



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

PCC PROGRESS REPORT TO THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 26th March 2021

Police and Crime Plan Strategic Priority 3: **Reducing Reoffending**

I ensure delivery of my Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 objectives by holding to account Thames Valley Police (TVP) and other PCC-funded and commissioned service providers for their delivery of specific operational policing, crime reduction and community safety objectives.

The Chief Constable produces an Annual Force Delivery Plan which complements and supports my Police and Crime Plan. I attend monthly Service Improvement Reviews across Local Policing Areas in Thames Valley and Force Performance Group meetings whereby I can witness the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) holding relevant operational staff to account for their specific aims, objectives and targets. Furthermore, at my quarterly 'Level 1' public meetings I hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery of operational policing against the Force's Annual Delivery Plan.

In respect of Strategic Priority 3 ('Reducing Re-offending') my objective is to improve the targeting and managing of harm and risk, with particular emphasis on the following areas:

- Substance misuse
- Violence involving weapons
- Offender Management

My Police and Crime Plan sets out the following '**Key Aims**' for addressing Reducing Re-offending:

1. A review by police and other criminal justice partners on whether processes for identifying and referring individuals in contact with the criminal justice system into substance misuse services are as effective as they could be.
2. Improved data sharing on gangs, with the aim of reducing exploitation of young people through gang membership and reducing and preventing violent crime, especially knife crime.
3. A modern offender management strategy for Thames Valley addressing gaps in existing schemes and tackling offenders across the crime spectrum who pose the greatest risk or threat of harm.
4. Identification and implementation of best practice in the management of perpetrators of domestic violence, particularly focussing on serial perpetrators

I have summarised below the cumulative progress to date (Year 4, 2020/21, to end of Qtr. 3) on the delivery of the above, four-year, Police and Crime Plan 'Key Aims'.

2020/21 PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 'KEY AIMS'

(as at Year 4, 2020/21, Qtr. 3)

1. A review by police and other criminal justice partners on whether processes for identifying and referring individuals in contact with the criminal justice system into substance misuse services are as effective as they could be

TVP Delivery Plan actions & progress:

2018/19:

- Criminal Justice and key justice partnerships engaged in order to establish complementary approaches to diversion and offender aftercare referral (e.g. probation services, custody partnerships including Liaison and Diversion). The timing of the rollout was linked to the delivery of effective rehabilitative treatments, including a Victim Awareness Course and drug and alcohol treatment.
- Monitoring and evaluation arrangements, and the development of interventions (e.g. drug diversion pilot proposals, an Alcohol Related Violence course) are ongoing, alongside technological developments (electronic referral tools being developed as part of the drug diversion work).
- In Slough LPA, work took place to raise the profile of the Youth Liaison & Diversion (L&D) team, expanding their reach from the custody environment only into the community. L&D workers attend multi-agency meetings such as the Serious Youth Violence and Child Drug Exploitation meetings to help tackle child exploitation issues and assess vulnerable children in home visits with officers.

2017/18:

- Historic mandatory drug testing appointments were offered for voluntary referrals and for a wider range of substances. Liaison and Diversion were taking an increasing role and Criminal Justice were utilising a liaison manager for 12 months to pull this together.

OPCC initiatives & progress:

OPCC Community Safety Fund Initiatives:

2018/19:

- Over £3m of community safety funding was provided by the PCC to local authorities across the Thames Valley to tackle local priorities, including offender management programmes and substance misuse services. This included the PCC providing over £46,000 to develop a conditional caution scheme for alcohol related violence which will result in access to a substance misuse scheme.

2017/18:

- Reading CSP invested £35,363 to support young people who misuse alcohol or drugs.
- Reading CSP invested £253,610 on a drug treatment programme which supports individuals whose offending is associated with their drug misuse. The programme has started treatment with 233 offenders.

