

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 21 st October 2021
Subject: Quarterly Community Engagement Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 68-21	For Information
Report author: Sector Policing, Local Policing	

Summary

This report provides an update on the engagement taking place across the City of London Police area within the following areas: (1) Counter Terrorism (CT) and Prevent; (2) Safe-guarding the Vulnerable; (3) PREVENTion of Fraud and Cyber Crime; (4) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB); (5) Engagement with the Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG)

1. **Counter-terrorism and Prevent:** Work within CT continues with Prevent activities adapted around the lockdown restrictions and the Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) team supporting the City of London Corporation in the development of plans to close roads and widen footpaths to facilitate a return to the City as the Covid restrictions have eased.
2. **Safeguarding and Vulnerability:** The Public Protection Unit (PPU) has ensured appropriate messaging has gone out in an attempt to engage with those who may be trapped at home in abusive relationships during lockdowns. Key safeguarding and investigative functions have been maintained throughout this period.
3. **PREVENTion of Fraud and Cyber Crime:** Cyber Griffin's key aim over this period has been to focus on service delivery. With Cyber Security month approaching, the initiative aims to provide its services to as wider audience and parts of the community over this period.
4. **ASB and Sector Policing:** Levels of ASB reporting decreased significantly during the first national lockdown but have not seen a similar decrease for the 2021 lockdown the Force has also not seen the sharp increase in reporting with the easing of restrictions that have been seen in other areas. Engagement by the Dedicated Ward Officers continues with a number of initiatives.
5. **Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group (IASG) Engagement:** Engagement with the IASG has been continued through their representation at the COVID 19 Gold Group meetings and via video conference meetings.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report

Counter Terrorism

PREVENT: July to Sept 2021

Referrals

The Prevent team has received 3 Prevent referrals over this period which concluded in one being sent to the Bedfordshire Police and two remaining with the City Police team as rough sleepers in the City of London.

Prevent team delivering WRAP sessions, meetings / Media and Prevent stalls:

Face to face Prevent training sessions have increased during this period as staff began to return to the workplace following Covid-19 absences. Many offices, including the Corporation of London, are still largely working remotely. This has meant that some training remains online.

The Prevent team engage with the CoLP vulnerability working group as the 14th strand of vulnerability to ensure radicalisation is considered in all areas of policing.

The Prevent team are in regular contact with the Counter Terrorism Policing HQ National Prevent team via conference calls and emails.

The Prevent coordinator attends a national Coordinators meeting bi-weekly and a weekly London regional meeting to ensure awareness and engagement with regional and national teams, products and processes.

Stalls/Engagement

Stalls/In person engagement has started to return following COVID-19. The Counter Terrorism Case Officer has engaged at the Coventry University Freshers Fair and has a number of other forthcoming engagements including, the Bank of England, No1 New Change shopping centre and the 'Skygarden' at 20 Fenchurch Street. The Prevent officer worked as part of the national team covering the 'Netmum's Act Early Forum' for 7 days.

Internal Women's Network/Islamic Women's Network

Prevent officers continue to support various police and local networks to ensure an understanding of Prevent and the knowledge and confidence to come forward with any concerns they may have.

Practical Training Package

The Prevent team delivers a training package to identify signs of radicalisation and what to do when this occurs. The package includes a case study, the definition of radicalisation, the aim of the Contest Strategy and understanding of the 4 P's and where Prevent sits in the force. This work will be ongoing in the force to provide guidance and understanding to officers around Prevent.

The Prevent Counter Terrorism Case Officer (CTCO) has delivered Prevent training/awareness sessions to all officers on uniform groups on mandated Counter Terrorism training sessions. The CTCO also trains all new joiners and transferees in Prevent awareness. They are now planning further deliveries across uniformed officer teams.

Special Branch and CT Protect officers have also undertaken bite-size training in Prevent to better understand the role and support the Prevent CTCO where required.

Regional Meeting/Training

The Prevent team is continuing to work with the Prevent teams from around the country looking at the best ways for improving professional and best practice.

CT Local Profile (CTLP)

The CTLP is complete and has been shared with trusted partners.

