

Meeting: Safer Communities Executive Board

Date: 12 December 2008

Report Title: Key Issues from the Other Violent Crime Partnership Board

Report of: Eliza Meechan, Safer Communities Policy Officer

Summary

The Other Violent Crime Partnership Board is responsible for taking forward partnership activity to contribute to the achievement of National Indicator 15 (serious violent crime rate). Good progress is being made on the completion of the board's action plan.

Recommendations

This report is for information only.

Financial/Legal Comments

N/A

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1. Background

- 1.1. The Other Violent Crime Partnership Board (OVCPB) meets on a quarterly basis and is responsible for taking forward multi agency activity to contribute to the achievement of NI15 (serious violent crime rate).
- 1.2. 2008/9 is the baseline year for NI15. During the summer period a significant number of Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) divisions recorded a sudden increase in NI 15. This anomaly has been attributed to changes in Home Office counting / recording rules.

Currently the MPS is conducting a review of the crime types within NI 15 which, it is hoped, will be completed by mid January 2009. Until

such a time no statistical data pertaining to NI15 will be released by the MPS Performance Information Bureau.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1. Good progress has been made on the other violent crime partnership board action plan.
- 2.2. The action plan can be divided into three key areas of work: research, improving information sharing and responding to central government guidance. Some of the key achievements to date are detailed below.

2.2.1. Research:

The OVCB committed to developing a programme of research and relevant action about alcohol related violence. This action forms part of the recent alcohol strategy review and related action plan.

In 2009 an MPS Analyst will be commissioned to contact the victim and investigating officer of every violent incident over a three month period to ask whether alcohol had been involved. The aim of this work is to build a better picture of the nature and extent of the problem in the borough from which relevant action can be taken.

2.2.2. Improving information sharing and quality:

The practice of sharing information about 'at risk' young people between the Borough Intelligence Unit (BIU) and the Youth Offending Service has been formalised as part of the OVCB action plan. This practice started in 2007/8 and proved to be useful in ensuring the provision of early intervention programmes for these young people. However, following changes in BIU personnel, this information exchange stopped. Formalising this process by writing the responsibility into the Robbery Analyst's job description has helped to re-invigorate the process.

Work is also in progress to improve the relationship with local health services by examining the data sharing possibilities. The A&E at North Middlesex Hospital has carried out a survey of admissions for stabbings; the findings of which are expected in January.

The Government Office for London is now supporting work led by the Department of Health to develop and implement a comprehensive data sharing agreement and operating procedure for all NHS hospitals. This agreement will cover the sharing of information relating to treatment of non-accidental injuries arising from the use of knives or similar bladed articles. The OVCB will be monitoring the progress of this London-wide initiative.

2.2.3. Responding to central government guidance:

The Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP) was established in 2007 and was driven by a multi-disciplinary team from Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester. The Home Office published the guide at the end of May 2008 to capture and disseminate some of the good practice developed as part of the TGAP. The guide provides the following information illustrated by examples from the four TGAP areas: understanding the problem, planning a partnership response, preventing gang membership, devising exit strategies, targeting gang members and community reassurance.

Gangs advisors from the Violent Crime Directorate attended the OVCB in July. They were impressed with the partnership work taking place in Haringey and have agreed to keep the board updated about the gang assessment tool they are piloting.

- 2.3. The OVCB has recently agreed to take ownership of the action plan that was put together in response to research examining disproportionality in Haringey.
- 2.4. The next OVCB meeting will include updates about; Transport for London operations, the preventing violent extremism agenda and the progress of the disproportionality action plan.