

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Friday, 18 September 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at the Guildhall EC2 at 2.00 pm

Present

Douglas Barrow (Chairman)	Bob Benton
Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman)	Don Randall
Claire Dumontier-Marriage	Deputy James Thomson
Renu Gupta	David Evans
David Bulbrook	Patrick Brooks

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Alex Orme	- Police Authority Board
Helen Isaac	- City of London Police
Ali Burlington	- Community Safety Officer
Valeria Cadena	- Community Safety Officer
Adi Cooper	- City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board
Raynor Griffiths	- City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board
Jillian Reid	- Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Christopher Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department
Ellen Wentworth	- Chamberlain's Department
Mark Haddon	- City of London Police
Karry Nicholls	- Town Clerk's Department
Chris Lovitt	- Deputy Director of Public Health
Jo Northmore	- City of London Police
Chris Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department
Gavin Stedman	- Port Health and Public Protection Director
Ian Tweedie	- Adult Social Care Service Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Trish Adams, Alex Wrigley, Tijs Broeke and Marvin Bruno.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

Resolved, that the minutes of the Safer City Partnership Group meeting on 7th July 2020 are approved as an accurate record.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

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

SOS Bus – Progress stalled slightly owing to the ongoing pandemic and uncertainty around how licensed premises would be operating over the next few months. St John’s Ambulance and St Boltoph’s Church would be happy to work with COLP and there was a meeting planned to work through the detail. Further update to follow at the next Safer City Partnership Group meeting.

Partnership Data Review – Not progressed as quickly as had been intended. Discussions have been held with the Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance looking to agree and embed SLA’s to receive regular data. Further update to follow at the next meeting.

ParkGuard – Very difficult to attribute specific areas directly to ParkGuard Patrol, but as part of a team effort it was reasonable to assume they contributed to freeing up City of London Police time through dealing with a range of incidents including street interventions, addressing incidents of low level anti-social behaviour, moving people on and giving directions to leave, conducting welfare checks and dealing with issues relating to drugs paraphernalia. Acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour had both seen a reduction and the evidence suggested ParkGuard played their part in this. The Chairman questioned whether there were any statistics over a longer period that would allow for any trends to be picked up and the Commissioner agreed to consider options for presenting this additional information.

5. **CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGY 2020/25 AND ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

The Group received a report of the Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board outlining the Board’s new strategy for 2020/25 and presenting the annual report for 2019/20.

The Director of Community and Children’s Services explained that it was a statutory duty for the Board to provide an annual report to demonstrate what had been achieved throughout the period. The Director commented on how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on the work of the Board, with specific measures and mechanisms having been put in place to allow Partners on the Board to continue addressing safeguarding issues throughout this period.

The Chairman highlighted that statistics presented within the report referenced only one area on occasion e.g. estimated number of people living in the City and age estimates for Hackney and suggested going forward statistics needed to reflect both areas.

The Chairman noted reference within the report to “what we were unable to achieve”, but there being no indication of a timeframe set out to achieve these or ownership of them. It would be helpful to understand a timeframe to give people an expectation and avoid potential for items to drift.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at City of London Police’s 25% attendance rate at quarterly Board meetings and the Commissioner agreed to

establish the reason for this and ensure there was better engagement moving forward.

Resolved, that the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2020/25 and Annual Report 2019/20 be noted.

6. 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 referred an increase in the number offences being seen in the City as it goes through a gradual lifting of lockdown. Crime against a person, rape and sexual offences had all seen an increase, with Friday evenings being the time when these offences were most likely to occur and appearing to link to the increase in use of licensed premises.

The Commissioner referred to a hardening of approach against cycle theft, with a POCA Fund Bid submitted for consideration later on the agenda at this meeting. The Group noted that an unintended consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic had seen more people cycling to work with this leading to an increase in volume and number to bikes to target. The Commissioner confirmed that part the POCA Fund bid included increased work on education.

The Cheapside Business Alliance representative referred to an increase in the number of bike racks and storage facilities in and around City businesses that had the potential to be targeted. It was suggested pop up bike events could be organised along with increased messaging being circulated as people continued returning to the City.

The Commissioner concluded and confirmed overall crime in the City had seen a reduction during the period, with a 52% reduction having been seen compared to last year.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

7. RESPONSES TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE CITY OF LONDON: THIRD UPDATE REPORT

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on the activities of the two-year funded post of the Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator and Strategy Officer.

The Group noted that discussions continued focussing on increased partnership working, updating and renewing an Information Sharing Agreement, developing a disclosure pathway for requesting information from City of London Police when dealing with anti-social behaviour and the wider Safer City Partnership crime reduction strategy. Work also remained ongoing highlighting the work of the Community MARAC, with plans in place for the City Corporation to be displaying information on a public facing website offering a link to a referral form by the end of the month.

