

## Slough Borough Council

<b>Report To:</b>	Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Safer Slough Partnership annual update
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Tessa Lindfield, Director Public Health and Public Protection
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Ahmed, Lead Member for Communities, Sport, Leisure and Public Protection
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Spall, Community Safety Manager
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix A – Community Safety Plan Appendix B – SSP KPI Table Appendix C – DA Board Action Plan Appendix D – TVP Data

### 1. Summary

- 1.1** This report provides an overview of the Safer Slough Partnership (SSP), work and achievements against key priorities from January 2025 to December 2025. This report is to help the Committee in its assurance as to the effectiveness of the SSP, and its partner agencies as part of the regular cycle of assurance.
- 1.2** The SSP's key priorities are outlined in its three-year Community Safety Plan. This Plan (Appendix A), a statutory requirement for the partnership, was finalised in November 2024. It was informed by data analysis and community insight to identify the priorities for the partnership. These are:
- **Domestic Abuse**
  - **Serious Violence**
  - **Anti-Social Behaviour**
  - **Substance use**
- 1.3** There will be data provided by Thames Valley Police in this report that reflects our partnership priorities as well as wider crime and disorder trends.

### 2. Recommendations

That members of the CISC Committee:

- 2.1 Comment on The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) and how it has continued to progress its core community-safety priorities since the last Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee, with notable improvements in anti-social behaviour enforcement, serious-violence reduction, and community engagement.
- 2.2 Note the Safer Slough Partnership's progress in delivering actions to address crime and disorder and in further developing effective multi-agency partnership arrangements.
- 2.3 Comment on the progress against the Key Performance Indicators in 2025/26 (Appendix B)
- 2.4 Note the TV Police update, and the performance of Slough in comparison to other local police areas in the Thames Valley data shown in Appendix D
- 2.5 We ask members to share their recommendations to help shape the work of the SSP and strengthen our wider community safety efforts. Your insights, experiences, and local knowledge are essential to ensuring that our priorities reflect the realities faced across our communities.

### 3. Introduction

- 3.1 The SSP serves as Slough's statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP), bringing together the responsible authorities to work with local agencies to tackle crime and disorder. It enables joint development and delivery of strategies to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, environmental nuisance, and the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances. The 'responsible authorities' who must hold membership are:
  1. **Police Service**
  2. **Local Authority**
  3. **Fire & Rescue Authority**
  4. **Integrated Care Board**
  5. **Probation Service**
- 3.2 This partnership serves to provide strategic, coordinated and proactive responses to **reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime** within the borough, making Slough a place where people want to live, work, visit, and invest.
- 3.3 The SSP is a thematic group governed by a Board jointly chaired by the Local Command Unit Operational Superintendent for Thames Valley Police and the Chief Executive of Slough Borough Council, with support from representatives of the police, local authority, fire and rescue, the NHS, and the probation service.
- 3.4 In line with statutory obligations set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the SSP and its partner authorities must:

- i. Convene a strategic group to develop and implement strategies addressing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, re-offending, and serious violence.
- ii. Engage with the public each year to gather views and insights.
- iii. Produce an annual strategic assessment to shape local priorities.
- iv. Agree a partnership plan and oversee its delivery.
- v. Maintain a robust framework for sharing information across agencies.
- vi. Lead work to reduce re-offending.
- vii. Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews where required.

### **3.5 Overall Position**

- 3.5.1 Slough Borough Council continues to engage in a strong and cohesive working relationship with the CSP and wider agencies which continues to enable an effective response to community issues.
- 3.5.2 A major element of partnership working has been the Clear, Hold, Build programme which has adopted the public branding “Safer Langley”. The Clear Hold Build project launched with a focus on addressing “clear” serious organised crime to then enable the ground to be ‘held’ before a ‘build’ phase in the community. This was a multi-agency approach to enforcing and then restoring resilience and trust in Langley through work focussing on crime, anti-social behaviour, health and wellbeing, youth work, business and employability and resident engagement.
- 3.5.3 One of the key reasons the Clear, Hold, build initiative came to Langley was due to a lack of intelligence coming from the community, which allowed crime - including serious violence and homicide - to happen within the community. The development of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) in Langley has been a significant step in rebuilding community resilience and links to partnership authorities.
- 3.5.4 The work in Safer Langley was successful in winning the Laycock Problem Solving Award in 2025 and has been shortlisted for a national Local Government Chronical (LGC) award for Community Involvement and has won the Thames Valley Police Shrievally Award in 2026.
- 3.5.5 Slough now has a network of 107 Domestic Abuse Champions across the partnership which is growing and developing all the time.
- 3.5.6 Overall, there has been a reduction in violence, fewer victims and reduced risk. The annual community safety survey shows improved feelings of safety which was Launched in October 2025 and ran until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

#### 4. Performance management and governance.

4.1 At its core, the SSP exists to make communities safer. Each partner has a statutory duty to deliver agreed priorities, supported by performance management to demonstrate evidence-based impact. The governance reporting methods are transparent and, where there are issues or barriers, these are identified and resolved together through the SSP Board. Progress reports are submitted to the Board by responsible strategic leads for each priority on a quarterly basis. The priorities ensure they support the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Plan, TV Police strategy and the Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029.

