



West Oxfordshire Community Safety Plan 2008 - 11





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Front cover from top left to right: Who's my Bobby launch, Witney Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) Clear Up Day, Nightsafe Launch, Eynsham NAG members with speed indicator display (SID), Woodstock Bogus Callers Awareness Day, Nightsafe 'Lollipop' initiative, PCSO in Chipping Norton, Eynsham NAG repainting graffiti wall, Traffic Police Officer with breathaliser, Tri-signs, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).

THAMES VALLEY

POLICE

WITNEY POLICE STATION



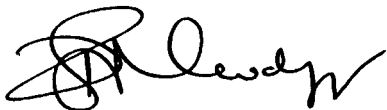
Chair of Safer Communities Partnership

As Chair of the West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership, I am very pleased at the excellent work the Partnership has undertaken over the last 3 years since the commencement of the current Community Safety Plan and the considerable success it has achieved.

There is a very strong commitment amongst the organisations that sit on the Partnership to work together and share resources to reduce crime and disorder across the district. It is only by working together and involving the local community through, for example, the Neighbourhood Action Groups, that real progress can be made towards achieving our goals.

We are an innovative partnership which is willing to try new things, whilst also learning the lessons from best practice elsewhere. Examples of this include the Wasted Nights DVD.

I look forward to the coming year and trust that we will continue to build on our success and maintain West Oxfordshire as a safe place to live, work and visit.



David Neudegg
Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council

Community Safety legislative changes

The West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership was established following the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act placed a legal obligation on responsible authorities as identified in the act, to formulate a partnership plan and implement a strategy in their areas to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse. In West Oxfordshire the five responsible authorities include: Thames Valley Police, Thames Valley Police Authority, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

The Police Justice Act 2006 went on to further refine the requirements on partnerships such that the plan is now a 3 year rolling strategy which is reviewed annually. In addition there is a requirement that an annual strategic intelligence assessment is conducted on crime, disorder and substance misuse in the area. The aim of the assessment is to identify key priorities in our area which can then inform the annual review of the plan. The plan needs to outline role of each partner in supporting the delivery of priorities, performance measurement of the plan and details of engagement with communities. Partnerships must also hold one or more public meetings a year and consult with communities on crime and disorder issues. Furthermore they must prepare and implement an information sharing protocol, signed by all responsible authorities which will govern the sharing of information between them on a quarterly basis

These legislative changes within the 2006 Act are outlined in a new requirement called the Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships. The Hallmarks include:

- Empowered and Effective Leadership
- Visible and Constructive Accountability
- Intelligence Led Business Processes
- Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures
- Engaged Communities
- Appropriate Skills and Knowledge

(A separate document will be published in the Spring of 2008 will outline how West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership will meet the Hallmarks requirements)

The Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2007 and Community Safety Plan 2008-11

This document will outline the findings of the Strategic Intelligence Assessment conducted in West Oxfordshire in 2007 and outline the priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2008-2011.

A supporting document - Thematic Action Plans 2008-11 will be published in the Spring 2008. This will include a series of action plans linked to each of the strategy priorities showing the expected target for that theme and a list of the short term actions (over a 12 month period) to achieve that target. The medium and long term actions will be developed and amended as the 3 year rolling plan progresses to meet the changing needs and demands of the community. The targets will be reflective of local issues but will also recognise county and national priorities.

Our Achievements

The previous Community Safety Strategy which ran from 2005 - 2008 was successful in achieving the following new services:

- A Town Centre Disorder scheme
- A Prolific and Priority Offender Management Scheme
- An Arrest Referral Service
- Neighbourhood Management including the creation of five Neighbourhood Action Groups
- A dedicated neighbourhood policing website
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition System
- A Nightsafe Scheme for licensed premises.
- Wasted Nights education packs
- A reduction in crime per thousand population
- Bogus Callers Days
- Maintenance of the effective CCTV scheme in Witney. A survey revealed 93% of the public support the CCTV scheme in Witney and 69% feel safer as a result of its introduction. Since its conception the scheme has assisted with the arrest of 1,300 people.

