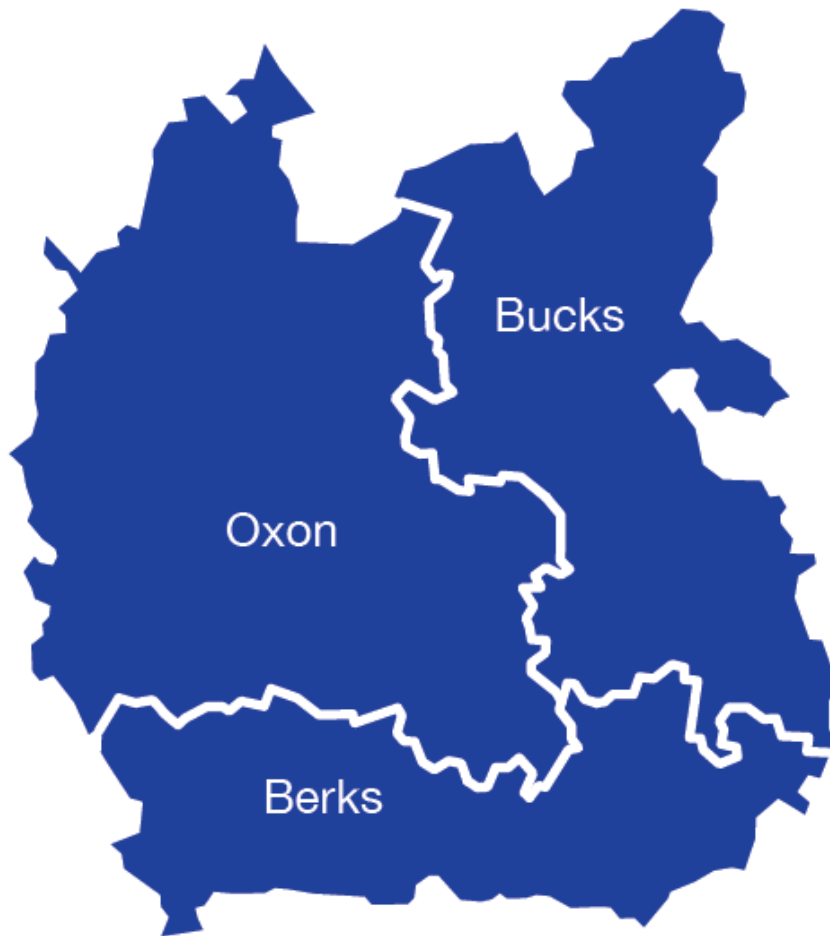


# Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel



## Annual Report 2020/21

Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (PCP) is a joint committee comprising of 14 elected members (one from each of the Oxfordshire district councils (4), one for each of the Unitary Authorities in Berkshire (6), and one each for Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and Milton Keynes Council. Buckinghamshire Council is represented by one Member plus four further local authority co-opted Members to meet the balanced panel objective.

It can be contacted via the address below:

**Democratic Services  
Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall, New Road, Oxford,  
OX1 1ND**

**Telephone: 07990368048**

**Email: [contact@thamesvalleypcp.org.uk](mailto:contact@thamesvalleypcp.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.thamesvalleypcp.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalleypcp.org.uk)**

**Twitter: [@ThamesValleyPCP](https://twitter.com/ThamesValleyPCP)**



For 2020/21, the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley was Anthony Stansfeld and his Deputy PCC, was Matthew Barber.

