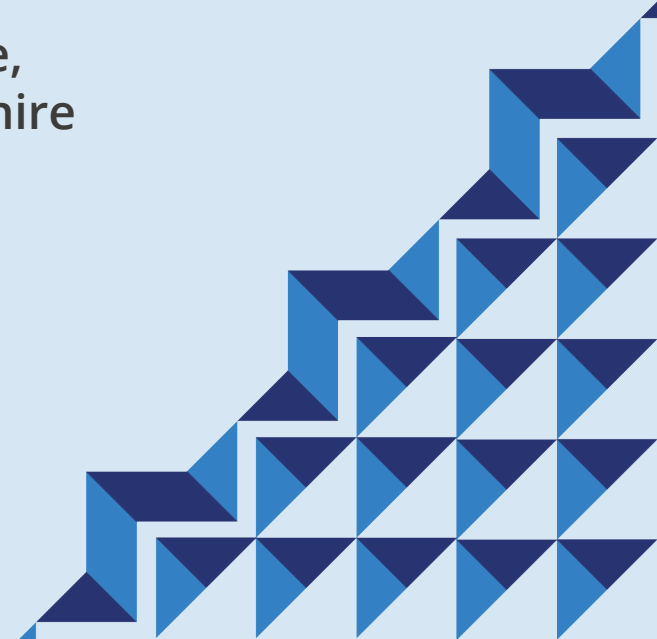




ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

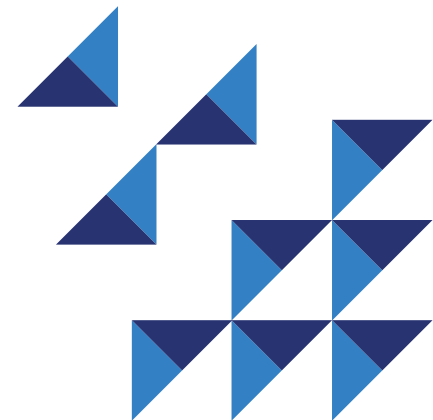
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,
Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire





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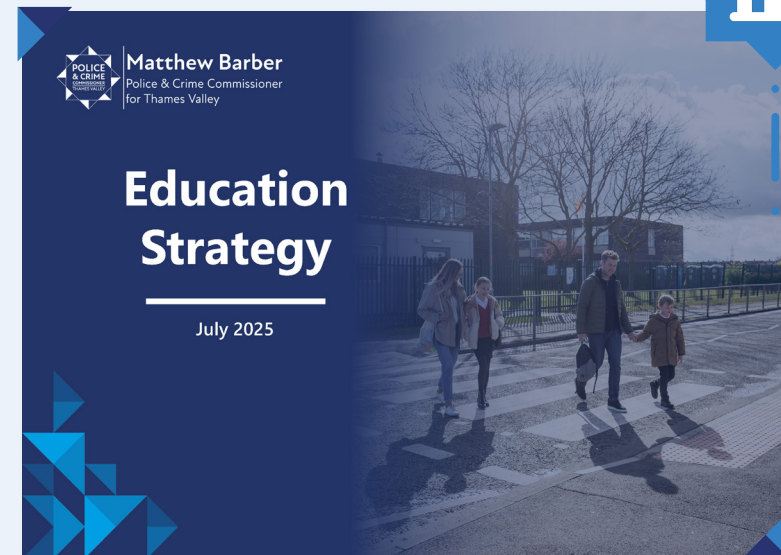
1. Introduction

This Annual Report marks the conclusion of the second year of my Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 - and a year of real, visible progress for the communities I serve, delivered against a backdrop of significant national change. The priorities of **Protecting Communities**, **Protecting People** and **Protecting Property** have remained the constant focus, and the evidence of that work is set out throughout this report.

On **Protecting Communities**, 2025/26 has been a landmark year for neighbourhood policing. The national **Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee** has been fully delivered across Thames Valley, with named, contactable officers now in place in every neighbourhood - building directly on the **Crimefighters** strategy I launched in 2023, which has now more than doubled officer numbers. Neighbourhood crime has fallen by **6.2%**, the new **Crime Education Strategy** is being delivered in schools, and the **Thames Valley Road Safety Partnership** is now firmly established, alongside a new **Road Victim Support Service** to support those seriously affected by road collisions.

On **Protecting People**, the breadth and quality of victim support across Thames Valley has continued to strengthen. **848 positive outcomes** were achieved for rape and sexual offences - up significantly on the previous year - with a charge rate of **10.6%**.

The **DRIVE** perpetrator programme has protected **550 children** since its launch, knife crime has fallen by **12%**, and our stalking advocacy service supported **274 victims** during the year. I am particularly proud that Thames Valley's **Op Deter Youth** programme - ensuring young people arrested for knife-related offences receive rapid, targeted support - is now being adopted nationally as a model for early intervention. That work started here.



On **Protecting Property**, a comprehensive **Vehicle Crime Strategy** has been developed, vehicle crime has fallen by **9%**, rural crime has reduced by **34% year-on-year**, burglary is down **4%** with the outcome rate up **7%**, and the **DISC** retail crime platform has seen a **287% increase** in incidents processed - reflecting growing business confidence and a more proactive approach across Thames Valley. The new **Forensic Centre** in Bicester is due to open this year, further strengthening investigative capability for years to come.



The national context has not been without challenge. Road fatalities and serious injuries have increased compared with the previous year - a reminder that road safety requires sustained, long-term commitment, and one that reinforces my determination to see the **Thames Valley Road Safety Partnership** drive real change. Recorded ASB has also increased, reflecting in part better reporting and a more proactive approach to capturing demand. I am clear that the response to these challenges must be proportionate, evidence-led and properly resourced.