Collaborative working with Corporation of London Prevent lead

The CTCO and CoL lead are agreeing a joint action plan to ensure progress and delivery of products and services is shared and joined up.

PREPARE & PROTECT:

Counter Terrorism Security Adviser (CTSA) team:

The CTSA team proactively support the Protect and Prepare elements of the national CONTEST Strategy, delivering on protective security advice, CT awareness, both physical and people security measures and ensuring our community is prepared as possible in dealing with a terrorist attack. A fundamental part of the CTSA role is face to face engagement, assessment and product delivery. Covid-19 has pushed a lot of engagement to remote methods and although we are seeing a gradual return to the office for many City workers, CTSA engagement is now a mix of both.

We continue to develop our ESRI application (Geographical information system mapping). This allows businesses to directly update their current occupancy and on-site security provision. Servator officers are able to input the tier three information and crowded places surveys and we are starting to map physical security mitigations at sites zones and sectors to understand where vulnerabilities exist. This application was an innovative solution to an emerging issue and no other interactive mapping tool

has been used in this way that we know of in UK policing. The result has been a dashboard that gives us situational awareness of busy areas, those buildings that may be more vulnerable or supermarkets or shops that are open or closed. Development of this application continues as we move beyond COVID-19.

The team has continued to support the City of London Corporation through the Public Realm Security Advisory Board (PRSAB) and has successfully adapted to online meetings to ensure that where possible the positive work around crowded places and changes in planning has continued. The team has also continued with the crowded places assessments although this has been slowed by the current situation. The team has supported national Counter Terrorism Policing to address emerging threats because of COVID 19 and we have several officers as national SPOCS.

The team continues to support partners within the City of London Corporation including the public realm and planning teams. The CTSA team supported the local authority in providing security assessments on applications for table and chair licenses. This was due to concern that these would become new crowded places. This was a new partnership which has become business as usual and has improved the physical security of more of the Cities crowded places. The CTSA office also continue to support external partners such as TfL on security plans and projects.

Safeguarding and Vulnerability

Through the first quarter and the lifting of lockdown restrictions, alongside the national backdrop following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard, COLP has worked closely with partners to focus on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). This has included bespoke briefings for licensed premises, and the development of several partnership initiatives such as 'Good Night Out' and 'Reframe the Night'. COLP also launched the 'Hidden Harms' Campaign in May with crimestoppers, using social media and traditional media translated into Bengali to encourage reporting of domestic abuse and honour based abuse amongst the community. This has already resulted in an increase of referrals from the Bangladeshi community.

The PPU has maintained their strong partnership links across the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Partnerships, ensuring key safeguarding and investigative functions are working effectively.

COLP has delivered several training inputs for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) partners to improve information sharing, referrals and risk management.

PPU has also delivered 'insight hours' and webinars for corporation staff across a range of issues including domestic abuse and VAWG.

COLP has rolled out Operation INNERSTE, a national initiative to capture biometrics of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to reduce their vulnerability to exploitation.

Additionally, Operation MAKESAFE, an operation first introduced in South Yorkshire, and now rolled out in London also exists in other police areas. It is a proactive initiative to empower businesses who may encounter instances of child sexual exploitation.

Activity was halted nationally due to COVID 19, COLP has maintained engagement with the hotel industry through a series of Hotel Newsletters, providing key information and case studies around safeguarding and vulnerability issues. This is to be followed up with a further hotel conference in due course, focussing on vulnerability issues.

PREVENTion of Fraud and Cyber Crime

There are now signs that businesses in the Square Mile wish to mix digital and physical briefings into their working plans. Cyber Griffin is now engaging in more physical briefings than has previously been the case. The shift to physical briefings is currently slight but is expected to steadily increase as workers return.

Cyber Griffin's new digital services:

Cyber Griffin's digital services continue to work well. The initiative will exceed its previous delivery records this year and has just released the latest version of its key service (The Baseline Briefing V3). Digital deliveries are expected to remain the Cyber Griffin team's key deliverable for the next period.

