

Appendix C: 2021/22 Q4 5YP Balanced Scorecard – Accompanying summary briefing on crime and community safety trends

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Key headlines in this summary briefing

- Based on the latest available information (released in April 2021) it appears that crime levels have fallen, risen and then fallen again in line with the lockdown-easing-lockdown pattern from April 2020 to March 2021
- There is not yet any observable long-term trend impact of Covid-19 on crime and community safety
- The real impact of Covid-19 (health, economic, social impacts) on crime and community safety will be observable as 2021/22 progresses
- The trends for Slough remain the same as before the pandemic:
 - A higher average rate than the South East and England as a whole
 - Violent and sexual offences, criminal damage, vehicle crimes, and public order offences are categories of crime that are relatively high in Slough
- Data reported is based on recorded crime. Unreported crime and community perceptions of crime and safety are harder to capture, with local knowledge held by residents and agencies important to provide context to reported crimes.

A quick explanation on data sources used

The 5YP Balanced Scorecard currently reports on the overall crime rate using data published by the Office for National Statistics. Those data are published with a one-quarter lag in order to take into account changes to the recording of crime. Police data is published without the one-quarter lag, and this summary briefing includes those data to inform a more detailed discussion on the impact of the Covid19 period on crime and community safety (Note: the data used in this briefing is publicly available in the Berkshire Data Observatory - <https://slough.berkshireobservatory.co.uk/crime-and-community-safety/>).

This dataset show reported crimes. There are of course crimes that go unreported, and in addition there will be public perceptions of crime and safety in their communities, which may or may not directly follow the trends in reported crime. Unreported crimes and perceptions of crime are more challenging to identify and report accurately and therefore local knowledge held by residents and agencies in wards and localities will always provide useful context for these publicly reported statistics.

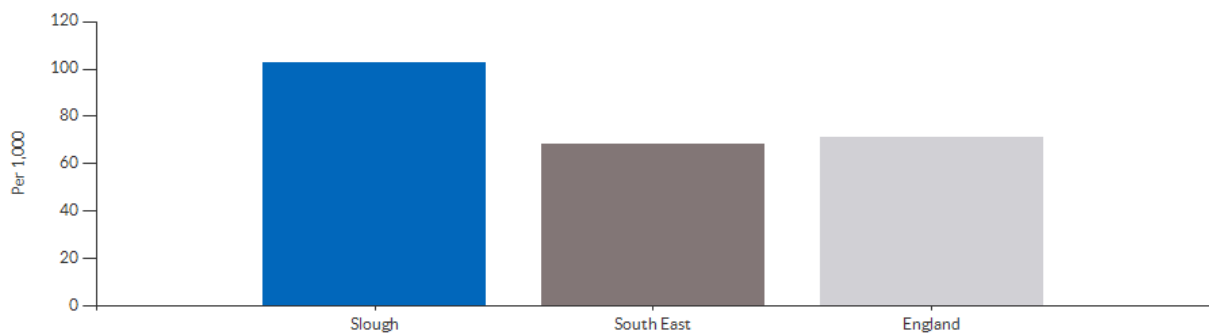
Existing Slough Borough Council and partnerships reporting routes used

There are a set of reporting routes that present greater detail reporting on crime and community safety in Slough. The main route is a regular detailed presentation to the Slough Safeguarding Partnership. In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive an annual report from the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Serious Violence Taskforce reviews data

on serious violent crime using a Strategic Needs Assessment and a violence dashboard produced by the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit. Combined, these reporting routes aims to complement the strategic review captured in the quarterly 5YP Balanced Scorecard.

Headline insight to accompany the Q4 2020/21 5YP Balanced Scorecard

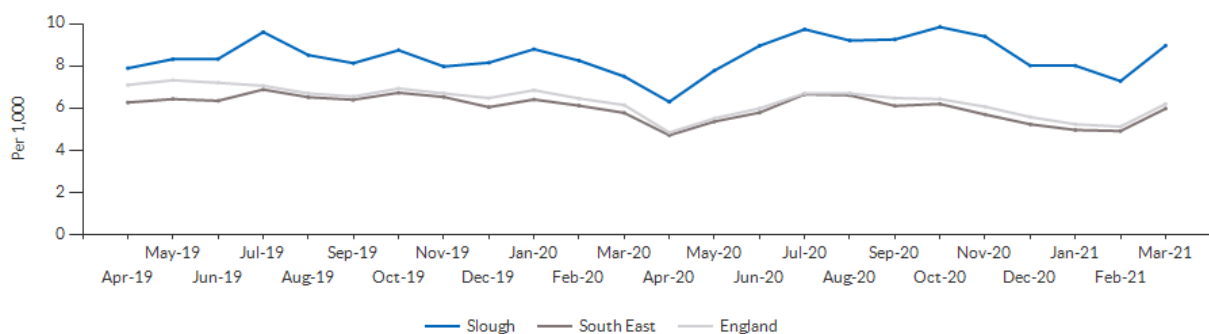
In March 2021, Slough’s crime rate remained higher than that across the South East and England as a whole



Date: Apr-20 - Mar-21 Source: data.police.uk

Slough’s overall crime rate has followed a similar trend during the Covid19 pandemic, although a greater increase in crime was observed at the end of each Lockdown when compared to the South East and England as a whole.

