**Community Conversations**

The Thatcham Forum is forging ahead in helping to resolve issues within their community. They now have members trained in the SID (Speeding Indicator Device), have a website in development and are actively using social media to promote and share what they are doing.

The Newbury forum is being revitalised with the help of the Newbury community anchor Richard Littledale.

The community of Purley have identified some issues within their community which they would like to try and resolve by starting with a community conversation.

**RBFA**

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) is consulting the public, staff and other stakeholders on its Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019-2023. All fire and rescue authorities have a legal duty to produce a plan that identifies and assesses all fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities.

To access the consultation, click [here](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay)

**British Red Cross**

**Community Reserve Volunteer**

The British Red Cross are running a scheme called Community Reserve Volunteers. These are people in the community that can be called upon during an emergency or local crisis such as widespread flooding or a fire. During an emergency, they will help with practical tasks such as preparing kit and equipment, filling sandbags, sorting supplies and making refreshments.

To find out more click [here](https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-in-emergencies)

**Modern Slavery**

**Government commissions independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015**

The Home Office has announced plans to launch an independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to ensure our world-first legislation keeps in step with this crime.  Led by Frank Field MP, Baroness Butler-Sloss and Maria Miller MP, the independent review aims to strengthen the UK’s ongoing response and accelerate progress from Government and businesses in eradicating modern slavery.

Click [here](http://bit.ly/2vAT5TA) for more details

**Safe car wash app**

A Safe Car Wash app has been launched, supported by GLAA, NCA, NPCC, LGA, to help identify modern slavery in hand car washes. Hand car washes have been identified by the Gangmasters’ and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) as a sector where there is a higher risk of modern slavery and labour exploitation. The app can be downloaded for free on to Apple and Android devices via the app store. Click [here](https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/safe-car-wash-app/) for more information

**ASB – House Closures**

A series of houses linked to ‘County Lines’ drug activity have been closed across West Berkshire in 2018. County Lines is the term given to gang violence and exploitation. Typically, gangs use mobile phone lines to facilitate drug orders and supply to users. Coming from outside areas, they also use local properties as a base; these often belong to a vulnerable adult and are obtained through force or coercion (known as 'cuckooing').The impact of this crime has a massive impact not just on vulnerable occupants but the wider local community. Using powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014 they have achieved 8 closure orders across Newbury, Thatcham and Calcot, since February 2018. These orders prevent people visiting the properties. The feedback from occupants and residents is that these powers work, areas have improved and this has provided much needed respite to all involved.

**FGM**

**Oxford Against Cutting (OAC) is committed to working to help prevent female genital mutilation (FGM) of girls and women, and have launched their summer campaign:**

“*We have launched our latest summer campaign to raise awareness and connect girls who are at risk of undergoing the practice with frontline services. The campaign across Oxfordshire, East Berkshire, West Berkshire and Buckinghamshire will see eye-catching posters displayed in bus stops, schools, GP surgeries, hospitals, community centres, a billboard and panels in buses. Our latest summer poster campaign is being rolled out alongside the expansion of the charity’s school safeguarding training on FGM across the Thames Valley, working with new local community partners. The posters’ appearance coincides with what is known as “cutting season” when many girls around the UK may be at higher risk of undergoing FGM during the summer school holidays*.”

**Cyber Crime**

On the 8th of August, the NCSC published new guidance that describes how to set up two-factor authentication (2FA) also called 'two-step verification'. We all have online services that are important to us, and which are protected by passwords - perhaps email, social media accounts, online banking, or gaming accounts. I'm sure you can think of accounts where it would be really painful if you discovered that your passwords had been hacked by cyber-criminals.

Unfortunately, [however good your passwords are](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/three-random-words-or-thinkrandom-0), they can only provide so much protection. They could be stolen from your service provider or from your phone, tablet or laptop. Or you could get tricked into revealing them. This is why we want more people to use 2FA, both at work **and** at home. Click [here](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/setting-two-factor-authentication-2fa) to read more

**Homelessness**

The government is committed to halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027. Ending rough sleeping will require central and local government, as well as business, communities, faith and voluntary

groups and the general public to work together in new ways.

Click [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf) to read more

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