

# Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2018

## INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Introduction

The Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) provides information about crime and community safety in Oxfordshire. It aids understanding of emerging trends and patterns in crime and disorder, and it explores future threats and opportunities. The SIA is part of the evidence base which supports community safety partners to plan and target their work.

This 2018 SIA updates the versions produced each year since 2014. The following sources of data have been used:

- Crime data published by the Office for National Statistics in January 2018 (data running to September 2017) which allows for comparisons with national averages and similar areas
- Locally sourced data from Thames Valley Police, running to December 2017
- Other local and national datasets, as referenced throughout the report and in Appendix A

New datasets added since the last version include:

- ONS experimental statistics on trends in crime severity
- Additional data on alcohol consumption
- Recent estimates of opiate and/or crack use

The current and previous Strategic Intelligence Assessments for Oxfordshire are published here: <http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/community-safety-0>

There are important overlaps between the SIA and Oxfordshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which contains information relevant to the health and wellbeing of the county's population. The JSNA is available here: <http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/joint-strategic-needs-assessment>.

Analysis by Mark Ellison, Policy Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU) at Manchester Metropolitan University, on behalf of the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership

## 2. Executive Summary

- Crime levels in Thames Valley have increased during the last 12 months with increases occurring across almost all crime types. This is a picture that has been seen nationally, with increases in Thames Valley generally lower than or similar to those observed in England and Wales.
- The introduction of new legislation in response to a changing society is resulting in more offences of a different nature being recorded. This will include crimes such as Modern Slavery; “Revenge Porn”; “Sexting”, on-line grooming and indecent images of children.
- In the 12 months to the end of September 2017, police recorded crime in Oxfordshire was **41,029** and had increased by **5,297** crimes or by **14.8%** compared with the previous year. The increase in crime nationally was +15.3% (just above that seen in Oxfordshire).
- New “crime severity” data shows an increase in the severity of crime score in each of Oxfordshire’s districts between 2012-13 and 2016-17, similar to the national trend. This includes districts where the overall crime rate has gone down (Oxford, Vale of WH and West Oxfordshire).
- Comparing rates of crime in Oxfordshire (per 1,000 people in the population) with the rates in England and Wales overall shows that, for all crime types in Oxfordshire, rates were below average, except for:
  - **Bicycle theft** (4.9 per 1,000 population, compared with 1.8 per 1,000 population in England and Wales)
  - **Shoplifting** (8.0 per 1,000 population, compared with 6.6 per 1,000 population in England and Wales)
  - **Theft from the person** (1.8 per 1,000 population, compared with 1.7 per 1,000 population in England and Wales).
- Across the county’s five districts, Oxford City had the highest rates of most crime types.
- Comparing each district with its set of “most similar areas” shows that the overall crime rate was above average in Cherwell, similar to average in Oxford and South Oxfordshire and below average in Vale of White Horse, and West Oxfordshire.
- Other community safety and crime data shows:
  - **Anti-social behaviour:** Police data recorded 9,177 ASB incidents in the 2017 calendar year, an increase of 0.6% compared with 2016.
  - **Domestic abuse:** There were 3,351 recorded crimes in the 2017 calendar year, an increase of 6.3% compared with 2016. There were 34,142 non-crime occurrences,<sup>1</sup> an increase of 2% compared with 2016.
  - The perpetrators of domestic abuse were 77% male and 23% female.

---

<sup>1</sup> Non-crime occurrences are incidents which have come to the attention of the police, and would normally amount to a notifiable crime, but a resultant crime has not been recorded.

- **Rape offences:** The number of recorded rape offences increased by 3.8% in Oxfordshire between 2016 and 2017, below the increase across the Thames Valley (+9.6%). This followed a 17.8% increase in 2016 and a 49.5% increase in 2015.
- Nationally there has been a large increase (24%) in sexual offences (including rape), above that seen in the Thames Valley. There are a number of factors that will be affecting this increase; continuing publicity about historical offending (whether this be celebrity figures - including overseas, sports coaches, historic institutional offences) making people more aware that they may have been victims and giving them the courage to report them, as well as new forms of offending (i.e. – online grooming etc.).
- **Exploitation:** There is continued focus on issues of child and adult exploitation. In 2017, Thames Valley Police recorded a total of:
  - 106 victims of Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire, below the number in 2016 (170).
  - 106 victims of Modern Slavery in Oxfordshire, almost 3 times the number recorded in 2016 (37).
- **Hate incidents:** Between 2016 and 2017, in Oxfordshire there was:
  - An increase in the number of recorded hate incidents (which were non-crime occurrences) from 466 in 2016 to 538 in 2017 (+16%). This was below the increase across Thames Valley of +30%.
  - An increase in the number of recorded hate crimes from 346 in 2016 to 501 in 2017 (+45%). This was above the increase across Thames Valley of +39%.
  - Hate Crime levels in Thames Valley have increased for a number of reasons. In 2017/18 there were a number of terrorist attacks across England and Wales. This may have resulted in rises in hate crime. In addition, officers and staff have received additional training to help them correctly understand and identify hate crime. Due to low numbers recorded under some of the individual strands of hate crime, small increases in numbers can result in large percentage changes.
- **Re-offending rates** for adults and juveniles in 2015-16 were each above the Thames Valley averages:
  - The **adult** re-offending rate in Oxfordshire in 2015-16 was 30%. This was just above the national rate of 29% and above the Thames Valley average of 27%.
  - The **juvenile** re-offending rate in Oxfordshire in 2015-16 was 37%. This was below the national rate of 42% and above the Thames Valley average of 32%.
- **Doorstep crime:** Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team recorded a total of **377** victims of doorstep crime in Oxfordshire in 2016/17, similar to the previous year.

- **Mental health detentions:** In 2017 there were **256 detentions** under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, in Oxfordshire down from 313 in 2016 (-18%).
- The rate of hospital admissions for **alcohol-specific conditions in females** under 18 in Oxfordshire increased in 2013/14-2015/16 to statistically above the national average, and has remained above average in the latest data (2014/15-2016/17). The rate for males in Oxfordshire was similar to average.
- **Alcohol-related crime:** in 2017 (Jan-Dec) Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 1,200 alcohol-related crimes in Oxfordshire, down from 1,500 in 2016. This was a decrease of 23% compared with an increase in all crimes in Oxfordshire (calendar year 2016 to 2017) of +13%.
- **Knife crime:** in 2017 there were 257 Violent or sexual crimes recorded in Oxfordshire where a sharp or bladed implement was linked to the offence as a weapon. This was 14% above the number in 2016 (221). The increase across Thames Valley was +21%. The level of knife crime in Thames Valley is similar to the level seen in England and Wales.
- **Road traffic accidents: 358 people** were reported to the police as killed and seriously injured on Oxfordshire's roads in 2016. This was similar to the number killed or seriously injured in 2015 (361).

**Long-term trends in recorded crime in Oxfordshire, broken down by major crime category\***

