



# Safer Buckinghamshire Board **Annual Report 2021/22**



## Working in partnership

Buckinghamshire Council

Thames Valley Police

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service

Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group

National Probation Service – Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

# Contents

## Introduction

Page 2

# Introduction

With the establishment of the unitary council for Buckinghamshire, a single new Community Safety Partnership, governed by a new Safer Buckinghamshire Board, was created. Alongside the creation of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board, a community safety strategic assessment and public survey was carried out which supported the establishment of new priorities in the three year Community Safety Plan for Buckinghamshire.

The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2020-23 was approved by the Safer Buckinghamshire Board in July 2020, with the aim that Buckinghamshire continues to be one of the safest places to grow up, raise a family, live, work and do business. The Plan set out the five priorities explaining how through working in partnership we will reduce crime and disorder and protect vulnerable people in Buckinghamshire.

This annual report provides an overview of the Partnership and Safer Buckinghamshire Board activity and impact during 2021/22. In view of the period covered by this report, the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic must be acknowledged. During the course of the year, the pandemic has forced the agencies involved in the Safer Buckinghamshire Board to adopt new ways of working. Across all of our priorities, we have addressed the impact of Covid-19 and taken steps to reduce its impact on crime and the causes of crime.

This has undoubtedly been a difficult year, but the strengths of partnership working in Buckinghamshire has enabled the Community Safety Partnership to remain assured that community safety issues across Buckinghamshire are identified, addressed and reviewed.





## About the Safer Buckinghamshire Board

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006) gave the police and local authorities powers to join with other organisations to form a local Community Safety Partnership. The role of the partnership is to develop an action plan to reduce crime within the local area. In Buckinghamshire the partnership is accountable to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board.

The Board also has a number of legal duties. These are:

- Working together to form and implement strategies to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse. This will include producing an annual plan.
- Producing plans to reduce reoffending by adults and young people.
- Manage the Community Trigger process.
- Commissioning Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- To work in partnership to reduce serious violence – This duty is led by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).
- Preventing extremism.
- Tackling modern slavery.
- Consulting and engaging with the community.

With the commencement of a unitary authority in Buckinghamshire in April 2020, the Community Safety Partnership initiated a review of its structure and processes. There had been notable concern about duplication of discussion and attendance across many of the existing partnership groups and the accountability/governance of these groups, including partnership groups, that sit under the Safeguarding Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

However, Covid-19 delayed plans for the completion of this review and focus was placed, instead, on delivering our statutory duties with the agreement of the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan for 2020-23 and associated delivery plans. In addition, new legislation introduced further statutory responsibilities around serious violence (Serious Violence Duty) and domestic abuse (Domestic Abuse Act 2021). It was agreed that strategic groups would be the most effective way to implement these new areas of work; the Serious Violence Taskforce and Domestic Abuse Board were both established.

In 2021 the Safer Buckinghamshire Board re-commenced the work to review its structure and processes. Board members agreed to become Priority Sponsors for each of the five priorities set out in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan and undertook deep dives of quarterly summary of performance and progress, considering barriers and opportunities for change. This work highlighted the need for the Board to become more focused, prioritising areas for discussion with a small number of agenda items to enable discussions, contributions and to add value.

Following the review, the Safer Buckinghamshire Board has become a smaller executive group with one representative from each of the responsible authorities, as set out in legislation. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is also represented at the Board. The Board continue to meet quarterly, with a small number of agenda items to enable discussion whilst also including statutory requirements, progress against the priorities and new and emerging legislation. The Board continue to ensure it fulfils its responsibilities around partnership expenditure and the effective distribution of Police and Crime Commissioner funding.

Buckinghamshire Council hosts the Safer Buckinghamshire Board, and is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive who provides leadership, vision and support, and who is responsible for ensuring that all organisations contribute effectively to the work of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board. The Vice Chair is the Chief Superintendent for Buckinghamshire.

The Safer Buckinghamshire Board is now supported by groups which link directly to the five priorities as set out in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan. These are either strategic groups which already exist or tactical/implementation groups.

