

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Police Committee	14 April 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Community Engagement Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police Pol 13-16	<b>For Information</b>
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## Summary

This report details issues raised by the community and the police response to those issues since the last report presented in January 2016<sup>1</sup>.

The principal focus of the Communities Teams has been, and remains, to support the Force-wide counter-terrorism priority. Communities officers continue to participate in PROJECT SERVATOR deployments aimed at deterring and disrupting potential terrorist activity. Following the recent events in Brussels, we have deployed more officers to our residential and business communities to provide reassurance and to increase awareness of members of the public. Since January 2016, together with our colleagues in the Corporation, we have delivered a number of successful PREVENT events aimed at identifying and addressing those susceptible to or exhibiting signs of radicalisation.

This report has an additional three themes: (1) keeping our roads safe; (2) engaging with our communities; and (3) addressing Anti-Social Behaviour (“**ASB**”):

**(1) Keeping our roads safe:** - We have initiated several new approaches since January 2016, including ‘COMMUNITY ROADWATCH’ whereby members of our community participate in road safety enforcement. Our operation ATRIUM event in February was one of our most successful to date and involved the London Ambulance Service for the first time.

**(2) Community Engagement:** - We have continued to evaluate our efforts to tackle ASB including problems caused by rough-sleepers and aggressive beggars including reviewing new legislative tools (e.g. Public Space Protection Orders) to determine what extra value they would offer on enforcement.

**(3) ASB:** - The Street Intervention Team and the Corporation Community Safety Team have been joined at Guildhall by one of our principal charity partners – St. Mungo’s. We will assist in monitoring the effects of co-location to measure the benefits of a shared approach to addressing the concerns of our communities.

## Recommendation:

Members are asked to receive and note the report.

<sup>1</sup> From March 2016, the Force’s Communities & Partnerships teams comprise: Communities; the Transport and Highways Operations Group; and Licensing.

## **Main Report**

### **1. Countering terrorism**

The events in Brussels of 22 March 2016, where more than 30 people were murdered and many more injured, are yet another reminder of the severe threat the City of London faces from terrorism. Countering this threat remains the Force's principal priority.

Teams in Communities and Partnerships have, coordinating with the rest of the Force and in partnership with the Corporation and other police forces and agencies, contributed to our counter-terrorism in three broad areas.

#### *i. Deterring and disrupting potential terrorist acts*

In the last quarter, Communities officers have continued to deploy on PROJECT SERVATOR operations. This operation, which is now 'business as usual' in the City, involves high visibility policing in unpredictable locations to induce behaviours in those intent on committing crime (including terrorism) alongside specially trained officers to detect those behaviours.

Communities officers have in this quarter also been deployed to support the high visibility elements of these operations. When officers deploy in numbers around specific locations in the City, and especially given the current terrorist threat, we receive lots of questions from members of the public, some of who are concerned that there may be a specific threat. Communities officers are on hand also to engage with members of the public, to reassure them by informing them of the rationale behind the deployments and the fact that this is now 'standard' policing but also to remind our business, residential and transient communities to remain alert and to contact the police if they see anything suspicious. Our message in the light of the Brussels attack has been for the public to remain 'aware but not alarmed'.

It is clearly difficult to measure the outcomes of the deterrence and disruption elements of our deployments (apart from the absence of any terrorist incidents). We can however measure the success of our stops/searches of those whose behaviour we detect during the course of these operations. In the first quarter of 2016, our conversion rate (the proportion of stops/searches of individuals that result in arrest or warning for drugs possession) remains at c.70% compared to a national rate of lower than 20%.

Members of the Force's Independent Advisory Group (IAG) joined officers on a PROJECT SERVATOR deployment to see the tactics first hand. This generated positive feedback and many questions and Chief Inspector Duffy delivered a follow-up presentation at February's IAG meeting.

#### *ii. Preventing terrorism*

Community policing, working together with the Corporation, is responsible for our PREVENT activity – one of the four strands of the Government counter-terrorism strategy. PREVENT aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

We continue to work with all sectors of our communities (businesses, residents, the education sectors etc.) focusing on supporting partners to maintain the capability to identify those that are vulnerable to radicalisation or exhibiting signs of radicalisation or terrorist sympathies. Community policing then implements the required interventions.

