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# Wokingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2021-2022

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## Introduction: The Partnership and its work

The Community Safety Partnership's aims and overarching duty is to:

- Reduce crime and disorder
- Improve community safety
- Reduce re-offending

By addressing these three overarching outcomes the partnership serves to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in or visits the borough. The focus for 2021-2024 is on the following three strategic priorities, underpinned by five specific aims:

## Strategic priorities

- 1 Listening to needs and concerns of local residents
- 2 Intervening early and preventing issues escalating
- 3 Working together to protect vulnerable residents

## Specific Aims

- 1 Work with communities to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots
- 2 Reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse
- 3 Reduce incidents of serious violence and knife crime
- 4 Tackle exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- 5 Reduce incidents of residential burglary and theft from vehicle

## Statutory and other partners

The borough is much better placed to tackle crime and disorder if everyone – local residents and businesses, community and voluntary groups, and city services – work together in a coordinated way. The local authority, police, health, probation and fire services are statutory partners under the 1998 Act. However, in practice, the Community Safety Partnership works across a much wider range of partners at different levels and on different topics to work out what needs doing, who can help and to take action. There is good information exchange between those concerned, including with residents, so that agencies can listen and respond to the needs of local people.

## Setting our work in context

As well as the impact on individuals, the negative effects of crime and disorder draw widely on public services. Working in partnership and adopting a 'whole system approach' is essential. Our work contributes to the Police & Crime Commissioner's Police and Criminal Justice Plan and to the council's Corporate Plan as well as measures in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

## 2021-2022

This past year the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership was Chaired by Susan Parsonage, Chief Executive of Wokingham Borough. The work of the board was supported by the Executive Member for Neighbourhood and Communities, Bill Soane.

Following the adoption of the Community Safety Partnership Strategy for 2021- 24 at the start of June 2021. The partnership has made positive progress on several of its workstreams.

## Domestic Abuse Key Achievements

- Wokingham Domestic Abuse Policy 2021 – 2024 has been agreed and adopted to incorporate priority areas. This is in line with the new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- New commissioned domestic abuse support service has been put in place from 1st July 2021 with the service operating from the Community Hub in Waterford House.
- Delivered over 28 Multi and single agency training sessions, involving over 20 different organisations, with over 1285 people attending increasing their education and insight.
- Developed and implemented a domestic abuse communications plan across various platforms including digital. This has raised awareness and provides information to victims about support options and includes a revamp of the domestic abuse webpages; new leaflets and resources have been produced with a series of information video's plus social media messaging and press releases.
- Increased our local understanding and created focused action plans developed to reach out to those currently under-represented within domestic abuse services, including those who have protected characteristics to increase access to services and drive improved service responses.







## Prevent & Channel

- Completed a review of compliance and identified gaps in line with the Prevent Duty 2015, compliance analysed against government guidance and toolkit with RAG status.
- Agreed and adopted a new local Prevent Action Plan 2021/22, including key objectives and actions to address local risk and comply with Prevent Duty benchmarks.
- Assessed and reviewed data and local profile information with regards to the Local Counter Terrorism risk assessment 2021.
- Updated and implemented Prevent Venue Hire Policy and Guidance to support Statutory requirement for booking venues to comply with guidance.
- Reviewed and updated Prevent Board terms of reference and membership to include recommended partners, Voluntary sector and Further Education college.
- Development and implementation of a Prevent training plan with tiered training to identify staff cohorts and targeted training requirements.
- Produced and delivered Prevent training sessions; Prevent Presentation and Q and A for councillors and staff teams
- Produced Prevent communications plan and campaign material. Campaign took place week commencing 18 October, information also included in residents' newsletter.
- Updated and reviewed Prevent content for Council Website and intranet, including legal requirements – privacy notice and complaints procedure.
- Assessment of compliance against Channel Duty statutory guidance for local authorities and identified gaps, analysed against 2020 Channel guidance with RAG status

- Updated Council constitution to include Channel Duty new legal requirement from 2020.
- Implemented new Information Sharing Agreements, Channel operational guide, Channel information Gathering template and Channel Support Plan template.
- Completed statutory Channel and annual assurance statement.

