

CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT, 2015/16

INTRODUCTION

This report is the annual report of the Sub-Committee, summarising our activities during its year of operation ending May 2016. This report will stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable members and others to have a record of the Committee's activities and performance.

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Ian de Wulverton (Chairman)
Councillor David Durant (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ray Best
Councillor John Mylod
Councillor Garry Pain
Councillor Linda Van den Hende

During the year under review, the Sub-Committee met on 4 occasions and dealt with the following issues:.

1. Transforming Rehabilitation

With effect from 1 June 2014, the services provided by the London Probation Trust had been divided between two new organisations. The National Probation Service would deal with major risks and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) would work closely with all other offenders.

The National Probation Service unit covering Havering would also cover Barking & Dagenham, and Redbridge. Initially the team had been allocated 1,500 cases the majority of which would be managed in custody.

The local CRC covered both Havering and Barking and Dagenham. The CRC would be run as a separate Company and MTCnovo became the new owner of the London CRC on 2nd February 2015. MTCnovo was essentially a joint venture between MTC and Amey, in partnership with third, public and private sector partners.

The Sub-Committee had received an update on the work of the London Community Rehabilitation Company in July. The big change introduced by MTCnovo had been the introduction of a new operating model which included working with offenders in cohorts. These cohorts were:

- 18-25 year old males;
- 26-49 year old males;
- 50+ males;

- Women;
- Mental health and intellectual disabilities (as the primary presenting need);
- Community payback remained as a distinct service delivery arm.

2. Work in Partnership with the Police

The Sub-Committee had looked at the issue of search warrants. They had been assured that the changes in the Magistrates Court had not had an adverse effect on the local police. In a normal week 5 to 6 warrants would be obtained, mainly in respect of drugs.

MOPAC had set the Metropolitan Police seven targets to achieve over a four year period ending march 2016. Operation Omega had had a significant effect on the borough with violent crime reducing in Romford Town Centre. The one constant in previous years had been the effect of the We R Festival on Theft from Person. Improved policing at the festival had reduced the numbers of reported crimes from 100 to 26.

An increase in domestic violence had been noted.

Crime figures for the Christmas and New Year period had been down, and a contributor to this had been the increased use of Section 35 notices with 180 being issued in October, November and December.

3. Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

The Sub-Committee were advised that there had been a 12.4% rise in reported and recorded incidents in 2015/16. This had included 306 additional domestic incidents and 231 domestic crimes.

Referrals to MARAC had also increased over the same time period. Whilst Havering's arrest rate had been one of the worst in London, their successful prosecution rate was the highest (80% compared to an average of 65% across London).

The Metropolitan Police had launched Operation Dauntless targeting prolific offenders to act a deterrent.

4. Reducing Re-Offending Strategy

The Havering Community Safety Partnership had created a Reducing Re-Offending Board which was supported by three Panels, Integrated Offender Management, Serious Youth Violence and Drug Intervention Project.

The sub-committee had been advised that:

- The total socio-economic cost of crime in Havering in the last 12 months had been £100,171,414;
- There had been 15,845 recorded crimes in that same time period;

- Of those 15,845 crimes just 20.3% had been detected by the police; and
- Out of those 3,141 offences which had been detected only 2,544 individuals had been accused.

The Sub-Committee had concurred with the concept that there must be consequences for breaking the law and supported the reforms pointed out in the 'Breaking the Cycle' proposal that had insisted there must be a better deal for victims.

Officers had undertaken an assessment of the Adult Offenders which had revealed:

- 85.1% of offenders were male. However, Havering had the highest proportion of female offenders in London;
- 63.9% of offenders were aged between 26 -49;
- Havering had the second highest proportion of 21-25 year old offenders in London (Havering 18.6%, average 16.3%);
- Violence against the person was the most frequent offence (29.7%) and accounted for half of the 2014 socio-economic costs £55,460,640;
- Almost 1/5th of known offenders who had committed crime in Havering had been from Barking and Dagenham; and
- Havering had the highest percentage of burglars of all London Boroughs testing positive for cocaine, more than one and a half times the regional average (27.3% compared to 15.3%).

