

Harrow Community Safety Strategy 2015-2018

We are pleased to introduce Harrow's Community Safety Strategy for 2015-2018. The strategy brings together the work of Harrow Council, Harrow Police, The Fire Service, Offender Management Services in Harrow, Health and Public Health Service, voluntary and community organisations and the Local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards where their work relates to safety. These agencies share a priority to make Harrow the safest place to live, work and visit in London.

In the past, Community Safety Strategies have focussed on the volume crimes that attract a lot of Police, Council and public attention such as burglary and vehicle crime. These continue to be important but this strategy recognises that, for the community as a whole, there are even more significant issues including terrorism and radicalisation, the potential for child sexual exploitation and gangs. To help prevent high profile, community changing events, as well as addressing more everyday crime, Harrow needs to be a strong, united community and, therefore, this strategy is underpinned by work to enhance community cohesion and support.

Crime causes damage - be that physical, economic or social. The damage caused to each individual and to the wider community by crime is unacceptable. Crime causes fear which reduces confidence and resilience in communities. We all have the right to live our lives free from that fear. By tackling crime we improve the lives of offenders, their families and the communities in which they live. We can turn lives around - to make a positive contribution. By reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour we help build strong, resilient communities, in which people can thrive and reach their potential.

In recent years, there has been a downward trend in the levels of recorded crime. Nonetheless, dealing with criminals effectively is crucial. We must also understand why people commit crimes in the first place. We will only build a safer and stronger community by tackling the root causes - deep-seated issues such as people's relationship with drink, drugs, violence and deprivation. We want all people to be able to realise their aspirations, playing a positive role in a community that they feel a genuine part of. And we want all people to understand that getting involved in crime or behaviour that leads to crime is unacceptable.

Resident involvement in keeping Harrow safe and making it safer still is the key to our success.

Councillor Graham Henson,

Chair, Safer Harrow

Vision

The Council's vision for the future of Harrow is "Working together to make a difference for Harrow" and this is particularly relevant to the work of Harrow's Community Safety Partnership which we call Safer Harrow. This brings together many of the organisations that are contributing to making Harrow the Safest Borough in London to share their ambitions and plans so that we can integrate their effort and achieve a better and safer outcome.

The Council's vision for Harrow is amplified through four priorities which are also relevant to the work of Safer Harrow. These are:

- Making a difference for the most vulnerable;
- Making a difference for communities;
- Making a difference for businesses; and
- Making a difference for families.

Community safety is a thread that runs through all of these priorities from safeguarding vulnerable young people and adults, addressing anti-social behaviour that can blight communities, reducing shop lifting and criminal damage that undermines businesses and tackling domestic violence that breaks up families and, in some cases, leads to very serious injuries.

Safer Harrow has its own vision which is that Harrow becomes the Safest Borough in London and, as this Strategy will demonstrate, there has been significant progress towards this objective in the last year.

Harrow the place

In Harrow our population is growing, and is getting proportionally older (65+) and younger (5-9 years), becoming more diverse overall and seeing an increase in the size of families. In some areas of the community, the working level of English is poor, which increases the risks of worklessness. We are seeing an increase in the demand for services for those residents with complex needs and seeing a growth in health inequality between our most deprived and most affluent wards. Harrow continues to profit from its reputation as a tolerant and welcoming place for new arrivals but tensions can develop in communities that undergo rapid change and these must be effectively managed. Community cohesion is therefore an essential ingredient for Harrow to become the safest borough in London.

National Context

The Crime Survey for English and Wales (CSEW) shows that all crime is declining. The latest figures from the CSEW show that, for the offences it covers, there were an estimated 7.0 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over) in England and Wales. This represents an 11% decrease compared with the previous year's survey, and is the lowest estimate since the CSEW began in 1981. The CSEW covers a broad range of victim based crimes and includes crimes which do not come to the attention of the police. Decreases were evident for almost all crime types compared with the previous year; including vehicle-

related theft and criminal damage (both falling by 15%) and other household theft (down 9%).

