



Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy -
A long term vision for the county

**Briefing paper 2:
Community Safety**

FINAL DRAFT

This paper is number 2 in a series of 12 briefing papers prepared to inform the development of the Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy by the Oxfordshire Partnership.

The briefing papers are designed for any individual or organisation interested in finding out more about Oxfordshire. Specifically they have been developed for representatives of organisations in the Oxfordshire Partnership who will be attending workshops and discussions on the priorities for the strategy during 2007.

Final draft: 16 August 2007

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Change note to version 16th August: Paragraph inserted into section 3 on drug misuse

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I Developing Oxfordshire's Community Safety strategies

Since 1998 there has been a statutory requirement for local authorities to establish Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) as the primary forum in which to manage community safety issues. CDRPs exist in each of the five districts in the county. There is no countywide CDRP. However, Oxfordshire county council has a community safety Directorate and is represented on all five CDRPs.

The priorities of the CDRPs are drawn in large part from local consultation; from Home Office directives and Thames Valley Police - until now CDRPs have worked to three-year strategies. These are now being replaced by annual strategic intelligence assessments (SIA). These assessments will help to confirm, or add to, existing priorities, identify gaps in provision, and also provide a robust evidence base from which decisions can be taken. Community Safety is a key theme in county and district Local Strategic Partnerships, and some of the community safety themes are featured in the current Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement.

I.1 About Community Safety

There are obvious elements to community safety such as crime reduction, road safety, alcohol-related disorder, and anti-social behaviour. However, the agenda is much broader and also includes environmental issues impacting on quality of life e.g. noisy neighbours, abandoned vehicles and fly tipping. There is significant focus on domestic violence, on managing the most prolific offenders, on the "prevent and deter" element of the Young Peoples' strategy and on dealing with the fear of crime.

There is, within the community safety agenda, an emphasis on tackling a number of the social issues that lead to crime and disorder e.g. deprivation, homelessness and unemployment. Drugs and alcohol-related issues also form a large part of CDRP agendas, with work taking place surrounding diversionary schemes and treatment.

Strong and effective existing partnerships with an interest in Community Safety are:

- District-based Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). Countywide
- Youth Offending Service (YOS). Countywide.
- Oxfordshire Domestic Violence Steering Group.
- Management of High-risk offenders group. (Multi Agency Public Protection Panel - MAPPA)
- Management of Prolific Offenders Group.
- Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership and Oxfordshire Safer Communities Officer Group, both part of the LAA governance.

1.2 Community Safety priorities

The following priorities have been developed as part of existing CDRP strategies, the Oxfordshire LAA and the themes within the Strategic Intelligence Assessment. They also include new priorities set by central government.

- Anti-Social behaviour – defined within the Respect Agenda as Drunkenness/Rowdiness, Noisy Neighbours, Abandoned Vehicles, Litter and Rubbish, Graffiti and Vandalism, Young People “hanging around”.
- Behaviour that adversely affects the environment (Environmental Crime) e.g. fly tipping, wildlife crime, fly posting.
- Alcohol-related harm – includes underage drinking, alcohol and the night time economy, adult street drinking, treatment.
- Drug-related harm – includes drug dealing, acquisitive crime associated with drugs, early interventions for young people, which include educational work in schools, and treatment for young people aged ten and above as part of the EVOLVE project.
- Management of Prolific Offenders – focus on the fact that a significantly large percentage of all crime is committed by a very small percentage of offenders.
- Domestic Violence - The county's DV strategy is strongly endorsed by the Home Office and is based on innovative networks of multi-agency 'Champions' (Champions are trained volunteers from a wide range of organisations, who act as a first point of contact for advice and support for victims) to foster early disclosure, integrated with robust support for victims at medium and high risk and development of age-appropriate resources for children: LAA stretch targets for the year have been met or exceeded.
- Vulnerable young people - attempt to stop young people getting into crime in the first place. Early intervention diversionary schemes.
- Fear of Crime - Oxfordshire is a relatively low crime area and fear of crime can be disproportionately high. This also includes the Neighbourhood Policing agenda - management, community engagement and communications.
- Road Safety - to reduce the deaths on our roads, but also to deal with concerns over speeding vehicles, especially in rural areas.
- Arson - to reduce the number of primary and secondary non-deliberate fires. Arson has a number of connections to other community safety priorities, including anti-social behaviour, environmental crime, and also commercial crime.
- Reduce crime overall - partners work to a list of crime categories known as British Crime Survey crimes (BCS crimes). Central government, via GOSE, sets reduction targets for each CDRP.
- Hate Crime - defined as crime where the motivation for the prejudice is based upon race, sexual orientation, faith or disability.

- Management of High Risk Offenders - typically, but not exclusively, this would see a multi-agency panel risk assessing and managing sex offenders in the community.
- Commercial crime - a new priority from central government. This comprises fraud and non-domestic burglary.
- Sexual Offences - although captured to some extent within the BCS crime list, this also features as a new priority from central government.
- Serious Violent Crimes - as with the last two points, this is an attempt by central government to draw out from the list of BCS crimes those that it sees as most important. Although occurrences of serious violent crime are relatively low within Oxfordshire, this is a priority from central government.

2 Threats and opportunities for the future

Threats:

- Financial resources, because Oxfordshire is seen as a relatively low crime area; funding specifically directed at CDRPs from GOSE is also relatively low. Collectively the CDRPs have received around £900,000 under the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF). Separate funding streams exist for associated themes, through e.g. the DAAT, Youth Offending Service and the Police Basic Command Units (BCU).
- Police may be driven more into specialist crime areas such as terrorism and serious crime which could compromise lower level community safety issues.
- There is an issue about the ability of local authorities and others to support the demands of Neighbourhood Policing.

Opportunities:

- New national standards for CDRPs, together with associated guidance, are being drawn up. This will provide the CDRPs with an opportunity to review membership, how they operate and their delivery processes. The three yearly audit processes will be replaced by an annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment, jointly drawn up with the police, which will provide a complete picture of Community Safety. This assessment will draw information from a number of organisations, which in turn will encourage better joint working.
- Roll out of Neighbourhood Policing across Oxfordshire is designed to provide greater local ownership of low level, but high impact community issues. (There is an issue about the ability of public services to support the demands of Neighbourhood Policing). Opportunities exist for organisations to fund Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).
- Increased multi-agency working through the development of LAAs. We anticipate the next round of targets will offer greater opportunities to focus on local issues rather than national priorities.
- There are opportunities to improve community engagement through local agreements to provide joint Neighbourhood Contact Points and shared services as well as national initiatives such as the Single Non Emergency Number (SNEN).

2.1 Addressing the needs of vulnerable people

Vulnerable people within the context of Community Safety means;-

- Children, specifically those in the “looked after” category, disaffected, young victims of crime, young offenders, children affected by domestic violence, victims of hate crime.
- Victims of Domestic Violence.
- Victims of hate crime abuse or attacks.
- Vulnerable elderly people, often victims of distraction burglaries.
- People with disabilities.
- Drug and alcohol misusers.
- Emerging communities.

3 Issues and options for the strategy

The issues and options below reflect the key issues for CDRPs across the county, cross-cutting issues across the sustainable community strategy themes, and also issues that have an impact on all local area agreement blocks.

Dealing with Prolific and Priority Offenders in the community

- The recommendations emerging from the National Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) evaluation, in particular that “PPOs appear to have specific needs in terms of accommodation, drug misuse, education, training and employability problems when compared to other offenders. As such, it is beneficial that a multi-agency approach is taken – although it is crucial that the appropriate services are involved (for example housing and drug treatment).” The issue here is the link between unemployment, lack of housing and the drift back into re-offending.

Diversionsary schemes for Young Offenders

- Young offenders leaving custody have particularly poor attendance in education, training and employment (50% of under 16s leaving custody have inadequate provision. The figure rises to 75% for over 16s.) The local Diversion Scheme for children in public care has been very successful, and whereas three years ago in Oxfordshire young people looked after were almost 10 times more likely to get into trouble than their peers, the local scheme has brought this down to less than three times as likely. The Youth Offending Service, the police and Children's Social Care are extending the scheme to other vulnerable groups from June 2007. There will be significant resourcing issues to ensure this work is sustained beyond 2008/09.

The Respect Agenda and Anti-Social Behaviour

- The Respect Agenda, in particular environmental issues such as graffiti, noise, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. These do not necessarily always translate into criminal offences but they do have a significant impact on quality of life and the fear of crime, especially amongst the older or more vulnerable population. This issue links into the above point about extending diversionsary schemes for young people.

Public Perceptions and Fear of Crime

- Fear of crime in Oxfordshire seems disproportionately high given the low levels of criminality in the county. This is particularly the case in rural communities where difficulties in accessing services, transport and activities for young people can fuel fears. The issue here is one of public perception and how it can be improved by making communities more resilient. Community safety options include designing out crime, designating No Cold Calling Zones, and encouraging greater public involvement e.g. widening use of Neighbourhood Watch schemes encouraging involvement in Neighbourhood Policing/Management. The increased use of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and community wardens can provide additional reassurance.

