

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 21st April 2021

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

SAFER SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the progress of the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP), in relation to delivery of work aligned to the partnership 2020/2021 priorities. The report will summarise key workstreams, projects, and deliverables achieved to date.

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

The Panel is requested to note the report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Through critical projects and workstreams, the SSP seeks to reduce and tackle issues which include domestic abuse, serious violence, modern slavery and exploitation, acquisitive crime, re-offending and substance misuse, in turn creating a safer and cleaner environment for those who live, work, learn, visit and invest in Slough. The SSP thus supports the priorities of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy which are as follows:

- Starting Well
- Integration (relating to Health & Social Care)
- Strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods
- Workplace health

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The Safer Slough Partnership is proactively working to support outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 5 of Slough Borough Council's Five Year Plan, which are as follows:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay

- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action

(b) Risk Management

There are no risks identified or human rights/other legal implications arising from this report; rather the report provides a summary of the Safer Slough Partnership's activity.

(c) Equalities Impact Assessment

Feedback and close monitoring of data will be analysed according to SBC equalities monitoring categories, thereby enabling any differential impact on particular groups to be identified.

5.1 Local Strategic Partnerships

The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP), Slough Wellbeing Board (SWB), and Slough Safeguarding Partnership (SB) are the three key statutory partnership boards that Slough Borough Council coordinates and maintains. The three partnership boards proactively work to support the Slough 2040 vision, and the strategic outcomes of the council, with different priorities aligned to ensure the best outcomes for the community of Slough. The 20/21 FY has seen increased collaboration between the SSP and SB, in areas including domestic abuse, exploitation, and serious violence, to ensure a more joined up response, and effective use of resources to address challenges faced by the local community. Figure 1 provides an emerging diagrammatical overview of the connectivity between strategic partnerships, multiagency 5 year plans, and the Slough 2040 Vision, all of which is underpinned by data and evidence.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

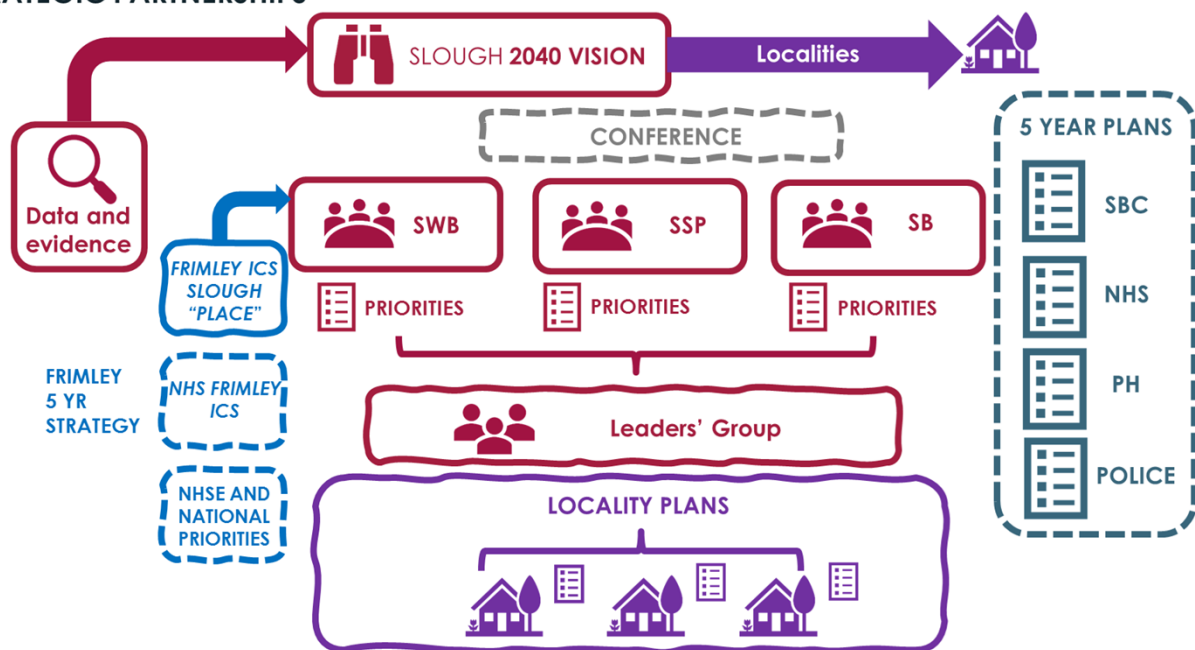


Figure 1: Slough Strategic Partnerships

5.2 Purpose of the Safer Slough Partnership

The SSP is the local statutory Community Safety Partnership for Slough, accountable for compliance with the statutory responsibilities set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership serves to provide strategic and coordinated, proactive responses to reduce crime and disorder within the borough, and improve community safety, making Slough a place where people want to live, work, visit, and invest. The SSP is co-chaired by the Chief Executive of Slough Borough Council and the Local Policing Area Commander for Thames Valley Police, who are supported by representatives from multi-agency statutory and community partners; appendix A captures multi-agency partners who form the SSP.

5.3 Development of the Safer Slough Partnership Operating Model

The SSP has developed its operating model to enable evidence based action, and timely decision making, to support improved outcomes for Slough residents (figure 2); the new operating model is in the early stages of implementation, and will progress forward in the new financial year. SSP funded project scrutiny panels were established in December 2020 to improve the monitoring of project performance, outcomes, and impact, to ensure the best service for Slough residents is achieved. The Terms of Reference for the group are currently being updated in line with the new operating model, and the addition of new board members.