- West Berkshire CSP invested £10,933 on Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) which is an early method of alcohol use disorder identification in adults and adolescents. 900 people have been trained in IBA.
- Oxfordshire CSP invested £24,500 in Refresh Café which provides support for drug and alcohol users with a history of offending to access work/employment based interventions in order to reduce re-offending. In the first half of 17/18 34 volunteers have actively engaged with a work based placements.
- Milton Keynes CSP invested £40,000 towards their Drug and Alcohol Intervention Service which helps fund key workers who work with criminal justice clients, support the courts and contribute towards reducing reoffending.
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead CSP invested £33,500 on a Drug and Alcohol Prison Outreach Worker who helps individuals who have recently left prison access structured community based substance misuse treatment.
- Wokingham CSP invested £10,000 on an alcohol service to work with individuals with low and medium risk drinking. The service aims to prevent drinking behaviours escalating to a significantly harmful level, preventing referrals into our substance misuse service for high risk drinking and reducing alcohol attributable crimes.
- Bracknell Forest CSP invested £40,000 on funding a Criminal Justice Recovery Facilitator who is based within the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to increase the proportion of criminal justice clients who successful complete treatment.
- Buckinghamshire CSP invested £14,361 to fund a Prison Link Worker to engage with offenders who are due to be released and ensure a smooth transition into community substance misuse treatment.

Police Property Act Fund Initiatives (inc. funds allocated through Community Foundation and High Sheriff awards):

- Pilgrim Heart Trust received £2,500 towards their project supporting the homeless. This includes, where necessary, referring them to local Drug and Alcohol services and liaising with local police to inform and improve the methods of referral.
- DrugFAM (Oxfordshire) received £4,555 towards delivering a support group for families, friends and partners affected by someone else's addiction.
- DrugFAM (Berkshire) received £5,000 towards the development of their helpline which is the first point of access into its core services for families, friends and partners affected by someone else's addiction.
- DrugFAM (Buckinghamshire) received £5,000 to support families, friends and partners affected by someone else's addiction.

2. Improved data sharing on gangs, with the aim of reducing exploitation of young people through gang membership and reducing and preventing violent crime, especially knife crime

TVP Delivery Plan actions & progress:

2019-2021:

- Since October 2020, Milton Keynes, Slough and Reading LPAs have all had access to the Serious Violence Dashboard, a new product co-designed by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and Service Improvement. This tool houses two 'Recency, Frequency, Gravity' (RFG) matrix RFGs: the Child Exploitation RFG, which aims to identify young people at risk of exploitation, and the Serious Violence RFG, which focusses on individuals involved in Serious Violence across the Thames Valley. Access to the tool was expanded in November 2020, and now every LPA in the Force has access to both RFGs. These are being used to help target interventions and targeted deterrence, as well as ensure effective safeguarding is in place. The VRU are working with stakeholders around the Force to formalise the recommended approach to using the RFGs, which will be completed in Q4 2020/21.
- The Serious Violence Dashboard is now live in the Force allowing it to focus resources and problem solving in locations where serious violent crime takes place and those who pose the greatest risk of harm. Op Rasure continues across the Force with extra resources in hot spots. The use of stop and search and S.60 is monitored both by the knife crime Gold and the stop and search advisory group.
- Phase 1 of the Two Way Interface (TWIF) Project ended in December 2020. This means that the majority of cases are now being sent to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) direct from the police record management system. Phase 2 is just getting underway which will allow CPS to respond electronically directly back to the police system.

2018/19:

- Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire ran a summer programme around gang and criminal exploitation, run by Act2Improv (ATI). The programme was intended as a preventative diversion from gang membership or exploitation, with the success monitored through quantitative measures of re-offending.
- Local Licensing officers are working with licensed premises and their staff to improve their knowledge in relation to under aged drinking, acid attacks, child sexual exploitation (CSE), crime prevention, counter-terrorism, and reducing violence.
- The LPA-led multi-agency tasking and co-ordination (MATAC) process is being implemented in Oxfordshire and then across the Force, focusing on a greater sharing of information between police and partners to target those causing the most harm.
- The Milton Keynes and Bucks Positive Pathway Programme delivered a three weeks long, mentor-based service for 13 young males who had been put forward due to their gang connections, drug misuse, high level of criminality and significant level of missing person/exploitation cases. Outcomes include a fall in missing persons cases involving the participants from 10 per week to a single case over three weeks and none of the participants who stayed on the programme were arrested or were reported to have committed any crime.

