Harrow Community Safety Strategy 2015-2018

Contents

Harrow Community Safety Strategy 2015-2018

On behalf of Community Safety Partnership I am pleased to introduce Harrow's Community Safety Strategy for 2015-2018.

In recent years, there has been a downward trend in the levels of recorded crime across the capital but more so in Harrow which is now the Safest Borough in London Nonetheless, dealing with criminals effectively is crucial, which aims to combine appropriate enforcement action with preventative and educational work. 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 that they are genuinely part of. And we want all people to understand that getting involved in crime or behaviour that leads to crime is unacceptable.

The strategy brings together the work of the multi-agency partnership that includes 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. We all 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. 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, gangs and Anti-social behaviour. 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.

It is the responsibility of all of us who live and work in Harrow to keep our borough safe. 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 ambition 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 although this could also reflect a higher level of offences.

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.

Re-offending has risen. A first time entrant (FTE) to the criminal justice system is an offender residing in England and Wales at the time of the offence, who has been recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) by an English or Welsh police force as having received their first conviction, caution or youth caution. The number of new entrants to the criminal justice system has continued to fall since its peak in 2006. This decline has been much sharper for juveniles than for adults; however during 2014 the decline slowed for both groups of offenders.

An offender's criminal history counts the number of occasions on which an offender has previously received a conviction, caution or youth caution for any offence and has been recorded on the PNC, including some offences committed outside of England and Wales. In 2014 the number of offenders with no previous convictions and cautions sentenced for indictable offences increased by 4%, with increases in all the main offence types except, robbery, theft and criminal damage.

In the latest period, the 12 months to December 2014, just over 102,600 adult offenders convicted of an indictable offence had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions (long criminal records - on average 33 previous sanctions). Around 2 in every 5 adults convicted had a long criminal record compared to just under a quarter in the same period 10 years ago. However, during recent years, there has been a decline in prolific offenders. The proportion of Offenders progressing from their 15th to their 16th conviction or caution has declined since 2009, and during 2014, there was also a fall in the number of offenders with 16 or more previous convictions or cautions.

Two-fifths of those convicted of an indictable offence with 15 or more previous convictions and cautions were convicted for offences related to theft – by comparison,

only 23% of those with no previous convictions or cautions were convicted for theft offences. For those convicted of a sexual offence in 2014, just under half also had a first offence for the same offence category and for just 5% of offenders, all of their previous convictions and cautions were for sexual offences.

Youth Crime figures show a reduction in first time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system. There were 22,393 first time entrants to the Youth Justice System in England and Wales in 2013/14. The number of FTEs has fallen by 80 per cent from the peak of 110,757 in 2006/07. The number of FTEs fell by 20 per cent between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Results from the 2012/13 cohort show that the rate of re-offending for young people was 36.1 per cent. This is an increase of 0.6 percentage points since 2011/12. The average number of re-offences per offender (frequency rate) was 1.08 in 2012/13, up from 1.02 re-offences per offender in 2011/12. The average number of re-offences per re-offender was 2.99 in 2012/13, up from 2.88 re-offences per re-offender in 2011/12.

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 to 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.

Strategy for the Metropolitan Police is now set by the Mayor through his Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). The Mayor has designated certain crimes as a priority because of the impact they have on the community on a daily basis. These crimes are Burglary; Robbery; Theft from the person; Theft of a motor vehicle; Theft from a motor vehicle; Criminal Damage and Violence with Injury. The number of these MOPAC 7 crimes recorded in 2014 fell by 7.9% across London compared to 2013. 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, and 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. Details of local crime statistics are given in a table at the end of this strategy.

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 and the threat posed by radicalisation as well as 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.

Aims and Ambitions

Safer Harrow's overarching aim is, as has been already said, is for Harrow to be the safest Borough in London. In attempting to maintain Harrow's current position as the safest Borough, we need to focus on more than just the volume crimes such as Robbery and Burglary. This is not because of the outstanding progress that has been made in these areas but because of the threat that terrorism, radicalisation and child sexual exploitation for example presents to our communities. This Strategy therefore focuses on these potentially community changing events in the following pages but also on the every day crimes and anti-social behaviour that we need to continue to reduce to make a difference for Harrow.

