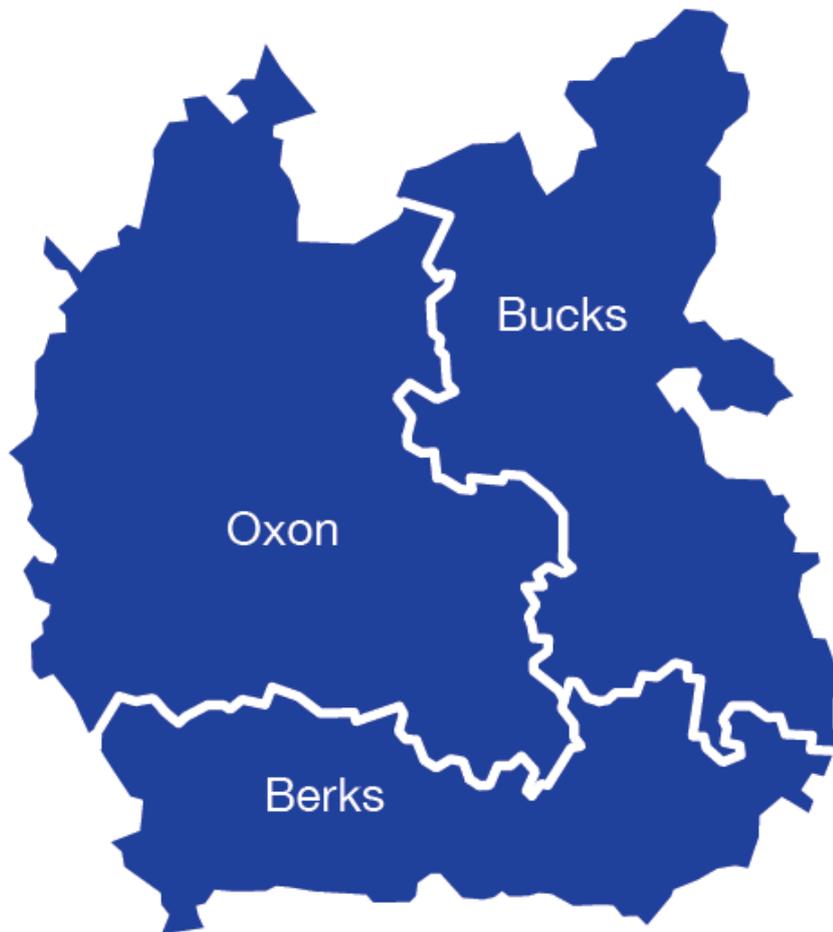


# Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel



## Annual Report 2017/18

The Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel is currently hosted by South Bucks District Council on behalf of all 18 local authorities in Thames Valley.

It is a joint committee of all 18 local authorities, consisting of a representative from each and two independent co-opted members.

It can be contacted via the address below:

**Police & Crime Panel Secretariat**

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The Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley is Anthony Stansfeld.

He can be contacted via his office:

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

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## Chairman's Introduction

I am proud to introduce the fifth annual report of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. Anthony Stansfeld was elected in May 2016 and has now completed the second year of his second term. Matthew Barber, was appointed as Deputy Commissioner in April 2018, an appointment this Panel confirmed at a confirmation hearing on 20 April 2018. The Panel continues to both challenge and support the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Thames Valley and I would like to take this opportunity to praise the hard work and dedication of my fellow Panel Members.



The Panel has fulfilled its main statutory duties this year that is to scrutinise the PCC and not the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, however, sometimes it is necessary to look at operational issues which relate to strategic issues. The precept meeting was held in February 2018 where after scrutinising and questioning the PCC, the Panel agreed with the PCC's recommendation of a 7% increase in Council tax to prevent cuts to operational policing.

A key area which was scrutinised this year was the changes in local policing, with the Local Area Commander from Wycombe invited to provide detail on its implementation in the Wycombe area. Despite initial problems in its implementation, the Panel was provided reassurance by the Chief Constable, that the model was an improvement and a better way of working for the Police. Consideration was given to an item on roads policing which resulted in a Thames Valley wide multi agency group being set up to develop a framework for road safety in the Thames Valley.

The Panel had themed items on criminal justice where two representatives from the Criminal Justice Board attended a Panel meeting, on modern slavery and on unauthorised traveller encampments. The Panel continues to work on cyber-crime and held a conference whereby Community Safety Partnerships in the Thames Valley, worked together on a cyber-crime strategy. A major success has been the work of the Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Committee in relation to establishing a TVP single point of contact (SPOC) in relation to taxi licensing safeguarding.

