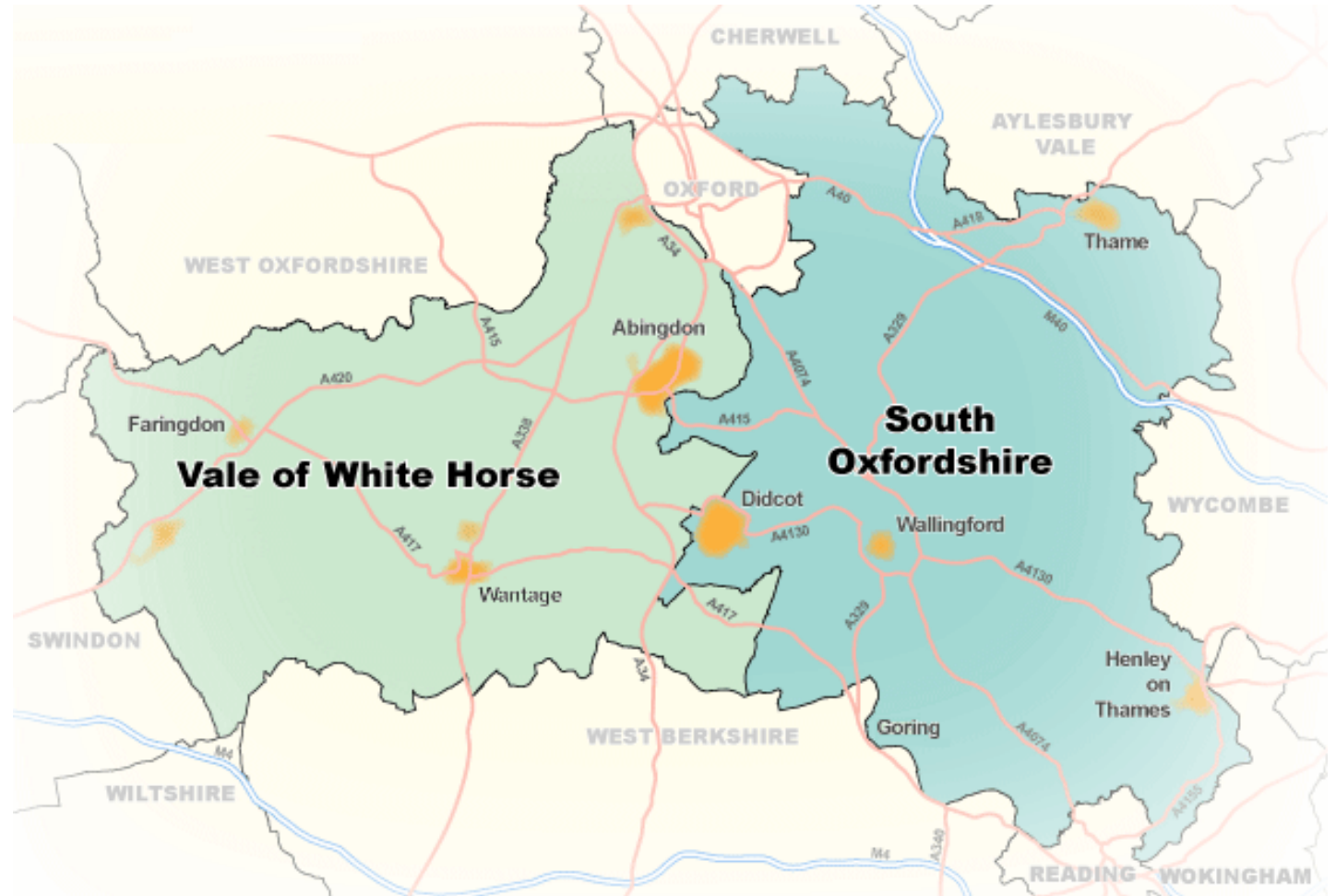


South and Vale Community Safety Partnership Plan 2025-2028



Foreword from South and Vale Community Safety Partnership Chair(s)

We are pleased to introduce the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership's Plan for 2025-2028. This document details the priorities for South and Vale's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for the next three years.



Councillor Helen Pighills



Councillor Georgina Heritage

The plan sets out how responsible authorities, such as the police, district councils, county council, probation service, public health, fire and rescue service along with the voluntary sector, young people service providers and schools will work together to tackle crime and support vulnerable people.

It takes into consideration the findings from Oxfordshire's Strategic Intelligence Assessment and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan to ensure the South and Vale CSP has an evidence-based approach to tackling crime and supporting those people most vulnerable in our communities. The CSP will focus on four key priorities: anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, exploitation and serious violence.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse is one of the safest places to live and work in Thames Valley and we are focused on keeping it that way, working with local organisations to reduce harm and support local services. By working together, we aim to make our communities safer and stronger.

Foreword from the Chief Inspector Strategic Partnerships



Wendy Percival French - Chief
Inspector Strategic
Partnerships

I am the Chief Inspector Strategic Partnerships for Oxfordshire Local Command Unit within Thames Valley Police. As you may be aware South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse covers approximately 485 square miles and hosts seven market towns. We have seen a significant increase in our population in recent years with the area hosting very attractive employment opportunities.