Getting things done

Partnership - The job of making and keeping Harrow safe belongs to Safer Harrow, our Community Safety Partnership. The partnership comprises the Council, the Police, the Fire Service, the National Probation Service, the new Community Rehabilitation Company that provides probation services to less serious offenders, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, a representative of the local magistrates, and the Voluntary and Community sector. We hope to be able to add representatives of schools and the Health Services in Harrow in the coming months.

Harrow Council - The Council's participation includes public protection services which are environmental health, trading standards, licensing and the anti-social behaviour team, Children's Services, especially the Youth Service and the Youth Offending Team, the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Public Health Services which include drug and alcohol services and Policy for Community Cohesion and work on radicalisation as well overall co-ordination.

Support - Managing the interventions designed to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour is complex. There are services to help people who are victims of crime as well as a broad range of services and programmes 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.

Working efficiently - In these times of austerity we need to ensure that we work effectively with unprecedented reductions in budgets within public services. 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 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 and encourage joint working, co-operation and participation in achieving improvements and solutions. Safer Harrow will in future also call for a greater degree of analysis to demonstrate how performance issues in one area have an impact on other services and on community

safety issues. Safer Harrow is aware that community confidence in the safety of Harrow is related to the quality of all of the services that address specific community safety issues and that many of these services are inter-dependent. Safer Harrow provides the forum within which the impact of the quality of each programme can be assessed.

Better use of resources - Safer Harrow has also started reviewing the website comments and ideas 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.

Sharing information - 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 can easily find out about problems, issues, individuals of interest and those needing support. There are 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.

Within the Council information is probably not shared as well as it could be to enable a joined up, seamless service to be offered to residents experiencing crime and anti-social behaviour. Safer Harrow will promote using technology to ensure that each of the public–facing services that support victims of crime and anti-social behaviour can access the history of all of the Council's interventions and communications with each victim so that the whole picture of what is happening and what has been done in the past can inform the development of new solutions.

Signposting - Technology can also ensure that up-to-date information is available to help Council staff signpost residents with crime or anti-social behaviour problems to other agencies if they are better placed to help resolve the presenting issue.

Membership - 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, as well as 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.

10

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 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.

Offending

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. The development of a local prevent Plan is underway and will be reported to Safer Harrow.
- 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.

One of the changes that the Government has recently made is to place an individual duty on schools to recognise and report young people who they consider may be at risk of being drawn into extremism. Head teachers across the Country are divided about their role in countering extremism. They are unsure about how to stop extremism among young people; and how to challenge the ideology that encourages teenagers to ghost themselves away from Yorkshire or London into war zones in Syria and Iraq. However, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, coming into force on 1 July, puts a statutory duty on schools to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. It specifies that being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

School leaders will have to make an assessment of the risk of children being drawn into terrorism. The Council is facilitating training for staff to identify children at risk and to challenge extremist ideas. Schools will have to ensure that pupils do not access extremist material online. There are similar provisions for Further and Higher Education Colleges and Universities.

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 Act 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 need to 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

The sexual exploitation of children and young people (CSE) is both complex and often inextricably linked to other problems and difficulties. It is defined as child abuse and those children and young people who are sexually exploited face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and well-being.

Some groups of children and young people are more vulnerable to targeting by perpetrators i.e. those in Local Authority care, but the statistics indicate that many of those being exploited are actually living with their families.

CSE is by its nature coercive but many of the children and young people experiencing this will not recognise this, believing the so called relationship with their exploiter is entered freely and not seeing themselves as victims of exploitation.
However, a child or young person cannot consent to their own abuse. Their behaviour is not voluntary and once entrapped in this form of abuse, acts or threats of violence may impede their escape and access to help.

There is link between CSE and children and young people who are trafficked for sexual purposes which can and does occur anywhere within the UK.

Tackling CSE is difficult due to the covert nature of the activity and the difficulty young people have in both recognising the abuse and being able to disclose what is happening to them to someone whom they can properly trust, perhaps in the face of threats from their abuser.

13

Creating opportunities for young people to build positive relationships and tackling their associated problems, as well as promoting the young persons participation in their support plan, are vital components in dealing holistically with CSE.

