

# Joint Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Housing and Environment

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To: Joint Scrutiny Committee

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## South and Vale Community Safety Partnership – performance report 2017/18

### Recommendations

- (a) To note the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) made in 2017/18 in delivering its priorities and statutory functions
- (b) To support the CSP's view that the 2018/19 plan will focus on the protection of vulnerable people, prevention and early intervention, reducing re-offending and serious organised crime and terrorism

## **Purpose of Report**

The main purpose of this report is to update the scrutiny committee on the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is making to reduce crime and the fear of crime, focusing on the benefits it generates for residents, businesses and partner agencies in the two districts. The summary of the work the CSP has been delivering since April 2017 to achieve its priorities is supplemented by the CSP quarter four (Q4) performance report, attached as Appendix A.

## **Background**

### **PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE CSP**

1. The 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.
  2. Under the umbrella of the CSP, a wide variety of local agencies work together to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in both districts and ensure that residents feel safe and stay safe.
  3. The CSP involves the community safety portfolio holders from both district councils and officers representing:
    - South Oxfordshire District Council
    - Vale of White Horse District Council
    - Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
    - Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
    - Thames Valley Police (TVP)
    - Community Rehabilitation Company
    - National Probation Service
    - Sovereign Housing Association
    - Soha Housing
    - Oxfordshire University Hospital Trust
    - Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service
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4. The CSP has a statutory duty to develop and publish a plan which sets out its priorities, actions and measures. The 2018/19 draft plan is attached as Appendix B. When drafting the current plan and to meet our statutory duties, we reviewed information from the Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment along with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) plan and consulted with numerous agencies.
5. The CSP has a statutory duty to monitor the effectiveness of its plan which it does through quarterly performance reports that are reviewed at quarterly meetings.

#### RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF CSP PRIORITIES

6. To help the CSP deliver its priorities and statutory duties, it receives funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This income stream is not secure and is agreed on an annual basis. The CSP's 2017/18 grant funding from the PCC was £106,846.
  7. The CSP used some of its grant to directly fund a part time Anti-Social Behaviour Assistant employed by Thames Valley Police. This post has now been cut and the neighbourhood anti-social behaviour meetings are now being co-ordinated by the districts' Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator.
  8. The CSP also uses its funding to support local projects that it believes will help it to deliver its priorities. Managed by the districts' community safety team, this involves overseeing the CSP grant application process, drafting Service Level Agreements (SLAs), monitoring contract compliance and running the CSP budget group to ensure accountability and proper governance. In 2017/18, the community safety team managed SLAs on behalf of the CSP for a range of projects, including a dedicated outreach service for victims of domestic abuse in South and Vale, diversionary projects for young people who are vulnerable and displaying 'risky behaviour' and the small repairs scheme run by Mears.
  9. The CSP financial summary for 2017/18 can be found in Appendix C.
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# DELIVERING THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES AND STATUTORY DUTIES – SUMMARY OF KEY AREAS OF WORK IN 2017/18

## Vulnerability: Managing demand on service through working together

### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

10. There are a number of statutory functions relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) that the district council funded ASB Co-ordinator is responsible for delivering:

Statutory responsibility	Relevant legislation
Public Spaces Protection Orders (currently in place in Thame, Abingdon and Henley) to tackle anti-social behaviour see paragraph 35	Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
On behalf of the CSP, managing the Community Trigger process see paragraph 14	Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Managing the process for the issuing Community Protection Notices (non noise related) see paragraph 15	
Supporting police applications for Closure Orders see paragraph 36	

11. If residents don't feel able to report ASB directly to the police, they can contact the district council's community safety team by phone, email, website report form or in person to report the incident. The issues reported to the team are varied and range from neighbour disputes to racist abuse and harassment. We investigate, and risk assess cases, working in partnership with relevant agencies and providing updates to the complainant until the issue has been resolved. This service provides residents who are unable or unwilling to report ASB to the police with an effective alternative reporting option. Victims/witnesses have a single point of contact for their case and feel actively supported by the councils. Acting as a 'critical friend', the community safety team ensures that appropriate and joined up action is taken by agencies to resolve cases.

12. In addition, the CSP helps to fund local community based projects that aim to improve young people's resilience and divert them away from committing ASB.

### **Outcomes from a CSP funded ASB diversionary project in Didcot**

On the 15 November 2017, Didcot TRAIN were conducting a detached session in Didcot. One of the youth workers was contacted by a member of the public to ask for assistance with an incident that was taking place in the town centre.

The team headed to the Orchard Centre where a young person known to TRAIN had suffered a serious panic attack after falling out with some friends, as a result an ambulance was called to assist. Another young person was very distressed and angry about the situation and was displaying anti-social behaviour, swearing, shouting and threatening people.

