

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Thursday, 27 September 2018

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

Present

Attendees:

Jon Averbs
John Simpson
Bob Benton

Andrew Carter
Don Randall

Alex Orme	- Town Clerk's Department
Craig Spencer	- Town Clerk's Department
Jaysen Sharp	- Remembrancer's Department
David MacKintosh	- Community Safety Manager
Farrah Hart	- Health and Wellbeing Team
Andrew Carter	- Dir. Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Asst. Dir. Community and Children's Services
Marcus Roberts	- Community and Children's Services
Lee Presland	- City of London Police
Rosalind Ellis	- City of London Police
Stuart Webber	- City Probation Service
Alex Wrigley	- Guinness Partnership

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Doug Barrow, Peter Dunphy and Peter Lisley.

In the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, the Borough Commander of the London Fire Brigade and Chairman of the Serious and Organised Crime Board agreed to take the chair for this meeting.

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

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

OR4 – Information Sharing Agreement

The Community Safety Manager noted that the information sharing agreement had been presented to Members as a headline at the last meeting.

OR5 – ASB Strategy Update

This update was provided under Item 9.

OR6 – SOS Bus

The Community Safety Manager confirmed that this was in place for Christmas 2018.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE

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

The Community Safety Manager explained that the Strategic Plan required updating soon and therefore he would be in contact with partners to request an update at the next meeting on 29 November 2018. The Borough Commander requested that all partners think about items they would like to propose for inclusion ahead of the next meeting.

The Director of Community and Children's Services asked for assurance that we were satisfied with the current level of expertise and knowledge to implement Prevent. The Community Safety Manager explained that, following the completion of useful training, he was now satisfied. The Borough Commander asked if there was data supporting this. The Community Safety Manager commented that data was usually only measurable when there were failures.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

6. 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.

The Director of Port Health and Public Protection queried the progress on the appointment of an inspector post by the licensing team. The Commissioner explained that the Commander of Operations and Security had spoken with stakeholders following the decision to remove the inspector post and the decision was now being reviewed. An update would be provided at the November meeting.

The Commissioner commented that that they were looking at a multi-agency to tackle the drivers of drug misuse. He explained that he was working closely with the Community Safety Manager on this. A Partner commented that there was a perception of increased begging within the City of London, the Commissioner noted this and agreed to feed back with a confirmation of the figures. The Director of Community and Children's Services explained that

data had shown there was a reduction in begging and emphasised the importance of being careful not to refer to rough sleeping and begging interchangeably.

The representative of the Guinness Partnership asked if it was possible to identify the number of Community Protection Notices issued and the Commissioner agreed to feed back.

The Director of Community and Children's Services asked when Operation Gondola had begun. The Commissioner explained that it was a Metropolitan Police Service led operation that had been running since at least early 2018 and had evolved over time. Members noted the importance of multi-agency planning for the Christmas period.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

7. **DRUG MISUSE RISK REDUCTION VERBAL UPDATE**

The Group heard a verbal update from the Commissioner of Police on drug misuse reduction activity of the City of London Police.

The Commissioner of Police explained that 91% of all offences were linked to either cocaine or cannabis. It was explained that there was a link to acquisitive crime, with around two thirds of all thefts attributed to drug misuse.

The Commissioner explained that the needle exchange had been relocated from Cheapside to Bishopsgate which was viewed as more relevant.

The Commissioner invited all partners to support the City of London Drugs Risk Reduction Strategy. They explained that the priority was to raise the profile and create a diverse multi-agency approach. The representative of the Crown Prosecution Service explained that they would commit to the initiative and look to see what information-sharing they can offer.

The Director of Community and Children's Services asked what the City of London Police were doing to address the issue of demand for cocaine, noting that many users would not rely on the same channels. The Commissioner explained that there was a 27-point plan to tackle drug misuse, citing the examples of potential employer monitoring and promoting the moral arguments.

The City's Business representative suggested potential publicised use of police dogs in offices. He also noted that there was increased use of cocaine by female individuals.

