



# **Strategic Assessment 2013/14**

# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Challenges facing Slough</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Crime</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>3. Anti-Social Behaviour</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>4. Factors affecting crime and anti-social behaviour</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>5. Aims, Priorities, Strategic Actions and Targets for 2013/14</b> .....	<b>26</b>

## Executive Summary

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This Strategic Assessment highlights the main crime and anti-social behaviour problems in Slough and demonstrates how the Safer Slough Partnership addressed these problems in 2012. Our work included new interventions in relation to violent and acquisitive crime and a reorganisation of drug services and domestic abuse services. The report shows that between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, reported crime fell by 13.9% and reported anti-social behaviour fell by 10%. 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.

The Partnership has worked hard to drive down crime to make Slough the safest it has been for over ten years. The reductions achieved by Partnership are across the board; violent crime with injury, acquisitive crime, and stealing are all showing significant reductions.

We hope you will work with us to build on this success. The data in this report demonstrates that a reduction in crime in Slough has a significant impact on the crime figures for the whole of Thames Valley. The data shows that Slough has reduced crime at a higher rate than other local authorities specified by central government as having a similar population demographic.

Over the coming year the Safer Slough Partnership will seek to achieve further reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour. Key initiatives to reduce violent crime will include the provision of new services around domestic abuse and targeted work against gangs. 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.

If you want to find out more about the work of the Safer Slough Partnership please visit: <http://www.slough.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/safer-slough-partnership.aspx>

### Key Facts about Slough

- 40,000 people commute into Slough to work, many of them are employed on the town's trading estate (the largest trading estate in private ownership in Europe)
- 140 different languages are spoken in Slough
- Just under one-third (34.5%) of Slough residents are British White. The Pakistani and Indian communities are the two largest BME groups in the town
- Slough suffers from poor health with just over 80% of the population stating their health to be good or very good. Some 13% of the population state their health limits their daily activity, and 8% of the population provide 50 hrs or more unpaid weekly care
- Serious Acquisitive Crime decreased by 5.6% from the figures in 2011 and 31.6% from the 2010 baseline
- Violence against the Person decreased by 5.1% from the figures in 2011 and 25.9 % from the 2010 baseline
- Local residents perceive the following to be a problem in their local area: rubbish or litter lying around, teenagers hanging around on the streets, and people being drunk or rowdy in public places
- 48% of local residents thought the Council is dealing with ASB satisfactorily

# Introduction

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The aim of this Strategic Assessment is to identify the current and future opportunities and risks relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, drug misuse and behaviour affecting the environment in Slough. The Assessment identifies priorities, strategic actions and targets that will be monitored and supported by the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP). Specific action plans will be drawn up to ensure multi-agency delivery at an operational level.

## Data timeline

This assessment compares crime data between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 against our baseline year (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010<sup>1</sup>).

## Data sources

- Crime statistics
- Local crime data – Thames Valley Police - Cedar
- Anti-social behaviour data – Slough Borough Council Flare
- Anti-social behaviour data – Slough LPA Command & Control
- Perception data – Slough Borough Council ASB Survey
- Alcohol data – East Berkshire Primary Care Trust
- Alcohol profiles – North West Public Health Observatory
- Drug treatment profiles – Slough DAAT Needs Assessment
- Prostitution – Report to Slough Borough Council Scrutiny

## Production of this report

The data collection and writing of this report has been done by the Community Safety Performance Team at Slough Borough Council. Questions about the report should be directed to Avtar Maan, Safer Slough Partnership Performance and Data Collection Manager: 01753 47 7352; [avtar.maan@slough.gov.uk](mailto:avtar.maan@slough.gov.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> This is not always possible due to alternating definitions of crime types and the introduction of new crime types

# 1. Challenges facing Slough

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## 1a. Population

The 2011 Census day population of Slough was estimated to be 140,205. This is a 16.3% population rise in ten years and is the 11th highest increase across England and Wales, where the average population rise across the country was just 7.1%.

There are high levels of new arrivals and asylum seekers in Slough, many of whom are vulnerable and in need of key services. 40% of the local population is born outside of the UK and 30% from outside the EU. Just over two thirds of the population (67%) use English as their first language.

Over 140 different languages are spoken in Slough and according to the official Census figures for 2011, just under one-third (34.5%) of Slough residents are British White. The Pakistani and Indian communities are the two largest BME groups in the town (estimated at 17.7% and 15.6% of the total adult population). 7% of residents were born in 'Accession EU' states – making Slough the area with the 9th highest proportion. 5.9% of residents were born in Poland (2nd highest proportion across England and Wales).

Slough has a young population with a higher than national average number of young people and those of working age. 9.1% of Slough residents are aged 0-4 yrs old. This is the second highest in England and Wales. The Census data also tells us that one tenth of Slough households are single family units, with 6% of all households having no adults in employment but young dependents.

## 1b. Health

Slough suffers from poor health with just over 80% of the population stating their health to be good or very good. Some 13% of the population state their health limits their daily activity, and 8% of the population provide 50 hrs or more unpaid weekly care.

Key health concerns for commissioners in Slough take the form of cardio vascular disease, diabetes, tuberculosis (TB), obesity, smoking related diseases, drugs, and alcohol. The prevalence of rates of diabetes in Slough exceeds the national average (7.7% vs. 5.5%), and 77.7% of all TB cases in Berkshire are in Slough. The prevalence of obesity among children entering school in Slough in reception and at age 10/11 remains statistically above national rates at 11.3% and 21.2% respectively. More than 80% of the adult population in Slough do not take part in the recommended levels of physical activity. The number of adults taking part in sport and active recreation in Slough has fallen from 19.4% in 2005/6 to the current levels of 17.6%.

With regards to sexual health, the numbers of people diagnosed with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) has increased and there is a steady rise in genital Chlamydia. Also, teenage pregnancy rates in Slough exceeded the England rate in 2010.

The 2010 crude mortality data shows that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Slough. Coronary heart disease in males and females was the leading cause of death in the borough accounting for 138 deaths in males and 110 in females in 2010. Stroke is the third highest with 26 deaths in males and 27 in females.

Slough has the highest level of PDUs (Problematic Drug Users) amongst people aged 15-64 yrs in the South East. Slough's alcohol related admission rates were similar to England rates at 1 877 per 100,000 population, however, they were the highest in the country in 2010/11.

## 1c. Economy

Despite Slough's vibrant economy and its compact geographical area, it is clear that there are communities living in relative proximity but with contrasting economic fortunes. In terms of Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimants, Chalvey (7.3%), Central (5.2%) and Britwell (4.3%) all still have higher JSA claimant rates than the town average<sup>2</sup>.

The Census 2011 data highlights 73.4% of the working age population are economically active, compared to 70% in England and Wales. Just over 1% of those unemployed have never worked

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<sup>2</sup> East Berkshire Local Economic Assessment 2011

(compared to 0.7% nationally). Slough suffers from a poor skill base, and has the second largest economic workforce employed in Administration, and third largest in Transport. 20% of the population have no formal qualifications, and just above one quarter of the population have a high qualification such as a Degree or Masters. Slough also has one of the lowest proportions of Directors and Senior Manager professions within its economically active population (8% vs. 10% for England and Wales).

Despite the recession Slough has much economic strength. The Slough Trading Estate provides a strong focus for employment but at the same time, all of the town centres in East Berkshire have seen marked contraction in employment.

#### **1d. Regeneration and Environment**

Slough has seen major redevelopment in the town centre, and areas such as the Britwell, Chalvey and Town Centre are undergoing significant investment. Improvements are being made to local transport facilities, highways, new homes, retail and leisure and cultural facilities. New libraries are or have been opened in Colnbrook, Chalvey and Wexham Lea with a further new library to open in the Britwell Community Hub.

The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy identifies actions that the Council will take to ensure that its open spaces parks resources are fully utilised to deliver benefits across many service areas, including regeneration and the enhancement of the town's environment.

The town still suffers from poor air quality and traffic congestion whilst the standard of the built environment needs to improve. Proximity to Heathrow as well as major motorways such as the M40, M25 and M4 aggravates problems especially in relation to air quality although they help to secure the town's economic position.