The youth worker approached the group and this young person and persuaded them to come back to the TRAIN office, this enabled them to calm down and reflect on the situation. Some members of the group were clearly shaken by the events and the team were able to offer instant counselling and reassurance to those who needed it, whilst de-escalating the young person who had been demonstrating aggressive anti-social behaviour. As a result, no police intervention was required, and the team have continued to work with these young people restoratively to ensure they have the skills to deal with a similar situation should it occur in the future.

13. The community safety team is responsible for running Joint Tasking Meetings (JTM) previously known as Joint Agency Tasking (JATAC) which merged with the Police Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group in 2017. These meetings maximise partnership working and make best use of resources and data sharing. Officers from Thames Valley Police, community safety, children's social care, environmental health, housing, Soha, Sovereign Vale, Mental Health, Fire & Rescue and other agencies share resources, knowledge and data on a monthly basis to support:

- repeat victims of ASB
  - medium/high risk ASB victims
  - families in need of intervention to avoid ASB
  - domestic abuse victims
  - prolific offenders
  - vulnerable individuals (e.g. homeless individuals, repeat missing young persons, individuals at risk of radicalisation, concerns of child sexual exploitation)
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JTM case study from Q4

**(names have been changed)**

In November 2017, John Smith was flagged to the JTM for agency awareness that he would be released from prison the following month. He would be released back into his registered social housing property and living opposite his victim. The police carried out a risk assessment in partnership with the housing service provider which led to the victim being put forward as a high priority for a move. The victim was moved out of the area into another property. Notice of Seeking Possession was served to John Smith. The housing service provider, Adult Social Services and the police are continuing to work together on this situation, providing support for vulnerable neighbours and pursuing the eviction of John Smith.

14. The CSP has a legal duty to provide a Community Trigger, in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This mechanism gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to review cases of persistent anti-social behaviour if they feel the issues have not been properly addressed already. The trigger could be activated by a member of the public, a community or a business. Rather than set up a new panel, the CSP use JTM as the ASB case review panel for the statutory Community Trigger process which maximises resources and ensures that information is properly shared across a broad range of agencies. The Community Trigger process is managed by the community safety team and we have received three triggers last year. Two have been actioned and closed and the third case is waiting for small home improvement works, once completed the case will be closed as there have been no further incidents received of ASB.
  15. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator works closely with partners to deliver warnings to offenders whose behaviour has a detrimental impact on others. Failure to comply will result in a Community Protection Notice being served. No community protection warnings or notices were served by the community safety team in 2017/18.
  16. The community safety team co-ordinate the installation of guardcams (covert cameras) for vulnerable people in response to incidents of ASB, criminal damage, burglary and domestic abuse. In 2017/18, 18 guard cams were installed compared to 12 guard cams in 2016/17.
  17. The community safety team co-ordinate the Safe Places scheme in partnership with multi agencies, such as, the police, fire and rescue, Oxfordshire Family Support Network and local businesses. The scheme helps vulnerable people feel confident and safe whilst out in the community. If someone feels they are being abused or harassed whilst they are out in the community, they have a safe place to go. Window stickers are displayed in public places (shops, libraries, community centres) to identify themselves as Safe Places. The scheme has been launched in South Oxfordshire and over 50 premises have registered as a Safe Place. The scheme will be launched in the Vale in 2018/19.
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## DOMESTIC ABUSE

18. The CSP continues to fund a dedicated outreach service for women, men and children whose lives have been disrupted by domestic abuse in South and Vale. On behalf of the CSP, A2 Dominion provides 61 hours of domestic abuse services each week across both districts. They also set up and run help groups and enable those in need to draw upon a range of resources, for example, providing a local help-line service and refuge accommodation. 72 clients were supported in 2017/18 compared to 76 in 2016/17.

### **Domestic abuse outreach service – a case study from 2017/18 (Q4) (names have been changed)**

Tanya was referred through to the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service helpline by Didcot Mental Health Team. Tanya was extremely low at point of referral and had attempted suicide. Tanya had requested that all meetings took place at one of her mental health support groups as she felt comfortable there. When the outreach worker met Tanya for the first time she was extremely frightened of her husband Charlie and had been coerced and controlled for over ten years. She receives domestic abuse from Charlie, both emotional and physical (weekly). Tanya receives a Personal Independent Payment which Charlie takes and controls. She is scared to leave Charlie or report to the police for fear of repercussions. She is afraid her daughters will not believe her as Charlie makes them think their mother is a liar.

