

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Monday, 20 May 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)	Jon Averbs, City of London Corporation
Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman)	Tim Wiseman, CCG
Lee Presland, City of London Police	David Bulbrook, London Fire Brigade
Lauren Tucker, Guinness Trust	

Chris Pelham	- Assistant Director, Community and Children's Services
Marcus Roberts	- Community and Children's Services
John Peacock	- City of London Police
Ayesha Fordham	- Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer
Xenia Koumi	- Project Officer
Richard Waight	- City of London Police
Oliver Bolton	- City of London Police Authority
David Mackintosh	- Head of Community Safety
Chris Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Don Randall, David Maher, Bob Benton, Eric Beckford, Tijs Broeke, Alex Wrigley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 26th February were approved as an accurate record.

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.

SOS Bus – Operated over Easter. Update to be provided at the next meeting(1).

Licensing Inspector Post – Closing date yesterday. Likely to have someone in post soon. It was stressed the recruitment had been going on since October last year and it would be good to have someone in post as soon as possible(2).

It was noted the remaining actions had been completed with items all on the agenda at this meeting.

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

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

The Chairman asked for clarification on the difference between options 1 and 2 and it was explained that a key difference would be a full-time versus part-time role. It was explained that this role would allow for a level of expertise to be brought to the post and achieve a far greater level of co-ordination.

It was explained that the existing role was more of a secretariat role and that the advantage of having an expert in place would lead to key points being picked up and advice being offered on how to keep people safe; a permanent co-ordinator would bring a lot more specialist knowledge to the role.

The Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Markets Operation asked that when a paper is brought back in September that it brings out the extent of the problem in the City, current trends and also the benefit of the different options; build up the evidence base to demonstrate what can be done with the role. What does the City need? What can it afford? What is gold plated?

The Deputy Chairman highlighted that staffing levels within the Community Safety Team currently stand at three full-time staff. It was stressed the Group continue discussing different priorities, but there was a need for difficult choices to be made. There was a need to consider the significance of the issue in the City and the right way to fund it, looking at split funding options and areas that cross departments and City of London Police. It was suggested the paper in September would need to address where the post would sit.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

6. **SERIOUS VIOLENCE: NEW LEGAL DUTY TO SUPPORT MULTI-AGENCY ACTION - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Team updating on a Government consultation on options for supporting a multi-agency or public health approach to tackling serious violence.

The Head of Community Safety explained the proposed changes were looking at how to respond to incidents of serious violence. There was a clear desire to improve co-operation and co-ordination.

The Chairman questioned the operational position being taken by the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and the Head of Community Safety confirmed that he would come back on this point, but that he considered it would be appropriate for the Group to take a contrary position to LFB.

The Deputy Chairman proposed the Remembrancer's view be taken to understand whether the City Corporation would want to submit an individual response or go with London Councils on this.

Resolved, that, subject to advice from the Remembrancer and feedback from London Fire Brigade, option 2 be endorsed.

7. SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Group considered a report of the Community Safety Team providing revised terms of reference for the Serious and Organised Crime Board in order to provide a more accurate description of the role of the Board and its membership.

The Group discussed representation on the Serious Organised Crime Board and whether a specific Safer City Partnership representative was needed. It was concluded that the Board would be unlikely to lack representation on the Serious and Organised Crime Board and it could be left as it stands.

The Head of Community Safety referred to a whole system approach and the Chairman noted the London Ambulance Service were missing. The Head of Community Safety agreed to take this up when he looks at the Membership of the Board.

Resolved, that the Serious and Organised Crime Board's revised terms of reference be agreed.

8. CORPORATE ALCOHOL STRATEGY

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services presenting the City Corporation's draft Alcohol Strategy 2019-23.

The Director of Community and Children's Services confirmed the strategy had been developed with representatives from the Safer City Partnership Group including the City of London Police and Community Safety Team and had been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Markets Operation questioned the funding available for the strategy and how it would be taken forward. The Director of Community Children's Services agreed to take this point away and report back (3).

Resolved that the draft strategy and plan for consultation be noted.

9. HEALTH AND WELLBEING NEEDS OF CITY WORKERS

The Project Officer talked the Group through The Health and Wellbeing Needs of City Workers: Research Findings. It was explained that the research recently concluded had built on previous work and the group were provided with a high-level overview of the findings. It was noted previous research into Primary Healthcare Needs of City Workers had taken place in 2012.

