

# Joint Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Housing and Environment

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To: Joint Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 21 September 2020

## AGENDA ITEM

## South and Vale Community Safety Partnership – performance report

### Recommendations

- (a) To note the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) made in 2019/20 in delivering its priorities and statutory functions
- (b) To support the CSP's view that the 2020/21 plan will continue to deliver core priorities and statutory functions and focus on these three key priorities:
  - tackling domestic violence and abuse, including early intervention to reduce harm and improving services for victims
  - working with vulnerable people and children to reduce the likelihood of being exploited
  - reducing knife crime and harm and vulnerability caused by drugs and alcohol

## **Purpose of Report**

1. 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.

## **Background**

### PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE CSP

2. 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 local police area and mirrored the shared working across the district councils.
3. Under the umbrella of the CSP, a wide variety of local agencies work together to maintain low levels of crime and protect vulnerable people in both districts to ensure residents feel safe and stay safe.
4. 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)
  - National Probation Service
  - Sovereign Housing Association
  - Soha Housing
  - Oxfordshire University Hospital Trust
  - Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service
5. The CSP has a statutory duty to develop and publish a plan which sets out its priorities, actions and measures. The 2020/21 plan is attached as Appendix A. When drafting the plan and to meet our statutory duties, we review information from the Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment along with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) plan and consult with numerous agencies. The Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment is attached as Appendix B.
6. The CSP has a statutory duty to monitor the effectiveness of its plan which is done through quarterly performance reports that are reviewed at quarterly meetings.

### RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF CSP PRIORITIES

7. 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 2019/20 grant funding from the PCC was £106,846. This same amount has been confirmed for 2020/21.

8. The CSP uses the funding to support local projects that it believes will help 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 2019/20, the community safety team managed SLAs on behalf of the CSP for a range of projects, including outreach and diversionary projects for young people who are vulnerable and displaying 'risky behaviours' and the small repairs scheme run by Mears that helps people who have been a victim of crime remain and feel safe in their own homes.
9. The CSP financial summary for 2019/20 can be found in Appendix C.

## **DELIVERING THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES AND STATUTORY DUTIES – SUMMARY OF KEY AREAS OF WORK IN 2019/20**

### **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 community safety team is responsible for delivering:

<b>Statutory responsibility</b>	<b>Relevant legislation</b>
Public Spaces Protection Orders (currently in place in Thame, Abingdon and Henley) to tackle anti-social behaviour see paragraph 33	Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
On behalf of the CSP, managing the Community Trigger process see paragraph 15	Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Managing the process for the issuing Community Protection Notices (non-noise related) see paragraph 17	
Supporting police applications for Closure Orders see paragraph 35	

11. If residents don't feel able to report ASB directly to the police, they can contact the district councils' community safety team by telephone, email, website report form or in person to report the incident. The issues reported to the

team are varied and complex. They range from neighbour disputes to abuse and harassment. We investigate, and risk assess cases, working in partnership with relevant agencies and provide 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. The community safety team works to ensure that appropriate and joined up action is taken by agencies to resolve cases.

#### **ASB case study**

A housing officer from Soha contacted the community safety team for assistance with an ongoing neighbour dispute their tenant was having with a private resident. The dispute initially stemmed from a parking issue in the close but had further escalated to verbal abuse and physical confrontations. The team worked closely with Soha to devise a plan to manage the expectations of those involved and help diffuse tensions. Advisory letters were sent out to both parties, providing general advice on parking in the close and asking them to be respectful to their neighbours. Since this intervention, no further complaints have been received by Soha or the district council. The original complainant contacted the community safety team to thank the case officer for his involvement and detailed that they are now back on good terms with their neighbours and the issues have been resolved.

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. Funding has been provided to Didcot Train, Nomad in Henley, Thame Youth Café and DAMASCUS who cover South Abingdon and surrounding villages.

#### **Outcomes from a CSP funded ASB diversionary project in Didcot (names have been changed to protect the individual's identity)**

TRAIN have been working with Charlotte for just over a year and a half. Charlotte's family background is complex and there have been various concerns raised over the years to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS). The young person's case does not meet the threshold for a Child Protection Plan and the family have refused to engage in a Child In Need plan, a voluntary process. Charlotte has been involved in inappropriate and unhealthy relationships, antisocial behaviour and uses alcohol and drugs. Her peer group are not supportive of each other, tending to exacerbate difficult situations rather than helping one another. Charlotte attends TRAIN's Young Women's group regularly where a broad range of topics are covered to support them and all other attendees in developing confidence, resilience and attitudes towards one another.

During a recent session Charlotte told the team about a significant safeguarding incident which had happened during the February holidays. Through her disclosure, all relevant services were notified, and measures were put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the young person and of other young people. Charlotte was initially not happy about staff intervening but when explained to her, she understood it was the right action to take. Her rapport has remained as positive as ever with the team since. It is

very important that young people have the trust in the staff and the confidence in themselves to disclose incidents.

In addition to this, through engaging in more positive activities through TRAIN including the Young Women's Group and other complimentary provisions, Charlotte's use of drugs and alcohol appears to have decreased significantly over the course of the last year. As well as attending provision consistently, she is also engaging more at school.

13. The community safety team is responsible for running Joint Tasking Meetings (JTM). These meetings maximise partnership working to make best use of resources. They problem solve complex cases to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Officers from Thames Valley Police, Community Safety, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Environmental Health, Housing, Soha, Sovereign Vale, Mental Health, Fire & Rescue, Trading Standards 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 exploitation)
- individuals with complex needs that do not meet the threshold for a safeguarding referral

#### **Joint Tasking Meeting Case Study One**

The community safety team received reports from a resident that were initially about anti-social behaviour; a teenager having loud parties at a neighbouring property, with no adult present. When discussing this with the complainant, the team were also able to ascertain that they were also concerned about drug use at the house and possible domestic disputes between the teenager and an adult male who was a regular visitor.

