

Community Safety Plan

2016 - 2019



Reading's Community Safety Partnership



Our Mission

We will continue to make Reading a safer place for those who live, work and visit here through a reduction in crime and disorder.

We will do this by:

- Discouraging and preventing criminal and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackling drugs and alcohol related crime and disorder.

Foreword

It gives us great pleasure in introducing Reading's seventh Community Safety Strategy and the fifth three-year rolling plan. The CSP comprises of statutory agencies, including Reading Borough Council, Thames Valley Police, the National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Public Health. These agencies have joined forces to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime, working together with partners such as the Crown Prosecution Service, housing providers and voluntary and community organisations. In Reading, the CSP is merged with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), enabling streamlined enforcement and treatment options offering people the help they need.

No one agency can tackle crime, or fear of crime, by working alone, particularly in the current economic climate. In Reading, we believe that crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime can only be tackled through partnership working. We also know we can only succeed in making our vision of a Safer Reading a reality if we work with, and listen to, the diverse neighbourhoods and people of Reading. Our approach goes beyond enforcement, with a strong focus on prevention and the wider determinants of crime.

The CSP is required to produce a Strategic Assessment, which is reviewed annually. This analyses activity and performance information and is used to identify key issues and priorities concerning crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. Through consultation and listening to local communities and Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs), we are able to hear first hand their concerns and what action they would like to happen in order to improve the quality of their neighbourhood. These concerns, together with the lessons learned, the success and good practice from previous strategies, have also fed into the latest strategic assessment, ensuring that Reading's residents influence the priorities we have identified.

All of these elements taken together have informed this Plan, which sets out the CSP's strategy targets and aims until 2019, to ensure that Reading is a safer place to live, work and spend leisure time.

This plan will take account of changing needs set against challenging budgets, and the Strategic Assessment will be revised throughout the lifetime of this plan. This will include further consultation with contributors of the 2015 Strategic Assessment. We will build on the relationship with Thames Valley's Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that we work together for the benefit of Reading.

The targets set are a real challenge for us all, but we recognise how important they are for the well-being of all of our residents and visitors.

We hope that you will join us in rising to the challenge of continuing to make Reading a safer place for all.

Cllr Liz Terry

Superintendent Stan Gilmour

Local Context

Reading is a populous town, 41 miles from London, surrounded on all sides by the rural landscape of Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire. Its population is steadily rising and the town has seen significant growth and prosperity since the Oracle Shopping Centre, and several blue chip organisations, made Reading their home. Sitting within the M4 corridor, Reading is also popular with commuters who work in London.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) states in the 2011 census that Reading has a population of 155,698, residing in almost 63,000 households. The Urban Area centred on Reading extends beyond the borough boundaries into West Berkshire and Wokingham, and has a total population of more than 250,000 people.

Reading has a strong economy and remains in a comparatively robust position to cope with the recent economic down turn. In 2014, the Reading and Bracknell area was ranked top in the Good Growth for Cities index for the second year running, based on indicators considered key to economic success and wellbeing (including employment, health, income and skills)¹. Similarly, Centre for Cities ranked the Greater Reading area as first in the UK for the economic contribution per worker and third for the number of businesses per capita in its *Cities Outlook 2015*.² Reading is noted as a centre for the IT industry and several multi-building campuses have been established in the Borough, particularly by Microsoft and Oracle. The financial company ING Direct has its headquarters in the town, as do the directories company Yell Group and the natural gas major, BG Group.

Despite the strong economy there are still areas of deprivation, and areas of high crime, with Reading's population being the third most deprived in the South East³. Almost one in five children in Reading live in a household below the poverty line, with the highest concentration of these living in South or West Reading⁴.

Reading University is one of the main universities in the UK and attracts students from throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and from abroad. In 2015, there was an enrolment of 17,040 students from 141 different countries and over 4,000 staff members. Additionally, there are several colleges in Reading. The young people from these institutes in particular are considered to be a high risk population and within this group are a high number of victims and potential victims. Historically the term-time population has impacted on crime figures in the areas of East Reading around the universities in particular. The CSP has worked with Reading University and Reading Student's Union to improve awareness and security amongst the student population. This is reflected in reduction in burglary.

¹ PwC and Demos, *Good Growth for Cities* (2014).

² Centre for Cities, *City Monitor Data* (2015), <http://goo.gl/fkgZX0>, accessed 20/11/15.

³ Youth Offending Service, *Reading Youth Justice Plan 2015/16* (2015), p.4.

⁴ Reading Borough Council, *Poverty Needs Analysis* (2015).

Reading is also noted for having a flourishing night time economy (NTE), with its numerous pubs and clubs attracting people from all over Berkshire and further afield. There are over 100 pubs and bars within a 2 mile radius of Reading town centre. As well as having a thriving NTE, Reading is also one of the UK's top ten retail and tourist destinations. It has consistently appeared in the top twenty UK destinations in the Inbound Passenger Survey. In addition to the local population, in 2012, Reading had 5.97 million day visits.

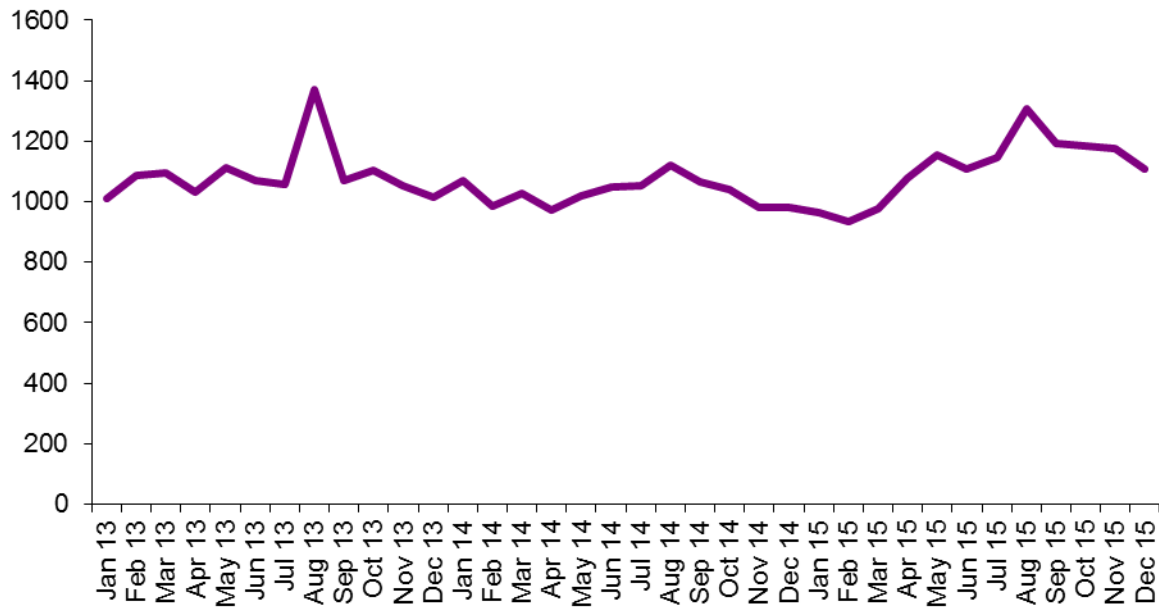
Particular demographic factors which impact on crime and disorder in Reading include the age and ethnic breakdowns of our population. The borough has a high proportion of young adults (20-35 year olds). Nationally, we know that this is an age group which is likely to be overrepresented as both victims and perpetrators of a number of crime types, in particular violent crime and robbery. Reading is already a diverse place, with a 25% black and minority ethnic (BME) population, and data shows it is rapidly becoming more so; the latest School Census records a 51% BME population and live births data shows 43% of babies born in Reading are to mothers born outside the UK. The number of children with English as a second language is over 60% in some schools and 15% of the total Reading population has a main language that is not English. This includes the migration of significant numbers of workers from the 2004 EU accession states in recent years.