The Sub-Committee would be reviewing regularly the work of these Panels to see what progress was being made.

5. **Youth Offending Service**

In December 2014 the Council had taken back in-house the provision of the Youth Offending Service. In that time significant progress had taken place improving the outcomes for the recipients of the service. A recent inspection had identified a number of key strengths identified, including effective assessments of offending behaviour and risk of harm to other, as there were established links and joint working with the police and community safety. Parents/ carers were fully involved in assessment and planning, and were seen as being a central support to the child or young person; case managers' detailed knowledge of barriers to working with the YOS and individual preferences of children and young people had led to effective compliance and engagement; children and young people having access to a range of specialist service including substance misuse, emotional and mental health and mentoring.

Across London the case load had become more complex, with Havering having 28% reoffending rate, low compared to our neighbours statistically.

The Sub-Committee would continue to scrutinise the work of the Youth Offending Service to check that progress was still being made.

7. Serious Youth Violence

Havering had the fourth highest increase in London for Serious Youth Violence in 2014/15. They were also the 10th Highest volume of firearms discharged, although this had included air rifles.

Of greater concern was the increase in knife crime resulting in injury, with 65 victims in 2014/15.

Partners were investing a lot of time and resources to tackle these issues. In recent years Havering has seen an influx of gang members from other London Boroughs, 52 young people in Havering were being monitored on a regular basis, as being gang affected or gang active. Of these 20 nominals had appeared on the Trident Gang Matrix.

The Sub-Committee would be regularly monitoring activity to ensure the problem was being managed successfully.

8. Imprisonment of those with Mental Health issues

The Sub-Committee had identified the treatment of those offenders with mental health issues was an area which deserved to be scrutinised. Over the year members have met with different agencies to identify the specific points of contact and how agencies worked together to ensure those offenders with mental health issues were dealt with correctly.

The Topic Group has met on six occasions meeting representatives from the Metropolitan Police, Youth Offending Service, NELFT, National probation Service, London Community Rehabilitation Company, CCG, Public Health and NHS England to gain a sense of the roles played by the individual Partners and assess how well they work together and identify any areas of concern.

The Topic Group will be meeting on one further occasion to pull everything together and hear how other agencies deal with these offenders.

9. Other Areas covered

The Sub-Committee had also received reports on:

- The information available from the MOPAC dashboards,
- Performance indicators
- Psychoactive Substances Bill;
- Drug Misuse and Alcohol Strategies;
- The Annual Prevent Plan;
- Parking Across Residential Driveways; and
- An update on the latest Strategic Assessment.

The work plan for 2016/17 would reflect the priorities identified in the Strategic Assessment.

10. Town Centre Visit

Back in September 2015 the Chairman and Councillor Best spent an evening with the Metropolitan Police touring Romford Town Centre.

The evening had been incident packed with a heavy police presence. The opportunity had been taken to see how the ID scanners work and staff at one of the venues demonstrated this and ran through the benefits for both the venue and crime prevention.

Whilst visiting the Goose Public House and talking to the security staff those on the visit were able to see the police in action attempting to calm down a potentially explosive incident. On this occasion the suspect lost control and threw a punch at a police officer. He was taken into custody and taken to Romford Station. This simple action took three officers away from the Town Centre for approximately 45 minutes.

The Police were busy heading off potential trouble handing out section 35 notices. Towards the end of the evening another serious incident outside Fiction was headed off by the prompt action of the police. On this occasion the suspect was released once he had calmed down.

11. Delivering Integrated Mental Health Care in The Criminal Justice System

On 10 November 2015 the Chairman attended a conference dealing with the above. The theme of the conference fitted well with the work of the Topic group. Speakers at the conference were constant in their belief that the Bradley report: 'Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system', published in April 2009 was one of the most important documents published in the last twenty years regarding the treatment of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system.

One area of concern at the conference and in the work of the Topic Group was the failure to take full advantage of Mental Health Referral orders by the courts. The reason being the failure to provide adequate reports through in adequate staffing.

Councillor Ian de Wulverton
Chairman

