

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Wednesday, 12 February 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Attendees:

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| Douglas Barrow (Chairman) | Don Randall, City of London Crime Prevention |
| Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman) | Tim Wiseman, City and Hackney CCG |
| Claire Dumontier-Marriage, Cheapside Business Alliance | Marvin Bruno, British Transport Police |
| Renu Gupta, City of London Independent Advisory & Scrutiny Group | Marianne Fredericks, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy |
| Gavin Stedman, Port Health and Public Protection Director | William Duffy, City of London Police |
| David Bulbrook, London Fire Brigade | |

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| Lee Presland | - City of London Police |
| Alex Orme | - City of London Police Authority |
| David MacKintosh | - Community Safety Manager |
| Chris Pelham | - Assistant Director, Community and Children's Services Department |
| Andy Liggins | - Public Health Consultant |
| Claire Giraude | - Department of Community & Children's Services |
| Rachel Waldren | - City of London Police Authority |
| Chris Rumbles, Clerk | - Town Clerk's Department |

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Bob Benton, Stuart Webber, Tijs Broeke, Alex Wrigley and Patrick Brooks.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

Resolved, that the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 27 November 2019 were approved as an accurate record.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Group received a report of the Town Clerk providing Members with a summary of outstanding actions from previous meetings. Updates were provided as follows:

SOS Bus – A viable contract option was now available, and this needed putting before Members to resolve the issue of funding. The proposed contract

would mean City of London Police would not own the bus and the company contracted would run and maintain it. A report was due to be presented to Licensing Committee looking at potential funding options.

The Group acknowledged the SOS Bus was very good in terms of presentational value, whilst also noting the difficulty in quantifying its overall worth through dealing with a range of vulnerability aspects. These included dealing with individuals under the influence of drink and drugs, providing a triage service to injured people, providing a safe place and preventing people from becoming victims and also assisting in freeing up Police Officer time through not having to deal with injured people. The Commissioner stressed it was always difficult to demonstrate exactly what had been prevented from happening.

A Member referred to her time as Chairman of Licensing Committee during which a Late-Night Levy had been introduced. It was suggested money was available through the Late-Night Levy and that this could be a potential source of funding for the SOS Bus.

Hotel Toolkit – Online hotel toolkit available to hotels via the City of London Police website. Work to promote the toolkit was now underway.

Independent Advisory Group – New Chair in post, included as part of Membership of Safer City Partnership and in attendance at this meeting.

Partnership Data Review – Progress has been made and SafeStats data was now available for London Ambulance Service and London Fire Brigade. City of London Police analyst will shortly be co-locating with City Corporation colleagues. Analyst network meeting due to be held in February and draft strategy should be available for Safer City Partnership on 14 May.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Chairman has written to the Town Clerk highlighting this important issue. Anti-social behaviour would now be included as part of the thinking around a new target operating model. Meetings to be held at the appropriate point looking to build anti-social behaviour into the system.

ParkGuard Patrols – An increase in reporting seen. Review of patrols pre-Christmas due back in March, an early highlight has seen an increase of information coming back on to the City of London Police system. Updates to follow.

Defibrillators - Usage data circulated between meetings.

5. **CITY OF LONDON COMMUNITY TRIGGER CASE REVIEW**

The Group received a report of the Head of Community Safety informing them of a Community Trigger activation request relating to anti-social behaviour received in December 2019 and the results of the case review and recommendations given in January 2020.

The Community Safety Manager explained how the Community Trigger provided a mechanism through which members of the community could ask a Community Safety Partnership to review their response to complaints of persistent anti-social behaviour.

The Head of Community Safety stressed that there had been learning for all parties involved. The Partnership noted that some broad principles had been recommended for implementation around improved record keeping, better sharing of information relating to multi-agency cases and better use of existing systems e.g. Ecins for case management and ensuring that all relevant colleagues were aware of the City Community MARAC.

The Chairman accepted the unfortunate set of circumstance that had led to a Community Trigger activation request on this occasion, whilst also acknowledging that some very good lessons had been learned from the process that would benefit future multi-agency responses.

The Head of Community Safety reassured the Group that implementation of all recommendations was very much in hand. The Head of Community Safety agreed to bring back a report updating on progress.

RESOLVED, that the contents of the report be noted.

6. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Commissioner providing partners with an update on the activity of City of London Police since the last meeting. Updates were provided on various elements including: -

- An 8% reduction in crime having been seen last month through deployment of Police Officers and daily hubs at hotspots.
- Sexual offences having seen a decrease in November / December during the festive period, which was very positive.
- An 11% reduction in shoplifting. Targeting prolific offenders had proved a success.

The Chairman noted the areas of success, but stressed the reality was that crime was increasing nationally and particularly in the City and that it was important for City of London Police to focus on this.

The Chairman suggested the Commissioner could look to partners to assist with crime prevention and in working towards achieving a reduction in crime in the City. The Chairman proposed the Commissioner report back at a future meeting on areas where City of London Police would benefit from some assistance from partners.

The Commissioner explained an action plan was being developed that would include those areas where Safer City Partnership agencies had come forward highlighting areas where they could assist.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

7. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Head of Community Safety providing an update on activity of the Community Safety Team since the last meeting.

The Head of Community Safety explained how the report provided an update on regular activity monitored by the Community Safety Team. Key issues included two DA MARACS having been referred to the City of London MARAC, with five other referrals having been received via City of London Police that were out of the area and referred to the relevant local authority area. The Group noted there had been no Prevent Channel referrals since the last Safer City Partnership Group meeting.

The Head of Community updated the Group on work that was ongoing to put in place a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the London Marathon in April 2020. Public consultation had closed on Friday 7th February with 32 responses having been received and with the majority of these in support of the proposal.

A Member stressed how traumatic and difficult it was to have people outside your premises acting anti-socially, which the Chairman acknowledged.

The Chairman stressed the importance of demonstrating how the Partnership was making a difference. Looking at those areas where the Partnership had made a difference e.g. Middlesex Street ParkGuard patrol and looking to promote these areas of work. The Head of Community Safety confirmed this would be presented as part of the Safer City Partnership annual review.

RECEIVED

8. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP - POCA FUNDING BID 2019-2020**

The Group considered a City of London Police bid to the POCA Fund relating to Project Mercury, a property marking scheme for residents of the City of London.

The Head of Community Safety explained how funding would go towards preventing acquisitive crime issues and also provide an opportunity for City of London Police to offer community reassurance, achieve closer working and increased visibility with residents and businesses.

The Head of Community Safety confirmed that money remained available through the POCA Fund and encouraged partners to consider other areas where money could go towards supporting the work of the Partnership.

Resolved, that £10k be approved to support Project Mercury.

9. **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

The Group considered a report of the Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer that provided an update on the final Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and seeking approval to the proposed action plan.

The Policy Officer referred to the previous discussions on this item and questions around how supportive the strategy was of the whole community.

The Policy Officer explained how 92% of victims were women, but further to previous comments from the Partnership of a need to ensure other members of the community were included, a strapline had now been incorporated into the strategy making it clear that men, boys and all across the gender spectrum were impacted and therefore it supported the whole community.

The Chairman remarked on the title of Violence Against Women and Girls being at the direction of the Home Office, which is why a strapline had now been incorporated making the position clear.

The Director of Community and Children's Services confirmed the VAWG Strategy and Action Plan would be sent to schools and education boards to make them aware of the strategy and to allow for it to sit alongside policies for safeguarding that were already in place.

Resolved, that the final Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy be noted and action plan approved.

10. **RESPONSES TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Group received a report of the Community Safety Team providing an update on the activities of the two-year funded post of the Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator and Strategy Officer.

The Strategy Officer reminded the Group of the paper previously presented to the Group outlining responses received to a review of anti-social behaviour, challenges faced by partners in preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour and a call for the City Corporation to take on a central co-ordinating role.

The Strategy Officer referred to the scenarios presented in appendix 1 that had provided examples of anti-social behaviour affecting departments and partners that could be dealt with through a centralised body at the City Corporation through delegated enforcement powers.

The Group noted meetings would be taking place with partners to discuss the referral process, which it was hoped would increase the overall diversity of referrals and achieve buy in to the process. The Chairman stressed the importance of partners engaging and feeding into the anti-social behaviour service that was being developed.

The Chairman expressed his frustration that there had been no outcome to the examples shown. It was acknowledged that the examples demonstrated a need for a centralised body to co-ordinate responses and the approach taken to remedy situations then allowing an opportunity to take a look at the next steps.

