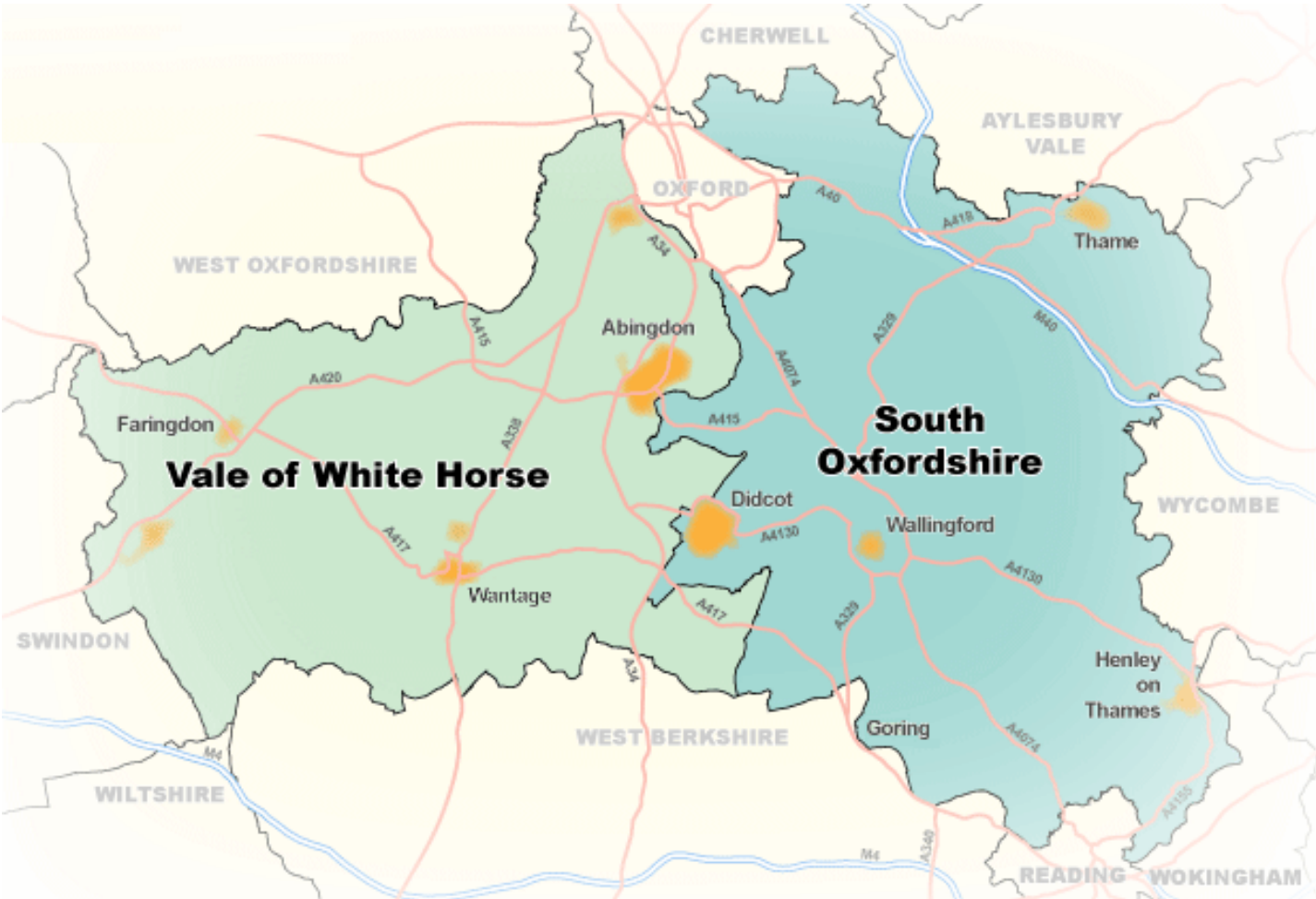


South and Vale Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-2025



**Confident and
safer communities**

**SOUTH AND VALE COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Foreword from South and Vale Community Safety Partnership Chair(s)

We are pleased to introduce the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership's Plan for 2022-2025. This document details the priorities for South and Vale's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for the next three years.