On 6 May 2021 the elections for a new PCC took place and Matthew Barber became the PCC for Thames Valley. He can be contacted here:

**Office of the Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
The Farmhouse  
Thames Valley Police Headquarters  
Oxford Road  
Kidlington  
Oxon  
OX5 2NX**

**Telephone: (01865) 541957**

**Email: [pcc@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)**

**Website: [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)**

**Twitter: [@TV\\_PCC](https://twitter.com/TV_PCC)**

***MEMBERS OF THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL  
2020-21***

Councillor Julia Adey (Co-Opted Member, Buckinghamshire Council)

Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward (Reading Borough Council)

Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council)

Councillor Robin Bradburn (Milton Keynes Council)

Councillor David Cannon (Royal Borough of Windsor Council)

Councillor David Carroll (Co-Opted Member, Buckinghamshire Council)

Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Co-Opted Member, Buckinghamshire Council)

Councillor Marilyn Davies (West Oxfordshire District Council)

Councillor Neil Fawcett (Vale of White Horse District Council)

Councillor John Harrison (Bracknell Forest Council)

Liz Jones (Independent Member)

Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council)

Councillor Andrew McHugh (Cherwell District Council)

Phillip Morrice (Independent Member)

Councillor Mohammed Nazir (Slough Borough Council)

Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council)

Councillor David Rouane (South Oxfordshire District Council)

Councillor Claire Rowles (West Berkshire Council)

Councillor Louise Upton (Oxford City Council)

Councillor Mark Winn (Co-Opted Member, Buckinghamshire Council)

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## Chairman's Introduction



I am pleased to present the eighth annual report of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (PCP), which covers its activities during the 2020 calendar year.

The objective of the Panel is to maintain a 'check and balance' on the performance of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) regarding his strategic objectives contained in his Police and Crime Plan.

The Panel plays a vital role in holding the PCC to account and supporting him in the effective exercise of his duties. I would like to thank all Panel Members for the dedication and commitment in carrying out the Panel's statutory functions which, in turn, help to deliver an effective and efficient policing service for the people of the Thames Valley.

This was the final year of Anthony Stansfeld as PCC and the Panel have appreciated the efforts of him, of his Deputy PCC and of his office in helping the Panel in its work throughout the year. This is particularly appreciated in the support which is given to the Budget Task and Finish Group in the scrutiny of the Police precept for Council Tax.

The Panel is also grateful for the attendance of Chief Constable, John Campbell and his officers at Panel meetings who have been a great help in providing Members with an operational perspective to the strategic issues discussed.

The last 12-15 months has presented unprecedented challenges due to the Coronavirus Pandemic with all PCP meetings taking place "virtually". This has not affected the objectives of the Panel with a full work programme having been fulfilled.

Thames Valley police officers and support staff are very much in the front line and have been key workers in the response to the Pandemic in terms of the difficult job of enforcing the Government's guidance on rules relating to Covid 19. I would like to place on record my gratitude through the PCC, to the selfless work and professionalism of Thames Valley Police officers at this time of crisis and thank them for the vital service they provide.

On a personal note, this was my final year as Chairman of the Panel, and I would like to thank my fellow Panel Members for the support they have given me through the year.

**Councillor Kieron Mallon**  
**Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel**

## The Role of the Panel



Police and Crime Panels were established in each Police Force area under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The key functions of the Panel are:

- ❖ To review the PCC's Police and Crime Plan;
- ❖ To hold the PCC to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan – the panel has powers to request any necessary information from the PCC on his decisions;
- ❖ To review and report on the appointment of the Chief Constable and other senior appointments – the Panel has powers to veto the appointment of the Chief Constable;
- ❖ To review the PCC's proposed police precept – the Panel has powers to veto the precept;
- ❖ To scrutinise the PCC's annual report;
- ❖ To consider complaints against the PCC.

The Panel, through its work programme, has carried out its main statutory duties which is to scrutinise and support the PCC in his role in helping tackle crime and disorder in the

Thames Valley. The PCC was elected to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure an efficient and effective police force for the Thames Valley.

The Panel cannot directly scrutinise operational policing matters but can question the PCC on how he is holding the Chief Constable to account for policing in the Thames Valley.

The Budget Task and Finish Group of the Panel, under the Chairmanship of Councillor Barrie Patman worked with both the PCC and Thames Valley Police Chief Financial Officers on reviewing the PCC's proposed police precept before the proposed precept was submitted to the Police and Crime Panel.