By bringing this case to JTM, we were able to:

- Confirm the details of the young person involved and the owner of the property in question (grandparent)
- Ensure that Children's Social Care and the teenager's social worker were aware of the issues
- Confirm that suitable care and accommodation arrangements were in place to protect the teenager

The young person was found a private fostering arrangement and relevant support was provided through Children's Social Care. No further reports of ASB were received.

### **Joint Tasking Meeting Case Study Two**

Our housing needs team were concerned about the welfare of three young children who were in the care of their father but being exposed to potentially harmful behaviours and did not seem to have adequate accommodation.

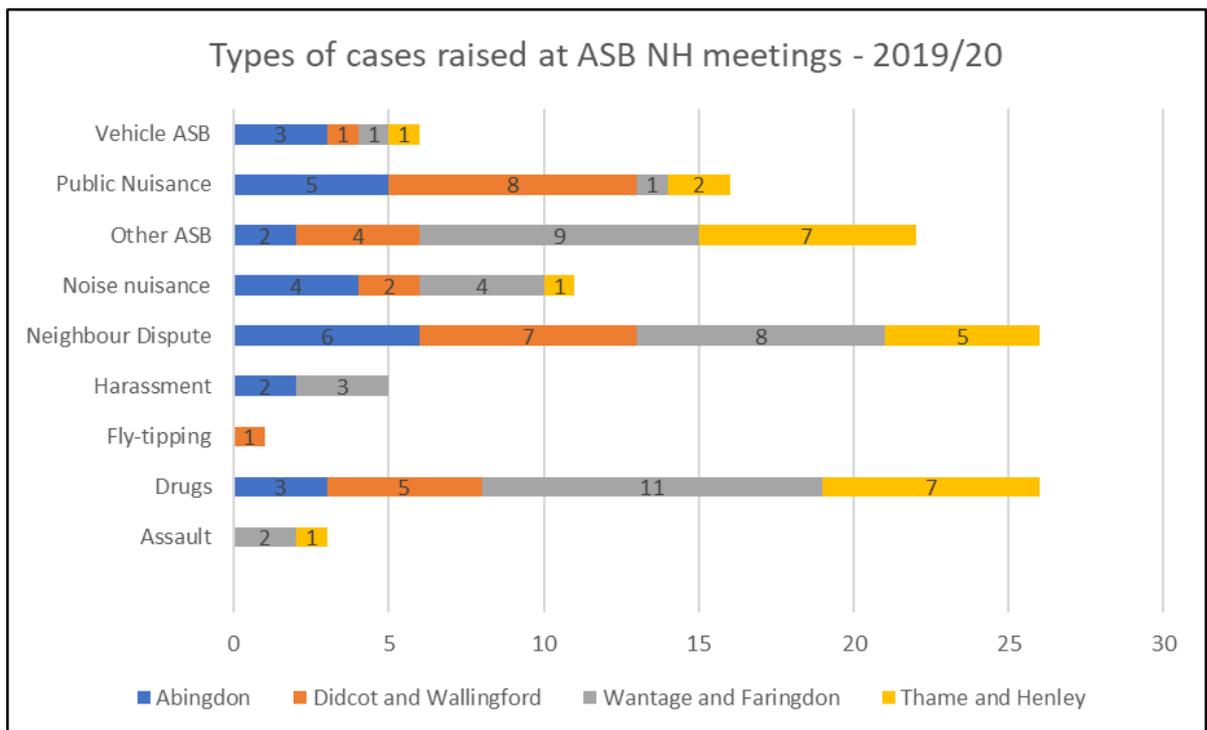
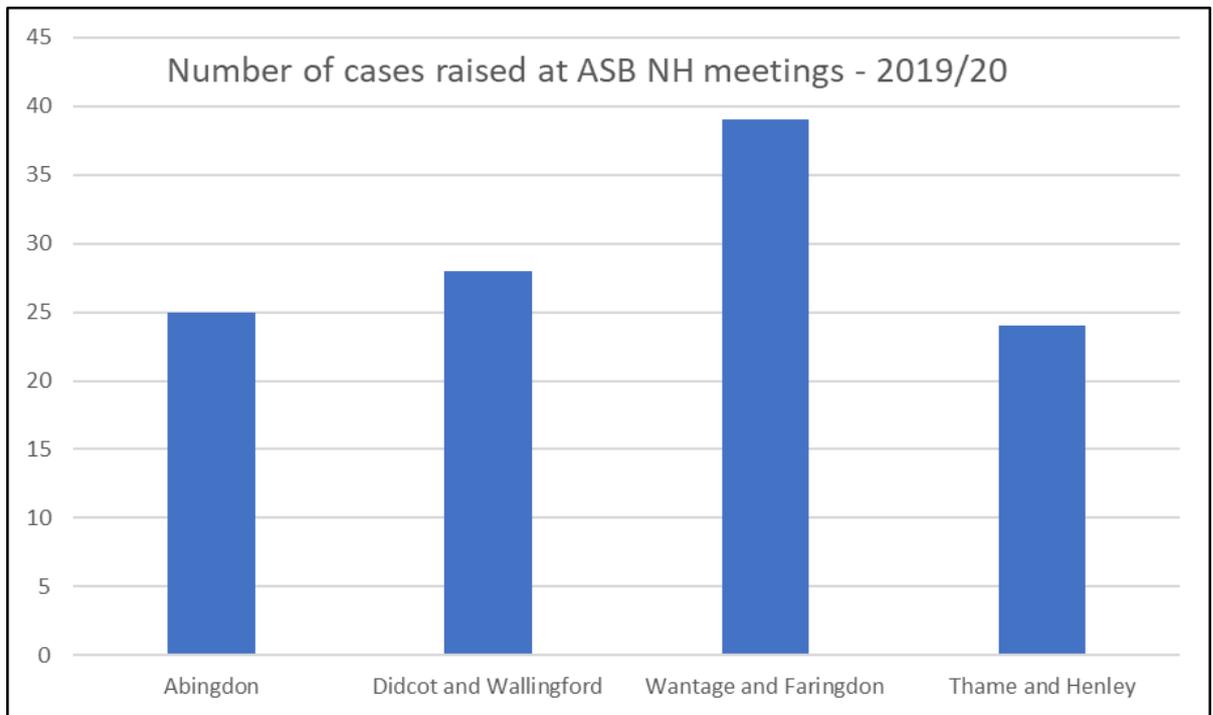
The case was discussed at JTM and we were able to seek support from the police to address any immediate safety concerns relating to the children. We also made Wiltshire Children's Social Care (the authority responsible for the children) aware of the issues being raised by our housing team and the police and sought confirmation about the actions they were taking to protect the children, including addressing the accommodation concerns.

