

<b>Committee:</b> Police:	<b>Date:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Community Engagement Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police Pol 15-14	<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.

The Residential Engagement team is working with Fraud teams to compile fraud awareness days for elderly and vulnerable residents this is partly in response to at least two residents becoming victims of fraud recently. A resident's community awareness day was organised on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 by the City of London Corporation in partnership with City of London Police Community Engagement team and Public Protection Unit, John Cass Child and Family Centre, City of London Substance Misuse partnership and the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation.

The Business Engagement Team compiled a survey to encourage people who work in the City to tell Police what community priorities were important to them, over 1200 people responded and priorities have now been set for the next 3 months and are:

- Cyclists riding through red lights (64%)
- Motoring offences (33%)
- Devices on ATM (31%)
- Cyclists riding on footpath (29%)

The preferred methods of engagement identified were:

- Email updates (84%)
- E-briefing video clips (55%)
- Road shows (54%)

The Force has been successful at a licensing hearing in getting a license revoked as a result of a number of incidents and complaints regarding crime and disorder at a specific venue in Bishopsgate Ward.

The proactive anti begging Operation, Op Fennel continues to prove successful and is linked to a 34% drop in Anti Social Behaviour over the last year.

### **Recommendations**

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

## Main Report

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

1. In response to an elderly resident on the Middlesex Street Estate becoming the victim of a scam on the internet where she was asked by a person purporting to be from Microsoft to pay for her computer to be fixed and after persistent phone calls resulted in her giving them her card details. The Residential team are working with the Fraud Teams to organise a day for all elderly and vulnerable residents to educate them on current scams that may be vulnerable to, and to provide crime prevention advice.
2. A resident's community awareness day was organised on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 by the City of London Corporation in partnership with City of London Police Community Engagement team and Public Protection Unit, John Cass Child and Family Centre, City of London Substance Misuse partnership and the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation. The day comprised of series of talks and information about Forced Marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The City of London Substance Misuse partnership held a stall providing information, advice and guidance to all participants around drug awareness.
3. Following complaints from residents in the Queenhithe area with regard to rough sleepers, Residential Team officers patrolled the area and identified the rough sleeper concerned. He was offered accommodation and when this was refused the male was arrested and charged under the Vagrancy Act.

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

5. In order to better engage with the business community, A survey was circulated was designed to be very quick to complete, but was detailed enough to set priorities and to affirm that means of engagement that the city workers want.  
More than 1,200 people have completed the survey to date. The main issues identified were:
  - Cyclists riding through red lights (64%)
  - Motoring offences (33%)
  - Devices on ATM (31%)
  - Cyclists riding on footpath (29%)

The preferred methods of engagement identified are:

- Email updates (84%)
- E-briefing video clips (55%)
- Road shows (54%)

6. The Business Engagement Team are now regularly sending Crime prevention messages via Twitter and used regular tweets to promote responsible drinking over the Christmas period with the 'Not everyone is as nice as you' messages.
7. The Substance Misuse Partnership at City of London Corporation have been looking at ways to promote their services to businesses in the Square Mile (both in terms of the work they do in the City as well as support they can offer to organisations/ employees around drugs and alcohol). Their staff now attend Crime Prevention Road shows alongside the Police Engagement Team.
8. Following a number of incidents of crime and disorder, the Licensing Team compiled evidence to support a Licensing Hearing in respect of a premises in Bishopsgate ward which is the focus of both crime and Anti Social Behaviour associated with the night time economy, as a result of the hearing the premises had its liquor License revoked.

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

9. The Street Intervention Team's proactive anti begging Operation, Op Fennel, continues to be successful with over 200 Beggars having been issued with tickets. Notable successes include individuals now working for the Big Issue, two vulnerable homeless adults now successfully housed, a number of individuals accessing Drug treatment programmes, and 10 beggars who have failed to engage are subject of Anti Social Behaviour Orders.
10. Since implementing Restorative Justice (RJ) in November 2013, RJ principles have been used on eight occasions to date as an alternative to prosecution. A community scrutiny group has been set up to monitor the continuity and effectiveness of the scheme and to identify the effects on both offenders and victims.

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

11. Community engagement officers together with CTSA's are compiling a booklet for distribution to Hotels in the City, with advice regarding current crimes affecting tourists, and providing advice to Hoteliers in how to deal with a range of crimes that may be committed within their premises, crime scene management, and a list of contacts within the Force for advice.

### **Conclusion**

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

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