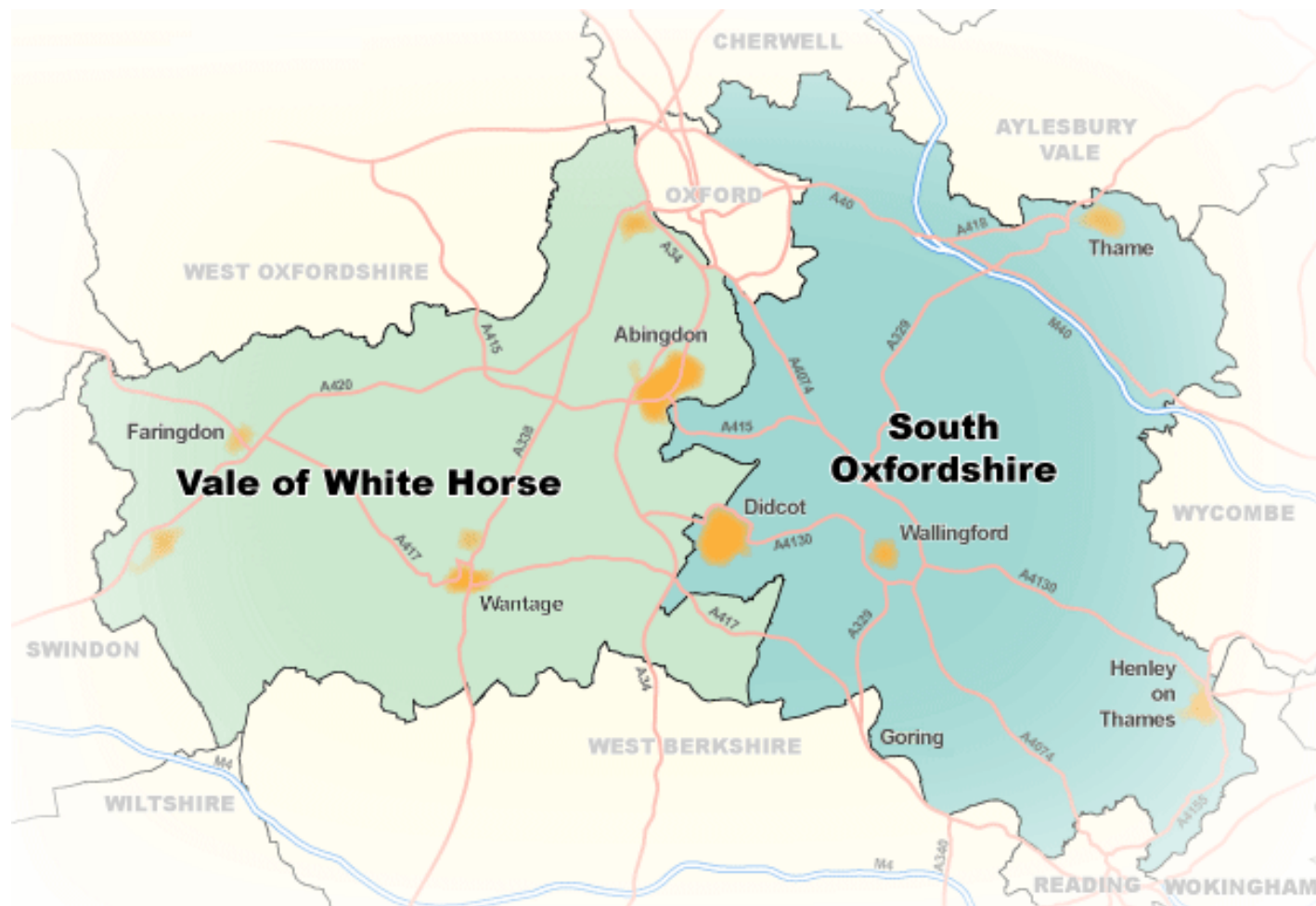


South and Vale Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-2025



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 Maggie Filipova-Rivers

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 Dave Horsburgh

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 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 demographic 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.

