

Vale of White Horse
Community Safety Partnership Plan
2008-2011

Introduction

This is the fourth community safety strategy to be produced by the Vale Community Safety Partnership. The partnership was created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which established the principles of partnership working.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 has extended the requirements on partnerships and contains the new legislative changes needed to take forward the recommendations of the Home Office Crime & Disorder Act review. The duty to produce 3 yearly audits and strategies and report annually to the Home Secretary has been replaced by a requirement to produce an annual partnership strategic assessment and a three year partnership plan that will be refreshed annually in line with the findings of the strategic assessment.

The minimum standards require that each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has an agreed process for sharing information; produces a strategic annual assessment of the issues affecting the local area; identifies the emerging priorities from the assessment and produces a plan which explains how those priorities will be delivered. In addition, the key aspects of partnership working are introduced through six "Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships".

1. Empowered and Effective Leadership
2. Visible and Constructive Accountability
3. Intelligence-led Business Processes
4. Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures
5. Engaged Communities
6. Appropriate Skills and knowledge

The 2008-11 three year community safety plan will address national and local priorities of the Vale. It details the structure of the partnership and sets out the way that we will engage with communities.

Community safety encompasses more than crime and disorder; it involves quality of life issues and the need to address the fear of crime. The Vale is a safe place to live and work; the partnership is resolved to ensure that it remains so.

Aim:

"To work together to continue to build on the reductions in crime achieved over recent years; to support a community in which people feel safe regardless of age or ethnic background."

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The Vale Community Safety Partnership

The strategic leadership of the partnership is provided by the Vale Community Safety Strategy Group. This group is made up of a group of senior officers representing:

- Vale of White Horse District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Thames Valley Police
- Thames Valley Police Authority
- Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust
- Thames Valley Probation Service
- Oxfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team
- Vale Housing Association
- Vale District Council Local Strategic Partnership

The Vale Community Safety Strategy Group meets quarterly to approve and monitor the progress of the strategy and agree and implement the Oxfordshire Community Safety Agreement. In addition, the Strategy Group agrees the allocation of partnership resources, reviews performance, considers the implications of new legislation and shares information on partnership activities.

Operational work is co-ordinated through the thematic action groups and lead agencies. Detailed yearly tactical business plans will be set by the local thematic action groups (illustrated on appendix B) and agreed by the Community Safety Strategy Group.

The full Community Safety Partnership meets twice a year, firstly, in June to consider the local issues which should be included in the strategic intelligence assessment, and secondly, in December to consider the findings of the strategic intelligence assessment.¹ This group currently includes representatives from Parish and Town Councils and a variety of voluntary organisations. This forum is being developed to include members of Neighbourhood Action Groups, and the Local Strategic Partnerships.

The Community Safety Partnership is a member of the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP)² and supports the targets set within the Local Area Agreement and the Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy.

The structure of the Partnership is attached – refer to appendix B.

¹ A strategic assessment presents and interprets the summary findings of an intelligence analysis. The purpose of the strategic assessment is to “assist the strategy group in revising the partnership plan”. It is an internal document for the partnership to inform the partnership plan and does not need to be published. The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems that will inform and enable the partners to understand the patterns and trends relating to crime disorder and substance misuse.

² OSCP – A county level group to help coordinate the work of the districts community safety partnerships.

Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIAs)

Once a year, the community safety partnership is required to conduct a strategic intelligence assessment (SIA) to determine the priorities for the forthcoming year. The assessment must include an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse for the Vale District Council area. In addition, it must identify changes in the levels and patterns of crime. Finally, the assessment must consider the extent to which the previous year's plan was implemented.

In two-tier authority areas, each county area is required to have a county strategy group whose function is to prepare a county community safety agreement on behalf of the responsible authorities for that area. The community safety agreement must be published by the end of the year and be based on the strategic assessment.

The Oxfordshire CDRPs or community safety partnerships (Cherwell, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale and West Oxfordshire) have taken a joint approach to this project. A single Oxfordshire Strategic Assessment was carried out between May and August 2007; Thames Valley Police provided the analytical support to complete this work. The Oxfordshire Safer Communities Unit co-ordinated the district and partnership input.

