

## SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY BOARD

Monday, 27 September 2021

**Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Board held as a virtual public meeting at 11.30 and available to view at**

### **Present**

Ruby Sayed (Chair)	Don Randall
Tijs Broeke (Deputy Chair)	Clare Ansdell
Claire Dumontier-Marriage	David Evans
Bob Benton	James Chapman
Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Alex Orme	- Head of Police Authority
Chris Pelham	- Assistant Director, People
Simon Cribbens	- Assistant Director, Partnership and Commissioning
Peter Davenport	- Licensing Manager
Ayesha Fordham	- Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer
Valeria Cadena	- Community Safety Manager
Jillian Reid	- Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Philip Saunders	- Remembrancer's Office
Mark Haddon	- City of London Police
Christopher Hay	- City of London Police
Alexander Wisbey	- City of London Police
Althea Cribb	- Standing Together
Andrew Trathen	- Consultant in Public Health, London Borough of Hackney
Claire Giraud	- Senior Public Health Practitioner, London Borough of Hackney
Charlie Pearce	- Chamberlain's Department
Chris Rumbles, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from James Thomson, Gavin Stedman and Patrick Brooks.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

### **3. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Board meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

### **4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk providing Partners with a summary of outstanding actions from previous meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the outstanding actions.

5. **STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2021**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services that provided an update on a Strategic Assessment 2021 and offered an analysis of crime and community safety issues across the City of London.

The Community Safety Manager asked all Responsible Authorities to contribute to the Strategic Assessment and provide details of priorities they would like to see included within the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the Strategic Assessment 2021.

6. **ADMINISTRATION OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT (POCA) FUNDS**

The Board received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services proposing the management and awarding of POCA funding be transferred to the Central Grants Unit (CGU).

The Community Safety Manager explained how the proposal would allow for the Community Safety Team to benefit from support of the Central Grants Unit in dealing with the administration and monitoring of Proceeds of Crime Act Fund grants. This would then allow for approved grant funding to be published on the Central Grants Unit's website, thereby offering increased transparency and hopefully leading to an increase in applications coming through as a result.

RESOLVED: That Partners:

- Approve the transfer of Proceeds of Crime Act grant management and administration to the Central Grants Unit.

7. **PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES**

**a) City of London Police**

The Commissioner talked the Board through the various aspects of crime reporting included within the report. This included the five-year trend in crime, current levels of crime and comparable data periods. Violence against a person had seen a steady increase following the reopening of licensed premises but was not yet back to the same levels as pre-lockdown.

Incidents of rape and sexual assault had seen an increase over the last three months, with this being a key focus of the night time economy moving into the Christmas period, with an update on a Christmas campaign to follow at the next Board meeting.

Acquisitive crime had remained relatively stable over the last twelve months. Bike theft had been an area of focus and there was good news on this front in bucking the seasonal trend, with this crime having been an issue over the last five years but now starting to see positive results.

Anti-social behaviour levels remain consistent with this time last year, but were still at a lower level than pre-lockdown. Consistent types of incident were being reported including drunk people on buses, noise nuisance and begging. Begging remains an ongoing issue with efforts looking to address this through Operation Luscombe.

The Board noted that City of London Police also continued responding to a number of public event incidents and also provided police visibility around various protests.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

At this point in the meeting, the Board considered a City of London Police Proceeds of Crime Act funding bid that had been circulated as a late item.

### **POCA Funding Bid – The ‘SCaN Pad’ Project**

The Chair remarked on the late circulation of the bid and suggested Partners be allowed an opportunity to review the bid in advance of any decision being taken. The Chair proposed the bid be dealt with under delegated authority to the Chair and Deputy Chair following the meeting. This would then allow Partners sufficient time to review the proposal and submit any questions.

RESOLVED: That delegated authority be granted to the Chair and Deputy Chair for a decision to be taken following the meeting, subject to any comments or observations received from Partners.

#### **b) London Fire Brigade**

The Borough Commander referred to a gradual increase in incidents having been seen, but with attendance times still being met. London Fire Brigade had also seen an increase in incidents on city bridges. Work continued at running a Fire Cadets course at Dowgate Fire Station following lockdown. London Fire Brigade also continued with home start visits, going into properties and carrying out risk assessments.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

#### **c) Probation Service**

The Board noted that the Probation Service was currently operating at business-as-usual levels in terms of staffing. All individuals were being seen at least once a month through a face-to-face meeting, with those considered higher risk individuals being seen more often. There were currently very few people living at City addresses that were on Probation Services' books.