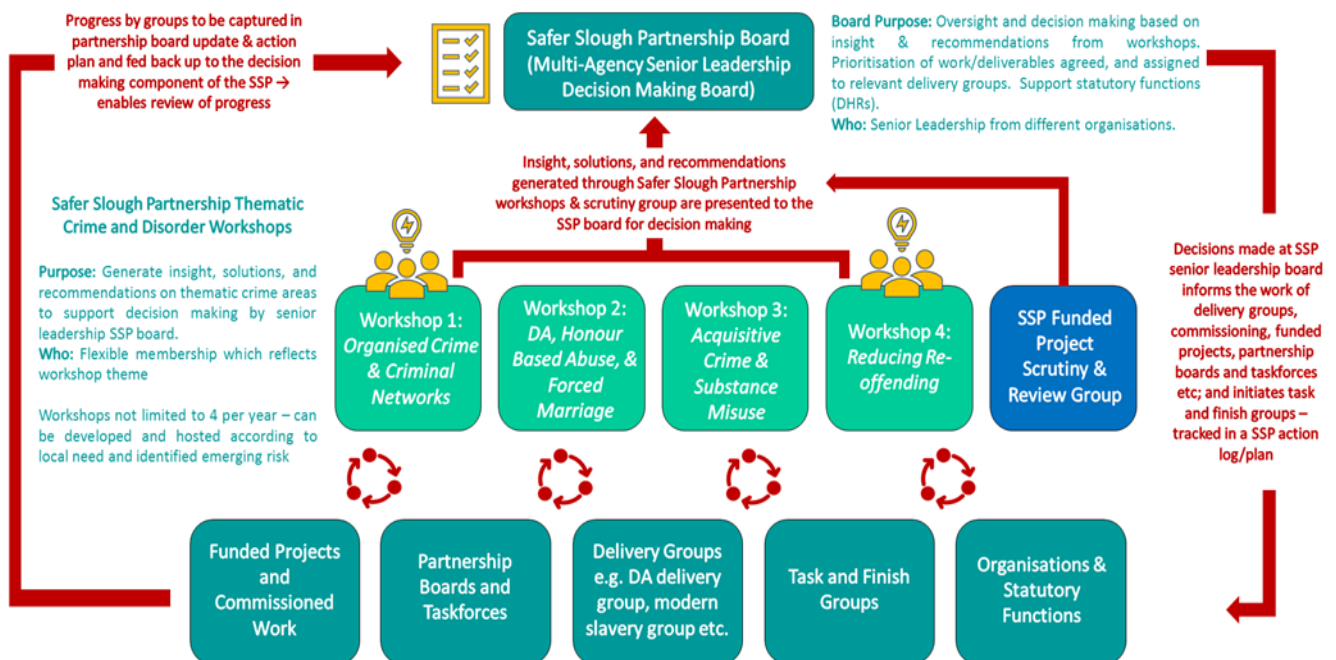


Figure 2: SSP Operating Model; workshop titles are provided as an example but are subject to change. A number of these workshops will be co-delivered with the Slough Safeguarding Partnership.

5.4 Priority Areas: Identification of priority focus areas for the SSP is informed by bringing together both quantitative and qualitative data and insight from multiagency

partners, which in turn forms the evidence base used to co-develop sustainable interventions and solutions. The 20/21 SSP priorities are listed below; appendix B offers more detail as to the thematic focus areas and delivery mechanisms in place to ensure prompt and effective responses.

- Violence
- Reducing Offending
- Fear of Crime
- Emerging Risks

5.5 Slough Crime Picture

- **Crime Overview:** Between March 2020 and February 2021, 15,157 crimes were recorded in Slough, which equates to 101 crimes per 1,000 people, this represents a 1.1% increase when comparing against April 2019 - March 2020, with 14,996 crimes recorded, equating to 99.3 crimes per 1,000 of the population.
- **Impact of the Pandemic:** Recorded crime levels have fallen, risen, and fallen in line with the lockdown-easing-lockdown pattern from April 2020 to February 2021 (figure 3 & 4). The pandemic has influenced and changed the behaviour of victims and perpetrators of crime, making it somewhat problematic to assess the impact of work delivered by the SSP, to influence crime rates in Slough.
- **National Comparison:** Both prior to and during the pandemic, Slough demonstrated a higher crime rate than the South East, and England as a whole (figure 3).
- **Ward Level:** The 3 wards with the highest crime rate between March 2020 and February 2021 were Central, Chalvey, and Farnham, whilst Cippenham Green possessed the lowest (figure 5).
- **Crime Type:** The highest crime type recorded for Slough for the period of March 2020 to February 2021 was violence and sexual offences at 42.4 crimes per 1000 people, which equates to 6,340 crimes (table 1).
- **Ward Level Crime Type:** The highest crime type for all 15 wards individually within Slough for the period of March 2020 to February 2021 was violence and sexual offences; this classification includes offences related to domestic abuse, modern slavery, and gang/drug related violence; domestic abuse related offences equate to approximately 19% of all crime in Slough.