## 2. Crime

### 2.1 Long term crime trends

Figure 1: Long term crime trends in Slough



Source: Slough LPA (Slough)

Figure 1 shows crime figures over an eight year period (April 2003 to March 2013). The chart clearly demonstrates a continual and steady reduction in crime. All crime has reduced by 7,838 offences or by 38% in Slough between 2003/04 and 2012/2013. 2006/07 and 2008/09 broke the trend and saw an increase in crime although it has not been possible to establish a reason for this. Crime has fallen in Slough for the last four consecutive years; it fell by 12.7% between April 2012 and March 2013. Crime levels are at its lowest in ten years and the Partnership has successfully created a safer environment for all those who work, visit, and live in Slough.

### 2.2 Priority and volume crime

This section aims to provide an overview of crime in Slough based on local neighbourhood data. The overview will look at priority crime in Slough which consists of Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violence Against the Person, and Serious Sexual Offences. It will also look at the most reported volume crime in Slough, Criminal Damage.

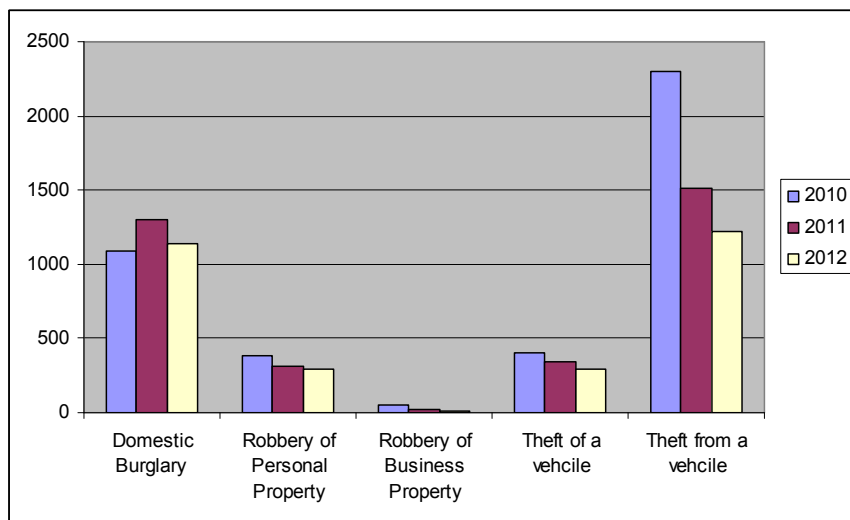
#### 2.2.1 Serious Acquisitive Crime

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) consists of burglary in a dwelling, robbery, theft from vehicle, and theft of or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.

According to local neighbourhood data, there were 2,897 SAC offences in Slough during 2012. This is a decrease of 15.6% on the 2011 figures and a 31.6% reduction on the 2010 baseline figure of 4,233.

Figure 2 on the next page illustrates how the pattern of SAC in Slough between 2010 and 2012 has changed. There have been dramatic changes over the last three years, with significant and continual reductions in Vehicle Crime, and Robbery of Personal and Business Property. Only Domestic Burglary has seen fluctuations and has slightly increased from 2010 levels.

Figure 2: Serious Acquisitive Crime in Slough 2010 – 2012



Source: Iqanta

Further analysis of local data show:

Theft from vehicle has historically accounted for the highest proportion of SAC offences in Slough. Although still the highest in 2012, theft from vehicle offences in Slough have experienced a substantial reduction of 48.7% (1,109 offences) from 2,275 offences in 2010 to 1,166 offences in 2012. When compared to the Most Similar Group (MSG), Slough is ranked as fourth highest per 1,000 population.

The reductions in theft from vehicle are substantial and have outpaced performance of our most similar group. The Partnership has invested significant resources into reducing theft from vehicle for example, a SATNAV communication campaign, door knocking, vulnerable vehicle checks, and protective marking of targeted goods

Domestic burglaries: Attempted burglaries have seen an 18.6% increase over the past 3 years with 210 offences in 2012 compared to 177 in 2010. Slough experienced a 12.7% reduction in domestic burglaries from 2011 to 2012, but a 1.3% increase from the baseline year (baseline figure: 1,122). Despite the reduction in burglaries in 2012, Slough is ranked highest per 1,000 population amongst the MSG.

The increase during 2011 can be attributed to Asian Gold burglaries, which has seen a decrease during 2012. This is the result of considerable effort made by the Partnership to drive down burglary and as a result of Slough Local Policing Area (LPA) operations which included high visibility presence, crime reduction advice to residents, and the arrests of key criminals domestic burglary is showing significant reductions.

Robbery: Robbery of business property has historically been low in Slough. During 2012 there were only 13 such offences, a 70.4 % decrease on the 44 offences in 2010. Although robbery of personal property (with 295 offences during 2012) has shown a 20.1% decrease over the past 3 years (baseline figure: 369), it remains a concern for Slough LPA and its partners, as robbery of personal property has a big impact on perceived public safety.



The Partnership has invested heavily in the use of CCTV and redeployable cameras tackle areas of robbery. The Dob-A-Robber campaign is used to gather intelligence and reassure at risk groups.

Location and time: The Chalvey / Upton neighbourhood had the highest proportion of SAC offences for 2012, accounting for 19.3% of SAC offences in Slough. When looking at each SAC offence group, the following neighbourhoods appear at the top:

- Domestic burglary was the highest in the Farnham / Baylis / Stoke neighbourhood with 200 of the 1,137 burglaries in Slough committed here, closely followed by Wexham Lea / Central neighbourhood with 198 burglaries.
- Robbery was the highest in Chalvey / Upton neighbourhood with 107 of the 308 robberies in Slough committed here.
- Theft from vehicle was also the highest in Chalvey / Upton neighbourhood with 223 of the 1,166 thefts from vehicle in Slough committed here.
- Theft of or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles was the highest in Farnham / Baylis / Stoke with 53 of the 286 theft of vehicles in Slough committed here, closely followed by Britwell / Haymill neighbourhood with 50 offences.
- The number of SAC offences was the highest in January with 322 offences, followed by November and December with 283 offences each.

### **2.2.1.1 Drug related offending**

Drug related offences in Slough are above the average for the South East when compared to Slough's Community Safety Partnership comparator group (MSG)<sup>3</sup>.

The relationship between drug misuse and offending in Slough is clear. Snapshot data between July and December 2012 shows there were 537 drug tests completed in Slough under the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP), of which 272 (49%)<sup>4</sup> were positive for Class A use and a further 101 (18%) for Class B/C use. From these we can note the following:

- **67.0%** correlate with the offence of **theft or handling stolen goods**
- **32.0%** correlate with the offence of **burglary**
- **37.0%** correlate with the offence of **robbery**
- **18.4%** correlate with the offence of **vehicle crime**
- **16.0%** correlate with the offence of **drug dealing**

The Slough Treatment Services are geared up to provide a flexible service for drug using offenders Drug Intervention Programme (DIP). Use of rapid prescribing and a focus on recovery has allowed many users who access the service to address their needs in terms of accommodation, employment and offending. Many of the offenders who benefit from DIP are amongst the hardest-to-reach and are our most problematic drug users. They are also offenders who have not previously engaged with treatment in any meaningful way. The key benefit of DIP is that it focuses on the needs of these offenders by providing partnership working across the criminal justice system, healthcare and drugs treatment services as well as a range of other supporting services such as the voluntary sector and rehabilitative services.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: iQuanta

<sup>4</sup> Operation Falcon - Thames Valley Police Monthly Reports (2009/10 - no new data available)

## **2.2.2 Violence Against the Person**

Violence Against the Person (VAP) consists of violence with injury and violence without injury. Within these categories lies a range of subsets such as child abduction, threats to kill, assaults and harassment.

According to local neighbourhood data, there were 2,849 VAP offences in Slough during 2012. This is a decrease of 5.1% on 2011 and 25.9 % on 2010 (baseline figure: 3,847).