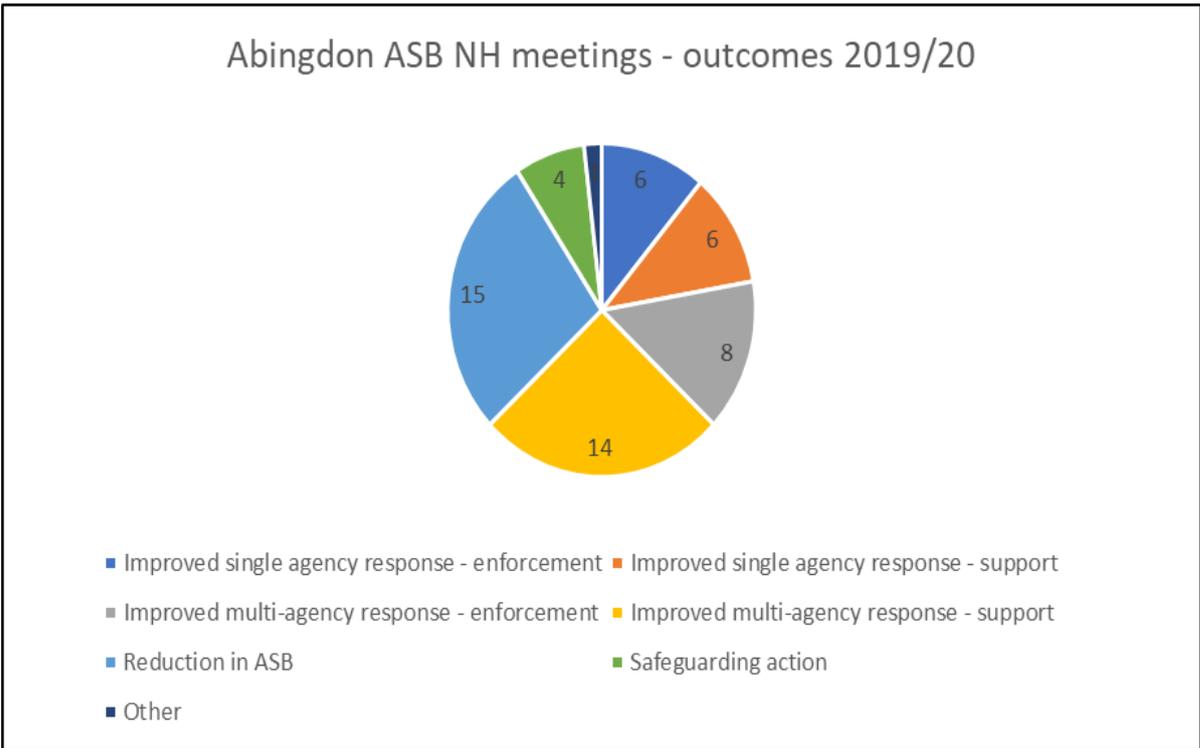
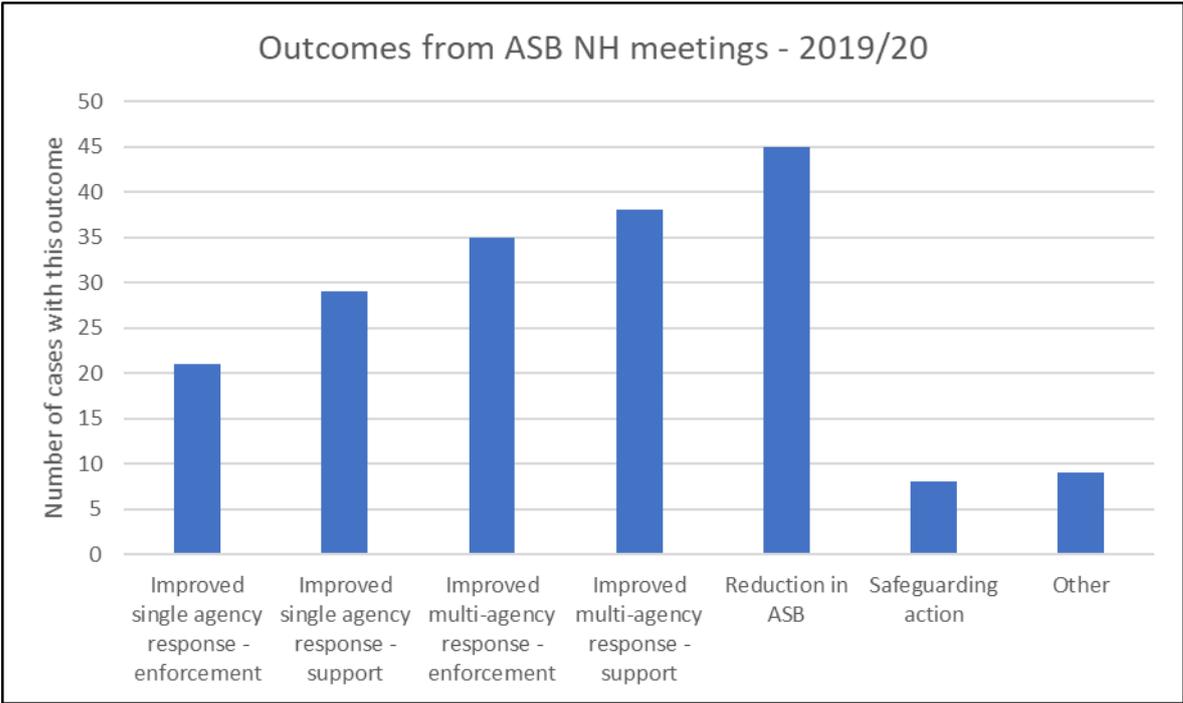
As a result of this multi-agency approach, we are confident that the case is being managed by the relevant social services team; the children are attending school, living in suitable and safe accommodation and their father is receiving support for his substance issues. Agencies are continuing to monitor the situation and now know who to contact directly within relevant organisations if they have any concerns.