The Government has confirmed its intention to abolish Police and Crime Commissioners by **May 2028**, and while I believe direct public accountability for policing matters, my focus remains on delivery and on working constructively with partners to ensure a smooth transition. I have also continued to press the case for fair funding for Thames Valley - a force that polices the largest non-metropolitan area in England and Wales, and one that bears significant and sometimes unreimbursed costs when policing events of national significance, such as the **State Visit to Windsor** earlier this year. These are not complaints - they are points I will continue to press on behalf of local communities and local taxpayers.

As we move into the third year of my Police and Crime Plan, I remain committed to the priorities that guide this work and to the communities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes that I am privileged to serve. Whatever the national picture brings, the focus here remains constant - keeping Thames Valley safe.

Matthew Barber
Police and Crime Commissioner
Thames Valley



2. Strategic Policing Requirement - Assurance Statement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the national threats that, in the Home Secretary's view, require a coordinated policing response. These include: **Violence Against Women and Girls, Serious and Organised Crime, Terrorism, Cybercrime, Child Sexual Abuse, Public Disorder, and Civil Emergencies**. PCCs are required to give due regard to the SPR when setting or reviewing their Police and Crime Plans.

The revised SPR, published in 2023, strengthened expectations on local and regional delivery - emphasising the need for effective partnerships, specialist capabilities, and resilience to respond to these threats.

I have taken full account of the SPR in developing my Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 and in my ongoing oversight of Thames Valley Police. This includes regular scrutiny and engagement through:

- **Performance and Accountability Meetings (PAMs)**
- **Force boards and operational updates aligned to SPR themes**
- **Oversight of relevant programmes and initiatives**
- **Consideration of responses to HMICFRS reports where these relate to SPR threats**

My Internal Audit function provides independent scrutiny of SPR-related areas, with findings reported to [the Joint Independent Audit Committee](#) and published on my website. These reviews sit alongside both the Force and OPCC's Strategic Risk Registers, enabling a shared and robust approach to monitoring national threats and associated mitigation.

Thames Valley Police's **Force Management Statement (FMS)** provides an important source of assurance on operational capacity, capability and forecast demand. While not formally part of the SPR, it supports my oversight of SPR-related risks by evidencing how the Force is preparing for national threats, identifying strategic gaps, and enabling more targeted scrutiny from my office.

I expect the Force to continue consulting with me on future iterations of the FMS to ensure continued alignment with SPR expectations - and to support my role in holding the Chief Constable to account for readiness against national threats as they evolve.

3. Grant Funded Services

The following section highlights how grants and funding have contributed to the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan priorities during 2025/26. There are numerous further examples throughout this report of where targeted investment has supported projects across all three priorities. The expenditure on commissioned activities from my Crime Prevention Fund, Partnership Fund, and Victims funding provided by the Ministry of Justice is available on my website through the [Annual Statement of Accounts](#)

Partnership Fund

My Partnership Fund provides direct grant funding to **Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)** to support the delivery of local community safety initiatives and address the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan. Each CSP receives an allocation of funding and submits bids for locally driven projects and initiatives.

Over the three-year period from 2025 to 2028, a total of **115 individual projects** - representing an investment of £6.5 million - are being delivered across Thames Valley's 12 CSPs. These projects cover a wide range of themes, including diversionary activity for young people, early intervention in schools, reducing reoffending, tackling anti-social behaviour, improving road safety, and supporting victims of crime.

Community Fund

I have continued to reinvest money seized from criminals back into our communities. During 2025/26, **just over £400,000** was awarded to **96 voluntary and community organisations** through two rounds of my Community Fund, completed in **October 2025** and **February 2026**.

This funding supports a wide range of projects aligned to my Police and Crime Plan - from early intervention and tackling anti-social behaviour to improving road safety. By channelling the proceeds of seized criminal assets directly back into local communities, we are ensuring that money taken from offenders funds the practical, targeted work that makes Thames Valley safer.





4. Progress in Year 2: 2025-26

4a. Protecting Communities

One of the core aims of my Police and Crime Plan is to ensure communities across Thames Valley feel safe, are safe, and have confidence in local policing. This priority focuses on preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour, supporting neighbourhood policing, improving road safety, and investing in place-based solutions. Through strong local partnerships, practical prevention, and visible enforcement, we are working to reduce harm and strengthen public trust in every part of the region.

Crime Prevention

- **Measure:** Continued reductions in priority crime types
- **Outcome:** 6.2% reduction in neighbourhood crime (vehicle, theft, burglary, robbery)

Women's Project - Custody Navigators

Funding from the Ministry of Justice supported the delivery of a **Custody Navigator** service for women arrested and taken into custody across Thames Valley. During 2025/26, three Custody

Navigators operated across the **Abingdon, Banbury and Aylesbury** custody suites, providing targeted, trauma-informed support at a critical point of contact. Combined with parallel provision in the remaining custody suites, this approach ensured that every woman entering custody across Thames Valley was offered consistent, personalised support. Navigators provided practical assistance and signposting - including referrals to talking therapies, substance misuse services, housing support and financial advice. Over the course of the year, the service supported **106 women**.

A key development during the year was the introduction of an **automatic referral process**, strengthening consistency of access to support. This approach was subsequently shared by Thames Valley Police at the **National Custody Conference** and the national **Women in Criminal Justice Board**, with a number of forces expressing interest in adopting similar models - a clear sign of Thames Valley's leading role in this area.

The programme concluded at the end of the funding period. Thames Valley Police intends to publish an evaluation report by **summer 2026** to inform future learning and practice.



Choices

Choices is a flagship early intervention programme commissioned by my office and delivered in primary and secondary schools across Thames Valley. It focuses on strengthening young people's emotional literacy, confidence and ability to navigate risk - particularly in relation to peer pressure, exploitation, substance misuse and knife crime.

During 2025/26, **over 1,077 pupils** were enrolled on the programme. Since its launch in 2016, Choices has reached **over 30,000 young people** across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire - and I have committed an additional year of funding, extending delivery through to **October 2027**.

Initial review of this year's data using validated scales indicated that approximately a **quarter of pupils** saw a reduction in 'cause for concern' indications after completion of the programme. While this change cannot be attributed to the programme alone, practitioner feedback consistently points to the role of Choices **in strengthening pupils' confidence, emotional awareness, and ability to navigate risk**.

