

# Joint Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Legal and Democratic

Author: Karen Brown/Katharine Doherty (Community Safety Team Leaders)

Telephone: 01235 422592

Textphone:

E-mail: [karen.brown@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:karen.brown@southandvale.gov.uk)

Wards affected: All Wards

Cabinet member responsible: David Rouane

Executive member responsible: Helen Pighills

Tel: 07957 287799

Tel: 01235 534446

E-mail: [David.Rouane@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:David.Rouane@southoxon.gov.uk)

E-mail: [Helen.Pighills@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Pighills@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

To: Joint Scrutiny Committee

To: Joint Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 27 November 2023

DATE: 27 November 2023

## South and Vale Community Safety Partnership – performance report

### Recommendation(s)

(a) To note the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) made in 2022-23 in delivering its priorities and statutory functions

(b) To support the CSP's view that the 2022-25 plan will deliver core priorities and statutory functions and focus on these four key priorities:

- domestic abuse
- modern slavery/exploitation
- serious violence
- rural crime

## Purpose of Report

1. The 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.

## Strategic Objectives

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
  - Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Board
  - Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
  - Thames Valley Police (TVP)
  - Thames Valley Probation Service
  - Sovereign Housing Association
  - Soha Housing
  - Office of the Police Crime Commissioner
  - 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. To align with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Criminal Justice Plan we have introduced a three-year plan. The 2022-25 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. The Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2023 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.
7. The Community Safety Fund is a grant provided by the PCC to upper tier local authorities to help CSPs deliver their priorities and statutory duties. We are able

to apply for community safety funding via Oxfordshire County Council which is allocated to each agency based on evidential need.

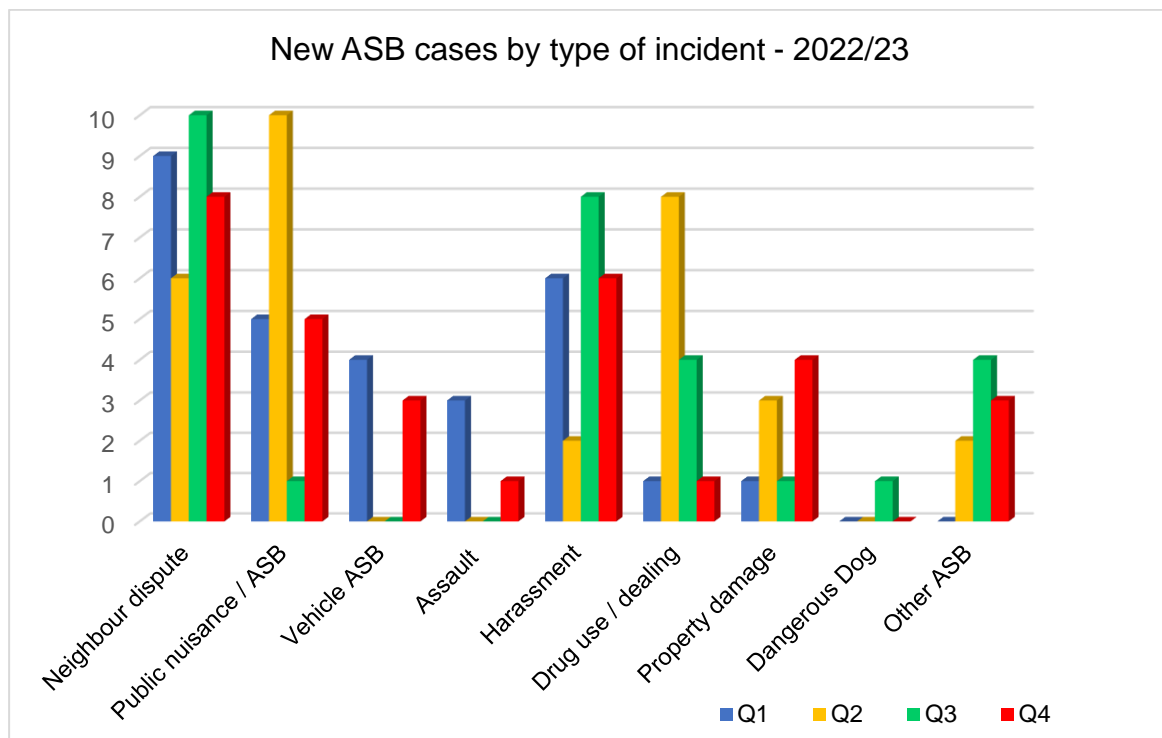
8. The CSP financial summary for 2022-23 can be found in Appendix C.

## Delivering the community safety partnership's Four key priorities – summary of key areas of work in 2022-23

### Anti-social behaviour

#### New partnership agreement for tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB)

9. In 2022/23, the community safety team worked with the police, Soha, Sovereign and colleagues from other district council teams to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding ASB. The MoU clarifies how key partners will work together to respond to reports of ASB from residents. A copy can be found on the district councils' websites, as part of our own ASB case management policy. In accordance with this MoU, the councils' community safety team always encourages residents to report ASB directly to the police and/or their housing provider (if appropriate). However, we also provide an alternative reporting option if people don't feel comfortable doing so. In 2022/23, the team investigated 122 reports of ASB across the two districts. The graph below shows the range of ASB issues that residents reported to the community safety team between April 2022 and March 2023:



When the community safety team investigates these reports, we always work very closely with members of the CSP to ensure that all appropriate action is being taken to try and resolve the problem(s).

