

**Wokingham Community Safety Strategic Assessment 19/20: Executive Summary****Overview of Crime and Disorder**

Wokingham Borough is a safe place to live, work and visit. However, as with crime in other areas of the country and Thames Valley, crime in Wokingham Borough is also increasing. Although it remains below average when compared to the Thames Valley region and other similar community safety partnerships (CSPs). Acquisitive Crime remains the largest volume crime in the borough but is decreasing. Violence and Public Order offences have seen the largest increases over recent years. However we must be mindful that our starting point low compared with the rest of the Thames Valley and other most similar areas. The top non-crime recorded incidents creating demand on police resources in Wokingham Borough are Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Adult and Child Protection and Missing Persons. The data period used for this assessment covers 2015/16- 2019/20.

From April 2020 to December 2020 since national restrictions were put in place in response to Covid-19 in April 2020, there has been a significant impact on recorded crime figures. Burglary, both Dwelling and Non-Dwelling, have fallen and stayed low, whereas Theft, Vehicle Theft and Criminal Damage fell initially but have now returned to previous levels. Robbery, Shoplifting and Sexual Offences appear largely unaffected, but Violence, Public Order and Drugs Offences have all increased.

Vehicle Theft is increasing and occurs across the three main locations peaking around 6pm.



The most common vehicle type targeted in Theft of and Theft from Vehicles is Ford Transit and the most common items stolen are Vehicle Accessories (e.g. number plates, satnavs), Personal Accessories (e.g. mobile phones, handbags), and Machinery/Tools.



Burglary Dwelling, although decreasing, disproportionately affects certain parts of the borough, targeting certain 'hot-streets'. Offences peak around 5pm during winter months.



Shoplifting, is decreasing, peaks between 4-5pm; however, there has been a subtle shift in the types of items commonly stolen. Traditionally, high-value Personal Accessories (e.g. mobile phones, handbags) were most common but recent trends indicate an increase in more basic Items. Household Articles (e.g. bed linen, toys).

**Recommendations:**

- Work with car parks across the borough that are identified as hotspots using other significant car parks that are not targeted for examples of effective prevention techniques
- Burglary Dwelling awareness raising campaigns should be focused in target areas, and specific target hardening interventions could be implemented in hotspot locations.



Violence, Robbery, and Public Order are increasing and generally concentrated in Wokingham Town centre, peaking at 3pm, especially during the summer. Robbery also has a hotspot. The data suggests that there may be a link between school finishing time and the peak times for Robbery offences occurring. Key locations include outdoor spaces. Recorded knife crime has also increased, predominantly used in Robbery and Violence with Injury, especially involving young people.



Robbery has seen a subsequent shift in the types of items stolen, with Bikes and Personal Accessories (e.g. mobile phones, handbags) preferred over the traditional Cash and Jewellery. Bike theft in Wokingham is above average and predominantly targets mountain bikes, which can vary in value.



Anti-Social Behaviour is also concentrated in Wokingham Town centre, but peaks late Friday and Saturday nights, especially in the summer. The most common behaviour reported is Noise and the most common Noise complaints include Barking Dogs, Loud Music and Machinery or Tools.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Where Violent crime centers around a particular location, a coordinated partnership approach could support the tackling offending in or around the premises.
- Where Robbery or ASB occurs in outdoor locations, there may be scope to 'design out crime' by reviewing how these locations are accessed, particularly at peak times of the day or year.



Rural crime in Wokingham predominantly affects Farms and Fields, however, these crimes are comparatively low in volume. Similarly, Unauthorised Encampments are low in volume but above average for the Thames Valley the average length of an unauthorized encampment is 2-7 days. Rural interventions can often be resource intensive therefore prevention should be the key focus.

#### **Recommendations**

- Supporting rural communities to protect and look after each other using Farm Watch or similar, could help those most affected to share experiences and learning
- Provide rural communities with information and advice around local crime types and support on target hardening

#### **Offenders**



A large proportion of crime had no one recorded as a suspect or offender. Where an individual was identified, the majority were male (90%) and aged 30-39. Most (two-thirds) of identified suspects received No Further Action. The largest increases in crime are in offences involving young people; however, Youth Offending caseloads are decreasing, at least in part due to decreasing numbers of youth suspects receiving a formal outcome.

