

Committee: Police	Date: 20 th May 2015
Subject: Community Engagement Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 26/15	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 the Committee in January 2015. It also details a number of other engagements.

The Residential Team have dealt with a number of issues that are detailed in the main report. These include thefts, assaults, drug misuse and involvement in community events.

The Business Team have continued their work with coffee shops to try and combat thefts taking place at these premises within the City. There are plans in place to replicate the successful establishment of the Business Forum at the Royal Exchange in other parts of the City. The Hotelwatch is now established and an increase in communication between hotels involved in the scheme has been evident. The Counter Terrorism Team continue to deliver a large number of briefings and awareness days to the community, encouraging vigilance and reporting of suspicious activity.

For the Street Intervention Team Operation Fennel continues to target aggressive begging resulting in 25 ASBOs and in excess of 500 tickets being issued to over 200 different individuals. Six intelligence led proactive operations targeting anti-social behaviour have been run since the last report, resulting in various arrests, summons, tickets and dispersals.

A campaign named #WeStandTogether was launched with involvement from the Prevent Engagement Team and the Volunteer Cadets. The campaign is about promoting trust, integration and cohesion within communities and police forces across the UK are promoting the message.

The Prevent Engagement Team continue to deliver training to the community about preventing people from becoming involved in terrorism.

The Safer Transport Operations Team (STOT) have run successful operations targeting taxi touts and Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle enforcement within the City of London Police area, sponsored by Transport for London (TfL).

Recommendations

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

Main Report

Section A – Residential Engagement

1. Operation Bell

A residential team PCSO identified that there were incidents over the previous three years where students from the City of London Girl School were approached by a male who tried to take them into dark stairwells of the Barbican and asked them to remove clothing. None of the incidents were reported at the time and were committed in the same week in February and then stopped. The Residential Team worked with the Force Intelligence Bureau to try to identify the male through descriptions and offending modus operandi.

The Barbican residential Team attended the City of London Girl School prior to the operation and delivered a Stay Safe briefing at the school assemblies.

2. Distraction Thefts

Following a distraction theft from a resident in the Barbican, enquiries by Residential Officers identified the male involved. It was identified that the male often attended one of the markets. Officers worked with the market traders and when he returned he was arrested by Residential Officers. He has been charged with the distraction theft in the Barbican as well as several residential burglaries in Islington.

3. Barbican Assault

A cleaner on the Barbican Estate was threatened with a knife by a rough sleeper who had gained access to one of the residential blocks. He was identified through CCTV by two PCSOs and arrested. He was charged with two offences and received a 9 week prison sentence.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour - Barbican

Officers responded to reports of youths causing anti-social behaviour in the Barbican Centre. Residential officers identified those responsible as being from a neighbouring estate in Islington. Officers worked with the Barbican Centre to issue banning notices against the youths.

From this work one of the youths was subsequently identified as being responsible for arson at Frobisher Crescent on the Golden Lane Estate.

5. Attempted theft of scooter - Golden Lane

A residential officer patrolling the Golden Lane Estate noticed five males loitering. They were all in possession of motorcycle helmets and balaclavas. As she approached they all ran away and two were detained. Both were

known to the police for scooter thefts and using scooters to steal mobile phones and were looking for a scooter to steal.

6. Drug Misuse Middlesex Street Estate

A complaint was received from a resident of Middlesex Street Estate that she could smell cannabis in her flat coming from another unidentified flat. Residential officers worked with the estate management team to deliver a letter to all residents about the implications of using drugs on the estate. After the letter was delivered members of the Residential Team attended the estate and visited all the flats in the location to speak to the residents to see if the offender could be located. No offences were disclosed but since the visits no further reports have been received.

7. Male with mental health issues Middlesex Street Estate

Police were receiving a high number of calls from a resident on the Middlesex Street Estate that were of a trivial nature or were not police related matters. The residential officer discovered that the male was also making similar calls to the ambulance service. Enquiries with local residents and businesses also raised concerns about the male's condition. Officers worked with social services and arranged a mental health assessment. The male was sectioned under the Mental Health Act and officers continue to work with Social Services to ensure he is provided suitable accommodation when his treatment is completed.

