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Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Report to Police & Crime Panel

18th November 2022

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Panel with an update on Community Speedwatch

Background

The new Community Speedwatch scheme was launched by the PCC in October 2021 in conjunction with Community Speedwatch Online and managed by PC Lee Turnham of Roads Policing. The launch followed a successful 6-month pilot in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

How Community Speedwatch works and activity over the last 12 months

The new platform brought all Local Police Area (LPA) schemes in line, and all LPAs are now engaged with the new scheme. The new scheme removes much of the previous paper-based process, and allows groups to update data to the platform swiftly. The main difference is that the scheme is now fully out of the hands of Neighbourhood Policing teams, freeing them up for other community issues. Starter kits, including a speed detection device are available through the OPCC.

There are now 217 groups across the TVP footprint, comprising of over 1200 residents/volunteers, and the system has been set up so that Councils can access information on all schemes in their LPA/jurisdiction areas. The scheme is GDPR compliant, and groups are restricted to seeing their own data and not that of another's group. All training is conducted on-line for new group members, saving time and expenditure.

The previous requirement for a paper Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been removed. It was agreed at the Strategic Board that when Speedwatch locations are "built" and authorised by PC Turnham, the platform automatically recognises where these are and will add people to a dynamic SLA and is recorded appropriately.

A motorist can receive 3 graduated letters over a rolling 6 month period; any further transgressions will lead to a visit by a Roads Policing Officer to discuss driving behaviour. If a motorist is 50% over the specified limit, they will automatically receive an "Excess 50%" letter, explaining potential police action if the speeding occurrence had been carried out by a Police Officer. If the motorist is detected at twice the specified speed limit, it will be flagged for a Roads Policing visit as soon as possible.

In the past 12 months, 30,402 letters have been sent out, with 94.53% who received a first letter, not subsequently found to be committing further speeding transgressions within a rolling six month period.

Where a site/road is particularly busy, according to statistics with a high level of activity and transgressions, other measures will be considered by Roads Policing. This may

include tasking the Neighbourhood Policing Team to carry out speed enforcement, or Roads Policing to be tasked with an enforcement package, to take a proactive approach in the area. 46 motorists within this period have now become targets for further enforcement in this way.

A DVLA check is automatically completed if any vehicle is detected speeding, after which a letter will follow. DVLA are automatically notified via the Speedwatch scheme, of vehicles travelling with no tax. Roads Policing will look at time periods and consider prosecution for no MOT; usually they will not do so within the first month of expiry. Outside of this, vehicle details from Speedwatch are confirmed with ANPR for Roads Policing patrols.

In the past 12 months, the new scheme has had over 250,000 vehicles pass through it, with 30,402 letters sent. 576 vehicles have been detected without a valid MOT, 587 without tax, and 36 vehicles on "SORN" have been detected, all details of which have been passed to DVLA.

Volunteers have given over 7,100 hours at 1,311 sites, through 2,652 completed Speedwatch sessions, as at the end of September 2022. Clearly there is far more potential for scheme expansion, and more interested groups are seeking to join.

Other enhancements under the new scheme include an ability to record details of incidents involving ASB, threats, or assaults on Speedwatch members. This has already resulted in the positive action being taken in 2 cases:

Oxfordshire – a member of the public abused a group with insulting words, reported via the system and local Neighbourhood Policing notified. The individual was identified and interviewed. He admitted the offence, and has been issued with a caution.

Oxfordshire - a motorist mounted the kerb and drove along the pavement towards the group causing them to take action to avoid being struck by the vehicle. The driver was identified and the case is ongoing. PC Turnham continues to liaise with the Roads Policing OIC, and a positive outcome looks very likely.