## **Recommendations:**

- Appropriate diversionary activities for young people suspected of criminal activity could help to prevent subsequent offending without imposing criminal justice sanctions
- Risk factors for offending , include four key categories



Substance misuse is prevalent in all offending cohorts, particularly Drug misuse. In addition, referrals to Drug and Alcohol Services in Wokingham are increasing, as are police-recorded Drugs Offences, particularly among young people. Alcohol misuse, although less prevalent in individual offenders, does feature as a contributing factor in more police-recorded offences than drugs.

## **Recommendations**

- Diversionary activities for young people caught in possession of illegal substances could help to prevent subsequent offending and opportunities for child criminal exploitation
- A youth specific drug and alcohol treatment services could help to identify, attract, and support young people misusing drugs and prevent subsequent offending



Mental health issues are prevalent in most datasets, ranging from 23-63%; however, Mental Health Services data indicates that people with mental health issues are more at risk of being harmed than causing harm. Police-recorded data indicates that 1 in 4 identified suspects were also



Family and Peer relationships were only captured in the youth offending datasets. Domestic Abuse, Gang Association, Social Care Involvement and/or Family Relationship concerns are likely to increase a child's risk of offending.



Accommodation and Employment were only captured in adult offender datasets but were highly prevalent, ranging from 30-49% of probation service cases.

## **Recommendations:**

- Make Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a pilot scheme in Berkshire that could provide opportunities to learn what works for this cohort of people



Between 50-66% of all offender cohorts were recorded to have more than one risk factor present, highlighting the complexities involved in working with offenders to reduce their risk of offending.

## **Recommendations:**

- Holistic approaches to offender management will help to prevent subsequent offending, the Integrated offender management model particularly demonstrates effectiveness at improving issues in relationships
- The prevalence of multi-agency involvement among offenders suggests that strong information sharing between agencies is important and may benefit from a lead agency

## Victims

Violence, Robbery and Public Order are all increasing and the most significant increases are in offences involving young people and young adults. Non-Domestic Violence in particular has a younger peak age group for both victims and suspects compared to five years ago (10-19 compared to 15-24) as does Robbery (15-24 compared to over 25), while Public Order offences target young victims.



Drugs Offences are also increasing and, again, the peak age for suspects is younger (15-19 compared to 20-21).

4). Sexual Offences, although decreasing, disproportionately affect young people and the peak age group for both victims and suspects is younger (10-14 compared to 15-19). Hate Crime suspects also tend to be young people (10-19).

### Recommendations:

- Awareness raising campaigns within schools will help to protect young people against violence and robbery and potentially gather intelligence around youth offending
- Analysis of data gathered directly from young people could help understand root causes and potential interventions; the Violence Reduction Unit may offer additional recommendations



A significant and growing minority of crime and disorder target victims that are particularly vulnerable. The highest volume of these are Domestic Abuse incidents and these are increasing. The profile of victims of domestic abuse are older than five years ago (30-40 compared to 25-35), which could be an indication that new victims are not reporting.

The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment found that victims of domestic abuse were far more likely to self-refer for support.

### Recommendations:

- The recommendations set out in the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment will ensure that domestic violence victims are able to access the support they need
- The recommendation to establish a Domestic Abuse Champions Network in partner agencies will improve the identification of and support offered to domestic abuse victims



After Domestic Abuse, the most common incident types are Child and Adult Protection. Adult Protection is most likely not to be recorded as a crime and includes incidents of fraud and scams, which are known to specifically target vulnerable adults. Child Abuse is more likely to be recorded as a crime and includes Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

### Recommendations:

- Routine collection and sharing among victim support agencies of vulnerabilities and risk factors will provide opportunities for comparison and collaboration between agencies
- Analysis of data collected on vulnerability could help to identify key cross-cutting themes and opportunities for coordinated partnership responses



Almost half of Cybercrime incidents are recorded as Violence, particularly Harassment, and a significant proportion of these are recorded as Domestic Abuse. Just under a third of Cybercrime incidents are recorded as Sexual Offences and a significant proportion of these are recorded as Child Sexual Exploitation. 15% of Cybercrime incidents are recorded as Action Fraud Referrals.



Other incident types include Missing Persons and Hate Crime; however, significant data gaps prevent much analysis of these incidents. Missing Persons is anecdotally linked to incidents of Child Sexual Exploitation, but missing age data makes it impossible to analyse this further. Asian ethnicities appear over-represented within recorded crime data, particularly racially motivated Hate Crime; however, missing ethnicity data in over half Hate Crime incidents, makes it difficult to draw conclusions.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Engaging with minority communities to understand their experience of hate crime and reporting and ensuring that adequate support is available for victims
- Improved recording of ethnicity of victims of hate crime will help the partnership to understand issues and target resources where they are most needed
- Incidents of Modern Slavery, FGM, Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage appear comparatively low in Wokingham, although it is not known to what extent this is related to under-reporting.

