

Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee

21 July 2026



Reading
Borough Council
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Title	Reading Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Annual Report
Purpose of the report	To note the report for information
Report status	Public report
Executive Director Commissioning Report	Melissa Wise – Executive Director Communities & Adult Social Care
Report author	Sarah Gardner, Community Safety Manager
Lead Councillor	Councillor Finn McGoldrick - Lead Member for Environmental Services & Community Safety
Council priority	Promote more equal communities in Reading
Recommendations	That Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee: 1. endorses the annual Community Safety Partnership report outlining the activities and impact over the last year for publication; 2. notes a new Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy for 2026-2029 has been commissioned alongside an associated Strategic Needs Assessment.

1. Executive Summary

1.1. This report provides an overview of the work that Reading's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has carried out over the last year to meet the priorities outlined within the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2023-2026. The report covers July 2025 - May 2026.

1.2. Key highlights from this year's activity:

- Data/insights highlights:
 - Over the last 5 years the overall crime rate spiked in 2022 and then started to fall steadily between 2022 and 2024. Crime rates were down 1.58% in 2023, and 6.05% in 2024. There has been a small increase in 2025 of 0.37%.
 - Perceptions of how safe residents feel in Reading have remained the same in 2025, in comparison to the previous year. In the 2025 Community Safety Survey 50.5% responded that they felt safe in Reading; in 2024, 51% of respondents said they felt safe in Reading.
- CSP partnership activity highlights:
 - A new Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy for 2026-2029 has been commissioned and an associated Strategic Needs Assessment has commenced.
 - A new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was brought into force on 24 March 2026, providing an additional partnership tool to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

- The expansion of the Young Voices network has continued, meaning the voice of children and young people is contributing to decision-making and shaping delivery. The lead Young Voices representative sits on the CSP Executive Group and the Young Voices Survey is now embedded as an annual survey alongside the main Community Safety Survey.
- Improved approaches to community cohesion and resilience have been implemented, including a refined process for reassuring communities during high-profile events, such as terrorist attacks, and ways to facilitate collaborative engagement with Community Leaders.
- Independently recommended improvements have been made to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, including ways to embed the voice of the child and lived experience into decision-making.
- New processes have been created to enable better partnership working on water safety, including the creation of regular partnership patrols to address crime and ASB on Reading's waterways.
- Key community events linked to crime reduction, including the CSP's annual Domestic Abuse Conference and annual Young Voices Safety Summit, have continued to be regularly held and enhanced, using partners and participant feedback.

