



CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

8 May 2012

ANNUAL REPORT, 2011/12

SUMMARY

This report is the annual report of the Committee, summarising the Committee's activities during the year ended May 2012.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to compare performance year on year.

There are no direct equalities or environmental implications attached to this covering report. Any financial implications & risks from reviews and work undertaken will be advised as part of the specific reviews.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee note the 2011/12 Annual Report and authorise the Chairman to agree the final version for Council.
2. That the Committee agree the report be referred to full Council.

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Cheryl Coppel
Chief Executive

Background Papers - None.

CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE

10 May 2011

REPORT

Subject Heading:

Annual Report 2011/2012

Report Author and contact details:

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Policy context:

To summarise the work of the Council's
Crime & Disorder Committee.

Financial summary:

Not applicable.

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REPORT DETAIL

During the year under review, we have met as a Committee on 4 occasions and dealt with the following issues.

1. TOPIC GROUPS

1. There were no Topic Groups in the year.

2. NHS Havering

1. At its meeting on 14 July 2011 the Committee received a presentation from Jacqui Himbury, the Havering Borough Director and Nuzhat Anjum, Head of Public Health Commissioning. Nuzhat Anjum was responsible for the DAAT budgets across ONEL and he advised the Committee that Havering's performance was very good.
2. Currently Havering was 'Non Intensive' so clients engaged in the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) on a voluntary basis. To address this it was proposed that Havering DIP become an 'Intensive DIP'. This would make it compulsory for any person testing positive for Class A drugs to engage with the DIP service.
3. The representatives from NHS Havering admitted that the Alcohol Liaison with King Georges Hospital needed some improvement.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION STAFFING BUDGET 2011-12

1. The Committee considered a report on the budget for the Community Safety section which showed that the section had 8.4FTE posts and a budget of £459,580. One of the posts was vacant and it was likely that this would remain unfilled to cover a potential shortfall on CCTV. A temporary post of full time ASB caseworker had been funded until July 2011, with further funding agreed for another year.
2. Whilst the Council's CCTV did not cover the whole borough the Metropolitan Police were very supportive of the use of CCTV, especially within Romford Town Centre. The Council had looked at the possibility f

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extending coverage but the cost of communication from outlying areas to the Control Centre had proven excessive. However, the possible extension of CCTV and new ways of working, drawing on the experience of neighbouring boroughs was being explored.

4. FUTURE OF THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

1. Following on from discussions last year the Committee were informed of the outcome of the review of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. They were pleased to note that the Teams would maintain their existing structure although there would be the ability to temporarily flex resources across ward boundaries in response to specific problems.
2. The principle of 2 PC's and 3 PCSO's (6 PCSO's in an enhanced ward) would remain. However, there would be a reduction in the number of Sergeants available to manage the Teams. For Havering this meant a reduction of 4 sergeants with eight wards being combined into four each joint team served by one sergeant, The wards affected were:
 - Mawneys/Havering Park
 - Pettits/Squirrells heath
 - Hacton/Elm Park
 - Upminster/Cranham.

5. HAVERING COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – PRIORITIES FOR 2011/12

1. The Committee received a report from the HCSP analyst regarding priorities for 2011/12. Progress against the targets were viewed as at the end of August 2011. The figures seemed to indicate there was a problem with fires but the Committee were informed that the Fire Brigade were not concerned as this was the peak time for fires and experience showed that there would be a drop off over the remainder of the year.
2. Prior experience had shown that the peak period for burglary was December and January and during these months the Partnership concentrated their efforts. However, despite perceptions to the contrary over a weekend on average less than five people were victims of a criminal action in Romford Town Centre.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND

1. Throughout the year the Committee received regular reports on how expenditure from the Safer Stronger Community Fund had been spent. The Committee had an opportunity to comment on the various projects being funded and monitor the level of expenditure, to ensure all the monies were spent during the financial year.
2. One of the new projects developed by the Havering Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with our local banks, the Metropolitan Police, Community Police Consultative Group and Age Concern, was the

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banking protocol. The scheme has a strong focus on prevention and early intervention. It provides a route for bank staff to tactfully intervene when older and vulnerable customers seek to withdraw unusually large sums of cash. Therefore, not only does it focus on preventing our residents from being a victim of crime but also identifies vulnerable residents who might be living with dementia, so we can intervene and provide access to vital support services.

