

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: *Slough Wellbeing Board*

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PART I

FOR INFORMATION

SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP (SSP) STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITY ACTION REVIEW

1. **Purpose of Report**

To present to the Board an update on the priorities and actions resulting from the 2013/14 Safer Slough Partnership Strategic Assessment.

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

The Board is requested to note the contents of the report.

3. **The Slough Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan**

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) is the document that details the priorities agreed for Slough with partner organisations. The SWS has been developed using a comprehensive evidence base that includes the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

It is a formal responsibility of the SSP to prepare and publish the Strategic Assessment. This document underpins the Boards Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) and contributes to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) by delivering on the priority actions as set out the Wellbeing Strategy.

3a. **Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Central to discharging its responsibility, the Board through regular performance management reports, ensures that the vision and objectives of the Strategy are delivered through the priority actions being led on by each Priority Delivery Group (PDG) such as those described in detail below.

The Safer Slough Partnership seeks to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. It seeks to reduce the harm that drugs cause to

individuals, families and the wider community and create a safer and cleaner environment for all those who live, work, learn, visit and invest in Slough. Therefore the SSP meets the following priorities:

- *Health, and*
- *Safer Communities*

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial There are no financial implications of arising from this report

(b) Risk Management There are no risk management issues arising from this report

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications There are no human rights or other legal implications arising from this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Feedback and close monitoring of data would be analysed according to SBC equalities monitoring categories, thereby enabling any differential impact on particular groups to be identified.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The Strategic Assessment highlights the main crime and anti-social behaviour problems in Slough and demonstrates how the Safer Slough Partnership has addressed these problems in 2012 and outlines option for 2013. The report highlights projects and actions that include new interventions in relation to violent and acquisitive crime and a reorganisation of drug services and domestic abuse services.

5.2 The Strategic Assessment shows that between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2012, reported crime fell by 13.9% and reported anti-social behaviour fell by 10%. The reductions are across the board; violent crime with injury, acquisitive crime and stealing are all showing a positive reduction.

5.3 This is part of a long-term trend: crime has fallen in Slough for the last three years and it fell by 38% between April 2003 and March 2013.

5.4 The Strategic Assessment shows that although Slough is a safer place than ten years, five years and even two years ago; the level of crime and ASB is of significant concern to local residents. There are significant challenges facing the Partnership in addition to high levels of deprivation, unemployment and ill-health; the transient population makes it difficult for partners to bring about long term changes in crime and ASB. There are high levels of new arrivals and asylum seekers in Slough, many of who are vulnerable and in need of key services. In addition, our rich cultural mix and diverse population brings about a difference in attitudes towards crime and ASB. Some communities will not report crime; others have higher thresholds, whereas some may distrust local authorities given their own experiences in the country of origin.

5.5 The Strategic Assessment allows the Partnership to bring together different data to unpick the complexity of crime and ASB in Slough. The assessment allows the Partnership to provide added value and to focus on the underlying causes of crime and ASB addressing issues of underreporting, protecting victims and working with offenders to change their behaviour.

5.6 Priorities for 2013/14

Priorities for the year ahead are outlined below:

- P1. To reduce violent crime.** Particular effort will be made to reduce:
- Youth gang-related violence
 - Domestic Abuse
- P2. To reduce acquisitive crime.** Particular effort will be made to reduce:
- Burglary
 - Robbery
- P3. To reduce anti-social behaviour.** Particular effort will be made to reduce:
- Street prostitution
 - Repeat victimisation

Most of the priorities are complemented by targets or multi-agency action plans, details of targets are contained in the Strategic Assessment.

5.7 Initiatives to tackle priorities and achieve targets

5.7.1 Youth related violence:

In response to the concerns regarding the GBG, the Safer Slough Partnership established the Youth Violence Management Panel. This is to ensure a multi-agency response to tackle Youth Violence in Slough. The aims of the group are to

- ensure children and young people are not drawn into gang membership
- help those already involved or on the fringes to make more positive choices
- disrupt and deter the conditions that help gang membership and gang activity flourish
- ensure an effective enforcement strategy is in place

The Panel has been successful in coordinating actions to tackle youth violence and has for example successfully applied Gang Injunctions on 4 young people identified as being central to coordinating gang related activity in Slough, designed patrol plans in response to local intelligence, and launched the BreakAway Project.

