



Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Annual Report 2020/2021

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

When I was appointed as Chair of the Crime and Disorder Overview Scrutiny Committee, none of us could have had any idea as to how our lives were to change in such a short period of time. As soon it became apparent that I was going to be unable to chair any meetings I asked for my Special Responsibility Allowance to be stopped until such times as such meetings could be held virtually by Zoom. This covered the period of May 2020 until September 2020.

This has been a particularly difficult year for all of us and we have all had to get used to a new normal.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Council Officers that have worked so hard in working through the various changes in legislation. To the Community Safety Teams for their exceptional work in responding to breaches of COVID and supporting local businesses through the various lockdown rules.

I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the local Police Officers who continued to keep our communities safe during the most difficult of years and in ever changing circumstances.

Over the years I have worked with the Met Police I have been lucky enough to get to know many of our local officers and throughout the pandemic I have been immensely impressed with their professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm.

I would like to congratulate the HJTF Police Officers on the exceptional work they have undertaken since they were formed early last year. There are 5 PCs within this team that are funded by Havering Council and they have worked closely with Council Officers in enforcing lock down restrictions and working with Trading Standards on Operation Scaffold. In addition and with overtime funded by the Met Police they have run several Operation Gambler cross border operations with Essex Police, traffic teams, dog units and special constables. So far they have arrested over 500 suspects. In one two night operation in March of this year they arrested 21 suspects and recovered 7 stolen vehicles in which drugs and weapons were found ¹. They have also taken a significant number of weapons off our streets and undertaken operations to fine and move on the Drifters that continue to meet in Ferry Lane.

¹ Statistics taken from @MPSHavering Twitter Account.



As we head out of lockdown I will continue to work with Council Officers and Police Officers to respond to any issues that impact the lives of our residents.

Councillor Sally Miller BCAC
Chair Crime and Disorder Committee

REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee exercises the functions conferred by the Police & Justice Act. The Committee scrutinises the Council's joint working with the Police and other public agencies that deal with crime and disorder. The Members on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee during the year were:

Councillor Sally Miller BCAC (Chairman)
Councillor Matt Sutton (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Tele Lawal
Councillor John Tyler
Councillor Michael Deon-Burton
Councillor John Crowder

Councillor Jan Sargent

Review of Activity

This report is the annual report of the Sub-Committee, summarising the Sub-Committee's activities during its year of operation ended May 2021.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to have a record of the Sub-Committee's activities and performance.

During the year under review, the Sub-Committee formally met on 3 occasions and dealt with the following issues:

COUNCIL'S NEW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURE

The Sub-Committee received a brief on the Council's new enforcement structure, which commenced on 1st June 2020. The new structure was put in place to unify the structure that was in place to tackle anti-social behaviour and all aspects of environmental nuisance.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL FUNDING POLICE OFFICERS

The Sub-Committee received an update on the activity of the Havering Joint Task Force, agreed under S.92 of the Police Act 1996, in their first 6 months of operation in Havering.

The report outlined that the Force consisted of 1 Sargent and 5 Constables and was launched in January 2020 with a view to address a range of issues across the Borough and had made a total of 104 arrests, of which one was the Boroughs most wanted Burglary suspects, and recovered 45 stolen vehicles.

EAST AREA VIOLENCE SUPPRESSION UNIT (VSU) UPDATE

The Sub-Committee were given an update on the East Area VSU which was formed in May 2020 and composed of 20 officers led by a single Detective Inspector. The Sub-Committee were advised that the VSU had made 478 arrests with 2245 stop & searches alongside 2 key operations. The Sub-Committee was also updated on the East Area BCU Drugs Focus Desk which ensured drugs supply offenses were dealt with robustly and was formed in June 2020.

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN HAVERING - UPDATE REPORT

The Sub-Committee was updated on the delivery of the Council's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-22 which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019. The Sub-committee was given an overview on the level of domestic abuse in Havering, was briefed on the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which focused on sharing information to evaluate and act upon high risk cases and was given an outline on the work being done to support children who were victims of domestic abuse.

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.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Legal implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Equalities implications and risks:

While the work of the Sub-Committee can impact on all members of the community, there are no implications arising from this specific report which is a narrative of the Sub-Committee's work over the past year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.