

REPORT FOR HAVERING



Schools Officers to address Gangs and Knife Crime

Regular weapons sweeps take place in and around school premises.

Knife Crime and Gangs presentations are offered to schools; since the start of the academic year to week ending 10th June 2018, over 6000 students in nine secondary schools and thirteen primary schools in Havering have received the presentations.

Working with the schools to establish whether there are any crime prevention considerations which can be introduced to the establishments.

In response to a specific issue at a secondary school, we were able to flex schools resources from across the BCU to provide a heightened presence at the end of the school day. This provided reassurance to the school and local community, and partnership working has taken place with the school to establish a medium and long-term plan.

A partnership project delivered at Olive Academy with the LAS which discusses the life threatening/changing effects of knife crime, educates the pupils on how to tend to stab or cut wounds and a provides a practical element of CPR.

Test Purchasing exercise involving LBH partners and Volunteer Police Cadets focussed on purchase of knives; no knives were sold during that exercise. Further exercises are being planned to take place later this year.

Knife Crime Workshops involving Police, LAS and The Levy Foundation are being delivered across secondary schools in Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham with support from Local Authorities; unfortunately to date there has been no confirmation regarding funding for Havering Schools.

Knife Crime input delivered at the start of the KickOff@3 tournament in April; those present included teams from Havering College and Havering Sixth Form College.

Safeguarding

In relation to safeguarding, the BCU model sees numerous small elements of policing that were previously tangential to mainstream policing, grouped together to form one of the four pillars of local policing. This, together with a shift in focus away from identifying policing priorities based upon crime counting to a risk based framework for decision-making places the hidden harm agenda at the centre of mainstream policing.

Whilst safeguarding is everyone's business, the creation of a dedicated safeguarding command headed by a locally accountable senior officer is a definite change for the better. Pooling previously specialist policing teams under this lead acknowledges the interdependencies between themes, domestic abuse and child abuse, serious sexual crime and domestic abuse, CSE and missing children as examples. It also provides a mass of staff that can flex to meet demands.

For Safeguarding at East Area BCU the implementation is all but complete as far as structure is concerned, but the BCU model is actually far more about changing culture – doing things differently to provide a bespoke, enhanced service. Such change is complex and takes a lot longer, but it is well under way. We now have multi-faceted investigative teams led by Detective Inspectors, and a CSE investigative team working alongside and hand in glove with the missing person team.

One of the changes brought about by the BCU model is the integration of a specialist CAIT Detective Sergeant in the MASH. This provides value to the early risk and case decision made in MASH by ensuring all relevant information is contributed and shared at the time, and not needing to be subject of further engagement.

Whilst we have made significant progress with implementation there is plenty still to do:

- Internally we have challenges in recruiting officers to work in CAIT and in identifying officers to engage in the detective development programme.
- Externally we are keen to work with partners to develop a more holistic approach to commissioning of services for domestic abuse. All three Borough would benefit from a joined-up offender programme, for example.

At Havering specifically we should take confidence in a strong sense of cooperation, support and challenge between agencies at strategic and operational levels; there really is a collective determination to make a difference.

Investigations

The rise in Knife crime on the borough and across East Area is a critical issue, particularly in light of some of the most recent stabbings that we have seen. This is beginning to have an impact on the confidence of some of our young people in our communities, in that they fear going outside of their home. Knife crime has increased significantly in percentage terms (albeit relatively small in number). Nevertheless the trend is worrying and particularly in our young people who are the largest group of offenders and victims. Knife crime is a key priority and a refreshed partnership knife crime plan is currently in action to address these issues. We have recently commissioned a detailed knife crime profile enabling us to identify the extent of the problem and those areas of most concern

Robbery

Our knife crime profile indicates that 61% of our knife crime is linked to robbery. It stands to reason that if we can get robbery under control we largely get knife crime under control. It is clear that we cannot simply enforce our way out of this problem and we must as a wider partnership collective harness the power of the public to tackle this problem. We are in the process of drawing up a robbery profile, learning from the recent successful burglary campaign

Gangs

The movement of outside gang members coming into East Area is an issue that appears to be an increasing problem with evidence of outside gangs members coming in from other areas of the capital. This has recently led to some instances of public disorder breaking out in the likes of Romford town centre involving large numbers of predominantly young men. We continue to work with neighbouring boroughs to tackle this issue and have taken steps to increase police visibility and to take enforcement action against those who offend. As we approach school holidays there is a concern for some of our young people to become tied up in violence/other gangs activity.