2. Policy Context

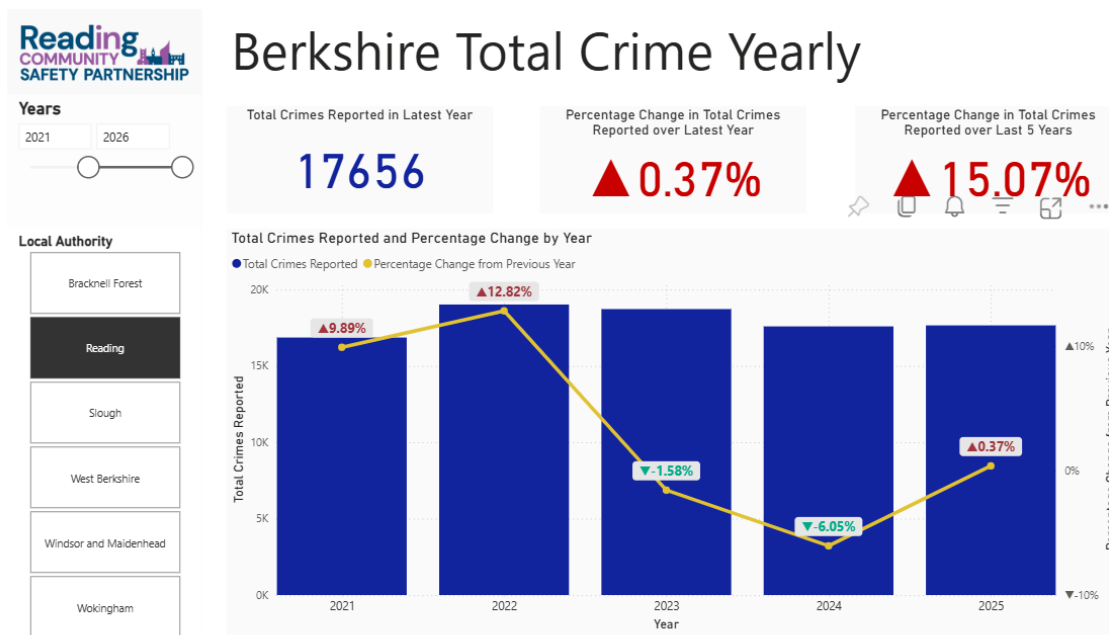
- 2.1. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that Community Safety Partnership (CSPs), must formulate a strategy, every 3 years, for the reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder in the area.
- 2.2. The Serious Violence Duty outlined within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, states that relevant services (in this case Reading's CSP) must also work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- 2.3. These statutory duties are delivered via Reading CSP's Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy, which is refreshed every 3 years.
- 2.4. The current priorities within the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2023-2026 are to:
 - Reduce crime in the top crime-generating neighbourhoods
 - Improve the way the Community Safety Partnership works with communities to tackle anti-social behaviour and hate crime
 - Reduce community-based drug related activity
 - Reduce knife violence, including the carrying of blades and their use in crime
 - Tackle organised crime gangs transporting illegal drugs across Reading's borders, also known as 'county lines' offending
 - Improve safety for women in public places and reduce sexually focused crimes and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.5. Alongside this strategy sits Reading's Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2023–2026. Whilst the Domestic Abuse Strategy is overseen by Reading's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, the governance for the Board and strategy sits with the CSP, therefore, key delivery updates on the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board are provided in this report.
- 2.6. The strategic priorities for the Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2023–2026 are to:
 - Effectively commission refuge and other safe accommodation spaces

- Raise awareness about Domestic Abuse
 - Engage with diverse communities
 - Develop and support a multi-agency approach to working with an array of groups inclusive of victims, survivors and perpetrators
 - Continue to safeguard and advocate for children and young people who have experienced or witnessed Domestic Abuse.
- 2.7 A Strategic Needs Assessment and updated Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy for 2026-2029 was commissioned in May, to replace the 2023-2026 Strategy, which expires in November 2026. This is due to come to Committee for endorsement in November, following a public consultation on the strategic priorities.
- 2.8 A Strategic Needs Assessment and updated Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2026-2029 was commissioned in January 2026 and is due to come to Committee for endorsement in November, following a public consultation on the strategic priorities.

3. The Proposal

Statistics – Reading crime data

- 3.1. The data in this report is sourced from Berkshire Observatory, which collates data from national and validated data sources including the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Police data.
- 3.2. It is important to note that offence data shifts regularly as old offences come to light or longstanding investigations are completed.
- 3.3. Overall crime rates:
- Over the last 5 years crime rates in Reading spiked in 2022 with 19,024 offences and then started to fall steadily between 2022 and 2024. Crime rates were down 1.58% in 2023, and 6.05% in 2024.
 - The total volume of crime in Reading for 2025 was 17,656 offences which shows a small increase of 0.37%, compared to 2024, but still lower than the 2022 spike.
 - This can be seen in the chart below.



Single crime case data have been aggregated for Reading and rates are calculated per 1,000 population. 12-month rolling figures use an average of the population monthly figures over the same period.

