

Strategy Boards & Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership Strategy Board	29/01/2024
Subject: Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan 2022-2025 implementation progress, focused on tackling serious acts of discrimination including Hate Crime, Violence Against Women and Girls and Safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and adults from harm.	
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Summary	
The purpose of this report is to provide partners and the public an update on the Safer City Partnership Strategy implementation through the progress of the action plans in the areas of tackling serious acts of discrimination including Hate Crime, Violence Against Women and Girls and safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and adults from harm.	
Recommendation	
Partners are asked to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy 2022-2025 was agreed at the end of 2022 and 7 priorities were decided in the plan. The SCP since then had a revision and re-structure proposed by the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) legal team.
2. New legislation introduced in 2022/2023 affected the direction and responsibility of the SCP priorities. Central Government introduced a 10-year

plan and a group responsible for drugs misuse, the 'Combating Drugs Partnership' and therefore the SCP statutory priority toward tackling substance misuse linked to crime and disorder, have now been moved to the City and Hackney Combating Drugs Partnership.

3. Central government introduced the Serious violence Duty at the end of 2022, with a request to create a new strategy in 2023. The SCP has given this area special priority in order to complete the Serious Violence strategy in time for the first meeting in 2024.
4. Two priorities are led by long established groups. Safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and adults from harm is led by the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership board. Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG) is led by the VAWG Strategic Delivery Group.
5. The SCP strategic delivery groups are responsible for the implementation of the SCP strategy, and with new priorities, three new groups were created. The Antisocial behaviour, Serious Violence and Reoffending delivery groups. These areas were given special priority by the SCP strategy board as they needed more support from senior officers in comparison to the established groups.
6. This report gives the public an update regarding the strategy implementation of three priorities 'tackling serious acts of discrimination including Hate Crime, Violence Against Women and Girls and safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and adults from harm.'
7. The other three priorities have their own individual reports.

Current Position

Tackling serious acts of discrimination including Hate Crime

8. The Hate Crime Implementation Plan in appendix 1 show progress on the actions initially marked and the individual agencies who were responsible for that progress. Hate crime numbers in the Square Mile are exceptionally low with the police being the only agency who received reports of Hate Crime in the last few years.
9. The plan aimed to increase reporting of hate crimes, improve police response and victim support, and build community confidence. Actions to increase reporting include communication campaigns, establishing referral processes, and training for staff. Outcomes are being tracked through Hate Crime reports and sanctions.
10. For police response, they are exploring use of community resolution and restorative justice to improve victim satisfaction.

11. For victim support, they are raising awareness of services, updating referral processes, and ensuring victims have access to support information.
12. To build confidence, the City Police are utilizing CCTV and patrols to support evidence gathering and prosecution, as well as updating online information.
13. Progress is being tracked through key performance indicators such as the number of community resolutions, sanctioned detection rates, and unreported crime rates.
14. Key partners in delivery include the City of London Police, British Transport Police, the City of London Corporation, and Victim Support.
15. Overall, the plan takes a collaborative, victim-focused approach to tackling hate crime through improved reporting, response, support, and community engagement.

Reduce and Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

16. The VAWG Implementation Action Plan in appendix 2, shows considerable progress and completion of most the actions and the positive work individual agencies have been doing. In the City of London, we have a multi-agency approach to preventing and responding to VAWG. This response is coordinated by the City of London VAWG Strategic Delivery Group, who meet quarterly and are accountable for the City of London VAWG Implementation Action Plan.
17. The 2023 plan aimed to contribute to three objectives. Firstly, people are prevented from becoming victims of VAWG, secondly, people affected by VAWG have access to support services and lastly perpetrators of VAWG are held to account. Key partners listed within the plan include the City of London Corporation, the City of London Police, Victim Support, and other agencies working to tackle VAWG.
18. Regarding objective one, significant effort has been made to ensure that teams within the City of London Corporation and City of London Police are adequately trained in VAWG related topics, have knowledge and confidence to respond to VAWG and prevent it from occurring. Training has been embedded within several teams within the Department of Community and Children's Services and other training has been made available to the wider staff population within the Corporation. The City of London Police have embedded regular training for all officers focused on domestic abuse and vulnerability.
19. Teams that have responsibility for people have been requested to provide regular data to compliment the picture and understanding of the scale and context of VAWG in the Square Mile, the City of London Police continue to provide data on the VAWG related incidents, which provides an analysis on the VAWG activity and what we see in the City. Areas of need can be

determined, and new projects can be initiated. Consequently, we can prevent VAWG from occurring and individuals becoming victims of it.