At the first meeting with Tanya she had sustained a huge bruise on her arm from Charlie that morning, the outreach worker encouraged her to report this to the police, but she was too frightened and needed more time, instead she persuaded her to go with her to Abingdon A&E to be checked out. Tanya bravely agreed, and x-rays were taken, and the injuries recorded as a result of Domestic Abuse. This can be used as evidence in the future.

The outreach worker took Tanya to a bank to set up a separate account, so she is able to transfer sums of money into without Charlie knowing. Tanya feels better knowing if she decides to leave she will have some money to keep her going until she finds her feet. Tanya still receives support from a mental health support service twice a week. This case sits with the monthly cases of concern meeting chaired by the police to ensure they are aware of the situation. They will not intervene until Tanya is ready to engage. Tanya has been taking photos of evidence and keeping this in a safe place for when she decides to report to the police. Due to the risk of the police visiting and conducting a welfare check, the outreach worker asked the fire service to carry out a visit. They attended several houses in Tanya's street for smoke alarms (including Tanya's) to ensure she was okay and reported back to the worker. Extensive safety planning has been carried out and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

Tanya has now realised that the abuse is not her fault and explore the possibility of what life would be like without Charlie. She is thinking more about leaving him and has started to ask more questions about reporting to the police.

19. The CSP continue to provide support to victims of domestic abuse by co-ordinating sanctuary scheme works to help vulnerable victims of crime stay and feel safe in their own homes. In 2017/18 the community safety team co-ordinated 52 referrals compared to 30 in 2016/17.
20. The CSP also fund a small repairs/target hardening service to help those at risk of domestic abuse and victims of burglary stay and feel safe in their own home. 35 properties were installed in 2017/18 compared to 28 in 2016/17.
21. The CSP has a **statutory duty** to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. These take place when a murder has been committed in either of the district areas and the victim and offender were in some form of relationship. The main aim of a review is to establish what lessons can be learned regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims. The community safety team is responsible for managing the DHR process and providing administrative support.

<b>DHR</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Update</b>
Thame (two murders, one attempted murder)	2012/2013	Review approved by Home Office Action plan completed
Joint Serious Case Review (SCR) and Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Didcot	2013/14	Review approved by Home Office Action plan completed.
Hales Meadow	2014	Review with Home Office
Didcot (three murders)	2015	Review approved by Home Office. Action plan completed.
Watchfield (one victim)	2017	Review with Home Office

Since their introduction in 2011, there have been ten DHRs in Oxfordshire and four of these have taken place in South and one in the Vale.

22. The community safety team supported a domestic abuse awareness campaign raising awareness of coercive control over the festive period. Posters were circulated to domestic abuse champions across South and Vale with the message 'does your partner have everything under control this Christmas? Your finances? Who you can see? Your phone? Your life? You don't have to be hit to be hurt. This is coercive control'. This message was promoted on the Councils' internet, Facebook and twitter pages and featured the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse helpline number if someone needed support.
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## MODERN SLAVERY

23. From 1 November 2015, specific public authorities have a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any person identified in England and Wales as a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. The community safety partnership aims to raise awareness of this issue and is working with partners to develop an Oxfordshire plan. For example, the community safety project officer raised awareness of the modern slavery by supporting the police hidden harm campaign by putting posters on toilet doors, circulating posters to leisure centres, licensed premises, schools and young people projects for them to encourage people to contact the Home Office if they are a victim or are concerned about someone else. The CSP is working with a county task and finish group to agree an Oxfordshire Modern Slavery strategy.

24. "Hotel Watch" is a project that aims to develop better links between the hospitality industry, the police and the CSP. It promotes safe and crime free environments, develops good practice and encourages collection and sharing of intelligence. This covers crimes such as child sexual exploitation (CSE). Following the outcome of two test purchase operations which were carried out in 2016/17 the community safety team co-ordinated awareness training in July 2017 and 28 people attended from 14 hotels across the two districts. Training was provided by the Kingfisher team (Oxfordshire Child Sexual Exploitation Team, Thames Valley Police and Dr Maureen Brookes (Ex Hotelier and Human Trafficking academic) from Oxford University. The results from the second test purchase operation held in October 2017 revealed that six out of the 12 hotels (all South) accepted a booking. Five out of the 12 hotels were tested for licensing, two failed and supplied alcohol knowing it was for the child. These hotels were called in for a licensing meeting and improvements have been implemented. The introduction of a training package is being explored to help hotel staff recognise the signs of exploitation and how to report any concerns.

