

<b>Committee:</b> Police	<b>Date:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
<b>Subject:</b> Community Engagement Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police Pol 56/13	<b>For Information</b>

### 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 on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.

The Residential Engagement Team set up an operation for the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) national week of action which occurred for the period of 28<sup>th</sup> October to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. This was an ACPO lead initiative to combat ASB around the Halloween period.

The Business Engagement Team worked on Project Falco to raise the business communities' awareness of the new approach to counter terrorism policing in the City.

Operation Fennel continues with the begging community, in partnership with relevant agencies and Operation Poncho continues to deal with rough sleepers in the City. At the last count at the beginning of November there were 27 rough sleepers in the city- these numbers remain steady. However, since April 2013, 103 people have been accommodated. Officers from the Community Teams also attended a Careers Fair and delivered a workshop to a large number of students focussing on careers with the Police Service.

The community policing led Restorative Justice process went live on 1<sup>st</sup> November. It is designed to 'give power back to the victim' by resolving an incident on the street and cutting down on officers' time which would otherwise be spent dealing with the paperwork and the process of booking an offender. It requires offender and victim agreement.

In terms of social media update, the Force's @citypolice twitter account currently has 21,000 followers and is growing. Further work is planned with the Uniformed Policing Directorate to use this to promote the Force and keep the community updated.

## **Recommendations**

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

### **Main Report**

#### **Section A – Residential Engagement**

1. Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) national week of action occurred for the period of 28<sup>th</sup> October to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. This was an ACPO lead initiative to combat ASB around the Halloween period. The week consisted of targeting vagrancy and rough sleepers during the morning and lunchtime periods. The emphasis was switched during late turns to concentrate on ASB with high visibility patrols conducted on all residential estates for the purpose of deterring and detecting any ASB. During this week numerous officer were involved with a total of 254 officer hours tasked.
2. On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November a visit to Snow Hill Police Station was arranged for the St John Cass School Cub Pack. A group of 22 cubs attended the station and were shown around. A dog search display was given and they had the opportunity to try on different pieces of police uniform. A gift pack was presented to each cub which contained child safety information.

#### **Section B – Business Engagement**

3. Crime reduction road shows, bicycle marking, Safer Transport Operations Team (STOT), ATM fraud and other presentations continue to be delivered to the business community several times a week. The Business Engagement team has developed an enquiry form to be included on the new public website that allows visitors to see what services / presentations are available from STOT, Community Policing and Fraud and provides the facility to make arrangements for these to be delivered to their companies.
4. The Business Engagement Team worked on Project Falco this month. This Project is an engagement campaign to raise the business communities' awareness of the new approach to counter terrorism policing in the City. This engagement was conducted for a week prior to the deployment of Behaviour Detection Officers and Tactical Engagement Officers from Community Policing.

5. Engagement was carried out around the Old Bailey (Central Criminal Court) in regards to the trial related to the murder of Lee Rigby. Part of the engagement involved attendance at the mosque at Grays Inn Road, where a number of City workers go to pray, to update them on protest activity around the trial and to gain feedback on any concerns. Discussions held with Mosque Elders and the Imam and further visits are planned to continue the engagement. All was positively received.

### **Section C – Hard to reach groups.**

6. Ongoing Community Engagement continues under Operation Fennel with the begging community. The first four ‘Street Initiative Education’ days have passed off very well with some positive feedback both from the begging community and the partner agencies who are making this initiative a success, the team has engaged with offenders and issued in excess of 190 tickets to over 90 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. A City of London PCSO has written an article about Op Fennel for the Veterans Aid magazine which will be published shortly. Independent evaluation of the operation by the University College of London has moved a step closer with further meetings scheduled in the near future.
7. Operation Poncho continues to deal with rough sleepers in the city of London. Since April 2013 103 people have been accommodated, although rough sleeper numbers have remained steady. At the last count at the beginning of the month there were 27 rough sleepers. A working group is in the process of being set up to evaluate the operation and to look at other international methods to deal with rough sleeping to ensure that the operation is still having an impact or if new methods should be introduced. One long standing rough sleeper at John Trundle Court has now moved into accommodation. In conjunction with partner agencies lights have now been installed at John Trundle Court with specialist matting to deter sleepers. The matting is transferable and it is planned to move it around to other areas as the need arises.
8. Officers attended the Careers Fair at the City of London University and delivered a bespoke workshop for a large number of students

focussing on careers within the Police Service. During the workshop it was discussed how young people can access information and guidance about the options that are open to them within the Police Service and the progression routes to which those options lead. This is an important factor in ensuring young people are able to make the most of the opportunities that are available post-16. This goes hand-in-hand with a focus on raising aspirations, broadening horizons and increasing social mobility, to the benefit both of individual young people and society in general.

## **Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors**

9. Restorative Justice went live on 1<sup>st</sup> November with all front line uniformed officers trained. Although not exclusive to the Transient Community and Visitors, it is envisaged that the approach being taken will be used on the street. This is obviously likely to also impact upon workers and residents as well, who are not necessarily ‘transient’. It provides officers in the City with greater on-the-spot discretion to deal with low level crime using the approach known as Restorative Justice (RJ). Restorative Justice is designed to ‘give power back to the victim’ by resolving an incident on the street and cuts down on officers’ time which would otherwise be spent dealing with the paperwork and the process of booking an offender. City of London Police will be adopting the RJ Level 1 approach which is known as ‘street conferencing’. Officers must decide whether going down this route is proportionate to the offence. Typically it could be used for low level crime and both victim and offender have to agree to this approach.

## **Social Media update**

10. At your last Committee, a Member requested an update on the Force’s use of social media and in particular use of Twitter. A more comprehensive update will be provided in due course in line with the development of a longer term Corporate Communication strategy in 2014.
11. City of London Police continues to build a strong twitter following @citypolice. At the time of writing, the Force has more than 21,000 active followers. Separately, the Force has bespoke twitter accounts to showcase its work as national policing lead for economic crime and a further account specifically to engage with stakeholders and the public on insurance fraud. The Force is now capitalising on the strong

core following that @citypolice has built, by working closely with the Uniformed Policing Directorate to provide regular updates on operational activity and the good work by officers patrolling on the ground in the Square Mile. This includes getting regular updates to tweet along with images too, where appropriate. This is with a view to further engaging with our follower base, whilst offering useful crime prevention advice, information on events, incidents and policing activity. It has been shown that this can also have a deterrence value, which was shown when we highlighted Force activity on Op Giant, using ANPR to target uninsured drivers.

## **Conclusion**

12. 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 1<sup>st</sup> November.

### **Contact:**

*Supt Norma Collicott*

*Uniformed Policing Directorate*

*020 7601 2401*

*[norma.Collicott@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk](mailto:norma.Collicott@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk)*