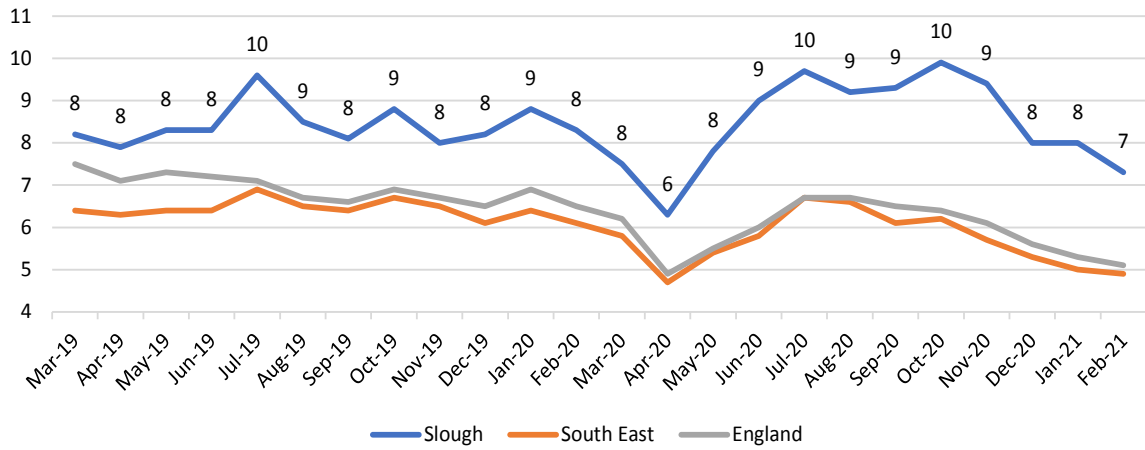


Figure 3: Monthly crime rate i.e. number of crimes / 1000 people, comparing Slough against the South East, and England; data source: data.police.gov.uk

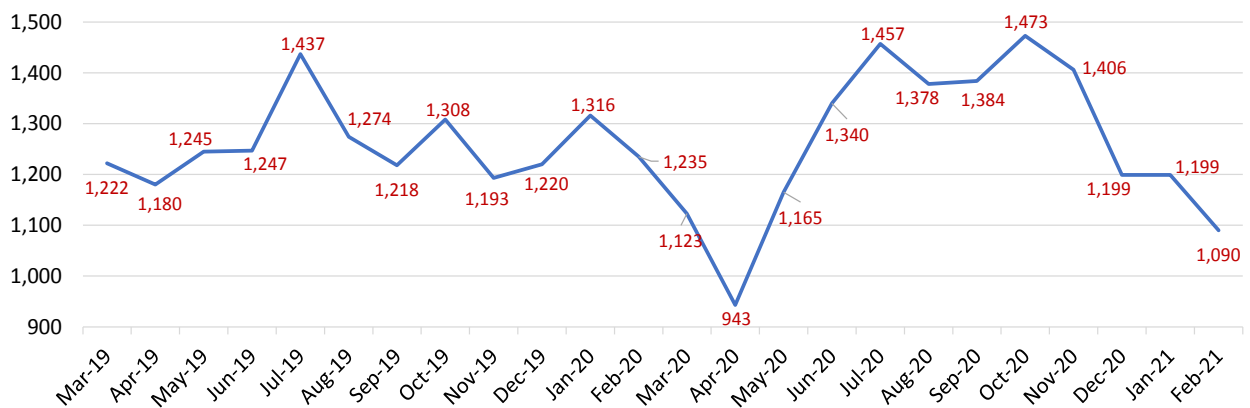
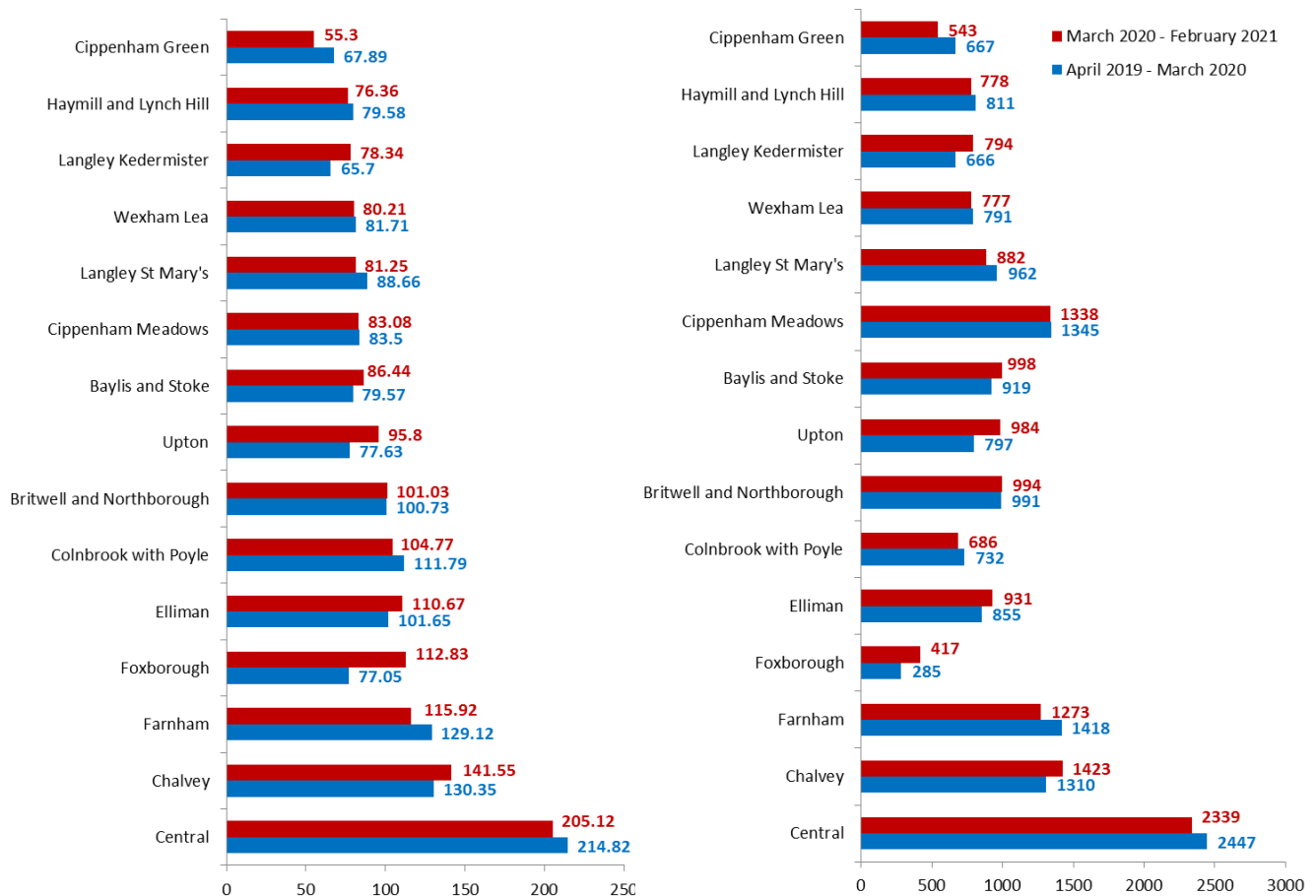


