

Community Safety Plan 2011-14



INTRODUCTION



THE OXFORD SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) is responsible for producing and delivering plans to tackle Oxford's community safety priorities. The partnership includes the Oxford Local Police Area, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police Authority, Thames Valley Probation Service, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Brookes University, the University of Oxford and BMW.

This Community Safety Plan is divided into three project categories that together help to keep Oxford a safe place. These are:

- Projects that tackle communities concerns;
- Projects that support victims or prevent a person from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour;
- Projects that tackle those who commit, or are at risk of committing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Within each section you will find an overview of the main partnership projects, a table of activities the partnership will undertake in 2011-12 and how we will measure our achievements. The final section in the plan provides a brief overview of how we manage our finances and information in support of our activities.

The work of OSCP has had a significant impact upon crime and disorder in Oxford since its inception in 1998. For example between 1998/99 and 2009/10 there were:

- 71% fewer domestic burglaries;
- 80% fewer car crimes;
- 6% fewer violent crimes;
- 12% fewer robberies.

In addition our annual Talkback Citizen's Panel Survey tells us that in 2008, 38% of respondents were satisfied that the Police and local councils were dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour issues in their area; by 2010 this had risen to 50%.

I hope you find this plan informative and that it re-assures you that OSCP is doing all it can to continue to keep Oxford a safe and vibrant city for all to enjoy.



Tim Sadler

Director of City Services, Oxford City Council

Chair of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

ACHIEVEMENTS

Nightsafe

NightSafe tackles alcohol-related disorder in the city centre and East Oxford during the evening. The project involves a specific policing operation each weekend that includes extra police officers on patrol, drug dog operations and other proactive policing activities. Partner officer liaise closely with licensees, target repeat offenders and run awareness campaigns on the risk and consequences of alcohol misuse. A crucial part of our multi-agency approach to licensing has been the development and use of the city centre and East Oxford Special Saturation Policy that restricts the number of new licensed premises or those wishing to increase their capacity or extend opening hours.

In March 2010 the Home Secretary visited the JR11 Emergency Department to see how data on alcohol-related injuries was used by NightSafe to reduce disorder. The scheme was identified as national good practice.

In September 2010 NightSafe supported the introduction of Street Pastors in the city centre. They provide support and help to vulnerable people in Oxford city's late-night entertainment areas. NightSafe also works closely with the Homophobic Awareness Liaison Team (HALT) to combat hate crime in the city centre.

CCTV

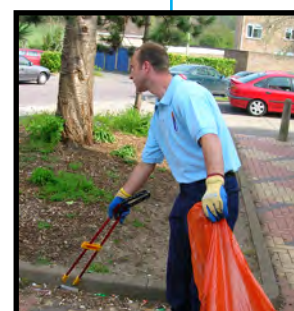
Public space CCTV schemes operate in Oxford City centre, Rose Hill, Blackbird Leys, Barton, Wood Farm and Cowley Road. The monitoring suite is located in St. Aldates Police Station and operates under a national Code of Practice. In addition the suite monitors Oxford City Council tower block cameras.

Oxford Neighbourhood Policing Programme

OSCP successfully implemented the Oxford Neighbourhood Policing Programme across the city in its 22 neighbourhoods. This involved the creation of 12 Neighbourhood Action Groups, recruitment and deployment of Neighbourhood Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers and problem-solving training for all Neighbourhood Action Group members.

Community Response Team

Previously known as the Street Warden Service, the team has been operating in the city since 2004, providing high visibility patrols, community support and reassurance. The team are an integral part of the Neighbourhood Policing Programme and actively support the Cleaner, Greener Oxford campaign. In 2010 the service began a restructure to strengthen its role in tackling anti-social behaviour by working with agencies on prevention, early intervention and enforcement activities to ensure Oxford remains a clean and safe city.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Cleaner Greener Oxford campaign

Oxford City Council's Cleaner, Greener Oxford campaign, in partnership with the Oxford Mail, delivers neighbourhood-based activities to clean up the environment. The use of Fixed Penalty Notices for litter offences combined with an education and early warnings has had a well publicised and significant impact on cleanliness within the city. In a poll of 40,000 readers for the Conde Nast Readers Travel awards 2010, Oxford was voted the cleanest city in the United Kingdom and the second overall favourite city in the poll, second only to Edinburgh.

