

CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT, 2014/15

INTRODUCTION

This report is the annual report of the Sub-Committee, summarising our activities during its year of operation ending May 2015. 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 David Durant (Chairman)
Councillor John Wood (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor John Glanville
Councillor Garry Pain
Councillor Dilip Patel
Councillor Linda Van den Hende

During the year under review, the Sub-Committee met on 5 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 would be scrutinising the work of the new company in July.

2. Community Payback

Back in September the Sub-Committee had received details of the work of the SERCO Community Payback Team in Havering. In April 2,307 hours had been

delivered and 1,535 hours in May. The Community Payback team were working with StreetCare, Havering Homes and a number of schools. .

At its meeting on 22 April the Sub-Committee received a report from Housing Services on the work being undertaken on their behalf. The Sub-Committee had concerns that Housing's arrangements with SERCO were different to Streetcare and other sections of Culture and Leisure. Officers were asked to liaise with their colleagues to ensure a consistent approach to working methods.

3. Rotherham

Following the revelations of the problems in Rotherham, the Sub-Committee had sought an assurance from the police that we would not face a similar problem in Havering. The sub-committee heard of the steps taken locally and London wide to prevent a similar occurrence in London.

Havering was one of the first boroughs to introduce the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and recently had combined the adult and children's MASHs to ensure an even greater integration. Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings had been introduced targeting young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

The police had indicated that they had no evidence locally that any one group was targeting another, but they were aware of a number of young females who were associated with gangs. The police and partners were working together to ensure these females were not sexually exploited.

Frequently missing persons were targeted by the police who met every day to identify these persons with priority given to finding them. London wide the Police were contacting all hotels, licensed premises and cab companies asking them to keep an eye open for any pattern which might indicate sexual exploitation of young people.

4. Body Cameras

The Borough Commander had advised that his force had received 52 body cameras. Whilst it was early days officers had found that, the use of cameras tended to calm people down. It was explained to people that the camera footage would be used in evidence. One of the outcomes was a decrease in complaints against officers.

When a victim was interviewed, an officer would turn off the camera if the person did not wish to be recorded. Unless required as evidence in a criminal proceeding the recording was stored for 31 days then destroyed.

5. MOPAC Targets

We have received regular reports on crime within the borough. The borough's targets, in seven priority crime types, had been set by the Mayor of London, these were:

MOPAC 7	Target	Status
Burglary	2320	On target
Criminal Damage	1471	Off target
Robbery	399	On target
Theft From Motor Vehicle	1288	On target
Theft of Motor Vehicle	764	On target
Theft person	250	Off target
Violence with Injury (VWI)	1158	Off target
TOTAL MOPAC	7650	On target

The Police had indicated that they were confident they could achieve the target for Criminal Damage. The situation with Theft Person and Violence with Injury was different. The target for Theft Person had been set before the first of the We 'R' Festivals. Each year the number of Theft persons on the weekend was sufficient to ensure it was impossible to meet the target.

The Police and partners had introduced a number of initiatives to tackle the problem of burglary, including the Safety Zone Initiatives. Monitoring of the effect of the Safety Zone initiatives had shown a reduction of 68.2% in burglary in the areas the subject of a Safety Zone initiative with neighbouring streets seeing a reduction of 44%.

6. Strategic Assessment

At the beginning of the year the Sub-Committee received a presentation on the findings from the Strategic Assessment. In the eleven years ending March 2013 the borough had seen a fall in the number of Notifiable offences from a high of 22,165 in 2003/4 to 16,438 in 2012/13. Long-term trends indicated that violence during the night-time economy, serious youth violence, weapon enabled crime and robbery were declining.

Whilst rates of alcohol related crimes had risen over the previous five years, in contrast to the national and regional trend, alcohol related violence, associated with the night-time economy had fallen.

