

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 2014/15 Safer Slough Partnership Strategic Assessment and an update on activity from last year's priorities.

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. It 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 SJWS and contributes to the JSNA by delivering on the priority actions as set out in the Wellbeing Strategy.

3.1 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 Slough*

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial The SSP priorities will be delivered within the existing budgets and grant funding of the partners

(b) Risk Management. The risks associated with the SSP priorities were taken into account by the SSP board and correlate to other plans such as the Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan 2014 015.

(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 issues in Slough and demonstrates how the SSP has addressed these problems in 2013 and outlines activity for 2014.

5.2 The Strategic Assessment shows that between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2013, reported crime fell by 13.1% and reported anti-social behaviour fell by 22.7% compared to 2012 figures. The trends in terms of violent crime are shown in Figure 1 below:

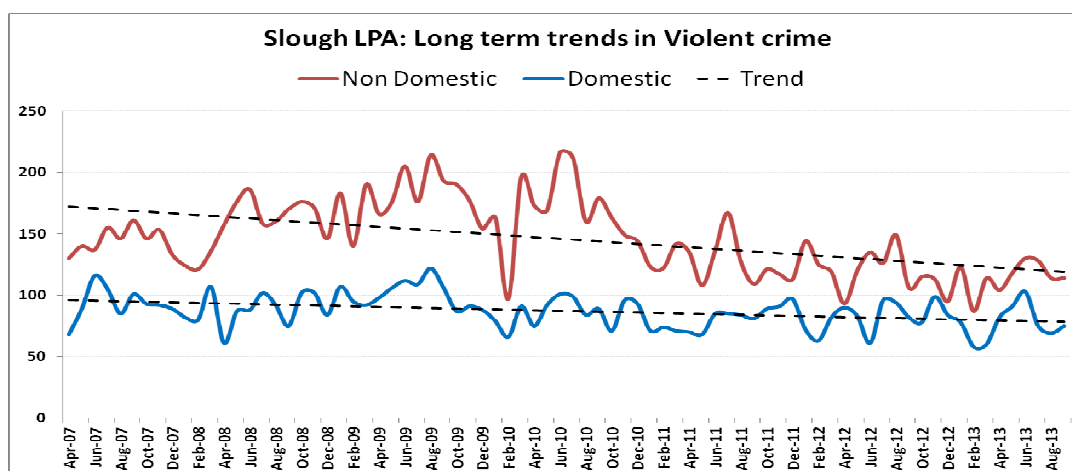


Figure 1: Slough LPA: Long term trends in violent crime

5.3 This is part of a long-term trend: total crime has fallen in Slough for the last three years and has fallen by 40% over the past 11 years.

5.4 The Strategic Assessment shows that Slough is a safer place year on year, however, the level of crime and ASB remains of concern to local residents. There are significant challenges facing the Partnership in addition to the impact of high levels of deprivation, unemployment and ill-health upon our communities; the nature of Slough's highly 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 whom 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 examine the complexity of crime and ASB in Slough. The assessment provides detailed information to support the Partnership to provide added value by working together; focusing on the underlying causes of crime and ASB in Slough, protecting victims, working with offenders to change their behaviour and encouraging the reporting of crime.

6 Priorities for 2013/14 and key activities

Priorities for last year were as follows:

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 (ASB). Particular effort will be made to reduce:

- Street prostitution
- Repeat victimisation

6.1 Initiatives to tackle priorities and achieve targets included:

6.1.1 Youth related violence:

In response to the concerns regarding youth violence and gang activity, the SSP established the Youth Violence Management Panel. This is to enable 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

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 which includes home visits and diversionary activities, and enforcement action where appropriate. The Breakaway project has been set up as a mentoring scheme for those at risk of gang involvement.

6.1.2 Domestic Abuse:

The SSP commissioned a review of Domestic Abuse in Slough, which was carried out in August 2013 by Standing Together to look at strengthening strategic leadership and revisiting the strategy and implementing an action plan.

Quarterly strategic senior level meetings are now in place, with terms of reference. The strategic lead is the SBC Director of Housing & Regeneration. The

Partnership has appointed a full time Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager, a needs assessment is being produced and the strategy updated.

6.1.3 **Supporting Victims of Domestic Abuse and working with Perpetrators:**

There are a number of domestic abuse services in Slough which are delivered primarily by two providers: the council's commissioned service, Slough Domestic Abuse Services (part of Home Group), and voluntary provider; Berkshire East and South Bucks Women's Aid.

In its first year as Slough's commissioned service, Slough Domestic Abuse Service provided the following:

- An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service, supporting a total of 90 women in Slough at high risk of domestic abuse. The IDVA supports high risk clients for up to 12 weeks (or longer if risks increase within this time) – when risks are reduced, the clients are offered continued support from the outreach service.
- An outreach service, supporting 111 clients at medium risk of domestic abuse. An outreach worker can support a client for up to 9 months.
- Refuge accommodation

Other services available in Slough include support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, delivery of training for practitioners, and support groups for women affected by domestic abuse.

October 2012 saw the launch of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme which is delivered by London based agency Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP). Within the first 12 months, 22 perpetrators accessed the 26 week programme; 8 completed over 30 hrs of the programme. In addition, the DVIP Women's Support Officer provided support to 32 victims who either are in a current or previous relationship with the perpetrator on the programme.