Home working series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyKPDIPxrTY>

- New Incident Response Exercise:

Cyber Griffin continues to work with Bristol University on a new incident response exercise. Two academic papers outlining the exercises underlying research have already received very favourable reviews from leading academic forums. A prototype is expected in late December 2021. The main draw of the new exercise is that it should provide a far more realistic and immersive experience of cyber incident response than previous exercises. Further to this, the exercise can be configured to mimic a specific scenario or as an open world design where teams will have randomly selected attacks.

Fraud

The Economic Crime Directorate has continued to work on investigations throughout this period, with a focus on the increase in fraud linked to COVID 19. This includes counterfeit masks and test kits, also phishing & smishing using COVID as the pretext (such as acquiring victims' personal data, using bogus email, or text messages particularly using reputable HM Government organisation such as HMRC and NHS). Data captured is then used to carry out frauds.

There were around 20 operational deployments to tackle this fraud to the end of June 2021 and considerable communications going out in the media and on other channels to warn potential victims and highlight the problem. A number of TV and radio interviews have also been undertaken featuring Commander Blackburn, to raise awareness. Fuller details on media activity is included in the AC EC & Cyber's regular public update to this Board.

Coordination of intelligence related to economic crime and linked to COVID19 is feeding into the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC). The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has disseminated daily and weekly briefing documents to partners identifying threats and trends. NFIB has put out alerts to the public via social media and online to raise public awareness of fraud risks linked to COVID 19.

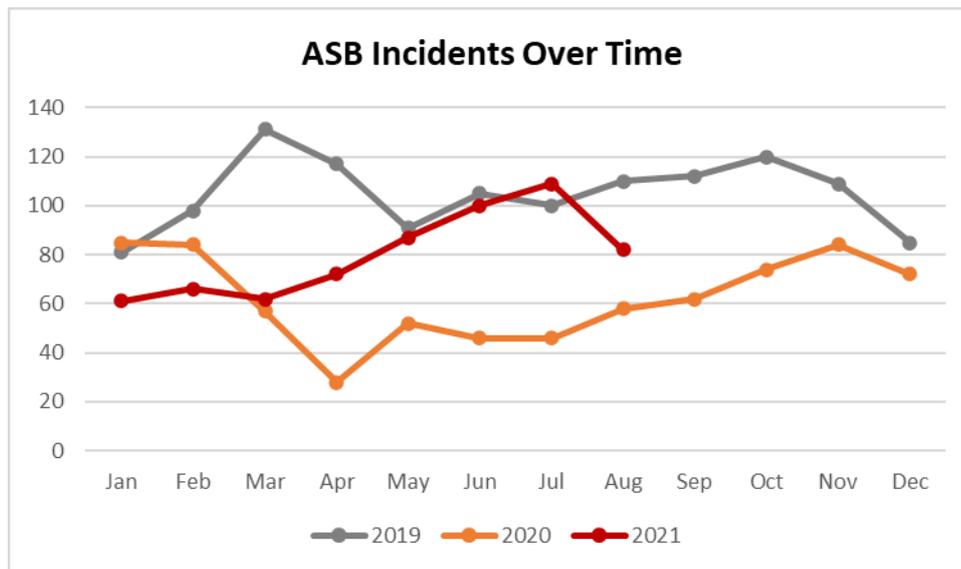
The NFIB reported 356 COVID-19 related crime reports which were recorded in August, which is an increase of 22% on July's total (291 reports). COVID 19 related fraud and cybercrimes equate to approximately 1% of all reporting in the last month. The NFIB disseminated 18 Covid-19 linked reports sent out for enforcement, 1 for intelligence and a further 5 for victim care in August. 75 COVID-19 phishing reports were recorded each day in August, compared with 37 reports per day in July.

Tackling and Preventing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- Levels of reporting decreased significantly during the first national lockdown but have not seen a similar decrease for the 2021 lockdown we also have not seen the sharp increase in reporting with the easing of restrictions that we've seen for other incident types.
- Levels are higher than those reported in 2020 and are beginning to reach those of 2019.
- The main type of ASB reported is Inconsiderate Behaviour which can cover many types of incident.
- One area that continues to be an issue from pre COVID reporting is groups (usually of young males) on bikes or skateboards behaving inconsiderately and potentially dangerously. This has been reported in various areas across the City in the current period.
- Other key incidents reported include members of the public being abusive to workers inside shops, restaurants, and cafes with a particular increase in those involving drunk individuals or fights in licensed premises this period. There are also multiple reports of noisy gatherings.
- There were a few noise complaints relating to football fans during June and small numbers of reports in relation to parkour/urban exploring continue.

