

Title: Community Safety Partnership Community Tensions Monitoring

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

Lead Officer: Heather Hutchings– Strategic Lead of Communities

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This briefing note details information about Haringey's commitment to record and monitor tensions that may arise within the community. Community tension is a state of community dynamics which may potentially lead to disorder, threaten the peace and stability of communities, or raise the levels of fear and anxiety in the whole, or a part of the local community. Strained relationships may build up within or between communities, or against particular institutions, based on real or perceived events or information or on fears, prejudices, circumstances or specific actions. They may develop over a long period and be inflamed by a 'spark' which leads to disorder and criminal activity.

1.2 The tension monitoring group applies a consistent approach to responding to all forms of community tensions including but not limited to;

- Legislation impacting communities
- Events causing community unrest
- Extremist groups within the borough
- Faith based tensions
- Illness/public health including COVID-19
- Community development
- Youth Tensions
- Significant crime affecting communities
- Graffiti
- Political protests
- Hate crime
- Environmental tensions
- Community Safety Concerns
- BREXIT
- Terrorist incident (UK or Abroad)
- Housing disputes/housing relating hate crime.

- Migration tensions

- 1.3 In developing this approach to tension monitoring, the local authority seeks to understand local community dynamics and identify potential or actual tensions. The aim is to minimise the potential negative effects of tension, prevent escalation and reduce conflict. This approach is produced by Prevent, which forms part of the 'Stronger Communities' brief and is located within the Community Safety Unit.
- 1.4 Reported community tensions are embedded into the Prevent local risk assessment. Feeding into the risk assessment ensures that local tensions are not left unrecorded and team activity/resources are appropriately deployed to mitigate the tension into further escalation.

2. Recommendations

That the Board notes:

- 2.1.0 The work around community tension monitoring will be used to guide our approach to intervention; short, medium and long term. It will also be used to inform and support the management of critical incidents and to support and promote community cohesion overall.
- 2.2 Monitoring and reacting to community tensions can help to encourage equality, cohesion and maintain public order. This document's priority supports a number of ongoing workstreams in Haringey including the Community Safety Strategy, the Young People at Risk Strategy, and the Borough Plan.
- 2.3 It is also recommended that the board supports the monitoring of community tensions; the approach will work best if all members and frontline professionals feedback tensions as they arise, so we are able to mitigate long-term impacts.

3. Contributing to Community Tensions

- 3.1 We have a weekly community tension report which will be sent to all partners in order to have a consistent approach to gathering and recording issues within the borough. The report will ask simple questions such as the type of tension being reported, the location of the tension, what mitigations actions have already been taken and what actions are yet to occur.
- 3.2 We will analyse the types of tensions that are being reported and support in mitigation tasks to ensure community cohesion is maintained at all times. We will also ask for partnership support where appropriate when dealing with tensions, so communities feel supported and safe.

- 3.3 There is a strategic oversight panel which meets quarterly to discuss trends, locations of concerns, mitigation strategies and offer a multi-agency response to diffusing tensions and working towards community cohesion. The quarterly panel seeks support from senior professionals who can influence change to ensure communities feel supported, harmonious, and safe within Haringey.

4. Re-launching the Community Tension Reporting Mechanism

- 4.1 The process for reporting community tensions launched in January 2021. Since this date we have seen a steady number of tensions reported each month, however, the team recognise that the number of tensions reported each month could be improved with more consideration given to ensuring partners are aware of the process and how to report. Efforts are being made to raise awareness of the process and provide in-house briefings to partners and teams.
- 4.2 The Prevent team have already briefed and tasked community safety, ASB team, the street cleansing teams and teams within Children's Services to routinely report tensions as they see them. The team regularly reach out to the wider council, as well as the voluntary sector, educational settings, and faith institutions to feed in tensions as they see them. The aim is to have as many people as possible contribute in order to form a fuller picture of tensions which may be affecting Haringey communities.

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 5.1 This work contributes to the Contest Strategy (The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism), our Haringey Borough Plan priority 2, and the Haringey Community Safety Strategy.
- 5.2 Officers and partners work strategically across related work areas and boards.

6. Use of Appendices

n/a

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985