

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

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A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 6.00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES

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Members of the Committee:

Mrs Celia Collett, MBE (Chairman)

Ms Joan Bland (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Steve Connel
Mr John Cotton
Ms Kristina Crabbe

Mrs Pat Dawe
Mr Will Hall
Mrs Eleanor Hards
Mr Paul Harrison

Ms Elizabeth Hodgkin
Mr Alan Rooke
Mr David Turner
Mrs Margaret Turner

Substitutes

*Mr Roger Bell
Mr Felix Bloomfield
Mr David Bretherton
Mr Bernard Cooper
Mr Philip Cross
Mrs Margaret Davies
Mr Leo Docherty*

*Mr Mark Gray
Mr Tony Harbour
Mr Marcus Harris
Mr Marc Hiles
Ms Lynn Lloyd
Mrs Denise Macdonald
Mrs Ann Midwinter*

*Ms Anne Purse
Mr Robert Simister
Miss Rachel Wallis
Mr Michael Welply
Mrs Jennifer Wood*

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1 Apologies

2 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest

3 Minutes

Purpose: to approve the minutes of the meeting on 2 October 2013.
Minutes previously circulated.

4 The local impact of recent welfare reforms

The Head of Health and Housing will give a presentation on recent welfare reforms and the latest information on the local impact.

A representative from South and Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau will attend to answer questions and give the Bureau's view of the local impact of the reforms.

There is no accompanying report.

5 Community safety annual plan - 2012/13 review (Pages 3 - 36)

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (attached)

Purpose: This report is a progress update of the delivery of the 2012/13 South and Vale Community Safety Partnership annual plan. It shows how the partnership delivered against its priorities for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013. The committee is asked to note the report.

6 Distribution of council tax reduction scheme grant (Pages 37 - 42)

Report of the Head of Finance (attached)

Purpose: to review the options for distributing the council tax reduction scheme grant to town and parish councils, taking into account feedback from town and parish councils, and make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Finance.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Scrutiny Committee Report



Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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To: Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 5 November 2013

Community safety annual plan - 2012/13 review

Recommendation

To note the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership 2012/13 report.

Purpose of Report

1. This report is a progress update of the delivery of the 2012/13 South and Vale Community Safety Partnership annual plan. It shows how the partnership delivered against its priorities for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Strategic Objectives

2. Building the local economy

which includes the following corporate priority:

- maintain low levels of crime and anti social behaviour

3. Excellent delivery of key services

which includes the following corporate priority:

- put residents at the heart of service delivery and seek to provide an excellent customer experience

Background

4. The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was formed in April 2011, bringing together the two existing district CSPs that were created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This was done so that the partnership was coterminous with the newly formed local police area and mirrored the shared working across the district councils. Running one joint partnership has enabled the partnership to pool expertise, knowledge and resources to effectively tackle crime and disorder. It has also reduced the number of meetings that partnership officers and statutory members are expected to attend.
5. Under the umbrella of the South and Vale CSP, a wide variety of local agencies work together to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. From road safety, enviro-crime action and crime prevention to police enforcement, drug treatment services and alcohol safety campaigns, the partnership is focused on ensuring that residents feel safe and stay safe.
6. The partnership involves officers representing:
 - South Oxfordshire District Council
 - Vale of White Horse District Council
 - NHS Oxfordshire
 - Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
 - Thames Valley Police (TVP)
 - Thames Valley Probation Service
 - Sovereign Vale Housing Association
 - Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
 - Soha Housing Limited.
 - Oxfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Public Health
7. The CSP has two 'operational', multi-agency groups, which help to deliver its objectives across both districts: South and Vale Nightsafe and Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordination.
8. The attached South and Vale CSP Annual Report 2012/13 is a progress update of the delivery of the 2012/13 CSP annual plan. It shows how the partnership delivered against its priorities which focussed around three key areas:
 - projects that tackle concerns affecting the whole **community**
 - projects that support **victims** or prevent people from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour
 - projects that tackle **offenders** or those who are at risk of committing, crime and anti-social behaviour.
9. Once a year, the CSP is required to conduct a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) to identify the priorities for the forthcoming year. In 2012/13, we worked with Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership to develop an Oxfordshire SIA and contributed to the Thames Valley Police SIA. We have

used this information along with the Police Crime Commissioner's (PCC) plan to inform the 2013/14 annual rolling community safety plan.

10. The PCC is currently considering the individual grant allocations for 2014/15. The proposal that is out for consultation:

- proposes to reduce future year allocations in-line with general Home Office grant reductions.
- adopt a three year funding approach which will allow local areas to support the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

Councils in the Thames Valley area have generally albeit reluctantly supported this proposal; the only area for discussion is the method of allocating the funding to individual councils. The final proposal will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel before it is agreed. The South and Vale Community Safety portfolio holders are members of the panel.

Financial Implications

11. None

Legal Implications

12. None.

Risks

13. The CSP funding from the Home Office has been reducing year on year: Oxfordshire County Council plugged the gap in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

| South and Vale CSP Income | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 estimate |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Home Office Income | 267,976 | 234,128 | 180,666 | 101,525 | nil | nil |
| Income OCC | | | | 82,938 | 82,938 | nil |
| Income PCC | | | n/a | n/a | 101,525 | 90,000 |
| Total CSP Funding | 267,976 | 234,128 | 180,666 | 184,463 | 187,204 | 90,000 |

The Home Office funding transferred to the PCC with effect from 1 April 2013.

The CSP is expecting a reduction in grant for 2014/15. Initial indications from OCC as part of their medium term financial planning process suggest that it is unlikely that they will continue to provide the 'top-up' to the Community Safety Fund that we have received for the last two years. Although this has not yet been confirmed and will not be certain until the County's budget is finalised in February 2014 we have started planning for this eventuality alongside the changes arising from the PCC's funding decisions.

Other Implications

14. None.

Conclusion

15. As demonstrated in the attached South and Vale CSP Annual Report 2012/13 the CSP has successfully delivered its priorities. During 2012/13 there was an overall positive direction of travel in terms of achieving outcomes to reduce crime and the fear of crime for residents in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. Throughout the year, the partnership demonstrated added value in addressing local community safety issues in a joined up and efficient way and paying particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable people in our districts. In 2013/14, the CSP aims to continue delivering this standard of service in line with the PCC plan.

Background Papers

- South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) summary of projects 2012/13
- South and Vale CSP rolling annual plan 2013/14

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Annual Report 2012/13

The South and Vale CSP annual report 2012/13 provides a brief account of the priorities, results and activities of the projects funded or co-ordinated by the CSP. To measure the impact of its work during 2012/13 the CSP agreed to monitor overall 'direction of travel' using a broad range of indicators, rather than set specific targets. The Partnership carried out this monitoring on a quarterly basis and focussed on exception reporting.

OVERALL CRIME FIGURES IN SOUTH AND VALE DURING 2012/13

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are relatively safe areas in which to live, work and visit. This is reflected in the overall reduction in all crime between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013:

- in **South** there was a six per cent reduction from 5727 crimes during 2011/12 to 5378 crimes during 2012/13. This equates to 349 fewer crimes.
- in **Vale** there was a 15 per cent reduction from 4468 crimes during 2011/12 to 3801 crimes during 2012/13. This equates to 667 fewer crimes.

CSP PROJECTS THAT TACKLED CONCERNS AFFECTING THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Reducing anti social behaviour

During the year, we continued to support a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour, particularly where it was criminal or targeted at vulnerable victims.

