

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 26th February 2015

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Councillor Sohail Munawar – Commissioner for Social and Economic Inclusion

PART I **CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT**

THE WORK OF THE SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP (SSP)

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report gives an overview of the crime and disorder issues in Slough and the work of the local Community Safety Partnership in tackling those issues. We seek Member views on this work.

2. **Recommendation**

The Panel is requested to discuss the information provided and consider the effectiveness of the programmes of work in place to tackle SSP priorities.

3. **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- Health and Wellbeing – The SSP contributes to Health and Wellbeing through the provision of high quality drug and alcohol services and promoting positive behaviour change.
- Safer Communities – The SSP contributes to Safer Communities through working to ensure the borough is a safe place to live, visit, work and play; increasing confidence in reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour; and reducing crime, its fear and perception. The work of the SSP in supporting these priorities is set out in the report.

4. **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

The JSNA highlights crime and disorder, domestic abuse and alcohol and drugs misuse as priorities.

5. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The SSP priorities will be delivered within the existing budgets and grant funding of the partnership

(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 2014-15.

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	None	None
Property	None	None
Human Rights	None	None
Health and Safety	None	None
Employment Issues	None	None
Equalities Issues	None	None
Community Support	None	None
Communications	None	None
Community Safety	None	None
Financial	None	None
Timetable for delivery	None	None
Project Capacity	None	None
Other	None	None

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no human rights or other legal implications arising from this report.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Feedback and close monitoring of data is analysed according to Slough Borough Council equalities monitoring categories, thereby enabling any differential impact on particular groups to be identified. Those who are from minority ethnic groups, those with learning and physical disabilities and those with mental health problems are all at a disproportionately greater risk of becoming victims of anti-social behaviour.

6. **Supporting Information**

6.1 **Background**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the requirement for local authorities, Police and other key agencies to work together to tackle crime and disorder via Community Safety Partnerships. The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) is Slough's Community Safety Partnership.

6.2 **Governance and Membership**

The SSP is a Priority Delivery Group (PDG) which reports to the Slough Wellbeing Board and its work feeds into the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy. Meetings take place quarterly and members include Slough Borough Council (including an elected member), Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue, East

Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Thames Valley Probation. The Police and Crime Commissioner attends one meeting a year and is represented by a member of his office at all meetings. The following members are co-operating bodies who support delivery: Slough Business Community Partnership, Slough Council for Voluntary Services, and Registered Social Landlords. There is also a representative of the Berkshire Bench (magistrates) who is invited to support the work of members.

6.3 Aims and objectives

The SSP seeks to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. It also seeks to reduce the harm that drugs cause to individuals, families and the wider community and create a safe place and cleaner environment for all those who live, work, visit and invest in Slough.

6.4 Funding

Funding was received from the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2014/15 as follows:

- Community Safety Partnership: £ 97,030
- Drugs Intervention Project: £193,620
- Youth Offending Team: £75,212
- Total: £365,862

A subsequent payment of £16,257 was made to make up for an oversight on the YOT funding element, which has changed this year.

6.5 Challenges

Continued investment and focus on crime reduction in Slough has reduced crime of real concern to our communities significantly. This has been achieved despite the on-going challenges faced in Slough, which include:

- A local transient population, which makes it difficult for partners to bring about long term changes in crime and ASB. It also makes it difficult to detect crime or to identify regular offenders.
- There are high levels of new arrivals and asylum seekers in Slough, many of whom are at risk of exploitation.
- Population density and houses of multiple occupation (HMOs): Slough has one of the highest levels of population density and over-crowded housing in England and Wales, coupled with one of the largest population increases and widening diversity; this can act as an aggravating factor with regards to crime, including burglary and violence as well as anti-social behaviour.
- Population age: Slough has a younger population when compared to other areas. As the surge of young people approaching secondary school age draws near, there is a potential for increasing demand made upon policing and community safety.

6.6 Current SSP priorities

Priorities are determined based on the outcomes of the Strategic Assessment. The Strategic Assessment is an annual report which identifies current and future

opportunities and risks relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, drug misuse and behaviour affecting the environment in Slough. It identifies priorities, strategic actions and targets that will be monitored and supported by the SSP. Specific action plans are drawn up to ensure multi-agency delivery at an operational level. The Strategic Assessment is currently being updated for 2015/16 in order to review priorities.

In order to effectively reduce harm in 2014/15 the SSP used the Strategic Assessment to identify the following priorities:

- P1. Reduce violent crime.** Particular effort will be made to reduce
- Domestic Abuse
- P2. Acquisitive Crime.** Particular effort will be made to reduce:
- Burglary
- P3. Anti-Social Behaviour.** Particular effort will be made to:
- Respond to ASB casework

The partnership supports (but does not lead on) the work of the Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) including around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board around protecting vulnerable adults.

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

6.6.1 Targets

- 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

Partners' measures that we report to the Police and Crime Commissioner have been amended to include new targets around CSE:

- Number of Slough premises provided with CSE information packs
- Numbers of professionals attending LSCB multi-agency CSE training
- Numbers accessing Domestic Abuse Services (victims and perpetrators)
- Non-police referrals to MARAC
- 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

6.6.2 The overall crime picture in Slough

All crime has reduced by 7% when comparing January-December 2013 to January-December 2014. This is part of a long-term trend: crime has fallen in Slough by 40% between 2003 and 2014. For a number of years (2003 – 2010) Slough had the highest levels of crime in the Thames Valley. Recent initiatives from the SSP have altered this and now Oxford and Reading have higher levels. During Quarter 2, Slough also overtook Milton Keynes for the first time.

For performance statistics please see Appendix A.