### **Substance Misuse Key Achievements**

- Commissioned service provider has issued over 500 naloxone kits to service users, partner agencies and residents.
- Delivered drug awareness workshops to over 800 students across the borough
- Supported 91 young people with substance use issues
- Supported over 500 adults with substance use issues
- Supported 90 family members around their loved one's substance use
- Established a well-attended service user forum to help shape the delivery of the service moving forward, feedback already being incorporated into service delivery for example- emotional wellbeing group created, off site groups implemented.
- Initial positive feedback from CQC inspection (awaiting final report)
- Commissioned service registered with AQA awarding body to be able to offer accreditation to young people for drug awareness and behaviour change modules
- Improved engagement in the Drug Diversion Scheme (YP)
- Implemented colocation facility with Sexual health clinic and from Station Rd and drop-in surgery at Wokingham hospital
- Establishment of an on-site hepatitis C treatment clinic resulting in 100% of clients referred to treatment completing treatment for hep C

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- Delivered borough wide multi-agency anti-social behaviour panel, dealing with medium and high-level complex cases.
- The anti-social behaviour panel took over 19 medium – high level cases
- 12 medium – high level ASB cases problem resolved and closed.
- Co-ordinating response, action plan in response to 2 Community Triggers, both investigated and closed with a satisfactory outcome.
- 4 Community Protection Warnings issued.
- 1 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement (ABA) issued.

- 86 separate reports of ASB received and resolved
- Attendance at Neighbourhood Action Groups
- Attendance and contribution at approximately 50 safeguarding meetings.
- Co-ordinated response to car meets, working with Thames Valley Police to target car meet hotspot locations across the Borough, including hire of private security, installing of mobile CCTV.
- Supporting Thames Valley Police led operations resulting in the issuing of 27 Section 59's warnings to drivers using cars in an anti-social manner.
- Undertaking public consultation for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to car cruising.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour in Council Housing Stock**

- The Housing Service reported 219 new ASB related cases in the 2021/22 financial year. This is a slight decrease from the previous year (with 235 new cases reported), but a significant increase from the 2019/20 financial year when 160 new cases were reported. Previous trends show that the service would normally see an average of 160 new cases reported, but during the pandemic the service reported an increase in new cases.
- The Housing Team closed 216 cases in the last financial year, with 99.8% of all closed cases resolved. This is the highest close, resolution rate, the service has reported since data on this key performance indicator has been collected.
- Of the new cases reported in the 2021/22 financial year, the most reported was noise nuisance, with 36% attributed to this case type.
- During the two years the service was dealing with the pandemic there was a big increase in the number of neighbour disputes reported to the service. In the 2019/20 financial year the service reported 4 neighbour disputes, this increased to 18 in the 2020/21 financial year and 24 in the last financial year. It is interesting to note that the increases in neighbour disputes have again been in line with the pandemic.
- The last financial year also saw the lowest average of number of days to close a case, 40 days. The service saw two new Housing Officers join in January of this year and with patches split between four officers than the previous two, we would expect to see this number decrease. In the previous financial year the average number of days to close a case was 47 days and 52 days in the year before that.
- No tenants were evicted due to ASB, but the service did issue two Closure Orders, three Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and one possession order.



## Serious Violence and Exploitation

- Implementation of a Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategic Board
- Development of a Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy for the Borough
- Review of at risk of exploitation, missing, multi-agency risk assessment process and procedures and performance management.
- Integration with the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit's, Thames Valley Together Data Project, allowing more expedient and effective data sharing practices.

Whilst this has allowed us to lay the foundations of the serious violence and exploitation work. The overall aim is to ensure that: Serious violence causes less harm to individuals and communities.

### **What we are working towards achieving:**

- Fewer people harmed by serious violence
- Less crime involving weapons
- All parts of the community to be free of the fear of violence and confident to report
- A thriving night-time economy free from alcohol-related violence.
- A stronger preventative approach to serious violence through the better use of all available data.



## **Exploitation (including modern slavery and human trafficking)**

### **What we are working towards achieving:**

- Prevent children, young people and vulnerable adults from becoming involved with organised crime groups and gangs
- Safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults who are being exploited
- Provide a safe, effective pathway to enable children, young people and vulnerable adults to exit involvement with organised crime networks
- Increase awareness of the signs and risks of all forms of exploitation among agencies and the wider community

## **Violence Against Women and Girls**

The Community Safety Partnership is proud to report on the progress of the work on domestic abuse. However, we recognise that continuous improvements are needed to ensure that the response for victims is not only meeting good practice but exceeding it.

The work and service improvements to date have laid the foundations, from this point on the Partnership can further strengthen and focus on wider work to address violence against women and girls.

### **What we are working to achieve in 2022-23**

- A borough where domestic and sexual violence and abuse is not tolerated by our communities or our organisations.
- Victims to be believed not blamed, treated with dignity and respect, and supported to feel safe within their community, knowing that their offenders are being worked with to change their behaviour and/or brought to justice.



- All sectors, services, neighbourhoods and communities across the borough to recognise that domestic and sexual violence is everyone's business and to overcome barriers to progress.
- More prevention and early intervention work. Evidence based approaches are needed to change attitudes and challenge behaviours in our communities so victims are protected and the cycle of offending is broken.
- A stronger criminal and civil justice response to perpetrators, and the development of sustainable proactive intervention and preventative programmes.
- Robust partnership working at both a strategic and operational level across a broad coalition of partners to enable consistent quality services, working across services and sectors and focusing on positive outcomes for victims.

## Crime Performance Summary

| Crime Type                            | Apr 2020<br>Mar 2021 | April 2021<br>Mar 2022 | % Change       | Change<br>Actual |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>All Crime (excl. fraud)</b>        | <b>6759</b>          | <b>7495</b>            | <b>+ 10.9%</b> | <b>+736</b>      |
| Residential Burglary – Dwelling       | 124                  | 169                    | +36.3%         | +45              |
| Burglary – Sheds/Garages              | 149                  | 92                     | -38.3          | -57              |
| Robbery                               | 38                   | 32                     | -15.8%         | -6               |
| Violence with injury                  | 620                  | 761                    | +22.7%         | +141             |
| Public Order                          | 539                  | 962                    | +78.5%         | +423             |
| Domestic Abuse Recorded Incidents     | 1055                 | 1155                   | +9.5%          | +100             |
| Domestic Abuse non recorded Incidents | 1154                 | 1094                   | -5.5%          | -63              |
| Rape                                  | 66                   | 91                     | +37.9%         | +25              |
| Drugs offences Possession*            | 212                  | 200                    | -5.7%          | -12              |
| Anti-Social Behaviour (TVP)           | 1416                 | 1224                   | -13.6%         | -192             |
| Theft of Vehicle                      | 155                  | 168                    | +8.5%          | +13              |
| Theft from Vehicle                    | 336                  | 272                    | -19.1%         | -64              |
| Hate Crime                            | 266                  | 303                    | +13.9%         | +37              |
|                                       |                      |                        |                |                  |
| ASB (WBC Housing)                     | 235                  | 219                    | -6.3%          | -14              |

## Wokingham MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences)

|                    | Cases | Repeat Cases | Percentage Repeat Cases |
|--------------------|-------|--------------|-------------------------|
| April 19 to Mar 20 | 128   | 34           | 26.5%                   |
| April 20 to Mar 21 | 136   | 52           | 38.2%                   |
| April 21 to Mar 22 | 75    | 23           | 30.6%                   |

**All crime** for the period 1st April 2021-31st March 2022. Wokingham Borough has seen an increase in crime by **+10.9%** which is **736** recorded crimes. It should be noted that despite this increase as a Borough Wokingham still has one of the lowest crime levels compared with others in Thames Valley and the Southeast. It is also noteworthy that nationally and locally crime levels had fallen during the pandemic.

### Crimes that have increased

**Residential burglary** has seen an increase of 36.3% or 45 offences compared with the previous year. Nationally and locally burglary levels fell to some of the lowest levels on record. This can largely be attributed to residents returning back to work places and resuming leisure and holiday activities. As activities resume back to pre-covid levels, more homes have become unoccupied for a period of time and we are seeing an increase in offenders targeting homes in the borough. Family gold burglaries are the key identified trend for the borough, involving organised criminals travelling across the country targeting homes.

**Public Order** has increased by 78.5% or 423 offences. Changes implemented by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Crime Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in the way crimes and incidents in this category should be recorded has resulted in incidents that were previously recorded in the ASB category to now be recorded as public order. The data suggests there is evidence of small increases related to the reopening and use of licenced premise after the lock down period. In addition, following further detailed analysis of the data and incidents in this category it should be noted that this rise in public order is largely down to this new recording practice.

**Domestic Abuse** recorded incidents have increased by 9.5% or 100 actual offences. This increase is in line with the national picture on domestic abuse. An increase in awareness and education, the end of the Covid pandemic, plus national media coverage of a number of connected violence against women and girl's issues is all thought to have contributed to increased reporting from victims. Locally the commissioned service provider has also seen an increase in referrals and victims accessing services in line with national trends.



**Rape** incidents have seen an increase of 37.9% or 25 offences. This is in line with the national picture. Police forces across the UK have recorded the highest ever number of rape and sexual offences in the 12-month period to September 2021. According to the Office of National Statistics nationally there has been a 13% rise in reported offences with the biggest surges seen after the murder of Sarah Everard. The rise is thought to have been driven by the impact of high-profile media campaigns encouraging victims to report.

**Theft of a Vehicle** increased by 8.5% or 13 actual crimes, whilst this is an increase on the previous year, overall this figure remains low. Most theft of vehicle offences have been in relation to cars taken in connection with a burglary where the keys have been stolen. **The top three cars stolen are Land Rover, BMW and VW.**

**Hate Crime** incidents have increased by 13.9% or 37 actual incidents. In the main this is in connection with the race and religion and disability hate crime categories.. We have seen a 5 year upward trend both locally and nationally, this is thought to be connected to the EU referendum, 2017 terrorist attacks and Black Lives Matter movement in 2020.

The Multi-Agency Problem Solving Tasking Group will manage the harm caused to victims of hate. We are also seeking to increase community and individual knowledge of and trust and confidence in statutory services so as to increase the reporting of hate incidents and establish third party reporting mechanisms across the borough. We are working with education providers to ensure that bullying is consistently addressed using best hate incident practice. Working with partners, whether from the community, voluntary or statutory sector is central to our work. This will include keeping in close communication with elected members and local residents through Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG's), the new Equality Forum and residents' and community groups facilitating dialogue and joint working among diverse community groups.

