



CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Progress Report on Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime

SLT Lead:

Sue Harper
Interim Director of neighbourhoods

Report Author and contact details:

Chris Stannett, 01473434916
chris.stannett@haverling.gov.uk

Policy context:

The Council approved the Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy 2019-22 in April 2019. This report is a progress report on the implementation of that strategy

Financial summary:

No financial implications arising directly from this report

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

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

SUMMARY

- The highest proportion and volume of youth violence takes place within the ward of Romford Town. The second most notable ward scoring high with knife crime related offences is Gooshays.
- The 'Perception' of Knife Crime being a problem has increased, 27% of residents in Havering (1 in 4 people) believe this to be a problem.
- County Lines awareness is being raised with all of Havering's secondary schools and pupil referral units.

- Young people going missing through County Lines have been found in 11 different counties with Essex (Chelmsford) and Worcestershire (Evesham) being the most common.
- Whilst Havering had the highest proportion of successful referrals into Rescue & Response out of all 32 London Boroughs, there is still considerable room for improvement.
- No access to the local Police gangs list makes work around prevention of those involved in gangs and knife crime very difficult, and potentially avoidable. This has been raised with MOPAC and the MPS .

RECOMMENDATIONS

All members to be aware of the content of the report.

REPORT DETAIL

Tackling serious violence is a key priority for both MOPAC and the London borough of Havering. The Table bellows shows the results from the MOPAC Weapon Enabled Crime Dashboard¹. Data shows a year on year trend of the key crime types² monitored and also gives a full breakdown by ward.

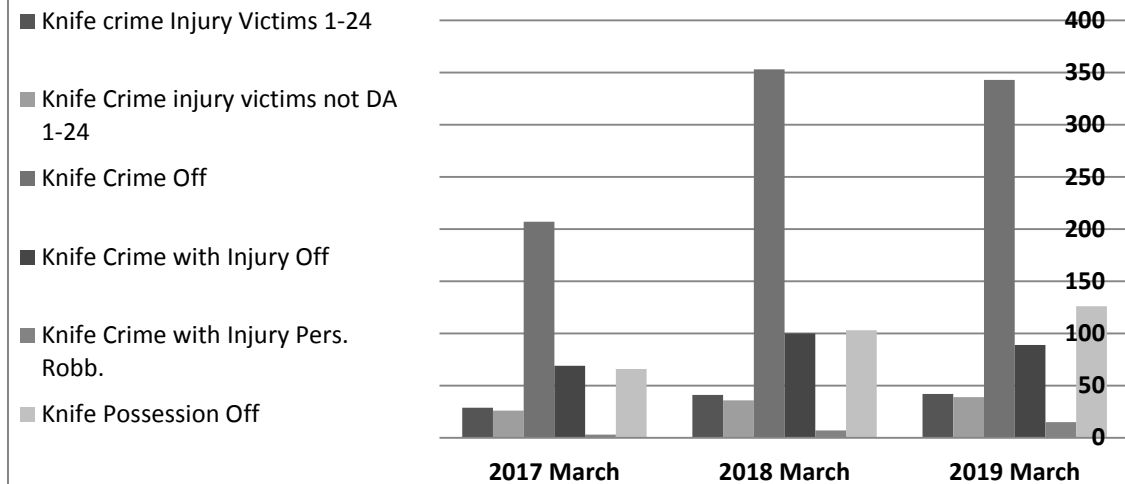
Type of Crime	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Main Ward Affected
Acid Attacks	18	21 ↑	13 ↓	Romford Town & Upminster
Gun Crime, Lethal Barrell Discharge	1	10 ↑	4 ↓	Heaton & Gooshays
Gun Crime Off	73	48 ↓	45 ↓	Brooklands & Heaton
Gun Crim personal Robbery	6	6	10 ↑	Heaton, Harold Wood & Upminster
Knife crime Injury Victims 1-24	29	41 ↑	42 ↑	Romford Town & Gooshays
Knife Crime injury victims not DA 1-24	26	36 ↑	39 ↑	Romford Town & Gooshays
Knife Crime Off	207	353 ↑	343 ↓	Listed below
Knife Crime with Injury Off	69	100 ↑	89 ↓	Romford Town & Gooshays
Knife Crime with Injury Pers. Robb.	3	7 ↑	15 ↑	Romford Town
Knife Possession Off	66	103 ↑	126 ↑	Romford Town

The table below shows the number of knife crime offences recorded year on year for the last three years up until March 2019 in Havering

¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/weapon-enabled-crime-dashboard>

² https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mopac_weapon_enabled_crime_user_guide.pdf

Weapon Enabled Crime - Knife Crime



Total Knife Crime Offences can be broken down by both the volume and the ward in which the offence occurred. For the purpose of this report, below you will see that I have provided a breakdown of the top 6 Wards. The latest data available at present is for a year to date ending August 2019.