In contrast, police recorded crime shows no overall change from the previous year, with 3.7 million offences recorded in the year ending September 2014. The renewed focus on the quality of crime recording is likely to have prompted improved compliance with national standards, leading to more crimes being recorded than previously. This is thought to have particularly affected the police recorded figures for violence against the person (up 16%), public order offences (up 10%) and sexual offences (up 22%).

The numbers of rapes (24,043) and other sexual offences (48,934) are the highest recorded by the police since 2002/03. As well as improvements in recording, this is thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes and the impact of high-profile prosecutions of well known people.

There was also an increase in the volume of fraud recorded (5% year on year), though it is difficult to judge to what extent this was affected by the transfer of responsibility for recording fraud offences from individual police forces to Action Fraud, or reflected an increase in public reports or a rise in actual criminality. It is thought that levels of fraud are substantially under-reported and so these figures may simply provide a measure of such offences being brought to the attention of the authorities.

Two other aspects of the National picture have informed the preparation of this Strategy. First, the revelations about and investigations into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, Oxfordshire and elsewhere have placed a renewed emphasis on this crime. Work in the West Midlands and elsewhere indicates that the number of estimated cases far exceeds those known to the local authorities and the Police. This has prompted the Community Safety Partnership, in association with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, to consider the governance of this issue, the readiness of staff in a number of organisations to recognise the signs of exploitation and the robustness of the pathways and interventions that follow reporting.

Finally, the recent high profile reporting of young people making their way Syria to support ISIS has heightened concerns about radicalisation and events in Paris and elsewhere have increased the assessed risk of the threat of terrorism. While counter-terrorism activity is mostly the responsibility of national agencies, the front line in relation to radicalisation rests with the local authority and the Community Safety Partnership.

London Context

The latest figures for London compare the year 2014 with the previous period. In this period, the total recorded crime fell by 1.4% with the biggest reductions being in relation to Robbery, Burglary and Drug related offences. Another way of showing crime figures is the number of recorded offences for each 1,000 people living in London. In 2014, this measure fell from 85.6 crimes to 84.4 for each 1,000 people.

The number of recorded MOPAC 7 crimes – those designated by the Mayor as a priority because of the impact they have on the community on a daily basis and which include Burglary; Robbery; Theft from the person; Theft of a motor vehicle; Theft from a motor vehicle; Criminal Damage and Violence with Injury – fell by 7.9% across London during this period. This represents a fall from 43.7 MOPAC 7 crimes for each 1,000 people living in London to 40.3 crimes.

Local Context

The latest local crime figures show that, for 2014 compared with 2013, crime in Harrow fell by 1% which reduced the number of crimes for each 1,000 people from 51.1 to 50.6. For the MOPAC 7 crimes, Harrow's reduction was 9.1% with 25.7 crimes for each 1,000 people – down from 28.3. These figures show that Harrow's crime rate is substantially below the London average.

The most notable reductions in crime locally have been in Robbery down 39% in the last year, theft of a motor vehicle down 18%, theft from a motor vehicle down 13% and Burglary down 12.5%. Set against this encouraging picture, there has been small rise in criminal damage of almost 4% and a rise of just over 6% in violence with injury. Much of this is attributable to increased reporting of domestic abuse, although there may also be an actual increase in abuse, but there has also been an increase in street violence.

This is the latest in a long series of community safety strategies that has been able to report a reduction locally, across London and nationally in reported crime which is also confirmed by a fall in crime found by the Crime Survey for English and Wales. The impact of a crime on individuals, families and businesses is not diminished but the number of individual, families and business that suffer from the loss and distress of being a victim of crime has reduced substantially over recent years and we are anxious to maintain this trend.