This sixth annual report provides a summary of the work and achievements of the past year and the Panel continues to build on the good, effective and challenging work which has taken place with the PCC which is essential for local communities within Thames Valley who rely on fair accountability for excellent police services.

## The Police & Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, has formally been in post since 22 November 2012 and was re-elected in May 2016. He has a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, who has been formally in post since April 2018.

## The Police & Crime Plan

The Police & Crime Commissioner sets out in a Police & Crime Plan his objectives for his four year term of office. This document is of great importance to the Police & Crime Panel as a point of reference in fulfilling its duty to scrutinise and review the actions and decisions of the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan will describe how the Force will address the objectives of the PCC's Plan.



## The PCC's Strategic Objectives

The Police and Crime Commissioner Strategic Objectives are set out below :-

- Vulnerability—managing demand on services through working together.
- Prevention and early intervention—improving safeguarding in physical and virtual spaces .
- Reducing reoffending—targeting and managing harm and risk.
- Serious organised crime and terrorism—improving the local response.
- Police ethics and reform— increasing the pace of change

The PCC Annual Report 2016/17 highlights a number of achievements detailed as follows:-

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2016/17 assessed the TVP as 'Good' for its efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy in delivering policing.
- £15.6m of cash savings were identified and delivered during 2016/17, with another £10.5m savings identified for 2017/18. Whilst this has required difficult choices to be made in prioritising services, it has created opportunities through releasing savings that have been invested in priority services.
- The PCC office has effectively managed £2.765m Ministry of Justice grant funding to provide a range of commissioned victim and witness support services. Also Community Safety Grants worth £3.1m have been provided to county and unitary councils.
- The TVP has seen relatively low increases in violence when compared to other parts of the

country and remains in the lower quartile for recorded levels of violence and burglary.

### [The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner](#)

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, Matthew Barber, was appointed after a confirmation hearing held by the Panel in April 2018.

## **The Role of the Police & Crime Panel**



The Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel examines and reviews how the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley carries out his responsibilities to ensure that Thames Valley Police runs efficiently and effectively. In addition to this the Panel has a role to play in supporting the Commissioner in his work.

This year the Panel has:-

- Reviewed the new operating model of local policing. The Local Area Commander from Wycombe provided the Panel with details on how the new model had been implemented in his area. The new operating model went live in June 2017. The implementation did not go as smoothly as hoped as during this time the Force lost about 100 police officers, there was an increase in 999 calls and also the terrorist attacks in London. The model was not quite fit for purpose at the start of the process with problems with the new shift patterns which officers were finding tiring. It was a big change management programme which included a change in culture. However, the Chief Constable reassured Members that whilst it had been a difficult change process, six months into implementation, he said that the model was an improvement and a better way of working. The Panel asked that the PCC continued to keep the new operating model under review and that they be provided with a report at the end of the first year of operation. The Deputy Chief Constable is carrying out a review visiting all police areas and the Panel await a response from these meeting and consultation with staff. Another area of concern that has been raised by the Panel is that the Force has been losing police officers to other Forces because of the cost of living in the Thames Valley. At the end of the year the Force was 98 officers below their year-end target and the Force are now using case investigators to help offset this reduction.
- In relation to HMIC reports for this year, Thames Valley Police received an outstanding

report for Efficiency, a good report for Effectiveness and Legitimacy and an inadequate report for Crime Integrity Data. The Deputy Chief Constable provided a presentation at the Panel meeting on 20 April 2018 to show what actions the Force were taking in response to the inadequate rating. An officer from the Office of the PCC would be attending Force meetings to be kept informed of the progress being made on the areas for improvement.