The Vale summary strategic assessment and consultation process that preceded this document have ensured that the emerging community safety priorities of Vale residents and participating agencies have been addressed in more detail, along with national priorities. It sets out a summary of the assessment findings and explains how the priorities were identified.

The **Vale Strategic Assessment Executive Summary 2007** can be downloaded or viewed by using the following link

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/community_support_and_advice/community_safety/Community_Safety_Strategy_2005-08.asp

Alternatively for a paper copy please contact the Vale Community Safety Team on 01235 520202 ext: 485 or email communitysafety@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Community Engagement

This new Community Safety Strategy is part of a three year annual rolling plan. We will review the implementation of the plan annually. This will involve consulting with our communities to ensure that our priorities reflect local concerns and to inform communities of the success of the strategy by:

1. Monitoring the results of the Vale Voice and Oxfordshire Citizens' Panel Survey.
2. Monitoring the results of the Place Survey. (details to be confirmed by GOSE)
3. Community Safety partnership meetings twice a year in June and December to review local priorities and the progress of the strategy.
4. Specific workshops to consider specific thematic or geographic issues. Supporting Neighbourhood Action Groups to engage and work with their communities to solve local priorities.

Priority Setting

Key issues emerging from the assessment were used to identify community safety priorities in the Vale. There were two main sources of assessment data:

1. The statistical evidence from police and other partnership sources.
2. The priorities of the Neighbourhood Action Groups.

In addition, the judgement and experience of the officers and others participating in the process also helped to shape the decisions. (refer to priorities on page 7)

Priorities

The plan includes seven themes which reflect the local priorities identified by the assessment process as well as national priorities and the priorities of the participating partners. There are many cross-cutting elements, and the partnership works together as a whole to tackle community safety issues.

The seven thematic priorities are detailed on the following pages:

1. Reducing violent crime
2. Reducing anti-social behaviour
3. Reducing the fear of crime
4. Maintaining the current reduced level of acquisitive crime
5. Reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
6. Reducing the offending rate of priority & prolific offenders
7. Improving road safety

Violent Crime

Violent crime covers a wide range of offences including serious offences such as homicide, incidents of grievous bodily harm, death through dangerous driving and serious offences resulting from domestic violence.

Alcohol related violent offending is evident across the Vale with peaks occurring at weekends and within town centres and built up areas.

Work to address domestic abuse and sexual violence is co-ordinated through the Oxfordshire Domestic Violence Steering Group (ODVSG). Local actions include the support for outreach and domestic violence champions.

Local Delivery:

Vale Nightsafe Licensing Forum (Alcohol related incidents)

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Teams

What will we do?

1. Continue to support and develop the successful Vale Nightsafe scheme with our partners and the industry. (refer to Drug & Alcohol section page 11)
2. Continue to support and develop the Oxfordshire County Domestic Violence Strategy.
3. Support ODVSG's plans to tackle sexual violence.
4. High visibility policing in town centres at peak times to deter problems at an early stage.

How will we measure our success?

1. The number of actual bodily harm (assault with injury) crimes per 1000 population.
2. The percentage reduction in repeat victimisations of those cases that are being managed by a MARAC¹.

¹ MARAC; Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – A multi-agency group that activates robust and timely responses to high risk DV cases.

Anti-Social Behaviour including Environmental Crime

Anti-Social Behaviour has an adverse affect on communities and directly influences people's perceptions of fear of crime. Anti-Social Behaviour includes criminal damage, underage/anti-social drinking, noise, rubbish/litter, graffiti and abandoned vehicles.

- Anti-social behaviour has been selected as a priority by six out of seven of the neighbourhood action groups
- Criminal damage is widely reported and currently accounts for 46% of our crime
- The 2007/8 Vale Voice citizens panel survey stated that:
54% of Vale residents felt that parents' not taking responsibility for their children was a problem.
47% of residents said that young people hanging around on the street was a problem.

Local Delivery:

Anti-Social Behaviour Casework (People/Interventions)

Anti-Social Behaviour & Environmental Crime Action Group – Criminal Damage, situational remedies, diversionary activities.

What will we do?