The tables below show the use of ASB powers and legislation in the districts during 2012/13 and the number of ASB repeat victims. The definition of a repeat victim is 'an individual or household who has suffered three or more cases of antisocial behaviour within a three month period'.

| 2012/13 ASB interventions by neighbourhood | ABC¹ | Alcohol seizure letter | Warning letters | Section 27² | Section 59³ |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Abingdon | 24 | 16 | 14 | 114 | 8 |
| Didcot | 3 | 10 | 30 | 39 | 24 |
| Faringdon | 1 | 41 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Henley | 31 | 18 | 16 | 66 | 9 |
| Thame | 5 | 3 | 38 | 20 | 4 |
| Wallingford | 4 | 14 | 11 | 18 | 9 |
| Wantage | 5 | 12 | 13 | 88 | 14 |
| Total across South and Vale | 73 | 114 | 128 | 346 | 69 |

| | South and Vale 2010/11 | South and Vale 2011/12 | South and Vale 2012/13 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Repeat victims | Not recorded | 95 | 121 |

The Thames Valley Police ASB Officer and Administrator work with the district councils' community safety, housing and environmental protection teams and housing associations to tackle issues at an early stage which helps to ensure that problems don't escalate and require interventions like Criminal Behaviour Orders.

As part of this multi-agency approach, the ASB Officer holds regular Neighbourhood ASB meetings which are attended by neighbourhood officers and representatives from partner agencies (including the CSP) where local cases are reviewed and actioned.

When young people are involved in ASB, there is an emphasis on trying to change their behaviour whilst supporting their family to help implement any changes through services like Oxfordshire County Council's youth service hubs. For example, each time alcohol is seized from under age drinkers, the ASB team sends letters to the parents/carers warning them that if the young person

¹ ABC = Acceptable Behaviour Contract

² Section 27 notices (violent crime related dispersal) are issued by the police to people aged 16 and over who have been involved or are thought to be at risk of being involved in violent alcohol related crime. The notices ban people from a specified area for up to 48 hours. The notices are most effective in town centres where the night time economy is more active.

³ Section 59 notices (anti social use of motor vehicles) are issued to vehicle drivers/owners who undertake antisocial use of vehicles and can lead to the vehicle being seized and possibly destroyed. The police firstly issue a warning letter to the owner/driver, and if within a 12-month period, the vehicle is used in the same manner or the same person uses an alternative vehicle in a similar manner, the vehicle is seized.

is reported for drinking alcohol again, they risk being the subject of an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. The letters also sign post parents/carers to relevant support services.

Some residents do not feel comfortable reporting cases of ASB to the police and often contact the district councils' ASB Co-ordinator to ask them for help in resolving problems which range from harassment, parking disputes, noise nuisance and disturbance caused by young people. The officer works with other council teams and external agencies to investigate the issues and ensure the complainants are kept informed through-out the process. During 2012/13 115 cases were reported to the CSP ASB Co-ordinator.

| Number of ASB incidents reported | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
| Reported to the police | Not recorded | 953 | 1070 | 666 | 640 | 3329 |
| Reported to South & Vale councils | Not recorded | 35 | 37 | 23 | 20 | 115 |
| Total | Not recorded | 988 | 1107 | 689 | 660 | 3444 |
| Repeat victims* | 95 | 30 | 49 | 23 | 19 | 121 |

* **Repeat victims:** the definition of a repeat victim is 'an individual or household who has suffered three or more cases of antisocial behaviour within a three month period'.

Repeat victims are priority cases and as such, they are classed as being medium-high risk and consequently they are reviewed by a wide range of agencies at the monthly Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (JATAC) meetings. This helps to ensure that significant cases are being managed effectively.

Tackling medium risk ASB cases through Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (JATAC) – case study

Due to the high number of calls the police were receiving from different residents about anti social behaviour in Kiln Lakes, Chinnor, JATAC agreed a number of simple actions with partners to address the issue of social housing tenants' behaviour:

The Police Neighbourhood Team arranged more patrols in the area and regularly held 'Have your say' meetings to monitor the problem. Information was collated and passed to Catalyst Housing Association who issued six Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). There was one arrest for a public order offence and two S.59 warning issued for anti social use of motor vehicles.

A meeting was held between Taylor Wimpey, the residents, Catalyst Housing Association and the police where tenancy agreements and enforcement actions were explained. Residents were encouraged to report any further incidents. Three termination warnings were subsequently issued and Catalyst attended court to obtain possession of the properties. This enabled problem tenants to be removed and sent out a clear message to other tenants that their behaviour was unacceptable and not tolerated. Actions taken were communicated to the residents association, through Neighbourhood Watch and Thames Valley Crime alerts. One offender attended court after admitting five breaches and was ordered to complete restorative justice with the witness.

Anti social behaviour also occurs in the form of 'enviro-crimes' which the CSP monitor in terms of the levels of fly tipping, graffiti and street cleanliness. The table below provides data about the number of fly tips in each district by type and the levels of enforcement action taken.

| Fly tipping | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| South | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
| Target number of fly tips is less than 59 per month | | | | | | |
| Actual average number of fly tips per month | 777 (total number of fly-tips) | 47 | 66 | 50 | 50 | 53 (639 total number of fly-tips) |
| Target enforcement ratio target is to exceed 0.70** | | | | | | |
| Actual enforcement ratio target | Not recorded | 0.20 | 0.36 | 0.62 | 1.17 | - |

| Fly tipping | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Vale | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
| Target number of fly tips is less than 33 per month | | | | | | |
| Actual average number of fly tips | 271 (total number of fly-tips) | 20 | 44 | 34 | 34 | 33 (411 total number of fly-tips) |
| Target enforcement ratio target is to exceed 0.70** | | | | | | |
| Actual enforcement ratio target | Not recorded | 2.0 | 1.71 | 1.11 | 1.21 | - |

****Fly tipping:** The fly tipping measures are as follows:

- a) number of fly tips in South and Vale
- b) rural enforcement performance ratio for each district is measured by dividing the weighted number of enforcement actions per council by the number of fly tips in the council's area. The Oxfordshire enforcement performance ratio is 0.7.

In 2012/13, the district councils' waste team carried out 150 surveys every four months to monitor levels of street cleanliness and graffiti. The surveys are divided across ten different types of land use and are only carried out on land that South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Districts Councils are responsible for cleaning (e.g. adopted footpaths and roads). Each survey covers a 'snap shot' of 50 metres width. The figures in the table below show the percentage of surveyed areas, which fell 'below standard'.

| Street cleanliness and graffiti | South 2010/11 | South 2011/12 | South 2012/13 | | Vale 2010/11 | Vale 2011/12 | Vale 2012/13 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Litter | 5% | 3.6% | 2.1% | | 4% | 6.9% | 2.5% |
| Detritus | 13% | 21.8% | 9.8% | | 15% | 37.3% | 8.5% |
| Graffiti | 0% | 0% | 1.5% | | 0% | 0% | 1.9% |
| Fly posting | 0% | 0% | 1.3% | | 0% | 0% | 1.1% |

Levels of criminal damage are a useful indicator for measuring levels of anti social behaviour. The table below provides the annual figures for the number of incidents reported to the police and shows a significant reduction in both districts between April 2012 and March 2013.

| | Finally Recorded | | | | Crimes per 1,000 population/ household | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | % change | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Criminal damage reported to the police | | | | | | | |
| South | 1,211 | 918 | 744 | -18.9% | 9.02 | 6.84 | 5.76 |
| Vale | 885 | 781 | 658 | -15.7% | 7.31 | 6.46 | 5.44 |
| South & Vale | 2,096 | 1,699 | 1,402 | -17.5% | 8.21 | 6.66 | 5.61 |
| Thames Valley | 24,321 | 20,776 | 17,629 | -15.1% | 10.72 | 9.15 | 7.77 |

South and Vale Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (JATAC) group

JATAC is the 'operational, action focused' arm of the CSP and covers both South and Vale areas to mirror the joint CSP and the South and Vale Local Police Area. JATAC is regularly attended by Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Inspectors, South Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Health Officers Oxfordshire County Council hub managers, Community Health Team, thriving families Vale of White Horse District Council Environmental Health Officers, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue, Environment Agency, Soha and Sovereign Vale.