8. Release of Sex Offender

A resident of Mansell Street Estate had been convicted of a sexual offence in the Metropolitan Police area and was due to be released from prison. The residential team worked with the City Police Public Protection Unit and Tower Hamlets Probation Service to ensure that conditions were placed on his initial release. As a result the male was given conditions to reside in a hostel in Newham and he was not permitted to enter Portsoken Ward. The Residential Team have maintained contact with the Probation Service to ensure he complies with his conditions.

9. Assistance to locate an ex-resident

The Residential Team were approached by the Metropolitan Police to locate a male wanted for offences in the Metropolitan Police area. The male no longer resided in the City but a residential PCSO was able to contact his mother and arrange a meeting with her and the Metropolitan Police which resulted in the male handing himself in to police.

10. Rough Sleepers - Middlesex Street Estate

There were a number of reports of rough sleepers gaining access to the car park and tower block areas of the Middlesex Street Estate. This has been ongoing due to the car park remaining insecure due to building works.

Residential officers increased patrols of the estate and worked with the estate office to increase security on the estate by preventing access to Petticoat Tower. A number of rough sleepers were from Romania and officers worked with UK Border Agency and Broadway to find accommodation for them. Two brothers were sleeping in a stairwell and residential officers arrested one for breach of his Anti-Social Behaviour Order and he received a six week custodial sentence. The other was arrested for criminal damage. Since their arrests neither has returned to the estate. Patrols of the estate continue.

11. Vulnerable Resident - Mansell Street

The Residential Team were contacted by the sister of a resident of the Mansell Street Estate who was concerned for the wellbeing of her brother who had paranoid schizophrenia. Their mother was dying and she was concerned her brother's mental health would deteriorate. Residential officers conducted welfare visits to the male and contacted his social worker and his GP to provide him with assistance. On the death of his mother the male had a mental episode attacking a neighbour's door with a baseball bat. Police attended and the male has been detained under the Mental Health Act. The residential officer has requested a case conference with his support services to ensure the appropriate measures are in place upon his return. Officers remain in contact with the male's sister.

12. Drug Misuse - Mansell Street Estate

Following reports of youths smoking cannabis in a stairwell on the Mansell Street Estate residential officers patrolled the area and stopped a number of youths. No drugs have been found but there has been evidence of cannabis smoking. A number of these youths resided on the estate and arrangements have been made with the Guinness Trust Anti-Social Behaviour Officer to visit the youths with their parents and warn them of the consequences if they are found with drugs on them.

13. Persistent Beggar - Aldgate

The Residential Team have responded to complaints of a persistent beggar outside Aldgate Underground Station. She has been summonsed for a number of offences and the Community Team are now looking to apply to the courts for a Criminal Behaviour Order against her which will ban her from the area.

14. Service of Commemoration for Afghanistan

Community Policing carried out engagement prior to and during the service at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the end of combat operations in Afghanistan. This consisted of officers visiting all premises along the route and within the area affected by the road closures, a Stakeholders meeting with the companies most affected, and communication through the Forces messaging platforms. Officers also worked closely with the Corporation to

ensure a uniform message was delivered. Community officers were deployed on the day to respond to community issues and PCSOs assisted St Paul's Choir School to ensure the students could get into the premises. The event was subject of an engagement satisfaction survey in line with the Force's Policing Plan and a satisfaction level of 92.2% was achieved.

15. Smithfield Meat Market Christmas Campaign

PS Zuber worked with the Corporation, Smithfield Market Superintendent and the Market Traders Association to develop a new system for policing the market in the busy period leading up to Christmas. For the first time a private security firm worked alongside the police to manage the traffic and access to the market and surrounding premises. All parties received positive feedback from the traders and community in regards to how well the system worked.

16. Foreign Terrorist Incidents

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris, Copenhagen and Australia, Community officers attended Jewish and Islamic premises to offer reassurance and gauge community tensions. Community officers attended the City of London Boys School, which has a large Jewish contingent, following concerns for pupil security. Advice was provided to staff on security procedures and measures that can be taken to ensure personal safety. A Stay Safe presentation was delivered to students during their assembly.

17. Events and Visits

A 'Meet the Police' event was held on a Saturday morning in the Barbican Library. The event was a chance for local residents and their children to meet the Residential Team in an informal environment and discuss any concerns they have. The team provided the opportunity for the children to have their fingerprints taken and put in a key ring and try on various articles of police uniform and equipment. The event allowed a number of new residents to learn about how they can access police services. The residential team received praise from the library staff and residents for the event and the library has asked police to run another event.