Drug Misuse

- The availability of illegal drugs in Oxfordshire is on a par with equivalent counties. Oxfordshire does not have the gun crime and violence associated with drug turf wars which can be seen in other areas. The county has one of the most efficient and effective treatment ratings (Healthcare Commission Review) managed through the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT). However, the majority of the treatment budget is spent on adults and whilst it is important to maintain a high level of support to this vulnerable group there is a question about the balance with that spent on young people. Early intervention schemes, both for drugs and alcohol, targeted at young people are available. Co-ordination between all agencies dealing with vulnerable young people to agree treatment priorities need to be developed further.

Dealing with alcohol-related harm

- Alcohol is a contributory factor in violent crime, DV, disorder, criminal damage and fear of crime. At present there is no dedicated Government funding for this area. Central government published their new national alcohol strategy in June 2007 entitled "Safe, Sensible, Social." The strategy offers no new funding opportunities, but has a new focus on promoting a sensible drinking culture, preventing under-age sales, and increasing help for people who want to reduce their drinking.

Developing the successful county Domestic Violence Strategy

- The success of the county's domestic violence strategy rests in large part on a strong partnership and capacity to identify opportunities and add value to existing resources. Some specific investment has also been required: a full time county co-ordinator post, a one day a week Champion network co-ordinator post and a contribution to support services for victims at high risk. If the strategy is to be sustained, sources of funding will be needed for these in future. There is an important gap to be filled, namely early intervention and in particular programmes for perpetrators which will require significant additional funding.

4 The contribution of the voluntary sector to community safety

There are 29 groups registered with the Oxfordshire Network of Voluntary and Community organisations (www.oxnet.org.uk) as working within the area of Community Safety:

- 11 groups for victims of domestic violence
- 15 groups focused on drug and alcohol users
- 3 for offenders and ex-offenders

Examples of these include:

Oxfordshire Women's Aid

based in Oxford

Refuge accommodation and Outreach support for women and their children experiencing domestic violence. Offers support and practical help. A children's worker is employed and each refuge has a well-equipped playroom. Telephone advice line open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Beacon Centre

based in Banbury

Open 4 mornings a week, the centre provides nourishment, shelter and companionship to 20-30 visitors each session. The centre also supports people with drink and drug related problems, those with mental health problems and those marginalised and isolated

Huntercombe YOI

based in Henley on Thames

One to One using volunteer tutors to teach literacy and numeracy at prison for 15-18 year olds.

5 Community needs and aspirations

This section is an extract from two supplementary papers:

1. An analysis of 30 community-led plans of parishes and market towns in Oxfordshire prepared by the Countryside & Community Research Unit, University of Gloucestershire, commissioned as part of building the Sustainable Community Strategy evidence base.
2. A summary of priorities from Oxford Area Action plans provided by Oxford City Council.

5.1 Analysis of parish and market town plans

Community-led plans for parishes and towns rely on local volunteers identifying and agreeing shared needs and priorities as a basis for local action.

Action points and concerns of direct relevance to the *Community Safety* theme from 30 completed plans across Oxfordshire are shown below.

Community Safety actions from parish and market town plans

Twenty of the thirty plans (14 rural settlements and 6 market towns) raised community safety, excluding road traffic danger, which is dealt with under 'Access to Services and Travel' theme, as an issue requiring action. **The most common concerns were anti-social behaviour and vandalism**, although dangerous and untidy car parking was also mentioned.

Actions typically concerned lobbying for an increased police presence and improving or introducing neighbourhood watch schemes. Nine settlements wanted an increase in police presence and one was willing to consider offering a community contribution to fund a special constable. However, another pointed out that the main aim was to reassure residents of their safety. Nine settlements, mostly villages, wanted to introduce or improve neighbourhood watch but another preferred to use an informal approach. In addition, one market town was hoping to introduce a 'business watch'.

Other actions mentioned once each concerned:

- an improvement in school security,
- the introduction of CCTV,
- the need for policing of evening trains,
- the introduction of community wardens,
- crime prevention advice and support,
- reintroducing the traffic warden service,
- discouraging door-to-door traders.

A number of plans explicitly or implicitly linked vandalism and antisocial behaviour with a lack of activities for young people.

Most actions were assigned to a particular person or group but where this was done in the case of increased police presence, actions were usually assigned to the police - or to parish or town councils to lobby the police. However, one council pointed out that as they were unlikely to get an increased police presence, they would need to find an alternative solution for themselves. In the case of neighbourhood watch improvements or introductions, existing neighbourhood watches, parish councils and local people were mentioned as potential actors.

There were no marked differences of issues between the four districts, although plans in the Vale of White Horse area appeared less concerned with community safety issues than did those from the other three districts. It might be expected that there would be more crime and anti-social behaviour in market towns than in rural settlements, however, concern with crime did not seem to follow this pattern, with a slightly higher proportion of rural settlements raising the issue.

Example of an action proposed in a local plan

Raise the visibility of the [neighbourhood watch] scheme by issuing new window/door stickers and placing new signs on the highway.

