

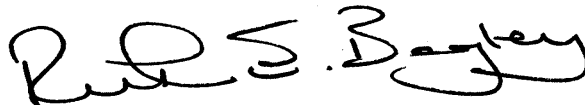
Public Document Pack

Date of issue: Wednesday, 2 January 2013

MEETING:	NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL (CRIME AND DISORDER) (Councillors Minhas (Chair), Bains, Bal, Carter, Dar, O'Connor, Plenty, Sohal and Wright) <u>Non-Voting Co-Opted Members</u> Terry Conroy (Slough Federation of Tenants and Residents) and Vivianne Royal (Customer Senate)
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 2013 AT 6.30 PM
VENUE:	MEETING ROOM 3, CHALVEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE GREEN, CHALVEY, SLOUGH, SL1 2SP
SCRUTINY OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	SARAH FORSYTH 01753 875657

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.		
CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS			
1.	Declarations of Interest <i>(Members are reminded of their duty to declare personal and personal prejudicial interests in matters coming before this meeting as set out in the local code of conduct).</i>		
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 November 2012	1 - 4	
SCRUTINY ISSUES			
3.	Member Questions <i>(An opportunity for panel members to ask questions of the relevant Director / Assistant Director, relating to pertinent, topical issues affecting their Directorate – maximum of 10 minutes allocated.)</i>		
4.	The Work of the Safer Slough Partnership	5 - 20	All Wards
5.	Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour in Slough	21 - 38	All Wards
6.	Member Call-In: Bus Station Communications	39 - 44	All Wards
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION			
7.	Prostitution - Update and Future Actions	45 - 54	Baylis & Stoke;
8.	Police and Crime Commissioner	55 - 58	Chalvey All Wards
9.	Forward Work Programme	59 - 62	
10.	Date of Next Meeting The next meeting of the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel will take place on 6 March 2013.		

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

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Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 15th November, 2012.

Present: Councillors Minhas (Chair), Bal, Carter, Dar, O'Connor, Plenty, Sohal and Wright (Vice-Chair)

Non-Voting Co-Opted Members Present: Vivianne Royal (Customer Senate)

PART 1

70. Declarations of Interest

None.

71. Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 September 2012

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 18 September 2012 were approved as a correct record.

72. Member Questions

None received.

73. Olympic and Paralympic Games Review

Andrew Stevens (Assistant Director, Community and Skills) and Gillian Ralphs (Assistant Director, Enforcement and Regulatory Services) presented a report to the Panel on how the implementation of preparations for the Olympic and Paralympic Games worked in practice, and outlined some of the legacy work that was being undertaken in the aftermath of the events.

The Panel noted the work that had been done to ensure that concerns regarding possible disruption to residents had not materialised, and that the Borough's infrastructure had handled the complex organisation well, with strong partnership working being the primary tool for achieving this. The Panel congratulated all those who had been involved.

Panel members questioned whether the initial budget of £81k had been met, and officers confirmed that there had not been an overspend; but in responding to a question regarding staff time, officers confirmed that there had been a big impact on staff time, but that this was not part of the project budget as it had already been covered through the usual staff budgets.

The Panel also discussed the problems that had been experienced by some taxi drivers, and the potential for promoting local businesses through the events.

The Panel then discussed the events that were being proposed as part of the legacy programme, and the need to ensure that partnerships such as the marshalling network be utilised as part of this.

Resolved – to note the report.

74. **Beds in Sheds (Slough Sheds)**

The Panel received a report from Ray Haslam (Housing Standards Manager), supported by Helen Scullard (Head of Strategic Housing) and Gillian Ralphs (Assistant Director, Enforcement and Regulatory Services) on how Slough Borough Council is working to address the prevalence of beds in sheds in the Borough.

The Panel noted the difficulties posed by the lack of legislation supporting enforcement action, but recognised that despite the difficulties there had been 40 cessations of illegal use of outbuildings as dwellings in the previous 12 months. The Panel stressed the need for a proactive approach to tackling this issue, to send a message to rogue landlords, as well as the need to be standing up for the Council's values.

The Panel discussed the reconvening of the Project Management Board to drive forward the council's enforcement actions against landlords renting out illegal outbuildings in this way, and the use of Energy Performance Certification and thermal imaging as a method of targeting them. The Panel commented that this could only be done through a properly formulated policy and cross-directorate working within the Council.

Resolved:

- 1) to note the report; and
- 2) to appoint Councillor O'Connor as the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel representative on the Project Management Board, following a request from officers.

75. **Housing Performance**

Helen Scullard (Head of Strategic Housing) presented the report detailing the recent restructuring of in-house Housing Services and current performance for the service.

The Panel received assurances that with the Service reaching a more stable position, the new structure was seen to be working well, providing higher standards of housing management at a lower cost through integrated working; however, officers recognised that quality did still vary depending on the officer involved, and that training had been put in place to build up experience and provide a consistent, high quality service.

The Panel also raised issues around the performance of housing in the collection of rent arrears, and concerns about the impact of the upcoming changes to housing benefits.

Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - 15.11.12

Resolved – to note the report.

76. Forward Work Programme

Resolved – to note its current work programme.

77. Attendance Record

Resolved – that the Members attendance record be noted.

78. Date of Next Meeting - 10 January 2013

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10 January 2013.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.00 pm)

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 10 January 2013

CONTACT OFFICER: Louise Asby, Community Safety Manager 01753 875146
Avtar Maan, SSP Performance and Data Collection Manager
01753 877352

WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Councillor Munawar – Commissioner for Community and Leisure

PART I

FOR COMMENT

THE WORK OF THE SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide the Panel with information on the priorities and targets underlying the work of the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP).

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 That the Panel scrutinise the current priorities and targets as detailed in the report and comment on the effectiveness of the SSP.

3. **Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities**

- Safer communities

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications associated with the report.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
That the Panel	None.	None.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Those who are from minority ethnic groups, those with learning and physical disabilities and those with mental health problems are all at a disproportionately greater risk of becoming victims of anti-social behaviour.

(e) Workforce

This report describes changes that have been made to the work-force following the transfer of the local authority's housing stock.

5. **Background**

5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the requirement for local authorities, Police and other key agencies to work together to tackle crime and disorder via Community Safety Partnerships. The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) is Slough's Community Safety Partnership.

5.2 The SSP is a Priority Delivery Group (PDG) which reports to the Shadow Slough Wellbeing Board, and its work feeds into the Sustainable Community Strategy. There are terms of reference in place which are currently being reviewed. Meetings take place quarterly and members include Slough Borough Council (including an elected member), Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue, East Berkshire Primary Care Trust (due to be abolished by 2013) and Thames Valley Probation. The following members are co-operating bodies who support delivery: Slough Business Community Partnership, Slough Council for Voluntary Services, and Registered Social Landlords. There is also a representative of the Berkshire Bench (magistrates) who is invited to support the work of members.

5.3 The SSP seeks to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. It also seeks to reduce the harm that drugs cause to individuals, families and the wider community and create a safe place and cleaner environment for all those who live, work, visit and invest in Slough.

6. **Current SSP priorities**

6.1 Priorities are determined based on the outcomes of the Strategic Assessment. The Strategic Assessment is an annual report which identifies current and future opportunities and risks relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, drug misuse and behaviour affecting the environment in Slough. It identifies priorities, strategic actions and targets that will be monitored and supported by the SSP. Specific action plans are drawn up to ensure multi-agency delivery at an operational level.

6.2 In order to effectively reduce harm in 2012/13 the Safer Slough Partnership has used the Strategic Assessment to identify the following priorities:

Priority 1: Reduce violent crime

Particular effort will be made to reduce:

- Youth Gang-related violence
- Domestic Violence

Priority 2: Acquisitive Crime

Particular effort will be made to reduce:

- Burglary
- Robbery

Priority 3: Anti-Social Behaviour

Particular effort will be made to reduce:

- Street Prostitution
- Repeat victimisation

7. Current SSP targets

7.1 The SSP agreed the following local targets for 2012/13 (baseline for all targets is year 2011/12):

- Maintaining the level of “All Crime” at below **16,759** (the annual average between 07/08 and 11/12)
- Reducing property crime – **5%** reduction in burglary and personnel robbery and increase the detection rate to **17%**
- Reducing violent crime – **5%** reduction in assaults without injury, wounding and serious violence and increase the detection rate to **30%**
- Reducing serious sexual offences and maintain detection rates above **30%**
- Anti-Social Behaviour (target to be defined)
- **40%** of those who successfully complete drug treatment do not re-present for treatment within six months

7.2 Key initiatives are in place to reduce violent crime and this includes the provision of new services around domestic abuse and targeted work against gangs. Implementation of a new CCTV system and a new anti-burglary campaign is currently reducing acquisitive crime. The continuation of the initiatives put in place to address street prostitution and repeat victimisation and intensive work with the most troubled families in the town will reduce levels of anti-social behaviour. The Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) services have also recently be re-commissioned.

7.3 For more detailed information on partnership working and projects, please see ‘Community Safety in Slough’ (Appendix A). For performance statistics please see Appendix B.

8. Overall picture of crime in Slough

8.1 Between April 2011 and March 2012 reported crime in Slough fell by 11.7% and reported anti-social behaviour fell by 21%. This is part of a long-term trend which has seen the level of reported crime in the town fall for each of the last three years, including an overall reduction of 29% since April 2003. Furthermore, the SSP has reduced crime at a higher rate than other local authorities in our most similar family group.

9. **Risks to performance**

- 9.1 Thames Valley Police has a low number of police officers per 1000 crimes (compared, for example, to the Metropolitan Police Service in London). This means that there is less resource to tackle crime in Slough.
- 9.2 The SSP receives funding from the Home Office to allow it to focus on local priorities, including ASB. This money has mainly been used to fund posts, including an ASB caseworker, Domestic Abuse Coordinator and mapping and performance posts. In November 2012 elections took place for Police and Crime Commissioners. As of April 2013 funds will go to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to allocate and there is the possibility that the new PCC may choose to prioritise other areas of work. As a consequence, savings achieved through the recent restructuring of the Enforcement and Regulatory Services Division will be used to mainstream the above mentioned posts.

10. **Conclusion**

- 10.1 The SSP is working well. The annual Strategic Assessment is used to identify partnership priorities and performance targets. Furthermore, the effective use of intelligence has enabled resources to be directed in an effective manner resulting in a 29% reduction in the annual level of reported crime since April 2003.

11. **Appendices attached**

- A - Community Safety in Slough (for case studies)
- B - SSP Performance table

12. **Background Papers**

- 1 - Strategic Assessment
- 2- SSP terms of reference

Community Safety in Slough

Part of the Thames Valley Policing Area

WORKING WITH

Introduction

This is a document aimed at introducing the crime issues in Slough and the work of the local Community Safety Partnership in tackling those issues.

It is hoped that the strong work that has been done will continue in partnership with the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

More information is available on the Slough Borough Council website or from the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Safer Slough Partnership.