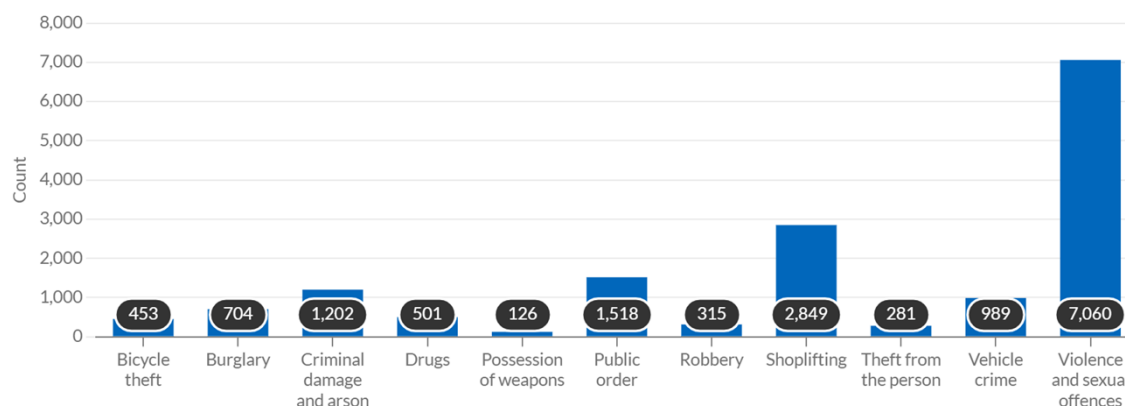
Data source: Berkshire Observatory.

3.4. Highest category of offence types:

- Violence and sexual offences remain the highest category of offence at a rate of 7,060 offences per 1,000 (40.4%), followed by shoplifting at 2,849 (16.3%). This can be seen in the chart below.
- Over the last 5 years, violence and sexual offences have remained consistently high, with a peak in 2022 (49.6%) and the lowest in 2024 (38.1%).
- During the same period, shoplifting has seen a steady increase since 2022 from 9% in 2022 to 16% throughout 2024 and 2025.

● Crime by Type

Crime count by type for Reading (Apr-25 - Mar-26)



Single crime case data have been aggregated for Reading and rates are calculated per 1,000 population. 12-month rolling figures use an average of the population monthly figures over the same period.

Data source: Berkshire Observatory.

Perceptions – Annual Community Safety Survey

- 3.5. Reading's Community Safety Survey runs every summer, with the aim to capture residents' perceptions of crime and safety. Perception of safety is an important measure to review alongside crime data, because how safe people feel is not always related to statistical crime levels and because there are recognised barriers to reporting crime.
- 3.6. The Young Voices Safety Survey is now regularly carried out alongside the Community Safety Survey, led by the Young Voices network and supported by No 5, Starting Point, Reading FC Community Trust and the Council's Children's Social Care department.
- 3.7. The 2025 Community Safety Survey ran between 2 July and 31 August 2025. 725 residents responded to the 2025 survey, compared to 744 in 2024. There was a larger response to the Young Voices Safety Survey, which ran between 12 June and 1 August 2025, with 937 young people sharing their views (compared to 250 in 2024). This higher response rate is largely due to the amount of youth services available to engage face to face with young people, compared to resources to engage with all residents. The increase between years is due to the expansion of Young Voices and more youth services being engaged to support the Young Voices work.
- 3.8. Headlines from the 2025 Community Safety Survey results (725 responses):
 - In response to the question: 'Do you think Reading is a safe place?' 50.5% responded that they think Reading is a safe place. This is showing no or little change - in 2024, 51% of respondents said Reading was safe. In 2023, 44.8% of respondents felt safe in Reading.

- When asked if crime had increased in their neighbourhood, 46.2% residents reported an increase and 36.4% said no change. This shows a slight improvement in how residents feel about neighbourhood crime - in 2024, 50.0% of residents reported an increase, and 34% said no change.
- When asked if anti-social behaviour (ASB) had increased in their neighbourhood, 57.2% reported it had and 29% said no change. This shows a slight improvement in perception of neighbourhood ASB - in 2024, 62% said ASB had increased where they lived and 27.6% said no change.
- There is a free textbox for comments at the end of the survey where respondents can add any other issues or concerns. 313 comments (out of 725 responses) were submitted. Analysis of these comments into themes shows the key issues as: aggressive begging; reckless riding of e-scooters and e-bikes; retail crime; women's safety particularly in Reading Town Centre; and environmental decline/litter and fly-tipping linked to feeling unsafe. These themes are similar to those raised in Safer Neighbourhood Forums throughout the year.