Resolved, that the content of the report be noted.

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

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update of relevant activities from the Department of Community and Children's Services.

The Chairman questioned when the result of the retendering of the drug and alcohol service was likely to be announced and the Strategy Officer explained that all bidders had until 25th February to appeal, after which date it was hoped they would be in a position announce the result.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

12. **CHRISTMAS 2019 ALCOHOL CAMPAIGN**

The Group received a report of the Head of Community Safety providing an update on key elements of the campaign including its objectives, key partners and outcomes.

The Head of Community Safety put on record his thanks to colleagues at London Ambulance Service, British Transport Police and City Corporation for all their support with the campaign. It had been a modest campaign that had not been hard hitting but had provided an opportunity for people to think about their behaviour.

Initial figures from LAS had indicated a 5% reduction in alcohol related calls during the Christmas period, with campaigns of this type providing a good example of good partnership working in looking to achieve this.

The Head of Community Safety explained how the campaign had proved a success with very good support from partners and the Greater London Authority also being very pleased with its outcomes.

Resolved, that the report be received, and its contents noted.

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

The Group received a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection providing an update on activities of the Public Protection Service that had contributed to the work of the Safer City Partnership Group.

The Port Health and Public Protection Director referred to key areas of activity including good examples of protecting vulnerable people, targeting illegal street trading, tackling acquisitive crime and fraud through operation Broadway. Work had taken place with key partners including City of London Police, Trading Standards, Financial Conduct Authority and HMIC in an effort to gather local intelligence and disrupt activity.

A Member highlighted the success of tackling illegal street trading, whilst also noting there remained one small pocket on Transport for London property and it was suggested bringing TfL on board to look at tackling the issue.

Resolved, that the report be received, and its contents noted.

14. REFRAME THE NIGHT

The Group received a report of the Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer providing an update on the outcomes of the Reframe the Night campaign.

The Policy Officer explained how the update had been brought back to the Group to allow an opportunity to demonstrate what can be achieved through POCA funding. It also offered a good example of partnership working across multiple departments at the City Corporation and City of London Police.

The Group acknowledged press interest in this campaign, which was very positive. A Member noted the training being delivered to licensed venues between February and April and suggested this information be provided to Licensing Committee.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

15. SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME BOARD (SOCB)

The Group received a report of the Head of Community Safety setting out the main points discussed at a meeting between the Chair of SOCB, City of London Police and the Community Safety Team in agreeing an agenda for the next SOCB meeting.

The Chairman of SOCB explained how the priorities that came up during the SOCB agenda planning meeting were very similar to the priorities of the Safer City Partnership Group in looking at bringing together ideas on partnership working, POCA Fund opportunities and engaging communities.

Blue light services had also been an area for discussion and looking at developing a package of measures to support them from the point they arrive at an incident through to areas that follow e.g. investigation.

The Commissioner suggested consideration be given to drug use and links to criminality; recreational use stimulates market exploitation and needed tackling.

A Member stressed the importance of not differentiating between white or blue-collar crime. All crime needed dealing with.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

16. LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

The Borough Commander provided partners with an update on activity since the last meeting and this included the following: -

- Average attendance time at incident being 4:57
- 286 incidents from December through to February.
- An update on major incidents of note.
- Fire Cadets at Dowgate.

- 4 pump exercise at Wood Street.
- City of London Police presentation 4 March 2020
- 12 pump No Notice CBRN Multi Agency exercise 22nd February 2020
- 12 pump fire and Salvage Exercise at St Pauls

The Chairman questioned if there was any update on fire dogs and the Borough Commander explained how fire investigation dogs had been trained and were now working at Dowgate Fire Station to sense use of hydrocarbon in arson attacks. Dogs had been trained to provide support at a forensic level.

17. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP

There were no questions.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Covid-19

The Chairman referred to the ongoing situation relating to Covid-19 and suggested there would be a need to understand collectively all that was happening.

The Group noted the City Corporation's approach being one of following Public Health England guidance, with the extent the virus not yet known; plans are in place and these were beginning to be activated. Work had also taken place with Public Health England looking to understand the impact on ports and airports and considering possible closure of these locations.

The meeting closed at time 3.10pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Chris Rumbles
tel.no.: 020 7332 1405
christopher.rumbles@cityoflondon.gov.uk