



CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Performance Monitoring of the Council Funded Police Team – Havering Joint Task Force (HJTF)

SLT Lead:

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The report reviews the performance of the Council Funded Police Team (HJTF)

Policy context:

Financial summary:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However adverse performance against some performance indicators may have financial implications for the Council.

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

Communities making Havering
Places making Havering
Opportunities making Havering
Connections making Havering

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SUMMARY

As requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the report reviews the work of the Council Funded Police Team, Havering Joint Task Force (HJTF).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

- note the contents of the report;
- consider the performance information required going forward; and
- request information as set out in the report.

REPORT DETAIL

The Council Funded Police Team joined the Council in January 2020. The Havering Joint Task Force consists of one sergeant and five constables. The Sergeant is paid for by Havering Police. The team are tasked by the Council and have been hugely successful. The report below describe how the team are tasked and the work they have undertaken Priority concerns for the borough include residential burglary, vehicle theft and drug supply.

Taskings

Information and community concerns are received, from Housing and Residential Services, local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Park Wardens and local Members of Parliament, businesses and residents. These reports are collated, trends identified, and presented at a fortnightly Tasking Meeting, attended by the HJTF, Tactical and Environmental Enforcement Teams, Public Protection and Housing.

Issues are discussed by all parties and tasked to the appropriate teams accordingly. Taskings from previous meetings are also discussed, with updates given, and suitability for continuation or any other action required is considered.

During these meetings, any formal requests for assistance are also discussed, as well as any pre-planned operations. Policing and local priorities are also considered.

Between meetings, if any reports that require urgent action, these are passed to the HJTF immediately but are then discussed further at the subsequent Tasking Meeting.

Policing Priorities

London-wide policing priorities, as set out in the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 are as follows:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Keeping Young Children and Young People Safe
- Hate Crime and Intolerance

Local priorities for Havering, as set by MOPAC are:

- All mandatory High Harm Crimes (sexual violence, domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, weapon-based crime and hate crime)
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Burglary
- Non Domestic Violence With Injury

Though these centrally set priorities are kept in mind when tasking the team, they are not always reflective of what trends and issues are fed back to us by members of the community. All priorities and community concerns are taken into consideration when tasking the team and setting up pre-planned operations.

Requests for Assistance / Pre-Planned Operations / Partnership Working

Requests are often received from other council departments and local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, via the Community Safety Team, for HJTF assistance.

Examples of this include requests from Public Protection for HMO Visits, requests from SNT's for attention to properties / locations suspected for Drugs Cultivation / Brothels and our monthly operation with Public Protection "Operation Scaffold" which focuses on rogue builders.

The team have also regularly taken part in pre-planned operations in partnership with cross borough / county partners. Examples of such operations would include Op Cubo in partnership with the Met Road Traffic Policing Team to tackle road

traffic offences and Op Gambler in partnership with Essex Police to target cross boarder criminality. These operations have been a great success, not just for arrests and processes, but for intelligence gathering and disruption of criminality.

Arrests

Havering Joint Task Force has arrested **249** suspects between November 2020 and October 2021. The arrests have been for a range of offences, most of which are indictable and are a result of pro-active and intelligence led policing.

A 9 month review from January to October 2021 shows that the team made 191 arrests of which:

- 106 (55.5%) suspects were charged with an offence following arrest and the offence brought to justice (OBTJ). Exactly what sanctions were issued by the courts cannot be disclosed, but it clearly shows the team's capability of gathering evidence and presenting this to the CPS / decision makers.
- 77 (40.3%) suspects released under investigation (RUI). The reason for this is that the evidence gathering process was ongoing and can be hindered by a number of factors (such as COVID19 pandemic). For example, suspects awaiting blood results for drink/drug driving, forensic work on items recovered, phone work or CPS backlog on decision making.

Also, suspects being investigated for major crimes by specialist units, are protracted so results / disposals may not be seen for some time.

It can be expected that over half of those currently on bail / RUI will be charged.

- 8 (4.2%) suspects had no further action (NFA) taken against them. Again this can be for a variety of reasons such as drink / drug drive blood results showing that they were under the legal limit or for example a number of suspects being stopped in a vehicle which has weapons / drugs on board and one suspect is later identified / admits possession of the item(s) they would be charged and the others released.

From the total arrests over the last 12 months, officers on the funded team are arresting approximately 49 suspects each annually. The vast majority of these are the direct result of proactive or intelligence led policing.

Stop and Search

Between November 2020 and October 2021 the team have conducted **480** stop and searches.

Due to lack of access to data at present, scrutiny of the stop and search figures are limited, however the following has been established, over a 6 month period.

Between March and September 2021, the team conducted 246 stop and searches. Of these searches, the team has achieved a positive result on 111 of these occasions (this is where an item is found and leads to a positive disposal, such as a PND or arrest.) This is a 45% success rate!

Havering Police as a whole conducted 2112 stop and searches between March and September 2021, meaning that the HJTF conducted 12% of all searches conducted in Havering.

Of these 2112 stop and searches in Havering, 365 resulted in positive action, equating to a 17% success rate.

In East Area BCU (Havering, Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham), the total number of Stop and searches conducted during the same period was 7968. The positive result of these were 27%

These figures really highlight the pro-activity and intelligence led policing that the team are presenting and their success rates (that vastly outnumber their BCU colleagues) should be celebrated.

Intelligence

Havering Joint Task Force has submitted **267** CRIMINT reports between November 2020 and October 2021. Intelligence sharing is vital in the fight against crime and leads to further arrests by this unit and others. It is also vital in securing sufficient evidence when applying for search warrants, opposing bail and targeting those who commit crime in Havering.