- Aylesbury LPA hosted a presentation by an ex-gang member who delivered preventative inputs on County Drug Lines, knife crime and gangs to the most at risk children excluded from mainstream schooling in three LPAs. In Windsor LPA, exploitation awareness conferences took place to increase partners' understanding of county lines and vulnerability.
- The Oxford LPA and TVP's Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) worked on drug dealing investigations, greatly assisted by intelligence and post-resolution community engagement. Warrants were successfully executed and children at risk safeguarded. Local Neighbourhood Officers used the opportunity to engage with the community and provide reassurance, building long term relations and better reporting.
- Youths at risk of crime, committing crime, or vulnerable, took part in Music & Motivation, a project offering education, interaction through music and opportunities to pursue their own interests with support and mentors (landscaping, graphic design etc.). The diversion was a success, achieved community support and funding, while demonstrably reducing the youths' involvement in police incidents. A mentoring scheme in Cherwell has also seen successes.
- Following the success of the "Get Berkshire Active" charity in Slough in reducing gang violence, a funding bid has been submitted with a view to expanding their reach Force-wide.
- As a measure to further improve TVPs engagement with schools, a schools' engagement officer has been re-introduced in most LPAs. This will support early intervention and building resilience amongst young people.

2017/18:

- The National Knife Crime campaign was supported through Local Policing and Criminal Justice
- The LPA engagement plans include Children and Young People (C&YP) engagement activity with central feedback provided to LPA commanders on their plans.
- The Force is reinforcing the safeguarding principles in Stop and Search encounters with Children and Young People, ensuring prompts are contained within the Stop and Search app to remind Officers of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The Force is working in collaboration with communities, colleges, licensed premises, schools to focus on knife harm reduction
- Cherwell & West Oxfordshire Local Policing Area launched the Safeguarding Children in Banbury project in collaboration with local schools.
- Disproportionality is continually monitored, and there have been positive outcome rates of stop and search on children and young people. This data is shared with the Stop and Search advisory group for independent review.
- There is a process in place to ensure every under 18 year old Stop and Search is scrutinised so no safeguarding opportunities have been missed.
- As part of Service Improvement reviews, Service Improvement Team are now capturing MASH referrals resulting from Stop and Search.

- Two surveys focused on young people, led by Corporate Communications, fed into a strategy relating to young person engagement, to help identification of future opportunities.
- A review was commissioned with the local Crime Safety Partnership to provide a clearer picture of the gang issue within Slough and to inform further commissioning of diversionary work once the problem has been clearly profiled. This links in with the PCC and Home Office review of County Drugs Lines. The expected outcomes will be a reduction in gang related crimes, a reduction in child criminal exploitation, an increase in the intelligence picture and a reduction on the demand for social care services.
- Locally TVP has commissioned a number of health checks to assess our Organised Crime Gang process, violent offenders multi-agency panel meeting, domestic abuse strategy and Child Sexual Exploitation strategy which have informed and updated our multi-agency strategies.
- There have been a number of training packages developed to help our partners identify risk more effectively, particularly around vulnerability. This includes training to all school safeguarding leads about gangs, youth violence and intelligence handling/dissemination.

OPCC initiatives & progress:

OPCC Community Safety Fund Initiatives:

2018/19:

- Over £3m of community safety funding was provided to local authorities across the Thames Valley to tackle local priorities, including work to prevent gang crime and the exploitation of young people. These initiatives include:
 - The PCC provided over £76,000 to Berkshire Youth for a 2 year project to work with young people who do not engage with youth services but are at risk of joining gangs and/or exploitation.
 - Nearly £20,000 was provided to Wycombe Youth Action to develop research on young people and gangs.

2017/18:

- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead invested £22,000 on gang crime programme including training, a school roadshow, creation of a risk assessment tool and the creation of a Gang Tasking Meeting.
- Reading CSP invested £35,363 to support young people who misuse alcohol or drugs which includes awareness of other associated issues such as crime, CSE, and ASB.
- Reading CSP invested £88,338 towards a Youth Offending Service which includes preventative work with at risk young people and delivery of intensive work for high risk young people.
- West Berkshire CSP provide funding towards a Safer Schools Officer who has delivered Forearms and Knife educational workshops to 3 schools.