The City Business representative asked if companies were authorised to have random drug testing policies. The Community Safety Manager confirmed that they were permitted though very expensive to administer. The London Fire Brigade (LFB) Borough Commander explained that these were used within the LFB.

The representative of the Health and Wellbeing Team explained that they were in communication with employers to determine how drug use was affecting their businesses.

The London Borough Commander asked when the first meeting of the working group would take place and the Commissioner explained that the date would depend on attendees though would likely be within the next 6 weeks following the meeting.

The Commissioner noted that the full Drugs Risk Reduction Strategy report was available on request.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

8. **SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME BOARD UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Chairman of the Serious and Organised Crime Board that provided Partners with an update on activities of the Board since the last meeting.

The Director of Port Health and Public Protection explained that they were focused on three main areas: Drugs, Modern Slavery and Fraud and would revisit these on a quarterly basis.

The Director noted that the Chairman of the Serious and Organised Crime Board was retiring and they were therefore seeking his successor. The Group thanked the Chairman for his contribution and wished him well in his retirement.

The Director of Community and Children's Services noted the reference to sexual exploitation in paragraph 12, noting that it appeared to be a major issue. He queried whether the definition of the three main areas therefore required reconsideration. The Director of Port Health and Public Protection explained that these definitions were routinely revisited, though they were awaiting a Home Office update before doing so in this regard. The Chairman of the Serious and Organised Crime Board explained that from sight of early drafting of the new strategy from the Home Office that was currently delayed, they were confident the Board's priorities were in line.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

9. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY PROGRESS**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Manager that provided Members with an update on the progress in development of the City of London's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

The Community Safety Lead for ASB explained that the City Corporation had been working in collaboration with many agencies, including the Guinness Partnership, in many areas.

The Community Safety Lead for ASB explained that Information-sharing was seen as the major priority and they had now purchased the ECINS tool which

was voluntary and provided free of charge to agencies to enable this to occur more freely, particularly in cases that do not fall within traditional policing. The Commissioner illustrated his support of the system.

The occurrence of ASB in public places was seen as a primary focus, with the accurate identification of the activities (e.g. rough sleeping vs begging) forming a key aspect of the challenge.

The Community Safety Lead for ASB noted that the population of the City of London had undergone a transformation, with many of those engaging in ASB now not residents of the City's estates. She noted that they were awaiting a response from the Comptrollers and City Solicitors on the legal aspects of the strategy's proposed aims.

The Chairman of the Serious and Organised Crime Board noted that, in reference to paragraph 11, it stated that there was no clearly defined multi-agency approach to enforcing against ASB. The Community Safety Manager explained that whilst there was generally a good multi-agency response, there was still lacking clearly and explicitly defined formal procedures. The Lead for ASB noted that the current approach consisted of favours unsupported by any paperwork. The Community Safety Manager assured Partners that this would form a considerable element of the 2019 Safer City Partnership Strategy.

The Head of the Police Authority asked how the draft would be formulated and the Community Safety Manager confirmed that it would need to approval of a number of committees.

The Director of Community and Children's Services questioned whether begging was justifiable as a top priority.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

10. **MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT**

The Group received a report of the Chamberlain that provided Partners with an update on the City of London Corporation's Modern Slavery Statement produced in response to the passing of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Assistant Director of Community and Children's Services explained that this report had come Summit Group where it was approved with a sight to strengthening some of the areas around safeguarding.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

11. **THE COUNTER-TERRORISM AND BORDER SECURITY BILL**

The Group received a report of the Remembrancer that updated Partners on the new changes that would come into effect as a result of the passing of the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill.

The Remembrancer noted that there was no guaranteed conclusion on the passing of the Bill.

12. THE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS BILL

The Group received a report of the Remembrancer that provided Members with an update on the proposed Offensive Weapons Bill which sought to criminalise the sale of “corrosive products” to persons under the age of 18.

