

Strategy Boards & Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership Strategy Board	29/11/2021
Subject:	Public
Parkguard Ltd City-wide Patrol	
Report of:	For Information
Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	
Report author:	
Jillian Reid, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Community Safety Team, Department of Community and Children's Services	
Summary	
The City of London Corporation (CoLC) remains committed to ensuring that the City is a safe place to work, live and visit.	
To strengthen the Corporation's commitment and response to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and wider community safety issues, this paper highlights the new Parkguard Ltd City-wide patrol service.	
Recommendation	
The Safer City Partnership Strategy Board are asked to note the report.	

Main Report

Background

1. Through the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS), the City of London Corporation provides mobile patrol services to City estates and begging patrols through a commissioned provider – Parkguard Ltd.
2. Parkguard Ltd complement the work of the City of London Police as part of the 'extended policing family' and contribute to our role as a local authority to work in partnership to prevent and reduce crime and ASB.

Current Position

3. In May 2021, the Safer City Partnership Strategy Board agreed for a 12-month City-wide ASB patrol pilot to be funded under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
4. The patrols aim to prevent, detect and deter ASB and crime, as well as collect information and intelligence to facilitate longer-term criminal and civil enforcement action. This supports the CoLC's commitment to proactively prevent and tackle ASB and crime in every part of the Square Mile.
5. A commissioning exercise with DCCS Commissioning and Contracts was conducted and the new ASB service was awarded to Parkguard Ltd.
6. Parkguard Ltd were already commissioned by the CoLC to operate the City estates and begging patrol services. The granting of the new City-wide ASB service to Parkguard Ltd does not inhibit the delivery of the existing contracts, but only serves to enhance the existing contract specifications with:
 - bi-weekly tasking meetings with the ASB Co-ordinator to monitor ad-hoc tasks for emerging issues and trends
 - an increase to the current service provision – from five to seven days a week
 - single and double crewed patrols
 - 'fast time tasking' to respond to urgent or short notice ad-hoc tasks
 - City-wide patrol coverage beyond the current residential reassurance remit on CoLC estates
 - quarterly monitoring reports to evaluate the impact of the service.
7. The new ASB service commenced on 28 October 2021 and extends and enhances Parkguard's reassurance role.
8. Deployments for the new City-wide service are via a strict tasking referral mechanism. Internal and external partners wishing to use the service are required to submit a detailed referral to the ASB Co-ordinator.

Uniform and Identification

9. All Parkguard Ltd Patrol Officers wear branded uniforms, which makes them easily identifiable to the public.
10. Handcuffs form a vital part of a Patrol Officer's personal protective safety equipment and are only issued to staff who have received instructions in their use from a suitably qualified instructor. Handcuffs will only be used in circumstances where there is a threat against an officer's own safety, the safety of the public, or the offender's personal safety. Handcuffs provide the least intrusive means of control and reduce the risk of harm to both the officer and offender, until the arrival of the Police.
11. Parkguard Ltd holds full bespoke insurance that covers assault with handcuffs and wrongful arrest as well as annual recertification training.

12. Parkguard has accredited CSAS powers by the Metropolitan Police. The feedback we received from them is that CSAS powers enhance the work and information gathered. Consequently, the powers are a valuable asset to Parkguard's work in other areas of London, and could be an asset in the City.

13. In the City Parkguard Ltd currently does not have formal CSAS accreditation given by the City police. The City Police have said they would like Parkguard Ltd to have the same CSAS powers that they currently hold within the Metropolitan Police Service area however this is a process that needs to be explored further.

Conclusion

14. The CoLC has a new 12-month piloted City-wide and City-centric mobile patrol service delivered by Parkguard Ltd. This service aims to respond to ASB issues in the City and in other resident areas that are not in our estates. It will improve the service that City businesses receive when they experience low-level ASB, having this behaviour dealt with before it escalates.

Jillian Reid

Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Community Safety Team

T: 07517 131245

E: Jillian.Reid@cityoflondon.gov.uk