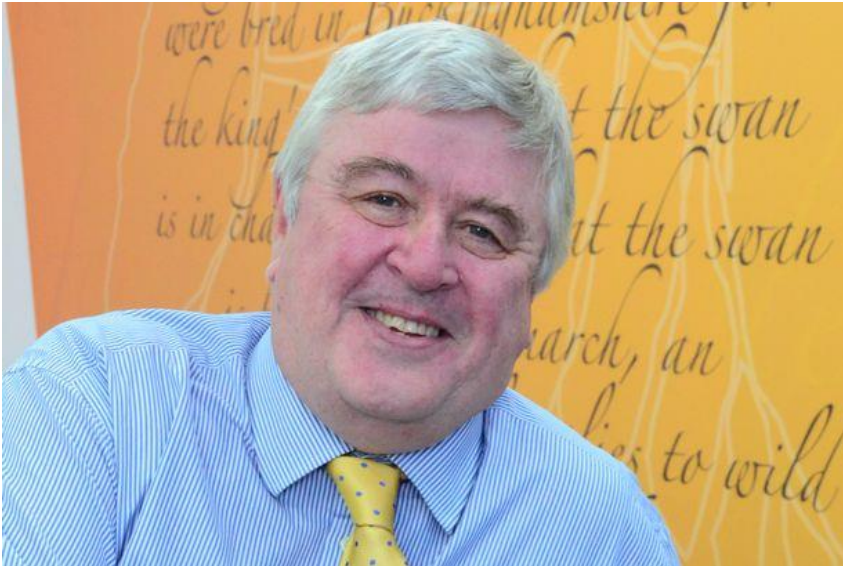


Safer Bucks Plan

(The Buckinghamshire Community Safety Agreement)

2016 - 17



Cllr Martin Phillips; Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health

Foreword

“Welcome to the Safer Bucks Plan, the Community Safety Agreement for the county area of Buckinghamshire. It outlines how the responsible authorities, such as the police, district and county councils, health and fire service; will work together to tackle crime and disorder across the county over the next twelve months. Our aim is to continue to make Buckinghamshire one of the safest places to live in the country.

Keeping our communities safe is everybody’s business. With public resources under pressure and the landscape of crime changing, it is especially important to ensure that we are doing all we reasonably can to tackle crime and disorder. Partnership working remains an important factor in our ongoing success.

We are grateful to the Police and Crime Commissioner for the financial support he has committed, to addressing community safety issues in Buckinghamshire both in 2015/16 and the future commitment for 2016/17.

Following public consultation, the Safer Bucks Plan identifies priorities of most concern across the county. The partnership has had to be flexible to respond to emerging issues. In doing so, we continue to learn and focus our resources on the areas of highest risk; whilst remaining vigilant to more traditional crime types.

The enthusiasm and commitment of all of our staff, partners and members of the public, remains key to our ongoing ability to ensure that Buckinghamshire remains one of the safest places to live, work, visit and study.

1 Our aims

In Buckinghamshire, we aim to continue to see crime reduce. We also aim to support those who are most vulnerable to crime and those who are most fearful of crime and enable them to feel safer. People can be vulnerable for a number of reasons - including who they are, where they live, the condition or environment in which they live. People can also be vulnerable at different times of the day or year for example night time or winter when access to services is harder for some. The Community Safety Partnerships across the county aim to work with other services to support individuals where and when they need it.

Lastly, we aim to see improved locations that help communities and individuals to be safe and feel safe. In order to do that, we will continue to work with our partner agencies, both locally and across the county. We are committed to ensuring that our decision making is based on sound evidence and reflects the feedback from our communities. Where it is sensible, we will join things up across the county to achieve as much as possible for a lower cost.

2 The reason for our work

Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities and is consistently highlighted as a high priority by our residents. The impact of crime and disorder on the quality of life of individuals and whole communities means that it affects everyone who lives, works and is a visitor in Buckinghamshire.

