

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY BOARD

Thursday, 25 February 2021

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

Present

Members:

Douglas Barrow (Chairman)	Don Randall
Bruno Marvin	Tim Wiseman
Clare Dumontier-Marriage	Sophie Anne Fernandes
Renu Gupta	Clare Ansdell
David Bulbrook	David Evans
Bob Benton	Patrick Brooks
Siobhan Harper	Trish Adams

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
Christopher Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department
Valeria Cadena-Wrigley	- Community Safety Manager
Ayesha Fordham	- Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer
James Gibson	- Chamberlain's Department
Chris Lovitt	- Deputy Director of Public Health
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Chris Oldham	- Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer
Kate Smith	- Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance
Jillian Reid	- Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Daniel Barry	- Community Safety Policy Officer
Ray Marskell	- City of London Police
Jaime Rose	- Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer
Andrew Zelin	- Business Intelligence Analyst
Rory McCallum	- City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership
Andrew Zelin	- Business Intelligence Analyst

The Chairman welcomed all Partners to the meeting and those members of the public viewing the meeting through the live stream. The Chairman stressed the importance of partnership working and thanked everyone for engaging.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Tijs Broeke and Peter Lisley.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

Resolved, that the minutes of the meeting on 4th December 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Partners noted that all matters arising were either included as updates on the agenda or referenced within outstanding actions as being complete.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

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

RECEIVED

5. **SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN THE CITY AND HACKNEY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board received an annual report of the Director of Public Health for City and Hackney 2019/20 updating on substance misuse in the City of London and Hackney.

The Deputy Director of Public Health introduced the report and confirmed the requirement of an independent report each year. The Board noted the unusual period to be working in public health and the current challenges presented.

The Deputy Director provided the Board with an overview of key issues within the report and highlighted the six core principles. The Deputy Director stressed a commitment that City and Hackney's services are among the best in the country and to ensure that there was a strong local focus to identify people in need and for them to receive the best possible service that would ultimately lead to either abstinence or significant harm reduction.

The Chairman welcomed the core principles. It was stressed how Partners have an important role to play and that they can have a significant impact. The Chairman acknowledged the small numbers within the City and issues around identification but stressed a need to incorporate statistics wherever possible especially around areas of crime. The Chairman noted it was a joint report with a wide readership and stressed how it was important all communities were included and were seen to be included.

RECEIVED

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

The Board received a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection updating on the work of the department in contributing to the work of the Safer City Partnership Board through its Public Protection Service which comprises Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards.

The Port Health and Public Protection Director referred to the excellent work of the team in their continued efforts at tackling illegal street trading on Tower Bridge, with additional funding obtained to support this work through until March 2023. Discussions remain ongoing with the Home Office in relation to the Late-Night Levy, with the City Corporation looking to support those businesses that are not currently able to trade through a soft suspension of the levy and alternative payment methods being considered to support businesses as they move out of lockdown and begin to operate fully again.

Work has remained ongoing throughout lockdown looking at additional areas of support that can be offered to businesses, responding to reported incidents and carrying out spot checks on businesses, with the majority demonstrating compliance. Businesses were being offered guidance and information in advance of what was hoped would be a return to a vibrant City once again.

The Chairman welcomed the update and to learn of all the good work that was ongoing.

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

7. **CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board received a City & Hackney Children Partnership annual report providing an overview on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the City of London and London Borough of Hackney.

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership Representative (C&HSCPR) introduced the report and remarked on how the City was in a strong position from a safeguarding perspective, which was reflected in Children's Services being recognised as outstanding.

There had been a period of change with planning for new safeguarding arrangements and the introduction of a new infrastructure, with Covid having hit and impacted progress moving forward. The emerging lessons have started seeing the new arrangements accruing benefits. The Board were talked through key elements within the report and areas relevant to their work.

A Partner referred to the issue of criminal exploitation of young people and the landmark decision from Strasbourg last week with respect to the protection of young people who have been trafficked rather than prosecution. The C&HSCPR responded and highlighted the need for a national refocus of how those children being criminally exploited were being viewed, putting safeguarding first as part of everything partners do. What was crucial was making sure children were safe first and foremost.

The Member highlighted prosecution of children as a key concern and whether those that were vulnerable to exploitation within the City would be appropriately protected from prosecution. The Director of Community and Children's Services remarked on the Strasbourg judgement requiring a period of reflection to allow for it to be considered fully before presenting a report to Safeguarding

Sub-committee.