This quarter saw the release of the Syrian Mothers film. Produced nationally and delivered locally, the piece focuses on three Syrian refugee mothers speaking directly to mothers in the UK about the realities of life in Syria and questioning why any woman would want to take their family to live in a war zone. It is complemented by open letters that the women have written urging mothers in the UK to take steps to prevent their daughters travelling to Syria.

Community Policing organised the City of London Launch, which was held at the Green Box, Mansell St and was well attended. It provoked valuable discussion among the community and the PREVENT Team are now in initial discussions with a provider to deliver training to mothers in the City around combating Islamist extremist ideology and promoting social cohesion. The DVD and presentation was also delivered to the Crime Prevention Association.

Communities officers have continued this quarter to work with the Corporation to raise awareness of and trust in PREVENT. Training has been given to the following departments/organisations:

- Apprenticeship Training.
- Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) board.
- The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children board.

A PREVENT Open Day jointly planned with the Corporation, took place on 24 March 2016. This comprised two Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) and a lunchtime drop-in session.

Additionally, PREVENT training is being rolled out to all departments within the City Police to raise awareness and understanding of the strategy and in particular the process through which individuals who are suspected being radicalised or of supporting terrorism are referred to the Police.

In addition to PREVENT, the Force's Counter-Terrorism Security Advisers have continued to engage with our business community as part of PROJECT ARGUS<sup>2</sup> and PROJECT GRIFFIN<sup>3</sup>. In the first quarter of 2016, we have delivered 16 PROJECT GRIFFIN events and 13 PROJECT ARGUS events across the City.

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<sup>2</sup> Argus is a table-top exercise featuring a three hour multimedia simulation, which poses questions and dilemmas for participants working in syndicates and aims to raise awareness of the threat from terrorism, providing practical advice on preventing, handling and recovering from an attack

<sup>3</sup> Griffin aims to advise and familiarise managers, security officers and employees of large public and private sector organisations across the City on security, counter-terrorism and crime prevention issues.

### *iii. Engaging and reassuring our communities*

Communities officers have continued high visibility patrols throughout the first quarter of 2016 as part of our core community engagement responsibilities. Responding to community concern in the aftermath of the Brussels attacks, officers deployed in high visibility around key areas including transport hubs and crowded places at morning rush hour for reassurance.

PCSOs have been deployed to estates, particularly the Mansell Street Estate, in to reassure the community and to gauge public feeling. Officers reported positive feedback related to the high visibility and engagement of officers and did not note any community tensions. Officers have also been deployed to schools for reassurance.

Our **EYES AND EARS AWARENESS PROGRAMME** continued in the first quarter of 2016. This scheme involves traffic wardens, Cheapside Ambassadors, Parkguard, and Street Cleansing teams. The rationale is to take advantage of colleagues from different partner organisations who spend a lot of their time on the City's streets, establishing a communication mechanism that should be a valuable source of information and intelligence.

The scheme works by our officers regularly briefing the teams on current crime trends, issues and counter-terrorism information. The return is a flow of information to Community Policing, which helps us build a picture of the any issues that may be emerging. We are now looking to expand this fully and introduce this in other areas, such as Smithfield Meat Market Security, Parks and Gardens and Car Park officers. With this in place, we can be confident we have many more pairs of eyes helping the police and the community keep the City safe.

## **2. Tackling and preventing Anti-Social Behaviour**

Levels of ASB in the City are low. However, we constantly review our efforts to address problems and we continue to respond, proportionately, to the concerns of our community.

For example, we continue to focus on the aggressive begging in the Bishopsgate area. Some of those who persist in aggressive begging in the City are also homeless and in most cases tend to be addicted to alcohol or drugs (or both). Some of these people are also responsible for acquisitive crime in the City.

Since this is a complex problem, we have taken a multi-agency holistic approach to addressing it, including enforcement and other interventions to prevent the problem. The Police and Corporation Street Intervention / ASB teams co-located in the Guildhall have this quarter been joined by our partner charity St Mungo's. We are monitoring this arrangement to evaluate the success of joint-working.

We continue to review the effectiveness of our enforcement and intervention activity, including analysing the potential use of new legislation including Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

The IAG meeting in March 2016 scrutinised the Force's approach to ASB. An update will be provided in the next Community Engagement Paper.

Specific information on locations that have seen ASB this quarter can be found in Annex A.