Ruth Bagley
Chief Executive, Slough Borough Council and
Chair of Safer Slough Partnership

Richard Humphrey
Superintendent, Local Policing Area
Commander, Thames Valley Police and Deputy
Chair of Safer Slough Partnership

Slough - quick facts

- Slough sits near the south-eastern most corner of the Thames Valley Police area.
- Slough is a unitary local government area.
- Slough has a highly diverse population:
 - The 2011 initial census results set Slough's population at 140,200, a rise of 16.3% since 2001 (10th highest increase across England)
 - A BME population of 37% and one third of the population born outside of the UK (this figure is subject to change, and likely increase, once the full breakdown from the 2011 Census has been released).
 - Over 140 different languages are spoken in the town
 - Age - 55% of population under 35 years of age
 - Population generally experiences lower skills levels when compared with the rest of the Thames Valley area
 - Population are generally lower financial earners when compared with the rest of the Thames Valley area

Slough as part of the Thames Valley

Because of its location bordering the west of London, its proximity to Heathrow and its diverse population, Slough is vital to current and future community cohesion in the Thames Valley area. The town guides and supports new arrivals in the country, providing them with the tools necessary to adapt and contribute to their new communities.

Despite the wide variety of cultural backgrounds in the town there is a strong sense of family and community, which was highly visible in August 2011 when Slough did not suffer the level of rioting that other areas with similar demographics did.

Slough plays an important role in the life of residents across the Thames Valley. The town provides high performing schools, medical care and employment and it acts as a cultural centre: many people come to Slough to celebrate significant stages in their lives in the town's churches, temples, mosques and secular venues.

Community Safety in Slough

Whilst Slough's population is a positive resource for the Thames Valley, it is also important to recognise and understand the unique problems of the area. Slough is the most deprived local authority area in the Thames Valley, and has one area that is within the 10% most deprived in the country according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Slough's residents suffer disproportionately from poor health, low income and over-crowded housing, as well as crime and anti-social behaviour.

For example: Slough contains 5.8% of the Thames Valley population, 5.2% of Thames Valley households and yet suffers from 9.7% of crime.

The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) was set up as the local Community Safety Partnership in 2000 and since then there has been a 29% reduction in reported crime in Slough. The SSP has been particularly effective over the last three years, overseeing an 11.7% fall in crime and a 21% fall in anti-social behaviour.

The SSP's aim is to "reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. It seeks to reduce the harm that drugs and alcohol cause to individuals, families and the wider community and create a safer environment for all those who live, work and visit in Slough."

The work of the SSP to date has had a significant impact on the crime figures for the Thames Valley as a whole. Between April 2011 and March 2012 reported crime in Thames Valley fell 13% on previous year. 8.5% of this reduction was achieved in Slough. This broke down as follows:

- 22% of total reduction in personal robbery in Thames Valley was achieved in Slough
- 12% of total reduction in theft from a motor vehicle in Thames Valley was achieved in Slough
- 13% of total reduction in theft of a motor vehicle in Thames Valley was achieved in Slough
- 10.9% of total reduction in violence against the person in Thames Valley was achieved in Slough

The SSP, which brings together the Thames Valley Police Local Policing Area, Slough Borough Council and Thames Valley Probation Authority, has worked hard to achieve these successes and detailed case studies have been included at the end of this document.

Despite working with a relatively small budget (£213,138 in 2011/12) we believe the SSP has invested wisely and successfully in the following initiatives:

- Mapping of problems - a new crime mapping post to provide reports at fortnightly meetings for inspectors in the police and managers at Slough Borough Council.
- Aims, targets and plans that are shared by all partners - a partnership performance post.
- Initiatives that address the underlying causes of crime - an alcohol worker, a drugs worker and a worker to co-ordinate support to victims of domestic abuse.
- Targeted work with offenders - an officer to co-ordinate actions against prolific offenders and an anti-social behaviour case worker.

Conclusion

The SSP has established a reputation for success and would look to continue this, in collaboration with the new Police and Crime Commissioner. The SSP has completed a strategic assessment for the 2012/13 year and has agreed its priorities around:

- Reducing violent crime (including the provision of new services around domestic abuse and targeted work against gangs)
- Reducing acquisitive crime (including implementing a new CCTV system and a new anti-burglary campaign)
- Continuing initiatives aimed at addressing street prostitution, repeat victimisation and troubled families to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour

Case studies

Information Sharing Policy

In 2010 the Safer Slough Partnership, working with Berkshire Shared Services (Berkshire NHS Healthcare Trust), introduced an information sharing policy. The policy set out the framework for information sharing to take place between partners and gave an explanation of the legal basis for information sharing. Partners who signed the protocol included:

- Thames Valley Police
- Thames Valley Probation
- Slough Borough Council
- Slough Council for Voluntary Services

As a result of this the Safer Slough Partnership has been able to share appropriate information and deliver effective multi-agency initiatives. Some of these initiatives are detailed below.

The CCTV Service

CCTV camera systems are installed within areas of the Borough where crime and disorder priorities exist. Working closely with Thames Valley Police and other partners, the CCTV team operates 24 / 7x 365 delivering a full range of community focussed services including the operation of over 70 fixed site and 7 high quality redeployable wireless CCTV camera systems which are installed in response to changing crime priorities within the borough. The CCTV Operators also use and manage the Slough Town Against Crime retail and Pub Watch radio systems.

The Control Centre is fully compliant with all relevant legislation and Codes of Practice for CCTV; all staff being fully trained and qualified Control Room Operators. The CCTV teams are also enhanced CRB checked and Police vetted for access to Police radio, briefing and data networks.

The Slough Borough Council CCTV system is currently undergoing a major refurbishment and upgrade programme which will be completed by December 2012. When complete, the Centre will boast a state of the art digital video monitoring and recording system capable of producing high quality video evidence for the identification of suspects and the prosecution of offenders.

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team is responsible for enforcing the law in relation to nuisance, pests and enviro-crime including fly tipping, littering, graffiti and dog fouling. The team also gathers and reports intelligence regarding crime and Anti-social behaviour. The Neighbourhood Enforcement Service is provided by Environmental Health, Enforcement Officers and Community Wardens and has a very significant role to play in reducing crime and fear of crime in partnership with the police and the community safety team.

Youth Violence

The Grey Bandana Gang (GBG) is a Slough-based gang with a core of between 11 and 15 criminally active members and up to 40 associated members. There has been a violent rivalry between the GBG and a group in High Wycombe.

In response to the concerns regarding the GBG, in 2011 the Safer Slough Partnership established the Youth Violence Management Panel to ensure a multi-agency response to tackling youth violence. Since implementation of the panel the following is of note:

- Applications have been made for Gang Injunctions on four young people who have been identified as being central to coordinating gang related activity in Slough.
- Arrangements have been made to share intelligence and information locally such as prison release dates, sentences, and Risk of Offending data held by the Youth Offending Team (YOT).
- A monthly partnership case review has been set up to look at each individual involved or on the periphery and an action plan for each is being implemented. This includes home visits, mentoring and diversionary activities, and enforcement action.

Youth Offending

Slough Youth Offending Team (YOT) delivers youth justice services in order to prevent offending and protect the public.

Type of Work	Details
Governance Arrangements	YOT Management Board consists of statutory partners, the courts and an elected member. Plan located at: www.slough.gov.uk/crime-prevention-and-emergencies/slough-youth-offending-team.aspx
Prevention	Youth Inclusion Support Programme (YISP) offered from age of 8 years old, working with young person and family in a restorative manner. Interventions include offending behaviour, victim awareness, substance misuse, mental health, positive activities etc.
Pre Court	AA services delivered via volunteers. YRDs, Youth Cannabis Warnings (YCWs) and Reprimands are screened for risk factors and interventions applied as required.
Bail Support	Individually tailored support programmes are provided for young people on bail at the Courts' request, with the aim of helping young people comply with bail conditions. Saturdays and Bank Holidays are covered.
Final Warnings	Delivered by seconded Police Officer and, where appropriate, programme of intervention included to prevent further offending.
Court Ordered Interventions	Based on risk, need, reoffending etc. an intervention programme, often supported by specialists, is developed. Cases are supervised in line with national standards and where applicable orders are made more robust via intensive supervision programmes and curfews. Victims needs/work integral to intervention.
Other Services	Knife/Weapons Awareness programme. Serious Youth Violence work linked to gangs. Rapid English Programme which enables young people to make rapid progress in literacy and communication developed by reading.

Street Prostitution (Street Sex Working)

In 2007, the Safer Slough Partnership carried out research into the harms caused by street prostitution in Slough. Following targeted work, including Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and the regular arrest of prostitutes who were seen soliciting there was a significant reduction in the number of prostitutes and the level of associated anti-social behaviour. However, due to changes in legislation to treat prostitutes as victims rather

than perpetrators, in 2008 Eastern European street prostitutes began frequenting Slough and by 2011 there were, two distinct groups:

1. British-born street workers who frequented an area in the north of the town and who tended to be drug-users.
2. Eastern European street workers who frequented an area in the south of the town, who were not drug-users and sent money to their families in Eastern Europe.

In 2011 the Safer Slough Partnership introduced a Street Prostitution case review meeting to enforce legislation and support the vulnerable. This has led to a range of actions including:

- Arrest operations against kerb crawlers: 36 men were arrested for kerb crawling during a four-day operation in 2011
- The issuing of removal letters by the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) to Eastern European sex workers.
- Support offered to sex workers, including access to drug treatment, safe housing, assistance with applying for benefits, and counselling and support.

Troubled Families

In Slough there are a number of problematic families that account for a disproportionate amount of crime and anti-social behaviour. The Safer Slough Partnership has introduced a Family Intervention Project that allows cases referred from a range of agencies to be dealt with together. Between April 2011 and March 2012 the Family Intervention Project worked intensely with 43 problematic families in Slough that had been referred from the following sources:

- Thames Valley Police (five cases)
- Housing Provider (eight cases)
- Schools (nine cases)
- Drug Services (three cases)
- Children’s Social Care (eighteen cases)

Outcomes from this work were as follows:

Outcome	Number of families in existing caseload demonstrating measurable improvement	Examples of improvement
Reduced offending	16	"At referral point there 295 complaints about this family in 1 year, since FIT Family Improvement Tenancy) move and FIP intervention to date 1 complaint."
Improvement in the safety of the child	17	"All six children off CP and moved to short term CIN plan"
Stable housing	19	"Notice Seeking Possession terminated with FIT move, tenancy due to become secure in March 2012"
Improved school attendance	10	11 yr old 100%, 15 yr old 94 %, LAC 100%, 17yr old college 96%
Improvement in health and well-being of the family	16	"Mother referred to CMHT re mental health and is on medication. Mother on methadone reduction programme and engaged with addiction nurse, appropriate level of reduction."
Parents in employment or work-related training	7	"After 10 years of being unemployed mother gained a job with FIP support."

During 2012/13 the Troubled Families programme in Slough will identify 110 families who will receive a focussed and new approach to dealing with their problems that leads to lasting change.

Domestic Abuse

Between April 2011 and March 2012 Thames Valley Police recorded 3,531 incidents of domestic abuse in the Slough area (1,191 recordable and 2,340 non recordable). This represented a 2.3% increase from the previous year.