However, we are also aware that wider criminal issues could have an even more significant impact which is why this strategy considers the local potential for terrorist incidents to occur here, the threat that radicalisation can have on our young people and the wider community, the potential for Child Sexual Exploitation and the impact of violence and gang activity. Most of these issues have not been addressed before in Harrow's community safety strategies but the threat of all of them appears more real and more immediate than before.

Getting things done - Governance

Managing the interventions designed to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour is complex. There are services to help people who are victims of crime and a broad range of services and programme to help people who may be at risk of offending or re-offending. Many offenders are also victims and need the support of the services that safeguard young people or adults from harm.

Bringing all of these programmes together, making sure that gaps in service provision are identified and programmes changed if possible to fill them, eliminating duplication and ensuring that work achieves its objectives are all functions that Safer

Harrow is designed to achieve. In the past, Safer Harrow too often received information and but did not question the assumptions it contained or the challenge the rate of progress made. In preparing this strategy, Safer Harrow has reviewed its own purpose and methods of working and concluded that a more active and assertive role is required to make sure that the right things get done. While, as a Partnership Body, Safer Harrow cannot instruct other agencies what to do or how to do it, it can highlight need, encourage joint working, co-operation and participation in achieving improvements and solutions. It will in future also call for a greater degree of analysis to demonstrate how performance issues in one area impact of other services and community safety issues. Safer Harrow is aware that community confidence in the safety of Harrow is a factor of the quality of all of the services that address specific community safety issues and that many of these are inter-dependent. Safer Harrow provides the forum within which the impact of the quality of each programme can be assessed.

Safer Harrow has also started reviewing the web of sub-groups and meetings that have sprung up to address individual crime and anti-social behaviour issues. Too often, these work in isolation and do not benefit from other work already in place in the Borough. Safer Harrow will complete a governance review in the coming months to ensure that our scarce resources are used to the very best effect and that best practice is followed in all community safety activities.

Safer Harrow will also review its membership to ensure that it has links with the organisations that can help to address the issues detailed in this Strategy, and specifically will seek to include representatives of voluntary and community sector organisations, the health economy and specifically mental health services, and from community champions.

Community Cohesion

Community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another. So, with a population that is becoming increasingly diverse, it is important to work actively to identify changing issues, to maintain Harrow's high levels of cohesion and to respond quickly and effectively when there are tensions to be addressed. Our concern is not just with race and culture - it also examines the many factors that could divide our local community, such as social class, prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, disability, faith or sexual orientation.

Becoming complacent is one of the quickest paths to the breakdown of community cohesion, so we need to focus both on addressing the divisions that do exist – because as strong as Harrow's community is, it is not perfect – and on building upon the excellent work that has already been done by residents and community organisations, in partnership with local public sector organisations.

Cohesive communities have five key attributes:

- **Sense of community:** for example whether people enjoy living in their neighbourhood and are proud of it, whether people look out for each other and pull together.
- **Similar life opportunities:** the extent to which people feel they are treated equally by a range of public services.
- **Respecting diversity:** whether people feel that ethnic and other differences are respected within their neighbourhood.
- **Political trust:** do people feel they can trust local politicians and councillors and do they feel that their views are represented?
- **Sense of belonging:** whether people identify with their local neighbourhood and know people in the local area.

Local areas with a high sense of community, political trust and sense of belonging show significantly lower levels of reported crime. Rates for different types of crime are predicted to reduce as sense of community goes up. Therefore, Crime and anti-social behaviour is most prevalent in fractured communities.

These attributes can be influenced by other social programmes and outcomes such as:

- Social Mobility that widens access to jobs and training and encourages educational aspiration and enterprise
- Common Ground – a clear sense of shared aspirations and values which focus on what we have in common rather than our differences
- Participation to create a clear understanding and tolerance through doing things together and pulling together to achieve success
- Personal and Social Responsibility
- Tackling extremism and intolerance that deepen division and increase tensions
- Integration which comes from everyday life, and long-term social and economic challenges which create barriers to a more integrated community.