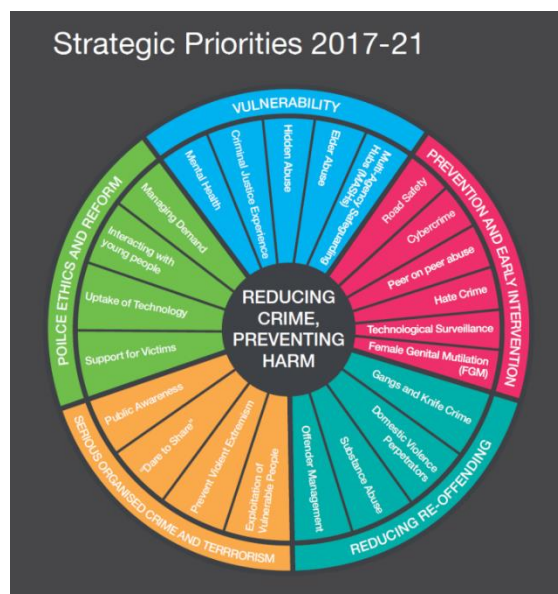
The Panel agreed with the PCC's recommendation of an increase in Council Tax for the Police precept, by up to £15 (6.9% increase) for a Band D property in 2021/22 to enable policing priorities to be met.

## PCC'S Police and Crime Plan and the Role of the Panel



The PCC's Police and Crime Plan and the various strategic police and crime objectives continue to be monitored and scrutinised to enable the effectiveness of the Police performance in the Thames Valley to be monitored.

This document is of great importance to the Police and Crime Panel as a point of reference in fulfilling its duty to scrutinise and review the actions and decisions of the Police & Crime Commissioner.



Throughout the year, the Police and Crime Panel receives monitoring reports on how these objectives are

being met and scrutinise the PCC's performance in meeting the objectives contained in the Plan.

The PCC's strategic police and crime objectives for the Thames Valley have regard to

- the policing of the area;
- crime and disorder reduction, and
- the discharge by Thames Valley of its national or international functions

The Plan must also cover:

- The policing of Thames Valley which the Chief Constable is to provide
- The financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the Chief Constable
- The means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing
- The means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing is measured
- The crime and disorder reduction grants which the Commissioner is to make, and the conditions (if any) of those grants

The Plan draws upon a wide range of information from the police, community safety and criminal justice partners to ensure it reflects the police and crime issues which are affecting the Thames Valley. It also covers a much wider range of service responsibilities than any plan previously developed by the police, community safety partnerships (CSPs) or any other individual



community safety responsible authority. The Plan will bring together

the priorities of all agencies and authorities with a responsibility for cutting crime and improving community safety.

### ***The Work of the Panel in 2020-21***

For 2020-21, the Panel had 5 scheduled meetings and 1 Special Meeting where thematic scrutiny sessions were held on topics which had been earmarked in the Panel's work programme for the year and which scrutinised the PCC and his partners work in the areas.



### ***Police and Crime Commissioner's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic***

The Panel was given an opportunity to question how the Police and Crime Commissioner and Thames Valley Police had responded to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic since the national emergency measures were introduced by the Government in March 2020. Some the areas covered included:

- What provision did the PCC and Chief Constable make to ensure that front line Police Officers had

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

- Details were provided on the increase in Domestic Violence which had resulted, particularly, once lockdown was eased.
- The impact of the Pandemic on abuse of children
- The greater use of on-line reporting of crime during the Pandemic. An update was provided on the performance of handling "101" calls which had improved.
- Crime across the Thames Valley was down 15%, compared to June 2019. Burglaries were down 37%, Section 18 woundings were down 30%, thefts from motor vehicles were down 49%. This was mainly due to there being no night-time economy during the Pandemic.
- Reference was made to the powers given to the Police to help tackle the spread of Covid 19 and the PCC commented that in his opinion the rules which had been introduced had been "heavy handed". However, he believed that the Police had not been heavy handed in enforcing the legislation.
- Thames Valley had issued a high number of Fixed Penalty Notices because of the size of the force area and because Thames Valley had one of the biggest road networks in the country.
- The Chief Constable commented that it had been a challenging time for the Police having to enforce the regulations, but the approach of the Police had been to engage, explain and only to enforce as the last resort.