It was explained that a small group of people had been engaged as part of this latest research, but with every effort having been made to ensure a range of city workers, job roles and companies were represented. The Chairman referred to the City Employer interviews and questioned how many individuals were being represented during these e.g. company size and workforce. The Project Officer agreed to establish the number and provide feedback on this(4).

It was questioned if employers had seriously engaged as part of the research and whether they considered themselves responsible for health and wellbeing of their employees. The Project Officer responded confirming there had been a good level of engagement during the research and an appetite shown amongst employers to seriously engage regarding the health and wellbeing of their employees.

It was suggested linking health services, with many people travelling into the City to work and then going home locally; providing a link between work and an employee's wider lifestyle. The Project Officer explained research had provided a sense that people preferred going to their local GP, with whom they had a relationship.

The Commissioner referred to the drug reduction strategy that was looking at a partnership approach and co-ordinated effort to target the health piece going forward. The Head of Community Safety referred to a review that will be taking place looking at best practice in other cities.

The Borough Commander referred to the significant amount of work London Fire Brigade had undertaken looking at mental health issues and preventative work and in offering advice to large businesses and confirmed that he would be happy to discuss this further. The Project Officer agreed to arrange a follow up meeting.

The Chairman questioned the strength of evidence produced by this research and the Project Officer explained that the research provided robust data in terms of a qualitative piece through its findings, but it was a small pool of people. It was stressed there was also robust data through partners that would go to support the research.

A Member suggested options for smaller businesses being able to access occupational health should be considered e.g. a pay as you go occupational health option could be set up, promoted and encouraged. This would mean small business not having to pay out large retainers.

The Chairman thanked the Project Officer for her presentation.

10. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Team providing an update on the activity of the team.

The Head of Community Safety referred to engagement with residents from the Golden Lane Estate. On 27 February the Head of Community Safety,

alongside a colleague from City of London Police, took part in a presentation and question and answer session with residents and that had provided a useful opportunity to hear concerns. The event also provided an opportunity for the City of London Police and City Corporation to raise awareness of the good work that was taking place e.g. arrests and dealing with issues at Barbican Station. It was agreed that the Head of Community Safety would give this presentation at the next meeting of Safer City Partnership Group on 23rd September (5).

The Head of Community Safety took the opportunity to highlight a recent hearing in the High Court and recommendations made in relation to managing Community Protection Notices (CPN) that are binding and must be applied.

The Head of Community Safety stressed the importance of partners using the partnership system ECINS for managing CPN's and to allow agencies to record the warnings and notices in one place.

The Commissioner stressed that ECINS was supported in the Command and Control Room that he considered it a great system and one that he was pushing for the City of London Police and City Corporation to use. Use of the system would allow for combined information and offer a better intelligence profile.

The Head of Community Safety acknowledged that any new system would take time to establish itself, but stressed the significant benefits of ECINS in providing live information on the level of engagement with an individual and the bigger picture this information would provide.

The Head of Community Safety referred to £45,000 being available as part of a Proceeds of Crime Act allocation that would go towards supporting Safer City Partnership Group activity. The Chairman asked that consideration be given to production of a hotel toolkit that would offer guests and staff a clear, constant and consistent way of dealing with incidents if they were to hear something in another hotel room (6).

The Chairman raised the importance of adequate analytical capability to support the Partnership.

Resolved, that the updated be noted.

11. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP DRAFT STRATEGY 2019-22**

The Group considered a report of the Head of Community Safety providing a final version of the strategy for approval.

The Head of Community Safety referred to feedback provided at previous meetings that had now been included within the strategy.

Resolved, that the strategy be agreed.

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

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

The Director of Community and Services referred to the sharp rise in the number of rough sleepers reported at the last meeting, which had remained largely the same. It remains unclear whether the high number of rough sleepers was a new norm or an outlier. Work remains ongoing in this area.

It was noted an alternative giving campaign was being developed as part of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy that would allow for donations to be directed through a homelessness support service rather than donating directly to individuals on the street.

The Chairman asked for an update in relation to cameras on bridges and an appraisal of the presentation previously given to the Group. It was agreed that an update would be brought to the next meeting (7).

Resolved, that the update be noted.

