

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Friday, 4 December 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.00 pm

Present

Douglas Barrow (Chairman)
Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman)
Clare Dumontier-Marriage
Renu Gupta
David Bulbrook
Bob Benton
Don Randall
Randal Anderson

Tijs Broeke
Tim Wiseman
Sophie Anne Fernandes
David Evans
Patrick Brooks
Ruby Sayed
Deputy James Thomson

Ali Burlington	- Community Safety Officer
Gavin Stedman	- Port Health and Public Protection Director
Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Alex Orme	- Police Authority Board
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services Department
Helen Isaac	- City of London Police
Christopher Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department
Valeria Cadena	- Community Safety Manager
Ayesha Fordham	- Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer
Emily Garland	- Remembrancers Office / Town Clerk's Department
Scott Myers	- Community and Children's Services Department
Jillian Reid	- Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Kate Smith	- Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance
Ellen Wentworth	- Chamberlain's Department
Clare Ansdell	- National Probation Service

The Chairman welcomed Clare Ansdell to her first Safer City Partnership Group meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations in relation to items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

Resolved, that the minutes of the Safer City Partnership Group meeting on 18th September be approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Partnership Data Review – Item 5 on agenda at this meeting with Head of Corporate Strategy in attendance to discuss.

SOS Bus – Bus not required this year due to restrictions in place through the Covid-19 pandemic. Position to be reviewed again next year.

Park Guard Patrol - Plans are in place to meet officers within Community and Children's Services Dept to discuss options around enforcement. Partnership to be kept up to date on these discussions. Park Guard patrol ran as a one-off and there was no comparable data to measure its success.

London Fire Brigade POCA Bid Professionalism of Security Professionals – Update included within Community Safety Team update at item 8 on agenda. Bid not within the Partnership's objectives with POCA funding intended for crime prevention. Alternative funding sources being considered for the bid.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Group received a report of the Town Clerk providing Partners with a summary of outstanding actions from previous meetings.

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5. PARTNERSHIP DATA REVIEW

The Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance remarked on the need to ensure a data review was approached in the right way, noting the need for a strategic assessment to start thinking about priorities within this. The Group noted the intention to wrap the Group's data into a review of the City Corporation's Corporate Performance Framework.

A live dashboard would be made available to all Partners to access at any time throughout the year. Information would be available to drill down into allowing insights to be drawn from the range of information from across different Partners. Data level agreements would be put in place to allow partners to access the information and it would not simply be a City of London Corporation product.

Two levels of reporting available through providing an overview or through provided a more detailed dashboard with more granular information. There was already a huge amount of data in the public domain to allow a good framework to be developed.

The Chairman stressed he was keen to see this area of work progress, remarking on how it would be hard to achieve what the partnership wanted without data. The Group noted the intention to bring an interim report to Safer City Partnership in February.

The Community Safety Manager emphasised the importance of Partners contributing to this area of work and giving access to their own data. This would make the process quicker, easier and ensure there was meaningful data from across the range of different agencies. The Chairman emphasised a need for Partners to engage, adding how the data output would be made

available to all Partners but with this only being as good as the information coming in.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

6. **TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services relating to the role of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Group from 2021 and changes to the terms of reference setting out the responsibilities, purpose, membership, priorities and sub-groups of the Partnership.

The Director of Community and Children's Services confirmed that Community Safety had now moved to Community and Children's Services Department as part of the City Corporation's new Target Operating Model. The Director explained how this move had provided an opportunity to consider the role of Chair and look across the wider terms of reference of the Group to ensure an appropriate range of partners were being drawn in.

The Chairman welcomed the proposal relating to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Group, remarking how Safer City Partnership Group had historically been seen incorrectly as an arm of Police Authority Board, which it was not. The move of Community Safety Team to Community and Children's Services Department reflects this and provides a better fit for Safer City Partnership Group. The Chairman proposed the terms of reference allow for 'a nominated representative from Policy Authority Board and Community and Children's Services Committee' to act as Chair; there may be someone better placed on those two Committees to Chair Safer City Partnership Group.

A Member, also Chairman of Community and Children's Services Committee, echoed the Chairman's reasoning and agreed that it made sense for Community and Children's Services Committee to become substantially more involved in the work of Safer City Partnership Group.

The Borough Commander suggested consideration be given to an expansion of Safer City Partnership Group's remit and areas of focus e.g. fire prevention. As part of this, there would be an opportunity to consider funding. There was agreement on making sure the membership was correct and looking to expand this to ensure it reflected a multi-agency approach to public protection.