3.9. Headlines from the Young Voices survey 2025:

- The top 5 safety issues facing young people were:
 - Bullying (64.9% of young people chose this as their main safety issue)
 - Experiences of racism or homophobia (51.7%)
 - Online safety (42%)
 - Issues at home (37%)
 - Exploitation (26.1%).
- The top 5 places young people feel most safe are:
 - Home (92.7%)
 - School/College/Uni/Work (23.1%)
 - Parks and Open Spaces (13.9%)
 - Online (13%)
 - Public Transport (4.1%).
- The top 5 places young people feel most unsafe are:
 - Parks and Open Spaces (31.8%). Significantly more young people feel unsafe here than safe (13.9%)
 - School/College/Uni/Work (20.8%)
 - Online (12.2%)
 - Home (3.1%)
 - Alleyways (2%).

3.10. When comparing both surveys, aside from the age differences the main issues affecting those surveyed are very similar. People felt safer in the daytime than nighttime across both surveys. Confidence in reporting crime was low across both surveys.

3.11. The key difference between the two surveys is around types of crime:

- Responses from the Young Voices Survey showed a large concern around hate crime, particularly racism and homophobia, bullying and online harm.
- Fear of serious violence, including knife crime, was high amongst young people. Online content about fights was reportedly seen by 53% of respondents –

significantly more than content about knife crime (37%). Notably 33% had seen a young person carrying a knife (in the 'real world').

- In the Community Safety Survey 14.5% said threat of violent crime including knife crime and sexual assault made them feel unsafe in the daytime; 30.8% said threat of violent crime including knife crime and sexual assault made them feel unsafe in the night-time.
- The Community Safety Survey does not specifically ask people about online safety. The free comment box included only a few references to online harm (fraud was mentioned).
- Home was the place young people feel safest (despite 37% also saying they were most concerned about issues at home). This question was not asked in the Community Safety Survey.

Activity – projects, campaigns and events

3.12. The CSP has continued to undertake several key projects, campaigns and events over the last year. This has been enabled by in-kind support across the CSP and using grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC) Partnership Fund, which funds 23 projects to support activity related to the CSP's strategic priorities.

3.13. Headline activity taken relating to Community Safety and Serious Violence and Domestic Abuse priorities is outlined in the table below:

Strategic Priority	Activity
Reduce crime in the top crime-generating neighbourhoods	• Reading Borough Council (RBC), in partnership with Thames Valley Police (TVP), introduced a borough wide three-year Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on 24th March 2026. The PSPO is applicable throughout the borough but will focus on the key hotspots in crime generating areas and will be monitored by RBC. It addresses some of the key concerns raised in the Community Safety Survey particularly around town centre safety, aggressive begging and reckless riding of e-bikes and e-scooters. There is a fuller update below, as per the monitoring commitment made in November's Policy Committee when the PSPO was endorsed. • RBC and Reading Business Improvement District (BID) launched the 'Tap for Reading' Scheme as a pilot in early 2025, providing the public with an alternative means of giving to homeless people and to run alongside existing tools as a way to reduce aggressive or persistent begging. A review of the pilot was carried out in May 2026, and a full update can be found below. • Crime data shows shoplifting as being a key priority for the CSP and this was also reflected by residents in the 2025 Safety Survey. The Police and CSP partners have run a successful serious organised crime operation to target the handlers of stolen goods and working closely with the businesses to improve security at the most targeted retail venues. The operation has resulted in multiple arrests and disruption of theft in the Town Centre. Prolific retail offenders have been charged and, where necessary, referred into rapid access drug and alcohol treatment. This work has increased reporting by businesses and their confidence in the authorities and CSP partners has increased. This successful work has been recognised by the Thames Valley Police 2026 Laycock Award. • The CSP secured OPCC funding in May 2026 to expand the Reading Townsafe Radio Scheme and Reading Against Business Crime so that more businesses can benefit from shared