Targeted adaptation of the model also took place within a specialist school setting during the year, creating a flexible framework now applicable across both specialist and mainstream provision. Delivery will continue to transition into classroom settings during **2026/27**, supported by adapted materials and a light-touch evaluation.

Neighbourhood Policing

- **Measure:** Increased PCs and PCSOs in neighbourhood roles
- **Outcome:** PC posts increased by +68 Neighbourhood Officers; PCSO posts reduced by -14 posts

Visible, accessible neighbourhood policing - officers that people can name, contact and trust - sits at the heart of my Police and Crime Plan, and 2025/26 has been a **landmark year** for its delivery.

Building on the doubling of neighbourhood officer numbers already achieved, Thames Valley Police this year delivered **68 additional neighbourhood officers**. This has been part funded through the Government's **Neighbourhood Policing Grant**, but the Home Office have only provided 40% funding meaning an additional pressure on local budgets funded through council tax. This increase in neighbourhood officers adds to the 150 increase of the previous two years, bringing the total to **more than two and a half times** the starting position when I launched the **Crimefighters** strategy in 2023. These are not just numbers - each officer means more patrols, more conversations and deeper knowledge of the communities they serve.



Thames Valley Police has continued to provide a named contactable officer for every neighbourhood in the Force. This is now being rolled out nationally through the **Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee**. Improvements to public contact forms through the Force website now ensure that members of the public receive a meaningful response to enquiries within 72 hours. The Guarantee also introduced a new **College of Policing Neighbourhood Policing** Pathway, equipping officers with the specialist skills and knowledge to deliver genuinely effective community policing.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Schools Officers are now also delivering the new **Crime Education Strategy** in schools across Thames Valley - taking prevention work directly into communities, reaching young people and families before crime takes hold.

I have been clear throughout the year that these gains must be protected. When the Comprehensive Spending Review threatened to undercut progress in neighbourhood policing, I made the case publicly for sustained investment and held the Government to account on behalf of Thames Valley communities - just as I hold the Chief Constable to account locally. Neighbourhood policing works when officers are visible, known and trusted. That is what we are building, and I will continue to defend it.

Road Safety

- **Measure:** Reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads
- **Outcome:** Fatalities increased (45 to 63); serious injuries increased (462 to 497)

Road safety remains one of the most important challenges we face. The increase in both fatalities and serious injuries during 2025/26 - from **45 to 63 road deaths** and **462 to 497 serious injuries** - is deeply concerning and underlines why I established the Thames Valley Road Safety Partnership and why sustained, long-term commitment to this agenda matters. Every life lost on our roads is a tragedy, and every serious injury changes lives. These figures strengthen, rather than weaken, my resolve.





Road Safety Partnership

I established the **Thames Valley Road Safety Partnership** in 2025 to bring together statutory agencies and key stakeholders in a structured forum to strengthen multi-agency collaboration and drive delivery of my Road Safety Strategy. The Partnership met **three times** during the year, with consistently strong attendance and engagement - reflecting a genuine shared commitment to improving safety on our roads.

Meetings provided a forum to share updates, align priorities and progress joint activity - including briefings from Roads Policing, review of a shared data dashboard to improve collective understanding of risk and harm, and consideration of causality data to support evidence-led decision-making.

Road Victim Support

I launched a new **Road Victim Support Service** in **November 2025** to provide dedicated, specialist support for people seriously injured in road traffic collisions across Thames Valley. Delivered by a single caseworker covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes, the service offers advocacy alongside emotional and practical support at a critical time for victims and their families. Since its launch, the service has supported **19 individuals** and is on track to meet its annual target of between **40 and 65 cases**. Outcome data will be available through the annual report.

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch enables trained volunteers to monitor vehicle speeds in their communities, working closely with the police to raise awareness of speeding, encourage safer driving behaviour and reduce the risk of serious harm on local roads. Thames Valley Police coordinates the scheme locally, with my office contributing funding to support delivery across the force area.

There are currently **358 active Community Speed Watch groups** across Thames Valley, supported by **2,974 registered volunteers**. Since the scheme launched in 2020, volunteers have observed and reported **146,693 speeding vehicles** to Thames Valley Police - with **38,739 vehicles** recorded between April 2025 and April 2026 alone. Encouragingly, **97.06% of drivers** who received an initial advisory letter did not receive further correspondence within a 12-month period - evidence of sustained behaviour change and an improvement on the previous year.

Since 2020, volunteers have collectively monitored more than **1.7 million vehicle movements**, resulting in over **128,000 warning letters** issued and targeted police visits to repeat offenders. This community-led approach plays an important role in creating safer roads across the region.



Anti-Social Behaviour

- Measure: Reduce anti-social behaviour in communities
- Outcome: ASB incidents increased (7,232 to 9,565)

Recorded ASB incidents increased during 2025/26, from **7,232 to 9,565**. This rise reflects in part a more proactive approach to recording and capturing ASB demand - including incidents that would previously have gone unrecorded - as well as the impact of targeted enforcement and improved partnership reporting. It does not reduce my ambition to drive down the harmful ASB that undermines community confidence, and the framework we have built this year is designed to do exactly that.

I have continued to press nationally for stronger powers to tackle anti-social behaviour on our high streets. Current closure notice powers allow police to shut premises linked to nuisance or illegal activity for up to 48 hours - but I have argued they should go further, providing longer-term disruption and better protection for communities and local businesses. I will continue to make the case for the tools policing and partners need to keep our communities safe.

Mediation Service

Alternatives to Conflict has continued to deliver strong value and clear impact throughout 2025/26, with referral volumes now exceeding originally envisaged throughput. Over the last 12 months, the service received **378 referrals** - up from **304** in the previous year. This increase reflects sustained engagement from police officers and partners, alongside the growing recognition of mediation as an effective early intervention tool. Referrals have increased across every Local Command Unit area.