1. Joint interventions with partner organisations working to prevent the escalation of anti-social and criminal behaviour.
2. Reduce underage sales/drinking and anti-social street drinking.
3. Support Neighbourhood Action Groups to identify and remedy "grot spots".
4. Work in partnership with the Youth Offending Service and voluntary organisations to provide diversionary projects and support for vulnerable young people who are at risk of committing crime.
5. Support the Police, Priority Crime Team, Criminal Damage Plan.
6. Support the Vale Local Environmental Quality Strategy

How will we measure our success?

1. Consider the results of the Vale Voice citizen panel results and the new Place Survey; which reflect the changes to people's feelings and confidence.
2. Monitor the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged between 10-17, who receive their first reprimand, final warning or a court appearance.
3. Increasing satisfaction with the way that the council and police deal with ASB and crime.

Fear of Crime

This is an area that we have not previously specifically focused on as a priority. However, the fear of crime remains relatively high despite the fact that crime levels are low in the Vale of White Horse District Council area. This issue was raised as a key concern within the strategic intelligence assessment.

Local Delivery:

Community Safety Strategic Group

What will we do?

1. Improve the Vale community safety communication strategy; actively promoting partnership activity. (community safety newsletter, website, press releases for Vale Views and the local newspapers, explanatory leaflets)
2. Support crime reduction campaigns to inform residents how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.
3. Support Neighbourhood Action Groups to consult with communities and deliver solutions to local priorities.

How will we measure our success?

1. Monitor the responses to the Vale Voice citizens panel surveys regarding fear of crime rates.
2. Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Policing survey twice a year.

Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime includes vehicle crime, burglary (personal and commercial property) and robbery. The 2005-8 strategy shows an overall reduction in acquisitive crime; we will therefore strive to maintain the low level during 2008-11.

Currently the Vale is showing a very strong reduction in offending for vehicle crime and burglary. Robbery offences are rare however we accept that the impact can be high.

Local Delivery:

Acquisitive Crime Group: Car crime, burglary, robbery.

What will we do?

1. Target serious acquisitive crime through the Police, Priority Crime Team.
2. Seek opportunities where appropriate to secure the properties of vulnerable residents through an accredited small repairs scheme.
3. Run specific crime reduction campaigns to raise awareness and educate people on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.
4. Seek to “design out crime” by employing situational preventative remedies; where possible at the early planning stages.

How will we measure our success?

1. Measure the number of serious acquisitive crimes per 1000 population.

Drug & Alcohol Misuse

Drug Misuse - The newly formed joint Vale and South Drug and Alcohol Action Group will work in partnership, aiming to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs through prevention, enforcement and treatment programmes. In addition, they will seek opportunities for partnership working across the two districts and countywide.

Alcohol and the Night Time Economy - The Vale Voice citizens panel questionnaire 2006 records that 31% of our residents consider people being drunk or rowdy in public places to be a nuisance. In addition, criminal damage and violent crime are often alcohol related. The Vale Nightsafe/Licensing Forum will continue to develop and run co-ordinated enforcement and educational campaigns to reduce alcohol related disorder.

Local Delivery:

Drug Alcohol Action Group – Substance misuse- enforcement, treatment, education

Nightsafe/Licensing Forum – Alcohol related violent crime reduction: enforcement, education/promoting best practice.

What will we do?

1. Work with the Oxfordshire DAAT to ensure that residents of the Vale have easy access to treatment services in the Vale DC area.
2. Develop a robust and consistent programme of education and support for young people, parents and guardians.
3. Continue to support the successful Nightsafe Scheme. (High visibility policing, test purchasing, multi-agency visits to licensed premises, educational campaigns)
4. Actively support the development of the new Oxfordshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
5. Actively support the continuation of the Alcohol Arrest Referral Scheme
6. Actively support the development of the Oxfordshire Drugs Strategy.

How will we measure our success?

1. The number of Drug users (class A) in effective treatment.
2. The percentage of the public who perceive drug use or dealing/drunken and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area.
3. The number of actual bodily harm (assault with injury) crimes per 1000 population
4. Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates.

Priority and Prolific Offenders

National crime reduction statistics show that 50% of all crime is committed by just 10% of all offenders. These offenders are commonly referred to as Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPOs).