Partners meet on a monthly basis to discuss and address short term priority issues that cannot be resolved locally and are likely to need support from a number of agencies. The priorities are updated before each meeting and any partner can ask for a priority to be added to the agenda with background evidence of the problem. At each meeting, agencies also receive an update on repeat victims/callers relating to anti-social behaviour and an update on priority people (prolific and priority offenders, young offenders).

The ASB Co-ordinator, based in the district councils' community safety team, co-ordinates the meetings which are chaired by a member of the CSP.

During 2012/13, the JATAC group took action on seven different priorities: one relating to serious acquisitive crime, three relating to complex ASB cases and three which related to enviro-crimes.

A wide range of agencies continued to attend meeting during 2012/13 including Soha, Sovereign Vale, Environmental Agency (EA), Young Addaction, Early Intervention Hub (EIS) and Environmental Health (EH). Thriving Families are the most recent agency to become a member and attended their first meeting in December 2012.

Example of a JATAC priority from 2011/12 - illegal waste and pollution, Faringdon

Partnership work between Thames Valley Police, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue, Environment Agency, Vale of White Horse District Council was established to tackle illegal waste and pollution on a local farm. The actions taken by the agencies included:

- a site visit by the police to establish the extent of the problems and gather intelligence to share with the group
- arrangements for BOC to remove gas cylinders from the site
- updating the group about court proceedings against the main offender

Delivering alcohol awareness campaigns and tackling premises that contribute to alcohol related crime and disorder

South and Vale Nightsafe is a sub group of the CSP, providing a multi-agency programme of communication, education and partnership working to reduce incidents of alcohol related crime in the districts. At monthly meetings, the Nightsafe group reviews intelligence and incident reports to focus on:

- priority locations
- premises of concerns
- crime and Incident series
- subjects
- other risk issues, for example Henley Regatta, Abingdon fair

This allows the group to prioritise and resource appropriately.

Partners involved in Nightsafe include the South and Vale licensing and community safety teams, Thames Valley Police and Pubwatch.

In 2012/13, there was a positive reduction in the levels of violent assault across South and Vale, the work of Nightsafe had a positive impact on this outcome.

| Level of violent assault | Finally Recorded | | | | Crimes per 1,000 population/ household | | |
|--|------------------|--------|--------|-------------|---|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | % change | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Total cases of violence with injury | | | | | | | |
| South | 985 | 771 | 668 | -13.4% | 7.33 | 5.74 | 4.97 |
| Vale | 793 | 677 | 554 | -18.2% | 6.55 | 5.60 | 4.58 |
| South & Vale | 1,778 | 1,448 | 1,222 | -15.6% | 6.96 | 5.67 | 4.79 |
| Thames Valley | 27,556 | 21,625 | 19,509 | -9.8% | 12.14 | 9.53 | 8.60 |

During 2012/13 the CSP introduced Nightsafe in Didcot to encourage pubs to promote responsible drinking and behaviour. The scheme is already in existence in Wantage, Abingdon and Henley and 46 premises have signed up to the scheme in South and Vale.

‘Supporting a safer Henley Regatta’

For the 2012 Henley Regatta, the CSP:

- ran a ‘take it slow have an H2O’ Nightsafe alcohol awareness campaign to encourage people to drink responsibly during Regatta. The campaign was extended throughout South and Vale. We continued to operate the Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) to give police the power to deal with alcohol related anti social behaviour in public areas
- worked with Henley Town Council and other agencies to fund extra bus services to help people get home safely and speedily.
- recommended outreach provision from Young Addaction who provided advice to approximately 200 young people, to prevent alcohol and drug misuse during the event

There were 25 crimes reported or discovered by the police (on the Oxfordshire side of the river. This was a reduction of four crimes on 2011. The Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) introduced by the CSP in 2011 gave police the powers to deal with alcohol related anti-social behaviour in public areas. This continues to be used to good effect especially during Regatta. There are also DPPO’s in Thame and Abingdon.

Improving community cohesion and reducing tensions

The CSP monitored the public perception of how well people from different backgrounds get on together. The residents’ survey consists of 1,100 residents from South Oxfordshire and 1,100 residents from the Vale of White Horse. Residents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. In South Oxfordshire 78 per cent agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. In Vale of White Horse 88 per cent of respondents agreed (definitely and tend to agree) that people get on well together compared to just four per cent who disagreed.

Providing advice and support for community groups to help reduce crime and the fear of crime

FRIENDS ACROSS THE FENCE

In 2012 the CSP set up a campaign to help residents come to a peaceful resolution to their neighbourhood problems. Friends Across the Fence offers advice and help to those who might be facing issues of anti-social behaviour from their neighbours. The CSP’s role is to support people in resolving incidents of anti-social behaviour. We produced a flowchart on both councils’ websites

that explains the best course of action for the main kinds of anti-social behaviour, including relevant contact details should they be required. In South Oxfordshire 221 people viewed the web pages and in the Vale of White Horse 313 people viewed the web pages on the district councils' websites. The campaign aimed to empower residents to take responsibility of smaller problems before escalating to the council or police. The campaign also aimed to raise awareness of preventative steps residents can take to maintain healthy relationships with their neighbours.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUPS (NAG)

The CSP provided support for Neighbourhood Action Groups throughout the year through attendance at the NAG chair meeting and by sending regular community safety bulletins from the district councils. In 2012/13 the CSP provided funding for an anti-speeding campaign in NAG group 5 which encompasses the rural villages of Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay. Children from the village primary schools (Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School and Drayton Community Primary School) were invited to design anti -speeding pictures for the campaign. The winning pictures(s) were used to create posters that could be displayed in place of the SpeedWatch posters on posts and roads coming into the village.

FARINGDON COMMUNITY MURAL PROJECT

The Community Safety Project Officer worked in partnership with Faringdon Academy of Schools on the final phase of the community mural. The aim of the project was to help reduce anti-social behaviour by improving the appearance of the area for residents. The art work on the inside of the subway was a collective design produced by students from Faringdon Community College. The students previously designed and painted the murals for the walls of the underpass in 2010 and 2011. Oxfordshire County Council Highways prepared the wall for painting and sealed the wall on completion with anti-graffiti coating. Officers from the district council received a positive response to the new design when they asked walkers passing through the underpass for the comments.

"The paintings have made a huge difference to the area, the kids love it and their work has not been destroyed".
"Fantastic! I mean it; I am not just saying it to please you"

92 per cent of residents believe the artwork improved the appearance of the area and over half the people questioned felt safer using the underpass as a result of the improvements. Natalie Thomas, Head of Art and Design at Faringdon Community College said: "Students have brightened up the walkway with an underground theme, with pictures of fossils, animals and their lairs. The project has given them an opportunity to express themselves and improve the local area."

The underpass has remained graffiti free.