Figure 4: Monthly crime count; data source: police.gov.uk



	Slough	Slough	South East	South East	England	England
Crime Type	Count	Per 1,000	Count	Per 1,000	Count	Per 1,000
Violence and sexual offences	6,340	42.4	272,369	29.7	1,657,609	29.5
Vehicle crime	1,852	12.4	40,732	4.4	303,249	5.4
Criminal damage and arson	1,452	9.7	69,901	7.6	415,996	7.4
Public order	1,356	9.1	63,805	7	397,991	7.1
Other theft	1,039	7	45,142	4.9	304,785	5.4
Burglary	731	4.9	31,706	3.5	239,114	4.3
Drugs	542	3.6	25,287	2.8	174,937	3.1
Shoplifting	492	3.3	33,336	3.6	200,532	3.6
Bicycle theft	416	2.8	11,198	1.2	68,744	1.2
Other crime	292	2	15,527	1.7	91,917	1.6
Theft from the person	260	1.7	4,835	0.5	47,707	0.9
Robbery	201	1.3	4,980	0.5	54,171	1
Possession of weapons	184	1.2	7,107	0.8	37,810	0.7
Crime Count & Crime Rate Total	15,157	101	625,925	68	3,994,562	71

Table 1: Crime type breakdown by crime rate and crime count for Slough, the South East, and England, for the period of March 2020 to Feb 2021; data source: police.gov.uk

- **Anti Social Behaviour (ASB):** Between March 2020 and February 2021, 4649 ASB reports were received; this figure has been deduced by combining police and council recorded reports. It is important to note that due to multiple reporting mechanisms for ASB, duplications within the data are likely, such that reported figures may exceed the number of actual ASB occurrences. Furthermore, reports relating to the same incident may be received from multiple people.
- **Ward Level:** The greatest number of ASB reports were received for Chalvey, and the lowest number for Foxborough (figure 6); for 53 ASB reports, ward level data was not available and is therefore not included within figure 6.

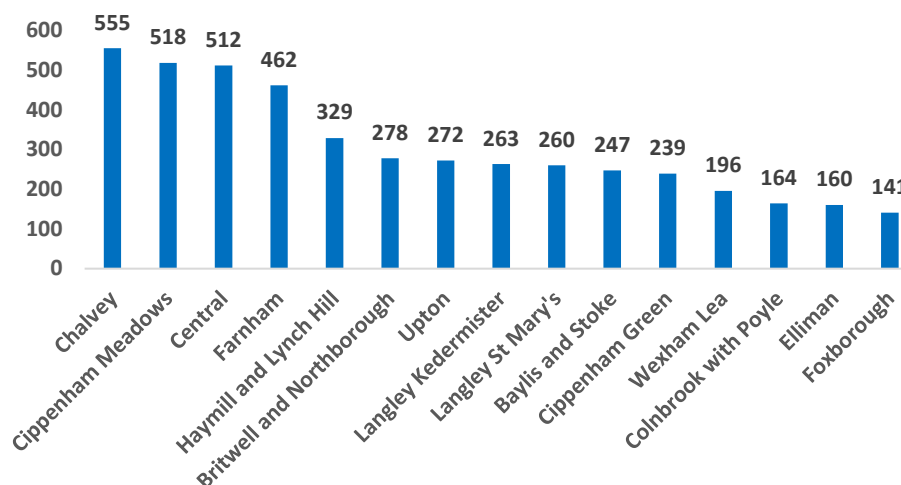


Figure 6: ASB reports by ward; data source: police.gov.uk & SBC recorded reports.

5.6 Violence: Domestic Abuse

Data from the domestic abuse (DA) helpline indicated a steep national increase in DA incidences, as a result of Covid-19 lockdown measures, with victims and perpetrators spending increasing amounts of time within confined spaces. The SSP recognised the critical need to intervene at an early stage, and put into place measures to support victims of DA, in an endeavour to minimise risk and harm; activity was complimentary to that already ongoing amongst the partnership, and within individual agencies business as usual activity.

