

<b>Committee:</b> Police	<b>Date:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
<b>Subject:</b> Community Engagement Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police POL 78/12	<b>For Information</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This report contains details of engagement since the previous Community Engagement report was presented to your Committee.</p> <p>Wards Officers continue to identify and deal with issues caused by rough sleeping and begging and a problem solving approach including designing out popular areas is proving successful including providing gates at the Byward Street underpass. The force continues to focus on begging, and evidence gathering to support applications for anti-social behaviour orders.</p> <p>A resolution to the ongoing problems around anti-social behaviour linked to licensed premises in Carter Lane appears to be imminent with the withdrawal of the appeal against the Licensing Committee review for one bar and ongoing dialogue with the premises owners. A recent Pubwatch meeting has provided some useful crime reduction advice for licensees in the run up to Christmas to deal with opportunistic acquisitive crime.</p> <p>The Counter Terrorism Security Advisors continue to provide briefings to businesses together with the monthly Operation Griffin days. The recently reported Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure (CPNI) pilot is due to start and Ward staff have provided key engagement with local businesses to explain the initiative.</p> <p>In relation to hard to reach groups, the Force hosted &amp; organised a football tournament involving young people from all the City estates, which proved to be a popular and well attended event providing some quality time with the youth community. Work continues to raise awareness regarding Hajj Fraud and is engaging with communities that may be affected by this type of fraud.</p> <p>The Police together with Corporation of London and relevant NHS Trust will be discussing at strategic level, measures to prevent/reduce the number of suicides within the City of London.</p>	

City of London Police (CoLP) together with MPS has coordinated awareness through 'Hotelwatch' of the recent crimes targeting tourists.

Further Wards concerns are detailed at Appendix A.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that this report be received and its contents noted.

## **Main Report**

### **Section A - Residential Engagement**

1. As a result of complaints from the Community regarding the underpass at Byward Street, extensive consultation with Transport for London (TfL) and the City of London Corporation took place and as a result, the underpass now has gates which are closed at night preventing rough sleepers entering and causing a nuisance. Discussions are due to start in relation to the Aldgate underpasses, on the Tower Hamlets side, where many rough sleepers meet and sleep and cause problems through urination and other anti-social behaviour. There is current dialogue between Police the City of London Corporation and Tower Hamlets to either have this area closed or gated during the hours of darkness.
2. Several meetings have taken place between stakeholders with an interest in anti social behaviour. These meetings have highlighted several individuals who police are actively collating intelligence about, with a view to applying for anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs). As a result of these meetings, the Wards staff have highlighted several individuals who persistently beg causing nuisance in the community. In the run up to Christmas, Wards staff will actively target these individuals.
3. A meeting was held with specific licensed premises owners in Carter Lane to discuss ongoing issues around anti social behaviour reported by residents. One bar was taken to review by the City of London Police and The City of London Corporation, after extensive evidence was gathered by the residents and PCSOs. The review was found in Police favour and the bar immediately lodged an appeal, however subsequent to this meeting the bar has agreed to drop the appeal. The

City of London Corporation has written to the residents informing them of the progress.

## **Section B – Business Engagement**

4. Due to a rise in anti social behaviour in the Smithfield Market area, particularly during the night when clubbers urinate against the walls, a meeting is planned with the Smithfield Market tenants association and both CoLP and City of London Corporation Environmental Health and Public Protection team, to discuss the issue.
5. A Pubwatch meeting was arranged by the Police Licensing team and City Licensees. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight some of the methods used by persons to steal handbags and phones, a presentation was given by officers from the Criminal Investigation Department, which was very well received and provided some useful advice to licensees to assist in reducing acquisitive crime in licensed premises. A further meeting has been arranged in November, which will be opened by T/ Commander Chance.
6. The Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) have carried out forty five separate briefings to six hundred and seventy two people; including one hundred and twenty from the Crime Prevention Association. In addition to this there were two presentations around Op Argus which attracted sixty one people. This month's Project Griffin Day attracted ninety six attendees. These were information briefing sessions and no specific issues were raised by those attending.
7. The previously reported Centre for the Protections of the National Infrastructure (CPNI) pilot starts next week. Wards staff have contacted and visited premises near the areas where checks are likely to be carried out in order to enlist their help in spotting unusual behaviour during this activity and encouraging them to report it to the police. Posters and literature explaining the process have been left for display in Cafe`s and coffee shops as part of the engagement strategy.
8. The most recent meeting of the City of London Crime Prevention Association took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Fishmongers Hall, London Bridge. (This report is submitted before the meeting sits).

## **Section C – Hard to Reach Groups.**

9. The City of London Police organised and funded a football tournament on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The teams were made up of youths from all the estates in the City of London and all were coached by Police Community Support Officer`s (PCSOs) - a fantastic but very cold day was had by all. The afternoon session saw the turn of the adults fielding two teams of PCSOs playing teams from other boroughs. It is hoped as a Force we can plan and fund the tournament again next year.
10. Continuing to raise the awareness of Fraud during the Hajj Pilgrimage, Wards staff have attended medical centres specifically setup to offer vaccinations to those travelling on the Hajj pilgrimage. The City of London Police had a stand, gave advice and handed out literature. PC Sadiq attended Friday Prayers on the Golden Lane Estate and the East London Mosque attended by many residents, and has given two television interviews based around the subject of Hajj Fraud.
11. Two Community Officers have been trained as LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender) Liaison Officers. The main role of the liaison officers is to assist in opening up channels of communication, managing critical incidents and supporting police proactive and reactive investigations affecting the LGBT community whilst providing excellent service delivery. Stonewall have assisted in identifying groups within the City to enable this engagement initiative.
12. The Corporation of London together with Police and the relevant NHS Trust are seeking to set up a strategic group to discuss the approach to the increasing number of suicides within the City of London. T/Commander Chance together with the Superintendent responsible for Community Engagement will also be meeting with the Oxford Street branch of the Samaritans.

## **Section D – Transient Community**

13. In response to previously reported offences involving tourists, whereby two or three persons purporting to be police officers stop and search tourists, stealing valuables whilst doing so, Wards staff have coordinated their approach with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and using Hotel Watch, have provided advice and posters in

several languages which have been circulated to hotels within the City of London and the MPS with a view to reducing this type of crime. Any outcomes of this initiative will be reported in a future report.

14. The Special Constabulary have recently hosted a one day visit from a Superintendent and a Senior Inspector from the Hong Kong Police. They manage the Reserve Department of the Hong Kong Police and wished to see how the Special Constabulary works in London. The visit was requested via Interpol and SOCA.
15. This Lead Member for Community Engagement (Don Randall) was consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **Conclusion**

16. This report informs Committee members of community engagement activity undertaken by the Force since the last report to your committee.

### **Contact:**

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