

Meeting: Safer Communities Executive Board

Date: 17 February 2011

Report Title: Safer Communities – Emerging Priorities and Future Interventions

Report of: Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Strategic Manager (in partnership with the DAAT, Police and Probation)

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

- To pick up on the reported issues from the annual data assessment and the developing Government priorities
- To stimulate debate about cross-cutting issues and future delivery

N.B. Final decisions about structures and resources have yet to be confirmed

2. Recommendations

- That the SCEB consider this paper for the development of an integrated and cross-cutting strategy, especially around entrenched and common locations and client groups
- That the SCEB consider the recommendations under point 6.1

3. Background

- 3.1 The Coalition Government is strongly committed to partnership work and has called for the continuation of three-year strategic partnership plans to prevent and reduce criminal offending, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and re-offending. It is a requirement that these plans be informed by annual strategic assessments, partner discussion and public consultation.
- 3.2 There is significant synergy across the various areas of community safety in terms of locations, vulnerability and a range of underlying causal factors. Examples include poor housing, lack of education and skills, unemployment, addiction, mental ill health, poverty and damaged family relationships. These are by their nature cross-cutting indicators and, therefore, of interest across the Haringey Strategic Partnership.

4. Headline findings (see attached presentation)

- 4.1 As a reminder for board members, the headline data from the latest crime assessment in Haringey is:

- The significant 7-year downward trend for recorded crime is already changing and will face further challenges
- Crime and disorder hotspots remain persistent and require long-term problem-solving. These include primarily Northumberland Park but also Tottenham Hale, Tottenham Green, Bruce Grove and Noel Park. This concentration impacts disproportionately on certain communities. Particular problems persist around transport hubs such as Seven Sisters and both main High Roads.
- Young male adults aged 18-24 continue to be a group of high concern, making up 40% of accused
- Male on female violence is increasing (inc. sexual violence, aggravated robbery, gang-related offending and those involved in the sex industry)
- Probation report high levels of domestic violence in the borough with a significant impact on children noted by Children's Services (proactive policing and increased reporting accounts only in part for this)
- Young people are disproportionately likely to be victims of crime and least likely to seek support

4.2 Examples of underlying factors (non exhaustive)

- Unemployment and barriers to employment (inc. skills deficits, lack of training, attitudinal issues and employer hesitancy) are paramount factors. This affects at least 60% of offenders and 20% of crime victims as well as a high proportion of problem drug users
- Lack of sustainable or suitable housing and the high numbers of 'hidden homeless'
- The concentration of social and environmental drivers such as dense social housing, transience; a lack of attachment to the local area, grime, drug hotspots, main transport hubs, gang-culture, family pressures, lack of facilities and concentrations of returning prisoners. These all come to a head in some areas, for example, Northumberland Park and require a systematic long-term planning view
- Non-statutory ex-prisoners report a lack of co-ordinated throughcare and insufficient support with practical hurdles
- The vast majority of problematic drug users are claiming work related benefits (estimated 7% of benefit claimants in Haringey). National research and local data show that the main barriers to employment are a lack of qualifications and training, criminal records and gaps in employment record, insufficient numeracy and literacy skills.

4.3 Neither the regional (London) nor national crime strategies have yet been announced. However, the London Crime Reduction Board has articulated three top priorities for the capital: Serious Violence; Violence against women and Reducing Re-offending.

5. Examples of proven interventions

5.1 Professional experience, academic research and programme monitoring indicate that the following types of intervention are proving themselves and should form a serious part of any invest-to-save discussions:

- Partnership working arrangements that combine knowledge, effective information sharing and problem-solving around common client groups and priorities (e.g. DAAT Partnership Board; DIP/PPO, Gang Action Group)
- Well informed and intelligence-led commissioning
- Early intervention, prevention and diversion through skilled and relevant case work (e.g. 'triage' scheme to divert young offenders from the Criminal Justice System; intensive intervention support to young people and parents (run through Catch 22); drug intervention project, rehabilitation brokers etc)
- Swift, effective and visible enforcement (police rapid response (Q-cars, injunctions, police priority crime team)
- Peer and user-led involvement (e.g. BUBIC). The DAAT has considerable experience and Probation is now prioritising this approach

5.2 These principles also hold for related areas such as Families into Work and many are standard practice in the health and social care arena.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That the actions below be considered – among others - in relation to delivering a more integrated and streamlined Safer for All strategy:

- Maximising all resources through joint tasking and problem-solving
- Prioritising early intervention and prevention
- A borough-wide focus on employability and employment creation
- Investigating the range of issues affecting young adults (18-24) – mostly male
- A holistic and long-term approach to persistent locations of multiple deprivation especially Northumberland Park
- Delivering an integrated offender management model
- Closer working with and through the private and voluntary sectors
- Promoting public self-reliance in crime prevention and crime reduction
- Enabling support for young and female victims of crime and their families
- Applying successful interventions and lessons learnt across the Haringey Strategic Partnership and in neighbouring boroughs, where relevant