5.6.1 Domestic Abuse Covid-19 Response Group: A weekly DA Covid-19 Response Group was initiated on 7th April 2020 to provide a multi-agency co-ordinated response to DA during the pandemic. The group worked to ensure clear referral processes and support pathways were in place for victims and their families, and performed a rapid needs assessment based on gaps in service capacity, and risk related to limitations in free movement. The DA partnership provision map and referral pathways document was updated. A multi-agency information pro-forma was initiated to enable partners to share information as to the number of DA cases being referred, facilitating live monitoring of the situation. A number of initiatives were borne out of the work of this group and are summarised below:

- **Virtual Domestic Abuse Surgeries:** An increasing complexity in DA cases has been identified during the pandemic, and as a result a DA surgery for partners has been established. The surgery does not replace processes already in place to address DA e.g. MATAAC, MARAC etc., but instead provides a forum to develop solutions for managing complex cases, embedding best practice, and supporting the identification of support mechanisms for victims and their families.
- **Domestic Abuse Script:** It was identified that victims trapped at home experiencing DA may make a disclosure of abuse to the first person they were able to contact, including front line call centres across the partnership. For this reason a DA script was developed for call handlers to support them in managing an initial contact with a victim, enabling them to signpost to timely and appropriate support.
- **Discreet Communication & Service Access:** The partnership worked on the development of discreet mechanisms to communicate with potentially vulnerable individuals to raise awareness of the national domestic abuse helpline, and to establish those who may be suffering from DA. An email self-referral route into the Slough DA service for victims was initiated, as it was recognised that victims may be unable to call for support if living with a perpetrator; Hestia have received a number of referrals via this newly established service access route.
- **Domestic Abuse and the Business Community:** The partnership identified the need to train members of the business community as a mechanism of improved identification of victims, and signposting to support services. Training was offered to all hairdressing salons and barbers, both within Slough, and in neighbouring areas (recognising that Slough residents may travel outside of the borough for these services). The DA partnership coordinator spoke on BBC

Berkshire to promote not only the training, but also to raise awareness amongst local communities of support available. Seven hairdressing salons attended the virtual training and were provided with a resource pack containing posters and leaflets to advertise DA support services; the partnership are currently working on the wider distribution of these resources to all salons and barbers within the Slough area. Further to this, a DA event open to all businesses in Slough is currently being planned for June 21; the event will explore how employers can support a response for employees who are victims of DA.

- **Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Campaign:** The SSP led on a public space and digital communications campaign aimed at raising awareness of support available in relation to DA; a resource folder with campaign materials was made available to all partners. Increased reporting of DA incidents to the police during lockdown may in part be attributed to this online digital communications piece.
 - **Public Space Domestic Abuse Awareness:** Posters promoting the Slough DA service, Hestia (self referral email and telephone number) in Urdu, Punjabi, English, Romanian, and Polish, were distributed across supermarkets, food premises, and petrol stations still trading during the lockdown. Hestia contact details were also promoted via a leaflet produced by Slough CVS, and distributed to households across Slough.
 - **Online Domestic Abuse Awareness:** A series of digital posters and communications have been produced and shared by partners; the posters engage different groups of people, including victims, friends and family, businesses, and perpetrators; please refer to appendix C for poster examples.

5.6.2 Domestic Abuse Training: DA partnership training was delivered virtually to over 110 professionals from organisations including the Children's Trust, Thames Valley Police, GPs, Slough Borough Council staff, and child minders. Training included an overview of the different forms of DA, including coercive control and stalking, risk assessment processes, and available support. Practitioners commented that the training equipped them to better safeguard victims of DA and their families.

5.6.3 Funded Project - The Freedom Program: The SSP funded the delivery of 2x Freedom Programmes in mother tongue Urdu and Punjabi, to improve the inclusivity of DA services in Slough. The programme supports women from the BAME community to understand their rights in relation to sexual consent, and what constitutes unacceptable behaviour within intimate relationships, furthermore it supports and empowers women to access additional DA supports services. 33 women from the Slough BAME community attended the courses, with significant impacts reported including improvements in emotional and physical wellbeing, an improved understanding of women's rights within intimate relationships, and improved life outcomes including the establishment of a small business. Women attending the course have developed a strong network and are continuing to support one another beyond the course.

5.6.4 Domestic Abuse Perpetrators: Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) was established in Slough in the early part of 2020. The MATAC process is designed to work with perpetrators of DA to break the cycle of offending, identifying 'reachable moments' when an offender may be ready to change their behaviour, whilst maintaining a 'pursue and disrupt', and 'catch & convict' element, should the offender fail to engage and address their offending behaviour. Through tackling offender behaviour via a bespoke intervention plan, MATAC aims to improve victim and child safety. Perpetrators selected for the MATAC process are those that score most highly in terms of Recency, Frequency, and Gravity (RFG). RFG is a harm index which identifies the most prevalent offender using escalation and crime type, as well as how often they offend, enabling targeting of offenders who pose the most risk, rather than simply those who offend most regularly, and allocates a higher weighting to those offenders with multiple victims. Since January 2020, MATAC has worked with 34 perpetrators of DA; 75% of individuals have shown a decrease in RFG.

5.6.5 Domestic Abuse and Young People Workstream: The SSP identified that school closures during the pandemic potentially resulted in increased exposure to DA within the family home. A DA and young people workstream has been established to access and address risk factors and gaps within current provisions to support young people exposed to DA, both as a victim and perpetrator. The partnership group are currently exploring the implementation of a DA toolkit for practitioners across the partnership, to improve their ability to engage with children and young people.

5.6.6 Domestic Abuse Duty: The DA Bill expected to become law at the end of April 2021 places a duty on councils to ensure victims of DA and their children are able to "access life-saving support in safe accommodation". Members of the SSP have been supporting a team of DA experts in the completion of a needs analysis to inform activity for the 21/22 financial year, to ensure compliance with the new duty moving forward.