During the same time period, the Safer Slough Partnership part funded a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator for the East Berkshire area whose role is to co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to domestic abuse across East Berkshire at a strategic level.

There are a number of domestic abuse services in Slough which are delivered primarily by two voluntary sector providers: Berkshire East and South Bucks Women's Aid and Kinara Asian Women's Service.

During 2011/12, Berkshire East & South Bucks Women's Aid provided the following:

- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service, supporting a total of 314 women (294) and men (20) in Slough at high risk of domestic abuse. The IDVA supports high risk clients for up to 12 weeks (or longer if risks increase within this time) - when risks are reduced, the clients are offered continued support from the Outreach service.
- Outreach service, supporting 193 clients in Slough. An outreach worker can support a client for up to 2 years.
- 58 women and 42 children provided with refuge accommodation however all were from other local authority areas.
- Other services includes support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, delivery of training for practitioners, support groups for women affected by domestic abuse.

During 2011/12 the Kinara Asian Women's Refuge supported 32 women and 30 children with refuge accommodation. Of these, 2 women (6%) were originally from the Slough area. In addition, during the same time period, 111 women were supported through outreach work.

In addition to the work of the IDVA and Kinara, high risk clients are also supported through the monthly meetings of the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference). All key agencies attend to share information to increase the safety, health and well being of survivors/victims and their children; and agree and implement a joint risk management plan.

In 2011/12, 229 cases were heard at the MARAC (57% of these cases were referred by Police, 38% by the IDVA, and the remainder by other agencies such as Children's Social Care, Probation etc.)

There has been limited work around the perpetrators of domestic abuse, other than through the Community Domestic Violence Programme provided by Probation. In 2012/13 we have been looking to address this through community-based programmes in Slough.

Salt Hill Park Violent Crime

In 2009 the SSP identified high levels of violent crime in Salt Hill Park as a priority issue. A multiagency action group was set up to address the ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal activity in the park. The park falls within an alcohol control zone. Problems included groups of Polish and Somali males gathering in the park, consuming alcohol, being intimidating to members of the public, causing criminal damage and other criminal activities. There were also ongoing issues with the tunnel that runs through the park, and the lack of lighting which presented risks for those using it. The tunnel structure is owned by Network Rail, but SBC maintains the tunnel and the lighting.

Profile of the groups gathering in Salt Hill Park were as follows:

- There were 2 main groups - Polish and Somali, however the Somali group were not a major problem
- The early morning drinkers were Polish males between 13yrs and 18yrs.
- The evening group were also Polish males and females, and were mixed in age.

Crime statistics

There were 13 robberies and 3 theft (snatches) in the park between January and October 2009. 6 of these occurred in October 2009 and the worst incident was an assault that took place in the tunnel. There was no clear pattern of crime. Figures have reduced since the work was carried out and most recently there were two assaults in the park in April. One perpetrator was caught as a result of the CCTV camera in a previous incident.

Outcomes

Work took place included:

- Installing CCTV outside and inside the tunnel
- Improving the lighting inside the tunnel and making design changes including a mural and moving fence line
- Targeted youth support (Youth Bus attends Salt Hill Park every Monday evening)
- More engagement with the public using the tunnel and café owner, bowling alley
- Regular pruning of trees and bushes

Integrated Offender Management

Slough is served by Thames Valley Probation's East Berkshire Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team which operates in partnership with designated Thames Valley Police colleagues and has close links with a variety of agencies relating to offending needs (employment, accommodation, mental health, substance misuse etc).

The team works with prolific serious acquisitive crime offenders who typically display the whole range of offending needs and so require intensive support. The Safer Slough Partnership provides some funding of a team post to assist that.

IOM offenders have priority access to Probation interventions relating to such issues as thinking skills, citizenship and restorative justice amongst others, as well as local drug and alcohol treatment provision. They are given intensive hands-on support to access and maintain contact with accommodation, employment and health services, which experience tells us they would not engage with otherwise.

In addition to rehabilitative support, IOM offenders are prioritised for speedy enforcement should they re-offend or otherwise fail to co-operate with statutory community order or post-release prison licence requirements. That may include being returned to court for re-sentencing or being recalled straight to prison.

In the 2011-12 fiscal year the IOM scheme worked with in excess of 40 Slough prolific offenders, whose re-offending reduced, according to data sourced from the Police National Computer, by an average of 65%.

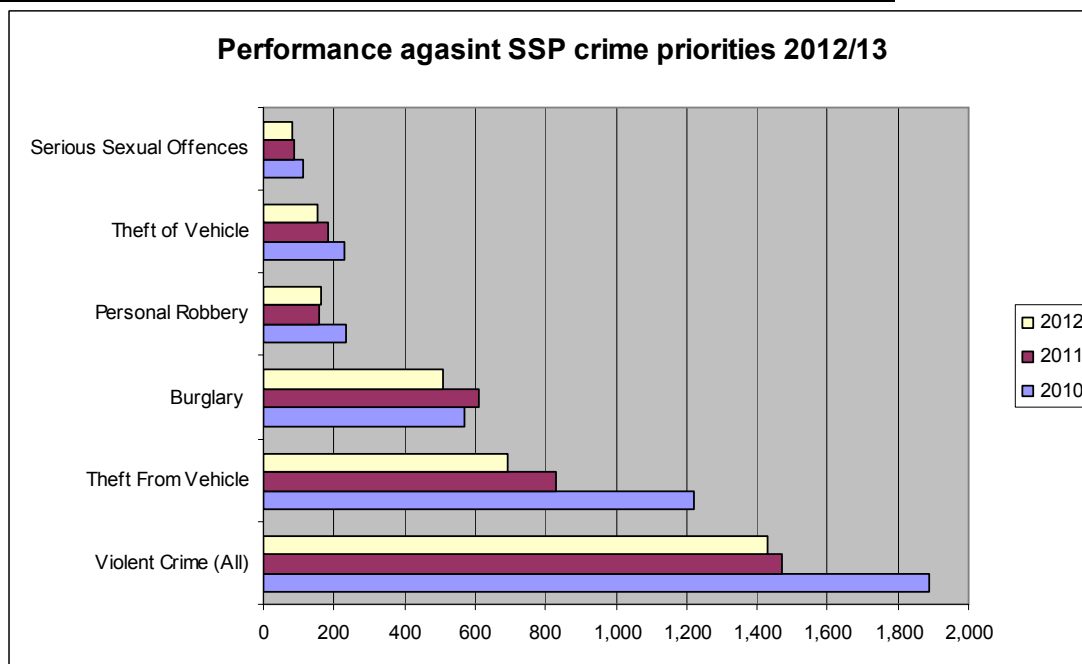
Community Safety in Slough

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Appendix B

All Crime has reduced by 13.5% since April 2010; this is the equivalent of 1,142 victims. Significant improvements have been made when comparing the incidents of crime on the corresponding period last year. This is illustrated in the graph below:

Performance against SSP Crime Priorities (Apr-Oct) 2010 - 2012



Crime Type/ year	2010	2011	2012	Reduction
All Crime	9,876	8,464	7,322	-13.5%
Violent Crime (All)	1,890	1,469	1,428	-2.8%
Theft From Vehicle	1,223	831	692	-6.7%
Burglary	570	611	508	-16.9%
Personal Robbery	233	160	161	+0.6%
Theft of Vehicle	229	183	153	-16.4%
Serious Sexual Offences	113	84	82	-2.4%

The reduction in crime has outpaced the average amongst the most similar family group in many crime types. The reductions are across the board; violent crime, acquisitive crime and stealing are all showing a positive reduction.

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel
DATE: 10 January 2013
CONTACT OFFICER: Louise Asby, Community Safety Manager. Extension 5146
WARD(S): All
PORTFOLIO: Councillor Munawar – Commissioner for Community and Leisure

PART I

FOR COMMENT

REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN SLOUGH

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide the Panel with information on the work of the Community Safety Team and partners in tackling anti-social behaviour in Slough.

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 That the Panel scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Team and partners in tackling anti-social behaviour in Slough.

3. **Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities**

- Safer Communities

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications associated with the report.

(b) **Risk Management**

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
That Members scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Team and partners in tackling anti-social behaviour.	No risks	n/a

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Those who are from minority ethnic groups, those with learning and physical disabilities and those with mental health problems are all at a disproportionately greater risk of becoming victims of anti-social behaviour.

(e) Workforce

This report describes changes that have been made to the work-force following the transfer of the local authority's housing stock.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 Tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) remains a priority in Slough and is highlighted in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Safer Slough Partnership priorities.

5.2 The Home Office definition of ASB is “any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life”. This is a deliberately broad definition as antisocial behaviour is subjective and may vary from person to person and community to community.

Current legislation – tools and powers

5.3 a) the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Parenting Orders;

b) the Criminal Justice Act 2001 introduced Fixed Penalty Notices to tackle drinking in certain public places, and made kerb crawling an arrestable offence;

c) the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 reinforced these powers and introduced new provisions including crack house closure powers, ensuring landlords take responsibility for tackling ASB, making Parenting Orders more widely available, and the dispersal of groups;

d) other legislation used to tackle enviro type ASB such as dog fouling, noise nuisance and fly tipping includes the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Housing Act 1996 and the Noise Act 1996.

5.4 The recently published white paper, 'Putting Victims first - more effective responses to antisocial behaviour', sets out the government's plans to introduce more effective measures to tackle antisocial behaviour. These will, when introduced, replace the tools and powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. At present, and potentially for the next two years, the existing toolkit remains active – this includes Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), crack house closures and dispersal orders, all of which have been used in Slough.

- 5.5 As the white paper states: “We know what victims of antisocial behaviour want. First and foremost, they want the behaviour to stop, and the perpetrators to be punished for what they’ve done. They want the authorities to take their problem seriously, to understand the impact on their lives and to protect them from further harm. They want the issue dealt with swiftly and they don’t want it to happen again.”

Casework

- 5.6 Tackling antisocial behaviour is not just about enforcement activity; it is also about engagement with, and support for, victims, working with perpetrators to support them in changing their behaviour, working with partners on long term problem solving, and adhering to the ASB service standards when dealing with casework (see appendix A). The ASB Service Standards set out the service that residents can expect, which includes timescales for contact.
- 5.7 Risk assessments are carried out for each case and multiagency case conferences are held where required. At these meetings, the case is carefully considered along with the recorded evidence and an action plan is put together. This may include home visits by a housing officer, police officer and/or ASB Victims Champion, and will be followed up with ongoing support along with the offer of mediation. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) or Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) may be considered. There is also an Early Response Hub in Childrens’ Services which works with families where young people are offending or are at risk of offending or are on the Social Services register. Slough holds monthly ASB Case Review meetings to look at all ongoing cases and flag up new ones (please see appendix B for case studies).