14. The two community safety officer's co-ordinate and chair monthly ASB neighbourhood meetings across the local police areas to ensure they are accountable, effective and inclusive of relevant agencies.

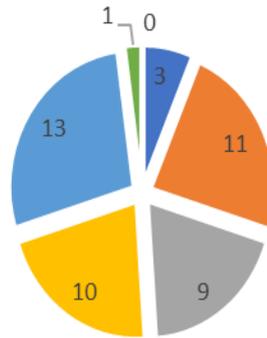
### **Data to help demonstrate the added value of the multi-agency South and Vale ASB NH (Neighbourhood) meetings in 2019/20**

- Number of meetings held across the four neighbourhood areas - 36:
  - 8 - Abingdon
  - 7 - Didcot and Wallingford
  - 11 - Wantage and Faringdon
  - 10 - Thame and Henley
- Total number of cases raised at all ASB NH meetings – 116
- Number of cases resolved - 86 (the remaining were considered 'on-going' on 31 March 2020 ).
- Consistent multi-agency engagement at all meetings, involving the police, the district councils' community safety and environmental protection teams and numerous registered providers (e.g. Sovereign, Soha, TVH, Green Square, Catalyst).



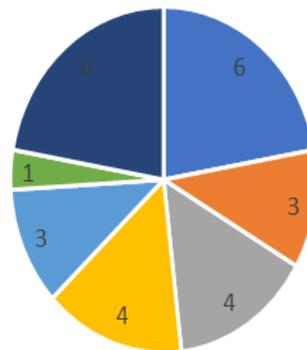


### Didcot and Wallingford ASB NH meetings - outcomes 2019/20



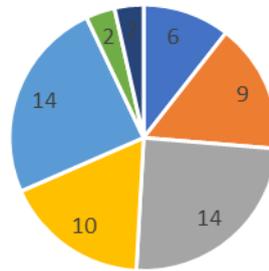
- Improved single agency response - enforcement
- Improved single agency response - support
- Improved multi-agency response - enforcement
- Improved multi-agency response - support
- Reduction in ASB
- Safeguarding action
- Other

### Thame and Henley ASB NH meetings - outcomes 2019/20



- Improved single agency response - enforcement
- Improved single agency response - support
- Improved multi-agency response - enforcement
- Improved multi-agency response - support
- Reduction in ASB
- Safeguarding action
- Other

Wantage and Faringdon ASB NH meetings - outcomes  
2019/20



- Improved single agency response - enforcement
- Improved single agency response - support
- Improved multi-agency response - enforcement
- Improved multi-agency response - support
- Reduction in ASB
- Safeguarding action
- Other

15. 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 received six triggers last year:

**Community Trigger case study (Vale)**

This Community Trigger was raised by a resident who was being affected by the actions of their neighbour smoking cannabis and causing a noise nuisance. As a result of the Community Trigger, Environmental Health investigated the noise complaint and found no statutory nuisance. A joint visit to the premises by the police, social care and the landlord resulted in a warning being issued. The subject is proactively working with social care and drug services for support and no further complaints have been received.