The West Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2007 concludes that:

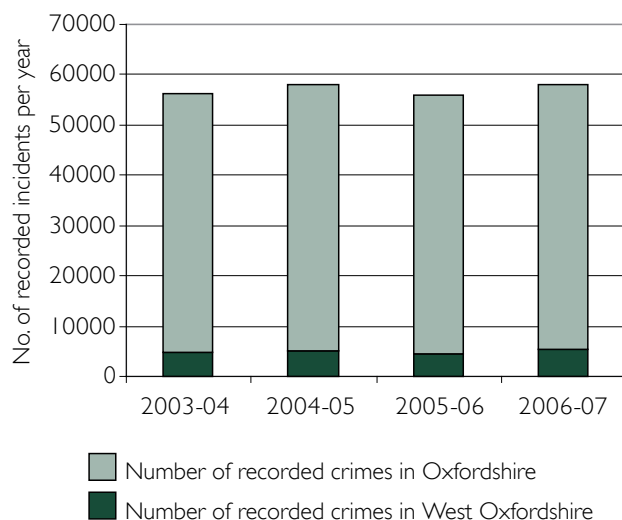
West Oxfordshire remains a safe place to live, work and visit

In West Oxfordshire recorded crime levels continue to be low and the district is currently one of the safest places to live in the country.

- Crimes per thousand population has reduced from 31.1 British Crime Survey crimes per thousand population in 2003/4 to 29.1 British Crime Survey crimes per thousand population in 2006/7.
- Recorded offences in West Oxfordshire have increased by 16 % since the last audit in 2005. There were 4710 crimes in 2003-04 compared to 5342 in 2006-07 (Although there has been 4.7% increase in population).

This pattern is mirrored by the county and Thames Valley as a whole:

All crime in Oxfordshire



The West Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment highlighted five emerging priorities for West Oxfordshire :

- Alcohol (including the night-time economy)
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Neighbourhood Priorities (including speeding and environmental crime)
- Priority Crimes (including criminal damage)
- Vulnerable Communities (including domestic violence and substance misuse)

Alcohol (including the night-time economy)

Alcohol is a significant issue for West Oxfordshire as the following data shows;

- Since May 2006, thirty premises in test purchase operations were visited by West Oxfordshire District Council and Thames Valley Police, eleven premises (36%) sold/served alcohol to persons under the age of 18.
- In 2005- 2006 there were 636 offences of violent crime compared with 882 in 2006-2007. This represents an increase of 246 offences or 39%.
- The Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Survey which took place between 19th March and 11th May 2007 highlighted alcohol as a significant issue:
 - 52% of year 7-11 drink alcohol
 - 25% of year 11's drink alcohol 2 or more times a week
 - 76% of year 7-11 would like some or more information/advice about alcohol
- Joint operations between West Oxfordshire District Council and Thames Valley Police have taken place in order to seize alcohol from young people and make parents aware of the implications of alcohol abuse.

Anti-social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a significant issue for the public in West Oxfordshire. This is highlighted by the fact that through public engagement, ASB has been identified as a priority for 4 out of the 5 Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) in the district.

- Since 2005 there has been a significant increase in the number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) issued which was recorded at 16 in 2003-2004, 32 in 2005-2006 and 34 in 2006-2007. Over 50 % of ABC s are issued to the age range 10-20 year olds.
- Since 2005/6, 5 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) have been issued to the most persistent offenders.

Neighbourhood Priorities

West Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG's) identified the following priorities:

- Bampton, Carterton & Burford - Youths hanging around, Speeding, Under-age drinking
- Chipping Norton - ASB, Speeding, Police Visibility
- Woodstock - Speeding, Parking, Police Visibility
- Eynsham - Speeding, ASB, Criminal Damage
- Witney - ASB, Speeding, Criminal Damage

The top 3 priorities across all the Neighbourhood Action Groups are: Speeding, Anti-social Behaviour and Criminal Damage/reassurance

- There were a total of 294 road accidents reported in the West during the period April 2006 to March 2007. Of these 294 accidents, 45 occurred on the A40 (15%), and 38 on the A361 (13%). This figure is above the national average as highlighted in the Department of Health profiles 2007.
- There were a total of 9 fatal accidents in this time period, involving 14 fatalities. 4 of the 14 fatalities - occurred on the A415
- There has been an increase in the number of reported fly tips compared with the last crime and disorder audit in 2005 which states the number of fly tips for 2003-2004 as 527 and abandoned vehicles as 232
- Between April 2006 and March 2007, West Oxfordshire District Council recorded 73

incidents of graffiti. These are categorised into 'racist and offensive' and 'less offensive'. There were 28 reports of racist and/or offensive graffiti and 45 reports of less offensive graffiti.