Other parts of the Council are working on these issues and we need to recognise the contribution that they make both to community cohesion and, thereby, to community safety. A number of studies have linked community cohesion with decreases in crime, but many have tended to focus on the social control aspect of community cohesion. The five key aspects of community cohesion set out above were identified in a more recent study. Of these, the sense of community factor was found to be the strongest predictor of various types of recorded crime. This sense of community factor is made up of some issues that include elements of social control such as whether people pull together to improve the area, whether they feel safe walking at night, whether neighbours look out for each other and whether they trust people in their neighbourhood. But it also includes a more general sense of camaraderie such as whether people enjoy living in the area and are proud of the neighbourhood.

The sense of belonging factor also contains aspects of social control. This measures whether respondents know many people in their neighbourhood and whether they feel a sense of belonging to the local area and neighbourhood. This factor is not a strong predictor of lower levels of crime. This means that you don't need to feel a strong sense of attachment to an area in order to benefit from the

sense of community that is linked with lower levels of crime. A sense of community rather than a sense of attachment is the most important predictor of lower levels of crime. This is good news for areas with high population turnover, particularly because this sense of community is not only linked with lower levels of violent crime (the type of crime most often linked with the presence or absence of social control), but also with other types of neighbourhood level crime such as burglary from dwellings, and theft of and from motor vehicles.

Countering Terrorism

The Government's Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, in the Home Office, works to counter the threat from terrorism. Their work is covered in the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

The strategy is based on 4 areas of work:

- **pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks in this country and against our interests overseas. This means detecting and investigating threats at the earliest possible stage, disrupting terrorist activity before it can endanger the public and, wherever possible, prosecuting those responsible.
- **prevent:** work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and extremism – Counter terrorist propaganda; intervention programmes for those at risk; reporting of illegal on-line material when it comes to light; Focus only on the vulnerable rather than give the impression that whole communities need to be convinced that terrorism is wrong
- **protect:** We know where and how we are vulnerable to terrorist attack and have reduced those vulnerabilities to an acceptable and a proportionate level; and
- **prepare:** working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover from it as quickly as possible

For the Council, the key provision of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act places the Prevent programme on a statutory footing. This was one of the recommendations of the Extremism Taskforce, which was set up following the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in May 2013. Recent events like the siege in Sydney and the attacks on Charlie Hebdo and Porte de Vincennes deli in Paris have put greater focus on work to prevent radicalisation.

The Prevent duty guidance, published alongside the Act goes into more detail. It sets an expectation that local authorities will:

- Establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate prevent activity and put in place arrangements to monitor effectively the impact of Prevent work;
- Use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles to begin to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
- Engage with Prevent coordinators, schools, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement and others as part of the risk assessment process.
- Mainstream the prevent duty so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the authority, in particular children's' safeguarding.

- Any local authority that assesses, through the multi-agency group, that there is a risk will be expected to develop a Prevent action plan.
- Ensure frontline staff have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.

The other specified authorities in the Act who are also subject to the Prevent duty include criminal justice agencies including prisons, educational and childcare establishments, health and the police. The Act provides a statutory framework for a joint local authority/police panel to assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and to put in place a support plan. This effectively places Channel on a statutory footing.

The Bill sets out that these panels are to be chaired by the responsible local authority. The Channel process aims to provide support to individuals at risk of being drawn into violent extremism. Channel is voluntary and an individual must provide consent. It draws on existing collaboration between local authorities, the police, statutory partners (such as the education sector, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services) and the local community and has three objectives: to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into violent extremism; to assess the nature and extent of that risk; to develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned

The Council and all of the statutory partners prepare for dealing with emergencies whatever their cause. Locally, emergency planning contingency plans have been prepared and continue to be updated to enable the Council and the emergency services to be as prepared as possible to respond to any emergency situation.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is complex and often intimately bound up with other problems and difficulties young people are experiencing.