The Joint Protocol underpins and strengthens partnership work between the Safeguarding Boards, the Safer Buckinghamshire Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board in Buckinghamshire. It ensures a transparent, efficient and clear process for sharing knowledge, skills, information and resources. It clarifies roles and responsibilities, inter-relationships and effective co-ordination over shared priorities and common ground.

## Our Vision

Our aim is for Buckinghamshire to continue to be one of the safest places to grow up, raise a family, live, work and do business.

We want to reduce crime and disorder and protect vulnerable people in Buckinghamshire. Crime is constantly changing and we face increased pressure on our resources. So it is important that we work together to tackle these challenges.

### Our five priorities are:

- 1 Helping communities to become more resilient.** We will target support to those communities experiencing greater levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 2 Protecting vulnerable adults and children.** We will work with them to reduce their chances of experiencing or committing serious crime, especially violent crime, or being exploited.
- 3 Addressing the impact of drugs, alcohol and poor mental health.** We will work to reduce levels of crime and harm linked to these factors.
- 4 Tackling domestic violence and abuse.** We will focus on early intervention and improving services for victims.
- 5 Dealing with offending.** We will act as early as possible to prevent first time offending. We will bring offenders to justice and work hard to stop re-offending.

# Our Partners

The members of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board are:

- Buckinghamshire Council
- Thames Valley Police
- Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service
- Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Probation Service – Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Safer Buckinghamshire Board also works closely with many other organisations including community and voluntary groups and local businesses. Although these groups do not sit on the Board, they may be invited to meetings and get involved in the work of the Partnership.



# Crime Statistics

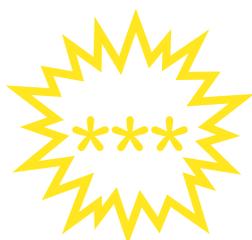
Data source: Local insight found at [data.police.uk](https://data.police.uk)

## Crime Rate by Crime Type in Buckinghamshire

Year*	Anti-Social Behaviour	Burglary**	Drug Crime Offences	Other Crime Offences	Robbery	Vehicle Crime	Violent & Sexual Offences
2018/19	9.6	11.8	1.6	1.3	0.5	6.6	17.4
2019/20	9.5	11.7	1.7	1.2	0.5	6.7	18.9
2020/21	9.1	7.8	2.3	1.2	0.3	5.0	21.9
2021/22	8.0	6.7	2.0	1.2	0.3	5.3	26.3
<b>England 2021/22</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31.6</b>
<b>South East 2021/22</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>34.9</b>

\* March - February for most current data.

\*\* Burglary crime rate calculated on the basis of '000 households rather than population.



### Anti-Social Behaviour 8.0 crime rate

Crime rate fell in 2021/22 and has remained significantly lower than England (19.4) and South East (15.8).



### Burglary

6.7 crime rate (per 000 households)

Crime rate fell in 2021/22. This is a pattern seen nationally. The local crime rate is lower than England (9) and South East (8).



### Drug Crime 2.0 crime rate

Crime rate marginally decreased over the last three years, and is slightly lower than England (2.6) and South East (2.3).



### Robbery

0.3 crime rate

Crime rate remained at a similar level over the last three years. Marginally lower than England (0.9) and South East (0.5).



### Vehicle Crime 5.3 crime rate

Crime rate slightly decreased over the last three years, but remains marginally higher than England (5) and South East (4.6).



### Violent and Sexual Offences - 26.3 crime rate

Crime rate has increased over the last three years but remains lower than England (31.6) and South East (34.9).

(The above shows 12 month total of neighbourhood-level incidents of crime, as a rate per 1,000 residents. The incidents were located to the point at which they occurred and allocated to the appropriate output area and lower super output area (LSOA). Please note that the raw data is published at small area level, therefore the data showing at local authority or a higher level has been aggregated from smaller geographies).



## What you told us

In September/October 2021 we asked people in Buckinghamshire what they thought the biggest community safety issues were. The survey included multiple choice questions and the opportunity for people to give comments.