It is widely recognised that tackling community safety issues cannot be achieved solely by the police. It requires the work of a number of organisations, in partnership, along with the community to raise the issues and identify solutions to those issues; and then to work together to put those solutions into action.

3 The purpose of this document

Part of our duty within the Crime & Disorder Act is to create a “Community Safety Agreement” every year. This document needs to identify:

- how the agencies within this partnership can work together to deal with the most important issues in the county. These issues are based on analysis of last year’s crime and disorder data and on feedback from the community;
- the issues that will be fed into the work of the partnership across the county and set out how the partners will co-operate to deliver the priorities.

Many areas of crime can be tackled more effectively through joint working between a variety of agencies. In some cases, there may be a few agencies that do similar work and benefit from working together more closely to share experience and resource. This strengthens their ability to achieve positive and lasting outcomes.

4 How we set our priorities

Buckinghamshire benefits from a partnership analysis approach and close working with the police to prepare an annual partnership 'Strategic Assessment'. We use a minimum of one year of crime and disorder data and information and look at trends, emerging areas, changing nature of crime etc. It is carefully written over approx. 3 months, culminating in a detailed analysis document looking at victims, offenders and locations of crime. The latest Strategic Assessment was completed in September 2015 and, along with other pieces of evidence and consultation, this work helps to provide the information needed to set our priorities.

The priorities to be included in the Safer Bucks Plan should:

- be based on evidence
- recognise the current and emerging countywide needs and issues
- review crime in terms of the impact of harm and risk
- take into consideration equality and ethics
- be within the scope and capabilities of the Community Safety team, alongside its crime & disorder partners
- consider the result of public and stakeholder consultation

Each of the four districts in Buckinghamshire also uses the Strategic Assessment to help identify priorities for their work. They are required under the Crime and Disorder Act to produce a 3 Year Partnership Plan for each local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which is to be refreshed annually. The requirement for the annual Community Safety Agreement between the County Council and the partners is delivered as a countywide plan which should complement but not duplicate the work carried out at local levels. It should also complement the Police & Crime Plan.

5 The Police & Crime Plan (2013-2017)

The Thames Valley police area covers 13 policing areas, of which 3 are within Buckinghamshire. Thus the Police & Crime Plan priorities are at a much higher level than those that are identified for the county or district areas. They are also not all related to partnership working as some are specifically for the police as an organisation.

The Police & Crime Priorities are:

- Cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and reduce reoffending
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Work with partner agencies to put victims and witnesses at the heart of the Criminal Justice System
- Ensure police and partners are visible, act with integrity and foster the trust and confidence of communities
- Communicate with the public to learn of their concerns, help to prevent crime and reduce their fear of crime
- Protect the public from serious organised crime, terrorism and internet based crime

6 The county level priorities

Priority	Why it is an issue
<p>Tackling the exploitation and victimisation of vulnerable people, including radicalisation, modern slavery and CSE <i>e.g. targeting of children and adults, including those with specific vulnerabilities (mental health, disability, illness, lack of stable support networks)</i></p>	<p>The hidden and unknown nature of these crimes is the biggest challenge for agencies that are looking to help people. The harm caused to victims is often significant and long lasting and the demand on services is great.</p> <p>The UK has been at “Severe” terrorism threat level for over a year and it is unlikely to be reduced in the near future.</p>
<p>Tackling Violence with Injury and Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>Domestic violence and abuse is becoming a less hidden crime as more people have the courage to report it. Victims need to be supported to protect themselves and their families.</p> <p>Violence (against a person), especially with injury, causes harm and there is a concern that younger people are reporting more violence than previously.</p>
<p>Tackling victimisation of people through the internet / social media <i>e.g. internet safety, grooming, fraud, sex offences</i></p>	<p>The internet is a fast developing enabler of serious crimes affecting all ages and without geographic boundaries.</p>
<p>Tackling substance misuse <i>e.g. drugs, alcohol and new psychoactive substances (also known as legal highs)</i></p>	<p>This is a key causal factor for stealing crimes such as burglary, car crime, robbery & shoplifting. It is also linked to violence. Stealing and violence makes up nearly 75% of all crime in Bucks (55% stealing; 19% violence).</p>