Over the last two years, policing has been operating against the backdrop of an unprecedented international pandemic. Policing is also now facing growing demands and ever-evolving policing challenges. To reflect this we have made some changes to our priorities.

Priority areas which will see greater focus are tackling serious violence, especially violence against women and girls (VAWG); understanding and reducing the risk and harm towards them. We will prioritise and focus our efforts on reducing and responding to domestic violence in all forms. We will also be focusing on improving our response to the exploitation of the most vulnerable, such as children used by County Drugs Lines to deal drugs within the community.

Finally, our area also sees a greater proportion of rural crime than other LPA(s) due to its significant number of rural communities who by their very nature are often isolated. Tackling Rural Crime in its different forms will also therefore be a priority for us to focus on. The creation of a new **Rural Crime Taskforce** is already starting to make gains within this area, ensuring our LPA is a hostile place for criminals who carry out rural offences.

These key priorities will help us to focus our efforts and continually strive to do better for the benefit of the public and our communities. We remain committed to working with our CSP partners and together, problem solving local issues to keep our communities safe and protect those who are most vulnerable.



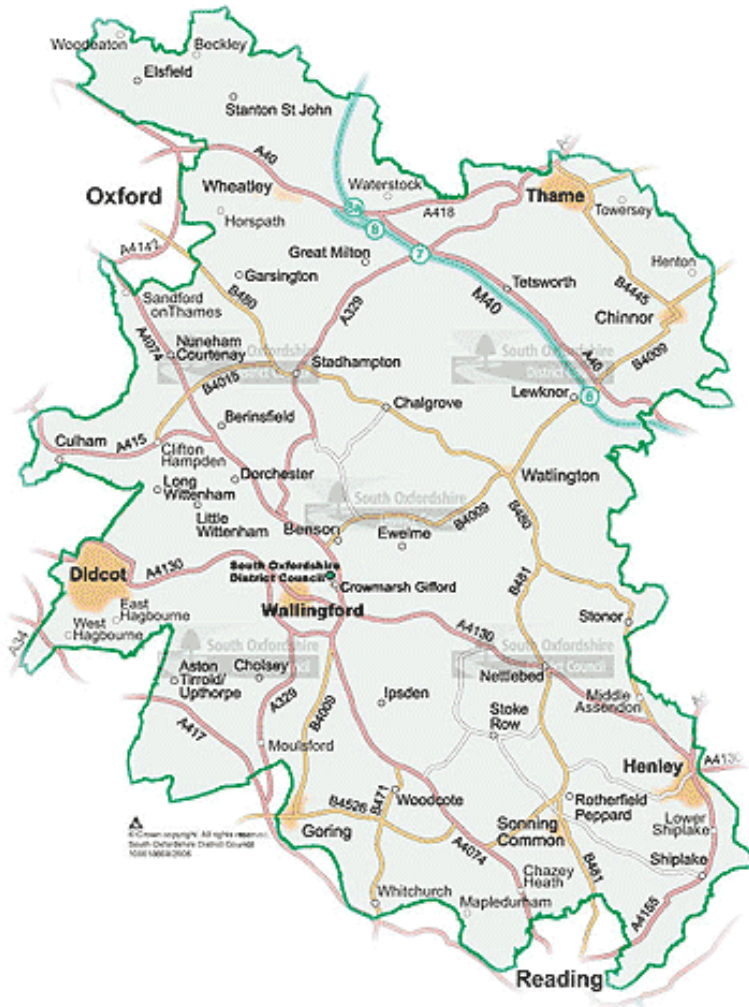
What is the Community Safety Partnership?

