

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Monday, 23 September 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Attendees:

Douglas Barrow (Chairman)	Lisa Brown, National Probation Service
Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman)	Don Randall, Crime Prevention
David Bulbrook, London Fire Brigade	Helen Isaac, City of London Police
Poppy Mabbitt, City & Hackney CCG	Patrick Brooks, London Ambulance Service
Bob Benton, Business Representative	Lee Presland, City of London Police

Alex Orme	- City of London Police Authority
David Mackintosh	- Head of Community Safety
Chris Pelham	- Assistant Director, Community and Children's Services
Ayesha Fordham	- Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer
Claire Giraud	- Community and Children's Services
Lorenzo Conigliaro	- City of London Police
Valeria Cadena-Wrigley	- Community Safety Officer
Wayne Chance-McKay	- Head of Service – City Wide Operations Westminster City Council
Rachel Pye	- Assistant Director, Public Protection
Chris Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Tim Wiseman, James Thomson, Tijs Broeke, Gavin Stedman, Andrew Carter and Sophie Fernandes.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, particularly those new to the Group. The Chairman stated his intention to expand the Group, where appropriate, as he looks to increase the level of engagement and efficacy of the SCP.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

3. WESTMINSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD APPROACH TO ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Wayne Chance-McKay presented to the Group on Westminster Council's approach to partnership and neighbourhood working.

The Group noted the approach allowed for tracking of the customer journey and for a level of ownership to be achieved through adopting a neighbourhood approach and effective neighbourhood working. There was now one blended team working across neighbourhoods with a standardised approach to reporting being followed.

This approach had provided real benefits in terms of responding to community concerns. Individuals want one point of contact to deal with the range of street/ASB issues and a significant win has been upskilling and introducing blended skills within teams to deal with the range of issues encountered.

The intention is to review the approach after one year of operation before moving into phase 2. This will see work driven through statutory meetings e.g. Safeguarding Children's Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and supported with task and finish groups reporting through to the Safer Westminster Partnership as needed.

Where a crime does not fit within a specific department these would be dealt with through Task and Finish Groups providing a specific focus e.g. elderly victims or youth violence.

Clarity was sought on the size of each neighbourhood and it was explained that these consisted of up to six wards, some with very low residential population but very high tourist population. Given the huge increase in daytime population in the City, it was suggested certain areas could be identified as neighbourhood's and run as smaller schemes with 2-3 areas. It was stressed the important issue was in having key people to go to and officers equipped to effectively respond.

The Chairman concluded the discussion acknowledging the City could clearly learn much from the Westminster approach.

4. **CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD**

The Group received the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19.

Resolved, that the report be noted.

5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2019 were approved as an accurate record.

6. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

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

Presentation to Residents – Community Safety Manager explained that this presentation was relevant at the time, but now six months on it would have dated considerably. It was agreed to close this action.

Hotel toolkit (2) – Ideas still being worked up. Looking to make something that was relevant and wanted by hotels. It was suggested considering a document that that would appeal to a wider circulation to include businesses. It was agreed a report would come back to the next meeting.

The Group noted that all other actions had been dealt with or were included on the agenda at this meeting.

7. 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: -

- **Crime levels** were above the five-year average, with a small reduction seen in July. The Group acknowledged that a rise in crime had been seen across the country and the Commissioner confirmed City of London Police were doing their level best to address issues.
- **Anti-social behaviour** data was now available with the biggest category being drunken behaviour and consistent with what had been seen previously. Data available allows City of London Police to look at addressing issues through working with partners.
- **SOS Bus** deployment planned for Christmas period. A scoping exercise was ongoing considering options of ownership against continued hiring of a bus (1). The Chairman stated a need to understand the effectiveness of the bus with clear statistics to support this. The Commissioner confirmed a further review would take place at the end of the year when data collected would be expanded upon in an effort to understand additional areas to focus on e.g. drinking cultures at certain companies.
- **Operation Luscombe (3)** – Ongoing and findings to be reported to Safer City Partnership in due course.
- **Public disorder** – A busy summer and a busy month ahead anticipated in dealing with Animal Rebellion protest and potential protests as result of Brexit.

The Deputy Chairman questioned the use of ECINS in registering anti-social behaviour given the considerable investment in this system. The Group noted ECINS was in an initial adoption phase with it not being used as it should be at present. There were instances where double entry would be required (information keyed into two systems) which presented something of a hurdle. Efforts would continue to encourage uptake.

Members noted that improvements in crime recording had contributed to an increase in incidents. Increases were likely to continue as implementation of improved recording was rolled out and embedded across forces. The Chairman acknowledged that an unintended consequence of better reporting was that crime figures would increase.

8. **PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - LONDON MARATHON RELATED DISORDER**

The Group considered a report of the Head of Community Safety providing an update on work exploring the potential to obtain a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to deal with the recurring issues of violent disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB) associated with the London Marathon.

The Head of Community Safety explained that there were historic issues in the margins of the London Marathon in relation to public disorder. The proposal before the Group was to seek a PSPO on the day of the London Marathon and to cover the area around the route in an effort to help reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder that had been repeatedly experienced in the Trinity Square locality on the day of the Marathon.

It was stressed that the PSPO would not impact local licensed premises and that it was specifically targeting individuals congregating in Trinity Gardens, sitting on the streets and pavements in the area and acting in anti-socially.

The Community Safety Manager acknowledged that obtaining a PSPO would be breaking new ground for the City with Members having been reluctant to obtain these previously, but that it was thought necessary on this occasion.

