
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	24 May 2016
Subject:	Community Safety Strategy
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director of Strategic Commissioning
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the decision is reserved to Council
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A - MOPAC Crimes in Harrow Appendix B - Community Safety Strategy 2016-2019 Appendix C - Annual Crime Report 2014 & 2015 Appendix D - Equality Impact Assessment Appendix E - Reference from O&S Committee

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.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) recommend endorsement and adoption of the Community Safety Strategy 2016-2019 to Council; and
- 2) authorise the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community to make minor amendments to the draft report, in conjunction with Harrow Community Safety Partnership, Safer Harrow, for presentation to Harrow Full Council meeting in September 2016.

Reason: (For recommendations) To endorse the Partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2016-2019 and adopt it as Harrow Council's Community Safety Plan.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

2.1 The Community Safety Strategy shows how the Council and partners will work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and make progress to making Harrow the safest borough in London.

3. Options considered

The option of preparing a strategy that focussed mainly on the volume crimes that affect the Borough as in previous years was considered but rejected as not addressing the most serious threats to community safety.

4. Background

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

5. Current situation

5.1 The Annual Crime Report 2014 and 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.

5.2 The Report also measures the number and rate of MOPAC 7 crimes – these are crime types that the Mayors Office from 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 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.

5.6 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.

6 Why a change is needed

6.1 As stated in the introduction above, the Partnership is required to produce and review a strategy and the Council is required to adopt a Community Safety Plan. It is usual practice to prepare a three year strategy and update it annually to take account of changes in the level of crime and the threats to community safety at the time.

7. Implications of the Recommendation

Performance Issues

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 at Appendix A.

Environmental Implications.

There are no environmental implications arising from the Strategy.

Risk Management Implications

The projects referenced within the Community Safety Plan and particularly those funded by MOPAC grants, have been added to the relevant service Risk Registers.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Legal Implications

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

Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council with other partner authorities (police, fire & rescue authority, probation service, and clinical commissioning group) 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.

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

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.

Under s.17 of the above Act, it is also a duty of the Council 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

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

Equalities implications/Public Sector Equality Duty

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? Yes,

The Equality Impact Assessment is attached.

The Community Safety Plan takes into account an analysis of crime reports in the previous period which highlights the areas that need the most attention. These include violence with injury and a recent increase in residential burglary. However, the Community Safety Strategy for 2016-19 prioritises

addressing low probability but high impact potentially community changing events including terrorist activity and radicalisation, widespread child sexual exploitation, gang activity, and domestic violence. If a potentially community changing event took place it might have an indiscriminate impact that cannot be accurately assessed.

For some types of criminality that has been included in the Strategy, however, there are clear categories of victims who are likely to be affected including young and vulnerable people being sexually exploited and involved in gang-related activity. While radicalisation could be experienced by anyone, currently the Government has set a focus on the threat to the UK as a whole from groups and individuals who share extremist and violent Islamist ideology.

In terms of volume crime, young men are at most risk of robbery and 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. Older people are at comparatively low risk of being the victims of crime.

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, the Council has expanded its contract for support to victims and has developed a therapeutic pilot project.

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

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Build a Better Harrow
- Be More Business-like and Business Friendly
- Protect the Most Vulnerable and Support Families

This is set out in the attached Strategy.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sharon Daniels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 11 May 2016		
Name: Alison Burns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 12 May 2016		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	YES
EqIA cleared by:	Alex Dewsnap (DETG)

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Alex Dewsnap
Tel: 020 8416 8250

Background Papers:

- Community Safety Strategy 2016-2019 (see enclosure)
- Annual Crime Report 2014 & 2015 (see enclosure)
- Equality Impact Assessment (see enclosure)

Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee

NOT APPLICABLE

*[Call-in does not apply as the
decision is reserved to Council]*

Appendix A

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.