An issue for the future is the increasing emergence of non-traditional crime across the country, such as Child Sexual Exploitation and Modern Day Slavery requiring a shift in CSP priorities to address these types of crime which present a greater risk of harm to the whole community.

We know that there are significant variations in the quality of life across Reading. Different neighbourhoods and different communities experience variations in health, income deprivation, educational achievement and levels of crime and these issues are often interlinked. Community safety is intimately linked to the strength of local communities and will continue to be a key element in the development of Neighbourhood problem solving that take account of underlying as well as presenting problems.

Key facts about crime and disorder in Reading

Reading - All Crime



Did you know that between January 2013 and December 2015, Reading's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has achieved the following:

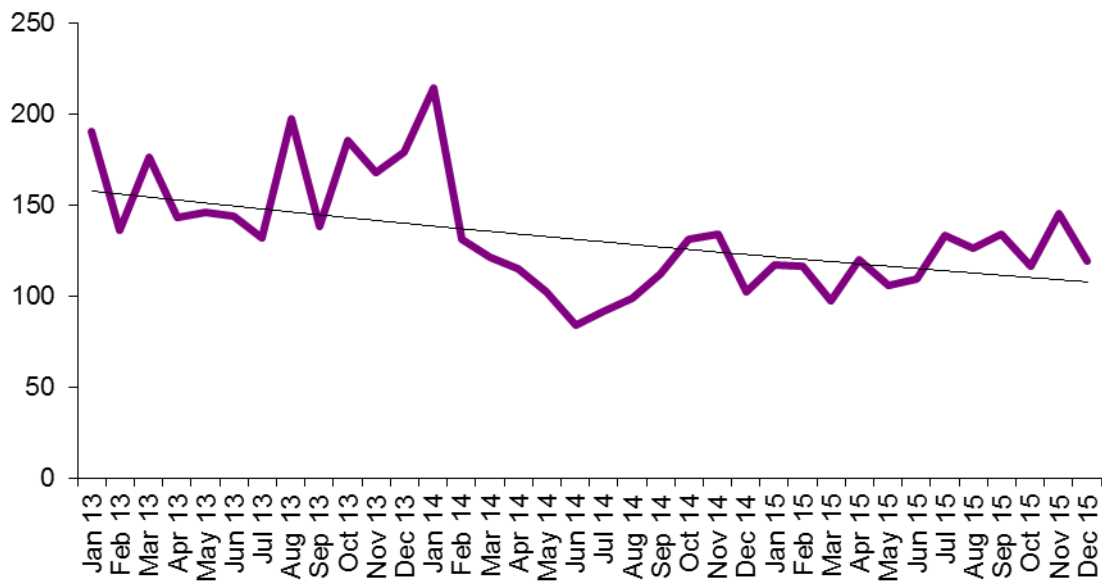
- Stability of crime levels in Reading
- Serious Acquisitive Crime reduction of 37% (71 fewer crimes)
- Burglary reduction of 36% (27 less homes were burgled)
- Reduction of vehicle offences by 41% (41 fewer cars stolen, vandalised or broken into)
- The 2015 Neighbourhood Survey shows that the 70% of residents surveyed feel that levels of burglary had reduced or remained the same in the last 12 month and 69% believed that vehicle crime had improved or remained the same.

Partnership working that makes a difference

Our experience is that working together, engaging and involving local people is the only way to realise our vision of a safer Reading. This plan re-enforces and builds on this success.

Crime Reduction

Collectively as a partnership working with and alongside communities we have continued to reduce crime and disorder. Against a background of difficult budgetary restraints, the partnership reduced Serious Acquisitive Crime during the period of the strategy by 43%⁵. The rate of burglary in Reading over the same period fell by 49%. However there are signs that these reduction have levelled out. The CSP will continue to review Reading's performance of these areas.



Serious Acquisitive Crime, January 2013 - December 2015

For the same period incidents of Violence Against the Person (VAP) have risen by almost 70%. Whilst some of this rise may be due to changes in Home Office recording criteria, it is noted that there are indications of levels increasing prior to the changes. The rise in violent crime accounts for the rise in overall crime; when eliminated, crime in Reading can be seen to have fallen by 3% during the period of the last strategy. Despite this rise Reading

⁵ Comparing the period Apr 12-Jan 13 with Apr 15-Jan 16

performance remains good when compared to our Most Similar Group (MSG), in February 2016 the CSP were 6th out of 15, and remained below our most similar group average. This does suggest a national increase in levels of reported violence since the changes introduced.

The increases in VAP have been for both Domestic and non-domestic incidents. However levels of domestic violence have been increasing at a faster rate and now accounts for just under half of all violence reported in Reading.

For those whose offending is being driven by drug addiction, Reading's Drug Intervention Program (DIP) provides key interventions in reducing their offending behaviour. For these offenders support and treatment is key to Integrated Offender Management (IOM) success, and a pre-requisite to achieving stability, accessing employment and housing. IOM has underpinned the successful reduction in acquisitive crime, by identifying the underlying reason for an individual's offending behaviour such as drug addiction, homelessness or worklessness and addressing these needs through multi-agency work.

Reading's Youth Offending Service is working with some of our most challenging young people as measured by the Ministry of Justice. Despite these challenges, our performance in managing Youth Offending remains strong; first time offender rates compare favourably with Social Care statistical neighbours (411/10,000 compared to 450/10,000). Similarly, the frequency rate of reoffending (1.03) remains below the South East (1.08), national (1.10) and statistical (1.17) neighbours. Reading's Youth Justice Plan has identified a continued reduction in First Time Entrants. It is expected that this decline will even out in both frequency and binary rates of reoffending, and reflect the national trends.⁶⁷⁸ The frequency rate of re-offending measures the average number of re-offenses.