Alongside this growth, a new case referral system has been introduced for both officer and self-referrals. A detailed annual report is being prepared by the service, covering referral volumes, outcomes for closed cases, engagement activity, emerging trends and feedback from both service users and referring officers.



Wider Anti-Social Behaviour

During 2025/26, significant progress was made in delivering against all Anti-Social Behaviour recommendations made by the Police and Crime Panel. The **ASB Strategic Forum** is now fully embedded, meeting three times a year with consistently strong partner attendance and engagement.

A comprehensive review of ASB Case Review thresholds across all Community Safety Partnerships confirmed compliance with national guidance. Support for victims was further strengthened through the introduction of a new **ASB Victims' Journey leaflet**, now used by Thames Valley Police officers.

Together, this work has strengthened the collective response to anti-social behaviour, improved consistency for victims, and ensured communities receive clearer information, better support and more joined-up problem-solving. The governance, partnership and data foundations required to sustain improvement are now firmly in place.





Building Confidence

- **Measure:** Increased levels of public confidence
- **Outcome:** I commissioned a new Trust and Confidence survey for 2025/26 to better understand public attitudes and levels of trust and confidence in Thames Valley Police. This online survey is being delivered by an external provider and is now run quarterly to enable us to monitor trends and understand any changes in the views of the public and where they feel areas for improvement are needed. The first quarterly survey went live in October 2025, and we are in the process of analysing the results before publication. **Further information on the Trust and Confidence survey, including published results, will be made available on the PCC website.**





4b. Protecting People

This priority focuses on preventing harm to the most vulnerable in our communities - including victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, exploitation and serious violence. It also includes a strong commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk. Through a blend of targeted commissioning, partnership work and victim-centred policing, we are working to improve protection, build trust, and ensure those affected by crime can access the support they need.

Rape and Sexual Offences

- Measure: Improved charge rates for RASO offences
- Outcome: 848 outcomes; charge rate 10.6% (up from 8.6%)

Sexual Violence Service

The OPCC-commissioned **Thames Valley Sexual Violence Service** continued to provide vital support throughout 2025/26 to adults who have experienced sexual violence. The service offers a comprehensive range of trauma-informed support tailored to individual need - including one-to-one support from **Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs)** and Sexual Violence Case Workers, alongside group-based psychoeducational support and facilitated peer support.

During 2025/26, the service supported **803 victims**, reflecting sustained demand for specialist sexual violence support across Thames Valley.

The service strengthened its focus on lived experience and inclusion through the establishment of a **Service User Forum** and a **Neurodiversity Working Group**. In **December 2025**, the service achieved **Workplace Wellbeing Charter accreditation** and is currently working towards accreditation with the **Survivors Trust**.



My ISVA was outstanding in her support for me. She was there every week, supporting me better than any SOLO and helping me find the right support for counselling. She was flexible with her time and always there when I needed her. ”



Grant-Funded Sexual Violence Services

Alongside the core commissioned service, grant funding continued to support a range of specialist sexual violence services during 2025/26 - ensuring provision for **children, disabled victims, neurodivergent individuals, male victims and those from under-represented communities.**

- **Disability Specialist ISVA and CHISVA provision**, delivered by Survivor Space Oxfordshire - supporting **52 disabled adults** and **62 children** during the year
- **Children's ISVA (CHISVA) provision**, delivered by Trust House - supporting **85 children**
- **Diverse Communities Outreach ISVAs**, delivered by Hope After Harm - supporting **127 victims**, with a particular focus on improving access for people from diverse communities, including outreach to sex workers and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities
- **Neurodiversity Specialist ISVA, ISVA provision and male victim support**, delivered by SAASSBMK - delivering **628 ISVA support sessions** and **119 male support group sessions**



The group helped me find my voice again. It showed me I'm not alone, and that healing starts with being heard. ”

Together, these services ensure a broad and inclusive offer of specialist support for victims of sexual violence across Thames Valley.



Interview Suites

A targeted investment was made during the year to improve the physical environment of **Video Recorded Interview (VRI) suites** used by Thames Valley Police's **Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO)** team. Several suites had been identified as tired and clinical in condition - environments that can feel unwelcoming for vulnerable victims. Funding was agreed to improve these spaces, creating calmer, more supportive environments that promote a greater sense of safety and comfort, supporting a more trauma-informed policing response.

Domestic Abuse

- **Measure:** Improved outcome rates for domestic abuse
- **Outcome:** 2,660 total outcomes (up 2%); charge rate 6.7% (down 0.8%)

Protecting victims of domestic abuse and ensuring they receive the right support at the right time has remained a central priority throughout the year. Domestic abuse continues to account for a significant proportion of police demand and has a devastating impact on victims, families and children. I have continued to fund and support a range of services - from frontline victim advocacy to perpetrator intervention programmes - reflecting my commitment to

a whole-system approach that pursues offenders, supports victims and breaks the cycle of repeat harm.

The total number of positive outcomes for domestic abuse increased by **2% to 2,660** during 2025/26, demonstrating a continued operational focus on pursuing offenders despite rising demand. While the charge rate has fallen slightly, the volume of charges reflects a sustained effort, and I will continue to hold the Force to account for further improvement.

Compulsive Obsessive Behaviour Intervention (COBI)

The **Compulsive Obsessive Behaviour Intervention (COBI)** is a specialist behaviour-change programme for individuals who perpetrate stalking-related offences. During 2025/26, **77 individuals** were referred into the programme, with **36 participants completing** the intervention within the year.

Ongoing analysis shows that **77% of those who completed COBI did not commit a further stalking offence within six months of exiting the programme**. COBI is currently funded through the Home Office until **October 2026**, and work will continue with partners to monitor outcomes and consider future options.



DRIVE

DRIVE is an intensive, evidence-based programme focused on managing and reducing the risk posed by high-harm domestic abuse perpetrators. Since its launch in **January 2024**, the programme has supported **269 high-risk perpetrators**, alongside **314 associated victim-survivors** and **550 children**.

