

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Monday, 8 September 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Henry Pollard (Chairman)	Jon Averns
Simon Murrells (Deputy Chairman)	Alex Orme
Bob Benton	Doug Wilkinson
Marianne Fredericks	Paula Wilkinson
Barbara Gough	Superintendent Norma Collicott

Officers:

Lorna Corbin	Community and Children's Services Department
Sandra Close	Crime and Disorder Analyst
Saimah Tahir	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Emma Marwood-Smith, Wayne Chance, John Simpson, Laura Marshall, Don Randall, Tracey Wood, Linda Neimantas and Yannik McKenzie.

2. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON THE 6 MAY 2014

Chairman requested going forward the minutes were dated and attendees were listed.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising

Attendance of the Safer City Partnership by the wider community

The Chairman welcomed the Director of Children Services and emphasised the importance of having wider representation from all of the community. M.F had consulted with members of the gay and lesbian community who had expressed a wish to read the agenda however did not want to attend the meeting. A.A felt that representation from the wider community could be sought from an equalities campaign taking place by Corporation next month and assured the committee that it would be looked into as well as looking to invite a Consultant to the next meeting.

The Committee also resolved to invite Penny Beaven or a representative to represent Public Health and DW confirmed he would represent Public Realm for Steven Evans.

3. **REVIEW OF SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES**

Rough Sleepers

The Safer City Partnership had now established targets for rough sleepers in the City. The committee were informed of a rough sleeper near on Fenchurch Street who was being taken care of by the public and as a result had not moved on. N.C. explained that the police could only deal with such issues if a member of the public complained. MF felt many were begging to pay for their hostel once their benefits had ceased and needed education and support to change. She informed the group of a charity called Anchor which trained and educated people while helping them with any personal issues such as substance misuse and mental health. N.C. said the Police were working with the court to tackle this issue. However, there were different outcomes of cases due to different legal clerks. The group agreed that fines were not helpful as this resulted in further begging. The Chairman had received an invitation to a breakfast briefing from the Chairman of Policy and would be looking at the issue of rough sleeping. The Committee agreed that the Rough Sleepers Strategy Group produce a report for the SCP to show what actions were being taken to address poor performance of this target. The SCP agreed that they supported the use of P.O.C.A funding to set up activities if it met the criteria for P.O.C.A eligibility.

Domestic Abuse

The group were informed that good progress was being made on this priority. Although, baseline data for domestic abuse in City businesses was difficult to establish.

Road Danger Reduction

The group noted that the target for road danger reduction were green and requested more 20 MPH enforcement signage on hoarding around the City and requested that existing signs are placed in easily visible areas. D.W confirmed that this work will be taking place.

Fraud and Economic Crime

Operation Broadway was set up as a joint initiative between the City of London Police and Trading Standards to target fraud and economic crime.

Counter Terrorism

A Hotel Forum toolkit for front line staff was being developed to include first response to terrorism. The group noted that the threat level had been increased to heightened alert. Community engagement was now taking place at universities across London during Fresher's Week.

Vehicle Crime Partnership

The Vehicle Crime Partnership had been replaced by Vehicle Crime SARA as there was not a lot of vehicle crime, the new group would be proactively driven by figures and their first meeting had taken place last week.

The Hotel Forum

The Community Safety Team were developing a Hotel Toolkit. Targets had been put in place for hotels and the group intended to continue to provide support. The meeting of the Hotel Forum would be held in October 2014.

Sexual Crime Awareness

The group wanted a sexual crime awareness campaign during the Christmas period. As it was noted the different generations were unaware of what could constitute a sex crime resulting in individuals being placed on the sex offenders register.

The report was noted.

4. LONDON FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE

The D.W was pleased with the progress against Key Performance Indicators. However, it was noted there was an increase in outdoor rubbish fires in rubbish and cigarette bins. In order to address this issue the group suggested Cleaning Services liaise with the Fire Service to reduce these fire risks. A.A. felt more focus was given to the outcome rather than focussing on preventing instances of fire occurring. The Chairman informed the group that work in prevention had been discussed in a previous meeting.

The Chairman questioned whether the Cadets had graduated and was informed that they were on a 2 year course so would not be graduating this year.