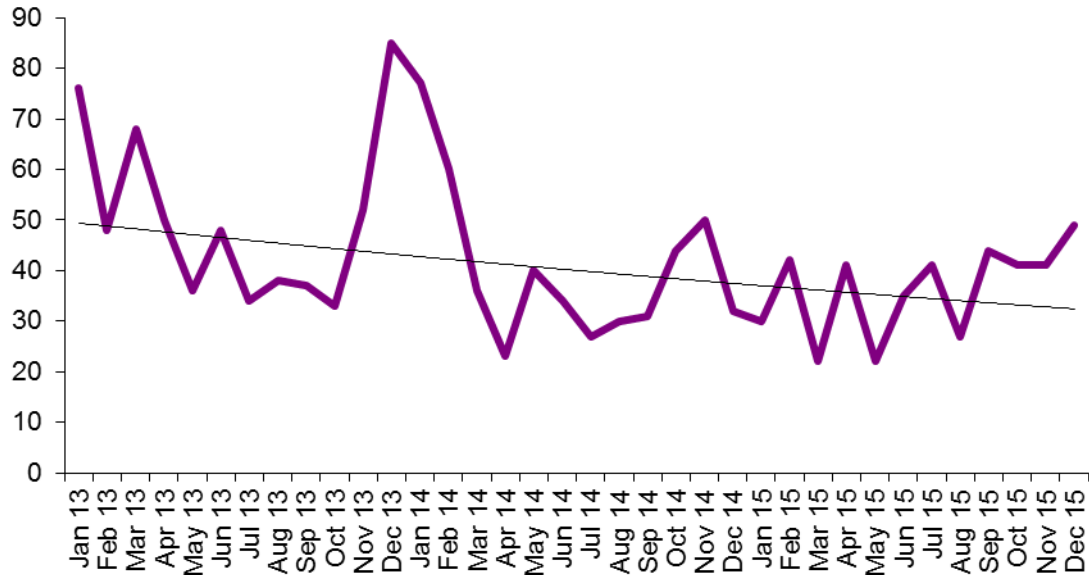
The combined effect of work across the CSP and its partner agencies has delivered considerable improvements relating to many of the priorities identified in the previous Community Safety Plan.

⁶ Reading Youth Offending Service, *Reading Youth Justice Plan* (2015), pp.5-8.

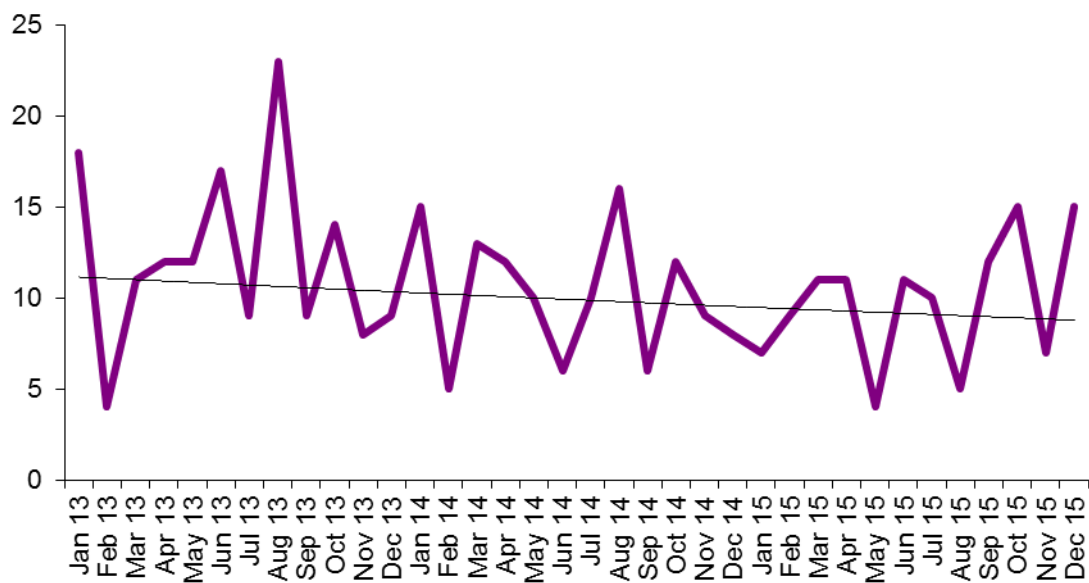
⁷ Binary rate refers to the number of young people who re-offend.

⁸ The frequency rate of re-offending measures the average number of re-offenses.

During the strategy, theft offences overall have decreased by almost 10%; shoplifting has decreased by 13% and vehicle-related offences by 30%. All decreases can be attributed to a combination of the continued use of partnership initiatives (such as the TownSafe radio scheme) and excellent Neighbourhood Policing.



Burglary of a Dwelling January 2013 - December 2015



Robbery Personal Property January 2013 - December 2015

These reductions are reflected in people's reported experiences and fear of crime. The Neighbourhood Survey carried out in 2015 showed residents' perceptions of crime had improved or remained the same in almost all areas.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

We know that perception of crime is not only driven by the levels of crime but also what they see outside their front door. Litter, including drug related, graffiti and anti-social behaviour (ASB) all impact to some extent on Reading's neighbourhoods and communities. A new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Reading has recently been established, which will aim to continue the excellent work of the past five years.

The Council has reviewed the way it delivers services at a neighbourhood level and has introduced patch based teams to ensure effective local coordination and problem solving across services.

The Borough has been divided into 9 patch areas based on Electoral Ward boundaries and the town centre has a designated team reflecting its unique needs and composition. The teams bring together staff across Council services including Streetcare, Highways, Community Safety, Housing and Neighbourhood Initiatives to offer improved customer service, working together to put things right, building up their knowledge of the local area and relationships with key local stakeholders. Neighbourhood Police Officers are also working closely and linking in with the neighbourhood teams.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team is co-located at Reading Police Station, with ASB Officers working within the team to provide a flexible, cross-tenure response. This has improved service delivery, enhanced information sharing and joint action on behalf of victims, improved resilience and reduced management costs.

An emerging trend in the three years from 2012-13 to 2014-15 has been an increase in street drinking, begging and rough sleeping predominantly in the town centre. There are still issues with prostitution, particularly in the Oxford Road area of the town. The Street Population Case Management Group was established in September 2011, meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the most prolific perpetrators, including street drinkers, rough sleepers, on-street sex workers and those who are begging.

Thames Valley Police have introduced a risk matrix to target and prioritise those victims of Anti-Social Behaviour who are of greatest need. The CSP partners have formally adopted the matrix so that a common assessment is being made across agencies and to ensure that those at greatest risk have an appropriate level of response.