Latest data demonstrates reductions in harmful behaviours: **physical abuse (67%)**, **sexual abuse (78%)**, **harassment and stalking (44%)**, and **coercive and controlling behaviour (28%)**. During the most recent period, **128 referrals** were accepted and **110 cases closed** - of which **75% involved direct contact with a DRIVE case manager** and **44% received a targeted behaviour change intervention**.

Operation Pinehurst

To strengthen action against the most harmful perpetrators of Violence Against Women and Girls, £60,000 of Home Office funding was secured to support **Operation Pinehurst** - a targeted disruption operation delivered in **March 2026**. The operation resulted in arrests, charge outcomes, enhanced safeguarding activity and significant progress on outstanding investigations, demonstrating how targeted funding can focus resources on those who pose the highest risk of harm.

MARAC

The Thames Valley Police MARAC coordinators provide business-critical support to the **11 MARACs** across Thames Valley. During 2025/26, there were **1,489 referrals to MARAC** - up from 1,429 in 2024/25, a **4.2% increase**. Thames Valley Police has established a force-wide MARAC improvement plan to increase partner involvement and intensify support for the highest-risk cases.

Clare's Law (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme)

Clare's Law gives people the right to ask police about a partner's history of domestic abuse - helping to protect those at risk before harm occurs. Improving performance under the scheme has been a key priority throughout 2025/26, with regular progress reports to the **Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel**.

The results are encouraging. **Applications rose by 57% year-on-year**, reflecting growing public awareness of the scheme, while the proportion responded to within the statutory **28-day timeframe jumped from 31% to 71%**. **Right to Ask applications alone increased by 41%**, from **375 to 529**. These improvements have been driven by the introduction of **Robotic Process Automation**, the creation of dedicated **Harm Reduction Units** across Thames Valley's Local Command Units, and stronger performance monitoring.



Family and Criminal Court Support

In **April 2025**, funding was awarded to support **two additional full-time Court IDVA posts** - one in **Reading** and one in **Aylesbury**. Despite becoming fully operational only in Quarter 3, referrals during 2025/26 reached **307** with **441 victims supported** by year end. Funding has been awarded to continue all three posts through to **March 2028**.

Stalking Service

Aurora New Dawn delivered the Thames Valley Stalking Advocacy Service during 2025/26, supporting **274 victims** through a team of **four Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs)**. In Quarter 4, **90% of victims reported feeling safer** as a result of the support received, with **77% experiencing a reduction in their professionally assessed level of risk**.

In addition to the funded service, Aurora New Dawn provides access to a **pro bono legal clinic** and has launched a **children and young people (CYP) service** for children impacted by stalking directed at a parent or carer. A dedicated **0.5 FTE** is reserved to support victims whose perpetrators are undertaking COBI treatment.





Night-Time Economy

- **Measure:** Reduced offending and increased prevention activity
- **Outcome:** 175 deployments; 208 stops; proactive engagement activity

Improving safety within the night-time economy - and tackling violence against women and girls in public spaces - remains an important priority. I continue to support Thames Valley Police in the deployment of **Project Vigilant**, which uses both plainclothes and uniformed officers to identify and disrupt predatory behaviour in busy town and city centre locations. During 2025/26, **175 targeted deployments** were conducted, resulting in **208 proactive stops** and a range of enforcement and safeguarding outcomes.

Partnership working remains central - and I welcome the close collaboration between policing, local authorities and licensed premises to promote safer environments. Ongoing investment in **Safer Streets** initiatives has further strengthened this picture, improving lighting, enhancing public spaces and contributing to safer routes. Together, these measures reflect a coordinated and sustained approach to improving safety and reducing harm across Thames Valley's night-time economy.

Serious Violence

- **Measure:** Continued low levels of serious violence and homicide
- **Outcome:** Knife crime down 12%; homicides unchanged

Violence Prevention Partnership Projects and Op Deter Youth

During 2025/26, the OPCC delivered a range of violence prevention projects through the **Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP)**, including:

- **Focused Deterrence** - delivered to habitual knife carriers supported by a data-led dashboard, reaching **161 individuals** during 2025/26
- **Focused Diversion Panel** - a multi-agency panel identifying **200 children** for early intervention; evaluation due **Spring 2026**
- **StreetGames Partnership** - just under **£1 million** secured to embed community-based sports programmes across Thames Valley
- **Stay True to You** - online prevention videos on child exploitation (**5,500 views**) and online harm (**4,900 views**)



- **Digital Safety Innovation** - Roblox-based online safety learning experience reaching **182 children**
- **Operation Deter Youth** - reached **over 800 children and young people** arrested for knife or weapons-related offences; model replicated nationally and shared at the **Youth Justice Conference 2026**

I have secured **£1.8 million** of Home Office funding to support local partners in tackling and preventing serious violence across Thames Valley.

I welcomed the national ban on **ninja swords** which came into force on **1 August 2025**. I am proud that Thames Valley's **Op Deter Youth** programme is now being adopted nationally as a model for early intervention. That work is now shaping national policy, and it started here.

Abuse and Exploitation

- **Measure:** Increased safeguarding of those being exploited
- **Outcome:** 721 National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals (up from 695 in previous year)

Children and Young People Service

SAFE! managed **over 700 referrals** during 2025/26. Wellbeing measures show overall improvement: **67% reported increased wellbeing scores** and a further **8% maintained positive scores**. Survey feedback shows **89% reported a reduction in worry**, **82% felt safer**, and **73% reported increased confidence** - while **95% experienced improvement in at least one area**. Satisfaction remained high, with **95% reporting the support was helpful** and **99% feeling listened to**.