- The PCC pointed out that “County Lines” crimes had been reduced during Covid 19, but during Lockdown and with the powers the Police had, people were being stopped and were asked for their reasons for travelling, which meant inroads were made in relation to drugs trafficking out of major cities and into the Thames Valley.
- The PCC provided details on the incidents of where Police Officers had been assaulted by members of the public and referred to incidents of people deliberately coughing or spitting at Police Officers and these had been dealt with. There had been around 50 Covid 19 related assaults on officers and strong support has been given by the Courts.

### ***Taxi-Licensing Coordinator Single Point of Contact Post***

An update was provided by the PCC on the recently appointed Taxi-Licensing Coordinator Single Point of Contact Post and he questioned whether the post added value and suggested that that the taxi licensing co-ordinator should be a Council post to enable better co-ordination.

The PCC undertook to raise the issue of standardisation of licensing guidelines through the Association of Police and Crime it was agreed to approach the Local Government Association to ask them to consider getting the approval of national standardisation of taxi licensing guidelines across all the licensing authorities.



OxfordAgainstCutting  
ProtectingGirls&Women

### ***Exploitation - Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation/Modern Slavery/Forced Marriage/Hidden Harm/Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Crime/People Trafficking***

The Police and Crime Commissioner provided statistics and data for the Thames Valley to enable Panel members to receive a Thames Valley perspective on the issues of exploitation and the prevention of child sexual exploitation (CSE), modern slavery, forced marriage, hidden harm, female genital mutilation (FGM) and people trafficking.

A presentation was given by Oxford against Cutting (FGM), an organisation predominantly focussed on the prevention of Female Genital Mutilation. Details of the work the organisation carried out throughout the three counties of the Thames Valley, in conjunction with other organisations was reported.

The organisation focused on harmful practises such as FGM, Honour Based abuses and Forced Marriages. The core work was around prevention and education with workshops facilitated by survivors of harmful practises, so they had that experience and knowledge to enable them to speak about the impact of these practises and the impact on the individual and families.

Full details of discussion on the themed item can be found [here](#)



### ***Update on Recruitment and Retention Within Thames Valley Police***

The Panel was provided with an update from the Chief Constable on Police recruitment and Retention within Thames Valley.

In the year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, TVP appointed 470.3 new officers. 376 of these were recruits and 31 officers transferred in from other forces.

From 1st April 2020 to 31st July 2020, TVP appointed 149 new student officers. 7.4% of these recruits were from a Black and Minority Ethnic background and 28.2% were female.

The Panel congratulated the Chief Constable on these figures which were a great improvement in terms of improving the diversity of the work force.

Issues discussed by Members included the targeting of ex-servicemen and women for recruitment; disappointment at the shortfall in Police Community Support Officers, particularly in Milton

Keynes, and the repercussions this had for community policing.

### ***Thames Valley Police - Estate Collaboration with 'Blue Light' Emergency Services and Local Authorities***

The Strategy & Assets Manager of Thames Valley Police provided the Panel with a report which contained details on progress made by TVP on estate collaborations with 'Blue Light' and Local Authority partners.

The Panel was informed that there was a legal requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 2017 to consider collaboration. In the last five years there had been an increasing degree of stated intentions between partners to collaborate.

There was a Memorandum of Understanding for 'Blue Light' estate collaboration, although this only covered the three Thames Valley Fire Services and TVP as South-Central Ambulance Service involvement was minimal.