**Community Trigger Case Study (South)**

This Community Trigger focused mainly on neighbour noise nuisance but the person requesting the Trigger was also concerned about the threatening and intimidating behaviour and verbal abuse of their neighbour. The main benefit of the Community Trigger was that the CSP was able to document and confirm with the complainant that a wide variety of agencies (including the police, Environmental Health and Soha Housing) had significant and on-going involvement in trying to address the anti-social behaviour

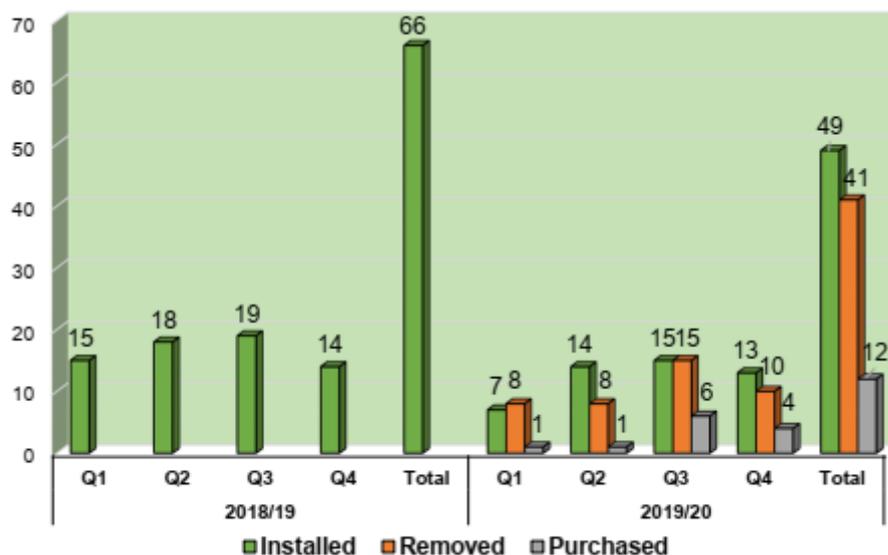
and welfare concerns raised in the Trigger.

The Trigger was able to identify that South Oxon Adult Mental Health Team had previously worked with the neighbour and had diagnosed a personality disorder. Soha then worked with the neighbour to engage with mental health services and their GP for support. Joint visits were carried out by the police and Soha to both neighbours to keep the peace. Environmental Health investigated the noise nuisance and no statutory nuisance was found. No further incidents have been reported to the community safety team.

16. The action plans for all Triggers have been completed and to date, the community safety team has not received any further reports regarding these cases, and they have not been raised by other partner agencies at the monthly ASB neighbourhood meetings.
17. The community safety officers work closely with partners to deliver warnings to offenders whose behaviour has a detrimental impact on others. Failure to comply may result in a Community Protection Notice being served. Two community protection warnings were delivered by the community safety team in 2019/20 for a neighbour dispute.
18. The community safety team co-ordinate the installation of guardcams (covert cameras) in response to incidents of ASB, burglary and domestic abuse. The device is normally put in place for up to three months to capture future incidents and provide additional security and reassurance. After three months the situation is reviewed with the referring agency and resident. Unless there is a particular need to keep the camera in place, the resident can purchase the device from the CSP, or it will be removed for use at another property. It's hard to gauge the degree to which the guardcams contributed to the resolution of the issue(s) but we do know that they provide reassurance to residents who want to feel safe remaining in their own homes. During 2019/20, the community safety team has done a significant amount of work to improve the process of managing the guardcams and the cameras we loan to Soha and Sovereign are installed and returned as efficiently as possible. In addition, there is a clear audit trail in place and the community safety team is responsible for retrieving and reviewing any evidence captured. This enables our team to log those cameras which have captured evidence which we can then share with the CSP. A total of 49 cameras were installed in 2019/20 compared to 66 in 2018/19 and 18 in 2017/18. 12 people chose to retain their cameras and purchased them from the CSP. Feedback from one of the residents who purchased a camera described how he was very happy with the service he received from both the community safety team and the contractor who installed the camera, and how much safer he felt for knowing it was there.



Guard Cam Installations 2019/20



19. 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 such as shops, libraries and community centres to identify themselves as Safe Places. The scheme was launched in the town centres of Wallingford in 2017 followed by Didcot, Henley, Thame and Abingdon in 2018 and Faringdon and Wantage in 2019. All leisure centres across South and Vale also signed up to the scheme in 2019.

20. A review of the premises who are supporting the scheme was carried out in 2019/20. Below are some examples of where staff provided assistance to members of the public:

