

Committee(s): Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee	Dated: 21/09/2023
Subject: Report of the Chair of the City of London Safer City Partnership	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
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Commander Umer Khan	For Information
Report author: Richard Riley, Director City of London Police Authority	

Summary

This report provides some context to, and summarises the discussion at, the latest meeting of the City of London Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy Board on 4 September. It covers the three areas agreed by the SCP for priority focus in 2023/24: anti-social behaviour, serious violence, and reducing re-offending. It also records the approach being taken by the SCP to the allocation of funds derived from Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) recoveries.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (SCP) operates as the City of London's statutory Community Safety Partnership. The requirement to have such a partnership is set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation and regulations. Responsible Authorities are required to work together to address community safety issues in a relevant local authority area. For the City of London, the Responsible Authorities are the City of London Corporation, the Commissioner of the City of London Police, the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board (ICB), the London Fire Commissioner and London Probation Service. The Terms of Reference for the SCP are set out in Appendix 1.

SCP Evolution

2. The SCP has evolved over time, reflecting the changing nature of crime and community safety in the City, changes to partners' operational activities and priorities, and the evolution of the City itself.
3. Over the past twelve months, the SCP has developed and published a new overall strategy (copy at Appendix 2), established new governance arrangements to oversee delivery of that strategy, and put in place transparent procedures for assessing bids for funding to support partnership activity. At its June 2023 meeting, the SCP Strategy Board decided to narrow the primary focus of the SCP for 2023/24 to three priority areas: anti-social behaviour, serious violence, and reducing re-offending. An overall update from the SCP Chair, Commander Umer Khan, is at Appendix 3.

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee role

4. As set out in the papers presented to the meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee on 13 June 2023, the essential purpose of the Committee is to scrutinise the work of the City of London SCP. It should operate as a check on whether the SCP is delivering what it said it would do. At the Committee meeting on 13 June, Members expressed a desire to scrutinise discussions and decisions made at the SCP Strategy Board which precedes each Committee meeting. The most recent such Board took place on 4 September.

SCP Strategy Board meeting on 4 September 2023

5. The discussion at the SCP Strategy Board on 4 September can be summarised as follows:

Crime trends

6. The Board received a presentation on recent crime and anti-social behaviour trends based on City Police data. The intention is, in future, for data from other partners to be brought together with police data to produce a fuller picture of community safety issues and trends to better inform SCP activity, particularly in terms of crime prevention.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

7. The Board discussed an update from the SCP's anti-social behaviour subgroup, copy at Appendix 4. The Board noted the range of tactical activity being undertaken to tackle ASB, backed up by work on new Corporation ASB policy and Standard Operating Procedure documents, and supported by a bid to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.

Serious Violence

8. The focus of the work of the serious violence sub-group (outlined at Appendix 5) is on the production, by January 2024, and implementation of a new serious violence strategy. The Board noted that consultants (Crest Advisory) had been enlisted to produce an analysis of the City's risk factors, characteristics and profile of serious violence offences. This will form the basis of a more comprehensive strategic needs analysis. The Sub-group update also set out the work carried out to fully understand the range of tactical work already in hand to tackle serious violence, and on the work to shape the forthcoming strategy.

Reducing re-offending

9. The reducing reoffending sub-group has been slower in getting into its stride in comparison with those dealing with ASB and serious violence. The update given to the Board is at Appendix 6. The Board was informed that work was now in hand to clarify the make-up of the City and its needs in terms of reducing reoffending.

Safeguarding

10. In addition to the three priority areas (above), the Board received an update on a range of child safeguarding issues, including the publication of an update report from the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) on the Child Q case. This will be considered by a future meeting of the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee of the Police Authority Board.

Funding

11. The SCP holds an allocation of funds - derived from recovered Proceeds of Crime Act - it can disperse to support projects furthering the aims and objectives of the Partnership and its strategy. To ensure a fair, transparent and consistent approach, the SCP has developed an agreed criteria and process for applicants. Details are attached at Appendix 7. An initial 'expression of interest' is reviewed by the relevant subgroup of the SCP – and progress for full assessment if supported. External partners – those not one of the 'responsible authorities' of the SCP – submit an application to the City Corporation's Central Grants Unit to undertake due diligence and a formal assessment. The recommendations of this assessment are reviewed by the SCP for decision.
12. Three current bids are subject to assessment by the Central Grants Unit. Their assessment was delayed due to summer leave and therefore the SCP decided to receive and review the assessments as an urgent item outside of the cycle of SCP meetings. This will enable timely mobilisation of the projects (assuming support) ahead of the busier night time economy activity over the coming months.

13. A number of pipeline bids are in development. An additional SCP meeting in October will review these in the round to agree a strategic programme that best fits, and will impact upon, the priorities of the Partnership.

Future activity

14. The SCP Strategy Board will continue to oversee and drive work in the priority area sub groups and agree (as above) funding for specific partnership projects. It will become more forward-looking, data-driven and intelligence-led.

15. There is a requirement, under the Crime and Disorder Act, for the SCP to carry out an annual review of data concerning crime, disorder and community safety (usually collected together in a strategic assessment document). The last such assessment was completed in May 2022. Work is underway on a new assessment. The aim is for this to be presented to the SCP Strategy Board for sign off by the end of the year, and to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in early 2024.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Safer City Partnership Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 – Safer City Partnership Strategy 2022 – 25
- Appendix 3 – Update from the SCP Chair
- Appendix 4 – ASB update
- Appendix 5 – Serious Violence update
- Appendix 6 – Reducing Re-offending update
- Appendix 7 – Funding application process

Richard Riley

Director, City of London Police Authority

richard.riley@cityoflondon.gov.uk