

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>               | 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2016   |
| <b>Subject:</b>                       | Community Safety Strategy   |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b>           | Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director,<br>Strategic Commissioning   |
| <b>Scrutiny Lead<br/>Member area:</b> | Cllr Jeff Anderson – Environment &<br>Enterprise Scrutiny lead, Policy<br>Cllr Ameet Jogia - Environment &<br>Enterprise Scrutiny lead, Performance |
| <b>Exempt:</b>                        | No  |
| <b>Wards affected:</b>                | All   |
| <b>Enclosures:</b>                    | Community Safety Strategy 2016 -<br>2019<br>Annual crime report 2015<br>Equality Impact Assessment  |

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

Pursuant to S6 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Harrow Community Safety Partnership, known as Safer Harrow, ('the Partnership') produces and implements a Community Safety Strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, for combatting misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and for the reduction of re-offending. This report summarises the Partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2016-19 including current trends, emerging priorities and the implications of the Strategy.

By Article 4 of Harrow Council's constitution, the Council approves the Community Safety Plan. It is recommended that the Partnership's Community Safety Strategy is adopted as the Community Safety Plan for Harrow. As the plan part of the Policy Framework for the Council, Overview and Scrutiny is also entitled to comment on the strategy.

### **Recommendations:**

The Committee is recommended to send comments on the draft Community Safety Strategy to cabinet.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

1.1 The attached Community Safety Plan shows how the Council and its partners will work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and make progress to making Harrow the safest borough in London. It is a statutory three year plan that gets refreshed on an annual basis.

### **Background**

2.1 Each year, the Partnership prepares a Community Safety Strategy which is recommended to Cabinet and on to Council. Each Strategy is for a three year period but is usually updated annually to reflect the often rapidly changing patterns of crime and risk. These are derived, at least in part, from an Annual Crime Report as well as assessments of risk and Police and Council priorities.

2.2 The last Community Safety Strategy was considered in July 2015. This was in many ways a departure from previous strategies in that it reflected explicitly the huge potential impact of high profile events that could damage the community in Harrow for many years. The identified events included possible terrorism and radicalisation, child sexual exploitation as well as gang activity, domestic and sexual violence and anti-social behaviour. The Strategy also recognised the individual impact of more everyday crime such as burglary, robbery and criminal damage.

2.3 In considering how to update the Strategy, it has been recognised that these high profile risks to Community Safety have not declined and, therefore, it is recommended that the main thrust of the existing Strategy is maintained for the coming year.

2.4 The Annual Crime Report 2015, which is attached, covers the period October 2014 to September 2015 and compares crime statistics with the same period 12 months earlier. The Report shows that total crime in Greater London increased by 3.8% between the relevant periods, giving an average of 83.6 crimes per 1,000 population compared with 81.6 in the earlier period. In Harrow, crime increased by 0.8% giving a rate of 50.3 crimes per 1,000 population compared with 49.5 in the earlier period. For the period of the Report, Harrow had the second lowest crime rate per 1,000 populations in London.

2.5 The Report also measures the number and rate of MOPAC 7 crimes – these are crime types that the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) feels have the greatest impact on the public. The MOPAC 7 crimes are violence with injury, robbery, burglary, theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle, theft from the person and criminal damage. Across Greater London, the MOPAC 7 crime total decreased by 2.5% between the assessment periods giving a rate of 39.6 crimes per 1,000 population. In Harrow, the number of MOPAC 7 crimes decreased by 5.9% giving a rate of 24.0 crimes per 1,000 population.

2.6 Within this total, a number of MOPAC 7 crimes types increased including violence with injury (up 10.4%) robbery (up 5.3%), theft of a motor vehicle (up 3.2%) and criminal damage (up 1.2%) whilst other crime types decreased including burglary (down 14.1%) theft from a motor vehicle (down 13.7%) and theft from the person (down 11.2%). The general downward trend in volume crime is both welcome and a continuing testament to the effectiveness of the Police in Harrow and the partnership between the agencies and organisations devoted to detecting, deterring and diverting people away from crime.

