

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 23rd September 2015
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PART I **FOR CONSIDERATION**

SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP (SSP) STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2014/15

1. Purpose of Report

Slough Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of this report regarding the work of the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) to tackle crime and community safety priorities.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

- To note the content of the Safer Slough Strategic Assessment for 2014/15;
- To consider how the strategic priorities for 2015/16 could be promoted more widely across the council and to partner organisations; and
- To note the proposed review of the SSP and how the Wellbeing Board could make a positive contribution.

3. The Slough Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the council's Five Year Plan

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) is the document that details the priorities agreed for Slough with partner organisations. The SJWS 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 Safer Slough Strategic Assessment. This document underpins the SJWS and contributes to the JSNA by delivering on the priority actions as set out in the SJWS.

3(a) Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities and the JSNA

The SSP supports specific delivery against each of the following SJWS priorities:

- **Health** – by reducing the harm that drugs cause to individuals, families and the wider community

- **Regeneration and Environment** – by creating a safer and cleaner environment for all those who live, work, learn, visit and invest in Slough
- **Safer Slough** - by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the fear of crime

3(b) Five Year Plan Outcomes

Reducing inequality, supporting the most vulnerable and enabling people to help themselves are threads that run through each of the challenges and opportunities identified in the council's Five Year Plan (2015 – 2019). The SSP therefore supports specific delivery against each of the following Five Year Plan outcomes:

- 4 – Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- 6 - More people take responsibility and manage their own health care and support needs

4. Other Implications

- (a) Financial - There are no financial implications of arising from this report.
- (b) Risk Management - There are no risk management issues arising from this report.
- (c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - There are no human rights or other legal implications arising from this report.
- (d) Equalities Impact - Feedback and close monitoring of data will be analysed according to the council's equalities monitoring categories, to enable any differential impact on particular groups to be identified and mitigated where possible.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 The annual Safer Slough Partnership Strategic Assessment is a snapshot of crime and community safety, supported by data from across the partnership and feedback from residents. The Strategic Assessment allows the Partnership to bring together different data to unpick the complexity of crime and ASB in Slough. The assessment allows the Partnership to provide added value and to focus on the underlying causes of crime and ASB addressing issues of underreporting, protecting victims and working with offenders to change their behaviour.

5.2 The Strategic Assessment performs a number of functions:

- It provides headline performance information across the key crime types.
- It reviews how the SSP addressed these problems in 2014/15.
- It provides a rich picture of these key crime types providing crime levels, peer comparison, annual change, trend analysis, seasonality.
- It identifies the main crime and anti-social behaviour problems in Slough.

- It identifies emerging risks and the strategic priorities for 2015/16.

Performance

5.3 The Strategic Assessment shows that between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2014, reported crime fell by 7.3%, and reported Burglary fell by 27% and Anti-Social Behaviour fell by 22%. The reductions are across the board; acquisitive crime, robbery, vehicle offences all showed a positive reduction.

5.4 There has been a small increase in violent crime in 2014, with 40 more violent crimes in 2014 than 2013. This is the first increase since 2010. This increase is being monitored by the Safer Slough Partnership. While violent crime is on the increase, Slough is still one of the fastest improving areas for safety against our most similar group (Luton, Hounslow, Northampton, Bristol and Reading).

- Overall reduction – from 16,440 crimes in 2010 to 10,751 in 2014 this is nearly 5700 fewer crimes (35%).
- Overall crime has fallen in Slough by over 10% compared to a year ago
- Slough has the 7th fastest crime reduction rate in Thames Valley Police over the past 5 years.
- Slough is ranked 3rd best performing police force for crime reduction in our comparator, Most Similar Group (MSG) group for overall crime.

What did we achieve in 2014/15

5.5 The following section summarises some of the key partnership activities from 2014/15:

- **Reducing burglary** - Thames Valley Police led and coordinated partnership activity through bi-weekly tasking meetings. This was supported by the employment of a burglary crime co-ordinator, a cross boarder analyst post and working closely with the SSP. The result was that by April 2015 burglary dwelling was reduced by 259 offences, a reduction of 29.6% compared to 2013/14.
- **Reducing Violent Crime** - A new pilot approach to violent crime case management started in August 2014. The VMAP, multi-agency problem solving meetings, focused on violence in Britwell/Haymill and Chalvey/Upton, bringing a wide range of agencies to focus on the victim and offender. CCTV operators have proved invaluable in identifying offenders, leading to arrests. While licensing officers from Thames Valley Police and the council have carried out operations and drug testing. Meanwhile the Police, council Wardens, Youth Services and ASB Officers have worked together on operation Nightsafe patrols.
- **Drugs Treatment Services** – These have continued to work with a challenging cohort. Work has taken place to ensure that the referral pathways are in place to support clients. The clinical provision of Slough Treatment Services has been recently re-commissioned resulting in a more effective service.

- **Youth Offending** – this continues to be a priority for the SSP. In 2014, the Youth Offending Team (YOT) exceeded their set target of reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system by 9. As part of a revamped re-offending forum structure, the YOT started working with those on the cusp of re-offending, identifying and addressing their issues.

Priorities for 2015/16

5.6 The Strategic Assessment identifies the following priorities for the year ahead:

Violent Crime

- Reduce the total crime, specifically high volume and serious crimes against the person
- Alcohol as a contributory factor in violent crime and domestic abuse

Safeguarding

- Support work around child sexual exploitation (CSE) and female genital mutilation (FGM) and protecting vulnerable adults
- A focus on responding to ASB case work and Environmental ASB through enforcement and design

Serious and Organised Crime

- Disrupt organised crime groups
- Raise awareness of cyber crime

Youth Crime

- Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reduce the rate of proven re-offending by young offenders

Moving Forward

5.7 On the 8th September the SSP Board approved the formation of a task and finish group to review the activities of the partnership. This review will cover three key areas (governance, strategic focus and operational working). The aim of this review is to ensure that duplication is removed, where possible, and that the SSP has the operational structures to continue to deliver its partnership objectives. The task and finish group will report back to the SSP on the 17th November with recommendations and a proposed structure.

5.8 In November the Strategic Assessment will undergo a refresh to ensure that the priorities identified thus far are still current. This information will then feed into a new 3 year, rolling, Community Safety Strategy starting in April 2016. The Strategic Assessment and this Strategy will be refreshed annually to ensure the priorities remain current.

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

6.1 There are no comments from other committees.

7. Conclusion

- The overall picture of crime in Slough is positive. There are concerns with regards to the rise in Violent Crime, although this is rising slower than other areas in the Thames Valley.
- The Strategic Assessment highlights some of the key activities undertaken against 2014/2015 priorities and what the SSP has been doing to address these issues.
- The 2015/16 priorities support and continue the work around violent crime and safeguarding while addressing emerging issues such as cyber crime and human slavery.
- The plan to review the SSP will build on previous success while developing resilience in new emerging areas.

8. Appendices Attached

- 'A' - Strategic Assessment 2014/15
- 'B' - SSP Fit for Purpose Review

9. Background Papers

None.