

## Slough Borough Council

<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Safeguarding Partnership annual report: Substance Misuse
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Marc Gadsby, Director of Adult Social Care Services and Andrew Fraser, Director of Children's Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Betty Lynch, Safeguarding Partnership Manager
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All wards
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Appendices:</b>	Safeguarding Partnership annual report-emerging themes around Substance misuse.

### 1.0 Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out;

- 1.1 Learning about substance misuse emerging from the safeguarding partnership [annual report](#)
- 1.2 Areas for the well-being board to consider in relation to its role and contribution to action on substance misuse, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and community safety in Slough.

#### 1.1 Recommendations:

The Well Being Board is recommended to:

*(a), Explore the role and contribution of the WBB in supporting Safer Slough Partnership and the safeguarding partnership in delivering an effective and deliverable substance misuse strategy in the light of learning from strategic issues identified by the Safeguarding Partnership and referred to in its safeguarding annual report.*

*Reason:* the Safeguarding Partnership has identified through learning reviews and audits about the need to develop a whole systems approach to supporting families affected by substance misuse and associated adult and child mental health problems as well as crime. The approach, while led by Safer Slough Partnership will need to involve the Safeguarding Partnership as well as the Well Being board. The latter will have a specific remit around health and well-being. The specific and defined role and contribution of the WBB to these issues will enhance and inform strategic delivery of the new Drugs Strategy<sup>1</sup>. Each partnership involved will need to provide substantial

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

support within their statutory roles to make the strategy work for every Slough resident affected by this issue. For the work to have tangible impact, effort in terms of capacity, capability, talent and leadership will be required from each partnership and each constituent agency. Such a strategy can be led by Safer Slough but the roles, responsibilities and potential of all three partnerships need to be declared by each partnership to ensure a cohesive approach with real commitment by all involved.

## **2.0 Report**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This report relates to the delivery of all four priority outcomes described in the Well Being strategy (2021-2026)

**Outcome 1:** Starting Well

**Outcome 2:** Integration

**Outcome 3:** Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods (Building Community Asset Resilience)

**Outcome 4:** Workplace Health

In addition, recommendations relate to the statutory responsibilities of the Well Being Board set out in the Well Being Board's strategy (2021-2022) as:

*“To ensure that strategic issues arising from Slough's Safeguarding Boards inform the work of the Board”.*

### **2.2 Background**

Slough Safeguarding Partnership provides regular annual reports to the Well Being Board and to date these reports have been confined to inform the board of the effectiveness of the partnership in general. Discussions with the Chair of the WBB and with the lead member for children's services and the Safeguarding Partnership independent scrutineer have resulted in agreement that sharing the report needs to be extended to include learning from the work of the partnership so that the Well Being Board can consider its role and possible contribution to delivering change.

The Safeguarding Partnership annual report ([Link here](#)) summarises learning from reviews, audits and data analysis, most of which is used as evidence to inform the Safeguarding Partnership strategic plan for the following year. One emerging theme from the annual report in relation to the period 2021-2022 identified areas of work that involve the Well Being Board and Safer Slough Partnership as well as Slough Safeguarding Partnership. That theme is around the adverse impact of substance misuse on the lives of Slough residents who are impacted in a number of ways as follows;

### **2.2.1 Local evidence: Substance misuse and Safeguarding**

Over the last 3 years, the Safeguarding Partnership has reviewed 7 cases related to knife crime and county lines, 6 in relation to young people aged under 18 years and one related to a young adult. One case involved the fatal stabbing of a 15 year old boy. 2 further homicides of young adults have happened in the last year.

Children and young people and their families share with staff in schools and partner agencies their fears and concerns about their safety especially when they are travelling home from school.

The cases have recurring features which reflect the national research in relation to common vulnerabilities of children groomed by gangs and lured into drug trafficking:

- Children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Children who have experienced trauma, such as child abuse, domestic violence and/or the loss of a significant adult
- Children looked after, leaving care,
- Children seeking identity, including those who have lost a sense of cultural identity and belonging, are especially vulnerable as they find a "family" amongst those who seek to exploit them.
- Children who go missing frequently and those who go missing for several days.

Children with these features are sought and identified for targeting by criminal gangs who seek young people to carry and sell drugs. The supply and demand of drugs are at the root cause of these issues for families in Slough. A strategy for tackling substance misuse needs to tackle these very real issues across the partnerships.