- The survey received 1,041 responses.
- 98% of respondents live in Buckinghamshire.
- 44% of respondents work in Buckinghamshire.
- 3% of respondents are elected members.
- The crimes with the highest levels of concerns in 2021 are (where possible, comparisons have been made to the results from the 2020 survey):
  - Fraud/scams (including online) – 69% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Theft of equipment/tools from van – 49% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Theft from a motor vehicle – 48% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Cyber crime/cyber bullying – 44% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Criminal damage – 43% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
- Concerns around criminal damage have increased in 2021, with 43% of respondents having 'very big' or 'fairly big' concerns, compared for 36% in 2020.
- Whereas concerns around robbery have decreased slightly; in 2020, 36% of respondents have concerns regarding robbery, which fell to 30% of respondents in 2021.
- The most common reason for responding that a type of crime was a 'very big' or 'fairly big' concern is 'it happened to someone you know' or 'you heard about it in the local news.' This was also the case in the 2020 survey.
- The categories of anti-social behaviour with the highest levels of concern in 2021 are:
  - Speeding – 77% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Fly tipping/litter – 76% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Parking – 64% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Dog fouling – 51% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
  - Criminal damage/vandalism – 43% of respondents felt this was a 'very big' or 'fairly big concern'.
- Begging and vagrancy received a similar proportion of concerned responses (33%) to last year (34%).
- Concerns relating to crime are more commonly based on information that respondents have heard or seen, instead of personal experience. Concerns around anti-social behaviour and drugs are more commonly based on an individual's personal experience.

# What we achieved during 2021/22

## Priority 1: Building community resilience, targeting areas and groups which are experiencing increasing crime and anti-social behaviour.

- The Street Warden Team has expanded to cover not only High Wycombe town centre, but also Aylesbury and have been working with partners to address town centre issues of begging and rough sleeping. They have supported and referred several individuals who are genuinely homeless and identified those who are exploiting visitors to the town centres.
- Community Safety Officers have attended crime prevention events with the police, handing out signal blocking pouches to those people with keyless cars, along with providing crime prevention advice to tackle vehicle crime. New partnership materials and literature have been developed to support campaigns and raise awareness of specific crime trends, such as key-less car theft, rural crime and seasonal concerns.
- Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) have been regularly undertaken alongside community members, Thames Valley Police and representatives from other partner agencies in some of our local areas, to identify issues of concern. Partners have then developed a holistic approach in taking action to address the problems.
- Each Community Board has a Community Safety Officer assigned as a point of contact within the team. They are working alongside Community Board members to identify local issues and co-design solutions, which will have the best impact on local crime and anti-social behaviour.

### OUTCOMES:

- The Street Warden team have dealt with over 1600 incidents, including shoplifting, begging, emergency first aid and supporting vulnerable people with High Wycombe and Aylesbury town centres.
- The Community Safety newsletter, which includes a variety of community safety information and signposting to local services, now reaches over 400 subscribers each quarter.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Team have received over 490 referrals from the public and partners for support with anti-social behaviour incidents.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Team have also undertaken full case reviews with partners on seven Community Triggers applications.

---

## Priority 2: Working with vulnerable people to reduce the likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating serious violence, or being exploited.

- The Buckinghamshire Council Serious Violence officers are linked into the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit funded Hospital Navigator post that sits within Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The Navigator plus vetted volunteers work within Accident and Emergency and identify individuals who may be a victim or perpetrator of serious violence. They are approached and offered support and if accepted, signposted onto further services.
- We developed and finalised a new e-learning resource for Buckinghamshire Council staff and created a Modern Slavery and Exploitation training resource specifically for Councillors. We increased service and partnership representation at our regular Anti-Slavery and Exploitation Network which aims to share good practice and increase partnership awareness. Speakers have included nationally recognised organisations such as the Salvation Army, Gangmaster and Labour Abuse Authority and Anti-Slavery Commissioners Office.