Partners noted that a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating the London Marathon had not been deployed this year owing to a reduced route for the marathon owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and it not going through the City this year. The PSPO had been granted for three years so this would still allow for two years qualitative data to be obtained.

The Chairman stressed a need to ensure reports coming through to the Group receive cross Partnership input before they are presented. This would allow for any impacts across Partners to be identified early and before items come forward.

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

8. **DOMESTIC ABUSE VULNERABILITY RISK POLICY UPDATE**

The Group received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating Partners on the City of London Corporation's domestic abuse post Covid-19 recovery plan and actions already taken.

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

9. **PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING BIDS 2020 - 2021**

a) Cycle Crime Prevention Initiative

The Group considered a Proceeds of Crime Act Funding (POCA) bid relating to City of London Police Cycle Crime Prevention initiative.

The Chairman explained that all POCA Funding bids go through a process of review by relevant City Corporation and City of London Police officers before being presented for consideration. The Chairman suggested the Cycle Crime Prevention Initiative appeared to be a very good initiative.

Resolved, that a funding bid of £9814.80 be approved.

b) Vulnerable Victim Advocate

The Group considered a Proceeds of Crime Act Funding (POCA) bid relating to the funding a City of London Police Vulnerable Victim Advocate (VVA) for 3 extra days work and £7k of those will be used to have an independent review of services for vulnerable victims across the City.

The Chairman offered his support to the bid, whilst stressing the independent review would need to come in at less than the maximum figure of £7k quoted.

The Group noted the bid would be for one year, after which an alternative funding source would be sought.

Resolved, that a funding bid of £35,225.53 be approved.

Professionalisation of Security Professionals

The Borough Commander took the opportunity to highlight a proposed future bid of £55k to the POCA Fund. Funding was being sought to design, develop and deliver an online platform to educate, determine competency and certify security staff. The training would enhance the role of Security Staff by giving them the knowledge to provide blue light services with the information they require when arriving at an incident. The training would hopefully lead to an uplift in skills within the security sector and offer improved employability opportunities going forward.

The Chairman added that the training would prepare security staff for responding to an incident by allowing them to understand the information needed by blue light services. The Chairman proposed that the Borough Commander prepared a bid in the normal way. After being scrutinised in the normal way it can then be circulated to Partners seeking their feedback and comments and, subject to these, a final decision on the bid being was delegated to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

Resolved, that Delegated Authority be granted to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to approve a POCA fund bid relating to an online security training module.

10. 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 Community Safety Officer referred to Hate Crime Awareness week during the 10th to 17th October. There were plans in place to hold a virtual event as part of this to include a range of speakers in an effort to raise awareness of this important issue. An update would be circulated to Partners once the event and date had been finalised.

The Group noted that there had been no Prevent channel cases since the Safer City Partnership Group meeting in February. The Prevent Coordinator was currently attending bi-weekly virtual forums with the London Prevent Network and an increase in referrals was starting to be seen. The Community Safety Officer stressed a need for partners to know the mechanisms for referring cases into the Prevent Team. There were various online training options and awareness sessions that can be delivered by the Prevent Coordinator and City of London Police Prevent Officer to businesses, community groups, partner agencies and education sector.

Resolved, that the update 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 data and activity from Community and Children's Services.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

12. 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 the work of Public Protection Services, which comprises Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards.

The Port Health and Public Protection Director provided the Group with a brief summary of the wider work taking place within Port Health and Public Protection. The Director also updated on the ongoing work in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic through continuing to support businesses that are working through the latest Government regulations and Environmental Health Team working with businesses to achieve accreditation through the Covid-19 Safety Scheme in an effort to promote public confidence in the City's pubs, restaurants, cafes and shops.

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

13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Plan for future of the Group – The Chairman provided the Group with an update on the direction of travel for the Group. Safer City Partnership was a body focussed on the safety and security of the City. Previously, the Chairman of Police Authority Board had always been Chairman of this Group, but with the recent move of the Community Safety Team to the Department of Community and Children's Services offering a business and residential viewpoint, the Group may no longer be Chaired by the Police Authority Board Chairman and this would offer an opportunity to demonstrate the wider contribution of the Group.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved, that under regulation 3 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the public be excluded from the meeting.

16. PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING BIDS 2020 - 2021

a) Operation Broadway

The Community Safety Officer provided the Group with an overview of Operation Broadway and a funding bid of £25,000 to cover a one-year fixed term contract for a suitably experienced officer to support work in this area.

The Community Safety Officer confirmed that a review would be undertaken after one year of operation to consider value for money and success of the role.

Resolved, that a funding bid of £25,000 be approved.

17. COUNTER TERRORISM LOCAL PROFILE

The Commissioner took the opportunity to present to the Group and make them aware of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, set out summary and aims for 2020 and how Partners could better engage on this important agenda.

18. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP

There were no non-public questions.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no additional items of business whilst the public were excluded.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm

Chairman

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