The Residential Team, along with the Scientific Support Unit, ran an event in the Barbican Library entitled 'Body in the Library'. This was an exercise where children had to solve a crime using forensic techniques. Community Policing provided a gift voucher for the best 'student'. This event provided an opportunity to engage with the City's youth and their parents.

The Residential Team assisted the police Diversity Officer with a school visit to Wood Street Police Station. The students were mostly young Muslim girls from a neighbouring borough who hadn't had much contact with the police and the visit was designed to break down preconceptions of the police.

18. John Cass Road Safety Day 20th March

An open day was held with various activities around road safety, with about 240 children attending. They were shown a police car and motorcycle, cycle safety advice was given and a cone course was set up for them to test their cycling skills. A road safety quiz was held where they were tested on their road safety and Highway Code knowledge, and they had the opportunity to sit in a large goods vehicle to experience for themselves the blind spots from the driver's seat and to dress up as a 'digger/JCB driver' and see how the machinery operates. There was also Spot the Difference/ Finger Printing where the children could design & make their own badge or make a key ring designed with their own finger print.

19. Counter Terrorism Work

The programme of briefings and exercises for childcare and educational facilities has been named Project FAWN and will continue to expand its efforts to raise security awareness and guide the efforts of these sites to protect the City's children and young people. Kelly Hemmise, one of the Counter Terrorism Security Advisors, is working weekends to accommodate this area of the community.

Section B – Business Engagement

20. The Business Engagement Team vision for 2015 remains the same. Additional officers will be recruited as previously stated but the timing depends on other commitments the force has.

21. The last quarterly report noted the successful establishment of the Business Forum at the Royal Exchange. Here businesses can exchange information with each other and the Business Team. They are now facilitating their own forum meetings and relying on police input only where necessary. It is still the intention to replicate this model in chosen areas/buildings elsewhere in the City. Threadneedle Street Forum is still in the process of being established due to other commitments and paucity of time with some of the proposed members. However, it is still firmly on the agenda and a co-ordinator from Threadneedle Street has been identified and is agreement to take on the role.

22. Links have been established with the Metropolitan Police in the Chancery Lane area. Some City businesses there are on the existing 'Met Business Watch'. CoLP is now working in partnership with them on crime reduction initiatives in the area where the two forces geographical boundaries meet. It is intended that mutual support is offered and aids communication for the efficient business liaison in the area.

23. Regular police contact continues with the Smithfield Market bolstered by regular patrols. Community officers have dealt with a number of issues at the market over the last quarter.
24. The resurrected Hotelwatch Scheme in the City is now established. Service requests have been resourced. Particularly pleasing is that the Business Engagement Team have been able to assist other departments with contacts and tasks as they relate to the eighteen hotels in the City of London. There has been an increase in communication between these hotels but they are yet to establish their own official forum.
25. The coordinated and documented increased coffee shop patrols continue. The database that has been set up of coffee shops and contacts continues to grow. Thefts from coffee shops continue due to the Square Mile having a footfall of wealthy individuals. Community teams continue high visibility patrols on a daily basis and these patrols are now conducted under the title of Operation Equilibrium with intelligence retained in one place. The team have responded to requests for additional resources to bolster other departments like CID and Crime Squad in their initiatives in this area. Again the Community Business Team has received appreciation for participation in the planning and execution of such operations which have generated success.
26. Residential and business related crime reduction surveys continue being conducted week to week. This is linked to wider proactive crime reduction and detection initiatives aimed at reducing volume crime. Many referrals come from CID. Crime Prevention advice has been given to Retailers, Gyms and miscellaneous businesses.
27. It has been another very busy quarter for the Crime Reduction Officer. In support of Operation Wisbech (targeting theft of and from motor vehicles) liaison continues with the Corporation and NCP. Many surveys have been carried out on other premises within the City. The Crime Reduction officer is now also taking on the role of Architectural Liaison Officer. He has been trained in this field but the responsibility has only recently been transferred to the Community Business Team. In support of this he has spent two weeks on attachment to the Metropolitan Police to get him up to speed.
28. As stated as a target in the last report, Community Business Team members have now received WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training to supplement the 'Prevent' work but also to allow members to be multi-skilled in what they can offer businesses in terms of CoLP input and support. The Business Team now supply resources to assist in the very important WRAP initiative.
29. A target for the coming quarter is to resource stands in the City where officers can be visible and on hand to display and distribute Crime Reduction messages and materials. They will also be able to offer advice,

but the very presence of these stands acts as a deterrent to criminality in the locality they are placed at any given time.