6.1.4 **Burglary & Robbery**

Levels of robbery and burglary have been 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:

- Investment in mobile automatic number plate recognition technology
- Awareness raising campaigns around Asian gold burglaries
- Seasonal burglary awareness raising campaigns
- Cross border working and intelligence sharing
- IOM offender management programme and two IOM officers
- Grid maps to form part of robbery packs to further identify locations,
- Gating schemes to block off problem alleyways, and target hardening initiatives
- Tackling drug related offending through the provision of rapid prescribing and treatment

6.1.5 **Street Prostitution (Street Sex Working)**

There is a monthly street prostitution case review meeting to enforce legislation and support the vulnerable. This has led to a range of actions including arrest operations against kerb crawlers, the issuing of removal letters by the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) to Eastern European sex workers, and support offered via outreach workers, including access to drug treatment, safe housing, assistance with applying for benefits, and counselling and support for those who are eligible.

7 **SSP Priorities for 2014/15**

The Partnership has identified three key strategic priorities and has agreed to focus its efforts and resources on the following priorities (in no particular order):

P1. Reduce violent crime. Particular effort will be made to reduce, with a focus on alcohol as a contributory factor:

- Domestic Abuse

P2. Reduce acquisitive crime. Particular effort will be made to reduce:

- Burglary

P3. Reduce ASB

- Responding to ASB casework

In addition the partnership will support (but not lead on) the work of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board including around Child Sexual Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation, and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board around protecting vulnerable adults.

The partnership also supports Thames Valley Police priorities in disrupting Organised Crime Groups and raising awareness of cybercrime.

7.1 Specific Planned Activity to support this year's SSP priorities

7.1.1 **Domestic Abuse and non Domestic Abuse violent crime**

- The new Domestic Abuse strategy is in progress and full consultation will take place. An action plan will be implemented focussing on prevention and early intervention. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager is leading on this work. The Health & Wellbeing Board agreed to focus on Domestic Abuse as a work stream and a workshop was held to look at progress and focus on the key gaps found in performance monitoring of DA to high level strategic leads and to request partner buy-in for the enhancement of a robust monitoring process. Monitoring and data analysis will be examined as part of the strategy.
- The Police Foundation has been carrying out extensive research and analysis into violence, both domestic and non-domestic, which will enable the partnership to understand the extent of Domestic Abuse in Chalvey and Britwell. The Police run regular Nightsafe Patrols on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to deter and tackle violent crime in the town centre, supported by the Street Angels volunteers. The delivery of tactical options through the Violence Multiagency Panel (VMAP) meeting, a partnership problem solving approach, is due to commence in August 2014.

7.1.2. Local Alcohol Action Area

- Slough successfully 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.

7.1.3 Burglary

- Work as described above is ongoing, including Night Safe patrols and gating schemes. The Integrated Offender Management team continues to work with prolific serious acquisitive crime offenders who typically require intensive support.

7.1.4 Antisocial behaviour (ASB)

- Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) – Slough Borough Council is launching a CAP to cover the Langley and Kedermister areas of the town as a pilot. This will involve local partners and businesses helping to tackle the problem of underage drinking, counterfeit alcohol, street drinkers and anti-social behaviour.
- New legislation is due to be rolled out in October and workshops are currently taking place with all relevant Slough partners to discuss the legislation further and look at local thresholds and impact of the new legislation on Slough. The meeting will also focus ensuring policies and procedures are in place by October 2014 for the start of the new legislation.
- Risk assessments are carried out for each reported case of antisocial behaviour and multiagency case conferences are held where required with an action plan then implemented. New guidelines for tackling neighbour disputes have recently been introduced to manage expectations and to promote the use of mediation.
- Publicity of the ASB hotline is ongoing, via leaflets and fridge magnets, the Citizen and local media, to encourage reporting.

7.1.4 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

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

7.1.5 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The LSCB Executive has also identified FGM as part of the Board's 2014 work. The multiagency safeguarding children procedures include FGM as abuse. In 2012, the Council commissioned further training on FGM and FGM was the focus of the SLSCB annual conference this year. The SSP supports this work around FGM.

8. SSP Local Targets for 2014/15

The SSP has agreed the following local targets for 2014/15:

- Reducing property crime – **19.8%** reduction in burglary from the base line year (2013/14) and increase the outcome rate to above **20.4%**
- Reducing violent crime – **2.3%** reduction in violent crime from the baseline year (2013/2014) and increase the outcome rate to **above 52%**
- Reducing anti-social behaviour – **21%** reduction in reports from the baseline year

In addition to the targets above, the following have been agreed with the Police & Crime Commissioner as partners' measures:

- Number of Slough premises provided with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) information packs
- Numbers of professionals attending Local Safeguarding Children's Board multi-agency CSE training
- Number of children and young people referred to Multi-agency CSE Panel
- 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
- 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
- First time entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice system

9. **Key Models of Delivery for the SSP Priorities**

It is proposed that a report to the Wellbeing Board on key models for delivery of the SSP priorities is presented at a later date. A refresh of the partnership tasking meetings is underway and an amended approach in relation to new ASB powers, which are due to come into effect from October 2014, will be outlined at that stage.

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

There are no comments from other Committees.

11. **Conclusion**

During 2013 the SSP continued to successfully deliver a reduction in total crime across Slough. Strong partnership working based upon on intelligence-led interventions, that focus on prevention, underpins this sustainable crime reduction approach.

The SSP will continue to work closely with partners, and the Police Foundation, to increase understanding of crime and ASB in Slough and with colleagues in neighbouring boroughs to tackle cross border crime. Delivery plans for the coming year will, in particular, ensure a coordinated response to the priority areas; violent crime, domestic abuse, burglary and ASB.

12. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Strategic Assessment 2014/15

13. **Background Papers**

None.