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 and 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 174,00 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 South Oxfordshire 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. 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 2021 to March 2022), all crime in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse has increased by 12.5 per cent, an increase of 1,567 crimes (excluding fraud). The total number of recorded crimes for 2021-22 is 14,155. This is in line with national police recorded crime which has returned to pre-pandemic levels. A total of 12,588 crimes were recorded in 2020-21 and 12,954 crimes in 2019-20. 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.

The overall crime category of [Violence Against the Person](#) offences has increased significantly across Oxfordshire which include malicious communications, assault without injury and stalking offences. Higher rates of crime and violent crimes are more likely to be associated with areas of deprivation

Achievements in 2021-2022

2021-22 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.

This year, we introduced a local **Violence Reduction Hub** to help reduce serious youth violence. The 'Hub' is designed to provide positive pathways for young people in South and Vale. Local young people service providers provide a vital role in the delivery of positive interventions, such as diversionary projects, mentoring programmes, programmes in schools and detached youth work. They offer support for young people to access employment, further education, and training by helping build their self-esteem and confidence. The voluntary sector along with statutory partners meet monthly to help support those young people most at risk in our communities.

Achievements in 2021-2022

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:

Reducing harm caused by domestic abuse

Supporting young people at risk of exploitation

Tackling violence against women and girls

Reducing 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.

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

PRIORITY 1: Reducing the harm caused by 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 Violence and Abuse makes up a significant proportion of violent crime, as well as causing long lasting harm in families. We know the long-term impact of experiencing domestic or sexual violence and abuse, whether directly or indirectly within a family situation, as an adult or as a child, can have a devastating effect on people's ability to cope throughout their life.

In 2021 Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 7,950 victims of domestic abuse. This was seven per cent above the three-year average for the years 2018 to 2020, with the greatest increases in Vale of White Horse (+11 per cent) and Cherwell (+10 per cent). Almost a third of domestic abuse victims were subject to repeat occurrences. 68 per cent of victims were female and 29 per cent male, with younger working age people and post-retirement age groups most likely to be victims. The number of recorded domestic crimes involving children has increased in Vale of White Horse from 533 to 578. In South Oxfordshire this number has decreased by 89 to 485 crimes.

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: Supporting young people at risk of 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.

Crimes involving exploitation often involve the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people, both adults and children on a physical, sexual or financial basis. Gang activity based around 'county lines', where drug dealers from elsewhere set up in local areas, leads to anti-social behaviour, violence and safeguarding concerns.

Reports of child abuse and exploitation continue to be a significant concern. In 2021 (Jan-Dec) Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 90 victims of Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire.

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



Providing support through the Channel process for individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism leading to terrorism (Channel Panel is made up of multi-agency partners who collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether intervention is necessary)



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: Tackling violence against women and girls

Serious violence has a negative impact on individuals and communities. 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?

Data provided by the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) shows a decrease in serious violence in Oxfordshire, with 297 recorded crimes in 2021, 21 per cent below the three-year average (2018-2020). Between the 2018-20 average and 2021 however, serious violence increased in South Oxfordshire (10 per cent) and Vale of White Horse (nine per cent).

According to the VRU, substance use, ASB, previously committed offences, gang membership, family deprivation and high crime areas were identified as risk factors that increased individuals' likeliness of being involved in serious violence during 2021.

Over 40 per cent of suspects in serious violence during 2021 in Oxford and Vale of White Horse have previously been a suspect in a drugs possession offence.

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 places and help available in our communities - Through the 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 and create stronger communities

PRIORITY 4: Working with rural communities to tackle 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.

In year ending December 2021, Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 548 rural crimes in Oxfordshire above the number recorded in 2020 (424). This change may be a result of changes in recording. Of the 548 rural crimes reported, 212 were recorded in South Oxfordshire and 140 in Vale of White Horse. The top rural crime was criminal damage.

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



Working with rural communities to identify rural issues relevant by area



Working with rural communities and partners to raise awareness of rural crime and tackle rural crime through effective partner communications



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



Confident and safer communities

**SOUTH AND VALE COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership plan will be reviewed, refreshed and modified annually.