

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing 01/02/2010**  
**Cllr Nilgun Canver**  
**Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer**  
**Communities with a special responsibility for planning**  
**policy.**

## **Safer Communities**

### **Crime Performance**

The latest (April – 27<sup>th</sup> December) MPS weekly scorecard shows that we are set to exceed our target for serious acquisitive crime; a reduction of 9.3% has been achieved against a target of 1.4%. Recorded incidents of both gun and knife crime have reduced significantly since the beginning of the financial year.

Although there has been an increase of 20.6% in the number of serious violence offences recorded during the same period last year, this is an improvement from August 2009 when the increase was at its peak of 45.3%; due to gang related violence. The work to reduce serious violence will continue to be a key issue for the Partnership, some examples of current work are included below.

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT)**

The ASBAT currently has a 94% success rate of enforcement action following surveillance and a 97% rate on other legal proceedings to protect the community.

Some 140 parents have participated in the new parenting programme with no further enforcement action required.

The Haringey ASBAT Manager was picked to work alongside the Home Office on the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Squad (with 50 other professionals nationwide) to help bring expertise and good practice to areas that are failing to address ASB. Support has already been given to the London Borough of Waltham Forest to improve their ASB service.

An ASB delivery improvement plan (DIP) is currently being drafted in line with the new Government requirement as part of their ASB focus. This includes:

- The publication of local minimum standards
- Further support for victims and witnesses of ASB - in part through the recent appointment of Victim Support ASBAT worker to assist people through civil court procedures
- Tougher actions on ASBO breaches

The ASBAT has been working in primary schools (year 5 & 6), delivering ASB workshops to over 33 classes in 17 schools. Approximately 900 pupils completed the programme. Following additional funding received via the *Justice Seen*,

*Justice Done Campaign (Home Office)* further work is planned in secondary schools.

ASBAT enforcement rates to protect the community still remain high and well above the national average. Since 2003, the ASBAT has taken the following actions;

- 185 closure orders on crack houses
- 19 anti social behaviour orders
- 163 acceptable behaviour contracts
- 155 injunctions
- 40 evictions
- 12 brothel closures

Dangerous dogs are high on the ASBAT radar. So far, action has been taken against owners where the ASBAT has made application to the courts to force the removal of the dogs and preventing the resident keeping an animal.

### **Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme**

Haringey is a national pioneer borough for the above programme which has been running for nearly a year. There have been many early successes and Haringey has been praised by the Home Office for being 'ahead of the game'. The local achievements include: 30 local people trained as Community Crime Fighters; Delivery of Community Payback schemes of highest priority for residents; Appointment of the first ASB Victim and Witness Worker to assist with civil cases; Delivery of the Community Safety partnership newsletter to all households; Forthcoming Safer Communities Award Ceremony.

### **Community Safety Team**

The problem solving approach to residential burglary has been short-listed for a Safer London Problem Solving award. The winner will be announced on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This project took place during 2008/9 and involved target hardening of properties in key burglary hotspots. This work was independently evaluated and shown to be effective. The lessons learned from the evaluation have been used to improve the model and to replicate the key successes during 2009/10.

Haringey and Enfield are working together to address cross border violence and gangs issues. The local partnership group set up to address gang-related violence was expanded to include representatives from Enfield and a range of local partners ranging from the Police to the Benefits and Taxation Team. Over the past four months this group (known as the Gang Action Group) has been sharing information about individuals known to be involved in serious violence and identifying a lead agency for each individual and devising bespoke action plans to divert them from gang activity.

The key advantage of this partnership approach is that it offers: support, diversion and enforcement. The work of this group forms part of a joint action plan with Enfield which is closely monitored by senior officers from both borough's partnerships.

Haringey Amateur Boxing Club project continues its positive work and the two key Police officers behind the club are to receive MBEs, in recognition of the club's work in diverting young people from criminal activity.

### **Drug Alcohol Action Team**

The DAAT has exercised the two year extension option for the Stimulant Service (EBAN) contact. The Offender Management Scheme (incorporating DIP) tender has been successfully completed.

Young Persons Substance Misuse and the Adult Drugs 2010/11 Needs Assessments have been completed and have been used to develop the Adult and Young Peoples Treatment Plans. These are awaiting approval from the National Treatment Agency.