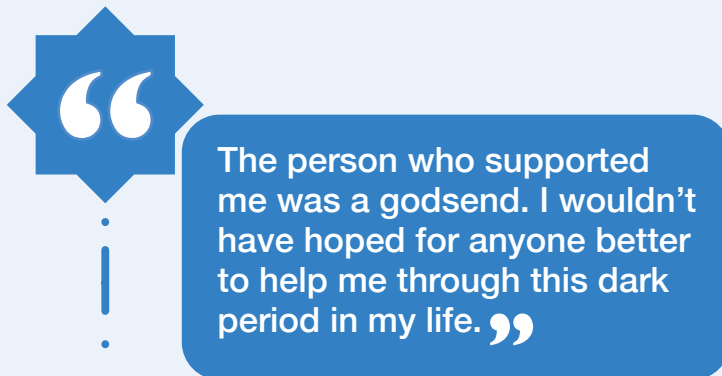


The support has helped with my confidence and allowed me to talk about things that I usually bottle up. ”



Family Matters

The **Family Matters** service, provided by **Hope After Harm**, supported **over 85 cases** during 2025/26, delivering one-to-one confidential support to families impacted when individuals are investigated or sentenced for online offences involving children. A survey of **42 respondents** found that all would recommend the service.



Child Exploitation and Online Harm - Resources for Educators, Parents and Carers

In June 2025, I supported the launch of two new **bite-size learning videos** - one covering **child exploitation (7,036 views to date)** and

one covering **online harm (5,042 views to date)** - designed to help parents, carers and educators recognise the signs of exploitation and understand how to keep children safe. The videos were prepared using subject matter experts and drawn directly from the lived experience of victims, ensuring they reflect the real risks faced by young people across Thames Valley.

The videos were funded through the **Violence Prevention Partnership** and I personally wrote to **Directors of Children’s Services** and elected members responsible for Education in councils across Thames Valley, asking them to circulate the resources to primary and secondary schools for sharing with parents and carers. The resources are available through the **Crime Education Resource Hub** on the PCC website and via the OPCC’s YouTube channel.

Child exploitation encompasses sexual exploitation, **sextortion**, county lines and child-on-child exploitation. These resources offer practical tips on prevention, guidance on recognising signs that a child may be at risk, and advice on reporting concerns to the police - complementing the work of Safer Schools Officers, the SAFE! service and the wider Violence Prevention Partnership programme.



4c. Protecting Property

This priority focuses on reducing crimes that affect homes, businesses and public spaces - including burglary, shoplifting, theft, and criminal damage. These offences can cause real and lasting disruption to people's lives and livelihoods. By improving local problem-solving, investing in prevention, and strengthening our response to repeat offending, we are helping to create safer, more secure communities across Thames Valley.

Residential Burglary

- **Measure:** Continued low levels of burglary and increased charges
- **Outcome:** Burglary down 4%; outcome rate up 7%

Burglary remains one of the most intrusive crimes a person can experience - not only because of what is taken, but because of the lasting impact on a victim's sense of safety in their own home. A **4% reduction in domestic burglary** and a **7% improvement in the outcome rate** are encouraging signs - but I want to see continued progress: further reductions, more offenders brought to justice, and better outcomes for victims.

During the year, **Operation Grotto** and **Operation Pandilla** delivered proactive policing across Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, disrupting burglary networks operating across local boundaries. Thames Valley Police also participated in recurring multi-force operations - with one such operation resulting in **111 arrests** across participating forces.

Neighbourhood teams carried out targeted winter burglary prevention activity - including "**cocooning**" - providing crime prevention advice to residents living close to recently burgled properties. Looking ahead, the opening of Thames Valley Police's new **Forensic Centre** will represent a significant enhancement to investigative capability.

Retail Crime

- **Measure:** Reduction in shoplifting crimes and improvement in outcome rates
- **Outcome:** Shoplifting crimes reduced by 9% in 2025/26 compared with 2024/25; total outcomes up 13%; outcome rate increased to 30% (up from 23% in 2024/25)



Retail Crime Partnership

The continued focus on retail crime across Thames Valley is delivering clear results. Shoplifting crimes fell by **9%** during 2025/26, while total outcomes increased by **13%** and the overall outcome rate improved significantly - rising from **23% to 30%**. These figures reflect a more proactive, intelligence-led approach to retail crime, with better partnership working, faster reporting and a clear focus on prolific offenders.

During 2025/26, there were **901 new sign-ups** to the **DISC application**, with **1,662 active users** at the time of writing. Over the last 12 months, **6,804 incidents** were processed through the platform - a **287% increase** compared with the previous year, reflecting growing business confidence in reporting and a more proactive approach to retail crime across Thames Valley.

- DISC sign-up statistics incorporated into neighbourhood team health checks and retail engagement activity
- A named lead trained in each neighbourhood area to support sign-ups and engagement
- Training materials and videos produced to support retailers in reporting incidents

- Development of a “what to expect” service agreement document for retailers
- Continued engagement through retail crime forums, conferences, bid events and retail crime working groups

Vehicle Crime

- Measure: Reductions in the levels of vehicle crime
- Outcome: Offences reduced 9% (12,097 to 11,018)

During 2025/26, our strategic approach to tackling vehicle crime was strengthened through the development of a comprehensive **Vehicle Crime Strategy**, structured around five key pillars: **prevention; collaboration; data and intelligence; enforcement; and trust and confidence**. To support delivery, Thames Valley Police will implement an internal **Vehicle Crime Delivery Plan**.

Overall, vehicle crime reduced by **9%** during 2025/26, with offences falling from **12,097 to 11,018**. Within this, theft from vehicle offences fell by **17%** - a positive indicator as the new strategy begins to embed.



Vehicle Crime Project

Delivery during the year included a public awareness campaign (183,977 social media views/impressions, over 85,000 advertising board plays, 166,000 radio impressions) and six tool marking events in partnership with SelectaDNA, Screwfix and Toolstation, with 146 kits registered to date. A final evaluation is scheduled for October 2026.



Free tool marking kits are a great idea. My tools were stolen last year and I lost a lot of work and money. Amazing to see the OPCC and TVP caring about us.