## RURAL CRIME

25. The community safety team support and chair the South and Vale Rural Crime meetings bringing partners, landowners, farmers together to reduce incidents of rural crime. The CSP have funded signage, dash cameras and wildlife cameras which are triggered by motion sensor to tackle rural crime. The dash cameras used in operations have resulted in three arrests for various offences including stolen vehicles and burglaries. Two wildlife cameras were deployed in the Didcot area regarding lead thefts around schools and churches. These cameras caught footage of a suspect on the roof, who has since been identified and arrested. Eight of the 12 cameras are currently filming at seven various locations. Locations have been chosen where there have been repeat victims of crime but also recent intelligence, for example badger baiting. These cameras collect evidence and offer landowners and rural communities reassurance that their concerns are being taken seriously.

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## **Prevention and Early Intervention: Improving safeguarding in physical and virtual space**

### **CYBERCRIME**

26. With regards to Cyber-Crime, the community safety team have promoted various campaigns and messages on social media platforms, for example Safer Internet Day, Get safe online week #Protect Your World, Hidden Harm and 'Twelve safer days of Christmas' to help residents protect their identities and keep safe whilst online.
27. The community safety team are co-ordinating e-safety workshops for parents and carers of primary school children in July to raise awareness of the risks to children online and assist parents/carers with keeping their children safe. This is being promoted on social media.

### **CHILD EXPLOITATION**

28. The CSP support the priorities of the Oxfordshire Child Exploitation sub group by implementing actions and recommendations from the group. To tackle these priorities the community safety team co-ordinated the local delivery of "Chelsea's choice", a hard-hitting play that shows how young people are groomed by adults for the purposes of sexual exploitation using various methods, ensnaring young people and eventually taking complete control and dominating their whole lives. This play was delivered to parents, staff and young people in nine South and Vale secondary schools in May 2017. The schools paid a contribution of £250 towards each production and the remaining cost was funded by the CSP. Feedback from staff and parents was very positive and the production has since been delivered again in May 2018.

### **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)**

29. The CSP support the 'Oxford Against Cutting' organisation to raise awareness of FGM to South and Vale communities for example local faith groups, schools and communities where FGM is a significant concern.

### **HATE CRIME**

The community safety team supported Hate Crime Awareness week in October 2017 by raising awareness amongst staff through a poster campaign. The team have also co-ordinated training for the introduction of third party hate crime reporting centres with Soha, Sovereign Citizens Advice Bureau's and Wantage Independent Advice Centre and delivered training with representatives of the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner.

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## Reducing Re-offending: Targeting and managing harm and risk

30. The CSP helps offenders during their transition between offending and stability by providing funding to Homeless Oxfordshire who manage ex-offender's housing needs after they have been released from prison. Further information is included in the attached Q4 CSP performance report which can be found in Appendix A.

### DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

31. The community safety team runs Nightsafe, a multi-agency sub group of the CSP which delivers initiatives to help reduce late night violence and associated crime and disorder. Resources, knowledge and data from TVP, licensing, community safety, Public Health and Fire & Rescue are pooled to tackle premises of concern and key events (e.g. running joint test purchase operations to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage people). Four test purchase operations have been held in 2017/18 where intelligence has indicated underage drinking is taking place.

Quarter	Location	Number of premises visited	Number passed	Number failed	Outcome
One	Wantage and Grove	11	11		
	Henley and surrounding areas	7	4	3	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) issued to staff members who sold alcohol. SODC licensing team and the police worked with these premises to insure actions have been implemented.
Two	Didcot and Wallingford	16	16		
Three	Wantage and Grove	7	7		

32. The community safety team and district councils licensing team aim to reward best practice and promote safe licensed venues by launching a Nightsafe scheme in South and Vale. Licensing officers will use a matrix to assess and rate licensed venues which are awarded a bronze, silver or
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gold Nightsafe standard, depending upon which criteria the premises meet. The premises receive a certificate and window sticker to display the achieved bronze, silver or gold Nightsafe standard. This project has been delayed, however the Nightsafe group aim to review the programme in 2018/19.

33. A Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) made up of voluntary and statutory organisations was launched in Wantage and Grove in August 2015, to tackle underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour. This is the first CAP in Oxfordshire. In 2017, out of over 200 CAP's the Wantage and Grove Cap won the award for CAP of the Year. In addition, James Maddern, Assistant Head of King Alfred's Academy won the Excellence in Education Award. The CAP has delivered several action days for young students on the risks and consequences associated with alcohol. The community safety team are currently working with Wallingford School and Faringdon Academy to launch a CAP in these areas.
34. The community safety team have migrated the existing Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO) in Abingdon, Henley and Thame over to Public Spaces Protection Orders as set out in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The new Public Spaces Protection Order is like a DPPO. However, in addition to alcohol related anti-social behaviour, it can also include a wider range of offences to help address other local anti-social behaviour issues that are persistent and having a significant, detrimental impact on the community.

