

Committee: Police	Date: 5 th July 2013
Subject: Community Engagement Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police POL 28/13	For Information

Summary

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.

The Residential Engagement Team continues to attend a wide range of community events, the recent focus of attention being around crime prevention advice for elderly residents particularly in relation to current fraud trends.

The Force received excellent feedback in relation to the community engagement approach following the murder of Lee Rigby in Woolwich.

Business Engagement has focussed upon a number of protests both planned and spontaneous. Officers responded quickly to information relating to a protest outside the Old Bailey by the English Defence League (EDL) and ensured relevant businesses were given information and advice in person. Business Engagement has also been focussed upon the events in relation to the G8 summit and the impact upon London, with a stakeholder meeting being held at the Guildhall which was well attended.

The Force continues to host events organised by the City Sikhs group with an event on 22nd May attended by over 100 members of the community. In addition, the Community Team have also given input to the World Hajj and Umrah Convention to give advice on how to prevent Hajj fraud.

Recommendations

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

Main Report

Section A – Residential Engagement

1. A bespoke workshop was arranged for the 50+ club who meet on the Mansell Street Estate and provided key messages focussing on Crime Prevention and personal safety. This was in response to a number of concerns that residents were being targeted by fraudsters.
2. Officers from the Residential Engagement Team had a stand at the Golden Lane market day where they provided crime prevention advice, and leaflets, and were available to address residents concerns. They have also given input to a coffee morning at Tudor Rose Court, the Tuesday Club at the Barbican and individual residences in Little Britain. The Community Engagement stall at the Artizan Street Library is also proving to be increasingly popular with residents.
3. Residential officers spent a night duty responding to the concerns of a group of taxi drivers who felt they had been previous targets of Islamaphobia. Over 50 individuals benefited from the officers' time and were able to voice their concerns. Individuals were advised to report current or historic incidents to Police or via the 'Tell Mama'¹ project.
4. Officers responded quickly to events surrounding the murder of Lee Rigby in Woolwich. Key community leaders were notified in person, additional patrols were arranged over the subsequent days, and officers were available to address community concerns. The Force received excellent feedback for both the speed and appropriateness of the response which the community found reassuring.

Section B – Business Engagement

5. Community Engagement officers conducted face to face visits with Security Managers in all premises in the environs of the Central Criminal Court between 5th and 7th June. This was in response to information relating to a planned demonstration by the English Defence

¹ TELL MAMA Project-(Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks)- MAMA is a public service for measuring and monitoring anti-Muslim attacks. <http://tellmamauk.org/>

League (EDL) outside the Court. A business advice bulletin was prepared and relevant and timely community messages were issued to consolidate information given at the face to face contacts.

6. The Superintendent Community Engagement chaired a face to face briefing with key stakeholders likely to be affected by the G8 week of action. Attendees were given up to date information in relation to known planned protests, and advice in dealing with any spontaneous incidents that may occur. The policing response available during the week was outlined and contact details for key personal were shared with the business community. The new Lead Member for Community Engagement, Vivienne Littlechild, attended the briefing.
7. A survey was conducted by Vocal in order to gauge the effectiveness of community messaging in relation to the funeral of Baroness Thatcher. In relation to the question “Overall how satisfied were you with the information we sent you about Baroness Thatcher’s funeral?” 155 businesses responded to the question, with 92.9% indicating that they were either satisfied or very satisfied.
8. The City of London Crime Prevention Association (CoLCPA) AGM was held on the 17th May where members of the Association received a joint presentation by the Commissioner and the Chairman, Henry Pollard. This covered current matters relating to policing performance and the Safer City Partnership.

Section C – Hard to reach groups.

9. The Force hosted an event organised by the City Sikhs on 22nd May focussing on spirituality in the City, this event attracted over 100 attendees.
10. On 20th May officers attended the ‘Women in Business’ event at the London Metropolitan University organised by the National Black Women’s Network. Officers spoke about the work the Force does in relation to the Government ‘Prevent’ initiative, which is part of the National counter terrorism CONTEST strategy, and gave general crime prevention advice.
11. Officers attended the World Hajj and Umrah Convention to give advice relating to Hajj fraud. The presentation was given to over 150 attendees and officers were available to answer questions raised.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

12. Officers have liaised with the Tourist Information centre in order to gauge any current issues affecting visitors in the run up to the summer months.
13. Following a number of arrests of individuals posing as Police Officers in the area of St Paul's cathedral, there have been no further incidents of tourist being targeted in this way however, officers continue to monitor this situation.
14. In response to complaints of illegal street trading by Ice cream vans in key tourist areas, the Force is working closely with the City of London Corporation Licensing Team to gather evidence to support injunctions against offenders.

Consultation

15. The Lead Member for Community Engagement, Vivienne Littlechild has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Conclusion

16. This report informs Committee members of residential and business community engagement activity undertaken by the Force.

Contact:

Supt Norma Collicott

Uniformed Policing Directorate

020 7601 2401

norma.Collicott@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk