

Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2021

Attendees:

Jan Royall, University of Oxford, (Chair)
Kate Austin, Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Susan Brown, Oxford City Council
Ian Brooke, Oxford City Council
Gillian Coates, Oxford Civic Society
Rebecca Cullen, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Shelley Ghazi, Oxford City Council
Caroline Green, Oxford City Council
Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society
Lydia Igweh, Oxford Brookes University
Emily Lewis-Edwards, Community First Oxfordshire
Frank Nigriello, Unipart Group
James Senior, Thames Valley Police
Mish Tullar, Oxford City Council
Stuart Wilkinson, University of Oxford
James Senior, Thames Valley Police
Sara Fernandez, Oxford Hub

Apologies:

Gill Aitken, University of Oxford
Cllr Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council
Brendan Hattam, Land Securities
Joe Kidman, Thames Valley Police
Jeremy Long, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Phil Southall, Oxford Bus Company

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Draft minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

In matters arising Jan highlighted the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership update sent out with the papers and paid tribute to the work of Clayton Lavallin (Oxford City Council) for delivery of the work at pace. Also particularly grateful to Frank Nigriello and his strategic input on how we should be developing partnerships and ways of working. Two working groups are getting off the blocks over the summer, Educational Attainment and Social Value in Procurement, and the next two in autumn.

In other matters rising the Oxford City Anti-racism charter will go out for public consultation later this year, this work being invaluable to all of us who live and work in the city.

3. Oxford City Update

Caroline Green gave an update on case rates, city council recovery including Broad Street Meadow, and work relating to housing and homelessness in the city and county. Strategic planning consultations including the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy as well

as the Oxford Carbon Roadmap to net zero to 2040. See paper attached for further details.

4. Safer communities

DCI James Senior talked through the work that had taken place over the last year as well as future ambitions. Overall there had been an improvement in outcomes including a 34% reduction in robbery and 48% reduction in burglary most likely due to people being at home over lockdown although this follows year on year reductions.

However there have been substantial increases in certain crime types from April this year since lockdown easing which is causing significant challenges. The number of Anti-social behaviour (ASB) investigations had increased by over 22%, related to people being at home and breaches of Covid restrictions counting as part of this figure.

There has been some great partnership work for example Operation Streetwise, an initiative to tackle aggressive begging with enforcement alongside support with substance misuse via Turning Point. There has been a year on year reductions since 2015 in the city centre.

There has been a 17% increase in hate crime and 37% increase in hate incidents. Focus has been in improving public confidence in reporting it. There is a joint action plan with partners and they are doing well with tackling repeat offenders.

There is an Oxford Public Space Taskforce aiming to reduce ability to deal drugs in public. There have been 55 arrests and 120 stop searches. 20 children have been safeguarded. In addition have been working with partners to improve street lighting and CCTV.

There is a team working on serious organised crime with significant success including stopping crime gangs and county line drugs gangs. Bike theft has seen a shift from offending in open spaces to garage breaks (405 shed and garage breaks). Taking a preventative approach with a social media campaign with university students to address it. They believe bike theft is worth around £250k per year which is partly why the issue is looked at under the serious organised crime team.

Proactive approach to knife crime via Operation Boss. Learning from incident in Reading where children had got involved. Improving how they manage offenders that commit knife crime including a jointly developed risk assessment with partners. Top 3 in Force for charges regarding possession of knives, showing that when arrests are made investigations are of a high standard.

However there are high numbers of knife crimes with 11 stabbings over last 2 months. They implemented three section 60's to stop and search anyone in a defined locality for any reason, this is not implemented lightly. Have robust plans in place to tackle increase and there has been no significant violence in the target area in the last couple of months.

The have a joint Modern Slavery plan with the City Council and a board that meet regularly. Successful in their first modern slavery conviction in Oxford last week linked with county lines. While Oxford is leading the way there is clearly a lot of work to do in this area.

Linked to this is child exploitation again with a joint approach including the City Council, Children's Social Care and charities. While they put effort into working with victims they have identified weakness in perpetrator management with exploiters moving on to other victims quite quickly, so now taking a more proactive approach to them.

Violence against women and girls in the night time economy is tackled through Project Vigilant. Where there is predatory behaviour if the perpetrator has not committed a substantial offence the police follow up with a community order to demonstrate behaviour is not acceptable. The Home Office will be funding vigilant type work across the county and a bid from Oxford will be considered.

There is a multi-agency Oxford Sexual Violence Panel which includes the City Council. Had week of action including trialling a sexual violence response car with a specially trained officer. In terms of violence against women and girls - Oxford deemed to have national best practice, however there has been 46% increase in rape, 26% increase in sexual offences and 60% increase in stalking compared to 2019. Also a significant 24% increase in domestic abuse crimes over last 4 weeks. However a positive notes is that charges have increased by 100% for rape and 300% for sexual offences.

Questions

Cllr Susan Brown – highlighted the increase in residents complaining of low level drug dealing and asked for advice. DCI James Senior responded that the key action is for residents to report it as they are not seeing an increase in reports of drug dealing in Oxford. They review reports of drug dealing then ask taskforce to increase work in those areas. Cllr Brown suggested a campaign to inform and highlight reporting drug dealing which DCI Senior agreed to consider.

[Action – consider campaign and other actions to increase reporting of low level drug dealing and respond to Cllr Brown \(DCI Senior\)](#)

Cllr Brown also said that she was really pleased to hear connection with bike theft and organised crime acknowledged and that we need to continue to have that focus. The council will work with partners on increasing the amount of secure bike storage.

Cllr Brown also asked if the concerning increase in violent crime and violent sexual assault was mirrored elsewhere in the county which DCI Senior responded that it was not (although awaiting recent national figures) and the police are not sure why Oxford has seen such a significant increase.

Presentation from DCI James Senior attached.

5. Community Impact Zone

Ian Brooke (Head of Community Services, Oxford City Council) and Sara Fernandez (CEO, Oxford Hub) gave an update on the Community Impact Zone (CIZ) and potential areas of support.

Ian Brooke highlighted that the focus of the CIZ is on social mobility with support for children in school and for families. There is collaboration among agencies and sharing of insights for which they won a national award. £250k of funding has been generated.

Sara Fernandez described how the CIZ is not a service or an intervention, but about enabling people to participate in things that go on in their neighbourhood and take more control over their lives. While Oxford is not an Opportunity Area like Bradford (with £3m of funding per year) we have many of the same issues. One of the reasons we miss out on schemes such as this is because Oxford data showing poor educational attainment is lost within the wider Oxfordshire data.

The CIZ involves the Police with Supt Kidman very committed as he understands how these early interventions can help young people avoid a route into criminality. Paul James, CEO of River Learning Trust is also on the board. Sara Fernandez described how they employ a team of 8 people through their local community employment model.

Sara added that since the CIZ is not a service and not statutory provision, they have a degree of flexibility and responsiveness that enables us to test different things. For example, this means that we're not here to run holiday provision forever. We will run summer schools locally for now - we will do them to showcase what is possible (in this case bringing a 'fit, fed and read' model to the city and overcoming covid barriers) but we are employing local residents to work on them, and we hope they grow to be run by local community groups.

Overall, we are looking for partners who are interested in taking a long-term approach to the work - not just feed the children this summer, but actually work on addressing the underlying issues that mean that currently children need a summer school to be fed and improve their literacy skills. This may sound idealistic, but we know there are plenty of people reacting to problems downstream - we are interested in what it takes to tackle the issues that perpetuate intergenerational inequality in this geographic area.

So far, the CIZ has been a great platform for collaboration. They are interested in hearing from other partners who can proactively add to the work. Recently welcomed Paul James from the River Learning Trust to bring a sharper focus to educational attainment.

Sara would love to hear from you if you are:

- Motivated to address intergenerational inequality in East Oxford
- Able to bring in capacity, resources or particular expertise to this project
- Comfortable with working to an emergent strategy and in the messy world of systems change

Jan Royall said how this project shows the importance of partnership working and that we need to lobby to make the case for Oxford to become an Opportunity Area.
Presentation attached

[Action – OSP members to contact Sara Fernandez to offer resources or support for the Community Impact Zone.](#)

6. Any other business

As this was Jan Royall's last meeting as Chair, Cllr Brown and Caroline Green thanked her for her contribution over the past three years in particular on the theme of inclusive economy and forging stronger links between the city and the University of Oxford. Her enthusiasm and focus will be greatly missed.

Jan Royall said she was privileged to have chaired the OSP for 3 years and believe we have achieved some important things such as the Inclusive Economy Seminars, becoming a new partnership and this work incorporated into thinking for development at County and ARC level. Jan has committed to continue to co-chair the Inclusive Economy Partnership.

7. Forward plan

OSP Meeting Date	Standard Agenda Items
<p>Mtg 4. Please note date & time change 12th October 2021 2:30-4:30pm Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting Learn more Meeting options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City update • Sub-group updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger Communities update

OSP Meeting Date	Agenda Items - tbc
2022	
<p>Mtg 1. 11th January 2022 2:30 - 4:30pm Teams link to follow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City update • Sub-group updates
<p>Mtg 2. 5th April 2022 2:30 - 4:30pm Teams link to follow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City update • Sub-group updates • Educational Attainment update
<p>Mtg 3. 12th July 2022 2:30 - 4:30pm Teams link to follow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City update • Sub-group updates
<p>Mtg 4. 11th October 2022 2:30 - 4:30pm Teams link to follow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City update • Sub-group updates