30. As stated in the last quarterly report, a Business Crime Prevention Team is being formed. Dates have now been set for the Nationally Accredited Crime Prevention Course. This will run for two weeks in May and will feature a minimum of seven officers from the Community Engagement team. After that course the team will have a much greater capacity to deliver current, bespoke crime prevention advice to businesses in the City.
31. Good progress has been made with discussions with other CoLP departments and the Corporation to try to develop a more joined up approach to engaging with businesses and create databases that both inform and supplement each other in terms of business liaison. This is a Community Business Team initiative and the team will resource the administration of this database. The Business Team is very much committed to this project and so will be pushing this hard this coming quarter.
32. Operation Broadway is an initiative led by the Economic Crime Department working in collaboration with regulatory and law enforcement agencies (City of London Trading Standards, Scam Busters, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, Financial Conduct Authority and the Metropolitan Police Service) and is aimed at tackling criminals committing investment fraud (boiler rooms), operating within the City of London. The community business team continue to support this with the allocation of resources.

33. Mental Health

A new Mental Health Liaison Officer has been appointed. Mental Health Liaison will continue with the Corporation of London. This includes attendance at the Corporation monthly Mental Health Meeting, the Pan London Mental Health Partnership Board and Working Group, also recently the Corporation Safeguarding meeting.

Quarterly Section 136 statistics were collated and submitted to the regional coordinator for the last period. The City Police again fared very favourably in the performance tables in relation to adherence to working protocols. However all Section 136 Mental Health Act detentions for the last six months are currently being looked at to further enhance performance in this area where pathways for improvement can be identified. Section 2 Mental Health Assessments in the Community continue to be resourced by Community Engagement officers, of which there have been several this quarter.

Community Engagement have agreed to be one of the first to adopt a new National model for the collation of Mental Health Statistics.

34. Community Engagements undertaken by Economic Crime Department Teams

A number of staff from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) met with representatives of a City based firm, regarded as leaders in crowd investment, who provided an overview of their business sector. The purpose of the meeting was for NFIB staff to obtain an understanding of how a particular scheme operated by the company could potentially be exploited by fraudsters in order to develop methods that could be employed to prevent this happening. This particular engagement strengthened relations and subsequently the company has requested that an NFIB representative attend one of their future meetings to provide information relating to awareness of specific fraud trends.

A number of presentations were delivered to the British Beer Association (based in Wood Street) in order to provide them with an awareness of activities conducted by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and Action Fraud. In addition the NFIB contact also assisted the association with some distribution fraud cases, by helping them report them into Action Fraud

A presentation was delivered by the Money Laundering Investigation Unit (MLIU) to the Lloyds Banking Group in relation to identifying instances whereby the Proceed of Crime Act can be utilised. This information received by attendees provided them with a better understanding of how to identify instances when they suspect money obtained by fraudulent means is being utilised in a particular manner and the subsequent measures that should be taken.

Operation Broadway is an initiative led by the Economic Crime Department, working in collaboration with regulatory and law enforcement agencies (City of London Trading Standards, Scam Busters, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, Financial Conduct Authority and the Metropolitan Police Service) aimed at tackling criminals committing investment fraud (boiler rooms), operating within the City of London. A number of Op Broadway related presentations / stakeholder engagements were conducted during the last quarter providing both prevention and protection awareness against these type of frauds. Those that were specific to the City include;

- 4 joint presentations with Trading Standards, to reception staff and managers from the virtual and service office industry, in relation to raising awareness of how facilities could be utilised by fraudsters involved in boiler rooms;
- 1 presentation delivered concerning sharing of best practice to the crime investigative arm of the department for business, innovation and skills.