CSP PROJECTS THAT SUPPORTED VICTIMS OR PREVENTED PEOPLE FROM BECOMING A VICTIM OF CRIME OR ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Providing additional support for victims and children affected by domestic abuse

As part of a countywide approach, the CSP encourages early intervention and support in cases of domestic abuse. By encouraging people to report incidents at an early stage, it is easier for services to work with victims to improve their situation before issues escalate. To understand if cases are being addressed as early as possible, the partnership monitors the number of domestic abuse reports to the police (both recordable and non recordable) and also the number of high risk cases being managed by the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Service.

| Levels of domestic abuse reported to the police | Finally Recorded | | | | Crimes per 1,000 population/ household | | |
|---|------------------|--------|--------|----------|--|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | % change | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Recorded domestic abuse incidents | | | | | | | |
| South | 386 | 331 | 345 | 4.2% | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| Vale | 320 | 283 | 286 | 1.1% | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| South & Vale | 706 | 614 | 631 | 2.8% | 2.77 | 2.41 | 2.47 |
| Thames Valley | 11,086 | 9,443 | 9,073 | -3.9% | 4.9 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Non- recordable domestic incidents (crimes that do not include any physical abuse) ie shouting | | | | | | | |
| South | 740 | 874 | 1,020 | 20.4% | 5.5 | 6.3 | 7.6 |
| Vale | 846 | 885 | 984 | 11.2% | 7.0 | 7.3 | 8.1 |
| South & Vale | 1,586 | 1,732 | 2,004 | 15.7% | 6.21 | 6.78 | 7.85 |
| Thames Valley | 20,839 | 22,975 | 24,565 | 6.9% | 9.2 | 10.1 | 10.8 |

| Number of high risk domestic abuse cases dealt with by IDVA the | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|----|----|----|-------|
| | Total | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
| New clients | 55 | 49 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 29 |
| Cases closed | 82 | 24 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 14 |

There has been an increase in the number of recorded domestic abuse incidents. However, the number of crimes per 1000 population in South and Vale is 2.47 for 2012 compared with a Thames Valley figure of four.

In addition there has been an increase in the number of non-recordable crimes. Again, the number of crimes per 1000 population in the South and Vale (7.85) is less than the Thames Valley figure of 10.8. Non-recordable domestic abuse incidents continue to increase however, this could be a sign of increased confidence that reports are taken seriously.

In 2012/13, the CSP funded the South and Vale dedicated outreach service to support victims and children affected by domestic abuse. The type of confidential support the service provides can include safety information through to offering refuge accommodation for victims. Between April 2012 and March 2013, the outreach workers supported over 50 victims and their families across both districts.

| Number of cases referred to South and Vale domestic abuse outreach service | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Total | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
| South new clients | 33 | 30 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 26 |
| Vale new clients | 28 | 18 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 26 |
| Total new clients | 61 | 48 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 52 |
| South cases closed | Not recorded | 16 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 28 |
| Vale cases closed | Not recorded | 12 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 24 |
| Total cases closed | Not recorded | 28 | 14 | 8 | 12 | 18 | 52 |
| South average waiting time*** | Not recorded | Not recorded | This will be Available from Q2 | 11 days | 25 days | 12 days | 16 days |
| Vale average waiting time*** | Not recorded | Not recorded | | 11 days | 8 days | 25 days | 15 days |
| Average waiting time*** | Not recorded | Not recorded | | 11 days | 17 days | 19 days | 16 days |

*** **Average waiting time:** Is the number of calendar days between the date the victim confirms they would like outreach support and the date when they are taken on as a new case by the outreach worker.

It was agreed to record the average waiting times to show the available capacity of the outreach workers, as an issue arose from a specific case. Additional outreach workers were employed on a temporary basis to ensure quicker support and reduce waiting times. Although the waiting time for outreach increased over the year, victims were supported via the helpline until an outreach worker became available.

| Domestic abuse champions | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| | Average | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Average |
| South & Vale | Not measured | 262 | 237 | 256 | 257 | 253 |

In 2012/13, the Community Safety Partnership Officer co-ordinated network and training days for Domestic Abuse Champions. The domestic abuse champions are a large ‘virtual’ group of front line workers across a range of agencies that are committed to helping victims of domestic abuse. On average victims can go to as many as 10 agencies before they find the right help, advice and support. By having champions in many agencies the aim is to dramatically reduce this number. The Champion network aims to make the whole process of reporting and receiving help much easier. Victims will only have to tell their story once, a standard form is then completed and with the victims consent sent to the right agencies for their individual case. At present we have five trained champions within the South and Vale district councils.

Domestic abuse outreach service – case study

Emily*

Background to referral

Emily had left a refuge and returned to her partner who continued to abuse her. Emily managed to get him to leave the house but he continued to abuse her by stalking and harassment (loitering at the school where the children go). A harassment order was issued. Emily did not want her ex partner to have contact with the children and understood that she would need to go to court as he wanted access. She called Helpline for support and was referred to Outreach.

Outreach support

Emily accepted outreach support and was able to go to court, where after a lengthy process the judge ordered that her ex should have contact. This was difficult for Emily to accept, however she complied and with the help of the support worker worked through

how she was feeling and how she could manage those feelings. After a few contact sessions with the children, Emily reported that she had some concerns. Her eight year old daughter looked depressed and her three year old son appeared to be re-living the abuse he had witnessed.

Her ex apparently “interviews” the children throughout the contact sessions and puts pressure on them. For instance, he encouraged the children not to talk to the social worker who was previously involved. Children and Family Court and Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) became involved as the ex wanted shared residency. The court date has been set for 19/04/13. Both parties have solicitors and the outreach service has supported Emily throughout this process.

Meetings were held with the Children’s Centre to see how they could support the children. Emily was concerned about how to speak to the children and what to tell them. Meetings were held with the school and pre-school. Enquiries were made about the possibility of a psychologist for her daughter. She has been offered a school counsellor, but has refused to talk to her. A teacher at school has supported Emily regarding homework, as her first language is not English. Emily is very able and knows that she has the support of her agencies around her. The most important element of this support has evolved to keeping the children safe. By attending the Freedom Programme Emily has gained support from her peers in similar situations. She is now enrolled onto the Recovery Toolkit (self help training) to start in September.

Outcome

This client is still being supported. CAFCASS and Children’s services still engaged with family as children have made disclosures recently of a child protection concern.

* not her real name

Tackling hate crime

| 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 | Finally Recorded | | | | Crimes per 1,000 population/ household | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------------|---|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | % change | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Hate crime reported to TVP | | | | | | | |
| South | 41 | 44 | 55 | 25.0% | 0.31 | 0.33 | 0.41 |
| Vale | 32 | 39 | 29 | -25.6% | 0.26 | 0.32 | 0.24 |
| South & Vale | 73 | 83 | 84 | 1.2% | 0.29 | 0.33 | 0.33 |
| Thames Valley | 1,717 | 1,438 | 1,321 | -8.1% | 0.76 | 0.63 | 0.58 |

The CSP introduced an alternative reporting service for victims of hate crime who are reluctant to go to the police. Stop Hate UK is a new 24-hour freephone helpline for anyone who has been on the receiving end of, or is witness to, hate crime. Stop Hate UK service is being supported and funded by county and district councils and CSPs across the Thames Valley Police Area, including South and Vale CSP. The CSP recognise that no one should suffer abuse because of who they are and that help should be available for both victims and witnesses.

