

Report for: Cabinet 15th of July 2025

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

Report

Authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Director for Legal and Governance

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

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 by Overview and Scrutiny in accordance with Part Four section G paragraph (vi) which outlines that following approval of final report and recommendation will be presented to the next available Cabinet meeting.
- 1.2 The Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel meeting on the 11th of March 2025 took forward a one-off scrutiny review on crime and community safety in the borough and had a question-and-answer session in the meeting between Officers, the Borough Commander and representatives of the Youth Panel. These recommendations were compiled and agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on the 8th of April 2025 in accordance with Part 4, Section G, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules - paragraph 10.2, and also in accordance with paragraph 1.2 (xi) (to review and scrutinise action taken by partner authorities in discharge of crime and disorder functions and to make reports and recommendations to Cabinet on these).

2. Context

- 2.2 In line with the Panel's responsibilities for community safety and the discharge of crime and disorder functions, every year the Borough Commander is invited to the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel where Haringey crime statistics are considered. The Borough commander attended the Panel meeting in March considering the context of a high crime rate in the borough, and the outcomes of September 2024's Scrutiny Poll and Café where 'Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' were prioritised as one of the highest concerns of residents; the Panel decided to scrutinise the measures taken by Police and the Council to lower Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour rates.

In addition, Panel members had noted the safety concerns of young people particularly in certain areas in the borough, and in the late afternoons and evenings that had been a key concern of the Youth Council. This had been raised at the Young People's Full Council meeting in October 2024. Therefore, the Panel also invited representatives of the Youth Council to ask questions of the Borough

Commander, Cabinet Member for Communities, and Officers responsible for community safety to inform the discussion of the measures on lowering crime in the borough - and to provide a young person's perspective on these issues.

- 2.3 At the above Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel on the 11th of March 2025, the Panel considered and discussed two reports which set out crime statistics - and key enforcement and preventative strategies to combat crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in the borough. There was a special focus in the reports and verbal discussion on youth, knife and organised crime.

Some of the key considerations in the meeting were:

- Young people's perspectives on police measures such as 'Clear, Hold, Build'. 'Clear Hold Build' relies heavily on enforcement to clear an area of crime, then to ensure that no criminal activities replace the first in the power vacuum. The last stage of 'Clear, Hold Build' relies heavily on building good relations with the community. 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 regarding trust in the Police. It was highlighted that this would especially be relevant within the 'Clear' or enforcement part of 'Clear, Hold, Build'. The Panel sought assurances that young people's viewpoints were being incorporated into police measures such as 'Clear, Hold, Build'.
- Ward Panel Meetings were discussed at length. These meetings are run by the Met. Police and meetings should be advertised on each ward of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams website. Councillors attend these meetings. Residents are encouraged to talk to their local policing team, discuss local crime and disorder concerns - and inform local priorities of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. The Panel discussed and shared their experience of the Ward Panel Meetings. It became apparent that these meetings were not being regularly timetabled, and they were also not well attended. There were issues too with residents being left to arrange and promote the meetings themselves. It was noted that these meetings were used by the Police as the main source of communication with residents and therefore there was a strong need for the Ward Panel Meetings to be strengthened as a tool of communication.
- Issues with the reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour to the relevant authorities was discussed. It was noted that there were areas of confusion amongst residents as to the definition of Anti-Social Behaviour. There were issues too as to the clarity of accountability for Anti-Social Behaviour – the police, housing providers, or multiple departments in the council (for example housing, noise nuisance, resident services or community safety). It was highlighted that clarification was urgently needed to avoid underreporting.
- It was noted that the Anti-Social Behaviour policy was currently under review and the Panel expressed a strong need for the Scrutiny Panels of all relevant areas of the council to be involved with the review of Anti-Social Behaviour – and for this to be built into the workplan. In addition, the Panel uncovered that guidance was needed for Councillors and residents as to where the relevant Anti-Social

Behaviour complaints should go and who was responsible. The Panel also considered how Anti-Social Behaviour was reported on the council website. It had been reported to Panel members that the Anti- Social Behaviour form was very difficult to find on the website and this may too lead to underreporting.

- Issues with 'Stop and Search' were also discussed. The effectiveness of 'Stop and Search' as a police tactic was considered at the meeting. Particular mention was made of the relatively low rate of success when carrying out 'Stop and Search' in comparison with the negative feeling it created in the community. It was decided in the meeting that the Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group and a representative from MOPAC's London Disproportionality Board, should be invited to a future Community Safety scrutiny session next municipal year, to discuss this in more depth.
- Youth projects and their impact on crime were showcased in the meetings and the Panel sought an understanding of the impact of the short-term nature of funding in the sector on projects supporting the lowering of crime in Haringey.

3.0 Recommendations to the Cabinet from the Scrutiny Panel, approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with the Officer response are set out below for approval by Cabinet in accordance with Part Four Section G paragraph vi.

- 3.1 The Panel recommends closer working, and better and more frequent communication between the Youth Council representatives and The Community Safety Partnership which is co-chaired by the Borough Commander and Cabinet Member for Communities and meets on a quarterly basis. The Cabinet Member for Communities is asked to work in partnership with the Borough Commander to consider how young people's views are built into policies and procedures for this partnership meeting as a matter of urgency.

