

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 17 JULY 2025

Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (Chair)
Cllr Terry	Leader, RBC
Colin Hudson	Thames Valley Police (Vice-Chair)
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Jason Murphy	Community Safety, RBC
Matt Golledge	RBC
Zoe Hanim	Prevent/Channel Lead, RBC
Carly Newman	Young Voices
Lara Patel	Executive Director of Children's Services, Education and Early Help
Michael Greenway	OPCC
Laura Burgess	Probation Service
Rachel Spencer	RVA
Sally Anderson	RBC
Kathy Kelly	NHS
Umi Abdulmutwalib	RBC
Nick Haskins	Safer Neighbourhood Forum
Jason Kew	TVP
Drishi Dahiya	Young Voices
George Mathew	ACRE
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Emma Gee	RBC
Alastair Harsant	Brighter Futures for Children
Bryony Hall	RBC
Ollie Foxell	Brighter Futures for Children
Sabina Cannell	PACT
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Stephen Leonard	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Martin Chester	RBC
John Ennis	Probation Service
Emma Tompkins	TVP
Martin White	RBC
Chantal Foster	Probation
Hayley Berrington	Probation

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2025 were agreed as a correct record, subject to Councillor Rowland being listed as Chair, and Colin Hudson as Vice-Chair.

2. PREVENT UPDATE

Zoe Hanim gave a presentation on the progress made by Prevent during the current year and introduced the draft 2025-26 Prevent Plan, which would be submitted for agreement by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on 25 September 2025. Zoe explained that Reading was one of only two Councils to have achieved "Excelling against all benchmarks."

The presentation also set out key objective and actions for 2025-26 including engagement with communities and safeguarding individuals.

AGREED:

- (1) That the progress against the 2024-25 Action Plan be noted.**
- (2) That the Prevent Action Plan 2025-26 be submitted to the next meeting on 25 September 2025 for approval.**

3. PCC UPDATES

Mike Greenaway (OPCC) submitted a report updating the CSP on the OPCC, which covered the recent restructure, CSP funding, the Police and Crime Panel Review of Ant-Social Behaviour (ASB) and the Keeping the Town Centre Safe This Summer initiative. Mike also reported that the PCC had now published the Annual Report, which would be circulated to CSP members.

AGREED: That the position be noted;

4. PREVENTION PARTNERSHIPS

Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on 3 April 2025, Jason Murphy reported that new guidance had been issued for Prevention Partnerships. This guidance concentrated on dealing with children who had slipped through the gaps and how they could be identified, with a focus on under 18s. There would be a multi-agency Panel, based on a remodelling of the Serious Violence Steering Group, which would discuss pathways for those children who had been identified as at risk. The Partnership would concentrate on helping young people who had been suspended from school, as they were seen as being at increased risk and would look at both diversion and deterrence methods,

AGREED:

- (1) That a further report on the remodelling of the Serious Violence Steering Group be submitted to the next CSP meeting on 25 September 2025;**
- (2) That the Prevent Partnership be a standing item on the CSP agenda.**

5. DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE

JTAI

Lara Patel reported on the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children at risk (unborn and up to the age of 7) that had been conducted during February and March 2025. Officers were working on action plans arising from the findings of the review which would be submitted to the Department for Education in August 2025.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

REVIEW OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTENRSHIP BOARD

Jo Middlemass reported that the Review of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board was underway and that a further report with recommendations would be submitted to the CSP on 25 September 2025.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

Umi Abdulmutwalib updated the CSP on recent the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) which was now ready to be published. and reported that officers were continuing to support the victim's family. The long timescale had been challenging for all involved, including the Home Office Quality Assurance Board's delay in reviewing the DHR prior to publication. Umi added that all of the recommendations from the DHR had now been implemented.

Umi also informed the CSP that there had been another situation that could possibly lead to a DHR, and asked that a scoping review be set up as quickly as possible to agree the way forward. The review would need to be completed and the way forward agreed within four weeks, which would be before the next meeting of the CSP.

