

## **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP**

**Thursday, 29 November 2018**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.00 am**

### **Present**

#### **Attendees**

Douglas Barrow (Chairman)  
David Maher (Clinical Commissioning Group)  
Peter Dunphy

Eric Beckford (London Probation Service)  
Tijs Broeke  
Jim Flin (London Fire Brigade)  
Bob Benton (City Business Representative)

Farrah Hart	- Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Jess Wynne	- City of London Police
Zahur Khan	- Department of the Built Environment
Valeria Cadena-Wrigley	- Community Safety Officer
David Mackintosh	- Community Safety Manager
Zahir Khan	- Department of the Built Environment
Oliver Bolton	- Town Clerk's Department
Jon Averbs	- Port Health and Public Protection Director
Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Chris Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Peter Lisley.

The Chairman conveyed his thanks to the Borough Commander for Chairing the last meeting before his retirement. The Chairmen extended a welcome to the new Members.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The Group considered the minutes from the last meeting, held on 31 May 2018.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be approved.

#### **4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Town Clerk that provided Members with a summary of the outstanding actions from the previous meeting. The following updates were noted.

**Licensing Team Inspector Post** – Post to be reinstated through the late-night levy, which a Member, also Chairman of Licensing Committee, remarked would be welcomed by the Licensing Committee.

**CPN Stats** – The Commissioner confirmed that he would provide the stats to the Clerk for circulation.

**Attempted Suicide Figures** – Six monthly report will be ready in January 2019 and a report will follow early next year.

**SOS Bus** – Bus located in the Liverpool Street area on the last two Thursdays 2000-0200hrs and this would be continuing every Thursday up to Christmas. Very well received by the local business community. An assessment of usage and figures will be produced considering options moving forward.

## 5. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Commissioner that provided partners with an update on the activity of the City of London Police since the last meeting. It was noted that the report format had changed since the last update and that it now covered a twelve-month period.

The Commissioner provided an update in relation to various elements including:

- An increase in violence with injury over the full period, but with a reduction seen over the last three months.
- Burglary had seen an increase for the period, but with a reduction seen over the last two months.
- Anti-Social Behaviour seen numbers come down through operation Luscombe.
- Public Disorder seen a spike in July, thought to be a result of the World Cup. Reassurance was given that robust measures were in place for the Christmas period.

A Member, also Chairman of Licensing Committee, asked for feedback on comparisons with Westminster City Council relating to violence without injury and the Commissioner agreed that he would take this back to his intelligence team and report back.

The Commissioner took the opportunity to highlight all the work that was taking place in relation to Prevent, much of which had been completed or was due to be completed by November.

A Member welcomed the continuation of operation Luscombe and questioned whether there was continued investment in place for this. The Commissioner explained that a report had recently been presented to Police Committee setting out what worked, what did not work and updating on working with partners. It was confirmed operation Luscombe would be continuing and embedded at City of London Police.

The Commissioner highlighted that operation Luscombe was also about ensuring the right interventions were in place for beggars. Getting individuals involved in community events and intervention hubs through a partnership

approach. The Commissioner confirmed a yearly update report would be provided.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

6. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Manager that provided partners with an update on activity on the Community Safety Team since the last meeting.

The Community Safety Manager provided an update in relation to Prevent confirming training had now been made mandatory. An audit of staff would be taking place to understand those that had not been through the process. The Community Safety Manager clarified that he did consider high level intervention was necessary at this point to get people engaged.

The Community Safety Manager referred to the Safer City Partnership Strategy and remarked on the significant task of capturing all the work of partners and bringing this into one document. It was confirmed that an officer working group was already in place looking at the Strategy, but any additional support from Members in pulling this together would be welcomed.

The Community Safety Manager confirmed two new roles were being introduced within his team, these being a Vulnerability and Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator already recruited and an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. It was hoped that the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator role would allow for more information on Anti-Social Behaviour to be fed through to Members and for Anti-Social behaviour work to be taken forward.

