

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Safer City Partnership	4 December 2020
Subject: Community Safety Team Update	Public
Report of Andrew Carter – Chief Officer Department of Community and Children’s Services. Author: Community Safety Team	For Information
Summary	
To update SCP members on Community Safety Team activity not otherwise addressed.	
Recommendation(s)	
Members are asked to note the report.	

Domestic Abuse (DA) Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

1. Since lockdown measures were imposed on 23 March 2020, the City of London MARAC has been successfully operating virtually via Microsoft Teams.
2. Since the last SCP meeting, six cases have been heard at MARAC. Two referred by rough sleeper services, two by City of London Police and two MARAC transfers from other London Boroughs. One case was graded as high risk due to concerns in incidents escalating as a result of working arrangements and pressures of current lockdown restrictions. Robust action plans are agreed for each, closely monitored and cases are not closed until the MARAC is satisfied the risk has decreased.
3. The Community Safety Officer (MARAC coordinator) received five MARAC to MARAC referrals from City of London Police which have been transferred to the appropriate areas. The next DA MARAC is scheduled for 22 December 2020.
4. The Community Safety Officer is currently updating the DA MARAC Standard Operating Protocol and working with the legal team to produce an updated MARAC Information Sharing Protocol.

City Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CCM)

5. Between September to November 2020, the CCM panel received two high risk and complex cases from our City estates and the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Team.
6. The latter of these cases entailed bringing together a number of statutory, voluntary and commissioned services to formulate a robust and sustainable action plan to safeguard the vulnerable victim, who has several enduring complex needs.

Serious and Organised Crime Board

7. The board met for the first time in 2020 on 24th November. The Community Safety Officer will be coordinating this group and will review and compile new terms of reference which will cite the direction of the group, membership and the priorities. Proposed priorities include.
 - Drugs
 - Cyber crime
 - Modern Day Slavery/Human Trafficking
 - Intellectual crime
 - Money Laundering

Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA)– SCP Fund

8. The City of London Police successfully applied in our last meeting for POCA funding for one for 3 extra days work of a Vulnerable Victim Advocate (VVA) services, and £7k of those will be used to have an independent review of services for vulnerable victims across the City. The total amount of £35,225.53 was given to this project.
9. The Cycle Crime Prevention Initiative successfully applied for £9814.80 to run a series of operations to tackle and prevent cycle crime. Finally, Operation Broadway also successfully applied for £25,000. Final details for the bid are still underway, but the funding has been approved in principle
10. We are still awaiting confirmation from the Chamberlains department on the final amount left in the pot, however a verbal update will be given at the strategic meeting.
11. The London Fire Brigade has submitted a bid, as verbally explained in the last SCP meeting, however, as it's a bid the first of its kind to in terms of creating profit from the bid, there is still a lot of work under way. The bid will come back to the SCP meeting when is ready to be delivered.

Hate Crime

- 12.** National Hate Crime Awareness Week is held every year between the second and third Saturdays in October, this year it took place between the 10-17 October 2020. The aim of the week is to encourage local authorities, police, key partners and communities to work together to tackle local hate crime.
- 13.** COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges for all of us in the community safety area, specially trying to raise awareness of relevant issues when we can't go out to the communities or have face to face contact, however to adapt to the current challenges the CST together with the Multi-faith Network run a virtual seminar, inviting member representatives of our communities, business representatives, and other partner agencies.
- 14.** The event was hosted by Doug Barrow, Chairman of the Safer City Partnership and it featured a wide range of guest speakers, including Mark Healey, Trustee, National Hate Crime Awareness Week; Detective Chief Superintendent Maria Woodall, Head of Crime, City of London Police; Holly Powell-Jones, Online Media Law UK; Amil Khan, Director, Remembering Srebrenica and Paul Double, The City Remembrancer.
- 15.** It is perhaps unsurprising that during the height of lockdown, with everyone confined to their homes, offending dipped well below average levels. However, it is disheartening to have seen reports of changes in offending driven by the pandemic itself. Even in a time as frightening and frustrating as this, hate crime of any kind is completely unacceptable.
- 16.** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) stated that nationally East Asian communities have been disproportionately targeted during this period. They have been accused of 'bringing the virus here' and have been targeted with other conspiracy-focused allegations. There has also been wider hostility against other minority communities and those perceived as 'foreign', with offenders accusing them of causing or spreading the virus. Racist stereotyping has also been prevalent in COVID-related crimes, with the Muslim community being subject to abuse for allegedly breaking lockdown measures in order to convene for prayer.
- 17.** Because of what is happening nationally the community safety team has updated hate crime information in our Corporation pages and has been raising awareness on what is a hate crime and how to report it. We want to let people know that we don't tolerate hate in the City and it's important to report it.
- 18.** One of the main topics discussed in the Hate Crime webinar is how online hate crime is affecting our communities. People feel free to say things that if they said to someone in the street they would be arrested. This behaviour affects people's lives and mental health. It can affect the confidence of people socialising virtually and as we have seen even trigger suicide.
- 19.** With that in mind the CPS is currently running a consultation into the main offences that are prosecuted in cases of abusive and offensive online communications:

specifically, the offences under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988. These offences are sometimes subject to enhanced sentencing as “hate crimes” if the offence was motivated by or the defendant demonstrated hostility towards a protected characteristic. This consultation is considering ways to make these offences clearer, and more targeted against the harm this conduct can cause. The consultation deadline for the Abusive and Offensive Online Communications review is 18 December 2020.

- 20.** We would like to encourage all our members to participate in the consultation as we need more robust legislation to tackle online hate crime. The consultation can be found at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/abusive-and-offensive-online-communications/>

CST Staff Updates

- 21.** Valeria Cadena was appointed Community Safety Manager in October 2020 after a lengthy recruitment process. A temporary Community Safety Officer will join the team in December 2020.

Forthcoming Activity

- 22.** 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence; 25 November – 10 December 2020. Further details are contained within the Domestic Abuse Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer update.
- 23.** As this year Christmas will have COVID 19 restrictions therefore we are not running our annual pan London GLA Christmas campaign. However, we are working in partnership with the police and other agencies to be ready and prepared for any eventualities that could happen during the festive season.

Valeria Cadena

Community Safety Manager

T: 020 7332 1272

E: Valeria.Cadena@cityoflondon.gov.uk