It was confirmed that the Probation Service was currently going through a period of transition in looking to achieve a unification of services.

#### **d) London Ambulance Service**

The London Ambulance Service representative had given their apologies for the meeting.

**e) National Health Service City & Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group**

A National Health Service representative was absent from the meeting.

**8. COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

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

The Board noted that the City of London Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) had continued running successfully throughout lockdown. Community Trigger incidents were hardly ever received and those that had been reported did not activate a Community Trigger. This was owing to incidents of anti-social behaviour not being reported through the correct channels of City Corporation, City Police via 101 or the ASB Portal.

City of London Police Officers were being approached as they walked the streets with reports of incidents. It was stressed that the correct processes and procedures must be followed when reporting incidents as there was a need to know what was happening and to ensure that incidents were being recorded correctly.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

**9. DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

The Board received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing Members with an update on current service delivery, actions and provisions around Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The Board were also presented with a Standing Against Domestic Abuse report as part of the City's co-ordinated response to VAWG.

A Partner referred to refugees in the City and questioned whether sufficient provision and support was available where it was needed and what was being done to reach out to families in need. It was explained how every effort was being made at providing support through circulating information to hotels and offering a translation service where it was needed, but with capacity being a concern should any increase be seen.

The Board noted that a Specialist Bangladeshi Advocate and Vulnerable Victim Advocate were now both in post and were accepting referrals.

The Chair acknowledged the range of services available and stressed a need to ensure those with a disability were offered suitable access to each service. It was confirmed that data was being captured that would offer a clear picture of those who were accessing the service, whether it was meeting their needs and that any issues were being addressed accordingly.

The Chair emphasised a need to capture relevant data across all Partners and proposed this be done through a uniform data capturing template, which would then make a real difference in assessing services being provided.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

10. **DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021**

The Board received a report of the Remembrancer updating on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Chair welcomed a comprehensive report offering an update on an important subject.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

11. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating on relevant activity from the Department since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

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

The Board received a report of the Executive Director of Environment updating on work of the Public Protection Service that was relevant to the Safer City Partnership Board.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

13. **CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

The Board received a report of the Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board outlining the Board's annual report for 2021.

The Director of Community and Children's Services referred to the report having been through a number of City Corporation Committees, with a key issue identified being knowing how to report any safeguarding concerns. A leaflet had now been produced providing relevant information, which the Director agreed to share with Partners so they would know how to report any safeguarding concerns.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

14. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE-ACQUISITIVE CRIME ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROJECT**

The Board received a report of the Commissioner updating on an Acquisitive Crime Electronic Monitoring Project.

The Board noted the project was due to go live on Wednesday, with the Metropolitan Police Service going live on the same day.

The Probation Service Representative confirmed the system would be used as part of pre-sentencing reports when considering any potential licensing condition.

A Partner noted reference in the report to there being no evidence to suggest the project would adversely affect individuals under protected characteristics. The Partner questioned if this was accurate. The Commissioner responded, acknowledging the Partner was not alone in their concern in this regard, but stressed it was about finding the right balance and tagging individuals being considered a better option than going to prison.

It was highlighted to partners that the system was being introduced to act as a deterrent; the project has already been running in six Police Forces nationally, it has proved effective in acting as a deterrent and has also seen a significant reduction in reoffending.

RESOLVED: That the report be received, and its content noted.

**15. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Role of the Partnership Moving Forward**

The Director of Community and Children's Services updated Partners on progress in looking at how to improve the partnership moving forward. Consideration was being given to a separation of roles, with the Strategy Board moving to an officer-based membership and Members providing an oversight and scrutiny role through a separate Scrutiny Committee.

The Director acknowledged all the good reporting coming through to the Board but questioned whether the Board was currently adding value and achieving the best results for all Partners. The Director questioned whether the Board was delivering bite in areas it wanted to look at or if a preferred option could be deep dive sessions instead.

The Director explained that the team were in the early stages of working through this and that they would be looking to align any future arrangements to an overall Governance Review that was currently taking place at the City Corporation. It was confirmed that a report would follow for the Board's consideration.

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Chairman

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