

Welcome to Harrow's Community Safety Plan covering the three years 2013/14 to 2016/17.

Community safety is not just about crime; it refers to all actions that can cause harm to communities. This includes environmental and pollution issues, substance misuse, domestic violence and child and adult safeguarding. These issues are often related and require collaborative working across the Partnership.

However, crime is the most people's immediate thought when the topic "community safety" is raised. The Metropolitan Police have been set three targets by the Mayor of London over the period to 2015/16. These are:

- Reduce the number of key crimes by 20%;
- Increase public confidence in the Police by 20%; and
- Reduce spending by the Police by 20%.

Each of these targets alone would be testing and so, together, they represent a significant challenge to the Police in London. However, the right action to achieve any one of the targets can support progress towards the others.

The key crimes are burglary, vandalism, theft of, and theft from motor vehicles, violence with injury, robbery and theft from the person. These seven crime types cause considerable public concern. Reductions in the number of these crimes will lead to a decrease in the fear of crime and promote confidence in the Police. Falling crime figures, combined with economies in back office and estate costs, will help meeting the financial target.

The crime reduction targets apply to London as a whole rather than each Borough. Although Harrow has the third lowest amount of crime as measured by reported offences per thousand population, it will still be expected to contribute to the overall reduction target. Partly for this reason, although mostly because of the anxiety and concern it causes, we have identified residential burglary as our highest priority crime. Residential burglary accounts for 14% of the Borough's total crime, a higher percentage than any other Borough. If the Borough is to make a significant contribution to the crime reduction target for London, residential

burglary needs to be prevented, detected and controlled.

Despite the spending reductions, the number of Police Officers on Harrow's streets is actually going to increase over the next three years compared with 2011 numbers by an additional 46 within the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and an additional 30 within other teams. This will increase the overall Police Officer establishment from 416 to 492. This will also help increase confidence in the Police.

The final part of the target relating to public confidence in the Police is usually considered to be driven by effectiveness in dealing with crime, engaging with the community, fair treatment and alleviating local anti-social behaviour. If the crime reduction target is met, this will make a major contribution towards achieving the confidence target. The engagement and anti-social behaviour drivers are issues where the work of the partners in Safer Harrow, our local Community Safety Partnership, is crucial in giving you confidence that Harrow is and will remain a safe place and that, if problems do arise, they will be dealt with effectively and quickly.

Locally, the Police with support from their partners have agreed to aim to make Harrow the safest borough in London. The Borough Commander said in launching the initiative "We will achieve this by monitoring crime trends and gathering information in relation to criminal activity and those committing crimes and by using a number of different tactics and technology available to us. We have two clear messages: We want to reassure the community that we are doing our very best to fight crime in Harrow and, we want criminals to know that, if they are intent on committing crime in Harrow, they will be arrested and face prosecution." The Community Safety Partnership will do everything it can to help achieve this ambition.

The Council has had to make savings for six years in a row now and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. As far as possible, savings have been found through increasing efficiency and introducing new ways of working, better technology, providing services for, or buying services from, other local authorities to achieve economies of scale and contracting with private and

voluntary sector providers. This has allowed front line services that support community safety as well as other priorities to be protected as far as possible. This is likely to become increasingly difficult in the years to come and so, although this Plan covers 2013/14 to 2015/16, there is little detail about particularly the third year. Nonetheless, keeping Harrow safe remains one of the Council's priorities and one which will we do as much as possible to fulfil.

In the coming year, we are working to establish a single virtual Anti-Social Behaviour Team that will combine information held by the Council, the Police and some social landlords to ensure that risk and repeat victimisation is identified quickly and effectively and so that reports of ASB made to different organisations are shared to eliminate duplication and decide on the most appropriate action.

The Council and relevant Partners have put a lot of effort into safeguarding children and young people' to promote their welfare and protect them from harm – as this is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

There has been a lot of publicity about fire station closures elsewhere in London but, locally, there are no proposals to reduce the fire service's capacity to keep Harrow safe. The future for some fire stations and the distribution of appliances is the subject of court proceedings but all of the plans include adding a second appliance to the Stanmore Station and retaining all other facilities. Changes to rotas and staff numbers, however, are part of the contested plans and may impact on the capacity of the Fire Service locally to maintain their current level and pattern of engagement.

The Justice Secretary announced plans for the future of the Probation Service late last year which, if implemented, will impact during the timescale of this plan. The plans include extending the scope of management of offenders to include those sentenced to imprisonment for less than 12 months – a group previously excluded from the scope of the Probation Service – but for the majority of medium and low risk offenders to be supervised by private and voluntary sector organisations. Increasing the

scope of supervision should help to reduce re-offending although organisations new to this area of activity may take some time to develop their offer.

The Public Health function returned to local government in April 2013. From a community safety viewpoint, public health is concerned with the provision of substance misuse services (drugs and alcohol) and in some of the Violence Against Women and Girls work.

Voluntary and community sector provide a wide range of services that contribute a significant amount to the community safety agenda. Our main providers of substance misuse services are charities, many community organisations work to support people affected by domestic violence. We know that anyone can be affected by community safety issues but there is a voluntary sector organisation devoted to supporting pretty much everyone when they need it.

Things you can do to help

- Report anti-social behaviour and crime
- Don't leave items on display in vehicles
- Make sure you lock your vehicle
- Lock your home (doors and windows) when it is empty
- Ask for a SmartWater Kit to protect your property
- Make your home look occupied even if it is not by using time switches to make lights and a radio come on
- Arrange a free home safety check and install and maintain a smoke detector
- Become a Neighbourhood Champion
- Become a Metropolitan Police Special Constable or a Police Volunteer
- Get involved with your Safer Neighbourhood Panel
- Learn the signs that young people might be involved in a gang or using drugs
- Tell the Council or the Police if you have concerns about the welfare of a child or young person