2.7 The increase in violence with injury is a cause for concern although this needs to be seen in a London-wide context where the average rate per 1,000 population is 8.2 compared with Harrow's 5.3. Some of this seems to be related to Domestic and Sexual Violence where there has been a significant 23% increase in reporting in the last year most of which is thought to be not related to additional crimes but to a greater readiness to report but also to the growth in both gang on gang violence and the undesirable effects of the late night economy. In relation to Gangs, the partnership benefitted from a Peer Review of our approach to and work on gangs and the Government's acknowledgement of the persistent gang issues locally by adding Harrow to the list of priority boroughs along with our neighbours Brent, Barnet, Hillingdon and Ealing.

2.8 Although outside the current Report period, it should be noted that there has been a recent spike in the rate of Burglaries. The total for October 2015 to January 2016 inclusive was 23.6% above the total for the same months in 2014/15. This trend will require carefully monitoring to ascertain

whether it is a short-term blip or whether it represents a longer-term trend which will require fundamental changes to priorities.

2.9 In all other respects, the Annual Crime Report supports the continuation of the approach set out in the Community Safety Strategy. Accordingly, the Strategy has only been updated to reflect legislative and other minor changes but continues the focus on the potentially community changing impacts.

## **Legal Implications**

3.1 The setting up of the Partnership was required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police and Crime Act 2009.

3.2 Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council with other partner authorities (chief of police, fire & rescue authority, probation service, CCG and Local Health Board) has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.

3.3 In formulating the strategy, the partner authorities must have regard to the police and crime plan for the area.

3.4 Under Regulations, the partner authorities must set up a strategy group who are collectively responsible for preparing strategic assessments and preparing and implementing the partnership plan. The partnership plan shall set out the following:

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending, crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in the area;
- (b) the priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the previous year;
- (c) the steps considered necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement the strategy and meet those priorities;
- (d) how the strategy group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities;
- (e) the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities;
- (f) the steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its obligations in respect of community engagement, considering the extent that people in the area can assist in reducing re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse, and publicising that partnership plan.

3.5 Under s.17 of the above Act, it is also a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including police, fire & rescue, GLA, TfL) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime

and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending.

## **Financial Implications**

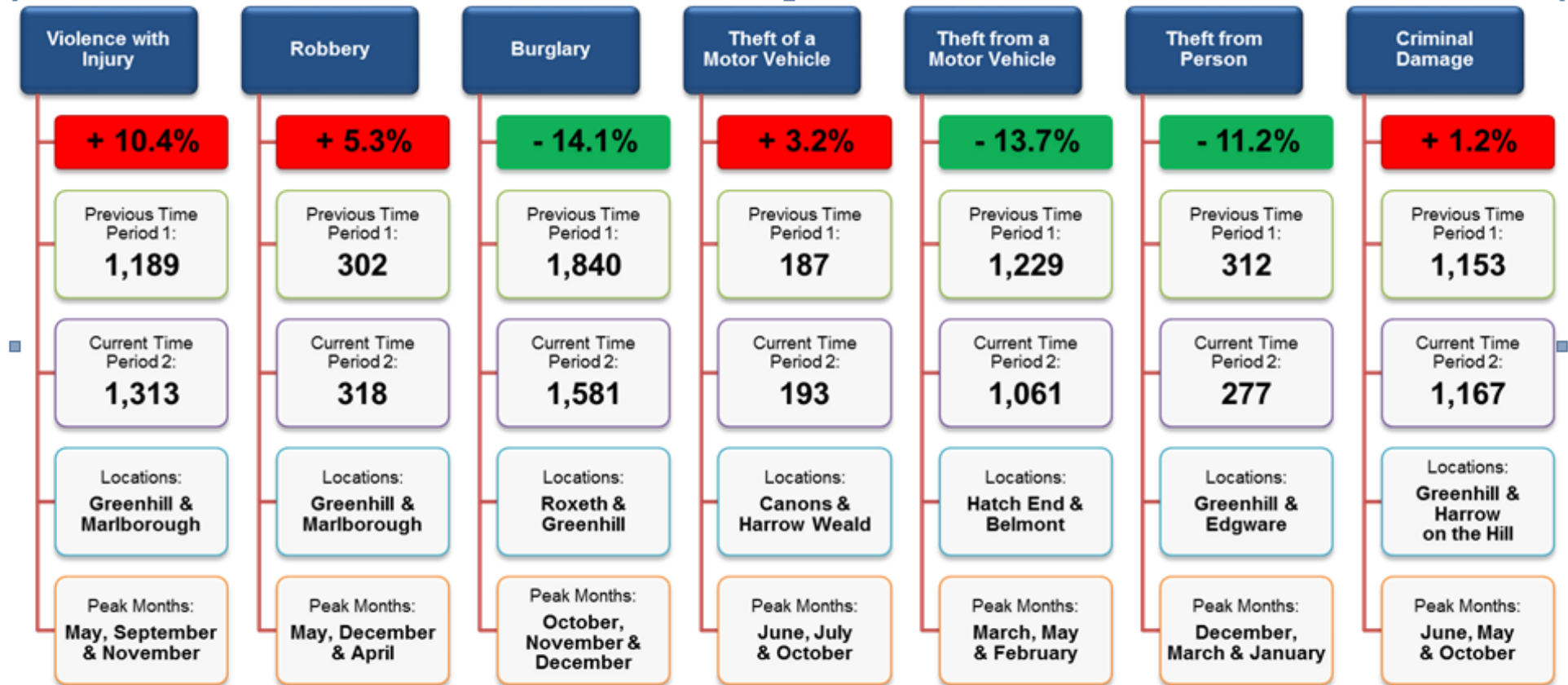
4.1 All of the work identified in this plan to be undertaken by the Council will be funded from existing budgets and approved grants.

