Cherwell Safer Communities
Report 2014-15 and Rolling Plan for 2015-17
Foreword

“The police now have just one clear objective: to cut crime. But the police can’t cut crime on their own. Local councils, health services, probation and fire and rescue services all play a vital role too in keeping communities safe. They all do an amazing job, but in the past their activities have been hindered by reporting burdens, unnecessary rules and a lack of discretion. Instead, we will allow local professionals to focus on local priorities and work with the police to cut crime.”
Rt. Hon Theresa May, MP

Since 2010 we have experienced significant reductions in all public service budgets, however working in partnership we have still managed to reduce crime and disorder across the district for the eighth year running. The removal of the managerialist regime has allowed the Council and Police to focus on real issues across the District. For the first time in nearly two hundred years we have a Police and Crime Commissioner in Thames Valley, who is directly responsible for setting the police and partner objectives as well as controlling all funding for policing. This year and in future years we intend to maintain low levels of crime, but to move our efforts to quality of response and to tackle, emerging crime trends around safeguarding the vulnerable. We want you to join in with us to achieve this and emerging new priorities by supporting your Local Police and Council in tackling domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and modern slavery in becoming the eyes and ears of the community to make Cherwell an even better place. We know this is a big ask but without your help we will not succeed in the way that you would like us to.

Councillor Tony Ilott,
Portfolio holder for Public Protection

It is the duty of the police to reduce crime. However, it has long been recognised that the police cannot do this alone and that only through the combined efforts of the district council, country council, police, NHS, probation and other groups can meaningful long term reductions in crime be achieved.

The Cherwell Community Safety Partnership is the effective vehicle for combining, co-ordinating and focussing the efforts of all partners towards the common goal of reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending. By working together it is possible to achieve far more than each agency could alone. This integrated partnership has been tremendously effective in substantially reducing the levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime over the past decade.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced the post of a democratically elected and accountable Police and Crime Commissioner. His key strategic objectives form the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 and have been a key influence of this partnership strategy.

In April 2013 Thames Valley Police merged Cherwell Local Police Area with West Oxfordshire Local Police Area. This change was implemented with one eye on the budget and the other on policing resilience. The delivery of neighbourhood policing has not changed and the senior management remain absolutely committed to supporting Cherwell Community Safety Partnership. The merger has seen continued good results in reducing and solving crime.

Cherwell has a strong and effective community safety partnership and I look forward to continuing to work as part of this group to continue reducing crime and anti-social behaviour over the coming years.

Superintendent Katharine Lowe,
Cherwell Local Police Area (LPA) Commander
1. Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 imposes a duty upon:
- Cherwell Local Police Area (Cherwell LPA)
- Cherwell District Council (CDC)
- Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
- Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS)
- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation

To work in partnership to develop a strategy to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse in their local area. This partnership is called the Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership (CSCP).

The CSCP is the lead body in delivering the District’s vision of making Cherwell a safer place. To achieve this goal the partnership aims to reduce the risk of people becoming either a victim or perpetrator of crime; two situations that can have far-reaching consequences.

The CSCP comes into its own by delivering projects that bring together the combined resources of statutory partners, voluntary organisations and private business. The breadth of skills, knowledge and experience in the partnership ensures that the end result is greater than the sum of the parts. It is not the function of the partnership to get involved in the day to day business of partners but to work collaboratively to make Cherwell a better place to live work and visit.

When the Government came to power it scrapped the previous top down performance management structure, this included national indicators, local area agreements, comprehensive area assessments and several existing strategies. New crime and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) powers have been introduced, together with less onerous performance reporting, with an emphasis on locally set targets.

The introduction of the PCC is now established and the Commissioner has set out his policing plan and the objectives therein are reflected in this plan. The Commissioner has set challenging targets for the police and partners indicating his desire to see partners step up to the plate and take responsibility for crime especially in the areas of ASB for local authorities.

Taking the lead from the PCC’s policing plan, Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Plan (OSCP) incorporating district local priorities, CSPs across the County have agreed a uniform approach to plan formats.