- Hotel Watch works across Bucks to raise awareness of exploitation with hoteliers and their staff. After evaluating best practice from other areas, we are expanding the existing Hotel Watch Scheme to incorporate the night-time economy. We will utilise the current model in places such as late-night eateries, businesses and taxi services. Licensing continue to provide training to raise awareness of exploitation with taxi and private hire services, as part of the licensing process.
- The Prevent Team continue to work with Wycombe Youth Action who specialise in working with vulnerable young people, who often fall within the category of Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs). They regularly work with a cohort of around 40 vulnerable young men and women. The Prevent funding allowed them to carryout intense one to one mentoring with ten individuals, who had been identified as being most at risk of being drawn into radicalisation, gangs and criminality such as County Lines, or having mental health issues.
- Following hate crime training which raised awareness and encouraged reporting, three community hubs have been created focusing on LGBTQ, Disability and Ethnic communities. Terms of Reference for these hubs are being progressed to enable these hubs to deliver awareness projects in collaboration with Thames Valley PCC office for National Hate Crime week in October 2022.

### **OUTCOMES:**

- During 2021 we delivered 6 virtual modern slavery and awareness sessions to over 100 staff across the Partnership.
- Over 80 hotels across Buckinghamshire are members of the Hotel Watch scheme, all of which have been provided with information and guidance on how to spot the signs and report concerns, of exploitation.
- Resilient Families Programme have provided awareness raising to 155 parents on digital resilience.
- Solutions Not Sides have delivered an interactive and thought-provoking workshop on the Israel/Palestine conflict to 781 students.
- 32 referrals to the Hospital Navigator between January and March 2022.
- 295 knives handed in at the Aylesbury Knife Amnesty bin between August 2021 and March 2022.

---

### **Priority 3: Reducing the crime, harm and vulnerability caused by drugs, alcohol and poor mental health.**

- Partners are delivering the Blue Light project, which utilises behaviour change and assertive outreach strategies with complex drinkers, whose alcohol use and associated lifestyle contributes to a pattern of more frequent contact with a range of frontline public services. This is a highly diverse service user group whose social circumstance range from being housed to homeless, involved in the criminal justice system, commonly experiencing mental health problems, facing financial difficulties, and lacking in social capital or support networks.
- One Recovery Bucks (ORB) are exploring raising awareness of Naloxone with the Probation Service with the view to delivering training and potentially provision of Naloxone to probation staff.
- Commissioners and Probation Service have agreed £50k funding from Probation's Recovery and Dependency Fund for one year for a senior post to strengthen the criminal justice team, enhance provision and outcomes for clients on a Probation Orders.
- Buckinghamshire Council Community Safety funding has been given to projects which support

young people. The Youth Boxing Diversion scheme is aimed at preventing 11-16 year olds from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, and also support those at risk of being groomed and showing signs of low self-esteem or struggling at home. Whilst Redeeming our Communities will be training mentors to support young people and families to improve their resilience, confidence and low self-esteem, and help them make better life choices.

## **OUTCOMES:**

- Blue Light workers have been recruited and employed by One Recovery Bucks and as at March 2022, 14 clients have met the criteria and been accepted on to the Blue Light pathway.
- The PCC funded Street Community Connector role has supported 46 clients who are in treatment. Of the 46 clients, 27 of these have been engaging with the scheme for over a year and have continued with treatment, demonstrating the positive long-term impact this scheme is having on participants.
- TVP have signed-off their internal governance for front line officers to carry Nasal Naloxone. ORB have trained 30 local police officers on the use of Naloxone.

---

## **Priority 4: Tackling domestic violence and abuse; including early intervention to reduce harm and improving services for victims. This also encompasses the need to address increasing levels of violence against women and girls.**

- The Buckinghamshire Community Safety team were successful in obtaining funding from the Ministry of Justice. With this, Women's Aid successfully appointed a Complex Needs Floating Support Worker in December 2020. The worker provides intensive one to one work with clients of all risk levels who are survivors of domestic abuse but are unable to access emergency refuge accommodation and offering them support, information and advocacy when dealing with other issues relating to the domestic abuse whilst in the temporary accommodation.
- The Community Safety Team at Buckinghamshire Council commissioned HM Healthcare Solutions Ltd to process map, in detail, the current domestic violence and abuse (DVA) pathway across the system in Buckinghamshire, considering the range of vulnerabilities and protected characteristics and trying to identify pathway gaps and practice deficits. This work was crucial in understanding several areas: referral pathways, training details, qualitative and quantitative information collected, the perception of the quality of DVA services received, practitioner understanding of other partner's roles and responsibilities and more.
- Talkback were commissioned by Buckinghamshire Council in March 2020 to produce a research and recommendations report into domestic abuse and learning disability and or autism in Buckinghamshire. Following this, Talkback Advice Bureau (a drop-in service) was launched in Wycombe in November 2021. A second drop-in centre will open in Chesham in 2022. Funding is in place for 16-18 months to develop this service online. Talkback and Aylesbury Vale Milton Keynes Sexual Assault Service have worked together to create an education package focused on preventing sexual abuse.
- Working with police and other key partners, a dedicated Violence against Women and Girls subgroup is being established to focus on the increasing number of reports of sexual violence in the county.
- Staff within the Community Safety Team are now trained to deliver the Bystander course, which focusses on intervention around sexual violence. A training delivery schedule is now being rolled out for professionals and community representatives in the county.
- Virtual Champions Network meetings continued to run every quarter throughout the pandemic and offered nationally renowned guest speakers.

