

**Report for:** Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

**Item number:**

**Title:** Community engagement and confidence activity by the Community Safety Partnership

**Report authorised by :** Stephen McDonnell, AD Environment and Community Safety

**Lead Officer:** **Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Strategic Manager**

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/**

**Non Key Decision:** Non key-decision

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

**1.1** This item outlines the current priority work being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership to engage with local communities and raise confidence. A summary of this work is outlined in section 6 and Appendix 1. This area of work supports principles within both the Corporate Plan and the Haringey Community Safety Strategy 2013 – 2017.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

**2.1** Confidence in policing and in the activity of partners as a whole is of utmost importance for both the legitimacy and effectiveness of our joint work. As a consequence, the Community Safety Partnership regularly monitors trends and changes in reported confidence levels and perceptions of cohesion.

**2.2** The consolidation of the Haringey Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) under an elected, independent Chair (Headteacher of Gladesmore School) has made a positive difference to the level of accountability from community leaders and has improved our reach into the networks of all SNB members.

**2.3** Some excellent engagement work is being done with our partners, for example, in priority wards, in education settings and in our high roads. However, with the resource constraints on services, I believe that the interventions of the CSP and its partners must be seen within the broader corporate effort around community engagement and resilience.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Panel note the partnership confidence plan at Appendix 1. Progress to date is indicated in the right-hand column and was reported to the CSP board in October 2015.
- 3.2 That the Panel note a summary of related and exemplary work in section 6 below,

### **4. Reasons for decision**

n/a

### **5. Alternative options considered**

n/a

### **6. Summary information**

- 6.1 The CSP's principal engagement activity is contained within the attached delivery plan for Outcome 1 of the Community Safety Strategy (App 1). The elements include work on the following. Officers will expand on this at the Panel meeting:
- Communications
  - Joint work in priority neighbourhoods and high streets including development of Business Crime Reduction Partnerships
  - Working with communities specifically affected by crime types (e.g. extremism, young people and domestic violence)
  - Enhanced victim support
- 6.2 A large part of this work is now being addressed within a monthly partnership Tasking meeting, co-chaired by the police Det Supt and the Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services.
- 6.3 Further work is being delivered or developed by specialist Lead Officers reporting to the Community Safety Partnership. This includes the work of violence against women and girls and that of preventing extremist activity and hate crime. Examples are given in 6.4 and 6.5
- 6.4 The programme of work for violence against women and girls contains the following actions that relate to engagement and confidence:
- Development of a new strategy with direct involvement from service users, specialist frontline providers and relevant community representatives
  - New investment in Independent Domestic Violence advocacy
  - Implementing a male victims pilot in Heathstone
  - Training and working with GP services in Haringey to identify, refer and support victims of domestic violence

- Commissioning tried and tested intervention programmes for perpetrators to enhance the confidence of victims

- 6.5 Community engagement and community support is key to the successful and proportionate implementation of the Prevent agenda in Haringey. Regular dialogue on Prevent related issues is undertaken with key communities which are represented by the following bodies Haringey Muslim Network (HMN), the Kurdish Community Centre (KCC) and Kurdish Advice Centre (KAC).
- 6.6 Dialogue with the above communities has enabled us to have honest and open discussions about the impact of extremism and radicalisation and for the local authority and community safety partners to gain a greater understanding of the impact of community tensions both internationally and locally. In 2015-16 the focus of discussions has been how to safeguard individuals from travelling to conflict zones and supporting those who return. This year, Haringey is also supporting the delivery of an online awareness programme to mothers and the roll out of digital resilience in schools.
- 6.7 In relation to hate crime, a programme of both short and medium to long term work is underway. In response to recent, high-profile incidents, Council and police officers are jointly holding reassurance meetings and disseminating resource packs. For the longer term, data and intelligence analysts are working together to better understand the local picture and to benchmark with other boroughs. A renewed approach to third party reporting is planned.
- 6.8 Engagement and confidence building is at the heart of priority police work in key neighbourhoods. Council officers from community safety, housing and regeneration are working closely with the police on a new approach to safety, increasing reporting and skills building in 6 high crime wards (see App 2 for an example). Additional leafleting is being prioritised for the west of the borough. There is also close collaboration to reduce violence with injury occurring in public places and the SOS bus will be redeployed in agreed locations with back up from health partners.

## **7. Background information**

See point 8 below

## **8. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 8.1 The CSP approach to community engagement was agreed as part of six outcomes under the Community Safety Strategy 2013 – 2017. The six outcomes followed a thorough strategic assessment which considered data and public attitude surveys.
- 8.2 This strand supports the Corporate Plan's ambition to develop a more mature approach to working with communities and their representatives to foster joint responsibility, create new opportunities and strengthen resilience for the longer term.

8.3 Community Safety staff are working closer than ever with colleagues who have safeguarding responsibilities to prevent and reduce harm and to ensure that statutory duties are jointly addressed. Recent examples include child sexual exploitation, the new PREVENT duty and the Care Act.

8.4 Haringey works closely with MOPAC and the Home Office to meet regional and national priorities.

**9. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

**Finance and Procurement**

n/a

**Legal services**

n/a

**Equalities**

There is an inherent impact on equalities of much of our community safety work and this is presented and discussed at the Community Safety Partnership meetings. This includes the peak age of offending being between 16 and 24; a very high percentage of young black males (mostly of African-Caribbean origin) involved in gangs (88%); the impact of domestic and sexual violence on women and girls; high residential burglaries occurring in areas of deprivation; and vulnerable individuals and communities becoming victims of hate crime.

The area-based programme which the police and council are running jointly supports increased safety and prevention in the most vulnerable wards.

Community Safety staff are in discussion with the Head of Communications to better target awareness and prevention messages to postcode levels through the new digital messaging service.

**10. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1: Community Safety Delivery Plan – Outcome 1: Increasing confidence

**11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**