Nationally the scale of the CSE problem has only recently become apparent due in part to the publication of serious case reviews, Ofsted inspections, the Rotherham report and the Ofsted CSE review. There are an estimated 2000 cases in London each year.

The view from the Children's Services regulator, Ofsted, is that to properly understand CSE, disrupt activity, support victims and prosecute offenders, a Council and partners must mobilise services and powers in a coordinated way. This will include the regulation and licensing of areas such as care homes, taxis, take-away food shops, hotels where illegal activity may be known about or may take place.

The Rotherham report illustrates the impact of the gap between policy and practice in relation to CSE with the essential components of an effective approach missing.

Together, with all our partners, we will build, demonstrate and deliver a shared vision, clear confident challenging partnerships and strong political and managerial leadership which will act to protect and safeguard our children and young people from sexual exploitation. We will learn from others and from Inspection outcomes and drive through our priorities and improvements through a rigorous focus on performance. In accepting the leadership of the HSCB in developing and implementing strategies and standards in addressing CSE ,we will as Safer Harrow ensure all elements of the partnership are involved in and contribute to keeping our young people safe from CSE

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 with 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;

- o Withdrawal from family
- o Sudden loss of interest in school, decline in attendance or academic achievement
- o Use of new slang or unknown words
- o Unexplained money or possessions or the unexplained use to which money has been put
- o Changes in patterns of behaviour
- o Signs of sexual exploitation
- o Signs of the psychological effects of exploitation such depression and suicide attempts
- o Concerns about going to certain areas
- o 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. The Strategy will also consider the use of the new Gang Injunctions which is a civil tool to prevent a person from encouraging or assisting gang-related violence, and gang-related drug dealing. An injunction can impose impositions such as prohibiting contact or association with other gang members and/or positive requirements such as attending an apprenticeship programme.

Domestic Violence

Safer Harrow will oversee the implementation of the Council's recently adopted Domestic and Sexual Violence (DSV) 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 support to the Multi Agency Risk assessment Conference (MARAC) 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.

Abuse by adolescents towards their parents and abuse of older people also fall within the definition of Domestic Abuse and plans for addressing these forms of abuse are being developed.

Volume Crime

The Strategic Assessment has identified that reported crime in Harrow fell by 1% between September 2013 and September 2104. This was a slightly smaller fall than that 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 with 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.

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 and 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 date 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.

An action that is common to the Hate Crime and Domestic Violence categories is improving reporting rates so that not only are individual cases able to be addressed but the actual scale of the problems emerges. The most effective way of increasing reporting rates is for cases to be resolved quickly and effectively and for those outcomes to be publicised so that other victims see the value in reporting. Other approaches include developing better partnerships with schools generally as young people appear to be disproportionately at risk of being victims of Hate Crime.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour can have a devastating effect on people's lives. Incidents of anti-social behaviour can range from something that is a mild annoyance to something that causes fear and insecurity. It could be a one-off event or something that happens over and over again. We define anti-social behaviour as "any conduct or activity that causes harm to an individual, to a community or to their environment". This could be an action by someone else that leaves you feeling alarmed, harassed or distressed. It can include noisy or abusive neighbours, littering or graffiti. Some of this behaviour is criminal and therefore illegal whereas other forms of anti-social behaviour can be addressed through other means such as tenancy conditions or civil injunctions.

You do not have to put up with anti-social behaviour. If you cannot deal with it yourself and you need to report it, you can contact police or your local council. If you live in social housing, you can report it to your landlord. The Council and the Police work very closely together to sort out anti-social behaviour.

If you are suffering disproportionately because you are vulnerable, or because there is repeated anti-social behaviour occurring, we will treat you as a priority. Please tell the Council, Police or your landlord about your circumstances when you call. Your report will be assessed and, wherever appropriate, an officer will be sent to investigate.

Re-offending

Across the country as a whole, the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system is declining, both amongst young people and adults. This is perhaps not surprising as overall crime is declining. However, again in both young people and adults, the rate of re-offending is increasing. As many as one in four offenders commit another offence within a year of release.