A Member noted one referral for Prevent and questioned whether a greater number would be expected given the City's demographic. The Community Safety Manager reassured the Group that a high penetration rate was being achieved in spreading the message within the resident community and through regular engagement sessions with resident groups. The Member noted that the penetration was there but suggested this could be brought out more in the report to make it clear.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

7. **SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME BOARD (SOCB) - ANNUAL REVIEW**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Team providing an update on the work of the Serious and Organised Crime Board (SOCB) and the three key areas identified as a threat to the City.

The Community Safety Manager updated the Group explaining it had taken some time to get the Board up and running, but that it was now meeting regularly and had agreed its three main areas of crime to focus on being fraud and cyber-crime, modern slavery and illicit drugs, and with good work now taking place with colleagues at City of London Police in these areas. It was noted that key performance indicators would be produced in certain areas e.g.

illicit drugs. It was clarified that a key priority for the SOCB would be to identify a new chairperson following the retirement of the previous Chairman.

The Borough Commander remarked that he would welcome an opportunity to sit in on a SOCB meeting to gain an understanding of how the SOCB works but indicated that he would be happy to step up and support.

The Deputy Chairman of the SOCB referred to eight areas of crime included as within its terms of reference, with these having been reviewed over the last year and three priority areas having been identified for further discussion with the Home Office.

A Member referred to child exploitation and abuse and questioned the priority given to this. The Chairman offered his assurance that child exploitation was a crime that was very much part of the SOCB's focus and high on its radar, but that it had to identify priority areas based on the current position. It was stressed that the three priority areas had been identified based on the current position, but that should partners come forward explaining a change in their areas then the focus could be changed.

It was suggested making it explicit within the report how seriously child exploitation was being taken. The SOCB's Deputy Chairman proposed adding child exploitation as a standing item on future SOCB agendas to demonstrate the seriousness with which the issue was being taken.

RESOLVED – That the report be received. Agreed that child exploitation and abuse be added to Serious and Organised Crime Board agenda as a standing item.

#### **8. COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE - ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Team providing an update on the progress of work in terms of responses to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Chairman highlighted two case studies tabled at the meeting. It was noted that the two case studies were showing one case that was active and one that had taken a year to resolve owing to its complexity. It was stressed that people living on the street often have complex problems e.g. drugs and alcohol and these issues can often take a very long time to resolve. During the discussion the following points were noted: -

- There were also incidents of low-level anti-social behaviour e.g. rubbish being left on the street and obstruction of public, and it was noted these were being dealt with individually at present across various teams.
- Anti-social behaviour was becoming an increasing issue amongst voters.
- Any strategy would need to offer appropriate care for those living on the streets, whilst also considering the needs of businesses.
- It was stressed that there was a distinction between begging and rough sleeping. Begging was a criminal offence that could be subject to

banning orders, whilst homelessness was a matter for the City Corporation's Homelessness Team.

- It was questioned if the City Corporation could do more to get the issue moving forward through positive messaging, convening of meetings of key partners and developing a coherent approach.
- Case studies show people were creating a begging problem through their kindness. It was noted a cross London campaign was being planned that will focus on the approach to begging.
- Use of civil injunctions was highlighted as an area available for use that could be used more.
- It was stressed that it would not be possible to injunct or arrest your way out of rough sleeping when there are no other problems associated with it. This would not offer a long-term solution. A more holistic and co-ordinated approach was needed to avoid moving the problem to other areas. Beggars, rough sleepers and aggressive rough sleepers needed separating out.

Members acknowledged that this Group was the appropriate forum to discuss and agree a strategy in relation to anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that Community and Children's Services Committee would be invited to nominate a representative to sit on this Group given the Committee's interest in this strategy.

The Community Safety Officer confirmed that an anti-social behaviour strategy was being developed and that work was taking place with partners to develop a multi-agency approach. It was suggested considering all the powers available for dealing with anti-social behaviour and how best these can be used.