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

8. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Commissioner providing Partners with an update on activity of City of London Police since the last meeting.

The Commissioner remarked on the City remaining relatively quiet with an expected year end crime reduction of 60%, with this being a result of lockdown and the lack of any night-time economy and activity.

The Commissioner highlighted a challenge to make the best use of this current period in making sure City of London Police were prepared and ready as the easing of lockdown and a return to the City begins. The Commissioner stressed that existing crime levels were not expected to be at the same level in five years. City of London Police were looking to welcome people back to the City and would look to manage behaviours of individuals through a local authority partnership approach and local authority enforcement teams.

The Chairman remarked on the good work in relation to bicycle theft and the campaign to counter this area of crime. The Commissioner emphasised the positive message that the City was a safe place to bring bicycles, with the City needing to be safe in all respects to be a safe City.

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

9. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE 2021**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services that presented Partners with reviewed terms of reference to provide more detail on responsibilities, purpose, membership, priorities, sub-groups of the Partnership and Chairperson criteria.

Resolved, that Partners approve the Safer City Partnership Strategy Board Terms of Reference 2021.

10. **PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002 (POCA) FUNDING - CRITERIA FOR ORGANISATIONS TO ACCESS**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services proposing criteria in relation POCA funding bids.

The Community Safety Manager referred to POCA funding being money seized from illegal activity that can be used to towards crime prevention and community safety initiatives. The criteria presented provides clear guidance on what Partners can bid for and reflects Government advice on how funds should be utilised. Criteria has been expanded to allow charities and community groups to apply, with the aim of bringing different perspectives on improving community safety in the City.

The Chairman remarked that it would not always be possible to fund initiatives through POCA funding and suggested all potential sources of funding needed considering. Partners were asked to look at any potential sources of funding they are able to access and, where appropriate, bring these to the attention of the Community Safety Team.

Resolved, that the Proceeds of Crime Act funding criteria framework be approved.

11. **PROJECT KESTRAL**

The City of London Crime Prevention Representative (COLCPR) referred to the Board's previous discussions on this initiative, noting the proposal was not within the Partnership's objectives and did not meet POCA funding criteria.

The COLCPR put on record his gratitude for the support of Safer City Partnership Board and the Chairman during the development of the proposal and confirmed an alternative funding source had been identified, with an informal launch in June being targeted.

The initiative was looking to enhance the role of front-line security personnel. Industry support was in place through The Security Institute, with it being recognised as a Continued Professional Development measure and this being important to its success. There had also been significant engagement and support across all blue light services, which would help towards its success.

The Board noted that any surplus funds from the initiative would be redirected to cross sector and community safety initiatives and Fire Cadets.

Resolved, that the Board noted the update.

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

The Board received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services providing an update on the City of London Corporation's domestic abuse COVID-19 response plan for the third national lockdown.

The Domestic Abuse and Vulnerability Risk Policy Officer talked the Board through highlights and key areas of work referred to within the report. The Board noted a decrease had been seen in reports of domestic abuse during the national lockdown periods, with an expectation of seeing an increase in reporting over the next few months as restrictions ease. Work continues promoting the service and signposting people to support.

The Chairman welcomed the comprehensive report and all the good work that was taking place. The Chairman questioned if there was a way of measuring the effectiveness of the Action Needed Immediately (ANI) domestic abuse campaign and understanding if it had been successful. The Chairman acknowledged the many positive initiatives started by the Partnership, but with it not always possible to see the success of these. It would be good if data could be provided to demonstrate success.

The Community Safety Manager acknowledged the benefit in good data and confirmed they would review the position at the end of lockdown for measurable data.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

13. **STRATEGY 2019-2022 PROGRESS MONITORING AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services putting forward proposals relating to future Safety City Partnership Implementation Plans.

The Community Safety Manager commented on how the report highlighted the work of Partners in their efforts towards achieving the aims of the Safer City Partnership. The proposal would see annual reporting setting out what had been achieved and impacts on the community. With support of the Corporate Strategy and Performance Team data would be held from which it would be possible to review the achievements and impacts of initiatives and with these being measurable.

The Chairman acknowledged all the work of Partners and confirmed he was supportive of the proposal.

Resolved, that proposals for future Safer City Partnership Strategy Implementation Plans be approved.

14. **LONDON FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE**

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

The Borough Commander commented on LFB responding to 272 incidents since the last meeting, with this reflecting a quiet period.

