

MINUTES OF MEETING Climate, Community Safety & Culture Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Monday, 6th November, 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors: Eldridge Culverwell, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Michelle Simmons-Safo (Chair) and Ibrahim Ali

ALSO ATTENDING: Ian Sygrave (Co-Optee),

Attending Online: Cllr Gina Adamou

235. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

236. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Diakides and Cllr Dunstall.

Cllr Ali attended as a substitute.

Apologies were also received from Cllr Jogee.

237. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

238. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

239. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None

240. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting on 11th September were agreed as a correct record.

241. HARINGEY CRIME PERFORMANCE AND PRIORITIES OVERVIEW

The Panel received a short explanation on the Haringey Crime Performance and Priorities Overview 2023. Haringey has a signed agreement with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to contribute to tackling the Mayor's priority crimes.

The following points were noted in the discussion:

- Since 2022, Haringey Council agreed to a three-year plan agreed with MOPAC. Two main key priorities included non-domestic violence/injury and robbery. Also focused on other high harm crimes such as violence, vulnerability and exploitation such as sexual violence, domestic abuse, women safety, child sexual exploitation, weapon-based crime, hate crime and anti-social behaviour with the aim to eradicate as far as possible.
- The panel was taken through the performance within the borough for several different crime-types up to September 2023. This can be seen both for the last 12 months and against the three-year baseline. Figures are highlighted in red indicating an increase and green which shows a reduction in crimes.
- The Panel noted that it was positive to see Haringey outperformed other the London change for most crime types and overall recorded crime (TNO) in the last 12 months, however TNO's has seen a 3% increase for the borough this year.
- Residential burglary has seen a 6% year on year decrease in comparison with the 1% modest reduction for London overall. Increases such as 14% increase in robbery compares favourably with the 18% overall London increase.
- Around 33,000 crimes per year in Haringey which can be understood in context with the borough population size. Approx. 1 million crimes per year in London, if this was averaged across all the London council's the figure in Haringey is around that mark.
- Ward level crime data shows that Noel Park followed by Northumberland Park, South Tottenham and Haringey ward have the highest volumes of crime, this is unsurprising. The east of the borough except for the central part, tend to have a higher volume compared with the west.
- MOPAC carried out a quarterly London wide survey around public confidence in policing. 44% of people do believe that the police do a good job in Haringey, and that's slightly below the London average, which is 48%, possibly driven by perceptions.
- Haringey's Community Safety strategy, centring around crime and anti-social behaviour, is currently being refreshed and will run from 2023-2027. Large consultations as part of this include working with community groups, residents, businesses and coordinating partnership actions.
- The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) was introduced by government through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and commenced on 31st January 2023. The requirements for the community safety partnership include to undertake evidence-based analysis on causes, develop strategic needs assessments and implement a strategy.

- Key violence generators and attractors in the borough include transport hubs (train, tube and buses), parks and open spaces and busy high street locations.
- Robbery and Non-Domestic VVI are also key crime types which involve young people as both victims and perpetrators.
- Overall, the volume of violence in Haringey has remained relatively stable in the short and medium term, Haringey ranked mid-table in London, and the violence analysis shows correlation between violent crime and deprivation.
- Members expressed concern about a lack of mention of Drugs and noted it is a complex issue rooted in other areas such as housing issues, homelessness and anti-social behaviour and therefore not dealt with through serious violence strands. This needs to be tackled by an area approach as drug crime manifests differently in each area.
- There were concerns around the data around drugs as police data in terms of from arrest and charge has a disproportionality element. The committee noted there are monthly performance meetings which look at hotspots for drug crime within the borough.
- Strong links with speech, language and communication needs with special educational needs as they are more likely to become victims, the partnership works closely with schools and charities to safeguard these children.
- A panel member raised concerns about accurately picking up data around the crime that happens at the border, the panel was assured that teams will work closely together around the ward boundaries issues.
- A panel member asked whether it is possible to see when the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers moved wards on shift, if it can be identified when they move about on the day. The board was notified that since August 2023 a new system for police officers to self-report on on-the-day decisions to move from their wards, however this system relies on officers logging these incidents, there are ongoing meetings about how to get better extraction of data.

RESOLVED

Noted

242. RESPONSE TO THE BARONESS CASEY REVIEW AND A NEW MET FOR LONDON

The Panel received a presentation from the Metropolitan Police, which provided an update on the Police's response to the Baroness Casey Review and the work that was being done to reform the Metropolitan Police. The presentation was introduced by Detective Chief Superintendent Caroline Haines, the Borough Commander for the North Area BCU. Also present for this item was Superintendent Rhona Hunt, the lead for Neighbourhood Policing in the North Area BCU. The presentation was set out in the additional report pack at pages 1-16. The following arose during the discussion of this agenda item:

- a. The Panel sought assurances around the degree of autonomy that the Borough Commander possessed and the ability she had to take decisions that differed from other boroughs who may have very different challenges. In response, the Borough Commander advised that this was something that was picked up in the Casey Review and that there was a level of autonomy from the central command within the Met. An example given was around a piece of work undertaken with the Leader and Chief Executive of Haringey that was agreed centrally, to change the model of neighbourhood policing in Haringey and also change the number/allocation of officers. The Borough Commander advised the Panel that whilst the number of officers available was finite, she had the authority to allocate them as she saw fit.
- b. In regard to mental health callouts and officers having to spend long periods in hospitals waiting for cases to be triaged, the Panel raised concerns that changes in this area might be going too quickly and that this needed to be adequately communicated to partners in the health and care sector.
- c. The Panel requested data on attrition rates that was broken down by gender, sexual orientation and ethnic background. The Borough Commander advised that she would circulate this information to Members, outside of the meeting, via email. **(Action: Borough Commander)**.
- d. The Panel sought clarification as to whether Haringey had a higher number of officers who were subject to professional standards reviews. In response, the Panel was advised that the number of officers in Haringey was broadly in line with other boroughs, but that Haringey did have a higher number of officers who were on restricted duties.
- e. In response to comments about a lot of police officers being from out of London and perhaps not understanding some of the communities they served, police colleagues set out that there were a lot of officers from Haringey and North London. A number of officers did not want to police the neighbourhood they grew up in, but that there were a lot of officers in Haringey from neighbouring boroughs.
- f. The Panel sought clarification about the extent to which abstractions of neighbourhood officers were being limited, given a number of high profile demonstrations in central London in recent weeks. In response, police colleagues advised that there had inevitably been some impact on neighbourhood officers and that it was hoped that processes brought in to limit the impact of abstractions would start to take effect and that the impact would be lessened going forward.
- g. The Panel questioned the extent to which there was a target around number of SNT officers who were out on the street at a particular time, rather than being abstracted to cover policing pressures elsewhere. In response, the Panel was advised that the lead for neighbourhood policing across London had given a steer that they did not want to ringfence a particular number of police officers for abstractions as had happened in the past. Work was ongoing to agree targets for on-street officers for neighbourhood policing across London. It was anticipated that this would take a number of months to complete.

- h. The Chair highlighted the murder of Valerie Forde and sought assurances about what the police were doing to address violence against women and girls. In response, the Borough Commander acknowledged that the Met. had failed women and girls and under-represented groups in the past. The action plan set out as part of A New Met for London sought to address the police's response around VAWG. The Borough Commander advised that there was a need to rebuild trust in the community and that part of this was around finding different ways to engage with women and girls. Part of this was also around targeting resources to provide assurances around safe spaces in the borough. The Police also needed to do better in terms of detecting and prosecuting these crimes. The Panel was advised that the detection rate for serious sexual offences in Haringey was performing better than in most boroughs in London, with the detection rate going up from 3% to 13%.
- i. Superintendent Rhona Hunt commented that she had seen a shift since the Baroness Casey Review and observed that the conversation had changed. People were speaking openly about issues such as disproportionality, under protection of certain groups and of over-policing. It was suggested that there was a lot of space for these conversations to take place in the borough.
- j. In response to a follow-up question, police colleagues acknowledged that they needed to go away and think about how more support could be given to black women in particular. The police also emphasised the importance of the public having the confidence to report and the need to expand the network of third party reporting for domestic violence in general.
- k. The Panel sought assurances around how confident the police were that they would achieve the recruitment of 500 additional PCSOs across London. In response, the Borough Commander advised that the number of 500 was agreed and that she was confident that it would be achieved. The two caveats to this were; that it was dependent on being able to recruit 500 additional officers and that it was a three-year plan and MOPAC had still to agree funding for years two and three. The Borough Commander advised that priority would be given to frontline and supervisory roles. The Panel were also given assurances that new neighbourhood policing resources would be allocated across all wards as they became available.
- l. The Panel queried about retainment of existing staff and the problems that had been encountered with this. In response, the panel were advised that getting this right would start at the selection process and would also require; the operationalisation of training, having adequate support and mentoring in place and having career leads who look to recruit under-represented groups. It was also commented that the jobs market was a lot more transient that it was in the past and that many people who signed up to be police officers did it for a few years and went on to do something else.
- m. The Panel sought assurances around ward panels and the need for a more unified approach to their provision. In response, Superintendent Hunt acknowledged these concerns and advised that she had received clear feedback on this issue at a New Met for London launch event held in Haringey. The Police had secured a small pot of money to hold further thematic

consultation events in Enfield and Haringey and that community participation would be one of the themes involved.

- n. The Chair sought assurances around disproportionality in the use of Stop and Search powers, and also sought assurances that a trauma-led approach would be adopted, which allowed officers to look at their behaviour through a lens and understand the role of inherent bias. The Chair also sought assurances about what was being done to challenge officers who disproportionately used Stop and Search. In response, police colleagues advised that there was a lot of training that took place around perspectives and bias and that a lot of work was being done to tackle this issue, with both new recruits and existing police officers. The Panel was also advised that the Haringey Stop and Search monitoring group was recognised as being very active within MOPAC.

RESOLVED

Noted

243. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Panel set out that they would like a future agenda item around ASB, which included looking into how joined up the Council's response is around ASB and housing ASB. Panel Members also requested some ward level data around ASB, if it was available, and also how well the CCTV control room and other council services linked up.

The Panel requested an update on the proposed Dockless Bike rollout, depending on whether there was a substantive update available for the February meeting.

The Panel also requested a follow-up report to a future meeting on fly-tipping/the fly-tipping strategy.

RESOLVED

That the Panel noted its work plan.

244. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

245. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 19th December
- 27th February

CHAIR: Councillor Michelle Simmons-Safo

Signed by Chair

Date

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