

Committee: Police	Date: 23 rd September 2013
Subject: Community Engagement Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 42/13	For Information

Summary

This report contains details of issues raised at local Level and the Force response since the last Community Engagement report was presented to the Committee.

The Residential Engagement Team have continued to provide an effective link with the residential community across the City, there has been ongoing engagement at local residents meetings, impromptu street briefings and community reassurance around large scale public order events. Closer links have been built with external agencies such as Victim Support, charities such as 'Tell MAMA' and drug action teams through improved joint working practices and joint operations.

Business Engagement during this reporting period has largely been focussed around closer working practices between the Force's Counter terrorist search advisors and the business team in order to maximise the level of service offered to businesses and to better promote the support and services that the Force can offer to businesses.

The Force hosted a Small and Medium enterprises breakfast briefing to engage with this hard to reach group. Numerous contacts were made and the services and support offered by the Force to these businesses has been communicated. This has resulted in a higher level of interest in presentations provided by officers as well as increased engagement generally.

The Residential Engagement Team have established new ways of dealing with long term local issues such as begging through innovative operational tactics that seek to provide long term solutions to these problems.

New initiatives are being examined with harder to reach groups such as the setting up of a youth panel, a taxi outreach programme and a '*Cafe Watch*' initiative.

Recommendations

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

Main Report

Section A – Residential Engagement

1. A Community Engagement stall has continued to be available on Tuesdays between 12.00 and 14.00hrs within the foyer area of the Artizan Street Library following a positive trial period. The stall has attracted individuals from both the residential and business communities. Staff have provided advice regarding crime prevention, cycle safety and answered general policing questions. The stall has particularly appealed to the older members of the residential community and given them an informal setting in which to engage with the police.
2. Officers from the Residential Engagement Team have successfully built a closer working relationship with the local victim support delivery manager in order to ensure that city residents have ease of access to the services that the charity provides. As such from 25th September, victim support will use the Barbican satellite police office to engage with victims of crimes within their own community to allow them to provide a higher level of service in an informal setting.
3. Community Engagement officers have been carrying out daily community reassurance patrols in Mansell Street and Middlesex Street Estates in relation to the English Defence League march on 7th September 2013. This has been well received by the local community who have expressed confidence in the Force to patrol the march. Community tensions have been monitored and intelligence obtained.
4. Operation Fennell has been designed and run by the community engagement team to try and provide a longer term solution to the issue of begging. Whilst it is acknowledged that begging is an offence, the operation involves the police working with external support agencies to offer support, advice and an alternative to begging for those vulnerable individuals in need of help. The operation involves issuing tickets to offenders instead of prosecuting on the first occasion. The ticket invites them to a help session where numerous external agencies will offer support in the areas of housing, drug action, alcoholism and addiction. Those that choose not to access the service may in the

future be prosecuted and Anti Social Behaviour Orders sought. However, it is hoped that through allowing access to such facilities in lieu of prosecution, many individuals can have their motivation for begging removed and be encouraged to seek help where it is available. The operation has been extremely well received with other forces interested in the operation.

5. An Operation Poncho hub was run this month which aims to provide help to the homeless community. A vulnerable pregnant woman and her partner were found temporary accommodation and longer term accommodation is being sourced through the Corporation. Six of the people who attended this month's Hub have maintained contact with support services which is an extremely positive response.

Section B – Business Engagement

6. The Force's Counter Terrorist Security Advisors have been promoting awareness of current threats from terrorism and domestic extremism, and protective security measures to mitigate these threats amongst the business community. To this effect 40 briefings to different businesses have occurred at which 256 people attended. To encourage continued vigilance in City front-line security staff to terrorist threats, another Project Griffin awareness day was conducted attracting 37 people who received inputs on threat, explosive and weapons attack, hostile reconnaissance and cordon procedures.
7. The Force's Counter Terrorist Security Advisors and members of the business engagement team have conducted three Project Argus table-top exercises to hotels, with around 60 attendees in total to understand threats and risks and how best to mitigate against these. The business team took the opportunity to introduce the team and explain what services and support could be offered to businesses. The team was very positively received.
8. The Community Engagement Inspector presented at a city wide Security Forum to discuss how the Force restructure has affected community policing and how the department would now be organised. Questions were invited from those security managers in attendance and it provided a forum for recent and upcoming policing events to be discussed.
9. Community engagement officers attended the Small and Medium Enterprises breakfast in July to promote the services offered by the team. A presentation on crime was given alongside safety advice,

community issues and an introduction to the business engagement team. This was positively received and following on from this several bespoke presentations to particular businesses were requested.

Section C – Hard to reach groups.

10. The Force attended an event on 16th August organised by the City Circle as an Eid event. Officers from the Force liaised with over 200 city professionals who were in attendance and promoted the services that the community policing team can offer.
11. On the evening of 23rd July, in celebration of Ramadan, the Mansell Street Estate and the police organised a ‘breaking the fast celebration’. A few speakers were arranged including PC Asif Sadiq who gave a talk about safe charity giving during Ramadan. A large number of residents of the Estate attended and the event was very well received.
12. The Residential Engagement Team has extended the attachment of Officer PC Sadik Miah for a further 6 months. PC Miah’s unique language skills and engagement style have led to an increase of positive engagement across the city’s residential communities. PC Miah is in the process of setting up an exciting opportunity for youth engagement via a youth panel. The panel would meet quarterly to discuss issues in the city that affect them, and it is hoped that the panel will have support from the City of London Corporation, police and other external agencies, although it is still in the early stages of development.
13. PC Miah has also initiated a taxi outreach programme which runs twice a month. It involves late night engagement with taxi drivers whilst they are parked up following a rise in the number of drivers reporting assaults and abuse. Officers engage with the drivers to pass on crime prevention advice, messages around prevention of terrorism and discuss any concerns the drivers have. The programme has been extremely positively received and has had support from the ‘Tell Mama’ charity (who monitor and provide support for anti-Muslim attacks on individuals) who often accompany officers on these taskings to pass on their own messages.
14. Counter terrorist Security Advisors within the Force are continuing to expand engagement with Small and Medium Enterprises on meeting the terrorist and extremist threat, the Special Branch/Counter

Terrorism Unit published the latest edition of our electronic periodical *CT Update*, now circulated to over 1,000 subscribers.

15. Community Engagement officers have initiated a 'Café Watch' scheme that aims to bring together managers from cafes throughout the city. The purpose is for intelligence sharing, increasing awareness of crime trends and to facilitate better communication between the cafes themselves. The watch has extremely positively received and has resulted in an increase in reporting of crime.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

16. The street intervention team continue to focus on cycle crime. As such a number of pedal cycles that were supplied to the team and painted bright yellow (with the area below the cross bar holding crime prevention messages) have been placed at bays around the city. The cycle trained PCSO's continue to provide bike marking in public places across the city to allow bikes to be identified and to engage with the transient community and provide crime prevention messages.

Conclusion

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

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