

Committee: Safer City Partnership Scrutiny Committee	Date: 7 July 2016
Subject: Overview of Safer City Partnership priorities for 2015/16 and recommended areas for scrutiny	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: David MacKintosh, Community Safety Team	

Summary

The Court of Common Council has a statutory power under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 to have a committee to scrutinise the decisions and actions taken by the responsible authorities in relation to the discharge of their crime and disorder functions.

Within the City of London this area of work takes place under the umbrella of the Safer City Partnership. This is the first scrutiny of this work to have been undertaken by the City of London Corporation.

This paper provides a high level summary of current priorities of the Partnership and an overview of performance and key activities in each area. Members of the Scrutiny Committee are also invited to identify those areas which they would like to scrutinise in greater detail at the next meeting (approximately six months' time).

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report; and
- Decide which areas they wish to scrutinise in more detail at the next panel meeting.

Main Report

Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (SCP) is the vehicle by which the City of London Corporation and its partners fulfil their statutory obligations (under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and related legislation) and demonstrate their commitment to reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the City. It is also a mechanism to respond to the concerns of residents, workers and visitors and address issues of victimisation and vulnerability.
2. The SCP is composed of the following bodies:
 - The City of London Corporation*
 - The City of London Police*
 - London Fire Brigade*

- London Probation Trust*
- Clinical Commissioning Group*
- HM Court Service
- British Transport Police
- Transport for London
- City of London Crime Prevention Association
- Residents' representatives
- Business representatives
- Voluntary Sector representative

Those marked with an asterisk are statutory partners under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and subsequent amendments.

3. Since 2006, there has been a statutory power via the Police and Justice Act 2006 and later in the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Regulations) 2009, on local authorities to exercise a scrutiny function to ensure that Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) are achieving their stated aims. The Safer City Partnership is the CDRP for the City of London.
4. To fulfil this role, the Court of Common Council approved the establishment of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in December 2009. The background to the Committee's existence is that "*provisions in the Police and Justice Act 2006 require local authorities to raise concerns on crime and disorder matters and to review, scrutinise, report on and make recommendations on the functions of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs).*" The provisions of the Act extend to the Common Council of the City of London and as such the City Corporation therefore has an obligation to fulfil the scrutiny function.
5. Within the One Safe City Programme there is a specific project looking at Community Safety and potential for more effective working across the Corporation and with City of London Police colleagues.

Current

6. Below are highlighted some of the key current or emerging activities.
7. Building on the work of previous years strategies and emerging requirements the SCP recently agreed the following priority areas for 2016/17:
 - Violence against the person (including domestic abuse)
 - Night Time Economy and Nuisance
 - Acquisitive Crime
 - Anti-social Behaviour
 - Prevent
8. Violence against the person – there has been a persistent rise in violence against the person over the last five years and 2015/16 was no exception, with a 20% rise in victim-based violence in the City over the period. Whilst this has

been a regional and national trend work has been undertaken with colleagues, including the City of London Police, to both better understand the drivers of this type of crime and develop responses to reduce the scale of the problem.

9. A considerable proportion of this type of offence occurs in the Night Time Economy and there is a significant correlation with alcohol consumption. Various initiatives have been undertaken over the years to help address these problems including the Safety Thirst scheme which recognises venues efforts to reduce crime and multi-agency prevention work such as the successful 'Eat, Drink and Be Safe' campaign run during the 2015 festive season.
10. Domestic abuse is an important category sitting within the *Violence against the person* priority. In 2014 a systematic review of how the City Corporation responds to domestic abuse was reported to the Safer City Partnership and detailed 83 recommendations to achieve a stronger, multi-agency response. These, alongside a Safe Lives review of the City of London Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), established a robust strategic action plan. Priority areas are MARAC, commissioning, training and engagement.
11. Key recent achievements include developing the membership of the Domestic Abuse Forum (DAF) to involve the expertise of the Community and Voluntary Sector victim's services to add to the Corporation's expertise in supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people and preventing violence and abuse. Engagement campaigns, including Behind Closed Doors, No Blurred Lines, 16 Days of Action and the Christmas Campaign gave awareness to residents and the business community on how to identify abuse and access support. The MARAC templates and protocol was updated to increase focus on support for victims, children and action for perpetrators.
12. Staff training has been offered on 'Domestic Abuse Awareness'. We will shortly be offering training on 'DIY Injunctions' to help victims be aware of how they can obtain civil injunctions. Work is ongoing to raise awareness amongst Corporation staff of 'Coercion and Control' following new legislative in the Serious Crime Act 2015.
13. Work has also been undertaken around Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) with the City & Hackney Health & Wellbeing Board signing off a policy detailing the response to FGM. This outlines the prevalence, guiding principles and the action plan to help prevent FGM and offers support to the women and girls who have experienced it.
14. Night Time Economy – the City of London has developed as a popular social and entertainment centre. Those attracted to its many bars, restaurants and venues are not just those who work or live in the City, it is also a popular destination for those from across London and beyond. Whilst the popularity of the City as a centre for socialising and recreation has many positives, inevitably these are accompanied by crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