- There has been huge enthusiasm and organisational buy in for the Buckinghamshire Domestic Homicide Review Learning Events. The events take place every six months and three have been delivered so far (covering suicide, BAED, male victims) with 'Gypsy, Roma, Travellers and domestic abuse' being discussed at the June 2022 event.

## **OUTCOMES:**

- There are 441 trained Domestic Abuse Champions within a range of organisations in Buckinghamshire.
- PCC funded Aylesbury Vale Milton Keynes Sexual Assault Service (AVMKSAAS) Project has worked with 36 male victims of domestic abuse. Following their work with AVMKSAAS 97% of men felt more informed and empowered to act and reported that they had improved health and wellbeing.
- There were 277 referrals to the PCC funded Independent Domestic Violence Advocate service, where 262 were female and the remaining 15 male. Positive outcomes for some clients included improvement in financial situation (claiming benefits) housing situation, accessing health support (physical and mental) legal support, accessing employment or education, support with immigration.
- 227 professionals attended the DHR Learning event in January 2022, where the topic was male victims.

---

## **Priority 5: Intervening as early as possible to prevent first time offending, bringing offenders to justice and preventing re-offending.**

- The PCC funded Women's offender housing project has received 26 referrals for female ex-offenders either recently released or vulnerably housed in the community. The majority of these have been received in the last six months. Of these, two have been supported into private rented accommodation as they have been identified as ready to sustain tenancies, four have been supported to access supported accommodation and two have been successfully supported to move out of area and reconnect with family.
- The PCC funded YOS multi-agency project has enabled effective prevention work to be carried out across 16 schools in Buckinghamshire with young people at risk of offending.
- The Safer Bucks Board also used PCC funding to support the BAME mentoring project which challenges the over-representation of BAME children in the Youth Justice System in Bucks. 20 young people have been supported and 17 of these have been individuals mentored through school transitions; and a weekly Summer Club was held for eight young people.

## **OUTCOMES:**

- Since April 2021, 177 young people at risk of offending engaged with the YOS Youth Workers.
- Over the last year, 70 professionals have been trained in Restorative Justice approaches.
- National data shows that Buckinghamshire had 132 First Time Entrants per 100,000 young people aged 10-18 in the October 2020 to September 2021 period. This is a decrease from October 2019 – September 2020 where there were 153 First Time Entrants per 100,000. Buckinghamshire YOS is performing better than the national and Thames Valley rates against this indicator.
- Since April 2021, 26 volunteer mentors have been trained to offer support to young people, as part of the YOS BAME mentoring project.
- Through the PCC funded RESET Offender Housing Project we have supported 21 ex-offenders into accommodation. Only one of these clients has reoffended and ongoing support is being provided to all the other clients to make the positive changes needed to stop them from reoffending.

# Safer Buckinghamshire Board delivery groups

The Safer Buckinghamshire Board is supported by various groups which link directly to the five priorities as set out in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan. These are either strategic groups which already exist or tactical/implementation groups.

## Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Group

Following the Safer Buckinghamshire Board review, it was decided that a multi-agency group, led by TVP and Buckinghamshire Council's Community Safety Team, should be established to monitor and report on the Priority 1 delivery plan.

This group is currently being formed, and terms of reference are to be agreed.

## Joint Modern Slavery and Exploitation Sub-Group

The Joint Modern Slavery and Exploitation Sub-Group is a multi-agency group which aims to:

- Support the strategic development of an effective and coordinated multi-agency response to all forms of modern slavery and exploitation within Buckinghamshire.
- Develop and implement the delivery of a multi-agency action plan in relation to this agenda.
- Provide assurance around the way agencies are working individually to safeguard and support adults, children & young people at risk of exploitation.

The Group meets quarterly and is responsible for developing and implementing a multi-agency action plan to support the delivery of Priority 2 in the Safer Bucks Plan 2020-2023. The Group reports to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board. It also links with the Safeguarding Boards under the governance of the Joint Protocol and the Serious Violence Taskforce to ensure effective activity and avoid duplication.

## Serious Violence Task Force

The Serious Violence Task Force is a multi-agency group which aims to:

- Provide a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to address the issue of serious violence across Buckinghamshire with an emphasis the underlying causes and drivers of serious violence during strategic decision making, in order to ensure interventions, achieve long term sustainable solutions.
- Provide oversight and management of the Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Plan (forming part of the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan).
- Monitor the impact and value of the delivery plan, implementing mitigation as required and taking advantage of new opportunities.
- And be responsible for the delivery of the recommendations action plan for the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Thematic Review of Youth Violence.

The Serious Violence Task Force (SVTF) sits quarterly to discuss progress of the Buckinghamshire Violence Reduction Plan, raise issues and identify any blockages. It was noted in the January SVTF that actions within the plan were 95% complete so with this in mind, a refreshed Violence Reduction Plan has now been drafted and will be presented to the SVTF/Chair to be agreed. This

revised plan will have a focus on evidencing outcomes, developing engagement with the Voluntary and Community Sector and expanding intervention work to those deemed vulnerable to being drawn into serious violence.

The Task Force reports to the Safer Bucks Board, linking to Priority 2 in the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2020-2023. The Task Force is also responsible to the Buckinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership for the delivery of the Thematic Review of Youth Violence action plan.

## **Drug and Alcohol Strategic Group**

The purpose of the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Group is to deliver a multi-agency Drug and Alcohol Action Plan which will be designed to implement a new Buckinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Strategy. Both the Strategy and Action Plan will be developed with multi-agency partners, and success is reliant on multiagency delivery. The group meets quarterly and in between meetings, ad-hoc working meetings take place for specific topics that feed into the strategic group who oversee delivery of the Plan.

The Group oversees the delivery of Priority 3 in the Safer Bucks Plan 2020-2023 and will provide reports to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board.

## **Coexisting Mental Health and Substance Misuse Group**

The purpose of the Coexisting Mental Health and Substance Misuse Group is to develop a joint protocol and operational pathway for adults living with both mental health (MH) and substance misuse (SM) needs to ensure co-ordinated care helps to address both conditions. The terms of reference sets out core principles for lead providers of SM services and secondary care MH services. Key actions are set out in an action plan agreed and regularly monitored by the group. Some aspects of the Priority 3 Delivery Plan will be delivered by this group.

## **Domestic Abuse Board**

Under the new Domestic Abuse (DA) Act which came in on 29th April 2021, councils across England have a legal duty to provide life-saving support such as therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation, including refuges. Buckinghamshire Council received £854,917 for the year in order to discharge its duty under the Act. A spend plan has been worked up to utilise the money and the funding remains at the same level for a second year. Under the Act, Local Authorities were to convene a multi-agency DA Board. Buckinghamshire had its first DA Board in October 2021 and one of the priorities of the new DA Strategy 2021-2023 is early intervention and prevention.

The DA Action Plan is the delivery mechanism for Priority 4 of the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan, and reports will be provided to the Board on progress.

Priority 5 Delivery Plan will be implemented and monitored via pre-existing Youth Offending Service and Probation Service meetings, and updates will be provided to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board by the Priority Sponsor.