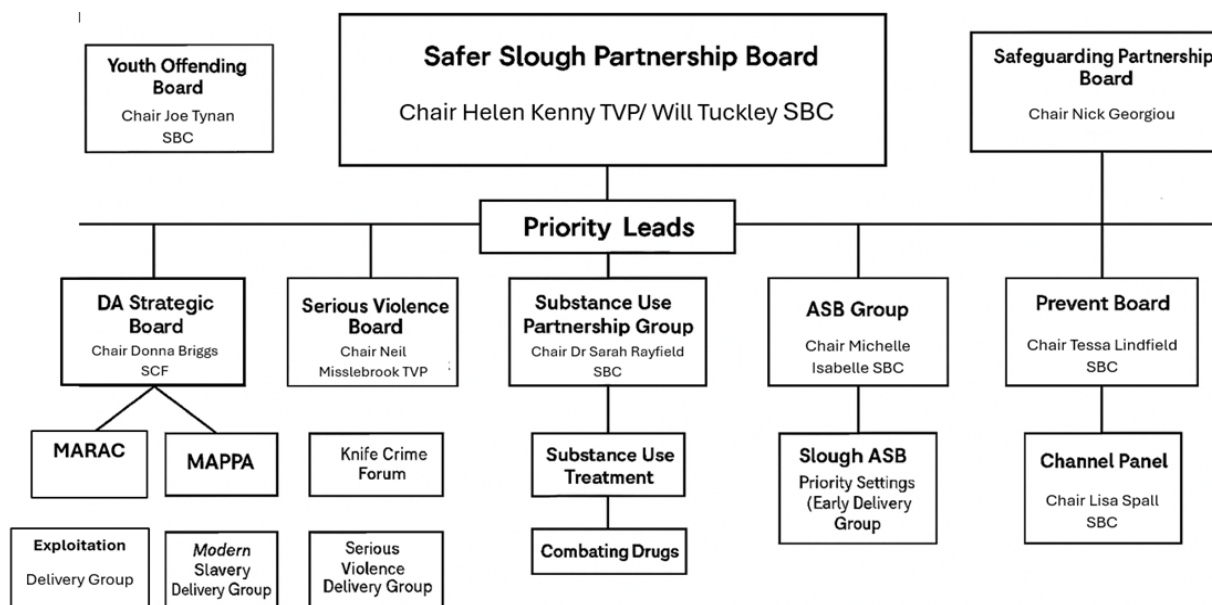
4.2 The priorities in item 4.3 were informed by the Community Safety survey, and by data given to the partnership by Thames Valley Police.

4.3 The current SSP priorities are -

- **Domestic Abuse** - including sexual abuse, violence against women and girls
- **Serious Violence** - tackle gang and knife related crime
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – develop a partnership place-based approach
- **Substance use** - substance misuse and mental health.

These priorities will be re considered when the annual strategic assessment for 2025/26 is completed in April 2026.

4.4 Priority leads ensure progress of this work is carried out by several partnership sub-groups, as illustrated in the chart below.



4.5 Sub-groups have multi-agency representation, including third sector organisations, schools, colleges and businesses, where relevant and appropriate. Key to their success is working in partnership and ensuring that important messages are shared with partners and communities.

**4.6** The Safer Slough Partnership convenes quarterly and has met on 4 occasions since March 2025. We are currently undertaking a review of the SSP meeting structure and are working with partners to develop a stronger meeting format including clearer forward planning. Key to this review is also to consider how the voices of residents can be heard and better incorporated into the Community Safety space, including how we involve young people in the partnership more directly. Work to develop opportunities to listen more directly to young people has started.

## 5. Local crime picture for 2025

**5.1** Slough is a safe place when compared to the national picture on crime. It is however located amongst Local Authorities in areas with some of the lowest crime rates in the country, so for Thames Valley Police, Slough remains an area of priority.

**5.2** A clearer understanding of the types of crime occurring in Slough, combined with evidence on effective prevention approaches, is fundamental to shaping our partnership programme. This insight enables us to design targeted interventions that reduce crime and disorder, while also helping to alleviate fear of crime within the community.

**5.3** The following table gives an overview of all crime across Thames Valley region and the direction of travel from 2024 to 2025.

Fig a - All Crime Excluding Fraud

All Crime (excluding Fraud)	Finally Recorded Crimes (Jan to Dec)				Crimes per 1000 Population
	2025	2024	2023	2024 compared to 2025, % Change	2025
<b>Slough</b>	14,483	14,905	16,191	-2.8%	91
Bracknell Forest	6,928	7,643	7,807	-9.4%	55
Buckinghamshire	31,107	32,112	32,808	-3.1%	56
Milton Keynes	26,774	26,999	26,844	-0.8%	92
Oxfordshire	45,722	46,857	47,322	-2.4%	62
Reading	17,540	17,626	18,278	-0.5%	100
West Berkshire	9,241	9,359	9,540	-1.3%	57
Windsor and Maidenhead	9,273	9,561	9,588	-3.0%	60
Wokingham	7,585	7,516	8,467	<b>0.9%</b>	42

5.4. When looking at all crime (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 population Slough has the third highest rate (91) of the Thames Valley Boroughs.

When looking at all crime (excluding fraud) Slough experienced a reduction of -2.8% to 7,585).

In Slough's local data packs, which highlight vulnerability as a key challenge for certain resident groups and these patterns align with the broader crime environment in the borough. The following are more likely to be victims of crime.

People in high-traffic public areas (commuters, shift workers, hospital visitors)

Residents in neighbourhoods with higher violent-crime density (like Cippenham and Langley), Vehicle owners parking in unsecured or high-risk areas, young people and residents in areas with persistent anti-social behaviour and Individuals out late at night near nightlife or transport hubs.

- 5.5 As we know fear of crime does not necessarily reflect a person's actual experience of crime. Community Safety surveys offer useful insights, but they are only one part of the picture. We also need to build additional, locally focused ways of engaging with communities to understand the specific factors shaping fear in each area and how that fear affects residents' everyday quality of life. Some of the ways the partnership has engaged the community in 2025 include Have Your Say events run by police partners, an active Neighbourhood Action Group, the first ever Slough Crime Summit and several different activities and fun days in the community with links to community safety.

## **6. Activity on core priorities 2025**

- 6.1 This section provides a concise overview of each SSP Priority subgroup. It outlines their core project aims and objectives, highlights the key outcomes that will define success, and summarises the main challenges associated with each workstream.

**Slough Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board – Priority**  
Lead: Donna Briggs/Rachel Axtell

### **6.2 Project Summary**

- 6.3 The purpose of this board is to develop the strategic approach to Domestic Abuse (DA) across the SSP and ensure there is a partnership strategy and action plans to address DA and the impact on children (as victims in their own right), vulnerable adults, and families. The strategy embeds the DA Act (2021) which gave Local Authorities the statutory duty to form a partnership board and carry out the duties of the legislation.

- 6.4 The key priorities of the DA strategy are:

- Changing Attitudes & Behaviours
- Early Identification & Intervention
- Safety & Support
- Work with Abusers

## 6.5 Work undertaken to date

### Current Task & Finish Groups

- MARAC Quality Assurance Group:
  - This is an East Berkshire Group (Slough, RBWM & Bracknell) chaired by Rachel Axtell & Sophie Wing King (DA Co-ordinators) and attended by the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit Inspector from Thames Valley Police and Berkshire Health Foundation Trust (BHFT) with specific focus on different elements of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process providing quality assurance and scrutiny. Partner agencies are invited in to discuss their input, strengths and challenges and how the MARAC process can be improved for residents that are deemed 'high risk'.
  