35. Counter Terrorism Work

Specific CT work in the reporting period includes:

- Promoting awareness of current threats from terrorism and domestic extremism, and protective security measures to mitigate these threats, Special Branch / Counter Terrorism delivered 47 briefings to the City community. Around 634 people received these briefings.
- Raising awareness and improving preparedness in the wake of recent weapons attacks, notably those in France, weapons attack response using the Stay Safe format has been a priority.
- Counter Terrorism Security Advisers delivered a Project Griffin to 70 people, a Grand Argus to 42, a Hotel Argus to 12 and a 4 x Business Argus to 45.
- To ensure the safety of police officers, staff, and visitors to police premises, a security briefing and review programme has been undertaken to raise staff awareness, and to better secure police buildings.

Section C – Hard to reach groups

36. Op Fennel continues to target aggressive begging and has now resulted in 25 ASBOs within the City boundary for persistent offenders. In excess of 500 tickets have now been issued to over 200 different individuals. This operation continues to gather momentum with other forces seeking involvement and advice on how to implement similar initiatives.
37. Operation Fennel has been evaluated by University College London (UCL). An independent evaluation has been completed by UCL after fresh analysis of new data. The findings and conclusions are consistently good and will provide an informed platform on how we can make appropriate developments to this operation.
38. After meeting and developing a working partnership with Camden Borough we are currently looking to meet with St Kathrin's and Wapping Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), Spitalfields & Banglatown NPT, and Tower Hamlets Met Police to discuss cross-border working particularly in the Tower Hill area. We will continue to monitor and share information with Metropolitan police officers targeting persistent rough sleepers/beggars who refuse to engage, and are entrenched on our borders. Operation Acton works closely with UK Border Agency and Broadway Homeless Services and targets persistent rough sleepers who refuse to engage and take accommodation that is offered. Those persons who refuse to engage are in the process of being targeted for arrest under the Vagrancy Act 1824.
39. Since the last report, Community Policing have run six proactive operations directly targeting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). These were intelligence led

operations in areas known for increased levels of ASB, and a variety of tools including Police Dispersal Orders were used on all six occasions.

Results have been:

- 4 arrests for Breach of Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- 5 persons summoned to court for Begging Offences
- 56 Op Fennel tickets given for Begging offences
- 48 persons dispersed using new Anti-Social Behaviour Powers Under Section 35 of the new Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

40. A Homeless 'Pop Up' Hub ran from 12th April until 17th April 2015. Police worked with the Corporation Substance Misuse Team and Broadway Homeless services to engage with the homeless community. All those attending were provided with assistance and information as to their individual needs.

41. City of London Police Cadets

A team of City of London Police Cadets took part in the O2 Touch Rugby challenge at Twickenham stadium, and flew the flag for the #WeStandTogether national campaign.

The chance-of-a-lifetime for our Cadets to play at the home of Rugby was arranged by the CoLP Rugby section's DCI John Osibote, together with Community Policing. Along with taking part in a top-class competition the Cadets were also raising money for the City of London Police Children's Charity.

The City team proudly unfurled their #WeStandTogether banner in support of the NPCC-led campaign promoting tolerance and denouncing hate crime in its many different forms. The 'We stand together' campaign is about the strength of everyone working together for the good of the community, and promoting the fact that community cohesion is driven by people proactively making an effort together to do good.

42. City of London Police Public Protection Unit (PPU)

In February the PPU along with some volunteers from Community Policing, the Vulnerable Victim Coordinator and staff/officers across the force held an awareness day around Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the City. The team focussed around Cheapside and the west of the City to target those working in the City to raise awareness around FGM being illegal, who could be targeted and where people could seek support. The idea was for people

to think about those they work with and the communities they live in as well. The event was received well by those who were spoken to, clearly expressing an interest and with positive comments on Twitter.

On 18th March, National Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness Day, PPU initially launched Operation Makesafe in the City, a London wide initiative to raise awareness with hotels and licensed premises in order for them to identify victims and perpetrators of CSE. Response officers and Community Engagement officers assisted in handing out leaflets and posters to hotels/licensed premises to make their staff aware of signs to look out for and a presentation was given at the licensing forum in the same week. This is being followed up with a tri-borough training event for hotels/licensed premises which is taking place in the Guildhall on 15th May. Success/outcome will not be assessed until after this event.

43. 'Prevent' Engagement

'Prevent' is one of the four strands of the Government's CONTEST (Counter Terrorism) Strategy and aims to prevent people becoming radicalised and drawn into terrorism.

