

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 26th June 2017

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PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

This paper is being submitted to update members of progress regarding the Council's motion on 26th July 2017:

“This Council resolves to work with Thames Valley Police through the Safer Slough Partnership to prioritise its response to counter the increase in serious sex crimes around the town and to reduce the fear of sexual offences across the Borough.”

2. **Recommendations**

The Panel is requested to resolve that:

- The activity outlined in this report is an adequate and appropriate response to the Council motion of 26th July 2017.
- The Panel reflect this to the next meeting of full Council as appropriate.

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**

The Safer Slough Partnership supports the Council's Five Year Plan, against the following outcomes:

- Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.
- Our residents will have access to good quality homes.
- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.

4. **Other Implications**

- a) Financial
There are no financial implications arising from this report
- b) Risk Management
There are no human rights or other legal implications 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 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**

Introduction

- 5.1 The Council's motion on 26th July 2017 (as set out in section 1) has seen a series of actions by SSP (e.g. SSP formed a Task and Finish Group to provide insight and direct resources). This report provides an overview of the approach taken by the SSP; its priorities, outlines the success of the Task and Finish Group and sets out some of the longer term plans.

SSP focus – context

- 5.2 The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) is the local statutory Community Safety Partnership for Slough. The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a strategic and co-operative approach for addressing local crime and anti-social behaviour within the Borough. The Safer Slough Partnership is chaired by the Chief Executive and co-chaired by the Police Borough Commander with representatives from statutory and community partners in attendance.
- 5.3 As the Local Authority whilst we can't control all crime and perceptions of crime, we can use our influence at the SSP to monitor, review and help shift partners toward collaborative interventions based on known risks in Slough and to develop sustainable solutions that stem from evidence and a foundation of research.
- 5.4 The SSP is focused to ensure that it has the capabilities, skills and mechanisms to oversee the work of the statutory and non-statutory agencies represented at the Partnership. Over the last 12 months, the SSP has focused on providing support and coordination of a multi-agency response to crime and disorder, while reviewing Board membership, the performance management framework and the number and focus of the operational sub-groups that sit under the SSP.
- 5.5 The SSP has developed a new one page strategy (see appendix A). The strategy underpins the focus of the board, sub-groups and supports corporate strategies (for example the TVP Policing plan and the SBC Five year Plan). The SSP strategic goals have been developed around three core themes. These three themes are strategic and therefore do not specify in detail the operational objectives, but underpin the focus of the priority groups sitting under the SSP (see figure 1).

Theme	Specific Focus	Delivery Mechanism
Violence – Protecting People	Domestic Violence	VAWG group World Café Events
	Alcohol	DAAT Partnership Board
	Youth and Gang Crime	Youth Violence Group
		Serious Organised Crime Group
Resilience – People and Place	Crime Prevention	Parks and Open space T&F Serious Organised Crime Group
	Fear of Crime and Perception of Slough	Intensive Community Engagement Communication and media group (TBA)
		Performance Management Group
	Designing out Crime	Slough Plan
Emerging Risks	Cyber Enabled Crime	TBA
	Modern Slavery	Modern Slavery and Exploitation Group

Figure 1

- 5.6 The creation of a new Performance Management Group, and a new performance management framework, provides the SSP with a valuable tool to manage the delivery of the strategy, oversight of the three key thematic areas and operational groups – Business as usual, Priority Delivery and Task and Finish Groups (See figure 2).

SSP Performance Management Framework



Figure 2

5.7 A review and consolidation of sub-groups has led to the formation of a number of new priority delivery groups.

- Violence Against Women and Girls group (VAWG) – focused on Domestic Abuse, FGM, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence. This group draws together the DA Strategic group, operational deliver group and the FGM LSCB sub group. This new group is focused on reducing violence against women (including sexual assault and rape, which equates to two thirds of reported incidents in Slough).
- Modern Slavery and Exploitation group – this is an emerging area of work for the SSP and aligns the SSP with the work of the Anti-Slavery Commission and the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner.
- Two groups focusing on Youth Crime – the Youth Violence Group focused on the operational delivery and support of young people and the Multi-Agency Serious Organised Crime Group, with a focus on gangs and disruption. A process of forming specific task and finish groups to provide a short and focused response when needed has already provided tangible results at a time when partner resources are limited.

5.8 The changes to the SSP will enable the partnership to support agencies to focus on the risks faces by Slough residents from what are seen as traditional crimes to the unknown and unquantified emerging risks. The Performance Management Group provides an invaluable function of monitoring and horizon scanning, allowing the SSP Board to keep a strategic view of Slough.

5.9 A refocus of the operational groups (including a merger of groups) provides a specific focus where needed, while recognising the need for sustainability and collaboration.

- 5.10 While there are many challenges facing the members of the SSP, the review and subsequent changes to the SSP Board in membership and structure will provide the SSP with the skills, knowledge and ability to monitor, review and to best use of the resources available to deliver of local priorities for Slough.

SSP Task and Finish Group

- 5.11 The Safer Slough Partnership commissioned the formation of a Task and Finish Group, Chaired by Ketan Gandhi. To enable this group to be effective, Ketan commissioned research into Sexual Crimes in Slough. It was important to use intelligence led methods to focus on the right areas. Slough has 254 hectares of parks and open spaces making up 89 parks, sports grounds and recreational spaces. It was no surprise that this research identified Salt Hill Park as an area of focus while providing oversight on other areas.
- 5.12 The Task and Finish Group included Cllr Sohal and Cllr Bains. Unfortunately due to work commitments Cllr Bains was unable to attend the meetings, but instead was kept informed via email. The Fire Service, Police, Parks, Voluntary Sector, Youth Services and Community Safety and comments from Park users (research carried out by a local undergraduate student) made up a multi-agency problem solving group. An action plan was formed with short, medium and long term solutions.

Short Term

- 5.13 As part of a public reassurance campaign, we had police in the park on foot, on bikes and on horses. We fitted temporary mobile CCTV cameras, monitored by our CCTV control room. The Fire Service made random visits to the park during unsocial hours, using their high powered lights to scan the areas near the A4. Meanwhile, we tweeted and talked about what we were doing in the park at every opportunity.

Medium Term

- 5.14 The parks team worked to remove high hedging, dense foliage and improve the physical appearance of Salt Hill Park. Local groups engaged in activities in the park in the evening including poetry in the park. Regular inspections of parks have taken place to ensure maintenance such as cleansing etc is being undertaken to required standards. Green gyms have been introduced to a large number to our parks and this again contributes towards increased usage of our parks for positive activities.

Long Term

- 5.15 We have launched the 'love our parks' campaign which aims to raise the positive profile of our parks as well as encourage residents to become involved in schemes such as 'friends of' groups.
- 5.16 The original task and finish group morphed in to a wider Slough safe, clean and better marketed group as part of this group the following are key actions:
- Improved lighting in our parks and open spaces through integrating it into Sloughs lighting initiative.

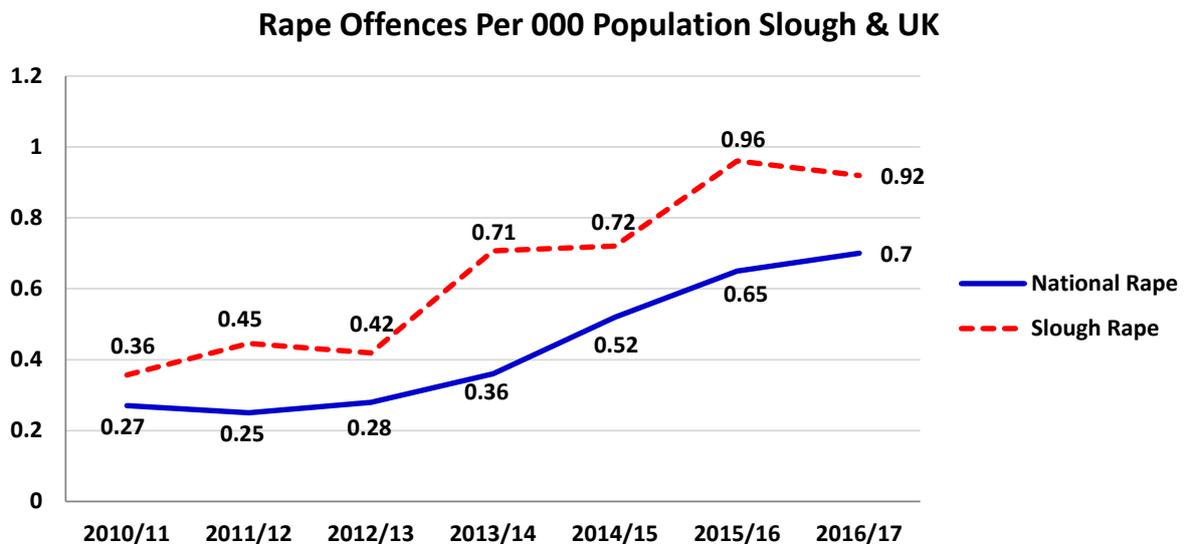
- Work with the police to enhance offender profiling to be utilised to better prevent incidents.
- Make the cleansing and maintenance contract more specific re cleansing and reporting of incidents / damage.
- Identify solutions to enable easier reporting and recording of incidents.
- Continue to build on current events programme in parks.
- Develop a culture of 'local ownership' of our parks.

5.17 The VAWG group was formed to broaden the partnership focus from Domestic abuse to a wider view of violence to women and girls. This has led to the development of a shift from specialist services to operational and community intervention. The start of this is the formation of a Domestic Abuse Champion's Network, enabling more frontline professionals to take an active role in helping to reduce harm. The shift from Specialist to Professional will help to problem solve at an earlier level.

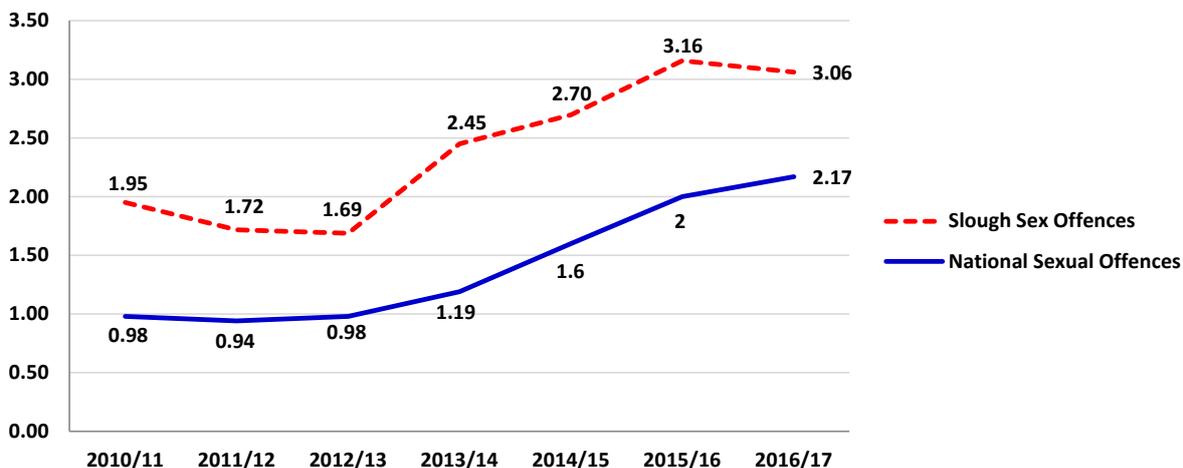
5.18 Working with young people is an area where we need to focus if we are to change gender perceptions. We have just commissioned a 4 year programme working in Primary and Secondary Schools to increase the resilience of the next Generation. This work will address a range of harms from CSE, Grooming, Online risks, Sexualisation and gang involvement. The work is at pilot stage at the moment, but will be made available to all schools in Slough over a period of time.

