

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Tuesday, 26 February 2019

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)	Don Randall
Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman)	Tijs Broeke
Bob Benton	Sophie Anne Fernandes

Lee Presland	- City of London Police
Jon Avern	- Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations
Tony Macklin	- Assistant Director Public Protection
David Mackintosh	- Community Safety Manager
Farrah Hart	- Public Health Consultant
Valeria Cadena-Wrigley	- Community Safety Officer
Marcus Roberts	- Community and Children's Services
Jess Walsh	- Community Safety Team
Chris Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Peter Dunphy, Eric Beckford, Stuart Webber and Jim Flin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The Group considered the minutes from the last meeting, held on 29 November 2018.

Resolved, that the minutes be approved.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

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

Attempted Suicide Figure: The Public Health Consultant referred to figures in relation to suicides and the difficulty she had encountered in obtaining information from City of London Police owing to officers' sickness absence. The Commissioner suggested raising it with him in future and he would be happy to assist.

The Chairman stressed the importance of raising any communication issues between the City Corporation and City of London Police earlier in future and for these can be dealt with between meetings.

The Chairman noted a six-monthly report on suicides was due in January and he has asked that this be circulated outside of the meeting.

SOB Bus: Update included as part of the Christmas Campaign 2018 update later on the agenda.

Violence Without Injury: Clarity was sought on how the City Corporation compares with Westminster City Council. The Commissioner agreed to circulate information between meetings.

A Member referred to the continued growth of the night-time economy in the City of London and suggested opportunities should be taken to learn from the approach taken at other more established areas e.g. Westminster. The Chairman acknowledged the importance of lessons learned.

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy: The Community Safety Manager clarified that a Community and Children's Services Committee representative to the Group had been resolved by Mr Broeke being appointed. It was agreed this action could be closed.

Licensing Inspector Post: Licensing Committee agreement to funding the post through the late-night levy, but an individual had not yet been appointed. The Commissioner explained that City of London Police were looking at a suitable officer for the role and that it was anticipated having someone appointed following a meeting next week. It was agreed to circulate an update between meetings.

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. Updates were provided in relation the various elements including:

- The number of incidents of violence with injury during December had decreased, compared to a 30% increase over the year, which was considered to be a result of the Christmas campaign, increased police presence on the streets during this period and maximising opportunities for early intervention in drunk and disorderly behaviour.
- A 72% increase had been seen in business/community burglary, which had resulted in a daily review and continued liaison with CID, visiting victims and adopting a cocooning approach of the surrounding area and visiting other surrounding properties and giving advice.
- Youth intimidation had been seen at Castle Baynard Street, commonly reported on bicycles and/or skateboards. The area had been targeted with 35 dispersal orders having been issued and work continued with Transport for London on a long-term solution. It was explained that a proposal to play classical music in the area was being considered.

The Commissioner explained that tactics were constantly being reviewed in relation to burglaries with patrols targeting specific hotspots, adopting a more pro-active approach, using plain clothes officers, using intelligence and targeting prolific offenders.

The Chairman expressed his concern with an increase in crime having been seen and stressed he was more concerned with prevention rather than offering comfort. The Chairman suggested general trends were not being seen through the current reporting of a twelve-month period and asked that future reports cover a three-year period.

The Community Safety Manager acknowledged that the SOS bus had worked during the Christmas period and suggested it would be good to pick up the elements that worked to buck the trend, which the Commissioner acknowledged had been the result a joined up approach.

The Commissioner explained more visible options for policing were being considered e.g. fixed-point officers on raised platforms in certain areas. It was acknowledged that the SOS Bus achieved real benefits through providing a high visibility fixed point and offering re-assurance to the public and it was confirmed work was taking place to introduce something for the Easter campaign. It was suggested options to fund a bus could be explored e.g. sponsorship.

A Member remarked on the clear peaks around the night-time economy and the Commissioner explained that there was a strategy in place with Thursday and Friday nights being targeted.