This approach has been adopted by all the CSPs in the County, it outlines:
- the policies the partnership is working to.
- services available and initiatives in action
- achievements from last year
- the three strands of a crime: place, victim, and offender
- what the partnership is going to do.

By concentrating on these, the partnership will prioritise its service delivery.
The plan.

Section 1
- outlines the context of this plan including emerging Government policy.

Section 2
An overview of services and achievements dealing with:
- those projects that focus on issues that effect whole communities or neighbourhoods (place)
- those projects that support or prevent individuals from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour (victim)
- those projects that prevent or enforce against those at risk of offending, (offender).

Section 3
- how the partnership will continue to deal with the three strands of a crime: the place, the victim the offender.

“No single organisation can hope to reduce the incidence of crime. Local organisations need to work together to develop comprehensive solutions to improve the community’s quality of life.”

Audit Commission
Section 1

Context

Government policy

Since the Government came to power there have been many comments on “Localism” and what it will look like in the community. It is clear from the comprehensive spending review and the cuts to partner’s budgets and services that the future will definitely be one of doing more, or the same, for less. Communities will be asked to take a much more active role in provision of services through volunteering and generating community funds to shape their communities how they want them.

Theresa May in her consultation document “More Effective Response to Anti-Social Behaviour” states:

“The everyday crime and disorder that is described as ‘anti-social behaviour’ – from vandalism and graffiti to drug dealing and harassment – has a huge impact on the quality of life of millions of people in this country. It is corrosive, blighting communities and neighbourhoods.

Moreover, as recent tragic cases have shown, it is often targeted at those members of our society who are least able to protect themselves.

I know that, across the country, many police forces, councils, social landlords and others are working hard to tackle the problem. But despite more than a decade of targets, government initiatives and seemingly endless legislation, the police receive over 3.5 million reports of antisocial behaviour a year and many more incidents are reported to councils or social landlords, or not reported at all.”

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Cherwell

ASB is the partnership’s top priority and this is recognised in its structure and delivery. The Councils ASB Team comprises of a dedicated ASB Case Officer and a seconded police officer. Both have access to information and intelligence from Police and Council data. Through its Cherwell Operations Group (COG) practitioners meetings and the Joint Action Tasking and Communication (JATAC) strategic forum they engage with a much wider range of partners. The partnerships response is intelligence led and victim driven with early intervention, diversion and prevention being the key themes of our operation. Both sets of officers use the Police data bases and recording processes to ensure a seamless delivery of service in partnership.

The Government believed the ASB toolkit was too unwieldy and complex. Following an extensive consultation they have streamlined the powers available to deal with ASB into seven key areas with victim impact being taken into account in.

Their stated objective was:

“We want to move away from having a tool for every different problem to ensuring that the police and partners have faster, more flexible tools. These, plus more effective sanctions, will help professionals and, where necessary, the courts stop anti-social behaviour earlier, and better protect victims and communities.”

The seven new powers are contained within the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014 which passed into law in October 2014. The act is being brought into force through Orders in a progressive manner with the majority of the provisions being in operation by February 2015.

The new provisions are summarised as follows:

- The Civil injunction. This is a civil power to be applied to the anti-social individuals where their behaviour has or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person. Being a civil sanction the burden of proof is to the balance of probabilities. If the behaviour takes place in a social housing context the applicant has to show the behaviour is capable of causing nuisance or annoyance. It is felt that the use of the injunctive power will provide an quick and effective means to deal with offenders.
The Criminal Behaviour Order replaces the ASBO and other similar provisions. It is available, on conviction, for any criminal offence and the court must be satisfied that the offender has or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person. The standard of proof required being the higher, beyond reasonable doubt, test.

A range of Dispersal powers available to police officers have been combined into a single power. The power can be used flexibly to allow police officers to direct persons to leave an area for a period of up to 48 hours. Whilst the use must be proportionate, the power can be used in a wide range of situations for example where disorder is anticipated.

The Community Protection Notice is an entirely new power that allows police and local authority officers to deal with a very broad range of behaviours and conditions which spoils a community’s quality of life. In order to use the notice power there must be shown to be behaviour having a detrimental effect on the community, the must be an element of persistence and a written warning must be given before action is taken. This is a very flexible power and it is anticipated that it will have a wide range of applications.