Violence with injury (VWI): During 2012, there were 924 offences in Slough, a reduction of 7.9% on 2011 and 26.8% on 2010 (baseline figure: 1,262). Within the spectrum of violence with injury the following are of note:

- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm was the most prevalent violent crime accounting for 797 (86.3%) of the 924 VWI offences committed in Slough. Despite this high proportion, assaults occasioning actual bodily harm have decreased by 25.5% from 1,070 offences in 2010 to 797 offences in 2012.
- Grievous bodily harm was the second most prevalent violent crime with 23 incidents accounting for a much smaller proportion (2.5%) of the 924 VWI offences committed in Slough. Grievous bodily harm has decreased by 82.6% from 132 offences in 2010 to 23 offences in 2012.

The reduction in violence with injury in 2012 has ranked Slough with having one of the lowest levels per 1,000 population amongst the MSG. Slough is one of the safest places in its MSG groups when comparing incidents of violent crime.

Violence without injury (VNI) also experienced a decrease during 2012, with 1,925 offences resulting in a 3.8% decrease on 2011 and a 25.5% decrease on 2010 (baseline figure: 2,585). Assault without injury was the most reported offence, accounting for 1,072 (55.7%) of the 1,925 VNI offences committed in Slough. Despite showing a 6.8% decrease on 2010 (baseline figure: 1,150), violence without injury experienced a 4.5% increase on 2011. The second most reported VNI offence was Public Order Act Offences causing Alarm or Distress / Fear or Provocation of Violence. These offences accounted for 262 (13.6%) of the 1 925 offences committed in Slough, and showed a 45.4% decrease on 2010 (baseline figure: 480).

Despite the reduction in violence without injury, Slough still has the highest level per 1,000 population amongst the MSG.

Levels of violent crime in Slough are declining, the Partnership has secured funding to tackle issues of alcohol related violence, youth violence and domestic abuse.

### Location and time:

- During 2012, VAP offences were the highest in Chalvey / Upton neighbourhood with 825 offences accounting for 29% of all VAP offences committed in Slough.
- With 539 violence without injury offences, Chalvey / Upton neighbourhood accounted for 29% of all VNI offences in Slough, and with 286 violence with injury offences accounted for 31% of all VWI offences in Slough.
- Bi-weekly analysis of VAP over the past year has shown that as far as time and location is concerned there is no clear pattern for VAP in Slough and therefore limits the opportunity for any targeted work.
- VAP offences were higher in August, accounting for 270 of the 2,849 offences in Slough.

### **2.3.2.1 Domestic Abuse**

There were 2,635 incidents of domestic abuse reported to Slough police year to date April – December 2012. Slough has significantly higher levels of reported domestic abuse when compared to other local authorities in the Thames Valley. The only other comparable local authority in the Thames Valley to Slough is Reading.

(MARAC) Multi-agency risk assessment conference coordination and risk assessments: During 2012 there were 209 domestic abuse cohorts (plus 1286 children) monitored by the MARAC, with a

repeat rate of 10%. Just fewer than ten percent of all domestic abuse incidents are classified as high risk, this is an increase of 7.45% on the previous year. Over a third of all domestic abuse incidents are classified as medium risk. And the majority of cases remain standard risk.

Domestic abuse affects individuals and families and puts significant demands on the resources of Slough LPA, the local authority and other local services such as health. Data from Slough Borough Council Education and Children's Services show that:

- From the current cohort of **Looked After Children**, approximately half stem from parental factors linked to domestic abuse. This equates to 90 out of 185 LAC families.
- From the current **Children Protection** cohort, approximately one third stem from parental factors linked to domestic abuse. This equates to 76 out of 107 CP families.

Domestic abuse is a priority for the Partnership and in all, between one third and half of Social Care cases are due to domestic abuse. An internal mapping exercise in 2011 estimated costs to Slough Borough Council alone to be £25,000 for each social care case.

#### Looking Ahead:

1. Coordinating a Partnership response: In February 2013, Slough was fortunate to receive an assessment from Standing Together with regards to how well local partners respond to domestic abuse. The review was mixed and picked up good areas of practise with regards to awareness of different Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities and the local response to potential problems with Honour Based Violence. The review also made the following recommendations

- Strengthen strategic leadership; a mechanism for delivery should be an executive group / board (with performance management capability)
- Revisit the current strategy
- Increase investment into the DA coordinator role
- Re-develop DA Forum to deliver operational outcomes

2. Integrated Domestic Abuse Services: Since doubling the funding to tackle domestic abuse, Slough Borough Council has been working with local organisations to plan a more effective service. Local services are in place now to provide an effective service supporting more victims, providing support to more children and young people affected by violence and supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour. Domestic abuse is a priority for the council and 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.

#### **2.2.3 Serious Sexual Offences**

These offences include rape, sexual activity and sexual assault.

According to local neighbourhood data, there were 164 serious sexual offences (SSO) in Slough during 2012. This is an increase of 11.6% on 2011 and a decrease of 6.8% on 2010 (baseline figure: 176). With 56 offences during 2012, rape accounted for 34.1% of SSO, and once again, bi-weekly analysis over the past year has shown that there is not a clear pattern for SSO in Slough. The majority of rape victims were female aged 16 or older.

Rates of serious sexual offences are above average when compared to the MSG group.

Location and time:

- With 45 offences, Chalvey / Upton neighbourhood had the highest rates of serious sexual offences in Slough; accounting for 27.4% of the 164 offences committed during 2012.
- The number of serious sexual offences was the highest in January with 28 offences, accounting for 17.1% of the offences committed in Slough.

#### **2.2.4 Criminal Damage**

Although not a priority crime, criminal damage (CD) is a volume crime in Slough and includes the following offences: criminal damage to properties and vehicles, and arson.

According to local neighbourhood data, there were 1,687 incidents of criminal damage in Slough during 2012. This is a decrease of 19.9% on 2011 and 27.6% on 2010 (baseline figure: 2,329).

Criminal damage to vehicles is the most reported type of CD and with 796 offences in 2012, it accounted for 47.1% of all criminal damage incidents in Slough. Criminal damage to vehicles has decreased by 30.2% over the past 3 years (baseline figure: 1,142).

Slough has had some successes in reducing criminal damage which can in part be linked to the success in reducing vehicle crime. However, despite the reduction, rates of criminal damage in Slough are above average when compared to the MSG group. The average for the MSG is 11.207 per thousand population compared to Slough at 12.138 per thousand population

Location and time:

- During 2012, offences were the highest in Chalvey / Upton neighbourhood accounting for 346 (20.5%) of all criminal damage incidents in Slough, closely followed by Britwell / Haymill neighbourhood with 319 offences (18.9%).
- The number of criminal damage offences were the highest in January, accounting for 190 (11.3%) of the offences committed in Slough, closely followed by March with 183 offences (10.8%).

