

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Safer City Partnership	27 November 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Serious and Organised Crime Board – Annual Review	
<b>Report of:</b> Head of Community Safety Team	<b>For Information</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report presents a synopsis of the work of the Serious and Organised Crime Board over the past year.</p> <p>It introduces the new chairman, refers to the revised Terms of Reference and the three SOC priorities: fraud, modern slavery and drugs.</p> <p>It also refers to the information sharing agreement, emphasises the importance of partnership working, provides an update on HMIC inspection and the new lifetime offender management unit.</p> <p>Looking ahead, it plans to continue working closely with all partners in order to keep abreast of new and/or emerging priorities.</p>	

## **Background**

1. The Serious and Organised Crime Board was set up in 2016 to provide an advisory function and to report into the SCP.
2. David Bulbrook, Borough Commander, CoL, of the London Fire Brigade has been appointed the new chairman.

## **Revised terms of reference**

3. A further revision of the ToR was made and approved so that it provided a more accurate description of the role of the SOC Board and its membership.
4. This took account of The Home Office Serious and Organised Crime Strategy which was published in November 2018.

## **SOC priorities**

5. The City of London SOC Board identified three priorities:
  - Fraud and cyber enabled crime
  - Modern Slavery and domestic servitude

- Illicit drugs (cross cutting)

## **Fraud**

6. Gavin Tyrell, Head and National Lead for Force Fraud Teams in the City, presented the operational side of fraud and how it is tackled within the City. The focus was on preventing trading losses, mandate fraud, internal fraud, and payment diversion fraud.
7. The Intelligence Bureau, led by Richard Waight, had developed a work plan on the top 12 high harm fraud subjects in the UK which was being run with partners in all Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU)s and the National Crime Agency to produce a detailed profile. Information was being gathered on suspected fraud from HMRC data sets and UK finance. The Bureau was also training its staff in specialist fraud investigation skills.

## **Modern slavery**

8. Intelligence was being gathered on crime and all types of offences linked to modern slavery, including, drug misuse linked to Criminal Exploitation and sexual exploitation. As a result of the findings there had been an increase in the number of referrals received for the year, although levels remain in single figures.
9. Training and guidance on modern slavery had made a big impact on raising awareness compared to the previous year and frontline staff were being trained to look out for signs of modern slavery. Training was one of the areas that HMRC highlighted during their last inspection. There are 23 SPOCs leading on modern slavery within the CoLP covering all business areas. The City of London Corporation hosted an event on 18 October on this subject.

## **Drugs**

10. Significant work has been undertaken over the year, building on the CoLP drugs profile. Arrests relating to drugs have increased considerably. Many of the supply activities link to the Western Balkans. During the past year, the Drugs Working Group has been busy gathering intelligence on drug related crime. The drugs profile was presented at Force Tasking and SCP SOC Board. This work has linked into other areas of activity including the Drugs in the City Working Group.

## **Information sharing agreement**

11. At the start of the year there remained some uncertainty about the current status of the groups ISA, specifically were partners encountering problems due to blockages in data sharing. Having reviewed the situation no problems were identified for partnership agencies.

## **Partnership working**

12. Partnership collaboration, education and promoting awareness is central to the work of the Serious and Organised Crime Board and its work. A strong emphasis has been placed on the importance of partners being represented at all Board meetings to gain a better understanding of the type of crimes facing our communities. The Chairman of the SCP has also attended Board's meetings to support participation.

## **HMIC inspection**

13. Sheila McCullough, Business Review and Strategic Officer, was invited to present information on the HMICFRS integrated PEEL inspection 2018/19. The report identified areas of improvement in tackling serious and organised crime and its approach to the lifetime management of organised criminals including the powers of other organisations and the importance of partnership working.

## **New Lifetime Offender Management Unit**

14. The New Lifetime Offender Management Unit is now up and running and fully staffed and working on economic crime and acquisitive crime.

## **Looking ahead**

15. Having reviewed all three priorities. The Board, with the assistance of CoLP will hear of any new and/or emerging priorities for the year ahead.
16. In line with CoLP we will focus on pursue and prevent and continue to highlight the importance of collaboration with our partners.
17. CoLP will be taking a tailored approach towards tackling serious and organised crime including prevention of drug use.

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