	intelligence on shoplifters and have access to training and guidance.
Improve the way the CSP works with communities to tackle ASB and hate crime.	• The CSP has created an improved community safety and resilience approach to reassure communities during times of high-profile incidents, such as terrorist attacks, or activities that increase community tension. This includes the introduction of a CSP Community Leaders Network, the development of a community tensions register, which will feed into the CSP, and a Community Leaders event on 25th June to collaborate and share ways to improve resilience. This has become particularly relevant as the UK Threat Level increased to 'severe' in May 2026. • The CSP secured OPCC funding to introduce a Hate Crime Helpline in Reading, with associated training to encourage reporting and provide additional resources to monitor hate crime/incidents. The Helpline will be set up over 2026 and will offer a dedicated and tailored service to improve trust amongst communities, helping to reduce barriers to accessing support. • The CSP funded a new security system at Reading Refugee Support Group in December 2025, which has reassured staff and clients, many of whom are subject to hate crime/incidents. • Young Voices continues to explore ways to encourage young people to report ASB and hate crime. As noted previously, their 2025 survey showed one of the top issues facing young people was racism and/or homophobia, and yet the majority of young people surveyed would not report hate crime due to confusion around what it is, how to report it and lack of confidence of action being taken. Workshops were held at November's Young Voices Safety Summit and promotion of Stay True to You, Fearless and It Does Matter is an ongoing piece of work. • The CSP continues to prioritise and proactively support ASB Awareness Week and Hate Crime Awareness Week as key partnership events.
Reduce knife violence, including the carrying of blades and their use in crime <i>and</i> Tackle organised crime gangs transporting illegal drugs across Reading's borders, also known as 'county lines' offending <i>and</i> Reduce community-based drug related activity.	• Crime data shows violence as one of the highest categories of offences in Reading over the last 5 years and is a key priority for the CSP. Since Thames Valley Police split into Local Command Units, the Berkshire West LCU has set up multi-agency partnership meetings to focus on knife crime and organised crime. These meetings bring together partners from Youth Justice, Children's Services and Community Safety to manage plans for habitual knife carriers in Reading and across borders, and support partnership activity around serious organised crime (including drug dealing and retail crime). • The CSP secured OPCC funding in 2025 to support the provision of boxing camps and associated mentoring, which focus on young people at risk of serious and violent crime and exploitation. The camps provide a safe, positive, and inclusive space to build confidence, and engage in pro-social activity. It is run by people with lived experience in youth exploitation and serious violence, who provide mentoring to at-risk young people. • For the third year running, the CSP funded school workshops and a theatre/parkour production focussed on the grooming of a young person into a drug gang, with awareness raising on signs of exploitation. The performance was held in Kings Academy