- Children and Young People as Victims of Domestic Abuse: (JTAI Framework) *(detailed in the DA action Plan in Appendix C)*
  - The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) has made the important step of acknowledging all children and young people that witness domestic abuse as victims. This task and finish group has been set up to look at this important area, scope current provision for children and develop pathways and interventions to ensure that all children identified are offered an appropriate level of support. This is a multiagency group involving Community Safety, Children First, Thames Valley Police, ICB, SAFE! Education and the Safeguarding Partnership. The group is well formed and will be providing an overview to senior leaders and this exec board soon.
  
- Victims with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF):
  - This group is to support the partnership around victims (typically women) who present to the partnership with no recourse to public funds and are suffering physical, financial abuse and coercive control. This is a particularly challenging area whereby virtue of their immigration status (often on spousal visas) they are not entitled to public services often leaving them outside of support systems and particularly vulnerable. We have partnered with our neighbouring Borough's across Berkshire and have the initial draft of a NRPF Toolkit currently in development.
  
- Perpetrators:
  - This focus area will be developed as we go into 2026 and a small group of partners including Children First and SBC. The Community Safety Team will be looking at current provision to disrupt, divert, educate and support behaviour change with those identified as perpetrators of domestic abuse across the Slough area. This will draw in already existing intervention such as MATAC (serial perpetrators), Drive Project (intensive support & behaviour change for perpetrators) and the Shine Programme (Psychoeducational programme) which are already running locally in Slough.

- Workforce Development Training
  - The Board commissioned (via Community Safety Team) Reducing the Risk a range of training during 2024-2025:
  - Domestic Abuse Champions 45
  - Housing (DA Law) 11
  - Coercive & Controlling Behaviour 9
  - Stalking 8
  - Non-Fatal Strangulation 10
  - Economic Abuse 9
  - DVPO's 13
  - Claires Law 8
  - DA & Older People 6
  - Court Orders 15
  
- Slough now has a network of 107 Domestic Abuse Champions across the partnership which is growing and developing all the time.
- In addition, we have delivered ten assemblies at three secondary schools in 2025 exploring harmful gender norms and healthy relationships which was well received by year 7-13 (Pilot).
- Week commencing 6th October 2025, Slough Children First gave all staff a dedicated week of professional development in Domestic abuse and Harmful practices.
- In the Community Safety Team, the DA Officer continues to provide Domestic Abuse DASH Risk Assessment training monthly for all professionals (focus on Children First) which will continue.

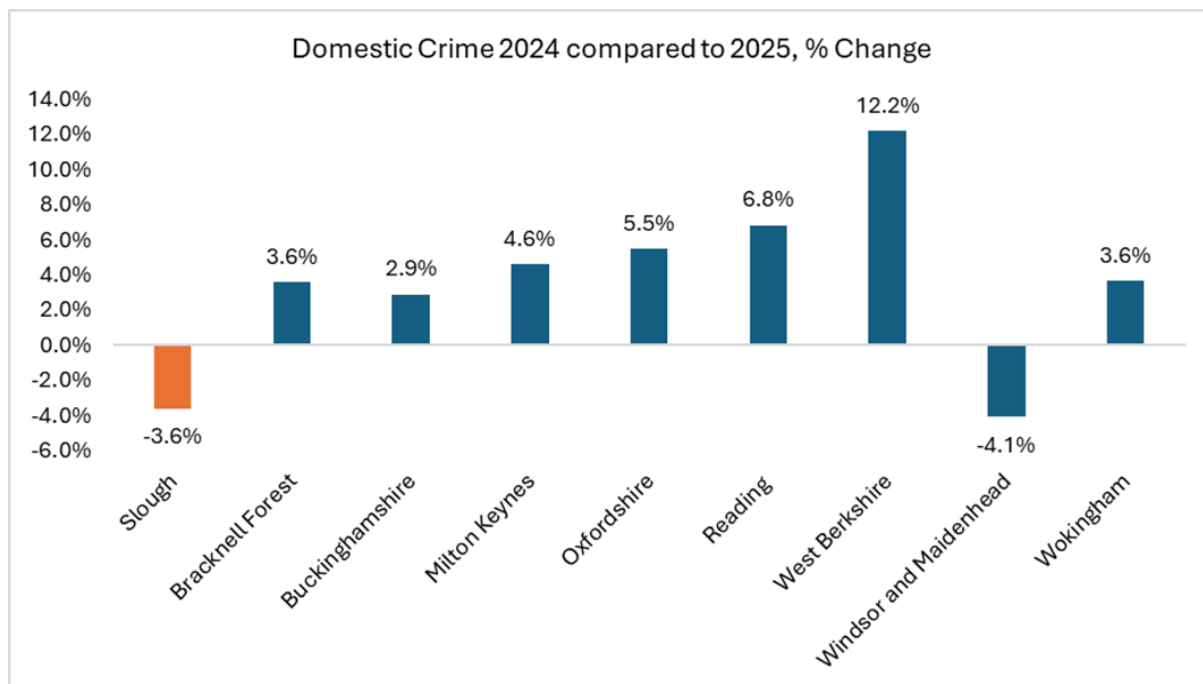
## **6.6 Progress summary of DA Plan – our successes so far 2025**

- Growth in Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO's) with 13 in 2025
- OPCC providing victims going through the court service (for a DVPO) providing dedicated advocacy and support during the 28-day period
- MATAC has become an integral part of the process of identifying repeat perpetrators of DA and focusing on safeguarding victims and their children as well as providing a pathway to the DRIVE Project and updates on DVPO's to the partnership.
- New Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (Cranstoun) who started in October 2025 to support high risk victims and provide a psycho-educational programme for victims as well as a post dedicated to support of children
- Domestic Abuse and Suicide Toolkit, in progress and near completion, Berkshire wide tool



- Health IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) at Wexham Park Hospital, funded via The Dash Charity
- Berkshire wide Domestic Abuse Suicide Prevention T&F group hosted by Public Health Slough
- Three refuges providing 14 bed spaces in Slough for women and children established for a number of years by DASH charity
- Dedicated Domestic Abuse Temporary Accommodation
- The Board has consistently produced compelling communications across the partnership including International Women’s Day, Stalking Awareness, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), so called ‘Honour Based’ abuse and forced marriage as well as support the 16 days of activism and the SSP Crime Summit in 2025.