### **Emergency Planning**

The recent concerns regarding swine flu was appropriately and effectively dealt with by all departments across the Council with the Risk and Emergency Planning Steering Group leading on this. The Emergency Planning and Business continuity team has been providing the link between the London Local Authority Co-ordination Centre and Haringey Council ensuring critical work of the Council and emergency services is protected and enabled to continue with minimum disruption.

### **Youth Offending Service (YOS)**

Performance figures for the YOS continue to impress with a reduction in the numbers of young people entering the Youth Justice System. During Quarter 2, Haringey had only 86 entrants – well below the quarterly target of 106. In addition, the level of custodial sentences was favourably low compared with the caseload and with the performance of many other London Boroughs (reference: MPA charts). These have traditionally been areas of real challenge.

The weapons' awareness course is showing successful results. Working in partnership with the Red Cross, this course focuses on raising awareness among young people of the consequences of carrying a knife as well issues relating to peer pressure, the law, conflict resolution and attitudes. Recent group work evaluation indicated that only four people re-offended from a sample of 20. This represented a 20% re-offending rate compared with the normal rate of 36%.

## **KEY ISSUES**

### **Crime performance**

Performance in relation to acquisitive crime has been very good throughout 2009/10 and we are set to exceed our target. Sustaining this performance during 2010/11 will be a challenge for the Partnership.

During 2009/10 partners have worked well together to set up and maintain effective infrastructures to address serious violence. However, this chaotic crime type will continue to be a challenge during 2010/11.

### **Youth Offending Service**

There are concerns about the proportionality of the new sentencing framework and the likelihood of conditions attached to the orders being breached due to the expectations placed on the young person. This could, if widespread, increase the risk of custody for Haringey young people and lead to inappropriate targeting of resources. There is also a specific concern about the use of a range of conditions that can be attached to sentencing orders, especially where Haringey youths are sentenced outside the borough.

In anticipation of these types of issues Haringey YOS has introduced a new process (that commenced on 11/01/10) for the consideration of Pre-Sentence report sentencing proposals. Central to the process will be attention to issues such as diversity, proportionality and the effective management of risks posed to the community. This process will involve a wider range of YOS staff in the consideration of cases than was previously. It will be led by an appropriate manager and will enhance our current quality assurance procedure in relation to assessment.

## **EXAMPLES OF FORTHCOMING ACTIVITY**

### The Community Safety Awards

The awards will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at Alexandra Palace. There are 10 award categories recognising the important role that local people and organisations play in keeping Haringey safe.

### The Reducing Re-offending Conference

This event will bring together key players from the public, private and voluntary sector to contribute to the direction and take ownership of the Haringey Reducing Re-offending Programme (HARRP). The conference will also provide the opportunity for ongoing partnership working in the borough through the creation of a formal Haringey Reducing Re-offending Network (HARREN). The conference will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March from 9am-2pm at Alexandra Palace.

### My Safer Haringey Campaign

A high-profile safety awareness and crime prevention campaign will be running across the borough during February with key messages around anti-social behaviour, motor vehicle crime, domestic violence, residential burglary and Victim Support.

### PREVENT evaluation

During quarter four of 2009/10 an independent evaluation of the Preventing Violent Extremism programme and projects in Haringey will take place, commissioned by the PREVENT steering group. This evaluation will assist us in:

- Understanding the various communities' views of the PREVENT programme in Haringey
- Our performance on National Indicator 35: Building Resilience to Violent Extremism, to create a more robust evidence base to support our assessment against NI35
- Our reports to local PREVENT partnerships and Government Office for London
- Understanding what the needs are as we move towards mainstreaming this work
- Giving feedback to our funders and partners

The evaluation will be carried out in line with guidance published by DCLG and will be completed by mid March 2010.

#### Drug and Alcohol Action Team

An evaluation of the Sex Worker Migration Impact Fund project will be undertaken by a researcher from the Anthropology Department of Metropolitan University.

## **Enforcement**

### **Enforcement Achievements**

#### **Patrollers Conference**

A 'Patrollers Conference' was held in October at the Cypriot Centre in Wood Green. The event brought together staff from all of the different services that have a regular presence in Haringey's urban environment. Over 60 representatives attended from across Council and partner organisations to find out what other services do, establish and build networks, and identify ways that services could work together to maximise the effectiveness of our patrolling presence.