For 2014/15 the Havering Community Safety Partnership had adopted the following strategic priorities and cross cutting themes:

- Strategic Priorities
 - Serious Acquisitive Crime (Burglary Dwelling and Vehicle Crime)
 - Violence against Women & Girls (includes Domestic and Sexual Violence)
 - Town Centres and Public Spaces

- Cross Cutting Themes
 - Community engagement and public confidence
 - Managing Offenders in the community.

In February 2015 the sub-committee revisited the Strategic Assessment to review progress made in the last 12 months and to consider the priority areas adopted by the Havering Community Safety partnership for 2015/16.

Amongst the highlights for the year were:

- The largest reduction in burglary in over a decade;
- Rates of crime in Romford Town Centre fallen below that of comparable centres, i.e. Bromley, Kingston and Sutton;
- Romford having the fastest declining rate of violence within the night-time economy of all regional centres;
- First borough to develop a Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Taking in to account all the information available to it the Havering Community Safety Partnership had agreed the following priority areas for 2015/16:

1. Protecting vulnerable individuals/victims;
2. Supporting the most prolific and/or high risk offenders;
3. Creating safer locations; and
4. Community Engagement and public confidence.

7. Youth Offending Service

Back in September concerns had been raised with the Sub-Committee concerning the way Barking and Dagenham had provided the borough's Youth Offending Service since October 2012. The main area of concern had been the management of the process of Referral Orders.

Details of the way the process should have been managed were provided with a volunteer panel member explaining what had been happening in reality. Officers admitted to the Sub-Committee that Barking and Dagenham had failed to provide adequate resources to ensure that the Referral Order process had worked process. Bringing the service back in-house provided the opportunity to rectify these failings and steps were already being taken to address all the issues.

On 22 April 2015 the Sub-Committee received an update from officers. They were pleased to note that the issues with the referral process had been addressed and more volunteers recruited and trained. The success of the decision to bring the service back in-house had been shown when the Ministry of Justice visited and complemented the service on its achievements and the innovative approach of sitting the service in the Early Years Team

The service was facing challenges with young people with problems being

relocated into the borough, but the service was in a good position to cope with these challenges.

8. Domestic Violence

In September 2013 recommendations had been submitted to the Cabinet as to ways the needs of the victims of Domestic Violence could be met. The main areas of concern were to ensure greater co-ordination between housing and education and to see how the new allocations scheme was working.

Officers advised the sub-committee of the ways those experiencing Domestic Violence could be helped under the new scheme. In the last 12 months one person had been rehoused under the terms of the East London Reciprocal Protocol and 18 where the main reason for homelessness was Domestic Violence.

The key issues with regard to taking into account school places was the need to balance:

- The need of the household to move to a place of safety, most typically away from their current location, with
- The availability of council stock, most of which is in Harold Hill, Romford/Collier Row and Elm Park.

The Sub-Committee were pleased to note that the liaison between Homes and Housing and Children and Learning was working well.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour

The sub-committee received a detailed briefing on the powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Disorder Act 2014. Anti-Social Behaviour was defined in the act as:

- Conduct the HAS caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to ANY person;
- Conduct CAPABLE of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's OCCUPATION of RESIDENTIAL premises;
- Conduct CAPABLE of causing HOUSING-RELATED nuisance or annoyance to ANY person.

The various tools available to the Council and its partners were:

- Community Trigger;
- Community Remedy;
- Civil Injunction;
- Criminal Behaviour Orders;
- Dispersal Powers;
- Community protection Notices;
- Public Space Protection Orders;

- Closure of premises associated with nuisance or disorder, etc.

For tenants of local authorities or social landlords the changes were even more restrictive. A tenant could be evicted because of the actions of either themselves or their visitors.

The sub-committee recommended that all councillors should receive the briefing on these new powers.

10. MOPAC Funding

We were advised that for 2014/15 the Havering Community Partnership had received £228,400 in funding from MOPAC. This funding would continue for three years. The following projects had been funded:

1. Street Triage - £30,000;
2. Improving Support for Domestic Abuse - £70,000;
3. Rent Deposit Scheme for offenders - £32,400; and
4. Gangs Prevention - £96,000.