Fig b - % change by Local Authority Domestic Crime



When looking at Domestic Crime, Slough experienced a reduction of -3.6% (2,749 to 2,650) comparing 2024 to 2025, Windsor and Maidenhead had the greatest reduction -4.1% (1,468 to 1,408), West Berkshire Borough experienced the highest increase of 12.2% (1,330 to 1,492).

### 6.7 Opportunities and Challenges

- The ‘Safe Accommodation’ strategy will be part of the overall Housing Strategy which remains in development. This defines how as a council we provide support

for victims of domestic abuse. We now have a draft Safe Accommodation Strategy that is currently being shared with Housing Leads prior to consultation.

- The Board has expanded its scope to wider issues such as Harmful Practices and a draft strategy for Harmful Practices is going to Cabinet in April 2026. This strategy will sit under the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board which reports back to the Safer Slough Partnership. The Slough Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has aspiration to become a VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls) plus Boys & Men, Board.
- We are currently commissioning a Needs Assessment through a third party to do a full review of domestic abuse in Slough, ready for the strategy refresh and review in 2026. We need to ensure that the voices/ experiences of residents including children are heard and considered and that it is at the forefront of this work.
- We have identified a gap in support for victims are not graded as 'High risk', those who have left their abusers. To mitigate this, we are currently setting up a forum (pilot in Britwell) where victim/ survivors have come together to support each other from within the community.
- We have low referrals for men in Slough as well as LGBTQI+ communities and young people under the age of 18 years old. These are all areas for development in 2026/27.

### **6.8 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's)**

- The Home Office has changed the DHR guidance and Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) is the new term to ensure the inclusion of suicide cases where the victim has experienced domestic abuse.
- We currently have two DARDR's in process, one close to conclusion and this report will be sent to the Home Office in March 26. The other is at the beginning of the process. Both reviews are an opportunity to fully understand the victim's experience and how the partnership can consider local learning and improve best practice

**Serious violence - Priority Lead: Thames Valley Police/ Rebecca Curley**

### **7. Project Summary**

- To develop a strategic approach and plan to address the increases in Violence that Slough has experienced.
- To ensure that Slough meets its obligations in respect of the Serious Violence Duty.

## 7.1 Objectives:

- Reduction in crime, risk and demand, through a preventative (public health) approach.

## 7.2 Key work undertaken – 2025-2026

- SSP Partnership continued to implement the serious violence strategy and action plan with a graduated response from prevention, through to early intervention and enforcement.
- Serious Violence Board meets quarterly and has adopted the action plan to steer work and have oversight of activity being delivered by partners.
- Serious violence action plan is tracked by partners with a RAG rating of action and activity being undertaken at primary, secondary, tertiary and leadership level.
- Knife crime and violence briefings for TVP (Thames Valley Police) East Berkshire LCU (Local Command Unit) have changed from monthly to fortnightly under the new LCU arrangements providing update on data, habitual knife carriers, known individuals involved in violence at a primary, secondary and tertiary level. These are then communicated to partners the following day at the Operational Intel Meeting hosted by Slough Children First and attended by partners.
- Operational level of activity of enforcement includes Clear Hold Build – Safer Langley and Safer Cippenham, Op Cascade and Operational Intel Meetings hosted by Slough Children's First.
- SVROs (serious violence reduction orders) granted (which means individuals can be searched without any 'reasonable suspicion' grounds).
- Slough is running the Violence Prevention Partnership project on the Focused Diversion Panel and Parents Programme work until March 31, 2026. This involves working with a cohort of young people aged 10 – 15 years old at risk / on the cusp of criminality and their parents. The project involved creating a multi-agency panel to identify and agree support plan unique to the child. This has been extended to include children referred by schools who have multiple suspensions or on the cusp of an exclusion. Slough is the pilot area for Thames Valley Police and Slough Children First lead this Young Futures Panel intervention programme. This is working with young people aged 10 – 17 years old (or older if they have an EHCP or are a Care Leaver) where partners are concerned about them being drawn into crime. The panel agrees an appropriate support plan for each individual young person.
- Work with schools continues including The Hive project (Together as One), PHSE network Choices workshops (Lime), Stay True to You assemblies (Storyy Group) and training (Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership), TVP School Liaison officer, the Knife Angel legacy art project (Art Classes Group and Salt Hill VR), youth worker support with the Community and Detached Youth Team.
- Safer Langley – the Clear Hold Build Safer Langley project focussing on addressing serious organised crime entered the 'Hold' and 'Build' phase. This is a

multi-agency approach to enforcing and then restoring resilience and trust in Langley through work focussing on crime, anti-social behaviour, health and wellbeing, youth work, business and employability and resident engagement. The Langley Neighbourhood Action Group meets regularly to give residents a chance to be involved in decision making and priorities. Projects include the Viva Slough mural and revamp at Langley Pavilion, Together as One Youth Cafe, Abri youth club, Community Payback schemes across Harvey Park, the clearing and tidying of BMX track at Upton Park, and an innovative Entrepreneur Skills Challenge between Lime and Langley College to prepare students for the transition from education to employment.

- Safer Cippenham – Drawing from the learning from Safer Langley – partners started a multi-agency approach to address issues around community safety in Cippenham.
- Roma Engagement Project is a three-year project funded by the Community Safety Partnership Fund through the OPCC (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) focussing on working with residents to support them accessing services such as health, Early Help and Children’s Services.
- The Team Around the School pilot launched with Lynch Hill, Beechwood, Langley Academy and Wexham secondary schools continues, taking a holistic and multi-agency approach to looking at safety and harm.
- The Hospital Navigator Scheme was commissioned for three more years with funding from Public Health. The Hospital Navigator co-ordinator works with a team of volunteers who are based in the Emergency Department (ED) – for Slough at Wexham Park Hospital. The Navigators engage with young people who present for emergency treatment – either as a direct experience of violence, or the possible root causes of violence, such as substance abuse or mental health crises. The voluntary organisation providing the Hospital Navigator service is Together as One. The Navigator connects with the vulnerable young people which can lead to ongoing support beyond the hospital to obtain necessary specialist input from community services such as housing, counselling, substance misuse support, long-term mentorship, employment, or group support work.
- The Safe Spaces scheme involves businesses who have signed up to the scheme will display a Safe Places sticker in their window. This shows it is a place where a vulnerable person can go in an emergency and get help to call the police, a family member, carer or support worker.
- The businesses provide somewhere safe to wait until help and support arrives. It may be as simple as offering someone a place to sit and a glass of water. An emergency could be when the person is unwell, scared or lost.
- Street Guardian and Mobile Safe Spaces scheme is a three-year programme funded by the Community Safety Partnership Fund to provide a mobile Safe Space. The project is being rolled out by the voluntary organisation Slough Community Transport and Shop Mobility and will provide a vehicle to act as a mobile ‘safe space’ providing guidance and support to residents and communities when needed.

