

Committee: Police	Date: 17 th January 2014
Subject: Community Engagement Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police POL 06/14	For Information

Summary

This report contains details of engagement at Ward Level since the last Community Engagement report was presented to your Committee.

The Residential Engagement Team continues to highlight the importance of security through its engagement workshops relating to Counter Terrorism. They also provided an opportunity for the City Cub Pack to visit the team at Snow Hill Police Station which proved very successful.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) continues to decrease with a reduction of recorded ASB incidents compared to the same period last year.

In terms of Business Engagement, a re-launch of Cafe Watch is proving successful with a focus on five specific premises based on analysis and weekly visits by the Crime Squad to reinforce the campaign. The Community Policing Team provided support and resources to the Force's Christmas Campaign (*'Not Everyone Is As Nice As You'*) throughout December which improved community relations during this time and focused on crime prevention, personal safety advice and ASB associated with the night time economy.

Officers visited the City's Mosques and engaged with Elders during the trial of the two defendants for the murder of Lee Rigby. This was to provide reassurance and address any concerns or increased tensions. The Team has also been engaging with some of the City's church groups on matters of security and crime prevention which was well received. A new Police Sergeant has joined the Community Team. He is currently re-invigorating some of our links with the City of London Corporation Safer City Partnership.

Community Policing officers and the Cadets were privileged to attend the Global Peace & Unity Festival (GPU). It was a unique opportunity for the

police to interact with the visitor population, as the event attracted around 60,000 people over two days. Commander Wayne Chance also attended this event.

Recommendations

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

Main Report

Section A – Residential Engagement

1. The ‘Prevent’ Engagement team within Community Policing have delivered workshops to raise awareness of Prevent (one strand of the governments CONTEST strategy which relates to Counter Terrorism) Prevent includes working with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that need to be dealt with. The Team gave presentations to various City of London Corporation (CoL) teams, including the Community and Children’s Services Team. They also gave presentation to the Advice Information and Advocacy Forum (AIA) and Toynbee Hall¹ staff who work with local residents, and also to local places of worship namely at the Community Centre off Middlesex Street and a local Church group in the City.
2. Personal Safety Presentations were given to parents at Cass Child & Family Centre and staff at a City based international law firm, these were very well received and provided parents with information on how to keep their family safe.
3. The City Cub Pack based at Sir John Cass School visited Snow Hill Police Station – the Community Team facilitated this visit and combined various educational and fun elements for a very appreciative group. The cub pack met many of the Community Officers and held a Q and A with them.

¹ <http://www.toynbeehall.org.uk/advice-information-and-advocacy>

Anti- Social Behaviour

4. As a result of the endeavours of the Community Team and response officers, Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is continuing to decrease. There were 82 ASB CADS² opened between the 29th October and 30th November. In comparison, during the period of 29th October and 30th November 2012 there were 128 ASB CADS opened. This shows a significant reduction of 46. Community Officers continue to engage with all victims of ASB and provide a high level of service and assessment of their needs to ensure that any re-occurring issues or trends are identified and dealt with.

Section B – Business Engagement

5. The re-launch of ‘Café Watch’ continues to prove successful. A focus on 5 specific Coffee Shops is continuing after analysis showed these to be the venues with the highest frequency of reports of crime such as theft. The Team is engaging with these cafes on a weekly basis to establish the extent of offending every week. Attendance of Crime Squad officers at these venues has also been arranged to provide a briefing to the staff to include descriptions of regular offenders and explain the tactics that the offenders utilise.
6. All Community Officers assisted with the Force Christmas Campaign - ‘*Not Everyone Is As Nice As You*’- by providing crime prevention roadshows to businesses and also providing resources to particular operations. Eight PCSOs were assigned to the task of visiting all the premises in a given ‘zone’ to inform the community of the Christmas Campaigns objectives. The opportunity was taken to engage with the different premises to establish tensions and concerns. In addition to this, the campaign also focused on the mainline stations and other travel hubs in the City and officers and civilians gave out leaflets to inform City workers of the aims of the campaign which included crime prevention and personal safety advice.
7. Consideration is being given to a draft city workers survey aimed at City businesses. This has been circulated internally prior to its wider circulation in the New Year. It is envisaged this survey will be the new method of establishing priorities for the Business Engagement Team.

² Computer Aided Despatch reports

8. A new Police Sergeant joined the Community Engagement Team on 27th November 2013. He is currently re-invigorating some of the Force's links with the City of London Corporation Safer City Partnership (SCP) for which the Force are statutory partners, by helping to bring to fruition a number of partnership projects.

Section C – Hard to reach groups.

9. Throughout the trial of two defendants' at the Old Bailey for the murder of Lee Rigby, Community Officers attended the Mosques in the City and on the boundaries and spoke to the Elders regarding the trial and to listened to and addressed any concerns.
10. 'Friends of City Church Watchers' (volunteers who sit in churches to enable them to be open to the public when staff aren't around), held a meeting of approximately 50 people on 4th December in St Magnus the Martyr Church. A PCSO gave a brief talk on crime prevention and security which was extremely well received.
11. One of the Community Team also attended the Fundamental Rights Conference in Lithuania on Combating hate crime in the EU, giving victims a face and voice. This was a great opportunity to increase our understanding of hate crime and to meet individuals from all over the EU to share experiences and best practice in the fight against hate crime and learn about current patterns and trends in hate crime.
12. Ongoing Community Engagement under Op Fennel with the begging community continues. The first five 'Street Initiative' Education Days passed off successfully, with some positive feedback both from the begging community and the partner agencies who are making this initiative a success. In excess of 200 tickets have been issued to over 100 different people inviting them to an educational 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 City of London Corporation. Independent Evaluation from the University College of London has moved a step closer with further meetings scheduled in the near future.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

13. During December, Community Police Officers and the Cadets were privileged to attend the Global Peace & Unity Festival (GPU). The officers ran a stall at the event and conducted workshops which were a unique opportunity for the police to interact with the visitor population and to contribute to and be part of a project dedicated to creating a more harmonious world. The event attracted around 60,000 people over two days. Commander Wayne Chance also attended this event to represent the Force and the Commissioner recorded a video message that was also played at the event.

14. The Safer City Partnership is currently promoting their contact with Hotels within the City of London. This is a growth business area with ongoing planning, development and construction of further Hotels. This will require close engagement if the partnership wish to develop and maintain links. A Hotel Watch was launched in October 2013, with the next meeting due in March 2014. Officers are working alongside the City of London Corporation to improve these links and to provide a bespoke service to the hotels that matches their interest areas.

Conclusion

15. 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 6th December.

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