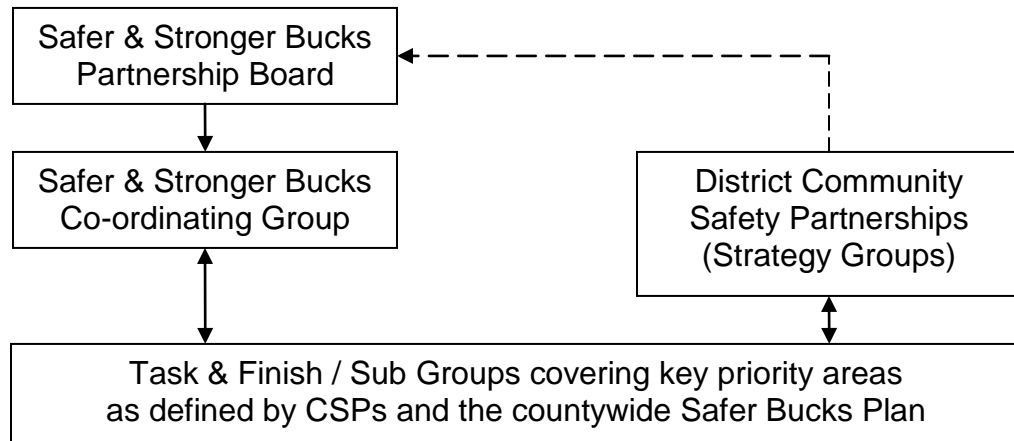
7 The local priorities (District based)

Community Safety work happens at a number of levels and, the Safer Bucks Plan is a county level plan. However, in line with legislation, each of the local district-based Community Safety Partnerships has developed a Partnership Plan. Having these two levels of plans is important as there are often issues that are of more concern in one area than in any other and these are more appropriately addressed at that local level. Equally, there are local issues which provide opportunities for activity at a county level, such as large awareness raising campaigns, rather than each local area doing something different. For your information the district priorities are listed as an appendix.

8 Who is involved in developing a Safer & Stronger Buckinghamshire

8.1 Partnership Structure

Buckinghamshire benefits from a clear partnership structure with long standing governance arrangements that compliment the two-tier (County and District) authority environment.



8.2 Partnership working

This need for partners to work together was made statutory in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and brings together a number of organisations to form Community Safety Partnerships, and there is a commitment between them all to continue to work together to achieve better outcomes for the community.

In Buckinghamshire these partners are:

- Thames Valley Police
- County and District Councils (including departments within each)
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- Thames Valle Community Rehabilitation Company
- Clinical Commissioning Groups

At a county level, there are roles that seek to ensure that there is a co-ordinated and complete response to the issues across the county where that is appropriate. There is also responsibility to deal with the issues that have been identified across the county with the statutory partners and also to provide support and add value to the resource and experience of partners in local district areas.

The Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board and the Community Safety Partnerships in Bucks continue to work together with colleagues from across Thames Valley to ensure that the Community Safety Partnership priorities are understood and help to shape the future Police and Crime Plan which the Police and Crime Commissioner produces and refreshes.

9 How we will contribute towards a Safer & Stronger Buckinghamshire

Each agency within the partnership is able to contribute towards crime & disorder reductions in a variety of ways and different partners have different skill sets and knowledge to match.