- In terms of specific scrutiny there was an item on roads policing which resulted in a Thames Valley wide multi agency officer group being set up to work together on roads policing and to develop a framework. The Officer Working Group has met and agreed its terms of reference.
- At a meeting of the Panel there was a themed item on criminal justice where two representatives from the Criminal Justice Board attended – the Chief Crown Prosecutor for Thames and Chiltern and the National Probation Service. Some recommendations were made in relation to the Crest Report and taking more control over the criminal justice system in terms of having joint outcomes in relation to performance and being more open and transparent. However, whilst PCC's are under a statutory duty to collaborate with local authorities and other criminal justice partners, the mechanisms and practices of partnership working in this area are complex and PCC's have limited powers in which to influence change.
- There was also a themed item on modern slavery where a number of recommendations were agreed including further information being provided on repeat victims of modern slavery where they have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism more than once so that victims who are at risk of being re-trafficked are being minimised. Members were asked to ensure that their Council was identifying (through training) and reporting any concerns regarding victims of modern slavery.
- Recommendations were also made in relation to unauthorised encampments and a TVP Rural Task and Finish Group was looking into this issue. Protocols and training are now being put in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach by the Force to unauthorised encampments.



## **Members of the Police & Crime Panel**

- Aylesbury Vale District Council— Angela Macpherson
- Bracknell Forest Council—Iain McCracken
- Buckinghamshire County Council— Bill Bendyshe - Brown
- Cherwell District Council— Barry Wood
- Chiltern District Council—Emily Culverhouse
- Milton Keynes Council— Margaret Burke
- Oxford City Council— Tom Hayes
- Oxfordshire County Council—Kieron Mallon
- Reading Borough Council—Tony Page
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council - Derek Sharp
- Slough Borough Council— Pavitar Mann
- South Bucks District Council—Trevor Egleton
- South Oxfordshire District Council—Ian White
- Vale of White Horse District Council—Chris McCarthy
- West Berkshire Council— Emma Webster
- West Oxfordshire District Council—Carol Reynolds
- Wokingham Borough Council—Barrie Patman
- Wycombe District Council— Julia Adey

The two independent co-opted members were:

- Curtis James Marshall
- Julia Girling

## **Reflections of Independent Police & Crime Panel**

### **Members**



#### **Julia Girling Independent Member**

Julia Girling works as a volunteer with victims of crime, she joined the Panel to provide a voice for those going through the Criminal Justice System. She feels that the breadth of knowledge across the Panel is fundamental in effectively scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner and that the Panel can bring a range of topics to the table for discussion. She says that we have had some excellent speakers at the Panel meetings who give further insight into Policing in the Thames Valley, and that the positive relationship the Panel has with the PCC means that any issues can then be addressed and scrutinised.



### **Curtis- James Marshall Independent Member**

Curtis-James has held an interest in Policing and Criminal Justice since University and was previously a Special Constable. This “front line” experience has given Curtis- James a practical experience of policing. He has a keen interest and played a key role in the Panel’s work in relation to the Cyber-Crime Conference, and this expertise is valued by the Panel. Curtis-James believes the Panel is a “critical friend” to the Police & Crime Commissioner, working with him and his Office, to help deliver the best outcomes for the people of the Thames Valley. The Panel, whilst representing 18 local authorities in the Thames Valley region, operates mainly non-politically, with each Member coming together to ensure the Panel thinks strategically and not parochially.

## **Achievements 2017/18**

**Budget** –As in previous years, the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel formed a Budget Task & Finish Group to assist in discharging its statutory duty to scrutinise the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley’s proposed Council Tax precept of a 7% increase for 2018/19 on 2 February 2018. The Chairman thanked those who participated in the Group for the work carried out.

**Cyber Crime** - In the last year the Panel had been looking at how to approach cyber-crime. An initial meeting took place with Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) where it was agreed that it would be helpful to hold a conference on this issue with a number of presenters including the PCC. At the Panel funded conference, the CSP’s in the Thames Valley worked together on a cyber-crime strategy, which was led by Bucks CSP and has now received funding from the PCC.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** – The Sub-Committee has met throughout the year with one of the main outcomes of the Sub-Committee’s work, being in relation to taxi licensing safeguarding. It has been agreed that a TVP single point of contact (SPOC) be piloted for a year, and funded by the PCC, in relation to taxi licensing safeguarding. Following a conference organised by the Panel and a further meeting with taxi licensing managers, a minimal set of standards has been developed across the Thames Valley which will enable the SPOC to ensure that standards are being maintained for safeguarding issues.

**Complaints** - As part of the police integrity reforms being implemented in early 2019 there will be a major overhaul of the police complaints system which includes an enhanced role for the PCC which will also impact on the Panel. The Panel are awaiting further guidance on this issue.

**Fire Collaboration** – The PCC provided the Panel with an update on the possible fire collaboration with the three fire and rescue services within Thames Valley. A decision had been taken not to pursue the transfer of governance responsibility from them to the PCC in the foreseeable future, but they would continue to explore and develop more collaboration

options between the three fire and rescue services, and between them and the police, to deliver operational and financial benefits to the public.