Vulnerable Communities

- Domestic Violence: there has been an increase in recordable domestic violence offences in Oxfordshire. This increase could be due to all the positive work carried out in order to raise awareness of domestic violence and to encourage victims to report incidents. Between April 2006 and March 2007 there were 444 recorded domestic violence incidents in West Oxfordshire. There has also been an increase in the number of sexual offences in the district from 47 in 2003-04 to 68 in 2006-07
- Prolific and Priority Offenders: there are currently eleven Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO's) in West Oxfordshire
- Substance Misuse: between 2006-07 there were 99 persons within West Oxfordshire presenting for drug treatment. The primary drug of choice was alcohol followed by heroin

Priority Crimes

- **Criminal Damage:** between April 2006 and March 2007 43% of British Survey Crime in West Oxfordshire was criminal damage. Nationally, criminal damage accounted for 21.8% of all crime and is the highest crime category in England and Wales.
- **Common Assault:** the county has seen a 57% increase in common assault, significant increases in every Local Authority area during the reporting period. These increases are the result of positive interventions and changes in recording methods.

	West Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire
2005 - 06	129	1576
2006 - 07	231	2485
Change	102	899
% Change	+79.1	+57.0

Emerging community safety priorities were identified in the West Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2007. Three consultation exercises were undertaken in order to find out if the issues identified were what local people considered to be the priorities and whether any issues had been overlooked.

The Oxfordshire Citizen's Panel

The fieldwork for the 15th edition of the quarterly Oxfordshire County Council's Citizens' Panel survey took place between 23rd July and 18th September 2007. The overall response rate from panel members was 63% and a total of 306 responses were received from West Oxfordshire residents.

Community Safety Consultation Event

Thirty two people attended a community safety consultation event. Attendees represented a variety of ages and locations within the district both from agencies, members of the public and local business representatives.

Community Safety Survey

Over 500 surveys were sent out via e-mail to the West Oxfordshire Citizen's Panel, community groups and stakeholders that operate in the district. A total of 222 responses were received.

Key findings

How safe are you?

Along with the Vale of White Horse District Council, West Oxfordshire has the highest rate of residents that feel safe walking alone in their community after dark (75%).

95% of residents in West Oxfordshire feel safe walking alone in their community during the day. 92% of residents feel safe being alone in their homes after dark and 96% feel safe being alone in their homes during the day.

The top priorities emerging from two of the three consultations were:

- Alcohol
- Anti-social behaviour
- Neighbourhood Priorities, speeding in particular
- Police visibility
- Criminal damage and vandalism

The Oxfordshire Citizen's Panel were most likely to identify the following issues as a problem in their local area. This differs slightly from the priorities outlined above:

- Parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children
- Teenagers hanging around on the street
- People not treating other people with respect and consideration
- Rubbish and litter lying around

In the community safety survey, priority crimes were considered to be the top priority yet at the community safety consultation event criminal damage and violent crime were not considered to be top priorities.

Each of the three consultations highlighted the need to provide more for young people to do.

A high percentage of respondents had personal experience of alcohol, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood priorities ie speeding. However, in relation to priority crimes and vulnerable communities the main reason for identifying them as a priority was the media.

In the community safety survey, 91% of respondents agreed that addressing the five priorities identified by the West Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment will effectively reduce crime and disorder.

West Oxfordshire Priorities 2008-11

Alcohol

Our aims:

- To reduce alcohol related crime including violent crime
- To reduce underage drinking

Anti-social Behaviour

Our aims:

- To reduce the occurrence of anti-social behaviour
- To reduce environmental crime

Priority crimes

Our aims:

- To reduce violent crime, criminal damage and acquisitive crime

Vulnerable Communities

Our aims:

- To support vulnerable victims of crime and decrease the levels of crime associated with vulnerable communities including domestic violence, young people, prolific and priority offenders, substance misuse, migrant communities and ethnic minorities.

Neighbourhood Priorities

Our aims:

- To work in partnership with Neighbourhood Action Groups to decrease speeding, environmental crime and antisocial behaviour and to increase public reassurance.