### 3. Anti-Social Behaviour

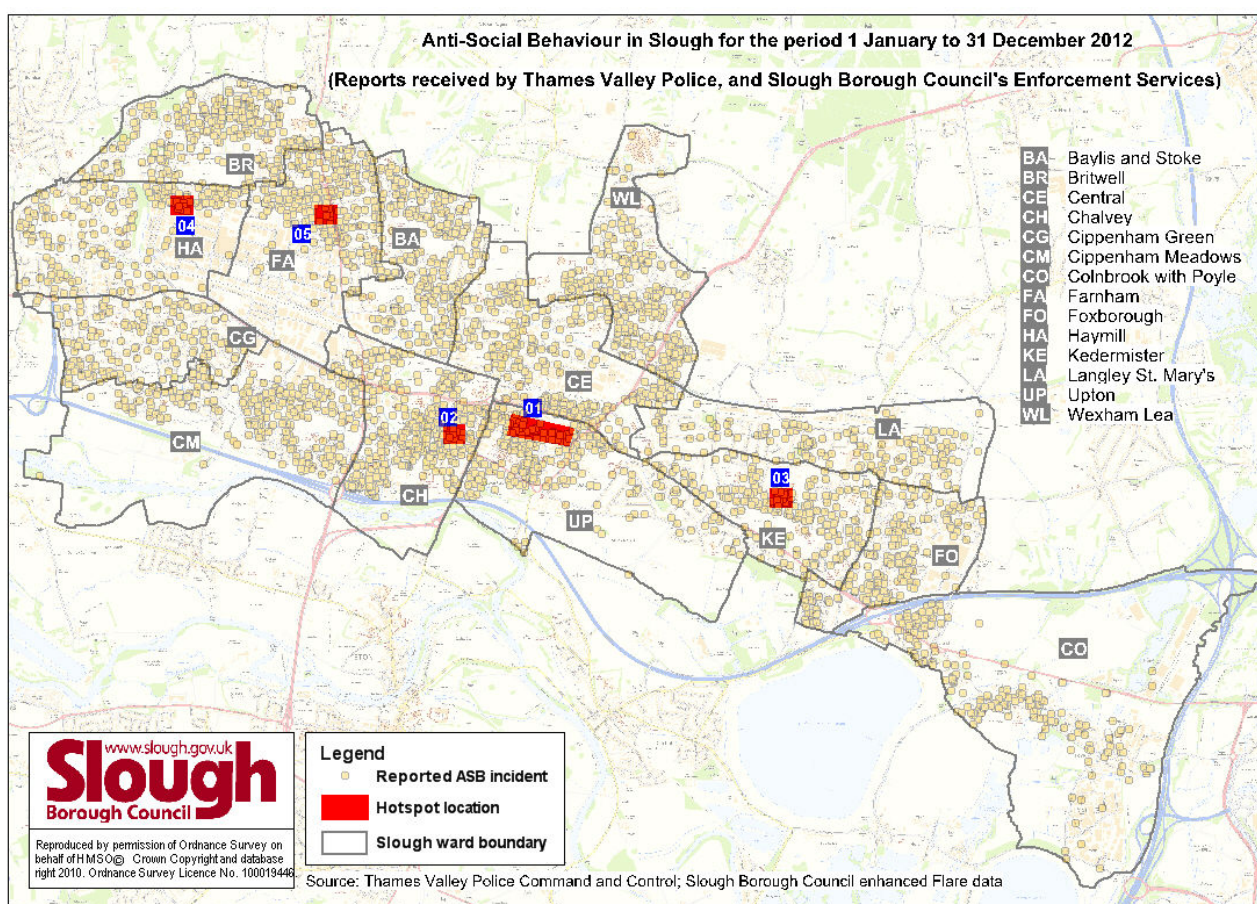
#### 3.1 Reported ASB

Reports of ASB to the Council and the Police are reducing. Slough LPA and Slough Borough Council<sup>5</sup> collectively received 6,914 ASB reports during 2012. This is a decrease of 10.4% on 2011 and 31.7% on 2010 (baseline figure: 9,109).

Chalvey had the highest ASB rate with 71 incidents per 1 000 population. Upton had the second highest ASB rate with 63 incidents per 1 000 population, closely followed by Farnham and Britwell with 60 incidents per 1 000 population each.

The map below shows the most problematic ASB locations during 2012.

Figure 3: ASB in Slough reported to Slough LPA and Slough Borough Council



ASB hotspots indicated by the map above:

01. High Street Slough (Upton) – 174 ASB reports
02. Burlington Avenue / The Crescent (Chalvey) – 117 ASB reports
03. Trelawney Avenue / Rossiter Close (Kedermister) – 87 ASB reports
04. Greystoke Road / Northmead Road (Haymill) – 64 ASB reports
05. Beaumaris Court (Farnham) – 52 ASB reports

#### 3.2 Reports received by Slough LPA

Police forces in England and Wales record anti-social behaviour and crime according to The National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR)<sup>6</sup>. In 2009 the NPIA carried out a review of the ASB section of the National Incident Category List (NICL)<sup>7</sup>. As a result, the previously defined ASB

<sup>5</sup> Refers only to reports received by Enforcement and Regulatory Services at Slough Borough Council

<sup>6</sup> Principles, guidance and definitions compiled by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA), the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), the Home Office, and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)

<sup>7</sup> NICL is part of the NSIR

categories were reduced from sixteen<sup>8</sup> to three<sup>9</sup>, and in April 2011 police incident logging systems were updated accordingly<sup>10</sup>.

Slough LPA received 4,475 ASB reports during 2012. This is a decrease of 23.8% on 2011 and 39.5% on 2012 (baseline figure: 7,393).

#### Location and time:

- Chalvey had the highest ASB rate with 52 incidents per 1,000 population. Britwell had the second highest ASB rate with 45 incidents per 1,000 population, followed by Upton with 43 incidents per 1,000 population and Farnham with 39 incidents per 1,000 population.
- During 2012, ASB reporting was the highest in May, followed by July, March and August. ASB reports received during these four months accounted for 41% of the annual total. This deviates slightly from 2012 when reporting was the highest during June and July, and 2011 when reporting was the highest during March.
- Over the past 3 years July and May have been the most problematic months, but the Partnership should also be aware of increased reporting during June, August and March.

#### **3.2.1 Reports received by Slough Borough Council**<sup>11</sup>

Slough Borough Council recorded 2,439 ASB incidents during 2012. This is an increase of 38.7% on 2011 and 42.1% on 2012 (baseline figure: 1,716).

Increased recording in this instance is not necessarily a bad thing, as records not only include reports from residents but also reports from enforcement staff partaking in operations and patrols.

The following types of ASB were the most recorded during 2012, and also the past 3 years -

#### Primary ASB categories

1. Environmental damage: with 1,236 reports. Showed an increase of 71.4% on 2011 and 75.1% on 2010 (baseline figure: 706)
2. Rowdy nuisance neighbours: with 462 reports. Showed an increase of 6% on 2011 and 6.2% on 2010 (baseline figure: 435)
3. Animal problems: with 283 reports. Showed an increase of 28.6% on 2011 and 12.3% on 2010 (baseline figure: 252)

#### Secondary ASB categories

1. Fly-tipping (Environmental damage): with 736 reports. Showed an increase of 44.6% on 2011 and 51.1% on 2010 (baseline figure: 487)
2. Littering (Environmental damage): with 405 reports. Showed an increase of 232% on 2011 and 240.3% on 2010 (baseline figure: 119)
3. Noise (Rowdy nuisance neighbours): with 374 reports. Showed an increase of 0.8% on 2011 and a decrease of 4.8% on 2010 (baseline figure: 393)

#### Location and time:

- Central and Colnbrook with Poyle had the highest ASB rate with 23 incidents per 1,000 population each. Farnham had the second highest ASB rate with 22 incidents per 1,000 population, closely followed by Foxborough and Upton with 20 incidents per 1,000 population each.

<sup>8</sup> Abandoned vehicles, Animal problems, Begging / Vagrancy, Environmental damage / littering, Hate incidents, Hoax calls to emergency services, Inappropriate use / sale / possession of fireworks, Malicious communications, Noise, Prostitution related activity, Rowdy / nuisance neighbours, Rowdy / inconsiderate behaviour, Street drinking, Substance misuse, Trespass, Vehicle nuisance / Inappropriate vehicle use

<sup>9</sup> Personal, Nuisance, Environmental

<sup>10</sup> Although it is clear from reading the 2011 NSIR document<sup>10</sup> why these changes were introduced, from a neighbourhood management and analytical point of view the changes have been less than helpful. An example of the constraints imposed by these changes is the inability to quickly and accurately ascertain from the police incident logging system how many reports of prostitute related activity or street drinking were recorded over a given period, as both would have been recorded under the Nuisance category. Such constraints do not only make it difficult to carry out hotspot analysis or year-on-year comparisons, it also makes it difficult to quantify the effectiveness of targeted work carried out by the partnership. In such instances the partnership can draw from residents' feedback obtained through the council's ASB Survey.