Since September 2003 in Oxford City and April 2005 in the districts, the Probation Service in partnership with the police and Youth Offending Service has been delivering Oxfordshire's PPO scheme commonly known as IRIS (Intensive Recidivist Intervention Scheme).

PPOs tend to commit acquisitive crime which may be drug related; in addition a large proportion of their criminality is alcohol related.

Local Delivery:

Acquisitive Crime Group

What will we do?

1. Support the successful PPO scheme in the Vale ensuring that the selection matrix ¹ reflects local plans and priorities.
2. Review the provision of supported housing in the Vale.

How will we measure our success?

1. The number of convictions recorded against a specific cohort of PPO offenders.

¹ Selection Matrix – Criminal activity of Priority and Prolific Offenders is scored on a matrix. The crime types that have the greatest impact on the local area carry more weight in the scoring system.

Road Safety

There were 367 road accidents recorded in the Vale between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007. Of these 367, 14 were fatal which accounted for 23 deaths (i.e. multiple deaths within one road accident). The two highest distinct age groups for fatalities in the Vale were 30-39 (five fatalities) and 50-59 (four fatalities).

Road safety can be broken down into two categories: national and local priorities:

National priorities - The police and Oxfordshire County Council lead on targets that aim to significantly reduce serious accidents and fatalities.

Local Priorities - Relate to speeding vehicles and dangerously parked vehicles. Five out of seven Neighbourhood Action Groups raised speeding as one of their top three priorities.

Local Delivery:

Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime Group – Speeding and dangerously parked vehicles.

Road Safety Action Group

National and County priorities

What will we do?

1. Support the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership which aims to reduce speed-related collisions.
2. Seek and support where appropriate solutions to local concerns regarding dangerously parked vehicles and speeding.

How will we measure our success?

1. The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.
2. The number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

Resources

Community safety funding is allocated via the Local Area Grant and used to directly fund or part-fund six partnership posts to support and develop the work of the partnership. The associated on-costs¹ are supported by the employing partnership agency:

Directly Funded Community Safety Posts	Employing Partnership Agency
Anti-Social Behaviour Officer	Vale District Council
Community Safety Projects Officer	Vale District Council
Crime Reduction Advisor	Thames Valley Police
Anti Social Behaviour Administrator (0.5fte)	Thames Valley Police
County Domestic Violence co-ordinator	Oxfordshire County Council
County Community Safety Information Officer	Oxfordshire County Council

Performance Management

The success of the partnership will be measured against the strategy and annual action plans.

This includes:

- Community Safety Management Group meetings to measure performance against key indicators and thematic action plans
- Quarterly monitoring of key indicators
- Comparison with peers and across time (iQuanta¹ data)
- Evaluation of individual projects – considering whether or not goals have been met and if not why not
- Results from community engagement

Each quarter a tactical assessment of crime and hotspots will be undertaken. This information will be used to update the tactical action plans which will be updated where appropriate to reflect any changing demands.

At the end of the third quarter a review of the strategy will take place. This will include information from Neighbourhood Action Groups, public consultation and the new Strategic intelligence assessment.

¹ IQuanta is a police performance tool, developed by the Home Office. It contains all crime statistics from each police force in the country, and produces performance related tables and charts.

Tasking & Information Sharing

Tasking:

The tactical tasking and co-ordination group (TT&CG) meets fortnightly at Abingdon police station. The process is guided by the National Intelligence Model (NIM); meetings are co-ordinated and chaired by the LPA Commander. Community safety representatives from probation, fire & rescue and the District Community Safety Manager attend meetings.

In addition daily tasking briefings are held to assess the previous 24hrs activity and allocate resources.

Neighbourhood meetings run fortnightly in parallel with the TT&CG and address specific neighbourhood issues.

Information Sharing

The existing county community safety information sharing protocol has been reviewed to reflect the requirements of the Police Justice Act 2006. The county community safety information officer, safer communities unit is co-ordinating the statutory collection of partnership data. There is a recognised lack of analytical resource within the partnership both at a county and district level; this is an area that requires further development.

Contact Us:

For more information please contact a member of the Community Safety Team

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