Report title: Executive Response to the Scrutiny Review on Community Safety

Report of: David Warwick - Chief Executive

1.　　Purpose

1.1　　To respond to the Scrutiny Committee review of Community Safety

2.　　Recommendations

2.1　　That the response as set out in the executive summary be approved.

Report authorised by:　　　David Warwick - Chief Executive

Contact officer:　　Ron Belgrave/Frank Booth
Telephone:　　020 8489 2961

3.　　Summary

3.1　　The Executive at it's meeting on 8 October 2002 agreed to note the actions taken and the response proposed in relation to the Scrutiny Review of Community Safety (SRCS) in 2001/02 Haringey. The issues that the report raised were considered useful and helpful in identifying and informing this important area of work. As stated in the report, youth crime was currently recognised locally, across London and nationally as a priority area for action. It acknowledged that the highest risk group for both offending and being the victims of crime were young people aged 15-17.

3.2　　Specifically, the key points raised in the report were:

- the need to formulate a borough-wide youth strategy
- the need to improve partnership working

3.4　　Substantial progress had been made in strengthening and consolidating the Safer Communities Partnership and in particular work in relation to young people and crime.

3.5　　The scrutiny process was an excellent example of co-operative joint working across a complex area involving a multi agency partnership. In particular it played an important role in shaping and influencing the Youth Crime Reduction Strategy 2002-2005, and the Safer Communities Strategy 2002-2005.

3.6　　This report deals with the recommendations in the SRCS, which are responded to in individual sections.

4.　　Access To information:
Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

4.1　　The contact officers can provide copies of background documents.
Safer Communities Strategy 2002-05
Youth Crime Prevention Strategy 2002-05

5. Report

5.1 The report is the Council's and Safer Communities Partnership executive's response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Report (refer to appendix 1) and are set out under each of the nine recommendation headings.

6. RECOMMENDATION 1 – Community Safety to be a strategic priority for the Council

6.1 The Council has consistently adopted Community Safety as one of its five key priorities over the last 5 years which reflected in both in the Community Plan and the Community Strategy current draft of the Community Plan (refer to priority 3: Creating Safer Communities)

Priority 3: Creating Safer Communities states the following :

We aim to create a safe and confident community with less fear of crime, the ability to prevent crime and to resist criminality.

Crime is the major concern for residents of Haringey and we are working with local communities to reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime to below the level for London as a whole. Local people need to have confidence in the ability of public agencies to actually reduce crime. We also encourage local communities to contribute and participate in tackling, resisting and reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

We have produced a Safer Communities Strategy and a specific strategy on young offenders (Haringey Youth Crime Reduction Strategy). This brings in new initiatives such as the Youth Diversion Panel focussing on the 150 worst offenders and has been held up as a model strategy in London.

Preventing Crime, particularly among young people
Tackling crime and the causes of crime among children and young people
Reducing the availability of drugs, tackling the social effects of the abuse of drugs and alcohol, working with together on drugs education and anti – social behaviour.
Ensuring that all partners incorporate safer communities principles in their main business plans

Reducing Offending
Reducing burglary, street crime and violent crimes
Addressing the victimisation of specific vulnerable groups - domestic violence, race and homophobic crime
Among young people

Creating Safer Places
Reducing the fear of crime and raising the confidence of local communities to help prevent crime with more wardens and neighbourhood watch schemes at a local level
Improving services to vulnerable people and effectively supporting victims and witnesses of crime
Improve services to support victims of domestic violence

Key Partnerships
The Haringey Safer Communities Partnership.

The Council in 2001/2 reorganised the Safer Communities function and invested further resources into developing a corporate team of six, plus two seconded police officers to support the Safer Communities Partnership and co-ordinate its work across the borough. This is an increase on past resources which had been a single dedicated post with a seconded police officer. In addition, to this the Drug and Alcohol Action Team of four

people have been located within the Safer Communities Team, all of which has strengthened the team's capacity to address safer communities issues.

Other grants have been accessed which have brought additional resources to support the operational function of the partnership i.e. Communities Against Drugs Initiative (CADS), Small Retailers Grant, Partnership Development Fund, Safer Communities Initiative.

The Council with the Police are committed to providing a robust leadership on developing safer communities, tackling and dealing with the causes of crime, reducing fear and supporting victims of crime.

7.   **RECOMMENDATION 2(a) – services that have a significant impact on Community Safety should build this into their plans and operational activities, with support from the Safer Communities team.**

7.1   The Haringey Safer Communities Partnership has produced the Haringey Safer Communities Strategy 2002-2005. It is based on research, the analysis of information from an audit of crime and disorder and extensive public consultations undertaken during the early part of 2001.

7.2   There are four key priority areas for the next three years:

      - street crime
      - violence
      - youth crime and disorder
      - crime and nuisance relating to drugs and alcohol

7.3   The Strategy sets out how the Council will tackle these priorities and how all the partners will work together to do it. It notes the need to build up good links between all partners and their plans, so that everyone's efforts can be co-ordinated for the best impact. Working together also gives a greater local focus to crime reduction work, helping to identify issues that concern specific groups. It is also a good way of joining up partnership action to prevent crime and to tackle the causes of crime, as well as taking enforcement action against offenders.

7.4   To help the process of embedding Safer Communities activities into business plans, the Safer Communities Strategy requires partners to achieve Safer Communities partnership driven objectives that are complimentary to the ones that are already in their business plans. These have been devised to encourage partnership working to have an impact on reducing crime, the causes of crime and the fear of crime.

7.5   The Government has set national performance indicators or measures relating to crime and disorder for all agencies. These Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) are intended to serve as a framework for business plans and the Safer Communities Strategy. They can also be a basis from which to develop additional local indicators.

7.6 These Best Value Performance Indicators(BVPIs) are outlined below.
Cross-cutting community safety performance indicators

Street robbery	BV120	Level of crime
	BV121	Fear of crime
	BV122	Feelings of public safety
	BV 127(e)	Robberies per 1,000 population and % detected
Violent crime	BV127	Violent crimes per 1,000 population and % detected
	BV127(a)	Violent crime committed by a stranger
	BV127(b)	Violent crime committed in a public place per 1,000 population
	BV127(c)	Violent crimes in connection with licensed premises per 1,000 population
	BV127(d)	Violent crime committed under the influence per 1,000 population
	BV127(e)	Robberies per 1,000 population and % detected
	BV141	Racially aggravated assault
	BV153	% of reported domestic incidents with power of arrest
	BV154	% of repeat domestic violence incidents (previous 12 months)
Young people crime and disorder	BV127	Violent crime
	BV128	Motor vehicle crimes and % detected
	BV144	Permanent school exclusions
	BV45	Unauthorised absence in secondary schools
	BV46	Unauthorised absence in primary schools
	BV159 /BV49	% of permanently excluded pupils attending alternative tuition
	BV99	Stability of placements of children looked after
	BV132	Road Safety casualties
	BV141	Road traffic collisions
	BV126 /BV155	Racist incidents
		Domestic burglaries and % detected % repeat domestic burglaries (previous 12 months
Drugs	BV137	% referred to drug treatment –arrest referral schemes
	BV155	% of repeat domestic burglaries
	BV126 /BV129	Domestic burglaries and % detected
		Number of Class A drug supply
		offences per 10,000 of population
		– subdivided into cocaine and heroin
Nuisance and disorder	BV121	Fear of crime
	BV122	Feelings of public safety
	BV130	Number of public disorder incidents per 1,000 population
	BV141	Racist incidents
	BV127(a)	Violent crime committed by a stranger
	BV127(b) /BV127(c)	Violent crime committed in a public place per 1,000 population
	BV127(d)	Violent crimes in connection with licensed premises per 1,000 population
		Violent crime committed under the influence per 1,000 population