ASB Incident Data by Month



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	81	98	131	117	91	105	100	110	112	120	109	85
2020	85	84	57	28	52	46	46	58	62	74	84	72
2021	61	66	62	72	87	100	109	82				

The number of ASB incidents continues to rise as restrictions eased over the summer months although dropping off slightly in August, reaching similar levels of 2019 pre pandemic in June and July. There has been an increase in the number youths in large groups causing disruption which could be linked to school holidays. On average there have been 97 incidents reported a month between June and August (latest data available).

Compared to these months in 2020 we have seen a 94% increase in ASB reports this year mainly owing to the effect of lockdowns and restrictions in 2020.

However compared to 2019 pre pandemic, there has been a slight decrease of 7% of ASB reports.

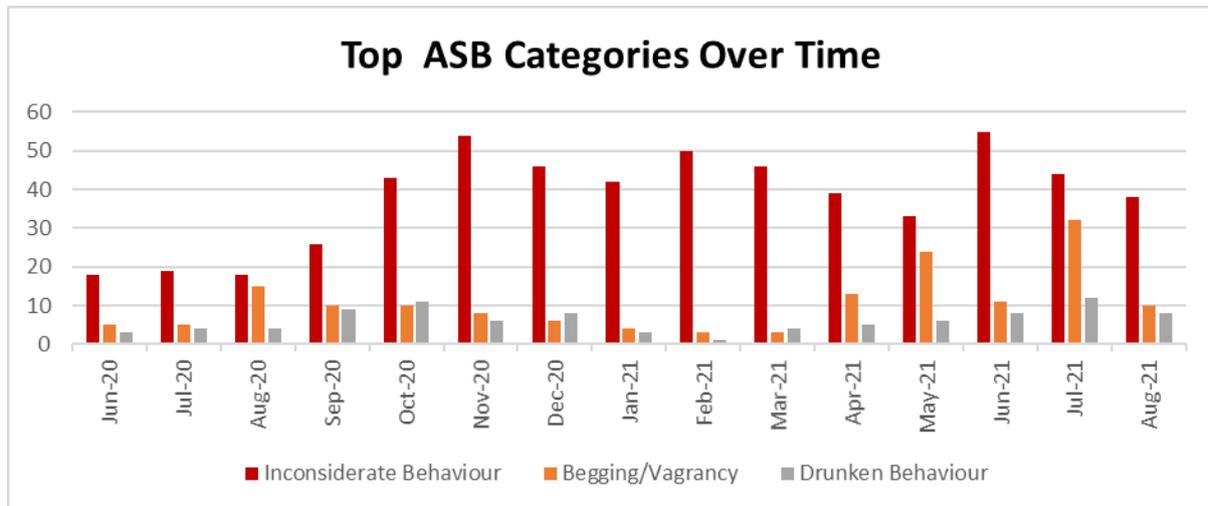
Key repeat street locations for reports were Bishopsgate and Liverpool Street. There were 16 incidents across all 3 months relating to the Barbican estate.

Data Breakdown from the last quarter

Highest Recorded Categories of ASB

In the current period Inconsiderate Behaviour (n=137) is the most reported category of ASB with all other categories having very few reports. The next most common are Begging/Vagrancy (n=53) and Noise Nuisance (n=30) followed very closely by Drunken Behaviour (n=28). Noise Nuisance was commonly reported during the pandemic but then settled down earlier in the year but has reappeared as a common complaint once again.

After reviewing records classified as 'Inconsiderate Behaviour' some records could have been recorded in other categories in the above table as they have referred to specific behaviours such as drunkenness, playing loud music, throwing objects etc. Categorisation is based on the recording officer's interpretation and where some incidents refer to multiple categories they may have been recorded against inconsiderate behaviour as a 'catch-all'. This could explain why it is always the most prevalent category in data returns.