6.6.3 The work of the SSP towards its targets

The SSP has worked hard to achieve these results, focussing on prevention and intelligence-led work to create an environment of sustainable crime reduction, and working with colleagues in neighbouring boroughs to tackle cross border crime. Community Safety funding is carefully targeted and enables prevention, support and engagement work to take place in order to maintain the reduction in crime that Slough has experienced over recent years. Without such funding, much of this work would not have taken place, resulting in rising crime levels not just in Slough, but across neighbouring localities.

Work has focussed on the SSP's key priorities and includes the following:

Domestic Abuse and non Domestic violent crime

- The new Domestic Abuse strategy is in progress and full consultation is taking place. An action plan will be implemented focussing on prevention and early intervention. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager is leading on this work.
- VMAP – Violence Multi-Agency Panel: the Police Foundation carried out extensive research and analysis into violence, both domestic and non-domestic, which has resulted in a fortnightly panel meeting looking at all repeat cases of violence in Chalvey and Britwell. This is the final year of a four-year project and the panel is a pilot at this stage. Regular reports are being produced to assess the outcomes of the pilot. If successful in reducing violent crime in Slough, the partnership will look to roll out VMAP across all wards.
- 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.

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 scheme supports this work and adds 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 has launched a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) pilot, initially covering Langley and Kedermister. Local

partners, including businesses, are helping to tackle the problem of underage drinking, counterfeit alcohol, street drinkers and anti-social behaviour.

Burglary

Levels of 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. The partnership recognises this type of offending is subject to wide variations and has put in measures to improve intelligence and its response to burglary. Below are some examples:

- Investment in mobile automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology
- Awareness raising campaigns around Asian gold burglaries
- Seasonal burglary awareness raising campaigns
- Cross border working and intelligence sharing
- Gating schemes to block off problem alleyways, and target hardening initiatives
- Tackling drug related offending through the provision of rapid prescribing and treatment
- The Integrated Offender Management team continues to work with prolific serious acquisitive crime offenders who typically require intensive support.

The CCTV Service

The CCTV service works closely with Thames Valley Police and other agencies, including the Neighbourhood Services, 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. CCTV recorded over 4160 incidents over the past year and provided Police with 513 DVD evidence packs to use in prosecutions.

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. Careline is also run from the CCTV control room. Last year the team handled nearly 63,000 incoming alarm activations resulting in over 30,000 outgoing assistance request calls and provided the Careline service to 248 new clients.

The control room played a pivotal role in handling last year's EDL march in the town, and in coordinating the flood response.

Neighbourhoods teams

Neighbourhood Services provides a tenure blind service, across 3 geographic areas co-terminus to the police. This approach allows staff to resolve issues without needing to be concerned whether the land is under public or private ownership. Staff carry out educational and enforcement functions.

Neighbourhood Services provides a key central function tackling issues related to anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime, becoming a single point of contact within the council for its customers and partner agencies, and so taking the operational lead for all matters relating to ASB. The focus is on problem solving, developing multi-agency responses and long-term sustainable solutions.

The Neighbourhood Services concept is about developing new flexible approaches to work. The developing fourth team will tackle the most complex, difficult and long standing issues of crime, ASB and enviro-crime across the borough. Persistent and resistant ASB case review work will be identified through multi-agency tasking and those identified through VMAP and the Neighbourhood Services ASB cases.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE has been a key priority area since 2011 for the LSCB. The SSP has funded a CSE coordinator to support this work. Developing CSE knowledge and processes is set out in the LSCB Business Plan.

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 LSCB annual conference last year. The SSP supports this work around FGM.

6.7 Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

6.7.1 The Home Office definition of ASB is "any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life". This is a deliberately broad definition as antisocial behaviour is subjective and may vary from person to person and community to community, and can include noisy neighbours, littering, graffiti, ASB in parks, street drinking, dog fouling and prostitution. The Community Safety team work very closely with the Police, Neighbourhood Services and other partner to tackle ASB. Community Safety is a cross cutting agenda and tackling ASB requires a joined up and holistic approach. The SSP is the strategic lead for ASB and Neighbourhood Services take the operational lead. ASB policies and procedures are due to be reviewed in order to ensure that best practice is achieved across the partnership.

6.7.2 ASB surveys are conducted with residents in the borough. The results of these indicate that the issues of most concern to residents are environmental issues, including flytipping and littering (Baylis & Stoke, Britwell, Central, Chalvey, Cippenham Green and Wexham Lea) and people being drunk or rowdy in public places (Britwell, Chalvey and Farnham). People congregating and intimidating others was also highlighted as a concern across the borough.

- 6.7.3 New legislation was rolled out in October – the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. An ASB Implementation group has been established and meets on an ongoing basis with all relevant Slough partners to discuss the legislation further and look at local thresholds and the impact of the new legislation on Slough. New policies and procedures are in place covering Community Protection Notices and the Community Trigger. ASBOs have now been replaced with CBOs: Criminal Behaviour Orders.
- 6.7.4 ASB case work: 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.
- 6.7.5 The SSP has invested in campaigns to encourage reporting of crime and ASB and has maintained a 24-hour ASB hotline, managed by the CCTV Team, to take calls at any time of day or night. This hotline has been publicised in the Citizen, local papers, and via leaflets and wallet-sized cards, distributed at events and door-knocking exercises. Residents can also contact us via the Slough Borough Council website and email.

For more detailed information on the new ASB legislation, please see [Appendix B](#).

6.8 Conclusion

The SSP is performing well against its targets. The effective use of intelligence and targeted work has enabled resources to be directed in an effective manner resulting in a 40% reduction in the annual level of reported crime since April 2003. Its future performance depends on continued partnership working and focussing on joint priorities across our organisations, with strong leadership from Slough Borough Council.

7. Appendices attached

- A - SSP Performance table
- B - ASB legislation

8. Background Papers

None.