

Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee	Date: 25/01/2019
Subject: Police Report	Public
Report of: Chief Inspector Jess Wynne	For Information
Report author: A/PS 745CP Russell Pengelly	

Summary

This report details the police operations linked to Homelessness within the City of London specifically begging and the associated antisocial behaviour that is linked.

City of London Police have been running Operation Luscombe since April last year, which has been specifically tackling begging within the square mile. Operation Luscombe operates in co-operation with the City of London Corporation Rough Sleeper Team, St Mungos, Westminster Drugs Project and the NHS.

The Intervention Hub, formed of Police, NHS, Local Authority Homeless Teams, and Westminster Drugs Project operated on a Bi-weekly basis, at four locations around the City of London, this has now progressed onto one location on a monthly basis.

Police will work on the information obtained from the Environmental Services Team, together with intelligence that already has to target saturated areas of the City of London.

When a person is identified as or is likely to be engaging in begging an initial Intervention Notice will be issued. The notice will give clear instruction to stop the offending behaviour and will also invite them to engage with services at the intervention hub on a particular time, date and location.

It is believed that a great number of people captured in this initial phase, will not engage with services and move away from the City and potentially not come back to notice. (Evidenced during a similar run operation ((Fennel)).

Those that come to notice once more, will be subject of a further intervention notice, styled on a Community Protection Notice-First Warning. Within the Warning will be a requirement to cease offending and also attend the hub. This is a legal requirement to engage with services under S.43-51 of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Failing to engage or re-offending will again be a breach of the CPN warning and will make them liable to a full powers CPN, excluding them from the City of London and a small portion of the MPS area of Tower Hamlets. An intervention will again be offered at this stage. A variation to the CPN, will allow entry to the City to attend the intervention Hub, again on a specific date, time and location.

If the person breaches the CPN requirements and is seen in the City of London, they will be subject to Arrest or Summons for the offence.

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The subject will receive a further direction to attend the intervention hub even at this stage and refresh their knowledge of the CPN, which will remain in force. It is our intention to prosecute all persons that breach the CPN without reasonable excuse and make application for Criminal Behaviour Orders.

Main Report

Operation Luscombe has now been running since May 2018 with a view to running continuously in line with normal patrol taskings.

At the point of inception, City of London Police were receiving a great number of reports daily, detailing begging problems predominantly in Bishopsgate, Tower and Cheapside wards.

Since it has been running, officers have now issued in excess of 200 notices under Operation Luscombe.

We have established that approximately 80% of notices issued have been Green notices, meaning that the person subject of the notice has only come to police notice on the initial occasion. This has also indicated that there is a very small percentage of individuals that regularly/persistently beg in the City of London.

In total 16 Red Notices have been issued, this has led to exclusion notices being issued to those recidivist offenders banning them from the City of London.

Since their issue, 8 persons have received notices of intended prosecutions for breaches of the Community Protection Notices, leading to four Criminal Behaviour Order applications being made to the courts.

Operation Luscombe has seen a 60% reduction in the number of begging reports being received by the force.

A further 6 hubs have been planned with the following dates in mind (To be confirmed with partners):-

- 6th March '19
- 3rd April '19
- 1st May '19
- 29th May '19
- 27th June '19
- 24th July '19

In the coming months Community Policing will be running engagement roadshows with the public to highlight the problems around giving and better alternatives.

The policing operation has now entered into its second stage, which will involve gathering intelligence around the potential organised begging that is taking place in the City of London. City of London Police will operate with plain clothed patrols being conducted to establish and identify individuals concerned and plan an intervention strategy in line with national guidelines (Op Aidant).

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