The Council had been successful in renegotiating the projects selected for funding to enable the council and its partners to tackle the problem of gangs within the borough. To deal with the issue before it escalates.

All four projects were performing as required.

11. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

The newly elected Chairman of the Safer Neighbourhood Board attended a meeting of the Sub-Committee to discuss progress since the Board's creation. A priority for the Safer Neighbourhood Board was to reinvigorate the work of the Ward Panels. There was need to get local people involved and determining local priorities.

Havering's Safer neighbourhood Board had been the first to receive approval for their funding from MOPAC . The Board would be challenging both the Metropolitan Police and MOPAC.

The Chairman of the Board reminded the sub-committee that the Board was answerable to MOPAC not the Council but he would be happy to keep the sub-committee advised of progress.

12. TOWN CENTRE VISIT

On the night of 3 April Councillor Linda Van den Hende and two officers visited Romford Town Centre to assess how the various initiatives were working to reduce the impact of crime and disorder. We were well looked after by the police and spent an interesting 4 hours plus meeting door staff, the street pastors and St John's ambulance. We were taken over to Hornchurch to see what was happening their but

spent most of the night in Romford.

Two years ago just one of the venues had introduced the ID scanner, now most of the larger venues had introduced this innovation. Feedback from the venues was positive as to the benefits of this machine.

Since the previous visit the Licensing Sub-Committee had undertaken a review of one of the premises which had led to its closure. This made it easier for the police to concentrate their resources along South Street.

13. CASHLESS BUSES

A representative of Transport for London (Tfl) attended the meeting on 22 April to advise the Sub-Committee on the effects of the introduction of cashless buses on crime and disorder. The decision to introduce cashless buses had been implemented in July 2014. For Tfl the decision had taken away two danger points. First neither drivers nor Revenue Protection Officers carried cash and therefore were not a target for robbery. Secondly they was no longer a reason to collect cash from the depots and transport it to the bank.

The Sub-Committees concern was that drivers might be subject to attack if they turned customers away who did not have a oyster card or sufficient credit and that those persons turned away could be vulnerable. According to TFL there had been no increase in attacks on staff nor was there any evidence to show customers had been put at risk.

Tfl had introduced a Vulnerable Persons protocol to ensure no vulnerable person was denied passage.

14. Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Back in November the Sub-Committee received a report on the work of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Ward Panels. At that time, a senior officer had completed a review into neighbourhood policing. The findings of the first phase of the review had recently been published. These were considered by the Sub-Committee at its meeting in March. The key findings were:

- Neighbourhood policing under the Local Policing Model (LPM) was distinctly different to the previous ward-based 1:2:3 delivery model, which had been identical across all London wards irrespective of demand profile or threat, risk and harm indicators.
- Under the LPM, neighbourhood police officer posts had increased by 2,600 officers (138%).
- The roles and responsibilities of neighbourhood officers had increased.
- The Dedicated Ward Officer (DWO) shift pattern could be better aligned to their core roles and responsibilities.

- The brand and clarity of neighbourhood policing needed strengthening.
- 32% of neighbourhood constables were student officers in their first two years of service.

The key recommendations of the review were:

- The shift patterns for Dedicated Ward Officers would be adjusted to reflect their engagement role.
- DWOs would only be required to do central aid duties on New Year's Eve and for Notting Hill Carnival.
- The neighbourhood shift pattern would change to reflect the role of neighbourhood officers and to increase visibility.
- Non-emergency calls would be the responsibility of the nearest available unit and not just neighbourhood officers.
- Safer Neighbourhoods name to be readopted as this was recognised by the public.
- Review impact of aid on neighbourhood policing (phase 2).

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Legal implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Equalities implications and risks:

While the work of the Sub-Committee can impact on all members of the community, there are no implications arising from this specific report which is a narrative of the Sub-Committee's work over the past year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of meetings of the Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee 2014/15