The Chairman remarked that Police Officers on the street clearly provided a greater level of assurance to the public and also resulted in lower levels of crime. It was suggested that if there was good evidence coming through then this would need presenting to Police Committee and the Commissioner agreed to feed this back through.

It was suggested warranted officers were not the only form of visible deterrent available and the Chairman asked that City of London Police and City Corporation colleagues work together to consider options and report back at the next meeting on what can be achieved.

A Member referred to the need for greater context needed in certain areas. It was highlighted that being homeless was not a criminal offence and would not necessarily lead to public disorder and it was suggested more information was needed to understand where the real problems were.

The Chairman suggested that the report lacked a degree of context and asked that some comparison data be included, possibly with Westminster and also to have 3 year rolling figures for the various crime types. Specific issue around shoplifting in December not showing the number of shops closed compared to

other months. The Commissioner agreed to look at how information would be presented in future.

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

6. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

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

The Community Safety Manager updated on the considerable resident engagement that had taken place and highlighted a key concern amongst residents being knife crime, that was considered to be driven by media. It was noted that there had been one high risk case of domestic abuse reported and it was confirmed that a CoL Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Violence Forum was being arranged.

The Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations referred to the last meeting of the Serious Organised Crime Board on the 14th February and the poor turnout at the meeting. It was stressed that there was a need to remind people of the importance of attending Serious Organised Crime Board meetings and the Town Clerk agreed to circulate the terms of reference of the Board along with dates of future meetings and encourage partners to attend.

The Community Safety Manager explained that E-CINS was a partnership system that allowed all partners to connect to one platform and share information for case management to be dealt with more effectively. It was stressed the system only works if all partners use it. It was confirmed that an event would be taking place on 27 March to highlight benefits of the system. Neighbouring boroughs would be presenting case studies showing how the system works and giving real examples of collaboration and successful implementation of the system.

A Member commented that residents had not seen much change in rough sleeping and begging and highlighted the area outside Tesco where it was suggested rough sleepers had built up a rapport with members of the public. The Community Safety Manager stressed that E-CINS would allow for all interactions and information to be recorded across partners. This would then provide appropriate evidence and a clear trail of all interventions to support pursuing a legal route where appropriate.

A Member stressed the importance of splitting rough sleeping and begging, with there being a number of professional beggars commuting into the City to do so.

The Chairman asked City of London Police and the City Corporation to work together and for an update to be provided at the next meeting on moving forward in this area.

The Chairman conveyed his thanks to the Graduate Trainee for all her work during her time with the Community Safety Team.

REOLVED, that the report be received, and its content noted.

7. **CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN 2018 UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Community Team Manager that provided an evaluation of the 2018 Christmas campaign – ‘Three Wise Things: Eat, Pace, Plan’.

Members noted the Campaign ran from 26 November 2018 to 1 January 2019 across the Christmas and New Year peak party season and was supported by a range of social media activity throughout this period. The campaign had been well received and provided an excellent example of joined up working across partners with a clear reduction in violent crime having been seen. It was suggested future campaigns would focus on digital elements with this area providing a far greater reach than traditional methods.

The Commissioner explained that feedback from the SOS Bus was due to be received within the next week. It was confirmed that data captured would be reviewed to ascertain the organisations people were working for and to understand if there were any demonstrating a drinking culture.

A Member suggested that when engaging with City businesses in future years that any campaign could focus on a healthy city through a targeted approach.

The Community Safety Manager responded to a question from the Chairman and confirmed that current arrangements, such as the traffic light system, were effective at picking up concerns relating to licensed premises.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

8. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY PROGRESS**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Team Manager that provided a draft of the Safer City Partnership Strategy 2018-23 for consideration.

The Community Safety Team Manager explained that the draft strategy had been presented to provoke comment and discussion and to allow the Group an opportunity to review the strategy and offer any suggestions on items for inclusion.