Councillor Helen Pighills



Councillor Georgina Heritage

The plan sets out how responsible authorities, such as the police, district councils, county council, probation service, public health, fire and rescue service along with the voluntary sector, young people service providers and schools will work together to tackle crime and support vulnerable people.

It takes into consideration the findings from Oxfordshire's Strategic Intelligence Assessment and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Criminal Justice Plan to ensure the South and Vale CSP has an evidence-based approach to tackling crime and supporting those people most vulnerable in our communities. The CSP will focus on four key priorities: domestic abuse, child exploitation, serious violence, and rural crime.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse is one of the safest places to live and work in Thames Valley and we are focused on keeping it that way, working with local organisations to reduce harm and support local services. By working together, we aim to make our communities safer and stronger.

Foreword from the Local Police Area Commander



Superintendent Lewis Prescott-
Mayling

I am the Police Commander for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Police Area (LPA), and the strategic lead for the Rural Crime and Serious Violence response within Thames Valley Police. As you may be aware our area covers approximately 485 square miles and hosts seven market towns. We have seen a significant increase in our population in recent years with the area hosting very attractive employment opportunities.

The geography and demography of our area mean we have some complex policing challenges, but through our coordinated work together with our CSP partners, we have some of the lowest crime levels in Thames Valley and continue to remain one of the safest places to live and work. However, we can and must continue to improve. **Thames Valley Police will focus on the operational aims serving victims, fighting crime and building trust.**

We are facing growing demands and ever-evolving policing challenges. For example, serious violent crime increased nationally over several years, resulting in the Serious Violence Strategy 2018 and the subsequent Serious Violence Duty which went live in early 2023. The new legal Serious Violence Duty enshrines in law how we work in partnership to reduce violence. **The police will ensure we are legally compliant and that we realise the benefits of this new way of working in partnership to reduce and prevent serious violent crime.**

Serious violence includes violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Casey Review highlights how much needs to be done in this area. Whilst this was about the Metropolitan Police, we are not complacent in Thames Valley. We have a VAWG strategy focusing on reducing VAWG, and domestic violence in all forms, with a clear activity **to increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice.** We will also be focusing on improving our response to the exploitation of the vulnerable via a **new exploitation management framework**, such as children used by County Drugs Lines to supply illicit deal drugs.

Our area is a beautiful rural part of the country but crime in the rural community has long lasting impacts, effecting the capability of our farmers to produce crops and rear livestock, increasing insurance premiums, eroding our heritage and our wildlife. Due to the areas size, we see a greater proportion of rural crime than other LPA(s). Tackling rural crime in its different forms will also therefore a priority and we wish to **reduce this crime type by five per cent this year**. The creation of a new Rural Crime Taskforce is already starting to make gains in this area, ensuring our LPA is a hostile place for criminals who carry out offences.

These priorities will help us to focus our efforts on the areas the residents of our area want to see progress in. Realising these priorities will improve public confidence in the partnership, reduce crime and improve the wellbeing of our community. Thames Valley Police is committed to working with our CSP partners to achieve these priorities as working in partnership, with and for our communities is the only way we can achieve these aims to our collective benefit.



What is the Community Safety Partnership?

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body which brings local organisations together to tackle crime, protect vulnerable people and help people feel safe. No single agency can solve complex community safety issues alone, so CSPs provide a multi-agency approach.

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 councillors and officers from both district councils and officers representing Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Board, Thames Valley Probation Service, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police, Soha Housing Limited, Sovereign Housing Limited and Office of the Police Crime Commissioner.

Demographic information South Oxfordshire

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has [released the first results from the 2021 Census](#) providing data at Local Authority level only, including population counts by 5-year age band and count of households. 149,100 residents were recorded as living in South Oxfordshire according to the 2021 Census an increase of 14,800 from the 2011 Census which equates to a 11.1 per cent increase.