Partnership vision

It is the vision of the partnership to:

Protect and enhance the quality of life in West Oxfordshire and work in partnership to maintain the district as a safe place to live, work and visit



The role of the Partnership

In addition to the principal statutory agencies, namely West Oxfordshire District Council, Thames Valley Police, Thames Valley Police Authority, Oxfordshire County Council, and the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust the partnership includes:

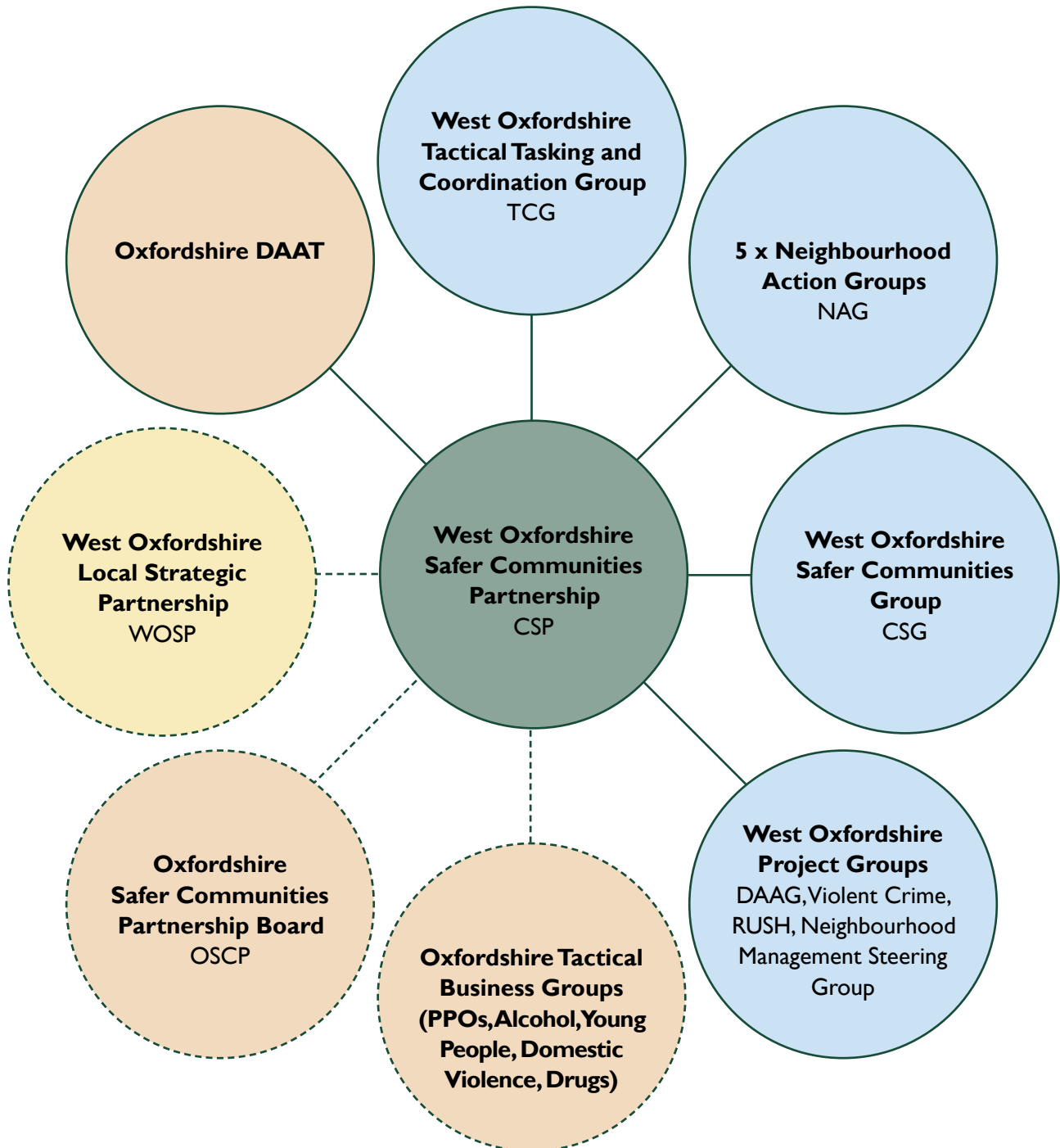
Thames Valley Area Probation Service
Cottsway Housing Ltd
Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service
An Independent representative of the community
Thames Valley Partnership
A representative of the business community
Oxfordshire Race Equality Council
Thames Valley Magistrates Court
Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Team
Witney Town Council
Carterton Town Council
Chipping Norton Town Council
Chairs of West Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Action Groups

The role of the partnership is to be an effective vehicle for tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the environment and substance misuse at a local level. The following diagram shows the structure of the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership and the various groups which feed into the partnership at a local district level and also at a county level.



