

M Committee(s):	Date(s):
Safer City Partnership	27 September 2018
Subject: Serious and Organised Crime Board - update	
Report of: John Simpson Borough Commander, LFB	For Information
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update of the work of the Serious and Organised Crime Board. It includes a meeting with the Head of the Home Office Serious and Organised Crime Unit and an outline of the proceedings from a conference that John Simpson attended on Modern Slavery and working in Partnership.</p>	

Background

1. The Serious and Organised Crime Board was set up in 2016. Chaired by the LFB representative to the Safer City Partnership, John Simpson. It provides an advisory function and reports into the SCP. The aim of the Board is to bring together the full range of intelligence and powers available to tackle serious organised crime and to reduce its impact on the City.

Update

2. A meeting of a SOC Working Group was held on 3 July to review the work of the Board which had completed an initial scoping of serious and organised crime in the City of London. The meeting looked at what had been achieved so far and to think about what needs to be done to take things further forward. This meeting provided a good opportunity to review the Board's Terms of Reference, partnership agencies and intelligence sharing. It was agreed at the meeting that, based on the work so far undertaken, to focus on three areas identified as a threat to the City:

- Illicit trade in drugs
 - Modern Slavery
 - Fraud
3. The role of the Board is to seek reassurance from members of the partnership relating to their work tackling serious and organised crime and it will continue to do so by asking them what they consider to be their emerging priorities and how they capture new information. The City of London Police will continue to monitor all eight priority areas highlighted by the Home Office. Future Board meetings will be held quarterly to discuss each priority in turn and to provide partners with the opportunity to raise emerging threats for the City.
 4. On 12 July, John Simpson attended a conference in Birmingham that looked at the use of partnerships and how they can respond to modern slavery. As mentioned above, this is one of the three priorities for the City and is a high priority threat that can have a devastating impact on individuals and the community. The conference highlighted the significant progress made in the national response to modern slavery since the Modern Slavery Act became law in 2015 and the partnership response which has been fundamental in supporting this achievement. The conference focused on 5 key themes:
 - Best practice partnership models and innovation from across the UK
 - How to evaluate the effectiveness of partnership networks
 - How to develop strategic governance and structure models
 - An insight into the victims' perspective
 - How to engage with businesses to tackle modern slavery
 5. Working in partnership requires an understanding of the business model of modern slavery so that agencies can intercept and help dismantle organised crime groups from making money to generate profits. We can do this by improving and sharing intelligence on criminal groups so, for example, that we can stop them recruiting vulnerable people into forced labour.
 6. The role of agencies was described as 'capable guardians' and governance and accountability were considered essential components for partnership working in tackling serious and organised crime. We will therefore consider respective roles and responsibilities of our various participants including accountability and transparency arrangements.
 7. Modern slavery is often a hidden crime and knowing the signs with the help of training and raising awareness will help to expose this exploitative practice. The NGO sector and the community also play an important role and we will look at ways to promote and raise awareness.
 8. The conference also covered the work of Programme Challenger, a co-located, multi-agency team whose role it is to oversee and coordinate activity to tackle organised crime across Greater Manchester. The team is responsible for gathering information and intelligence and putting strategies in place to target, disrupt and prosecute the organised criminals who orchestrate criminal activity.

The site can be viewed at: <https://www.programmechallenger.co.uk/>

9. Details about an anti-slavery partnership toolkit which is currently being developed were shown at the event. The purpose of this training database <http://iascmap.nottingham.ac.uk/about/> is to identify examples of good practice and to understand the conditions that facilitate success. Once the toolkit is live, partners may be interested in registering for guidance and resources. The aim is to provide inspiration and the ability to share resources. It also includes a partnership checklist, strategies and action plans.
10. An evaluation of partnership sharing highlighted the importance of early engagement and understanding the role that each partner could play. An example of this was provided by the Shiva Foundation in Hertfordshire. Details about its partnership sharing can be found at: <http://www.shivafoundation.org.uk/operation-tropic-coordinated-response-modern-slavery-hertfordshire/>
11. As part of the SOC Boards progress toward developing an action plan they invited John Pennycook, Head of the Home Office Serious and Organised Crime Unit to the meeting of the SOC Working Group on 5 September to discuss our performance to date. The Group was particularly interested in finding out how the Board's work compares with other local authorities and whether it complies with the national model so that it could be confident in addressing challenges in accordance with Home Office objectives.
12. He informed the SOC Working Group that the Home Office was finalising a new Serious and Organised Crime strategy but that it was likely to be delayed until the end of the year. It was likely that there would be a significant emphasis on Child Sexual Exploitation and online abuse. Mr Pennycook confirmed that the City's priorities were in line with the Government's expectations and that we should continue to align our local profile with the national strategy, including our operational work and highlighting the work of the partnership.
13. The latest meeting of the SOC Board took place on 19 September. The Chairman announced his forthcoming retirement and that a replacement would be needed to chair future meetings of the Board. Members are asked to consider any nominations for the chairmanship.

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