AGREED:

- (1) That CSP write to the Home office expressing concern over the time taken by the Quality Assurance Board to assess the DHR;**
- (2) That the Action Plan and completed actions be endorsed;**
- (3) That a scoping review be undertaken and the recommendations circulated to CSP members for agreement before the next meeting.**

6. CSP ANNUAL REPORT 2023 AND 2024

Jason Murphy reported that the CSP annual report had been endorsed by the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 9 July 2025. Officers were completing a public version of the report to be published by the end of July 2025. Jason explained that the public's perception of levels of crime did not reflect the crime statistics or how safe people felt in their community, and added that this could be addressed by good communications explaining what had been achieved.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS

Jason Murphy reported that to date there had been over 450 responses to the Community Safety Survey, and Young Voices had also received over 750 responses to the Youth Survey.

Jo Middlemass reported officers were creating a CSP branded area on the Council's website, concentrating on ASB, Domestic Violence and Unauthorised Encampments. There were also plans for a news section that could be used to highlight recent successes, work that had been carried out and upcoming events.

Jo Middlemass also reported that the ASB week held in June had been very successful and had brought together frontline officers, communities and residents.

AGREED: That the position be noted

8. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER - CONSULTATION

Further to Minute 3 of the meeting held on 3 April 2025, Jo Middlemass reported that the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee had considered the draft consultation document at its meeting on 9 July 2025. The consultation would be launched during week

commencing 21 July 2025 and would run for four weeks, with the results and recommendations being submitted back to the Committee on 12 November 2025.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. PERFORMANCE MEETING - APPROACH, CHAIRING AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND DATA REPORT

Jason Murphy explained that the Data Performance Group had been established to discuss shared data in depth before reporting the high-level figures to CSP. The Group, which had a similar structure to West Berkshire and Wokingham, had met in early July and had agreed strategic priorities. The Group would schedule meetings to allow time for reports to feed into CSP meetings.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

10. SAFER STREETS UPDATE

Colin Hudson circulated a letter from the Home Office to all Chief Constable and LA Chief Executives informing them of the Government's Keeping Town Centres Safe This Summer initiative that was part of the Safer Streets Mission. The letter set out activities to be undertaken during the summer to increase town centre safety including tackling shoplifting, drugs, organised groups and crime, use of e-bikes/scooters and food deliveries. Police would be expected to have a visible presence in the town centre, using the fines to demonstrate tangible actions. Thames Valley Police were also planning vigilant deployment to target Violence Against Women and Girls, particularly around Reading's night-time economy. There was an expectation that Police would work with relevant partners to achieve results.

Jason Kew added that the Combatting Drugs Partnership would also be tackling some of the problems within the town centre, such as drug use, as this could be linked to acquisitive crime such as shoplifting and aggressive begging.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

11. PARTNER UPDATES

Safer Neighbourhood Forums

Nick Haskin reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Forums were working with various residents Associations. There was also a focus on water safety.

Young Voices

Carly Newman reported that Young Voices had had been working with young people and schools to encourage responses to the Youth Survey. The next Youth Summit, to be held in November 2025, would then concentrate on the key themes that arose from the responses to the survey. Young Voices were also looking at ways to address areas of concern for young people including dealing with issues that had started in-person but that had then escalated online, the impact of drug dealing, ASB, use of e-bikes and poor lighting in public spaces, the impact of feeling afraid in the journey to school and its effect on learning and knowing where to find safe spaces in the town centre.

Probation Service

Laura Burgess reported that the release of prisoners would be starting soon. The service was releasing prisoners in tranches and there not great numbers involved, with approximately 17 individuals across Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.

Thames Valley Police

Colin Hudson reported that there had been a 40% reduction in knife crime in Reading, and that there had also been a decrease in burglary. There had been a slight increase in low level ASB in Tilehurst and Norcot, although high level impact ASB was decreasing. Police were preparing for possible increases relating to Reading Festival.

Integrated Care Board

Kathy Kelly reported that the ICB was in the process of restructuring, and would form the Thames Valley ICB together with Frimley Hospital. The restructure would take a significant amount of time, and could affect staff and teams due to uncertainty about the future.

ACRE

George Mathew reports that ACRE was working well with TVP to explain the law to residents who had English as an Additional Language. A Race Action Plan was being put in place to encourage people to feel that they could have a career in the police.

AGREED: That the updates be noted.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Rowland noted that this would be Jason Murphy's last CSP meeting as he was starting a new job

AGREED: That Jason Murphy be thanked for his hard work and commitment to the Community Safety Partnership and wished him well for the future.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meetings for 2025/26 would take place on:

25 September 2025 (Mayor's Parlour)
27 November 20245
19 February 2026
16 April 2026

All meetings start at 9.30am, venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting closed at 12.49 pm)