The geography and demography of our area mean we have some complex policing challenges, but through our coordinated work together with our CSP partners, we have some of the lowest crime levels in Thames Valley and continue to remain one of the safest places to live and work. However, we can and must continue to improve. **Thames Valley Police will focus on the operational aims serving victims, fighting crime and building trust.**

We are facing growing demands and ever-evolving policing challenges. For example, serious violent crime increased nationally over several years, resulting in the Serious Violence Strategy 2018 and the subsequent Serious Violence Duty which went live in early 2023. The new legal Serious Violence Duty enshrines in law how we work in partnership to reduce violence. **The police will ensure we are legally compliant and that we realise the benefits of this new way of working in partnership to reduce and prevent serious violent crime.**

Serious violence includes violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Casey Review highlights how much needs to be done in this area. Whilst this was about the Metropolitan Police, we are not complacent in Thames Valley. We have a VAWG strategy focusing on reducing VAWG, and domestic violence in all forms, with a clear activity **to increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice**. We will also be focusing on improving our response to the exploitation of the vulnerable via a **new exploitation management framework**, such as children used by County Drugs Lines to supply illicit deal drugs.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB), can have a devastating impact on communities and individuals. It can take many forms from neighbour disputes and inconsiderate behaviour to graffiti and drug dealing. Thames Valley Police is committed to working closely with our partners to protect residents and businesses and to prevent those who offend from making lives a misery.

These priorities will help us to focus our efforts on the areas the residents of our area want to see progress in. Realising these priorities will improve public confidence in the partnership, reduce crime and improve the wellbeing of our community. Thames Valley Police is committed to working with our CSP partners to achieve these priorities as working in partnership, with and for our communities is the only way we can achieve these aims to our collective benefit.



What is the Community Safety Partnership?

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body which brings local organisations together to tackle crime, protect vulnerable people and help people feel safe. No single agency can solve complex community safety issues alone, so CSPs provide a multi-agency approach.

The South and Vale CSP was created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which established the principles of partnership working. The partnership involves councillors and officers from both district councils and officers representing Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, Thames Valley Probation Service, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police, Soha Housing Limited, Sovereign Housing Limited and Office of the Police Crime Commissioner.



Demographic information South Oxfordshire

It is estimated 151,820 people live in South Oxfordshire according to the Office for National Statistics: Mid-Year Population Estimates UK, June 2022.

In the [2021 Census](#) The Office of National Statistics (ONS) recorded around 149,100 residents living in South Oxfordshire, an increase of 14,800 from the 2011 Census which equates to a 11.1 per cent increase.

South Oxfordshire

The housing-led forecasts show the population of South Oxfordshire increasing from 151,800 in 2022 to 166,100 by 2031 (+14,300, + 9 per cent). There is expected to be significant increases around Didcot, Culham, Chalgrove, and bordering Oxford Science Park. The population of Didcot and the surrounding area is expected to grow from 38,100 to 44,600 (+17 per cent).

The number of people aged 50 - 64 years rose by just under 5,100 (an increase of 19.5 per cent, while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by just over 1,100 (3.6 per cent decrease). The average (median) age of South Oxfordshire is 43 years of age.

In 2021, 93.1 per cent of people in South Oxfordshire identified their ethnic group within the “White” category (compared with 96.1 per cent in 2011), while 2.3 percent identified their ethnic group within the “Mixed or Multiple” category (compared with 1.3 per cent the previous decade). The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the “Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African” category increased from 0.6 per cent in 2011 to one per cent in 2021.

The district of South Oxfordshire covers nearly 260 square miles. Its boundary reaches from the edge of the City of Oxford in the north-west along the borders of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to the outskirts of Reading in the south. It has four main towns: Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford, with Didcot becoming increasingly dominant as the main urban centre. Within 10 years, some 25 per cent of the district’s population will live in Didcot.



Demographic information Vale of White Horse

It is estimated 142,116 people live in Vale of White Horse according to the Office for National Statistics: Mid-Year Population Estimates UK, June 2022.

In the [2021 Census](#) The Office of National Statistics (ONS) recorded around 138,900 residents living in Vale of White Horse an increase of 17,900 from the 2011 Census which equates to a 14.8 per cent increase.

Vale of White Horse

The housing-led forecasts show the population of Vale of White Horse increasing from 142,100 in 2022 to 163,300 by 2031 (+21,200, +15 per cent). There is expected to be a significant increase in population at Valley Park between Harwell and Didcot; Grove Airfield, Dalton Barracks, Crab Hill, Wantage and land north of Abingdon. The population of Abingdon is expected to grow from 45,100 to 49,400 (+9 per cent). The population of Wantage and Grove is expected to grow from 20,000 to 25,100 (+25 per cent) and the area west of Didcot in Vale is expected to grow from 14,300 to 19,400 (36 per cent).