Ward	% of Knife Offences	Volume
Romford Town	20.50%	68
South Hornchurch	9.60%	32
Brooklands	9%	30
Heaton	7.80%	26
Goosheys	7.20%	24
St. Andrews	6.30%	21

Due to the increase in knife crime and the constant media attention across London the fear of/ perception of Knife crime has increased. In the most recent survey carried out by MOPAC, just over 1 in 4 Havering residents see knife crime as a problem. This is double the amount of residents compared to the end of 2016/17 when almost 1 in 8 only saw knife crime in Havering as an issue.

Perception of Knife crime	
Current Perception (Q1 2019/2020)	27%
Lowest Perception (Q3 2016/2017)	13%
Perception of Gun crime	
Current Perception (Q1 2019/2020)	7%
Lowest Perception (Q3 2018/2019)	9%

Please note that after the conclusion of the high profile murder case of Jodie Chesney, the perception of knife crime could be expected to change depending on the outcome of the case. The case is scheduled to finish by the end of October 2019

County Lines

County Lines Exploitation

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations.

What is county Lines?

“County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.” – UK Government (September 2018 Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance)

Havering

Whilst the exploitation of both young and old is not a new phenomenon, the speed and ease at which it happens is alarming. Identifying the signs of being exploited through county lines is important and something which Havering takes very seriously. Community Safety and Childrens Services have been working very closely over the last few years in order to make sure this form of exploitation is both recognised and address. The following key teams are fully alert to the issues of county lines:

- MASH Team
- Social Services
- Youth Offending Team
- Community Safety Team
- Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation & Missing Team
- Admissions and Inclusions Team
- Police – Safety Schools Officers, Intelligence Team, Gangs Unit etc.
- +More

Further work has been done with Schools, between April 2019 – July 2019 all 18 Secondary Schools & Olive Academy received a presentation from the Metropolitan Police Trident Unit in regards to County Lines. This presentation was directed at Teachers and Parents of School Pupils.

Havering regularly refers into the MOPAC funded Pan-London service, Rescue and Response (R+R). This service specifically focuses on county lines, both identifying young people and providing a service for boroughs in need of assistance. In the last Annual Strategic Assessment³ (August 2019) provided to us by R+R:

³https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/rescue_and_response_county_lines_project_strategic_assessment_2019.pdf

- 48 Individuals had been identified as having links to County Lines, placing us at 29th out of 32 Local Authorities.
- Havering completed 23 referrals to Rescue and Response between June 2018 and June 2019, this was the 9th highest amount of referrals completed out of 32 Local Authorities
- 48% of individuals identified by R&R had been referred into R+R by Havering. This is the highest proportion out of all 32 London Boroughs.

A further more in depth Borough overview⁴ was provided to us in May 2019, this further showed that :

- 59% of Havering referrals were aged between 15-18 years old
- 86 % of those identified were male
- 56% of the Havering referrals were White British and 27% of referrals were Black or Black British/ African
- Those individuals linked to the county lines cohort were linked to 11 counties with Essex (Chelmsford) and Worcestershire (Evesham) being the most common followed by Norwich, Suffolk (Ipswich), Kent (Maidstone, Chatham), South Wales (Cardiff), Hampshire (Bournemouth), Bedfordshire, Avon and Somerset

Gangs and Serious Group Violence Panels

A Tri-Borough Gangs Panel takes place every four weeks, the hosting of this is spread across the tri-borough. Further to this there are weekly telephone-conferences to discuss the movements of gang nominals or escalating concerns. Information on gang members within Havering, those coming into Havering, on the local gang's matrix, their current risk status etc. is not currently being made available to the London Borough of Havering or any other London Borough. This is a decision which has been made by the Metropolitan Police (Central). As a direct consequence we are severely restricted in our abilities to focus on prevention, especially where gang nominals may be meeting individuals outside of our local schools, coming into our town centres, exploiting our young people outside of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) etc. We are currently unable to work with neighbouring boroughs, even though there is a clear safety interest to share this information and willingness from local authorities concerned. The only limited work we can undertake, takes place within the Tri-Borough Gangs Panel.

The Serious Group Violence Panel looks at individuals who are on the periphery of gangs and youth violence or previously classed as low to medium risk gang nominals. This Panel also meets every 4 weeks, to coincide with the tri borough gangs panel.

Violent Crime Summit

The Final summit in a series of Tri-Borough Summits is set to conclude in Havering on the 27th November. Key Speakers will include the Children's Commissioner and

⁴ Individual borough breakdown, available upon request.

the lead for London's Violent Reduction Unit. The summit aims to try and capture the voices of young people and demonstrate the good work Havering has been doing over the last year.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report which is for information only.

Legal implications and risks:

Whilst reporting on performance is not a statutory requirement, it is considered best practice to review the Council's progress against the Corporate Plan and Service Plans on a regular basis.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no specific Human Resource implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

This report relates to information requested by the committee rather than policy. There are no direct equalities implications or risks associated with this report.