

Strategy Boards & Committee(s):	Date(s):
Safer City Partnership Strategy Board	05/09/2022
Subject: Agenda item 6 Safer City Partnership Strategy 2022-25	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services, City of London Corporation Author: Chris Williams, Community Safety Consultant, City of London Corporation	For Decision
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report sets out the proposed Safer City Partnership strategy for 2022-25. The Partnership is legally bound to agree a strategy to combat crime and disorder under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This paper outlines the proposed strategy, explaining its development, aims and objectives.</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree the strategy • Agree the process of developing action plans to deliver the strategy 	

Main Report

Background

1. As a statutory Community Safety Partnership, under s5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the SCP is duty-bound to produce a strategy and partnership plan informed by a strategic assessment of crime and disorder and engagement with the community about their priorities. The SCP is responsible for the implementation of the partnership plan and the monitoring of its progress. The strategy must have due regard to the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan published by the Police Authority.
2. The SCP strategic assessment was published at the May 2022 meeting of the partnership alongside a summary of the public engagement and consultation. At the May meeting the partnership agreed the following priorities:
 - Reducing neighbourhood crime and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), including in the Night Time Economy
 - Safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and Adults from harm
 - Violence against women and girls
 - Serious violence
 - Tackling serious acts of discrimination including hate crime

3. In addition, the partnership is obliged to consider two additional priorities under the legislation. These are:
 - Combatting Crime and ASB caused by the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area
 - Reducing Reoffending to protect our communities
4. In response to these priorities the SCP has drafted a strategy to outline delivery. This is attached.

Current Position

5. The existing SCP strategy ran from 2019-22 and by law the SCP must develop a new strategy to mitigate the principal crime and disorder risks in the City. The 2019-22 strategy had the following priorities:
 - Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded
 - People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person
 - People and businesses are protected from theft and fraud/acquisitive crime
 - ASB is tackled and responded to effectively
 - People are safe and feel safe in the Night-Time Economy
6. Alongside this, the City developed a Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy in 2020. During the development of the 2022-25 strategy Partners were clear that this should be incorporated into the SCP structure to enable governance, performance management and accountability of the VAWG strategy to take place.
7. This report outlines the process of developing the strategy, explains the content, and suggests a means of partnership delivery.

Options

8. The SCP has three options:
 - a. Agree the new strategy

The partnership has already, at the May meeting, agreed a set of priorities for the strategy. By adopting the strategy partners can commit to delivering the new priorities within the timeframe. Partners have had an opportunity to review, comment upon, and edit the strategy through the development period (May-August 2022).
 - b. Reject the strategy and develop a replacement

If partners choose to reject the strategy the SCP will have to resource the development of a replacement strategy. This will have a significant impact both financially and in the ability of the partnership to deliver a new strategy within the timeframe. The partnership will not have an agreed set of priorities upon which to deliver and as a result there may be a negative impact on crime and disorder in the Square Mile.
 - c. Do nothing

Without replacing the strategy the SCP would be in breach of its obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act. As well as having a potentially negative impact on crime and disorder in the Square Mile, the partnership may find it difficult to coordinate activity and access grant funding.

9. It is recommended that the partnership adopt the proposed strategy.

Proposals

10. Whilst agreeing the new strategy will fulfil a statutory function for the partnership, there remains the requirement for the SCP to deliver the agreed actions within. The SCP will have a key role in overseeing the delivery of the strategy.
11. Following the agreement of the strategy the SCP will need to establish a set of working groups to populate action plans for each strand of the strategy. The working groups will be made up of those statutory partners who are responsible for delivering each priority. The action plans will bring together existing actions held in each partner agency alongside newly-commissioned multi-agency activity agreed by partners to deliver the priority.
12. Where appropriate the SCP should oversee delivery groups to ensure that the action plans are being successfully developed and delivered. The existing VAWG and ASB groups can be repurposed to oversee the relevant priorities, and the partnership may seek to establish sub-groups to deliver each of the other priorities. The initial objective of each group will be to complete an action plan.
13. Over the course of the strategy the delivery groups will oversee individual action plans and ensure that delivery is taking place. The chair of each delivery group will sit on the SCP and report on progress at each meeting. This will allow an opportunity to escalate concerns and highlight successes as they occur.
14. Each group will agree a set of performance measures which will enable them to ascertain the success of the partnership arrangements. These performance measures will be brought together to create a performance management dashboard for the SCP. At each meeting partners will be able to analyse and understand performance against the priorities, agreeing mitigation if required and holding sub-groups and partners to account for delivery.
15. In turn, the SCP will be held to account for delivery by the Crime and Disorder scrutiny panel. It is a statutory obligation for the local authority to hold an annual scrutiny of crime and disorder and any member of the SCP can be invited to attend and provide evidence to the scrutiny panel.
16. Earlier this year the Police, Courts and Sentencing Act was passed, which brings a new Serious Violence Duty onto partnerships. Although this Duty is not yet enacted, the partnership has chosen to adopt Serious Violence as a priority and will work to meet the obligations laid out in the draft statutory guidance. This will support the partnership to be prepared once the enactment takes place, which is likely to be in early 2023.
17. It is not recommended that standing sub-groups are established for the Hate Crime and Reducing Reoffending priorities. Numbers of hate crimes are low in the Square Mile and the SCP will monitor these, providing routes and encouragement for reporting, and seek to develop firm policies and procedures to tackle them when they occur. There are currently no prolific offenders resident in the City of London and hence the reoffending strategy will be developed as preparation in case this situation should change.

Strategic Implications

18. Agreeing a delivery and performance management mechanism will support the delivery of the SCP's strategic aims and objectives, and will provide a structure for tackling the most relevant issues to the partnership and reducing crime and disorder in the City of London.

Implications

19. The adoption of this strategy meets our statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation, statutory instruments and statutory guidance.
20. There are no financial implications other than an agreement by partners to utilise their resources in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the City of London, as per s17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Conclusion

21. The Safer City Partnership will not only fulfil its statutory obligations but will also place itself in a strong position to deliver a safer City of London by the adoption and delivery of this strategy.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Safer City Partnership Strategy
- Appendix 2 – template SCP action plan

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