A number of Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) have been delivered to businesses, education establishments and Corporation departments by the Prevent Engagement officers in the last quarter. The 'Conviction' presentation continues to be delivered at the Griffin Workshop on the first Thursday of each month.

A WRAP session was delivered at Project Fawn to nursery staff based in the City of London. The team have been working with their Senior Management Team who are expected to assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism, including support for the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

Prevent awareness training has been organised for representatives who work in a safeguarding role from a number of businesses within the City. Having a variety of different businesses in attendance allowed organisations and companies to be able to send relevant staff to the training without having to abstract too many employees at the same time. The feedback was very positive and it is planned to run more of these training sessions in the near future.

Prior to the implementation of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act the team have been working with and supporting the Corporation in order to assist them in complying with their duty under the Act.

There is deep concern for the families that have been torn apart by fear when their loved ones are enticed into travelling to Syria and joining terrorist groups there. The Prevent Engagement Team in partnership with the Children's Social Services arranged a bespoke Prevent workshop specially

aimed at preventing young Muslims from travelling to Syria. The workshop took place on Saturday 21st March. The workshop highlighted the need to talk openly about these risks that are posed to our young people, and to work together to protect them. The majority of participants were mothers from the Muslim Community. They were made aware that should they feel uncomfortable speaking to the police direct about their concerns, there are other people who are trained and able to provide practical help and advice. The Children's Social Services team and the City of London can be contacted should they have concerns.

The Prevent Team were involved in the official City of London Police launch of #WeStandTogether on 30th March 2015. 'We Stand Together' is about promoting trust, integration and cohesion within communities, and police forces across the UK are promoting the message. The Campaign has been launched as a result of recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Denmark which has increased tension in some communities in the UK. The essence is to bring people together to promote cohesion amongst all community groups, especially those fearful of future attacks or hate campaigns.

Section D – Transient Community and / Visitors

44. Operation Regina

Operation Regina is the CoLP operational name for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle enforcement within the City of London Police area, sponsored by Transport for London (TfL).

Operations are conducted on day and night time basis by uniformed officers and in partnership with the Taxi & Private Hire Directorate (TPH) Enforcement Team and Department of Work & Pensions (DWP), examining in excess of 5300 vehicles annually and reporting drivers for offences found with the City. Results of all these operations are produced at joint MPS STC & TfL Performance meetings, along with Quarterly Taxi Trade meeting hosted by TfL.

Officers were engaged in the TfL funded Safer Travel at Night (STaN) campaign, which highlights the dangers of using non-licensed vehicles for travel arrangements. 18 licensed premises venues were visited for night time entertainment and officers provided STaN publicity information for patrons.

45. Operation Port

Operation Port is the CoLP operational name for taxi touting detection and enforcement within the City of London Police area. A structured plain clothes team provide weekly deployments to areas outlined by TfL and the Safer Transport Operation Team (STOT) on night time economy locations experiencing taxi touts.

Within the City, 3 geographic zones were created in order to coordinate taxi touting enforcement, and provide analysis on deployments undertaken. There has been an increase in taxi touting arrests / summons put before City of London Magistrates with a 100% conviction rate for offenders reported or arrested for taxi touting and no insurance offences. A further link has been developed with MPS Child Sex Exploitation Unit who receive our intelligence linked to Op Port via ANPR data. This has led to further investigation by them into an unlicensed driver whom we have recently had a successful conviction at Court for multiple taxi touting offences.

On a Community aspect the concourse area of One New Change (shopping complex) was highlighted as an area of taxi touting activities by the Taxi trade and put on You Tube. STOT officers visited the location and liaised with the Security Department, and additionally visited the two licensed restaurants on the site believed to be using a PHV Operator. All persons suspected of conducting any taxi touting activities were banned from the concourse area, and the restaurants stopped using any PHV operator. Joint high visibility and plain clothes operations were undertaken (Police & TPH) in the locality and had a marked reduction in taxi touting complaints. The actions were noted and welcomed by the Hackney Carriage trade at the next Taxi Trade Partnership meeting hosted by TFL.

For the last 5 years there has been no recorded sexual offences in cabs within the City of London Police area, which is directly contributing to one of the key performance areas of reducing sexual offences in cabs.

Conclusion

This report informs Committee members of community engagement activity undertaken by the Force during the last quarter highlighting some issues raised and how the Force has addressed them.

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