

Building Communities Together Partnership



Scrutiny Commission
September 2024

Nigel Lynn (WBC Chief Executive and Partnership Chair)

Supt. Andy Penrith (Area Commander and Partnership Vice-Chair)

Building Communities Together Partnership



- The BCT Partnership
- 2023/24 Achievements
- 2024/25 Workstreams and Challenges
 - Crime Overview

Building Communities Together Partnership



The BCT Partnership is the **Community Safety Partnership** for West Berkshire
Ensuring West Berkshire is a safe place to live, learn, work and visit

Legislation

Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2005
ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Act 2021
Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Statutory Partners: West Berkshire Council, Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation and Health (Public Health and Integrated Care Board)

The BCT Partnership also has representatives from: Community and Voluntary Sector, Healthwatch, Registered Housing Providers, Faith Sector and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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- **Aim:**

To work in partnership to ensure that West Berkshire continues to be a safe place to live, work, learn and visit

- **Objectives:**

- To reduce and prevent crime
- To ensure that statutory responsibilities are fulfilled
- To identify and respond to changes in the nature, incidence and severity of crime within West Berkshire
- To safeguard those who are vulnerable
- To help people and communities help each other and to engage with community safety related initiatives

The BCT Partnership also fulfils the role of the West Berkshire Prevent Partnership Board and the Youth Justice Management Board

The BCT Team carries out work on behalf of the BCT Partnership

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2023/4 - Achievements

Channel – Section 36 Counter Terrorism And Security Act 2015 (CTSA)

- Annual Assurance Statement
- Channel Panel held monthly

Prevent – Section 26 Counter Terrorism And Security Act 2015 (CTSA)

- Prevent Partnership Plan
- Annual Prevent Risk Assessment
- Local Risk Assessment

Modern Slavery - Section 52 Modern Slavery Act 2015

- Annual Assurance Statement

Serious Violence – Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Implementation of Serious Violence Reduction Strategy 2023/24
Quarterly returns to Home Office
Grant funding to March 2025

Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Act 2021

- Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan 2023/27

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Safer Streets Fund 5 Project

- £242K Grant funding awarded from Home Office via OPCC
- Purpose: To reduce anti-social behaviour
- Location: The Nightingales, Greenham
- Delivery of Interventions via a Project Co-Ordinator
- The Home Office and OPCC visited the 30 July Clear Up day
'We came away with such a positive impression of the projects and could really see how much hard work and passion goes into each one from both your teams and the delivery partners'

CCTV

3 Clear Up Days

Outreach Youth Work

School based Education Programme

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2024/5 Workstreams

- Giving Tree Campaign November/December 2024
- Strategic needs analysis and refresh of Partnership Plan (statutory duty requirement)
- Needs analysis and refresh of Serious Violence Reduction Strategy 2024/25 (statutory duty requirement)

Challenges

- Ongoing concern of civil unrest
- Implications of Martyn Law (Protect Duty)
- Impact of TVP move to Local Command Units (Berkshire West)



Domestic Abuse

Domestic related crimes have fallen by 22% over the last 12 months, the biggest drop in the force. Our arrest rate for domestic related incidents on attendance is 75%, the highest in the force.

LPA	Previous	Current	% Change
+ Buckinghamshire	6,667	6,058	-9%
+ Milton Keynes	5,346	4,771	-11%
+ Cherwell and West Oxfordshire	3,572	3,356	-6%
+ Slough	3,515	3,272	-7%
+ Bracknell and Wokingham	3,345	3,080	-8%
+ South and Vale	3,137	2,792	-11%
+ Reading	3,019	2,723	-10%
+ Oxford	2,134	1,966	-8%
+ Windsor and Maidenhead	1,873	1,753	-6%
+ West Berkshire	1,982	1,552	-22%



Serious Violence

*Includes ABH and above

Although crime levels have stayed the same across West Berkshire during the last 12 months, we have had a small drop in positive outcomes resulting in a 2% decrease in our outcome rate.

LPA	Crime Levels			Positive Outcomes			Outcome Rate	
	Crime Previous	Crime Current	Change	Previous	Current	% Change	Previous	Current
Oxford	1396	1425	2%	261	303	16%	19%	21%
West Berkshire	890	891	0%	194	176	-9%	22%	20%
Windsor and Maidenhead	897	845	-6%	162	166	2%	18%	20%
Bracknell and Wokingham	1481	1411	-5%	263	250	-5%	18%	18%
South and Vale	1321	1356	3%	286	249	-13%	22%	18%
Buckinghamshire	3301	3046	-8%	612	527	-14%	19%	17%
Milton Keynes	2917	2785	-5%	492	484	-2%	17%	17%
Cherwell and West Oxfordshire	1843	1790	-3%	302	313	4%	16%	17%
Reading	1846	1744	-6%	289	264	-9%	16%	15%
Slough	1564	1513	-3%	198	209	6%	13%	14%



Tackling Knife Crime

Despite a small rise over the last 12 months, knife enabled crime in West Berkshire remains low. Our outcome rate for all knife crime has fallen from 25% to 14.3%.

