

# **Report to Improvement & Review Commission**

## **Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/2020**

Officer contact: Sarah McBrearty

Tel: 01494 421876 sarah.mcbrearty@wycombe.gov.uk

### ***What is the Commission being asked to do?***

The Commission is requested to note and support the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership priorities for 2017-2020.

### **Executive Summary**

1. The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan (Appendix A) sets out the aims and objectives for the Partnership for the period from April 2017 to March 2020. The Plan explains the structure and system for conducting business and the contribution and commitment of partners. The plan is forward looking with a focus on community and tackling the issues that matter most to residents, businesses and visitors.
2. The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership regards the Plan as a living document that will build upon successes and identify areas where there is a need to focus resources and expertise.

### **Background and Issues**

3. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, in conjunction with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, sets out the requirements for discharging crime and disorder overview and scrutiny arrangements. Every local authority is required to have a designated crime and disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee with power to make recommendations regarding the functioning of their local Community Safety Partnership. Wycombe District Council uses the Improvement and Review Commission for this purpose.
4. The regulations leave the frequency of meetings to local discretion, subject to the minimum requirement of once a year.

## **Wycombe Community Safety Plan 2017-2020**

5. Wycombe Community Safety Partnership priorities are identified using two analysis documents: The Thames Valley Police Force Strategic Assessment and the Buckinghamshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.
6. Both documents are produced annually and are complemented by regular monitoring of partnership activity, detailed analyses that explore the key and emerging problems, and consultation with community groups. This process helps the Partnership to direct its resources so they remain focused on the main priorities, adapt to new issues, and are delivered in a manner that gets to the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.
7. Following this research the following have been identified as priorities for the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership:
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour and crime
  - Safeguarding communities from exploitation
  - Working together to address Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Building community resilience

## **Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan Priorities 2017 - 2020**

8. The Community Safety Partnership has agreed the following four priorities for the next three years. Each priority has a delivery plan, with details of the key actions for each during 2017/18 included below.

### **Priority 1 – Tackling anti-social behaviour and crime**

9. A public consultation is undertaken to ascertain whether there is a consensus with the priorities, and this survey showed that crime and anti-social behaviour are still a priority concern for the residents of the district. The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership understands that certain crimes occur in peaks and troughs throughout the year, so it needs to continue to plan for these peaks and make every effort to limit any increases during these periods.

#### ***Year one actions:***

- Agencies working in partnership to deal with anti-social behaviour throughout the district, utilising the new legislation and tools.
- Thames Valley Police working with partners on seasonal trends and increases in crime.
- Continue to increase the public awareness of cybercrime, and how to avoid becoming a victim
- Tackling increases in violent crime through partnership initiatives such as Nightsafe
- Agencies working together to address substance misuse and its effect on the wider community.
- Implementing and monitoring the Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- Thames Valley Police to work with relevant agencies to target Organised Crime Groups within the district.

## Priority 2 – Safeguarding communities from exploitation

10. Whilst there is a separate priority regarding child sexual exploitation, it has become clear across the country that adults within communities are also subject to different forms of exploitation. Although the public may not be able to identify this as an area of concern locally, the crime statistics and knowledge from service providers in the district and county indicate that this is indeed a key priority
11. Domestic abuse is a very under-reported crime and it is believed that those who are brave enough to come forward represent only the tip of the iceberg in terms of those who experience it. Consequently, organisations find it difficult to measure the true extent of domestic abuse in the district as they are not able to get a full picture and extent of domestic abuse.
12. Prevent is part of the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and has three main objectives:
  - **Ideology:** respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat faced by all from those who promote it;
  - **Individuals:** prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
  - **Institutions:** work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that must be addressed.
13. At the heart of the Prevent Delivery Plan is an approach to mainstreaming and better working arrangements across the partnership and stakeholders to ensure not only a consistent and efficient approach, but also one that is targeted and cost effective. It is acknowledged that there are many factors that contribute to such vulnerability, but it is the ideological narratives that prey on these vulnerabilities that give rise to terrorism and violent extremism.

### **Year one actions:**

- Supporting the victims of domestic violence and abuse to report incidents to the police or other supporting agencies.
- Raise awareness of Honour Based Violence and where people can access support locally.
- As a result of the implementation of the Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) every local authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Local aims are to continue to deliver a robust response to the ideological challenge of terrorism; protect the vulnerable; and support institutions and the community in opposing the narrative of the radicalisers.
- Modern Slavery is a growing issue, affecting men, women and children. 1746 cases were reported in the UK in 2013 - a 47% increase on the number of cases reported in 2012. But these are just the victims that are known about. Slavery's hidden nature means actual numbers are likely to be far, far higher. Wycombe Community Safety Partnership will continue to develop a multi-agency approach to raising awareness of, and tackling modern slavery locally.
- Through the multi-agency Street Core Community Group those that are homeless within High Wycombe town centre will be managed, utilising support services and enforcement where appropriate.

### **Priority 3 – Working together to address Child Sexual Exploitation**

14. Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.
15. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

#### ***Year one actions:***

- Working in partnership across the county to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and the support that is available.
- Ensure that training is delivered on CSE to staff within key establishments and agencies, such as taxi drivers, Hotel staff, late night eateries etc.
- Following the publication of the CSE Serious Case Review, implement any relevant actions.
- Raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation and where people can access support.