Rural Crime

- Measure: Reductions in the levels of rural crime
- Outcome: 34% reduction year-on-year

Rural Crime Posts and Target Hardening

During 2025/26, the PCC continued to fund a dedicated **Rural Crime Advisor (RCA)** within Thames Valley Police. Through this work, over **250 farms** were visited and received **forensic property marking** alongside highly visible crime prevention signage.

The impact has been tangible: in **West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse**, recorded rural crime decreased by **36% in the first quarter of the year** compared with the same period in the previous year. A year-on-year reduction of **34%** across Thames Valley demonstrates the impact of a sustained, intelligence-led and community-facing approach to rural crime prevention. The PCC has committed additional funding over the next **three years** to maintain the RCA post and expand prevention initiatives into **West Berkshire and Buckinghamshire**.



Fraud and Cybercrime

- **Measure:** Increased community education and prevention activity
- **Outcome:** 66 arrests by the Central Fraud Unit (up 12% from 59 the previous year)

Fraud remains the most common crime affecting communities across Thames Valley, with around **14,000 reports** recorded across the force area in the last year. This year, my office strengthened the public-facing response to fraud and cybercrime through a programme of targeted communications and community engagement, alongside continued support for enforcement.

Fraud Prevention Comms Campaign

Following the launch of “**Report Fraud**” as the national reporting centre for all incidents of fraud and cybercrime, I delivered a public information campaign providing accessible advice, guidance and support to victims. This included promoting the existing **Fraud Prevention Toolkit** developed by Thames Valley Police, alongside new snap guidance produced by the **Central Fraud Unit** for distribution across community settings such as libraries.

The campaign release was published on the PCC’s website and distributed to local media, where it was picked up by **seven print and online outlets** including the Henley Standard, the Banbury Guardian, Bucks Herald, the Oxford Mail, Henley Herald, Milton Keynes Citizen and Bucks Radio. The PCC also undertook a **radio interview with BBC Radio Berkshire** and a piece with **That’s TV Thames Valley**.

The release was shared across OPCC social channels - Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and NextDoor - achieving a combined reach of over **7,000 impressions**. Distribution via Thames Valley alerts generated **25,106 email opens**, and organic posts on **Victims First** social channels added a further **339 impressions**. Support for victims remains available through Victims First.

Cyber Safety Sessions for Businesses

In partnership with the **South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU)** and local chambers of commerce and Business Improvement Districts, my office delivered **four Cyber Safety Sessions** for local SMEs and sole traders. Around **30 representatives** attended the highly interactive, tailored sessions, which focused on readily actionable steps to secure their livelihood and safeguard their customers.



Feedback surveys completed at the end of each workshop recorded a **100% satisfaction rate**. **91% of attendees said they felt more confident in their cyber security** as a result, and **83% said they were likely to change their online or security behaviours**. Encouragingly, **13 attendees signed up for and completed at least one cybersecurity action** on SEROCU's Police Cyber Check tool for sole traders. Data on sign-ups to the National Cyber Security Centre's equivalent tool for larger SMEs is awaited.

Arrests by the **Central Fraud Unit** rose by **12%** to **66** during 2025/26, reflecting the impact of a more proactive and coordinated enforcement approach. I remain committed to supporting innovation and collaboration to protect the public and businesses across Thames Valley as fraud and cyber threats continue to develop.



5. Enablers

Delivering the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan relies not only on frontline policing, but also on the infrastructure and partnerships that support it. From investing in victim services to modernising data systems, these enablers ensure the police can work efficiently, respond effectively, and build long-term public confidence.

Support for Victims

I have continued to prioritise support for victims across Thames Valley throughout 2025/26, ensuring that services remain accessible, responsive and tailored to individual need.

This includes **Victims First**, my commissioned, overarching service providing free, confidential support to victims of crime across Thames Valley.

The launch of the new **Road Victim Support Service** in **November 2025** addressed a gap I had identified in my Road Safety Strategy - providing specialist emotional and practical support to those seriously injured or bereaved following road traffic collisions. Delivered in partnership with **Brake**, the service complements existing provision from police family liaison officers.

I committed **£350,000** to extend specialist stalking support across Thames Valley for a further two years, delivered in partnership with **Aurora New Dawn** and **Victims First**. Between March 2025 and March 2026, **274 victims** were supported.

I have continued to reinvest money seized from criminals back into our communities. During 2025/26, **just over £400,000** was awarded to **voluntary and community organisations** through two rounds of my Community Fund, completed in **October 2025** and **February 2026**. I am clear that money taken from offenders should be used positively - and this fund ensures it is.

CCTV Partnership

I am pleased to confirm that **all Oxfordshire councils have now joined the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership**, enabling modernisation plans to move forward following earlier concerns about engagement. Around £1.5 million of PCC investment has been made available to support this work.

The new partnership will introduce a **central CCTV hub in Abingdon**, alongside upgraded equipment and stronger integration with frontline policing. This follows the successful **Phase 1** transfer of CCTV ownership from Milton Keynes City Council and Slough Borough Council to Thames Valley Police in the previous year.



Improving Public Contact

The **999 emergency service** achieved an average of **95.4% of calls answered within 10 seconds** in 2025/26, up from 92.6% the previous year. The **non-emergency 101 service** saw average call waiting times cut to just **87 seconds** - down from nearly three and a half minutes in 2023/24. The abandonment rate fell from **16.0% to 8.9%**.

Thames Valley Police also launched “**Bobbi**”, a new AI virtual assistant tool - a positive step toward modernising services for victims and the wider public.

Data and Transparency

During 2025/26, significant improvements were made to the **Data Hub** on my website - ensuring it is more accessible, carries up-to-date crime data aligned to my three core priorities of **Protecting Communities, Protecting People** and **Protecting Property**, and provides a clear overview of force performance. By putting this data in the hands of the public, we are supporting stronger accountability and a more open relationship between communities and the police.

Early Intervention in Schools

During 2025/26, the OPCC placed a renewed emphasis on supporting young people in educational settings through the **Safer Schools Partnership (SSP)**, with every secondary school across Thames Valley supported by a named **Safer Schools Officer**.

