

Report for: Community Safety Partnership

Item number:

Title: Community Conversations Update

Report
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Lead Officer: Eduardo Araujo – Community Safety Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the community conversation initiative. The purpose of the community conversations is to provide a platform to listen to the community's concerns to improve community confidence.
- 1.2 The report provides a record of the main themes raised by the community with suggested solutions to address youth violence. The report also suggests themes, for a workshop discussion to address the comments raised as part of the community conversations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board:
- a. notes the contents of this report for information;
 - b. recommends how we can attempt to address the main topics raised during the community conversations;

3. Background

- 3.1 The Borough Plan 2019-23 commits to carry out open and honest conversations, where we would welcome views that challenge our approach and support us to think differently to improve outcomes for residents.
- 3.2 The Council remains committed to work alongside local communities to confront challenges early on, with a view to building cohesive, supportive and connected communities that nurture, protect and empower all residents.
- 3.3 The Council seeks to continue to develop partnerships in order to improve the offer to local residents, developing integrated services which improve user experience and have the greatest impact.
- 3.4 The community conversations provide a platform to listening to the concerns and challenges local people face in order to better understand their needs and aspirations. The Council recognises the need to employ creativity and joint working to achieve our vision for People: a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to achieve their potential.

4. Community conversations summary

- 4.1 The community conversations were held over a six-month period between March and September 2019. There have been six community conversations, two in Tottenham, two in Wood Green, and one in Muswell Hill and Hornsey.
- 4.2 The community conversations were facilitated through a panel discussion, chaired by the Cabinet member for Communities and Equalities. The Deputy Leader - Cabinet member for Children and families, the interim assistant director for stronger communities and a representative for metropolitan police service also sat on the panel.
- 4.3 Approximately 250 individuals attended across all six community conversations. There are clear similarities reflected in discussions held across all the meetings. A summary of the issues highlighted by residents and community leaders, form themes for the Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) attention and discussion:
- The impact of crime and violence creates a sense of mourning on communities, including the families of victims and perpetrators as well as the wider community. How can the CSP support families, friends and neighbours to overcome their individual and collective grieving?
 - Exclusions from mainstream education can play a role in increasing the vulnerability on young people. How can the CSP work with educational establishments to ensure that young people and institutions are supported?
 - Resource challenges were recognised across all participants. How can community groups be supported in strengthening their networks of collaboration and capacity, in order to provide the infrastructure and diverse activities for young people?
 - Transparency and lack of trust in institutions is more prevalent amongst BAME communities and young people. How can this be potentially addressed?
- 4.3 During the community conversations, concerns were expressed across the six meetings regarding both the perceived increasing levels of violence and the increasing number of young people falling victim to or committing crime. Concerns were also expressed about the number of young people who

are victims of robbery on their journey to and from schools. The fact that victims feel intimidated, was stated as a reason for many young people deciding not to report crimes committed against them.

- 4.4 The development of local mentors, with the ability to develop positive peer groups was considered an effective tool in addressing youth violence. Developing youth empowerment networks to support the delivery of local youth related strategies, including mediation, was also considered an effective tool.

5. Learning from community conversations

- 5.1 The community conversations provided the opportunity for the Local Authority to demonstrate leadership in instigating conversations with the community. The community led conversations also provided a channel where sensitive discussions could take place in an open and transparent forum. The conversations provided the forum for organisations and individuals that do not routinely engage in formal forums to have a voice.
- 5.2 The conversations created the opportunity to demonstrate partnership working between the Council, MPS, VCS, and residents. This also presented an opportunity to provide direct support to organisations, by disseminating information regarding key initiatives, strategies and offering advice.
- 5.3 Key to the success of future community conversations, is ensuring engagement/participation of young people and the identification of key community leaders. Signposting to potential funding for community organisations was also considered important.
- 5.4 Further community conversations will take place across the borough. To ensure attendance, effective publicity through social media and other appropriate channels is essential. The schedule of community conversations are as follows:
- Tottenham community conversation, 639 High Rd N17, Monday 21 October 2019
 - Wood Green: community conversation, Civic Centre N22, Monday 28 October 2019
 - The West: community conversation Green Lanes, Monday 4 November 2019 (the Langham Club – waiting confirmation)
 - Tottenham: community conversation 639 High Road, Monday 24 February 2020
 - The West: community conversation, Muswell Hill, Monday 17 February 2020 (The Royal British Legion)
 - Wood Green: community conversation, Civic Centre N22, Monday 4 March 2020

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1 This work contributes to the Place Priority within the Borough Plan and the Haringey Community Safety Strategy. It will also contribute to Youth at Risk strategy and associated action plan.
- 6.2 Officers and partners work strategically across related work areas and Boards such as Youth Offending, Safeguarding Children and Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Tottenham Regeneration, Early Help and the Community Safety Strategy.

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985