

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny

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PART I

FOR COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

THAMES VALLEY POLICE - CYBER-ENABLED CRIME

1. **Purpose of Report**

This paper is being submitted to update members on the approach to Cyber Crime by the Safer Slough Partnership.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the 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).

3a. **Slough Joint 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 (SSP) seeks to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. It seeks to reduce the harm that drugs and alcohol 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*
- *Regeneration and Environment*
- *Safer Slough*

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Having a focus on Cyber Crime can directly and indirectly influence the following outcomes within the Five Year Plan.

- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- Slough will be the premier location in the south east for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow, and stay

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial There are no financial implications 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.

Equalities Impact Assessment 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**

Background Information

- 5.1 The use of the internet has grown dramatically over the last decade, with more of our daily social and business interactions taking place online. In the early days of the internet the majority of crime focused on attacks to computers for disruption purposes or data theft. While this type of criminal activity still takes place, online crime has evolved. The internet offers opportunities for more traditional criminal and anti-social behaviours to take place as more people engage in a range of online activities.
- 5.2 The term 'cyber crime,' is broadly defined as crimes perpetrated over the internet, typically having to do with online fraud'. This is generally thought to describe two main types of internet-based behaviours: criminal activity targeting computers and the information stored on computers, and activities in which a computer is used to facilitate other more traditional offences. This criminal behaviour can be described as cyber-enabled and cyber-dependent crime.
- 5.3 Cyber-enabled crime presents new challenges for the SSP and partner agencies as we adapt to operating in a new environment. This paper cannot cover all aspects of cyber-enabled and cyber-dependent crime due the scale and scope of the problem. Instead, this paper will provide some context and outline the approach the SSP will take to understand the risks and threats.

The digital environment

- 5.4 We are using the internet increasingly more for social and business activity. Businesses are able to expand and reach more customers while reducing the need for expensive showrooms. We manage financial transactions online. We shop online and secure the best prices for goods and services at the click of a

button. We reach out to friends and family through social media; promote ourselves to prospective employers while increasing our digital footprint, trusting that the multi-national companies will protect and keep our data safe.

- 5.5 We have invested in specialist national and regional policing units that focus on the risks and threats. There are national campaigns to education and raise awareness. The business community plays an important role in this as they can benefit from this technology. Banks are now offering advice, training and awareness (for example Barclays digital eagles) to help increase confidence internet banking. Consultancy firms offer business specialist advice and guidance to protect data and reputation for example the Talk Talk data theft. And finally, charities also promote online safety with particular focus on safeguarding.
- 5.6 The above is not a definitive description of the cyber world, but provides an illustration of the interconnectedness of the internet into our lives. The term 'cyber crime' is limiting and does not fully cover the scope of internet criminality after all; the digital environment is just another space where societal activity takes place.

Cyber crime and the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP)

- 5.7 The SSP has adopted cyber-enabled crime as one of its three thematic priorities for the 2016/19 strategy. As discussed, this is a broad area of work and it is essential that the SSP understands the risks and threats to residents and business.
- 5.8 In April 2016 the SSP is hosting a cyber conference, organised by Cllr Matloob. This conference will engage leaders and specialists from the technology industry and partner agencies in dialogue; with the aim to form a cyber-enabled crime advisory group. This group will advise the SSP and help partnership leaders understanding the risks and threats and how we can add value.
- 5.9 Local business groups, such as SEGRO are an integral part of this strategic approach. While the SSP may not work directly with businesses, through the work of this advisory group, the networks created will have a knock on effect of raising awareness of the risks and how businesses can help themselves and support and protect customers (which some are already doing).
- 5.10 Having strategic direction and a technical steer, will enable a delivery group to create an action plan that supports the national and regional work already underway and to focus on what works, maximising the limited resources within the public sector.

6. Comments of Other Committees

There are no comments from other Committees.

7. Conclusion

Cyber crime has developed from being IT focused to replicating the physical world. Community Safety Partnerships, such as the SSP are working to understand the risks and what we can do to reduce and manage them. Organisations such as SEGRO have a crucial role to play in this partnership and are already embedded in the SSP so are well placed to assist and influence.

8. **Appendices Attached**

None

9. **Background Papers**

None.