7.7   All partner agencies have produced a business plan that addresses the priorities of the Safer Communities Strategy.

7.8   The work of all the Safer Communities Partnership groups will be monitored, measured and managed by the Safer Communities Co-ordination and Performance Management Group, which is accountable to the Safer Communities Executive Board.

8.   RECOMMENDATION 2(b) – Best Value review of these services should consider how effectively they have contributed to the achievement of safer communities objectives and targets

8.1   The Council is committed to best valuing all its services within a five year timescale. A number of best values have been undertaken in the following areas, all of which either impact on safer community issues and some which impact on direct services e.g.

- Environmental Services – best values on street lighting, waste management, parking have all considered issues that relate to safer communities
- Social Services – a cross-cutting best value on Domestic Violence which has lead to the development of a five year improvement and implementation plan. This review directly contributed to developing improved services for those residents who experienced this type of violence
- Chief Executive's Service – Regeneration best value will consider how funding has been targeted to those areas that affect safer communities, in particular, environmental, educational and social exclusion.

8.2   The Best Value team in the Council monitors all BVPI targets as they impact on Best Value reviews and feed this information into the safer communities performance management group.

9.   RECOMMENDATION 3 – relevant strategic plans should ensure safer communities is reflected in objectives and action plans

9.1   Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires agencies and departments to ensure that safer communities activity is enshrined in their business planning processes and in their business plans.

9.2   The Strategy provides the framework for the production of service annual plans. All Council business plans have incorporated how they will respond to safer communities. Plans with a direct connection with Safer Communities Strategy include:

- the Policing Plan
- the Drugs and Alcohol Action Plan
- the Youth Justice Plan
- the Probation Plan

9.3   Details of these plans are outlined in the Executive Summary below.

Executive Summary of the Haringey Safer Communities Strategy 2002-2005

The new strategy will:

- Address the priorities identified by the Crime Audit process and the public consultations
- Incorporate the principles of section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Develop a problem solving approach to crime reduction and develop

evidence based practice
- Involve local communities and neighbourhoods in reducing crime and disorder
- Assist all agencies to achieve their crime reduction targets and deliver on national performance indicators

The priorities are:

- Street crime (robbery)
- Violent crime (including gun crime, domestic violence and hate crime)
- Young people, crime and disorder
- Drugs and alcohol related crime and nuisance activities.

These priorities will be laid on a foundation of support to victims and witnesses of crime.

Focus of the new Strategy

The Strategy intends to co-ordinate the safer communities planning process, which involves over twenty different agencies and plans by:

- *Identifying the safer communities activity undertaken in the range of business plans, supporting and monitoring that activity*
- *Identifying objectives that encourage partnership working and training between the agencies (in addition to those objectives already in the business plans) so that there is an overall impact on Government targets to reduce crime*
- *Identifying objectives that address equalities issues*
- *Establishing working groups to achieve the partnership objectives*
- *Developing a Youth Crime Reduction Strategy*
- *Nominating a link officer in each Council department*
- *Co-ordinating funding, making bids and using resources more effectively*
- *Standardising data recording, collection and analysis as far as possible between agencies*
- *Encouraging community involvement in local problem solving community safety activities*

The Council and all safer communities partner agencies have produced a business plan, which links to the Safer Communities Strategy.

10. **RECOMMENDATION 4 – the Best Value review of Community Safety should include:**

- An assessment of all the agencies effectiveness in mainstreaming safer communities within their activities
- Consideration of the partnership structures

10.1 The Best Value programme was reviewed and consolidated in order to streamline the number of Best Value programmes. It was felt that as a recent audit had been undertaken and new strategies developed, as well as previously being assessed by district audit, it would be better to address youth crime.

10.2 Therefore, Safer Communities is to be incorporated into the Best Value Review of Youth starting in September 2002. The SRCS identified youth crime as a vital second factor of the Scrutiny Review. While we do not want to stigmatise all young people as potential criminals, young people are the key issue in crime reduction and prevention. It will be better to incorporate this work into the Best Value Review.

10.3 The Safer Communities Partnership has produced the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy 2002-05, which has already provided an analysis of the problem and instigated a series of actions. A specific Youth Crime Action Group has been established, chaired by Education, which is undertaking a series of actions targeting persistent youth offenders as well as developing youth prevention and diversionary activities.

10.4 The Safer Communities Strategy is also a mechanism for ensuring safer communities activity becomes part of all the different agencies' plans and for monitoring the effectiveness of that activity. One of the Safer Communities Strategy's strategic aims is to improve the co-ordination and analysis of crime and disorder information and intelligence.

10.5 However, because mainstreaming is at an early stage, it has been agreed that the new Safer Communities Strategy will set out safer communities objectives that are additional to the work being undertaken in the various business plans.

10.6 These additional objectives will encourage the development of partnership work and provide an opportunity to develop ways of working to tackle crime and the causes of crime that have been shown to be effective in other parts of the country.

11. **RECOMMENDATION 5 – support for Members in working with local communities to tackle safer communities issues**

11.1 The Council as part of its new executive, identified a specific safer communities lead to which Cllr Nilgun Canver has been appointed as the Executive Lead Member on Community Safety. She provides a cross-cutting lead across all Departments.

11.2 In addition, a safer communities scrutiny panel has been established chaired by Councillor Alan Dobbie to provide a better mechanism for members and the public to formally be involved in the scrutiny of safer communities programmes.

11.3 Neighbourhood Assemblies have been established. There is an ongoing programme of consultations working with neighbourhood officers.

11.4 A number of media and information initiatives have been undertaken to communicate safer communities issues to the residents and people working in Haringey, including:

- Crimestoppers – a confidential telephone service to report crime anonymously
- Operation Trident – a Police multi-borough initiative targeting reducing black-on-black gun crime
- Peace Week, including a march to commemorate the events of September 11th
- Not another drop – targeting gun crime more generally
- Information briefings for Members
- Haringey people providing articles and information on e.g. teenage pregnancy, drugs, prostitution
- the Council's website is being developed to have a greater safer communities focus

11.5 There will be an annual safer communities conference, the first of which is being planned for March. The Executive Lead will be chairing a planning group for the development of this annual conference. In addition, regular information on safer communities is being provided to ward councillors, including information on crime at ward levels.