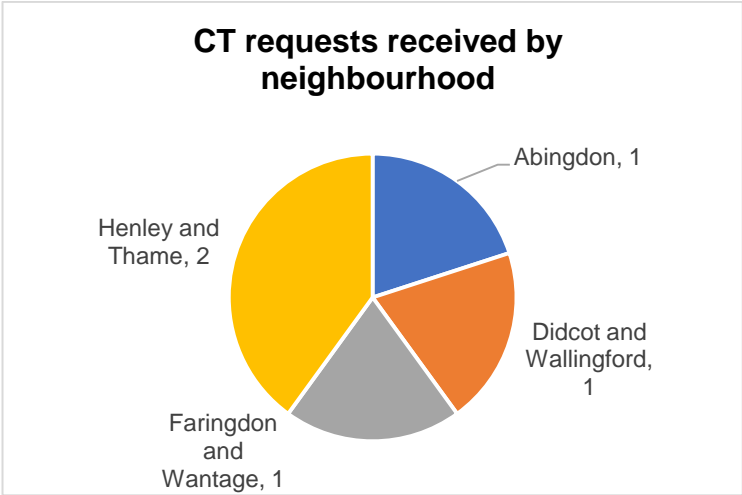
**Community triggers/ASB cases reviews**

10. Partners of the CSP aim to respond to and resolve ASB cases at the earliest possible stage before the issues escalate. However, there are times when residents report ASB to agencies on numerous occasions and do not feel satisfied with the response they've received. When this happens, they can request a community trigger/ASB case review (in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014).

11. On behalf of the CSP, the community safety team manages this process, which includes:

- taking receipt of requests for triggers/case reviews;
- checking that requests meet the threshold for a trigger to be carried out (a person needs to have reported the same ASB issue on three or more occasions to a relevant authority within a six-month period);
- arranging case review meetings for those requests that have met the threshold, where an independent chair discusses the case with relevant agencies to review what has been done and what else needs to be done to tackle the reported ASB;
- taking the draft action plans to South and Vale Joint Tasking Meetings (JTM) for consideration and sign-off;
- monitoring delivery of the action plans and keeping both the requester and JTM informed of progress;
- publishing key data about community triggers on the councils' websites.

12. In 2022/23, we received five trigger requests.



Two of these requests met the threshold (both related to neighbour ASB) and case review meetings were held. Although the actions already taken by the agencies involved were considered to have been reasonable, the case reviews did identify additional actions to help address the persistent ASB. These included:

- improving security measures to help victims of ASB feel safer in their homes;
- identifying opportunities for joint agency visits to help provide more comprehensive support and/or enforcement action to those involved in ASB;

- signposting people to free mediation;
- improving the sharing of information between agencies to avoid duplication of work and secure the best outcome for those involved in ASB.

The three Trigger requests that did not meet the threshold were still investigated by the community safety team who provided appropriate advice.

### **Mediation service to tackle ASB**

13. In 2022/23, the CSP funded Mediation Bucks to provide a mediation service to help agencies including the councils, the police and housing providers tackle neighbour related ASB. Any resident who was in dispute with their neighbour and struggling to resolve the issue could access the service, free of charge. Mediation brings both parties together with an independent person to listen to everyone involved in the dispute and help them to find a solution. If either party is reluctant to meet with the other party, Mediation Bucks can provide 'shuttle mediation' as an alternative where information is relayed via the mediator. In total, the service received and managed 16 referrals, with the average cost per referral being £250. Parties that accessed mediation to address neighbour related ASB were much less likely to report further incidents to relevant agencies (88% of the cases which were referred to the mediation service did not generate any further repeat reports of the neighbour related ASB to the referring agency). This may be because the mediation had resolved the conflict, or the complainant has realised that the issues do not warrant agency intervention. We also identified that even just offering mediation to parties involved in cases of neighbour ASB helps to reduce the number of repeat reports made to relevant agencies. This may be because it provides those involved with the opportunity to reflect on their role in the conflict and puts some onus on them to try and proactively resolve the issues. This may, in turn, provide them with a different perspective in terms of the significance of their neighbours' behaviour on their quality of life.

#### **Mediation case study (2022/23)**

Two women live in adjacent properties owned by a Housing Association. The ongoing dispute between them had arisen from complaints on both sides about noise nuisance and property damage. For example, one neighbour had accused the other of cutting holes in the hedge dividing their properties at the rear which had resulted in their dogs escaping from the back garden.

Both parties had complained to the Housing Association, whose housing officers then visited each in turn but this did not seem to help the situation. To begin the mediation process, mediators visited both parties separately to understand the neighbour dispute from their own individual perspectives.

Following this, both neighbours agreed to a joint meeting which was held in the local village hall. During this meeting:

- one of the women explained that her dogs were her life and helped balance the other pressures she was experiencing due to her caring needs. She had the dogs insured but the insurance company would not pay out if the dogs escaped and caused harm or damage. She admitted to coming across as aggressive when she was upset.

- The other neighbour explained that she suffered from depression but now had a new partner and was going out more. She had genuinely heard noise from her neighbour's property but had accepted that its cause would remain unexplained. She said that she understood the problem with the hedge and apologised.
- There was more general talk about issues that had arisen in the past and more understanding of how these had affected each other.

An agreement was reached whereby one neighbour would put up a temporary fence until the damaged hedge had grown back and the other party would not touch the laurel. If they needed to speak to each other then it would be done by telephone in the first instance and if the timing was not right to talk then, they would arrange to speak later.