The number of people aged 25 – 34 years rose by around 3,600 (an increase of 25.2 per cent), while the number of residents between 16 and 19 years fell by just under 150 (2.3 per cent decrease). The median age of Vale of White Horse is 41.

In 2021, 90.8 per cent of people in Vale of White Horse identified their ethnic group within the “White” category (compared with 94.9 per cent in 2011), while 2.5 per cent identified their ethnic group within the “Mixed or Multiple” category (compared with 1.3 per cent the previous decade). The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the “Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African” category increased from one per cent in 2011 to 1.7 per cent in 2021.

The district of the Vale of White Horse, whose name comes from the oldest chalk figure in Britain dating back to around 1000 BC, stretches from the edge of Oxford to the edge of the Cotswolds. The district has three historic market towns, Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage. The area also covers Botley, located on the edge of Oxford, as well as the large village of Grove, near Wantage.

Crime data summary

Over the past twelve months (April 2024 to March 2025), the total number of recorded crime (excluding Fraud) in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse is 13,325.

A total of 13,379 crimes were recorded in 2023-24, 13,631 recorded crimes in 2022-23 and 13,887 in 2021-22. Police recorded crime excludes offences that are not reported to or not recorded by the police. Trends can be influenced by changes in recording practices making it difficult to make long-term comparisons.

Achievements

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership has been successfully operating as a single Community Safety Partnership (CSP) since April 2011. For examples of some of the activities the CSP supported, please see the [South](#) and [Vale](#) CSP's annual report to Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Keeping our communities safe

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership will focus on four key priorities:

Domestic
Abuse

Modern
Slavery/
Exploitation

Serious
Violence

Antisocial
Behaviour

- These priorities will form the main agenda of the community safety partnership meetings and partner updates will enable us to track the delivery and impact of our plan.
- We will deploy our Community Safety grant received from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support these priorities and continue to invest in early interventions to prevent harm developing.

Keeping our communities safe

- In addition to our established statutory duties, we will continue to measure crime data and will respond to any increases in demand. The CSP will review its performance on a quarterly basis, agree any remedial action necessary and provide an annual report to the district councils' joint scrutiny committee.
- Officers from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse along with officers from Oxford City, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell collaborate on shared priorities at the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Coordination Group. This officer-led coordination group oversees projects that are best placed at a county geographic level to prevent crime and support vulnerable people.

Working together to prevent violence in South and Vale

The Serious Violence Duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to identify and reduce serious violence in their areas.

Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.

Priorities one to three encompass this responsibility and demonstrate how we plan to reduce the harm caused by serious violence across our areas.

PRIORITY 1: Domestic Abuse

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour. Abusive behaviour includes physical or sexual violence, psychological or emotional control, economic, online or digital abuse.

Protecting People – Domestic Abuse Objectives



Co-ordinate sanctuary scheme works to help victims of crime stay and feel safe in their own home



Promote domestic abuse provision within the districts to strengthen communities



Commission Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and implement recommendations

PRIORITY 2: Modern Slavery and Exploitation

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery is when an individual is exploited by others, for personal or commercial gain. Whether tricked, coerced or forced, they lose their freedom.

Protecting People – Abuse & Exploitation Objectives



Ensure all modern slavery and exploitation concerns are reported and a multi agency approach and pathway is followed to support victims and disrupt activities.



Working with local young people service providers to provide positive pathways for young people by building confidence, communication skills and self esteem



Working with secondary schools to deliver early intervention projects to raise awareness of exploitation to prevent and protect young people from harm and abuse

PRIORITY 3: Serious Violence

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership have agreed to focus on two key areas of serious violence; Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and knife crime.

We are committed to creating an environment where women and girls can feel safe and be safe in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

We will work together to tackle youth violence and deter people from carrying knives through early intervention and prevention.

Protecting People - Violence Against Women and Girls Objectives



Working with local young people providers to help young people feel safe within their community and challenge negative behaviours towards young women



Working with partners and professionals to raise awareness of safe spaces and help available in our communities - Safe Places and Ask for Angela Schemes



Promote campaigns to educate and empower women and girls – White Ribbon, “It Does Matter”

Protecting People – Knife Crime Objectives



Working with partners to help deter young people from carrying knives



Working with partners and agencies to raise awareness of support and help available in our communities



Promote campaigns to help educate and reduce knife crime – The Ben Kinsella Trust, Stay True to You

PRIORITY 4: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

What is Anti-social behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person'.

Protecting Communities – Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Objectives



Carrying out environmental visual audits where there has been an increased demand on services, to identify solutions and improvements to areas



Create new monthly multi-agency South and Vale ASB meetings to problem solve concerns reported. Deliver diversionary projects to prevent youth crime including ASB.



Explore a more joined up approach to tackling offensive graffiti in the districts and an improved partnership response to tackling ASB relating to cannabis smoke

Alternative formats of this publication are available upon request. The South and Vale Community Safety Plan will be reviewed, refreshed and modified annually.

CONTACT US

For more information, please contact a member of the South and Vale Community Safety Team



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**Confident and
safer communities**

**SOUTH AND VALE COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**