3. The initial idea for the scheme emerged after several reported incidents in Havering of older and vulnerable people being accompanied to banks, building societies and post offices by unscrupulous conmen to withdraw large sums of cash as payment for supposed 'building work'. Following discussions at the Community Safety Serious Acquisitive Crime Group a working group was established and project plan was developed. Funding was secured from the Community Safety Service and the CPCG.
4. The banks have been keen to adopt the scheme. Bank staffs use a prompt card with set questions to tactfully enquire about the purpose of any cash withdrawal over £500. They will explain the dangers of carrying large sums of cash and suggest an alternative, and safer, method of payment such as a cheque or bank transfer. If the cashier is suspicious in any way about the intent of the withdrawal or the vulnerability of the customer, he/she will notify their supervisor immediately and a call will be placed to the appropriate agency for assistance. This might be Trading Standards and/or the Police if they suspect the customer a victim of crime; or Adults Social Care and/or Age Concern if they feel the customer is confused in any way. The simple act of asking a few questions allows bank staff to delay the withdrawal of large sums of cash to give the referral agency time to respond.
5. Currently 19 banks have signed up to the scheme across the Borough.
6. Back in October £10,000 had been approved to support targeted work against scrap yards.

Operation RAM

Following discussions at the HCSP on the increasing trend in theft of motor vehicles across the Borough, the Community Safety Service were tasked with coordinating a multi agency partnership meeting to address metal theft in Havering. Funding was secured from the Havering Community Safety Partnership to deliver a series of multi agency operations targeting scrap metal dealers within the Borough. Partners involved included Havering Council, Havering Police, London Fire Brigade, Environmental agency, and Customs and Excise.

Op Ram commenced on the 10th October 2011 and ran for a two week period targeting problematic scrap metal dealers in the Rainham area. Successes included over 15 arrests were made, two stolen vehicles were recovered, and 122 fixed penalty notices were served for failure to

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produce a waste license. A number of cars were stopped during ANPR operations and 9 were identified as unroadworthy and seized. Ten vehicles were seized by Customs and excise for use of red diesel, which carries a fine of £500.

Thirty eight sites were visited with the Environment Agency and intelligence was gathered to support future operations. A Subsequent reactive Operation led to a further fourteen arrests.

Operation Ram was identified as good practise by the Metropolitan Police Force and has subsequently been rolled out to all Boroughs as Operation Ferrous.

There were 3 more week long operations since December with further planned in 2012.

7. PUBLIC ORDER DISTURBANCES

1. Following the Public Order Disturbances which had occurred last August the Committee reviewed the actions taken locally to ensure that Havering did not suffer as did other London Boroughs. Close co-operation between the Council, whose actions were co-ordinated by the Community Safety Manager, the Police and other Partners had lead to quick reactions to perceived problems enabled the police to head of any trouble before it started.

The Committee were informed that a review was being undertaken locally to see what happened and looking to identify the cost to the council of their response and the cost to local businesses. The Police informed the committee that they had made 24 arrests in the borough with 25 crimes reported.

8. WORK OF THE TRADING STANDARDS TEAM

1. The Trading Standards Divisional Manager attended the Committee and gave a presentation highlighting the work of his team in so far in tackling Crime and Disorder. He gave details of the different initiatives in which they were involved. These included the banking Protocol and Operation Ram.
2. Also of interest to the Committee was the work undertaken with test purchases, especially underage sales. The target for the team was to carry out 150 test purchases a year and these were targeted at known problem premises. Because of this targeted approach Havering had 20% failures on the test purchases compared to a London average of 17%. Another factor which may have contributed to the failure rate was the fact that the number of licensed premises in Havering had increased from 400 in 2007 to 570 in 2011.
3. Of particular concern to the Committee was the fact that an high

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- . percentage of the failed purchases occurred late at night when often untrained staff were serving. The Committee asked the Licensing Committee to look into the possibility of imposing conditions requiring the presence of a Designated premises Supervisor and/or Personal Licence Holder during these late hours.

9. YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

1. The Youth Offending Team had failed the recent Core Case Inspection of Statutory Youth Offending Work in Havering. A list of recommendations to improve the service had been issued and the Committee considered progress towards implementing these recommendations.
2. The Committee had concerns at the performance of the Youth Offending Team and agreed they would receive regular reports to monitor progress in meeting the recommendations. At the last meeting they felt good progress was being made and were pleased to note that the IT problems being experienced by staff attending Barkingside Court had been resolved.
3. Concern was expressed that following the changes in court arrangements whereby all Youth cases from Havering, Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge were initially referred to Barkingside Courts had increased the work load for Havering staff. Each borough were allocated a court day, but on that day they were expected to cover any cases from the other two boroughs which were dealt with as an emergency. Given the number of cases Havering normally dealt with compared with Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge on a regular basis this meant how workload had increased.

10 POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT 2011

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 1. Throughout the year officers had kept the Committee informed of potential changes as a result of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act. As far as it related to London the major change was the abolition of the Metropolitan Police Authority and its replacement by the Mayors Office for Police and Crime (MOPC). Whilst the rest of the United Kingdom would have an opportunity to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner the Mayor of London was given this role in the capital.
 2. Unlike the Metropolitan Police Authority the MOPC would not be a responsible authority therefore the Crime and Disorder Committee would not have the opportunity to require their attendance. However, MOPC was required to co-operate with the Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime and disorder and re-offending.
 3. Responsibility for the crime and order reduction grants would pass from the Home Office to MOPC. It was possible that the MOPC's priorities would be different to local priorities and this could lead to a reduction in funding locally. It was hoped that the Community Safety Partnerships

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discussions with other Outer London Boroughs would help resolve our concerns.

11 LONDON PROBATION TRUST

1. The Committee received a report on the work of the London Probation Trust and particularly the effects of the reorganisation on the service. They were informed that the focus of the Trust was to reduce re-offending and that 780 offenders lived in Havering, 54% of whom were on community orders or suspended sentence orders. 142 persons were on licence having previously been in prison with 250 persons being incarcerated, the majority of whom were in Pentonville.
2. The Probation Trust work first with the offender but also worked with the family. They was an Offender Supervisor in prison who worked closely with the Probation Service. The Trust worked with offenders who were sentenced to a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, No one worked with offenders who received a shorter sentence,
3. The Committee were informed that the borough had the 8th lowest rate of Domestic Violence, although this had increased by 5% recently. However, the borough did benefit from one of the highest arrest rates in respect of Domestic Violence.

12 LONDON FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AUTHORITY

1. The new Borough Commander attended the Committee to up date them on the work of the London Fire Brigade in Havering. He highlighted the number of programmes the Fire Brigade ran to reduce Crime and Disorder. Members of the Committee who had taken the opportunity to visit the LIFE, Local Intervention Fire Education, commented and what a positive experience this was. The Committee were informed that in 2013 the LIFE programme would move to Romford whilst the Dagenham Fire Station was renovated.

13 VISITS

1. Throughout the year the Chairman has been carrying out a series of visits to see how the Courts work. He has visited the local Magistrates Court on three occasions and with colleagues took the opportunity to visit Basildon County Court.
2. In addition the Chair together with Councillor Osborne has visited the House of Commons to observe how the House of Commons committees discuss legislation, specifically the passing of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
3. A group of members also availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the four fire stations in the borough and obtain an insight in to how the Fire Brigade work locally.

14 MEETINGS

- 1. The Chairman has held regular meetings with The Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Mike Smith. This is an opportunity to keep himself updated on current events and to raise specific issues of concern.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

Narrative report only - not applicable.

Legal implications and risks:

Narrative report only - not applicable.

Human Resources implications and risks:

Narrative report only - not applicable.

Equalities implications and risks:

Narrative report only - not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None