They parted on good terms and no further reports of ASB have been made.

## Domestic Abuse

### Supporting victims of domestic abuse

14. 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 2022, A2 Dominion and Reducing the Risk were awarded the contract to deliver this service for the whole county. 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. Every helpline call receives safety planning, emotional support, help to access emergency orders and signposting to relevant services (housing, legal support, counselling). In 2022-2023 the service received a total of 4,730 calls to helpline. Individual cases totalled 1,665 of which 386 were from residents of South and Vale which equates to 23 percent. This compares to 1,535 in 2021-2022 where 341 were from residents in South and Vale equating to 22 per cent and 1,757 in 2020-2021 where 406 referrals were from residents in South and Vale equating to 23 per cent.
15. 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. The total number of referrals for outreach support was 192, of those 102 were from South and Vale equating to 53 percent. This compares to 249 referrals in 2021-22 of which 90 were from South and Vale (36 per cent) and 232 in 2020-21 where 85 were from South and Vale equating to 37 per cent. Outreach support is provided by the clients preferred method of contact, such as Zoom, Teams, telephone and in person.
16. A further 57 clients were supported by Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) who support high risk victims of domestic abuse. Most of these referrals came from victims themselves, which highlights the importance of the continued need to raise awareness of domestic abuse services to ensure victims and families 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. The young person's IDVA (YPIDVA) appointed in June 2021 to work with

clients aged 16-25 for all risk levels received 78 referrals in 2022-23. Of those 41 were from South and Vale equating to 53 per cent. YPIDVA left ODAS in January 2023 and referrals were taken by the IDVA service at Reducing the Risk

## **South and Vale Case Study from YPIDVA**

### **Background/Risks**

- Client self-referred into ODAS helpline
- Client was previously supported to flee to refuge however returned following a non-related traumatic incident
- Client perpetrator had found out that she had returned home
- Extreme escalation in physical incidents following their relationship resuming
- Client wanting to flee relationship again

### **Interventions**

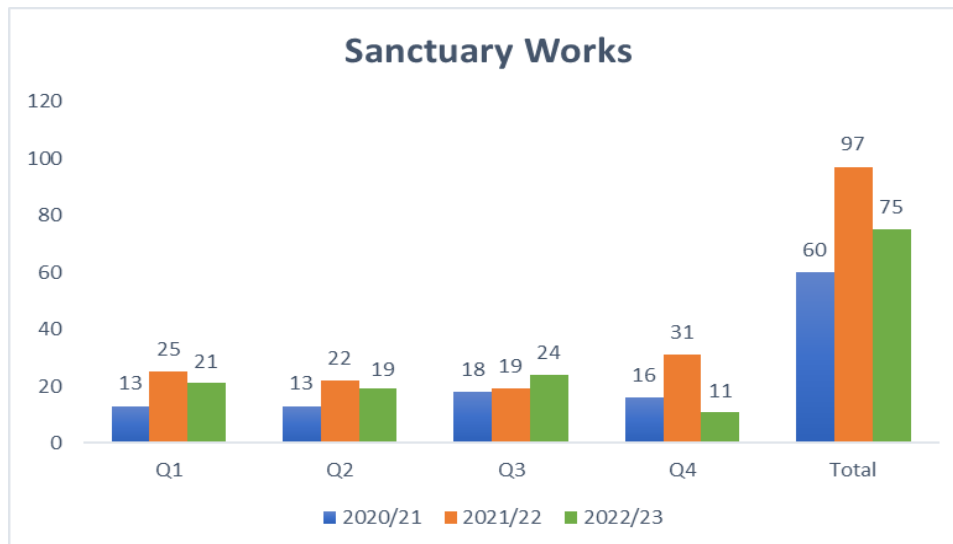
- Supported client with presenting homeless to local council
- Liaised with professionals within the council to help client flee to emergency accommodation
- Safety Planning completed
- Communication with TVP's Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit for support with managing risk
- Communication with all professionals involved
- Referral completed to Oxford Mutual Aid
- DV Assist referral completed
- Supported client in Family Court
- Signal flags placed on address' client was staying at to make police officers aware of DA if attendance at the premise is required
- Emotional support around the DA experienced
- Weekly telephone sessions and on demand when required by the client
- Face-to-face appointments provided upon client's request
- Provided client with £100 shopping vouchers

### **Outcomes**

- Client engages well with telephone and face-to-face sessions
- Client was moved into emergency accommodation on the same day as presenting as homeless
- Client was placed onto band 1 priority for 2 councils
- Client has obtained a non-molestation order
- Client has received a food parcel from Oxford Mutual Aid
- Client has bid on a property and is hoping to move soon
- Client has not had any contact with the perpetrator since moving
- Client is feeling safer