The Chairman noted the Group's agreement on the role Chair and Deputy Chair of the Group and proposed expansion to the terms of reference. The Chairman confirmed a report would follow at the next meeting for approval and effective from Safer City Partnership in April.

Resolved, that Partners:-

- Support a proposal that the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of Community & Children's Services Committee be elected Chair of Safer

City Partnership (SCP) with Police Authority Board Chairman or Deputy Chairman acting as Deputy SCP Chairman from April 2021.

- Support proposed changes to Terms of Reference and agree to make changes in order to improve effectiveness.

7. CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE

The Group received a report of the Commissioner providing partners with an update on activity of City of London Police since the last meeting, which covered various areas of policing.

The Commissioner remarked on a gradual rise in crime seen across a range of crimes since lockdown had lifted. Violent crime and sexual offences had seen a rise thought to be linked to reopening of licensed premises. Burglary and shoplifting had seen a decrease; a number of premises appeared on the list more than once and officers were working with these companies to offer support. Bike theft received POCA funding last month and this area of crime had seen a decrease of 26%. The Commissioner referred to recent press coverage highlighting the recovery of sixty stolen bikes. The Business Improvement District representative commended the efforts of City of London Police in dealing with bike crime remarking on all the comments received in this regard being very positive.

The Chairman noted the five-year crime trend but questioned whether a more recent time-frame of three years would be more useful to see how City of London Police compared to other Police Forces. The Commissioner explained that a five-year crime trend analysis was deliberate to allow the impacts of specific events, e.g. a Covid-19 pandemic and a year of historic low crime, seeing a smoothing of impact over this longer period of time.

A Partner, also Chairman of Police Authority Board, questioned whether there had been any impact from the introduction of the sector policing model and how awareness of this would be raised in the Community. The Commissioner explained how the City of London Police website displayed contact details for the Sector Policing Team with a named officer for each area and offering a useful contact page to flag other contacts e.g. community support team and other key partners.

The Commissioner further added that the sector policing model had been in place for six weeks and was thought to be working well, with a key local contact in place to address local issues. The Commissioner explained that a communications plan continued to be worked through in looking to get out to people and make them aware of the Sector Policing Team

Resolved, that the update be noted.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating Partners on Community Safety Team activity not otherwise addressed on the agenda.

The Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate the Community Safety Manager on her recent promotion to the role.

The Community Safety Manager referred to a particularly challenging time during the Covid-19 pandemic with six cases of domestic abuse having been reported to the MARAC compared to one or two cases during a normal reporting period. Robust action plans have been agreed and are being worked through with key partners. Cases were not being closed until the MARAC had been satisfied the risk has decreased.

Serious and Organised Crime Board (SOCB) met for the first time this year; priorities for next year are under consideration. Terms of Reference for the Board are also being reviewed, looking to avoid duplication with other areas and strategic oversight be maintained by this Group.

The Community Safety Manager referred to a planned hate crime event as part of National Hate Crime Awareness week. This event would be looking at what can be done to prevent online hate crime. Online hate crime was proving very difficult to tackle, but this was needed given the increasing number of young people and families now spending so much time online; the Community Safety Manager referred to a link provided within the paper to a consultation from the CPS around introducing more robust legislation to tackle online hate crime.

The Chairman note the increased reporting of domestic abuse and remarked on the importance of getting to the root cause and eventually stopping this from happening; it is not just an issue in the City and the Chairman urged Partners to engage where they can have an impact. The Chairman referred to the Proceeds of Crime of Act Fund, noting this had £110k remaining, and encouraged partners to come forward with any bids for consideration that meet the current priorities of the Safer City Partnership.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

9. **DOMESTIC ABUSE VULNERABILITY AND RISK POLICY UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on the City Corporation's domestic abuse COVID-19 response plan for the second national lockdown and how this aligns with the City Corporation's actions around the 16 days of Action Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer Group highlighted work that had taken place across Partners in promoting the domestic abuse/VAWG services. Information on domestic abuse had been included within various newsletters, London Fire Brigade had distributed leaflets to publicise services and a range of promotional work had taken place through key partners and forums in highlighting the support available.

Reference was made to the specific requirements of the Bangladeshi community through language barriers that exist with not all within this community able to speak English. It was important vulnerable groups within all

communities are able to access the full range of support available and language was currently presenting a barrier to this.