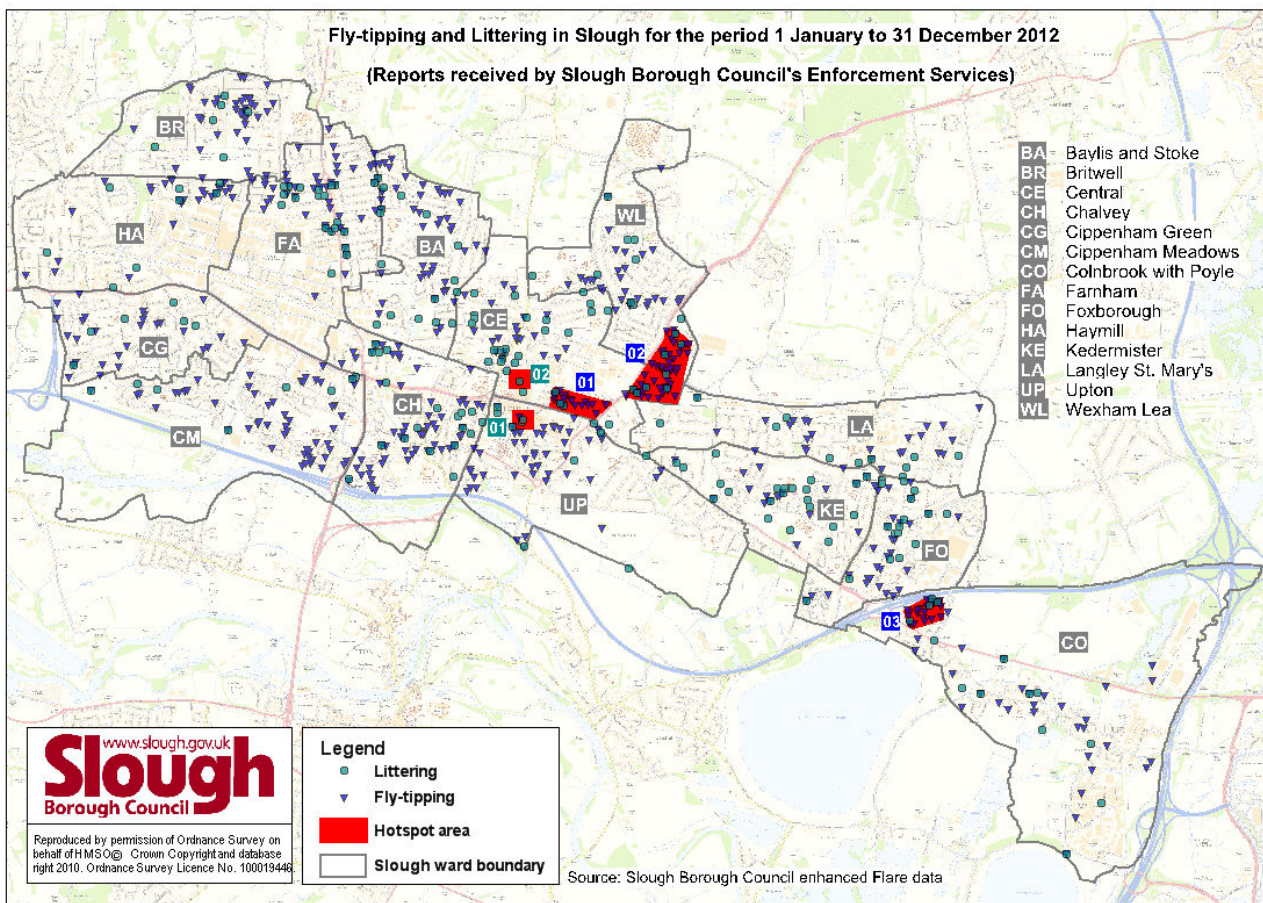
<sup>11</sup> Refers only to reports received by Enforcement and Regulatory Services at Slough Borough Council



- ASB reporting during 2012 was the highest in August, followed by July. ASB reports received during these two months accounted for a quarter (25%) of the annual total.

With environmental damage being the most recorded ASB category by the council, the map below shows the locations most affected by fly-tipping and littering during 2012.

Figure 4: Fly-tipping and Litter recorded by Enforcement Services at Slough Borough Council



Fly-tipping hotspots indicated by the map above:

- Richmond Crescent / Diamond Road area – area size: 0.03227 square miles; 29 fly-tips
- Rochfords Gardens / Goodman Park area – area size: 0.08620 square miles; 50 fly-tips
- Severn Crescent / Trent Road area – area size: 0.02687 square miles; 27 fly-tips

Littering hotspots indicated by the map above:

- Slough High Street – 45 littering offences
- Slough Train Station / Railway Terrace – 42 littering offences

During 2012, approximately

- 288 black bags, 212 mattresses, 155 sofas, 76 beds or bed bases, 59 chairs, and 42 tyres were recorded as fly-tipped
- 1,918 alcohol bottles, 1 412 alcohol cans, and 131 syringes were recorded as littered, found predominantly in parks and alleyways

### 3.3 Perceptions

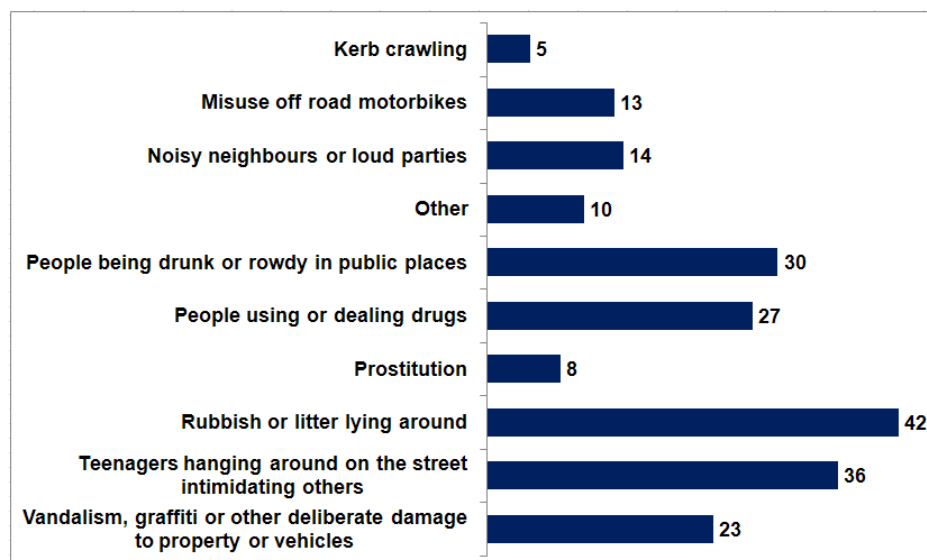
Neighbourhood Enforcement and Community Safety officers<sup>12</sup> at Slough Borough Council have been conducting a survey over the past 2 years to gauge residents' perception of anti-social

<sup>12</sup> Supported by police officers and PCSOs from Slough LPA's neighbourhood teams, officers from other departments at the council, and the Police Cadets

behaviour (ASB) in Slough and the council's ability to deal with existing ASB issues. The survey was compiled to replace the relevant section of the obsolete Place Survey<sup>13</sup>. To date, just over 2,500 ASB survey forms have been sufficiently completed by Slough residents, predominantly during door-knocking exercises and patrols carried out by officers; followed by public meetings and community events.

During 2012, 1,660 ASB Survey forms were completed. Figure 4 below shows the percentage of residents who found specific types of ASB to be problematic in their area.

**Figure 4: % of residents who found specific ASB to be a fairly big to very big problem in their street**



Source: Slough Borough Council ASB Survey data

It is clear from Figure 4 that residents perceived the following types of ASB to be most problematic:

4. Rubbish or litter lying around (42%; 703 residents)
5. Teenagers hanging around on the street intimidating others (36%; 599 residents)
6. People being drunk or rowdy in public places (30%; 497 residents)

When asked 'How well do you think the council is dealing with ASB issues in your neighbourhood?'

- 48% (804 residents) thought 'satisfactory'
- 29% (475 residents) thought 'not well at all'
- and 13.6% (225 residents) thought 'very well'

During 2012, the highest percentages of survey forms completed were in the following wards:

1. Farnham with 12.9% (214 forms)
2. Chalvey with 10.1% (167 forms)
3. Central with 9.9% (165 forms)

**Location:**

- Residents in Chalvey were most concerned about rubbish or litter lying around (64%; 107 residents), and so were residents in Farnham (44%; 94 residents) and Central (49%; 81 residents).
- Residents in Chalvey were also concerned about people being drunk or rowdy in public places (56%, 93 residents), and so were residents in Farnham (35%, 74 residents).
- People using or dealing drugs was the third biggest concern for Chalvey residents (53%, 88).