## **Performance Issues**

5.1 The Council's Corporate Performance scorecard references residential burglary and incidents of domestic violence as indicators amongst the MOPAC 7 crimes that the Mayor has tasked the Police across London to reduce by 20% by 2017. The performance in Harrow to the end of January 2015 is set out in the table on the next page.

## MOPAC Crimes in Harrow - Latest 24 months (October 2013 through September 2015)

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



## **Risk Management Implications**

6.1 The projects referenced within the Community Safety Plan and particularly those funded by MOPAC grants, will be added to the relevant service Risk Registers

## **Equalities implications**

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? Yes

The equality impact assessment is attached.

7.1 The Community Safety Plan is based on an analysis of crime reports in the previous period and highlights the areas that need the most attention. The Plan for 2016-19 prioritises the “MOPAC 7” high volume/high public impact crimes of Burglary, Violence with Injury, Vandalism; Theft from the Person; Robbery; Theft of a Vehicle and Theft from a Vehicle: as well as Anti-social behaviour, Domestic Violence and reducing reoffending. The aim is to make Harrow the safest Borough in London within the timescale of the Plan which will require a reduction of almost 2,500 crimes a year against a total for last year of 12,228. Reducing crime benefits all residents of the Borough either directly, by reducing victimisation, or indirectly by lowering the fear of crime.

7.2 The Strategic Assessment has highlighted in a number of cases the protected characteristics of the most likely groups to be affected by crime such as young men who are at most risk of robbery and that the age of victims seems to be decreasing with a significant increase in victimisation the 11-15 year old group. At the same time, the age of suspects is also predominantly young.

7.3 Older people are at comparatively low risk of being the victims of crime.

7.4 Domestic violence continues to be a higher proportion of crime in Harrow than in any other London Borough and the victims are predominantly women. As well as the continuing efforts to support victims, there is a new project to promote healthy relationships in adolescents which it is hoped will have a long-term impact on the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence.

The Equality Impact Assessment has not noted any disproportionate adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics arising from the Plan.

### Council Priorities

The Community Safety Plan directly addresses the Corporate Priorities

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

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

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|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name: Steve Tingle ....                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the*<br>Chief Financial Officer |
| Date: ...29 <sup>th</sup> March 2016..... |                                     |  |
| Name: Alison Burns ...                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the*<br>Monitoring Officer      |
| Date: 4th...April 2016..                  |                                     |  |



**Ward Councillors notified:**

**NO**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Alex Dewsnap Divisional Director Strategic Commissioning 020 8416 8250

**Background Papers:** Community Safety Strategy 2016-19  
Annual Crime Report 2015