(Fencott and Murcott Parish Plan, 2003)

Community-led plans in Oxfordshire: their potential contribution to strategic planning, May 2007 by Gloucestershire University

5.2 Summary of priorities of Oxford Area Action plans

Each of the six Area Committees in Oxford has developed an Action Plan which sets out the key improvements needed in the area that local people, local groups, the Area Committee and other organisations through working together can bring about. The plans seek to embody local issues and activities and be a catalyst for greater local partnership working.

The following box shows the priorities from the Area Committee Action plans relating to the *Community Safety* theme.

Community Safety priorities from Oxford Area Action plans¹ (by area)

Central, South & West

- Combating late night anti-social behaviour in the city centre
- Introduction of neighbourhood policing

Cowley

- Addressing community safety issues related to combating anti-social behaviour and crime
- Increase in street wardens and Police Community Support Officers for Cowley area

East

- Maintain focus on combating late night anti-social behaviour in the area
- Maintain support for neighbourhood policing and retention of the cycle team
- Support for the implementation of Special Saturation Policy in Cowley Road
- Review CCTV provision in the area

North

- Extension of street warden scheme to Summertown (now Police Community Support Officers)
- Police visibility and the speed of police response both in person and by telephone
- *Update since last Area Plan, roll out of Neighbourhood Policing*

North East

- Addressing community safety issues related to combating anti-social behaviour and crime
- Introduction and roll out of Neighbourhood Policing
- CCTV for all shopping areas

South East

- Continue support for the two police-led Neighbourhood Action Groups in the area and the employment of Police Community Support Officers, Streetwardens and Parks Rangers
- Complete an audit of crime hotspots in the area and identify preventative measures
- Work in partnership to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the area through in depth consultation with local people
- Maintain support for existing anti drug and domestic violence projects

Priorities from Oxford Area Action plans, Oxford City Council July 2007

¹ See appendix section 8.2 for background to Area Action Plans

6 APPENDIX – background on Community Safety in Oxfordshire

6.1 Index of public safety

The York Index of Public Safety (YIPS) is a measure of how safe an area is. It is published by York University, and considers safety from the perspective of a household. Each CDRP area is given a score out of a 100 in six principle crime types, and also an overall score. **The higher the score out of a 100, the safer an area.**

Using this measure Oxford city is ranked as less safe than the Thames Valley and South East averages.

Table 1 York Index of Public Safety 2006 (sorted on overall score)

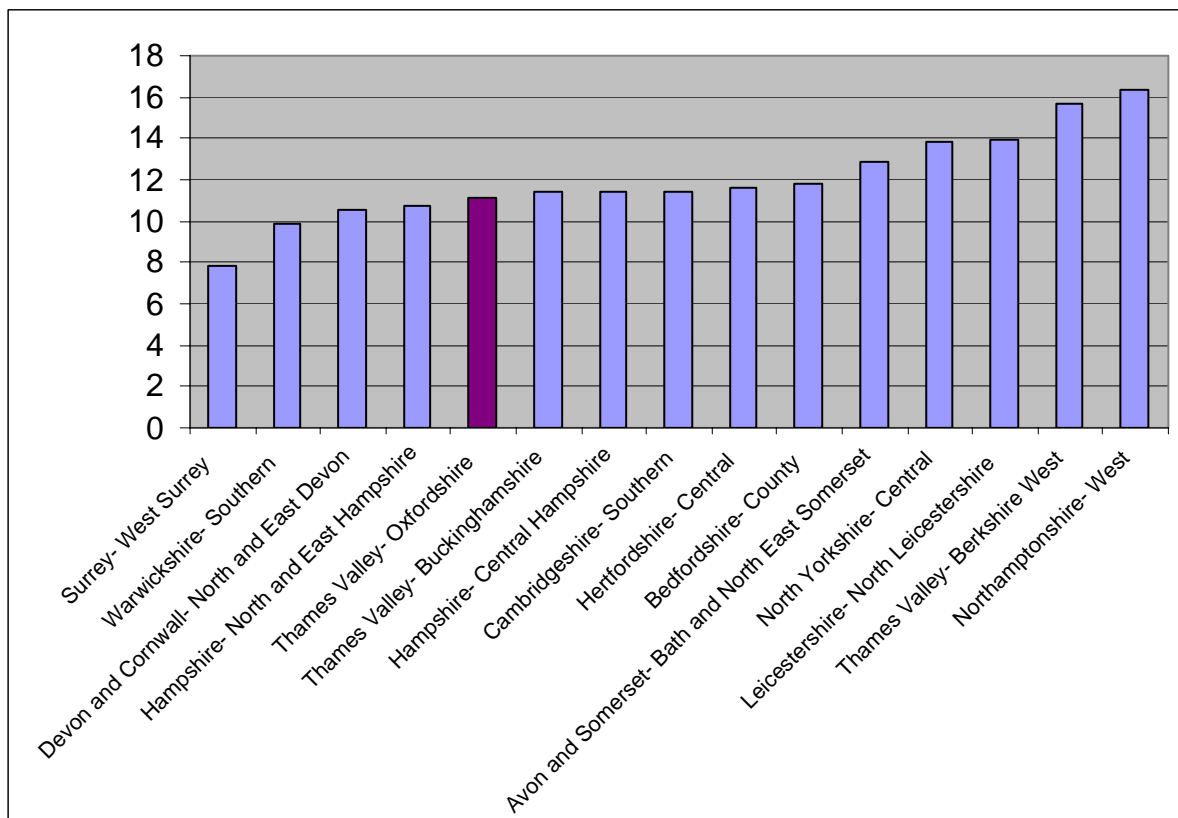
CDRP	Violence	Sexual Offences	Robbery	Burglary Dwelling	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Vehicle	Overall Score
West Oxfordshire	94.65	99.86	99.92	99.53	99.52	99.31	98.18
South Oxfordshire	93.78	99.87	99.91	99.24	99.35	98.62	97.87
Vale of White Horse	93.62	99.85	99.94	99.35	99.46	99.18	97.83
Cherwell	90.30	99.85	99.86	99.25	99.37	99.03	96.69
Thames Valley	90.57	99.80	99.68	98.57	99.03	97.89	96.68
South East	90.36	99.78	99.74	98.91	99.13	98.40	96.63
Oxford City	86.58	99.65	99.24	87.98	98.75	98.14	95.18