	Prospect, with the whole school attending (approx. 1,200 pupils) and 99% of the children who saw the performance agreed that it had taught them about county lines and signs of exploitation. A fourth performance is being planned for summer 2026 at Hartland High (formerly JMA). Locations are determined by evidence around risk of exploitation. • The Young People's Activities and Programme Group, chaired by No 5, brings together representatives from sport, culture, youth work and education settings. It was established following the tragic murder of Olly Stephens in 2021, and it builds on the installation of the Armoured Heart Sculpture, which stands on the Oracle Riverside. The CSP secured OPCC funding in May 2026 to expand on this work, including exploring a permanent space to focus on Olly Stephen's story and act as an engagement and education hub.
Improve safety for women in public places and reduce sexually focused crimes and anti-social behaviour.	• Crime data shows violence and sexual offences as one of the highest categories of offences in Reading over the last 5 years and is a key priority for the CSP. The Berkshire West LCU has set up multi-agency partnership meetings to focus on Violence Against Women and Girls and specifically the Night-Time Economy (NTE) in Reading's Town Centre. This enables key partners to share data and intelligence and identify problem-solving activity. • The Reading Safe Space has continued to play a key role in supporting the safety of women in the Town Centre. Reading's First Stop and Street Pastors use this as a base to support vulnerable NTE users, including women at risk of crime, who present to the Safe Space in consistent numbers. The CSP has funded additional lighting, better signage and increased promotion of the Safe Space to improve safety for women across Reading. • The CSP continues to work with the Reading BID and RBC Licensing and Trading Standards to encourage bars, clubs and businesses to promote the 'Ask for Angela' scheme, which offers a safe exit from risky situations in venues, alongside 'Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement' (WAVE) training for venue staff. • The CSP secured OPCC funding to enable Young Voices to adapt the 'Ask for Angela' scheme and apply it to professionals in public spaces/services to support young people if they are feeling vulnerable. This work started in late 2025 with the Oracle, who have made a range of improvements based on young people's feedback, including setting up a safe space in the Oracle. Work will continue with Reading Buses, as young people have identified ways to help make them feel safer when travelling between school and home. • In July 2025 the CSP successfully applied for OPCC funding to explore the increase in AI Chatbots being used by young people as a trusted source of relationship advice. The project resulted in a theatre play and safeguarding resources for education professionals. The CSP has successfully sought further funding to tour the play around schools in 2026-7. • OPCC funding was also secured to provide self-defence training to community representatives throughout 2026, who will then go on to train other community members in Reading, with the aim of empowering women, young people and marginalised communities to reduce violence and exploitation.

Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation priorities	• The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB), which oversees delivery of the strategy, was reviewed independently in 2025 and several recommendations were endorsed by the CSP and have been actioned, including more effective chairing and governance and ways to embed lived experience and the voice of the child in decision-making. • Training in Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Domestic Abuse, Stalking, and 'Honour'-based abuse (DASH) is delivered to professionals five times a year. In 2025 the training was enriched with the support of the Children's Service's Principal Social Worker to include expertise around children as victim-survivors of Domestic Abuse (as per recommendations from the DAPB independent review). • Domestic Abuse Forums for professionals are run three times a year. Over 2025, sessions on coercive and controlling behaviour; no recourse to public funds; and stalking and harassment have been delivered. • Two Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs/DARDRs) have been brought to the CSP. As per the Home Office guidance, Scoping Reviews were carried out, and one case was commissioned for a full Review by the CSP in November 2025; an Independent Chair has been appointed to identify learning. The other case did not meet the criteria for a full review, which the Home Office ratified. • One of the CSP's flagship events is the Domestic Abuse Conference which is held annually. In 2025 the Conference celebrated the 50-year anniversary of Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA). The event focused on lived experience with keynote speakers and a lived experience panel. The 2026 Conference will be held in November to coincide with White Ribbon Day. • BWA is the commissioned service to deliver refuge and safe accommodation spaces, as per the strategy, and is monitored by the CSP.
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3.14. Update on the Reading Public Space Protection Order (PSPO):

- RBC, in partnership with TVP, introduced a borough wide three-year PSPO on 24th March 2026, following approval by RBC's Policy Committee in November 2025. An update on the implementation and monitoring of the PSPO was agreed to be made as part of this report.
- The PSPO addresses anti-social behaviour, including persistent/aggressive begging, street drinking, malicious/dangerous riding of e-bikes and e-scooters, dog fouling and (lack of) dog control. It addresses some of the key concerns raised in the Community Safety Survey, particularly around town centre safety, aggressive begging and reckless riding of e-bikes and e-scooters.
- Whilst the ultimate sanction of breach of a PSPO is through the means of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) and/or Summons to the Magistrates' Court, there is a strong focus on education and engagement to deter further ASB. Enforcement will only take place if there are persistent, repeated and/or significant breaches.
- A PSPO Implementation Project Board, made up of enforcement officers and other key partners, is managing the monitoring and measuring of the PSPO.
- Since implementation, a successful education and communications campaign has been carried out and 28 breaches for the anti-social behaviour and begging

conditions have been reported (as at May 2026). An additional 3 breaches for the dog conditions have been reported. Kingdom Enforcement has been delegated the authority to enforce breaches relating to the dog conditions, to give additional resources, however their enforcement activity will begin on 5 June 2026, so data on Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) is not available at the time of writing this report.