11.6   A number of regeneration, NDC and SRB programmes have come about e.g.
i.e. Seven Sisters, Bridge Neighbourhood, Finsbury Park, Northumberland Park, all of which have member and local resident involvement.

11.7   Two anti social behaviour pilot task groups have been established in White Hart Lane and Seven Sisters, Bridge, which involves local ward councillors. Should this model be successful, it would inform the borough-wide anti social behaviour strategy.

12.   **RECOMMENDATION 6 – consideration should be give to how the Council might support the extension of Neighbourhood Watch within the borough**

12.1   Currently, Neighbourhood Watch is located within the Police. Last year funding was obtained to provide a conference for all neighbourhood watch schemes to improve best practice and consider the future and development of other local schemes. Starter packs were produced and distributed. In addition, a Ringmaster Scheme was purchased in order to improve communication via telephone with the local groups. This gave the capability of sending important message en mass to groups such as Neighbourhood Watch and schools etc at the click of a button, via telephone and/or e-mail.

12.2   The Executive is in the process of discussing on how Neighbourhood Watch can be developed.

12.3   A conference is being planned for 7 October 2002, to formally present and elect members for the Borough's Neighbourhoods Watch Constitution. Presently there is no funding available from any source. Invitations have been sent to all co-ordinators (presently totalling around 160) covering both East and West of the borough.

13.   **RECOMMENDATION 7 – a youth strategy should be developed as a matter of urgency**

13.1   The Youth Crime Reduction Strategy (2002-05) has been agreed in March 2002. It is closely linked to the Safer Communities Strategy, the Government's Children and Young People's Strategy and Haringey's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. It complements the key Education and Social Services plans and has a focus on preventing and tackling youth crime and disorder. As the SRCS outlines, the Youth Crime Reduction Strategy will give the initiatives that are being undertaken and which are being planned in the future, to have real coherence and effectiveness.

13.2   The Youth Crime Reduction Strategy has been commended by the Government Office for London (GOL) for the quality of its background research and has been cited as a model of good practice, to be used by other boroughs. The Strategy was praised particularly for its preventative approach.

13.3   The key features of the Strategy over the next three years are to:

- Target young people who are at most risk of offending or are already in the justice system
- Focus across the spectrum of intervention measures and at a number of different levels:

- Prevention – e.g. through education programmes, a Youth Directory of things to do
- Diversion - through treatment and support – e.g. the Positive Futures sports programme, the Youth Referral Unit (dealing with first-time offenders), the Youth Inclusion Programme
- Enforcement – such as accommodation orders via Social Services, Police enforcement, exclusion orders

- Emphasise helping young people to become more resilient and responsible for their own actions

- Target the crime hotspots in the borough – Noel Park, Bruce Grove, Seven Sisters (although there is an increasing trend in youth crime in Crouch End and Muswell Hill Town Centres). Thirty five per cent of street crime across the borough is located in these areas and young people are over-represented as both offenders and victims

13.4 The emphasis of the Youth Crime Reduction Strategy is on working together through community action and collaboration, and in particular young people and their families being helped to develop a sense of responsibility and to drive the programmes. It is not just about working with young offenders once they have entered the criminal justice system, but also with parents, schools and community groups, to help youngsters to turn away from crime.

13.5 Best practice models will be used from both within the UK and overseas. A key aspect is to extend victim support services to those most likely to be the victims of crime by young offenders, children and young people themselves.

13.6 Partner agencies will concentrate on achieving positive outcomes for young people, ones that they want for themselves and other young people. These will include high levels of achievement, good mental and physical health, and the ability to take control and be responsible for their own lives.

13.7 The focus is a holistic one, linking the work of the Police, Sure Start, the Children's Fund and Connexions and other agency partners, to provide a seamless service and to prevent young people from being 'bounced' between agencies. Information, skills, expertise and resources will be pooled.

13.8 Of particular note coming out of the Youth Crime Reduction Strategy is the establishment of the Youth Diversion Panel. It comprises staff from a number of agencies working with those young people who have a record of offending or who are seriously at risk of getting a criminal record. The Panel works to identify the most appropriate action plans for these young people and helps ensure the plans are implemented and evaluates their impact.

13.9 The Youth Crime Reduction Strategy has as a purpose to co-ordinate and develop partnership activities:

- To protect children and young people from crime
- To reduce the risks of and opportunities for children and young people being involved in crime

13.10 The new Head of Play and Youth Services is leading on this work and through a steering group, will ensure all agencies and senior officers involved in work that diverts young people from crime will be represented. This will feed into the Best Value review of Youth Services.

13.11 The Haringey Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has identified youth as its key priority. The Best Value Review of Youth will act as a key mechanism to assess all relevant services out of which it is anticipated will be the development of a borough-wide youth strategy. It is organising specific seminars on youth in the autumn of 2002.

14. RECOMMENDATION 8 – the Education Service should work with schools and the Police to produce school safety plans

14.1 Schools, the LEA and the Police have worked together in the Safer Schools Partnership programme to create a safe environment for learning. From September 2002, five schools will have full-time officers attached to them. The remaining six continue to be supported on a part-time basis and new officers are to be recruited to boost the level of input. The College of North East London will have an attached officer.

14.2 Five school environmental audits have been included and three individual school safety plans have been produced. Plans are in hand to roll out this work.

14.3 The LEA has received £1.4 million for a Behaviour Improvement Programme involving three secondary schools and nine primary schools. This provides a multi-agency team in education, psychologists, behaviour support teachers, education welfare officers, health professionals, and Connexions personal advisers. They will work with schools in preventative measures. Police officers will be involved in this work.

14.4 The Council has a School-Police Liaison Group (lead by YOT and Education) which monitors incidents around schools and a LEA-Police Site security group which ensures PFI funds for site security are appropriately allocated. It is intended to merge these two groups.

15. RECOMMENDATION 9 – the Council should support the extension of the Northumberland Park School project

15.1 Part of the role of Police officers in schools is to secure safe passage to and from schools and to develop links with the community. For example, if there are issues in school which relate to incidents outside, or vice versa, officers will track causes and work with other agencies to identify appropriate actions.

15.2 In essence, the model outlined under recommendation 8, of providing dedicated link officers, builds on the Northumberland Park School model. While this has worked fairly well in this particular school, it is important to understand that schools are individual entities and require individual solutions to cope with their particular problems. It is important that a flexible service is provided to meet these various demands.

