

Report for: Community Safety Partnership Board, 26th February 2020

Item number:

Title: Robbery Executive Group

Report authorised by: Eubert Malcolm, Assistant Director for Stronger Communities

Lead Officer: Joe Benmore, Interim Head of Community Safety & Enforcement

Ward(s) affected: All wards

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non key-decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This briefing details information about the Robbery Executive Group. During 2019-2020 Robbery has been a key Policing and Crime Priority for the Community Safety Partnership. This is likely to continue to be our focus as part of our 2020-2021 priority setting focus.
- 1.2 During 2019 Haringey has experienced a significant escalation in robbery offences. During this period 2,440 personal robbery offences were recorded in Haringey, representing an increase of 45% over the previous 12-months. It is worth noting that Robbery across London also increased by 20%. When taking into account the presumed under-reporting of robbery offending, the actual figures may be significantly higher and not accurately reflect the level of robberies that are actually taking place.
- 1.3 Whilst there has been a significant increase in police resource to manage the escalation in offending it is unlikely that this Pan-London enhanced resource will remain in place indefinitely. As a result and in order to sustain our focus going forward, the Robbery Executive Group has been established to contribute to measurable reductions in robberies and increase public confidence by focusing and deploying partnership resources to locations of concern across the borough.
- 1.3 The Robbery Executive Group has a strategic focus and the aims and objectives are to:
 - identify existing and emerging robbery issues, and prioritise accordingly via partnership data and information (quantitative and qualitative) from all partners; e.g. concerning offences, locations victims and perpetrators and agree whole system problem solving actions in response

- Oversee partnership activity on the borough which impact's upon robbery and community confidence to ensure both effectiveness as well as reductions in offending.
 - Utilise problem solving approaches with a task and finish remit to resolve issues both in the short and long term.
 - Identify issues which may require separate task and finish groups to be set up, which will report back to the group; e.g. concerning specific robbery trends.
 - The group will monitor the work of other operational groups as appropriate, particularly where issues concern individuals who are perpetrators and/or victims), such as the Integrated Gangs Unit, (IGU), Integrated Offender Management (IOM); Partnership Problem Solving Group (PPSG), Haringey Exploitation Panel.
- 1.4 The Group is co-chaired by senior leaders from the Council and Police and is aligned to the Borough Plan 2019-2023, the Community Safety Strategy 2019-2023, the Young People at Risk Strategy 2019-2029 as well as other key operational areas of work such as the North Area Police Tasking Group, the North Area Violence Reduction Group and Haringey Partnership Problem Solving Group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the CSP Board note the contents of this briefing and agree to provide oversight and challenge around the key aims and objectives of the Group to ensure that there is a measurable reduction in robberies and an increase public confidence
- 2.2 There has only been one meeting of the Group and further meetings will begin to outline where any gaps in provision and resource are apparent. It is proposed that we bring this back to the CSP Board once we have been able to identify these gaps and articulate more precisely the support we will need from the Board going forward.

3. Reasons for decision

N/A

4. Alternative options considered

N/A

5. Background information

- 5.1 Haringey's agreed local priorities for 2019/20 are Violence with Injury (Non-Domestic) and Personal Robbery. Whilst some positive improvements have been noted in Violence with Injury (Non-Domestic) (-10%), both of these remain significant challenges for the borough. The seriousness of such incidents continues to also remain high, with levels of injury sustained often being significant.

5.2 Haringey experiences almost 1,800 violent crimes per year and 2,500 robberies, equating to one of each of these offences approximately every 4 hours, throughout the year.

6.3 Due to these factors, it is likely that Violence with Injury, (Non-Domestic) and Personal Robbery will remain key local priorities for Haringey in 2020/21.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

6.1 This work contributes to the Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Strategy; Haringey's Borough Plan 2019-23, the Haringey Community Safety Strategy (2019-23). It will also contribute to the Young People at Risk Strategy 2019-2029

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 Strategy.

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

The reduction in MOPAC funding has led to re-aligning of resources, however, this can be mitigated to some extent through the co-commissioning projects, of which Haringey will be involved in at least 2 projects and by realigning resources across the system to build capacity.

Legal

N/A

Equality

There is an inherent impact on equalities of much of our community safety work and this is presented and discussed at the Community Safety Partnership meetings. This includes the peak age of offending being between 16 and 24; a very high percentage of young black males (mostly of African-Caribbean origin) involved in gangs (approx. 80%); the impact of domestic and sexual violence on women and girls; high concentrations of crime occurring in areas of deprivation; and vulnerable individuals and communities becoming victims of hate crime.

This report considers the areas of challenge in direct correlation with the impact on victims, especially vulnerable victims. In this respect, significant attention is being given to the disproportionate impact.

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1-Robbery Key Data 2019-2020

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Appendix 1: Robbery Key data- 2019-2020

Robbery continues to be a significant challenge for Haringey.

- 4,161 robberies have been recorded across North Area in the past 12-months, a +44% year on year increase.
- Haringey has experienced 2,543 robberies, an increase of 812 (+47%)
- Gun enabled robberies have diverged significantly across both boroughs:
- Conversely, 24 gun enabled robberies were recorded in Haringey in 2018, rising to 43 in 2019
- Key robbery hotspots are Seven Sisters, Tottenham Green, Tottenham Hale, Wood Green and Muswell Hill.
- Following police resource uplift in the key hotspot areas around Seven Sisters, Tottenham Hale, and Robbery levels fell significantly in December 2019, after a period of month on month increases. 296 robberies committed in November 2019 to 147 in December 2019 reduction of 38%

Robbery Offending Characteristics

- **Moped Enabled Robberies-** Approx. 250 in the past 12-months. Suspects use moped to approach victims and snatch mobile phones from victim's hands. Key locations include Tottenham Green, Bounds Green and Stroud Green.
- **Bank Card Robberies-**Approx. 400 in the past 12-months. In some of these incidents, suspects threaten victims and demand their PIN code before making off.
- **Pedal Cycle Robberies** Approx. 160 in the past 12-months. Suspects often push victims off bikes and make off riding them. Over a quarter of the North Area total took place within Tottenham Green and Tottenham Hale wards.
- **Watch Robberies:** Approx. 100 in the past 12-months. Suspects demand victims hand over watch, along with other personal possessions. High value watches also appear to be specifically targeted, with victims alleging items up to £80K were taken.

Victim/Suspect Profile:

- **Suspects:** 67% of suspects are from an Afro-Caribbean background, 94% are male and 61% are aged 10-19. It is also of note that a significant proportion of suspects have no previous contact with the criminal justice system.
- **Victims:** 49% are white European, 79% are male and 34% are 10-19