The latest police incident data indicates that this is working, with reports of ASB to the police reducing from 568 incidents in 2013/14 to 405 incidents in 2014/15.

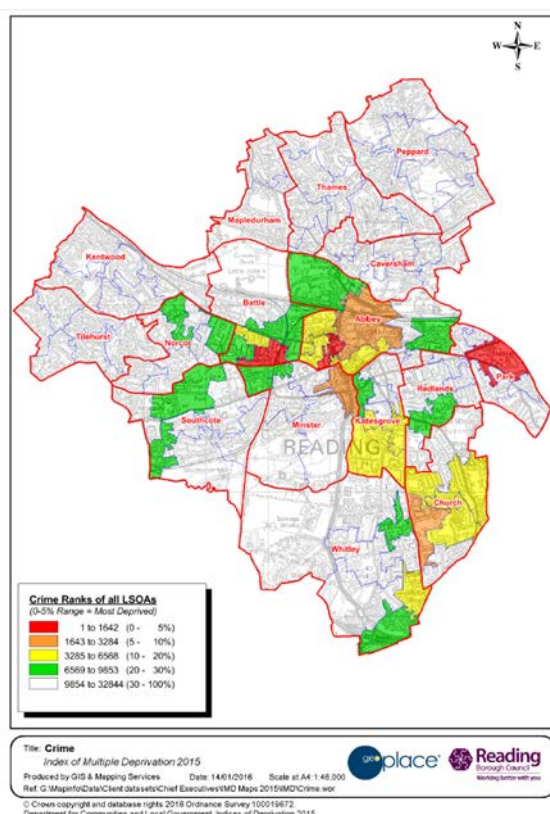
Measure / Year	2008	2009	2011	2012	Trend
Perception of ASB as a problem	27%	21%	18%	18%	↓ ☺
Perception of drunk/rowdy behaviour as a problem	41%	29%	31%	28%	↓ ☺
Perception of drug use/dealing as a problem	39%	36%	34%	31%	↓ ☺
Perception of parents taking responsibility for their children	25%	32%	44%	51%	↓ ☺

Residents' Survey: Perception of ASB 2008 - 2012

More recent data from the Neighbourhood Action Group survey carried out in 2015 showed continued improvements in most areas of ASB categories, including noise nuisance, neighbour disputes drunken behaviour and group hanging around. These improvements were not however reflected in situational ASB with the majority of those surveyed saying that begging and prostitution had got worse.

Overview

Despite the success in reducing crime and fear of crime in Reading in recent years, we know we still have more to do. More than half of those who responded to the residents' survey identified levels of crime as the most important factor for making somewhere a good place to live and 29% identified it as an area in need of improvement.



The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015⁹ identified that 16 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the worst 20% in the country, based on the crime deprivation index, and 3 in the worst 5% (identified in red)¹⁰. This represents a huge improvement on the previous IMD classifications, demonstrating a 54% and 85% improvement respectively.

The 2015 Reading Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessment provides details of changes in the levels and patterns of crime and disorder since the last strategic assessment in 2012. It also highlights the community's concerns surrounding crime and disorder and flags emerging trends. The latest strategic

assessment identified six priority areas for the CSP, which can be categorised under three key areas:

- Violent Crime** (Night Time Economy, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence)
- Exploitative Crime** (Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Adult Exploitation (including sex working, human trafficking and cuckooing¹¹))
- Vulnerable Communities** (*Prevent*, hate crime and counter-terrorism)

⁹ The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a measure of relative deprivation in small areas of England, known as lower-layer super output areas. More information is available on [GOV.UK](http://gov.uk)

¹⁰ The crime deprivation index measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level. More information is available on

¹¹ House takeover of a vulnerable adult, usually by drug dealers or gangs.

The CSP has established five strategic groups to deliver on the priorities, each of which is chaired by a senior manager from one of the partner agencies:

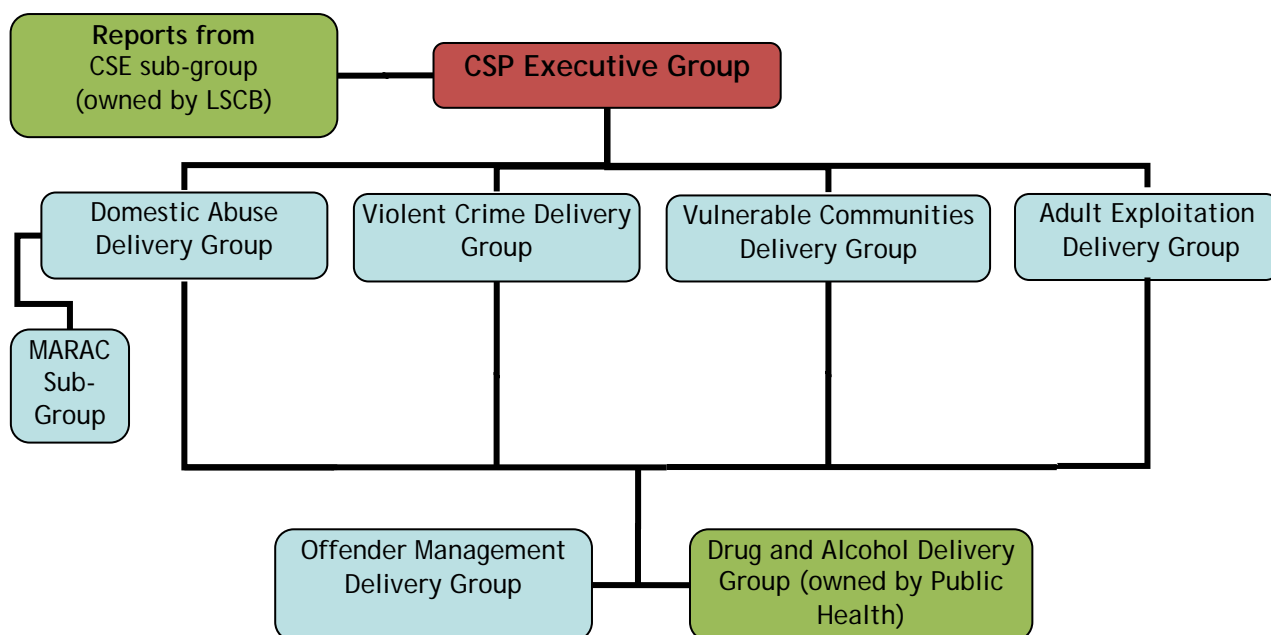
Group name	Remit
Violent Crime	
Domestic Abuse Delivery Group and MARAC Steering Group	Domestic Abuse
Violent Crime Delivery Group	Violent Crime (NTE associated), Adult Sexual Violence
Exploitative Crime	
Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group (LSCB) ¹²	Child Sexual Exploitation
Adult Exploitation Strategic and Delivery Groups	Adult Exploitation and Modern Slavery
Vulnerable Communities	
Vulnerable Communities Delivery Group	Hate Crime, Counter-Terrorism, <i>Prevent</i>

Exploitative Crime will be managed through existing groups: the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Group, and the Adult Exploitation Strategy and Operational Groups (which are responsible directly to the Community Safety Partnership). These delivery groups will be required to produce a three year plan that will deliver measurable outcomes.