*i. Begging*

**OPERATION FENNEL** is our initiative to combat begging in the City which commenced in June 2013. A person suspected of begging will be given a 'Street Awareness Initiative' voucher requiring them to attend an educational and welfare appointment with our partner charities (including St. Mungo's) and other homelessness, drug and alcohol workers and veterans' charities. The voucher allows for two warnings before arrest or summons to court.

Since December 2015, we have issued 160 Fennel vouchers to 80 individuals which resulted in 7 applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders and/or summons to court.

*ii. Rough sleeping*

This quarter we have continued our work with other agencies to reduce homelessness in the City, including in partnership with UK Border Agency which resulted in a few removals from the UK.

**OPERATION ACTON** is a joint initiative with the Corporation and St. Mungo's, designed to address homelessness and rough sleeping. This quarter we held a 'pop-up hub', using local churches within the square mile to accommodate rough sleepers in order to facilitate assessment and also provide a few nights respite in sheltered accommodation. In the morning, clients were taken to a day centre and provided with breakfast and access to washing facilities. There further assistance related to housing options is offered. In February 2016, we provided accommodation to 17 rough sleepers and gave out 10 tickets [PNDs?] to entrenched rough sleepers who elected not to engage with us.

*iii. Working with the business community to secure vacant buildings*

Community officers have continued to work with our Force Intelligence Bureau to identify vacant buildings within the City. Vacant buildings are vulnerable to occupation from squatters and known protest groups and use for raves. By working with the building managers and security, we have sought to mitigate these risks by identifying vulnerabilities in building security and advising on measures to improve and strengthen resistance to occupation.

Should a building become unlawfully occupied then Community Policing will act as the liaison for the building manager to facilitate the safe and legal removal of occupiers, supporting security staff and providing post-event advice to prevent a recurrence.

### **3. Making the City's roads safer**

In the first quarter of 2016, we have continued to deliver operations aimed at making the City's roads safer for all road-users and pedestrians.

We have begun work to analyse harm spots, the points around the City where road traffic collisions are concentrated and where the incidents of greatest harm (in terms of people killed or seriously injured (KSI)) are distributed. We will use this mapping to inform where we deploy resources for enforcement purposes.

Additionally, the City of London Police sits on the Road Danger Reduction Strategic Board with Transport for London (TfL), the Department for Transport, the Greater London Authority and the London Fire Brigade. We are now working with these partners, setting out shared partnership objectives with clearly articulated individual responsibilities to improve safety on the City's roads.

We routinely evaluate the effects of our interventions and enforcement activity and have implemented several enhancements to our operations which we will monitor throughout 2016 for effectiveness.

**COMMUNITY ROADWATCH** is a partnership campaign launched in the City in January 2016 by TfL, City of London Police and the Corporation's Road Safety Team. It aims to reduce speeding in residential areas and has given local residents the opportunity to work side by side with their local police teams, and use speed detection equipment to identify speeding vehicles in the City. Warning letters have been issued where appropriate, and the information captured will inform the future activity of local police teams. Since the launch 101 first warning letters have been sent to speeding motorists advising them of their speed in a 20mph zone.

**20mph Zone** City officers continue to focus on and enforce against speeding motorists in the 20mph zone. The following have been issued from April 2015 – Feb 2016:

- 550 Traffic Offence Reports
- 116 endorsable tickets
- More than 100 summons to Court

**OPERATION WINCHESTER** In January, we received extra funding from TfL to work jointly with the Metropolitan Police to engage with motorcycles. Our aim is to engage with motorcyclists and advise them that they are, more often, not the cause of collisions, but possibly a victim. A discounted 'Bike Safe Scheme' has been offered

to riders to educate and therefore try and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) from this group of particularly vulnerable road user.

**OPERATION ATRIUM** targets another group of vulnerable road-users – Cyclists. We periodically run this operation to enforce cyclists who are not obeying traffic signals, cycling dangerously or on the pavement. Cyclists receive a ticket and a fine, which is rescinded if they attend an educational event called “Exchanging Places” where they receive advice about cycling and see the road from an HGV driver’s perspective.

February’s event held at Dowgate Hill Fire Station saw a significant number of cyclists (85). For the first time we invited a paramedic cyclist from the London Ambulance Service who delivered a talk on the impact of a pedal cyclist involved in a collision, informing them of how to help someone who may be seriously injured or bleeding to death. From feedback, this was very well received by the cyclists.

#### **4. Engaging our communities**

A core responsibility for Communities & Partnerships officers is to liaise with our communities. In the first quarter of 2016, we have introduced innovative approaches to help achieve this.