## Crimes that have decreased

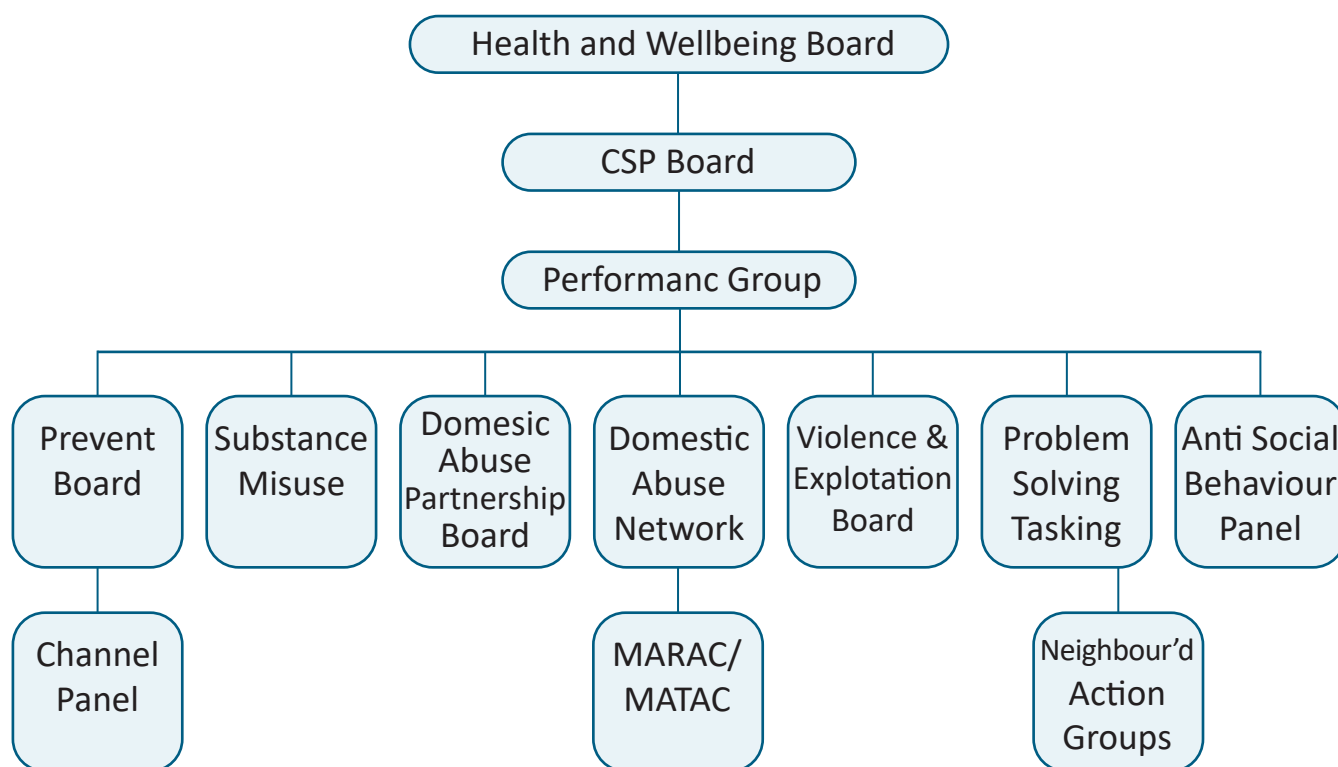
**Burglary Non-Dwelling** has seen a decrease of 38.3% or 57 offences. Over the period of the pandemic thefts and burglaries from sheds, outbuilding and garden office type buildings saw an increase. During the pandemic as more residents remained at home, due to lock down there were less opportunities for residential burglaries to take place. As a result it is thought that opportunistic offenders turned their attention to sheds and outbuildings targeting gardening machinery, tools and bikes instead. The decrease represents the reduced targeting of non-dwelling buildings and a return to pre-covid levels.

**Theft from a vehicle** offences have decreased by 19.1% or 64 offences as people continue to work from home. using their vehicles less than pre-pandemic levels to commute to work, or use public car parks. As the majority of theft from vehicle offences occur away from the home there was considerably less opportunity for this crime to take place.

**Robbery** has a decreased by -15.8% or 6 offences, this is thought to have been as a result of the partnership drive to reduce serious violence. Robbery offences across the borough largely involve young people as both victims and perpetrators. Items taken include, mobile phones and cash. Youth Offending Services working closely with Thames Valley Police have undertaken a number of targeted interventions and education and awareness events to address this offence as part of the serious violence work stream.

## Partnership Governance & Structure

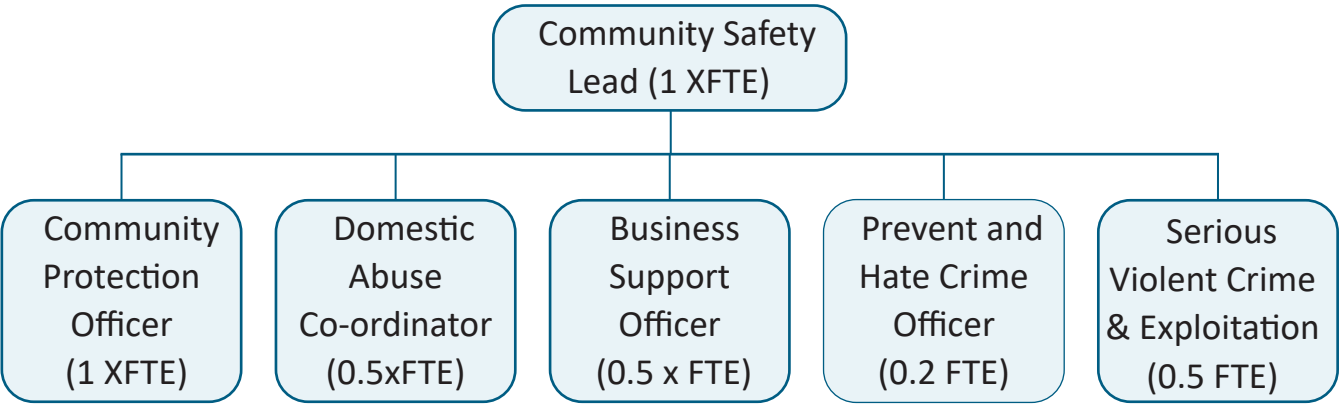
The current governance structure and delivery groups for the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership are set out below. A detailed summary of the groups can be found in Appendix A.





# Community Safety Team 2021-22

The council’s community safety team consists of the following structure.



## Funding

The main streams of funding are from the Community Safety Fund Grant, awarded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in 2021/22 this was approximately £103K. This is to support the delivery and work of the partnership and helps support the delivery of the OPCC’s priorities locally.

The Domestic Abuse Duties Grant was approximately £290K, specifically ring fenced for the delivery of the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 duty.

In addition, the partnership received £40K from the Violence Reduction Unit to help the partnership prepare the groundwork in readiness for the new Serious Violence Duty.

The partnership also has oversight of the Borough’s commissioned Domestic Abuse service and the Substance Misuse Service contracts.

## Appendix A

### Community Safety Partnership Subgroups

#### Problem Solving Tasking Group (PSTG)

**Chair:** Police Neighbourhood Inspector

**Deputy Chair:** Wokingham Community Safety Manager

**Frequency:** Every 6 weeks for 1.5hrs

**Membership:** Cranston drug and alcohol services, public protection partnership, police, children's social care, Prevention & Youth Justice Service, fire service, Wokingham town council, licencing, WBC community development and Involve community services, Reading football club.

**Overview:** The key priorities for the group are location based problems identified by local reporting and data analysis. These problems are assessed, potential solutions identified and implemented and effectiveness reviewed. The group effectively manage information and intelligence sharing across the different agencies, leading to greater understanding of concerns and the most appropriate problem solving solution to resolve matters effectively. The group has addressed ASB in local parks, car meets across the borough to include Carnival Pool and Mear Oak Park and Ride amongst many other matters. The group has delivered a successful community day in Pine Ridge Park and has responded to night time economy concerns with multiagency licencing operations in the town centre. The group raises awareness over a range of areas, including emerging trends, such as e-scooters. The group continues to look at ways to work together including utilising technology to engage with the community on the issues of most concern and providing practical solutions.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour Panel

**Chair:** Wokingham Borough Council Community Protection Officer (ASB)

**Deputy Chair:** Wokingham Community Safety Manager

**Frequency:** Every 6 weeks for 1.5- 2hours

**Membership:** Registered social landlords, WBC community development, WBC housing, police, adult social care, children's social care and Reading football club.