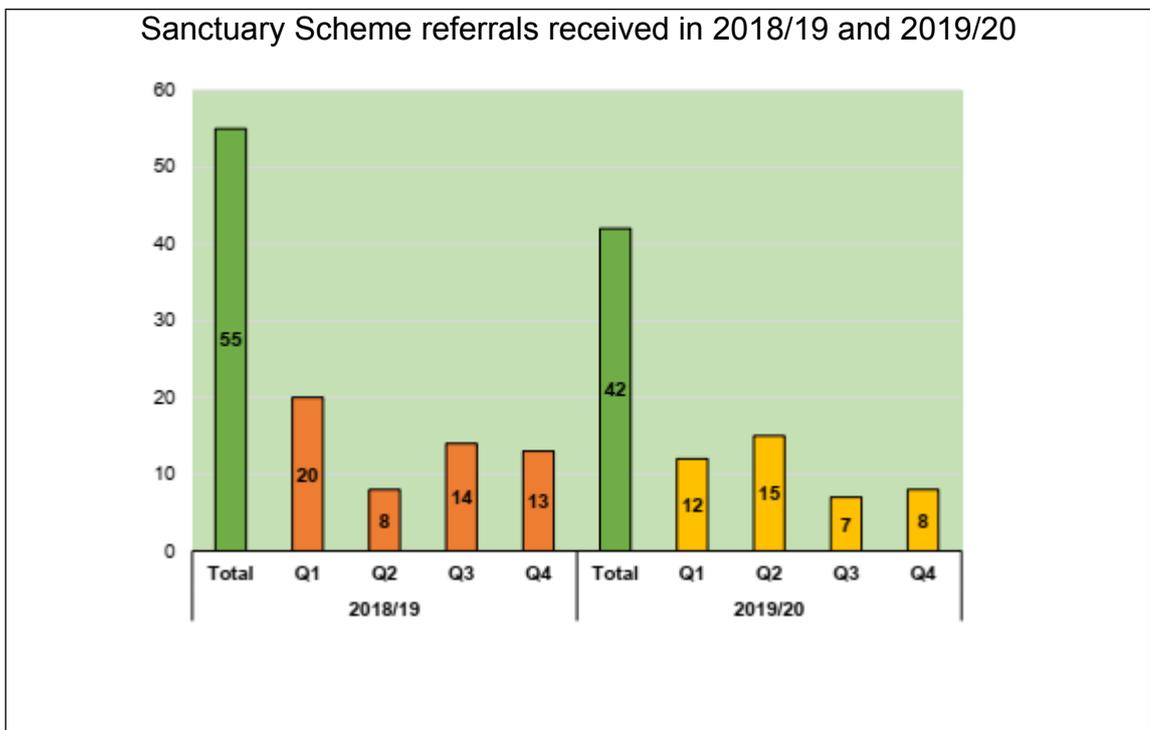
- a female in her fifties who has Down's Syndrome was verbally abused by a road user. The safe place contacted her social worker and a local PCSO.
- a distressed 30-year-old male with learning difficulties had become lost in town. Staff were able to calm him, provide reassurance and offer directions.
- one safe place in Abingdon was subject to several visits from a lady with mental health issues, where she was demanding and verbally abusive. Staff sought advice from the police and the adult mental health team. Staff were advised on the action to take, due to concerns around the lady's care and support needs. No further issues have been reported to date.

21. Feedback from staff has shown they are proud to tell their customers they are part of the scheme and would like the scheme to be promoted more in order to raise awareness of the added value this scheme brings to the whole community. The team aim to raise awareness in local newsletters in 2020/21.

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

22. The CSP provides funding to the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service (ODAS) to deliver outreach and support for women, men and children whose lives have been disrupted by domestic abuse in South and Vale. In 2018/19 A2 Dominion and Reducing the Risk were awarded the contract to deliver this service for the whole county and West Berkshire. In addition to outreach, they set up and run support groups and enable those in need to draw upon a range of resources, for example, providing a local help-line service (0800 731 0055) and refuge accommodation. In 2019/20, the service received a total of 1,892 calls to their helpline of which 312 were from residents in South and Vale. 762 callers chose not to disclose their location and 316 were out of area. Most of the calls received came from women and where callers disclosed their age, the largest proportion of callers were between 35 to 49 years old. Every helpline call receives safety planning, emotional support, signposting support to relevant services (housing, legal support, counselling) and help to access emergency orders. The main objective of outreach is to support people to reduce the risk towards them and to help them achieve independence, either through orders or going to refuge/places of safety. A total of 80 outreach assessments were carried out in quarter four, 2019/20. Of these 24 were for South Oxfordshire and 11 for Vale of White Horse, compared to 20 for Oxford City, 14 for West Oxfordshire and 11 for Cherwell. The majority of referrals came from victims themselves, which highlights the importance of the continued need to raise awareness of domestic abuse services to ensure victims know who to contact for help and support. The community safety team promote the helpline number on the district councils' webpages and through social media.
23. 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 2019/20 the community safety team co-ordinated 42 referrals compared to 55 in 2018/19 and 44 in 2017/18.





24. 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. Security works for 23 properties were carried out in 2019/20 compared to 43 properties in 2018/19 and 33 in 2017/18. For example, a change of locks, fire-proof letter boxes, or covert guard cameras. These additional security works provide comfort for the resident enabling them to feel safe in their own home. A total of £2,316 was spent on target hardening in 2019/20, of which £1,485 was spent on domestic abuse and £831 on burglary (cost excludes covert guard cameras)

Number of properties secured and average cost per works

Number of properties secured		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Burglary		3	1	7	3
Domestic Abuse		2	3	3	1
Totals 2019/20	5	4	10	4	Total 2018/19
	23				43

Average cost per works	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Burglary	£85	£101	£46	£50
Domestic Abuse	£87	£255	£162	£60
<b>Total average spend per works</b>	<b>£86</b>	<b>£217</b>	<b>£81</b>	<b>£53</b>

25. The CSP has a statutory duty to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. 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.

DHR	Date	Update
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 (manslaughter)	2014	Home Office requested further amendments to this review. Report resubmitted to Home Office in August 2020
Didcot (three murders)	2015	Review approved by Home Office. Action plan completed

Watchfield (one victim)	2017	Review approved by Home Office. Action plan completed
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26. Since their introduction in 2011, there have been twelve DHRs in Oxfordshire, four of these have taken place in South Oxfordshire and one in Vale of White Horse. Oxford City has carried out four reviews, one has taken place in West Oxfordshire and two in Cherwell.
27. The community safety team promoted the “Don’t Disappear” domestic abuse campaign launched by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner to raise awareness of coercive control and emotional abuse in relationships. This message was promoted on the councils’ websites, Facebook and twitter pages and featured the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse helpline number if someone needed support. The video, ‘Don’t Disappear’ can be viewed [here](#)

## MODERN SLAVERY

28. 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 CSP has developed a multi-agency approach to tackle exploitation with the introduction of an exploitation delivery plan for 2019/20. This plan supported the Oxfordshire Violence and Vulnerability delivery plan and Oxfordshire Modern Slavery delivery plan. This partnership approach aims to address the threat, harm and risk of County Drug Lines, local Organised Crime Groups, Child Drug Exploitation, Child/Adult Sexual Exploitation, Labour/Domestic Servitude Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation.