Child sexual exploitation is child abuse and children and young people who become involved face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and well-being.

Often vulnerable children and young people are targeted by perpetrators; however, this is not exclusive to those who are vulnerable.

Young people who are in local authority care are recognised as being more at risk, but the statistics show that the majority of victims in London are actually living with their families.

Some children or young people do not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and do not see themselves as victims of exploitation, as they consider they have acted voluntarily. The reality is that their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting. It is important to remember that a child cannot consent to his or her own abuse. Greater weight and attention should be given to the reasons why they may want or feel they have to stay in exploitative relationships. Once entrapped into this

form of abuse, acts or threats of violence often work to prevent escape and access to help.

There is a link between trafficked children and CSE. Children are known to be trafficked for sexual exploitation and this can occur anywhere within the UK, across local authority boundaries and across international borders.

Tackling the underlying problems and difficulties experienced by young people is key to responding to CSE. Dealing with sexual exploitation as an isolated issue may, conversely, end up leaving young people more vulnerable if these other problems (i.e. substance misuse, housing, mental health) are not also addressed.

Creating opportunities for young people to build positive relationships is vital. Promoting young people's active participation in their own support is key.

The scale of the problem has become apparent in places across the Country only fairly recently. Certainly, the level of attention now paid to CSE is significantly higher than say, 10 years ago. Recent London estimate suggests that there may be as many as 2,000 cases in the Capital each year.

Tackling CSE is incredibly difficult. No one should underestimate this. It requires spotting the signs, helping young people to recognise their experience as abuse and getting them to trust public services instead of their abusers, often in the face of serious threats. Ofsted reports that "few local authorities have got it right".

Ofsted also suggests that to tackle CSE effectively requires a Council and its partners to mobilise their services and powers together. The Council has a duty to safeguard the victim and it also governs the landscape in which CSE potentially occurs including schools, care homes, parks, taxis and take away food shops. Councils have powers of licensing and regulation that can be used to disrupt illegal activity and keep the community safe.

Rotherham demonstrated that there can be a gap between a sensible policy on paper and the actuality of practice on the ground in which CSE can flourish. In Rotherham, this gap was facilitated by the overall culture of the Council, a lack of a shared vision, the complexity of partnership structures, and the lack of strong political and managerial leadership which inhibited the Council's ability to tackle failings, and lead the transformation of the Borough. Together with the LSCB and all bodies that have professional dealings with young people, we must ensure that the vision, culture, partnerships and practice is right in Harrow to safeguard our young people.

Partnerships need to develop the confidence to enable partners to challenge each other around performance with a view to collective improvement; to learn the lessons of inspection and other reports about themselves and other places; and to drive through the implementation of improvement plans. Across partners and within each partner organisation, there needs to be corporate ownership of priorities for which there is shared responsibility for progress;

While the LSCB is leading on the development and implementation of strategies and standards to address CSE in Harrow, Safer Harrow has an over-arching responsibility to ensure that all the elements of the Partnership are involved and contributing to keeping young people safe.

Gangs

In Harrow, a gang is defined as a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people, who see themselves and are seen by others as a discernible group and engage in a range of criminal and anti-social activities including violence. A gang will identify with or lay claim to a particular territory and, potentially, will be in conflict with other similar gangs.

Safer Harrow will bring together a Gangs strategy that seeks to reduce the number of young people drawn to gang membership through education, diversion and other means, equip existing gang members support to exit their gang, disrupt gang activity through investigation and enforcement, particularly related to gangs' economic activity; and enable the families of gang members to encourage and support withdrawal from gangs and to safeguard the younger siblings of gang members.