The Offender Management Delivery Group and Drug and Alcohol Action Team are intended to feed information into the four delivery groups to assist them in achieving their performance targets, alongside their own.

The groups will be held to account by the CSP Executive Group. The Executive group will monitor the performance of each group against agreed targets and take action to rectify any under-achieving area.

¹² The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Sub-Group is owned by, and reports to, the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Following a realignment of priorities by the Community Safety Partnership, it will hereon follow a dual line of reporting.



Community Safety Partnership Delivery Structure

The above diagram demonstrates the governance structure of the Community Safety Partnership and its sub-groups. Groups in green are those which are not directly responsible to the Community Safety Partnership executive, but have a dual line of reporting to it. All groups will be expected to share information where appropriate in order to facilitate inter-group action, as there is likely to be a degree of cross-over between the remits of certain groups.

Neighbourhood Priorities

The CSP is committed to supporting and working alongside our communities in reducing the impact of crime and disorder that concern them locally. We know that there are different needs and challenges across Reading.

Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) are one of the key methods of engaging and assisting communities in tackling those issues that are of most concern to them.

The Local Authority, working with the Neighbourhood Action Groups, has recently carried out a survey to establish new priorities, and over 1,250 people responded. This excellent level of response from residents has allowed meaningful new priorities to be set at a neighbourhood level.

The provisional Neighbourhood Action Group priorities are:

NAG	Priority One	Priority Two	Priority Three
Caversham	Traffic issues	Youth related ASB	Litter
Oxford Road	Drugs	Litter/Fly-tipping	Dog Fouling
Newtown	Traffic issues	Litter/Fly-tipping	Drugs
Redlands and University	Parking	Speeding/ Traffic issues	TBC
Coley	Traffic issues	Drugs	Environmental
Southcote	Traffic issues	Drugs	Litter & Fly-tipping
Church	Traffic issues	Litter	Noise
Katesgrove	Traffic issues	Drugs	Environmental
Tilehurst East (Norcot)	Motorbike nuisance	Litter	Traffic Issues
Tilehurst East (Kentwood)	Traffic issues	Motorbike nuisance	Youth related ASB
Tilehurst East (Tilehurst)	Traffic issues	Litter	Motorbike nuisance
Whitley	Traffic issues	Youth related issues ¹³	Dog fouling
Town Centre	Rough Sleeping/Litter	Traffic Issues	Begging

For the first time, the successful reduction of community crime across Reading means that CSP priorities do not directly reflect neighbourhood priorities. However, this does not mean that the CSP will not continue to strive for safer, better and cleaner neighbourhoods for Reading. Now considered 'business as usual', the police and council will continue to work in partnership to reduce burglary and other environmental crimes through neighbourhood patch working.

¹³ This includes concerns about youth provision and education.

Domestic Abuse Delivery Group

Identification of need

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW 2013/14)¹⁴ reported that 8.5% of women and 4.5% of men had experienced domestic abuse in the last year. It is also estimated that only 35% of incidents are reported to the police.

The past year saw an increase in all reported domestic incidents to the police, resulting in domestic abuse accounting for just under half of all violent crime in Reading. It has also increased at a slightly higher rate than nationally, and reported prevalence falls above the national average. This could reflect either an increase in activity, improvements in identification of abuse, or an increase of confidence in the police and other agencies in responding appropriately leading to an increased likelihood of reporting.

The impact of domestic abuse resonates through the entire family who are involved or subjected to it. It well established that one of the major drivers for young people entering the social care system is domestic violence in the household.

There is increasing national concern regarding violence in young people's relationships and the fact that this has not previously been recognised to the same extent as domestic abuse in adult relationships. An NSPCC study also found that post-relationship violence was a major issue for many girls. The findings provided clear evidence that some teenage girls, especially those with a history of family violence or with an older boyfriend, are at serious risk of harm due to their partner's violence.

Reading residents have access to a comprehensive range of domestic abuse services supporting those experiencing domestic abuse, children in families affected by domestic abuse, and perpetrators - with the aim of reducing the incidence of abuse in Reading. However, data indicators (for example the low number of MARAC referrals in Reading in comparison to the national average and in contrast to incidents reported to the police, and the feedback from those who have experienced domestic abuse) suggest that awareness of services could be improved and referral routes are not always clear. Therefore, activity to prevent domestic abuse and the distribution of information has to be a priority, so that residents of Reading access support earlier, before the situation escalates and has a significant impact on themselves and any children in the household.

All front line services across Reading Borough Council and partner agencies have the potential to interact with someone experiencing domestic abuse. The Community Safety Partnership is committed to making sure that, in

¹⁴ Office for National Statistics, *Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013/14* (February 2015), <http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/>, accessed 05/02/16.

Reading, people get the right response first time from professionals, and that it does not take the average five contacts with services that national research suggests. Effective training to notice the signs of domestic abuse and respond appropriately will mean that more domestic abuse concerns are resolved at an earlier stage and the impact on those experiencing it and their children will reduce. This in turn will lead to less call on crisis intervention services such as Children's Social Care.

Commitment to maximising the impact of services continues throughout the support pathway where it is acknowledged that better joint working and coordination of services would further enable those households experiencing domestic abuse to have a safer future. It has also become clear that further information and data is required to fully understand and improve services in the town.