5.7.2 Domestic Abuse:

Coordinating a Partnership response: The SSP have secured funding to work with Standing Together to

- Strengthen strategic leadership;
- Revisit the current strategy and subsequent action plan
- Re-develop DA Forum to deliver operational outcomes

The Partnership has also made a commitment to fund a full time Domestic Abuse Coordinator

Supporting Victims of Domestic Abuse and working with Perpetrators:

Slough Borough Council has remodelled its support services to domestic abuse victims to provide a more effective service supporting more victims, providing support to more children and young people affected by violence and supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour. This new approach will allow for earlier intervention and earlier support to reduce the long term impact and suffering.

The integrated model became live in December 2012, in the first three months the services

- Have engaged with 66 clients, of which 34% are high risk.
- The outreach service has found emergency accommodation for 46 high risk clients (some of which have used the Slough only service).
- The perpetrator programme are supporting 33 clients, perpetrators have been referred from social services to date.

5.7.3 Burglary & Robbery

Levels of robbery and burglary are reducing in the long term but are subject to short term surges in incidents, for example the increase in the value of gold led to a significant increase in domestic burglary. We recognise this type of offending is subject to wide variations and have put in measures to improve intelligence and our response to robbery and burglary. Below are a few examples:

- £75,000 investment in mobile automatic number plate recognition technology,
- Problem profile of personal robbery commissioned with an associated action plan,
- Grid maps to form part of robbery packs to further identify locations,
- Parks and Open Spaces virtual group established in October 2012,
- Gating Scheme and target hardening initiatives
- Tackling drug related offending through the provision of rapid prescribing and treatment

Street prostitution: initiatives are coordinated through the Slough Sex Worked Action Group; this covers four strands

- Prevention of ASB related to prostitution:- this involves targeted patrols, and supporting workers to address substance misuse needs as well as accessing stable accommodation
- Intelligence:- this involves cross boarder information sharing, joint working with London Boroughs and CCTV to identify street workers and kerb crawlers
- Enforcement: - this involves sending out warning letters to kerb crawlers, joint working with the UKBA and prosecutions
- Reassurance: - ensuring prostitution is a key priority for the Partnership, keeping residents updated on local activity and regular police presence in known 'hotspots'

5.7.4 Repeat victimisation

As a result of the 2007 Pilkington case, police forces including Thames Valley Police introduced a Repeat Victims Matrix which is used to assess the risk level of each victim of ASB. The matrix considers various factors such as whether the ASB is targeted, how the victim feels, and frequency.

The ASB Victims Matrix is used in all cases to assess the extent to which a vulnerable complainant / victim is at risk of experiencing harm. With this, the ASB Caseworker and ASB Victims Champion are able to identify the factors that are putting the complainant at risk and tailor the support offered based on these factors in order to reduce the risk of harm. In 2012, the Partnership did not assess any victim as high risk, however assessed 7 victims as medium risk and 51 victims as standard risk. In all cases, the appropriate steps were taken to reduce the risk of harm and support the victims.

6. **Comments of Other Committees / Priority Delivery Groups (PDGs)**

There are no comments from other Committees.

7. **Conclusion**

The Partnership has embedded good working process to work with key partners (DAAT, Haybrook, Thames Valley Police and others) to address issues and concerns to local residents through effective multi-agency working. Looking ahead, the Partnership will focus its efforts to build upon these arrangements to ensure there is a more coordinated response to domestic abuse, ASB and supporting vulnerable victims.

The SSP has agreed the following local targets for 2013/14:

- Reducing property crime – **2%** reduction in burglary from the base line year (2012/13) and increase the detection rate to **18%** (**PCC target**)
- Reducing robbery– **2%** reduction from the base line year (2012/13) and increase the detection rate. (Local Target)
- Reducing violent crime – **2%** reduction in violent crime from the baseline year (2012/2013) and increase the detection rate to **45%**

- Reducing anti-social behaviour:
 - Reduce 15 of most persistent & resistant cases of ASB
- Tackling underlying issues of crime and ASB
 - A 60% reduction in family anti-social behaviour in a 6 month period
 - A 33% reduction in the offending rate of children in a 6 month period
 - **40%** of those who successfully complete drug treatment do not re-present to treatment within six months

In addition to the targets above the following have been agreed with the Police & Crime Commissioner:

- Increase in numbers accessing Domestic Abuse Services (victims and perpetrators).
- Increase in non-police referrals to MARAC.
- Increase in number of gating projects in crime and ASB hotspots.
- Increase in number of residents engaged with via TV Alert and Council-led surveys.
- Successful completions for criminal justice clients.
- Number of clients with multiple 'tests on arrest'.
- Number of drug-related offences.
- Number of clients referred into rapid prescribing.
- FTE to the youth justice system

The Board is asked to note the contents of this report regarding the work of the Safer Slough Partnership to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour priorities.

8. Appendices Attached

'A' - Strategic Assessment 2013/14

9. Background Papers

None.