The Safeguarding Partnership has also carried out 2 reviews of vulnerable adults affected by substance misuse. Additionally, two recent deaths of street homeless adults were related to substance misuse.

These cases also have the following features;

- Adults who are street homeless,
- Adults with mental health problems and addiction problems
- Adults who persistently refuse help.
- Adults with learning difficulties.

These vulnerable adults are similarly targeted by criminal gangs. Those with accommodation will be targeted so that their property can be used for dealing drugs, commonly referred to as "cuckooing".

The Safeguarding Partnership and Safer Slough Partnership, (Community Safety) are united in their efforts to tackle these issues based on learning from these experience and have created an all age strategy which includes sub-groups acting to respond. A Safeguarding Children from Exploitation group and a Modern Slavery group aim to co-ordinate partners' efforts to safeguard children and adults from exploitation by ensuring appropriate response to concerns is clear, raising

awareness, campaigning and training. The impact of these efforts is constrained by resources challenges. They can be further constrained by the increasingly diverse and creative strategies used by criminals to conduct their business. If the root cause of these issues is substance misuse, including supply and demand, then concerted efforts by all sectors in Slough to tackle it needs to be prioritised and resources targeted to provide strategic, tactical and operational level arrangements to deliver. The individual efforts of partners and of the sub-groups are continually improving the response to the individual to safeguard and protect and while we are getting better at this, a great deal of effort will be needed to move “upstream” on prevention, education and community engagement and to promote confidence in the community to share information about their concerns, and hence prevent violence, reduce sickness and hospital admissions and encourage employment.

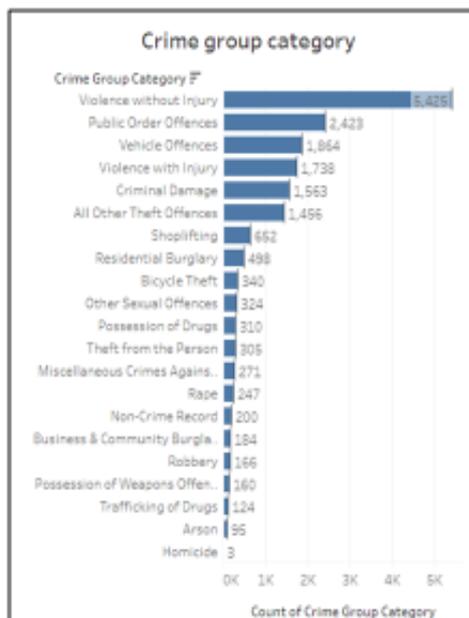
### 2.2.2 Local Evidence: Substance misuse and crime

(Data provided by Thames Valley Police)

## Item 5: The Local Crime Picture – 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> September



Last 12 Months by Crime Group



Last 12 Months v Previous 12 Months  
Slough Crime Group Category Comparison

LPA	Crime Group Category	12 month change	Year-to-date change
Slough	All Other Theft Offences	↑ 19%	↑ 18%
Slough	Arson	↑ 52%	↑ 93%
Slough	Bicycle Theft	↓ -16%	↓ -27%
Slough	Business & Community Burglary	↑ 2%	↑ 12%
Slough	Criminal Damage	↑ 13%	↑ 8%
Slough	Domestic Burglary	0%	0%
Slough	Homicide	↑ 100%	↑ 100%
Slough	Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	↓ -15%	↓ -17%
Slough	Non Domestic Burglary	0%	0%
Slough	Other Sexual Offences	↑ 14%	↑ 11%
Slough	Possession of Drugs	↓ -19%	↓ -17%
Slough	Possession of Weapons Offences	↑ 14%	↑ 56%
Slough	Public Order Offences	↑ 13%	↓ -16%
Slough	Racially or Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage	↓ -67%	↓ -100%
Slough	Rape	↑ 15%	↑ 3%
Slough	Residential Burglary	↓ -3%	↓ -10%
Slough	Robbery	↓ -10%	↑ 27%
Slough	Shoplifting	↑ 12%	↑ 27%
Slough	Theft from the Person	0%	↓ -9%
Slough	Trafficking of Drugs	↓ -32%	↓ -42%
Slough	Vehicle Offences	↑ 1%	↑ 12%
Slough	Violence with Injury	↑ 8%	↑ 3%
Slough	Violence without Injury	↑ 11%	↑ 4%

Data from TVP SPO

### 2.2.3 Local Evidence: Substance Misuse and Health

(Data provided by Frimley Health Care Foundation Trust)

