

Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Subject Heading:	Knife Crime
SLT Lead:	Steve Moore
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Policy context:	Our vision is focused around the borough's communities, places, opportunities and connections. The Council has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual analysis of crime and disorder in the area, which will then be used to create a strategy to reduce these. This is relevant to our vision by ensuring the safety of our communities, and creating safer places; thereby improving opportunities for individuals and businesses
Financial summary:	There are no direct risks regarding Council finances

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[x]
Places making Havering	[x]
Opportunities making Havering	[x]
Connections making Havering	[]

SUMMARY

Reducing violence, including knife and gun crime and protecting vulnerable individuals from violence & exploitation by gangs is a priority for the Government, the Mayor of London and for the London Borough of Havering.

Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 18 September 2018

In 2014 Havering was recognised by the Home Office as a borough which is directly affected by gangs and youth violence in London; however it received no additional uplift in funds. Since July 2014 Havering has seen a 167% increase in knife crime, with roughly 1 in 3 crimes resulting in an injury.

The HCSP has a programme of work in place to tackle this issue. This is also not an issue the police can deal with on their own; it requires a multi-agency approach between the Criminal Justice Service Councils, School and the Voluntary Sector.

Enforcement tactics are regularly used in the borough, however this is largely reactive. More creative solutions are needed in order to prevent future generations from carrying weapons. Early identification, diversion schemes and education of young people will be crucial in order to try and bring about change.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The members note content of the report.

That members to be aware of the increasing level of knife crime in Havering.

REPORT DETAIL

In 2014 a serious group violence problem profile was completed that identified Havering as the third largest importer of gang members identified by the Metropolitan Police Trident Gang Crime Command matrix. Since 2014 Havering has seen a population increase of almost 3% along with a significant increase in serious youth violence crimes and violent crimes.

The Table below is taken from the Havering Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy 2018-2021. The table below shows a clear year on year increase in gun and knife crime since 2014.

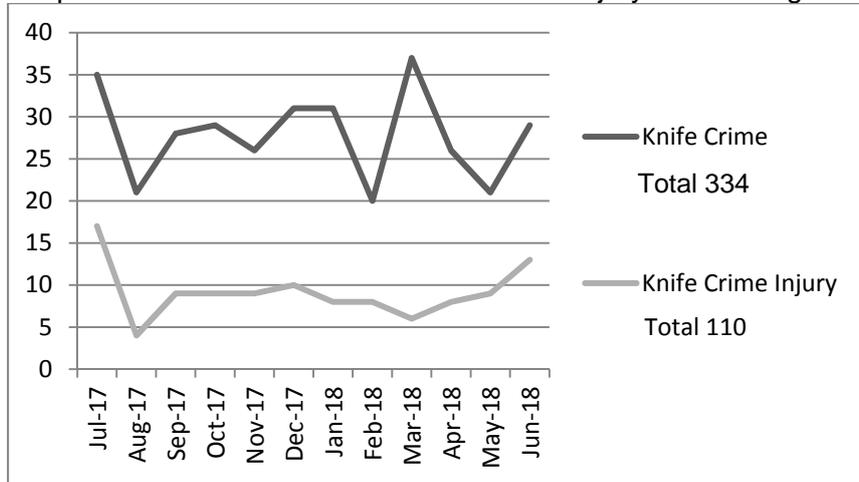
Table 1. Havering Crime Figures from Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

Snapshot of offences on a rolling 12 month basis from July 2014 - July 2017					
Crime Type	Jul-2014	Jul-2015	Jul-2016	Jul-2017	Increase or Decrease since 2014
Knife Crime	125	181	185	276	 121% Increase
Knife Crime with Injury	51	70	58	85	 67% Increase
Robbery	250	341	325	469	 88% Increase
Gun Crime	40	53	56	67	 68% increase

Data from the last 12 months ending June 2018 shows there to be a total of 334 knife crimes in Havering, with almost a third resulting in injury.

Havering has seen a 167% increase in Knife Crime from the year ending July 2014 through to the year ending June 2018.¹

Graph 1. Knife Crime and Knife Crime with Injury in Havering from July 2017 – June 2018²



In the last 12 months there have been 334 Knife Crime incidents with almost a third resulting in an injury.

Gangs and knife crime

From the definition used by the Metropolitan Police, a gang see themselves as a noticeable group, and engage in a range of criminal activity and violence. They may also have claim over territory or a conflict with other, similar gangs; therefore it is plausible that this could account for a proportion of violence locally.

Research³ has shown a greater likelihood of carrying knives among gang members compared to non-gang members, with a significant difference in the percentage of people carrying knives between these two groups. However further data obtained by MOPAC suggests that the majority of knife crime is not gang-related. This suggests that young people do not necessarily have to associate with gang culture in order to resort to carrying a knife or become a victim.

In Havering, most noticeably Romford Town Centre has seen a significant increase in known gangs from other Boroughs accessing our daytime and night time economy. At present we are aware of 15 gangs from East London operating out of the area on a regular basis. It should be noted that a number of these gangs are known to be in conflict with one another, which can poses a significant risk.