- Hot spot patrols by the neighbourhood policing teams – 4 hotspots areas designated by police for Slough, 3 under serious violence and 1 under ASB, these are High Street, Farnham Road, Chalvey and Langley. Data is not available for July, but 164 valid patrols in hotspots for August and 221 for September (combined increase of 120 patrols compared to May/June). YTD to end of September 34,705 minutes of patrol activity (Q1: 18867 minutes, Q2 15838 minutes).
- Slough Children First has worked with ‘Safer Now’ to deliver safeguarding training for practitioners. This training empowers practitioners to focus on safeguarding of children and young people and look at risks outside the home.
- Initial Trauma-Informed Practice training has been rolled out through the Safer Slough Partnership and Slough Safeguarding Partnership, focussing on practitioners and professionals across Slough Borough Council, Slough Children First and partner organisations. This training allows practitioners to explore their understanding of the world around them and how that can support the work they do with children, young people and all residents in Slough.
- A public health approach to violence prevention focuses on understanding and addressing the root causes of violence through evidence-based strategies and multi-agency collaboration. The embedding of the Community Safety analyst within the Public Health intelligence team is one of the steps to move towards a more preventative approach to Community Safety issues.

Fig c Violence Against the Person (VAP) rate per 1,000 by Local Authority

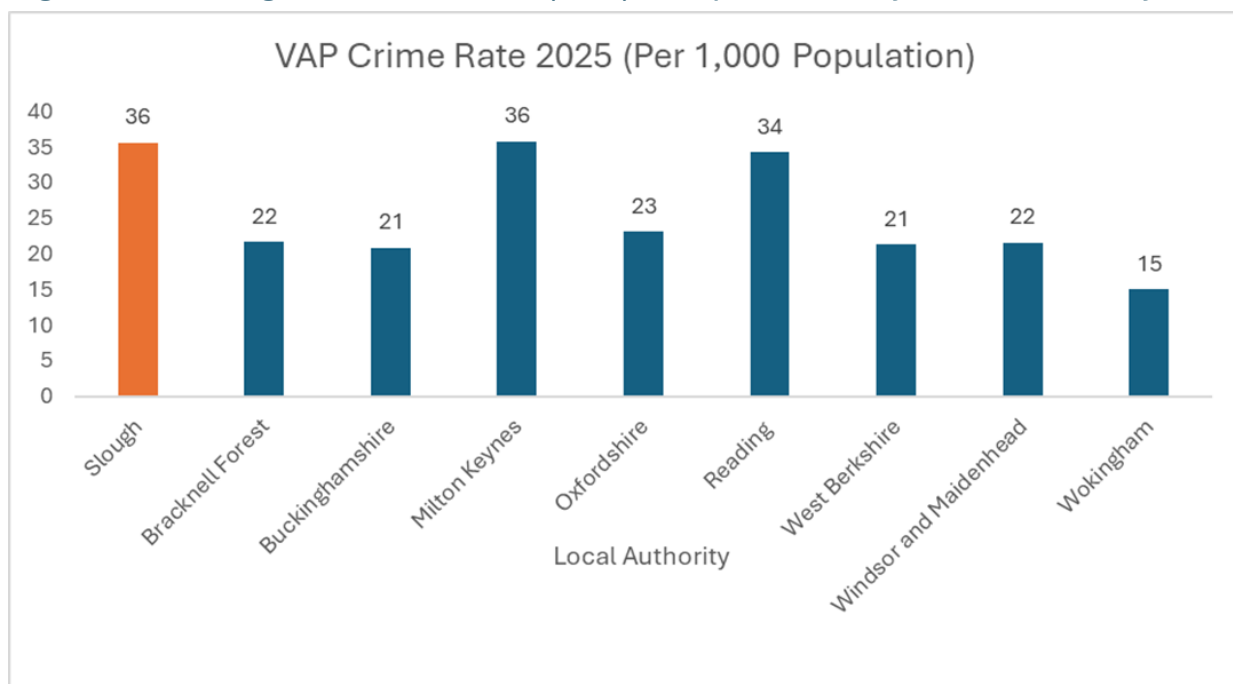
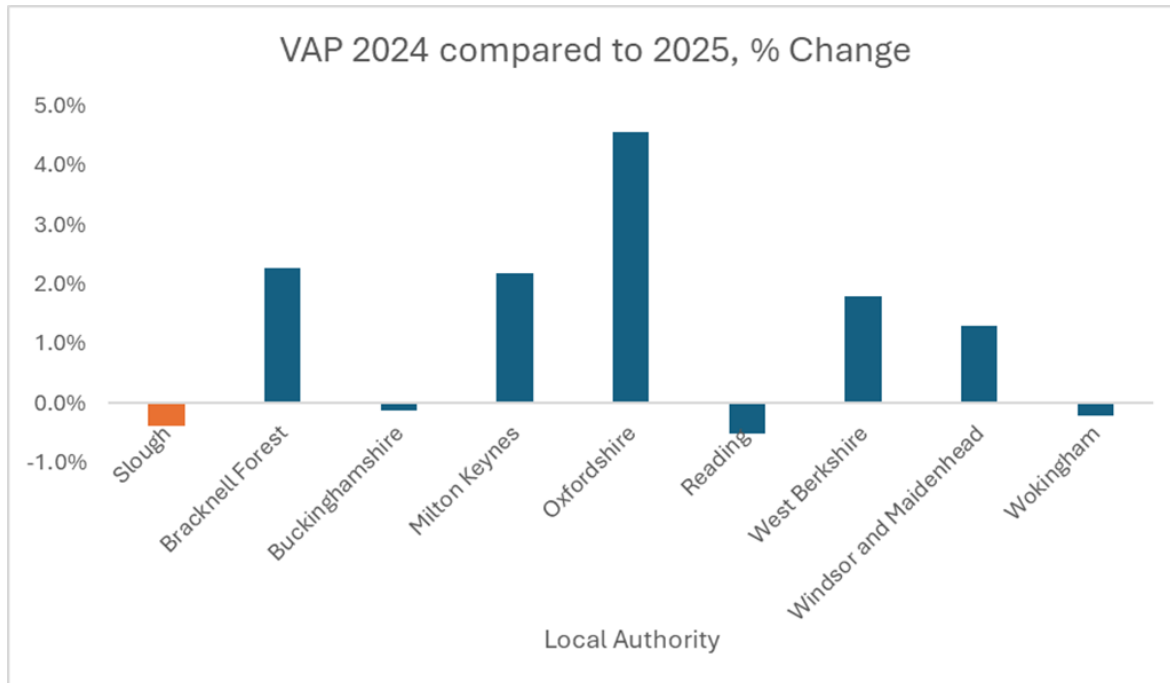