- West Berkshire CSP invested £73,547 towards a Youth Offending Service which includes a Youth Offending Team Officer. Their work includes Out of Court Disposal assessments of the likelihood of re-offending, risk of serious harm and the young person's vulnerability.
- Oxfordshire CSP invested £113,456 on Youth Justice Services including work with some of the hardest to engage and extremely distrustful young people enabling them to increase awareness of exploitation, divert from exploitive situations and support with safeguarding where appropriate. Of the current 49 children over half have some level of exploitation concerns identified.
- Cherwell CSP invested £11,829 to support vulnerable young people and adults linked to Organised Crime Groups.
- Oxford CSP invested £50,171 on a Violent Crime Coordinator which is part of a partnership coordination of their response to Organised Crime Groups.
- Oxford CSP invested £43,544 on a Human Exploitation Coordinator.
- Milton Keynes CSP invested £120,900 towards a Youth Offending Service which prevents the most vulnerable children and young people in their community from experiencing additional difficulties.
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead invested £39,100 towards their Youth Offending Team (YOT) including working with young people who have committed violent crimes. Due to an increase in the number of young people coming through to YOT for drug and violent offences a scoping exercise has taken place to understand the wider networks/links the young people have.

Police Property Act Fund Initiatives:

- Wycombe Youth Services Partnership received £3,900 towards their 'CTRL+ALT=DEL' early intervention pilot project which works with year 7's at secondary school. The program runs over 12 weeks and works with young people who are at risk of negative street group and gangs. Sessions cover areas such as: gang culture and behaviours, sense of belonging, the law, crime, coercion, peer pressure and weapons awareness.
- The Youth Enquiry Service received £3,000 towards their Drop In service which provides free support to young people aged 13-25 years in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas. This support is on a range of issues include gang issues, grooming and drugs.

3. A modern offender management strategy for Thames Valley addressing gaps in existing schemes and tackling offenders across the crime spectrum who pose the greatest risk or threat of harm

TVP Delivery Plan actions & progress:

2019-2021:

- New Multi-Agency Tasking Coordinating (MATAC) process now live with Operational Guidance and LPA MATAC leads. 'Recency, Frequency, Gravity' (RFG) matrix now

expanded to include Serial perpetrators who target more than one victim – RFGs, enabling LPAs and partner agencies to make the best informed decisions about where to target intervention and resource. Work has been undertaken to ensure consistency of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process across the force, including the concern that MARAC agendas were being taken up with ‘repeat medium’ cases. Awaits final confirmation that all partners across the force agree. Safe Lives have been consulted.

2018/19:

- The TVP Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort continues to grow, of which almost a quarter are domestic abuse related. IOM now manage all MAPPA category 2 & 3 cases.
- Increased number of Organised Crime Group nominals on the IOM cohort.
- New links established with the British Transport Police IOM scheme to coordinate offender management of county line drug dealers utilising the transport network out of London travelling into TVP.
- Around 40% of IOM nominals were National Probation Service cases (these cases are of higher threat, harm and risk than Community Rehabilitation Company cases). Previously this was circa 10%, demonstrating that the IOM programme has successfully evolved into priority areas.
- The work regarding Indeterminate Public Protection (IPP) prisoners that started in Q1 has concluded, and TVP are now working with all IPP cases. Further work is being carried out to include female offenders in this cohort, in line with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) female offender strategy.
- TVP’s drug diversion pilot scheme began in West Berkshire following extensive development and research by the Policing Strategy Unit. Offenders found with small quantities of illegal drugs are given an opportunity to engage with a tailored diversion route to address their drug use instead of facing prosecution. Aiming to break the cycle of re-offending, this scheme can help reduce demand on frontline services and reduce the number of drug-related deaths in Thames Valley.
- Following consultation with stakeholders, the out of court disposals framework is being rolled out across the force. This provides a two tier disposal strategy of conditional cautions or community resolutions. Currently being trialled in Reading under Operation Pathway, this streamlined process is quicker and ensures appropriate disposals are made.

