

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (Chair)
Cllr Terry	Leader, RBC
Cath Marriott	Consultant
Colin Hudson	Thames Valley Police (Vice-Chair)
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety, RBC
Rob Abell	RBC
Zoe Hanim	Prevent/Channel Lead, RBC
Jill Marston	RBC
Lianne Lewis	Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children, BOB ICB
Hayley Berrington	Deputy Head West Berkshire Probation Delivery
Michael Greenway	OPCC
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Rachel Spencer	RVA
Carly Newman	Young Voices (for items 8-13)
Simon Hill	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Emma Gee	RBC
Bryony Hall	RBC
Matt Pearce	RBC
Martin White	RBC
Alastair Harsant	RBC
Emma Tompkins	TVP
Stephen Leonard	TVP

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

2. PREVENT UPDATE

Zoe Hanim gave a presentation on recent Prevent activity and the 2025-26 Prevent Action Plan. The presentation noted that achievements in 2024/25 included being assessed at 'exceeding' on all Prevent Duty Benchmarks by the Home Office, various engagement and training events and a partner response to public disorder in summer 2024. The Counter Terrorism Local Profile key areas for consideration for Action Plans were set out, including the importance of engagement with younger audiences, including those in geographically or socially isolated communities, the need for the types of referrals made to be reflective of the wider threat picture, and that a full and accurate assessment of local threat relied upon reporting from partners and local communities.

The Group were asked to endorse the 2025/26 Prevent Action Plan which set out key actions against the objectives to i) engage with communities to develop understanding and awareness of risks and work together with a focus on keeping safe from harm online, and ii) to safeguard individuals and communities through early intervention and provide support to individuals who might be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.

The presentation also set out a number of key changes to Prevent policy which had been put in place after a review of Prevent by the Home Office last autumn and reflecting increasing complex needs of Channel cases.

AGREED:

- (1) That the 2025-26 Prevent Action Plan be endorsed;**
- (2) That the Group continue to receive a Prevent update report at each meeting in order to monitor current issues.**

3. OPCC & PARTNERSHIP FUND UPDATES

Mike Greenaway (OPCC) gave a verbal update on recent OPCC activity including the use of the Partnership Fund for projects that would help meet local and PCC priorities.

Sarah Gardner gave a presentation outlining the Partnership Fund projects in Reading: Young Voice, New Angles boxing camp, School Navigator programme, AI Youth and SOAR self-defence. She was working with Mike on arrangements for monitoring and measuring the impact of the projects and it was planned to bring progress reports to the next meeting.

The Group noted that there would be further funding opportunities from the Partnership Fund and that partners should look out for potential projects for development that would address different needs than those already funded.

AGREED:

- (1) That a written update on OPCC activities be circulated with the next agenda;**
- (2) That a progress report for each of the Reading projects funded by the Partnership Fund be submitted to the next meeting.**

4. DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (DAPB) REVIEW

Cath Marriott submitted a report and gave a presentation with Jo Middlemass on a review of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB). The DAPB had formed in 2021 and the findings of the recent JTAI had added impetus to the need to review the current state of the Board and its partnership working. The review had also considered examples of good practice from elsewhere. Recommendations were made under the following headings:

- Clarify Governance, Purpose & Decision-Making
- Strengthen Partner Ownership (to improve engagement and accountability)
- Build Data and Intelligence Capability
- Strengthen Strategic Alignment
- Embed Voice and Lived Experience
- Incorporate Commissioning functions
- Develop an impact-focussed culture
- Other

The presentation also highlighted a recommended approach for the CSP in overseeing the DAPB and that the CSP should model healthy partnership challenge, intentional active engagement, ensuring impact not just activity, and decision-making transparency.

It was noted that there were a total of 50 recommendation and that the DAPB should identify those of highest priority in developing an initial draft action plan.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board review and prioritise the recommendations made by the review and develop an initial draft action plan;**
- (2) That the draft action plan be circulated to the Group for discussion at the next meeting;**
- (3) That a scoping exercise to explore chairing arrangements, including consideration for an independent chair, be agreed.**

5. DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

Jo Middlemass outlined the circumstances of two cases, A and G, and summarised initial scoping reviews carried out by a Panel. The meeting were reminded of the purpose of a DHR and the definition as set out in the relevant legislation.