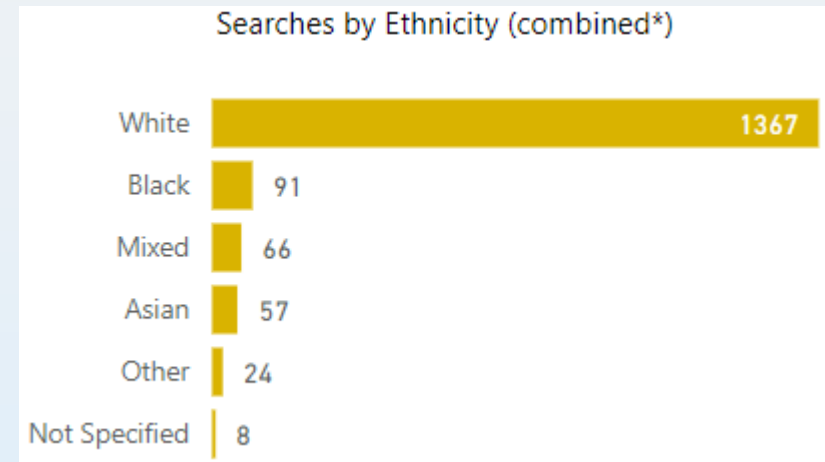
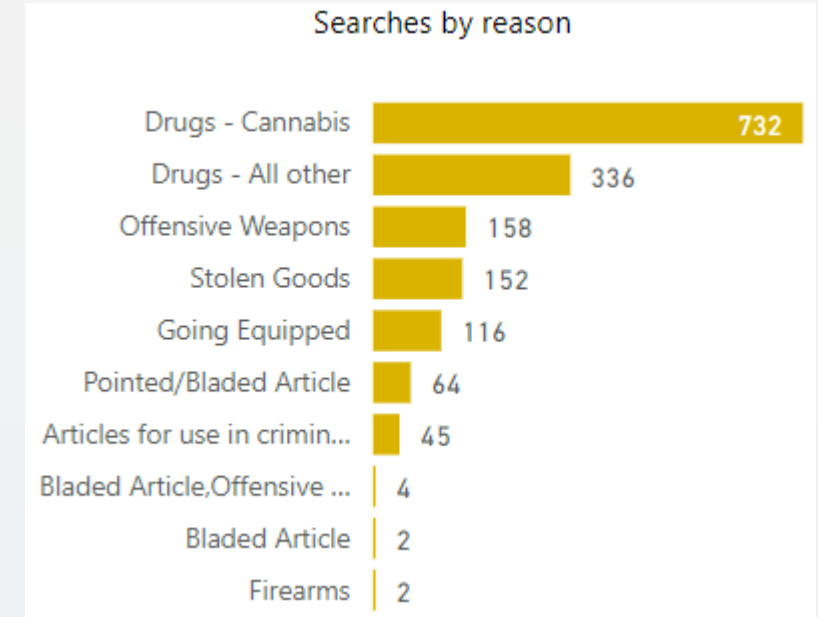
LPA	Crime Previous	Crime Current	Crime Change	% Change
Milton Keynes	275	221	-54	-20%
Buckinghamshire	206	189	-17	-8%
Slough	166	181	15	9%
Reading	167	153	-14	-8%
Oxford	95	90	-5	-5%
Bracknell and Wokingham	77	73	-4	-5%
South and Vale	60	59	-1	-2%
Cherwell and West Oxfordshire	66	56	-10	-15%
West Berkshire	36	42	6	17%
Windsor and Maidenhead	40	25	-15	-38%



Stop and Search

West Berkshire officers continue to carry out high numbers of searches to combat both drug supply and knife crime. 84.7% of those searched over the last 12 months were white.