Numbers of breaches by condition (TVP led)

Condition	Total	Verbal Warnings / Advice	Warning Letters	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)
Street drinking & alcohol-related ASB	15	7	7	1
On-street / persistent begging	8	6	2	0
Anti-social e-scooters & e-bikes	5	1	4	0

Numbers of breaches by condition (RBC/Kingdom Enforcement led)

Condition	Total	Verbal Warnings/Advice	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)
Dog fouling	2	2	0
Dog control	1	1	0

3.15. Below is an update on the Tap for Reading pilot scheme:

- The CSP launched the Tap for Reading Scheme, with Reading's BID as the lead delivery partner, as a pilot in early 2025 to: (i) provide the public with an alternative means of giving to homeless people; (ii) reduce aggressive begging alongside other powers/tools; and (iii) test whether small scale, targeted funding could support people experiencing rough sleeping, at risk of homelessness, or in unstable housing to successfully move on into independent living.
- Tap Readers were installed in several locations across the town with support from engaged businesses at key hotspots for aggressive/persistent begging. These include Reading Station; the Oracle; Broad Street Mall; Purple Turtle (bar/club); Ebb and Flow (Friar Street Apartments), and, until May 2025, No 3 Forbury Place (office). In May 2025 the Tap Reader moved from No 3 Forbury Place to the Apex offices.
- As of May 2026, a total of £7,433.00 has been donated both online and through the Tap Readers, with the amount being split between the four charity partners commissioned by RBC: Launchpad Reading, The Salvation Army, YMCA Reading and St Mungo's. Donations throughout the year have remained largely consistent in regularity and amount. However, online donations have been more popular - online donations totalled £5,082.00 versus Tap Reader donations which totalled £2,351.00.
- Over 50 individuals have directly benefitted from the funding. Funding has been primarily used to provide essential household items, white goods and basic furnishings for people moving into, or sustaining, accommodation. It has also supported day-to-day living tasks and tenancy sustainment. The evidence gathered from partner charities whose clients have benefitted from donated funds demonstrates a positive impact, both in terms of reach and outcomes.
- Alongside existing powers and the newly introduced PSPO, the scheme is helping to reduce aggressive begging by providing an alternate way for people to donate.

- Based on the Review, the Tap for Reading project group propose the following next steps:
 - Extend the scheme until 2029 with a review every 12 months to ensure it is meeting all partner requirements.
 - Explore the opportunity to use the donations to support non-commissioned charities. This will include determining a selection process for these charities, to ensure a transparent and fair process.
 - Review effectiveness of current locations and decide whether a QR code (as opposed to a Tap Reader) is more suitable for some locations.

3.16. Activities relating to safety on Reading's waterways:

- The Water Safety Partnership (WSP) was set up in 2023 and is committed to prevent water-based fatalities and injuries on or around Reading's waterways. It includes core agencies and a range of other organisations, including residents, who work on the water.
- Due to the breadth of the stakeholders in the WSP and the range of complex issues being raised - which includes criminal activity, vulnerable people living on unsafe boats, illegal moorings, unregulated/unlicensed boats, sunken boats and broken or insufficient infrastructure - a smaller operational group was set up in October 2025 to focus on problem solving. It also enables key partners to resolve barriers to progress in a confidential operational space.
- This Water Safety Operations Group includes core partners Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Environment Agency, St Mungo's and Reading Borough Council.
- The Operations Group is tasked with carrying out water safety audits of locations, safety equipment and high-risk areas. One of the key recommendations from this group is to carry out partnership water patrols twice a year (spring and autumn to avoid flooding risk) in hotspot areas and identify priority action, given the complex issues being reported and the need for coordinated partner action. The next partnership patrol is planned on 1 June 2026 focussing on hotspot areas Scours Lane, Napier Road and Kings Meadows.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

4.1. The Council Plan has established five priorities for the years 2025/28. These priorities are:

- Develop fairer communities and affordable housing
- Secure Reading's economic and cultural success
- Deliver a sustainable and healthy environment
- Safeguard and support the health and wellbeing of Reading's adults and children
- Ensure Reading Borough Council is fit for the future.