RESOLVED: - That the report be received. That Community and Children's Services Committee be asked to nominate a representative to sit on this Group.

## **9. CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN 2018**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Manager providing an update on the planned Christmas campaign for 2018.

The Community Safety Manager remarked that this year's campaign will follow the same as previous years and be in partnership with the Greater London Authority and Mayor of London. The campaign included a toolkit aimed at employers, a social media campaign, adverts and a dedicated webpage. Learning points from last year had shown that social media can reach a greater number of people than traditional posters and leaflets. It was noted that five other London Boroughs were also running campaigns personalised to each area. It was agreed that a report would be brought back to the next meeting providing an update on the campaign.

A Member questioned whether a 'drunk tank' was available and the Community Safety Manager confirmed this service would be provided by the SOS Bus this year. There would also be vehicles out on the road picking people up. It was noted that options for funding the SOS Bus in future years were still under review.

RESOLVED, that the report be received, and its contents noted.

10. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on activity within the department.

The Director of Community and Children's Services updated the Group confirming the Children and Young People Plan had recently been approved by Committee and that this would be aligned to the Safer City Partnership Strategy. It was noted that a new post had been introduced looking at domestic abuse, and with the post being aligned to other strategies and key areas of work.

The Director of Community and Children's Services clarified that the effectiveness of the Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator role was monitored through clear reporting requirements to the Ministry of Communities, Housing & Local Government Rough Sleeping Initiative to allow for funding to be released. A Member clarified that this area of work was also monitored by the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Committee.

RESOLVED, that the report be received, and the contents noted.

11. **THE CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing a summary of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017/18.

A Member referred to paragraph six within the report and questioned when work with other Boards will begin and the Director of Community and Children's Services agreed to report back on this point.

RESOLVED, that the report be received, and its contents noted.

12. **PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, LICENSING AND TRADING STANDARDS) UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection updating on areas within the department that contributed to the work of the Safer City Partnership. The Port Health & Public Protection Director provided the following updates: -

- Illegal street trading continued to be tackled with an agreement in place with London Borough of Southwark allowing enforcement action to be taken over the boarder when needed. An agreement with London Borough of Tower Hamlets was due shortly.
- Safety Thirst would be reviewed to ensure it remained fit for purpose in light of a number of national schemes, whilst noting a record number of licensed premises were recognised this year for their work in reducing alcohol crime and disorder in the Square Mile.

- Late Night Levy agreed by Committee. A report was due to be presented to Licensing Committee setting out what can be done through the levy and breaking down the spend on each area.

A Member, also Chairman of Licensing Committee, highlighted that the number of hearings relating to violent crime had significantly reduced and with complaints now focussed on issues of late-night drinking, which reflects the trend over the last few years with new premises opening.

RESOLVED, that the report be received, and its contents noted.

**13. LONDON FIRE BRIGADE**

The Group received a verbal update of the Borough Commander.

The Borough Commander confirmed turnout time for appliance incidents in the City was six to eight minutes on average. It was noted that there had been 934 callouts for automatic fire alarms with the business community being the most prolific customer. It was confirmed that work was continuing with the main offenders looking to reduce the number of callouts.

The Borough Commander highlighted 354 callouts to homes and assured the Group that work was taking place with Residents' Associations to provide education in relation to white goods. The Borough Commander clarified that there was no obligation on the London Fire Brigade to break into properties to switch off fire alarms where no fire had been identified.

The Port Health and Public Protection Director referred to powers to break in through the agreement of a Magistrate. It was suggested a link be made with the London Fire Brigade to look at actions that can be taken when fire alarms are continually sounding. The Port Health and Public Protection Director agreed to report back on this issue.

RESOLVED, that the Borough Commander be heard.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman asked that the organisation of attendees be noted on future agendas along with a note of the date of the next meeting.

**The meeting closed 12.45pm.**

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Chairman

**Contact Officer: Chris Rumbles**  
**tel.no.: 020 7332 1405**  
**christopher.rumbles@cityoflondon.gov.uk**