

Working Together to make a difference for Harrow

Welcome to Harrow's Community Safety Plan covering the three years 2014/15 to 2017/18.

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. Many of these issues are often related and require collaborative working across the Partnership.

The Council's vision, "**Working Together to make a difference for Harrow**" is the key to improving community safety in the Borough. The vision, along with the Council's corporate priorities,

- **Making a difference for the vulnerable**
- **Making a difference for communities**
- **Making a difference for local businesses**
- **Making a difference for families**

show a clear commitment to targeting help towards individuals and communities suffering from crime and anti-social behaviour and towards families trying to support someone to keep out of trouble. They also support the ambition agreed last year by the Police locally and the Council to aim to make Harrow the safest borough in London within the period covered by this plan.

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%.**

In relation to the **first of these targets**, the key crimes (known as the MOPAC 7) 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.

The crime totals in Harrow for the MOPAC 7 crimes have declined from 7,557 in 2012/13 to 5,846 in 2013/14 – a reduction of 22.6%. This compares with a 15.5% reduction in the MOPAC 7 crimes for London as a whole. While reducing crime totals are welcome, there is still more crime in Harrow than in some other London Boroughs and so this continues to be a priority for the Council and the Police.

In particular, the crime type showing a current increase is domestic violence. The Council recognises the serious impact that this form of abuse has on families and children and has made keeping victims safe one of its priorities and will be allocating additional funding to this area in the current financial year. We hope to be able to provide help earlier in each individual's experience of domestic abuse to reduce the impact of that abuse and also help perpetrators to change.

On the **second target**, the most recent (September 2013) public confidence figures show that, in Harrow, 74% think that the Police are doing a good job compared to 67% in London as a whole and 82% think that the Police are addressing the things that matter compared with 78% in London as a whole. Harrow is contributing positively to achieving the target set for the Metropolitan Police.

Again, While these figures are encouraging and particularly for Harrow, there has historically been a very high level of fear of crime locally especially when judged against out comparatively low crime rates. The Council with its partners will continue to strive to reduce levels of fear so that residents do not feel restricted in their choice of social and leisure activities by an excessive fear of crime.

The Mayor's **third target** is about spending. The Metropolitan Police spent £2,526,320,000 in 2013/14. This was a 2.8% reduction from the previous year which still leaves a large savings target to find in the next two years. At the same time, the Council has had to make savings for seven

years in a row now and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. 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 2014/15 to 2016/17, there is little detail about particularly the third year.

In relation to the wider meaning of Community Safety, 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.

Also, Harrow Council and its partners totally condemn any form of abuse of vulnerable adults. Whilst it is recognised that the vast majority of carers (paid or unpaid) provide excellent care to those they look after, it must also be acknowledged that abuse can be perpetrated by anyone. Harrow's Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) has agreed a vision and a set of core principles and values for the Borough: "Harrow is a place where adults at risk from harm are safe and empowered to make their own decisions and where safeguarding is everyone's business"

The Council is also concerned about Hate Crime – that is any offence that is motivated by hatred for the victim's sex, ethnicity, disability or religion. The number of reported Hate Crimes in Harrow is very low 228 in the 12 months to June 2014. However, this was an increase of 19% over the previous year and evidence suggests that this is a crime type that is significantly under-reported. As well as the actions in this plan for addressing the higher volume crimes, the Council with the Police will try to increase public awareness of the criminal nature of abuse motivated by hatred. We hope that this will increase reporting to give us a genuine picture of prevalence which will provide a better idea of how to address this crime.

The number of fires in London continues to reduce which has enabled the Fire Service to increase their efforts to undertake Home Fire Safety Checks which play a major role in keeping vulnerable people safe.

The Service is also continuing to face periodic industrial action regarding changes to pension arrangements but to date, this has limited impact locally.

Big changes in the Probation Service are currently underway. 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 so there is a voluntary sector organisation devoted to supporting pretty much everyone when they need it.

There are plans for the Council's innovative Neighbourhood Champions scheme to evolve into a wider and more encompassing Community Champions scheme. While not detracting from the Community Safety message, the new scheme will encourage Champions to become involved in other areas of community support as well.

Community Safety Plan 2014-17

Aspect	MOPAC 7							Local Priorities			MOPAC Target
	Burglary	Violence with injury	Vandalism (criminal damage)	Theft from the person	Robbery	Theft of a motor vehicle	Theft from a motor vehicle	Anti-social behaviour –	Domestic violence	Reduce Re-offending – IOM Cohort	Perception/public satisfaction
Benchmark	1982	809	1010	302	430	244	1536	5964	402	Average reoffending rate – 52% in year 1	74%
Target for 2014/15 %	-5%	-6%	-3%	-8%	-5%	-1%	-7%	5%	No change	-10%	Maintain as above London average
Target number	1883	760	980	278	409	242	1428	5666	402		74%
Focus	London wide target: Reduce the MOPAC 7 crimes by 20% by 2016							Better co-ordination of information and interventions	Continue zero tolerance of DV and direct more attention to other areas of the violence against women and girls agenda	Continue Harrow Integrated Offender Management Scheme including use of MOPAC funding for immediate offender support	London wide target: Increase public satisfaction with the Police by 20% by 2016
Actions	Ensure that all Police processes for detecting crime and securing convictions are operating as effectively as possible so that all possible convictions are secured							Support London Councils efforts to roll out local authority use of Airspace, the Police case management system	Raise community awareness about forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM.	Target increasing number of offenders serving frequent short-term sentences for whom prison has little scope to rehabilitate.	Publicise improving crime reduction statistics
	Continue and improve data sharing and intelligence functions to provide the best possible information about those who commit crime, where and when crime is likely to be committed to inform the deployment of Police Officers to the best effect							Agree target timescales for interventions	Adopt and implement new VAWG Strategy and develop the new services it contains	Work with the new pattern of Probation provision to ensure that the Integrated offender management scheme continues to reduce re-offending	Improve public engagement in policing via Community Champions, Council and other employees acting as eyes and ears
	Put in place prevention measures to make it more difficult to commit crimes, provide better protection from crime for residents and deter criminals from operating in Harrow							Prepare for introduction of new powers	Equip as many Council and other agencies' professionals to recognise and refer victims of abuse to increase the scope for early intervention		Publicise increasing number of Police Officers available in Harrow
	Use CCTV capacity to support the detection of crime and to support prosecutions							Develop with LSCB a Gangs Strategy and implement it	Deliver the Harrow Shield Healthy Relationships programme		Publicise partnership working and develop narratives that reduce the fear of crime
	Continue Autumn Nights campaign to deter burglary. Renew publicity for Smartwater	Implement the new Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan	Utilise expanding CCTV capacity to help reduce criminal damage	Remind the public to be vigilant in areas of known pick-pocket activity	Via MOPAC, personal alarms will be made available to individuals at risk of robbery	Provide better publicity for vehicle security measures including keeping valuables out of sight and locking vehicles whenever they are unattended	Support the Harrow Families First Programme which this year is expected to introduce targets relating to crime, gangs and domestic violence	Improve the prosecution rate through earlier intervention and the use of technology			