A specific issue had been identified within the Bangladeshi community, with the pandemic having highlighted an issue requiring specialist support through a telephone interpreter. A Proceeds of Crime Act Fund bid was to be considered as the next item on the agenda requesting funding to support this additional service.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

10. **PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING BID 2020 - 2021**

a) Violence Against Women and Girls support worker for Bangladeshi Residents within the City of London

The Community Safety Manager referred to the discussion under the previous item and the explanation given on the importance of a support worker for the Bangladeshi Community. There was not currently an appropriate level of engagement with the Bangladeshi community, which was thought in part to be down to language barriers that exist. A support worker would help in overcoming some of these barriers

A Member, also Chairman of Community and Children's Services Committee, referred to his role as Chair of the Asian Women Resource Centre, where they have expertise within the Bangladeshi community and confirmed he would be happy to take a discussion offline and put officers in contact with the Director.

The Commissioner added a note of caution when considering using Proceeds of Crime Fund Act (POCA) to fund a post; POCA was a variable amount of income and strategy would be needed on funding beyond what could prove to be an unreliable funding stream.

The Director of Community and Children's services acknowledged the Commissioner's note of caution, whilst also adding that the bid would offer innovation funding in allowing a period of time needed to engage with the community and establish whether the post would work. POCA funding would be used for the initial phase, after which the position could be reviewed and with a view to mainstreaming it.

The Chairman questioned whether funding should be approved on a one or two-year basis. The Director responded and proposed funding of the post be granted on a one-year basis, with an option of going into two years. The position could be reviewed after one year and if the role was not working then the remaining funding could be reallocated back in the POCA fund. If the role was considered to be working then funding would already be approved and in place for a second year.

The Chairman agreed that it would help the team to know that funding was in place for a two-year period if the post was working and agreed with the

Director's proposed approach. The Chairman asked that a review of the position be undertaken after nine months.

Resolved, approval be given to £71, 818 to cover funding for a two-year fixed term post, with funding of £35.713 released immediately to fund the post on a one-year basis, with the option of going into a second year to follow following a review that would take place after nine months.

11. **PREVENT UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on City of London Corporation's Prevent activity.

The Community Safety Officer explained how the team continued to engage with partners on when and how they can make referrals. A training package was now available that can be delivered to any partner wanting training and the team were keen to push this message out as widely as possible.

The Community Safety Officer referred to a Prevent Forum for Higher and Further Education establishments within the City that had provided an opportunity to build relationships that had not previously been in place. A Prevent framework was now in place that can be delivered in other settings e.g. secondary schools next year.

The Group noted other areas of focus had been through a Counter Terrorism Policing Prevent 'Act Early' website campaign promoted through various sources, staff intranet page, social media and inclusion within a Residents at Home newsletter.

The Chairman suggested that information be circulated to Partners offering information on areas the Community Safety Team were working on and which may be of interest.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

12. **RESPONSES TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) IN THE CITY OF LONDON: UPDATE REPORT**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating Partners on the activities of the two-year funded post of the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Strategy Officer.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator explained how the update presented the Community Safety Team's response to anti-social behaviour in the City and continued efforts at addressing concerns in this area.

The Chairman remarked on how impressed he was with all the work that was ongoing by so many people in looking to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

13. **LONDON FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Borough Commander providing Partners with an update of activity of London Fire Brigade, City, since the last Safer City Partnership Group meeting.

The Borough Commander remarked on how it had been a busy period for London Fire Brigade, City. Attendance time at incidents in the city was within the target time and one of the best in London. A reduction had been seen in the number of false alarms, which was in part down to Covid-19, but also changes to operational procedures in allowing increased training to be delivered.

The Chairman acknowledged the impressive response times in arriving at incidents and the encouraging reduction seen in false alarms.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

14. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on activity within the Community and Children's Services Department.

The Director explained how the report updated Partners on the work that had continued in supporting those that were clinically and extremely vulnerable and setting out the response and support now available to them following a move out of lockdown and into a tiered system. The Director also set out the latest position in relation to Covid-19 testing, add that the new testing centre in Guildhall Yard that continues to have capacity for people to come forward.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

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

The Group received a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection updating on work of the department that contributes to the Safer City Partnership through its Public Protection Service.

The Port Health and Public Protection Director highlighted the great success of the pilot project looking at tackling illegal street trading and a proposal being presented to Committee that this project be extended for a further two years.

The Chairman questioned the approach to the Late Light Levy at this time, which the Director explained was a legal requirement to charge, but with businesses not currently getting income coming in it was hoped a change in legislation may be forthcoming from the Home Office to resolve this.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

16. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP**

There were no questions.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cheapside Business Improvement District – The Cheapside Business Improvement District representative referred to public realm work that would be taking place in the area with planters being put into at certain locations to prevent vans from accessing these areas. Reassurance was offered to partners that the bollards would go down when blue light access was required by the emergency services.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking those Members of the public watching the meeting through YouTube.

The meeting concluded at 2.35pm

Chairman

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