16. CONCLUSION

16.1 The above work will be monitored as part of the Safer Communities Partnership Performance and Monitoring Group which reports directly to the Safer Communities Executive Board which is chaired by the Chief Executive and is attended by the Executive Lead Member for Safer Communities.

17. FINANCE IMPLICATIONS

17.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

18. LEGAL COMMENTS

18.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

❋HARINGEY COUNCIL❋

SEPTEMBER 2001

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community safety is one of the most important issues for people in Haringey. The annual Residents Survey consistently identifies crime and fear of crime as the issue of most concern for residents.

The Council and the police are the key agencies with responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act for tackling and reducing crime and the fear of crime. They are required to establish a Community Safety Partnership, with responsibility for developing and implementing a community safety strategy, and undertaking a regular crime audit that provides the foundations for the strategy.

The two crime audits undertaken so far have highlighted the issue of youth crime. This is now recognised across London and nationally as a priority for action. In Haringey those aged between 15-17 are the highest risk group both as offenders and as victims of crime.

The Scrutiny Review focused its work on two areas, the Partnership and how effectively it was working in key areas, and youth crime, with a particular emphasis on the role of schools in this area.

Key Messages from the Scrutiny Review

The Community Safety Partnership has made good overall progress and the Council is now providing more effective leadership in steering the work of the Partnership. At a strategic level community safety is now given greater emphasis by the Council, which is reflected in a recent increase in resources to support community safety activity.

This is a solid foundation that now needs to be built on. Community safety should be explicitly identified as one of the Council's main priorities and treated as part of the Council's core business, in line with the mainstreaming requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Community involvement in identifying community safety issues and solutions should be a key feature of the Partnership's work but is recognised as being underdeveloped. The experience of another London borough in supporting the expansion of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme illustrates what can be achieved. There is also a need to build on the work councillors already do in supporting locally based responses to community safety issues

Tackling youth crime is now a major priority for the Partnership. There is a wide range of diversionary and preventative work underway, but in the absence of a youth strategy this work lacks coherence. The Partnership is aware of the urgent need to develop a strategy and work will start on this shortly.

Within any community safety strategy schools have an important part to play in creating a safe environment for learning. The police are working closely with secondary schools, supporting them in developing school safety plans as well as dedicating policing resources to work directly with schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council should make community safety its fifth strategic priority, with regular reports on the Community Safety Strategy to the Council Executive and Scrutiny Committee

2. a). Services that have a significant impact on community safety should build this into their plans and operational activities, with support where necessary from the Community Safety team
   b). Best Value reviews of these services should consider how effectively they have contributed to the achievement of community safety objectives and targets

3. Relevant strategic plans should ensure community safety is reflected in objectives and action plans

4. The Best Value review of Community Safety should include:
   - an assessment of all the agencies effectiveness in mainstreaming community safety within their activities
   - consideration of the partnership structures

5. Consideration should given to how Members can be supported in working with local communities at ward and area level to tackle community safety issues

6. Consideration should be given to how the Council might support the extension of Neighbourhood Watch within the borough

7. A Youth Strategy should be developed as a matter of urgency

8. The Education Service should work with schools and the police to produce school safety plans

9. The Council should support the extension of the Northumberland Park school project, as outlined in the paper 'Haringey Borough Schools Involvement Programme' from the Metropolitan Police Community and Crime Reduction Team.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Community Safety is an issue of high priority for both Central Government and the Council. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and Police the joint responsibility to work together to reduce crime and fear of crime in their area. In Haringey this approach had already begun, with the Council and the Police forming the Community Safety Executive Board in 1991. However, the new legislation strengthened existing partnerships by giving local authorities, the Police and other key partners such as the Health Service the statutory duty to work together.

1.2 Crime reduction is also a high priority for Haringey residents. The annual Residents Survey consistently identifies crime and fear of crime as the issue Haringey residents are most concerned about. The 1998/1999 survey showed a seven per cent increase in the number who identified this as the most important issue, with the 2000 survey showing a further rise of 6% to 41%.

1.3 It is widely recognised that the fear of crime is often disproportionate to actual levels of crime. However, Haringey's levels of crime are of concern. When compared with the other thirty two London boroughs Haringey ranked eleventh in 1999 and has moved to eighth in 2000, in terms of the overall level of crime. Recently released Home Office figures show that Haringey has the fifth highest rate of robbery and the fourth highest rate of burglary.

Scope of the Review

1.4 The views of Haringey residents and the crime figures provided strong reasons for members to conduct a Scrutiny Review in the area of community safety. However, community safety covers a very wide range of issues and the legislative framework sets out a significant programme for local authorities, the police and other statutory agencies. The Panel therefore decided that, given the critical role of the Community Safety Partnership in ensuring a co-ordinated, strategic response to tackling crime in the borough, it should focus on how effectively the Community Safety Partnership was working in relation to a number of key areas. These included:

- a strategic approach
- partnership working
- community involvement

1.5 These three areas were considered in their own right and within the context of the second main strand of the review - youth and crime. This is a particular challenge for the borough. Those aged between 15-19 are the highest risk group both as offenders and as victims of crime. The development of effective solutions to youth crime will have a significant impact on overall community safety in the borough.

1.6   One particularly startling fact from the original Haringey crime audit was the concentration of street crime around certain times of the day. The peaks in reported street crime occur around 9am, between 12pm to 1pm and 4pm to 5pm. This corresponds with school opening, lunch breaks and closing times. This pattern is repeated in the second, recently completed crime audit. The bulk of crimes at these times are committed by young people against young people. While there are a number of other dimensions to youth crime, the Panel was particularly interested in this aspect and how effectively schools and other agencies were tackling it.

2. BACKGROUND

National Framework for Community Safety

2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act and its supporting guidance sets the national frame work for multi-agency work in this area. The main features of the Act are:

- a requirement to undertake a Crime and Disorder Audit
- the requirement to establish a Community Safety Partnership
- a duty to involve the community in identifying priorities and in developing responses to crime

2.2 The Crime and Disorder Audit examines levels of crime and identifies patterns of offending. Conducting an audit involves local authorities, the Police and other agencies working together and sharing information in order to build up a comprehensive picture of offending in Haringey. The Audit is a tool in developing a strategic, planned approach to local crime and providing baseline data for evaluation. The first audit was completed in 1998/99. A second audit has been undertaken and the results have recently been published.

2.3 The Community Safety Partnership is required by law to consult with members of the public on the findings of their Crime Audits and subsequent recommendations for action which emerge. The results of this process are drawn together to form a Crime and Disorder Strategy. Haringey's new Crime and Disorder Strategy, based on the latest crime audit, will be published in October 2001.

Youth Crime

2.4 Within the broad area of community safety, one of the major issues locally in Haringey is youth crime. Both Haringey's Crime Audit and a recent report on violent crime in the borough highlight the role played by young people in all areas of crime except domestic violence. Those aged between 15-17 are the highest risk group both as offenders and as victims of crime. However it is important to note that it is a small number of young people who commit a large number of offences.