5.6.7 Intervention beyond the Safer Slough Partnership: It is important to note that an extensive amount of work occurs outside of the SSP function to address DA within Slough, this includes, but is not limited to the following:

- **Slough Domestic Abuse Service:** The Slough DA Service (provided by Hestia), which supports high and medium risk victims of DA, and includes the provision of Freedom Programmes. The local DA service was successful in securing additional funding following the first lockdown to increase the capacity of the local offer.
- **Brave Project:** The Brave project which provides therapeutic support for victims of DA with additional emotional or psychological difficulties.
- **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC):** MARACs are a multiagency process, which serve to increase the safety of the highest risk DA victims within the borough.
- **Building Better Relationships (BBR):** BBR is a DA perpetrator programme delivered by the National Probation Service, which supports offenders to break their cycle of abusive behaviour within intimate relationships.

5.7 Modern Slavery and Exploitation

5.7.1 Modern Slavery and Exploitation Group: The SSP's Modern Slavery and Exploitation Group has continued to provide a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to address the issues of adult modern slavery and exploitation in Slough; the children and young person element of this agenda is managed by the Safeguarding Children from Exploitation Group (SCEG), which reports to the Slough Leader's Group. The 2 partnership groups have worked increasingly together to ensure a connected approach, and management of the 18+ transition; they share a holistic exploitation strategy with covers both adults and children.

Informed by the priorities of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, combined with local understanding of the problem, the Modern Slavery and Exploitation group works to address issues as they relate to Slough; partnership activity in the 20/21 financial year in relation to the modern slavery and exploitation agenda includes the following:

- **Cuckooing Subgroup:** A cuckooing sub-group has been established under the adults Modern Slavery and Exploitation group to maintain operational oversight of cuckooing in Slough, and to ensure that wherever possible, prevention, early intervention and best practice responses are in place. The group has been reviewing cases of repeat victimisation in relation to cuckooing to identify interventions to prevent further exploitation. Complimentary to this is the monitoring of repeat cuckooing perpetrators, to identify effective disruption tactics; this work is new, with an update on impact to be provided at a later point in time.
- **Support for Practitioners:** An 'Exploitation within the Home' 1 page guide for practitioners has been developed, which details indicators of cuckooing. The resource was developed using insight from case studies within Slough, and has been shared widely across the partnership to support practitioners with victim identification to ensure appropriate safeguarding. Supplementary to this, a provision guide for practitioners across the partnership has been developed and distributed, highlighting the various levels of support available to potential victims of modern slavery and cuckooing in Slough, to improve the initial victim response from partner agencies.
- **Information for Victims:** Working in conjunction with the Victims First Specialist Service, the partnership is developing information for people who are potential victims of cuckooing, or who are at risk of cuckooing, to support them in spotting the signs of this form of exploitation, and how/where to access support.
- **Local Understanding of the Issue:** The Modern Slavery and Exploitation Group has worked on the development of a data dashboard to monitor recorded modern slavery and cuckooing occurrences within Slough, whilst informing operational activity, and driving strategic direction in relation to this agenda.
- **Reducing Exploitation within the Workplace:** At the end of 2020, Slough become one of 2 local authority areas in the country to be involved in a pilot project to explore how mandatory licensing of car washes could work, in efforts to

reduce the potential for worker exploitation. The project is ongoing and being delivered in partnership with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), and the Responsible Car Wash Scheme (RCWS); project outcomes will be reported on project completion.

- **Anti-Slavery Day News Release:** In support of Anti-Slavery Day (18th October 2020) the partnership re-launched its award winning campaign, with posters displayed in public spaces including GP surgeries, A&E, and the police station (appendix D). Posters were also shared on different social media platforms, and were complimented by a press release which raised awareness of how to spot the signs of modern slavery, where to report concerns, and the current reported profile of modern slavery victims; the press release was picked up and promoted by news outlets including Windsor Observer, enabling wider reach.
- **Operation Aidant:** As part of Operation Aidant (an annual co-ordinated operation between police and partner agencies to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking), a number of targeted visits to businesses in Slough, vulnerable to exploitative practise took place, to support the identification and safeguarding of victims.

5.7.2 Exploitation Training: Representatives from the SSP have supported the Slough Safeguarding Partnership with the development of exploitation training. The training covers all aspects of exploitation including criminal exploitation, gangs, and modern slavery, across all ages. Three sessions have been delivered to date, with 25 attendees from across the partnership; a further 9 sessions are planned for the year. Feedback from the course has been incredibly positive, with staff feeling better equipped to identify and respond to exploitation of all ages.

5.7.3 Multi-agency Risk Assessment Tool (MART): Representatives from the SSP and Safeguarding Partnership have worked to develop and promote the use of the MART tool for adults, including those believed to be being exploited / cuckooed. MART is used to give cases where there is risk that does not meet the criteria for safeguarding, the same level of multi-agency attention that a safeguarding case would receive, supporting robust safety planning and intervention. The MART is now being used proactively across the partnership.

5.7.4 Safer Slough Partnership Funded Exploitation Research: The SSP is supporting the Slough Safeguarding Partnership through the funding of a research project to investigate the Slough demographic profile of victims and perpetrators of exploitation, including sexual and criminal, 25 and under. The independent research is currently underway and will inform the holistic exploitation strategy, and front line practice.

5.7.5 Intervention beyond the Safer Slough Partnership: It is important to note that activity occurs outside of the SSP function to address modern slavery and exploitation within Slough, this includes, but is not limited to the following:

- **Modern Slavery Statement:** Slough Borough Council is currently in the process of developing a modern slavery / transparency in supply chain

statement to reduce the risk of modern slavery and exploitation within its supply chain, including commissioned and procured services.