The Gangs Strategy will identify the scale of the gangs issue in the Borough which is currently low but needs to be addressed to ensure that it will not grow. The Strategy will equip front line staff in schools, youth centres and all other settings working with young people and where appropriate, parents, to recognise the signs that a young person may be involved with or at risk of becoming involved gang activity including;

- Withdrawal from family
- Sudden loss of interest in school, decline in attendance or academic achievement
- Use of new slang or unknown words
- Unexplained money or possessions or the unexplained use to which money has been put
- Changes in patterns of behaviour
- Signs of sexual exploitation
- Signs of the psychological effects of exploitation such depression and suicide attempts
- Concerns about going to certain areas
- Changes in dress, friendship groups.

The strategy will seek to bring together the data and intelligence held within partner organisations through data sharing protocols and through establishing Gang Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) within each organisation to gather, analyse and use data as quickly and effectively as possible. Safer Harrow will bring together the common themes which can make young people vulnerable to gang membership, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation and seek a common and over-arching approach to these factors over and above the specific work to address each strand of community safety activity.

Domestic Violence

Safer Harrow will oversee the implementation of the Council's recently adopted Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy and ensure that the impact of the Council's investment fund is maximised to support and maintain existing services and, where possible, lead to additional Domestic and Sexual Violence services.

The key priorities from the DSV Strategy are:

- an increased investment in services for high risk victims of domestic violence;
- an attempt to provide earlier interventions both through specialist support and by equipping professionals working for all relevant agencies with knowledge and confidence to recognise the indicators of abuse and refer appropriately; and
- increasing community awareness and capacity to counteract the influences that lead to forced marriage, honour-based violence and Female Genital Mutilation.

The Investment Fund's priorities are:

- an additional Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) to be based in Northwick Park Hospital, increasing the capacity of the IDVA based in Children and Families, increasing the capacity of MARAC support and beginning a trial of a Family Domestic Violence project to address violence in a family setting;
- A new campaign of information and training across all relevant organisations in Harrow to ensure that as well as professionals knowing the signs of abuse and how to refer cases, they have the confidence to act; and
- The active involvement of voluntary and community organisations in campaigns to raise community awareness to prevent wider forms of domestic and sexual violence.

The Council is re-commissioning its primary Domestic and Sexual Violence Services and hopes to provide an integrated and co-ordinated service that takes into account the provision made by MOPAC in the Pan-London service and the emerging needs around issues such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour-based violence and Forced Marriage. There are two indicators of the benefits of interventions that are being introduced – a professional's assessment and a client's assessment of increases in safety, support networks and freedom to take decisions. This will help the Council to assess the value of different approaches and to integrate this work with the Families First programme which is taking forward the Government's Troubled Families agenda.

The Council also funds individuals who are assessed as likely to benefit from such an intervention to attend a perpetrator programme which aims to change behaviour of men who use violence and abuse towards their partners. They run in small groups aiming to:

- help men stop being violent and abusive
- help them learn how to relate to their partners in a respectful and equal way

- show them non-abusive ways of dealing with difficulties in their relationships and cope with their anger
- keep their partner safer.

Volume Crime

The Strategic Assessment has identified that reported crime in Harrow fell by 1% between September 2013 and September 2014. This was a slightly smaller fall than for London as a whole which achieved a 1.4% reduction; however Harrow's crime totals equate to 50.6 crimes per 1,000 population whereas London as a whole recorded 84.4 crimes per 1,000 population. On this measure, Harrow had the lowest recorded crime level in London in the period covered by the Strategic Assessment.

A subset of crimes has been identified by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) which they feel more accurately reflects the experience of crime for most Londoners. The MOPAC 7 crimes are:

- Violence with Injury
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft of a motor vehicle
- Theft from a motor vehicle
- Theft from the person
- Criminal Damage

For the MOPAC 7 crimes, Harrow recorded a 9.1% reduction to 25.7 crime per 1,000 population compared to a reduction for London as a whole of 7.9% to 40.3 crime per 1,000 population. Of the MOPAC 7 crime types, only two increased in Harrow, criminal damage up 3.8% and Violence with Injury up 6.1%. Much of the increase in Violence with Injury is attributable to increased reporting of Domestic Violence. In relation to street violence, the crimes reported to the Police have been analysed and hot spots and high risk times have been identified. These are the town centre and are associated with the night-time economy and Northolt Road. Specific actions to address this are included in the action plan relating to public protection.