The Panel during its discussions referred to the opportunities for the police and fire services, together with local authorities to work together on rationalising building assets which would be financially beneficial to all, including residents.

The Police and Crime Commissioner was requested to report back to a future meeting on progress made on "Blue Light" collaborations together with details of opportunities for collaborations with local authorities in the future.



### **Violence Reduction Unit**

The Panel scrutinised the work of Thames Valley's VRU. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) brought together key partners from across Thames Valley to provide a co-ordinated response to tackling serious violence across the region.

This multi-agency approach involved local authorities, education, policing, health, third sector organisations and members of the community, all working together to understand the root causes of serious violence and focussing on place-based problem solving in order to address them.

The VRU took a public health approach to tackling violence by looking at violence, not as isolated incidents or as a law enforcement problem, but instead as a preventable consequence of a range of factors such as adverse early-life experiences or harmful social or community experiences and influences.

The Panel was informed in 2019 the OPCS received £1.16m to support the introduction of the VRU and this funding was renewed in March 2020 with an additional £1.16m.

Details of short and long-term activities and interventions which were being delivered by the VRU were provided in the report.

The VRU worked with data from the Police, local authorities and the NHS to enable the identification of key locations and times of serious violence to inform prevention and enforcement activity. A dashboard was available for the Police to link data from all agencies.

There was a Thames Valley wide Drugs Diversion Scheme in place providing specialist support for people found in possession of drugs to prevent prosecution and break the cycle of re-offending. Enhanced information sharing network had been established to help safeguard young people identified as at risk of exploitation through County Lines.



### **Exploitation – Preventing Modern Slavery / Forced Marriage / Honour-Based Crime**

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Victoria Butler, Modern Slavery Co-Ordinator & Tactical Advisor (TVP Protecting Vulnerable People) attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the Panel.

In relation to Modern Slavery, Thames Valley had the second highest number of offences to the Metropolitan Police Force area. Reference was made to the Overview of Modern Slavery in the Thames Valley –2019 Infographic

which showed the impact of Modern Slavery in 2020.

Modern Slavery cases covered criminality in 17 sectors. There were 372 referrals into the National Referral Mechanism for each exploitation type across the Thames Valley comprising of Forced Labour (69), Sexual Exploitation (47), Criminal Exploitation (213), Domestic Servitude (17) and unknown (17).

The Panel was informed that there had been 415 referrals made to Victim's First Willow Project, which was a service supporting victims of exploitation of all types and was funded by the PCC.

Up to date information was provided which showed that there were 213 live investigations as of 25 March 2021. The biggest NRM related to exploitation such as in relation to "County Lines" with 57 ongoing investigations. Work took place with the PCC on safeguarding victims.

Reference was made to the setting up of new investigation scrutiny panel and the creation of a modern slavery victim liaison officer on each Local Policing Area.

Details of the discussion and scrutiny which took place is detailed [here](#)

The Panel asked the PCC to provide data on Forced Marriage and Honour Based Crime within Thames Valley to enable the Panel to revisit these areas of exploitation.

### ***Budget Task and Finish Group – Scrutinising the PCC for Thames Valley Proposed Council Tax Precept for 2021-22***

The Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel formed a Budget Task & Finish Group to assist in discharging its statutory duty to scrutinise the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley's proposed Council Tax precept for 2021/22.

The Budget Task and Finish Group submitted their report and findings to the Panel meeting on 29 January 2021, and recommended the proposed increase to the police element of the Council Tax by £15 per annum for 2021/222 (for a Band D property). This was agreed by the Panel.

The full scrutiny of the proposed precept is detailed [here](#)

### ***Looking to the Future***

The Panel will be working with the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber and will have a role to play in scrutinising and monitoring the new Police and Criminal Justice Plan and will work with him and his officers on areas to include in the Panel's work programme for 2021/22.