- **Victims First Specialist Service (VFSS):** The VFSS provides specialist support for victims of crime, including modern slavery and exploitation.

5.8 Serious Violence including Knife Crime and Gangs

5.8.1 Slough Violence Taskforce: The SSP recognised the critical need for an increased strategic partnership focus on the serious violence agenda, and in October 2019, the Slough Violence Taskforce (SVTF) was established. The Taskforce provides a multi-agency coordinated approach to serious violence in Slough, facilitating the coordination and collation of evidence to ensure informed decision making in relation to interventions and sustainable solutions. Whilst the taskforce is a strategic partnership board within its own right, with an evolving action plan, it manages and delivers upon the SSP's serious violence priority. A number of initiatives have been borne out of the work of this group, these include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Hospital Navigator Scheme:** In March 2020 Aik Saath began to deliver the Hospital Navigator Scheme within A&E at Wexham Park Hospital. A hospital navigator provides intervention at the point of crisis, engaging with patients at reachable moments, to facilitate a consent based referral to specialist support services. This style of intervention has been used within Scotland and London to address serious violence, working with victims of knife and gun related crime.
- **Serious Violence Communication Campaign:** A sub-group of the SVTF has led on the development of a serious violence communications campaign, which includes both digital communications on platforms including Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok, and place-based activity including a mural urging people not to carry knives. Appendix E captures some of the work of this sub-group; press releases generated by this group were picked up and promoted further by news outlets including BBC Berkshire, Slough Express, and Berkshire Live, expanding audience reach. The key objectives of the campaign were as follows:
 - Raise awareness of the work of the taskforce in combatting serious violence in the borough, to assure residents proactive action is taking place
 - Engage different parts of the community in supporting solutions to tackle serious violence, including knife crime
 - Promote positive role models and opportunities for young people
 - Challenge the perception amongst some young people that carrying a knife increases safety
- **Intensive Engagement Programme:** The SVTF has worked to deliver the Intensive Engagement (IE) Programme within Chalvey. The IE programme has engaged with communities about the issues that affect them on a daily basis, and how they believe these issues could be resolved, in an endeavour to identify sustainable solutions that deal with the cause of the problem, and not simply the symptom. The programme was initially established following concerns re: knife crime, however findings have demonstrated greater community concerns in relation

to ASB and drugs; this has been factored into the identification of the SSP 21/22 priorities. The findings and learning from the work has been embedded within the Localities and Stronger Neighbourhood Initiative, and will inform place-based activity, and neighbourhood policing.

- **Serious Violence Dashboard:** The SVTF has worked with Thames Valley VRU on the development of the serious violence dashboard. It enables partners to monitor serious violence in Slough, understand where it is occurring, and at what time/day to inform problem solving activity. A sub-group of the SVTF are currently working with partners to optimise its use amongst the partnership, exploring how it can feed into the localities model, and inform place-based intervention.
- **Improved Access to Services:** To improve timely access to services supporting individuals at risk of becoming involved in violent crime, including knife crime, the Family Information Service website was redesigned, and now includes sections specifically tailored for young people, parents/carers, and practitioners. The search function is currently undergoing optimization to ensure appropriate identification of services using key search terms e.g. knife crime, gangs etc.

5.8.2 Funded Project - Serious Youth Violence Provision: The SSP has funded 3 specialist workers within the Slough Youth Offending Team to work with young people involved in serious youth violence (SYV), as well as their parents and peers, providing intensive case management intervention, in order to reduce their antisocial and offending behaviour, including violence and drugs distribution. The provision in the 20/21 financial year has included outreach, extending the availability of support to weekends and evenings, to ensure engagement when young people need it the most. In the 20/21 FY, the SYV workers case managed a total of 67 young people, who had been referred for reasons including violence and drugs. The impact of the intervention and outcomes obtained for young people engaged with the SYV workers, are assessed via case studies and re-offending rates; outcomes for young people include increased safety, increased engagement with education, the achievement of qualifications and university offers, and a reduction in re-offending (total reduction rates are not yet available).

5.8.3 Funded Project - Choices Programme: The SSP has continued to fund the Choices Programme within Slough Schools. The Choices Programme supports young people develop the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make 'good' decisions and build personal resilience, it moves beyond 'symptoms' i.e. gang involvement, violence, exploitation etc. to tackling 'causes', therefore equipping young people to better manage all issues they may encounter in today's society. In response to school closures, a remote web-based version of the programme was rapidly developed for the year 6-7 transition phase, to ensure young people continued to benefit from the programme. Further to this, we are in the process of piloting the use of wellbeing data generated through the delivery of the programme, to enable intervention with young people who fall within a 'cause for concern' category, at an earlier stage; this is aligned to the public health approach of prevention. Despite school closures, the programme has been accessed by almost 3,000 young people in years 5 and 6 during the 2020/21 financial year (18 primary schools). As a result of the programme, teachers have reported

increased engagement and positive behaviour change from young people, improved communication between peers and with staff, and improved problem solving and critical thinking skills. The programme is centred around prevention and early intervention, with the long term anticipated societal impact of reduced criminality, including violence and knife crime.

5.8.4 Intervention beyond the Safer Slough Partnership: It is important to note that activity occurs outside of the SSP function to address serious violence within Slough, this includes work delivered by Slough Youth Offending Team, Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit, and Aik Saath.