Source: York University 2006

6.2 British Crime Survey data

Iqanta is a police performance tool, developed by the Home Office. It contains all crime statistics from each police force in the country, and produces performance related tables and charts. The chart below shows Oxfordshire vs its “most similar” Basic Command Units (BCU).

Figure 1 BCS Crimes² per 1,000 residents - Oxfordshire BCU compared to its most similar BCUs. January 1st 2007 to March 31st 2007



Data source: Iqanta, Home Office web tool

² British Crime Survey (BCS) crimes includes household crime (vandalism, domestic burglary, vehicle theft) and personal crime (theft, violence)

6.3 Fear of Crime in Oxfordshire: Anti- Social Behaviour and Quality of Life

According to the Oxfordshire County Council Citizens' panel (2006), panel members in Cherwell district felt least safe compared with those living in other Oxfordshire districts.

Panel members in areas classified as "hamlets and isolated dwellings" felt unsafe walking after dark - perhaps as a result of a lack of street lighting.

Table 7 Percentage of residents who feel safe

	Oxfordshire	Oxford City	Cherwell	South Oxon	Vale of WH	West Oxon	Hamlet	Village	Town	Urban
Walking alone after dark	70%	66%	60%	76%	75%	77%	67%	75%	68%	71%
Walking alone during day	96%	96%	95%	97%	98%	97%	100%	95%	96%	97%
Being alone in home- dark	93%	93%	91%	94%	95%	92%	97%	93%	93%	92%
Being alone in home- day	98%	98%	95%	98%	99%	98%	100%	98%	98%	97%

Source: Oxfordshire County Council Citizens' Panel 2006

Speeding vehicles and dangerous driving is seen as a problem by the highest proportion of Oxfordshire panel members – a consistent result across all districts.

