to the public and in particular to the most vulnerable in communities. This approach will require agencies to problem solve issues that are causing concern to communities and to build community resilience. Initiatives could focus on problem solving crime hot spots such as the Beaconsfield Service Station which has been a focus of vehicle crime and Bilking, i.e. driving from a garage

forecourt without paying for fuel. A problem solving approach is to be taken to address the issue which should involve the companies concerned.

2.19 Superintendent Hitch will be organising a meeting soon to discuss this further and the Community Safety team will continue to work closely with the Police during and after the restructure. Appendix 2 details the approach to be taken by the police in redefining neighbourhood policing .

3 Consultation

N/A

4. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

3.1 Financial – no additional financial impact

3.2 Legal – no additional implications

3.3 Crime and Disorder – a strong partnership approach to address crime and disorder is continuing to be mainstreamed within the Council.

5. Links to Council Policy Objectives

We will work towards safer and healthier local communities including improving community safety.

6. Next Step

To note the report and discuss how the Council can support the Police in the reduction of crime.

Background Papers:	Letter from Supt Hitch dated 14-12-16 Crime figures x4 docs– Theft from Motor Vehicles, burglaries, burglary non-dwellings and violence against a person.
---------------------------	--