# What's next for 2022/23?

Throughout 2022/23 the various delivery groups will implement and monitor the progress of the five Delivery Plans and provide updates to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board. Activities this year will include:

## Priority 1

- Evaluate the Street Warden deployment and explore opportunities for the further expansion, along with the implementation of additional powers under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme.
- Commission seasonal trend analysis to identify proactive opportunities for partnership working around crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Utilise the new anti-social behaviour case management system to identify repeat victims and adopt a problem-solving approach.
- Take a partnership approach in understanding the local picture of fraud and cybercrime across Buckinghamshire. A local communications group to be established, to raise awareness of these crimes, along with prevention and reporting advice.

## Priority 2

- Develop a menu of evidenced based provision, include edge of care interventions, with clear impact measures.
- Commission expertise to steer plans towards a contextual safeguarding approach across the partnership.
- Review the referral process for adult victim of modern slavery to ensure they are supported at the earliest opportunity.

## Priority 3

- Establish a multi-agency panel to review nominations recommended to go on to the Blue Light pathway.
- Appoint a designated worker to oversee the joint protocol between One Recovery Bucks and Oxford Health for people with dual diagnosis (substance misuse and mental health) to ensure they are supported at the right time and place.
- Complete a local health Needs Assessment of drugs and alcohol to inform a new local strategy.

## Priority 4

- Establish a Violence against Women and Girls sub group and multi-agency action plan.
- Commission a Perpetrator programme based on successful pilots e.g. Drive project.
- Prepare and deliver a comprehensive multi-agency training offer that can be shared and delivered across the partnership.
- Establish Domestic Abuse Board website with key documents, advice and local referral/support pathways.
- Encourage housing services and registered providers to attain DAHA accreditation and/or work to the DAHA toolkit and standards.

## Priority 5

- Develop a relationship model between partners to achieve the best outcome for prisoners released from custody.
- Buckinghamshire Council and Probation to work with local employers to identify opportunities for employment and work experience for prison leavers.
- Across the partnership, establish a network of mentoring scheme for under 25 year olds at risk of reoffending.

## Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2023-2026

During 2022 the Strategic Assessment and public consultation on the new community safety priorities will take place. The information gathered by these pieces of work will inform the production of the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2023-2026, which will be published by 1 April 2023.

## Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner funding

In previous years the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has provided a grant to the Council to fund work to achieve the community safety priorities. However, in May 2021, following a review the PCC committed to a three-year funding settlement for local councils, allowing them to fund projects for up to three years from April 2022.

In September 2021, the PCC advised the Council that its Community Safety grant for 2022/23 would be £436,567, with the following amounts for the next two years:

- 2022/23 - £436,567
- 2023/24 - £486,132
- 2024/25 - £537,585

## Domestic Abuse Act 2021

In Buckinghamshire we are taking a zero tolerance approach and feel ending domestic abuse is everyone's business. Making people feel safe requires a thorough co-ordinated response from government, local authorities, partners and the public. We were pleased to see the Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021; this gives more resources to tackle this critical issue. With the new duties Buckinghamshire Council has published its intentions to drive forward a three-year strategy for victim support and safe accommodation.

We want Buckinghamshire to be a place where as few people as possible are affected by domestic abuse, but those who are can get help to end the abuse and go on to live the lives they want. The strategy is about how we want to develop and improve domestic abuse services over the next three years. Over the next three years the delivery of the SMART action plan by the Domestic Abuse Board will be monitored by the Safer Buckinghamshire Board.

## **Serious Violence Duty**

The Policing, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill was introduced to Parliament on 9 March 2021. It contains further detail on the proposed Serious Violence Duty to drive multi-agency working in tackling serious violence. It is anticipated, following the passage of the Bill, that the Serious Violence Duty will come into force in the summer of 2022 and it is a major strategic driver to our work.

A key principle to the Duty is that tackling serious violence requires a whole-system, place based approach. All partners – the emergency services, criminal justice, health, education, local authorities, youth offending services, prisons – will hold a duty to work together to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence and are required to shift the focus of their response towards prevention and much earlier intervention. The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership is in a strong position to meet the new duty with ‘the Strategic Partners dots joined up ‘.

## **Safer Buckinghamshire website**

Finally, during 2022/23 we intend to begin development of a dedicated Safer Buckinghamshire website. This will provide a central location for performance data, information on community safety projects, links to training and support services, along with information on our various partners.