

Appendix B

Crime prevention and support activity in Slough

Please find below some examples of partnership working and projects which are helping to tackle the SSP's priorities and meet its targets:

Information Sharing Policy

The SSP has an information sharing policy. The policy sets out the framework for information sharing to take place between partners and gives an explanation of the legal basis for information sharing. Partners who have signed the protocol include:

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

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

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, the SSP 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:

- Gang injunctions were obtained 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 takes place to look at each individual involved or on the periphery and an action plan for each is being implemented. This includes home visits and diversionary activities, and enforcement action. The Breakaway project has been set up as a mentoring scheme for those at risk of gang involvement.

Youth Offending

Slough Youth Offending Team (YOT) delivers youth justice services in order to prevent offending and protect the public. Prevention work includes the Youth Inclusion Support Programme (YISP) offered from 8 years of age. This involves working with the young person and their family in a restorative manner. Interventions include offending behaviour, victim awareness, substance misuse, mental health and positive activities.

The CCTV Service

The CCTV service works closely with Thames Valley Police and other agencies, including the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team, to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in Slough.

The centre has 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. Over a rolling 12 month period staff have been involved in 1788 proactively monitored incidents which have led to 881 arrests being made.

Core activities undertaken by the control room include monitoring 82 fixed CCTV cameras located across the borough, 6 re-deployable cameras located at crime hot spots, and 5 fixed site ANPR cameras located at key arterial routes into the town.

In addition, the control room also provides an emergency out of hours call handling service, manages the council's 24/7 ASB Hotline, handles fire, intruder and panic alarm system monitoring for many council buildings, also emergency plan and external liaison (including Heathrow), key holding and issuing for Housing Service properties, the staff lone worker monitoring service and monitoring and surveillance services for Thames Valley Police and Slough Town Against Crime.

The control room played a pivotal role in handling the recent EDL march in the town, and in coordinating the flood response.

Tackling ASB

The SSP have invested in campaigns to encourage reporting of crime and ASB and have maintained a 24-hour ASB hotline to take calls at any time of day or night. ASB surveys are conducted regularly with residents.

Casework

Slough has ASB service standards, which set out the service that residents can expect, including timescales for contact.

Risk assessments are carried out for each case and multiagency case conferences are held where required. At these meetings, the case is carefully considered along with the recorded evidence and an action plan is put together. This may include home visits by a housing officer, police officer and/or ASB officer and will be followed up with ongoing support along with the offer of mediation. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Gang Injunctions may be considered. Slough holds monthly ASB Case Review meetings to review all ongoing cases and manage new ones.

Location based crime and ASB - Alleygating

The purpose of gating schemes is to reduce crime and ASB and fear of crime, and to reassure local communities who have been suffering from crime and ASB in their neighbourhoods.

The community project officers have been carrying out gating projects since 2008. Areas for gating have been identified by residents, councillors and resident forums including the Neighbourhood Action Groups.

60 gating schemes were completed between April 2008 and March 2013, incorporating over 100 gates and offering enhanced security to nearly 1000 properties. Residents have reported feeling safer in their homes and neighbourhoods once the gates have been installed.

A further 92 locations have been considered so far in 2013/14 and 36 schemes have been completed since April 2013.

Neighbourhoods teams

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET) and Housing service officers have joined forces to become the newly formed Neighbourhood Services. The NET 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 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. The reshaped service allows officers to take a community focused and robust approach to street scene, tenancy and enviro-crime enforcement. The creation of a Neighbourhood Service builds on the existing three-team structure with boundaries co-terminus with the Police, updated to take account of the new ward boundaries introduced later this year.

Local Alcohol Action Area

Slough put in a successful bid to become one of the government's Local Alcohol Action Areas. The aim of this scheme is to tackle drink-related crime and disorder and the damage alcohol causes to people's health. There is already a lot of good work going on in Slough and this will support our work and add value by ensuring we are working with the right people, putting effective strategies in place, sharing best practice and carrying out appropriate analysis and evaluations.

Launch of a Community Alcohol Partnership

UK Alcohol Treatment Trial (UKATT) suggests that for every £1 spent on alcohol treatment, the public sector saves £6. The Council is seeking support to launch a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) to cover the town centre, Chalvey and the Farnham Road areas of the town where the most negative impacts of alcohol occur. We want to utilise local partners including businesses to help tackle the problem of underage drinking, counterfeit alcohol, street drinkers and anti-social behaviour.