Fig d VAP % change by Local Authority



When looking at VAP Slough experienced a reduction of -0.4% (5,694 to 5,672) comparing 2024 to 2025, Oxfordshire had the greatest increase 4.6% (16,343 to 17,088).

When looking at the VAP rate per 1,000 population Slough has the joint highest rate of the Thames Valley Boroughs.

### 7.3 Opportunities and challenges

- Establish a unified strategic framework for all long-term prevention activity, embedding the Combatting Drugs Partnership as a core driver of our collective system ambition and ensuring its work shapes and strengthens our overarching partnership approach
- As above, develop better co-ordination of the long-term approach, ensuring a consistent, co-ordinated approach to working with young people. Street Games has now linked with the Community and Detached Youth Team
- Serious Violence strategy action plan is aligned with the Exploitation Strategy
- MACE for children, the transition phase from child to adult remains challenging. There is pressure here for young people who transition from youth services to adult services.
- Community concern / not feeling safe. The result of the community safety survey carried out in 2025 has showed community concerns to include Violence/Gangs

and Drugs. A recent local meeting with council leads listened to faith leaders in Mosques who wanted to know how to be involved in anti-knife crime messaging.

- Police and partner resources continue to be under significant pressure. The council remains operating under Section 114 measures. Neighbourhood policing numbers have been sustained since the uplift recorded in Q1, although PCSO recruitment continues to be difficult. Local Policing has now transitioned to the East Berkshire Local Command Unit (LCU), bringing Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead, and Bracknell together under one structure. Neighbourhood officers remain in place, supported by the newly established Safer Town Centre Teams led by PS Vicky Shears, alongside the ongoing Safer Streets Initiative.
- Serious Violence Referral Order – there is a clear challenge in obtaining these. Theoretically should work, but there is a barrier in the justice system in obtaining them, with TVP only having 7% of a total of 458 applications granted, 32% are still pending but 58% were refused or discontinued. A further challenge exists with people who live/move out of the area they offend in, as enforcement then becomes a challenge.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Priority Lead – Michelle Isabelle**

## **8 Project Summary.**

- The Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) is committed to developing a strategic approach to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within the community. Our goal is to establish a comprehensive partnership strategy and action plan that focuses on demand, risk, and vulnerability, ensuring a robust ASB case review process is in place.

### **8.1 Objectives**

- Reduce Demand: Minimise instances of personal, environmental, and nuisance ASB within the community.
- Address Repeat Cases: Decrease the number of repeat callers and victims by implementing targeted interventions.
- Victim-Centred Approach: Prioritise the needs of victims through a structured ASB case review process that enhances support and responsiveness.
- Collaborative Response: Foster an effective partnership response to complex ASB incidents based on assessments of threat, harm, risk, and demand.
- Problem-Solving Model: Ground all ASB strategies in a cohesive problem-solving model to ensure systematic and effective interventions.

### **8.2 Key work undertaken – 2025**

- ASB Policy Development: The ASB policy is nearing completion, incorporating best practices and stakeholder feedback.

- Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO): The PSPO remains in place to deter ASB in public areas. This will be reviewed in 2026 as required for consideration of its continuation.
- ASB Case Review Process: The ongoing ASB case review process continues to demonstrate effectiveness in addressing incidents and supporting victims.
- SAPS Meeting Review: A review of the Slough ASB Priorities (SAPS) meetings is underway to sharpen our focus on ASB initiatives.

## **8.4 Opportunities and Challenges**

- Staff Structure - the Council has rearranged its delivery of ASB functions, moving delivery away from Environmental crime and into Community Safety from June 2025.
- ASB Action Plan Launch: The initiation of the ASB action plan provides a strategic framework to enhance partnership collaboration and resource allocation.
- Thames Valley Police Crimefighters Plan: This plan emphasises crime reporting and community policing, aligning with our objectives for crime prevention and response.
- Data Analysis Capacity: With the appointment of a Community Safety Analyst, we can enhance our data collection and analysis efforts, leading to more informed decision-making.
- Community Engagement: Engaging the community in reporting and addressing ASB remains a challenge that requires ongoing effort and innovative approaches.

### **8.4(a) Types of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)**

These are often dealt with first by the council but can escalate to criminal offences if persistent or severe.

- Noise nuisance — loud music, banging, DIY at night, loud parties.
- Typically ASB, but can become a criminal offence if it breaches a noise abatement notice.
- Frequent visitors at unsocial hours — usually ASB unless linked to criminal activity.
- Animal nuisance — dog fouling, persistent barking.
- Usually ASB; dog fouling can be a fineable offence under local regulations.



- Anti-social drinking — drinking in restricted areas or causing disorder.
- Often ASB, but becomes criminal if it leads to disorderly conduct or breaches Public Space Protection Orders.
- Misuse of fireworks — can be ASB, but also a criminal offence if used dangerously or outside legal hours.

These are crimes regardless of whether they are also classed as ASB.

- Shouting, swearing, and fighting — can be public order offences if they cause harassment, alarm, or distress.
- Intimidation, threats, or actual violence — criminal offences (assault, harassment, threats to kill).
- Harassment and verbal abuse — criminal under the Protection from Harassment Act.
- Abusive behaviour targeting vulnerable people — can be hate crime or harassment.
- Driving in an inconsiderate or dangerous way — careless or dangerous driving offences; car cruising can be restricted by local orders.
- Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and it is prohibited under the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Vandalism, property damage, graffiti — criminal damage offences.

