

**Report for:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Title:** Matters arising from the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel– One off Scrutiny Review of Community Safety.

**Report**

**Authorised by:** Councillor Lester Buxton, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Lead Officer:** Serena Shani – Acting Scrutiny, [serena.shani@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:serena.shani@haringey.gov.uk).

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/**

**Non Key Decision: Non-Key**

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 This report is put forward in accordance with Part 4, Section G, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules – paragraph 12.1 and sets out a recommendation from the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel as part of the consideration of reports on crime and community safety in the borough, and the outcome of a one off scrutiny session meeting between officers, the Borough Commander and representatives of the Youth Panel on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- 1.2 As set out in Part 4, Section G, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules - paragraph 10.2, the Scrutiny Review Panels must make any recommendations they wish to put forward through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. OSC is required to formally ratify the request from the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel and agree to submit the recommendation to Cabinet.

**2. Introduction**

- 2.2 At the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2025, the Panel considered and discussed two reports which set out crime statistics in the borough as well as key enforcement and preventative strategies to combat crime and ASB in the borough. There was a special focus in the verbal discussion and reports on youth, knife and organised crime.
- 2.3 Every year the Haringey crime statistics were considered by the Panel, however, within the context a high crime rate in the borough, and the outcomes of the scrutiny café – where crime and disorder was prioritised as one of the highest concerns of residents, the Panel considered that a one off scrutiny review of the measures being taken by Police and Council to lower crime and ASB rates was vital. The Panel also invited representatives of the Youth Council to ask questions of the Borough Commander and Officers and gain a young person's perspective on crime in the borough.

- 2.3 The Panel sought assurances that young people's viewpoints were being incorporated into police measures such as 'Clear, Hold, Build' – a strategy which relied heavily on enforcement and on relationship building in the community.

### **3. Outcome**

- 3.1 The Panel resolved to submit some formal recommendations to Cabinet, through the OSC.

### **4. Recommendations to Cabinet**

- 4.1 The Panel recommends closer working, and better and more frequent communication between the Youth Panel representatives and Community Safety Panels. The scrutiny session uncovered a strong need for the Police and the council's Community Safety functions to build relations with youth representatives and youth leaders within the community, to address long standing issues with trust of the Police. It was highlighted that this would especially be relevant within the 'Clear' or enforcement part of Clear, Hold Build. The Cabinet Member for Communities is asked to talk further with officers and the Borough Commander, as to how this could be built into future workplans within the coming months, and as a matter of urgency.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny Panel recommends that the Ward Panel Meeting structure be reviewed and strengthened as a main tool of communication between residents, local organisations and the Police. It was brought to the attention of the CCSE Panel, that most Ward Panel Meetings were usually very sporadic and not well attended. There were issues too with residents being left to arrange and promote ward panel meetings themselves. The Scrutiny Panel uncovered that better training was needed for community leaders to help them facilitate the meetings. The Panel asks the Cabinet Member for Communities to consider further how Ward Panel meetings could be both formalised and standardised as a main tool of communication between Police and residents.
- 4.4 The Panel also asks the Cabinet Member for Communities to talk further to her officers as to how resource could be allocated, or funds found, to provide training and to help facilitate community leaders to structure meetings, find venues and help promote these newly standardised Ward Panel meetings.
- 4.5. The Panel recommends that quarterly Ward performance figures on Safer Neighbourhood Teams' (SNT) visibility and front-line police resourcing be cascaded to the newly standardised Ward Panel Meetings. This is so that residents understand how many 'fit for duty' police officers are available. The Borough Commander is asked to organise this.
- 4.6 The Panel also recommends that quarterly ward-by-ward ASB reporting feeds into the newly standardised Ward Panel meetings. The Borough Commander is asked to organise this.
- 4.7 The Scrutiny Panel recommended that the Cabinet Member for Communities should work with officers and departments to review the ASB policy. This should ensure that the CCSE Scrutiny Panel feeds into the review amongst other departments and other Scrutiny Panels.

- 4.8 The Panel asks the Cabinet Member for Communities to further consider adding clarity as to the definition of ASB and where the responsibility lies for ASB within the Policy. In addition, the Cabinet Member for Communities was asked to work with her officers to produce a new structure or flow chart for ASB (including all council departments that dealt with ASB) for residents.
- 4.9 Concerns were raised about the unclear nature of responsibility and accountability for ASB both within the council and in the Police. The session uncovered a need for clarity on definitions of ASB for residents and importantly where the responsibility for ASB lay both within the council, amongst housing providers and Police.
- 4.10 The Panel also considered how ASB was reported on the council website. It had been reported to members that the ASB form was very difficult to find and may lead to underreporting. The Cabinet Member is asked within the next few months to work with her officers and digital communications to find a way to make the online ASB link on the council website more prominent and user friendly – perhaps basing design on user feedback.
- 4.12 Following concerns raised as to the effectiveness of Stop and Search, the Panel recommends that the Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group and a representative from MOPAC's London Disproportionality Board, report to a future Community Safety scrutiny session next municipal year, to discuss these issues. The Panel also asked that more information be requested from the Borough Commander about the proportion of successful outcomes in Haringey for Stop and Search and further information on procedures and policy.
- 4.13 The Panel recommends that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Cabinet Member for Communities ensure that the Youth Justice projects and work with Children at Risk projects are being holistically supported in finding funding for long term projects. The Panel raised concern as to the short-term nature of funding for projects and the impact this had young people and crime figures. The Panel recommends that expertise within the voluntary sector be sought by Cabinet Members to ensure that officers have the evidence and organisational support to successfully apply for longer term funding opportunities if they exist.

## **5. Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations**

- 5.1 To recommend that Cabinet consider the recommendations above.