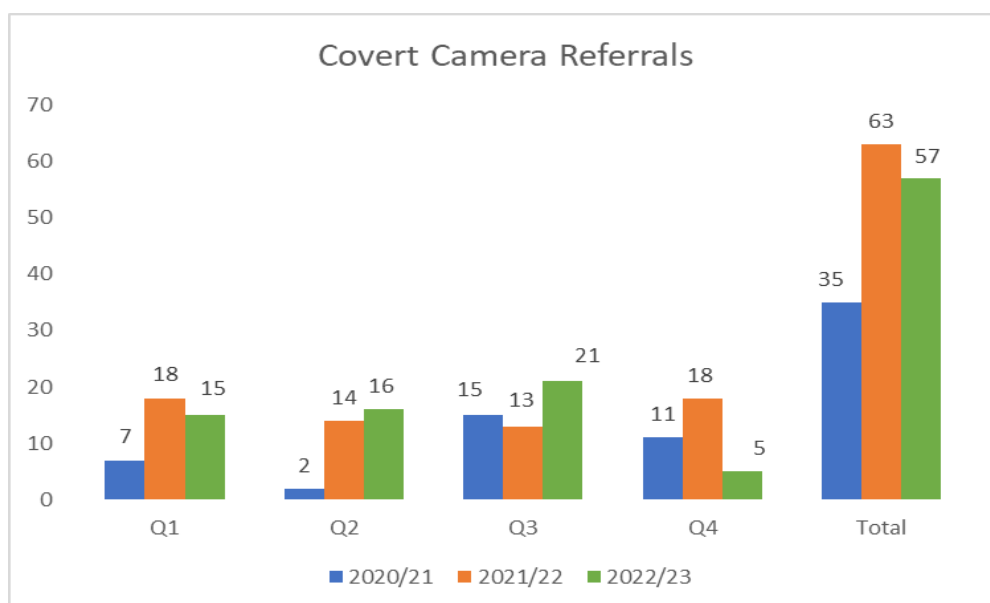
## Domestic Abuse Sanctuary Scheme

17. The community safety team 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 2022-23 the community safety team co-ordinated 75 referrals compared to 97 in 2021-22 and 60 in 2020-21.



18. The CSP also fund small repairs/security works under the sanctuary scheme to help private tenants/owner occupiers at risk of domestic abuse stay and feel safe in their own home. 11 properties received security works in 2022-23 compared to 24 properties in 2021-22 and 11 properties in 2020-21. The total cost of sanctuary works provided by Mears in 2022-23 was £1,835 compared to £3,900 in 2021-22 and £985 in 2020/21. The average cost per job is £167. Security works can include a change of locks, bolts and chains, fire-proof letter boxes, and covert cameras. Please note this sum does not include the cost of purchasing, installing, or removing covert cameras/devices. The community safety team co-ordinate referrals for guard-cams and digital door views (covert cameras) in response to not only domestic abuse but other crimes such as burglary, ASB and exploitation. The device is normally put in place for up to six months to capture future incidents and provide additional security and reassurance. After six 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. A total of 85 cameras (60 guard cams and 25 digital door viewers) were installed in 2022-23 compared to 115 cameras in 2021-22 and 72 in 2020-21. 10 people chose to retain their cameras and purchased them from the CSP in 2022-23. In relation to domestic abuse, 57 cameras were installed in 2022-23 compared to 63 in 2021-22 and 35 in 2020-21. Feedback from one of the residents who purchased a camera described how she was grateful for the support and felt safe knowing the camera was there.





## Domestic Homicide Reviews

19. The CSP has a statutory duty to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews 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.

Summary of Domestic Homicide Review's in South and Vale:

DHR	Date	Update
Thame (two murders, one attempted murder)	2012/13	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 (suicide)	2017	Review approved by Home Office. Action plan completed
Kennington (suicide)	2021	In progress
Drayton (suicide)	2022	In progress
Wallingford (murder)	2022	In progress

20. Since their introduction in 2011, there have been 16 DHRs in Oxfordshire, five of these have taken place in South Oxfordshire and three in Vale of White Horse. Oxford City has carried out four reviews, one has taken place in West Oxfordshire and three in Cherwell.

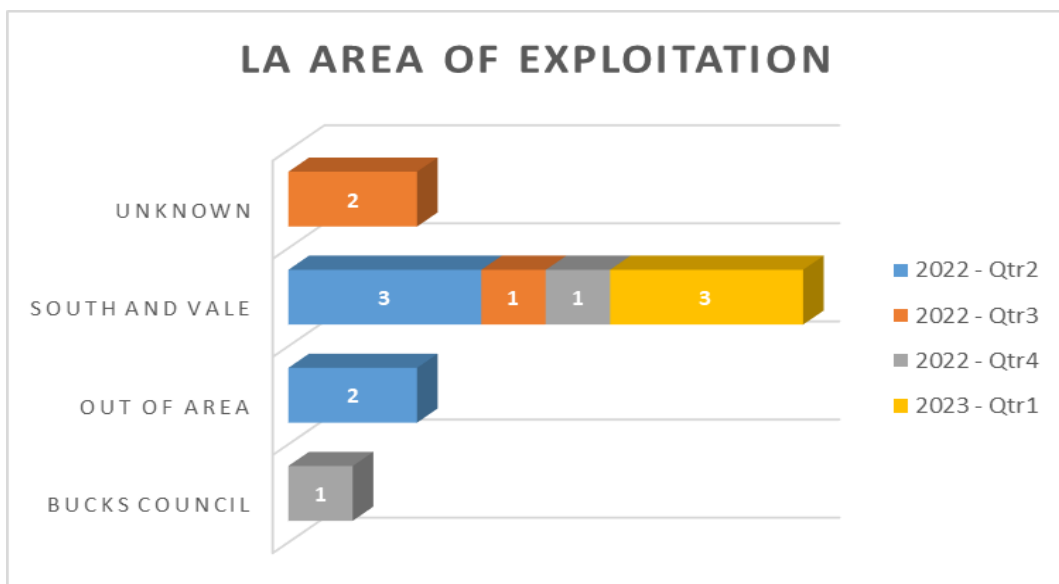
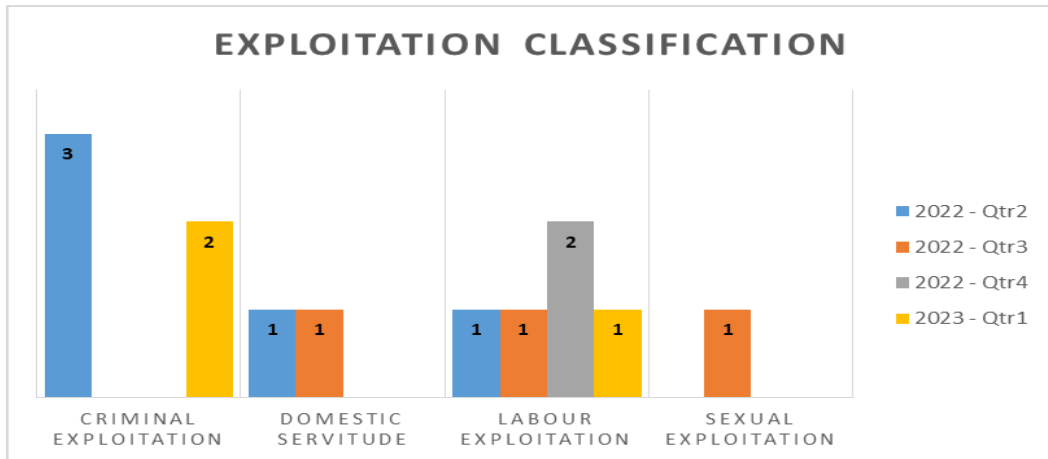
### **Raising awareness of domestic abuse**