Current Action:

The CSP has been working to reduce Domestic Abuse and its impact and has a Domestic Violence Strategy 2015-18 and action plan in place. Some of the key achievements of the partnership are:

- Family Choices programme commissioned by RBC Children's Services which includes support for those experiencing Domestic Abuse, the perpetrator and any young people in the household that are affected.
- Increase in referrals to the MARAC, and increasing the proportion from agencies other than the Police.
- Commissioned the IRIS project to provide training and support to GPs on identifying domestic abuse and referring on appropriately
- Sanctuary Scheme (to enable those at risk to remain safely at home through physical measures to the property) reviewed and re-launched
- Safeguarding Adults Training reviewed and now includes forced marriage and honour based violence content
- Introduced protocol between RBC housing service and BWA to increase referrals for outreach support (and refer in at the earliest stage possible)
- Introduced keyworker approach in the Housing Service for cases of domestic abuse

Priorities for 2016 - 17:

The current Reading Domestic Abuse Strategy is a refresh of a previous strategy and runs from 2015-2018. The Delivery Group has identified four priority areas in order to build upon the work from the previous strategy:

1. Encouraging people to seek support earlier: improving information, education and prevention

- a. Ensuring Reading residents are able to access the information they need to stay safe and protected
 - b. Providing comprehensive education to young people to facilitate healthy, happy and safe relationships
2. **Providing the right response first time:** improving identification, encouraging disclosures and ensuring an appropriate immediate response
- a. Professionals across agencies are equipped to notice the signs of and encourage disclosures of domestic abuse
 - b. Identification of domestic abuse and disclosures are responded to with appropriate referrals so that people experiencing domestic abuse gain the help and support they need
3. **Having the right services available:** improving support to move from victim to survivor or to change abusive behaviour
- a. Improved outcomes for those accessing the criminal justice system, including the support provided to victims during the court process
 - b. Improved coordination of high-risk cases and cases with multiple incidents
 - c. Comprehensive support provided for those that have experienced domestic abuse who wish to seek alternative accommodation or remain in their own homes
 - d. Appropriate services are available to both those experiencing and those that are perpetrators of domestic abuse in order to reduce incidents
4. **Understanding of the challenges in our town:** improving data analysis and community engagement
- a. Clearer understanding of the needs of minority groups in the town, reasons for under reporting and the prevalence and impact of Forced Marriage and “so-called” Honour Based Violence.
 - b. Ensure comprehensive monitoring of domestic abuse in Reading and the impact of services.

Action Plan

An action plan has been produced to support these priorities, and can be found as Annex A.

Vulnerable Communities Delivery Group (previously the Community Based Crime Group)

The Community Based Crime Group has undergone a change of remit following the Strategic Assessment recently undertaken, most notably that ASB is no longer considered a strategic priority for the Community Safety Partnership (but will continue to be addressed in partnership as 'business as usual'). This is largely due to the successes of the Community Based Crime Delivery Group over the past few years. As a result, the delivery group will instead focus predominantly on the most vulnerable in the community, with a particular focus on hate crime and subsequent links to *Prevent* and counter-terrorism, both in the community and online.

HATE, PREVENT and COUNTER TERRORISM CRIME

Identification of need

Over the period of the last CSP Strategic Plan, there has been a concerted effort to increase the levels of reported Hate Crime in Reading, and improve outcomes for victims. The strategic assessment identified that reports of Hate Crime (racist, religious, homophobic or disability related incidents) across the CSP have increased by 18%, surpassing the target by almost 10%. We know that Hate Crime is still vastly under reported, and following recent terrorist attacks in Europe, protecting our communities from backlash attacks is more important than ever.

The impact of Hate Crime on an individual can be substantial and in some cases nationally has led to suicide or homicide. We also know that in some types of hate crime, the impact goes much wider than the individual and can affect the wider community.

Offences ¹⁵	2013-2014	2014-2015	% change
Hate Crime (recorded crime)	167	211	26%
Hate Crime (NCO)	88	105	19%
Racially or Religiously aggravated crime	110	134	22%

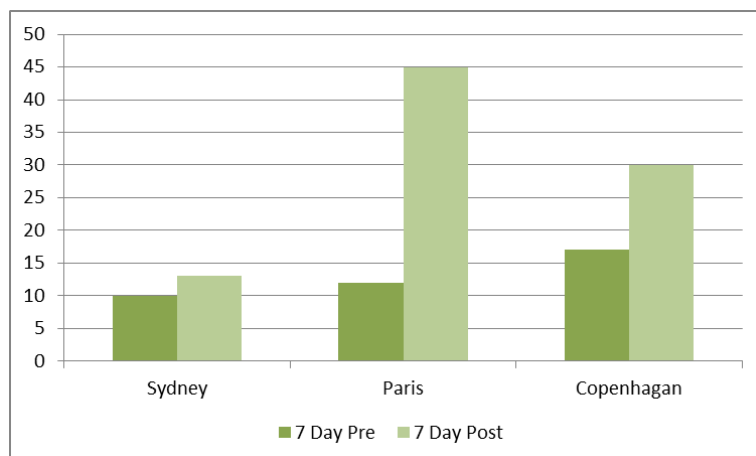
The links between hate crime (especially those relating to anti-Muslim hate) and the Prevent/Counter-Terrorism programmes have been highlighted. This is often referred to as cumulative extremism.¹⁶

¹⁵ Thames Valley Recording Systems, data extracted 12/01/2016.

¹⁶ J Busher and G Macklin *Interpreting "cumulative extremism": Six proposals for enhancing conceptual clarity* (2015).

Advocates of cumulative extremism suggest there are four groups of actors which contribute to this:

- Conflicting social groups
- The state (both central government and local authorities)
- The media (including social media), and
- 'Symbolic' individuals (for example Drummer Lee Rigby)



Comparison of total number of attacks in the 7 days preceding and following the Sydney, Paris and Copenhagen attacks.

Analysis of data from periods immediately before and after jihadi Islamist attacks supports the cumulative extremism hypothesis. Figure 23 shows the total number of reports to Tell Mama¹⁷, comparing the seven day period pre- and post- attacks.

Further analysis of the data shows a more complex relationship. While all cases saw a rise in the reporting of online incidents, only the Paris attacks¹⁸ saw an increase in the reporting of cases of offline attacks, with the period following both the Copenhagen and Sydney attacks showing a modest decrease.

Current Action (Hate and Prevent Crime)

The CSP has been working to improve the levels of reporting and agency response to Hate Crime and actions were agreed as part of the Community Based Crime Delivery Group plan. Some of the key achievements of the partnership are:

- Introduction of a champion for hate crime within Thames Valley Police for the Local Police Area (LPA), who reviews each hate crime daily to ensure correct recording and that actions have been taken.
- Introduction of a new Operating Procedure for the LPA.¹⁹
- Introduction of measures to monitor performance against targets.
- Introduction of a Hate Crime Forum, chaired by the Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality (ACRE). The Hate Crime Forum consists of a cross-section of community members, who voice the concerns of the communities they are representing. They meet every 3 months.

¹⁷ Tell Mama is an independent, non-governmental organisation which works on tackling anti-Muslim hatred.

¹⁸ The Paris attack referred to in the report relates to the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks

¹⁹ This procedure has now been adopted force wide.

- Introduction of an agreement between individual victims and police to clarify the expectations of the victims and how the police can meet them.
- People with learning disabilities can report using pictures (laminated paper sheets with images on) at Reading Police Station, which has proven successful.
- Work is being carried out in school by 'Support You' to tackle language issues in respect of homophobia working alongside ACRE.
- Promoting successful outcomes for victims by victims at the Hate Crime forum and via other media to build confidence in reporting hate crime.
- Introduction of a Hate Crime monitoring group, this group allows community challenge of decisions being made on active hate crime cases.
- Introduced a Prevent Management group
- Provided Prevent awareness training for staff across the partnership
- Established a Channel Panel²⁰
- Distributed Prevent awareness training to schools across the borough
- Ensured that all local authority IT equipment has effective filters to protect staff and public from extremist content.