<sup>13</sup> The Place survey was to be carried out every two years by local authorities to gauge residents' perspectives on various matters concerning where they lived



### 3.4 Perception vs. reality

Perception clearly meets reality where Central, Chalvey and Farnham wards are concerned. Residents in these three wards felt that rubbish and litter lying around were most problematic to them, and the reports received by the council support this:

1. Central with 86 littering reports, which accounted for almost 30% of ASB in this ward, closely followed by 84 fly-tipping reports which accounted for 29% of ASB in this ward
2. Chalvey with 71 fly-tipping reports, which accounted for 32% of ASB in this ward
3. Farnham with 68 fly-tipping reports, which accounted for 30.5% of ASB in this ward

### 3.5 ASB case management

The Partnership month ASB Case Review meetings are held in Slough to consider actions for new and ongoing ASB cases. At these meetings, each case is carefully considered along with the recorded evidence and an action plan is put together. Actions may take the form of home visits, mediation, victim support or enforcement routes such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) or Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

In addition Slough LPA lead on monthly sector tasking meetings to address ASB issues in each neighbourhood. The meetings focus on persistent & resistant ASB cases with a strong focus on offender management, victim support and location improvements.

#### 6.1.1 Level of activity

Slough Borough Council has logged 236 ASB cases in the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012. For the same period in 2011, 298 cases were logged. The number of cases received per month has remained reasonably stable throughout the period assessed, with the exception of July, August and September which corresponds with the seasonal increase in anti-social behaviour over the school summer holiday period. There has also been a drop in cases logged in December and January, and again this corresponds with the seasonal decrease in anti-social behaviour during the winter months. Just over one third of cases were deemed for further case management work. 47 multi-agency case conferences (including safeguarding meetings) and 12 ASB Case Review Meetings were held in 2012. Action plans put in place from case conferences are followed up during the ASB Case Review meetings.

The table below provides a breakdown of ASB cases by nature.

Table 3: Anti-social behaviour cases by nature for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

Nature of case	Number of cases
Harassment/Alarm/Distress	23
Neighbour dispute	16
Neighbour nuisance	11
Group gatherings	8
Rowdy nuisance behaviour	6
Ball games	4
Alcohol related activity	3
Noise nuisance	3
Drug related activity	2
Parking	1
Damage to property	1
Mini motorbikes	1
Other	1

Just over one quarter of cases managed by the ASB team are due to harassment/alarm/distress, and neighbourly issues.

### **3.3.1.1 Harassment/Alarm/Distress cases**

These cases are recorded as such when residents complain about ASB in which they felt harassment, alarm or distress. The cases varied from ASB on a private estate, intimidation and name calling, loud music being played, ASB in communal areas, harassment from neighbours, physical assault, bullying, criminal damage and even a driver causing nuisance on a road. Below are some examples of the work undertaken by the team:

- ASB on a private estate – door knocking was completed with police and project officer to ascertain the extent of the problem. Youths were then identified and ASB warning letters were delivered to the main perpetrators. The area was monitored closely and the problems then ceased after 6 weeks.
- ASB from an alleyway with unidentified perpetrators – joint visits with police and project officer to complainant. ASB survey was carried out in the area confirming major problems with the alleyway. TVP carried out an operation, patrols were done regularly and crime prevention advice was given to all complainants. The area continues to be monitored by police and wardens.

### **3.3.1.2 Neighbour disputes**

These cases are recorded as such when residents are in dispute with their neighbours, often due to numerous and varied issues. The issues included verbal abuse, things being thrown into neighbours gardens, noise nuisance, aggressive behaviour and boundary disputes. Below are some examples of the work undertaken by the team:

- A neighbour causing noise and ASB for over a year affecting all the residents in a quiet area. The alleged perpetrator failed to engage with ASB Caseworker, NET and police during this time and the landlord was approached for further assistance. The team served various notices for fly-tipping and litter which were ignored. Police were being called out numerous times. A number of case conferences were held to discuss the best options. ASB Caseworker assisted the landlord in taking matter to court for full possession. This was successful and an eviction was carried out using bailiffs.
- Mediation was carried out by ASB Caseworker and TVP for an ongoing dispute. Agreements were reached and the case was closed.

A familiar trend of neighbour disputes is that neighbours are usually friends before the dispute. Mediation is always offered in these cases and has a good level of success.

### **3.3.1.2 Neighbour nuisance**

These cases are recorded as such when a neighbour causes nuisance to other neighbours and often complainants are not able to enjoy their property or the nuisance neighbour affects their quality of life. The issues included threatening behaviour, criminal damage, intimidating behaviour, parking and animal nuisance. Below are some examples of the work undertaken by the team:

- Various complainants experiencing criminal damage to their vehicles over a short period. After investigation by TVP and ASB Caseworker, it was discovered that due to boundary disputes, the alleged perpetrator was causing deliberate damage. All residents installed CCTV and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and charged. Case is still being monitored.
- A number of complainants having reported issues with dogs barking and have had eggs thrown at their property. One family was identified. NET, TVP, social landlord and ASB Caseworker held a case conference and actions were put in place. Case is still being monitored.
- An aggressive nuisance neighbour threatened and verbally abused neighbours on either side for many months. The case escalated with the victim being assaulted and the offender being imprisoned for a period. Together with the NET and TVP, an ASBO was taken out on the offender and they have moved out of Slough.

The types of interventions vary and cases can sometimes be resolved from simple actions such as writing to perpetrators or a home visit. However, neighbour disputes and neighbour nuisance take up a considerable amount of time for the ASB Caseworker as the cases are very involved and usually take a long time to resolve.

### 6.1.2 Enforcement

During 2011 and 2012, the ASB Caseworker, together with the relevant crime reduction partners, used the following ASB tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour in Slough:

	2011	2012
Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs)	2	2
Anti-social behaviour injunctions (ASBIs)	1	1 + 4 interim gang injunctions
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)	10 offered (9 signed and 1 refused)	13 offered (11 signed and 2 refused)
Parenting Contracts (PCAs)	5 offered (All 5 signed)	3 offered (All 3 signed)

Currently, there are 6 ASBOs, 3 injunctions and 4 interim injunctions, 11 ABCs and 3 PCAs in place in Slough.

### 6.1.3 Victim assessment

Tackling anti-social behaviour is not just about enforcement activity; it is also about engagement with, and support for victim and working with perpetrators to support them in changing their behaviour. As a result of the 2007 Pilkington case, police forces including Slough LPA 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.

During 2012, the ASB Caseworker has dealt with cases where mental health, substance misuse and chaotic lifestyles were the underlying causes of ASB. In 2012, 5 cases involved alleged perpetrators with a mental health need, 3 cases involved substance misuse and 2 with chaotic lifestyles. Early intervention, information sharing and ensuring correct support measures are in place for both victims and perpetrators are key in all ASB cases, resulting in effective case management.

### 6.1.4 Victim support

The role of the ASB Victims Champion includes contacting people who have been the victim of anti-social behaviour, encouraging them to report incidents of ASB, and offering emotional / practical support. The support offered is by phone, e-mail and personal visits, and the level and length of contact is dependent on particular issues or vulnerabilities. In the event that a victim of ASB is a social housing tenant (either Slough Borough Council or a housing association), then visits will be made with the housing officer to ensure that the housing providers are aware of issues, in order to enable effective action.

During 2012, of the 45 victims supported, 8 victims were particularly vulnerable due to age or disability (or both); by comparison, during 2011, 58 victims were supported, 9 of whom were particularly vulnerable due to age or disability (or both).

In 2012, and 2011, the vast majority of cases involved harassment or intimidation, or issues with neighbours (including noise) as this made people feel victimised where they live, and required support whilst experiencing these issues. Although ball games tend to follow seasonal patterns, and are usually not targeted at particular individuals, during 2012, there were 6 residents who felt

particularly targeted, for example the ball games were being played next to their property, or their property have been damaged as a result. Reports of youth activity resulting in ASB were stable throughout the year, with most months having at least 1 victim of targeted activity, or concern regarding the congregation of youths.

