



CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE 21 November 2013

Subject: Heading:

Delivering Community Safety through a localities model.

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

This report relates to the Council's Corporate Plan objective of 'A clean, safe and green borough' and sets out how this is being delivered through the HCSP's location groups

SUMMARY

The multi-agency 'Location' model of crime prevention has now been in operation for over a year, and this report provides Members with an evaluation of how they are working.

This report details:

- The cluster areas for location groups
- The two types of problems that the location groups are working on
- Examples of recent work of the location groups.
- Chairing arrangements

RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Background

1.1 In 2011/12, the Community Safety Partnership introduced a new operating model for tackling longer-term community safety issues that require a multi-agency planned response, such as burglary, vehicle theft, and anti-social behaviour. The rationale for moving towards this model, which replaced 'type of crime' working groups with three cluster location groups (north, central and south), meant that partners could focus on a variety of issues affecting an area.

The new model cuts down on the number of meetings agencies are required to attend and frees up resource for tackling crime. The localities work also complements the deployment of other agencies that are also location based (E.g. Fire Service, Social Services, etc.), which allows for better alignment of services. It also represents a better use of scarce resources as resources can be targeted on areas that proportionately have more crime and disorder.

1.2 This report sets out:

- The cluster areas for location groups
- The two types of problems that the location groups face
- Examples of recent successes of the location groups.
- Chairing arrangements

2. Location Areas

2.1 The Location groups correspond with the clusters Havering Police use to deploy safer neighbourhood teams, namely, North, Central and South Clusters. Six wards are contained in each cluster:

North – Havering Park, Gooshays, Mawneys, Petits, Heaton and Harold Wood

Central – Brooklands, Romford Town, Squirrels Heath, Emerson Park, Hylands and St. Andrews

South – Elm Park, South Hornchurch, Hacton, Cranham, Upminster and Rainham and Wennington

2.2 This is conducive to ensuring all local areas area are treated fairly in terms of resource. For example two high priority burglary areas (with the onset of the dark nights) have been chosen per cluster.

3. Location Group Activity

3.1 Over the last year, experience has shown that there are two distinct types of problems that the Location groups face:

- Strategic long term problems that are more complex in nature (known as 'Partnership Areas')
- Quick wins, short-term operational problems that may require an approach with only two or three agencies involved (known as 'Responsive Problems')

3.2 Partnership Areas

- Defined as those areas that analysis shows have a long term crime and disorder problem (comparatively) over the last three years based on the MOPAC 7 crimes.
- There will typically be around six of these areas across the three location areas. For instance, the Police have identified six high priority burglary areas that are currently receiving intensive work over the next three months, which the location groups are helping to shape and deliver. This includes partnership crime prevention visits in specific streets.
- Each partner on the location group commits to delivering key actions and builds actions into their own work plans to embed activity in the long term.

3.3 Responsive Problems

- Defined as problems that are 'one off' in nature and identified by Havering Tasking Group or by location group partners
- Often represent 'quick wins' in getting the community on side in preventing crime and building public confidence in public agencies
- If responsive problems keep occurring in a specific area a more long term approach may be adopted and the area could become a Partnership Area.

4. Examples of recent successes of the location groups

4.1 A campaign to increase Neighbourhood Watch in specific areas where burglary has been high in the past has begun. A new leaflet has been produced that encourages local people to join / coordinate a local neighbourhood watch. Currently there are 485 active watches in Havering. Four specific areas have been leafleted so far (also with general burglary advice) and partners are helping to deliver this advice. The aim of this activity is to maintain momentum for existing Neighbourhood Watches and to further increase the numbers across the borough, particularly in areas of high fear of crime.

Crime and Disorder Committee, 21 November 2013

4.2 Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been supplied by the Community Safety Team with equipment (3600 window alarms and 3600 timer switches in all) and general burglary advice to help with cocooning operations. Cocooning is a reactive strategy to protect against residential burglary and follows a spike in residential burglaries within a certain area. It involves the delivery (and fitting where applicable) of crime prevention material from the local safer neighbourhood team in charge of the houses surrounding recently burgled premises.

4.3 The Location Groups have been developing targeted intensive campaigns called 'Partnership Protected Areas' to tackle longer term issues. This is where a number of agencies choose a particular street, or a couple of streets, for an intensified approach to keeping people safe at home. So far two protected areas have taken place and the results are as follows:

South Area

93 Houses visited - All had Community Safety Packs left

50 Fire Surveys Completed

65 Trading Standard Cold Calling Packs Issued / Alarms and Timer Switches Fitted

24 No replies

4 Visits refused (majority had alarms etc. already)

Central Area

135 houses visited and community safety packs left

67 houses left with timer switches and window alarms

16 Cold calling stickers displayed (as at 18 October)

Slightly different models were used for each Protected Area. E.g. time of day visited, agencies involved etc. Further protected areas are planned for the 16 November (update to be given to Members at the meeting) and 30 November.

4.4 Neighbourhood Agreements (where actions for agencies and residents are agreed in discussion) are already in place for the Briar Road Estate, and are being negotiated for the Highfield Towers area of the Borough. It is planned to research this approach as a possible strategy for the Waterloo Estate, which will be developed by the Central location group.

4.5 Each location group also has oversight of community engagement events that provide members of the public with crime prevention advice. Around 60 events were attended across the borough last year.

5. Chairing Arrangements

5.1 The location groups are chaired by members of community safety staff with an executive group chaired by the Fire Brigade Borough Commander.

5.2 The location approach is chaired and led by the Borough Commander of Havering Fire Service, who chairs a small locations business group where the Chairs of each location group provide updates on the activities of their cluster. The Borough Commander then reports this activity back to the quarterly Havering Community Safety Partnership meetings so that all partners are informed about what multi-agency activity, or crime problems, is happening in the localities.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: Financial resources are limited each year so partners need to find innovative and value for money ways to tackle problems in a cohesive and sustainable manner. The location groups have a small amount of non-recurrent funding to tackle local problems, allocated to them by the Havering Community Safety Partnership's LAA Performance Reward Grant, in 2011. All other partnership activity set out in this report, including the Partnership Protected Area intensive campaigns, are delivered within partners' existing resources.

Legal implications and risks: The proposals are in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as they detail mainstreaming objectives as proposed in the Act.

Human Resources implications and risks: There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications and risks: There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report. Crime prevention roadshows take place in targeted locations to reach 'hard to reach' groups and communications targeted accordingly.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None