Location-based ASB

- 5.8 Cases where a specific location is a problem may be passed to the Community Safety Team to coordinate resolution, for example, gating an alleyway, improving lighting, or relocating benches where groups have been gathering. There are three Community Project Officers who explore and implement these long term solutions as well as the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team comprising Environmental Health Officers, Enforcement Officers and Community Wardens who tackle the immediate ‘envirocrime’ issues including dog fouling, graffiti, flyipping, noise nuisance and rats. Community projects aim to improve the appearance and ‘feel’ of an area and to help instil community confidence and reduce fear of crime. Tools and powers to tackle the immediate problem can be used whilst longer term solutions are implemented, including dispersal orders to alleviate the problem of groups gathering and causing ASB, and Designated Public Place Orders to tackle street drinking.

Gating Projects

- 5.9 The Community Safety team receives funding for gating schemes across the borough. The purpose of these gating schemes is to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and fear of crime, and to reassure local communities who have been suffering from crime and ASB in their neighbourhoods. The Community Project Officers have been carrying out gating projects since 2008. Areas for gating have been identified by residents, Councillors and resident forums such as the Neighbourhood Action Groups.

- 5.9 Gating continues to be a priority for the Community Project Officers and a new policy is currently being produced to help further streamline the current process.
- 5.10 In brief, if there is evidence of crime and/or anti-social behaviour in an alleyway and residents would like it gated off, the Community Project Officers will undertake further investigation and consultation with a view to the area being gated.
- 5.11 28 gating schemes were completed between April 2008 and March 2012, incorporating 77 gates and offering enhanced security to 627 properties. Residents have reported feeling safer in their homes and neighbourhoods once the gates have been installed.
- 5.12 A further 63 locations are currently under consideration and 14 schemes have been completed since April 2012.

Housing Service and Community Safety

- 5.13 The transfer of the local authority's housing stock in April 2011 resulted in the creation of an ASB Escalation Officer post within the Community Safety Team with specific responsibility for dealing with Council tenants who cause ongoing ASB.
- 5.14 Since April 2011 all low-level ASB caused by Council tenants has been dealt with by Neighbourhood Housing Officers (NHOs) with the more serious and challenging cases being passed to the ASB Escalation Officer for possible court action. The Community Safety Manager is currently looking to carry out a needs assessment to see if this system is working well and fit for purpose or if additional resources are required. An audit of ASB casework has recently been undertaken and will be used to further policies, procedures and working practice.
- 5.15 The NHOs and ASB Escalation Officer are responsible for tackling ASB caused by Council tenants and properties (rather than multi-tenure) because they are funded from the Housing Revenue Account. ASB involving private homeowners and those who rent from private landlords or registered social landlords is dealt with by the Community Safety Team's ASB caseworker and ASB Victims Champion.

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team

- 5.16 The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team is responsible for enforcing the law in relation to nuisance, pests and enviro-crime including fly tipping, littering, graffiti and dog fouling. The Team also gathers and reports intelligence regarding crime and anti-social behaviour. The Neighbourhood Enforcement Service is provided by Environmental Health, Enforcement Officers and Community Wardens and has a very significant role to play in reducing crime and fear of crime in partnership with the police and the community safety team (Neighbourhood Enforcement Team enforcement statistics are attached as appendix C).

Multi-agency working and repeat victims

- 5.17 In 2007, a mother committed suicide along with her disabled daughter in Leicestershire. They had suffered ongoing targeted anti-social behaviour over a ten-year period and whilst she had reported it constantly to the Police and local authority over the years it had never been satisfactorily dealt with. It emerged that Police had not shared this information with the local authority (and vice versa) and

each call had been treated as an individual incident and not linked with previous ones – thus a pattern was not spotted.

5.18 As a result of the Pilkington case, Police forces including Thames Valley Police introduced a Repeat Victims Matrix which is used for each case to assess the level of risk. It looks at whether the ASB is targeted, how it is making the victim feel, and how often it is taking place. In cases where the case is assessed as medium or high risk, an urgent case conference is called and all relevant partners (for example, Children's Services, Community Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol Action Team) are asked to attend so that information is shared appropriately and an action plan can be put in place. This will include support for the victim via the ASB Victims Champion.

5.19 ASB Service Standards are in place to ensure that residents know what service they can expect when they contact Slough Borough Council to report ASB and these service standards are regularly monitored to ensure they are being met.

ASB surveys

5.20 Officers in the Community Safety and Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams carry out face-to-face interviews with residents across the borough on an on-going basis to find out how they feel about their neighbourhoods, and the council's response to ASB issues. Appendix D attached outlines the survey findings and shows that rubbish, litter, teenagers hanging around on the streets, and people being drunk or rowdy in public places are the issues of greatest concern. The surveys also highlight that people do not always report ASB and therefore it is important that residents are encouraged to report, particularly as any response to tackling ASB needs to be evidence-based.

5.21 Reports of ASB fell by 21% between April 2011 and March 2012.

6. **Conclusion**

6.1 Slough Borough Council, by working in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other agencies, has been successful in reducing the level of anti-social behaviour in Slough. The case studies provided show the partnership working that has been taking place to tackle ASB, victims are provided with the best possible service and perpetrators are dealt with robustly yet fairly. It is important that residents feel able to report ASB, know how to do so, and feel confident that appropriate action will be taken and this is always going to remain the focus of the Community Safety Team.

7. **Appendices attached**

- A - ASB Service Standards
- B - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) case studies
- C - ASB enforcement action statistics
- D - ASB survey results

8. **Background Papers**

None.

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Slough Borough Council

Anti-Social Behaviour Service Standards

Councils have a legal duty to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and race crime, and to ensure that people feel safe in their communities. We also have a duty to work with other partner agencies, including the police, fire service, housing providers, voluntary agencies and local businesses.

The Safer Slough Partnership is Slough's Community Safety Partnership and includes the work of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team. One of the aims of the partnership is to reduce crime, ASB and fear of crime.

A widely used definition of ASB is the definition contained in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), describing it as:

'Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the defendant)'

ASB can include:

- Dumped rubbish and flytipping
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Noise nuisance
 - Vandalism
 - Graffiti
 - Soliciting for purposes of prostitution
 - Rowdy behaviour
 - Dangerous dogs
 - Harassment
 - Drug dealing
 - Begging
 - Neighbour disputes
- and many other types of behaviour or perceived behaviour which has a negative impact on people's daily lives.

**Help us to sort it.
If you see it, report it.**

**Anti-social
behaviour hotline (24 hrs)
01753 875298**



Tackling ASB - what you can expect from us

We will:

- **make it easy for you to report ASB**, by phone, email, letter or in person
 - always **act promptly** in response to your complaint, take your case seriously and treat you in a courteous and professional manner
 - seek to **make contact** with you and carry out an interview in urgent cases, such as racial harassment, within 24 hours (this may not always be possible over the weekend) and in all other cases within 5 working days. We will interview you by telephone or face to face, making sure you know the name of the caseworker dealing with your case, and we will treat your case with sensitivity
 - seek to **resolve your concerns** and provide you with feedback within 30 days
 - **keep you informed** of what actions we are taking face to face, over the phone or in writing
 - **keep monthly contact** with you and review each complaint after three months
 - **write to you** to confirm what is being done and to tell you if we close a case
- **put you in touch** with support services (if you would like us to) - for example, Victim Support or the ASB Victims' Champion
 - **work closely** with the police and other partners to tackle ASB and take appropriate action against the perpetrator(s), using all available powers to protect you and your community from ASB
 - **provide you with details of how to complain** if you feel appropriate action has not been taken. In the first instance we would like to resolve the problem ourselves, so please contact your case worker if you feel the issue has not been resolved satisfactorily. However, if you still do not feel appropriate action has been taken, please see below for our Corporate Complaints procedure
 - **keep you updated** on what we are doing to tackle ASB in your area, via leaflets, newspaper articles, online and in person at events or street briefings
 - **actively continue to work with as many people in Slough as we can** to understand the problems of ASB, listen to what you tell us and work with you on initiatives to tackle it

Complaints

If you have let us know you are not happy with our response, and we still have not resolved the issue to your satisfaction, complaints should be sent as follows:

- **Drugs and Community Safety Manager or Director**, 2nd Floor, St Martins Place, Slough, SL1 3UH
Email: communitysafety@slough.gov.uk

If you are still not happy with the response, contact:

- **Corporate Complaints Officer**, Slough Borough Council, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, Berks, SL1 3UQ
Email: complaints@slough.gov.uk

And if you are still not satisfied, contact:

- **Local Government Ombudsman**, PO Box 4771, Coventry, CV4 0EH
Telephone: 0300 061 0614 Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm.
Website: Local Government Ombudsman
Email: advice@lgo.org.uk
Text 'call back' to: 0762 480 4299
Fax: 024 7682 0001

How to contact us

If you have a housing provider, please call your housing officer in the first instance.

1. **Online** - using the reporting form on the council website - www.slough.gov.uk - is a quick and easy way to report ASB to us.
2. **Telephone** - you can call our ASB hotline on 01753 875298 - which is answered 24-hours a day.
3. **Write to us** - if you prefer to write a letter, you can send it to us at: Community Safety Team, 2nd Floor, St Martins Place, Slough, SL1 3UH.
4. **Email** - you can email us at communitysafety@slough.gov.uk.

For more information on ASB, please ask for a copy of our ASB Guide.

WORKING WITH

Case Studies

Case 1 - gangs

Background Summary

In the summer of 2011, the activity of the Grey Bandana Gang (GBG) came to the attention Slough Borough Council and Thames Valley Police, following several incidents of public disorder and robberies. The gang have been involved in a spate of serious robberies on trains, and also in incidents in Beaconsfield, the Marlow Regatta and other summer fairs, when GBG fought with other gangs from the surrounding towns in the area.

Circumstances Leading to Action (and action taken)

Monthly meetings were held from June 2011, involving (amongst others) TVP, Slough Borough Council, Youth Offending Teams, housing providers and schools to discuss the members of the GBG. Four members were identified as being the target for enforcement action, as they were believed to be the most involved in the activities; as such Gang Injunctions were pursued against the main four, which would include conditions preventing association with one another, use of threatening behaviour, and travelling to certain areas, which were all linked to the activity of the GBG as a whole.

In April 2012, an interim Gang Injunction was made against the four main members, pending the Court making a full Gang Injunction; during this time, the individuals would be bound by the conditions, unless they were varied, or revoked by the Court. In November 2012, the full Gang Injunctions were made, incorporating preventative conditions, but also supportive conditions, such as to attend anger management courses operated by Youth Offending Team or Probation (as appropriate for their age). The Injunctions prohibited association with a large number of known individuals linked to the GBG.

Police and Youth Service visited the areas frequented by the GBG to engage with them in an attempt to divert them to positive activities.

Severity of Offence & Previous History

The GBG had obtained a reputation as a violent and intimidating gang, and there were reports to Police that associating with the GBG was attractive to certain individuals. There were frequent reports of robberies and theft associated with the GBG, and also reports of large congregations, which had an intimidating effect on the public. The GBG had travelled to High Wycombe in January 2012, to fight with another gang; this resulted in a member of the GBG being shot (non-fatal, but life altering). As a result of the shooting, concerns were raised that reprisals could occur, either within Slough, or High Wycombe, although fortunately this did not materialise, although the victim of the shooting and his family were actively intimidated.