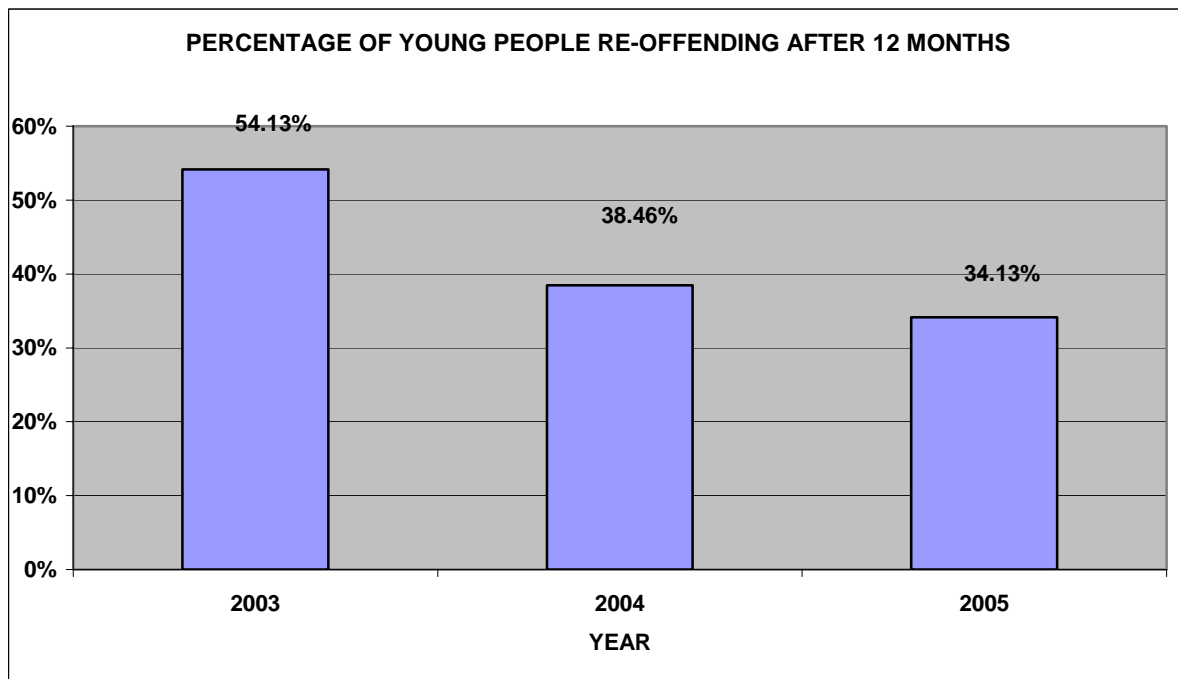
Table 8 Percentage of residents who feel issue is a PROBLEM

	Oxfordshire	Oxford City	Cherwell	South Oxon	Vale of WH	West Oxon	Hamlet	Village	Town	Urban
Young People Hanging Around	30%	25%	31%	36%	30%	26%	26%	28%	33%	29%
Vandalism, Graffiti, Damage	27%	25%	31%	31%	24%	23%	40%	26%	30%	26%
Speeding Vehicles, Dangerous Driving	49%	43%	50%	58%	46%	49%	43%	51%	55%	46%
Rubbish or Litter Lying Around	39%	44%	41%	37%	40%	29%	-	-	-	-
Cars Parked Illegally/ Dangerously	37%	39%	40%	37%	35%	33%	-	-	-	-

Source: Oxfordshire County Council Citizens' Panel 2006

The proportion of young people re-offending in Oxfordshire declined between 2003 and 2005 from 54% of young offenders to 34%.

Figure 2 number of young offenders re-offending 2003-2005



Source: Oxfordshire Youth Offending Team

6.4 Alcohol-related Crime and Disorder

Alcohol related crime is particularly a problem for Oxford city and Cherwell districts.

- The following charts show Oxfordshire districts ranked nationally on alcohol-related crime and disorder, 1 being the best, 300 being the worst. Data supplied by South East Public Health Observatory (2006).