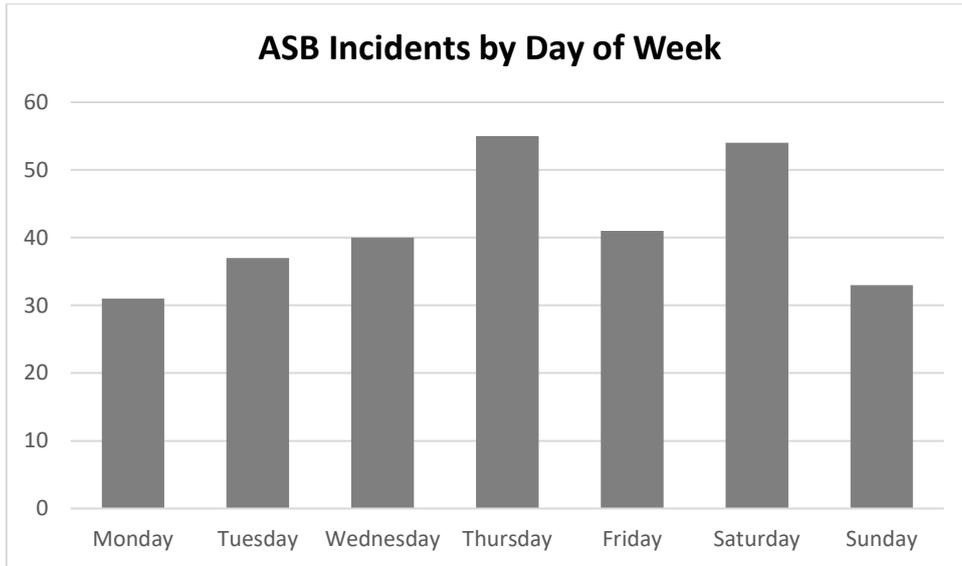


The above graph shows how inconsiderate behaviour reports saw a swift drop off during the first lockdown and then a sharp increase through August-November 2020 before remaining around the 45 report a month mark with some fluctuations between December 2020 and April 2021. The levels of inconsiderate behaviour are considerably higher than that of the same reporting period last year. Begging/Vagrancy reports saw a particular increase in July with a number of Op Luscombe notices being issued across the month (n=34). Drunken Behaviour have also increased compared to the same period last year.

The main issue being raised in this period, is groups skateboarding or cycling and performing tricks either reported for noise nuisance, intimidating residents, or breaching covid regulations. Several of these reports were youth related. The majority of noise nuisance reports were of loud music being played in the early hours of the morning either in the street or private and some relate to people speaking in the streets with microphones and speakers.

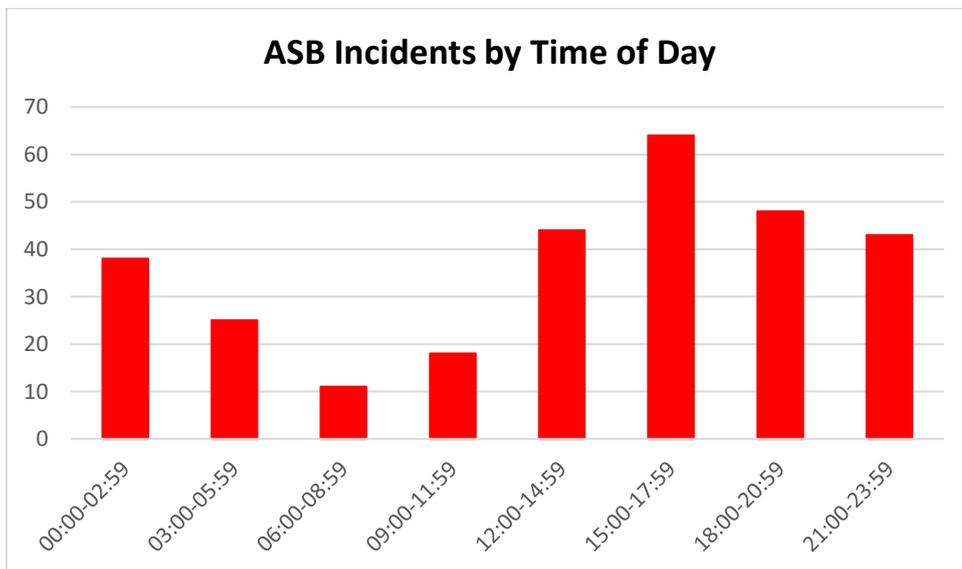
Days of Week

In the current period. Incidents are more commonly reported on Thursdays and Saturdays and lowest reporting levels occur on Sundays and Mondays.