Safer Harrow will monitor the development and implementation of plans to continue to reduce volume crimes and foster the co-operation of partners where necessary to increase their effectiveness.

Ex-offenders are supported by the Probation Service to try to reduce re-offending and our Integrated Offender Management Scheme works to help those at most risk of re-offending to stay out of trouble. A lot of crime is related to addictions – mostly drugs and/or alcohol – and we provide services to help people address their misuse of these substances. Some anti-social behaviour stems from boredom and a lack of direction and there are schemes to address these issues that have been used with particular success by the Early Intervention Panel which helps young people who are on the edge of criminality and whose interventions currently have a 99% success rate in ensuring that these young people do not become formally involved with the Criminal Justice System.

Victims of crime

Under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime,

- Victims of the most serious crime;
- persistently targeted victims; and
- vulnerable or intimidated victims

are entitled to specific services including information about the progress of court cases and, in some circumstances, to the management of offenders as well as being afforded the opportunity to make victim statements at various stages of proceedings and parole hearings.

If you've been a victim of any crime or have been affected by a crime committed against someone you know, Victim Support can help you find the strength to deal with what you've been through as well providing some practical help. Locally, Victim Support can be contacted on 0845 450 3936.

Hate Crime

Hate crime happens because of hostility towards a person's race, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, religion or faith. No one should have to tolerate incidents of hate crime.

Tackling hate crime matters because of the damage it causes to victims and their families, but also because of the negative impact it has on communities in relation to cohesion and integration. There is clear evidence to show, that being targeted because of who you are has a greater impact on your wellbeing than being the victim of a 'non-targeted' crime. We also know that low level hate crimes can escalate quickly if not dealt with early, with victims often being targeted repeatedly. As a number of cases have shown, this escalation can have tragic consequences, if it is not challenged quickly. More widely, tackling hate crime effectively – and being seen to tackle it – can help foster strong and positive relations between different sections of the community and support community cohesion.

All the available research and testimonials from voluntary organisations suggest that hate crime is hugely under-reported. Some victims may be reluctant to come forward for fear of attracting further abuse, for cultural reasons, or because they don't believe the authorities will take them seriously. More isolated sections of the community are even more unlikely to report crimes. Under-reporting is a significant issue among the following groups:

- New migrant communities, including Asylum and Refugee communities
- Gypsy, Irish Traveller and Roma communities
- Transgender victims
- Disabled victims

Some people are targeted just because of who they are. Hate crime makes victims of whole communities with repercussions beyond those being targeted. Hate crime has a significant impact on the perception of crime, community cohesion and can

lead to feelings of fear, stigmatisation and isolation among those who share characteristics with victims, even if they have not been victimised themselves.

In his Policing and Crime Plan, the Mayor recognises that levels of hate crime are too high and that there is significant under reporting.

Analysis of the hate crime data undertaken by MOPAC indicates that in the rolling year to February 2015, the number of recorded offences in each category in Harrow is:

- Disability hate crime increased by 1 from 4 to 5
- Faith hate crime increased by 5 from 29 to 34
- Homophobic hate crime reduced by 1 from 10 to 9
- Racist and religious hate crime increased by 64 from 205 to 269
- There was no reported Transgender hate crime

Hate crime can be reported directly to the police. Additionally, the Council has commissioned Stop Hate UK, a national charity that works in this area to take reports of hate crime and to advise victims of the support available to them. Stop Hate UK provide anonymous and independent support and can be contacted on their 24 hour helpline, 0800 138 1625. Reports of hate crime can also be made online by visiting www.stophateuk.org or texting 077 1798 9025.

Harrow Equality Centre undertakes casework to support victims of Hate Crime.