#### **3.3.4.1 Street sex work**

Significant improvements have been made to the reduction of complaints to street working. Official reports of street sex work are low (only 8 between June and November 2012); feedback from local community groups and local residents highlight street working to be a local priority and the Partnership has responded through coordinating multi-agency action through the SWAG (Sex Workers Action Group).

The main 'hotspots' have traditionally been Chalvey (around Ledgers Road and Montem Lane) and Stoke and Baylis (on Stoke Poges Lane). 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 Eastern European street workers 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.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

1. **SWAG Action Plan:** The Slough LPA Strategy (2008-2011) was replaced locally with a partnership action plan for 2011-13 which covers four strands:
  - Prevention of ASB related to prostitution:- this involves targeted patrols, closing off slip roads used for kerb crawling, and supporting workers to access 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'.

According to the latest SWAG meeting, 6 British girls have gone into rehab or moved out of the area to a refuge and are working towards a plan to exit from prostitution. The 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.

The number of Romanian girls has recently increased and may be a result of recent operations in neighbouring boroughs. The UKBA has issued 5 letters to Romanian sex workers inviting them to interviews 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. Cross-borough work with Hounslow and Ealing is ongoing.

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.

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. This is most likely due to the closure of the old Town Hall slip road and kerb crawlers going elsewhere.

## 4. Factors affecting crime and anti-social behaviour

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### 4.1 Underreporting of crime and ASB

Critical to managing a problem is accurate understanding of the level and nature of the problem of offending. Like other urban areas with diverse populations, under reporting is an issue. A diverse population brings about a difference in cultural 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.

The following crime and ASB types are most likely to be under reported in Slough:

- Sexual offences
- Domestic abuse
- Violent crime – assaults, wounding
- Vehicle crime
- Criminal damage
- Alcohol nuisance

The SSP have invested in campaigns to encourage reporting of particular types of crime and ASB and have

- Invested in a 24 hour ASB hotline to encourage reporting of ASB – this includes noise, nuisance, harassment, fly –tipping and criminal damage
- Carried out a 4 month communication campaign (radio, door knocking, and poster on bus tops) to encourage reporting of ASB
- Carried out door to door surveys to understand perceptions and local priorities
- Worked with Crime stoppers to encourage reporting of DA
- TV campaign, radio campaign to speak out against DA,
- Commissioned a new service not only to respond to needs to victims and perpetrators but to increase reporting through assertive outreach (Children Services, Social Services and schools)
- Invested analytical capacity to inform Slough LPA Tactical Tasking and Sector Tasking to improve intelligence and data sharing of data to improve outcomes for local residents.

### 4.2 Partnership enforcement activity

Partnership activity is likely to impact levels of ASB and crime. For example, the SSP have historically carried out 'days of action' which has altered levels of crime associated with drug misuse. This is also relevant to ASB, a good example of this is reported littering, which increased from 119 reports in 2010 and 122 in 2011 to 405 in 2012. This increase meant that littering accounted for almost 17% of all ASB recorded by the Council in 2012. Some might be concerned by this increase, but an estimated 68% of these littering incidents were actually reported by enforcement staff. This shows an increase in public presence and in targeted work, especially around Slough Train Station and Slough's shopping parades, and around alcohol litter found in parks, alleyways, car parks / service areas, and garage areas. Intervention and action taken against litterers will hopefully discourage other individuals frequenting these areas from littering, or other ASB for that matter.

### 4.3 Drug related offending

The link between drugs and crime is a strong one. The Home Office estimates that between a third and a half of all acquisitive crime (also known as "trigger offences" which includes theft, burglary, car crime, shoplifting and begging) is linked to the use of heroin, crack and cocaine. It is also estimated that Class A drug use generates £15.4 billion in crime and health costs each year, of which 99 percent is accounted for by problematic drug users<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> 'Drugs: protecting families and communities 2008' Produced by COI on behalf of HM Government

Slough has been a DIP Intensive Area for 12 years, due to the strong relationship between offending and drug misuse. The estimated number of Opiate or Crack Users in Slough is **1193**<sup>15</sup>. The DIP Programme has been successful at addressing drug related offending through the use of rapid prescribing, a forward looking recovery focussed agenda where users focus on addressing the drug related, employment and accommodation needs.

Significant inroads have been made to work with offenders through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme to increase the response time and to streamline referrals in to the service as well as addressing needs. The DIP allows the Partnership to support offenders in Slough and provide specific provision for areas that have been highlighted through service user consultation and assessments as in need of focus with an aim to:

- encourage/motivate clients to become drug/alcohol free; including links with housing, education, employment etc
- increase the number of clients currently leaving treatment drug/alcohol free
- reduce re-presentations of clients (recovery team work)
- reduce drug/alcohol related offending in Slough
- provide links to residential rehabilitation/alcohol detoxification programmes where appropriate

#### **4.4 Alcohol**

Excessive or binge drinking is associated with numerous different types of crime and ASB. However, the relationship between crime and alcohol is complex and can contribute different types of crime such as criminal damage, sexual offences, acquisitive crime and assault. There has been a considerable amount of research done on the nature of the link between alcohol and crime and it is generally acknowledged to be complex. Alcohol is not always a causal factor in crime.

Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) state that for 2010/11 for Slough

- Alcohol related crime was 12.3 per thousand population. This is compared to the national average of 6.1 per thousand population.
- Violent crime is equal to 8.4 per thousand population. This is compared to the national average of 4.7 per thousand population.

The relationship between alcohol misuse and crime in Slough is clear, between July and December 2012, from the 537 drug tests completed in local custody centre, 216 (40%) also presented evidence of alcohol misuse. From the 216, we can note the following:

- **68.0%** correlate with **non trigger offences** (for example violence against the person)
- **18.0%** correlate with the offence of **theft**
- **3.0%** correlate with the offence of **burglary**
- **1.5%** correlate with the offence of **theft**

It is worth noting the data is outdated, to properly understand the extent of alcohol related offending in Slough further and up to date analysis is required

#### **Looking Ahead:**

Steps are being taken to set up a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Slough which will tackle public underage drinking through co-operation between alcohol retailers and local stakeholders, such as Trading Standards, police, local authority licensing teams, schools and health networks. The CAP will address both the demand and supply side of underage drinking through enforcement, education and public perception.

#### **4.5 Young Offenders**

The latest available data shows that between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, 186 young people aged between 10 and 17 yrs were seen by the YOT through statutory orders (via court). This is a reduction of 82 young people (31%) from the baseline year of 2010, which indicates that preventative work in respect of first time entrants into the criminal justice system is effective.

<sup>15</sup> [www.ndtms.net](http://www.ndtms.net) Glasgow Smoothed Estimates 2008/09 (NB: this data is based on 3 yrs smoothed estimates from 2004-2007)

The 3 highest offences by the YOT cohort during 2012 were:

- Violence against the person with 24% (n74)
- Theft and Handling with 18% (n59)
- Robbery with 13% (n48)

Violent offences have remained the most common offence type for young offenders for the last three years, followed by theft and handling, robbery, and public order offences. There has been little change in the offending pattern of young people, with the exception of 2012, where domestic burglary featured heavily in the top 5.

Within the YOT cohort the largest offending group is aged between 15-17 years, although there are also offenders aged between 10-13 years. 52% of the YOT cohort are White, this is followed by Asian/Asian British (17.7%) and then Mixed (15.7%). The majority of offenders are male, 81% over the last three years.

The re-offending rate is low to medium compared to the YOT's 'family' showing that intervention programmes have been effective. In 2010 27.5% (n74) of the YOT cohort were persistent offenders, this reduced to 19.8% (n48) in 2011 and 11.2% (n21) in 2012.

#### **4.6 Adult Offenders**

Thames Valley Probation supervises around **500 Slough adult offenders** at any one time. Violent and sexual offenders who present a significant risk of harm to others are supervised under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Probation, Police, YOT, Health, Housing, Children's services and others all work together to minimise the harm those offenders can cause. Probation runs intensive Sex Offender and Domestic Abuse Perpetrator groupwork programmes and has recently developed one to one versions of these. Probation also runs an information and support service for victims of some violent and sexual offences.