#### WPH Safeguarding Referrals Related to Substance Misuse 2021/22

##### Alcohol related (adults database)

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Slough	1	11	4	8	6	1	1	2	2	4	0	0
Bucks	0	2	1	2	1	1	5	2	0	1	1	0
RBWM	1	3	1	5	0	1	0	3	1	4	0	1
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

##### Alcohol related (children's database)

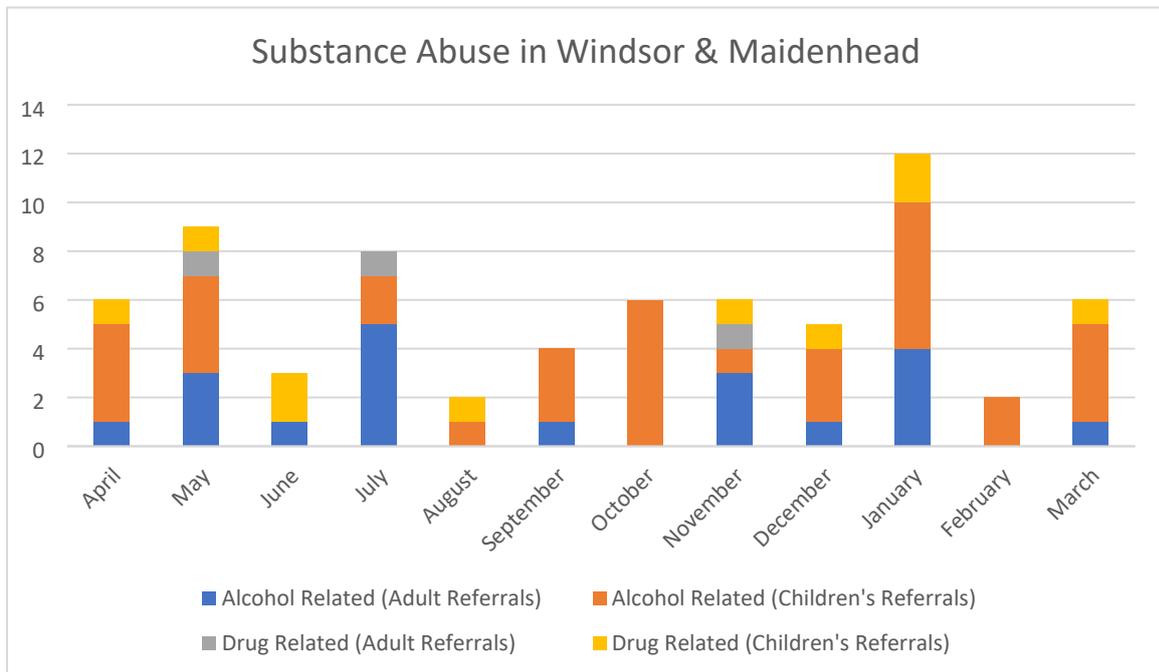
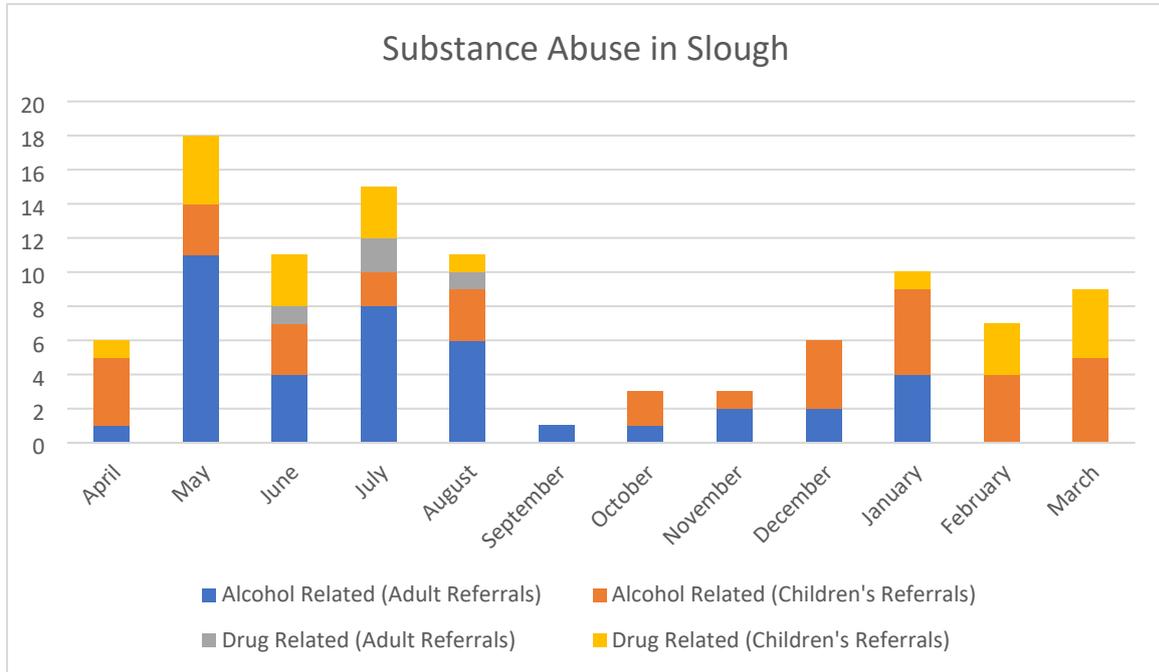
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Slough	4	3	3	2	3	0	2	1	4	5	4	5
Bucks	5	1	5	4	3	3	2	0	2	3	4	2
RBWM	4	4	0	2	1	3	6	1	3	6	2	4
Other	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>