Fig e ASB by local authority

	2023	2024	2025	2024 compared to 2025, % Change	ASB per 1000 Population
<b>Slough</b>	1,756	1,970	1,939	-1.6%	<b>12</b>
Bracknell Forest	1,096	1,151	1,496	<b>30.0%</b>	11.79
Buckinghamshire	3,818	4,053	4,807	<b>18.6%</b>	8.58
Milton Keynes	2,841	3,010	3,923	<b>30.3%</b>	13.43
Oxfordshire	5,394	5,644	6,298	<b>11.6%</b>	8.53
Reading	2,278	2,530	2,562	<b>1.3%</b>	14.66
West Berkshire	1,434	1,692	1,904	<b>12.5%</b>	11.74
Windsor and Maidenhead	961	1,086	1,448	<b>33.3%</b>	9.36
Wokingham	1,082	1,135	1,310	<b>15.4%</b>	7

## Fig f ASB reported to SBC Housing directorate

### ASB Record by the Neighbourhood Housing Teams Years 2024 & 2025

ASB cases are recorded on the Housing Management System NEC (Slough Housing) by the Neighbourhood Housing Teams who also carry out the investigation of these ASB reported cases.

ASB cases could have a Primary & Secondary ASB incident category related to the case, the tables below show a breakdown of these for 2024 & 2025.

Primary ASB incident type	2024	2025	Total	Secondary ASB incident type	2024	2025	Total
ALCOHOL	1		1	ANIMALS	1	4	5
ANIMALS	4	3	7	COMUNAL	1	3	4
COMUNAL	1	12	13	CRIMINAL		3	3
CRIMINAL		5	5	DOMESTIC		1	1
DOMESTIC	2	8	10	DRUGS	5	16	21
DRUGS	6	13	19	GARDEN	2	7	9
GARDEN	2	12	14	HARASSMENT	1	11	12
HARASSMENT	5	26	31	HATE		1	1
HATE		6	6	NOISE	13	33	46
NOISE	59	62	121	RUBBISH		3	3
RUBBISH		13	13	VANDALISM		7	7
VANDALISM		10	10	VEHICLE	1	5	6
VEHICLE		5	5	VIOLENCE	1	3	4
VIOLENCE		6	6	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>122</b>
SQUATTING	1		1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>262</b>				

Below is a breakdown of cases closed in 2024 & 2025 by their Primary ASB incident category

Primary ASB incident type	2024	2025	Total
ANIMALS	2	5	7
COMUNAL	1	3	4
DOMESTIC	2		2
DRUGS	3	1	4
GARDEN		4	4
HARASSMENT		6	6
NOISE	21	24	45
RUBBISH	1	3	4
VANDALISM		2	2
VEHICLE	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>79</b>

The length of time that it takes to investigate, act on or resolve cases depends of the complex nature of the individual case and the resources available. The average time to close the cases shown for 2024 was 239 working days, for 2025 it was 182 working days.

Fig g ASB reported to local authority since June 2025

	Totals	East	South	North
Jun-25	96	40	20	36
Jul-25	102	41	35	26
Aug-25	81	31	34	16
Sep-25	67	30	23	14
Oct-25	54	14	26	14
Nov-25	54	23	12	19
Dec-25	38	19	9	10
Jan-26	45	19	17	9
Feb-26	6	1	4	1
Mar-26				
Running Total	543	218	180	145

## Substance Use Priority Lead – Jyoti Singh

### 9 Project Summary of key groups and grants

- Combating Drug Partnership
- Slough Substance Use Partnership
- Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment Grant (SSMTR)
- Rough Sleepers Drug & Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG.)

#### 9.1 Objectives

- To support both the CDP SSU partnership and SSU partnership
- To support both SSMTR and RSDATG grants, now under the Drug and alcohol treatment recovery and improvement grant (DATRIG) umbrella.
- To reduce drug and alcohol use, drug and alcohol related harm and deaths.

#### 9.2 Key work undertaken 2025

- Refreshed the Slough Plan on a page.
- Turning Point (TP) launched the Naloxone click and deliver service in Slough - the first in Berkshire.
- TP have been delivering service in line with the SSMTR and RSDAT grant.
- Outreach services provided alongside sexual health service provider (NHFT).
- Outreach services provided for Young People.
- TP are providing nitazene test strips to service users for harm reduction.
- TP continue to perform in the top quartiles for 4 cohorts of successful completions.
- Individual placement and support (IPS) employment services programme was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.
- Social media handles for Slough Treatment Advice and Recovery Team (START) service launched and now live.
- Pan Berkshire drug alert system and reviews of Drug & Alcohol related deaths.

### **9.3 Opportunities and challenges**

- Information sharing between TVP and the treatment service needs strengthening and we plan to work together to agree a pathway, this will help improve our Continuity of Care outcome.
- Stigma has been a big issue which prevents service users from accessing services. We are working with partners to address this.
- A more systematic approach to referring into the treatment system is needed
- An effective care coordination approach for joint working across partner services reducing the need to refer on.

## **10 Further Partnership themes and development**

### **10.1 Uniformed enforcement**

- The Council is going through procurement processes to look to engage a small street-based enforcement team that will be able to enforce a number of street-based enforcement issues including the PSPO and other fixed penalty enforcement.

### **10.2 Business safety**

- The SSP is collaborating with the Slough Town Centre BID Team to support the application to the Accreditation Scheme for Business Improvement District Street Wardens. Any additional powers for the Street Wardens will require authorisation and approval from the TVP Chief Constable. The accreditation process is progressing, and Lodge Security is currently on schedule to achieve accreditation.

### **10.3 Slough's BID Safe and Secure business plan aims to:**

- BID & businesses to work together to tackle ASB
- Making Slough Town Centre a welcoming and safe environment for residents, customers, businesses and workers
- Encourage, update and expansion of Pub Watch Radio Scheme to include all businesses implementing a banned from one banned from all.
- Funding a Town Team
- Supporting Businesses to report crime
- Improve Security Infrastructure with additional CCTV coverage
- BID is working with TVP as a representative voice for the business.