Public Benefit & Importance of Case

The Gang Injunctions for the four main individuals will prevent the intimidating nature of the GBG, and will disrupt the criminal activity, as there are conditions of non-association, restrictions on travel, being in a group of more than 3 people, and other conditions to curtail undesirable behaviour. The public will benefit from feeling safe, as the GBG will not be able to collect in large numbers, act aggressively or travel to certain areas; therefore the risk of being a victim of crime is reduced, and the feeling of safety will increase.

This was the first time Slough had applied for Gang Injunctions, as they were a relatively new tool available to tackle gang activity, so the successful application for four Gang Injunctions could lead to a greater use of this tool in the future.

Alternative Options to enforcement action

Police, Youth Offending Team, Youth Service and schools made attempts to engage with the individuals, and divert them away from gang activities. Those individuals who were social housing tenants were warned by their housing providers that criminal and antisocial behaviour close to the vicinity of their address could affect their tenancy. The attempted interventions were not effective, and the unacceptable behaviour continued, and despite the interim Gang Injunctions being imposed in April 2012, when the four individuals were aware of what was expected of them, they continued to associate with the GBG and were actively involved in the negative activities.

Case study 2 – ASB and noise

Background Summary

A lone female lived in a first floor maisonette, and her neighbour in the flat below repeatedly slammed his front door, and internal doors, as well as causing loud bangs, playing loud music, and shouting at her in retaliation for any noise she made in her daily activities (which were entirely reasonable), such as walking across the floor, and using her washing machine during the day. The perpetrator was also verbally abusive to the victim when outside. This behaviour endured for over 18 months, with only short periods of respite.

Circumstances Leading to Action (and action taken)

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team were involved due to the noise nuisance, and a noise abatement notice was imposed, at which point he received a warning that that further excessive noise would lead to prosecution. Unfortunately, due to the short duration of each episode, the incidents were not successfully witnessed for several months, as the noise would invariably cease prior to an environmental health officer being able to attend. On one occasion, the noise was witnessed by Police officers, and this was sufficient to prosecute for breach of the noise abatement notice. Following the prosecution at Court, an ASBO was imposed, which prevented the perpetrator from making sustained noise at his address, and using abusive language or intimidating the victim or her visitors; the ASBO was imposed for a 2 year period.

The ASB Victims' Champion was able to support the victim at Court, and provided an impact statement for the Court, which avoided the victim needing to speak in Court.

Severity of Offence & Previous History

The behaviour against the victim had been ongoing for 18 months, and had an impact on her welfare, as it was occurring where she lived. The victim lived alone, and felt particularly vulnerable due to the intimidating behaviour displayed towards her.

Action taken by Individual to Correct Matters (if any)

The victim had initially attempted to address the issues by herself, by approaching the neighbour and attempting to discuss a resolution; the neighbour was aggressive and intimidating, and was not prepared to curtail his behaviour, in fact he stated that was responding to the noise she made, and stated that she was at fault. The victim also purchased new carpet and sound insulating underlay, at her own expense, to attempt to reduce the noise that she made in her daily routine, but this did not improve matters and the aggressive reactions continued.

Public Benefit & Importance of Case

The imposition of the ASBO will give protection to anyone who occupies the victim's property, or visits as a guest for a 2 year period. The ASBO will remind the perpetrator that his behaviour was unacceptable, and should lead to an improvement in behaviour; in fact since the ASBO was imposed, there has been a great improvement in behaviour, and he no longer makes excessive noise to intimidate or cause

nuisance.

Alternative Options to enforcement action

Mediation between the parties was attempted to find a resolution; however, the perpetrator was initially unwilling to engage, and subsequently the perpetrator's behaviour deteriorated to the point that the victim did not wish to be in his company for any period of time. The perpetrator had been warned, by the environmental health officer, and Police whenever they visited, that the behaviour was unacceptable, and if it continued could result in prosecution. The perpetrator did not heed the warnings, and continued with the behaviour, resulting in Court action.

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ASB Statistics – Community Safety

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs)	5	11	2	2
Anti-social behaviour injunctions (ASBIs)	4 (2 with power of arrest)	5	1	1 + 4 interim gang injunctions
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)	14 5 signed & 9 refused	14 12 signed & 2 refused	10 9 signed & 1 refused	13 11 signed & 2 refused
Parenting Contracts (PCAs)	10 4 signed & 6 refused	5 5 offered & 5 signed	5 5 offered & 5 signed	3 3 offered & 3 signed
Dispersal Orders	1 dispersal order in Slough Town Centre	1 dispersal area in Chalvey covering Burlington Avenue and Salt Hill Park	0	0
Drug house/premises closures	1 Drug House Closure	1 premises closure for ASB	0	0

Neighbourhood Enforcement Team Activities relating to Anti-social Behaviour				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012 – 13 Dec 2012
Notice to prevent Unauthorised Access (to prevent squatting)	6	22	22	3
Environmental Hotspot Patrols	72	439	327	270
Dog Fouling Patrols	17	348	260	310
Refuse Accumulation Notices	104	141	78	36
Noise Abatement Notices	24	26	25	19
Noise Equipment Seizures	5	1	1	0
Fixed Penalty Notices	98	143	125	276
Prosecutions	6	2*	5*	3

* 1 Post conviction ASBO Re: noise nuisance

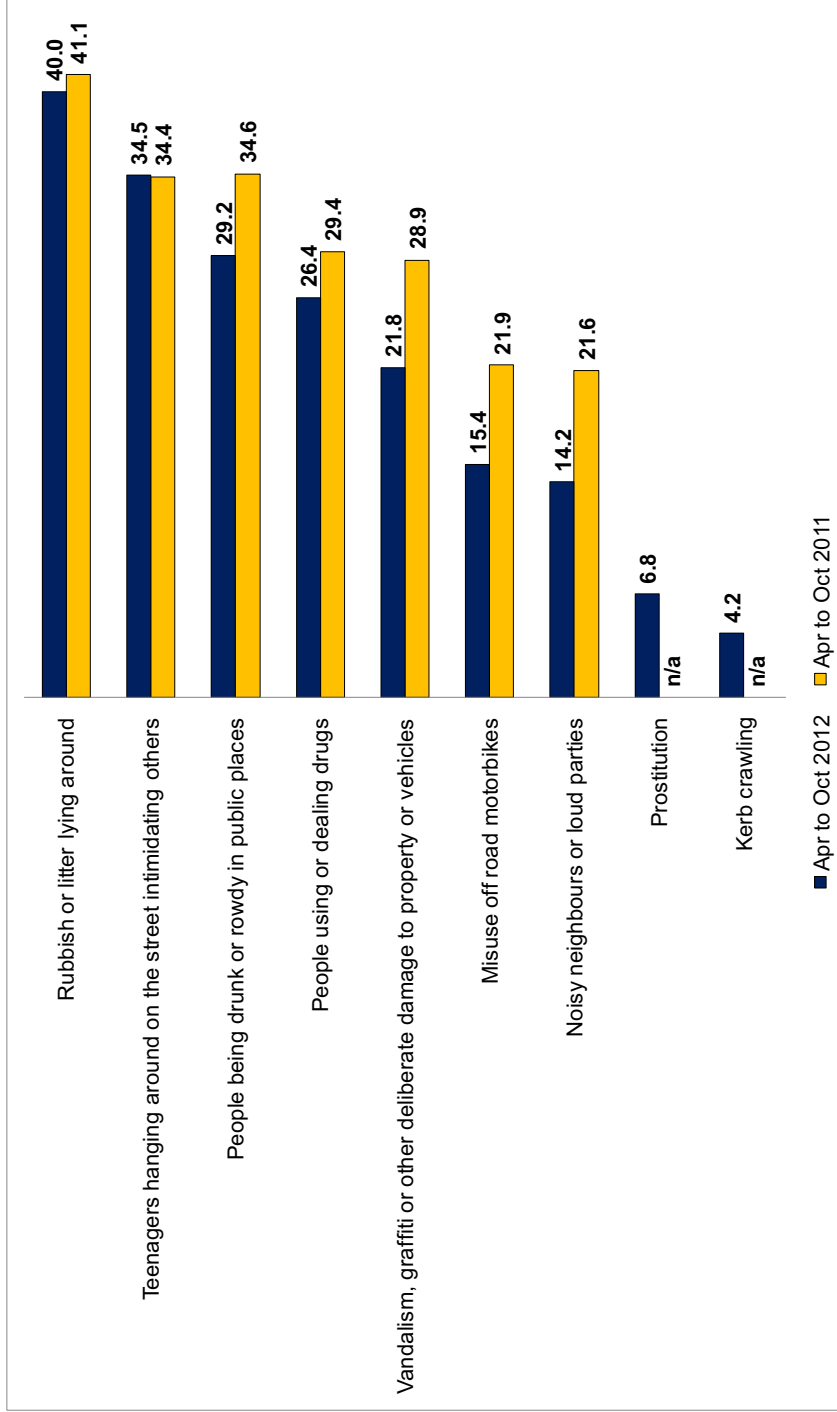
Anti-social behaviour (ASB) recorded by Slough Borough Council¹ during the periods Apr to Oct 2011 and Apr to Oct 2012

The purpose of this document is to give a concise comparative overview of perceived and reported ASB during the two periods mentioned above.

1. Perceived ASB

Slough residents completed a total of 547 ASB survey forms during Apr to Oct 2011 and a total of 1,111 ASB survey forms during Apr to Oct 2012.

Figure 1: **Percentage of residents who found specific ASB to be a fairly big to very big problem in their street (by type)**



As shown by Figure 1 on the left, there was almost no difference between the two periods regarding what residents perceived to be problematic ASB.

During both periods:

Rubbish or litter lying around was perceived to be the most problematic.

Teenagers hanging around on the street intimidating others was perceived to be the second most problematic during the 2012 period and third most problematic during the 2011 period.

People being drunk or rowdy in public places was perceived to be the third most problematic during the 2012 period and second most problematic during the 2011 period.

During the **2012** period,

Rubbish or litter lying around was perceived to be the most problematic in Central, Chalvey, and Cippenham Meadows.

Teenagers hanging around on the street intimidating others was perceived to be the most problematic in Central, Britwell, and Cippenham Meadows.

People being drunk or rowdy in public places was perceived to be the most problematic in Cippenham Meadows, Chalvey, and Central.

¹ Refers to ASB recorded by Enforcement and Regulatory Services. Data does not include ASB recorded by Housing Service

2. Reported ASB²

Figure 2 below shows the most reported types of ASB by period.

During both periods, the number of **fly-tipping** reports was the highest followed by the number of **noise nuisance** reports.

Figure 2: Number of ASB reports by type

Category	April to October		
	Both periods	2011 period	2012 period
Fly-tipping	1047	521	526
Noise nuisance	619	296	323
Littering	209	89	120
Dog fouling	185	63	122
Bonfire	155	65	90
Alcohol litter	153	20	133
Animal noise	142	66	76
Vehicle nuisance	129	65	64

Key

- # 1 ■
- # 2 ■
- # 3 ■
- # 4 ■
- # 5 ■

Source: SBC Flare

It would appear that perception and reality meet where **rubbish or litter lying around** is concerned.