Operation Buzzard

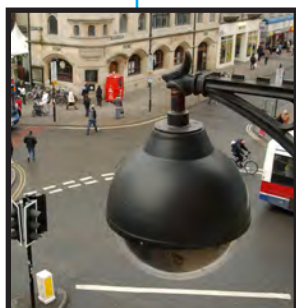
Operation Buzzard is the multi-agency policing operation to combat robbery. It took place between June and September 2010 and resulted in a 31% reduction in offences, compared to the same period in 2009. The police worked closely with language schools, Oxford City Council and local businesses during the operation.

Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods:

During 2010-11, OSCP took part in a pilot project to improve public confidence in the way the police and local authorities tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods project uses MOSAIC data to get a better understanding of local communities and their preferred methods of communication. This improves partners' ability to understand the community safety concerns within neighbourhoods and keep local people informed of progress.

In 2011-12 OSCP will:

- Implement Operation Buzzard to target seasonal spikes in robbery.
- Roll-out our NightSafe approach to all areas of the city and work closely with partners to respond to licensing changes in the Police Reform and Social Justice Bill.
- Undertake a review of CCTV in response to budget reductions, ensuring that the scheme maintains its effectiveness.
- Roll-out the Safe and Confident Communities Project to all parts of the city and ensure that minimum standards are implemented.
- Continue the roll-out of the Cleaner, Greener Oxford campaign, focusing on concerns relevant to each neighbourhood.
- Reshape the delivery of our Street Warden service to give it a greater focus on tackling anti-social behaviour that affects our environment and public spaces. This will include making the service responsible for environmental visual audits, neighbourhood walkabouts, fines and reports of environmental offences.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

We will gauge our success by monitoring:

- Our target of reducing burglary of people's homes, car crime and robbery by 5%.
- Our target of reducing levels of violent crime by 12%.
- The levels of satisfaction with the cleanliness of our city.
- Our target of 50% of the public satisfied with the way we deal with crime and anti-social behaviour.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



ACHIEVEMENTS

Student safety

Each year Oxford welcomes over 31,000 students into the city. The large number of foreign language schools sees this figure swell even further. Students become an important part of our communities; a valuable asset to the city both economically and socially. However, a large transient population brings its own community safety concerns that the partnership must respond to and in 2010 OSCP developed a student community safety plan. This involved working closely with Oxford Brookes University, the University of Oxford, and language schools.

A key aspect of the plan was improving the way the partnership communicates crime reduction messages with students. As a result, 1800 students have signed up for Community Messaging, an e-mail alert system that supplies messages relevant to students and the areas they live in. Numerous crime reduction talks have taken place across University and college residences and personal safety advice has been posted on YouTube, Twitter and other social networking sites.

Sex working and kerb crawling

OSCP identified the need to review its response to sex working in Oxford by protecting some of the most vulnerable in society. Our approach focuses on offering sex workers a pathway to change through support delivered by local voluntary sector and public service organisations. Support is coordinated through the Sex Workers Intervention Panel. Enforcement options include tackling kerb crawling in order to protect the communities where sex workers operate.

Child exploitation and human trafficking

During 2010-11, two emerging issues came to the attention of the partnership; child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. These atrocious crimes, although not high in volume, have a devastating impact on the victim. The partnership will develop a local plan so we are able to effectively respond to victims of these crimes and protect those who are at risk of becoming a victim.

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse has been a priority for the partnership for some time and has resulted in a network of hundreds of front line domestic abuse Champions across the county.

Support for victims, female and male, can be accessed through the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service helpline where referrals can be made to outreach workers, support groups, refuge and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) who support those victims who are at high risk of serious harm.

Specialist Domestic Violence Courts were introduced in 2008, with almost 70 per cent of cases brought to court ending in successful prosecutions. Targeted

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

work has also been developed with minority groups, for example the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and a West African community, to improve response for those who are affected by domestic abuse. The partnership also co-delivered a national Stalking and Harassment conference to raise awareness of the complexities and the most effective way to support victims and investigate this type of crime.