### **10.4 What has been achieved by the BID:**

- Growing the Slough BID Warden Team. Slough BID now has 3 full time wardens on the high street 7 days a week.
- The BID Warden Team have been key in working with our levy payers, reporting of ASB and assisting the local community.
- Success in working with TVP in securing 4 individuals on remand with sentences spanning 3mths – 7yrs

- Implementing new upgraded Town Link Radio for retailers / TVP / SBC CCTV Team
- On boarding DISC a community Crime Reporting Scheme.
- Implementing Slough Town Against Crime (STAC) meetings & invite all retailers to attend ensuring that the STAC meetings are fully documented and shared

## **11 CCTV**

- 11.1** The OPCC have requested a contribution from the council to the wider Thames Valley Partnership. The partnership has agreed that the CCTV Partnership financing should be met from using the Community Safety Grant allocation from the OPCC office, this is at a rate of £200,000. This is not a statutory grant supplied by the OPCC, but it provides funding to Local Authorities based on crime levels. This grant money is used to support community safety projects and programmes in the local area. The removal of £200,000 means the partnership allocation is reduced to £60,000 per annum.
- 11.2** We have funded some of the partnership project work with the remaining £60,000 for the next three years including: the Roma Support project, Mobile Safe Space and the Legacy Knife Angel VR Project.

## **12 Community Engagement**

- 12.1** Thames Valley Police 'Have your Say' Events involve residents and local partners across Slough taking part. These sessions give people the chance to share their views, meet neighbours, and speak face-to-face with local officers.
- 12.2** Slough aims to weave community engagement directly into its community-safety work by making residents, local organisations, and frontline partners active co-designers of safety initiatives rather than passive recipients. A key area of focus in 2026/27 will be including the voice of residents and young people. The Crime summit held in 2025 was a successful event and it is planned to hold one of the Community Safety Partnership meetings a year as a public meeting.
- 12.3** A community safety engagement officer was recruited in 2025 to leading on projects, programmes that will more effectively link the community into community safety initiatives.
- 12.4** This will be a key contact for the residents and partners on community safety initiatives and concerns. In 2025 they have undertaken regular resident engagement as festivals, fundays, information sessions and schools and incorporated community feedback and input into projects and policy discussions
- 12.5** Slough stepped forward to be the pilot area for Thames Valley Police in running the Young Futures Panel intervention programme, started in 2025 and led by partners in Slough Children's First Youth Justice team.

## **13 Implications**

### **13.1 Financial implications**

Previously the SSP had funded the Youth Justice reparations scheme through the PPC Partnership fund to assist in reducing young person reoffending. This financial year that was not possible due to the reduced amount of funding received from the OPCC.

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. Financial monitoring will continue to be undertaken under the financial management framework to ensure operational activities are delivered within the agreed resources.

### **13.2 Legal implications**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set out responsibilities for local authorities and other statutory bodies to work together in a statutory partnership and to collectively formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and reduce serious violence.

The Council also has an overarching duty under s.17 of the 1998 Act to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area and serious violence in its area.

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out further requirements for responsible bodies forming a CSP. This includes:

- Having a strategy group whose function is to prepare strategic assessments and prepare and implement a partnership plan for the area on behalf of the responsible bodies. This group must have in place arrangements governing the review of the expenditure of partnership monies and for assessment the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of such expenditure.
- The strategy group must have in place arrangements for the sharing of information between responsible authorities and shall prepare a protocol setting out those arrangements.
- The strategy group shall prepare a strategic assessment on behalf of the responsible authorities, the purpose being to assist the strategy group in revising the partnership plan

- The strategy group shall prepare a partnership plan taking account of the strategic assessment and any community safety agreement. The partnership plan shall set out a strategy for reduction of re-offending, crime and disorder, prevention and reduction of serious violence and for combating substance misuse in the area, priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the year, steps the strategy group consider it necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement that strategy and meet those priorities, how the strategy group consider the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities, the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities and the steps the strategy group propose to take during the year to comply with its obligations
- The strategy group shall decide for obtaining the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area about the levels and patterns of re-offending, crime and disorder, serious violence and substance misuse in the area, and the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when exercising their functions in relation to these matters. This must include at least one public meeting during the year and that meetings are attended by persons who hold a senior position within each of the responsible authorities.
- The partnership plan must be published in such a form as it considers appropriate.

#### **14. Equalities**

- 14.1 There are no equality impact implications arising directly from this report. However, there are differential impacts on individuals, families, and communities in respect of issues that the SSP seeks to address. This needs to be borne in mind when planning and delivering work and services.
- 14.2 The SSP addresses known inequalities relating to community safety and have due regard to all being given equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate.
- 14.3 The strategic aim of the SSP is to foster a safer cohesive borough. It seeks to do so by tackling specific community safety issues, including violent crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, exploitation, modern slavery, repeat victimisation, and reoffending.
- 14.4 The SSP plans and outcomes strengthen services that support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. These include children and young people and male victims, as well as those individuals who may be more at risk of domestic abuse by reason of their sexual orientation, gender, gender reassignment, race, or disability.

## 15. Risk Management implications

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Residual Risk 2025	Jan 2026
Lack of scrutiny of SSP	Failure to provide effective and efficient scrutiny and accountability of SSP functions resulting in service failure	Thematic leads to ensure monthly action plans/reports are submitted and scrutinised to identify points of potential failure and address.	This is now done at every SSP meeting	This is now done at every SSP meeting
Partnership collaboration breakdown	Lack of synergy and resources between partners that results in poor performance and greater operating costs through 'silo working'	Develop proposals for integrating some of the functions of the Community Safety Partnership and SSP to drive efficiencies with the right resources. To also adopt the new SBC framework to enhance governance.		A review of the SSP and implementation of the new framework for meetings will be implemented in April 2026
Failure to effectively collect crime/ASB data and share information/intelligence	Failure to gather, share or use relevant information across the partnership to save lives or reduce/detect crime	CST to appoint a data analyst in Sept 2024 to help to capture relevant information and data streams across the partnership. This has already seen advantages in data gathering and myth busting around DA & ASB	Data analyst appointed in 25	In place this is giving better partnership data/links for DA and ASB
Ineffective representation on SSP	Accountable bodies not providing or resourcing meetings at the correct level to engage or make meaningful decision	Annually review Terms of Reference and membership of all SSP, Community Safety meetings to ensure the right people at the right level are attending meetings.	Attendance is good and at appropriate level to date.	Attendance is good and at appropriate level to date.
Failure to comply with DA Act 2021	No Housing Safe Accommodation Strategy	No governance and development plans to provide safe accommodation for victims and families of DA.		A working draft of the safe accommodation strategy is available for comments and Housing are currently commenting and will go to DA Board in Jan 26



**16. Environmental implications**

16.1 There are no known environmental implications arising from this report.