5.9 Reducing Re-offending, Substance Misuse, and Acquisitive Crime

5.9.1 Funded Project - Browns Intensive Support Service: The SSP provided continuation funding to the Browns Intensive Support Service, which provides high intensity 1:1 support to a cohort of men and women experiencing multiple disadvantages and complex needs which include; criminal offending, unemployment, homelessness, mental ill health, and problematic substance misuse. It was recognised that it can be incredibly difficult to stop using substances without significant support to address underlying trauma, therefore a counselling service was introduced as part of the project for the 20/21 financial year, to support service users achieve improved outcomes. The Browns Intensive Support Service has worked with a total of 44 individuals within the 20/21 financial year, with positive outcomes including abstinence and reduction in drugs use, a reduction in anti-social behaviour and offending, tenancy sustainment, employment, and enrolment at college. It is estimated that the project has saved the public sector approximately £1,884,802 (these cost savings are calculated from various cost analysis documents).

5.9.2 Funded Project - Criminal Justice Outreach Workers: The SSP has continued to fund 2 criminal justice outreach workers within the Slough Treatment, Advice & Recovery Team (START). Service users were supported to access the full range of treatment options including harm reduction, prescribing, detox, psychosocial interventions (PSIs), and community re-integration; they were also supported to meet Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) issued by the courts. The outreach workers have assessed and engaged with 231 clients during the 20/21 financial year, with outcomes including a reduction in anti-social behaviour and criminal offending, abstinence from illicit drugs use, improved emotional and physical wellbeing, employment, and secure accommodation.

5.9.3 Substance Misuse Task and Finish Group: The SSP has recently established a substance misuse task and finish group to explore innovative and improved ways of working to address criminality linked to substance misuse; an action plan is currently being developed. The group is currently working to establish how it can change the behaviour of the top 10% of prolific acquisitive crime offenders, whose offending behaviour is predominantly linked to substance misuse.

5.9.4 Acquisitive Crime Communications: Throughout the 20/21 financial year, the partnership has led on the provision of crime prevention advice via different social

media platforms including Facebook and Twitter, to support residents to protect their property. Crime prevention advice has related primarily to burglary and vehicle crime; appendix E provides examples of these communications. Communications may in part explain the reduction in the Slough burglary rate when comparing data from April 2019-March 2020 (83.5), against March 2020 - February 2021(75.12); however it is recognised lockdown has also impacted upon this, with homeworking resulting in increased property guardianship.

5.9.5 Bicycle Theft Action Plan: Work delivered as part of the bicycle theft action plan will resume in the summer of 2021, with the easing of lockdown restrictions.

5.9.6 Intervention beyond the Safer Slough Partnership: It is important to note that activity occurs outside of the SSP function to address re-offending, acquisitive crime, and substance misuse within Slough, this includes, but is not limited to the following:

- **Police Led Partnership Response:** Police led operational partnership activity to tackle ASB & crime hotspots including burglary, and high demand generators within the borough.
- **Integrated Offender Management (IOM):** IOM is a partnership response to reduce crime and re-offending, by managing the most prolific offenders, largely those responsible for high numbers of acquisitive crime.
- **CCTV:** CCTV which is widely distributed across the borough, is a recognised and well evidenced crime deterrent, and supports criminal justice proceedings, as well as live deployment of policing resources.

5.10 Emerging Risk: Seasonal Jubilee River Activity

The SSP has built upon its Jubilee River Campaign from 2019, to reduce the risk of death by drowning in the Slough stretch of the Jubilee River. Feedback from young people told the partnership that “soft” messages were not reaching their peer group, and that a more direct approach was needed. The campaign in 2020 featured an interview with Sonia Scaife, the mother of a young man from Slough who drowned in the Jubilee River in 2015, as well as an interview with a recovery diver on the reality of recovering bodies from the water. The poster featured in appendix G was shared on social media platforms, with articles from the campaign picked up by key news outlets including Get Reading, Slough Observer, Slough Express, and Maidenhead Advertiser.

5.11 Fear of Crime

During the 20/21 financial year, the SSP dramatically increased it's communication with the public including the provision of crime prevention and water safety advice, awareness raising of DA and modern slavery including support available, and engagement in relation to the serious youth violence agenda etc. The SSP however recognises the need to increase its communications with the community re: activity underway to prevent crime within Slough, to support an improved sense of safety. The serious violence communications plan has begun on this trajectory, highlighting key activity to combat the problem, but the partnership recognises more is needed across the broader crime and disorder spectrum.

5.12 Looking Forward

The 20/21 financial year has been an incredibly busy year for the partnership, with organisations required to manage urgent pandemic response plans, whilst ensuring the continuation of 'business as usual' activity; despite these challenges, partnership activity has proactively progressed forward. The partnership does however recognise areas of improvement for the 21/22 financial year; these include improved reporting of quantifiable impact of funded projects and activity (currently being developed by the newly formed SSP scrutiny groups), increased engagement and communication with the community regarding their crime concerns, and activity underway to tackle it, and a renewed focus on ASB. Informed by partnership data and insight, the SSP has identified the following priorities for the 21/22 financial year:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Acquisitive Crime
- Violence and Exploitation
- Reducing Re-Offending and Substance Misuse
- Organised Crime

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None

7. **Conclusion**

This report has summarised critical projects and deliverables by the Safer Slough Partnership in the 20/21 financial year, which collectively strive to reduce crime and disorder in Slough, and keep safe our diverse and vibrant communities.

8. **Appendices Attached**

- A) SSP Partners
- B) Thematic Areas & Delivery Mechanisms Summary Table
- C) DA Communication Resource Examples
- D) Modern Slavery Poster
- E) Serious Violence Campaign Examples
- F) Acquisitive Crime Communication Examples
- G) Jubilee River Campaign Examples

9. **Background Papers**

None