21. The community safety team continue to promote domestic abuse messages to raise awareness of local support available, for example White Ribbon Day on 25 November which aims to engage men and boys to end violence against women and girls. This day fell on the same week as the launch of the FIFA Men's World Cup and South and Vale followed the lead of the White Ribbon charity by linking the two together. Statistics show domestic abuse and violence tend to rise when large football tournaments occur, and social media posts were launched on 25 November (White Ribbon Day) and 29 November (when England were playing Wales). The community safety team worked with Reducing the Risk on a domestic abuse awareness campaign called 'Striding out for Survivors'. Members of the public, staff and partners were encouraged to walk and post their pictures on Reducing the Risk social media platforms to show their support for survivors of domestic abuse. 175 high risk domestic abuse victims were supported by the charity across Oxfordshire in 2021-22 and this campaign was an opportunity to promote support available to anyone who may need it across South and Vale.
22. The community safety team promote domestic abuse training courses provided by Oxfordshire safeguarding boards throughout the year to staff to support them when dealing with victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. This year the team worked with Oxfordshire Sexual and Rape Crisis Centre to promote sexual awareness and training was delivered to seven staff members in November 2022.

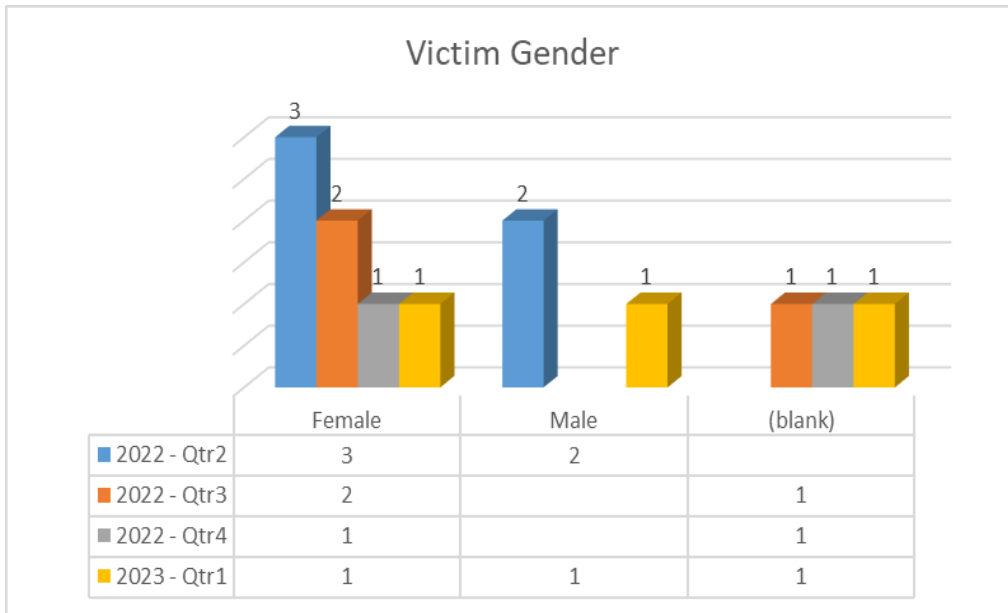
### **Exploitation/Modern Slavery**

#### **Multi-agency approach to tackling exploitation/modern slavery**

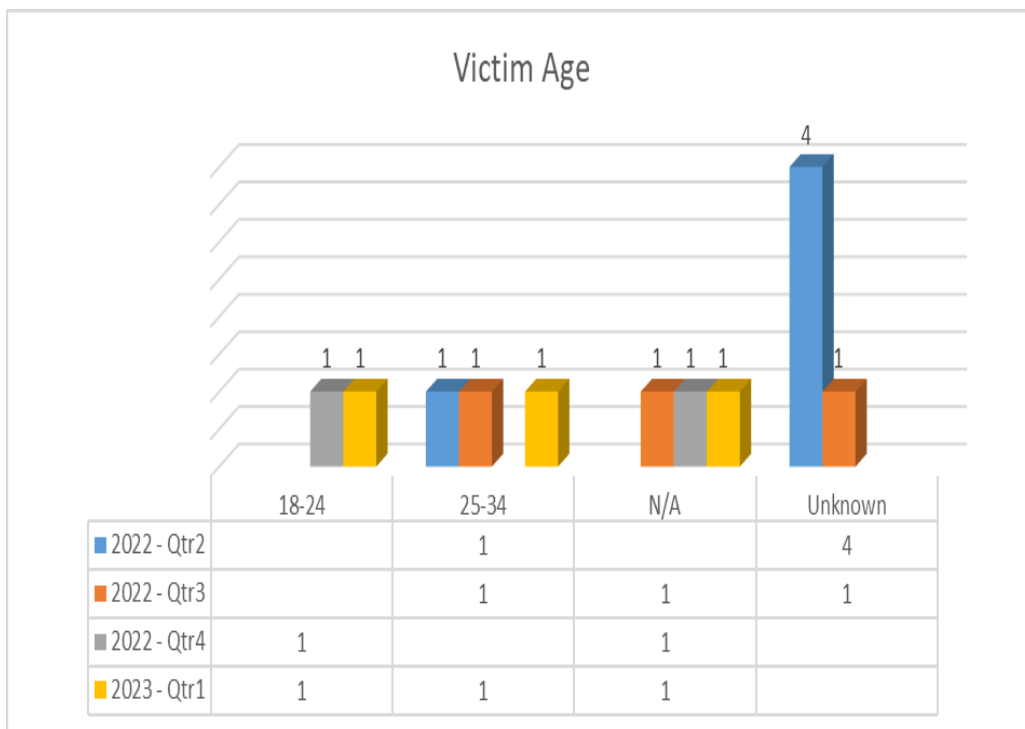