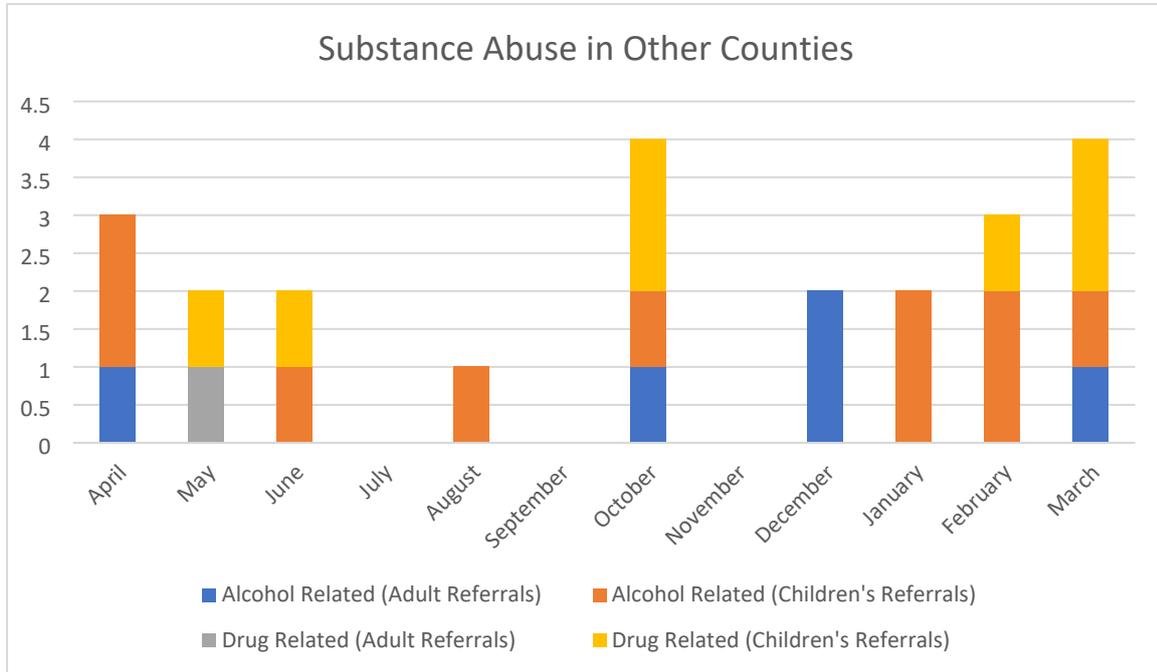
##### Drug related (adults database)

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Slough	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bucks	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
RBWM	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