Safer Neighbourhood Board

In 2013, MOPAC reviewed their support for local Police engagement and accountability structures and decided to sponsor the creation of a Safer Neighbourhood Board for each Borough. In Harrow, a Board was established in April 2014 and has met quarterly throughout the year receiving data packs on crime levels and police performance and submitting bids for projects to address issues of concern. The projects funded by MOPAC via the Safer Neighbourhood Board locally have included community engagement activity and the installation of a knife bin in Wealdstone. The Board considering now further work relating to gangs; violence against women and girls, further community engagement and work with Ward Panels, better interaction between the Police and young people, victims' understanding of the criminal justice system and the part played by different agencies, support for the Secure Streets initiative and possible work with the Romanian Community.

Fire Service

As part of the Fire Service's free, home fire safety visit they will assess your home and offer advice on how to make it safer; where appropriate they will fit a smoke alarm. The home fire safety visit is usually for people regarded as having a higher risk of fire in the home such as:

- Older people living alone
- People with mobility, vision or hearing impairments

- People accessing mental health service users
- Those liable to intoxication through alcohol and/or drug use

Visits shouldn't last more than a few minutes and could significantly help prevent fires.

The Fire Service also provides advice and information about issues such as hoarding which can increase the risk of fire and prevent quickly leaving a burning building, carbon monoxide poisoning, barbecues, bonfires and fireworks to help keep residents safe.

The Service also works hard to tackle the problem of arson. In 2010/11 they attended over 6,000 deliberate fires in London. This number is coming down, but more still needs to be done because these fires damage property, take firefighters away from training and fire safety work, and can even lead to people being hurt or killed.

They tackle arson by working closely with other organisations like the Police, and we also raise awareness of the problems of arson by using publicity and campaigns. Through youth engagement programmes they talk to young people about the consequences of crimes like arson and hoax calls.

A range of people help tackle arson including:

- Fire investigation units, teams who attend fires after firefighters have put the fire out. Fire investigators work closely with police to find out how deliberate fires are started. Teams use specialist equipment and techniques, and can even call on fire investigation dogs, trained to sniff out accelerants such as petrol.
- An Arson Task Force, which brings together the Fire and Rescue Service, the police and government departments, to reduce arson-related deaths, injuries and fire damage.
- The juvenile firesetters intervention team (JFIS), which works with young people who have demonstrated firesetting behaviour.

Data Sharing

One of the ways in which Safer Harrow can add value is by facilitating the sharing of data and information in a timely and relevant way so that those who need to, know about problems, issues, individuals of interest and those needing support. There is a number of data sharing agreements in place some of which are out of date and others which overlap. There may be gaps around what data can be shared even though there is a statutory obligation for public authorities to share data for the purpose of preventing crime.

Safer Harrow will sponsor a review and update of data sharing agreements and the governance of information sharing routes so that the right people get the right information at the right time.

Review of last year's Strategy

The 2014-17 Community Safety Strategy focussed primarily on reducing volume crime. The statistics set out earlier in this strategy relating to volume crime show that this has been significantly reduced. However, of the actions that were proposed as part of the last strategy, several have not been completed including:

- improving information sharing agreements and processes,
- a more co-ordinated approach to tackling anti-social behaviour,
- the development of a Gangs Strategy, and
- Optimising the potential of the Integrated Offender management Scheme.

These actions have been or will be taken forward in the action plans supporting this strategy.

Action Plans developed and owned the following Groups, which will be responsible for delivery, are attached or will be attached to the Strategy as they are developed.

DV Strategy Group - attached

Prevent Working Group – under development following a risk assessment to be completed in line with the new duty coming into effect from 1st July

YOT Management Board – attached (To Follow)

Early Intervention Panel – under development

ASBAG – under development

Community Champions – under development

Gangs - Group to be formed

MASE - under development, Group fairly recently formed

Drug and Alcohol Services – attached (To Follow)

Suicide Prevention – to be developed – Group recently restarted