15. Safety Thirst is a scheme open to all licensed premises in the City of London and aims to promote high standards in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, while also helping to ensure there is a safe and pleasant environment for people to socialise and enjoy the City. It is a collaborative approach between those working in the trade and the City of London Corporation, City of London Police and London Fire Brigade. 2015 marks its tenth year. All premises that meet the core standard can receive a 30% reduction of the Late Night Levy and the accredited premises of this year, as every year, were invited to an event at Guildhall to gain recognition for their achievements in this area.
16. Christmas Campaigns have seen the Community Safety Team work with partners (Mayor of London, London Ambulance Service and others) to coordinate and put together various safety awareness packs for the City of London "Christmas Campaign". The 2015 "Eat Drink and Be Safe" and 2014 "Party People" campaigns have both been evaluated as successful.
17. Acquisitive Crime – the City has continued to enjoy a steady downward trend in acquisitive crime, with 2015/16 witnessing a 9.6% fall in this category. Community policing continues to lead the response to cycle crime and cycle-enabled crime (phone snatches committed by persons on a pedal cycle). Pedal cycle theft has reduced by 27% (85 offences) against 2014/15 and is the focus of a crime prevention problem-solving group. Cycle Crime Week, a week of action against cycle crime, took place from 7 September, working with our partners from the Safer City Partnership, Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police and Transport for London. This ran alongside an ongoing campaign of bicycle marking and distribution of free high-quality cycle locks to those cyclists that met certain criteria.
18. Community engagement events, such as the recent City Residents meeting, provide opportunities to provide advice and anti-theft kits to help keep those in the City aware of the risks and reduce vulnerability.
19. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – City of London Police recording for 2015/16 saw a fall of 26% compared to 2014/15 (from 1129 down to 835 incidents). We are looking to improve recording and sharing of these incidents across the City Corporation and continue to treat this as a priority area.
20. This year the Community Safety Team has established a new group to look at high-risk individuals. The City Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CCM) has proved a valuable tool in boosting information sharing and promoting a problem solving approach.
21. The Community Safety Team are leading a programme of training to highlight the range of powers and tools available to tackle ASB in various settings, for example the use of warnings, Community Protection Notices and Criminal Behavioural Orders.
22. In order to address the concerns of residents and provide an opportunity to enhance their understanding of issues on the City's estates, the Department of

Community and Children's Services initiated a one-year pilot Neighbourhood Patrol Service project. The project was planned and initiated in partnership with the City Police, the Guinness Trust, the Community Safety Team, and the Homelessness Team. The patrols commenced on 1 August 2015 and complement the work of the police and other services.

23. *Prevent* – forms part of the National Counter Terrorism Strategy. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) places a duty on the City of London Corporation and other public bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The City Corporation has the lead role in delivering this duty and we have developed contacts across the organisation and with external partners to allow us to work effectively.
24. A major emphasis of work for the coming year will be training for staff. This will consist of face to face and e-learning around WRAP- Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (a Home Office designated product) and more bespoke training for staff in key areas, such as those working with vulnerable children or adults.
25. We also plan to undertake communications work with our communities to help improve understanding of Prevent and counter the often negative portrayal of its purpose.

Options

26. The Scrutiny Panel can identify any area of the SCP's work as being suitable for a more detailed examination. If an area is identified officers will be tasked with providing a briefing to a dedicated scrutiny panel session, which it is suggested be held in approximately six months' time to allow for an appropriately detailed review to be conducted.

Proposals

27. Due to the rise number of incidents of *Violence against the person*, Members may wish to understand further the context and details behind these. Given the association with the changes in our night-time economy, Members might also want to combine a review of these priority areas.

Conclusion

28. Members are invited to consider this paper and agree on which areas they would like to explore in greater depth

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – 2015-18 Safer City Partnership Plan (circulated separately)

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