

Committee: Police	Date: 12 th April 2013	Item no.
Subject: Community Engagement Update		Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 14/13		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 your Committee.</p> <p>The Residential Engagement Team have set up a surgery at the new Artisan Street Library where residents can discuss community issues, a further surgery is being established on the Mansell Street Estate.</p> <p>Officers have responded to complaints of drug use by youths on both the Mansell Street and Golden Lane Estates.</p> <p>At a recent Community Panel meeting, issues relating to noise nuisance and the Night time economy were agreed as priorities within the Carthusian Street area.</p> <p>The Economic Crime Directorate received some excellent feedback from the Banking Industry as a result of information circulated via the CSSC.</p> <p>Following complaints of cards in telephone boxes advertising sexual services, six arrests have been made and three premises being used as brothels closed as a result.</p> <p>Work continues to identify and engage with hard to reach groups from all faiths and vulnerable members of the community such as rough sleepers.</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. A Residential Surgery has been set up at the new Artisan Street Library on the last Friday of each month where residents can discuss community issues with the Residential Engagement Team. A similar surgery is currently being established at the Health Centre on the Mansell Street Estate.
2. Following complaints of youths smoking cannabis in the stairwells of the Mansell Street Estate, officers from the Residential Engagement Team conducted directed patrols of the area resulting in four persons being stopped for drug possession offences, all concerned had a connection with the estate but were not residents. Officers attended the Portsoken Councillors meeting to provide a Policing update and discuss a joint approach to issues raised.
3. Following reports of youths smoking cannabis on the Golden Lane Estate, Residential Engagement Team officers identified that those concerned were from a careers information centre for youths excluded from school. Officers attended the centre and gave advice to teachers and a presentation to students. Additional patrols have also been directed and there have been no further reports.
4. A Community Panel Meeting was held in the West area at the Grange Hotel on 20th February 2013, Officers from the Islington community team also attended in order to ensure effective cross border working. Issues around the night time economy in and around Carthusian Street continue as a priority for the area. Reports of nuisance and noise from residents are being closely monitored via the fortnightly Licensing and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Tactical Group meetings.
5. The Residential Engagement Team continues to identify vulnerable residents and work with Social Services and other partners to ensure effective monitoring. A further three residents have been identified and approached with a view to joining the Forces Pegasus scheme¹.

¹ The Force Pegasus Scheme is a scheme to identify vulnerable adults which means in the event of a call to the Control Centre by one of these individuals- the Force will be aware of their particular vulnerabilities.

Section B – Business Engagement

6. As a result of engagement with the Business Sector via CSSC, the Economic Crime Directorate received positive feedback from the banking industry in relation to their update on bribery and corruption issues. The Force will provide weekly updates circulated via the CSSC in relation to crime or community issues and respond to feedback received.
7. The Community Policing Team focussed a week's activity identifying empty premises across the City and ensuring police have key holder and owner details recorded in the event of an incursion by potential protest groups, businesses have been advised to inform the team of premises which become vacant.
8. After complaints from businesses in the Tower Hill and Liverpool Street areas, an operation has been put in place to deal with persons placing cards in phone boxes to advertise sexual services. As a result, six people have been arrested for placing cards and three brothels have been identified and closed down.
9. The Licensing Team attended a meeting of the Promoters Forum to engage with attendees in relation to Police expectations around the management of promoted events in licensed premises. There were approximately 30 promoters in attendance and a number of crime prevention initiatives were discussed. The Force is also hosted a Pubwatch meeting where the Corporation Licensing Team launched the Code of Practice for Licensed Premises which seeks to encourage Licensees to better manage their premises and reduce instances of crime, disorder and nuisance by effective stewardship.
10. The Community Team is assisting the Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED) with a crime prevention toolkit designed specifically to address Insurance fraud. This will be passed to local forces in the areas where IFED are making arrests in order to educate the community and to provide local neighbourhood officers with information to pass to their communities.
11. The Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) continue to circulate a weekly Business and Community Bulletin using the iModus mailing system and conduct the Project Griffin Bridge Call facilitated by JP Morgan. Three Project Griffin awareness days have

been held including the 100th City of London Awareness day in January.

Section C – Hard to reach groups.

12. The Street Intervention team together with the Corporation of London Rough Sleeper Team and Broadway outreach services participated in a week long initiative in February “The Pop Up Hub”, whereby those found sleeping on the streets attended a city church and were given access to advice relating to the services available for them. Op Poncho also continues to identify rough sleepers and offer accommodation advice and support on a daily basis.
13. The Community Engagement Team together with the Association of Muslim Police held an event at the Guildhall for members of various faith groups within the City. The Commander opened the event and PC Sadiq spoke to the 250 people in attendance about the support that the Community Engagement Team can provide to members of the City’s minority communities. The event was attended by members of the City’s Muslim community including the Islamili and Ahmidhiyya community as well as members of the City Sikh and City Hindu Network.
14. The Community Engagement Team are assisting the City Hindu network with a survey they are conducting looking at whether a “Glass Ceiling” for professionals exists for ethnic minorities today. This is expected to set a milestone within the diversity research space in the UK and has support from a number of multinationals, Community Leaders and Politicians. It is hoped that the survey will give the Police an opportunity to understand the issues and challenges the Hindu community faces in the City, and if the community are the victims of any hate crime.
15. The Community Engagement Team have engaged with the NZF, an organisation that aims to utilise Zacat funds (Muslim Charity funds) and voluntary donations within the UK, for the benefit of deserving local recipients. This is aimed at the most vulnerable people including widows, orphans, refugees, elderly persons and the homeless. Community policing has an MOU in order to help to identify Muslim homeless people and other vulnerable people who may benefit from the charity.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

16. Increased patrols around St Paul's Cathedral continue in response to a number of crimes in relation to bogus police Officers targeting tourists in the area.

Consultation

17. The Lead Member for Community Engagement, Mr Don Randall MBE, has been consulted in the compilation of this report.

Conclusion

18. This report informs Committee Members of residential and business Community engagement activity undertaken by the Force during the last reporting period.

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