Response: Agreed - We will look to invite a representative from the Youth Council to future Community Safety Partnerships (CSP). As part of the Haringey deal, young people's views are built into policies and procedures. However, further discussions will be taken to amplify this approach through the Youth Council.

- 3.2 The Panel asks the Cabinet Member for Communities to discuss with the Borough Commander the standardisation and regularisation of Ward Panel Meetings as a main tool of communication between Police, Council and residents.

Response: Agreed – I have discussed this recommendation with the Borough Commander. To ensure consistency, Ward Panel meetings follow a standardised governance and Handbook which is across the MPS. The meetings occur every 3 months booked in conjunction with the Ward Panel Chair. The Safer Neighbourhood team have now standardised their product that is presented at the Panels to ensure that all Ward Panels receive the same style and volume of information. This is extremely important to provide consistency in understanding

across the Borough, as well as ensure the high standard that we expect of the MPS.

- 3.3 That the Community Safety Team, through their existing communications channels and their assigned Council web pages, support residents find venues and help promote Ward Panel meetings.

Response: Agreed - The ward panels are promoted through a number of methods. Moving forward from July 2025, using the new communication platform from the MPS, "Met Engage", there would be potential to reach a wider audience. Venues are located in conjunction between the MPS and the Chair. We work closely with the MPS and partners to ensure well-placed locations, and this can be reviewed and updated where necessary.

- 3.4. For the Cabinet Member to request that the Borough Commander organise quarterly ward performance figures on Safer Neighbourhood Teams' (SNT) visibility and front-line police resourcing, for the proposed newly standardised Ward Panel Meetings. This is so that residents understand how many 'fit for duty' police officers are available.

Response: Agreed – I have discussed with the Borough Commander. Data is available from a central repository across the MPS for the abstractions of 'Dedicated Ward Officers' in Haringey. This can be manually sought providing data for each ward. While this data is not downloadable, it is achievable to be provided at Ward Panels for the manual completion of this task.

- 3.5 For the Cabinet to request that the Borough Commander provides quarterly ward by-ward Anti-Social Behaviour reporting to feed into the newly proposed standardised Ward Panel Meetings.

Response: Agreed – I have discussed with the Borough Commander. Data is available across the MPS for the levels and reported types of ASB in Haringey. This is being finalised to ensure an effective delivery of the product which will be fed into ward panels.

- 3.6 In line with the Panel's policy development role, it requests consultation in the upcoming review of the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Consultation should also be sought with the respective Scrutiny Panels of all other relevant Council departments dealing with Anti – Social Behaviour. In addition, and as a matter of urgency a guidance note for Councillors and residents outlining the definition of Anti-Social Behaviour - and a structure or flow chart for reporting Anti-Social Behaviour be made available. This should include all Council departments that deal with Anti-Social Behaviour.

Response: Agreed – We will share the draft Anti- Social Behaviour policy and Good Neighbourhood Management Policy with members of the relevant scrutiny panels.

The ASB policy includes the following definition from the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

‘Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person, or conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person’s occupation of residential premises, or conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person’

There are three different groupings of ASB:

- **Personal antisocial behaviour:** when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- **Nuisance antisocial behaviour:** when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- **Environmental antisocial behaviour:** when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

Changes to the website, e.g. ASB forms and reporting flow charts will be undertaken once the policies are agreed. The reporting processes will be included within Section 4 of the ASB policy.

- 3.7 Subsequent to the implementation of Recommendation 3.6, another recommendation is to make the online Anti-Social Behaviour form on the Council website more prominent and user friendly – perhaps basing design on user feedback.

Response: Agreed – We will look to improve the resident experience and journey by making the online ASB form on the Council website more prominent and user friendly taking into consideration user feedback, once the ASB policy has been agreed.

- 3.8 For the Cabinet to note that the Borough Commander has been asked about the proportion of successful outcomes in Haringey for ‘Stop and Search’ and further information on procedures and policy. This will come forward to a future meeting.

Response: Agreed – Noted. I am also very pleased to be able to report that Haringey Council's Children Service were recently recognised with a prestigious MJ Award for a pioneering project developed in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, aimed at protecting vulnerable young people across the borough. The initiative takes an innovative approach: using Stop and Search data not as a punitive tool, but as a gateway to early intervention. By identifying young people flagged in police encounters, the programme enables support services to step in swiftly offering help before harm occurs. The approach has potential for wider impact, offering a blueprint for how local authorities and police forces might work together to protect those most in need.

- 3.9 In light of the short-term nature of projects the Panel recommends that expertise within the voluntary sector be sought so that the Council have robust research, evidence and organisational support to successfully apply for longer term funding opportunities if they exist.

Response: Agreed – Expertise already exists through the Haringey Community Collaborative as the capacity building partner for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Haringey. This collaborative aims to strengthen the VCS, enable it to attract more external funding, and improve service delivery and assisting groups and organisations in finding funding opportunities and developing grant applications.