### **Anti-Slavery Awareness Day – 18 October 2019**

- The community safety team raised awareness of modern slavery using Geo Locate. This app displays a message about modern slavery when users log on to social media in a certain location. These messages were used in high footfall areas such as Didcot Railway Station, Oxford Services in Wheatley and town centres. £500 paid for 50,000 messages.
- Guidance on how to spot the signs and how to report any concerns about modern slavery featured in articles for both staff and councillors. Modern slavery is covered in the safeguarding training delivered to all staff as part of their introduction or refresher training every three years. In addition, the Willow Project, now part of Victims First, delivered modern slavery training to staff and partners (Soha). 59 people attended modern slavery training over the summer months. 72 per cent of attendees found the course to be excellent and 28 per cent felt the training was good. As a result of the training 100 per cent of participants declared they know what modern slavery is, what their responsibilities are and how to report a concern. Feedback from one attendee claimed the training was “Eye opening, relevant to our job role and excellent for raising our awareness”

- The Safe Car Wash app and unseenuk.org were promoted through social media. The Safe Car Wash app has been developed to help gather information about car washes. Whilst many hand car washes are legitimate businesses some of them are not. Nationally the police have uncovered victims of modern slavery living in horrendous conditions and being made to work in car washes. The Safe Car Wash app allows users to respond to a checklist of key factors that may suggest modern slavery or labour exploitation in hand car washes. If after responding to the questions, there is a likelihood of modern slavery at the hand car wash, the user will be prompted to call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.

## RURAL CRIME

29. The community safety team support and chair the South and Vale quarterly rural crime meetings bringing partners, landowners and farmers together to reduce incidents of rural crime. The police have access to the local rural crime 'Whats App' group which is made up of landowners, farmers and game keepers. This enables them to communicate and keep each other informed of any unusual activity in their location, providing support to each other and a local link with the police. During a week of action for rural crime in October 2019, local police teams conducted ten partnership operations to detect and deter rural crime.
30. A total of 16 arrests were made which led to four prosecutions. Seven vehicles and 14 dogs were seized. Messages were shared on social media that explained what rural crime is, how to protect against it and how to report a concern.

## BURGLARY

31. The community safety team supports vulnerable people being a victim of burglary by funding smartwater kits. Smartwater is a colourless liquid that contains a unique forensic code registered to an address and can be applied to valuable items discreetly. If marked items are stolen and recovered by the police, the smartwater can be detected by a UV light and used to trace back to the owner. When individuals are arrested in connection with burglary, they walk through a smartwater arch detector in custody. This will reveal if they have been in contact with smartwater as this shows up on their skin and clothing. The CSP funded 500 Smartwater kits in 2019/20 and these kits are issued in areas where there have been a series of burglaries. The Henley police neighbourhood team issued Smartwater kits to victims of motor board thefts from boats along the River Thames, victims of burglary in Goring and concerned members of the public during a crime prevention event in Henley town centre. In Didcot, where burglaries targeting family gold had occurred, police teams offered crime prevention advice and Smartwater kits to 19 families. The Abingdon neighbourhood police team visited over 200 premises from January to March following a series of burglaries targeting jewellery and family gold. They provided crime prevention advice and Smartwater kits and as a result of these visits, the crime rate reduced from 13 burglaries in 14 weeks to six burglaries in 21 weeks. This equates to a 68.5 per cent reduction. During March a total of 71 premises were visited in Kennington and

54 Smartwater kits distributed to tackle burglary. As a result of this intervention, the crime rate reduced from eight burglaries in 26 weeks to zero burglaries in nine weeks.

32. Feedback from users is always very positive and advice and Smartwater kits are well received. These kits help empower residents, increase resilience and reduce vulnerability. To qualify for Smartwater status in an area, 80 per cent of homes need to be covered. There are seven Smartwater streets in both Henley and Shrivenham, four streets in South Hinksey and eight in Cumnor. Signage is displayed to act as a deterrent to the opportunist thief. If you know someone who has been a victim of burglary and would benefit from a Smartwater kit they can contact Thames Valley Police on 101 or online <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/> and ask to speak to a member of the local police neighbourhood team for their area.

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

### CYBERCRIME

33. The community safety team promote messages from Action Fraud and Get Safe Online through our social media platforms throughout the year. The team shared social media messages on online-fraud prevention, how to spot an unsecure website and how to protect your personal data. During the pandemic the team have promoted advice on how to protect against phishing emails and Covid-19 related scams to encourage residents to protect their identities and keep safe whilst online.

### CHILD EXPLOITATION

34. 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 and funded the local delivery of "Chelsea's Story", a hard-hitting play that shows how young people can be 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 staff and young people in ten South and Vale secondary schools in May 2019. Over 1500 students saw the play. The schools match fund each production and plans are currently being drawn up to deliver the performance again when students are back at school.