The report was noted.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY REVIEW UPDATE

The 31 recommendations had been well received, this had resulted in the Community Safety Hub which went far beyond the delivering of the recommendations. The Corporation of London and the City of London Police were streamlining their function to work better together.

Child Sexual Exploitation

The Chairman expressed his concern that this issue had reached a crescendo in light of current events in Rotherham. He sought assurance that good processes were in place to ensure that child exploitation was not taking place in the Corporation of London. He stressed the importance of this considering Fiona Woolf had been appointed to lead the Child Abuse Inquiry. Briefing note and procedure to be circulated to all Members by P.W. A.A. informed the partnership that he would be bringing a report to the next committee on Child Exploitation.

Human Trafficking

The Chairman felt that victims of human trafficking were being transported from Calais to Middlesex Street. He questioned whether the traffickers could be identified by following the chain backwards from the victim. A Member noted that humans trafficked were the ones who were given a criminal record when it was obvious they were victims.

Night Time Economy

PW carried out Taxi Marshalling Verification visits over a 3 night period she was pleased to inform the committee that the numbers of usage was correct and

noted that there was still a large queue of people waiting for taxis at the 2pm cut off on all 3 days. However, due to traffic at the top of the road taxis were restricted. The group continued to support Taxi Marshalling and requested that funding be provided through P.O.C.A. The Community Safety Team were working with the Licensing Team for the Safety Thirst Campaign and intended to visit licensed premises to ensure they were meeting the criteria for the award.

Fraud and Economic Crime

PW informed the group that the Community Safety Team had made links with Operation Broadway which was a joint venture between Trading Standards and the City of London Police. They were currently dealing with Boiler Room fraud and many of the fraudulent businesses were employing young people who were unaware that their employment could result in a criminal record.

Anti- Social Behaviour

The Community Safety Team, were liaising with Pan London ASB Managers Group on the implementation of Anti-Social Behaviour legislation which would come into effect in October 2014. The new legislation would put victims first activating when Community Trigger criteria were met. The police would work with victims to allow them involvement in the outcome through community Remedy. An update would be provided by P.W at the next meeting.

Domestic Abuse

The Community Safety Team and the City of London police held a planning meeting with CAADA to develop training for MARAC attendees promoting awareness of risk identification and risk management in order to reduce repeat victimisation. A toolkit for Human Resources professionals had been developed to raise awareness of victims and safe reporting routes. A Hotel Forum Toolkit was also being developed by the Community Safety Team and the City of London Police. Also an anti-stalking campaign was taking place on the 28 November and was called Behind Closed Doors it was hoped that this would promote employers awareness of their duty of care towards their employees in terms of abuse.

Counter Terrorism

The Community Safety Team was working in partnership with the City of London Police to deliver the Prevent Agenda and coordination of the Home Office Wrap Training.

The report was noted.

6. CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE

N.C. reported that violent crime was seeing overall decreases however there has been an increase in recorded incidents of road rage, and harassment. She reminded the group of the Violent Crime review undertaken by Inspector James Wileman that the group had sight of, and the result of some of the new tactics being used in respect of Policing the night time economy.

The group were informed of the increase in Policing activity in response to the elevated threat level and gave an overview of the Forces mutual aid response NATO summit in Wales.

Vehicle offenses was on the increase, since the Tour de France peddle bikes were being targeted and a peddle bike SARA was monitoring the situation. The Police were attending events to raise awareness of vehicles offenses including the acting Superintendent advising on locks on the television.

The report was noted.

7. **SUBSTANCE MISUSE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

L.C. informed the group that a draft briefing on legal highs was currently with the Police and would be circulated to Members at the next meeting. Information regarding legal highs would not be made public at present instead a generic public health campaign would be made focussing on residents and workers. Also a Drug Intervention Programme was nearly ready to be signed off and a copy of it would be provided at the next meeting. Drug testing on violent crimes was being undertaken to establish whether there was a link between them. M.F. suggested that legal highs be part of the Christmas campaign. L.C requested the group clarify what type of steering they were interested in as this would help reporting to be more specific to the partnership. The Chair confirmed that it would be helpful to the group to receive a written report explaining what progress had been made and any new initiatives and developments that had taken place.

The report was noted.

8. **SERVICE REVIEW OF DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO CONTROL SERVICES**

The Service Review of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Control Services report was noted by the Committee.

9. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE**

The group requested further information on air quality within the City of London.