Stolen Vehicles

Havering Joint Task Force have recovered an incredible **116** stolen vehicles across Havering, between November 2020 and October 2021.

The team carefully plot where the vehicles have been found, which criminal groups are likely associated and gather evidence such as CCTV and conduct door to door enquiries to identify offenders.

It should also be noted that the finding of these vehicles has led to numerous arrests/convictions either by us directly or via forensic examinations.

Traffic Offence Reporting (TOR)

Havering Joint Task Force conducted numerous stops of vehicles across the borough. The team use intelligence led policing to specifically target regular offenders and criminals who use vehicles in order to commit crime.

When opportunities present themselves the team will report drivers for offences. The team has processed/reported a total of **52** drivers between November 2020 and October 2021. On occasions where the offender has no drivers licence or insurance the police have the power to seize the vehicle under s165 Road Traffic Act.

Offenders can only reclaim these vehicles once they have proof of insurance, a valid UK driver's licence and have paid accrued fines.

During this period, a total of **67** vehicles were seized by the team.

Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs)

Havering Joint Task Force are committed to drive down drug supply and drug use within the borough. The team regularly issues PND's when suspects are found in possession of cannabis following a stop/search.

Penalty Notices allow the team to remain deployed across the borough and save a lot of time in lengthy custody procedures.

The issuing of a PND is the equivalent of an Offence Brought to Justice (OBTJ) and counts as a sanctioned detection. The offender has 28 days to pay a fine of £90.

Between November 2020 and October 2021 the five officers on the Joint Task Force issued **63** PND's to drug offenders across Havering. This is a cumulative total of £5670 fines for drug possession.

Crime Reporting (CRIS)

Havering Joint Task Force officers recorded a total of 126 crime reports across Havering between November 2020 and October 2021.

All crimes reported by the team are for the purpose of investigating crime that have been specifically identified/attended to by the team.

For example a CRIS is recorded when the team issue a PND for cannabis possession.

This does not take into account the numerous crime reports we have updated which were linked to stolen vehicles or outstanding/wanted suspects for example.

COPA Files (Case Files)

Between November 2020 and October 2021, the team created a total of **125** COPA files. The purpose of these is to pass evidence/information to the CPS/Courts.

Whenever HJTF send a suspect to court for disposal a COPA file must be created and all evidence related to the offences attached. This can be a time consuming process which can be exasperated by repetitive CPS Actions/Memos.

Again this does not take into account the already created COPA files for which HJTF have arrested an outstanding suspect for.

	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	TOTAL
ARRESTS	20	16	22	27	31	19	23	15	20	12	26	18	249
STOP/SEARCH	68	35	68	53	48	34	41	17	38	42	26	28	498
PNDS	13	5	10	7	4	3	4	2	5	2	2	6	63
TOR	5	3	4	7	6	2	1	3	5	5	3	8	52
COPA	7	5	12	14	14	20	11	9	10	5	10	8	125
CRIMINT	36	18	36	36	20	9	17	5	36	18	22	14	267
CRIS	16	6	12	14	10	10	12	6	10	9	6	15	126
STOLEN VEHICLES FOUND	13	2	7	8	13	10	9	13	6	14	14	7	116
SEIZED VEHICLES	7	3	3	11	10	7	3	4	3	3	3	10	67

Work Return

Operation Gambler - This is a cross border initiative with Essex Police, which takes place two nights a month. This operation targets those criminals who cross the Havering/Essex border with the sole intention of committing crime. We specifically target high harm offenders such as gang nominal, habitual knife carriers, robbers, burglars and drug dealers.

Havering Joint Task Force are solely responsible for the planning and execution of this operation. PS Tanner secures funding through CATO every month, prepares a briefing and arranges other Met Police specialist units to take part.

In total 25 of these operations, have now taken place hundreds of suspects have been arrested, lost or stolen vehicles recovered and weapons and drugs seized, all as a result of pro-active, intelligence led policing.

Furthermore this joined up working with Essex Police and MPS specialist units such as dog section, traffic and Spider teams has meant that these units will often patrol Havering working alongside Havering Joint Task Force at no additional cost!

Social Media

The team regularly share good news stories and crime prevention advice with the public, via twitter, publishing 68 tweets between November 2020 and October 2021. The team have seen significant public interest and positive reactions to their tweets.

Some sample tweets originating from the team include:



Summary

Havering Joint Task Force is one of the most productive operational unit in East Area given that it is made up of just 5 uniformed police officers.

The results achieved by this small team are simply outstanding. The vast number of suspects brought to justice has clearly made Havering safer for its residents and communities.

The team have worked tirelessly throughout the past year and despite the COVID19 pandemic and various aide commitments have achieved some excellent results.

Glossary of Terms

CRIMINT	Police CRIMINT system which is used to capture intelligence, such as information about properties which may be used for cultivating drugs.
CRIS	Crime Reporting Information System – Metropolitan Police Database which captures all allegations of crime
Ink Pad	Metropolitan Police mobile fingerprint system, used to support on-street identification of individuals who fall into the Identity Not Known (INK) category.
MERLIN	Merlin is a database run by the Metropolitan Police that stores information on children who have become known to the police for any reason. This can range from being a victim of bullying, being present whilst a property is searched, missing children and reporting concerns regarding vulnerable adults.
PND	Penalty Notice for Disorder. This is a form of Fixed Penalty Notice with a penalty amount of £60 or £90. The PND can be used for lower level offences committed by a person over the age of 18.
COPA	A system which generates cases and stores evidence for court. Direct links to CPS for which cases are built.

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:

There are no apparent legal implications in noting the content of this Report.

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.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.