**Overview:** Multi agency panel meets to discuss medium and high level anti-social behaviour issues across the borough. During the past 12 months the group has discussed 19 medium to high level anti-social behaviour cases in relation to private or housing association properties. This does not include cases that involve serious ASB in council tenancies. Outcomes have included the securing of a criminal behaviour order (CBO), investigative interviews, warning letters, community protection warnings (CPW), community triggers, multi-agency interventions including referrals on to mental health services and assisting with tenancy checks, warnings and notices.

## **Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**

**Chair:** Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

**Deputy Chair:** Wokingham Community Safety Manager

**Frequency:** Bimonthly for 2 hours.

**Overview:** Key priorities for the group are to support Wokingham Borough Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The board is working together to support, advise and work in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within safe accommodation services. The group is working to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including children, through a strategic approach to identify and address gaps in support within safe accommodation services.

## **Domestic Abuse Network**

**Chair:** Assistant Director Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

**Deputy Chair:** Wokingham Community Safety Manager

**Frequency:** Bimonthly for 2 hours.

**Overview:** Key priorities include sharing best practice, building strong networks between agencies working in the borough and delivering on the Wokingham Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021 – 2024. The group is working to improve outcomes for all those affected by domestic abuse regardless of gender or protected characteristics.

## **MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)**

**Chair:** Thames Valley Police

**Deputy Chair:** N/A

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Overview:** The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a monthly multi agency meeting to safeguard adult victims of domestic abuse and their children who have been identified as being at 'high risk' of serious harm or homicide. Information is shared between agencies to create a collective understanding of risks and put in place a coordinated action plan to increase safety options.

## **MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination)**

**Chair:** Thames Valley Police

**Deputy Chair:** N/A

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Overview:** MATAC is a monthly meeting to identify and tackle the most harmful domestic abuse perpetrators, through changing offender behaviour, reducing re-offending and safeguarding victims and families. Engagement with perpetrators is through education, prevention and diversion methods, including referrals to community based domestic abuse perpetrator interventions, working with housing providers and drug / alcohol/ mental health interventions. If engagement is unsuccessful, disruption and enforcement tactics are used.

## **Substance Misuse**

**Chair:** TBC

**Deputy Chair:** TBC

**Frequency:** TBC

**Overview:** Public Health are currently in the early stages of writing a new Drug and Alcohol Strategy which should be completed by the end of 2022. As a result of the new strategy an action plan will be formed and this will then lead the newly formed Substance Misuse Strategic Board. Please note this group has not met in 2021/22.

## **Prevent Board**

**Chair:** Assistant Director for Adult Social Care,

**Deputy Chair:** N/A

**Frequency:** Every Quarter for 1.5hrs

**Overview:** Key priorities include the delivery and review of the Wokingham Prevent Action plan and ensuring that the local authority is undertaking its statutory duties as set out by the Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2014. The Prevent Board has strategic oversight of the Borough's delivery of the duties set out in the Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2014. This includes compliance and delivery of Prevent training delivery across a range of partner public sector organisations, IT and venue hire policies. Community engagement and development activities and raising awareness of the Prevent programme across communities and professionals including information on how to raise concerns and where to go for further information.



## **Channel Panel**

**Chair:** Assistant Director Children's Services

**Deputy Chair:** Head of Adult Safeguarding

**Frequency:** Every month for 1.5hrs

**Overview:** Only meets if there are case to discuss or once every quarter to discuss good practice and shared learning. Currently the panel is meeting once a month. Key priorities are to discuss any referrals made to the multi-agency panel, to safeguard individuals at risk of racialisation.

## **Serious Violence & Exploitation Strategy Board**

**Chair:** Local Police Area Commander and Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Early Help

**Deputy Chair:** N/A

**Frequency:** Quarterly for 2 hours

**Overview:** The group is tasked with working collaboratively to provide a whole systems response to the issue of serious violence in communities including that which occurs within the context of the criminal and sexual exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Working to increase active participation across agencies and communities to fully understand and prevent individuals of all ages from becoming involved in and impacted by serious violence. This group was formed in response to a new statutory duty to reduce and prevent serious violence (should become law in April 2022). A Strategic Needs Assessment has been commissioned and this will inform a new strategy.

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