

Committee: Police	Date: 18 th January 2013
Subject: Community Engagement Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police POL 01/13	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report contains details of issues raised at Ward Level and the Force response since the last Community Engagement report was presented to the 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, which is proving successful. The continued use of evidence gathering to support applications for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders focuses on Begging. A resolution to the ongoing problems around Anti-social behaviour and violence linked to the licensed premise 2AD has been achieved, with the premises having had its license revoked.</p> <p>The Force Christmas Campaign - Operation Blitzen is currently running, with targeted patrols in areas of high instances of violence and anti social behaviour.</p> <p>The Counter Terrorism Security Advisors continue to provide briefings to businesses together with the monthly Operation Griffin days and the Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure (CPNI) pilot has concluded and is currently going through an initial debrief. Early feedback has been positive.</p> <p>An initial meeting has taken place with the Samaritans regarding a strategy and measures to prevent/reduce the number of suicides within the City of London.</p> <p>CoLP together with MPS have coordinated awareness through 'Hotelwatch' of the recent crimes targeting tourists.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended that this report be received and its contents noted.</p>	

Main Report

Section A - Residential Engagement

1. Discussions in relation to the problems of rough sleepers and anti social behaviour in the Aldgate underpasses have taken place between Police, the City of London Corporation and Tower Hamlets. These have been positive with Tower Hamlets keen to adopt similar gated measures as adopted by the City in Byward St.
2. As reported to your last Committee, Police are actively collating information about specific individuals who persistently beg within the City of London, with a view to making future applications for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). This work is continuing in the run up to Christmas and beyond. The Wards Policing team have established an operation as a result of concerns from residents and businesses around begging. These have resulted in a number of arrests and prosecutions for the offence and an ASBO has been issued against an aggressive beggar.
3. Following a number of incidents of violence and anti social behaviour going back over the last year, a review of the license of Club 2AD was held on the 17th December 2012. This resulted in the premises having its license revoked and the premises closed. The premise has 21 days to appeal. If an appeal is launched the interim conditions will remain in place until the appeal is heard. A meeting of the joint Night Time Economy Group was held on the 18th December 2012 with partners from the City of London Corporation to discuss the rise in violent crime and anti social behaviour associated with the night time economy. T/Cdr Wayne Chance attended to represent the force and a number of issues impacting the community were discussed. Outcomes from this meeting will be reported to your Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee in the future.
4. The Ward Policing team has been working with the community and licensing teams in Islington with regard to issues of noise and anti social behaviour linked to license premises in the Carthusian Street and Charterhouse Street areas. The Force has received positive feedback from the local community over its response to the issue.

Section B – Business Engagement

5. There has been a rise in reported anti social behaviour in the Smithfield meat market area associated with the Night Time Economy. This has been particularly during the night time hours, when clubbers urinate against the walls whilst walking through the City after leaving pubs and bars in the area. As a result of this a meeting was held with the Smithfield Market tenants association to discuss the issue. To help counteract this problem the meeting agreed to the introduction of pop up urinals in the area which seems to be having a positive outcome.
6. A problem was been identified in the way messages to both the business and residential communities were being communicated, it was found the messaging was inconsistent, did not reflect a corporate image and on many occasions the business community would receive the same messages more than once. A project is underway to establish a more professional and co-ordinated approach to the way the Force carries out stakeholder engagement and messaging. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the private company -Vocal, who currently provide the Force with their messaging platform and will incorporate the Cross-sector Safety and Communications (CSSC). The objective is to provide a central database of contacts, which the whole Force has access to and ensure that each department is giving a unified message to the community. The system is being designed to allow the police to receive information from the community both in the form of localised concerns but also in terms of appeals for information following major incidents and crimes. This work is being undertaken in consultation with the City of London Corporation and other relevant partners. The new approach will complement existing arrangements in place with CSSC, Project Griffin and CoLCPA.
7. During this reporting period the force has sent eleven messages via the i-modus messaging system, these messages range from road closures to high risk missing persons, during the same period the CSSC have sent twelve messages to the business community with topics ranging from advice on counter terrorism to travel advice from Transport for London.
8. The Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) have carried out nineteen separate briefings to over one hundred and twenty six people; in addition to this, there were two presentations around Op Argus, which attracted twenty-seven people. This month's Project Griffin

Day attracted eighty-two attendees. A breakfast briefing was presented to 41 representatives from Small and Medium Enterprises, which contained an input from the Economic Crime Directorate. No specific issues were raised at these briefings as they are largely information giving forums. A survey has been sent out to 3500 businesses to find out views on how service delivery in this important area of business can be further improved.

9. The Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure (CPNI) pilot has now finished and the debrief stage has begun. Members may recall that this initiative was to engage with businesses to encourage them to report any incidences of unusual behaviour to police that occurred near their premises. Initial indications are that the pilot was a success with the Force receiving positive feedback from the Community over the engagement they received both prior to and during the pilot. The partner agencies involved in the pilot have also provided a positive reaction.
10. Wards Officers carried out an operation to engage with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) around checking the accreditation of security guards on building sites around the City. This was to have a positive impact on the reduction of thefts in the lead up to the Christmas closure of the sites.
11. Fifteen lunchtime Crime Prevention Road Shows have been run in business premises in the lead up to Christmas. These have focused on giving advice relating to personal protection and the protection of personal property. It is hoped that there will be a clearer picture of any outcomes of these initiatives in the crime figures at the end of December. The next meeting of the City of London Crime Prevention Association will take place on 21st January 2013.
12. The Force is working with partners through the Safer City Partnership agenda on issues identified by the business and residential community including issues relating to the night time economy and associated anti-social behaviour. T/Commander Chance now sits as a Member of this Partnership and attends the meetings.

Section C – Hard to Reach Groups.

13. A Road show 'Intervention' presentation was provided to the youth on Mansell Street estate. An ex terrorist prisoner attended and provided an input into what life was really like being involved in

terrorist activity and being in prison. The aim of this road show was to engage with and discourage the youths from becoming involved in this kind of activity. This has had a positive impact and was well received by those who attended.

14. With the increase in tensions in the Middle East over incidents in Gaza, Wards Officers contacted Jewish and Islamic premises in the City to offer advice and support and to gauge any increase in community tensions within the City. At this time there has been no perceived increase of tensions within the community.
15. As reported to your last Committee, the Force is seeking to actively engage with appropriate charities and agencies in relation the increase in the number of suicides taking place in the City. This is with a view to making support more accessible to vulnerable individuals and increasing opportunities to identify individuals at risk through increased engagement with businesses. T/ Commander Wayne Chance together with Superintendent Norma Collicott (Communities) held meetings with the Oxford Street branch of the Samaritans. This was productive and initial proposals for a short, medium and long term strategy were discussed. Further meetings are planned to develop these strategies.

Section D – Transient Community

16. Further to the 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 Officers have coordinated their approach with the MPS, and using Hotel Watch, advice and posters have been circulated to hotels within the City of London and MPS for display in several languages.
17. This report was completed in consultation with the Lead Member for Community Engagement Don Randall.

Conclusion

18. This report informs Committee members of community engagement activity undertaken by the Force.

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