The Chairman highlighted his concern that crime in the City was rising; the plan was aspirational and had good intent, but the Safer City Partnership Strategy was not winning by reducing crime. The report did not demonstrate the City was a safe place to come to if businesses were looking to relocate and it was questioned how the City compared to other Cities around the world e.g. Tokyo, Singapore and Frankfurt.

The Chairman suggested businesses would be looking to come to a City if it was safe. The strategy would be part of something that was critical on what the City Corporation would be doing to achieve this.

The Commissioner commented on the difficulties for City of London Police in finding a comparable force in this country and suggested Paris would provide a better comparison than cities in England.

The Deputy Chairman remarked on other factors when comparing the City to other locations around the world e.g. human rights issues. It was suggested issues in the City were irritations rather major safety issues; there was a need to take the advice of City of London Police and others to identify what the key indicators should be.

A Member stressed that development of the night-time economy had changed policing issues in the City, and that it needed setting out clearly what all partners would be doing. The Community Safety Officer agreed to set information out in an action plan with names of partners and their specific areas to make it clearer.

The Chairman concluded the discussion and asked the Group to submit their comments.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

9. COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on relevant data and activity from Community and Children's Services.

The Director of Community and Children's Services remarked on the number of rough sleepers in the City having seen an increase in number. It was suggested reflection was needed on what was driving the numbers and to understand whether the numbers being seen was the new norm.

It was explained that discussions were ongoing with neighbouring boroughs to understand the effect of their activities and whether these could have resulted in a 'push' or 'pull' of rough sleepers to the City.

The Director of Community and Children's Services updated on other areas of activity ongoing including working with the Drugs and the City Working Group to identify priority areas, a City Corporation Alcohol Strategy being developed, suicide prevention work continuing through awareness training sessions and also provided an update on the initial work of the Children's Partnership Board that had focussed on children and young people's mental health and a new joint Mental Health Strategy that was being developed.

Members acknowledged that work in other boroughs could be pushing up the number of rough sleepers in the City. It was suggested a collective effort would

be needed with other boroughs to address this issue rather than pushing it from one borough to another.

The Chairman suggested looking at the work of other boroughs in relation to rough sleeping to establish if there was any evidence available for the City to learn from and identify areas to focus on. The Chairman asked that an update be brought to the next meeting as well as details relating to current drug treatment trends.

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

10. **DOMESTIC ABUSE, VULNERABILITY AND RISK POLICY UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer updating on the activities of the one-year funded post.

Members noted the post had been recruited to and that the postholder had started at the beginning of December 2018. It would be a part time post of three days a week until December 2019. Members noted that an interim report would be provided at Safer City Partnership in May with a final report and recommendations coming back in September.

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

11. **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY**

The Director of Community and Children's Services updated the Group explaining a new strategy was needed. It was highlighted that London Borough of Hackney had already begun developing a strategy. Having previously worked with London Borough of Hackney on a shared approach to female genital mutilation, it had been agreed to work with them again in relation to violence against women, whilst ensuring City specific issues were comprehensively covered.

Members noted that London Borough of Hackney were intending to produce a draft strategy by June. The Chairman asked that an update be provided at the next Group meeting in May.

RESOLVED, that the updated be noted.

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

The Group received a report of the Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations updating on a number of areas in relation to Safer City Partnership priorities.

The Director updated the Group on a number of areas including a joint approach to illegal street trading that had been developed with London Borough of Southwark and with final sign off to this joint approach awaited from London Borough of Tower Hamlets. It was confirmed work on noise complaints was ongoing with the aim to see improvements in this area.

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

13. LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

The Town Clerk reminded the Group that the Borough Commander had conveyed his apologies owing to having been called away on urgent London Fire Brigade business. As such, there would be no London Fire Brigade update on this occasion.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Joint Contact and Control Room (JCCR)

The Deputy Chairman responded to a question from the Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations confirming it was likely the Contact Centre would move over a weekend in May. The Force Control room was likely to move in a similar time-frame subject to building works having been completed. It was hoped both would be in place during May.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 20th May 2019 11.00am

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

Chairman

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