2017/18:

- We revised the matrix for selecting Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohorts with Reading CSP now signed off to pilot a new cohort. An IOM toolkit is being developed, linking into NICHE for offenders. Domestic Abuse offenders are now incorporated into the Buckinghamshire IOM.
- We are working to improve integration between Lifetime Offender Management (LOM) and IOM to improve identification and management of high risk organised crime group (OCG) offenders.

- The Force is developing an “Offender Management” approach combining VISOR (Violent and Sex Offenders Register) and IOM with training delivered to VISOR and IOM teams on the new approach.
- Integrated Offender Management and the Violent and Sex Offenders Register now managed under one Detective Chief Inspector, to provide clarity and additional resources to support Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (responsible authorities)
- There is further monitoring of the use of bail. There continues to be no adverse incidents as a result of inappropriate release with or without bail and the percentage of those on bail is in line with other forces nationally.
- Increased the number of domestic abuse offenders on the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme cohort.
- Increased the number of violent offenders on the cohort.
- Closer working with, and increased referrals from, the National Probation Service – which in turn means we are working with offenders who have been assessed as posing a high risk.
- TVP has taken the Police lead in the management of Cat 2 (‘violent offenders’) and Cat 3 (‘other dangerous’) Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) offenders.
- A trial was put in place in Oxfordshire around the management of High and Medium risk domestic abuse offenders and a Domestic Abuse co-ordinator was recruited to ensure a better referral rate into IOM. The number of domestic abuse offenders continues to be monitored through the Offender Management and domestic abuse groups.

OPCC initiatives & progress:

OPCC Community Safety Fund Initiatives (inc. funds allocated through Community Foundation and High Sheriff awards):

2019-2021:

- The OPCC continues to fund ‘Buddi-tags’ used on a voluntary basis by offenders subject to IOM interventions. Desistance from offending by those wearing buddi-tags is reported as being consistently and significantly lower than that by the IOM cohort as a whole.
- The PCC, supported by funding from the Director of South Central Probation, has continued to commission a project supporting ex-offenders to access employment, education or training.
- The OPCC is coordinating a bid to the Home Office ‘Prison Leavers Fund’ involving many different partners and elements of support for adults leaving prison – both male and female. Support includes elements such as:
 - improving the family links for parents in prison with their children;
 - ensuring arrangements are made to access benefits, substance misuse prescriptions, housing, mental health needs, etc via ‘departure lounges’ upon leaving prison,
 - improving access to digital resources to assist prison leavers accessing education/employment,
 - recruiting system navigators, including those with lived experience, and

- volunteers to advocate and support individuals leaving prison.

2018/19:

- Over £3m of community safety funding was provided to local authorities across the Thames Valley to tackle local priorities, including offender management programmes. These initiatives include:
 - Over £72,000 provided to Aspire Oxford to deliver a project which aims to work with offenders 'through the gates' to help get them into employment.
 - £40,000 of funding has been provided to establish a rent deposit scheme for offenders who struggle to secure housing.
 - Over £52,000 provided to Circles South East to work towards rehabilitation of high risk sexual offenders.

2017/18:

- Reading CSP invested £88,338 towards a Youth Offending Service to support young offenders to assist in the reduction of first time entrants and re-offending rates. The re-offending rate over the last year (Q4) reduced from 42.4% to 40.4%.
- West Berkshire CSP invested £73,547 towards a Youth Offending Service which includes a Victim Liaison Officer, Restorative Justice and Reparation Officer and YOT Officer.
- Oxfordshire CSP invested £113,456 towards their Youth Offending Service which includes work around Restorative Justice, exploitation and Prevent.
- South and Vale CSP invested £15,000 into Oxford Homeless Pathways to support offenders during the difficult transition period between offending and stability. Number of offenders supported in South and Vale was 18.
- Buckinghamshire CSP invested £43,070 towards their Youth Offending Service Early Intervention Programme to divert young people from offending.
- Buckinghamshire CSP invested £60,733 towards their Youth Offending Service to reduce re-offending in young people. Between April to September 2017 73 interventions were completed.
- Milton Keynes CSP invested £120,900 towards a Youth Offending Service to reduce youth crime.
- Milton Keynes CSP invested £3,000 towards the Milton Keynes Integrated Offender Management Programme to support individuals following release from prison.
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead invested £39,100 towards their Youth Offending Team (YOT) including an early intervention, mentoring and diversionary schemes.
- Wokingham CSP invested £20,000 towards their Youth Offending Service including prevention and intervention programmes.