The Borough Commander referred to LFB supporting work of the City of London Police Counter Terrorism unit in relation to fire being used as a weapon and offering advice on mitigation, with this work receiving positive feedback.

The Borough Commander remarked on how the report demonstrated LFB were involved in much more than fire-fighting and he put on record his personal thanks to all at LFB for their continued efforts and all their ongoing work in support of the community outside of fire-fighting.

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

15. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing the Board with an update on activity of the Community Safety Team not otherwise addressed on the agenda.

The Community Safety Manger talked the Board through key points and highlights set out within the report and commented on the continued efforts of the Community Safety Team in working towards the aims of the Safer City Partnership Strategy.

Resolved, that the update be noted.

16. SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating on progress of the Safety City Partnership Information Sharing Agreement.

The Community Safety Manager referred to the report reflecting on the sharing of information and asked partners to nominate a representative to assist with the consultation process. The Chairman emphasised a need for Partners to provide a relevant contact to consult with in allowing this piece of work to be taken forward.

Resolved, that board support the work and agreed to assign a representative for the consultation process.

17. DATA PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

The Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance explained how good progress was being made in developing a live dashboard within Power BI that would offer the Partnership a single source of data. Good data was now coming through and it was hoped to be able to deliver an interactive dashboard to Partners in May or June.

The Board were provided with a demonstration of what live data would look like and how live data comparisons with other Boroughs could be made.

The Chairman acknowledged it was good to see progress being made and asked for an assurance that an interactive dashboard would be ready for the next Safer City Partnership meeting in May. The Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance confirmed the intention to have a workable dashboard ready in advance of the next Safer City Partnership Strategy Board meeting.

The update was noted.

18. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP

Vaccination Centres

The City Business Representative referred to his recent attendance at the Excel Vaccination Centre, explaining how impressed he was with the service but noting very few people being present. It was questioned whether the City and Hackney CCG could move ahead of the approved cohorts in an effort at vaccinating an increased number of people at pace to offer a level of re-assurance as the City begins to open up and people start returning to offices.

The City and Hackney CCG Representative explained how vaccinations were bound by the priority groups set by SAGE and Government, but there were processes in place to contact people at very short notice and attend the vaccination centre to ensure vaccine was being maximised. As more vaccines come online every effort would be made to widen out the rollout and vaccinate as many groups as possible.

The Commissioner re-assured the City Business Representative that City of London Police representatives had been able to access vaccine that would have otherwise been at risk of going to waste, with critical services staff having been prioritised and able to access first dose vaccines. The Commissioner stressed that City of London Police were conscious of the NHS Priority Groups and in not jumping the queue of those in greater need of the vaccine.

The Director added that all the data showed very good coverage in cohorts 1-4, with an additional offer having come in from St Bart's Hospital in offering vaccines to residents. Moving forwards vaccinations were being offered through Community pharmacies with good provision being made available.

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Community and Children's Services Update (report circulated separately)

The Board received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services proving Partners with an update of relevant activity from within Community and Children's Services Department.

The Director highlighted a key point being the introduction of Lateral Flow Testing within the City and asked partners to encourage those staff having to travel into the City who cannot work from home to be encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Testing, with a Test Centre being located at 80 Leadenhall that can help support that.

The Board noted work was also taking place across the North East London Region and within communities looking to address vaccine hesitancy and in encouraging people to turn up for their appointments.

Safer City Partnership Communications Plan

The Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer updated on his work with the Community Safety Team trialling new ways of working that was looking at enhancing collaboration around external communication with partners. An imminent outcome being a new quarterly meeting with the communication leads among Partners. This would provide an opportunity to share key community safety messages.

The Community Safety Manager suggested the new group would allow Partners to avoid duplication and to lead with one message to all the communities the Partnership supports. Partners were asked to be mindful that the Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer would be in touch seeking a

relevant person to attend the new group. The aim being to bring an update to the next Board meeting in May.

Thanks to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman

The Community Safety Manager concluded the meeting and acknowledged it was the Chairman's last meeting. The Community Safety Manager put on record the Board's thanks for all the Chairman and Deputy Chairman had done during their period on the Board and for all their efforts in supporting the work of the partnership.

The Chairman responded and remarked on how it had been interesting to see the Partnership develop and expand during his five years as Chairman and he thanked all those involved in supporting the Partnership and to all Partners for the level of engagement they have shown that has allowed it to work so well.

The meeting closed at 3.35 pm

Chairman

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