Town	Public Spaces Protection Order
Abingdon (Active from July 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no person shall refuse to stop drinking alcohol or to surrender any container (sealed or unsealed) which is believed to contain alcohol, when required to do so by an authorised person.</li> <li>• no person shall personally carry out or assist or encourage any other person to carry out any of the behaviours specified in (a) to (e) below at any time in the restricted area:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Revving of engine(s) (as to cause a nuisance to persons in the locality of the restricted area);</li> <li>b) Repeated sudden and rapid acceleration (as to cause a nuisance to persons in the locality of the restricted area);</li> <li>c) Performing stunts (as to cause a nuisance to persons in the locality of the restricted area);</li> <li>d) Sounding horns (as to cause a nuisance to persons in the locality of the restricted);</li> <li>e) Playing music in a motor vehicle (as to cause a nuisance to persons in the locality of the restricted area)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Henley (active from May 2018)	No person shall refuse to stop drinking alcohol or to surrender any container (sealed or unsealed) which is believed to contain alcohol, when required to do so by an authorised person.
Thame (active from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no person shall refuse to stop drinking alcohol or to surrender any container (sealed or unsealed) which is believed to</li> </ul>

May 2018)	<p>contain alcohol, when required to do so by an authorised person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a person is prohibited from congregating in a group of three or more people within the restricted area after a constable or authorised person has requested that the group disperse.</li> </ul>
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## Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism: Improving the local response

### SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

35. The CSP has developed a multi-agency tactical response to tackling Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in South and Vale through the JTM meetings. The police work in partnership with agencies to prevent and disrupt serious county drug lines in South and Vale market towns and through JTM a partnership approach has been adopted to identify local people vulnerable to being exploited by these gangs. Closure Orders are a tool that the police use under this operation to try and tackle the problem relating to abuse of vulnerable people and their properties. The orders close down or restrict access to properties that are known to be used by drug gangs and the community safety team is consulted before the police apply to the courts. We have a checklist to help the police consider key safeguarding issues relating to the order. In 2017/18, 11 closure orders have been issued by the police in South and Vale compared to seven in 2016/17.
36. In addition, the Community Safety Manager attends the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Co-ordination Group which meets quarterly to share information on current issues, priorities, and forward plans. The group aims to identify any overlapping work streams and gaps ensuring that all boards and partnerships are clear where and how the main risks are being managed.

### TERRORISM

37. The CSP has agreed a PREVENT action plan in accordance with Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on local authorities to have “*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*”. The Community Safety Manager attends the Oxfordshire Channel Panel meetings when a South or Vale referral is on the agenda. Channel provides a mechanism for ensuring that individuals identified as vulnerable to radicalisation are referred to and assessed by a multi-agency panel which decides on the most appropriate support. The Channel process uses existing partnership working between the police, local authorities, statutory partners, and the local community to support those who are vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism by: **identifying** individuals and groups at risk of being recruited by violent extremists; **assessing** the nature and extent of that risk through multi-
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agency panels; and **referring** cases to intervention providers (as required) to develop the most appropriate support package to safeguard the individual at risk. In addition, the Community Safety Team Leader has worked with district council teams on the following to ensure council resources are not misused by activists/ extremists:

- booking processes for hire of council rooms. This has been shared with both Town Councils and Parish Councils
- access to council IT equipment by both staff and members of the public
- grants (including CSP, Service Level Agreements).

### **Anticipated direction of travel for the CSP in 2018/19**

38. The CSP receives all its funding directly from the PCC to support the delivery of his plan. It is therefore important that we ensure that we take the PCC priorities into account when setting our own plan. The draft South and Vale CSP 2018/19 rolling action plan (Appendix B) will be taken to the July meeting for sign off by CSP members.

### **Financial Implications**

39. The Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Co-ordination Group receives the funding for Oxfordshire and agrees the formula for allocation with partners. The South and Vale CSP received £106,846 grant funding for 2017/18 and will receive the same amount for 2018/19.

### **Legal Implications**

40. None

### **Risks**

41. None

### **Other Implications**

42. None.

### **Conclusion**

43. The CSP continues to deliver projects to meet the needs of local communities and ensure that statutory functions are delivered. The CSP will continue to focus on protecting and safeguarding vulnerable people.

### **Background Papers**

- Appendix A – South and Vale CSP performance report (quarter four 2017/18)
  - Appendix B – South and Vale CSP draft Plan 2018/19
  - Appendix C – South and Vale CSP financial summary 2017/18
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