#### **Launch of Street Enforcement**

The Street Enforcement Service was launched in November with one named Officer being deployed to all wards in new Royal Blue uniforms. The service is now organised into two equal teams aligned to Children's Network Zones of South, and North and West. Street Enforcement Officers are now working to a rota system which ensures service cover through the weekend and up to 8pm Mondays to Fridays.

Each ward will have a set of six priorities that will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Each priority will have an associated set of actions which will form the main emphasis of the Street Enforcement Officer's work for that quarter. Priorities will be released in three tranches each quarter aligned to the children network areas.

## **Street litter Patrols**

Street Enforcement Services and Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams have carried out high visibility joint street litter enforcement patrols in specific areas that have significant pedestrian traffic and litter problems. Over a period of 12 weeks (July, August, September) Street Enforcement Officers supported by the Police undertook high visibility litter patrols. During these patrols 840 were challenged and twenty (20) received fixed penalty notices when they refused to place their litter in bins available. Litter enforcement will continue to be a priority for the service and we continue to deliver similar operations across the borough throughout 2010/11.

## **Clean Sweep Programme**

The Clean Sweep programme has been re-launched as part of the Council's new look 'My Cleaner Haringey' programme. Three out of the five planned Clean Sweeps have now taken place in the Gyratory Gardens area of Tottenham Green, the Haringay Ladders and the area around West Green Road. Furthermore, the proposed Clean Sweep in Seven Sisters is due to take place in the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> January and in St Ann's ward in the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> February. Activities during the different Clean Sweeps have included; community engagement activities such as raising awareness at local schools and involving local school children in activities such as litter picks, daily patrols of Street Enforcement Officers, activities to tackle dog fouling, cutting back overgrown foliage from vulnerable residents front gardens, providing community skips for residents to dispose of bulky waste as well as community bulb planting projects.

## **Animal Welfare and Scrutiny Recommendations**

In line with the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees report on Animal Welfare, a meeting of animal welfare stakeholders was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Attendees included representatives from the Metropolitan Police, local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Wood Green Animal Shelter, RSPCA, ASBAT, HfH Tenancy Management, HfH Estate Services, Street Enforcement, Licensing, Enforcement Response, Policy and Performance and Parks. The meeting focused on a number of areas of concern including dangerous and status dogs in Haringey. The Service Manager for Street Enforcement will act as local authority coordinator for joint enforcement and awareness raising operations.

## **Gambling Licensing**

We have reviewed our gambling policy and consulted on the changes which were adopted by full Council in December. The clustering of betting shops and adult gaming centres in Haringay Green Lanes, South Tottenham and Wood Green remain issues of concern and the council has continued to lobby

Government for a change in legislations and guidance to allow cumulative impact and saturation to be allowed as reasons for refusal of new applications. We await the published findings of a review of the issue by Department of Culture Media and Sport.

### **Planning Enforcement**

Planning enforcement continues to deliver strong enforcement activity and has maintained low numbers of open caseloads and has a full establishment of permanent planning enforcement officers. Performance indicators for the service show that it is responding quickly, closing cases early and maintaining high levels of enforcement activity. The current case load is 312 representing 78 open cases per officer.

### **Mortuary and Coroner's Court**

In September the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) confirmed the licence to operate of our new mortuary. Indications from the HTA are that they rate this new facility as one of the best of its type in the country.

North London's new Coroner's Court has now moved from Myddleton Road to its new location in Barnet. This new facility was officially opened October, and provides excellent facilities for the bereaved relatives and friends attending court hearings.

### **Noise Abatement Society Award**

The Enforcement Response Service was recognised by the Noise Abatement Society at its annual awards event. Haringey received the Local Authority Award for its enforcement of noise control and in particular its work with mental health.

### **Walkit.com**

Haringey's Commercial Environmental Health Team have made a successful bid for DEFRA funding to enable Haringey together with 3 neighbouring boroughs to sign up to [www.walkit.com](http://www.walkit.com)

[www.walkit.com](http://www.walkit.com) is an interactive journey planner designed to encourage and support walking as an alternative and low polluting form of transport. The tool allows the user to plan the fastest or lowest polluting walking route. It measures distance, estimates duration calorie burn and carbon saving. The benefits of encouraging walking range from improving the health and wellbeing of individuals, reducing obesity, encouraging behavioural change to contribute to a reduction in air pollution

### **Enforcement Challenges**

#### **Community Volunteer Service**

As from January 2010 the Enforcement service will be taking over effective management of the Community Volunteer (CV) Scheme. Currently we have 79 listed CVs representing all but one ward in the borough. All CVs were contacted over December by the newly deployed Street Enforcement Officer for their ward and during this year we will be looking at ways of strengthening how we support and develop the potential of scheme.

