

Meeting: Community Safety Partnership Board

Date: 19th March 2015

Report Title: Operation Shield and Gang Strategy update

Report of: Hazel Simmonds, London Borough of Haringey

1. Purpose of the report

This report is to update CSP members on Operation Shield and the Gangs Strategy.

2. State link(s) with Other Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies

- 2.1. Addressing the prevention and reduction of crime, the fear of crime, the harm caused by drugs and alcohol; anti-social behaviour and reducing re-offending are statutory duties and sit under Priority 3 of the Council's Corporate Plan. Preventing violent extremism is soon to become an additional statutory duty.
- 2.2. Partnership is at the heart of achieving outcomes and these priorities cut across all Council service areas. This links particularly closely with safeguarding, early help, regeneration and health & wellbeing priorities.

These issues remain top priorities for residents and young people in the borough.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Gang Violence Intervention (GVI) model was developed in the USA and has been implemented in Boston (Operation Ceasefire), Cincinnati (Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence) and several other USA cities. The model is a multiagency community led programme of focused deterrence and collective enforcement. The aim is to reduce group related violence and has had significant impact, including reductions in homicides and non-fatal shootings of between 35% – 60%.
- 3.2 One of the key elements is that the model is solely targeted at Gang Violence i.e. stabbing and shooting and not at wider gang enforcement, intervention and exit programmes – these continue as normal and remain just as valid.

4. Body of the report

GVI Model

The model is a problem-solving police strategy to reduce gang related violence in communities. It targets high-risk gangs and violent offenders combining aggressive law enforcement and prosecution with increasing public awareness and promotion of public safety.

The deterrence message is not a deal with gang members to stop violence, but a guarantee that violent behaviour will evoke an immediate and intense response. The tactics include execution of warrants, long sentences for chronic offenders, aggressive enforcement of probation restrictions and deployment of police enforcement powers.

The prevention strategy is centred on a communications campaign involving meetings with community groups and gang members. Everyone in the community is informed that gang violence will provoke a zero-tolerance approach and that only an end to gang violence will stop the gang-oriented suppression activities with promotion of community based exit pathways and support.

Operation Shield

The Met Police Specialist Crime Reduction Directorate and MOPAC have proposed that the Group Violence Intervention model, a multiagency, community led programme of focused deterrence that aims to reduce group related violence is piloted in each of the three priority boroughs including Haringey, Lambeth and Westminster. Hackney and Newham are participating as Control Borough's. The three pilot boroughs have consistently been identified by the MPS as high-risk locations with high levels of violence.

The model is based on the premise that a small number of individuals are responsible for the majority of serious violence and existing finite resources should be targeted at these high risk known groups. There are three key strands;

1. Consequences for Violence - identifying and focusing enforcement on those groups involved in the continuation of violent offences;
2. Community Voice - mobilising local communities and key members to reinforce key moral messages that violence will not be tolerated;
3. Help for those who ask - allowing individuals the opportunity to exit from the criminal lifestyle.

Timeframe

The initial preparation and planning has started in all three boroughs and will run through to March 2015.

The first 'Call In' will be in Lambeth in late March/early April 2015 as Trident are already on Borough and can implement the pre-enforcement element as part of their normal operations. This will be followed by Westminster in May/June and Haringey in late July /early August 2015. The Pilot will run until March 2016.

Preparation

MOPAC have produced a draft Operating Model, Partnership Agreement, Frequently Asked Questions and Communication Plan which are currently being finalised following consultation with the three Boroughs.

The model requires the commitment of a wide range of agencies including a broad range of :

Local Authority services, Haringey and Trident Specialist Police teams, Housing providers; DWP, Probation, Secure Estate, the voluntary sector, local communities etc.

A great deal of preparation is required to ensure that the borough is ready to deliver the model successfully and a Task and Finish Group has been set up to undertake the initial preparation and development work to set up the process for the wider enforcement processes, prepare the communications provision, gather partnership intelligence and to identify the community representatives and how we work with them. A Project Initiation Document has been drafted to support this process and delivery of the Pilot in Haringey.

Governance

A formal report will shortly be presented to the Council and Police senior leadership teams regarding the final Operating Model and Partnership Agreement, when this is agreed with MOPAC, and our proposed delivery model.

A presentation will also be made to the Leader and Cabinet Members seeking an endorsement for the proposals.

The Offender Management Board will provide the governance for the day to day implementation, reporting into the Community Safety Partnership.

Formal reports on the Shield Pilot will be made to London Crime Reduction Board Gangs Panel.

Gangs Strategy

The Strategy will link with the Corporate Plan and a number of strategies in place across the partnership for example the Community Safety Strategy, Mental Health Strategy and the Youth Strategy. It will also now take into account the Operation Shield Model, the findings from the Rotherham Child Sexual Exploitation case, Early Help and Prevention as well as the work of MAC UK.

It will follow the format of the Community Safety Strategy and Delivery Plan which has been held up as good practice. A task and Finish Group has been established and it is proposed that partners will be consulted on the first draft by the end of April/May.

It is proposed that over the next 10 years our priorities will include:

- Reduce re-offending by gang involved individuals
- Reduce impact of gang related crime

- Minimise harm caused
- Reduce serious youth violence
- Improve access to and engagement in ETE
- Improve access to settled accommodation
- Improve access to mental health services
- Better understand gang related sexual violence and exploitation
- Prevent young women from being exploited by gang members
- Prevent young people from becoming involved in gangs
- Disrupting gang offending

5. Recommendations

The report is for information.

6. Decisions/implications for the CSP

N/A

7. Next steps (if appropriate)

The Community Safety Partnership will be kept informed regarding Operation Shield and will be consulted on the 10 year Gang Strategy.