## Data Sources

Data Sources are listed by the dataset that was used and the agency from which it was sourced

<b>Provider of Data</b>	<b>Description of Data Used</b>
Wokingham Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Unauthorised Encampments</li><li>- ASB in Council accommodation</li><li>- Reported fly-tipping incidents</li></ul>
Police Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Recorded Crime Data with offender, victim and property attributes</li><li>- Police calls for service re ASB</li></ul>
Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Deliberate Fires</li></ul>
Youth Offending Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Caseload Data plus Assessments</li></ul>
Integrated Offender Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Performance Data</li></ul>
National Probation Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Wokingham Cases plus Assessments</li></ul>
Wokingham Children's Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CSC Exploitation Panel Cases of CSE and CCE</li></ul>
Drug and Alcohol Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Treatment Referral Data</li></ul>
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Risk Assessments for Mental Health Treatment Service Users</li></ul>
SafeLives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment for Wokingham</li></ul>
Public Protection Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Trading Standards Service Requests</li><li>- Noise Complaints</li><li>- Complaints re Scams</li></ul>
Office of National Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Census Data</li><li>- Claimant Counts</li></ul>
Public Health England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fingertips Tool for Violence</li></ul>
HCLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Homeless Applications Data</li></ul>
Crime Survey of England and Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Perceptions of Police and CJS by Ethnic Group</li></ul>
NHS Digital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- FGM Annual Statistics</li></ul>
National Crime Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Modern Slavery NRM Statistics</li></ul>
Other Publicly Available Data Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sentencing Council Sentencing Guidelines</li><li>- UK Police Force Ethnic Breakdown</li></ul>

## Appendix 2

### 10<sup>th</sup> December Community Safety Partnership Workshop 10.00am – 12.30pm

## Wokingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Priority Setting Workshop 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020



#### Purpose of Workshop

To agree the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership 2021/22 onwards

#### Aims:

1. To review the partnership strengths and opportunities
2. To consider the findings of the strategic assessment
3. To agree and set the priorities for 21/22 and beyond
4. To agree next steps residents and stakeholder consultation plan



#### Attendees

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ➤ Felicity Parker – TVP LPA Commander 1                         | ➤ Rachel Oakley – AD Childrens 1              |
| ➤ Susan Parsonage – WBC CEO                                     | ➤ Simon Broad – AD Adult Social Care 2        |
| ➤ John Halsall – WBC Leader 2                                   | ➤ Simon Price – AD Housing                    |
| ➤ John Kaiser – Deputy Leader WBC 1                             | ➤ Sal Thirlway – AD Childrens 1               |
| ➤ Lindsey Ferris – Lib Dem Leader 1                             | ➤ Cath Marriot – OPCC's Office 1              |
| ➤ Barry Patman – Member for Shinfield South 2                   | ➤ Philip Bell – Involve 2                     |
| ➤ Parry Batth – Exec Member Enviro & Leisure 2                  | ➤ Debbie Preedy – ASB Officer 2               |
| ➤ Keeley Clements – Director Communities<br>Insight & Change 1  | ➤ Aletta P – Youth Services Manager 2         |
| ➤ Nick Austin – AD Customer & Localities 2                      | ➤ Kathy Kelly – CCG 1                         |
| ➤ Narinder Brar – Community Safety Manager 1                    | ➤ Melanie Smith – Probation Services 1        |
| ➤ Natasha Jones – Commissioning Lead DA &<br>Substance Misuse 2 | ➤ Karen Evans – DA Co-ordinator 2             |
| ➤ Alistair Lloyd – Safer Neighbours Inspector                   | ➤ Peter Slade – CS Business Support Officer 1 |
|   | ➤ Ian Banks – Berkshire Fire and Rescue       |



## **Wokingham Community Safety Partnership current priorities**

1. Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
2. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime
3. Reduce & prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims & offenders
4. Empower and enable the resilience of local communities