Tackling serious acquisitive crime and rogue traders

| Levels of domestic burglary, car crime and robbery | Finally Recorded | | | | Crimes per 1,000 population/ household | | |
|--|------------------|-------|-------|----------|--|------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | % change | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Serious acquisitive crime | | | | | | | |
| South | 365 | 244 | 235 | -3.7% | 6.8 | 4.6 | 4.4 |
| Vale | 163 | 117 | 125 | 6.8 | 3.4 | 2.4 | 2.6 |
| South & Vale | 528 | 361 | 360 | -0.3% | 5.2 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Thames Valley | 9,601 | 8,815 | 7,068 | -19.8% | 10.9 | 10.0 | 8.0 |

Levels of serious acquisitive crime in both South and Vale remain significantly low, as the figures in the table above show. The Vale saw a 6.8% increase which equates to an additional eight crimes. During the year, the CSP supported a number of initiatives which will have had a positive impact on this reduction:

PREVENTING CAR CRIME

- the CSP funded “trap vehicles” in South and Vale (in South, deployed on 50 occasions and in Vale deployed on 30 occasions that resulted in no positive results). This project has not been funded 2013/14.
- to help prevent theft of tools from vans in 2012/13, the partnership helped the police by funding ‘no tools left in van’ stickers. Victims of theft from vans were sent advice and stickers and neighbourhood police teams also visited DIY stores, garden centres, town centre events and ‘have your say’ events to give crime prevention advice and stickers. The crime reduction adviser confirmed that the use of the stickers had a positive impact on reducing the number of thefts of this nature in the districts: incidents fell from 748 to 712 are reduction of 4.8% between April 2012 and March 2013.

PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF DISTRACTION BURGLARY AND ROGUE TRADERS

To help prevent repeat incidents of domestic burglary and domestic abuse, the partnership funds a small repairs scheme for elderly and vulnerable residents. Over one hundred referrals were made to this service between April 2012 and March 2013, ranging from door chains to safe rooms.

| Number of properties secured by the small repairs scheme | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Total | Total | Total |
| Number of repairs | 207 | 83 | 107 |
| Number of domestic abuse repairs | 21 | 20 | 15 |
| Total spend | £17233 | £6812 | £7688 |
| Average domestic abuse cost | £164 | £90 | £115 |
| Average repair cost | £74 | £65 | £66 |

The reduction in the number of domestic abuse repairs carried out by the service in 2012/13 when compared to the previous year is likely to be a result of the registered social landlords taking a more pro-active role in managing repairs for their tenants.

DETECTING DIESEL THIEVES

Through JATAC in 2012/13, the partnership

- funded the sign writing for the police trailer to discourage trucks from parking in the lay-by advising them that the area is a diesel theft hot spot area.
- match funded an undercover operation which involved the police who were aiming to catch the criminals in the act of diesel thefts.

HELPING TO PREVENT BURGLARIES

Managed through the CSP, South Oxfordshire District Council joined forces with Thames Valley Crimestoppers to launch a month-long campaign in November 2011 aimed at reducing the number of burglaries in the area.

Postcards were produced to encourage people to secure their properties and mark their valuables. A competition to win one of 20 smartwater kits was publicized and over 130 households in South Oxfordshire entered. Smartwater is a colourless forensic liquid that is applied to valuable items. In the event of a burglary the items can be traced back to their original owner.

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS TO HELP IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In 2012/13, Oxfordshire County Council's road safety team worked with schools and pre-schools in South and Vale to encourage children to learn the skills necessary to take responsibility for their own safety at the roadside. 25 schools in the South were developing programmes along with 15 schools in the Vale.

CSP PROJECTS THAT TACKLED OFFENDERS OR THOSE WHO ARE AT RISK OF COMMITTING CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Working in partnership to support local diversionary activities for vulnerable young people

To help prevent young people from committing or becoming involved in crime or ASB, the CSP gave funding to Didcot TRAIN in 2012/13 to provide outreach support and activities for vulnerable young people in the town. Approximately 300 young people benefited from their work, example of projects that they ran are:

- clearing and cutting back bramble and bushes from a walkway between Cow Lane bridge and Sainsburys
- clearing, digging, cutting back shrubs and general ground maintenance at Didcot All Saints Church yard
- litter picking at litter hotspots on the Ladygrove and Didcot Town Centre
- two Restart candidates were also involved in a UK Social Action trip to Liverpool and the Toxteth area to help build homes as part of the habitat for humanity campaign.

A 2012/13 case study from Didcot TRAIN

TRAIN worked with a boy called Frank since his early teens when they first encountered him on the streets. His home life was very unstable and he was erratic in his school attendance. He gradually dropped out of education and ended up getting into a pattern of destructive anti social behaviour, often as a consequence of misusing alcohol and street drugs. He eventually ended up in prison for repeated assaults on others. After his most recent release from custody, TRAIN helped him to find stable accommodation and to complete a CV and job applications which eventually led to him finding employment. He has been in work for the last 4 months and is enjoying his job. He said that he would not have succeeded in making these positive changes to his life without the help and encouragement he received from TRAIN.

Reducing underage sales of alcohol and underage drinking

In 2012/13, the CSP funded four test purchase operations which were co-ordinated through Nightsafe. Based on intelligence reports received by the police and the councils' licensing teams, Thames Valley Police Officers managed the operations where young volunteers under 18 years old entered licensed premises to seek to purchase alcohol.

The results of the four operations are detailed in the table below:

| Town | Date | Outcome |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Abingdon | 07 June 2012 | Eight premises were visited and one sold to the underage volunteers: The Boundary House, Oxford Road. A fixed penalty notice was issued at the point of sale. Warning letters were issued and recommendations complied with. |
| Wantage/Grove/ Faringdon | 03 Aug 2012 | Five premises were visited and two sold to the underage volunteers: Family Bargains, Wantage and Spar (Costcutters), Faringdon. A meeting between the DPS, regional manager and TVP Licensing Officer took place. An FPN was issued at the point of sale at Family Bargains. A warning was given to the sales person in Spar as they were underage. |
| Didcot/Wallingford | 30 Nov 2012 | Ten premises were visited and one sold to the underage volunteers: The Crown. A warning was given on the night and a letter was sent to DPS/PLH. A follow up visit took place in January to ensure the premise complied with suggestions. A refusal book is now in place and members of staff attended a licensing course. |
| Abingdon | 21 Dec 2012 | Ten premises visited, all passed. |

Providing early intervention support and treatment services for people misusing drugs and alcohol

The CSP monitors the take-up of drug and alcohol support services through the work of the Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). In 2012/13, 487 people in South and Vale started structured treatment, 371 left structured treatment and 23 (6%) successfully completed training. The number of drug users accessing needle exchange services in pharmacies in South and Vale in 2012/13 was 907 (a reduction of 14 per cent from the previous year). The pharmacies are in Faringdon, Abingdon, Grove, Didcot, Wallingford, Berinsfield and Henley.

Supporting and developing projects that utilise the services of the Thames Valley Probation ‘Community Payback’ (unpaid work) scheme and the Youth Offending Service

In 2012/13, the CSP co-ordinated a diversionary project in Abingdon that gave young people from the local youth club an opportunity to work with an artist to express themselves by creating designs for the kickabout play area. The Youth Offending Service removed the graffiti from the play area in South Abingdon before the project commenced. The project funding was matched by the Vale Arts Team and has remained graffiti free.

Targeting speeding, dangerous driving and inconsiderate parking

The CSP recognises that NAGs, community groups and neighbourhood policing teams all play an important role in helping to improve road safety in South and Vale. Schools also have a responsibility to help educate pupils and parents about road safety, particularly around the school gates and the partnership monitored this by looking at the number of schools that were engaged with Oxfordshire County Council in developing parking programmes. At the end of 2012/13 nine schools in South Oxfordshire were developing programmes compared to 10 the previous year and five schools were doing the same in the Vale compared to 18 in the previous year.

