



OFFICIAL

Policy Title: Neighbourhood Abstraction Policy

Date Published: January 2026

Business Lead: Supt John Batty

CCMT sponsor: ACC Christian Bunt

Thames Valley Police ensures that all policies have been assessed and comply with MoPI Guidance, and the Data Protection Act 2018. In addition, this Policy has been reviewed by The Force Head of Health, Safety and Environment and has undergone an Equality Impact Assessment.

1.0 About this Policy

1.1 Rationale

This policy is required to ensure Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NHPT) spend as much time as possible visibly delivering local policing in their area(s) and that abstractions from their core role is kept to a minimum.

1.2 Application

The policy is effective immediately and applies to all neighbourhood officers, PCSOs, schools officers, mental health officers, neighbourhood supervisors, sergeants, and those officers outside of NHPTs who are seeking additional resources.

1.3 Purpose

To identify what should and should not be classed as a 'neighbourhood abstraction' and to ensure these are kept to a minimum.

OFFICIAL

1.4 Scope

This policy covers the abstraction criteria the Force has adopted when there is a requirement to abstract NHPT officers from their core role. Additionally this policy covers the circumstances that are not considered to be an abstraction of NHPT resources.

This policy does NOT cover working on authorised overtime elsewhere than on the NHPT officer's neighbourhood, annual leave, sickness or other approved time off or court appearances.

2.0 Statement of Policy

Thames Valley Police is committed to providing a visible and dedicated resource to address community priorities within neighbourhoods. This allows NHPTs to find effective and long-term solutions to community issues. This will allow them to use problem solving methodology to effectively engage with the public, build relationships, and work with partners to keep the community safe.

2.1 Benefits

This policy is designed to enable NHPTs to deliver their principle responsibilities, which are to:

- Be visible and engage with local communities and enable the identification of local issues
- Build and develop local community resilience and enable the participation of local communities to problem solve local issues through neighbourhood community forums.
- Work with partners and other agencies to identify opportunities for early intervention and problem solving.

2.2 Responsibilities

2.2.1 All personnel involved in the resourcing and directing of NHPT staff are responsible for adherence to this policy.

2.2.2 It is the responsibility of the abstracted officer to record their own local abstractions in accordance with this policy.

2.2.3 Community Policing Command will be responsible for advising on its implementation, application and subsequent review.

2.2.4 The Service Improvement Department will be responsible for monitoring.

2.3 Definitions

2.3.1 This policy is based on the premise that NHPT staff are abstracted when removed from their neighbourhood(s) or removed from their role of policing their local community.

2.3.2 There is no percentage target, instead LPAs / LCUs must endeavour to enable their NHPTs to spend as much time as possible 'visibly' delivering neighbourhood policing in their area.

2.3.3 For the purposes of this policy, the term 'neighbourhood(s)' means the specific geographic area (or patch) to which any particular NHPT officer is assigned. The patch will be determined locally by the LPA.

2.3.4 A Neighbourhood Sergeant / Supervisor will have responsibility for neighbourhood officers and PCSOs working on a geographic area. Duties that remove the Sergeant from these areas of responsibility, and or their core role, will be regarded as an abstraction.

2.3.5 A neighbourhood abstraction will include:

- Duty planned deployments in a role outside of their core function:
 - OP/AREA or OP/ORD (this would NOT include NHPT-led events and operations, or where you are assisting another NHPT within your own LPA/LCU)
 - ICR cover (this would NOT include simply attending incidents on your own Neighbourhood(s))
 - Windsor Guard (unless this is your assigned neighbourhood)
 - Custody / PACE duties
 - Mutual Aid
 - Scene Watch / Cell Watch / Hospital Watch (unless it is your own prisoner / detainee)
 - Transportation (unless it is your own prisoner / detainee)
 - Non-NHPT enquiries - where you are tasked with enquiries by another department (unless this is your assigned neighbourhood).

OFFICIAL

2.3.6 A neighbourhood abstraction will not include:

- Annual leave, rest days, RDIL, TOIL
- Occupational Health appointments
- Job interviews / promotion interviews
- Misconduct hearings
- Protected learning time
- Training courses, study leave, attachments and e-learning
- Fixed court trials
- Sickness / self-isolation
- Non-fixed court trial dates
- Compassionate leave, dependents leave, family leave, special paid leave
- Duties completed whilst on overtime
- Meal breaks
- Windsor Guard (where this is the officer's assigned neighbourhood, i.e. Windsor Central)
- Attending incidents on your own Neighbourhood(s)
- NHPT-led events and operations, or where you are assisting another NHPT on your own LPA/LCU.
- NHPT-led investigation / enquiries
- Scene watch / cell watch / hospital watch / prisoner transport (where it is your own prisoner / detainee or investigation)

2.4 Circumstances when an abstraction may be justified

2.4.1 It is accepted that some neighbourhood abstractions are necessary to support wider policing, in certain situations, such as when required by Duties to cover minimum strength shortfalls in ICR, where the Neighbourhood Officer is on duty at the time.

2.4.2 Neighbourhood will only be approached for support by Duties if all other on duty options have been exhausted, as per normal procedure. Other such situations may include:

- Significant spontaneous events
- Critical or major incidents
- Serious or major crime
- Civil disasters and national security issues

OFFICIAL

- Immediate and Urgent graded incidents which require rapid safeguarding or investigative actions when required by deployment rules (only after deployment of Response, JOU, Investigation Hub – so in times of significant surge demand).
- Pre-planned neighbourhood policing commitments elsewhere within their LPA/LCU (this should be the exception not the norm and only if agreed with their supervisor)
- Pre-planned operations.

2.4.3 The list is not exhaustive and there will be instances that are not included. In these cases a common sense approach, maintaining the spirit of the guidance should be applied or further advice sought from Community Policing Command.

2.4.4 Neighbourhood should not be the default port of call, and should only be used where no other suitable or appropriate resource is available.

2.5 Compliance Monitoring

2.5.1 The Resource Management Unit is responsible for the broad oversight of Police Officer, Police Staff and PCSO duties to ensure Police Regulations, and relevant Thames Valley Police policies and procedures are complied with, and to maintain operational resilience.

2.5.2 Managers in the NHPT are responsible for managing and reviewing abstractions locally. Local abstractions will also be monitored centrally by the Community Policing Command.

2.5.3 Data in relation to formal change of duties will be captured, stored and reported via the Duty Management System (DMS).

2.5.4 All other local abstractions (which are not subject to a formal duty change notification), will be captured, stored and reported on via the Neighbourhood Policing App.

2.5.5 Quarterly performance data around neighbourhood abstractions will be reported on and reviewed at the Community Policing Board, which is chaired by ACC Local Policing.

3.0 Human Rights Articles Engaged

Respect for your private and family life, home and correspondence

OFFICIAL

4.0 Health and Safety at Work

The policy is supported by protocols including L1540 (Leave), L13329 (Working Time Regulations) and L11340 (Work Life Balance).

5.0 Communications, Challenges and Representations

5.1 The following have been consulted during the formulation of this document:

- Community Policing Command - Supt
- Local Policing (via the Community Policing Board / Silver)
- Head of Resource Management
- Tasking & Resilience C/Supt.
- Policing Strategy

5.2 This policy has been communicated via the Community Policing Board, and Professionalising Neighbourhood Policing – Silver.

6.0 Review Date

January 2028

7.0 Related Guidance

Not applicable.

8.0 Freedom of information

Suitable for publication.

9.0 Government Security Classification Policy

Official