2.5 The national picture reflects this trend with young people disproportionately represented among both offenders and victims of crime. The British Crime Survey shows that those aged between 16-29 face at least treble the risks of crime facing older people, with young people being 37 times more likely to be the victim of an assault than the older person [1].

2.6 Evidence therefore illustrates that strategies aimed at dealing with youth crime are crucial not only in tackling Haringey's current problems with crime but in preventing future offending.

---

[1] Guidance on Statutory Crime and Disorder Partnership, Chapter 2, p2 (Home Office 1998)

3. THE REVIEW

3.1 The Panel gathered information and views from a number of sources, including written submissions from officers, and meetings with many of the key agencies in the Partnership. They also had two meetings with young people, which provided valuable insights into their perspective on community safety, as well as a meeting with a secondary school headteacher who was grappling with many of the issues considered by the Panel.

Early Issues

3.2 Experience has shown that issues identified early on in a scrutiny review will often be resolved by the time the review has been completed. This is to be welcomed. The scrutiny process is designed to enable constructive dialogue between Members and participants, with the aim of identifying any problems, their causes and possible solutions.

3.3 It became clear early on in the review that there was a lack of resources for community safety work. Comparisons with other boroughs and particularly those that had a good track record in developing community safety initiatives and strategies e.g. Brent, Islington and Hackney, highlighted the significant resource gap between those authorities and Haringey. It was apparent that the success of these authorities was in part due to the level of dedicated staff resources – teams of between 7 to 11 staff, compared to Haringey's three, one of whom was a seconded officer from the police. The Council's stated commitment to community safety was not reflected in the allocation of resources.

3.4 Since then the Council has agreed a significant increase in funding. This has enabled the creation of a new community safety team of seven, including posts dedicated to the development of community involvement and information management, both areas that are underdeveloped within the Community Safety Strategy. Recruitment of additional staff is underway and the team is expected to be fully operational by the end of October 2001.

3.5 The Panel considers this is an essential and very welcome development. It demonstrates that the Council is serious about its community leadership role in this area, gives the Partnership an opportunity to build on the work already in place and offers the real prospect that Haringey can achieve the gains that other high performing Partnerships are delivering. This includes an improved capacity to bid for and win external funding, which will offset some of the relatively small investment costs of creating the new team.

3.6 In considering the early days of the Partnership it was also apparent that it had lacked any robust leadership. The Panel noted and welcomed the fact that this had now changed and the partners generally considered the Council was providing an effective lead to the Partnership and its work.

4.   A STRATEGIC APPROACH

4.1   Home Office guidance emphasizes the need to track crime and disorder problems and for Community Safety Partnerships to develop solutions based on a problem solving approach. Key features of a strategic approach the panel considered included:

   • the priority given to community safety and the mainstreaming of community safety within all areas of agencies work, in line with the statutory duty in the C&D Act
   • the leadership role of the Council
   • the need to share information in order to develop a problem-solving approach, as well as a capacity to effectively monitor and evaluate strategies and action plans

Community Safety as a Council Priority

4.2   In the past the Council identified community safety as a strategic priority. It was included as one of the six overarching priorities in the Community Plan 1999-2002. However more recent statements of the Council's top priorities e.g. the report 'Haringey The Performance Council' have not included community safety. It is not clear whether this was the result of continuing debate and development of the Community Plan. The Council now has a statutory duty to produce a community strategy promoting the well-being of the area. This will provide an opportunity to reconsider the Council's key priorities.

4.3   There is always a danger that too many issues and areas are defined as priorities. This undermines a strategic approach and diffuses organisational effort. The Panel is mindful of this but at the same time considers community safety to be such an important issue, particularly for the people of Haringey, as evidenced by the recent Residents Surveys, that it should be seen as one of the key priorities for the Council. This is reinforced by recent Home Office research that indicates the past trend of falling crime is reversing and there is now a likelihood of crime levels increasing. It is therefore likely that this will continue to be one of the top priorities for the people of the borough.

4.4   This is not merely about the way things are labeled. In the view of the Panel the effect of this should be to concentrate the efforts of the Council, in conjunction with partners, on achieving the actions associated with this area. By their nature priorities warrant the added attention and commitment of Members and officers, as well as the possibility of extra resources. The latter has already been provided. It now needs concerted action across the Council and partner agencies to achieve the required change. As one participant commented at a meeting with the Panel, 'Community safety needs to be driven as part of core council business.'

4.5   There was also a concern expressed to the Panel in some of the discussions that the agencies are too stretched trying to do too many things and that the

Strategy was having no real impact. This was a consequence of the Strategy not being sufficiently well focused, with too many priorities. This is echoed in the reference in the District Audit follow up review, which suggests a local strategy may be more effective in meeting local needs if it '...concentrate(s) on two or three high priority areas...'

'Mainstreaming' – Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act

4.6 The need to identify community safety as a key priority is further strengthened by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. This requires statutory partners to address crime and disorder in all of their business. It is this requirement that has become known as 'mainstreaming'. It is a wide ranging requirement that is not very clearly defined. A recent Home Office publication ('Calling Time on Crime') suggests that it is as yet not sufficiently understood or implemented within local authorities or the police. It gives an indication of the possible legal consequences of Section 17, citing the case of '...(an) application seeking a judicial review on the basis that Section 17 considerations were not taken into account by a local authority when granting permission for a planning application.'

4.7 In 1999 the District Auditor reviewed Haringey's progress in implementing the requirements of the Act, including mainstreaming. A follow-up review was completed in February 2001. The District Auditor concluded that the Partnership had made good progress overall. In considering mainstreaming it considered further work was needed to establish the extent of awareness of community safety amongst all staff in the Partnership agencies, through a questionnaire, and ensure any training was appropriately targeted. This has not yet happened.

4.8 Given that Section 17 relates to all the Council's activities, the recommended questionnaire will be necessary. In addition, it is likely that some services will need to give more careful consideration to community safety and its impact on their work. This is made clear by the case of the judicial review application in relation to a planning application referred to in 'Calling Time on Crime'. The Panel therefore consider the questionnaire needs to be supplemented with more detailed work to identify those services and how they can reflect community safety within their operational activities. They will need guidance and advice, which the new Community Safety team should be able to provide.

4.9 At the strategic level there needs to be greater integration of community safety within planning processes e.g. the Council's business planning, as well as the range of strategies and plans the Council and other agencies produce. The business planning process would provide a good opportunity for services to undertake the more detailed consideration described above. Again, this should be targeted particularly at those service units where there are significant implications for community safety.

4.10 Best Value provides a further mechanism for integrating community safety within service activity. BV reviews of services that have significant linkages

with community safety should take account of how effective those services are at contributing to community safety objectives.