### **Stray Dogs and Responsible pet Ownership**

Over July December 2009 we identified a 15% increase in the number of stray dogs being accepted and collected as compared to 2008. Battersea Dogs Home, who take most of our dogs not returned to their owners, have also announced an increase their fees which will further add pressure to find ways of reducing the volume of dogs abandoned in Haringey.

In 2010 the Council will launch a major campaign to promote responsible dog ownership and to focus enforcement action on irresponsible owners. Issues to be included are dog fouling, fighting and the breeding and supply of dogs into the borough.

### **Environmental Crime Enforcement**

Over the last 3 years Haringey has been the most active London Borough for enforcement activity to combat fly tipping and environmental crime. This level of activity and the year on year reduction of reported fly tipping earned Haringey the performance ranking of being 'highly effective' against the fly tipping indicator NI 196. In the remainder of 2009/2010 the service will need to exceed last year's activity by at least 5% to retain this position.

### **Legal Spend and Recovery of Costs**

Enforcement activity this year, and particularly in relation to planning enforcement and environmental crime has been very high. Whilst the Council is normally successful in court, the courts remain poor at recovering costs awarded to the Council. In the case of planning enforcement appeals costs are never awarded to the council and this reflects a significant proportion of our planning enforcement spend. Enforcement activity is expected to remain high and the Council is working with our local court to ensure costs awarded to us are recovered and promptly as possible. Other options will include increased use of alternatives to prosecution such as the use of simple cautions and fixed penalty notices where appropriate.

### **Food safety and Regulatory Service Perception -National Indicators performance**

The service has set for itself two challenging targets against new national indicators. NI 182 measure satisfaction with regulatory services by traders, and NI 184 measures food safety compliance. Both measures are currently below our local target although both are reflecting good performance compared to other boroughs and improved performance from last year.



## **Enforcement Priorities**

In the remainder of 2009/2010 we will be prioritising

- Developing and delivery new street enforcement ward level action plans
- Cleanliness enforcement activity – in particular fly tipping, litter and dog fouling
- Development of a responsible dog ownership campaign
- Development of a responsible land; property; and trader initiative to promote positive behaviours
- Local air quality plan review and the delivery of a new plan to reduce air pollution
- Improved Food safety compliance – a focus on non compliant businesses and repeat offenders
- Understanding and improving perception of Enforcement services
- Introducing new arrangements to control and sanction infringements of alcohol licences.

## **Planning**

1. **The Replacement London Plan – Strategic Planning Policy**: Using a cross service officer working group and the Local Development Framework Cross Party Members Working Group, I have has coordinated a response to the new Draft Plan for London 2011-31, the Mayor's Draft Transport and Economic Development Strategies. These have been coordinated with the response from the North London Strategic Alliance. Cabinet receives a report on this issue on 26/1/10.
2. **Haringey's Local Development Framework – Local Planning Policy**: As chair of the LDF Members Group I have led the production of the Borough's new Plan 2011-26. Its Core Strategy (17 key policies) has been out to informal consultation over the last year and now it is proposed to agree the plan at 23/2 Cabinet for a final formal 6 week consultation period. The plan covers growth areas, housing, environment, economic development and town centre, design/conservation and safety, community facilities and open space.
3. **Corporate "Houses in Multiple Occupation and Conversions Working Party"**: I have supported two pilot projects on "managing change, housing and anti social/environment behaviour in St Ann's ward and Myddleton Rd", led by Cllr Adamou and Cllr Cooke This project is due to report in to a review of Corporate Strategies via a Cabinet Report March-June 2010
4. **North London Waste Plan 2011-21**: The Cabinet member has been the Borough's representative on the development of this plan that covers 7 North London Boroughs (Camden, Islington, Hackney, Waltham Forest, Enfield, Barnet, Haringey). The plan is assessing new levels of waste that North London will have to cope with over 10-15 and consulting and deciding on where any new waste management sites will be located, taking into account how waste should be managed. Final draft will go to the Nth London Councils in September 2010. Public consultation took place between October and December 2009