

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

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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 2019/2020 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**

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). Both are clearly linked and must be used in conjunction when preparing your report. They have been combined in the Slough Wellbeing Board report template to enable you to provide supporting information highlighting the link between the SJWS and JSNA priorities.

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, substance misuse, and exploitation, 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:

1. Protecting vulnerable children
2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
3. Improving mental health and wellbeing
4. Housing

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

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

1. Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
2. Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
3. 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.

5.0 Supporting Information

5.1 Local Strategic Partnerships: The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP), Slough Wellbeing Board, and the Slough Safeguarding Partnership are the three key statutory partnership boards that Slough Borough Council coordinates and maintains. These three partnership boards proactively work to support the Slough vision and strategic outcomes of the council. They are continuing to develop and build upon their collaborative working, with different priorities aligned to ensure the best outcomes for the community of Slough. Figure 1 provides an emerging diagrammatical overview of the connectivity between strategic partnership boards, multiagency 5 year plans, and the Slough 2040 Vision, all of which is underpinned by data and evidence.

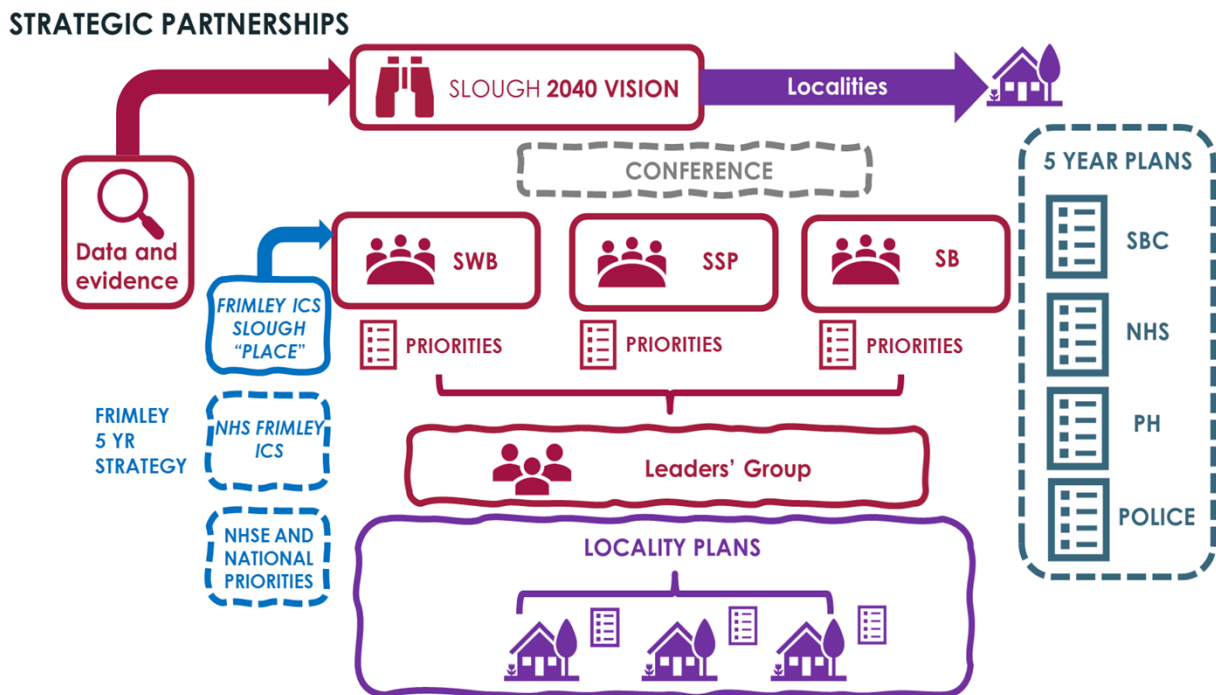


Figure 1: Strategic Partnerships
Please note: SB is the Slough Safeguarding Partnership.

5.2 Purpose of the SSP: 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; figure 2 captures multi-agency partners who form the SSP.



Figure 2: Safer Slough Partnership members

5.3 Priority Areas: Selection 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-design and develop sustainable interventions and solutions. The six priority focus areas of the SSP for the 2019/2020 financial year are Violence Against Women and Girls, Boys and Men (VAWG+), Serious Violence, Modern Slavery, Child Sexual Exploitation, Acquisitive Crime, and Individuals with Multiple Disadvantages; table 1 outlines these thematic priority areas and the delivery mechanisms in place to ensure prompt and effective responses.