South & Vale CSP 2012/13 final spend

| South & Vale CSP Community Safety Fund 2012/13 | £ Total | £ Capital | £ Revenue | £ Actual Spend |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Income 2012/13 | 184463 | | 184463 | |
| Carry forward from 2011/12 | 30443 | | 30443 | |
| Carry forward - Alcohol funding | 1769 | | 1769 | |
| Carry forward - LAA reward | 76265 | 28041 | | |
| Carry forward - LAA1 reward | | | | |
| OCC revenue | 30000 | | 30000 | |
| Total income | 322940 | 28041 | 294899 | |
| Expenditure Projects 2012/13 | Total Budget | Capital Budget | Revenue Budget | Actual Spend |
| Shared Community Safety Officer | 25000 | | 25000 | 25000 |
| Shared Community Safety Partnership Officer | 17500 | | 17500 | 14586 |
| Shared Community Safety Project Officer | 35500 | | 35500 | 31235 |
| Shared Community Safety ASB Co-ordinator | 17500 | | 17500 | 21998 |
| Shared ASB assistant (TVP) | 15800 | | 15800 | 15800 |
| Shared Crime Reduction Adviser (TVP) | 34100 | | 34100 | 9457 |
| Domestic Abuse co-ordinator (OCC) | 15000 | | 15000 | 15000 |
| Domestic abuse outreach | 14104 | | 14104 | 14104 |
| TRAIN | 6500 | | 6500 | 6500 |
| Asset recovery | 8240 | 8240 | | 8240 |
| Target hardening | 6000 | 6000 | | 6000 |
| JATAC | 5000 | 2500 | 2500 | 980 |
| Nightsafe | 5115 | | 5115 | 2335 |
| Community payback / Unpaid work | 2000 | | 2000 | 36 |
| Project funding (revenue only) | 24287 | | 24287 | 6944 |
| Alcohol funding | 1769 | | 1769 | 0 |
| Allocation LAA reward revenue | 48224 | | 48224 | 0 |
| Allocation of LAA reward capital | 11301 | 11301 | | 0 |
| Allocation of LAA1 reward | 30000 | | 30000 | 0 |
| Total expenditure 2012/13 | 322940 | 28041 | 294899 | 178214 |
| Income | 322940 | 28041 | 294899 | |
| Expenditure | 322940 | 28041 | 294899 | 178214 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | | | | 144726 |

The South and Vale Budget group made a conscious decision to carry forward the sum of £144,726 because the funding position for 2013/14 was uncertain.

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South and Vale Community Safety Partnership

Rolling annual plan 2013 -14



**Confident and
safer communities**

**SOUTH AND VALE COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

INTRODUCTION

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership

Under the umbrella of the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), a wide variety of local agencies are working to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. From anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime action to crime prevention and police enforcement, drug treatment services and alcohol safety campaigns, we are focused on ensuring that residents feel and stay safe.

The South and Vale CSP was created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which established the principles of partnership working. The partnership involves officers representing:

- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- NHS Oxfordshire
- Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
- Thames Valley Police (TVP)
- Thames Valley Probation Service
- Sovereign Vale Housing Association
- Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Soha Housing Limited
- Oxfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Public Health

From 15 November 2012, Thames Valley Police Authority was replaced by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner who will work closely with CSPs to reduce crime, disorder and re-offending.

The CSP has two 'operational', multi-agency sub groups which help to deliver its objectives across both districts: South and Vale Nightsafe and South and Vale Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordination.

The partnership's annual rolling plan

Following the successful delivery of its 2012/13 plan, the CSP has refreshed its objectives for 2013/14 to ensure they continue to reflect the national and local community safety priorities. The Partnership's activities remain focused around three key areas:

- projects that tackle concerns affecting the whole **community**
- projects that support **victims** or prevent people from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour
- projects that tackle **offenders** or those who are at risk of committing, crime and anti-social behaviour

Once a year, the CSP is required to conduct a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) to identify the priorities for the forthcoming year. In 2012/13, we worked with Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership to develop an Oxfordshire SIA and contributed to the Thames Valley Police SIA. We have used this information along with the Police Crime Commissioners (PCC) plan to inform this year's annual rolling community safety plan.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) plan (2013-2017) strategic objectives are set out below:

1. to cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities
2. to protect the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and the fear of crime and to reassure communities
3. to protect the public from harm arising from serious organised crime and terrorism
4. to communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear and the fear of crime and build trust and confidence with our communities
5. work with criminal justice partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses
6. to ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services are delivered efficiently and effectively

In addition, we have updated our plan by:

- finding out what current issues our partner agencies are dealing with in terms of crime and community safety
- monitoring the community safety related feedback from the district councils' resident survey' panels
- taking into account the priorities identified by Neighbourhood Action Groups and other community groups

This document gives a brief overview of the CSP achievements in the South and Vale from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 and sets out the plan for 2013/14. We will be expecting to see a positive direction of travel in terms of the delivery of all our objectives/projects. Where this is not occurring, the partnership will agree necessary remedial actions.

SOUTH AND VALE CSP ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2012/13

Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, there was an overall reduction in all crime in the South and Vale:

- in **South** there was a 6 per cent reduction from 5727 crimes during 2011/12 to 5378 crimes during 2012/13.
- in **Vale** there was a 15 per cent reduction from 4468 crimes during 2011/12 to 3801 crimes during 2012/13.

2012/13 has been another busy year for the South and Vale CSP, which has been successfully operating as a single Partnership since April 2011. By joining together two district CSPs into one, we have been able to pool resources and expertise and reduce the number of meetings that officers have to co-ordinate and attend.

Here are some examples of the activities that the CSP supported in the last financial year:

- we funded the South and Vale dedicated outreach service for victims of domestic abuse which supported over 50 residents in 2012/13.
- we co-ordinated a local, multi-agency response to reports of anti social behaviour received by the police, district councils and housing associations. This helped to ensure that victims received the right level of support from the right agencies at the right time.
- Didcot TRAIN received funding from the CSP to provide outreach support and activities for vulnerable young people in the town – approximately 300 young people benefited from their work in 2012/13.
- we funded a small repairs scheme for elderly and vulnerable residents to prevent repeat incidents of domestic burglary or domestic abuse. Over 100 repairs were carried out between April 2012 and March 2013, ranging from door chains to safe rooms for victims of domestic abuse.
- we created a web page for victims of anti-social behaviour as a resource to guide them on how to deal with neighbour nuisance. The campaign was named Friends across the Fence by a Neighbourhood Watch member and accessed by over 200 people.
- the South and Vale CSP launched Nightsafe in Didcot to help pubs promote responsible drinking and behaviour, generating lots of positive press coverage.



Nightsafe is a multi-agency programme of communication, education and partnership working to reduce incidents of alcohol related crime. The Nightsafe scheme is already in existence in Wantage, Abingdon and Henley and 46 premises have signed up to the scheme in South and Vale.

- in partnership with Crimestoppers, we ran a burglary prevention campaign. We produced a postcard to encourage people to secure their properties and publicised a competition that over 130 households in South Oxfordshire entered to win one of 20 smartwater kits. Smartwater is a colourless forensic liquid that is applied to valuable items. In the event of a burglary the items can be traced back to their original owner.