## **Wokingham Community Safety Partnership - local picture and progress**



- ✓ Have stabilised the community safety team; CSP manager in post for 18 months
- ✓ Anti-Social Behaviour Officer post recruited.
- ✓ Project and Business Support secured
- ✓ Needs assessment of local domestic abuse service undertaken
- ✓ Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator post recruited to
- ✓ Domestic abuse contract provision increased and procurement process underway
- ✓ Health check for all the subgroups and related action plans completed
- ✓ Appointed a new Prevent Chair and review Channel Chair
- ✓ Resources have been identified for Prevent, Channel and Hate Crime
- ✓ Reviewed Problem Solving Task Group & ASB panel membership and delivery practices



**Local progress continued .....**



- ✓ Review of partnership reporting structures completed
- ✓ Reviewed website pages
- ✓ Internal enforcement (incl PPP )co-ordination group established to look at problem sites and themes
- ✓ Multi agency crime and anti-social behaviour legislation tools and powers training completed
- ✓ Multi agency crime prevention and designing out crime training underway
- ✓ Strategic assessment of crime and disorder across the borough completed



## Appendix 3



### **Draft Wokingham Community Safety Strategy 2021-2024**

This draft strategy outlines the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership's priorities for 2021- 2024. It is based on an independent local Strategic Assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and other data. It is informed by national and local policies including the Wokingham Community Vision, the Corporate Delivery Plan 2020-2024 and the Police and Criminal Justice Plan 2012-2024 (*Thames Valley Crime and Police Commissioner*)

The Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of the following partner agencies:

- Wokingham Borough Council
- Thames Valley Police
- Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
- Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group
- Berkshire Healthcare Trust
- Wokingham Youth Offending Services
- National Probation Service

In addition to these members, the partnership works with other agencies that support the delivery of reducing crime and disorder locally such as Trading Standards, Housing Associations, third sector agencies including, Involve Community Services, Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB), Berkshire Women's Aid and Cranston Drug and Alcohol Service.

The Partnership operates in a complex network of boards and strategies to deliver a range of priorities that span several different but interconnected workstreams. This includes the Wokingham Wellbeing Board the Adult Safeguarding Board, West of Berkshire Safeguarding Children's Board, Wokingham Children and Young People's Partnership and the Thames Valley Criminal Justice Board.

It will continue to work closely with these boards, ensuring that the intricate relationships continue to compliment individual respective delivery plans and outcomes including reducing reoffending. The Partnership will also ensure that it uses every available opportunity to reduce crime and disorder in the design and delivery of public spaces, town planning and housing infrastructure.

The Community Safety Partnership recognises that Wokingham is a safe Borough to live and visit. When comparing recorded crime to other areas of the Thames Valley and its most similar family areas, it has some of the lowest levels of recorded crime. The partnerships vision is to **Build Safe and Strong Communities in Wokingham**, this underpins the focus and the priorities of our work.

As part of the process of setting out the draft priorities in this strategy the partnership has undertaken wide consultation, with both residents and key stakeholders. The results of the feedback have been analysed and informed the priorities set out in this 3 year plan. A summary of results can be found at the end of this strategy.

The Partnerships three strategic themes represent our overarching work, whilst the specific priorities are areas we will endeavour to concentrate on in more detail.

## **Proposed Draft Priorities 2021-2024**

### **Strategic Themes**

**Listening to the needs and concerns of local residents and taking action – We will ensure** that the partnership has a robust and clear approach to listening, monitoring and responding to issues and concerns at a local neighbourhood level. The partnership wants to ensure that we place communities and neighbourhoods at the heart of our approach. We understand that many issues of local concern require a multi-strand approach involving several partner agencies. We will therefore take a problem-solving approach to help communities and businesses to address behaviours and incidents and crimes. This includes burglary, vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour as well as other key issues that affect local communities including unauthorised encampments, and rural crime concerns. We will support Neighbourhood and Resident Action Groups (NAGS) to improve communication and engagement with residents.

**Intervening early and preventing issues escalating – we will ensure all residents especially** children and young adults have access to a range of support services and information. This will help to ensure that issues are dealt with at the earliest opportunity using a range of measures and interventions to stop them escalating. We know that intervening early can help us catch young people before they go down the wrong path, encouraging them to make positive choices. Therefore, we fully recognise the importance of early intervention to tackle the root causes and provide young people with the skills and resilience to lead productive lives free from being drawn into anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, crime and exploitation including serious violent and knife crime. We will provide targeted activity through the Supporting Families Initiative (formerly Troubled Families) working with partner agencies to support young people on the periphery of offending. This will include a diversionary activities and mentoring offer that will underpin the partnerships work and delivery of the governments Violence Reduction Strategy. Where there is a need, we will take adequate and proportionate action including enforcement steps to address issues and protect communities.