4.2. In delivering these priorities, we will be guided by the following set of principles:

- Putting residents first
- Building on strong foundations
- Recognising, respecting, and nurturing all our diverse communities
- Involving, collaborating, and empowering residents
- Being proudly ambitious for Reading.

- 4.3. The 2023-2026 Reading Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy and Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy both directly and indirectly contribute to all the Council Plan priorities. In particular, the Partnership's efforts to create a safer Reading and respond to resident's primary concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour are compatible with:
- Promote more equal communities in Reading
 - Secure Reading's economic and cultural success
 - Safeguard and support the health and wellbeing of Reading's adults and children.
- 4.4. Reading Borough Council's Council Plan for 2025-2028 includes the priority to 'promote more equal communities in Reading', setting out that the Council will 'reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, working with Thames Valley Police and other partners'. The strategic delivery of this partnership work sits within Reading's CSP, of which Reading Borough Council is a key delivery partner.
- 4.5. Full details of the Council Plan and the projects which will deliver these priorities are published on the [RBC website](#). These priorities and the Council Plan demonstrate how the Council meets its legal obligation to be efficient, effective and economical.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 5.2. There are no environmental and climate implications to specifically highlight in this report however it is worth noting that there are indirect consequences that are linked to climate change, crime prevention and community safety. For example, there is evidence of anti-social behaviour associated with the riding of e-bikes and e-scooters, and this can run counter to assumptions that their use is a preferred and sustainable travel solution – this was considered fully when introducing the PSPO.
- 5.3. The CSP continues to work with key departments and partners to ensure all options are considered when environmental and climate decisions are being made to reduce any unintended consequences. such as enhancing or mitigate opportunities for crime.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. As noted above, the CSP undertakes an annual survey of residents and, in parallel, Young Voices runs a survey aimed at young people.
- 6.2. The University of Reading Student Union and Reading College engages students concerns about safety throughout the year. These insights are shared with the CSP.
- 6.3. A network of borough-wide Safer Neighbourhood Forums, which operate throughout the year, enable residents to meet with police, council officers and ward councillors to discuss crime and safety in their neighbourhoods.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. This report is for information only, with no policy recommendations, so there are no equality implications to consider.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. There are no other relevant considerations.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder 1998 Act requires the responsible authorities - commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) - in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area.

- 9.2. The Council and other core members of the CSP must have regard to the [Police and Crime Commissioner \(PCC\) priorities](#). The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 gave a clear legal basis to the relationship between CSPs and PCCs.
- 9.3. The PCC and CSP must have regard to each other's priorities within their plans. This should encourage joint working on mutual priorities and ensure that the PCC priorities are tackled at the local level, and the CSP priorities are reflected and resourced. Secondly the PCC has a power of accountability over CSPs; they can call in representatives of CSPs in the force area to a meeting to discuss strategies to reduce crime. The PCC can request a written report from a CSP.
- 9.4. In November 2025, the Home Office announced PCCs are to be abolished by 2028, to be replaced by regional mayors or equivalent. Full details are still to be announced, including resourcing and oversight implications. Once these details are shared, they will be integrated into the CSP and its Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2026-2029.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. The Thames Valley PCC has set out his allocation of £1.013m to Reading's CSP between April 2025 to March 2028 in the form of a Partnership Fund, with clear guidelines on how it can be used and how it should align with the priorities with his Police and Crime Plan.
- 10.2. In November 2025, the Home Office announced PCCs are to be abolished by 2028, to be replaced by regional mayors or equivalent. Full details are still to be announced including funding arrangements. Once these details are shared, they will be integrated into the CSP and its Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2026-2029.

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1. This report is for information purposes only.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1. There are none.

Appendices

No appendices with this report.