LPA / Dept	Volume	Positive Outcomes	Positive Outcome Rate
⊕ Buckinghamshire LCU	2,084	566	27%
⊕ West Berkshire LPA	1,613	322	20%
⊕ Slough LPA	1,556	342	22%
⊕ Reading LPA	1,376	363	26%
⊕ Milton Keynes LPA	1,347	343	25%
⊕ Oxford LPA	1,181	311	26%
⊕ Windsor & Maidenhead LPA	1,129	410	36%
⊕ Cherwell & West Oxon LPA	1,071	352	33%
⊕ South Oxon & the Vale LPA	824	205	25%
⊕ Bracknell & Wokingham LPA	798	195	24%





VAWG Crime levels and outcomes

Figures over the last 12 months show a 14% reduction in both VAWG related crimes and also positive outcomes, resulting in a 12.4% outcome rate. This is 1.8% above the force average.

LPA	Current Vs Previous LPA Levels			Crime % Change	Outcome % Change	Outcome rate previous	Outcome rate current
	Previous	Current	% Change				
South and Vale	517	418	-19.1%	-6%	-19%	14.6%	12.6%
West Berkshire	307	264	-14.0%	-14%	-14%	12.3%	12.4%
Oxford	397	357	-10.1%	-0%	-10%	13.4%	12.1%
Milton Keynes	666	652	-2.1%	-9%	-2%	9.9%	10.7%
Buckinghamshire	935	761	-18.6%	-8%	-19%	12.0%	10.5%
Cherwell and West Oxfordshire	455	402	-11.6%	-9%	-12%	10.5%	10.2%
Bracknell and Wokingham	403	354	-12.2%	-9%	-12%	10.3%	10.0%
Slough	324	319	-1.5%	-12%	-2%	8.8%	9.8%
Reading	438	342	-21.9%	-9%	-22%	11.1%	9.5%
Windsor and Maidenhead	221	178	-19.5%	-4%	-19%	10.3%	8.6%
Thames Valley	4,657	4,034	-13.4%	-8%	-13%	11.2%	10.6%

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Thames Valley Police uses bespoke behavioural observation training to upskill frontline officers in risk management and to encourage proactivity in spotting predatory behaviour.

Once trained, plain-clothed officers are deployed into the night-time economy to identify predatory sexual behaviour. Uniformed officers intervene to prevent this behaviour escalating into an offence.



Project Vigilant aims to prevent sexual violence by targeting predatory behaviour in the night-time economy.



West Berkshire has seen a number of Op Vigilant deployments in the town centres, but also at organised public events at Newbury Racecourse. The team have made a number of interventions preventing offences occurring and can make referrals to Circles UK (a charity that works with individuals to prevent offending). Further deployments to follow in September and November.



Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Welsh Women's Aid provided bystander training to officers and colleagues from the West Berkshire's VAWG partnership group.

A bystander means being aware of when someone's behaviour is inappropriate or threatening and choosing to intervene, if it's safe to do so, or equally getting someone to help, such as a friend or someone in authority.

Research shows that bystander intervention can be an effective way of stopping sexual assault before it happens, as bystanders play a key role in preventing, discouraging, and/or intervening when an act of violence has the potential to occur.

The team have delivered bystander training to private event organisers, pub watches & businesses. The aim is to deliver the training to a variety of organisations and run community sessions for the public, creating a safer environment for women and girls.



New: Bystander training

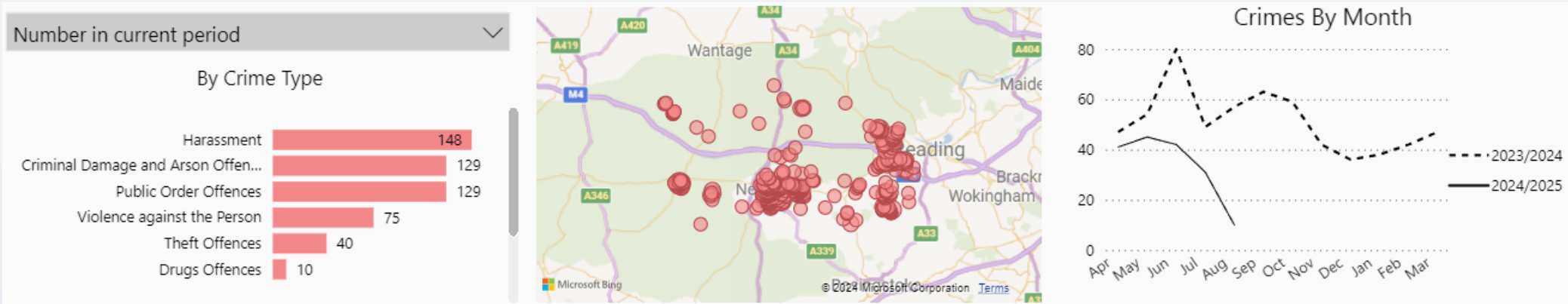
We can all play a role in creating safe spaces for each other



Anti-Social Behaviour Crimes & Incidents

ASB Overview - Crimes & Incidents in West Berkshire between August 2023 and July 2024

	Count Previous	Count Current	Count Change	% Change	Current Per 1000 Pop
Crime	610	543	-67	-11%	0.22
Incident	1,245	1,387	142	11%	0.55
Use of Power	28	48	20	71%	0.02
Breach of Power	8	7	-1	-13%	0.00



Our ASB crimes are down by 11% but we have experienced an 11% increase in ASB incidents.