The increase during the 2012 period in the number of **littering** (which includes people dropping cigarette butts); **dog fouling**; and **alcohol litter** reports can be attributed to operations carried out by the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET).

As shown by Figure 3 on the next page, reporting was the highest in **Central** ward during both periods.

Central, Chalvey, Wexham Lea, and Farnham had the top 5 highest reporting figures during both periods.

Figure 4 on the next page shows the distribution of the top 5 reported ASB types by ward. The 5 wards with the overall highest figures as far as the top 5 reported ASB types are concerned, are highlighted with the appropriate colour.

² As recorded on Flare, Slough Borough Council's Enforcement and Regulatory Services service request system

Figure 3: Number of ASB reports by ward³

Ward	April to October		
	Both periods	2011 period	2012 period
Central	228	92	136
Chalvey	183	87	96
Wexham Lea	182	85	97
Farnham	175	88	87
Cippenham Meadows	175	89	86
Baylis and Stoke	152	59	93
Upton	148	65	83
Colnbrook with Poyle	145	61	84
Britwell	143	88	55
Haymill	141	57	84
Kedermister	141	67	74
Langley St. Mary's	126	67	59
Foxborough	108	40	68
Cippenham Green	105	46	59

Key

	# 1
	# 2
	# 3
	# 4
	# 5

Source: SBC Flare

Figure 4: Number of ASB reports by type and ward

Top 5 wards by Top 5 reported ASB types for the period April to October 2012				
Fly-tipping by ward	Noise nuisance by ward	Alcohol litter by ward	Dog fouling by ward	Litter by ward
Central 55	Cippenham Meadows 33	Central 21	Foxborough 11	Central 13
Wexham Lea 48	Chalvey 31	Kedermister 20	Haymill 11	Upton 12
Colnbrook with Poyle 46	Haymill 30	Farnham 9	Cippenham Meadows 8	Foxborough 9
Chalvey 38	Farnham 29	Foxborough 7	Baylis and Stoke 7	Chalvey 8
Cippenham Meadows 34	Baylis and Stoke 25	Baylis and Stoke 3	Langley St. Mary's 7	Baylis and Stoke 7

Source: SBC Flare

³ Please note that the estimated geographical error rate for Flare data is at least 20%. This is a very high error rate

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 10 January 2013

CONTACT OFFICER: John Rice – Assistant Director Regeneration & Estates
Joe Carter – Head of Transport
Kate Pratt – Communications Manager

(For all enquiries) (01753) 875657

WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Councillor Swindlehurst – Commissioner for Neighbourhoods & Renewal

PART I
CONSIDERATION & COMMENT

BUS STATION COMMUNICATIONS

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 Following a request for Review from Councillor Plenty, this report is designed to provide the Panel with the necessary information to conclude whether the communications relating to the bus station project were adequate in relation to:

- a) how the public consultation was managed, and in particular the publicising of the outside nature of the design;
- b) the use of the Slough Citizen; and
- c) the dissemination of information to the elected members.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

2.1 That the Panel draw conclusions as to whether there are any lessons that can be learnt from how the communications were managed during the Bus Station project.

3 Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities

3.1 Priorities:

- Regeneration and Environment

The development of the new Bus Station, as part of the Heart of Slough project, was aimed at the comprehensive regeneration of that part of the town centre. The public engagement and Communications Plan for this were all part of the process.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	None	None
Property	None	None
Human Rights	None	None
Health and Safety	None	None
Employment Issues	None	None
Equalities Issues	None	None
Community Support	None	None
Communications	None	None
Community Safety	None	None
Financial	None	None
Timetable for delivery	None	None
Project Capacity	None	None
Other	None	None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no legal or Human Rights Act Implications relating to the content of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

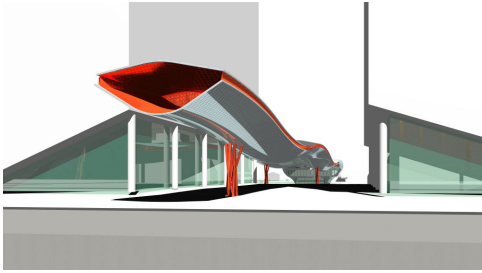
There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA relating to this report.

5 Supporting Information

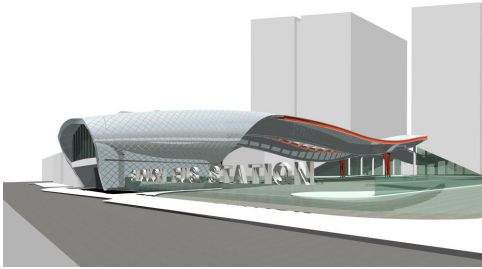
Consultation and outside nature of the Bus Station

- 5.1 The new Bus Station was one of the first elements of the Heart of Slough project to be completed. Therefore, much of the information put into the public domain about the Bus Station had come through the Heart of Slough project.
- 5.2 On 21 January 2008 the Cabinet, in a public meeting, approved the outline Heart of Slough Master Plan and development brief, with approval of further changes to be delegated to the Assistant Director, Property Services in consultation with the lead Commissioners (Resources, and Planning, Transportation and Legal & Democratic Services) if regarded as significant. This decision by Cabinet was taken following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's deliberations on the matter at its meeting on the 17 January 2008, and its comments were taken into consideration by Cabinet in taking its decision.
- 5.3 Following this, the Cabinet, again in a public meeting, approved the outline design of the new Bus Station at its meeting on the 4 December 2008, with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considering the same report immediately preceding the Cabinet. This report included drawings of the proposed design from a number of different angles, including:

View from A4 towards train station



Ground level view



- 5.4 The Heart of Slough Master Plan was approved by the Planning Committee on the 9 July 2009, following extensive consultation which included: writing to 1,526 residents or businesses and 85 external consultees, and putting up 50 site notices. From this the council received two objections and one comment from members of the public to the proposals. This public consultation was in addition to work carried out by the applicant, in this instance English Partnerships.
- 5.5 A prolonged public consultation had been undertaken as part of the preparation for the wider Heart of Slough planning application. This consultation began with the initial draft options in 2001 and culminated in a series of public exhibitions held on 24-26 January 2008. This three day event provided the public with the opportunity to view the plans for the Heart of Slough, including the new Bus Station, in detail at a public exhibition in the Queensmere Centre. This public consultation was attended by over 1,000 people, with 1,200 leaflets on the proposals distributed. The proposal for the new Bus Station, considered by the Planning Committee on the 12 May 2009, was consistent with the concept consulted on as part of the Heart of Slough project.
- 5.6 The proposals for the new Bus Station were considered at the public Planning Committee meeting on the 12 May 2009. The Planning Application S/00071/045 encompassed the demolition of the existing building, Compair House and provision of a new Slough Bus Station facility, including a new access road from William Street, ancillary operational facilities, a feature canopy, public realm works and associated infrastructure. Included in the details of this application was the detail of Passenger Waiting Facilities described as: “a series of designated and semi-enclosed ‘mini waiting rooms’ which will provide protection from wind and rain.”
- 5.7 The applicant, in this instance Slough Borough Council, undertook pre-application consultation with the following stakeholders:
- First Group – operators of the exiting bus station, and proposed operators of the new bus station;
 - Slough Borough Council Transport & Highways Team;
 - Slough Borough Council Planning Team;
 - Slough Borough Council Landscape Team;
 - Development Securities – owners of the proposed bus station site for commercial uses; and

- Scottish Widows Investment Partnership – owners of the Octagon site, located to the west of the site which forms the subject of this statement.

Use of Slough Citizen

5.8 The Heart of Slough project (which includes the new bus station) has its own Communications Plan and has so far included the following communications activities:

- a dedicated Heart of Slough website www.heartofslough.com providing up-to-date information and news about the different elements of the project
- comprehensive information and presence on the council's website
- a page in nearly every edition of the council's magazine, The Citizen, dedicated to the latest Heart of Slough developments
- strict branding guidelines so all elements of the project are easily recognisable to the public as being part of the Heart of Slough project
- a wide range of media relations activity including official openings, walkabouts, launches, live radio broadcasts and press releases targeting the local and trade press.
- advertising in the local papers, at Slough train station, on buses and bus shelter sites in Slough, including the opening of the new bus station
- a display at Slough library
- marketing material including postcards, posters and banners

5.9 **Citizen articles**

The following articles have been included in the Citizen between August 2009 – December 2012:

Article	Edition
Heart of Slough masterplan approved and work is on its way	August/September 2009
Heart of Slough latest news	December/January 2009/10
Heart of Slough news - demolition of the bus station starts	February/March 2010
Heart of Slough is beating	August/September 2010
Keeping pace with the Heart of Slough	October/November 2010
The shape of things to come	December/January 2010/11
Heart of Slough update	February/March 2011
Subway under Brunel roundabout permanently closes	April/May 2011

Residents consulted on the new library and cultural centre	April/May 2011
Heart of Slough new bus station opens for business	June/July 2011
New bus station formally opens	August/September 2011
End of the road for Brunel roundabout	October/November 2011
Infrastructure update	December/January 2011/12
Station forecourt improvements enter the next phase	February/March 2012
Mature trees make a welcome return	April/May 2012
Multi-million pound upgrade of Slough Train Station officially launched	June/July 2012
Major regeneration partnership including The Curve	December 2012/January 2013

5.10 **Media releases and coverage**

The Communications Team issued 34 media releases about the Heart of Slough project between July 2009 and November 2012 and achieved 180 items of coverage between June 2010 and November 2011.

5.11 **Advertising**

As part of the overall communications plan for the Heart of Slough project, messages about the demolition of the old bus station and the start of construction of the new bus station were heavily communicated using a combination of media launches, radio broadcasts and photo opportunities.

An advertising campaign was also implemented once the new bus station started to be built and adverts were placed in Slough Railway Station, the local newspapers, on the back of buses, and on bus shelter sites across the town.

Once the building was complete, the opening of the new bus station was supported by an advertising campaign that included advertising on bus shelter sites across Slough, in the local newspapers and the placing of posters in Slough libraries, MyCouncil and the leisure centres.

Dissemination of information to elected members

5.12 This element of the request raises the question of how officers and Cabinet Members disseminate information to the backbench elected members.

5.13 During the Bus Station project, officers used the Cabinet Members to provide information to the wider elected member body in order to facilitate the dissemination

of information, rather than respond to individual members directly. The idea behind this was to ensure that all members had access to the same level of information as the project progressed.

6 **Conclusion**

- 6.1 This report details the communications that were involved during the Bus Station project. The Panel should consider whether there are any lessons to be learnt from how the communication of the Council's plans in respect of the new Bus Station were handled, and provide recommendations on how communications should be dealt with on future projects should they feel this is required.

7 **Background Papers**

- 1 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Special Meeting Minutes (20 December 2006)
- 2 - Cabinet Meeting Minutes (20 December 2006)
- 3 - References from Scrutiny Report and Cabinet Meeting Minutes, Cabinet Meeting (21 January 2008)
- 4 - Public asked to have their say on Heart of Slough plans, Slough Borough Council Press Release (24 January 2008)
- 5 - Heart of Slough – Update on Scheme Progress & Approval of Bus Station Design & Key Terms with Development Partner, Cabinet Meeting (4 December 2008)
- 6 - Heart of Slough – Update on Scheme Progress, Cabinet Meeting (20 April 2009)
- 7 - Planning Application S/00071/045 Report and Minutes, Planning Committee (12 May 2009)
- 8 - Heart of Slough – Update on Scheme Progress, Cabinet Meeting (7 December 2009)

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 13 January 2013

CONTACT OFFICER: Louise Asby, Community Safety Manager
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875146

WARD(S): Chalvey, Baylis & Stoke

Portfolio: Councillor Munawar – Commissioner for Community and Leisure

PART I

FOR INFORMATION

PROSTITUTION – UPDATE AND FUTURE ACTIONS

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide an update on action taken to tackle prostitution in Slough.

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 The Panel is requested to note:

- a) the report and future actions as outlined at the end of the report; and
- b) that officers will bring back a report should the current situation change.

3. **Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Safer Communities**

This report is to update on how the diverse community in Chalvey is being affected by prostitution on its streets and how partners are tackling this by working with the girls involved, making the environment safer and cleaner and enabling all concerned to live in a safe and pleasant environment.

4. **Background**

4.1 There are two distinct groups of street sex workers in Slough– British girls who are local to Slough and who have drink and/or drug addictions, and Romanians who come to the UK to earn as much as they can from prostitution to send home to their families, and who do not have addictions. The good transport links bring regular clients into Slough (for example, airport workers on their way home), with the main ‘hotspots’ traditionally being Chalvey (around Ledgers Road and Montem Lane) and Stoke and Baylis (on Stoke Poges Lane).

4.2 Issues discussed and concerns raised at previous scrutiny panels

Issue	Outcome of discussion	Current situation
Why Slough attracts prostitution	The British sex workers are born and bred in Slough so it is close to home for them. Romanian girls came here due to the good transport links, near Heathrow etc. Also it is hard to deter them via Police enforcement due to changes in legislation.	Enforcement activity with UK Border Agency (UKBA) is ongoing to tackle and deter the Romanian sex workers. Support and engagement work with British girls is still looking positive and the female outreach report worker carries out regular outreach (see 6.2 below)
Use of ASBOs	ASBOs need a vast amount of evidence, which is very hard to collect due to changes in legislation (eg street cautions – need 3 in a 3-month period before an arrest can be made). Courts see sex workers as the victims.	As before. Officers will consider ASBOs, however it is a long process to get to court and ASBOs are not always appropriate.
How best to tackle kerb crawlers	Warning letters eg from CCTV intelligence, and prosecutions when operations are run. Discussions with Reading re possibility of sharing their ‘Change’ programme. The Change programme will provide education to kerb crawlers around the wider issue of sex working – but only if numbers are sufficient and courses are self funding and run regularly.	At present there are not sufficient numbers to warrant a programme. We will continue to monitor and review the situation. Kerb crawling warning letters sent out when suspicious activity is observed.
Reporting levels	Reporting levels are low despite the anecdotal evidence from residents – need people to report on Police non-emergency 101 number.	Reporting levels are still low however this is most likely because numbers of sex workers and therefore kerb crawlers have dropped, and because residents are reassured that Police and Local Authority are tackling prostitution with all available powers and resources. Reporting to be encouraged.
Displacement	Evidence of displacement to Baylis & Stoke ward (Stoke Poges	As before, there is still evidence of displacement to Baylis & Stoke ward but numbers are

	Lane, Pickford Gardens, Lansdowne Avenue, Bradley Road)	comparatively low (around 8-10 rather than 30 as has been seen previously) Outreach workers and Police are engaging with the sex workers in this location and the British girls are all on the Sex Workers Action Group (SWAG) case management agenda.
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4.3 What has been done since the last Panel discussion (March 2012):

- The council-led Thames Valley-wide Prostitution Strategy Forum, comprising Milton Keynes, High Wycombe, Reading, Oxford and Slough, continues to meet quarterly. Members of this group attended a very useful conference at South Bank University in November which looked at best practice and supportive engagement.
- A Communications Plan has been produced and this is due to be implemented in 2013.
- The Thames Valley Police Strategy (2008-2011) was replaced locally with a partnership Action Plan for 2011-13 (see appendix B) which continues to be monitored. It covers four strands: prevention/support, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance.

4.4 Work in progress and arising from the Action Plan includes:

Strand	Activities taking place
Prevention of ASB related to prostitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted patrols – outreach workers and Police regularly engaging with sex workers • Town hall slip road now blocked off preventing use by kerb crawlers to circle area • Equinox (currently residential detox) is now a hostel for those with addictions and support needs and has emergency as well as long term accommodation
Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing with partners and neighbouring boroughs eg Ealing, Hounslow, Reading • Use of targeted CCTV operations to identify kerb crawlers and sex workers

Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning letters and street cautions issued (see 5.4.1 below) Working with UKBA to serve letters served on Romanian sex workers, (see 5.4.3 below) Kerb crawler prosecutions and publicity of outcomes eg £1000 fines
Reassurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prostitution is being kept as a Safer Slough Partnership priority and on agenda for Police sector tasking meetings Police attend residents' meetings and update as appropriate Regular police presence in known 'hotspots'

6. Changes in Situation

6.1 The latest figures we have are as follows. (Please note that reporting levels have decreased since the last reporting period, and the number of sex workers on the streets has gone up):

	Jan-June 2011	Sept 11-Feb 12	June 12-Nov 12
Reporting figures for Chalvey	28	13	8
Sex workers on streets - British	10	7	8
Sex workers on streets - Romanian	10	2	6
Street cautions issued	23	14	23
Kerb crawler warning letters	16	9	6
UKBA letters issued to Romanian sex workers	n/a	5	6

6.2 According to the latest SWAG meeting, 6 British girls have come off the streets and gone into rehab or moved out of the area to a refuge. All street sex workers are referred to the SWAG case management meetings. Numbers of British girls remain constant as there are some with very chaotic lives who are not ready to exit street sex work, although most will engage with outreach workers and the Police. It is important to note that girls will only seek help and exit prostitution when they feel ready, and support is there when they need it in the meantime.

6.3 The number of Romanian girls has recently increased. This may be because of recent operations in neighbouring boroughs. The UKBA has issued 5 letters to

Romanian sex workers inviting them to interview to look at their situation and whether they are exercising their treaty rights. If they do not turn up they will be due for arrest and removal from the UK. (Note: removal is not the same as deportation and they would be able to return to the UK after removal if they wished to do so). The UKBA would have to allow them three months to show they are exercising their treaty rights before reissuing letters. Cross-borough work with Hounslow and Ealing is ongoing.

6.4 The number of kerb crawlers had previously reduced in Chalvey, due to the closure of the old town hall slip road and the changes to the road system, which made it impractical to circle the Montem Lane/Ledgers Road/A4 route. This is being monitored by Police and a request has been submitted to reinstate the CCTV camera to Ledgers Road.

6.5 According to Police the number of sex workers in Chalvey has dropped. There is evidence of displacement to Bradley Road/Stoke Poges Lane which Police and outreach workers are aware of (see 4.2 above). This most likely due to the closure of the old town hall slip road and kerb crawlers going elsewhere (see above 6.4).

7. Ongoing work

Activity	How this will help successful future outcomes	Update
SWAG group to report to Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) and continue to work on action plan	The comprehensive action plan covers all areas of work required for successfully tackling the problem of sex working. Reporting to SSP will require accountability and provide top-level support for our work. It will also ensure coordination with – and buy-in from - partners. Regular update reports will be produced.	Last update report to SSP June 2012.
Monitor recently commissioned Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) services	This will enable us to spot any gaps in service which we will then endeavour to fill	DAAT services are working well and the female outreach worker post and Equinox, which has emergency accommodation, are particularly effective in the strategy to tackle prostitution
Community engagement through residents' meetings and newsletters (which could also go online), to be agreed with residents. The importance of reporting to be emphasised.	This will ensure a two-way communication between residents, Police and partners providing reassurance that action is being taken, reporting on results and getting feedback on residents' perceptions of the problem.	Police update residents as appropriate and encourage reporting in order to identify times and locations where there is a problem.

8. **Conclusion**

8.1 Ongoing work is taking place to tackle prostitution in the borough. The main hotspot was originally Chalvey, however various factors have seen the number of complaints reduce in this location and, whilst there is still activity in Baylis & Stoke Ward the number of complaints regarding this location is very low, Police activity and outreach is still focused on tackling the problem. The action plan is ongoing and the partnership remains committed to keeping prostitution as a priority.

9. **Appendices Attached**

A - Partnership Action Plan

10. **Background Papers**

None.



Prostitution in Slough Action Plan 2011-2013

Strategic Aim	Action	Owner	Target Date	RAG Status
Prevention of anti-social behaviour related to prostitution				
Identify main areas affected by activity	Improve reporting to police of incidents by residents and others who may be concerned, e.g. local councillors Attendance at local community meetings	Insp. Young NHPT and SMT as necessary	Ongoing Ongoing	
Use of patrols in affected areas	NHPT to patrol affected areas when on late shifts to deter activity and prosecute where possible	NHPT	Ongoing	
Use of media to report prosecutions	Media message to inform community of results of relevant police activity and prosecutions	Insp. Young/Anamika Bansal	Ongoing	
Use of CCTV to identify kerb crawlers	Task CCTV operators to monitor cameras in Ledgers Road and other relevant cameras, to capture details of vehicles seen acting in a manner likely to be soliciting, and sending of relevant warning letters No dedicated CCTV officer/volunteer at present and cameras need to be relocated to hotspot locations	CCTV and volunteer	Ongoing	
Use immigration powers	UKBA involved in serving letters to East European prostitutes who are not complying with EU conditions and arrest of those not complying	NHPT/UKBA	Ongoing	
Diversion of prostitutes	Sex Workers Action Group to identify and work with prostitutes, identifying reasons for being prostitutes and identifying diversionary support, e.g. Engagement and Support Orders	SWAG/DAAT	Ongoing	

Use of prevention legislation	Application for ASBO's when circumstances are suitable	TVP/SBC	Ongoing	
Liaison with MPS to maximise prosecution opportunities	Exchange of information in relation to cautions and prosecutions of prostitutes in Southall who also work in Slough	NHPT/MPS	Ongoing	
Use of "TVP Operation" signs	Signs to be created showing "TVP Operation in progress" to be displayed in relevant areas.	Insp. Young	31/12/11	
Environmental measures	Examine road layouts and lighting to reduce favourability for kerb crawlers	SBC	Complete	

