



# INFORMATION SHEET

## HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE (HWTC)

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### **Policing Update**

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For information an update is attached from Inspector Gillian Fox, Urban Neighbourhood Inspector Wycombe LPA.

## Policing Update

**The Force Restructure** is gaining momentum and plans are now in place for Local Police Areas to move to a new operating model early next year. The fine details are still being worked out but in essence Wycombe Police Area will have a smaller response team who will attend emergency calls, ensuring a prompt response to those individuals who need our immediate assistance, gathering vital evidence and information within the golden hour of investigations.

Neighbourhood teams will be smaller and more focused upon problem solving to prevent crime and reduce demand, targeting our resources at the areas of greatest need and to the most vulnerable in our communities.

Every Neighbourhood will have a named point of contact. We will maintain a visibility within the community through our PCSO and Cadet teams. We will engage with communities via a number of different forums which will include social media and world café style events.

We will work with our partners and local communities to build stronger, more resilient communities. We will support our NAGs and we will promote Neighbourhood watch and Good Neighbour Schemes within communities, with our focus shifting to safeguarding the vulnerable we will support these groups to ensure the most vulnerable feel safe and secure.

The Police Area will have a much larger body of staff to respond to the bulk of incidents and crimes which are reported to us but are not emergencies. This will include the local CID teams working alongside uniform officers. This is a different way of working and it will ensure that the right resource from the area attends in the first instance, ensuring a quality service and victim satisfaction.

**The Volunteer Police Cadet** unit is now operational. In common with most other police areas in Thames Valley, we now have a functioning unit that enables young people between the ages of 13 – 18 to become part of the extended police family; giving them the opportunity to work on a range of community projects designed to assist in reducing crime and to improve their confidence and leadership skills through a structured training programme.

This month our cadets will be visible within the community during Remembrance Day and During the Switching on of the Christmas Lights.

**The NH teams have now all been trained to problem solve.** Using data held by TVP we have identified areas generating greatest demand and analysed the problems. In many cases the Police should not be the lead agency however we are working with partners to resolve matters.

For example:

### All Saint`s Church and issues surrounding ASB/Drugs

There is currently issues surrounding street drinkers, ASB and drugs within the grounds of the Church. We are currently working in partnership with the Church, Michelle Harvey from the Council, Wycombe Homeless Connections and SMART. Following a meeting held two weeks ago, we plan to visit the Church as a group to target those that are using the Church for anti-social purposes. This will be a regular event, potentially when Chefs for Jesus attend as this appears to be the peak time for individual congregating. In addition, the Town Centre Police team will be running operations targeting those that have committed offences.

### Multi Storey Car Parks

The number of people sleeping rough in Eastern Street and Swan Car Park continues to be a concern. The Night Shelter will operate for three months over the Christmas period, however the numbers are limited. Following a meeting with Robin Evans from WDC, we discussed the current issues. There are a number of measures in place where we will look to tackle to the issue, however we have to be mindful that some of those sleeping rough are vulnerable and have nowhere to sleep. It has been agreed that the Car Park staff and TVP need to work closely together on this problem and patrols are going to be conducted as a joint operation so that we can gather intelligence and distribute accordingly to partner agencies. PCSO Adkins will be attending the Car Parks next week to complete a head count.

### Retail Thefts

Retail Crime continues to be an issue within the Town. PCSO Hogarth has been working with Bidco to develop the current Shop watch system, as there are numerous improvements that can be made that would offer more protection to the Stores and their staff. The current message that we are trying to deliver is that the Stores need to be more pro-active in their work as opposed to re-active. In addition, they to work closer together and make better use of the radio system that they have been provided with. This involves Stores being visited on an individual basis and at the Shop watch meetings, however the turnout from Stores has been poor.

### Hotel Watch

The Town Centre Team and WDC have been working on Hotel Watch for a couple of months now. Hotel Watch is mainly focused around child sexual exploitation. All of the Hotels within the urban areas have signed up to the scheme. We plan to launch the scheme prior to Christmas. Hotels will receive induction packs with key information held within. We are currently working with R U Safe (Barnardo`s) to deliver training to all hotel staff to promote awareness.

### Crime

Levels of crime generally remain low within the Wycombe District – of note robbery is down 58%.

### **Violent Crime**

Across the TV region there has been an increase in violence against the person, Wycombe is no exception to the trend (17% increase). To date there are no trends/patterns to account for this increase and every incident is being investigated robustly. Violent crime figures will include domestic related incidents – this is an area of business which is heavily scrutinised. Wycombe LPA has a monthly safeguarding meeting where repeat victims of domestic abuse are identified and appropriate measures are put into place to manage and reduce the risk these individuals face. This may be as simple as a reassurance visit or signposting to agencies and support groups.

Wycombe LPA has entered into a consortium with other Police areas from Buckinghamshire and partner agencies, including adult and child social care, health, women`s aid, housing associations – the aim of this group is to identify the most vulnerable domestic abuse victims and work in partnership to problem solve the abuse or to identify ways to empower the victims.

### **Hate Crime**

Year to date Wycombe District has seen a 49% increase in reported hate crime. This figure represents an additional 48 incidents compared to this time last year – taking the total number of reports to 145.

Each report is scrutinised and investigated thoroughly and only 3 of those reports have been linked directly to Brexit and each of those incidents have been resolved to the victim`s satisfaction.

An increase in reporting should be seen as a positive step forward but there is much more to do to raise awareness that any form of hate crime should not be tolerated.

Last month we supported Hate Crime Week through our “Lets Hate Hate campaign”. Through social media and face/face contact within our communities we were busy raising awareness of hate crime and the need to report.

TVP has placed Hate Crime firmly on its agenda, this type of crime will be the subject of quarterly reviews, Local Policing Area`s will be held to account with the emphasis being upon the accuracy of reporting and a quality service to the victims.