4.11 Other agencies are also required to meet Section 17 requirements. The Panel has not been able to consider this in any detail. It recommends that the proposed Best Value review of community safety considers the whole issue of mainstreaming and mechanisms for achieving it, including how effectively other agencies are meeting this requirement.

Leadership – The Role of Members

4.12 The Government rightly places great emphasis on the role of local authorities in providing community leadership and the part Councillors must play in making this a reality. Community safety is an area in which the Council's leadership role is particularly important, both at the strategic level of the Partnership and in delivering change on the ground.

4.13 The early introduction by the Council of new political management arrangements, including the creation of an Executive of Lead Members with clear portfolio responsibilities, has ensured community safety is part of the agenda at the corporate level. Proposals for regular reports from Lead Members to full Council and more in-depth debate at full Council on key issues, including community safety, will ensure it receives regular attention by all Councillors.

4.14 In addition, there is a role for all councillors at an area level. Members have an understanding and knowledge of the local communities and conditions in the areas they represent that is invaluable in tackling community safety. This can be harnessed in part through the Area Assemblies, which provide opportunities for people within the area and ward Councillors to engage in debate about the issues affecting that area. Members are also represented on various boards overseeing regeneration programmes that include community safety projects.

4.15 The Panel is also aware of community safety initiatives that Councillor colleagues have been more closely involved in at ward level. However there is no structured, sustained and co-ordinated effort to involve Members, for example in the assessment of community safety issues at a local level, and the development of solutions. This sort of approach could tap into the knowledge and community links of councillors and give them opportunities to further develop those links in helping communities tackle the problems confronting them. It is an approach that meshes well with the emphasis on community engagement and problem solving that is also at the heart of neighbourhood management and renewal, which is discussed below.

4.16 This would need a shift in attitude on all sides. Members would need support from the Council and other agencies to undertake such a role, which would need to be clearly located within and contributing to the Community Strategy and action plans. At the same time Councillors would need to embrace such a role and give it the necessary time and commitment.

Information Strategy

4.17 The range of agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership mean there is potentially a comprehensive range of data available for this purpose. The Council, the Police and other agencies have been working together to collect baseline information for the local crime audit. A crucial issue considered by the Panel was the effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership in using key data to plan, monitor and evaluate its work.

4.18 The District Audit review and follow-up study both considered how effectively the Partnership was developing and sharing information. The importance of this is succinctly put in the second report:

'The collection and use of data is the primary driver behind the action of any community safety partnership as it provides the baseline from which action plans are implemented and against which results are monitored.'

4.19 Information is key to the community safety strategy and its delivery. Currently the police provide most of the available information. The Panel was concerned to establish whether progress had been made in this critical area. Officers confirmed that there is still considerable work to be done. A number of agencies have signed an agreement to develop information sharing, with the significant exception of health partners. This in part reflects the considerable turmoil health agencies have been subjected to, but they will need to be brought on board in any future strategy.

4.20 However the latest crime and disorder audit has brought together a significant amount of information that will be used to inform the Community Safety Strategy. The audit also identifies a number of gaps in the information. This is an important step in beginning to develop a more comprehensive picture of crime and disorder.

4.21 At this stage there is still no strategy in place for a more systematic development and use of data. However as part of the new community safety team a data research officer is being recruited. This will allow the Partnership to put such a strategy in place and to deliver it. The Panel would hope to see rapid progress in developing a strategy following the appointment of the Data Research officer, while accepting that implementation of the strategy will be over a much longer period of time.

5. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

5.1 One of the main thrusts of the Crime and Disorder Act is the development of effective partnerships. A focus on partnership working is also supported by the results of the Community Plan consultation. Residents were asked what they thought would make Haringey a safer place to live, with partnership working among the issues raised by those who responded.

5.2 Youth crime presents a particular test for the effectiveness of the Partnership. It is widely recognised there is a need to tackle the underlying causes of youth offending. This demands co-ordinated, multi-agency activity.

5.3 In general terms, it was apparent from discussions with the Panel that the partnership had made good progress in its development. However there were some concerns expressed to the Panel about the current partnership arrangements, suggesting that there are too many groups, at both strategic and operational levels. This it was suggested reflected the lack of key priorities referred to above.

5.4 It was also suggested that there was a need for greater input from health agencies and the LEA. At the same there was a sense of turmoil in many agencies. Structures are fragile, staff cannot be recruited and long-standing members are overwhelmed with initiative after initiative. The Panel considered the Best Value review could assess the effectiveness of existing structures and partnership arrangements.

Experiences from other Local Authorities: Lessons for Haringey

Haringey is often compared with LB Brent as being an outer Borough with inner London characteristics. Brent was one of the first local authorities to engage in community safety activities. Amongst other achievements it has a successful track record of winning external funding. The partnership has been in existence for almost ten years and was described by Sir Condon as a 'model not just for London but for the UK'.

Key features of Brent's approach include:
- making community safety a key corporate priority
- providing the resources to support the work
- providing strong leadership at a senior level to the development of the inter-agency partnership.

In relation to the role of schools in community safety, experience from Brent shows that some communities are successfully reducing school crime and violence by adopting a strategy that takes into account the specific safety problem experienced by the school and then identifies appropriate intervention.

---

6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

6.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 highlights the importance of involving local people in responses to crime and disorder. Home Office guidance on crime states that partnerships need to involve and listen to local communities. This needs to be an active engagement with communities both in order to identify problems and the solutions for resolving them. Communities need to be part of the problem-solving approach that should underpin the work of the Partnership.

6.2 There is also a clear link between this expectation and the need to involve residents in tackling problems within their area as part of the national strategy for neighbourhood renewal. The role of Members in this dimension of the Partnership is an obvious one and is briefly discussed above.

6.3 The initial officer submission to the Panel acknowledged that while there was extensive community consultation, the more active engagement of local communities was not happening. This was in part because of the lack of resources. The recruitment of a community development officer as part of the new community safety team will help to address this.

6.4 It must also be acknowledged that this is a particularly difficult area. The Home Office national inspection report 'Calling Time on Crime' noted '...disappointingly few examples of extensive community engagement in crime and disorder reduction initiatives.'

Neighbourhood Watch

6.5 Neighbourhood Watch needs particular mention, as it is an obvious starting point for any sustained effort to develop community involvement. It is mentioned in the Home Office guidance on establishing and operating partnerships as having '...a very important role in the process of developing and implementing the crime and disorder strategies.'

6.6 The overall scheme is funded and supported in London by the Metropolitan Police. Haringey also has a recently refurbished and equipped Neighbourhood Watch centre in Hornsey. In discussions with the Panel the Borough Commander indicated the scheme in Haringey was healthy and getting better with some 2,200 Watch members across the borough. This is perhaps the largest number of people involved in a single type of voluntary activity in the borough and gives a sense of the potential for Neighbourhood Watch as a community resource.

6.7 The Borough Commander suggested that the approach adopted in Wandsworth, where Watches were co-ordinated by the local authority could provide an alternative to existing arrangements. Wandsworth has a team of four staff responsible for the development of Watches within the borough. They support 930 Watches covering almost 45% of the 120,000 households in Wandsworth. The number of burglaries has declined from 6,800 in 1992 to 4,923 last year, a fall of just over 27%. While this cannot be attributed

entirely to Neighbourhood Watch, it is considered to have played an important part in the reduction of burglaries.

6.8 The case for local authority support to Neighbourhood Watch is a good one. The general feel of an area – whether there is graffiti, abandoned cars, dumped rubbish etc. – plays a large part in generating a fear of crime. Indeed there is research to suggest that areas suffering 'environmental neglect' attract further abuse. In tackling these issues Watches are supporting the Council's responsibility for the general maintenance of an area. In addition it is the Council that Watches must liaise and work with in relation to these matters, rather than the police. The Panel considers Neighbourhood Watch should be seen as a key element in promoting community involvement within community safety and consideration given to how the Council will support its future development.

6.9 One other issue that will need to be considered if Neighbourhood Watch is to be a key mechanism for promoting community safety in Haringey is the uneven spread across the borough. There are less of them in the east and they tend to be less active. This might be because of a continuing image problem that sees them as a haven for snoopers and busybodies. A particular focus for any work should therefore be on promoting and supporting them in the east of the borough.

The Future

6.10 There are a range of initiatives that should contribute to more effective future action. As well as the recruitment of a community development worker in the new team, the Council is in the process of developing a consultation strategy that will provide a more coherent, co-ordinated and strategic approach to community involvement and consultation.

6.11 The Area Assemblies and the new team created to support them will also be an important mechanism for engaging with local communities and supporting their more active involvement in community safety. The police have recognised the importance of the Assemblies and are working closely with Council officers in their development.

7. YOUTH CRIME - INTRODUCTION

7.1 Haringey Crime and Disorder Audit conducted in 1999 shows that young people are disproportionately represented among both offenders and victims of crime. Offenders in general tend to be male in the 15-19 age group. This group also faces as least three times the risks of crime facing the elderly.

7.2 The local picture reflects the national trend. The British Crime Survey shows that those aged between 16-29 face at least treble the risk of crime facing the elderly, with young people being 37 times more likely to be the victim of an assault than the elderly [2].

7.3 The most recent local data relating to violence against the person shows that the 15 - 19 age group not only accounts for a greater number of offences than any other age group, there is also a greater proportion who are offenders. Given that population projections suggest the number of young people in the borough is set to grow, this has major implications for the Council's Community Safety Partnership and makes its ability to identify and target those at risk of offending at an early stage crucial.

7.5 The importance of tackling youth crime is reflected in the Crime & Disorder Act, which makes diverting young people away from crime a central priority. The Metropolitan Police Service has recently reinforced this message, expressing serious concern at the high levels of youth crime in London. Haringey is identified as one of ten boroughs that have the highest number of reported youth offenders and the highest number of young victims.

7.4 Evidence therefore illustrates that approaches specifically aimed at dealing with youth crime are crucial not only in tackling Haringey's current problems with crime but also in preventing future offending. However this must be done within a framework that recognises and links together a variety of agencies, programmes, and priorities within an overarching youth strategy.

8. A YOUTH STRATEGY

8.1 Haringey and a number of partners undertook a significant piece of work - 'Agenda for Youth' - that identified a wide range of issues facing young people in the borough. The report was published in March 2000. The work involved extensive consultation with young people and was intended to provide the basis for a strategy to address the disadvantage and disaffection many of them face. Almost all the issues identified have a direct or indirect relevance to youth crime. The strategy and related action plans would therefore form a central part of the Community Safety Partnership's response to this key issue.

8.2 No progress has been made in developing the strategy. The Youth Justice Plan does address some of the issues from 'Agenda for Youth', but its focus is on the 'hard end' of youth crime, with the emphasis on dealing with young people already in the justice system as offenders. The Youth Offending Team

---

[2] Guidance on Statutory Crime and Disorder Partnership, Chapter 2, p2 (Home Office 1998)

does run preventive projects and there are many other preventive and diversionary initiatives run by many agencies, often in partnership.

8.3
8.4   However, in the absence of an overarching strategy it is difficult to assess the impact of these initiatives. Without a strategy there are no identified and agreed priorities and objectives and no effective integration of work in this area. Resources are likely to be allocated in a less systematic way and evaluation of initiatives is more difficult. It is also much more difficult to co-ordinate the efforts of the various agencies to achieve the problem solving approach the Partnership needs to adopt.

8.4   The key agencies in the partnership recognise this as a major gap in the response to youth crime and have agreed this needs to be tackled as an urgent priority. The Panel would endorse this and hope to see a strategy in place early next year.

9.   SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Views from Young People

9.1   The Panel was particularly interested at the link shown through the local crime audit between street crime and school opening, closing and break times. Students were interviewed as part of the scrutiny review to help the Panel identify some of the critical problems affecting school pupils. They highlighted the following key points:

- truancy
- conflict within the school environment - bullying, robbery and general violence
- safety after school
- making schools a safe environment

Truancy

9.2   There is considerable research to show that school absenteeism and exclusions have an impact on youth offending and that many young offenders have unmet educational needs. Truants are less likely to leave school with qualifications, are less likely to have good life and social skills and are more likely to be drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour. National research also reveals a strong co-relation between school attendance and offending, with truants three times more likely to offend than non-truants. The Government has recognised this and is offering assistance through the school and Education Authorises Social Inclusion: Pupil Support grant, to fund effective action plans against truancy.

9.3   *Working to Reduce Truancy* The latest crime and disorder audit includes general information on unauthorised absences. The overall level of unauthorised absences in primary schools is higher than the average for the borough's statistical neighbours. In relation to Haringey's secondary schools

the percentage of sessions missed through unauthorised absences has risen over the past three years, compared to an average fall over the same period for secondary schools in statistical neighbours.

9.4 College Links is an SRB funded project based in the Haringey Pupil Referral Unit. This ensured full time education for young people from the Tottenham area who have been excluded from school or whose attendance has declined. The project has funded an Education Welfare Officer, Curriculum co-ordinator and a Personal trainer mentoring programme. Students on the College Links courses successfully completed courses and the vocational courses were complemented by work experience placements in related services within the Council.

9.5 Haringey is also one of 12 boroughs selected from the School Unauthorised Absence table to run at least one initiative to drive down the incidences of truancy.[3] Haringey is currently working on re-drafting its policy. Section 16 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) introduced new police powers to remove truants from the streets, and escort them back to school or another place designated by the local education authority as part of a multi-agency approach to tackling truancy locally.