Representatives of the Community Safety Partnership

West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership:



The role of the Partnership *cont...*

Group	Purpose	Functions
West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership CSP	To be responsible for monitoring local crime and disorder and community safety services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree Strategic Intelligence Assessment emerging priorities annually • Agree West Oxfordshire Community Safety Plan • Monitor Local crime and disorder targets and Lcal Area Agreement (LAA) targets
West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Group CGS	To be responsible for monitoring local crime and disorder and delivering community safety services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all legal requirements are met • Agree Strategic Intelligence Assessment emerging priorities annually • Agree West Oxfordshire Community Safety Plan • Commission crime and disorder services • Monitor local crime and disorder targets and LAA targets • Review performance management data quarterly
West Oxfordshire Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group TTCG	To be responsible for monitoring crime and disorder and implementing tactics to prevent and reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor all reported offences and task resources • Monitor ASB and neighbourhood priorities
West Oxfordshire Project Groups	To be responsible for actions in relation to community safety 'themes'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor progress against specific actions • Monitor and implement specific projects i.e. Neighbourhood Management and the RUSH steering group
Neighbourhood Action Groups (x5) NAG	To be responsible for engaging and consulting with the public to identify local priorities and implement tactics to address them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and consult with the public annually • Identify priorities annually • Problem solve identified priorities • Publish an annual report/newsletter
Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Board OSCP	To be responsible to the Oxfordshire Public Service Board for crime and disorder reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree safer communities LAA Targets and recommend to Public Services Board • Agree Strategic Intelligence Assessment emerging priorities annually and inform CDRPs, and Public Services Board • Make recommendations to the Public Services Board on safer communities budget • Receive reports on Crime Disorder & Reduction Partnership and Tactical Business Group performance from the OSCP (June - End of Year; Nov; Q 1 and 2)
Oxfordshire Tactical Business Groups (PPOs, Young people, alcohol, drugs, domestic violence)	To be responsible for monitoring defined business areas and delivering community safety services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor performance in business area and LAA targets • Deliver coordinated strategic crime and disorder reduction services

Membership	Accountability	Frequency of meetings
In accordance with terms of reference (Responsible Authorities, Town Council, NAG Chairs, business)	Through local authority scrutiny process	Twice Yearly Set and review Plan Half Yearly Performance Review
Rotate chair annually In accordance with terms of reference (Responsible Authorities)	Through local authority scrutiny process Reports to OSCG (End of Year; Oct; Q 1 and 2)	Bi Monthly
In accordance with terms of reference (Responsible Authorities)	Accountable to CSP	Weekly
Various (depends on group)	In accordance with specific ToR	Various
According to Neighbourhood Management Constitution	In accordance with ToR	As determined by each NAG (Usually bi monthly)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Elected member of each responsible authority plus Police Commander and Primary Care Trust Director • Chair of the Oxfordshire Safer Community Partnership • Chair of each Crime Disorder & Reduction Partnership 	To Public Service Board	Quarterly June - End of Year Review Nov - Strategic Intelligence Assessment Review and Half Yearly Performance Review Jan - Agree LAA targets, budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As determined by each TBG in consultation with Oxfordshire Safer Community Partnership • Chair to be appointed annually by the Oxfordshire Safer Community Partnership 	Report to Oxfordshire Safer Community Partnership 6 monthly (May - End of Year; Oct; half year)	As determined by each Tactical Business Group

Financial Resources

All Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England are allocated funds by the Home Office and comes via the Local Area Grant. All funds must support strategy priorities.

Human Resources

The partnership currently funds 8 partnership posts; the following resources are employed to support the partnership;

Community Safety & Licensing Manager (WODC): Manages the Community Safety Team. Responsible for the development and monitoring of strategic and financial plans. Is a representative for the partnership on County Tactical Business Groups and Local Area Agreement Officer Groups.

Partnership Coordinator (CSP): Coordinates the Community Safety Partnership, monitors the partnership work plan and develops policy, coordinates the Drug and Alcohol Action Group (DAAG), Responsibility for West Oxfordshire Nightsafe and Neighbourhood Management.

Partnership Communications Officer (CSP): Supports crime reduction initiatives, promotes crime reduction, responsibility for Neighbourhood Watch.

Crime Reduction Advisor (TVP): Coordinates crime reduction activities including ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition)

Anti Social Behaviour Manager (TVP): Coordinates anti social behaviour related initiatives and has responsibility for the Town Centre Disorder Scheme and Prolific and Priority Offences.