Five Year Trend

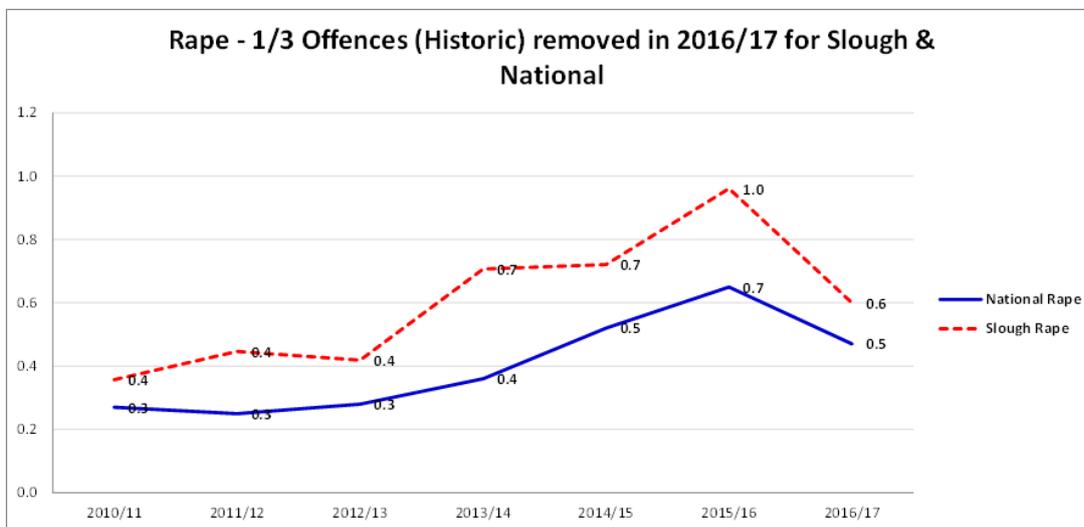
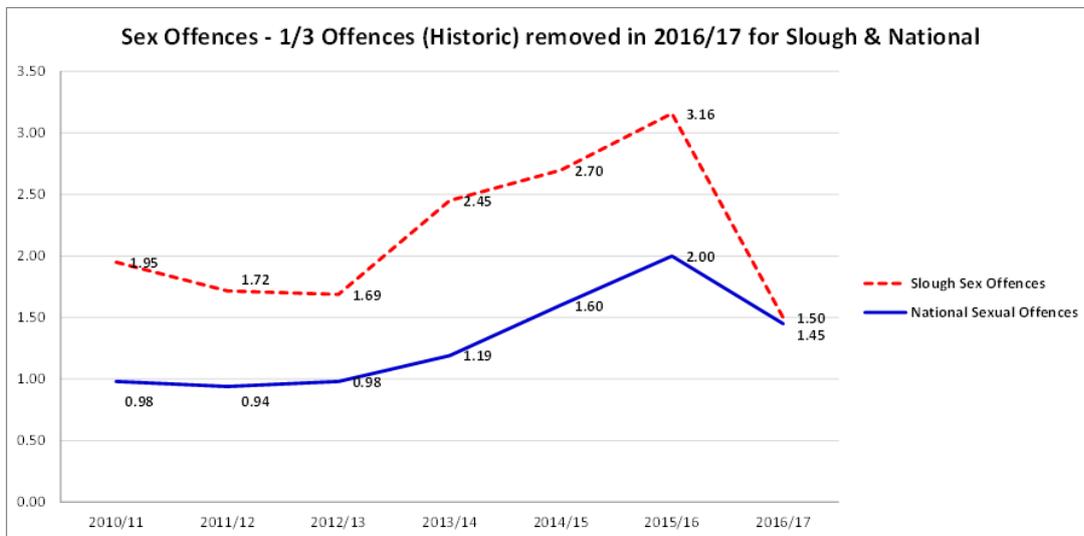
5.19 The line graphs below better illustrates the performance of rape and sex offences since 2010/11 for Slough and the UK. This includes all reporting (including historic offences).



Sex Offences Per 000 Population Slough & UK



5.20 The next two line charts show all offences and rape offences with the historic offences removed for 2016/17 period for both Slough & National figures (per 000 population).



5.21 A common theme emerging is that rape and sex offences have been increasing year by year since 2011/12 for Slough and nationally. Although per 000 population Slough does suffer with more rape and sex offences than the national average - where both charts differ is that Slough in 2016/17 saw a 4% reduction in actual figures rape and sex offences whilst nationally both offences increased further.

6. **Conclusion**

6.1 The SSP has taken the issue of Sexual Offences Seriously and this is now starting to show in a reduction. As with most reductions it is not just one intervention or project that makes the difference, but a number of small incremental successes.

7. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Safer Slough Partnership Strategy

8. **Background Papers**

None