It should also be recognised that gang and group violence is often linked to drug markets, and that stabbings and knife crime can be associated with the control of drug supply both within and beyond London⁴. Further indicators for this include adolescents going regularly missing, robbery, child sexual exploitation and a vibrant Class A drugs market.

¹ At the time of writing the report July 2018 Figures had not yet been produced by MOPAC, July 2018 stats may vary slightly in terms of increase/ decrease. However this would be marginal and not affect the result.

² Statistics from MOPAC Weapon Enabled Crime Dashboard <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/weapon-enabled-crime-dashboard>

³ McVie 2010

⁴ Reference to County Lines/ Going Country.

Perception of gun and knife crime

There has also been a rise in people’s perception of gun and knife crime. Data from the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime shows that at the moment 20% of people think that Gun and Knife Crime is a problem, this is an increase of 7% from the year before.

Table 2. Perception of Gun and Knife Crime being a problem in Havering⁵

Perception of gun and knife crime Quarter 4 2016/2017	13%
Perception of gun and knife crime Quarter 4 2017/2018	20%

Work programme to address knife crime

There are a number of projects currently being delivered across Havering to tackle knife crime. These include:-

- Operation Sceptre – Local intelligence is used to help dictate where to carry out weapons sweeps, test purchases and who should feature on the Habitual Knife Carriers (HKC) list.
- Habitual Knife Carriers List – individuals who are repeatedly stopped with knives are added to the HKC list and regularly monitored and stopped.
- East Area Gangs Unit – In charge of monitoring all gang nominals on the Police Trident Matrix. Also run the HKC list; however only monitor those classed as high risk. Medium to low risk nominals are managed by other police departments such as local neighbourhood teams
- Serious Group Violence Panel – Risk management panel which monitors medium to low risk gang nominals and those on the periphery of gangs. Further discussions take place regarding habitual knife carriers, regular missing adolescents and repeat victims of child sexual exploitation for crossover purposes.
- Chance Scheme – This multi-agency approach is aimed at young people aged 8-17 years old and involved in lower level anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Chance programme focuses on the careful application of targeted interventions to disrupt the escalation of ASB, in attempt to prevent future more serious crime.
- Training for all frontline workers in the basics of what a gang is, why they carry weapons, signs to look out for and who is at risk.
- Safe Haven Schemes – Multiple locations in the borough where people in danger can go and ask for assistance. Here they will be kept out of harm’s way and supported to get home safely.
- Junior Citizens Scheme – Safety advice workshops targeting year 6 transition students. Particular focus is given to the dangers of carrying knives.
- Police Safer Schools Officers – work in every Secondary School in Havering. Friendly face of the police within the school environment, however able to support with incidents, risk management planning and delivering specialist targeted safety advice.
- Knife Bins –Available across the East Area (Havering, Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham) to dispose of bladed articles.

⁵ Statistics from MOPAC Weapon Enabled Crime Dashboard <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/weapon-enabled-crime-dashboard>

- Drugs/ Weapons Dogs – Monthly operations being run by the Council and the Police, utilising specially trained canine units to stop and search individuals in the town centres for weapons and drugs.
- Spark2Life – 1-to-1 Gangs mentoring service, working with the hardest to reach cohort caught up within both gangs and the criminal justice system.
- Council assisting local Probation Services around safety planning of rival gangs and individuals coming into their premises. Making sure that gang rivalries are known by probation staff in order to reduce the risk of conflict. IE: Different signing on days, times, etc.
- Council and Police working with local businesses around safety planning of rival gangs and individuals coming into their premises

Projects currently in development

- Street Doctor's – Funding has been obtained to run 40 sessions to train young people on how to deliver lifesaving first aid, specifically around knife crime, dealing with stab wounds and bleeding out.
- No Knives in Schools programme – Half day educational workshop run in schools by the Police, London Ambulance Service and a local Charity around the dangers of knives and the devastating after effects. These are designed to be hard hitting half day workshops aimed at pupils in year 9 (age where most young people involved in gangs start).
- Spark2Life Mentor Volunteers – 10 new volunteer mentors have been recruited to compliment the work of the existing mentoring contract. Volunteers will work 1-to-1 with individuals on the periphery of gangs
- Search Arches – Clubs such as Kosho are installing search arches as part of their entrance checking procedure in order to prevent customers carrying knives into the premises.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications arising from this report which is for information only. Whilst the current work programmes will have financial implications the expectation is that this will be met from within existing resources.

Havering receives an annual grant from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime which currently funds the Gangs mentoring project until March 2019.

Legal implications and risks:

This report is in line with the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007. The Council and other statutory partners including Health have a responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to address crime and disorder within the borough, with a statutory obligation to conduct an annual strategic assessment and produce a Community Safety Plan.

There are no legal implications from noting the Report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no HR implications arising directly from this report

Equalities implications and risks:

An equality impact assessment has been carried out as part of the Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy 2017-2021