Theme	Delivery Mechanism	
Violence Against Women and Girls, Boys and Men (VAWG+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse Delivery Group & action plan • FGM Progression Group & action plan 	Funded Provision: The Choices Programme - Preventative Intervention
Serious Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slough Violence Taskforce & action plan. Matrix groups sit beneath to support the delivery of the group. • Serious Youth Violence & Child Drug Exploitation Meeting • <i>Funded Provision: 2 x Youth Gang Intervention workers in Slough Youth Offending Team</i> 	
Modern Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slough Modern Slavery Group 	
Child Sexual Exploitation	The SSP supports the work of the Slough Safeguarding Boards who are responsible for the governance of this priority area	
Individuals with Multiple Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Funded Provision: Browns Project</i> • <i>Funded Provision: Substance Misuse Outreach workers</i> 	
Acquisitive Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle Theft Action Plan • Support provided through regular operational policing meetings 	

Table 1: Safer Slough Partnership thematic priority areas and deliverables

5.4 The Domestic Abuse Delivery Group: The Domestic Abuse (DA) Delivery Group is responsible for providing a tactical focus for DA on behalf of the Safer Slough Partnership. The group currently meets on a quarterly basis to monitor, review, and support:

- Projects and services supporting victims of DA e.g. the Brave Project, as well as those aimed at educating and holding perpetrators to account, evaluating and considering the effectiveness of the work delivered
- Training needs, both for practitioners and the wider community
- The nature and scale of DA in Slough, to inform necessary projects, programmes, and services
- Methods of raising awareness of DA amongst the community in Slough
- Multi-agency referral pathways and processes to ensure prompt and effective support for victims and their families, and perpetrators
- Best practise, observed both nationally and locally, to enable enhancement of the slough offer in relation to DA

5.5 Local VAWG+ Strategy: Through combining information from the national VAWG strategy, and national and local research, the DA Delivery Group has developed a 1 page VAWG+ strategy, which outlines the key objectives of the delivery group, in relation to education and awareness, DA service provision, community and partnership working, and changing the behaviour of perpetrators. An action plan, co-produced by multi-agency partners who attend the DA Delivery Group, sits beneath the strategy, to ensure deliverables and progression against the key objectives.

5.6 Domestic Abuse Train the Trainer Programme: 15 multi-agency representatives received 'Train the Trainer' DA Training, in turn enabling multi-agency partners to deliver their own training, ensuring that domestic abuse experts are located in different statutory and community settings within Slough.

5.7 The FGM Progression Group: The FGM Progression group has divided the focus on FGM between a clinical response and a community response. Akin to the DA Delivery group, the FGM Progression group works to review and advise upon on referral pathways & procedures, advise upon and support the delivery of training and education, identify gaps in service provision and funding/partnership resources to address them. The group was successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to fund a 6 month pilot of a non-clinical 'Family Centre', which aims to support women who are suffering trauma following the procedure, and raise awareness of the illegality of FGM, and the physical and emotional harm it causes, enabling parents to safeguard their children.

5.8 Violence Taskforce: The Violence Taskforce was initiated in October 2019 to provide 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. The group is responsible for monitoring the impact and value of deliverables under the local serious violence strategy, to ensure the best response for Slough is achieved, ensuring a safer community for all. A number of different workstreams have subsequently developed from the taskforce, which include the following:

- **The Data and Insight Workstream:** Working to better understand the drivers behind a young person's involvement in violent activity, to inform evidence based interventions which target causal factors, at critical points in a young person's life.
- **The Interventions Workstream:** Focussing on mapping gaps existing in the current provision, aimed at preventing involvement in violent activity, proposing developments to the Slough Offer, and exit strategies for those already involved. A key element of this workstream is to ensure that the Slough Offer is sustainable, and developed with the involvement of the local community, with a key focus on capacity building resources which already exist, in place of parachuting in short term services.
- **The communications Workstream:** Ensuring effective information sharing amongst multi-agency partners and the wider community of Slough, and the development of a local knife crime campaign.

Funding from central government (Violence Reduction Unit Fund, Early Intervention Youth Fund, and Surge Funding) is being used to support the work of the violence taskforce at a local level, with the following interventions already being delivered:

- Targeted 1 to 1 support for those at risk of involvement/involved in violent activity
- Practitioner gangs awareness training (70 staff trained)
- Drama based performances in schools which highlight the risks of gangs and associated issues
- Workshops which educate young people about gangs, knife crime, county lines, and how to reduce the risk of involvement
- School based youth work aimed at preventing exclusion

The expansion of CCTV coverage across Salt Hill Park is also underway.

5.9 Youth Gang Intervention workers: The SSP has funded 2 youth gang intervention workers within Slough Youth Offending Team, to deliver focussed intervention around serious youth violence to young people. Work delivered has included preventative workshops, a Serious Youth Violence programme, a summer residential, and the delivery of victim awareness work, which uses real life testimony from a serving prisoner, who was previously involved in serious violence as a young person.

5.10 Knife Crime Research: The Safer Slough Partnership currently has 2 university placement students carrying out research on knife crime in Slough. The focus of the research is primarily around the sourcing and availability of knives in Slough for young people, and involves working with multi-agency practitioners and young people to better understand how we can address the problem locally.

5.11 The Choices Programme: Through interactive digital stories, the Choices Programme supports young people in understanding the process of making 'good' choices, and what can drive/influence those choices; 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. The programme builds the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make better-informed decisions. Over 1000 sessions of the primary phase have been delivered to pupils in Slough, with 3280 year 5 & 6 students taking part. The year 7 element of the secondary phase of the programme has been co-designed with local schools, and other key stakeholders such as the Engage Team, Youth Parliament and SSP; delivery of this phase will be piloted during the current (2019/20) academic year. Design of the year 8 element is scheduled for the 2020/2021 Academic year.



