

Cabinet, 20 Sept 2022

SUMMARY

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on Local Authorities in line with key statutory partners (Police, Probation, Fire services and Health) to produce a three year partnership plan to tackle crime and disorder in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve the Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-25

REPORT DETAIL

The Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) is comprised of five responsible authorities who, by law, are required to work together to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending. There is also a statutory requirement that the HCSP produces an annual strategic assessment of these issues in coordination with a community safety strategy or plan.

An annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder was conducted across October 2021. The strategic assessment assesses and evaluates the progress towards priorities set out in the previous Community Safety partnership plan, and recommends any changes required to the strategic priorities, if applicable, for the forthcoming years. The strategic assessment has identified six strategic priorities the forthcoming plan.

Strategic Priorities

The proposed strategic priorities for Havering are set out below. For each priority, it should be possible to identify those agencies and resources that are best placed to respond and deliver improvements with consideration of short, medium and long-term requirements. Most strategic priorities will require a balance between prevention, harm reduction, enforcement and reassurance. . It is important that responses can specifically identify how they will better control offenders, improve guardianship and management of places.

1. Reducing Violence – Violence against the person is responsible for 32% of all total notifiable crimes in Havering and is a key demand driver across Council departments and partnership agencies.
2. Tackling Violence against Women and Girls - these thematic areas contain the highest rates of repeat victimisation and domestic abuse is responsible for

41.3% of all total notifiable crimes in Havering. Confidence among these groups with the Criminal Justice System and support networks overall is low.

3. Reducing reoffending, especially substance misuse and group related – a small proportion of offenders account for a high proportion of solved crimes. Alcohol and drugs are significant enhancers contributing to violence and serious acquisitive crimes. Small groups of offenders known to one another are disproportionately responsible for low volume but more harmful serious crimes.

4. Tackling Serious Youth Crime and criminal exploitation- young people are especially vulnerable to being drawn into gang activity, criminal exploitation and County Lines.

5. Reducing crime in our Town centres and other identified vulnerable neighbourhoods– Romford and key facilities concentrated within its boundaries account for a high proportion of all crimes and community safety problems. Similar vulnerable hotspots have been identified in Harold Hill and Hornchurch.

6. Improving feelings of safety – Fear of crime is disproportionately high in Havering and impacts on the quality of life of those who live and work in the Borough. We aim to tackle this through improved communications particularly around awareness of crime prevention and self-awareness regarding safety.

Havering’s identified strategic priorities are broadly aligned to current and emerging regional and national strategies. Both within the national and regional context there continues to be a greater emphasis on prioritisation of crimes that present the highest levels of risk and harm, notably Violence Reduction which includes Violence Against Women and Girls and Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation.

The Full Partnership plan is attached as Appendix 1
A full equalities impact assessment is attached as Appendix 2

REASONS AND OPTIONS

There is a statutory obligation to give reasons and options, so they MUST always be given

Reasons for the decision:

The reason for the decision is to respond to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which places obligations on Community Partnerships to produce a three-yearly (or rolling annual) Community Safety Plan. This also responds to the Mayor of London’s statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Police and Crime Plan. The Community Safety Partnership Plan (also referred to as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan) is a statutory document, as set out under Part 2, Articles of the Constitution.

Other options considered:

To not have a plan – rejected as the council would be failing to comply with its statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The only remaining option is not to respond, or to respond as a council without the input of partners who have a role to play in policing and crime issues (and a statutory obligation to be involved in the development of a Community Safety Plan). The latter was rejected on the basis that multiple items of the community safety plan require a joint response.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This Strategy has been devised by the Havering Community Safety Partnership. It sets out the plans and actions that the Partnership aspires to as a result of this year's Strategic Assessment, which is an analysis of the crime and disorder trends in Havering over the last twelve months. This approach is in line with the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, Police and Justice Act 2006 and Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007/1830.

