

**Meeting:** Safer Communities Executive Board (SCEB)

**Date:** 19th November 2009

**Report Title:** Half-year performance and project exception report

**Report of:** Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Strategic Manager

**1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)**

To inform the SCEB of performance year-to-date (April – September 09) against the key community safety targets

**2. State link(s) with Other Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:**

- 2.1. Addressing the prevention and reduction of crime, the fear of crime, the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and anti-social behaviour are all key parts of the cleaner, greener and safer priority. Collectively, these remain top priorities for residents

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. That SCEB note the highlights and the mitigating actions to address the areas of concern

**4. Summary – See purpose of the report above**

**5. Chief Financial Officer Comments (N/A)**

There was insufficient time to secure comments from the CFO directly. However, all planned actions are deliverable within agreed and existing budgets, primarily through the Area Based Grant.

**6. Head of Legal Services Comments (N/A)**

There are no areas of obvious concern from a legal perspective

**7. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]**

N/A

**8. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments**

People from black and ethnic minority communities, and young people, have a disproportionately high risk of becoming a victim of crime. In addition, women and older people tend to suffer from higher levels of anxiety about crime. There are several actions which directly address this and these include: Targeted interventions of the most vulnerable streets and houses in the borough; an increase in outreach to young people by Victim Support; development of the third party reporting process for hate crime; delivery of the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda; increased response by the YOS to ethnic changes in their caseload; additional support with resettlement for non-statutory offenders. A Scrutiny Review of support to victims is currently underway in the borough.

## **9. Consultation**

All issues relating to performance are shared and discussed with the multi-agency Performance Management Group (PMG), reporting to the SCEB

## **10. Service Financial Comments**

A high proportion of the Safer Communities Service is funded externally and through the Area-Based Grant (ABG). This leaves the Service without the security of stable and ongoing funding. Reductions on external grants (e.g. National Treatment Agency funds for drug treatment services) result in some areas of work being particularly vulnerable.

## **11. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs**

A system-generated traffic light chart is attached with further detail  
A project/budget highlight report is also attached

## **12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

12.1. Background papers are as follows:

Cutting Crime: Home Office Strategy 2008-2011  
Safer for All Strategy 2008-2011  
National Drug Strategy 2008-2011

## **13. Background**

13.1 The Safer Communities Partnership is responsible for a number of key targets under the Local Area Agreement (LAA). These are:

NI 15 – serious violent crime  
NI 16 – serious acquisitive crime  
NI 21 - perception of how well the police and local authority deal with crime and ASB in the local area  
NI 35 - preventing violent extremism  
N 40 - numbers into effective drug treatment  
NI 111 – reduction in young people (aged 10-17) entering the youth justice system

- 13.2 In addition, there are two stretch targets that expire in March 2010: Reduction in repeat victimisation for domestic violence (and increased detections); reduction in personal robbery. There is also a locally agreed target to increase support to young victims.
- 13.3 The multi-agency Performance Management Group (PMG) will also monitor related targets, such as hospital admissions for alcohol-related problems and the preparedness of the borough for emergencies.
- 13.4 Q2 has seen some notable successes, such as the decrease in personal robbery and in the number of young people entering the youth justice system, despite the economic downturn. There are, however, some considerable challenges this year as outlined in section 18 below. Foremost among these is the outbreak and continuation of gang-related violence in young adults in the borough and across neighbouring borders. There has also been an increase in organised gang related shootings involving the Turkish and Kurdish communities. These crimes are measured separately from NI15. While reported knife-related crime has dropped this quarter, gun crime has seen substantial increases linked to the above. These issues are being dealt with on a daily basis through intensive problem-solving and should be monitored closely by the PMG.

