

CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

INTRODUCTION

This report is the annual report of the Sub-Committee, summarising our activities during its year of operation ending May 2018. 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-Chair)
Councillor Ray Best
Councillor Brian Eagling
Councillor John Mylod*
Councillor Garry Pain

**For part of the 2017-18 municipal year and was replaced by Councillor June Alexander.*

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

1. Corporate Performance reporting

Throughout the year, the Sub-Committee had received reports on the outcome of performance against the indicators which fell within the Sub-Committees remit.

Alterations had been made to the tri-borough model, including outstanding calls being managed on an incident list for each borough, rather than as a single incident list for all three boroughs, as when the pilot began. The impact of these alterations had begun to be seen in the performance achieved.

The Sub-Committee received quarterly reports on the proportion of ASB incidents relating to travellers. In the second quarter, there were 1,548 Computer Aided Dispatches which had an opening code that related to anti-social behaviour in Havering, with 1,026 being 'closed' as anti-social behaviour. Six of these dispatches related to five separate traveller incursions, a reduction from the previous quarter. The previous year, traveller incursions drove 100 calls, however a dedicated Inspector covers had taken the responsibility for the three boroughs.

2. Serious group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy 2017

Since the introduction of a tri-borough Gangs Unit, the borough had benefitted from having access to a resource which proactively monitored and disrupted the boroughs high risk gang nominals.

Whilst data might show that knife crime was not linked to gangs, there was a local awareness of the migration of gang members into Havering from other boroughs. Research revealed that only 11% of Havering's Trident Gangs List were under 18 years of age and 20% were on the Habitual Knife Crime list.

The Sub-Committee were made aware of the various risk management panels linked to gangs and serious group violence. The delivery structure of information and intelligence flow for the East Area Gangs Panel and Serious Group Violence Panels were received and the 2017-2021 Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Action Plan was noted.

3. Reducing Re-offending rates

The re-offending figures for Havering were very positive, being better than the national average and the London average for all but one set, the 35-39 age group.

The Reducing Reoffending Action Plan 2016-20 focused on prioritising accommodation, education, training and employment, finance and debt and enforcement and compliance.

The Havering Community Safety Strategic Assessment had shown that 40% of acquisitive crime in Havering came from Class A drug users alone.

The Sub-Committee noted the progress against the Reducing Re-offending Action Plan 2016-20, Integrated Offender Management Panel and Drugs Intervention Panel.

4. Street Triage

In response to a large number of people with mental health problems being taken into police custody, NELFT had established a scheme whereby police could call out NELDT triage staff if they found a person having a mental health crisis. The scheme operated throughout Havering and Outer North East London. The scheme had been the first such street triage scheme to operate in the UK. Police officers received enhanced safeguarding including on mental health issues. There was also a mental health team included in the Safeguarding team.

The Sub-Committee noted the report by Healthwatch Havering and the responses given by the Chief Superintendent at the meeting.

5. Safer Neighbourhood Board Annual Report

The Sub-Committee received the Annual Report of the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

6. Update on Tri-Borough Model

The revised structure included four Superintendents leading different functions which included Safeguarding, Emergency Response, Neighbourhoods and

Investigations. HQ was a fifth function, which pulled issues such as Police resources and performance together across the three boroughs. The Council was represented on both the Pathfinder Project Board and the Oversight Board that reviewed the tri-borough model. The Chief Superintendent reported that the staffing resources were broadly sufficient and that leadership was an issue to improve performance.

The Sub-Committee had noted the update provided.

7. Report from Superintendent Responsible for Neighbourhoods

The Metropolitan Police were required to make savings of £400m by 2020. It was felt that the introduction of the tri-borough model was a more efficient way of working but required a cultural change, whereby officers would retain ownership of a whole investigation. The focus for neighbourhoods would be at the individual ward level and Havering had not lost any Inspectors who dealt with partnership and neighbourhoods work.

The Sub-Committee noted the update provided.

8. Report from Superintendent Responsible for Protecting Vulnerable People

The use by Police of a safeguarding car allowed the correct officer to attend incidents quickly. This allowed better crime management and meant assistance could be given to vulnerable victims more quickly. The number of outstanding suspects were increasing and it was felt that this was due to more victims pressing charges and a higher number of occurrences of domestic abuse.

The Sub-Committee noted the update on protecting vulnerable people.

9. Violence Against Women and Children

The Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy was in its final year and the new strategy covered issues such as trafficking, modern day slavery and child sexual exploitation.

It was agreed that most victims of domestic violence wanted to stay in their homes, which was not easy to resolve at times. Resources for services to deal with VAWG had been maintained. A refuge was currently provided by Havering Women's Aid and this contract was due to be recommissioned. The SOLACE Women's Aid charity provided support groups and counselling. The existing victim support scheme in key services was funded until at least July 2018.

Around 20% of domestic abuse victims were male. A total of sixty domestic abuse champions had been trained to advise colleagues on this area.