Evaluation results out of 686 responses:

- 44 per cent of students were 'very aware' of the dangers of sexual exploitation before the production, 53 were 'slightly aware' and only three per cent were 'not aware'
- 42 per cent of students knew 'a lot' about how to stay safe and protect themselves from CSE before the performance, with 53 per cent knowing 'a little'

and only 5 per cent knowing 'not much'

- All students found the play useful and feel they have the knowledge to stay safe and protect themselves from being sexual exploited

Feedback from students:

'The play made me realise how young people can easily be exploited'

'I will check my privacy settings on my phone and only talk to people I know'

'I will share what I know to make sure my friends are aware'

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

35. 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. In April 2019, the CSP funded Oxford Against Cutting to deliver a 'Afro-beats against FGM', a workshop to include classroom activities and discussion, followed by an afro-beats dance workshop to embed the learning at Abingdon College. 11 students aged between 13 and 20 attended the workshop. Feedback from students found the session to be very informative with useful discussions and fun.

## HATE CRIME

36. The community safety team helped set up 12 hate crime reporting centres in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse in 2018/19 in partnership with Citizens Advice, Wantage Independent Advice Centre, Soha and Sovereign. If people don't feel able to report hate crime/incidents to the police, this service provides them with an alternative where they can speak in confidence to a specially trained member of staff. Staff will talk to the individual about the incident and can offer to report it to the police on their behalf. They will also refer them to Victims First, a service dedicated to ensuring that victims or witnesses receive the support they need to cope with and recover from their experience. In 2019/20, the councils' community safety team encouraged people to report hate crime as part of the launch of the 'Safe Places' scheme in Didcot, Wallingford, Wantage and Faringdon and this included raising awareness of these local hate crime reporting centres in the districts. The team also contacted all the centres to request feedback from them about how the service was being used and if they needed any further support to help them deliver it effectively. Although the response was limited and it has therefore not been possible to draw any robust conclusions, this engagement has given the centres a direct link to the community safety team if they feel that they do need to contact us for any help, training or advice in the future. The district councils' community safety team also co-ordinates the installation of guardcams (covert cameras) for vulnerable people in response to incidents of ASB, burglary, domestic abuse and other criminal activity. These cameras are funded by the CSP and have been installed to support victims of racial harassment during 2019/20.

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

### DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

37. The community safety team support the licensing and responsible authority meetings, a multi-agency group that pools resources to tackle premises of concern, reduce late night violence and associated crime and disorder.

#### Summary of enforcement action taken in 2019/20

- 18 joint operations held between April to December 2019 with Immigration Enforcement and partners. 14 illegal workers found.
- Trading Standards carried out a firework test purchase operation in November 2019. Five premises were visited in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse and all premises passed.
- between December 2019 and January 2020, Trading Standards conducted a knife sales operation where 18 premises were visited in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, four premises failed. Formal written warnings and advice was provided, one seller received a caution and one premise was prosecuted.

38. The community safety team migrated the existing Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO) in Abingdon, Henley and Thame over to Public Spaces Protection Orders in 2018 as set out in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Public Spaces Protection Order acts 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 May 2018)	<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>• 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>

39. A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) can last for up to three years, after which it must be reviewed. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, anecdotal evidence from the police (a critical stakeholder in relation to the PSPO as they enforce it) and information gathered by the district councils' community safety team indicated that there was no longer a need for the Abingdon Order:

- alcohol related ASB and vehicle related noise nuisance were not significant issues that the police were having to respond to in Abingdon town;
- the police have other powers they can use to tackle these problems which are more proportionate and effective.

40. Based on this feedback, along with responses from a consultation with key stakeholders, the district council was not planning to extend or vary the Order. However, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has changed the licensing laws to enable pubs and other licensed premises to sell alcohol for consumption off site. The Business and Planning Act 2020 came into force

on 22 July and automatically extends the terms of on-sales alcohol licences to allow for off-sales. These changes will be in place until 30 September 2021.

41. The district council is concerned that these changes may lead to an increase in the prevalence of alcohol related ASB in public spaces and has therefore agreed to vary and extend the current Abingdon PSPO as follows:
  - retain the conditions relating to alcohol consumption (section 1 of the existing Order) until 30 September 2021 so the police retain the power to tackle alcohol related ASB in a proportionate, swift and targeted way;
  - remove the conditions of the existing Order which relate to vehicle related ASB (section 2 of the existing Order)
42. The district councils' community safety team contacted relevant key stakeholders to consult them on this change of approach and no concerns were raised.

## **Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism: Improving the local response**

### SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

43. 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 and support local people vulnerable to being exploited by these gangs. Closure orders are a tool that the police use 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. In 2019/20, 35 closure orders have been issued by the police in South and Vale compared to four in 2018/19 and 11 in 2017/18. The increase is due to greater knowledge of the benefits of closure orders by police officers and improved engagement with the courts. The closure orders have a positive impact on residents as they give them back control over who can access their property.



44. These closure orders are often welcomed by vulnerable people whose lives have been taken over by organised crime groups. The orders help victims feel protected and in addition with other security works, they feel safe in their own homes. A breach of a closure order can result in a fine, imprisonment for up to three months, or both.
45. The Community Safety Manager attends the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Co-ordination Group which meets quarterly to share information on current crime 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

46. 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-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, low level intelligence/cases of concern relating to Prevent (for example, protest marches, internet propaganda) are shared at monthly Joint Tasking Meetings and relevant partnership action is agreed.

## **Anticipated direction of travel for the CSP in 2019/20**

47. 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 South and Vale CSP 2020/21 rolling action plan was signed off by CSP members in August 2020.

## **Financial Implications**

48. 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 2019/20 and will receive the same amount for 2020/21.

## **Legal Implications**

49. None

## **Risks**

50. None

## **Other Implications**

51. None.

## **Conclusion**

52. 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 Plan 2020/21
- Appendix B - Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2019/20
- Appendix C – South and Vale CSP financial summary 2019/20