##### Drug related (children's database)

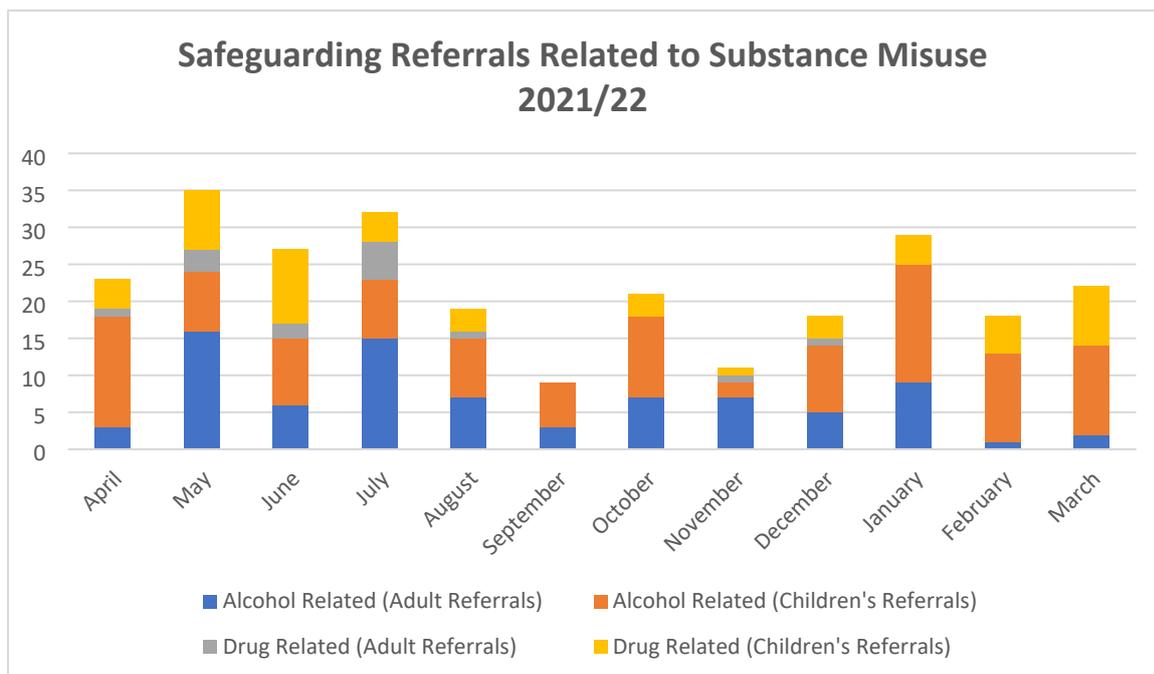
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Slough	1	4	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
Bucks	2	2	4	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1
RBWM	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1
Other	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>





**Combined Substance Abuse Figures 2021/22:**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Alcohol Adult Referrals</b>	3	16	6	15	7	3	7	7	5	9	1	2
<b>Alcohol Child Referrals</b>	15	8	9	8	8	6	11	2	9	16	12	12
<b>Drugs Adult Referrals</b>	1	3	2	5	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Drugs Child Referrals</b>	4	8	10	4	3	0	3	1	3	4	5	8



### 3.0 Implications

#### 3.1 *Financial implications*

Currently there are no immediate financial implications inherent in this report or in its recommendations. However the report and the discussion it generates may lead to better use of existing resources.

#### 3.2 *Legal implications*

Legislation/Guidance	What it is about
Children Act 2004	Legislation and guidance on statutory partnerships around child abuse and neglect. Includes “contextual” safeguarding and partnership arrangements to identify and respond to abuse, including that perpetrated by criminals exploiting children.
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018	
The Care Act 2014	Legislation on statutory duties of partners in relation to safeguarding adults, including exploitation.
“From Harm to Hope”	National guidance for local community safety partnership creating local Substance misuse strategies.
Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Legislation around the statutory role of community safety partnerships and their role in leading on tackling substance misuse.

### 3.3 *Risk management implications*

Risk of non-compliance with statutory obligations.  
On-going risk to vulnerable people without cohesive action.

### 3.4 *Environmental implications*

Without a strong cohesive substance misuse strategy, the Well Being Boards' Objective of "A Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods (Building Community Asset Resilience)" is compromised.

### 3.5 *Equality implications*

An equality assessment is not relevant to this paper. However, work to promote a whole systems approach to substance misuse will positively impact on the whole community and, in particular, vulnerable people. Areas of Slough with multiple indices of deprivation in Slough are adversely impacted by substance misuse issues. *(71% of Slough's Lower-tier Super Output Areas (LSOAs) fall below the national average of the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation. Particularly severe pockets in Britwell, Chalvey, Wexham Lea and Colnbrook w. Poyle).*

## 4.0 **Background Papers**

[Safeguarding Partnership Annual report.](#)