23. Specific public authorities, including partners of the CSP have a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any person identified in England and Wales as a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. An Oxfordshire Anti-Slavery Coordinator has been appointed as a central point for all agencies dealing with adult victims of exploitation, modern slavery, and trafficking. There were 91 cases of exploitation recorded across Oxfordshire from Jan – Dec 2022 of which 13 were recorded in South and Vale. The below graphs show the type of exploitation, where it was recorded and victim profiles.



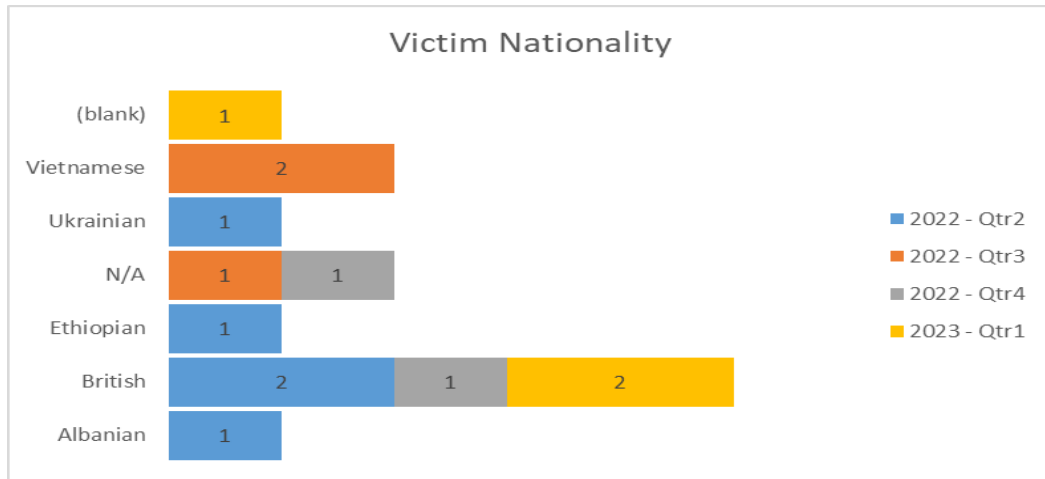
This data reflects where the exploitation occurred. Sometimes the victim is identified in an area but was not necessarily exploited there. For example, a victim who lives in South Oxfordshire or Vale of White Horse was exploited in High Wycombe, hence why Bucks Council is on the graph.



Blanks refer to alerts to businesses and premises, so we do not have victim demographics.



N/A relates to a business/premises so not applicable to log age.



Blank refers to age unknown and N/A relates to a business

24. All modern slavery/exploitation concerns are reported to and recorded by the Oxfordshire Anti-Slavery Coordinator who will assess each case and co-ordinate an effective response. This involves a [multi-agency approach and referral pathway](#) that supports victims and disrupts activities.

### Raising awareness of child sexual exploitation

25. The community safety team have been working on projects to prevent children from being exploited. They co-ordinated performances of “Chelsea’s Story” and ‘Crashing’, hard-hitting plays over the school academic year to show 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. Chelsea’s Story focusses on sexual exploitation from a female perspective and Crashing from a male viewpoint. These plays were offered to 17 secondary schools across South and Vale. Eight schools participated in the project and paid a contribution towards the cost of each performance. Seven ‘Chelsea Story’ performances were delivered, and three ‘Crashing’ performances. Two performances of ‘Crashing’ were cancelled due to teacher strikes and a further two performances were cancelled due to a family bereavement in the Alter Ego theatre company.