**Working together to protect vulnerable residents – We will ensure** that all victims and the vulnerable have the access to help, information, and advice they need. This includes victims experiencing domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, hate crime, vulnerable residents at risk of being drawn into exploitation and racialisation, and residents targeted by specific crime types including fraud. Through the Integrated Early Help Service we will provide support to families, children, young people and their carers to protect them from and give them the skills to prevent them becoming victims.

As a partnership we will ensure that services and information reach all sections of the community, especially those that may have additional barriers to accessing help such as ethnic minority groups and residents with protected characteristics. We recognise the wider social and economic factors influencing criminality, including those linked to housing, education and health. Vulnerable people and how we provide a range of assistance for a cross section of communities is a priority for several boards. Including, featuring as a priority for the refreshed Wokingham Wellbeing Board Strategy. The partnership will work in close alliance to compliment this workstream.

Furthermore, as a partnership we understand and recognise the benefits of physical and emotional wellbeing, especially those gained through health and leisure opportunities. Not only because they have a role to play in helping to keep residents healthy, but also in helping individuals make overall positive lifestyle choices. To assist some of the most vulnerable of our residents the Council's leisure services team has enabled access to leisure facilities including swimming and gym membership free of charge to a wide range of vulnerable groups. In addition, the leisure services team will continue to deliver targeted programmes that address social isolation and health inequalities for those facing additional barriers to access and participation. This includes ensuring the new 3G pitch at Cantley and state of the art Boxing Hub facility coming online during summer 2021, will be available to targeted young people in order bolster our diversionary activities offer.

## **Specific Aims**

### **1) Work with communities to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots**

Our aim is to:

- listen to communities at a neighbourhood level to identify crime and disorder hotspots to improve safety in areas using a multi-agency problem solving approach.

**We will achieve this by:**

- exploring and investigating hotspots identified in the Strategic Assessment
- monitoring the number of cases referred and resolved by the partnership problem-solving groups.
- We will review enhanced policing, security presence and situational measures in hot-spots.
- We will review the toolkit of available enforcement interventions including Protection Orders (PSPOs)

### **2) Reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse**

Our aim is to:

- prevent and intervene at the earliest stage possible.
- reduce the risk of people becoming repeat victims of domestic abuse
- reduce the harm caused to children and young people affected by domestic abuse

**We will achieve this by:**

- monitoring the number of victims referred to specialist services and responding to emerging issues.
- Working in partnership to promote opportunities for perpetrators to change their behaviour.
- continuing to deliver appropriate interventions and specialist support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse including development of a Healthy Relationships programme.
- increasing the number of practitioners trained to recognise domestic abuse and how to refer to support services.
- increase community awareness and messages through communications campaigns

### **3) Reduce incidents of serious violence and knife crime**

Our aims are to:

- understand the risks around knife crime, reduce the harm it causes and reduce knife crime incidents, particularly those linked to public spaces, gangs and county lines drug dealing.
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**We will achieve this by:**

- educating young people and promoting awareness of violence prevention

- reducing crimes of serious violence and knife crimes in the borough.
- working with our partners to adopt a long term, preventative public health approach to serious violence and harm.

#### **4) Tackle exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults**

Our aims are to:

- utilise the use of criminal and civil powers to protect victims
- ensure that victims have the right level of information, help and support
- ensure that communities are equipped to recognise and report issues of concern including exploitation

**We will achieve this by:**

- monitoring the use of civil powers, for example, community protection notices, premises closure orders, and injunctions.
- increasing the number of practitioners trained to recognise the signs of exploitation and how to refer for support

#### **5) Reduce incidents of residential burglary and theft from vehicles**

Our aim is to:

- make Wokingham Borough a hostile place for burglars and vehicle thieves to operate by encouraging community resilience and pursuing offenders

**We will achieve this by:**

- tackling organised criminals by working in partnership
- multi agency problem solve to reduce crimes
- reducing crimes of thefts from vehicles
- reducing crimes of residential burglary
- increasing the number of crime prevention messages to the community
- supporting residents through a range of schemes including; Neighbourhood Watch, Adopt a Street and Living Streets Audits

#### **How will we delivery our priorities?**

##### **1. Work with communities to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots**

The partnership will intervene at the earliest possible stage to reduce issues escalating. It will engage with community and neighbourhood groups, and encourage a growth in community resilience. We will listen to concerns of local residents and respond appropriately utilising the multi-agency problem solving and anti-social behaviour panel. We will use restorative justice and community/group activity where appropriate.