**Themed Meetings** as follows:-

**Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)**– The Panel was provided with a summary of the work carried out by CSPs and the Crime and Disorder Committees within the Thames Valley region and the Panel was impressed by the innovative work which was being carried out across the region.

**Partnership with Criminal Justice Agencies** - This themed item looked at how the PCC is working in partnership with Local Criminal Justice partners. The Prime Minister has commented that ‘a number of PCCs have argued , youth justice, probation and court services can have a significant impact on crime in their areas and there are real efficiencies to be had from better integration and information sharing’. The Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board provided details on how the Board has been focused on working together and highlighted the successes of the Board during the PCC’s chairmanship. A smart survey was undertaken to obtain local evidence on the partnership work which took place between the Local Criminal Justice Board and the PCC. In summary, In terms of the survey the responses indicated that there were good partnership working in place and that agencies had similar priorities.

**Local Policing Model** - This item related to the new police operating model which had gone live in June 2017. The Panel was provided with information on how the local policing model has been implemented in their area and the positive impact this model has had in reducing crime.

## **Looking to the Future**

The Panel will continue to scrutinise and monitor the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan to ensure his five strategic priorities are being met to improve policing for residents of the Thames Valley.

The Panel will continue to keep the new Local Police Model under review with a report expected at the end of the first year of its operation.

In relation to the CSE work of the Panel, a Vulnerability Conference is looking to be held to highlight the increasing problem of human trafficking within the region.

# A Year in Tweets



**Francis Habgood** @TVP\_Chief

@ThamesValleyPCP in full flow - just had presentation about Crime Data Integrity @ThamesVP DCC Campbell. He reassured members that managing risk and safeguarding area addressed.

3:48 AM - 20 Apr 2018

1 Retweet 3 Likes

Follow Thames Valley PCP

Thames Valley PCP @ThamesValleyPCP · Mar 1  
BBC News - Thames Valley and Hampshire police call system delayed



**New police system delayed and over budget**  
The software will modernise how police deal with 999 and 101 calls.  
bbc.co.uk

Thames Valley PCP @ThamesValleyPCP · Mar 26  
Oxford men guilty of sexual exploitation 'on a massive scale' - BBC News

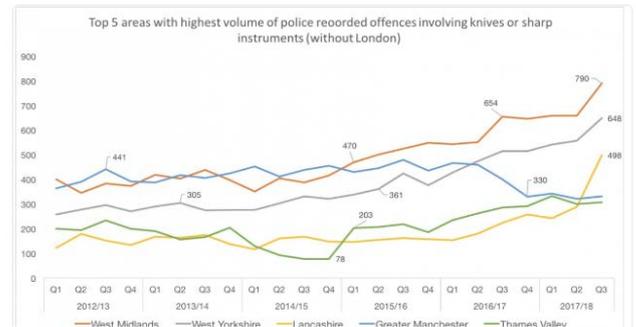


**Gang abused girls 'on a massive scale'**  
The five victims in Oxford were aged between 13 and 15 when the offences started.  
bbc.com

You Retweeted CREST @CrestAdvisory · Apr 26

Knife crime: why it isn't only the Metropolitan Police that should be worrying. Crest's @callyane\_d has been analysing the data in a blog on yesterday's #crimestats

bit.ly/2Hw3Nj8



You Retweeted



**Thames Valley Police** @ThamesVP · Mar 22

Pleased to have been rated 'Good' for Effectiveness by @HMICFRS. Thanks to our partner organisations who have helped us achieve this - working together to protect the most vulnerable, keep people safe and reduce crime in Thames Valley @ZoeBillingham #proudtoserve

8 Retweets 13 Likes

Thames Valley PCP @ThamesValleyPCP · Jan 25  
BBC News - Thames Valley Police force short of officers amid cuts



**Police force 'loses 26 officers a month'**  
Thames Valley Police is hiring "case investigators" to plug gaps in officer numbers, it says.  
bbc.co.uk

Thames Valley PCP @ThamesValleyPCP · Jan 25  
goo.gl/ANt9m Panel agenda published which includes scrutiny of the PCC's precept. @TV\_PCC has proposed a £12 increase in council tax precept in 2018/19 and 2019/20 following his public consultation. Public questions to the Panel welcomed by Monday 29 Jan.