Feedback received from students:

- *‘I think it’s very good that they did this performance because it gave me a lot of further knowledge on the subject’*
- *‘I think the performance was very informative. I found out more on how CSE could happen and how you can recognise it if it happens to someone else’*
- *The play was great to watch, and I saw the signs of sexual exploitation and even their behaviour*

- *I thought it was good and it showed what to do if you were in a situation like that as well as showing how bad it is*
- *I learned about a lot of things I probably wouldn't have thought of beforehand. This was helpful and will allow me to be careful in the future.*

Other feedback received:

- *What a powerful message for the young people, a professional performance that I have no doubt will have an impact on the young people. – **Thame Youth Café***
- *I have just returned home from the performance, and it was excellent with such an important message. – **Local Councillor***
- *We found the performance amazing, it was very hard hitting and factual, the way in which it was performed was fantastic, acting and then summarising through the 'teacher' in the play. The staff that were in attendance with their classes thought it was a brilliant performance, that it was factual, thought provoking and kept the attention of both year groups, not a mean feat! Alter Ego were very professional and enthralling, they spoke brilliantly at the beginning and end when summarising the play and taking questions – **Teacher***

## Preventing and protecting those vulnerable to extremism

26. Under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 local authorities have a duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Licensing and 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.

## Serious Violence

### Tackling violence against women and girls

27. The community safety team support the licensing and responsible authority meetings, a multi-agency groups that pools resources to tackle premises of concern, reduce late night violence and associated crime and disorder. This year, the team reviewed the scheme 'Ask for Angela'. 'Ask for Angela' helps those who feel unsafe or at risk of sexual violence in the night-time economy access support discreetly. With support from PCSO's, 140 venues were identified to support this scheme. The Ask for Angela posters have been updated and were distributed by

partners in the run up to the festive season. Premises have been promoted on [South Oxfordshire District Council](#) and [Vale of White Horse District Council](#) web pages.

## **Supporting vulnerable people with Safe Places**

28. 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, community, and leisure centres to identify themselves as Safe Places. In 2022, the scheme was extended to Botley, and we currently have 87 Safe Places across Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage and Grove, Botley, Didcot, Wallingford, Henley, Thame and in the villages of Goring, Woodcote, Sonning Common, Wheatley and Chinnor. There are more details about safe places on the [national website](#). The community safety team continue to review our safe places, to ensure the businesses signed up are still open for business and importantly, willing to continue their participation. We are looking to extend the scheme to restaurants, cafés, and hotels to ensure safe places are available during all hours and we will work with the councils' communications team to promote the scheme across the districts.

## **Using Environmental Visual Audits to make our communities safer for all**

29. Some places in our communities can become 'no-go' areas where people feel unsafe because of ASB and wider criminality – one way of tackling these issues is to carry out a multi-agency Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) to identify the things that need to be improved in the physical realm to improve levels of safety. In 2022/23, the councils' community safety team had been receiving reports of people damaging property and intimidating residents in a residential area in Thame. Working with the police, we better secured a vulnerable resident's property to help ensure they felt safer in their home and deter the ASB. Following this work, we wanted to see if there were other things we and our partner agencies could do in the wider community to tackle the ASB so we carried out an EVA. Our Community Safety Officer organised a walk-about with the police, Soha and the town council to identify where practical improvements could be made to the local environment to make people feel safer when out and about in the estate.

During this visit, we spotted a number of things that needed attention, including:

- broken fencing, enabling unauthorised access to/from the estate;
- poor visibility in an alley way due to overgrown hedges and limited street lighting;
- lots of litter across the estate;
- a build-up of larger rubbish items left in communal areas;
- a children's play area that needed some attention to encourage more families to use it.

To help address these issues:

- Soha and the police organised a litter-pick day where residents, including local young people, helped to tidy the communal areas. A free open skip was also available on-site to give residents the chance to dispose of unwanted bulky rubbish.
- The town council have put in place regular inspection schedules and are looking to repaint the children's park.
- Soha have replaced the broken fencing and works to add new fencing and a gate to reduce access to high ASB areas will be carried out shortly.
- Soha organised for the overgrown foliage to be cut back on the alley way and from around the streetlight and will ensure this is done on a regular basis moving forward.

Residents have reported that they feel safer and happier with their neighbourhood from conversations during the litter picking day.

30. Following reports from the police about significant issues of anti-social behaviour at the council's Undercroft Car Park in Wantage, the community safety team has also carried out an Environmental Visual Audit there. In partnership with our car park colleagues and the police, we identified a number of things that could be done to help improve the car park from a safety perspective. Some quick improvements were actioned (e.g. replacing vandalised fence panels to stop unauthorised access to land adjacent to the car park). Longer term actions will be explored in 2023-24.

### **Diversionsary projects to deter young people from criminality**

31. The community safety team in partnership with Active Communities Team and housing providers delivered 12 skate park sessions for young people across both districts to prevent anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. The skate park sessions were delivered by ATB Skate Warehouse offering tuition, games, competitions, and prizes. In several locations, additional activities were held by local young people service providers to encourage further participation with their youth services. One of the youth providers commented: *'The events provided excellent chances for us to undertake detached work with some of the young people who are typically hard to reach'*. Approx 20-30 young people attended each session. Where other events were held alongside the skate sessions, reports of up to 200 people were in attendance. 100 per cent of young people who provided feedback rated the session 'good' or 'very good' and all said they would attend sessions again. Two young people mentioned that learning how to use the ramps and skatepark was the highlight of the event. The police neighbourhood teams commented how the skate parks were very busy following the sessions and no increases in ASB were identified.
32. To support vulnerable young people across South and Vale, the community safety team supported young people service providers to provide positive activities for young people.