To tackle some of the root causes of criminal behaviours the partnership will continue to work with different agencies including mental health, drug & alcohol and floating support services to implement a multi-agency and problem solving approach to tackle anti-social behaviour hotspots and help people maintain their accommodation where it may be at risk.

##### **2. Reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse**

The partnership will support those impacted by domestic abuse, tackling perpetrators, raising awareness and educating people around healthy relationships and personal safety. The partnership will continue to focus on Domestic Abuse (DA) as the request for assistance from victims has seen an increase in demand locally. The community safety team will develop a violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy, which will ensure that the partnership has a co-ordinated response in implementing the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. We will support and contribute to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) - meetings to review serious cases and Multiagency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATIC) -

focussing on repeat domestic abuse victims and perpetrators. High risk cases will continue to be referred to Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA's) for guidance and support. The council's team will work with the police and the Home Security Scheme to protect those at risk by target hardening.

The council will tackle perpetrators by taking possession action against council tenancies where appropriate and will liaise with the police to prosecute offenders to keep families safe. We will also ensure that access to help to address offending behaviour is available for perpetrators.

The council has appointed a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, to champion good practice locally. Training will be given to front line staff and to council contractors who deal council tenancies. Through the Early Help Hub we will offer 'Reducing parental Conflict Training'.

The partnership will support DA awareness week in November 2021 and will continue to raise awareness locally as well as throughout the course of the year of the issue. Furthermore, we will ensure that we are ready for the implementation of the new Domestic Abuse Bill expected to become law in 2021. Work on a local housing-based support assessment is already underway to underpin a accommodation based support strategy. Further work will include the completion of the domestic abuse housing accreditation programme (DAHA). Which ensures that support linked to housing is consistent and in line with national good practice models and practice. The Partnership will implement a 'Healthy Relationships' course to Year 8 & 9 pupils for those schools who have requested it. It educates young people on the key elements of a healthy relationship and how to recognise a relationship which is toxic.

The partnership will continue to implement recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).

### **3. Reduce incidents of serious violence and knife crime**

The partnership will continue to support the work of the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit and implement a local response to the Serious Violence Strategy whose aims include the reduction in the number of people carrying and using knives, early intervention to stop people becoming involved in gangs, support for those already involved in serious violence and robust enforcement where necessary. Through the Youth Offending Service (YOS) we will run restorative justice workshops The Public Protection Partnership will be undertaking more test purchasing on knives and warning businesses that it is illegal to sell knives to anyone under the age of 18. We will deliver new knife crime workshops working with local young people who may be at risk of committing violent crime including identified specific young people who need support to stop them becoming involved in serious crime.

### **4. Tackle exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults**

The partnership will continue to work together closely to safeguard vulnerable members of our community. We will ensure that education and awareness about exploitation and the signs are provided to communities, young people and professionals. We will ensure that individuals who are vulnerable to exploitation are provided with information, support and help. We will utilise the child missing and at risk of exploitation (EMRAC) process to protect and safeguard young people from exploitation. The partnership is keen to ensure that we are live to issues and concerns in relation to tackling exploitation, especially county drugs lines (CDL's). Cases can be complex and multi-faceted requiring a sensitive and joined up approach ranging from support to enforcement. However, where deemed necessary we will

advocate the use of criminal and civil powers including community protection notices, premises closure orders, and injunctions to intervene. We will also work to ensure that practitioners and communities are equipped and trained to recognise and report issues of concern and who to refer individuals on to for support.