### **Priority 4 – Building community resilience**

16. A large part of the work of the Community Safety Partnership is to educate and inform the public – for example explaining how to prevent becoming a victim of crime, or explaining where specific help can be obtained for a certain issue (such as domestic abuse, or cybercrime) etc.
17. It is important, in these more challenging financial times, to build community resilience into the work of the Partnership. Together partners need to enhance the personal and collective capacity of the community to anticipate risk, limit its impact and help them to bounce back rapidly.

#### ***Year one actions:***

- Work with local businesses and communities to implement the Safe Place scheme
- Support and promote Neighbourhood Watch within communities.
- Assist in the roll out of the Street Association Project in the pilot area, and then beyond.
- Thames Valley Police and Wycombe District Council to work with schools to deliver the Community Cop Cards scheme.
- Working together to raise awareness of scams, and where people can go for help and advice.
- Multi-agency work within communities to promote wellbeing and to support the Dementia Friendly Community initiative.

## 18. Partnership work so far:

- Two Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) have been implemented – one that prohibits alcohol related anti-social behaviour within High Wycombe town centre and surrounding area; and the second which prohibits prostitution related activities in the Desborough Road area. The Council ASB Officer is working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team to plan operations to deal with any breaches.
- A third PSPO has been consulted upon which looks to address anti-social behaviour which is occurring along a footpath running behind people homes in the Desborough Road area. The decision on whether this will be implemented will be taken later this year.
- Thames Valley Police have undertaken operations locally to target potential victims of modern slavery. Work is continuing in relation to the multi-agency approach to modern slavery, including the training of frontline professionals.
- Additional funding has been made available from the Home Office, and this has meant a new Prevent Education Officer has been recruited to work in schools within the district to deliver Prevent training.
- Hotel Watch has been rolled out by Thames Valley Police and Wycombe District Council. This scheme has signed up over 35 of the hotels within High Wycombe who have been provided with sexual exploitation information and awareness raising materials for their staff. Training will also be rolled out to these establishments, and regular email correspondence is being sent out.
- The Safe Place scheme has been refreshed this year and a launch is planned for October. This scheme has signed up businesses/shops within High Wycombe, Marlow and Princes Risborough so that people who may feel vulnerable or need assistance can go to these businesses/shops and ask for help.
- The Community Cop Cards scheme has taken place in Marlow – with Year 6 pupils collecting stickers which cover a variety of topics including personal and cyber safety, anti-social behaviour, first aid and fire safety. The scheme was very successful, and an evaluation and lessons learn report is currently being produced.

## Crime statistics:

19. Below are the crime statistics comparing the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Offence Type	Number of Offences During 2016/17	Number of Offences During 2017/18	% Change	% Change - Force
All Crime	2330	2433	4.4%	15%
Violence Against the Person	526	528	0.4%	8%
Sexual Offences	70	71	1.4%	13%
Robbery	8	17	112.5%	51%
Burglary Dwelling	73	-	-	-
Burglary Non-Dwelling	123	-	-	-
Residential Burglary – Dwelling	-	56	-	-
Residential	-	74	-	-

Offence Type	Number of Offences During 2016/17	Number of Offences During 2017/18	% Change	% Change - Force
Burglary – Sheds/Garages				
Business and Community Burglary	-	69	-	-
Theft of Vehicle	58	47	-19%	27%
Theft from Vehicle	127	130	2.4%	27%
Shoplifting	315	334	6%	16%
Arson	21	15	-28.6%	-11%
Criminal Damage	301	331	10%	7%
Drug Offences	93	96	3.2%	-5%
Public Order Offences	82	89	8.5%	11%

20. The Home Office changed the crime recording this year and the classification for burglary. Previously “Burglary Dwelling” and “Burglary Non Dwelling” were categories, replaced by “Residential Burglary – Dwelling” “Residential Burglary – Sheds / Garages” and “Burglary Business & Community”. Because of these changes there are no direct comparisons between the previous years and this year.

21. The table above also includes the force percentage change, which shows that Wycombe LPA is performing above the force average. Although not available on the above chart, Wycombe is one of only two areas in the Thames Valley that is showing a negative figure for burglary dwelling against a force increase of 38% (Wycombe has seen a reduction of 10%).

22. Most of the other statistics follow the force trend, except for robbery. Looking back to last year, Wycombe had the lowest robbery figures and the second lowest within the whole force, therefore any increase will appear significant. The current number of robberies is consistent with those in Aylesbury and Chiltern and South Bucks, which have also seen 30-50% increases over this period.

## Conclusions/ Recommendations

23. Whilst the remit of the Community Safety Partnership has broadened to new and challenging areas, such as modern slavery and cyber-crime, the Partnership Plan continues to address the more ‘traditional’ themes of community safety, which are still a priority for the community, such as acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour.

24. The Commission is asked to support its priorities for 2017-2020.

### **Corporate and Financial Implications**

25. The legal requirements are outlined earlier in the report.

### **Next Steps**

26. The Partnership Delivery Plans for 2017-18 will be monitored via the Wycombe Community Safety Strategy group meetings.

### **Background Papers**

The Wycombe Community Safety Plan 2017-2020 is held by Community Services Team and published on the Council's website.