Anti social Behaviour Officer (CSP): Works with agencies, tackling anti social behaviour, supports the ASB Manager

Schools Liaison Officer (TVP): Responsible for all crime and disorder related initiatives involving West Oxfordshire schools and young people

Domestic Violence Coordinator (CSP): Provides a strategic DV capacity across Oxfordshire. (Post funded by each of the five community safety partnerships within the county)

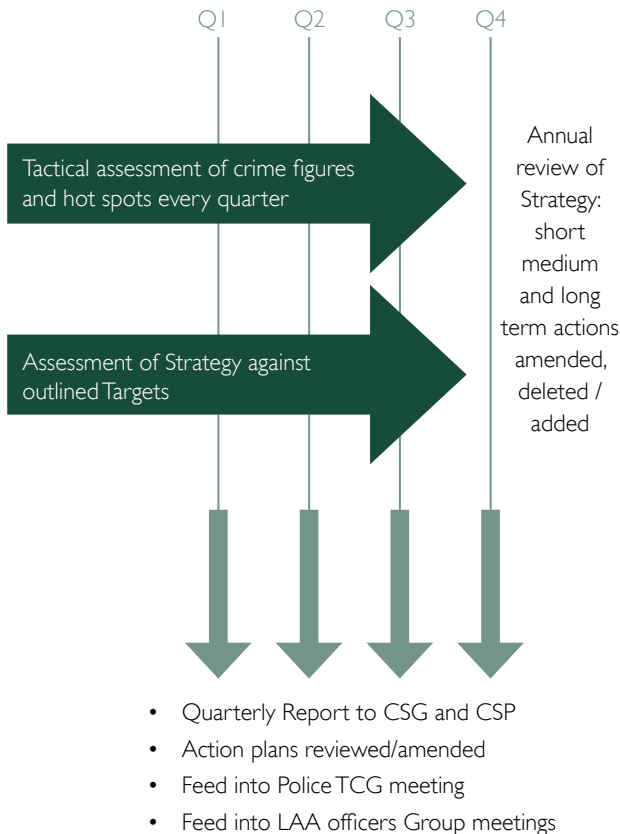
Information Officer (CSP): Provides a strategic Information capacity across Oxfordshire. (Post funded by each of the five community safety partnerships within the county)

In addition to the staff employed by the partnership, resources from the various statutory partner agencies provide time for certain key elements such as Human Resources, Data Analysis, and Publicity.

Performance measurement and annual review

The measurement of the partnerships performance against the outlined strategy within the partnership plan is a key element in ensuring the partnership is delivering successfully. The following diagram shows how this will be achieved in West Oxfordshire.

Performance measurement methodology



At the end of every quarter a tactical assessment report of crime figures and hot spots will be undertaken and fed into the Tasking and Coordination group and the Safer Communities Group. The action plans will be updated and amended to reflect the changing demands and progress against targets. A coordinated approach in terms of resources, actions and targets will occur at the Local Area Agreement Officer Group with other Community Safety Partnerships and the themed county Tactical Business Groups.

At the end of the third quarter an annual review of the strategy and partnership plan will be undertaken. This will include information fed in by a new Strategic intelligence assessment and public consultation. Actions and targets will be reviewed against this information and the strategy amended to meet the new requirements for the coming year. New Legislation, national community safety priorities and changing organisation requirements will also feed into the annual review.

Strategic Partnership Links

The Safer Communities Partnership will work with the following partnerships, each contribute to an element of the community safety agenda. We will endeavour to take account of initiatives and targets to ensure activity is not duplicated.

- West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership
- Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board
- Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership
- Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service
- Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Team

Further Information

Further Information is available from :

West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership
Woodgreen
Witney
Oxfordshire OX28 1NB

Tel: 01993 861633

Email: community.services@westoxon.gov.uk

ABC:

Acceptable Behaviour Contact (An ABC is an individual written agreement by a young person with a partner agency and the police. They agree not to carry on with certain identifiable acts, such as harassment, graffiti, criminal damage and verbal abuse)

ASB:

Anti-social Behaviour

ASBO:

Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBOs are civil orders that exist to protect the public from behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress)

CDRP:

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

SCP:

Safer Communities Partnership

CSG:

Community Safety Group

DV:

Domestic Violence

LAA:

Local Area Agreement

NAG:

Neighbourhood Action Group

OSCP:

Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership

PPO's:

Prolific and Priority Offenders

TBG:

Tactical Business Group

TCG:

Tactical Coordination Group

TOR:

Terms of Reference



West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership

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