

Committee: Police	Date: 1 st November 2013
Subject: Community Engagement Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 47/13	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 provided reassurance to residents of the Mansell Street and Middlesex Street Estates prior to and during a demonstration by the English Defence League in September. In addition, the Team have been represented at Residents Celebration day at the Guildhall, Kings College Freshers Day and meetings at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and St Pauls Cathedral School.

Officers continue to work with the Licensing team to resolve issues of noise in and around Carter Lane.

The Business Engagement Team is working closely with management at St Bartholomew's Hospital to reduce the number of thefts occurring. The team is also working together with Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) to provide a booklet for multi-tenanted premises with relevant information on threats/ crimes/ procedures and contacts.

An open day for business women was hosted by the Community Team. Crime prevention and community Policing initiatives were shared and excellent feedback was received.

The innovative Operation Fennel, designed to deal with the issues that cause begging within the City, continues to provide positive results and feedback from both beggars themselves and the business community.

Recommendations

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

Main Report

Section A – Residential Engagement

1. In response to a demonstration organised by the English Defence League (EDL) in early September, for which part of the route passed through the City, community officers engaged with businesses on the planned route and surrounding streets. Officers engaged with residents of Mansell Street and Middlesex Street estates and provided a visible presence on the day to provide reassurance to residents. An officer was in the joint control room at Lambeth throughout the demonstration, ensuring timely community messages were sent out. Feedback from residents and businesses alike was very positive.
2. Officers from the Residential Engagement Team were represented at the Residents Celebration Day at the Guildhall. Officers also provided crime prevention advice to students at the Kings College Freshers Fair and meetings at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and St Paul's Cathedral School at the start of the new academic year.
3. Residential Team officers are continuing to work with the Licensing Team to resolve issues of noise and nuisance behavior linked to licensed premises in Carter lane. The Licensing Team together with colleagues from the Environmental Health Team is in dialogue with the Licensee of the problem premises to identify solutions to residents concerns.

Section B – Business Engagement

5. The Business Engagement Team are looking to produce some literature to be included in the Corporations 'Welcome to the City' information packs distributed by the corporation to new Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) opening in the city. These will be tailored for Retail premises and SMEs.
6. The Business Engagement Team have liaised with management at St Bartholomew's Hospital to provide advice in order to reduce the number of thefts that have been occurring at the site. Crime Prevention advice and a number of suggestions for improvements to security have been provided, and have been very well received.

7. A new Police Sergeant, Rebecca Hill, has joined the Business Engagement Team. It is expected that this officer will assist in promoting business engagement force wide. Indeed, a planning stage has already begun on a project to create a booklet that can be given out to the heads of security for multi-tenanted premises with relevant information on threats/ crimes/ procedures and contacts.

Section C – Hard to reach groups.

9. On 13th September the Force organised the Eid Event at the Guildhall to celebrate Eid with the City of London Muslim community and key Muslim organisations. This was the first event of its kind – bringing people together, from across the City of London, to celebrate Eid. The event aimed to encourage Muslim communities to work on countering terrorism and to further the work of the Prevent agenda by covering the benefits of Prevent and why it is important for Muslims to engage with the Police Service.
10. On 7th October, Officers from the Community Team held a Women's Conference on business development for young black women who are looking to start their own businesses and spoke to them about community policing and provided them with crime prevention advice. It was also a great opportunity to highlight the work of the Force, with more than 100 women from the black community attending. A number of them had not had a particularly positive experience with the police, and the feedback received was extremely positive and they felt that the fact that we hosted this event was a great opportunity for them to see the positive work the police do and to come to a police station for a positive experience.
11. Community engagement under Op Fennel is continuing with the begging community. The first three Street Initiative Education days have passed off very well with some positive feedback both from the begging community and the partner agencies that are making this initiative a success. Officers have engaged with offenders, and issued in excess of 140 tickets to over 80 different people inviting them to an educational and help day to address their offending behaviour. City Police are currently working with partner agencies such as Broadway, Veterans Aid, Drug and Alcohol Dependency Teams and the Corporation of London. Independent evaluation of the initiative from University College London has moved a step closer with further meetings scheduled in the near future.

12. Officers continue to work on Operation Poncho, dealing with vulnerable homeless people within the City, notable successes include the accommodation of two persons at Booth House, who had been sleeping rough at All Hallows Underpass.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

13. Community engagement officers attended the launch of the Hotel Forum where the Inspector of community policing provided a presentation detailing what services the Force can offer to the industry. Several members of the city's hotel industry attended the event which was positively received. Following on from this, several bespoke presentations to particular businesses were requested.

Conclusion

14. This report informs Committee members of residential and business community engagement activity undertaken by the Force since the last report to your Committee on the 23rd September.

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