

Meeting: Community Safety Partnership
Date: 12 December 2018
Report Title: Trust between the community and partners
Report of: Eubert Malcolm Head of Community Safety & Enforcement

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report provides a briefing on the issue of trust between the community and partners, as identified by research undertaken by the Godwin Lawson Foundation (GLF).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Board Members note the issues identified by the Godwin Lawson Foundation in relation to trust between the community and partners.
- 2.2 The Board is invited, to makes recommendations on how partners can improve trust between the community and partners.

3. Background

- 3.1 In May 2018, the Godwin Lawson Foundation (GLF) was commissioned to undertake a research programme, exploring the attitudes, beliefs and key expectations of young people in Haringey towards knife crime and the carrying of knives.
- 3.2 The final GLF report will be used to inform the Council's serious youth violence strategy. In producing the final report the GLF identified a number of concerns raised by young people in relation to trust between the community and partners.

3.3 Key findings regarding trust between the community and partners

- Cynicism and anger towards politicians, authority
- The police are universally not trusted – of the more than 70 young people included in the research, only one said that they trusted the police
- If a young person is directly involved in an incident, the police are not trusted to deal with the incident
- When a young person is directly involved in an incident, the police will not be informed in many cases because of fear of being targeted by perpetrators
- Some young people might not call an ambulance through fear of being made a target

4. Conclusion

4.1 Summary conclusions from the GLF report:

The GLF research reflected that although many young people fail to trust the police, it is clear that for young people in Haringey this distrust goes wider. Although the police have been criticized in the discussions, there was recognition that they need to be involved in tackling the problems.

A more proactive approach to take out the main knife carriers. Consideration to targeted stop and search, with clear criteria for choice of subjects and no unfair targeting.

5. Questions and suggestions for next steps

5.1 How do we join with others who want to create change on this issue?

- Include all voices in the community, especially those who have been marginalised or excluded.
- Involve local officials and members of the police community.
- Involve young people.
- Work with bridge-building organisations and leaders in your community

How do we create opportunities for genuine community engagement?

It is essential to address the history of mistrust and disconnection between the community and authorities, but how?

Authorities must link dialogue to action and community change, how do we inform the community?