Resolved, that approval be given to seeking to obtain a PSPO in response to this specific and defined problem in relation to the London Marathon.

9. **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY (VAWG)**

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

The Group noted the previous strategy dated back to 2016. The strategy had now been updated and aligned to the national framework to ensure the City Corporation was meeting its statutory responsibility.

A Member referred to the title of VAWG and suggested it got lost that men and boys can also be victims of violence with the current title being misleading. It was suggested the terminology was clumsy.

The Director of Community and Children's Service clarified that the title had been debated at a high level previously and that the current title had been subject to many months of consultation. It was stressed that the City would be unique if it did not have VAWG Strategy, which is a national strategy published by HM Government.

Members noted the VAWG Strategy would become the City Corporation's Domestic Abuse Strategy, and it was suggested the title appeared at odds with a male suffering domestic abuse and understanding where to look for guidance.

The Commissioner confirmed he was due to attend a national forum where he would pose a question regarding the title of the strategy. The Chairman stated

that he considered the content of the VAWG strategy to be very good but that there was a need to ensure it reached the right people.

Resolved, that the update in relation to Violence against Women and Girls be noted and that further consideration be given to the title of the strategy.

10. **PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT FUND - POLICY AND GUIDANCE**

The Group considered a report of the Head of Community Safety seeking approval to a proposed approach to managing, monitoring and reporting on Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding requests.

The Head of Community Safety explained POCA funds represented the only money directly available and under the control of the Partnership. The report set out a proposed approach to allocating POCA money and in ensuring money allocated goes towards agreed priorities of the Safer City Partnership.

The Deputy Chairman proposed encouraging other partners to access the funds available e.g. Ambulance Service or Probation Service.

The Head of Community Safety referred to a £1k bid received from the London Fire Brigade that would go towards supporting a London Fire Cadets initiative that would be looking to expand the youth offering within the London Fire Brigade.

The Borough Commander explained the initiative would take young people that were not necessarily making the best decisions in life and provide them with an avenue to take a different direction and to work towards a recognised BTEC qualification.

The Group were supportive of the bid.

Resolved, that approval be given to the approach to manage, monitor and report on POCA funding; that approval be given to a £1k bid from the London Fire Brigade to support its London Fire Cadets scheme.

11. **RIVER CAMERAS PROJECT - UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Commissioner providing an update in relation to the River Cameras Project. The Commissioner explained that the paper set out the reasons for the delay and also set out what was happening now to progress the project.

The Chairman noted the update and stressed he would not want to be in the same position in three years' time and still talking about this issue. There would be challenge and serious questions asked by the Coroner if another incident were to occur with consideration of this initiative having been ongoing for three years. The Commissioner stated 18 months as the proposed completion date for the project.

The Commissioner noted the Group's concerns with the continued delay and confirmed he would take this back to the Secure City Programme making clear the urgency now needed.

Resolved, that the update be noted

12. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Team Manager updating on activity of the Community Safety Team.

The Chairman questioned if hazards identified by the Serious Organised Crime Board as priorities would need linking to the City Corporation's risk register and for these to be recorded. The Deputy Chairman suggested the Head of Community Safety consider when it would appropriate to escalate risks to a department or corporate level (4). It was agreed this would be considered and reported back.

Resolved, that the update be note; that consideration be given to escalating risks to a corporate or department level.

13. **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.

RECEIVED

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

The Group received a report of the Director of Consumer Protection and Markets providing an update on activities that contributed to the work of the Safer City Partnership.

The Business Representative suggested Safety Thirst needed scoping around the four licensing objectives and that there was a need to look at what outlets were aiming to achieve through being members of the scheme. It was agreed detailed discussions were needed to consider how the scheme can be improved (5).

Resolved, that the update be noted; that further discussions take place considering improvements to the Safety Thirst scheme.

15. **LONDON FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE**

The Borough Commander provided partners with an update on activity since the last meeting. Updates were provided in relation to various elements including: -

- Attendance time 5-8 minutes for each incident and meeting target.
- Multi-agency exercise held by Transport for London to support their management of tunnels across the City. Very realistic, all blue lights

involved, and a number of benefits gained. Report to be published by Transport for London in due course.

- Motor-cycle safety event held earlier in the year and attended well. Offer extended to Dowgate Fire Station to run a similar event.
- Fire incident at Mansion House, number of issues being dealt in liaison with relevant officers at the City Corporation.
- London Fire Brigade worked with the City Corporation following intelligence that free climber would attempt to climb a structure in the City.

16. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Group considered a report of the Community Safety Team Manager providing proposed terms of reference for the Safety City Partnership, detailing responsibilities, purpose, membership, priorities and sub-groups of the partnership.

The Head of Community Safety clarified that the Terms of Reference were worded in such a way that it allowed the Partnership to appoint additional representatives as appropriate. This would be in addition to the statutory partners of Safer City Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Resolved, that the terms of reference be agreed.

17. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP**

London Ambulance Service

The Deputy Chairman welcomed the attendance of the London Ambulance Service (LAS). It was suggested an update be provided on how the service was performing in the City.

The LAS representative stressed that the service was always under pressure, but that a performance report could be produced and circulated to the Group to provide relevant data (6).

Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

The Commissioner referred to a group being formed on the back of a HMIC report and a new Chair to be appointed at the meeting in December. It was suggested a representative of the IAG be invited to attend future meetings of the Safer City Partnership (7).

Hate Crime Awareness week 14 October / Slavery Awareness event 19 October;

The Group were made aware of two events taking place and it was agreed further information would be circulated regarding these. All were invited to attend.