Some of the winners presented with smartwater kits
By Insp Mark Harling



- for the 2012 Henley Regatta we ran a 'take it slow have an H2O' Nightsafe alcohol awareness campaign with Henley licensees to encourage people to drink responsibly during Regatta, worked with Henley Town Council and other agencies to fund extra bus services to help people get home safely and speedily and recommended outreach provision from Young Addaction who provided advice to 200 young people, to prevent alcohol and drug misuse during the event. There were 25 crimes reported or discovered by the police (on the Oxfordshire side of the river). This was a reduction on 2011 by four crimes. The Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) introduced by the CSP in 2011 gave police the powers to deal with alcohol related anti social behaviour in public areas. This continues to be used to good effect especially during Regatta. There are also DPPO's in Thame and Abingdon.



- a diversionary project in Abingdon gave young people from the local youth club an opportunity to work with an artist to express themselves by creating designs for the kickabout play area. We worked with the Youth Offending Service to remove graffiti from the play area in South Abingdon before the project commenced. The project funding was matched by the Vale Arts Team and has remained graffiti free.



- the South and Vale CSP introduced an alternative reporting service for victims of hate crime who are reluctant to go the police. Stop Hate UK is a new 24-hour freephone helpline for anyone who has been on the receiving end of, or is witness to, hate crime. Stop Hate UK service is being supported and funded by county and district councils and CSP's across the Thames Valley Police Area, including South and Vale CSP. South and Vale CSP recognises that no one should suffer abuse because of who they are and that help should be available for both victims and witnesses.

What is Hate Crime?

Hate Crime can be verbal, physical or emotional abuse, bullying, harassment, violence, name calling, attacks on property or exploitation triggered because of who or what you are. It doesn't have to be to your face – it could be written in a letter, email, graffiti or on Facebook. The important thing is how it makes you feel.



- the Community Safety Project Officer worked in partnership with Faringdon Academy of Schools on the final phase of the community mural. Our aim is to help reduce anti-social behaviour by improving the appearance of the area for residents. The inside of the subway was a collective design produced by students from Faringdon Community College. The students previously designed and painted the murals for the walls of the underpass in 2010 and 2011. Oxfordshire County Highways prepared the walls for painting and sealed the design with an anti-graffiti coating. Officers from the district council received a positive response to the new design when they asked walkers passing through the underpass for their comments: "The paintings have made a huge difference to the area, the kids love it and their work has not been destroyed". "Fantastic! I mean it; I am not just saying it to please you" 92 per cent believe the artwork has improved the appearance of the area and over half people questioned feel safer using the underpass as a result of the improvements. Natalie Thomas, Head of Art and Design at Faringdon Community College, said: "Students have brightened up the walkway with an underground theme, with pictures of fossils, animals and their lairs. The project has given them an opportunity to express themselves and improve the local area." The underpass has remained graffiti free.



Our plans for 2013/14

PROJECTS THAT TACKLE CONCERNS AFFECTING THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

In 2013/14 we will:

| Priority | Measure | PCC Plan: strategic objectives |
|--|---|---|
| 1. continue to support a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour, particularly where it is criminal or targeted at vulnerable victims | levels of reported anti-social behaviour to the police and district councils, including the number of repeat victims and District customer feedback | strategic objective 1: anti-social behaviour strategic objective 2: anti-social behaviour teams |
| | levels of enforcement/intervention taken to tackle anti social behaviour | |
| 2. take robust and co-ordinated action to reduce the number of enviro-crimes in South and Vale | levels of fly tipping, graffiti, litter and fly posting | strategic objective 1: anti-social behaviour and local priority crime |
| 3. address short term, tactical community safety problems through our Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (JATAC) group | actions and outcomes from issues reported to JATAC | strategic objective 1: local priority crime and troubled families |
| 4. further reduce alcohol related crime and disorder by increasing the number of towns and premises that are signed up to Nightsafe. Ensure that we are using legislation effectively to tackle premises that contribute to alcohol related crime and disorder. Deliver a minimum of two alcohol awareness campaigns per year. | level of criminal damage reported to the police | strategic objective 1: violent crime and anti-social behaviour strategic objective 4: 2-way communication with communities |
| | level of violent assault reported to the police | |
| | outcomes from the two alcohol awareness campaigns | |
| 5. strengthen community cohesion and reduce tensions by supporting projects that break down intergenerational barriers and improve understanding of cultural diversity | public perception of the fear of crime (measured by residents survey) | strategic objective 4: obtain the views of communities and 'seldom heard' groups on policing and crime issues |
| | public perception of how well people from different backgrounds get on together | |

PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT VICTIMS OR PREVENT PEOPLE FROM BECOMING A VICTIM OF CRIME OR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In 2013/14 we will:

| Priority | Measure | PCC Plan: strategic objectives |
|---|---|--|
| <p>6. work with the county domestic abuse steering group to promote initiatives that raise awareness, by providing additional support for victims and children affected by domestic abuse by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding a dedicated outreach service • funding sanctuary scheme small works • promoting the domestic abuse champions network within our organisations and communities | <p>number of cases referred to and closed by South and Vale domestic abuse outreach service, the average waiting time for victims and customer feedback data.</p> <p>reporting of domestic abuse, aiming to reduce the number of high risk cases that result in repeat victimisation</p> <p>levels of domestic abuse reported to the police</p> <p>number of domestic abuse champions in South and Vale</p> | <p>Strategic objective 1: domestic and other inter-personal abuse including child sexual exploitation and safe guarding vulnerable adults, children and young people</p> |
| <p>7. continue to pilot a third party reporting and referral systems for hate crime in South and Vale to ensure they are effective in offering victims an alternative to reporting to the police</p> | <p>levels of hate crime reported to the police and to Stop Hate UK and outcome of customer feedback for Stop Hate UK.</p> | <p>Strategic objective 5: support for victims and witnesses</p> |
| <p>8. provide practical support to victims of distraction burglary and rogue traders by continuing to fund a small repairs scheme for elderly and vulnerable residents</p> | <p>number of properties secured by the small repairs scheme and outcomes of the support provided</p> | <p>strategic objective 1: acquisitive crime (with a focus on dwelling burglaries, and 'cyber' crime)</p> |
| <p>9. run targeted crime reduction campaigns to raise awareness and provide information to those affected by crime</p> | <p>levels of domestic burglary, car crime and robbery reported to the police</p> <p>levels of burglary non dwelling reported to the police</p> | <p>strategic objective 1: acquisitive crime (with a focus on dwelling burglaries, and 'cyber' crime)</p> <p>strategic objective 4: promote crime reduction and prevention activities</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>10. work with land owners and the rural community to deliver initiatives that tackle rural crime</p> | <p>outcomes of the specific projects funded by the partnership that tackle rural crime</p> | <p>strategic objective 1: rural crime</p> <p>strategic objective 4: promote crime reduction and prevention activities</p> <p>strategic objective 4: publish information about accessing, delivery and outcomes of policing and crime services</p> |
| <p>11. support and protect children and young people</p> | <p>awaiting police prevalence report (child sexual exploitation) actions to be confirmed</p> | <p>Strategic objective 1: safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people</p> |

