

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

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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