Sexual violence

During 2010-11 the Partnership became involved in the development of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for the Thames Valley. The SARC will provide an enhanced service for all victims, female and male, of serious sexual assault, irrespective of whether they wish to report to the Police. They will receive specifically designed support, medical expertise and assistance if they choose to go through the Criminal Justice System to ensure their needs are met during this traumatic time. Work is ongoing to prevent sexual violence by informing the public and students of what consent is, and is not.

Honour-based violence

Following a series of local conferences to raise awareness about honour-based violence and forced marriage, the partnership has developed multi-agency training to enable professionals to respond effectively and support victims of honour-based violence. This training is being rolled out across the county. A small fund has been established to provide crisis assistance for those who have no recourse to public funds. Outreach workers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors are able to offer specialist support.

Hate crime

Hate crime has been a partnership priority for many years. In 2009 legislation expanded the definition of discrimination to include race, gender, sexuality, faith and disability. In response, the partnership has been involved in the development of MANTRA, a third party reporting and referral system that will help to encourage greater reporting. Reports will result in fast action from all partners to support the victim and tackle the perpetrators.

In 2011-12 OSCP will:

- Continue to work with higher education establishments to reduce the risk to students of becoming a victim of crime and become part of the communities they live in.
- Roll-out a new approach to prostitution that balances the support needs of sex workers with the needs of the wider community and enforces against kerb crawlers.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Develop sexual exploitation and human trafficking action plans to ensure we have a robust and sensitive response to these issues. Work closely with our voluntary sector partners who are at the frontline of supporting these victims.
- Undertake training for front line practitioners in areas of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation.
- Deliver multi-agency awareness programmes for practitioners so they are able to recognise and respond effectively to cases of honour-based violence.
- Support the implementation of the government's plan to address the Call to End Violence against Women and Girls.
- Develop a local response to sexual abuse using the opportunities presented by the introduction of a Thames Valley Sexual Abuse Referral Centre.
- Implement the MANTRA hate crime reporting system across Oxford.
- Provide additional support, guidance and advice to victims of distraction burglary and rogue traders.
- Provide support to people with mental health issues who are at risk of anti-social behaviour enforcement.

We will gauge our success by monitoring:

- The number of professionals receiving sexual exploitation and human trafficking awareness training
- The number of frontline practitioners receiving Honour-based violence training.
- Our local response to the recommendations of the national Violence Against Women and Girls action plan.
- The reporting levels of the MANTRA hate crime reporting system.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Burglary, car crime and robbery reductions

Through our Talkback Citizen's Panel Survey, Oxford residents told us that domestic burglary, car crime, robbery, violence and anti-social behaviour are all high priorities for the city. In response to this the partnership runs regular policing operations including Operation Backlash that target our known perpetrators. These types of operations, alongside our work to prevent these crimes from happening, has helped to achieve a sustained reduction in burglary and car crime. In 2009-10 these offences were at a 30 year low.



CANAcT

Oxford City Council's Crime and Nuisance Action Team (CANAcT) are responsible for tackling anti-social behaviour in Oxford. The team have an impressive track record and national reputation for dealing with anti-social behaviour by using a balance of prevention, intervention and enforcement. The team is made up of specialist Case Managers, a Police Officer, and a Family Support Coordinator. The team works closely with the Elmore Anti-social Behaviour Team who support the most chaotic and vulnerable in society to make positive life changes.

Drug dealing

Drug dealing and its effects are a concern for many of the city's Neighbourhood Action Groups. OSCP has developed and applied its Drug House Protocol to close premises being used by people who use Class A drugs. Agencies work closely together to ensure that support services are available to those affected. The Drug and Alcohol Action Team have developed a suite of treatment services for young people and adults that is graded as one of the top five in the country. Users and those at risk can access the necessary treatment and support within suitable timescales and related issues such as a Women's Service have been factored in.

Managing offenders

Integrated Offender Management was introduced two years ago, which brought together the Probation Substance Misuse Team, the Drug Intervention Project and the Prolific and Priority Offenders team into one unit. This new approach ensured that prolific offenders, those who tested positive for Class A drugs in police custody and those under Probation supervision with a Class A drug addiction, are all dealt with seamlessly and receive the necessary targeted support. This approach was built upon the partnership's highly successful IRIS (Intensive Recidivist Intervention Scheme) prolific offender project.