Time of Day

Reporting of all ASB incidents in the current period are shown in the below graph broken down by three hour periods across the day. Incident reports occur most frequently from the afternoon into the evening peaking between 15:00-17:59 and are at their lowest between 06:00 and 08:59



Partnership working with the City of London Corporation

The Partnership and Prevention Hub led on plans for the ASB Week during the summer, which was a national initiative. The National focus was to raise awareness and encourage reporting, thereby preventing/detecting ASB. They have provided some messaging that was published on the relevant days.

In line with National Direction, the activity centred around a Partnership Day and a Victims Day. The Partnership Day consisted of high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas and 2 engagement 'hubs' at St. Bride Street and Aldgate Square. The following day there was an Op Luscombe Hub (with the City of London Corporation), patrols in Liverpool Street, Aldgate, Fleet Street and Shoe Lane.

On the Victims Day there were four engagement stands in the Estates is an attempt to capture residents on their way home from work, supplemented by mobile reassurance patrols from the Sector Tasking Team.

- Highlights of the week included: demonstrating to residents and businesses the work underway to tackle ASB, signposting relevant support services, offering crime prevention advice, as well as developing information and intelligence pertaining to ASB by appealing to residents.
- closer partnership working with current and developing Business Improvement Districts supporting Business Crime Reduction Partnerships.

The Force has worked on the development and implementation of a Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) to augment engagement, intelligence sharing and communications between different business sectors. This has been funded by the COLP for this financial year circa £40k. The ambition is for the scheme to be self-funding by year end. Currently, fifty premises will be signed up initially with further engagement taking place to secure new members.

Dedicated Ward Officers and Licensing

Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) have kept engagement channels open with the Community throughout this period. A monthly update to Councillors and Aldermen on Sector Policing activity to address crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the City of London has been circulated by the Chief Inspectors for each Sector in July and August and will continue. This updates Members on all aspects of Sector Policing.

The DWOs have also maintained their online engagement via the Nextdoor app; publicising their whereabouts, patrol plans and opportunities for public meetings.

As the restrictions lifted and to support the venues reopening CoLP licensing supported by CoL licensing ran a number of engagement events focussing on the prevention of crime and venue obligations under the Licensing Act. These events were in addition supported by delivery of Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement training by our Business Crime Reduction Partners, Safer Business Network.

Integrated Offender Management

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team has worked hard over the reporting period and currently have 14 high quality Community Behaviour Order (CBO) applications within the courts with good prospects, with several more about to join them. The team has pre-written a further 24 CBO's- full applications for our most

prolific offenders, ready to go, should they continue to offend. The team are working on 50+ nominals at various stages of completion according to offending priority. The IOM team attend all the court hearings and liaise closely with the CPS, Administration of Justice Dept and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). Last year we obtained CBOs for all of our most prolific offenders and attended over 40 court hearings. This has had a real positive effect; helping to reduce crime and offending within the City of London which has had a very positive impact. CPS Senior Prosecutors have stated that CoLP has become a model of excellence, and really lead the way with their understanding and application regarding CBO's.

Engagement with the IASG

Contact with the Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group has been maintained during this period, with meetings taking place by video conference rather than in person. The Chair of the IASG has been a member of the COVID 19 Gold group, attending weekly meetings on the Force's response to dealing with the issues experienced during the pandemic.

The IASG continue to engage during incidents that are community sensitive, acting as critical friends. The IASG are due to meet in person from November 2021 but continue to be actively involved in external scrutiny of stop and search and use of force.

Contact

Supt Bill Duffy
Sector Policing
City of London Police