Figure 3 Alcohol-Related Recorded Crimes

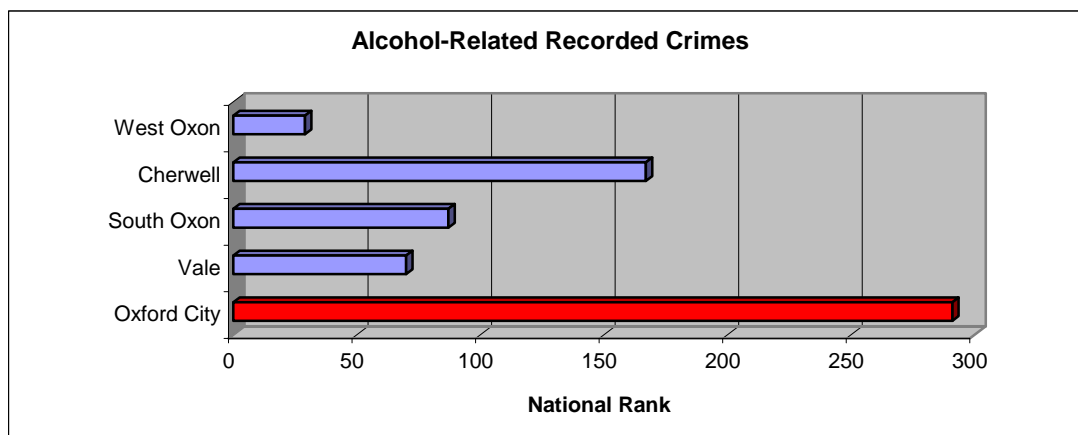


Figure 4 Alcohol-Related Violent Offences

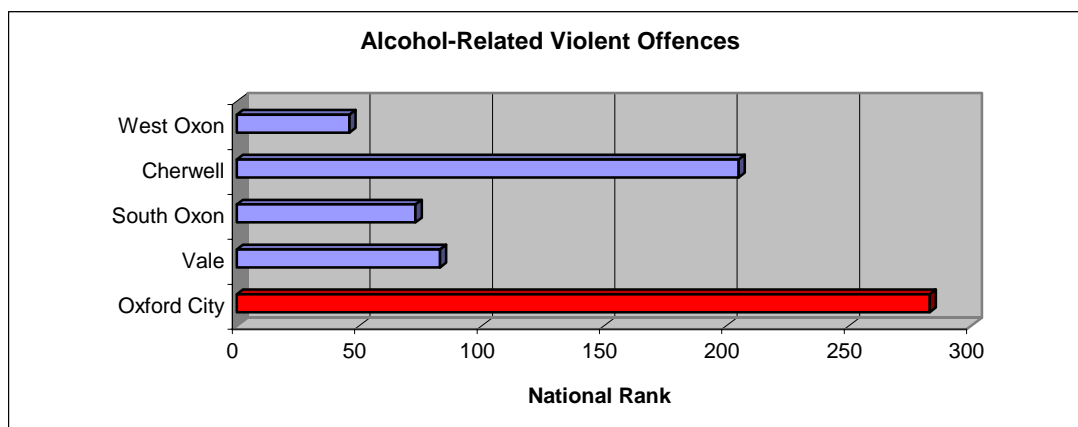
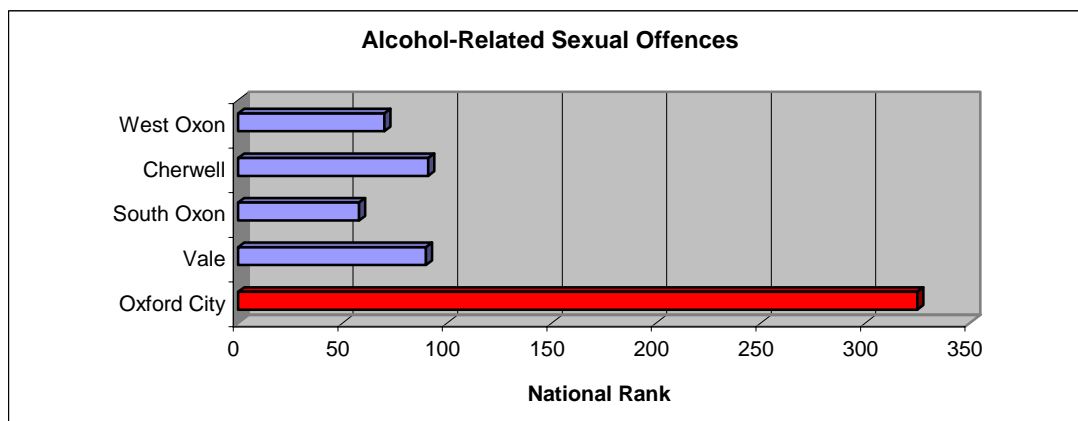


Figure 5 Alcohol-Related Sexual Offences



7 APPENDIX - Finding out more

Partnership Organisations in Oxfordshire:

- www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
 - See Fire and Public Safety: Crime Prevention
 - Youth Offending Service
 - Fire and Rescue Service
- www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/district/comsafety.cfm
- www.westoxon.gov.uk/living/comsafety.cfm
- www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/content/corporate-support/community-safety/community-safety-partnership.en
- www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/community%5Fand%5Fliving/crime%5Fprevention/
- www.saferoxford.org.uk/
- www.nightsafe-oxford.org.uk
- www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
- www.tvpa.police.uk
- www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk
- www.reducingtherisk.org.uk
- www.reportracismoxon.com
- www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk
- www.oxfordshiredaat.org
- www.evolveoxon.co.uk
- www.whosmybobby.co.uk (West Oxfordshire)
- www.oxfordshireobservatory.info (Oxfordshire Data Observatory)

Other useful websites:

- www.crimereduction.gov.uk
- www.community-safety.net
- www.together.gov.uk
- www.audit-commission.gov.uk
- www.sepho.org.uk
- www.respect.gov.uk
- www.nta.nhs.uk
- <http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~rab12/yips.htm> (York Index of Public Safety)

8 APPENDIX – Analysis of community plans

8.1 Parish and market town plans

In May 2007, the Countryside & Community Research Unit at the University of Gloucestershire reviewed and summarised the 30 Oxfordshire parish and market towns plans completed in the past five years (see table below).