Public Spaces Protection Orders update and will eventually replace Designated Public Place Orders. The new order will give local authorities the opportunity to regulate a much wider range of behaviours using a PSPO than the simple alcohol related activity addressed by the former power.

A new Closure power for premises replaces specific provisions that allowed the closure of premises where drug activity or nuisance were having a significant impact on a neighbourhood. This again is a flexible power that can be applied in a wide range of circumstances.

The act introduces a new Absolute Ground for Possession that will allow both private and social landlords to evict their tenants if they have been convicted of a serious offence, have breached a civil injunction, criminal behaviour order or noise abatement notice or have allowed the premises to become the subject of closure action.

The new act retains the early intervention and diversionary approaches to solving ASB cases and introduces the concept of the Community Trigger that allows victims to formally request a review of the partnerships response to their complaints of ASB.
This section illustrates the structures in place within the district and how they impact on those that live work and visit the district.

It goes on to describe the services available and the successes in each of the three strands of a crime, the place, the victim and the offender.

**Partnership structure in Cherwell**

CSCP regards itself as being at the leading edge of partnership working. The partnership supports the Thriving Families project, through the Joint Agency Tasking and Coordinating (JATAC). In addition to this the partnership supports Neighbourhood Watch and Youth Activators, a very successful youth activity programme. CSCP reports to the County Community Safety Partnership and informs the Local Strategic Partnership.

Below CSCP sits JATAC dealing with those issues which are happening now. Members of the partnership support the Local Police Area Tasking and Coordinating group. The Partnership is now accountable to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police, who measures our performance through the Oxfordshire Safety Communities Partnership Board (OSCP).

**Cherwell and the County**

Cherwell supports the collaborative approach to responding to our Counties shared priorities. Representation on OSCP includes the county council (children’s social care, fire and rescue, public health), Cherwell and the three other district councils (who lead the district level CSPs), as well as the police, probation services, prison service, Clinical Commissioning Group and the voluntary sector. The broad membership ensures strong links between other strategic partnerships, such as the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board, the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

*Figure 2: Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Framework*
Projects that tackle concerns that affect communities

OSCP Priorities 2015-16 are to:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Reduce the amount of serious violence and alcohol related disorder, particularly in the night time economy
- Prevent youth offending
- Reduce the level of reoffending
- Reduce the risk of domestic abuse and human exploitation
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs misuse
- Reduce the risk of radicalisation

Our priorities reflect these in the section ‘The Place’

Crime in Cherwell

Crime in the district has fallen consistently over the last few years. Examples of the success the police and the partnership have had in reducing crime are:

Compared to this time last year:

- burglary down 14 per cent
- all crime down 1.3 per cent
- violence against the person maintained same as last year.

Our already low crime figures continue to show improvement and our work with local communities helps to ensure that people feel safe in their homes and communities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Social Behaviour (total recorded)</td>
<td>1641</td>
<td>1531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Damage</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary(Dwelling)</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Crime</td>
<td>7284</td>
<td>7187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Safety</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per cent of residents who feel safe at home after dark</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per cent of residents who feel safe in town centres after dark</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per cent of residents who feel safe in their local communities after dark</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Projects that tackle concerns that affect communities

The place
CSCP relies on the County-wide Strategic Intelligence Assessment, to give it the look over the horizon to see what is coming that may impact on the lives of its residents and visitors. In addition to this CSCP shares intelligence and information amongst its partners.

In late 2014 the partnership re-assessed its position and, following consultation through Council and partnership surveys

Priorities for 2015/17 are:
1. ASB
2. Youth Provision
3. Child Sexual Exploitation
4. Prevent terrorism
5. Trafficking and human slavery
6. Crime specifically night time economy violence
7. Female Genital Mutilation

To deliver these priorities we will
- Increase the level of satisfaction with council’s (and police’s) approach to dealing with ASB
- Reduce the rate of re-offending by those on the IOM cohort
- Work with our partner to reduce the prevalence of CSE
- Reduce number of first time entrants to Youth Justice Services
- Work with our partners to tackle the issues of slavery
- Reduce the amount of night time economy violence against the person
- Work with our partners to tackle the issue of FGM

The partnership agrees to support all over-arching strategies pertinent to these issues, by integrating relevant actions in the CSCP action plans or creating bespoke action plans as appropriate.