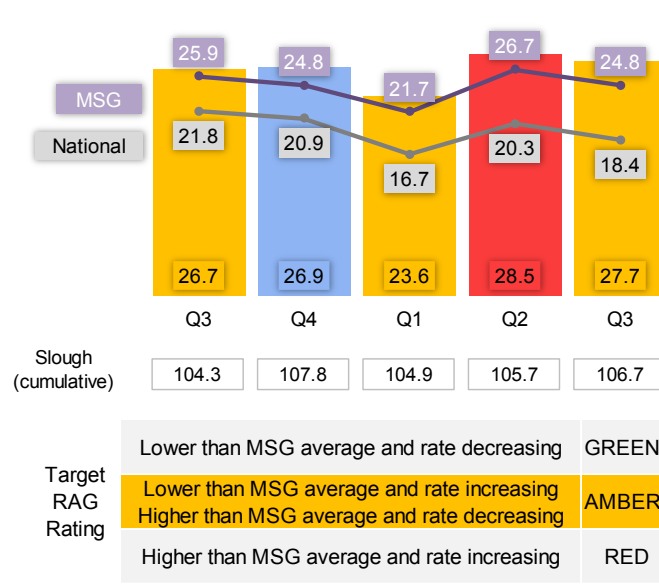
The overall crime rate at the end of March was similar to the crime rate observed at the end of the first Lockdown. Many of these crimes committed in Q2 to Q4 may have been committed during the first Lockdown period if social restrictions had not been in place. There is not yet a measurable upward or downward shift in the rate of crime or type of crime as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. **The category of crime with the highest relative level is violence and sexual offences, which is 43.5 per 1000 compared to 29.9 per 1,000 for South East and 29.7 per 1,000 for England.**



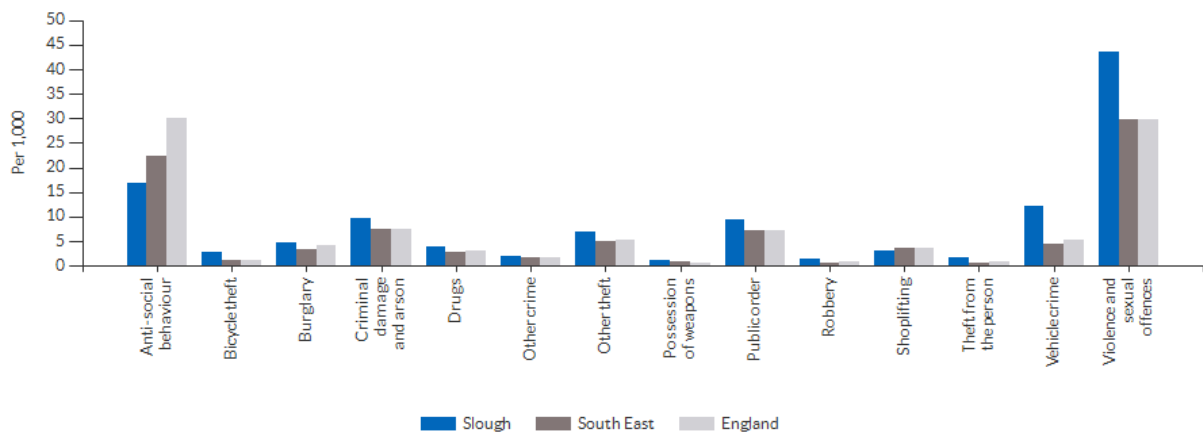
Source: data.police.uk

The data reported in the 5YP Balanced Scorecard, drawing from Office for National Statistics data, demonstrates the same trend of a fall in reported crime in Lockdown 1 with a subsequent

rise in the months following the easing of restrictions followed by a fall in reported crimes during Lockdown 2. Slough's crime rate followed the same path as the statistical neighbours, with the rate remaining above those comparative local areas throughout the pandemic.



The type of crime that makes up Slough's crime rate has remained in a similar balance to that before the Covid19 pandemic, with violent and sexual crimes, vehicle crimes, public order offences, and criminal damage all relatively higher when compared to the South East and England as a whole during the period April 2020-March 2021.



Date: Apr-20 - Mar-21 Source: data.police.uk