#### **14. Key highlights and successes from Q1 and Q2 in 2009/10**

- 14.1 Overall recorded crime continues to fall in Haringey. It is down by 8% year-on-year and by 2% so far this year compared with last year. In addition, efforts to raise confidence and increase reporting are also bearing fruit with record numbers attending Hearthstone (set to reach close to 2,000 by year end). The self- and third party reporting process was rolled out earlier in the year and is currently being monitored.
- 14.2 Performance against acquisitive crime has been strong, despite the economic downturn, and is on target (NI 16). Personal robbery is showing a 5% decrease (503 against a target of 569) compared with this time last year. This crime predominantly affects young people with 75% of perpetrators aged 12 – 19 years and victims of a similar profile. Seasonal prevention messages and continuing work to change behaviour (e.g. fitting locks and using them; not leaving valuables in cars etc.) remain a focus.
- 14.3 Perceptions of how well we deal with crime and ASB are measured annually in the Place Survey (NI 21). However, Haringey has delivered an exceptional package of interventions and has been highly commended by the Home Office for innovative practice. This includes highly successful parenting interventions, published court outcomes, Community Payback schemes, a street drinking review, recruitment of a Victim and Witness Support Officer for ASB cases in the civil court, assistance into housing, treatment and employment through the Helpdesk and a forthcoming community safety newsletter focusing on confidence and achievement. In addition, ASB issues of concern are being dealt with through local problem-solving groups e.g. ongoing disturbances outside Wickes; tackling dangerous dogs and strong action around crack house closures.

- 14.4 The programme to address violent extremism is developing steadily and Haringey is on track to achieve level 3 as per the agreed target (NI 35). We are currently at level 2 on the delivery scale. Training is being planned for front-line staff to support the main objectives of the programme. These entail challenging ideology; disrupting those who promote extremism; supporting individuals, who are vulnerable to recruitment; and addressing the grievances that ideologues are promoting.
- 14.5 Haringey is progressing well this year with the challenging target of preventing first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (NI 111). Haringey has reduced the number to 170 during the first six months of the year against an annual target of no more than 423. This is, therefore, looking very positive. It must be noted that the official figures await full confirmation from the Youth Justice Board and these can vary slightly from the police generated figures above. A key success factor has been the YOS 'triage' project. Since August, 44 referrals have been made by trained youth staff working in custody suites and 37 of the 44 young people were deemed suitable for an alternative intervention programme. Further intensive intervention programmes are running as part of the Challenge and Support scheme. It should be noted that many of the young people engaged in gang-related crime are in the 18-24 age bracket with several over 18.
- 14.6 The original target for repeat victims of domestic violence had a flawed baseline which has now been renegotiated with the Home Office. The new target is an achievement of no more than 150 repeats recorded in the 12 months to March 2010. This is a rolling annual target and Haringey is currently averaging 114 repeats in the first six months of the year. This will be monitored closely, along with ensuring steady performance on our detection rates. This target and the one below are subject to a performance reward grant.
- 14.7 The stretch target for personal robbery was based on projected figures that have already been exceeded i.e the target is to achieve no more than 1,557 offences by March 2010 (based on 3 annual reductions of 2.6%). As of 2008/09 Haringey's outturn was 997 or 36% (560 fewer) below target. Current performance is projected to easily exceed the target.

The most recent police scorecard covering the period 1st April - 27th September 2009 reports a figure of 503 which puts us on track to deliver this target. The police do not publish a monthly performance report that meets the HSP reporting timescales.

- 14.8 The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team has been working hard to ensure that the borough responds appropriately to swine flu. NHS Haringey has been very appreciative of the support of the Council, and our work with social care providers was particularly praised by the Health Protection Agency. The borough Multi-Agency Flood Plan has completed (awaiting CEMB approval) despite the additional pressures. Swine flu has created many opportunities to raise awareness of the need to plan for emergencies, and the team is working hard to ensure this message gets out to the community.