Regulation 10 provides:—

- (1) The strategy group shall prepare a partnership plan for the area.
- (2) Before the start of each year the strategy group shall revise the partnership plan.
- (3) When revising the partnership plan the strategy group shall consider the strategic assessment and community safety agreement produced during the year prior to the year referred to in paragraph (2).

Regulation 11 provides.—

- (1) The partnership plan shall set out—
 - (a) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending, crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in the area;
 - (b) the priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the year prior to the year referred to in regulation 10(2);
 - (c) the steps the strategy group considers it necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement that strategy and meet those priorities;
 - (d) how the strategy group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities;
 - (e) the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities; and
 - (f) The steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its obligations under regulations 12, 13 and 14.

12.—

(1) For the purposes of preparing the strategic assessment and preparing and implementing the partnership plan the strategy group shall make arrangements for obtaining the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area about—

(a) the levels and patterns of re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area; and

(b) The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce re-offending, crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.

(2) The arrangements under paragraph (1) shall, so far as is reasonable, provide for consultation with—

(a) persons who appear to the strategy group to represent the interests of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable; and

(b) Persons who appear to the strategy group to represent the interests of those groups or persons within the area likely to be particularly affected by the implementation of the partnership plan.

(3) In making the arrangements under paragraph (1) the strategy group shall have regard to any other consultation with persons who live or work in that area that is undertaken by the responsible authorities in relation to the matters specified in subparagraphs 1(a) and (b) other than under these Regulations.

(4) The arrangements made under paragraph (1) shall provide that—

(a) the strategy group hold one or more public meetings during each year;

(b) that such meetings are attended by persons who hold a senior position within each of the responsible authorities;

(c) the strategy group shall take steps as it considers appropriate to bring to the attention of persons who live or work in the area, or who might otherwise be interested, information about

(i) when such meetings are held; and

(ii) What was discussed at such meetings.

Whenever a public body consults it must do so meaningfully, in other words it must consult before any final decisions have been taken, give enough time and information to consultees and then conscientiously take into account the responses to the consultation before making a final decision.

Accordingly, provided that the plan addresses each of the points in Regulation 11 and the consultation under Regulation 12 has been undertaken meaningfully and the decision maker takes into account the responses to the consultation there do not appear to be any legal risks in approving the plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no direct financial implications or risks associated with the adoption of the Partnership plan.

The Community Safety Plan will be delivered within existing resources.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no HR implications in this decision.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Equalities Impact Assessment for the Havering Community Safety Partnership has been completed and is an appendix within the Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The proposed activities within the plan covers a range of services from prevention violent crime, reducing reoffending, rehabilitation to protecting people from exploitation and violence and supporting victims. The activities have been evidence based or will produce evidence to effectively implement local intervention. The funding came from a number of external grants but the local partners will apply local insights and evidence to implement the plan to deliver the priorities identified for Havering:

1. Reducing Violence – which is responsible for 32% of all total notifiable crimes in Havering
2. Tackling Violence against Women and Girls - domestic abuse is responsible for 41.3% of all total notifiable crimes in Havering and is implicated in suicides and self-harm among the perpetrators and victims.
3. Reducing reoffending, especially substance misuse and group related
4. Tackling Serious Youth Crime and criminal exploitation-.
5. Reducing crime in our Town centres and other identified vulnerable neighbourhoods–Harold Hill and Hornchurch.
6. improving feelings of safety –through improved communications particularly around awareness of crime prevention and self-awareness regarding safety.

Anti-social behaviour, violence, criminal activities and hate crime have wider impacts to health via its impacts on safety, wellbeing, quality of life, physical activity, education and social activity.

The plan will continue to improve coordinated efforts by the partner agencies in community safety and will impact positively on health and wellbeing of the residents in both short-term and long-term.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no climate change implications. There is a corporate requirement to set out the implications and risks of the decision sought, in the following areas

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Havering Annual strategic assessment 2021
- 2 Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-20
- 3 MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2021-25