## **5. Reduce crimes of residential burglary and theft from vehicles**

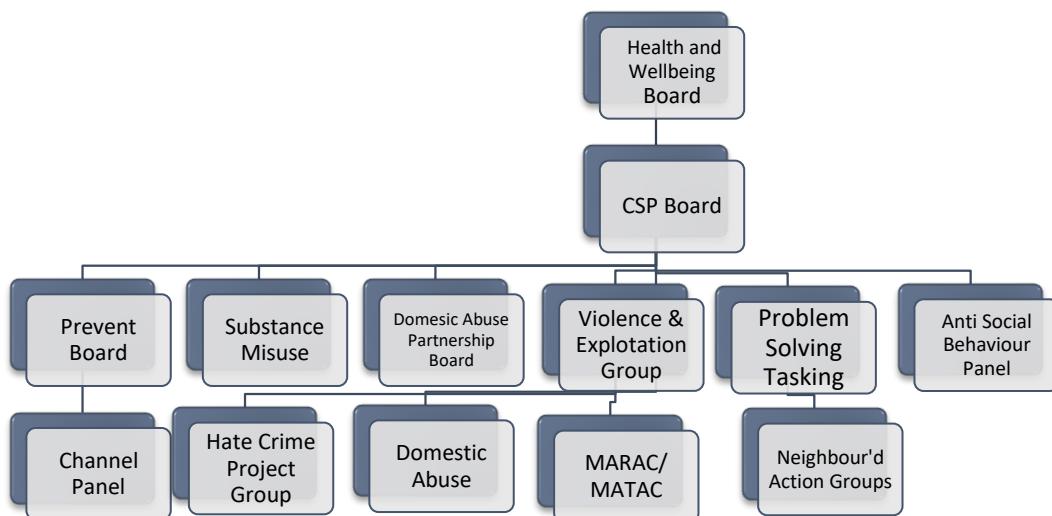
Thames Valley Police is the lead agency that has the duty to hold offenders to account and reduce burglaries and theft from motor vehicles. Other partners will complement their activities by working in partnership to provide effective community messaging to educate residents of how to better protect their property and prevent crime, and target harden hot spots. The partnership will work to target organised criminals when they are operating in the Wokingham Borough to commit burglaries and theft from vehicles by making the borough a hostile place or criminals to operate.

### **Covid19**

The partnership recognises that Covid19 has produced an exceptional set of circumstances and challenges. It has also resulted in dramatically changing and unusual trends. Notable trends have included a fall in burglary and vehicle crime offences and a rise in domestic violence and anti-social behaviour in residential estates and parks and green spaces. Therefore, we will keep a watchful eye on emerging issues and remain flexible in our approach and respond accordingly.

## **Community Safety Partnership Governance & Delivery Groups**

The work of the partnership is driven by a number of multi-agency groups the governance structure and delivery groups for the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are set out below.



## **Summary of Consultation Results**

This strategy was widely consulted upon with residents and key stakeholders. The consultation process was undertaken though a web-based survey for a period of one month. Draft priorities were presented as part of the information with additional free text boxes provided for responders to articulate their suggestions and opinions at each stage. There

were 134 respondents to the survey. The consultation results provide a strong endorsement of the draft priorities and as a result no significant changes are proposed.

In response to whether the Strategic and Specific aims addressed the most important issues 88% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed. The highest support for any aim was Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) at 96% and the lowest was Exploitation at 85%. Other priorities suggested were speeding vehicles and noise nuisance. There was recognition and concern that resources to deliver were limited, reducing and likely to reduce further.

Respondents shared concerns about increasing crime levels, increasing anti-social behaviour (ASB), a reduction in visible policing and reporting mechanisms for communicating with residents. Anti-social behaviour was the highest concern relating mainly to gathering groups of young people in parks.

Bigshotte Park is mentioned most often as an area experiencing anti -social behaviour and specific suggestions to resolve this problem from respondents include a Public Space Protection Order and re-deployable CCTV. Other locations featured were Wokingham Town, Sindlesham, Baker Crescent and Sol Joel Skate Park.

Some respondents asked for a better dialogue on local concerns with a suggestion that Neighbourhood Action Groups should be re-introduced. There were also calls for better incident/crime reporting mechanisms and there was frustration that there was no feedback following a report.

### **Wokingham Community Safety Team**

For more information contact the Wokingham Community Safety Team on  
<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/community-and-safety/community-safety/community-safety-partnership/>

Last updated 28 05.2021v6

Review Date April 2022.

#### Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Initial impact assessment

If an officer is undertaking a project, policy change or service change, then an initial impact assessment must be completed and attached alongside the Project initiation document.

##### **EqIA Titular information:**

Date:	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021
Service:	Neighbourhoods and Communities
Project, policy, or service EqIA relates to:	<b>Draft Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2021-2024</b>
Completed by:	Narinder Brar – Community Safety Manager
Has the EqIA been discussed at services team meeting:	Yes 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Signed off by:	Simon Price
Sign off date:	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021

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##### **1. Policy, Project, or service information:**

This section should be used to identify the main purpose of the project, policy or service change, the method of delivery, including who key stakeholders are, main beneficiaries and any associated aims.