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

The Group received a report of the Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations updating on work in relation to the key priorities of Acquisitive Crime, Anti-social behaviour and Night-Time Economy Crime and Nuisance.

The Interim Director conveyed thanks to City of London Police colleagues for their support with the illegal street trading campaign that remains ongoing.

Resolved, that the updated be noted.

14. **NEW LIFETIME OFFENDER MANAGEMENT UNIT**

The Commissioner talked through the serious organised crime threat and updated the Group on what was being done in this space.

The Commissioner update on the threat picture and the need to get the message across to people sitting in coffee shops and hotels. The Group were updated on the serious organised crime strategy framework of pursue, prepare, protect and prevent and tailored approach to interventions being adopted in relation to the various elements of the drugs supply chain.

It was confirmed a unit of four people had been established that will allow for co-ordinated responses and better use of orders. A key aim was to continue developing a whole system approach to tackling serious and organised crime.

The Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Markets Operation referred to the presentation originating at the at Serious Organised Crime Board (SOCB) and asked that this be reported back to the SOCB giving feedback (8).

The Chairman concluded this item remarking on the support of the Group to the approach presented and asked that this message be conveyed to the Serious Organised Crime Board.

15. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Commissioner that provided partners with an update on the activity of City of London Police since the last meeting. Updates were provided in relation to various elements including:-

SOS Bus – Chairman asked that usage data be circulated outside of Meeting when it becomes available (1). The Commissioner stressed the SOS Bus provides a visible point of contact and reporting opportunity and its use was thought to be beneficial. Usage data to be reviewed to understand the value the bus offers and whether to continue with it going forward.

Comparison of Data – Data has shown crime rates in the City are similar to those at Westminster. This comparison will continue moving forward.

Shoplifting – Seen an increase. The Chairman suggested talking to Board's to get a focus in this area where individual shops were not being co-operative. The Commissioner explained shops need to balance offering visible impulse buys against the risk against shoplifters. City of London Police were obliged to respond, and incidents were very reactive. City of London Police would be putting on more visible patrols.

Mobile Phone and Laptop Thefts – Noticeable increase seen in thefts of mobile phones and laptops. An operation would be taking place to combat this, looking at making contacts with organised crime groups targeting the City; specialist help would be needed looking beyond those committing the crimes, with phones often being taken out of the country very quickly.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Outcomes from interventions hubs were beginning to bear fruit. The Chairman stressed the importance of not simply pushing the problem over the boundary as this would not be solving the problem.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

16. **LONDON FIRE BRIGADE**

The Group heard a verbal update from the Borough Commander of the London Fire Brigade (LFB).

- Discussions were continuing between colleagues at LFB and City of London Police looking to develop working arrangements and options for sharing equipment e.g. drones, thermal imaging cameras.
- Corrosive substance attack event held at the Old Bailey with positive feedback having been received. London Fire Brigade would be happy to give the presentation to other organisations in the City.
- £1m received from the Mayor of London towards a London Fire Brigade Cadet Group that would be made available to the City of London. The Chairman stressed the need to provide a link across to the City of London Police cadets.

The Chairman referred to incidents of individuals wanting to access a property calling the police to assist, which is becoming a political issue with a national debate at present. The Commissioner confirmed certain forces have already handed over responsibility for these type of incidents to the Fire Brigade as they are better equipped to take on the calls. There would then be a consideration by the Fire Brigade of whether there was a threat of to life and how to respond.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Public Protection

The Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Markets Operation referred to an unpleasant incident at the London Marathon that has occurred over the last couple of years. It involved a group of individuals looking to get drunk and creating an atmosphere when approaching the Trinity Gardens area. It was explained that the action of these individuals was having an adverse reaction to others attending the occasion. It was confirmed action was now going to be taken, including exploring the potential for a Public Spaces Protection Order.

It was noted that an officer group would be convened to ensure the City Corporation has gone through all appropriate action to date. Evidence would be produced to demonstrate the strong case for taking this action e.g. video footage.

The Comptroller would be consulted as part of the process with agreement of Court of Common Council also required. It was noted there would be a process to go through and it was stressed there was an onus on departments to record incidents to allow processes to be dealt with effectively. The Head of Community Safety stressed the importance of using ECINS to capture relevant information as evidence in support of these type of incidents.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm

Chairman

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