Figure 3: Interactive digital stories, the Choices Programme

5.12 Child Sexual Exploitation and Choices Programme Awareness Sessions:

In order to equip parents to identify the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and grooming, the SSP supported the delivery of 8 community based sessions. The sessions were further used to encourage parental engagement with the Choices Programme, enabling young people to continue to explore concepts and material from the programme, beyond the classroom environment

5.13 The Slough Modern Slavery Group: The Slough Modern Slavery Group works to ensure that the Safer Slough Partnership is able to provide a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to address the issue of modern slavery and exploitation in Slough. Using the priorities set out by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, the group is identifying and raising awareness of the issues, as they relate to Slough, amongst partners and the wider community, providing direction for operational activity. The group are proactively supporting the Responsible Car Wash Scheme to improve working conditions for employees in car washes in Slough, and are building upon the current multi-agency response to cuckooing, ensuring potential cases are addressed quickly and effectively. In partnership with the Willow Project, the group has enabled and supported the training of over 125 Slough practitioners, to ensure the development of a multi-agency workforce who are equipped to spot the signs of modern slavery and respond effectively.

5.14 Local Modern Slavery Strategy: Through combining information from the anti-slavery commissioner's priorities, and national and local research, the Slough Modern Slavery Group has developed a 1 page Modern Slavery strategy, which outlines the key objectives of the delivery group, in relation to victim identification and care, enforcement, partnerships, and private sector engagement. An action plan, co-produced by multi-agency partners, sits beneath the strategy, to ensure progression against the key objectives.

5.15 Modern Slavery Campaign: To mark national anti-slavery day (18th October), the Safer Slough Partnership launched wave two of its hard-hitting campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery. Posters for the campaign were produced in English, Polish, Romanian, Urdu and Punjabi, and shared across the partnership. The campaign lasted for six weeks with a range of outdoor advertising including posters displayed on the back of 25 buses on Slough routes, in GP surgeries, council buildings, hospitals, Shelter, Slough Police Station. A poster also featured in Slough Highlights newsletter which reaches 6000 SBC tenants, Slough Citizen Magazine, the taxi driver newsletter & the licensing newsletter. Social media, including twitter and Facebook were also used to promote the campaign by the partnership. Modern slavery key rings are also being distributed to new SBC tenants. During the interim period between the 2018 and 2019 anti-slavery day campaigns, a smaller adnozzle campaign (figure 4) was launched in a number of petrol stations across Slough, to maintain awareness amongst the community.



Figure 4: Examples of Safer Slough Partnership Modern Slavery Imagery on Slough Petrol Pumps

5.16 The Browns Project: The SSP have continued to fund the specialist Browns Provision, to provide intensive practical and emotional support to people living in Slough, who are suffering with multiple disadvantages which may include homelessness, substance misuse, domestic abuse, low level offending, unemployment, and mental ill-health, in order to support them in achieving positive changes within their lives. A range of positive outcomes for those engaged with the service have been achieved including, decreases in arrests and reduced calls to the police, no longer selling drugs, maintaining accommodation, and full-time

employment. Since the start of the service in Slough, it is estimated that the project has saved the public sector approximately £400,000 (these cost savings are calculated from various cost analysis documents).

5.17 Substance Misuse Outreach: The SSP have continued to fund START Criminal Justices Outreach Workers, to engage with substance misusers in the criminal justice system, or those at risk of entering the criminal justice system with the aim of reducing their offending. A range of positive outcomes for those engaged with the service have been achieved including; abstinence from illicit drug use, return to full time employment, and engagement with emotional and mental wellbeing services.

5.18 Acquisitive Crime: The SSP continues to support the acquisitive crime agenda. Through partnership working, a bicycle theft action plan has been developed, focusing on increased public awareness and the availability of bike marking and registration, as well as physical security measures. Work is also underway to tackle residential burglary and theft from motor vehicle.

5.19 The Jubilee River: Following 2 deaths by drowning in the Jubilee River which runs through Slough, representatives from SBC, the environment agency, TVP, RBFRS, and The Riverside Centre worked together to prevent people from swimming in the river. Activities included the replacement of fencing, signage detailing the dangers of swimming in the river, delivery of water safety talks in schools, and the dissemination of leaflets and information, including within the local press. In 2019, there were no deaths by drowning in the Slough stretch of the Jubilee River.



Figure 5: Jubilee River leaflet

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None

7. **Conclusion**

This report has summarised critical projects and deliverables by the Safer Slough Partnership, which collectively strive to reduce crime and disorder in Slough, and keep safe our diverse and vibrant communities. The partnership will continue to proactively listen and engage with residents to better understand and respond effectively to concerns in relation to criminality and safety.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' Safer Slough Partnership Strategy

'B' Safer Slough Partnership VAWG+ Strategy

'C' Slough Violence Taskforce Presentation

9. **Background Papers**

None