**What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change , its expected outcomes and how does it relate to your services corporate plan:**

**The purpose of the project;** To agree a new Community Safety Partnership Strategy for 2021-24. The intended outcomes are that it will focus the work of the partnership to ensure the correct crime and disorder reduction outcomes are achieved. It will also ensure that the partnership has taken into account changing crime patterns to ensure resources are targeted in the required areas.

This service aligns with our Community Vision and the Corporate Delivery Plan in several ways, supporting strategic values, principles, and plans:

- Safe, Strong Communities
- Changing the way we work for you

**Outline how you are delivering your project, policy change or service change. What governance arrangements are in place, which internal stakeholders (Service managers, Assistant Directors, Members etc.) have/will be consulted and informed about the project or changes:**

The Community Safety Partnership has a duty to undertake a local strategic assessment of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse to inform the strategy. A detailed assessment of the borough has been undertaken looking, in-depth, at a range of available data for a five year period.

Following on from the strategic assessment analysis a multi-agency development workshop was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December with key internal and external stakeholders including the police, fire, health, children's services, the police and crime commissioner's office and voluntary sector representatives findings and the data were disseminated.

The draft priorities are based on information contained within the local strategic assessment and other wider local and national policy context. Priorities will cover a three-year period 2021-2024 and will be reviewed annually. A detailed delivery plan will be developed to assist the monitoring and delivery of the partnership priorities, this will feed into the respective CSP's subgroups that have key work streams and priorities to deliver on and report progress against. Performance is reported quarterly to the CSP board.

**Stakeholder and Public Consultation**

A full stakeholder and public consultation is planned to be undertaken to ensure that the priorities are widely circulated and interested residents, community, businesses and voluntary groups have an opportunity to comment and any feedback is considered and incorporated appropriately. Due to covid19, consultation will be predominately through an internet survey opening on 22nd February 2021 to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

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**Outline who are the main beneficiaries of the Project, policy change or service change?**

- All residents, communities, business and those traveling into to work or visit Wokingham Borough.

**Outline any associated aims attached to the project, policy change or service change:**

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has a duty to formulate and implement a local crime reduction strategy as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The current strategy and priorities are due to end in March 2021.

Legislation sets out that the Community Safety Partnership must have in place;

- a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area;

- a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area  
 ➤ a system for monitoring the strategy for effectiveness and make any changes where necessary and expedient.

This new strategy will ensure that the partnerships statutory duty is complied with and that the detailed in-depth analysis of data allows an evidence based approach to tackling issues across Wokingham Borough.

## **2. Protected characteristics:**

There are 9 protected characteristics as defined by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership:

*To find out more about the protected groups, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

## **3. Initial Impact review:**

In the table below, please indicate whether your project, Policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on one of the protected characteristics. To assess the level of impact, please assign each group a Positive, No, Low or High impact score:

*For information on how to define No, low, or high impact, please consult the EQIA guidance document.*

If your project is to have a positive impact on one of the protected groups, please outline this in the table below.

<b>Protected characteristics</b>	<b>Impact score</b>	<b>Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:</b>
Race:	Positive	The partnership will have a focused approach to hate crime issues underpinned by clearer monitoring and response.
Gender:	Positive	The partnership strategy highlights domestic abuse as one of its priorities. A crime that disproportionately affects women, in turn this providers a better response to victims who are predominately women.

Disabilities:	Positive	The partnership strategy will have a focused on hate crime issues underpinned by clearer monitoring and response led approach.
Age:	Positive	Exploitation of children and young people, together with tackling serious violence and knife crime are all priority areas that will impact younger aged residents. Tackling fraud offences targets assistant towards older residents who will be impacted positively.
Sexual orientation:	Positive	The partnership strategy will have a focused on hate crime issues underpinned by clearer monitoring and response led approach.
Religion/belief:	Positive	The partnership strategy will have a focused on hate crime issues underpinned by clearer monitoring and response led approach.
Gender re-assignment:	Positive	The partnership strategy will have a focused on hate crime issues underpinned by clearer monitoring and response led approach.
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No Change	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership:	No Change	N/A

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Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment for any groups you have identified as having a low or high negative impact. If No impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must report on this initial assessment and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy, or service change.

Initial impact assessment approved by: Simon Price Assistant Director Communities and Neighbourhoods.