

**Meeting:** Safer Communities Executive Board

**Date:** 15 October 2008

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

**Report of:** Eliza Meechan

**Summary:**

The Other Violent Crime Partnership Board is responsible for taking forward partnership activity to contribute to the achievement of NI15 (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

**For more information contact:**

Name: Eliza Meechan  
Title: Safer Communities Policy Officer  
Tel: 0208 489 2984  
Email: [eliza.meechan@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:eliza.meechan@haringey.gov.uk)

## 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. however current data (April to June 2008) shows that Haringey ranks 5<sup>th</sup> lowest among its most

similar boroughs, with 0.15 offences per 1000 population - significantly lower than the group average of 0.25.

## **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 July a consultation event about the alcohol strategy was held. The following research project was proposed; to commission the MPS victim desk to call the victim and investigating officer of every violent incident over a 3 month period to ask whether alcohol had been involved. This will help 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 by the end of October.

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 next OVCB meeting will include feedback from the Northumberland Park / White Hart Lane Area Assembly workshop about '*Gangs, guns and knives*' and a presentation about research examining disproportionality in Haringey.