

Committee: Police Committee	Date: 3 rd April 2014
Subject: Community Engagement Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 25/14	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 team have continued to deal with issues of rough sleepers on the estates and have provided crime prevention advice to residents in relation to preventing burglaries. A male has recently been arrested following a burglary in Golden lane.

The Business team have been working with gyms in the city to provide advice and a visible policing presence to reduce the number of thefts from lockers, regular crime prevention messages are being sent via Twitter.

The team also provided advice and visible reassurance to businesses affected by a demonstration outside the Old Bailey following the sentencing as a result of the trial in relation to the murder of Lee Rigby.

Community engagement officers have supported a number of events supporting minority groups within the community.

The Force has recruited an additional sixteen volunteer Police cadets and existing cadets are continuing to support a number of initiatives alongside regular officers.

Recommendations

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

Main Report

Section A – Residential Engagement

1. Additional patrols have been occurring on the Golden Lane Estate and Community Officers have been giving Crime Prevention advice to residents

in response to a priority around burglaries. Posters have been developed and once printed will be placed around the estate. A suspect has recently been arrested and admitted to having committed a burglary on the estate.

2. Officers from the Residential Engagement team have successfully dealt with a long term rough sleeper on the Barbican Estate who was subject to numerous complaints from residents. The male has now moved into hostel accommodation in Middle Street.
3. Officers have conducted a comprehensive crime reduction survey of the Middlesex Street Estate in order to identify how to prevent rough sleepers accessing the car park area of the estate. The survey has been submitted to the Estate Manager with a number of recommendations.

Section B – Business Engagement

4. In response to a demonstration planned to coincide with the sentencing following the trial into the death of Lee Rigby, Community Engagement officers liaised with businesses likely to be affected providing advice to minimise any impact. During the demonstration officers provided a link between businesses and protestors and dealt with issues as they arose. Police ensured timely messages were sent in relation to crowd numbers and road closures. Positive feedback was received.
5. The Business Engagement Team will be providing a number of lunchtime events providing friendly and informal interactions with staff whilst raising awareness of safer cycling in the City and sensible alcohol consumption.
6. The operation to tackle aggressive begging affecting small businesses (Operation Fennel) continues to deliver results with a number of beggars now interacting with outreach services. In relation to six persistent beggars that have refused to engage with the programme, Anti Social Behaviour Orders have been issued by Magistrates. A senior lawyer visiting from Australia was so impressed with the Operation she will be recommending Police in Melbourne adopt the initiative as best practice.
7. Community Engagement Officers continue to work with gyms in the city to provide advice regarding the increasing number of thefts from lockers, particularly at lunch times. Crime prevention messages reminding gym goers to protect their property are being regularly sent out via twitter.

Section C – Hard to reach groups.

8. Officers attended the first event ever held by a Sikh Organisation at St Paul's Cathedral. The City Sikh's Network together with St Paul's organised a flagship interfaith event of 2014, an evening of short inspirational talks and a

panel discussion given by women from four different faith traditions. The topic of 'Women in faith' highlighted the central role women have played in various religions and the personal challenges female faith leaders have encountered whilst practicing and preaching their beliefs.

9. Community Engagement Officers had a stall at the City of London Academy careers fair, providing information and guidance to year ten and eleven students in relation to the careers options available in the Police. Attendees showed a keen interest in a potential career within the Police Service.
10. Officers took part in an International Mother Language day (Bhasha Divas) at the London Metropolitan University Campus in Moorgate. A leading Bangladeshi academic delivered a speech on the influence of language on life, and a number of speakers highlighted the contribution the Bengali community have made to British life and society.
11. The Force has welcomed a further sixteen teenagers into the Volunteer Police Cadets they will begin their training on 29th March. Two existing cadets have been nominated to undertake the Metropolitan Police Service Senior Cadet Leaders course in May. Five cadets were in uniform supporting and assisting at the recent International Women's Day event at the Guildhall.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

14. Police continue to work with the Safer City Partnership to provide information for hotel managers providing advice on the management of bomb calls, how to preserve crime scenes until police arrival, and how to deal with reports of fraud. This will be presented to the next meeting of Hotel Watch which will be held in the last week of March.
15. Police are working closely with the housing team within the Corporation of London to revise the long standing rough sleepers operation (Op Poncho) in order to follow a similar approach to that used to deal with begging. The new Operation (Op Acton) will be implemented from April 2014 to tackle the increase in the number of rough sleepers in the City.

Conclusion

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

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