Intelligence

Strategic Aim	Action	Owner	Target date	Rag Status
Develop intelligence picture around prostitutes and kerb crawlers				
Regular contact with prostitutes	Identifying new prostitutes, predominantly from Eastern Europe, and identifying how and why they work in Slough. Identify whether any are working for "pimps" or others. Develop intelligence around links with drug dealers and usage	NHPT	Ongoing	
Intelligence interviews of kerb crawlers	Identify whether any girls have been brought into the country to work as prostitutes, identifying any links to organized crime groups etc. Intelligence interviews to be conducted with kerb crawlers to identify reasons for using prostitutes and how they know where to locate them	NHPT/Outreach worker NHPT/FIB/SOCA/OC G	Ongoing	
Liaison with MPS Southall and Hounslow	Southall have a dedicated team dealing with prostitutes, some of which also work in Slough. Ensure intelligence links are maintained. Hounslow have recently set up a cross-border task group.	Arresting officers	Ongoing	
Sex Worker Database	Ensure database on LPA Briefing Document is kept up to date with current arrest/caution status of prostitutes	NHPT/MPS	Ongoing	
Improved reporting by local residents	Encourage reporting from residents direct to TVP/SBC or via councillors regarding activity of prostitutes and details of vehicles/pedestrians kerb crawling	NHPT	Ongoing	
Directed use of CCTV	CCTV operators to be tasked to increase surveillance of known areas to increase intelligence of regular prostitutes, times of activity and customers. No dedicated CCTV officer/volunteer at present and cameras need to be relocated to hotspot locations	NHPT/ Comms team	Ongoing	
Exchange of information	Intelligence exchange within partners using SWAG meetings	SBC CCTV	Ongoing	
		SBC/TVP/Others as identified	Ongoing	

Enforcement

Strategic Aim	Action	Owner	Target Date	Rag Status
Reduce impact of prostitution by prosecution of offenders				
Patrolling officers	2 officers can take action when they see people who they believe are engaged in soliciting. Prostitute can be dealt with by way of street caution or arrest dependent on previous relevant history. Customer can be arrested. Use of covert officers to monitor actions of prostitutes and customers, before following them and taking relevant action when they indulge in sexual acts. Following report from local residents of vehicle containing people involved in sexual activity, both can be prosecuted if female is identified as a prostitute	TVP/NHPT TVP/Patrol Officers TVP/Patrol Officers	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	
Directed operations	Police assets used to gather evidence from kerb crawlers prior to arrest.	TVP Proactive	Ongoing	
Use immigration powers	UKBA involved in serving letters to East European prostitutes who are not complying with EU conditions and arrest of those not complying	NHPT/UKBA	Ongoing	
Use of prevention legislation	Application for ASBO's when circumstances are suitable	TVP/SBC	Ongoing	
Drug testing	Soliciting is not a trigger offence, but Inspector's authorisation to be sought where prostitute/kerb crawler show evidence/previous convictions for drug use	Arresting officer	Ongoing	
Use of CCTV to identify kerb crawlers	Task CCTV operators to monitor cameras in Ledgers Road and other relevant cameras, to capture details of vehicles seen acting in a manner likely to be soliciting, and sending of relevant warning letters No dedicated CCTV officer/volunteer at present and cameras need to be relocated to hotspot locations	CCTV and volunteer	Ongoing	
Liaison with MPS to maximise prosecution opportunities	Exchange of information in relation to cautions and prosecutions of prostitutes in Southall and Hounslow who also work in Slough	NHPT/MPS	Ongoing	
Liaison with other police services	Identify good practice that can be used locally	TVP	Ongoing	

Reassurance

Strategic Aim	Action	Owner	Target Date	Rag Status
Communication Plan				
Safer Slough Partnership priority (as opposed to Neighbourhood	Ensure update reports go to SSP and ongoing support requested	Louise Asby	Ongoing	

Appendix A

Police priority)				
Communication strategy	Strategy devised following consultation around prostitution strategy and public messages	TVP comms	Complete	
Updates to residents	Letters to be sent to residents in affected roads informing them of police activity Letters to local councillors informing them of police activity Attendance at local community meetings informing them of activity Use of monthly updates on TVP internet site	Insp Young/ SMT as necessary/NHPT	Ongoing	
Patrol plans	Ensure regular patrols of affected areas by NHPT	NHPT	Ongoing	
Use of "TVP Operation" signs	Signs to be created showing "TVP Operation in progress" to be displayed in relevant areas.	Insp. Young	Ongoing	
Residents patrols with NHPT	Selected members of the community to be invited to accompany NHPT on patrols	NHPT	Ongoing	

RAG Key

- Red – yet to be actioned/not currently happening
- Amber – work in progress
- Green – action completed and process in place

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 10 January 2013

CONTACT OFFICER: Sarah Forsyth (Scrutiny Officer)
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875657

WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Councillor Munawar – Commissioner for Community & Leisure

PART I

TO NOTE

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

1 **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel with information on the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley in order to inform future discussions on crime and disorder.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Panel note the information in this report.

3 **Community Strategy Priorities**

Priorities:

Safer Communities – Slough Borough Council works collaboratively with partners to address the underlying causes of crime so communities feel safe and able to play an active part in making Slough a better place to live, work and visit. In dealing with crime, the creation of the Police and Crime Commissioner aims to bring greater public transparency and accountability to the Policing process.

4 **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

One of the JSNA's priorities for 2012 is to reduce violent crime, domestic abuse and sexual abuse and Slough Borough Council will be working with the Police and Crime Commissioner so that these priorities are reflected in the priorities of the new Commissioner.

5 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	None	None
Property	None	None
Human Rights	None	None
Health and Safety	None	None
Employment Issues	None	None
Equalities Issues	None	None
Community Support	None	None
Communications	None	None
Community Safety	None	None
Financial	None	None
Timetable for delivery	None	None
Project Capacity	None	None
Other	None	None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA associated with this report.

6 Supporting Information

Background

One of the primary changes to policing brought in by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 was the abolition of Police Authorities, to be replaced by directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who will oversee the largest non-metropolitan police force in the country, will be responsible for:

- holding the Chief Constable to account (this includes ensuring the force across the Thames Valley is efficient and effective at meeting local policing priorities);
- setting and updating a Police and Crime Plan;
- regularly engaging with the public and communities; and
- appointing, and where necessary dismissing, the Chief Constable.

The PCC will be expected to work in partnership across a range of agencies, local and national, to ensure a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime. Overall, the role of the PCC is strategic and must not interfere with the operational independence of police officers.

Thames Valley PCC Election

The elections for the first PCCs were held nationally (except in London) on Thursday 15 November 2012, with those elected officially taking office on Thursday 22 November 2012. In the Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld (Conservative) was

elected with 57.24% of the vote (after second preferences had been counted). The turnout across the Thames Valley was 13.3%.

Anthony Stansfeld is from West Berkshire, where he is currently an executive member for West Berkshire Council. He has been a member of the recently abolished Thames Valley Police Authority, sitting as Chair of the Performance Committee in 2011, and previously Vice Chair of the Audit, Governance and Risk Committee.

Council Tax Precept

The PCC, in consultation with the Police and Crime Panel, is responsible for setting the Police's annual council tax precept.

On 19 November 2012, Anthony Stansfeld was interviewed by BBC News (reported online) stating that he would be supporting a 2% council tax rise for the coming year, and 2.5% the following year. The aim of this would be increase the force budget by £9.4m in 2013/14 following recent cuts.

At the time of writing, the exact precept had not been agreed.

Police and Crime Plan

The PCC must produce a Police and Crime Plan by 31 March 2013. The Plan, which covers the PCC's term of office (four years, maximum of two terms) must set out the strategic police and crime objectives for the Thames Valley with regard to:

- the policing of the area;
- crime and disorder reduction; and
- the discharge of national or international functions.

In order to ensure it reflects the issues affecting the Thames Valley, the Plan is expected to bring together the priorities of all agencies and authorities responsible for tackling crime and improving community safety. To assist with this, the Plan must be developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Panel, communities and victims of crime.

The Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA), at its final meeting on 16 November 2012 reviewed the work that had been undertaken, to that date, on a Police and Crime Plan. The document was a draft and would be subject to amendment by the incoming PCC to reflect any individual priorities or manifesto commitments. However, it was seen to reflect the likely priorities and strategic direction for the Thames Valley Police over the next four years.

The draft strategic objectives considered by the TVPA on 16 November were:

- 1) To cut crimes that are of most concern to the community.
- 2) To increase the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and the fear of crime, and reassure communities.
- 3) To protect our communities from the most serious harm.
- 4) To communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime, and build trust and confidence with our communities.

- 5) Work with Criminal Justice Partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses.
- 6) To ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

Although we don't yet have the final version of the Plan the strategic objectives appear to target the major concerns of Slough. For example, the top three themes highlighted under objective 1 are violent crime, anti-social behaviour and acquisitive crime, all of which match the top three priorities of the Safer Slough Partnership for 2011-14.

All of the strategic objectives would require the collaboration of partners to be achieved. As the PCC is the recipient of all funding related to policing and crime reduction, including the government grant and precept, the allocation of money to services will be made in accordance with the objectives set out in the Plan.

7 **Conclusion**

This report provides a summary of the new Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, and work that will be going on in terms of the precept and Police and Crime Plan over the coming months.

8 **Background Papers**

- 1 - Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 report (Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 13 February 2012)
- 2 - Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (The Stationary Office)
- 3 - Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill report (Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel, 15 September 2011)
- 4 - Police and Social Responsibility Bill (Policy Briefing 8, Centre for Public Scrutiny, February 2011)
- 5 - Policing White Paper (Policy Briefing 5, Centre for Public Scrutiny, July 2010)

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 10 January 2013

CONTACT OFFICER: Sarah Forsyth – Scrutiny Officer
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875657

WARDS: All

PART I

TO NOTE

**NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL – 2012/13
WORK PROGRAMME**

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel to review its current work programme.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Panel note its current work programme for the 2012/13 municipal year.

3. **Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Housing**
- **Regeneration and Environment**
- **Safer Communities**

3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities. The Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel, along with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and other Scrutiny Panels combine to meet the Local Authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.

3.2 In particular, the NCS Panel specifically takes responsibility for ensuring transparency and accountability for Council services relating to housing, regeneration and environment, and safer communities.

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 The current work programme is based on the discussions of the Panel at its previous meeting, looking at requests for consideration of issues from officers and issues that have been brought to the attention of Members outside of the Committee's meetings.

4.2 The work programme is a flexible document which will be continually open to review throughout the municipal year.

5. **Conclusion**

5.1 This report is intended to provide the Panel with the opportunity to review its upcoming work programme and make any amendments it feels are required.

6. **Appendices Attached**

A - Work Programme for 2012/13 Municipal Year

7. **Background Papers**

None.

Wednesday 6 March 2013

Scrutiny Item

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic Congestion in Slough - TBC |
|--|

For Information

- | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCP Update |
|--|

Unprogrammed:

- Housing Repairs Service Review
- Customer Service Review
- Street Cleansing Fixed Penalty Notices
- Accessibility Issues
- Effects of Housing on Residents' Health (Request from Health Scrutiny Panel)

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