

REPORT OF CABINET

FULL COUNCIL 15 July 2019

Cabinet Member Communities and Equalities

INTRODUCTION

The Cabinet considered the attached report, strategy and action plan which sets out the partnership approach and priorities to achieving a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in Haringey up to 2023.

The Community Safety Strategy is a Policy Framework Strategy, as set out in Part three Section B, paragraph 2 a(iii). It is a constitutional requirement that Full Council approve the Community Safety Strategy. Part 4 Section 2[Developing Budget and Policy Framework] of the Constitution advises that Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet will develop budget and policy framework proposals and recommend these to full council for adoption.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

We noted that the corporate response was at the heart of the strategy, which considered all of the Council's areas of powers in order to achieve the priorities. This involved considering ways of planning out crime including particular trades and licenses and working with wider partners such as health, education and the police. We agreed the importance of having a civic community response to tackling crime and in particular youth violence was vital.

We considered the six outcome areas to be focused on, in the strategy, and noted the activities to be taken forward, which were as follows:

- Targeting police resources at violent hotspots - this had received a positive reception from the new community borough commander and work was underway to ensure that there was a visible police presence in these areas at key times on the day.
- Stafford Scott would be commissioned to take forward a mediation role with young people potentially involved in gang retribution. A scoping paper was being compiled on this planned role and it was likely that the mediation work would take place at a local community centre.
- Increasing the confidence of young women to report sexual offences. This needed a greater focus on attitudes and behaviour of young men.
- There would be a seminar in the autumn on exploitation and reducing the criminalisation of children.

We acknowledged the concerns from scrutiny panel on current levels of public confidence for the borough tackling crime; this needed to be addressed but there would not be overnight change. Assurance was provided that the Council and

partners were focused on increasing public confidence together with acknowledging the issues behind the survey findings such as the historical negative experiences in the community with stop and search. We noted that there would be themed meetings with officers going through the data, looking at how policy changes have been implemented and communicated across the borough.

We agreed with the ongoing need to tackle anti-social behaviour which was a battle with the reduction of resources. We further agreed the need to reduce re-offending by supporting initiatives that work. We noted that the UK had the worst record in Western Europe on re-offending which demonstrated the urgent need for better support when prisoners were leaving prison. There was some good working initiatives to replicate for offenders leaving prison. We welcomed the Home Office decision to bring the Probation service back in house.

In response to questions from Councillors at the cabinet meeting we noted:

- That there was an issue to tackle with under age sale of alcohol in the borough and its connection to crime. The Assistant Director for Stronger Communities referred to the number of other strategies, including enforcement, which would be contributing to the delivering the priorities of the Community Safety Strategy. There was also a Haringey Stat meeting being organised to explore the impact of alcohol on offending.
- The current national stance on tackling knife crime, which was having more 'stop and search'. We noted that this was not the full answer to this issue and austerity had had an impact on the recent increases of knife crime. At regional level there has some engagement at City Hall and the recommendation from the Scrutiny Panel to meet with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, as well as with the Head of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) at MOPAC would be taken forward.
- In discussion on young people's involvement in crime, that often young people were drawn into this situation through fear and coercion and there were more ruthless methods at play. We noted how staff in Children's services had been to coastal towns and were seeing these issues, first hand, where young vulnerable people were being targeted. In the main, poverty and ruthless criminals working in more organised crime drove this situation occurring. We noted that it would be useful to refer to the Young People at Risk strategy which focussed on the complex issues around stabbings and the complicated menu of issues at play when these situations occurred.
- That in relation to performance monitoring, the Community Safety Partnership would monitor the strategy on a yearly basis.
- That Scrutiny's input and future review of the strategy was welcome

- That schools had a critical role to play in tackling exclusions .The safety net provided by schools in terms of pastoral support and after school care was suffering following the consistent funding cuts.
- That too many women were imprisoned and this situation had not improved over the last 10 years. There was a link between the care system and people going into care and big impact locally.
- There was a need for properly funded services to support initiatives and there was, currently, not the level of resource funding from the government that was required. There had been a lot of focus enforcement related activities but there equally needed to be prevention services funded by government as ultimately these services would save the local authorities money in the long run.
- Accountability between partners was a strong priority and there was a good culture of challenge. In terms of getting wider trust from the community, this included getting community organisations involved and, crucially, community advocacy working with young people and families and advocating on their behalf, as this will support better outcomes.
- There were monthly monitoring meetings with partners considering current data on criminal activities where ward and area specific issues were looked at.
- The levels of community confidence in policing, and that this was part of the London pattern and not Haringey specific issues. There had also been regional discussion on this. It was also noted that the significant reductions in safer neighbourhood policing and the lack of more visible policing on the street was a factor. The Council and partners would be working hard to address this issue.
- With regards to ensuring achievement of the strategy outcomes, this could only be achieved through a whole system approach with partners to tackle the response.
- That hate crime had to be addressed and at the last meeting with the borough commander there had been consideration of case studies to understand some current issues and challenge the process. The Council were further working with partners in a specific hate crime delivery group police, which included strategic lead and Homes for Haringey and senior police officers.

- The increase in the reporting of crime should not be seen fully in a negative light, as it was important for crimes to be reported so that appropriate resources and focus in a policy area could be taken forward.

WE RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

Approval of the Community Safety Strategy 2019-23 attached at Appendix 2, having regard to the Community Safety Strategy Equality Impact Assessment at Appendix 3.