9.6 In Haringey part of this function is devolved to secondary schools. When truants are stopped by the police, a pro-forma is completed by officers indicating why the student is not in school; the student's ethnicity and also whether the young person had been a victim of violence. A letter is then sent home to parents and a copy is sent to the Education Welfare Officer to ensure that the case is followed-up. These run for three days each term and is an ongoing project, which is evaluated by the DfEE.

9.7 Officers from Education, the Youth Service and the Police meet on a regular basis to evaluate the project. Even though the project is considered reasonably effective at the moment, it is the view of officers that it will not continue to be effective due to lack of resources, both in terms of financial and officer resource. If significant funds were ploughed into the project from the outset, to reinforce the message to students that truancy will not be tolerated, it could act as a deterrent to truancy in the long run.

9.8 '*Truancy busters*' is an innovative scheme using new technology that could replace the manually intensive book and pen register marking used in most schools. The system delivers a report within minutes of roll call being completed, which can be emailed to the Head teacher and the LEA. It keeps parents informed and asks for a response if there is any uncertainty about the child's attendance. Currently there could be a delay of several days before parents are informed. No new equipment is required to use the system other than the phones for the teachers and access to the web. The system simultaneously reduces costs and brings together parents, teachers and administrators onto a single and accessible information network. The system

---

[3] Report of MPA 13 Mar 2001

can also connect other interested agencies that need to be kept informed of pupil attendance.

Conflict within the School Environment

9.9 **Bullying,** challenging behaviour and violence within the school setting was one of the main areas of concern raised by both students and teachers. Schools must by law have a policy to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. The policy needs to set out strategies to be followed, backed up by systems to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and review. Challenging bullying effectively will improve the safety and wellbeing of pupils, show that the school cares and make clear to bullies that the behaviour is unacceptable.

9.10 Not all Secondary schools in Haringey have anti bullying strategies. Anti bullying work training by an NSPCC trainer is being offered to primary, secondary and special school teaching staff on issues of personal safety and bullying. Schools are also being provided with teaching materials and strategies to integrate personal safety/anti bullying work into their curricula and to review the effectiveness of what already exists.

9.11 **Robbery – Mobile Phones** While there is a general reluctance on the part of young people to report crime, mobile phone thefts do get reported. In Haringey 900 phones were stolen during 2000 and 211 were reported stolen in March 2001. This is reflected in the trend nationally - Crime Reduction UK reported that: [4]Street robbers are stealing thousands of phones every month and young people are especially vulnerable.

9.12 In a bid to slash street robbery the police service plan to visit every secondary school in Lambeth to mark pupils mobile phones with ultra violet pens. Police have recovered more that 40 per cent of stolen mobile phones in the past six months but have no way of returning them to their owners. The unique codes will make the phones with the owner's postcode and house number when put under a UV light, allowing officers to hand them back to pupils who have been victims of street robbery.

9.13 Many schools have banned mobile phones from school premises altogether. This is a difficult issue for schools to manage, as many parents consider having a mobile enhances their children's safety, though their increased chances of being attacked undermine this view. It is an issue that should be addressed through each schools safety plan.

---

[4] Crime reduction.gov.uk

New Initiatives in Haringey – The Northumberland Park Project

The Panel heard about a pilot project run at Northumberland Park School, which involved a uniformed police officer based at and working with the school to promote and enhance a safer school environment:

- the officer patrolled the school and dealt with reported crimes and bullying
- this resulted in a significant reduction in crime in the surrounding area
- there are plans to extend the scheme to White Hart Lane School from January 2002
- the initial feedback from school staff and governors has been positive - the scheme will be evaluated by the Home Office

Southwark has introduced the scheme into all its secondary schools.

Safety after School

9.14   Students also highlighted the issue of safety after school. It is clear from the analysis of the times when most crimes take place that safety after school is a major issue. More than 30% of all robberies involve young people offending against other young people, which often involves the use of a weapon. The police believe that there is considerable under reporting of these crimes. In the case of younger people the motive for the violence is not usually financial but rather can be described as aggravated bullying.

9.15   The School Safety Zones Panel was created as another strand of the Community Safety Partnership to enhance the focus on crime reduction and reducing the fear of crime among this group. The Panel recently looked at crimes committed around bus routes and evidence indicates that offenders are using the public transport system to move around and create fear among people waiting at bus stops.

9.16   The School Safety Zones Panel is exploring a number of initiatives, including the use of staff from other agencies e.g. traffic wardens to work on buses. This has been used on another London bus route with some success.

Making Schools a Safe Environment

9.17   Measures to prevent offending behaviour will be more effective if agencies are able to successfully target efforts both at the minority of persistent offenders as well as those at risk of offending. Agencies should also recognise how they themselves can improve the environment in which children learn and succeed through their contributions to school security, multi-agency support for target groups of young people and information sharing.

9.18   While all agencies need to focus on what is and what is not within their remit, many of the problems facing them are common and can only be

resolved through multi-agency solutions. This requires the co-ordination of resources, creating successful partnerships and strong leadership from the LEA and headteachers.

9.20 ***School Safety Plans*** Crime and anti-social behaviour in and around schools premises can have a negative impact on the learning environment and on the way that the local community regards the school. School safety must be a priority not only for schools but also for the community as a whole. School safety plans are a key tool in both bringing together schools, the Council, the police and local communities, as well as setting out how they will all work together to identify the local community safety issues and solutions to them. They offer an ideal mechanism for adopting the problem solving approach emphasised by the Home Office.

9.21 The police have been working with secondary schools to advise and support them in producing their plans.

9.22 Developing and implementing the plans also offers an opportunity to involve students in tackling community safety. Schools and students will often have different perceptions of school crime and the crucial safety issues that need to be addressed. In order to develop a school safety plan, communities, schools and students need to reach consensus on the primary issues and ways of addressing them.

Good Practice in Kent

Kent 'Safe Schools' initiative is an innovative way in which support is being provided to schools and young people by Kent County Council and its partners from other agencies. It develops and sustains pupil-led approaches, tackling crime and safety issues identified by the young people themselves.

The initiative has begun to create a forum for dialogue between schools, young people and other agencies. KCC and Kent Police, and others have welcomed the views of young people on a wide range of subjects, which have impacted on policy and strategies to tackle crime and community safety. The initiative to work with young people to tackle crime and community safety not only impact on specific issues which the young people choose but also have a positive effect on:

- General crime and nuisance in and around schools
- Create a more positive relationship with schools
- Reduce truancy and exclusions.

An in depth analysis of all the projects indicate that they have been successful in achieving their overall aims and objectives. The degree of success has varied, but all those young people involved expressed positive views about their experiences.

MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW TEAM

Councillor Vivienne Manheim (Chair of the review

Councillor Irene Robertson

Councillor Richard Reynolds

The Panel would like to thank the students and schools who contributed to the review , particularly those who were able to attend meetings.

The Panel would also like to thank those officers who attended the meetings and provided essential information.