Priority Areas 2016-17

An action plan is currently under production, and is likely to include as key items:

- Strengthening links between partnerships
- Building prevent training into current safeguarding training
- Mapping out of school settings for young people and identifying risk areas.
- Re-launching the SafePlaces scheme for vulnerable adults (with learning disabilities or dementia)

Action Plan:

An action plan is being produced to support these priorities, and once agreed will be added as Annex B.

Violent Crime Delivery Group (previously the Town Centre Delivery Group)

The Town Centre Delivery Group has undergone a change of remit following the January 2016 Strategic Assessment. The most notable aspects of this are that shoplifting is no longer being considered a strategic priority for the Community Safety Partnership, and the geographical area covered by the

²⁰ The Channel Panel is a multi-agency programme to identify and provide support to vulnerable individuals at risk of radicalisation

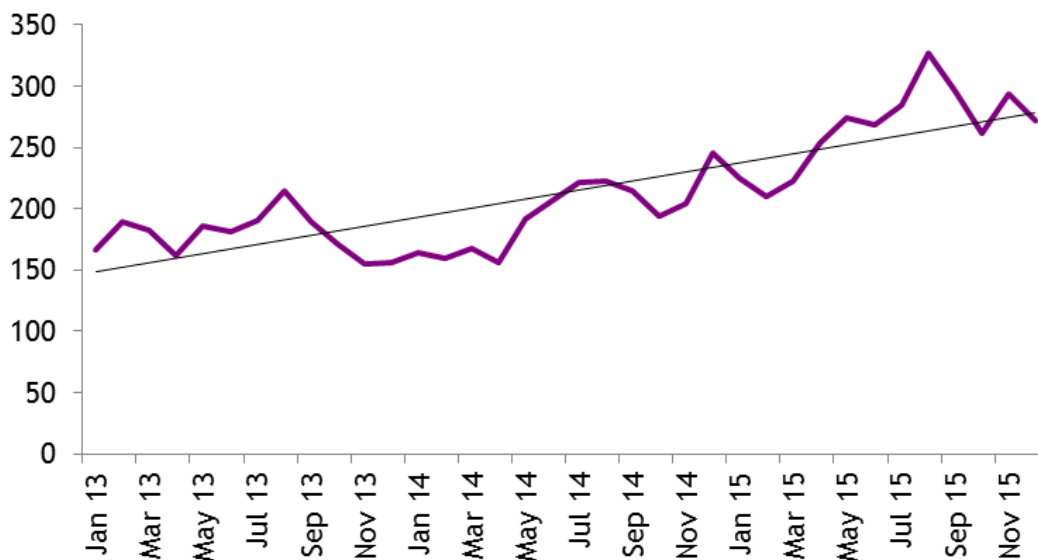
group will be expanded to cover the vast majority of Reading borough. This is largely due to the successes of the Town Centre Delivery Group over the past few years, particularly in reducing the shoplifting rate. As a result, the delivery group will widen their focus on violent crime to include that outside the town centre and tackle incidence of sexual violence.

VIOLENT CRIME

Identification of need

Reading has one of the largest night-time economies (NTE) in the Thames Valley. The CSP along with its partners in the business sector has worked hard to ensure that those visiting the Town Centre at night remain safe. Unfortunately, over the past 3 years, the rate of violent crime has risen significantly, as indicated below. It now accounts for 43% of all crime in Reading, which makes it one of the largest demands on services: the police, health and the local authority in responding to both the immediate incident and the wider implications.

As discussed earlier this trends is repeated nationally and maybe in part due to changes in Home Office recording standards. Reading performance remains good when compared to our Most Similar Group (MSG), in February 2016 the CSP were 6th out of 15, and remained below our most similar group average.



Violence Against the Person January 2013 - December 2015

Current Action:

The previous group covering this area was the Town Centre Delivery Group. The priority areas for the group were Violent Crime and Shoplifting. Some of the key achievements of the partnership are:

- Working with the Business Improvement District (BID) and a number of key stores at regional and national level to agree to move towards deterring shoplifters rather than arresting post offence.
- Agreed and provided alternative performance measures for store security staff linked to above.
- Working with Reading Business Against Crime (RBAC) improved the levels and quality of intelligence reports from shops.
- Working alongside the BID provided additional training for door-staff.
- Reviewed all incidents that impacted on the licencing objectives and taken action including performance meetings with the licensee and licencing reviews.
- Embedded the work of the First Stop bus in the Town Centre and secured with the BID an additional £8,000 for medical staffing.

Priority Action (VAP) 2016-17

The Violent Crime Delivery Group will work to enhance successful interventions that have been implemented across the town centre over the past decade. It will do this by:

- Working with the local A&E department to develop robust and effective data collection on victims who present at casualty.
- Make effective use of social media to raise awareness amongst potential victims and perpetrators of violent crime and the consequences as a means of early intervention.
- Review the police operation in line with Thames Valley Police force-wide best practice.

Action Plan

An action plan is currently being produced to support these priorities, and once finalised will be added at Annex C.

Adult Exploitation Delivery Group

Identification of Need

The most recent Strategic Assessment identified adult exploitation (including modern slavery, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and vulnerable adult property exploitation, intimidation and labour exploitation) as a key emerging priority in the town. The intelligence provided for the Strategic Assessment indicated that adult exploitation may be a significant issue for the town, particularly due to the deeply hidden nature of it and often reluctance of victims to contact the authorities.

Some people are vulnerable to and targeted by groups, especially groups linked to drug dealing and supply. The vulnerability manifests itself in one

or more or of three key areas; mental health, alcohol misuse and drug misuse. These individuals are being exploited through the occupation of their properties²¹ by both local and 'cross border' drug dealers. There appear to be several common characteristics:

- Drugs supplied to individuals allowing them to use their property (debt bondage)
- Force and intimidated into allowing them to use the property (coercion)
- Being exploited by more than one individual, as addresses and persons names are passed between groups
- Addresses often come to light due to reports of associated anti-social behaviour
- Approximately 70% of victims are male

Other individuals are forced into running drugs for specific groups. Individuals are not normally involved in criminal activity or have previously been linked to acquisitive crime. Instead, this is normally linked to a drug related debt. Reported incidents are far fewer than other forms of exploitation; this is likely to be because there are no obvious associated activities (ASB) to bring them to the attention of services. In 2015, only three incidents had been recorded.