Achievements to date

CCTV
Cherwell District Council and Thames Valley Police invested in new technology, transforming the control room to being one of the most advanced in the country. The scheme has 80 cameras in the three major settlements. The operators use the cameras to detect and deter crime and improve public safety. The scheme has proved extremely important in detecting crime by identifying offenders whom may not have been caught by traditional witness identification. From April 2014 to April 2015 there were 2826 incidents and 642 arrests attributable to C.C.T.V.

Cherwell Neighbourhood Management (NHM)
Successful implementation of Cherwell Neighbourhood Management, including setting up Neighbourhood Action Groups, recruiting and deploying Neighbourhood Support Officers (NSOs), Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and problem-solving training for all Neighbourhood Action Group members.

Nightsafe
A partnership initiative between Police, Council and Licensed Premises to reduce violence and promote safe sensible drinking. Although the Council’s Nightsafe officer post has been reduced from full to part time, the promotion of the Nightsafe objectives continues through the Pub Watch groups supported by the Council. The Kidlington and Bicester groups are now well established and have been promoted during 2014/15 attracting new members in the urban centres. In addition premises in the villages surrounding both Bicester and Kidlington have been encouraged to join.

A Banbury Rural South Pub Watch has also now been established and is fully operational

Cleaner Greener Cherwell
Cleaner Greener Cherwell has resulted in street wardens, neighbourhood teams and community payback working in partnership with the Council’s Environmental Services department to improve the environment. The use of Fixed Penalty Notices
Projects that tackle concerns that affect communities

projects that tackle concerns that affect communities

for litter offences (enforced by Environmental Teams and now assisted by street wardens) has had a well-publicised and significant impact on cleanliness in the district.

operation jazz

During the summer of 2014 police and council officers patrolled together on Friday and Saturday nights to deal first hand with the anti-social effects of noisy parties and noisy licensed premises. Code named Operation Jazz; this initiative was considered a great success and will be repeated in future years.

operation nightsafe

“Cherwell District Council Licensing Team support Thames Valley Police through regular partnership working. One of the many aspects of this includes operation nightsafe, a specific operation designed by Thames Valley Police to tackle anti-social behaviour and disorder as part of the night-time economy. In addition to regular patrols in urban centres and licensed premises, test purchasing operations and educational visits to premises involved with alcohol and regulated entertainment, a regular meeting is held to discuss and address the issues raised. This meeting has recently been merged with the Council’s Multi Agency Meeting and is now attended by other partner agencies including Cherwell District Council’s Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Thames Valley Police CCTV Managers, Trading Standards and the NHS.”

Recreation & Sport Activator Update 2014/15

The Recreation & Sport Activators have had a very successful year delivering free opportunities for 8-16 year olds across the district, engaging 6,733 young people from April 2014 to March 2015. The initiative uses alternative sports to engage young people with positive activities in Parks, open spaces and youth settings and this year have visited 36 different locations within Cherwell. Helping to give young people positive activities and divert them from anti-social behaviour.

18 Pop up Activator family fun day events have been delivered across the district to showcase opportunities available locally for young people working in partnership with voluntary youth partners, police and health professionals.

Activator leadership awards – 4 Certificate process to encourage young people to become leaders, sustaining the project into communities.

16 Young people to date have become young leaders.

2014/15 saw the introduction of “Activate Banbury” a new project within the Activator initiative working solely with our Brighter Future wards of Neithrop and Ruscote and in partnership with Sanctuary housing to engage hard to reach groups of young people and those living in social housing. The project runs 4 separate sessions each week for 8 week blocks making links to different sports and helping sign post young people and link them to local clubs. The project has retained 163 young people over the year and out of that total 56 per cent are Sanctuary residents. The Activate Banbury project will continue into 2015/16.
JATAC
A panel meets fortnightly to discuss crime and ASB. Part of this group’s remit is to manage potential young offenders who come to the knowledge of the police or courts. This group now supports the County wide project “Thriving families” formerly “Troubled Families” bringing all agencies together to tackle those dis-advantaged most needy families In the District. New roles include intelligence for Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, preventing terrorism and Modern Slavery.