A **Crime Education Resource Hub** was developed and launched, providing clear and accessible guidance for schools, parents and carers. The PCC continued to fund the **Choices** early intervention programme, which has reached **over 30,000 pupils** since its launch in 2015.

Improving the Criminal Justice System

The **Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)** continued to drive improvement across Thames Valley. A dedicated scrutiny panel was introduced for **Children and Young People Out of Court Resolutions**, and a new **Treatment Pathways group** was established to improve access to mental health and substance misuse support for adults within the criminal justice system.

I have joined other Police and Crime Commissioners in highlighting that investment in policing must be matched by investment across **courts, probation and support services** to ensure the system functions effectively end to end.

6. Governance, Accountability and Efficiency

Strong governance and accountability are vital to public confidence, while efficiency ensures that resources are used wisely to deliver the best outcomes.

Complaints and Professional Standards

Throughout 2025/26, I maintained clear and independent oversight of how Thames Valley Police manages complaints and investigates allegations of misconduct. Scrutiny arrangements were strengthened through increased engagement with the Force's **Professional Standards Department**, enhanced use of data and trend analysis, and expanded quality assurance checks.

In **February 2026**, **HMICFRS** published its inspection report on **Thames Valley Police's approach to integrity**, identifying areas where further improvement is required. Progress against the Force's response is being closely monitored to ensure action is taken and lessons are implemented effectively.

Independent Scrutiny

During 2025/26, a strong framework of independent scrutiny and advisory groups provided challenge, assurance and community insight across a wide range of policing activity - covering trust and confidence, equality and legitimacy, the use of police powers, custody welfare, complaints handling and community engagement. The **Chairpersons' Forum** continued to bring together the Chairs of these groups to share learning and align practice.

I am grateful to the **more than 200 independent volunteers** whose contribution strengthens my ability to hold the Chief Constable to account and ensures policing across Thames Valley remains open to challenge and improvement.



Internal Audit

During 2025/26, the **Joint Internal Audit Team** delivered a programme of reviews aligned to my Police and Crime Plan, covering priority areas including **Domestic Abuse, Trust and Confidence** and the **Victims First Hub**. The team also supports the **Joint Independent Audit Committee**, providing independent assurance on governance, risk management and control arrangements across the OPCC and Thames Valley Police.

Efficiency and Value for Money

I set the local policing budget for 2026/27 at £622 million - ensuring Thames Valley Police has the resources needed to cut crime, support victims and protect communities. Central government funding has not kept pace with inflation and pay pressures, but I have prioritised continued investment in neighbourhood officers and road safety.

The Thames Valley OPCC continues to operate as one of the most cost-effective nationally, with running costs budgeted at **0.45% of net revenue expenditure** for 2026/27 - well within the national range of **0.4% to 1.0%**.



7. Looking Ahead to 2026/27

As we move into 2026/27, the focus remains firmly on delivery - continuing to reduce crime, protect the vulnerable and maintain public confidence across Thames Valley. At the same time, this will be a year shaped by significant national reform, and it is right to be transparent about what that means for policing governance locally. What follows sets out the key priorities and challenges ahead, as they stand at the time of writing in **May 2026**.

The Legacy of the PCC Role

With abolition of the PCC role confirmed for **May 2028**, this is a natural moment to reflect on what the role has achieved and what endures. Abolition is still two years away, and the priority between now and then is unambiguous: delivery. But it is right to acknowledge what has been built.

By the end of my term, I will be proud of having played my part in increasing the frontline workforce of Thames Valley Police - particularly **nearly trebling the number of neighbourhood officers**, well ahead of the Government's own Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. We will have established a **CCTV partnership** across large parts of Thames Valley that many thought impossible to deliver, and dramatically changed the approach to retail crime. Thames Valley

Police has the **best-performing Rural Crime Taskforce in the country**. **Knife crime has fallen significantly**, in part due to the launch of **Op Deter** which I have no doubt has helped to save lives. Most importantly, **overall crime is falling**.

These are the outcomes that matter - not governance structures, but safer communities. Whatever accountability model follows, that must remain the measure of success.

PCC Abolition and Policing Governance Reform

While the decision to abolish PCCs is disappointing, the focus over the coming year remains firmly on delivering the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan. Work to prepare for this transition has already commenced, with early engagement taking place both locally and nationally.

Close and constructive working with partners particularly Local Authorities across Thames Valley - will remain central to planning throughout the year ahead, ensuring accountability, transparency and public confidence are maintained throughout the reform period.



Review of Police Forces and National Reform

The Government has commissioned a review into the organisation and structure of police forces, led by **Lord Hogan-Howe**. Thames Valley Police already operates within a strong collaborative landscape, hosting regional and national policing capabilities and working closely with neighbouring forces. Engagement with national reform discussions is already underway to ensure that the interests of Thames Valley communities are fully represented.

Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation has the potential to reshape local partnership and accountability arrangements across Thames Valley. Engagement with Local Authority partners has already begun and will continue in a coordinated and constructive way, ensuring that policing governance remains locally informed, resilient and aligned with community priorities regardless of future council arrangements.

Future Strategic Authorities and Policing Accountability

Future arrangements for policing accountability may include **Strategic Mayoral Authorities** or alternative governance models such as **Police and Crime Boards** involving Local Authority leaders. The precise model for Thames Valley has not yet been determined.

Thames Valley's established culture of partnership working provides a strong foundation for whatever comes next.

Maintaining Focus on Delivery

Despite the scale of national reform and the uncertainty it brings, the immediate priority is clear - delivery. During 2026/27, I will continue to focus on reducing serious violence and anti-social behaviour, strengthening early intervention and prevention, supporting victims, and maintaining public confidence through visible policing and effective scrutiny.

The year ahead will be one of both delivery and preparation. Whatever changes lie ahead at a national level, my commitment to the communities of **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes** remains unchanged.