With both the above groups, there has been intelligence that links this activity to Child Sexual Exploitation.

There is growing intelligence to suggest some businesses might be exploiting workers who may have no legal rights to work in the UK or have expired visas. This intelligence identifies fast food and convenience stores as being a focal point, along with nail bars, restaurants, petrol stations and cleaning.

The majority of victims identified so far were found in Battle Ward or the Town Centre, although there is intelligence to suggest other parts of Reading are also affected. The overwhelming majority of victims were male. The business type in which they were exploited and their nationality is more varied.

Current Action

The Adult Exploitation Delivery Group is a new delivery group, and therefore the action they have undertaken thus far is limited. However, some work has been done within individual agencies to identify and aid victims of adult exploitation in Reading. This has included creative use of the new closure notices on properties where a vulnerable adult's property has been taken over by drug dealers. The closure notice is an effective way of preventing the dealer or other individuals from entering the property, whilst allowing the victim to remain.

²¹ This is sometime referred to as 'cuckooing'.

Priority Action

A strategic group has been identified, the priorities of which will be to:

- Develop an action plan and agree targets with the CSP Executive
- Introduce a multi-agency risk assessment matrix to identify high risk individuals
- Deliver awareness training linked to the statutory duty around modern day slavery
- Setup and oversee an operational case management group to protect high risk vulnerable adults.

Action Plan

An action plan is currently being produced to support these priorities, and once finalised will be added at Annex D.

Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group (IOMDG)

Identification of need

Reading's Community Safety Partnership has a duty to produce a reducing re-offending strategy. Since the duty was introduced in April 2010, Reading's strategy has been delivered via the Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group. Historically, the cohort of offenders being monitored via the IOM Scheme is associated with Serious Acquisitive Crime offences. The Community Safety Partnership has acknowledged on a number of occasions that the reduction in Serious Acquisitive Crime across Reading has been achieved through the IOM approach. Potential threats to the successes of the Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group include the potential for reduced funding for drug intervention and the impact of welfare reform.

Following the recent Strategic Assessment, it has been recommended that the IOMDG takes on a supportive role as part of its remit, in particular through providing data upon request to the strategic delivery groups, in order for them to achieve their performance targets. It is also expected to work closely with the Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group to identify and assist common cohorts.

Current Action:

The IOMDG is a well-established and long standing delivery group within the CSP. Their success has already been well documented elsewhere in this plan and is underpinned by:

- Burglary reductions that out-perform our Most Similar Group
- Close partnership working through the Drug Intervention Programme.
- Reading Youth Offending Service (YOS) achieved a reduction in first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System (FTE), which compares favourably with our statistical neighbours (411/10,000 compared with an average of 450/10,000)
- The frequency rate²² of young offender reoffending (1.03) remains below the South East (1.08), national (1.10) and statistical (1.17) neighbours.

Priority Areas 2016-17

The IOMDG has a clearly defined action plan for the existing cohort of offenders and a number of ongoing actions that will be directly transferred into the new plan. The key priority for the group in year one is to adapt the model and adjust to reflect the new priorities.

Action Plan:

An action is currently being produced to support these priorities, and once finalised will be added at Annex E.

Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group

Identification of need

Reading has high rates of alcohol-specific mortality and mortality from chronic liver disease in both men and women. These rates indicate a significant population who have been drinking heavily and persistently over the past 10-30 years. Whilst locally the number of drug-related admissions and deaths are proportionally smaller, it is clear that drug misuse, particularly of opiates and crack cocaine, places an enormous strain on the families of drug users and can result in a myriad of health and social problems which require intervention from a range of providers.

A review of current specialist service provision for drug and alcohol misuse against current resource allocation in Reading is required. It may be appropriate to change the way current services are delivered, with the current resources allocated, in order to meet the needs of an ageing, dependent, opiate using population and increase the access to specialist alcohol misuse services and youth services.

²² The reoffending frequency rate is the average number of re-offences per re-offender.

The recent Strategic Assessment has noted drugs and alcohol as significant drivers of crime in Reading. As a result of this, it has been recommended that the Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group takes on a supportive role as part of its remit, in particular through providing data upon request to the strategic delivery groups in order for them to achieve their performance targets. It is also expected to work closely with the Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group to identify and assist common cohorts.

Current Action

A Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment has recently been completed. This concluded that Reading needs a revised approach to its drug and alcohol services that:

- Puts a much greater emphasis on the problems of alcohol misuse at all ages (that is, younger people and older ones), and for people with different problems causing them to use drugs and/or to misuse alcohol;
- Puts a much greater emphasis on prevention, particularly targeting 0-18 year-olds, with specialist family support for children at risk, but also helping to address the issue that both young and older adults face;
- Ensures that all health and social care services, and those of the police and judicial system, work together more effectively so that people do not fall into gaps between services and so that it is simple to provide care between different agencies without the service user having to try to negotiate their way from one to another;
- Provides services of all types in different locations to improve engagement and thus outcomes;
- Enables and encourages front-line staff in all sectors, to do much more to identify people at risk of misusing drugs and/or alcohol and to provide brief interventions, and refer to appropriate services; and
- Enables different policies and services and the enforcement of regulations, to take account of the cumulative impact of drug and alcohol misuse to enable greater benefit to people's health and to the community more widely.

A Community Alcohol Partnership was established in Reading in September 2014, which aims to improve standards of alcohol retail (through test purchasing and preventing the sale of illicit or smuggled alcohol) and education levels. The Partnership is looking to train professionals in alcohol intervention brief advice (IBA) training. This is a course designed for staff and volunteers who regularly come into contact with people who may be drinking riskily, and enables them to offer brief advice or intervention, which ranges from signposting to referral into special services.

The education offer includes a Youth Health Champions qualification through the Royal Society of Public Health, and free educational resources for schools from the Alcohol Education Trust. Similarly, a range of diversional activities have been introduced to help provide an alternative to alcohol, such as sporting tournaments, which simultaneously help to raise

the profile of the CAP. The Partnership is also looking to improve data sharing regarding alcohol related assaults and domestic violence, information which is currently collected by A&E; this information has been shown in Cardiff to help reduce alcohol related assaults in the town centre. A particular success regarded the 5th Tilehurst Guides, who won a national trading standards award in 2015, and were subsequently awarded with £1,000 to enact a responsible retail scheme.

Priority Areas 2016-17

The recent Strategic Assessment has noted drugs and alcohol as significant drivers of crime in Reading. As a result of this, it has been recommended that the Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group takes on a supportive role as part of its remit, in particular through providing data upon request to the strategic delivery groups in order for them to achieve their performance targets. It is also expected to work closely with the Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group to identify and assist common cohorts.

Contact us

Community Safety Team
The Police Station
Castle Street
RG1 7TH

E-mail: either enter or remove

Phone: either enter or remove