Table 2 Parish and town plans analysed

Benson Parish Plan	Goring Village Plan
Blewbury Parish Plan	An Action Plan for Harwell
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Plan	Henley on Thames Action Plan for Year Three
An Action Plan for Carterton	The Launton Village Plan
Chinnor Parish Plan	Minster Lovell Village Action Plan
Chipping Norton Town Appraisal	Sandford on Thames Parish Plan
The Cholsey Plan	South Hinksey Parish Plan
Crowmarsh Parish Appraisal	Steventon Parish Plan
Dorchester Parish Plan	Tetsworth Village Plan
Dorn Valley Parishes Plan	Thame in Trust: a vision and action plan
Duns Tew Village Plan	Upton Parish Plan
Enstone Action Plan	A Town Plan for Wallingford
Faringdon Action Plan	Suggestions for a Better Watlington
Fencott and Murcott Parish Plan Vision	West Hagbourne Parish Plan
Filkins and Broughton Poggs Parish Plan	Wheatley Parish Plan

Since the total number of plans available for this review was relatively small, any comparisons of the differences between districts or between types of settlements can only be indicative. However they still provide a useful snapshot of issues and perceived priorities of communities in Oxfordshire.

Note that comparisons by district are difficult as a result of the imbalance of plans between the four rural districts, particularly in the case of market towns (see following table).

Table 3 plans considered by district and type of settlement

District	Number of market towns	Number of rural settlements	Total number of plans
Cherwell	0	3	3
South Oxfordshire	7	8	15
Vale of White Horse	1	5	6
West Oxfordshire	2	4	6
Total	10	20	30

Recommendations and more detail on the background to community-led plans are available in the main report "Community-led plans in Oxfordshire: their potential contribution to strategic planning, May 2007" published as part of the Sustainable Community Strategy evidence base (supplementary paper 1).

Overall recommendations for the SCS are included in "Community Life" theme paper 1.

8.2 Oxford Area Action plans

There are six Area Committees in Oxford:

- Central, South and West
- Cowley
- East
- North
- North East
- South East (formerly Iffley Leys)

Each Area Committee is made up of the ward councillors for its Area and, on a non-voting basis, the County Councillors for the Area and the parish councils. Partnerships are being developed with the Police, who are usually present at the Area Committees, and the Oxford City Primary Care Trust.

The Area Committees form part of the City Council's democratic structure and are responsible for the following services in their areas:

- parks, play areas and countryside
- off street car parking
- public toilets
- street cleaning and monitoring of street scene performance
- dog wardens
- abandoned vehicles
- community centres
- planning applications

Each Area has developed an Action Plan the purpose of which is to set out the key improvements needed in the area that local people, local groups, the Area Committee and other organisations through working together can bring about. They seek to embody local issues and activities and be a catalyst for greater local partnership working.

The development of Action Plans in Oxford City has involved substantial consultation with local communities and they are not defined by public sector agencies. In 2004, a survey of all local groups e.g. residents groups was carried out followed by workshops in each of the 6 areas with representatives from residents and tenant groups and community organisations. Overall 76 groups were represented at the workshops. This provided the basis for development of the area plans.

In 2005/06 the area committees facilitated further workshops in each area across the city to discuss priorities in greater detail and possible solutions. These workshops were then followed up with 633 on street interviews (approx 100 in each area). The analysis of the findings has been the basis of refreshing the area plans and the key issues identified for each of the areas and fed into the Sustainable Community Strategy evidence base.

More detail on the priorities from Area Action Plans are available in a supplementary report (2) published as part of the Sustainable Community Strategy evidence base.

9 APPENDIX – list of briefing papers

	Theme	Broad content
	Oxfordshire Futures	Overview of economic, environmental and social trends and issues affecting the long term future of Oxfordshire
THEME PAPERS		
1	Community Life	Active communities, community-led planning, contribution of volunteers
2	Community Safety	Community safety, crime, fear of crime
3	Economy	Employment, income, businesses, change in key industry sectors
4	Children & Young People	Needs of children & young people
5	Learning and skills	Skills for the economy; skills for individuals
6	Environment	Climate change; resources (including waste, water, energy, air quality, countryside, land)
7	Health, care and wellbeing	Lifestyles, older people, long term conditions, vulnerable people
8	Housing	Affordability, housing for vulnerable groups, eco-homes
9	Population and migration	Ageing population, long term and short term migration trends
10	Access to services and travel	Road congestion, accessibility, safer roads, air quality, street environment
11	Recreation, leisure and culture	Participation in culture, sport, leisure activities, internet
12	Spatial Oxfordshire	South East plan, Local Development Frameworks, planning policy; rural, market towns, urban
SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS		
S1	Community-led plans and their potential contribution to strategic planning	by Gloucestershire University (May 2007) Analysis of the priorities from 30 community-led parish and market town plans completed in past 5 years in Oxfordshire
S2	Priorities from Oxford Area Action plans	by Oxford City Council (July 2007) Priorities from six Oxford City area action plans
S3	Oxfordshire Rural Framework (2007-2010)	by Oxfordshire Rural Forum (July 2007) Challenges and priorities for rural Oxfordshire