South Oxfordshire

The population of South Oxfordshire is increasing from 143,800 in 2020 to 175,800 by 2030 (+32,000, +22 per cent). There is expected to be a significant increase in Didcot due to housing developments near Culham, at Great Western Park, Chalgrove and bordering Oxford Science Park. The population of Didcot and the surrounding area is expected to grow from 36,400 to 48,800 (+34 per cent).

The highest proportion of South Oxfordshire residents are aged 45 – 60 years old (28,400). There has been an increase of 25.1 per cent in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 7.9 per cent in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 6.7 per cent in children aged under 15 years.

Ethnicity data from the 2021 Census has not yet been published but as of the 2011 Census South Oxfordshire residents are predominantly White British (91 per cent)

The district of South Oxfordshire covers nearly 260 square miles. Its boundary reaches from the edge of the City of Oxford in the north-west along the borders of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to the outskirts of Reading in the south. It has four main towns: Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford, with Didcot becoming increasingly dominant as the main urban centre.

Demographic information Vale of White Horse



The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has [released the first results from the 2021 Census](#) providing data at Local Authority level only, including population counts by 5-year age band and count of households. 138,900 residents were recorded as living in Vale of White Horse according to the 2021 Census an increase of 17,900 from the 2011 Census which equates to a 14.8 per cent increase.

Vale of White Horse

The population of Vale of White Horse is increasing from 137,900 in 2020 to 174,000 by 2030 (+26 per cent). This is due to housing developments in Valley Park between Harwell and Didcot; Grove Airfield, Dalton Barracks and north of Abingdon. Wantage and Grove is expected to grow from 18,000 to 28,500 (+58 per cent). The area west of Didcot in Vale is expected to grow from 13,200 to 21,800 (65 per cent).

The highest proportion of Vale of White Horse residents are aged 30 – 60 years old (56,500). There has been an increase of 26.4 per cent in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 11.6 per cent in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 15.3 per cent in children aged under 15 years.

Ethnicity data from the 2021 Census has not been published yet but as of the 2011 Census Vale of White Horse residents are predominantly White British (90 per cent)

The district of the Vale of White Horse, whose name comes from the oldest chalk figure in Britain dating back to around 1000 BC, stretches from the edge of Oxford to the edge of the Cotswolds and Wiltshire borders. The district has three historic market towns, Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage. The area also covers Botley, located on the edge of Oxford, as well as the large village of Grove, near Wantage.

Crime data summary

Over the past twelve months (April 2023 to March 2024), all crime (excluding Fraud) in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse has decreased by 1.9 per cent. The total number of recorded crimes for 2023-24 is 13,379.

A total of 13,631 crimes were recorded in 2022-23 and 13,887 in 2021-22. Police recorded crime excludes offences that are not reported to, or not recorded by the police. Trends can be influenced by changes in recording practices making it difficult to make long-term comparisons.

Achievements in 2023-2024

2023-24 has been another busy year for the South and Vale CSP, which has been successfully operating as a single Partnership since April 2011. For examples of some of the activities the CSP supported, please see the [South](#) and [Vale](#) CSP's annual report to Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Achievements in 2023-2024

The community safety team runs monthly **Joint Tasking Meetings (JTM)** to maximise partnership working and ensure best use of resources. They problem solve complex cases to support the most vulnerable in our community. Officers from Thames Valley Police, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, Oxfordshire County Council Social Care, Housing service providers, Mental Health Teams, Fire & Rescue and other agencies share resources, knowledge and data to support:

- Repeat victims of ASB
- Medium/high risk ASB victims
- Families in need of intervention to avoid ASB
- Domestic abuse victims and perpetrators
- Prolific offenders
- Individuals with complex needs that do not meet the threshold for a safeguarding referral
- Vulnerable individuals (e.g. rough sleepers, individuals at risk of radicalisation, young people at risk of exploitation, persons dependent on drugs and alcohol and individuals suffering with their mental health)

Keeping our communities safe

In addition to delivering our core areas of work around anti-social behaviour and substance use, the CSP will focus on four key priorities:

Domestic Abuse

Modern Slavery/
Exploitation

Serious violence

Rural Crime

- An action plan has been developed for each of these priorities to establish clear measures so we can track the delivery and impact of our plan. We will deploy our Community Safety grant received from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support these priorities and continue to invest in early interventions to prevent harm developing.
- In addition to our established statutory duties, we will continue to measure crime data and will respond to any increases in demand. The CSP will review its performance on a quarterly basis, agree any remedial action necessary and provide an annual report to the district councils' joint scrutiny committee.