The Director of Community and Children’s Services noted that special considerations would need to be taken for under-18s living independently that may need to buy such products for legitimate use in cleaning. The Remembrancer noted that there would likely be great challenges in clarifying the details and interpreting such an Act of Parliament, citing parallels with the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 which attempted to impose a similar prohibition on the sale of “legal highs”.

13. ROUGH SLEEPING UPDATE

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services that updated Partners on the work done with homeless and rough sleeping individuals in order to fulfil the City’s local authority function.

The Assistant Director of Community and Children’s Services explained that the number of rough sleepers had reduced within the City of London. He explained that they were working around the hotspots to address issues such as drug paraphernalia.

The Assistant Director of Community and Children’s Services noted that there had been a successful bid for additional funding for project costs to the end of the 2018/19 financial year and a similar bid had been submitted for 2019/20 for which the results would be expected in due course.

The Assistant Director of Community and Children’s Services noted that work had been done in collaboration with TAP London who have experience in utilising contactless payment systems to promote alternative methods of giving. The City’s Business representative noted that many of the rough sleeping locations had moved from office blocks to locations such as the entrance to Tesco. The Assistant Director of Community and Children’s Services explained that this was very challenging for a local authority who would receive interest if there is a perception that rough sleepers are being made to move.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

14. COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services that updated Partners on activity carried out by the department since the last meeting.

The Head of Strategy and Performance for the Department of Community and Children’s Services explained that there was a link between the Drug Misuse Strategy and the Mental Health Strategy.

The Head of Strategy and Performance explained that the City Bridge Cameras issue was being looked at by the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as the Police Committee. Partners requested that the River Cameras report be circulated.

The Head of Strategy and Performance explained that Domestic abuse was requested as a category by the Group at their previous meeting, though he also commented that Financial Abuse was a key issue worthy of note also.

The Community Safety Lead for ASB asked if ASB was represented in the plan. The Assistant Director of community and Children's Services explained that ASB was a risk factor within the wider scope of Safeguarding. He explained that it would be useful to have a map of all the areas of multi-agency activity around ASB.

The Director of Community and Children's Services explained that the plan had been co-produced with youths, and there was an emphasis on the fact that young people were also commonly victims as well as perpetrators.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

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

The Group received a report of the Director of Port Health and Public Protection that updated Partners on the Public Protection Service.

The Director of Port Health and Public Protection noted that good work continued in collaboration with surrounding boroughs to tackle the issue of illegal street trading on bridges over the Thames.

The Director of Port Health and Public Protection noted that there had been two appeals against licensing hearing outcomes recently which was unusual. He confirmed that these were due to reach outcomes in November.

The Director of Port Health and Public Protection explained that the deployment of Late Night Levy funds was being monitored closely with the CoLP.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

16. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Manager that provided a performance overview of all the areas of work covered by the Safer City Partnership.

The Community Safety Manager requested that Partners contact him if they felt an area of their work had been omitted from the dashboard.

The Director of Port Health and Public Protection asked for an update on the Joint Contact and Control Room (JCCR). The Town Clerk explained that the current move-in date estimation had been delayed until 2019.

The Director of Community and Children's Services noted that engagement with Business Communities was marked as AMBER and illustrated his concern. The Community Safety Manager explained that this classification was a result of events being planned in this regard, though not yet progressed.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

17. LONDON FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE

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

The Borough Commander explained that accidental dwelling fires and serious incidents remained low within the City of London.

The Borough Commander explained that he would retire after 7 years in his current role. He thanked the Safer City Partnership for its effective cooperation and noted that having access to such a benefit was unusual.

RESOLVED – That the Borough Commander be heard.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Community Safety Team's ASB lead explained that Modern Slavery Day would take place on 24 October at 16:00. She invited all corporation staff to attend.

The Group thanked both the Borough Commander and the Town Clerk for their contribution as this would be their last meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: George Fraser
tel.no.: 020 7332 1174
george.fraser@cityoflondon.gov.uk