Anti-Social Behaviour Team
Partnership working between the ASB team, police and registered social landlords (RSLs) continues to be the basis for our service delivery. Building on the success of previous years the use of the injunctive power has continued to be effective in dealing with anti social behaviour in RSL tenanted properties. One of our most notable successes has resulted in premises that were being visited by police officers on a daily basis not generating a single call for a period of four months following an injunction being obtained. In terms of preventative work one of our notable growth areas has been the increase in the number of voluntary drug swabbing agreements put in place. Where it is suspected that drugs are being dealt from or used at premises tenants are being invited to sign up to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. In the contract they agree not to use drugs, deal drugs or allow others to do the same from their homes. They also agree to allow officers from the Council’s ASB Team to visit and swab surfaces for the presence of illegal drugs

Victim-Led Anti Social Behaviour Project
Victim led risk assessments have been a driver in ASB case work for around 18 months now in the Cherwell Area. The risk assessment allows partners to identify those victims of ASB who are least able to cope with the situation and those who are most at risk of harm from themselves and from further offending. Subsequent case work now has two directions. The first and most obvious is securing evidence to deal with the offender but the second and arguably equally important thread is the support of the victim, success being measured by a reducing risk assessment score.

The change of focus from practitioner to advisors by the ASB Coordinator and Case Officer has resulted in more cases being dealt with and wider knowledge bases of the processes and procedures leading to successful case outcomes being gained across the partnership.

Brighter Futures
Brighter Futures in Banbury (BFIB)
The BFIB programme aims to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in Banbury through multi-agency working; during 2015/17 through:

- A full programme of activities to support young people into education, employment or training including specialist support, drop-ins and an apprenticeships scheme.
- The successful delivery of job clubs and targeted work to help people return to work
- An exciting programme of activities for children, young people and their families to provide support to access opportunities and more targeted support for the most vulnerable families
- Work to increase the number of people accessing health services including screening, smoking cessation and alcohol services

A full annual review of the programme is available on our website www.cherwell.gov.uk
Projects that support or prevent individuals from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour

The victim

Achievements to date:

**Housing Projects and JATAC**
Working with CDC housing department and social landlords to reduce the amount of homelessness and reduce offending amongst tenants, promoting good neighbourhoods.

- **ASB at Tasking Group, Joint Agencies Tasking and Operations Groups.**

  The three partnership engagements allow partners to develop and agree joint tactical solutions to anti social behaviour and monitor resolution of each case. The hierarchy of the meeting group allows cases to be progressed at both operational and strategic levels and for cases to be referred upwards and downwards as the risk assessment dictates.

- **JATAC and the Operations Groups are effectively dynamic problem solving groups whilst Tasking Group (TCG) takes a strategic overview considering performance and emerging trends in crime and anti social behaviour.**

**ASB reporting strategy**

During the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 the partnership has dealt with 17 cases where the victims risk assessment score has been rated as ‘Medium’. No ‘High’ risk rated cases were received during the period.

**CBOs, ABCs and Injunctions.**

The ASB team and its partners will continue to utilise the appropriate legislation to put in place formal interventions where early interventions have not been successful or offending behaviour warrants such actions.

In the twelve months between April 2014 and March 2015 the team secured 33 acceptable behaviour contracts and assisted in securing two ASB injunctions. The team has received 1376 service requests in relation to alleged nuisances, such as noise and accumulations of waste.

47 abatement notices under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 have been issued. Three warrants to seize noise making equipment were obtained from the Magistrates Court. Fortunately the cases that they related to were resolved without the need to execute them.
Domestic and sexual abuse

Domestic and sexual abuse has been a priority for the partnership. Work on domestic abuse has been going on for some time with the originators of the domestic abuse help advisors known as the champion’s scheme coming from Cherwell. This resulted in a network of hundreds of domestic abuse champions across the county. The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service provides support for high-risk victims. It complements the work of the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse service, which provides a help-line and outreach support for victims. Domestic violence courts were introduced in 2009, resulting in victims receiving special measures to support them through their time in court. In addition to this work the partnership has introduced Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) into the plan and action plan for JATAC to monitor. During 2012-13 the partnership participated in a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) which is now complete.

