

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 16 APRIL 2026

Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (Chair)
Colin Hudson	Thames Valley Police (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Terry	Leader, RBC
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Lara Patel	Executive Director of Children's Services, RBC
Sally Andersen	RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety, RBC
Zoe Hanim	Prevent/Channel Lead, RBC
Matt Golledge	RBC
James Tribe	Thames Valley Police
Kathy Kelly	BOB ICB
Hannah Powell	Probation Service
Michael Greenway	OPCC
Neil Whiteman	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service (RBFRS)
Colin Hudson	Thames Valley Police (Vice-Chair)
Rachel Spencer	RVA
Carly Newman	Young Voices (for items 7-10)
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Bryony Hall	RBC
Alastair Harsant	RBC
Amanda Nyeke	RBC
Martin Chester	South Central Ambulance Service
Hayley Berrington	Probation Service
Martin White	RBC
Stephen Leonard	TVP
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service (RBFRS)

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

2. OPCC UPDATE & PARTNERSHIP FUND UPDATE

Mike Greenway, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) submitted a report updating the Group on the OPCC. Mike explained that the OPCC was continuing to work with Local Authority Chief Executives on the options available within Berkshire following Local Government Reform/Devolution, police reforms and the review of policing structures and that a more detailed report would be submitted to a future meeting. An overview of the OPCC's statutory duties had been produced and shared with all parties.

Mike also reported that the Police Funding Settlement was almost £9m less than had previously been indicated to the OPCC, the OPCC was reviewing and re-planning its budgets including the affordability of the Partnership Fund allocations for 2027/28. The February 2026 round of Community Funding bids had just finished with over 250 applications being evaluated and awards made to 47 organisations across the Thames

Valley. The next round would take place during September 2026 and the funding was anticipated to continue whilst the OPCC was in place.

Sarah Gardner reported on progress on the Year 1 projects. She explained that it had been agreed that some of the funding had been carried over into the next financial year for the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), the Domestic Homicide Review and School Navigators.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

3. PREVENT

Zoe Hanim gave a presentation giving an update on Prevent activity during February and March 2026 against the 2025-26 Prevent Action Plan. This included:

- Reading had been awarded Council of Sanctuary status.
- Promotional materials, including a QR code, had been circulated to all community venues.
- A bid had been submitted for Preventing Radicalisation funding with the aim of building resilience from online harm in young and/or vulnerable people.
- Home Office Prevent live training was ongoing.
- 82% of RBC had now completed the mandatory Prevent Awareness e-learning to RBC staff compared to a target of 95%.

Zoe added that the Government's policy paper "Protecting What Matters: Towards a more Confident, Cohesive and Resilient United Kingdom" had been published in March 2026. Its key elements included actions to address the influence of online harm, monitoring of electively home educated children and investment to increase community pride and reduce the conditions that could lead to extremism.

AGREED: That the progress against the 2025-26 Prevent Action Plan be noted.

4. DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE

Sarah Gardner reported that funding had been made available by the OPCC and that a chairperson would be in place for Case A by the end of April 2026. Sarah added that the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and Domestic Abuse/Safe Accommodation Strategy would be completed by the end of April and end of July respectively. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board had met on 13 April 2026 and most of the recommendations had now been implemented, although an independent Chair had yet to be appointed.

AGREED:

- (1) **That the report be noted;**
- (2) **That Colin Hudson confirm the attendees from Thames Valley Police.**

5. TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY GROUP

Colin Hudson reported that the Town Centre Delivery Group had met on 8 April 2026. He explained that attendees had included RBC, TVP, BID and street pastors, and that he would like to extend membership to include Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, Health and the voluntary sector.

The meeting had concentrated on the following areas:

- Night-time economy;
- Licensing matters including Ask for Angela and Operation Makesafe and test purchases;
- The future location of Safe Space once the costs would no longer be covered by the OPCC;
- Communications and Media;
- Promotion of TownSafe radio

The Group discussed the report and noted that whilst there was some overlap with Community Safety issues across the Borough, the Working Group would be concentrating on town centre specific matters such as the night-time economy, organised shoplifting etc. Colin added that the next meeting would be considering surveys to include rough sleepers and the homeless asking how safe people felt in the town centre. The survey could be informed by the questions and responses from the recent Community Safety Survey to reduce duplication.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Rowland noted that Leadership would receive a briefing on Community Cohesion as this was key in most areas of the Borough.

Kathy Kelly reported that she and Lynne Mason would be submitting a report around homelessness and rough sleeping to a future meeting.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Provisional dates for the 2026/27 Municipal Year:

2 July 2026
 24 September 2026
 5 November 2026
 25 February 2027
 15 April 2027

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

(The meeting closed at 10.36 am)