There have been changes in the Probation Service recently with the creation of Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) to take over the supervision of all but the most serious offenders. Their remit includes supervising people who were sentenced to imprisonment for less than 12 months – a group who previously received no supervision at all. It is hoped that this will address rising re-offending rates.

One of the initiatives that CRCs will continue are Integrated Offender Management (IOM) schemes which target through enhanced supervision and practical support those offenders most likely to re-offend. In Harrow, there has been an IOM scheme running for several years and will now include people who had short custodial sentences but are at high risk of re-offending.

More serious offenders are still managed under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) which will be overseen by the National Probation Service.

Support

Victims of crime

A range of victim services have been developed across London, delivered both by statutory agencies and the VCS. The type of support offered varies from helplines and online forums to direct work with victims offering emotional and practical support. The length of contact victims have with services is determined according to their need.

However, more than half of the providers surveyed through a review of victim services commissioned by MOPAC rated the quality of support services provided to victims and witnesses in London to be 'average'. Moreover, less than one third of providers agreed that effective mechanisms are in place to ensure that victims are referred or signposted to the appropriate local victim services. This was most frequently felt to be the case among organisations dealing with victims of hate crime, domestic violence and repeat victimisation. Among those victims who report the crime to the police, the availability and quality of support across the system is seen to be variable. Overall, victims were largely dissatisfied with their experience of the criminal justice process, with criticism frequently directed towards the role of the CPS and the judiciary and the need for greater acknowledgement of the emotional impact the process has on victims. Victims report feelings of being dismissed, patronised and powerless and receiving a lack of information and support by court services.

MOPAC will be commissioning a London-wide Victims Service in 2015 that will ensure that the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime becomes a reality. The Code provides, amongst other things that entitlement to specific services is available to:

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

These services include information about the progress of court cases and, in some circumstances, about the management of offenders as well as victims being afforded the opportunity to make victim statements at various stages of proceedings and parole hearings. In particular, the Code says that support will be available for victims and witnesses throughout any criminal proceedings which it is hoped will reduce the number of trials that fail because witnesses do not attend.

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.

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 is now considering 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, promoting 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, barbeques, 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.

Review of last year's Strategy

The 2014-17 Community Safety Strategy focused 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.

Progress on the Action Plans developed and still to be developed that are owned the following Groups will be reported to Safer Harrow on a regular basis.

Groups	Lead
Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy Group	Alex Dewsnap
Prevent Working Group	Samia Malik
Youth Offending Team Management Board	Chris Spencer
Early Intervention Panel	Richard LeBrun
Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group	Janice Noble
Community Champions	David Corby
Gangs Group	Mike Howes
Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting (MASE)	Richard Metcalf
Drug and Alcohol Services	Bridget O'Dwyer
Suicide Prevention	Sarah Crouch

MOPAC Crimes in Harrow 2013 & 2014

All figures stated below were taken from the MET Police website that was available at the end of January 2015.

Violence with Injury	Robbery	Burglary	Theft from a Person	Theft of a Motor Vehicle	Theft from a Motor Vehicle	Criminal Damage
+ 6.1%	**- 39.0%**	**- 12.5%**	**- 15.9%**	**- 17.9%**	**- 13.1%**	**+ 3.8%**
2013 Time Period: **1,120**	2013 Time Period: **503**	2013 Time Period: **2,097**	2013 Time Period: **339**	2013 Time Period: **234**	2013 Time Period: **1,340**	2013 Time Period: **1,134**
2014 Time Period: **1,188**	2014 Time Period: **307**	2014 Time Period: **1,835**	2014 Time Period: **285**	2014 Time Period: **192**	2014 Time Period: **1,165**	2014 Time Period: **1,177**
Locations: **Queensbury & Hatch End**	Locations: **Harrow on the Hill & Pinner**	Locations: **Headstone North & South**	Locations: **Headstone South & Rayners Lane**	Locations: **Harrow on the Hill & Hatch End**	Locations: **Stanmore Park & Hatch End**	Locations: **Rayners Lane & Headstone North**
Peak Months: **May, July & November**	Peak Months: **May, July & December**	Peak Months: **January, February & October**	Peak Months: **January, July & December**	Peak Months: **January, July & October**	Peak Months: **February, March & May**	Peak Months: **April, July & October**