Family Intervention

The Partnership helped set up the Family Intervention Project that supports the families in Oxfordshire where they are displaying multiple negative behaviours.

REDUCE OFFENDING

They maybe at risk of offending or eviction, or a parent in prison. The project's funds end in 2011 but the approach is to be implemented to continue this work within partner agencies.

Positive Futures for young people

Oxford City Council's Positive Futures Programme is a range of activities for young people at risk of offending or living in areas of deprivation in Oxford. The programme provides activities for over 1500 young people during the summer and Easter holiday periods. Specific provision includes a knife crime project, sports-based activities for referred young people and a project aimed at young people over 16 who are not in employment, education or training.

Serious youth violence

In 2010 OSCP recognised the need to respond to serious youth violence. Several high profile cases involving knives occurred in quick succession and analysis identified the signs of gang-related activity. A number of projects took place to educate young people of the consequences of knife crime and Oxford became a Tackling Knife Crime Action Plan area. In 2011-12 this status will be removed, along with the funding that goes with it, although the issues have become more prevalent. The partnership will need to develop its response using its own resources in order to tackle this trend towards more serious violence.

In 2011-12 OSCP will:

- Run undercover and high-visibility policing operations to tackle the peaks in priority crime offending.
- Implement a new partnership web-based Anti-social Behaviour Case Management System.
- Put into operation a four staged anti-social behaviour intervention and enforcement warning system to challenge unacceptable behaviour before it escalates.
- Develop our partnership approach to tackling drug dealing and misuse by improving our partner contribution to the police's Operation Falcon.
- Develop a project that provides support to young people in custody after their first arrest.
- Extend our Positive Futures Programme to provide more services in the face of financial constraints.
- Introduce a diversionary activities project that assists young people during the transition period between primary and secondary school.
- Develop and implement a serious violence action plan to tackle gang and knife crime.



We will gauge our success by monitoring:

- The achievement of performance standards for the timeliness of investigating cases of anti-social behaviour.
- The number of cases closed after three and six months because a resolution has been reached.
- Our target of 65% of people not committing another act of anti-social behaviour after receiving their first intervention.
- Our target of 1000 young people attending our Positive Futures Programme.



To determine what our priority areas of work are, what interventions are needed and how to fund, cost and evaluate projects the Partnership relies upon a number of business support functions.

Data and research

Data and research enables us to quickly understand longterm or emerging trends in crime, and the immediate assessment of daily and weekly variations. For example, our NightSafe scheme was set-up using evidence from the analysis of violent crime in the city and extended into East Oxford after an evaluation and review period. The monthly NightSafe operational meetings use data analysis of crime, hospital presentations and ambulance responses to identify locations that need more immediate policing activity.

We also use partnership data to evaluate our activities and assess whether our resources are spent in an effective way. For example, our target hardening scheme provides additional security for victims of burglary and domestic violence show significant cost savings through crime prevention, and our Positive Futures Programme is adjusted to ensure we are providing the best quality and value for money activities for our most vulnerable young people.

Strategic Intelligence Assessment

This assessment is a legal requirement on partnerships to use performance data, intelligence assessments, community questionnaires and interviews with over fifty experts from a wide range of specialisms, to identify existing and forthcoming priorities for the partnership.

Finance and performance

OSCP has relied heavily upon external grants from the Home Office and Department for Communities and Local Government, in addition to the significant amount of financial support, in both cash and human resources, that OSCP partners contribute. Management of funds are tied to the assessment of project outputs to ensure that the partnership are spending the funds efficiently. Performance outcomes are discussed at each partnership quarterly meeting and corrective action undertaken where performance is outside tolerance levels.

Communications

The partnership spends a small amount of money on effective communications, such as those targeted at specific communities. For example, after the courts have granted an Anti-Social Behaviour Order we produce a leaflet detailing the conditions of the order and deliver it to the area of the city affected by the order. This allows local communities to report breaches and be kept informed of the actions we have taken to protect them.



Produced by OSCP
c/o Oxford City Council, St Aldates Chambers, Oxford, OX1 1DS

May 2011
Version 1