- Bracknell CSP invested £62,500 into their Youth Offending Service.

Police Property Act Fund Initiatives (inc funds allocated through Community Foundation and High Sheriff awards):

- Thames Valley Partnership were awarded £11,500 towards their New Leaf and Family Matters programmes which work with offenders returning to their community and support family members.
- Berkshire Care Trust were awarded £9,000 towards their service to educate, train and to relieve poverty and need among offenders and their families of such persons in Berkshire.
- Aspire Oxfordshire Community Enterprise Ltd received £4,142 towards their Through the Gate community based project, which works to reduce re-offending through intensive employability support, and training placements for Release on Temporary licence (ROTL) clients in HMP Spring Hill prior to their release.
- Elizabeth Fry received £4,140 to support women in Reading with complex needs, including those on licence.
- Aylesbury Youth Motor Project received ££730 towards a training placement for one young person from the Youth Offending Service as part of their rehabilitation.
- Trailblazers Mentoring received £2,500 towards their 'Through the Gate' mentoring project working with young offenders from Aylesbury.
- Wycombe Wanderers Sports & Education Trust received £2,500 towards their 'Kicking-On' project which will work in partnership with Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service to engage young people who offend into the workplace and improve their employability skills.
- Bucks Association for the Care of Offenders received £10,000 to provide small grants to prisoners, ex-offenders and their families to allow offenders break the cycle of criminal behaviour and integrate back into society.
- The Hardman Trust received £5,000 to work with offenders with offenders based in HMP Springhill who have long sentences and have particular challenges in coping with life outside prison.
- Aspire received £5,000 towards their Through the Gate community based project who engage with offenders from HMP Bullingdon prior to their release.

4. Identification and implementation of best practice in the management of perpetrators of domestic violence, particularly focussing on serial perpetrators

TVP Delivery Plan actions & progress:

2019-2021:

- Oxfordshire Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) trial with Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) working with victims has now been given Joint Information Management Unit (JIMU) sign-off and started January 2021. DVPO numbers remain stable; there is a need to understand the HMIC inspection of GMP in relation to measuring cases which have had Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) consideration but ultimately precluded. Staking Protection Orders (SPOs) remains an area of concern. All non-domestic stalking cases active in the Force have had a PVP supervisory review entered highlighting the need to consider SPOs. This will also be a crucial part of the forthcoming Comms work. The use of Civil Orders in general in DA is an area for development. Possibility of using Webinars to explore the range of orders and options to get the message across to staff is being explored. Work has already been done on Restraining Orders, highlighting best practice and new operational guidance; evaluation and further review will be required.
- The Force continues to realise the benefits of Single Online Home by identifying opportunities to integrate systems where possible and introduce new online services for reporting Domestic Abuse and Missing Persons, and requesting Sarah's Law disclosures.

2018/19:

- Steps to enable a conditional caution for domestic abuse are at a mature stage: protocols have been drawn up and are awaiting sign-off from CPS and the DPP thereafter. LPA and departmental leads are engaged in order to facilitate internal communications and engage local partnerships which can assist delivery of effective rehabilitative services.
- The TVP Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort continues to grow, of which almost a quarter are domestic abuse related.
- Protocols for domestic abuse conditional cautions have been agreed between TVP and the local Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) (following consultation with national CPS domestic abuse leads) and CPS has submitted the plans for DPP approval.
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams continue to develop work around the management of PPU offenders and creating greater interaction regarding domestic abuse offenders.
- LPAs are actively engaged in Operation Vocal (with a focus on the high risk offenders being managed within the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU)) with a focus on arrest and prevention.
- The domestic abuse prosecution working group was analysing domestic abuse cases that have not led to prosecution in Court and is translating any lessons from this into operational guidance. This is a critical step in our efforts to improve the numbers of offenders who are prosecuted.
- The Livelink project went live in January 2019, allowing officers to give evidence for traffic offences from 14 sites in the Force by video link rather than in person, reducing