PROJECTS THAT TACKLE OFFENDERS OR THOSE WHO ARE AT RISK OF COMMITTING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In 2013/14 we will:

| Priority | Measure | PCC Plan: strategic objectives |
|---|---|--|
| <p>12. work in partnership with community groups to support local diversionary activities for young people to help prevent them from committing or becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour</p> | <p>outcomes of the specific projects funded by the partnership (e.g. including Didcot TRAIN)</p> | <p>strategic objective 1: anti-social behaviour and safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people</p> <p>strategic objective 5: tackling drugs and alcohol</p> |
| <p>13. continue to conduct intelligence led test purchasing operations to reduce underage sales of alcohol and underage drinking</p> | <p>number of test purchase operations conducted to prevent the sale of restricted goods to underage people ,the number of fixed penalty notices issued and the percentage pass rate</p> | <p>strategic objective 5: tackling drugs and alcohol</p> |
| <p>14. reduce illegal drug use in licensed premises by supporting passive drugs dog operations</p> | <p>number of passive drugs dog operations run in licensed premises and outcomes</p> | <p>strategic objective 5: tackling drugs and alcohol</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 15. help the Integrated Offender Management team to share information with relevant agencies about Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPOs) in South and Vale to help reduce levels of re-offending | number of PPOs in South and Vale | strategic objective 5: Integrated Offender Management |
| | number of PPOs who did not offend and spent no time in custody | |
| 16. support the Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team to ensure that drug and alcohol treatment services are accessible to people who live and work in South and Vale | number of drug and alcohol users starting/leaving structured treatment in South and Vale, with the number and percentage who have successfully completed the treatment | strategic objective 5: tackling drugs and alcohol |
| | number of drug users accessing needle exchange services in pharmacies in South and Vale | |
| 17. support and develop projects that utilise the services of the Thames Valley Probation Community Payback Scheme in South and Vale | number of Community Payback projects and outcomes | strategic objective 4: promote crime reduction and prevention activities |

CONTACT US

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Scrutiny Committee Report



Report of Head of Finance

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To: Scrutiny

DATE: 5 November 2013

Council tax reduction scheme grant for town and parish councils

Recommendation

That the committee reviews the options for distributing the council tax reduction scheme grant to town and parish councils, taking into account feedback from town and parish councils, and makes any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Finance

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to allow the committee to review the different options for distributing the council tax reduction scheme to town and parish councils and make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Finance.

Strategic Objectives

2. The council receives an annual grant from central government which can be passed down to town and parish councils to mitigate the impact of the council tax reduction scheme on their taxbases. Passing down the grant can help keep down the town and parish element of council tax bills. Distributing the grant will help meet the objective of excellent delivery of key services.

Background

3. The new council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) takes the form of a discount on the council tax bill and, like other discounts (e.g. the single person's 25 per cent discount), has the effect of reducing the council's council tax base. Reducing the tax base means that, if the council's budget requirement remained the same, the amount of council tax charged would increase, or if council tax was not increased the income generated would reduce. This applies to both billing authorities (South) and major precepting authorities (Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner), as well as local precepting authorities (town and parish councils).
4. To mitigate the impact of the reduced council tax base, each year the Government is distributing, via revenue support grant and business rates retention, a grant that is not ringfenced to billing authorities and major precepting authorities. Because the Government does not have a method for passing down funding direct to town and parish councils the grant given to billing authorities includes an amount "*attributable to local precepting authorities*". There is no legal obligation for the council to pass on this grant and indeed some district councils elsewhere in the country did not pass the grant to towns and parishes.
5. For 2013/14 the council received a sum of £245,946 to be passed down to town and parish councils. The mechanism for allocating the funding was approved at full Council on 13 December 2012. The full amount of the grant was passed down to South Oxfordshire towns and parishes, based upon their relative need following the reduction in their respective taxbases.
6. Although the Government identified the specific amount attributable to local precepting authorities in 2013/14 it has said it will not do so for 2014/15. In it's 2013 Spending Review the Government indicated that funding for the council is reducing by 13.7 per cent in 2014/15. Therefore, assuming all components of the overall Government funding – including the towns and parishes CTR grant component - reduce equally by the same 13.7 per cent, the 2013/14 town and parish grant figure of £245,946 becomes **£212,251** for 2014/15.

Options for distributing the grant

7. For 2013/14, for each parish taxbase, a calculation was undertaken to look at the negative effect of the council tax reduction scheme in isolation; a further calculation to look at the positive effect of increasing charges for second homes and empty properties in isolation; and, one further calculation which looked at the net effect of both changes combined.
8. The net effect of the two changes (i.e. the net amount of band D equivalents removed from taxbases) was then multiplied by the individual town and parish band D council tax amounts for 2012/13. This gave a notional council tax "shortfall" figure and towns and parishes were then given a grant equal to 87.3 per cent of the notional. This was because the parish element of the grant (£245,946) only covered 87.3 per cent of the total notional shortfall. A worked example of this is in **Appendix 1**.
9. There are two different options for distributing the grant in 2014/15, both with their own pros and cons.

OPTION 1

10. For 2014/15 the council could decide to distribute the pot of money by the same proportions as 2013/14 e.g. if Parish A received 2.2 per cent of the total grant of £245,946 (£5,410), then it would receive 2.2 per cent of the **£212,251** grant for 2014/15 (£4,669).
11. This would be the simplest method administratively and would also provide stability for town and parish councils. However, if any town or parish has had an increase in residents claiming CTRS during 2013/14, this will not be taken into account in the 2014/15 grant. Also, some towns and parishes did not receive any grant at all during 2013/14 because they had not been impacted by the introduction of CTRS (either because none of their residents were claiming, or the positive impact of council tax discount changes was greater than the negative effect of CTRS). If circumstances have changed in these particular towns and parishes, this would not be taken into account under this proposal.

OPTION 2

12. Alternatively, the CTRS effect could be recalculated again for 2014/15 using up to date CTRS figures. This would involve more administration for the council but would mean that the grant is based on current circumstances. However, it would introduce an element of volatility for town and parish councils if circumstances in their area have changed significantly.
13. The council would then use the 2012/13 town and parish band D figures to calculate the notional shortfall upon which their share of the grant would be based.
14. The Government's model for calculating the amount of grant attributable to town and parish councils was based on 2012/13 council tax levels and this is why the council will continue to use 2012/13 as the baseline. Also, by continuing to use the 2012/13 band D council tax figures there will be an element of consistency to help negate the potential volatility of recalculating the CTRS effect.

Views from town and parish councils

15. Briefing sessions were held with town and parish councils on 16 October 2013 and 23 October 2013. These were very well attended events with 39 towns and parishes represented. Options 1 and 2 were put to the towns and parishes and the favoured option was option 2.

Financial Implications

16. The council tax reduction scheme grant from the government is contained within the council's revenue support grant and the council's baseline funding level for business rates retention. Overall funding is reducing by 13.7 per cent therefore, by reducing the grant to be distributed to town and parish councils by 13.7 per cent there is a neutral financial impact on the council.

Legal Implications

17. Whilst the council tax reduction scheme grant is not ringfenced, there is an expectation that councils will use it to mitigate the effect on local precepting authorities of the reduced council tax base.

Risks

18. There is a risk that some town and parish councils may challenge the methodology if they believe that they have not received what they think is an appropriate share. However, the Government has not specified any methodology to follow and there is no legal requirement for any of the funding to be passed on.

Other Implications

19. There are no other implications arising directly from this report.

Conclusion

20. The council will receive funding during 2014/15 that is attributable to town and parish councils to mitigate the impact of the council tax reduction scheme on their taxbases. A decision is required on how that funding should be distributed.

21. This paper sets out options for Scrutiny Committee to consider

Background Papers

- None

Worked example of 2013/14 grant allocation calculation

| | | |
|----------|--|------------------|
| A | Original 2013/14 taxbase | 4,000 |
| B | Dwellings gained through CT reform | 50 |
| C | Dwellings lost through CTRS | 200 |
| D | Revised taxbase (A + B – C) | 3,850 |
| E | Band D equivalents lost (A – D) | 150 |
| | | |
| F | 2012/13 band D council tax | £30 |
| G | Lost income (E x F) | £4,500 |
| H | Grant paid (G x 87.3%) | £3,928.50 |

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