

Committee(s): Safer City Partnership (SCP)	Dated: 29/01/2024
Safer City Partnership (SCP) – For information	
Subject: Prevent – Violence Against Women & Girls and Domestic Abuse (Taxi Marshalling initiative)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Contribute to a flourishing society (1)
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	For consideration
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	POCA
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	For consideration
Report of: City of London Crime Prevention Association (CoLCPA)	For Information / Consideration
Report author: Mr Don Randall MBE, Chair, City of London Crime Prevention Association	

City’s Corporate Plan

Contribute to a flourishing society

1. *People are safe and feel safe.*
2. *People enjoy good health and wellbeing.*
3. *People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.*
4. *Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.*

Summary

Violence against Women & Girls and Domestic Abuse is increasing locally and nationally with political law enforcement and local authority focus. In partnership with the Corporation of London, City of London Police, BTP, MPS, the City of London Crime Prevention Association, Safer Business Network, the EC-Bid and others, a series of initiatives have been activated to assist in the prevention, detection and reduction of these crimes.

One of these initiatives is to resurrect the historically successful Taxi Marshalling Scheme at Liverpool Street Station every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings between 22:00 and 01:00/02:00 hrs. The scheme was re-introduced on 2nd November 2023 and, to date, the Taxi Marshals have facilitated 2,913 journeys with total passengers of 5,440 of which 2,760 (50.13%) were female and of this number 30% were lone females. Every passenger is given a qualitative survey opportunity and 99% of the responses received state they feel safer as a consequence of the Scheme. Post the Christmas and New Year period, the passenger footfall has remained consistent.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- To note and receive the report and consider extending the project to enable the Taxi Marshalling Scheme at Liverpool Street Station to continue in 2024.
- A further POCA application will be made to cover the 2024/2025 period. Any shortfalls for this current or future year will be met by the partnership.

Main Report

Background

In a collective effort to address the pressing issue of Violence against Women and Girls & Domestic Abuse (Prevent VAWG & DA), a board comprising representatives from Law Enforcement, Security Industry Authority, Security Institute, the Taxi profession, Safer Business Network and others came together under the leadership of Don Randall MBE, the Chair of the City of London Crime Prevention Association (CoLCPA). Their goal was to champion the prevention of P-VAWG & DA and work towards making the city a safer place for all.

Acknowledging the importance and momentum gained by these initiatives, the board succeeded in securing financial support from Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding. Following law enforcement liaison, analysis of crime statistics and an independent public survey, the board decided to focus on Liverpool Street Station as Liverpool Street and the night-time economy was highlighted as an area of concern to female respondents. This financial support has played a crucial role in furthering this initiative to foster a safe environment for people working, visiting, residing and socialising in the City of London. This initiative is also designed to support the Corporation's overarching strategy for 'Destination City'.

Current Position

The Taxi Marshalling initiative, supported by the agencies previously referenced, and including The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers and the current Lady Mayoress as its Patron, will financially conclude at the end of January 2024.

Any additional POCA funding will enable the Scheme to continue to mid 2024. As stated, a further POCA request will be submitted for the period 2024/2025.

The initial pilot and continuance of the Scheme is supported by the City of London Police Violent Sub-Crime Committee.

There are two Taxi Marshals present, wearing high viz jackets and are briefed by both the City of London / British Transport Police and work in partnership with Op Reframe, and other various safety initiatives including those sponsored by the EC-BID.

Additional to the quantitative statistics already provided, the following are some examples of the qualitative comments received:

- “Having the taxi marshals helping outside the Liverpool station was the right thing. It literally made me think - great that there are people helping to get a cab, I feel safe. I didn't know such programme existed, I just felt so relieved they were there. I don't have to be extra worried something wrong could happen. Please keep this going. And the two gentlemen who were out there on the night of November 9 were lovely, polite and friendly. Thank you!”
- “Great initiative for a late evening. As a woman on my own there were lots of people bustling for taxis and this brought some order to it. Thanks”
- “Visiting for a long weekend. Travelling back to hotel. Marshalls gave feeling of security and certainty especially having a child in our company.”

There can be no doubt that the Scheme has been highly successful and greatly appreciated by those who have used it and has added to the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls.

Options

The threat and actuality of violence against women & girls and domestic abuse is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Therefore, this and other collective initiatives need to be continued.

Proposals

The issues of violence against women & girls and domestic abuse will undoubtedly continue. It is strongly believed that the Taxi Marshalling Scheme has added, and will add, to the safety and security of women and girls in the City of London. It is therefore proposed to continue the Scheme in conjunction with other preventative initiatives.

The Scheme is managed on a pro-bono basis by the City of London Crime Prevention Association on behalf of the various supporting organisations.

Key Data

1. Extract from Prevent - Violence Against Women & Girls and Domestic Abuse (P-VAWG and DA) survey results:

- 99% of respondents say they feel safer because of the scheme
- Only 1 in 20 think the City is very safe
- Only 7% feel very safe after dark (significant impact on feeling safe at all ages)
- 53% agree or strongly agree P-VAWG and DA is an issue
- Predominantly Night-Time Economy focus areas were identified – Liverpool Street and Bishopsgate

The P-VAWG and DA survey identified nearly 88% were female of the 500 responders.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications - NONE

Resource implications - NONE

Legal implications - NONE

Risk implications - NONE

Equalities implications – NONE

Climate implications - NONE

Conclusion

The Taxi Marshalling Scheme commenced in November 2023 and has been proved to be highly successful in supporting the safety and security of persons working, residing, visiting and socialising in the City of London.

The Scheme partners with a number of other preventative initiatives and is supported by the Corporation of London, law enforcement, and numerous other agencies.

It is requested that the Scheme be extended beyond its initial pilot.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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