We have seen an increase in ASB incidents at Pangbourne Meadows and the City Playground, Andover Road, Newbury. Both locations have active problem solving occurrences with partnership and community participation.



Anti Social Behaviour – Powers (Inc. Sec 60 Stop & Search)

1st July 2023 to 14th August 2024 –

Full Closure Orders (0-3 months)

Ely Grove, Newbury
Roundfield, Bucklebury
Longcroft Road, Thatcham

Extended orders (3-6 months)

Roundfield, Bucklebury
Longcroft Road, Thatcham
Gilbert Court, Thatcham

Newbury PSPO dispersals

16

Thatcham PSPO dispersals

0



Partial orders

Holywell Court, Thatcham
Howarth Court, Newbury
Kimbers Close, Newbury
Horseshoe End, Newbury
Woodlands View, Newbury

Section 34 Dispersal orders

3 (Pangbourne Meadows)

Section 60 Stop Search Authorisations

2 (The Nightingales)

Community Protection Warning

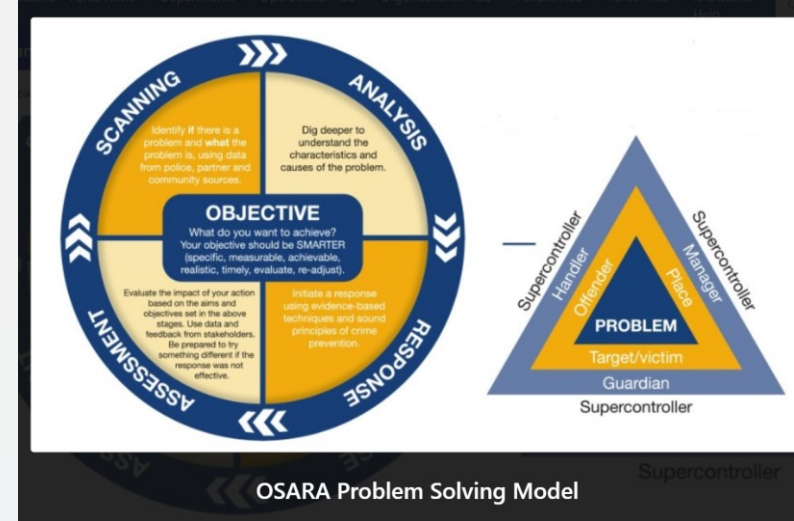
Notices

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Neighbourhood Policing – Problem Solving The Nightingales, Newbury

Due to several reports of serious violence involving weapons in The Nightingales, a problem solving approach was adopted and a working group established in May 2023. Officers conducted a large scale community door to door survey to identify the groups priorities. Over the last 16 months the working group has:



- Secured daily hotspot patrols from officers / PCSOs, increasing police visibility in the locality
- Secured a house closure notice resulting in two male individuals being removed from Woodlands View
- 2x Community clear up days, helping to foster pride from the local community into the area they live
- Obtained a civil injunction excluding Callum Brown from entering into the Nightingales estate
- Secured funding from Safer Street 5, providing CCTV cameras, community clear up days, schools educational package around ASB / Violence, Street Guardians and a project co-ordinator.
- Jake Bozarth and Jake Blandford were convicted of witness intimidation for an attack on Callum Brown. Both received custodial sentences.
- Callum Brown has been charged with possession with intent to supply controlled drugs. He is currently awaiting trial.
- Community ASB survey completed with the same residents. The result has shown a significant reduction in serious violence and anti-social behaviour in The Nightingales estate.

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Section 60 enacted in Nightingales in Newbury following organised crime incident exploiting vulnerable person

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Lisa Cross narrowly avoids throat being slashed by Callum Brown in mob violence on The Nightingales estate in Newbury

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Police announce reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour in The Nightingales, Greenham in Newbury



Future Challenges:

Changes to Local Policing Structures – Local Command Units

Civil Unrest - lack of issues, but need to be vigilant (Misinformation)

Growing demand vs resource in the community safety team (PSPO requests, ASB challenges and Statutory duties around CT)

Supt. Andy Penrith – LPA Commander

Andrew.Penrith@thamesvalley.police.uk