Working together to prevent violence in South and Vale

The Serious Violence Duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to identify and reduce serious violence in their areas.

Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.

Priorities one to three encompass this responsibility and demonstrate how we plan to reduce the harm caused by serious violence across our areas.

PRIORITY 1: Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer. The abuse can encompass (but is not limited to): psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional; online or digital abuse.

Why is it a priority?

Domestic Abuse makes up a significant proportion of violent crime, causing long lasting harm in families.

In 2023/2024 Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 2,366 domestic abuse incidents across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse compared to 2,362 in 2022/23 and 2,267 in 2021/22.

We will ensure all victims have access to information, advice, and support by:



Supporting local and national campaigns to raise awareness of domestic abuse and services locally



Promoting training to professionals and the voluntary sector to prevent and raise awareness of domestic abuse and local services available



Providing support to offenders and victims to ensure their safety and deter repeat offences

PRIORITY 2: Modern Slavery/ Exploitation

Modern Slavery is when an individual is exploited by others, for personal or commercial gain. Whether tricked, coerced or forced, they lose their freedom.

Why is it a priority?

Exploitation can have a devastating effect on the physical and mental health of individuals, their families and communities. Traumatic and adverse experiences, especially in childhood, can have lasting effect and make the individual more susceptible to harm in later life.

There were 166 cases of exploitation recorded across Oxfordshire from January – December 2023 of which 26 were recorded in South and Vale. In 2022, 102 cases were recorded for Oxfordshire of which 17 were in South and Vale.

We will ensure people have access to support services and information to make positive choices by:



Ensuring all modern slavery/exploitation concerns are reported and recorded and a multi agency approach and pathway is followed to support victims and disrupt activities.



Working with local young people service providers to provide positive pathways for young people by building confidence, communication skills and self esteem



Working with secondary schools to deliver early intervention projects to raise awareness of exploitation to prevent and protect young people from harm

PRIORITY 3: Serious Violence

Serious violence has a negative impact on individuals and communities. Violence can cause physical injury as well as psychological harm. Offences of violence with injury are estimated to have the highest cost impact of all crimes when considering all the costs to individuals and services.

Why is it a Priority?

In 2023/24 11,250 victim-based crimes were recorded by the police for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. This is 2.4 per cent increase compared to 10,983 in 2022/23 and 10,987 in 2021/22.

We will ensure people have access to a range of support services and information by:



Working with local young people service providers to help young people feel safe within their community and challenge negative behaviours towards young women



Working with partners and professionals to raise awareness of safe spaces and help available in our communities - Safe Places and Ask for Angela Schemes



Carrying out environmental visual audits where there has been an increased demand on services, to identify solutions and improvements to areas to prevent anti-social behaviour, serious violence and create stronger safer communities

PRIORITY 4: Rural Crime

Rural crime is defined as an offence that relates to farms, agriculture, wildlife, the environment, and heritage sites where they are targeted due to their isolation or rural location.

Why is it a Priority?

Rural crimes such as fly-tipping, burglaries to business/community, criminal damage and agricultural theft, have a devastating impact on rural communities.

241 rural crimes were recorded by the police in South and Vale in 2023-24, 317 were recorded in 2022-23.

We will listen to the needs and concerns of our rural communities and take action to address behaviours and crime by:



Creating a rural crime partnership to tackle rural crimes such as fly-tipping, burglaries and agricultural theft.



Working with rural communities to promote rural crime prevention and engagement to prevent them from being a target for criminals



Delivering multi-agency operations to support local crime trends and deal with offenders robustly

Alternative formats of this publication are available upon request. The South and Vale Community Safety Plan will be reviewed, refreshed and modified annually.

CONTACT US

For more information, please contact a member of the South and Vale Community Safety Team



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