Probation has a strong focus on reducing reoffending via rehabilitation of offenders. Its work with the most prolific adult offenders continues to be via the multi-agency arrangements that make up **Integrated Offender Management (IOM)**. Like MAPPA, this partnership approach to working with repeat offenders is led by Probation and the Police and includes a similar range of organisations. The offenders are normally perpetrators of Serious Acquisitive Crime (robbery, burglary and theft of and from vehicles). Police information indicates **significant reductions in arrests** of members of the Slough IOM cohort. There was a **38% reduction** up to the end of December 2012 when compared to the same point in the previous year. Measuring IOM re-offending in terms of arrests may give a more accurate and up-to-date picture of offending activity than re-convictions, reporting of which is delayed by charging and sentencing processes.

Probation uses the Offender Assessment System (OASys) to identify individual offenders' risks and needs. Offender needs fall into seven categories: housing, education, training & employment (ETE), finances, relationships, drug and alcohol misuse, mental and physical health and thinking deficits. Addressing those areas of need is fundamental to reducing reoffending and rehabilitating offenders. The resource streams corresponding to the above categories are usually known as the seven pathways out of offending.

In addition to use of OASys, Probation has, in partnership with Slough Drug and Alcohol Action team devised an offender-report tool called the Offender Outcomes Profile (OOP) for use with IOM offenders. This measures how much particular areas of need have declined in response to interventions. When collated, this information can not only be used to help identify what has been successful in assisting the rehabilitative efforts of offenders but also where the gaps in provision are.

Probation has a range of group and individual activities which help towards reducing re-offending. They include a focus on women's issues, drink-fuelled violence, accommodation and citizenship, money management and others. Thinking deficits, amongst other needs, are strongly addressed in these activities. They also use interventions delivered by partner organisations, such as drug and alcohol treatment providers for offenders on Drug Rehabilitation and Alcohol Treatment requirements of court orders.

Probation have ETE staff and volunteers who help offenders improve their literacy and numeracy skills, gain qualifications and find work. They also have a partnership with DIVERT mental health assessment and referral service, whose staff are based in the Slough probation office. In terms of physical health, offenders are amongst the unhealthiest group in the population and are often not registered with GPs. Probation fund a small Health Advice service and have recently commissioned a qualified football coach to run a football and fitness programme to help improve their health and social skills. The current changes to health funding arrangements carry strong risks for offenders' attempts to rehabilitate, as do housing and housing benefit changes.

Probation have commissioned a voluntary worker recruitment organisation, SOVA, to provide volunteers to undertake a range of work with offenders, including acting as mentors to young adults. A new Young People programme is also nearing completion. The transition from youth to adulthood, and indeed from Youth Offending Team to Probation, can be particularly hard for young people who offend, who tend to have severely disadvantaged backgrounds. This new programme will address their various difficulties and encourage and enable them to make more constructive use of their time.

Probation brings offenders subject to Restorative Justice requirements of court orders together with their victims, which can alleviate the fears of the latter and can bring home to the offender how much their behaviour has impacted on victims. Organised Unpaid Work by offenders, also known as community punishment or community payback, is a means to offenders making amends to communities rather than to individual victims.

Slough Probation are particularly keen to develop partnership arrangements with services for women offenders, including accommodation services, as there is some evidence that women are more readily remanded in custody than their male counterparts and tend to have intensive needs.

Every year Thames Valley Probation presents Turning Lives Around awards to offenders who have made particularly good progress, often after many years of offending and interventions by Criminal Justice agencies. This year's awards will be in May and 3 Slough offenders will receive them. One is Jackie (not her real name) who after many years of substance misuse and offending to fund it has successfully completed her latest period of supervision, which included drugs treatment and a restorative justice requirement. Ongoing testing has shown she has remained drug-free for many months after years of continual use.

#### **4.7 Families at risk of ASB and crime**

##### **4.7.1 Troubled Families**

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, Slough made a commitment to deliver the Troubled Families programme which will ensure the successful engagement of 330 troubled families over the next 3 years. Work has already begun with the initial cohort of 110 families.

The key objectives for this work are:-

- Reducing crime and anti-social behavior
- Getting adults on the path to work
- Getting children back into school

The targets for reducing crime and anti social behaviour are:-

- 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

The economic case for whole family working is clear, with one study estimating the costs to the taxpayer as being between £250,000 and £350,000 per family per year for those with complex and enduring needs.

The programme provides an opportunity for cross sector collaboration and multi agency working to develop improved and better coordinated services for families and maximise diminishing financial resources.



#### 4.7.2 Substance misuse

Drug Misuse affects individuals and families and puts significant demands on the resources of Slough LPA, the local authority and other local services such as health. Data from Slough Borough Council Education and Children's Services show that:

- From the current cohort of **Looked After Children**, approximately one third stem from parental factors linked to drugs. This equates to 60 out of 185 families due to drug abuse.
- From the current **Children Protection** cohort, approximately one third stem from parental factors linked to drugs and alcohol abuse. This equates to 30 due to alcohol, and 41 out of 105 due to drug abuse.

#### Looking Ahead: Family Intensive Engagement Service (FIES)

The Family Intensive Engagement Service (FIES) is part of Slough's treatment service. They engage with families who have substance misuse issues to motivate them and provide opportunities for change. They aim to provide intensive, structured and practical support, tailored to the needs of individual families, to enable families to live safely and achieve positive and stable outcomes.

However, to be eligible for the service families need to meet certain criteria such as:

- Be residents of Slough with a proven local connection
- Current parental substance misuse of a class A substance and/or dependant alcohol use that has been assessed by a substance misuse practitioner
- Be engaged with Slough treatment services
- Have children currently residing at home with or those that are expected to return to the care of their parent in the near future.
- It has been identified that the children within the family are significantly vulnerable.

The FIES team has been in place since July 2012 and with increasing referrals, have so far engaged with 20 families. Most of the families who have engaged with FIES have had positive outcomes and Slough treatment services have witnessed the benefits of referring clients to FIES. The FIES team continue to promote their service through community events and the treatment services.

## 5. Aims, Priorities, Strategic Actions and Targets for 2013/14

### Three year aim for the Safer Slough Partnership (2011-14)

To reduce the harm that results from crime and disorder.

### Priorities (2013-14)

In order to effectively reduce harm in 2013/14 the Safer Slough Partnership has set the following priorities

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

### Strategic Actions

In order to deliver the priorities the SSP will ensure it carries out the following strategic actions:

#### **1) Monitor levels of all types of crime and anti-social behaviour**

The SSP will monitor levels of all types of crime and anti-social behaviour in order to identify the offences that are causing the most harm. In 2013/14 this will include:

- Acquisitive crime
- Violent crime
- Perceptions of anti-social behaviour

Lead: SSP Performance and Data Collection Manager, SBC

#### **2) Map and analyse identified types of crime and anti-social behaviour to assist the Partnership's immediate response**

The SSP will provide crime and disorder analysis reports on the crime and disorder that causes the most harm in Slough.

Lead: Safer Slough Partnership Performance and Data Collection Manager, SBC

#### **3) Improve partnership working and information sharing in order to reduce the harm that results from crime and disorder**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 puts a general duty on local authorities to take account of the community safety dimension in all of its work and a duty on relevant authorities to share information which will lead to the reduction of crime and disorder. In November 2012 Thames Valley elected a Police Crime Commissioner. This will provide new challenges and accountabilities for the SSP. The SSP will ensure that:

- All partners work together towards the SSP's objectives, particularly in relation to case management of offenders and victims, safeguarding and data analysis
- New services are commissioned in order to improve delivery
- Services are properly managed and deliver outcomes
- All partners share information effectively and in accordance with the Berkshire Information Sharing Policy
- The partnership works effectively with the Police Crime Commissioner

Lead: Community Safety Manager, SBC

### **Targets**

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 of personnel property – **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

### **Delivery and performance management in 2013/14**

The Safer Slough Partnership will develop a resources plan to show how it will allocate its funding in support of its priorities. The SSP Executive will meet every two months to review performance against targets and to tackle problems at a strategic level. Multi-agency action plans have been put in place to resolve problems at an operational level.