##### *i. Preventing pedal cycle thefts*

This quarter we have continued to focus on the theft of pedal cycles in the City. We are about to launch our new ‘Bullitt bike’, which is a large cargo style cycle enabling us to carry lots of kit), which will host ‘pop-ups’ for cycle marking and crime prevention concentrating on the hot spot areas that we work with our Force Intelligence Bureau colleagues to identify.

We are now dealing with all victims of cycle crime in the City contacting them and offering prevention advice and a free £85 ‘gold standard’ lock where applicable. We have begun to offer cycle marking can for free at Snow Hill Police Station between 1000-1500 hours from Monday to Friday.

##### *ii. Liaising with communities and construction companies on building projects*

The Force’s Architectural Liaison Officers (ALOs) sit within Community Policing and work closely with the Corporation planning office to identify new builds at the earliest stage to engage and provide advice on how to ‘design out’ crime, as well as coordinating Counter-Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSA) involvement and advice.

Our present focus includes the Eastern Cluster development and our officers are involved in the preparatory work both in terms of crime and security. We have also begun consultation on the Mansell Street residential development, and will involve local community officers in developing options to make the new estate as impervious as possible to crime and ASB from a design perspective.

A Communities officer also now sits on the panel of the Construction Industry Cycle Commission (CICC), which looks at the way new buildings are built in the City and encouraging and assisting constructors to incorporate cycle-friendly design.

*iii. Reviewing how we communicate with our communities*

Community policing have begun to reassess the needs and requirements of the community to determine what kind of communications media would best suit the Force and the business and residential community. We have recently enhanced our use of Social Media. This has included the use of Twitter and Communities officers participated in a live Twitter question and answer session in February 2016.

*iv. Engaging our schools and our young people*

Our DARE programme continues to deliver education to the City's schools and is well-received by children and their teachers. Since January 2016, Communities officers have delivered programmes at the City of London School for Girls (Year 6); the City of London School for Boys (Year 7); and St. Paul's Cathedral School (Year 6). In the next quarter we will deliver programmes at the City's other schools, all of whom participate.

Five new DARE officers have been trained since January 2016 to further enable these programmes.

Communities officers in this quarter have organised a visit to Wood St Police Station for the reception class of St Paul's Cathedral School. They were able to visit the mounted section, had an input from the dog section and had a chance to sit in the police cars and on the motorbikes and learn a little more from our traffic officers. The 1st City of London Cub Scouts visited Snow Hill Police Station where they were able to see the custody suite and shown the process of how prisoners are booked in. They also tried on various police kit and look at the police cycles.

## **Appendices**

- Annex A - ASB information on specific locations

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## **ANNEX A - ASB information on specific locations**

### **Prêt a Manger (Bishopsgate)**

Repeat issues with rough sleepers at location and incidents of drinking and urination. Patrols and enforcement to deter and detect offenders. Issue currently resolved and monitored by patrols.

### **Woodin's Shades Pub (Middlesex Street)**

Issues with beggars that congregate in the area of Bishopsgate and Middlesex Street, we have issued tickets to principal offenders and one has recently been sentenced at court, ongoing issue that is managed by patrols of plain clothes officers.

### **222 Bishopsgate**

Repeat issues with rough sleepers at location and incidents of drinking and urination. Patrols and enforcement to deter and detect offenders. Issue currently resolved and monitored by patrols.

### **Magpie Pub (New Street)**

Issues with the beggars that congregate in the area of Bishopsgate/New Street, we have issued tickets to all offenders' ongoing issue that is managed by patrols of plain clothes officers.

### **Tesco Bishopsgate**

Issues with beggars and plain clothes in the area of the entrance to Tesco on Bishopsgate we have arrested 2 persons for aggressive begging, ongoing issues being dealt with by plain clothes officers.

### **Wasabi (Liverpool Street)**

Issues with rough sleepers outside of premises officers detailed to move on when seen.

### **Bishopsgate Institute**

Continuing reporting by institute of rough sleepers and drug taking. We continue to monitor this site, including using plain clothes officers. On each occasion in the repeat areas of ASB reporting we engage and liaise with the complainant and update them on any developments.

### **Sandy Row / Middlesex Street**

In the area of sandy Row and Middlesex Street there is a concentration of reports of drug taking, rough sleeping and ASB, we continue to monitor this area with plain clothed and Uniformed Patrols.