All domestic violence cases were risk-assessed and the most high risk cases were referred to the domestic violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which comprised representatives of the Council, Police, Probation Service, the health sector and other agencies. There had been an

increase in the number of MARAC referrals but fewer cases were now referred more than once. There had not been a domestic violence homicide in Havering since 2003, an indication that risks were managed well. Police looked at the frequency and severity of domestic abuse carried out by repeat perpetrators and sought to manage high risk individuals. Sarah's Law, whereby an individual's history of domestic violence could be disclosed to a family was used by Havering. Refuges were situated locally and had good facilities.

The Sub-Committee noted the position.

10. Metropolitan Police Report on Investigation

The number of outstanding named suspects was significantly high, which was a trend in the east, Waltham Forest and Newham, due to the number of foreign national offenders and the high amount of mobility in and out of the country.

Habitual knife carriers were being targeted and officers would be carrying out intense weapon sweep and intelligence-led operations to confiscate knives and tackle those wanted in connection with knife-related offences and violent crime.

Robbery offences had increased by 81% from the previous year, however small numbers reflected high percentiles. Burglary had been a key focus on the lead up to the Christmas period. Good news stories included an arrest for possession of a prohibited weapon, an arrest for possession with intent to support and being carried in a stolen vehicle and an arrest made in respect of two persons driving into pedestrians with a car.

The Sub-Committee had noted the report on Investigations.

11. Havering Community Safety Partnership's Partnership Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20

The Havering Community Safety Partnership comprised of five responsible authorities who, by law, were required to work together to tackle crime, disorder substance misuse and reoffending. There was a statutory requirement that the Havering Community Safety Partnership produce an annual strategic assessment of these issues in co-ordination with a community safety strategy or plan.

The strategic themes and cross cutting area identified were protecting vulnerable individuals/victims, supporting the most prolific and/or high harm offenders and creating safer locations.

The Sub-Committee had noted the Community Safety Plan 2017-2020 that was approved by Council on the 12 July 2017.

12. Topic Groups

How the Criminal Justice System Deals with Offenders with Mental Health Issues

The topic group was established to identify weaknesses, if any, and make recommendations to partners on ways to tackle those weaknesses; to assess how the various agencies deal with offenders with mental health issues; to seek to identify ways in which the process could be improved; and to investigate the various stages at which the Justice system interacted with people with mental health issues.

During the course of its review, the topic group met and held discussions with the following people:

- Elaine Greenaway, Senior Public Health Strategist, London Borough of Havering
- Inspector Cavanaugh, Metropolitan Police Detention Service
- Liz Micalap, Mental Health Practitioner
- Tim Churchyard, YOS Manager, London Borough of Havering
- Janet Chapman, CAMHS Nurse Practitioner
- Wellington Makala, NELFT
- Anita-Grant Williams, National Probation Service
- Sonja de Groede, National Probation Service
- Yasmin Lakhi, London Community Rehabilitation Company
- Bob Barr, Havering Clinical Commissioning Group
- Bernard Natale, Mental Health Commissioning, LBH
- Hong Tan, NHS England

The topic group made the following recommendations:

- i) Metropolitan Police Service and NHS England to continue to work together to provide Mental Health Practitioners in custody suites.
- ii) North East London NHS Foundation Trust, the Youth Offending Service and the Probation Service to work together to ensure a smooth transition process for young persons in the criminal justice system to ensure continued access to mental health services.
- iii) North East London NHS Foundation Trust to continue to provide Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) Youth Offenders Services Practitioner Service.
- iv) Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group to continue to work together to ensure adequate services available locally for offenders with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Increase in Unlawful Traveller Encampments

At its meeting on the 28 July 2016, the Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee agreed to establish a topic group to scrutinise the number of places originally provided in Havering for Travellers, how this had grown and how it was predicted to grow in the future as well as the reasons behind these changes.

During the course of its review, the topic group met and held discussions with the following people:

- Savinder Bhamra, Corporate Policy and Diversity Advisor
- Diane Egan, Community Safety and Development Manager
- Steve Moore, Director of Neighbourhoods
- Simon Thelwell, Planning Manager, Regulatory Services

Whilst the topic group had not met since the 21 September 2016, since the introduction of the East Area Borough Command Unit in January 2017, the boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge had worked collaboratively to address illegal incursions. The Police had revised their operating procedures for dealing with illegal incursions. The Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee have actively monitored a notable reduction in traveller incursions in 2017-18.

Documentation compiled for traveller injunction was reviewed on 13 February by the Barrister representing the Council. As a result of this persons experience in obtaining injunctions pursuant to Section 222 Local Government Act 1972 and Section 187B Town and Country Planning Act 1990, they have developed significant expertise in cases concerning unauthorised encampments. Once the documentation has been agreed, the process of obtaining the Injunction would commence and it was hoped that this will in place by April when traveller incursions usually begin to happen.

The working party made the following recommendations:

- i) That consideration be given to the establishment of a Gypsy and Traveller Officer post in the borough.
- ii) That members are proactive in encouraging residents who contact them and these type of complaints to notify the Police so that the complaint is registered.