## 15. **Issues and areas of concern**

- 15.1 As previously stated, the number of recorded most serious violent crimes has been of utmost concern this financial year and remains the top priority (NI 15). At the end of Q2, Haringey had 250 recorded offences against a target of 169 and the trend is predicted to worsen in the short-term. A joint Haringey and Enfield violence action plan is being delivered and monitored through the Operation Swift Gold Group. Intense and regular problem-solving is underway involving service departments and key partners. These officers are now taking ownership of the key named individuals ranging from 15 – 24 years. Specialist mediation is also running with the parents and the PMG is considering committing additional resources to engagement programmes with the older age group. This will be an exceptionally challenging target to meet.
- 15.2 Performance data for the number of problematic drug users in effective treatment (i.e. treated and retained for at least 12 weeks) is published with a delay of 4 months (NI 40). The target for year end 2009/10 is to have at least 1,108 users in treatment. Whilst Haringey already has a rolling figure up to the end of May 09 of 1,012, the number of new clients has been declining. This follows a trend across London and all services that are commissioned by Haringey DAAT are reviewing actions to address this. The trend is being monitored on a monthly basis.
- 15.3 Haringey missed its target to reduce the rate of admissions to hospital for alcohol-related problems in 2008/9 by 51 admissions (NI 39). Updates are received one quarter in arrears so the full half-year will not be available until December 09. Q1 performance for 09/10 was 433 admissions per 100,000 residents which was higher than in any quarter during 2008/09. It should be noted, however, that a large number of new admissions are the result of long-term drinking and increased effort and investment has been made in assisting this cohort. Local analysis shows that the main causes of admission relate to mental and behavioural disorders and cardiovascular disease. The DAAT and partners have significantly increased interventions in A&E, provision of detox facilities, the COSMIC service for families, outreach and social marketing campaigns. A further £100K from the Area-Based Grant and matched £60K from Haringey PCT is being invested in overall alcohol harm reduction this year.
- 15.4 Victim Support has been commissioned to deliver a 5% increase in support to young victims. This is done through liaison with schools, outreach and an increase in 1-2-1 sessions with the relevant young people. After a positive start in Q1 (increase in clients seen from 29 to 36), there has been a decline in Q2 (down to 21). Uncertain funding from Haringey's Children and Young People Service resulted in a resignation. Continued funding to year end has now been approved but this work will have to be built up again. In addition, Victim Support is undergoing a national restructure involving clusters in London and the dissolution of the current Borough Manager's role. We anticipate that new arrangements will be in place during December but service levels may be affected.
- 15.5 The sanctioned detection rate for domestic violence is subject to a reward grant by the end of this financial year. From an exceptional high of 50% last year, this has now slipped from Green to Amber and was running at 36.8% against a target of 38% at the end of Q2. This performance has subsequently improved and is on track to achieve. This will be monitored closely by the PMG.

**16. Project Highlight Report (copy attached)**

- 16.1 All project leads report on a quarterly basis against agreed milestones and a spend plan, submitted at the start of the year.
- 16.2 In Q2, all projects were rated Green or Amber overall with the following two areas of delivery marked as Red.
- 16.3 Attempts to recruit an overall strategic manager for CCTV have been unsuccessful. The future of this position is under consideration and arrangements for under-spend are currently being discussed at the higher HSP strategic partnership level (Haringey Strategic Partnership).
- 16.4 The problem-solving budget has been slow to spend with some invoices still outstanding. The model has been highly successful in problem resolution and strengthening partnership working but only some of the identified problems have required funding rather than a different way of working.
- 16.5 At a recent meeting of the PMG, however, several bids were agreed. Chief among these were two bids to directly address the gang-related violence raised at point 15.1, specifically youth engagement work with young adults. This fund now has a minimal amount unallocated for this financial year and the PMG agreed that this should be used to address the priorities arising from the new strategic assessment and/or evidence led requests from the Zonal Steering Group. Improvements to the governance and turnaround time for investment decisions are being looked at to ensure that best practice for commissioning is adopted.
- 16.6 In line with previous years, the SCEB also received a capital fund of £121K, which was not announced until well into the financial year. This was put to tender in the Summer and a final decision on successful bids was made at the recent PMG. The main projects approved are listed below. These all strongly support the priorities in the Safer for All strategy and Local Area Agreement:
- : Overt surveillance of priority Anti-social behaviour
  - : IT training equipment for empowering Muslim women
  - : Priority anti-burglary projects
  - : Swift response monitoring and support system for vulnerable victims including victims and those at risk of domestic violence
  - : Matched fund to continue the Open Air Gym on the Campsbourne Estate
  - : Inter-generational community project
  - : Woodwork project to assist offenders into work