<p>Nomad – provide targeted support for young people and families disadvantaged through economic and/or complex social issues in Henley and surrounding villages.</p>
---

<p>Case Study</p>
-------------------



YP has been supported by Nomad for a long period of time initially through mentoring with secondary schools and more recently 16+ mentoring via our offices. Long term issues have included substance misuse which has subsequently had a negative impact of their health, finances and family relationships. YP has gone through a period of relative stability where they have been able to maintain a job. Nomad support had therefore been reduced. In February Nomad were contacted by YP who was in some distress. They had been fired from their employment and had gone on a drug binge. Their parents were arguing in the home and talking about divorce which was adding pressure and anxiety onto YP. In the subsequent weeks Nomad have been able to once again increase their support for YP meeting weekly 1 to 1. These sessions have provided accountability and a safe space for YPA to talk candidly without fear of judgement. Nomad have been able to support YPA with their finances, long term goal setting and also engaged them in some positive well being activities including our weekly football project. We have also been able to refer to appropriate agencies for YP to receive further support. Nomad will continue to assist YP in their search for employment and are also helping them to explore college and further training opportunities. We anticipate this support to be ongoing.

Didcot Train – engage disadvantaged young people in positive activities, whilst empowering and providing young people with opportunities and tools to make the right decisions, rather than becoming involved in criminal activity and being disengaged with the local community.

#### Case Study

Didcot TRAIN received a Referral from a parent regarding a Young Person, aged 14. YP presented themselves with low mood and self-esteem. The initial meeting provided YP a chance to share the problems they have been experiencing, with most originating from school. It became clear quickly that school was the prime source of YP's emotional dysregulation, with self-esteem and confidence being affected. A discussion was had around self-harming too, which was discussed as a focus for the 6-week mentoring block. The sessions centred around talking and exploring emotions using trauma cards, which enabled YP to make great progress with confidence and ability to establish the cause of emotions. The mentoring sessions enabled YP to express feelings of an emotion and then be able to describe where it originates as well how it makes them feel. Self-harm became less as time went on, with YP declaring self-harm does not feel the same anymore. YP is willing to explore counselling as a next step after Didcot TRAIN and has showed a genuine intent to work on emotional wellbeing and mental health. YP progress has been consistent with confidence growing considerably. Problems continue at school however, YP is in a better place to face these problems with a referral for counselling being made.

Damascus – provide support to disengaged young people focussing on self-esteem, mental health, drugs and alcohol, sexual behaviour, ASB, anger management, poor parental control and discrimination in South Abingdon and surrounding villages

#### Case Study

When we first started working in the town centre, YP stood out among the other young people as someone who was particularly disengaged, defiant, and prone to conflict and violence. YP presented themselves as an individual who you do not mess with, someone who didn't care about anything, but as most experienced youth workers recognise, behind every action is a need and staff could see there was much more going on beneath the surface. We quickly learned that YP was going through a lot. On top of all the stress and disruption that the pandemic induced, they were dealing with the death of a family member. They had been put on anti-depressants that caused them to significantly gain weight. Their long-term relationship broke down, along with the relationships at home as they all mourned. Context is important for developing the right transformative programme for any individual, and it was clear that at the time YP felt that violence was the only resource available to them and they felt they had no other way of communicating their anger and needs. YP refused 1-2-1 support when it was offered but continued to engage and attend every session staff provided, which suggested to us that they did want some form of support, but again were perhaps not ready to communicate, or were unsure what exactly that was. Transformative journeys need to reflect the complex nature of human beings, so we were happy to take it slowly. Over a period of time as YP's trust in us grew and requested the 1-2-1 support. We have now seen a huge reduction in substance misuse and will continue to work with them to address their needs.

33. 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.

## **Rural Crime**

34. Rural crime tends to go unreported, and this can have a devastating impact on rural communities, for example damage to property, loss of crops and livestock which leads to rises in insurance premiums. The rural crime action group was created to support the work of the TVP Rural Crime Taskforce that tackle those that commit crime in our rural communities. The South and Vale Rural Crime Action Group functions as subgroup of the South and Vale CSP to maximise partnership working and resources. Officers from Thames Valley Police, Community Safety, Environmental Health, Oxfordshire County Council, National Farmers Union along with landowners and farmers share knowledge to plan operations, crime prevention messages and share communication. For more information about TVP Rural Crime Taskforce [visit the website](#). The group are currently working on a rural crime survey for communities to have their say on how rural crime is affecting their community. The findings from this survey will direct the future work of this subgroup.

## **Anticipated direction of travel for the CSP in 2023-24**

35. The CSP receives community safety funding to support the delivery of the [Thames Valley Police and Criminal Justice Plan 2021 - 2025](#)

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 2022-25 plan was signed off by CSP members in October 2022 and reviewed July 2023.

## **Climate and ecological impact implications**

36. There are no climate and environmental impact implications.

## **Financial Implications**

37. The CSP receives funding from Office of the Police Commissioner via Oxfordshire County Council for delivery of local community safety priorities.

## **Legal Implications**

38. None

## **Risks**

39. None

## **Other Implications**

40. None

## **Conclusion**

41. 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 2022-25
- Appendix B - Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2023 including Serious Violence
- Appendix C – South and Vale CSP financial summary 2022-23