

Meeting: Integrated Housing Board

Date: 26 November 2009

Report Title: Safer Communities Executive Board

Report of: Jean Croot, Corporate Head of Safer, Stronger Communities

Purpose

To provide information to the Integrated Housing Board regarding the Safer Communities Executive Board and its work.

Summary

This report describes the structure, purpose and work of the safer Communities Executive Board and its sub groups.

Legal/Financial Implications

None.

Recommendations

To note the report, which is for information.

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Background**Safer Communities Executive Board**

1.1 The Safer Communities Executive Board (SCEB) has been in existence for over 10 years, and more recently became a sub group of the Haringey Strategic Partnership along with the other theme boards. Until recently, the chair was the local authority Chief Executive, and now Cllr Canver, as cabinet member for enforcement and community

safety is the chair, with the Police Borough Commander being the vice chair.

1.2 SCEB meetings are held quarterly and provides strategic governance for the Safer Community performance against both the LAA targets and the Safer Communities Strategy and the partnership funds (mainly Area Based Grant, plus some smaller Home Office and GOL funds) that are utilised to ensure achievement of the Strategy and targets.

1.3 Under the SCEB are six partnership boards that ensures both progress and performance, plus monitoring the operational work through action plans that are reviewed, re-written and agreed each year. These partnership boards (PBs) are:

- i. Acquisitive Crime PB (co-chaired by Robin Payne, Assistant Director in Urban Environment Department and Superintendent Paul Hoare)
- ii. Anti-Social Behaviour PB (chaired by Cllr Canver)
- iii. Domestic Violence PB (chaired by Cllr Canver)
- iv. Drug and Alcohol Action Board (chaired by Tracey Baldwin, Chief Executive of the PCT)
- v. Other Violent Crimes PB (chaired by Pastor Nims Obunge)
- vi. Youth Offending PB (chaired by Borough Commander, Dave Grant)

There is also a Performance Management Group (PMG) chaired by Cllr Canver.

Performance Monitoring Group

2.1 The PMG consists of senior officers from the Police, Council, Fire Service, Health (PCT), and Probation Service. This group monitors the performance against the LAA targets and acts as the commissioning body both for deciding which funding applications are approved and for monitoring these regarding both spend and achievement of targets/outcomes.

2.2 There is a clear process for inviting applications, with interested agencies being required to show which LAA targets and Safer Communities Strategy outcomes the applications will help SCEB to deliver. A policy officer is allocated to each successful application/project to both support the delivering agency and to monitor its progress; the funds are sent through quarterly following receipt of quarterly reports from the project or parent agency. This ensures early remedial action can be taken if a project is struggling or underachieving. It also enables funding to be withdrawn from projects if any totally fail to progress according to the funding contract, or are clearly not going to achieve any reasonable level of success. It also helps to develop a 'library' of successful projects that may be useful to address similar issues in other parts of the borough and so on.

2.3 The PMG considers the performance reports for each quarter, using the usual performance reports, plus strategic assessments and geographical mapping of crimes etc. The PMG is able to call any agency to account

should performance in any area suddenly drop (the partnership is mature and strong enough to be able to critically appraise each other) or to discuss how other agencies can assist the lead agency in improving the performance against any target where they are struggling. One example is when the Police were struggling to address and reduce a growing increase in thefts from cars. Council officers assisted by introducing a project in primary schools to develop posters and parking meter stickers reminding people how to prevent thefts from cars. The schools chosen to participate were located in the areas most affected by this rise in thefts from cars, and the children became very effective in teaching their parents/carers not to leave valuable items on display in their cars, thereby reducing these crimes in the hot spot areas.

Partnership Boards

- 3.1 As will be noted, the above partnership boards are chaired by various partners (Police, Council, PCT, and voluntary sector) and this has helped encourage full ownership of the work of the SCEB by statutory and other partners.
- 3.2 Each of the PBs has an action plan that is developed prior to April each year. These action plans have regard for and cover the outcomes required by the Strategy, the LAA targets and address the issues identified in the annual Strategic Assessment report.
- 3.3 PBs meet quarterly to monitor and review these action plans and to consider any operational issues that may impact on the work area and/or performance. The groups also act as useful forums to debate and consider ways to meet the requirements arising from new national and local government legislation or guidelines.
- 3.4 There are a small group of other forums under these PBs, such as the CCTV Steering Group which monitors the CCTV work covered by the Council and Police, develops protocols and ensures all relevant agencies are effectively using both the equipment and the data it provides. There are also sub groups which focus on reducing re-offending and drug related offending. Some other sub groups are time limited task and finish groups, such as the forums addressing current gang issues.

Other Matters

- 4.1 Emergency Planning work reports into the SCEB via the Haringey Emergency Planning Partnership (HEPP). The work of the HEPP is lead by various agencies dependent on the relevant emergency. For example, the PCT has the lead for swine flu preparation work, while the Council leads on preparation for flooding.
- 4.2 The Local Criminal Justice Board also reports into SCEB. This Board was set up to speed up the criminal justice system several years ago, and while it still covers this, it also has responsibility for improving the public's

confidence in the criminal justice system. It is chaired by the Police Borough Commander with the vice chair being the manager of the local Magistrates Court.

4.3 In conclusion, the role of SCEB can be seen as the overarching strategic theme board with responsibility for preventing and/or reducing crime and improving community safety in Haringey.