The report was noted.

10. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014: REFORM OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POWERS**

PW explained that the legislation came out in July and aimed at focussing on the victim instead of on enforcement. Training would be given to front line staff to avoid another Pilkington. However it was noted that it was vital to manage public expectation. An update on the progress on this would be provided in November.

The report was noted.

11. **PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, LICENSING AND TRADING STANDARDS) UPDATE.**

Economic Crime - Trading Standards

J.A. updated the group on current investigations underway to tackle fraudulent selling of alternative investments such as diamonds, gold, wine and carbon credits. There were over five hundred victims involved at a cost of over one million pounds. He was content with the progress of all investigations and hoped that they would be making arrests in one case.

The service was also working in conjunction with a number of other partners to address the issue of “boiler rooms” where perpetrators rent office space within the City of London and often employ young people who are unaware they are taking part in illegal activities and may end up with a criminal record. He assured the committee that the operation had been successful so far and hoped to provide a full report in the near future to the group.

Street Trading

The Street Trading Policy had been approved by the Planning and Transportation Committee in July. The Enforcement Policy had been incorporated into the Street Trading Policy and publicised on the website. He informed the committee that two ice cream vans had been seized with a third subject to legal proceedings as it drove out of the City before they could be stopped by the Police. At present there was very limited street trading activity in the City. It was anticipated that future operation would focus on nut sellers near Millennium Bridge.

Late Night Levy

The Late Night Levy will come into effect on the 1st of October, seventy percent will go to the City Police for activities to improve the impact of licensing on the night time economy. Letters were sent to 750 licensed premises offering free variations to their hours to remove impact of levy, 53 have applied and the closing date for application was the 6 September. The Licensing Committee requested an update after 6 months as well as providing a update to this committee.

Safety First

Changes made to improve scheme in line with the Code of Good Practice for licensing in the City. Letters were sent to all licensed premises inviting applications giving the incentive of 30% discount on the Late Night Levy to those who achieved membership of this year’s award. There were 87 applications and it was anticipated that 40 awards would be given this year with the award ceremony taking place on the 8 October.

Noise Service

From April – July there were 354 complaints dealt with by Pollution Team. In a customer survey 90% of respondents felt the officer dealing with their complaint clearly explained what the customer could expect from the service provided. The City no longer used Westminster Council’s Officer to respond to complaints cutting responses times from 60 to 30 minutes.

The report was noted.

12. **20 MPH PROMOTION USING HOARDING**

M.F wanted to utilise hoarding around the Corporation of London to highlight the 20 MPH zone. D.W agreed to look into this.

13. **EVENING AND NIGHT TIME ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS**

The group questioned whether 20 MPH enforcement action was being taken. N.C. explained that a number of checks had taken place. However, precedence was given to night time HGV operations as the Police were paid by TFL for them. The group felt sending leaflets to business owners within the City would raise awareness of the 20 MPH enforcement.

14. **DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AND REPORT DEADLINES**

The Committee agreed that new dates would be provided for approval in the future as current dates were not in line with reporting deadlines.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

CCTV in Barbican

D.W team would talk to the Police regarding CCTV in the Barbican and enforcement issues as it was felt that Enforcement Officers were not an additional cost to the City as the tickets they issues paid for their role.

Smoking in Leadenhall Market

There were a high number of people smoking in Leadenhall Market which was banned as it was an enclosed area. Licensees had been approached asking them to enforce the ban, however it was noted that enforcement was difficult.

Talking Vehicles at Night

It was noted that there were a number of vehicles that were talking at night and disturbing residents while they slept. The group felt as a whole the safety element of the talking vehicles outweighed the noise they made at night.

Cyclist on Pavement

Many cyclists were using the pavement when roads were closed or going the wrong way causing a hazard for pedestrians. A clear message must be sent to all cyclists that when a road is closed they should dismount their bike and walk along the pavement. The group considered the effect the Super Cycle Highway would have on the City and felt it was imperative that measures were built in so that traffic would not be displaced and go on to affect other areas. It was noted that traffic in Fenchurch Street was badly affected when cycling events took place. D.W would be circulating a link on the Super Cycle Highway which would be running through the City.

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Saimah Tahir
tel.no.: 020 7332 3113
saimah.tahir@cityoflondon.gov.uk**