Cherwell continues to support victims through its domestic abuse action group linked into its housing department’s homelessness strategy.

We will do this by:

- Undertaking an assessment of the size of the problem within Oxfordshire.
- Awareness raising and preventative education to equip children and young people with the skills they need to make safe and healthy choices and to avoid situations which put them at risk of child sexual exploitation.
- Ensuring children and young people know who they can turn to if they are worried, need advice or support.
- Awareness-raising for parents and carers so they are aware of the risks, understand the patterns of abuse, know about key indicators and where to access advice and support.
- Awareness-raising in communities – geographic, communities of interest, faith communities etc.
- Awareness-raising and training for professionals working in universal, targeted and specialist services, including a focus on known risk factors.

Hate crime

The partnership is committed to resolving under reporting of hate Crime in the District. To this end the partnership joint funded with Thames Valley Police a third party reporting scheme hosted by Stop Hate UK. To date there have been seven reports to the call centre.

Vulnerable adults

The partnership contributes to the support of vulnerable adults through its work with the County Council in “no cold calling” zones and nominated neighbour schemes, reducing victims of distraction burglary and rogue traders.

Physical security improvements

In relation to burglary, domestic abuse, robbery and other incidents where the victim's property needs additional security, the partnership runs a target hardening scheme. For the last five years, victims of these offences have been offered a house survey and a financial contribution to install additional security. In areas of high burglary, landlords have been offered financial assistance to secure their properties whether an offence has been committed or not.
Projects that prevent or enforce against those at risk of offending

The Offender

Achievements to date:

Burglary and Violence Against the person

Cherwell residents still regard the prevention of burglary, violence and anti-social behaviour as high priorities. As of 31 March 2015 burglary was down 14 per cent. The detection rate for burglary was 34 per cent and violence 52 per cent.

ASB team

ASB still remains the priority for neighbourhoods in the desire to lead peaceful lives. Cherwell's ASB and nuisance teams lead the way in tackling anti-social behaviour. They have an impressive track record and national reputation in dealing with this type of anti-social behaviour by using the most appropriate methods. The team was the first in the country to implement a drink banning order and drug house closures.

Recent headline cases involving partnership working to resolve anti social behaviour have identified areas where communications with partner agencies, other partners and the wider public can be improved. The ASB team is committed to learn from these experiences and put in place means to overcome identified shortcomings.

This, associated with the ambition that all partners will adopt the victim-led risk assessment procedure, is aimed at driving forward an improvement in the quality of service offered to the community.

Drug dealing

Drug dealing and its effects have been a concern for some Neighbourhood Action Groups. The ASB team will continue to exploit every opportunity to use available powers of closure when the use and sale of Class A drugs adversely affects the community. Running in parallel is the power to close premises giving rise to intolerable nuisance. Consideration will be given to these powers where activity involving selling lesser classes of drugs has a similar impact.

With regard to drug and alcohol treatment, our partners Oxfordshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership have the following objectives for 2015-2016 which the CSCP supports:

Priorities

Taking into account the latest research and statistics around alcohol and drugs both locally and across the UK, the priorities of this strategy will be:

1. Working together on alcohol harm reduction projects.
2. Reducing/ stopping the demand and supply of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) or “Legal highs” in Oxfordshire.
3. Improve the way we commission services to provide better pathways for people with complex needs, with a focus on recovery from addiction.
4. Reduce the number of young people engaging in risky behaviours and continue to improve the collaborative working approach to early intervention.
5. Share intelligence and data across organisations to better understand the needs of specific and vulnerable groups of the population.

Managing offenders

Integrated offender management was introduced four years ago. It brought together the police, probation and Cherwell DC in close monitoring of persistent offenders. The top ten offenders in Cherwell are closely monitored by a team of officers supported by local authorities in a programme to reduce offending and rehabilitate where possible. Cherwell continues to support positive activities for young people by:

- developing the Positive Activities For Young People web page and search engine (www.activitiesoxfordshire.info) and the Cherwell District Council micro site (www.cherwell.gov.uk/cherwellyouth) to act as the essential guide for Cherwell young peoples activities
- delivering the Youth Activator initiative in parks and Multi Use Games Areas and supporting voluntary youth clubs to engage young people and sign post them to positive activities using alternative sports
Projects that focus on issues that affect whole communities or neighbourhoods

The place

In 2015-17 CSP will:

- continue Operation Jazz to reduce unnecessary noise pollution
- continue to implement its NightSafe scheme, working closely with partners to respond to licensing changes in the Police Reform and Social Justice Bill
- undertake a review of CCTV in response to budget reductions and opportunities across the district ensuring that the scheme maintains its effectiveness
- increase the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)
- continue JATAC, a successful ground breaking approach to joined up response in reducing offending in young people
- reshape the delivery of its street warden service, giving it greater focus on tackling environmental, public space and anti-social behaviour. This will include making the service responsible for environmental enforcement, preliminary investigations and referrals into environmental issues and an evidence-gathering resource in neighbourhood disputes
- continue street surgeries
- enforce residents parking policy
- develop the communications approach to addressing perceptions around fear of crime and ASB
- publicise crime statistics and success stories
- target our efforts in a more coordinated way, and at what the public and available intelligence tells us are the priorities
- improve the visibility of street wardens (and the police)
- introduce the Victim led Anti Social Behaviour procedure to its RSLs and other partners
- using existing software, develop an information recording and case management system for anti social behaviour cases graded ‘standard’
- carry out real time customer satisfaction surveys of customers using the ASB teams, using the information collected to improve service delivery
- set up procedures necessary to use the fixed penalty notice powers available to councils under the Noise Act 1996.

This section sets out how the partnership will deal with each of the three strands of a crime: the place, the victim and the offender over the coming year.

Projects that focus on issues that affect whole communities or neighbourhoods
We will gauge our success by:

- reducing the level of domestic burglary
- continuing to improve safety in the night time economy by making best use of licensing legislation
- reducing, cases of persistent and resistant anti social behaviour problems affecting our neighbourhoods and communities
- tackling rural crime through intelligence, enforcement and prevention
- Maintain the levels of satisfaction with the cleanliness of our district
- maintaining the levels of satisfaction with the way we deal with crime, anti-social behaviour and nuisance
- reducing the incidence of repeat callers contacting partners regarding nuisance and anti social behaviour
Projects that focus on issues that affect whole communities or neighbourhoods

Projects that support or prevent individuals from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour

The victim

In 2015-17 CSCP will:

- continue to support the Domestic Abuse (DA) strategy through the County action group
- support the county wide female genital mutilation (FGM) strategy and action plans through inclusion of priority actions into CSP action plan
- support the county wide child sexual exploitation (CSE) strategy and action plans through inclusion of priority actions into CSP action plan
- support the county wide modern slavery strategy and action plans through inclusion of priority actions into CSP action plan
- provide additional support, guidance and advice to victims of distraction burglary and rogue traders
- through JATAC, CDC housing and ASB departments, continue to provide support to people with mental health issues who are at risk of anti-social behaviour enforcement
- use JATAC to gather intelligence on Child Sexual Exploitation, modern slavery and FGM
- work to reduce the need for repeat calls to the ASB and nuisance services.