AGREED:

- (1) That a DHR be carried out for Case A;**
- (2) That no DHR be carried out for Case G, on the grounds that there was no personal relationship between the two parties and noting the Home Office advice that a Mental Health Homicide Review would be better suited to this case.**

6. TOWN CENTRE SAFETY MEETING PROPOSAL

Colin Hudson outlined proposals for a Town Centre Safety meeting following a review of the approach to the night time economy and other town centre issues. He proposed that a group meet every six weeks until early 2026 to look at a range of safety issues relating to the night time economy and town centre including violence against women and girls, CCTV, and licensed premises, to consider the extent to which the current approach was working and whether there were opportunities to improve and to seek funding for additional work.

It was noted that the CSP should consider its strategic approach to wider current issues around community anxiety and communication around community safety which would be beyond the scope of the proposed meeting.

AGREED:

- (1) That the representatives of the Council and TVP continue to discuss the proposal for a Town Centre Safety meeting to be introduced and report into the CSP;**
- (2) That the CSP give further consideration to how a community safety communications strategy should be developed.**

7. CONSULTATION UPDATE – PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Sarah Gardner gave a presentation summarising public consultation on the draft Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). There had been 425 responses with a large majority

being supportive of the proposed restrictions. The next steps would be to finalise consultation feedback and prepare a report to the Council's Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee with a recommendation to proceed with implementing a PSPO. A number of key tasks would then form an implementation plan which would be submitted to the Group's next meeting.

AGREED:

- (1) That the response to the consultation be noted;**
- (2) That an update be given to the next meeting to report on the formal decision made by the Council on the PSPO and outline the proposed plan for implementation.**

8. CONSULTATION UPDATE – COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

Sarah Gardner gave a presentation setting out the results of the annual Community Safety survey, which had run over the summer with 722 respondents. The presentation summarised the responses with a comparison to the 2024 results. Responses showed that 50.4% of respondents thought that Reading was a safe place, 46.3% thought that crime in their neighbourhood had increased in the last 12 months, 57.5% thought that ASB in their neighbourhood had increased and 52.4% were not aware of any hate crime in their neighbourhood. 45.4% felt fairly safe and 27.1% completely safe in their neighbourhood in the daytime; for nighttime safety 44% felt either fairly safe or not safe. It was noted that there was more analysis to do and that the data would help inform the Strategic Needs Assessment for the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy for 2026-9.

It was suggested that comparative data for similar local authority areas would provide helpful context for considering the Reading survey results and identifying any specific concerns for the CSP.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Survey results be noted and an action plan be presented to a future meeting of the Group;**
- (2) That the RBC Policy team investigate whether any comparative survey data was available for similar CSP areas.**

9. PARTNER UPDATE - YOUNG VOICES

Carly Newman gave an update on the Young Voices annual safety survey and other recent Young Voices activity. The survey had identified issues of most concern to young people, the places they felt safest, feelings of being safe or unsafe, perceptions of crime and crimes seen. It had also covered online content and radicalisation.

Carly also updated the Group on a summit planned for November and successful engagement with Reading Buses to use postcode information from schools to anticipate demand for bus journeys to and from school, to help reduce the risk of young people being left to wait at a stop due to overcrowding.

AGREED: That a written summary and analysis of the Young Voices annual safety survey and outline action plan be circulated for discussion at the February CSP.

11. OTHER PARTNER UPDATES

Voluntary and Community Sector

R Spencer gave an update on a VCS discussion of community tensions and effect on communities as well as VCS groups, especially those supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Probation

An update was given on a recent drop-in event and a Probation Forum to be launched next week.

Safer Neighbourhood Forums

There were no Forum Chairs in attendance at the meeting.

AGREED: That the updates be noted.

12. COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS

Sarah Gardner outlined upcoming CSP Campaigns and events.

AGREED: That partners contact Sarah Gardner for further details of any events they would like to participate in.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

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

27 November 2025 (Teams)
19 February 2026
16 April 2026

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

(The meeting closed at 12.49 pm)