

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 9th July 2020
CONTACT OFFICER: Garry Tallett, Group Manager - Community Safety
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 477907
WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

SLOUGH VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

1. **Purpose of Report**

To update Members on the work of the Violence Task Force.

2. **Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to note the report and presentation.

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 Slough Violence Task Force is a multi-agency approach to tackling violence in Slough. The work of the Task Force will impact on all of the priorities listed below.

Priorities:

- 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 supports the Council's Five Year Plan, against the following outcomes:

- *Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful*
- *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

(b) Risk Management

None

(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**

The attached presentation provides the committee with an update on the journey and focus of the Violence Task Force.

Back Ground

The Task Force was formed in October 2019 to provide a multi-agency, co-ordinated approach to address issues of Violence in Slough. This Task Force brings together a range of partners from Health, Children and Adult services, Safer Slough Partnership (Police, Probation etc), Youth Services, Safeguarding, Early Help and the Voluntary Sector, with a sole focus on violence.

Focus and work

The purpose of the Task Force is to,

1. Provide a multi-agency, co-ordinated approach to address the issues of serious violence in Slough
2. Identify workstreams and deliverables under the local serious violence strategy
3. Monitor the impact and value of deliverables to ensure the best response is achieved, ensuring a safer community
4. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, information and best practice in relation to serious violence
5. Support evidence based policy making in relation to violence

Direction and Deliverables

The Task Force formed three sub groups, Data and Insight, Violence Reduction Interventions and Communications. These groups worked across a range of statutory, voluntary groups and members of the public to understand and identify root causes and key issues, map current provision and understand where the gaps are in service delivery and create a communications plan and form projects to challenge the current youth narrative. The groups met throughout November and December and presented their findings at the January meeting. The findings helped create a live action plan, which the Task Force is currently monitoring. This live document is evolving and growing and provides a tool for project management.

We are now working on some exciting projects and activities, these include,

1. Young people creating a counter narrative to violence, with a focus on carrying knives. This is being led by colleagues in the voluntary sector, supported by the Task Force.
2. Forming a Shadow Youth Task Force. The Youth Task Force, will sense check our plans and help shape future projects, thus providing young people with the ability to help shape future projects and commissions.
3. Early Help are working to create a one stop shop for help and advice. There are currently multiple information and advice platforms in Slough. The Task Force has enabled a review and consolidation of these in to one. The benefits are many,
 - a. reduced cost of running these sites as a council
 - b. residents will be able to access help and support
 - c. frontline practitioners will have great knowledge of what is available
 - d. reducing the opportunity for duplication of offer
4. Our Youth Services offer has changed with the creation of a strengthened outreach team – this change was initiated by the Task Force
5. Thames Valley Together Project is led by Thames Valley Police and aims to bring together data and insight to help shape interventions. Slough has signed up to be a pilot for this project and will be able to report on progress as this develops.
6. Expanding current CCTV coverage of Salt Hill Park – funded through Slough Borough Council and Thames Valley Police.
7. Chalvey Intensive Engagement Project – Partnership approach to work with Chalvey residents to build community cohesion and reduce violence.
8. Create a communications plan so all agencies support the messages of violence reduction

The list above provides an example of some of the key projects and activities from the Task Force. It is also important to note that Slough is leading the way across the Thames Valley with this approach to violence reduction. The Thames Valley Police Violence Reduction Unit has identified our approach as an exemplar of good practice.

7. Conclusion

We have made great progress in identifying and understanding the challenges we face in Slough with regards to violence. While this work has continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we are acutely aware that the landscape in which we operate is consistently changing and we need to continue to review and test as the Task Force

continues to move forward. Nevertheless, we are starting to change some of our processes, form new and exciting projects and continue to work with communities to reduce the impact of violence.

8. **Appendix Attached**

'A' - Slough Violence Task Force Presentation

9. **Background Papers**

None