We will gauge our success by:

- cutting the level of violence against the person
- maintaining the rate of crimes solved for violence with injury
- increasing the detection rate for rape
- monitoring the number of domestic abuse assaults
- monitoring the number of assaults on women
- supporting Stop Hate UK by inputting reports received about hate crime and responding
- monitoring distraction burglary
- monitoring the number of repeat calls and repeat callers
- monitoring the number of agencies using the victim led risk assessment procedure.
- Continue to identify those at risk of child sexual exploitation and those who seek to exploit them. Prevent such exploitation by supporting and safeguarding the vulnerable and bringing to justice the perpetrators

We will measure our success in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in the four key areas identified in Puppet on A String which are:

- Raising Awareness
- Improving statutory responses and the provision of services
- Improving the evidence base
- Improving prosecution procedures
Projects that focus on issues that affect whole communities or neighbourhoods

Projects that prevent or enforce against those at risk of offending

The offender

In 2015-17 CSCP will:

- implement a new partnership web-based case management system to improve our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour
- support a risk driven approach to managing the ASB case load and more effectively manage expectations for the nuisance case load
- continue to support and administer JATAC
- work with other partners to develop a suitable youth provision within the district
- support positive activities for young people in the district, diverting them away from crime.

We will gauge our success by:

- increasing the detection rate for domestic burglary
- Continue to take enforcement action including robust enforcement of new legislation, against those who steal metal and those who handle it.
- Continuing to identify those at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and those who seek to exploit them. Prevent such exploitation by supporting and safeguarding the vulnerable and bringing to justice the perpetrators

Support activities

To be able to judge priority areas of work, which interventions to implement and how to fund, cost and evaluate the projects the partnership draws upon a number of support functions

Data and research

Data and research enables us to quickly understand emerging trends in crime alongside the assessment of daily and weekly variations. For example, our Night Safe scheme was set-up using the evidence provided through analysis. It was then extended into our rural areas.

Finance and performance

The partnership relies heavily on external grants that require effective and efficient management of public money. This is tied to the performance outputs of projects and higher level outcomes in terms of crime and anti-social behaviour reduction targets.

Communications

Communications are targeted at specific communities. For example, after the courts have granted an Anti-Social Behaviour Order we produce details of the conditions of the order and deliver it to the area affected by the order so communities are aware of it (unless the person is under 18).
Conclusion

The Government’s approach to fighting crime involves a radical shift in power from Whitehall to local communities. The police and partners will be given far greater freedom to do their jobs and use their discretion. The community will have more power to hold the police and Community Safety Partnerships to account. Success will be judged by the public on the simple fact of whether crime has fallen.

This will put the public in charge, making the police directly accountable to their communities through the election of Police and Crime Commissioners and mandatory local beat meetings. Police and Crime Commissioners have real powers to make a difference – setting force budgets and the police and crime plan. Public cooperation, not just passive consent. In Cherwell the Partnership will actively engage with the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership to ensure delivery of the commissioners plan.

Partnership working is not an end in itself. The role of CSCP is to make sure that offenders are properly targeted, that victims are supported effectively, local public spaces are safe, and that local operations on the ground are working together with neighbourhood policing teams. In Cherwell the partnership will continue to support the integrated offender management project, and support of Neighbourhood Management.

The Partnership is committed to securing funds and joint resourcing wherever possible. The partnership is also committed to directing what funds and resources are available to the priorities the community tells us are the most important. The Partnership has secured funding from Commissioner for the coming year. This funding is allocated to the priorities by the funding panel. The partnership agrees the funding at the beginning of each financial year.

The Partnership looks forward to delivering the ambitious objectives set out in this plan. It also embraces the concept of working with volunteers and community groups doing more for less delivering community aspirations.

Glossary

- **ASBO** Anti Social Behaviour Order possibly to be scrapped by Government
- **ASB toolkit** Anti Social Behaviour Tool Kit in process of being re written
- **Cherwell District Council (CDC)**
- **Cherwell Local Police Area (Cherwell LPA)** Area commanded by a police Superintendent Co terminus with Cherwell District Council
- **Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership (CSCP)** Multi agency partnership dealing with crime and anti social behaviour
- **Joint Agency Tasking and Coordinating (JATAC)** Multi agency meeting to deal with operational crime and anti social behaviour issues
- **Neighbourhood Management (NHM)** Police led initiative working with neighbourhoods to tackle the issues that matter most to their communities
- **Nightsafe** A partnership initiative between Police, Council and Licensed Premises to reduce violence and promote safe sensible drinking
- **Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)**
- **Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)**
- **Oxfordshire Probation**
- **Thames Valley Police (TVP)**
- **Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)** A term for all crimes involving theft from the person, burglary, theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles
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