

# Community Safety in Slough

Part of the Thames Valley Policing Area

WORKING WITH

[www.slough.gov.uk](http://www.slough.gov.uk)  
**Slough**  
Borough Council



## 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.<br><br>Plan located at: <a href="http://www.slough.gov.uk/crime-prevention-and-emergencies/slough-youth-offending-team.aspx">www.slough.gov.uk/crime-prevention-and-emergencies/slough-youth-offending-team.aspx</a>                       |
| 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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>Cases are supervised in line with national standards and where applicable orders are made more robust via intensive supervision programmes and curfews.<br><br>Victims needs/work integral to intervention. |
| Other Services              | Knife/Weapons Awareness programme.<br><br>Serious Youth Violence work linked to gangs.<br><br>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