

**Meeting: Community Safety Partnership Board**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Report Title: Draft 10 year Gang Strategy update**

**Report of: Hazel Simmonds, London Borough of Haringey**

### **1. Purpose of the report**

This report is for CSP members to comment on the draft 10 year Gangs Strategy attached and to respond to the three bullet points under recommendations at point 5.

### **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. During the summer and autumn of 2014 a series of workshops and meetings took place which led to an agreement that a 10 year gang strategy should be produced. This is based on evidence that the 10 year strategy produced in Strathclyde has begun to see some significant reductions in gang related crime.

3.2. The publication of the strategy has been delayed by involvement in Operation Shield; however a draft version of the Strategy (attached) is presented for comments.

### **4. Body of the report**

4.1. The strategy is structured around 4 themes of prevention and early intervention, effective enforcement, community empowerment and intervention. The 'golden thread' throughout each of these themes is that services must work together effectively, particularly in terms of information exchange. The strategy will have a

long term lifespan (10years) reflecting the wider aspirations of the corporate strategic plans and regeneration of the borough with detailed short to medium term delivery plans. The strategy links to other existing strategies such as the Community Safety Strategy, Health and Well Being Framework and the Early Help Strategy. It is not intended to rewrite or produce new actions across the strategies but to ensure the strategies are interlinked.

- 4.2. The findings from the draft strategic assessment, MPS data, the integrated gangs unit and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment have all helped to inform the strategy.
- 4.3. Gang activity in Haringey has been a long term problem but the pattern and make up changes. Patterns of offending have changed over the last three years. The borough has observed an increase in individuals travelling outside of London to sell drugs and open up new drug markets
- 4.4. The Integrated Gang Unit Manager and Deputy Head of SEN and Disabilities have worked together to examine the prevalence of disability within the gang affected population. This research was instigated following attendance at the LSCB Disabled Children's Policy and Practice Sub-group and the range of questions posed by members of the group. There is a 22% prevalence of SEN need / Educational Psychologist history observed in the gang involved cohort.
- 4.5. The MPS Public Attitude Survey shows a rising perception of gangs being a problem in Haringey from 16% to 22% in December 2014.
- 4.6. As part of a recent sift of the matrix partner agencies went through the list and confirmed whether each individual was known to their services. It is worth knowing that of the 15 -19 year olds on the matrix 88% are Black Caribbean or Black African (this excludes individuals with unknown or blank entries for ethnicity).
- 4.7. The draft sets out a vision:

To prevent and reduce gang related crime through a change or challenge approach

Minimising the harm caused by gangs is our priority specifically violence reduction and prevention. This includes addressing the sexual exploitation of young women by gangs
- 4.8. Over the next 10 years the strategy suggests key priorities which link across to other partnership documents therefore reducing the risk of duplication and ensuring smarter working to achieve the outcomes.
- 4.9. Based on the disproportionate representation of young black men in the criminal justice system, in school exclusions and mental health, the Community Safety Partnership is asked to consider whether one of the priorities should be to reduce the number of black young men entering the criminal justice system.

## **5. Recommendations**

The attached document is for Board Members to:

- Endorse the direction of the draft strategy
- Comment on what their respective agencies can bring to bear on this area of responsibility and the proposed outcomes

- Specifically consider whether one of the priorities should relate to the over-representation of young black men.

**6. Decisions/implications for the CSP**

N/A

**7. Next steps (if appropriate)**

Once the comments of the Partnership have been taken on board the draft strategy will be circulated for wider comments. The final strategy will be signed off by the partnership at its September meeting.