20. Opportunities to learn more about VAWG have been widespread within the City of London Corporation, to encourage all staff to talk about it and increase their awareness, hopefully reducing stigma amongst the workforce and encouraging the Corporation to become confident interveners when encountering gender-based violence.
21. Focus has been made on licensed premises and hotels, and partners such as Victim Support have been instrumental in producing resources to be shared with them on domestic abuse, vulnerability, and the services available to those who find themselves a victim of crime while living, working, or visiting the Square Mile. The City of London Police delivered a forum with representation from several City hotels, where information on many matters relevant to their industry and how they can prevent VAWG was provided. This contributes to the first objective in that VAWG is prevented.
22. The City of London Corporation have been working closely with Safer Business Network, to implement two of their initiatives within the Square Mile. Firstly, the introduction of their e-toolkit, an online training package that can be put in place for staff within businesses and the hospitality sector, teaching on Ask for Angela and vulnerability. The Safer Business Network have received POCA (Proceed of Crime Act) funding from the City of London Corporation to support the development of this. The second project involves the City of London Corporation leading the way within the Square Mile with registering many of its buildings as 'Safe Havens', whereby buildings and the reception and security staff undergo rigorous training to provide a safe space for anyone in need or vulnerable, preventing VAWG from occurring by providing safe spaces for those who encounter problems or feel unsafe. The Safer Business Network will begin training and testing the facilities of the City of London Corporation buildings in spring this year and the aim is for local businesses and premises to follow suit.
23. At the end of 2023, an important campaign was launched focused on reducing VAWG and harassment in the night-time economy. This campaign focused on using key sharp messages in the form of physical assets and digital pieces, which are displayed within licensed premises, Corporation buildings and businesses, aimed to directly reach perpetrators, educate them, and tackle misogynistic behaviours that often lead to VAWG.
24. To achieve objective two, effort has been made to ensure voluntary sector services are kept up to date with new VAWG related policy and procedures, but most notably, training opportunities. Similarly, partnership with local services have been utilised, and arrangements have been made to work together to train front-facing teams in other areas within VAWG that training is not as regularly provided in. The advantages of this are that the services delivering the unique support are the ones training other professionals and this means that the training can be bespoke and relate directly to the context of the Square Mile. It has served as an effective way for teams to network and

find ways in which they can better their services through joint approaches and shared goals.

25. The City of London Police continue to run Operation Reframe, aimed to reduce VAWG occurring in the night-time economy. Statutory and voluntary partners join for a multi-agency presence in the City during the evenings of Operation Reframe, this provides public with opportunities to connect with the local police, local authority, other services and provides reassurance to those frequenting the City. A reminder of the services available and the humans behind them, encouraging people to access the services available and contributing to the second objective.
26. A service shared between the City of London Corporation and Police focused on reducing victimisation and preventing homelessness has gone through a refresh and series of changes to ensure it fulfils its aims and has a smoother and more efficient operation. This scheme ensures that victims of VAWG and domestic abuse are provided with support to make their property safer, with physical amendments being made, for example home security features. This scheme should be ready to start in early 2024.
27. In respect of the third VAWG objective, the actions in the plan relating to holding perpetrators to account focus largely on creating ways in which messages can attract the attention of perpetrators to encourage behaviour change. The campaign focused on tackling misogyny in the night-time economy aims to speak to perpetrators, call out their behaviour and educate them on what constitutes harassment. This campaign aimed to create a hostile environment for perpetrators in the Square Mile.
28. To conclude, the 2023 VAWG Implementation Action Plan has brought about a lot of innovative projects, training events and opportunities for multi-agency work to work towards the goal of achieving the three core aims outlined in the City of London VAWG Strategy. Through the training, ongoing spreading of information and knowledge and the continuous effort to bring partners together and apply knowledge gained into the community work, the City is a safer place for women and girls to live, work, study, and visit. Where VAWG does occur, agencies and the public are better placed to respond, and we build a more resilient community locally and wider. Looking to the future and in the creation of the 2024 Implementation Action Plan, successes and shortcomings will be considered, and the everchanging scope of VAWG will impact the new areas of need and the actions required in 2024.

Safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and adults from harm

29. The implementation of this aim is led by the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board as the areas in the plan are preexisting areas of responsibility for these boards. This refers to Appendix 3.

30. The plan covers child sexual exploitation, county lines, modern slavery, radicalisation, and cuckooing. All actions in the action plan have been completed except for two, both linked with training and will be delivered in 2024.
31. For CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation), actions focus on training, developing processes, disrupting perpetrators, and supporting victims. Progress is tracked through sanctioned detection rates.
32. For county lines, the plan centres on awareness training and contributing to the pan-London approach to identify and disrupt activity.
33. On modern slavery, the priority is increasing awareness through the City's modern slavery working group.
34. To address radicalisation, the plan details delivering training, closing down spaces for extremists to operate, and supporting vulnerable individuals through Channel panels. Efforts have been made to ensure that frontline workers and schools are trained in spotting the signs of radicalisation, with mandatory training being introduced in the City of London Police force. Likewise, the City of London Police and Corporation have worked together to increase this training amongst Corporation staff. In 2023, a review of the Prevent standard operating procedure took place. This ensured there were meaningful referral pathways for those identified being at risk of being drawn into terrorism and that the police and City of London Corporation deal with Prevent referrals in a way that mitigates risks and brings positive outcomes.
35. For cuckooing, goals include training partners to recognise issues, supporting victims, and bringing perpetrators to justice.
36. Key partners in the delivery of this action plan are the City of London Police, Corporation - including Community Safety and Children's Services, City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership, and housing providers.
37. The plan takes a collaborative approach across agencies to train staff, disrupt criminal activity, safeguard vulnerable people, and increase community confidence.
38. Performance is tracked through indicators like training numbers, detection rates, Channel Panel referrals and outcomes.
39. Overall, the plan aims to protect vulnerable people in the Square Mile from various forms of exploitation through joint partnership working.

Strategic Implications

40. All the work noted in this report contributes to the SCP's strategic aims:
 - Tackling serious acts of discrimination including Hate Crime

- Reduce and Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls
- Safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and adults from harm.

Conclusion

41. This report has outlined some of the initiatives that have taken place over 2023, through events, training and awareness raising. We have worked in partnership to achieve the SCP strategic aims for the 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Tackling Serious Acts of Discrimination and Hate Crime 2023 Strategic Implementation Action Plan
- Appendix 2 – Prevent and Reduce Violence Against Women and Girls 2023 Strategic Implementation Action Plan
- Appendix 3 - Safeguarding and supporting high risk and vulnerable children and adults from harm 2023 Strategic Implementation Action Plan.

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