Street Angels

Street Angels are volunteers who support people on the streets who could be vulnerable as a result of homelessness, intoxication, drug abuse, assault or any other issue which has caused personal distress or the potential for physical harm. They help people whoever they are and whatever their situation, for example by listening, caring, offering practical help or by referring people to other (specialist) agencies who can help them. Street Angels operate under the management of the Town Centre Chaplaincy with volunteers representing people of different faiths and none. Volunteers are over 18, CRB checked, interviewed and trained. Street Angels (and similar programmes such as Street Pastors) have been springing up across the UK over the last 2-3 years. They make a really positive impact on crime and antisocial

behaviour in town centres (particularly in the vicinity of bars and clubs) by providing a calming presence on the streets late at night

Troubled Families

In Slough there are a number of problematic families that account for a disproportionate amount of crime and anti-social behaviour. The SSP introduced a Family Intervention Project that allows cases referred from a range of agencies to be dealt with together. The Troubled Families initiative has since been introduced and funding extended. Cases have been referred by Thames Valley Police, housing providers, schools, drug services and Children's Social Care.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE has been a key priority area since 2011 for the Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB). The SSP has funded a CSE coordinator to support this work. Developing CSE knowledge and processes is set out in the SLSCB Business Plan and includes:

- mapping of the level of need;
- the inclusion of data in the SLSCB scorecard to enable ongoing prevalence monitoring;
- development of a local strategy to effectively co-ordinate a multi-agency response to incidents;
- work to increase professional and community understanding of the issue in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of those at risk; and
- developing and implementing a schedule of work to raise awareness and reporting pathways amongst licensed premises, hotels, shops and at local 'hotspots'.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The LSCB Executive has also identified FGM as part of the Board's 2014 work. FGM is, by nature, often a hidden issue, as well as a culturally-based issue. There is an established and common understanding of the issue amongst the council social care staff and partners. In 2007 there was extensive partnership working on the issue, a number of practice guides were developed, which include advice and guidance for schools, partners and council staff on FGM, the impact of FGM on young girls and women, and the identification of risk. The multiagency safeguarding children procedures also include FGM as abuse. In 2012, the Council commissioned further training on FGM and FGM will be the focus of the SLSCB annual conference in the spring of 2014. The SSP supports this work around FGM.

Salt Hill Park Violent Crime

The SSP identified high levels of violent crime in Salt Hill Park as a priority issue in 2009. 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 the council maintains the tunnel and the lighting.

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 the fence line, targeted youth support and regular pruning of trees and bushes.

£35K was invested by the SSP in Salt Hill Park to fund this work; within the first week of installation of the CCTV cameras, they assisted the Police with an arrest. Incidents of robberies in that location were eliminated. Salt Hill Park is regularly monitored as part of the Parks Crime and ASB meetings and Police sector tasking.

The Police Foundation project

The Police Foundation is carrying out a programme of research and analysis in order to develop an in-depth understanding of violence (including domestic violence and abuse) in two wards in Slough: Chalvey and Britwell. It is intended that this will provide the basis for designing and implementing informed interventions to tackle these issues. The work is being carried out as part of the Police Foundation's 'Police Effectiveness in a Changing World' project, which aims to help Police at local level identify how they, together with other agencies and the public, can sustainably reduce crime and enhance public safety. Through this work the aim is to develop a model of locally-tailored, evidence-based, practice development that can be applied locally and elsewhere.

The DAAT

The Slough Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) is a partnership combining representatives from the council (including education, social services and health), probation, the prison service and the voluntary sector. Working with partner organisations, the DAAT commissions and monitors locally provided drug and alcohol services, delivers projects and raises awareness about drug and alcohol issues in Slough.

The DAAT priorities are as follows:

- Increase the number of clients leaving treatment successfully (and do not re-present)
- Reduce drug related offending
- Accommodation/housing
- Mental health
- Recovery and reintegration
- Provision for steroid users

The Local Area Single Assessment and Referral Service (LASAR) & Harm Minimisation service provides assessment, create a recovery plan, refers on to appropriate services, provides harm minimisation advice and access to blood borne virus interventions and targeted outreach. There is also structured treatment provision for those working towards recovery which includes a counselling service and peer mentors, and an intensive engagement and social reintegration team

Compared to regional and national averages, there is a high level of drug misuse in Slough. There are currently 1066 opiate and/or crack users in Slough, making it one of the highest levels amongst people aged 15-64 years old in the South East. Opiate and crack use is high in Slough and has remained fairly static and is comparable to regional and national averages. The levels of those using cannabis has remained relatively low as a primary drug choice, however there is evidence (through needle exchange provision) of a high prevalence of use of performance enhancers.

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 (including employment, accommodation, mental health and substance misuse)

The team works with prolific serious acquisitive crime offenders who typically display the whole range of offending needs and so require intensive support.

IOM offenders have priority access to Probation interventions relating to issues such 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 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. This may include being returned to court for re-sentencing or being recalled straight to prison.