abstractions from other duties. In further support of officers as witnesses, the Criminal Justice Department is developing the Police Witness protocol to improve organisational resilience.

- A new Victim & Witness Care portfolio was established which expands the role of the TVP Witness Care Unit. This aims to relieve pressure on officers, improve success rates in court and ensure victims feel better supported. The Witness Care Unit has worked with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to improve victim attendance at court for domestic abuse cases and therefore increasing positive court outcomes. In December 2018, support had been given to 14,297 witnesses at Crown Court at a 97% attendance rate, and 7,849 witnesses at Magistrates Court, with 91% attending. This work was recognised by an award from the Local Criminal Justice Board, and TVP's Criminal Justice Department is participating in national working groups to further improve witness care provision.
- Huddersfield University has completed its research into fast track domestic abuse cases at Aylesbury Crown Court. Following a successful pilot, work is ongoing towards national implementation if agreed by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), CPS and the Judiciary.
- In collaboration with Gloucestershire University, evidence-based research was used to review Domestic Abuse risk assessments, to support development of an objective approach that fully manages risks.
- In South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse LPA, a multi-agency domestic abuse problem solving forum was implemented. In monthly meetings, the partner agencies identify high-demand perpetrators of domestic abuse through analysis, and offer them options to stop their behaviour. This approach has shown a reduction in the risk score of those who have engaged, and three perpetrators who have not engaged are currently in custody or awaiting trial.

2017/18:

- Domestic Abuse offenders incorporated into the Buckinghamshire IOM.
- New offender management referral process includes flagging domestic abuse offenders in Integrated Offender Management.
- Currently 12% of the Integrated Offender Management programme cohorts have domestic abuse qualifiers.
- There is an ongoing review of the process for management of repeat offenders to create greater links with domestic abuse, developing the work from Q2.
- The "Positive Relationship" programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse was launched, with 4 courses delivered and 74 referrals made in Q4. Feedback was positive from those attending the programme.

OPCC initiatives & progress:

- The PCC awarded funding to the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) to pilot a DV perpetrator programme for 18 months ending in March 2020. The scheme, called the Positive Relationships Programme, was evaluated by the Centre for Public Innovation. Results of the evaluation were mixed, which – together with the advent of the Covid pandemic – led to the programme ending while the OPCC reviews

alternative options along with TVP and LA partners. CPI conducted a systematic review of the literature to assist in identification of future options. The CARA programme (run in Hampshire plus several other force areas) is currently under consideration.

- The PCC funded a “Positive Relationship Programme” for perpetrators of domestic abuse in the Thames Valley which is being delivered by the CRC. One group has successfully concluded with very positive feedback from the attendees. There are a further two groups in progress and one due to start shortly. Conditional cautions were agreed which resulted in some perpetrators being required to attend this programme as part of the conditions of the caution.

OPCC Community Safety Fund Initiatives:

2017/18:

- Milton Keynes CSP invested £40,000 in their Domestic Abuse Intervention Service which includes funding towards a perpetrator programme.
- Wokingham CSP invested £34,453 towards their Domestic Abuse contract which includes a perpetrator programme. Eight perpetrators continued to engage with the service.

Police Property Act Fund Initiatives:

2017/18:

- SAFE! Support for Young People Affected by Crime received £5,000 towards the running of the Building Respectful Families Programme in Reading. The initiative supports families where there is Child on Parent Violence (CPV) and is run for 10 sessions. CPV is a form of Domestic Abuse which is often hidden and under-reported with evidence showing it can be an indicator of future adult abuse.

Anthony Stansfeld

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

17 March 2021