9.1 Improving the information and understanding of crimes

- a) *Improving confidence in victims (and communities) to report*
 - We will use existing mechanisms to communicate with our residents about how to report crime
 - We will look for new and innovative ways to communicate with those we don't usually reach
 - We will continue to share success stories around delivering justice for victims of crime to encourage more people to come forward
 - We will continue to support specific groups who feel they need extra help to understand their rights and what is available to them
 - We will seek to understand and respond to reasons why some people do not feel confident reporting crime
- b) *Effective information sharing*
 - We will ensure our information sharing protocols and agreements are up to date, fit for purpose and effectively used to support work to reduce crime and disorder
 - We will ensure a good balance of data (from systems) as well as information from people such as intelligence, survey responses and reports available locally and nationally
- c) *Good analysis around victims / offenders / locations*
 - We will ensure sufficient time is spent understanding issues so that our response is measured and evidence based
 - We will use analysis to direct resources appropriately, using past evidence as a basis from which to inform the future

9.2 Identifying where the partnership can best provide support and value

- a) *Identifying and treating underlying causes*
 - We will continue to invest in prevention work including education and awareness around all crime & disorder issues to protect vulnerable people
 - We will support existing mechanisms which deal with early intervention
- b) *Tackling offending & supporting victims*
 - We will continue to work with Probation services, the Youth Offending Service, the Criminal Justice System and the voluntary sector to deal with the cycle of offending and the harm it causes communities
 - We will regularly keep track of harm / opportunity and threat
 - We will continue to focus on those areas of highest risk and greatest demand
 - We will continue to support those who are most vulnerable

- We will use information available to us to remain proactive and aware of the emerging and changing criminal landscape
 - We will work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that there is appropriate support for victims of crime and will continue to develop our response to the crimes that cause the most harm
- c) *Maximising the impact of multi-agency working*
- We will ensure the right people are focusing on the right things and that skills are put to best use
 - We will support existing work across the partnership and make sure we check that we are being effective
 - We will use any funding made available to us in an appropriate way

10 How we will measure progress

The partnership, both at a local and county level, meets quarterly to make sure actions are owned and are being progressed. Any barriers are raised and dealt with through appropriate escalation routes. (See section 8.1 for existing reporting structures)

Performance is managed through scrutiny of the following four key questions:

1. ***Do we understand the problem? (What's the problem and it is our business?)***
2. ***What are we doing about it? (From our understanding of the problem, what are we doing about it?)***
3. ***Is it working? (Are the decisions and activities having an impact?)***
4. ***What next? (Based on evidence of what works, should work be stopped, improved, commissioned, increased or devolved?)***

Where there are additional activities which either cut across more than one group or sit separately, these will be addressed in partnership and will be monitored by the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board. This is set out in a Joint Protocol that cuts across the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Boards and other groups.

Being efficient and effective means:

- Being clear about the remit and scope of the partnership, and its relationship with other groups
- Being evidence led & outcome focused including evaluation and monitoring of our investment of time and resource
- Understanding Value for Money and/or Return on Investment such that budgets are managed and scrutinised proportionately
- The Partnership Board is held to account and is able to hold agencies and individuals to account for agreed actions, through robust performance management
- Information Sharing that is appropriate and speedy, managed by sufficient controls

11 How the partnership fund supports these priorities

The funding that is provided to Community Safety Partnerships has reduced year on year. Buckinghamshire has made a great deal of effort to retain the most critical or valuable services that are provided across the county. The spend plan for the Community Safety Fund (PCC grant) for 2016/17 is set out below. It is indicative and some elements may vary during the year, as the partnership responds to emerging issues and needs.

Community Safety Fund Plan	2016/17
Drugs Interventions Programme	£85,910
Substance Misuse Community Links Project	£22,000
Youth Offending Prevention workers	£86,141
The Youth Offending Service	£121,466
Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)	£85,000
Partnership Crime Analysis Capacity	Up to £20,000
Retained funding to respond to in-year needs	Min £74,525
Total Plan	£495,042

Appendix

District Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2016/17

Aylesbury Vale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe and secure town centres 2. To reduce ASB and crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.
Chiltern & South Bucks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce house burglary, theft from vehicles, and violence against the person 2. Continue to invest work to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities 3. Protect vulnerable individuals and communities 4. Reduce the fear of crime and perception of anti-social behaviour
Wycombe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crime and anti-social behaviour 2. Domestic Abuse 3. Exploitation of the vulnerable 4. Continue the work of the Nightsafe Partnership 5. Cybercrime