
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 12th July 2018

Subject: Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy – Annual Refresh

Key Decision: Yes

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Krishna Suresh, Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion and Crime

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: No, as the decision is reserved to Council

Wards affected: All wards

Enclosures:

1. Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) Strategy
2. VVE Delivery Plan
3. Strategic Assessment 2018
4. EqlA
5. Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the strategic vision of Harrow's Community Safety Partnership in the Annual Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy for 2018-2020.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend endorsement and adoption of the Community Safety Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy 2018-2020 to Council; and
- 2) Authorise the Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion and Crime to make minor amendments to the draft report, in conjunction with Harrow Community Safety Partnership, Safer Harrow, for presentation to the full Council meeting on 19 July 2018.

Reason: To endorse the Safer Harrow Partnership's Community Safety Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy 2018-2020 and adopt it as Harrow Council's Community Safety Plan.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

All Community Safety Partnerships (known in Harrow as ‘Safer Harrow’) are required by law to conduct an annual assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending within the borough. This is known as the Strategic Assessment. The Strategic Assessment previously came to Overview and Scrutiny along with the draft Community Safety Strategy. However, following feedback from scrutiny that this does not allow scrutiny sufficient opportunity for its comments and reflections on the strategic assessment to inform the refresh of the Community Safety Strategy, this year the strategic assessment came to Overview and Scrutiny separately, in March 2018. The Strategic Assessment is then used to inform the partnership’s Community Safety Strategy. The last Community Safety Strategy was published in 2017 and is refreshed on an annual basis.

This Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) Strategy sets out the Council’s vision for tackling community safety in Harrow and takes into account the findings from our Strategic Assessment 2018, and includes our vision for tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The following high volume crimes have been prioritised in agreement with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC):

1. *Burglary*
2. *Non-domestic violence with injury*
3. *Anti-social behaviour (ASB)*
4. *Motor Vehicle Crime*

The Strategy also has a strong focus on the following aspects of high harm crime which reinforce the commitment to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation in the borough. This also firmly echoes the current Mayor’s priorities, and includes a renewed focus on tackling Youth Violence. The following areas are seen as priorities in Harrow:

1. *Youth violence, weapon based crime, vulnerability and exploitation. (including gang crime, and Child Sexual Exploitation)*
2. *Modern slavery*
3. *Domestic and sexual abuse*
4. *Drug and alcohol misuse (including tackling the supply of illegal substances, and targeted support for ex-prisoners)*
5. *Extremism and hate crime*

In addition to this we have incorporated our commitments to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in order to ensure a consistent and joined up approach across the Council.

Consultation and Engagement

In refreshing the strategy and priorities, consultation and engagement was undertaken with partners, stakeholders and relevant services within the council.

- March – Strategic Assessment debated at Overview and Scrutiny
- April – Met with Young Harrow Foundation to discuss findings from the Young Peoples survey and how this can be incorporated into the strategy
- April – Emailed Strategy to partners represented on Safer Harrow (Police, Probation, Fire, CRC, CCG, LCSB, Harrow Youth Parliament, Young Harrow Foundation) and services (Youth Offending Team, Housing, Regeneration, Policy Team) requesting updates to inform the refresh
- 8th May 2018 – Met with members of the Youth Parliament to understand the impact of crime on young people and how this can be reflected in the priorities and delivery plan, as well as how the Council and the Youth parliament will work together going forward.
- Liaised with colleagues from the Regeneration team to understand how crime was being designed out through regeneration and included this in the strategy
- 21st May 2018 – hosted an engagement workshop inviting all partners, stakeholders and services to review the priorities and delivery plan
- 4th June 2018 – Draft strategy taken to Safer Harrow for feedback and comments. Safer Harrow approved the strategy to be taken forward to Cabinet and Council.
- 5th June, Draft Strategy considered by Overview and Scrutiny, following the initial debate on the Strategic Assessment in March 2018.

Responding to Scrutiny's feedback on the Strategic Assessment 2018

The Strategic Assessment is an annual review of the patterns of crime and anti-social behaviour, fulfilling partnership responsibility under sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to conduct an annual review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in Harrow & Greater London.

The findings of the Strategic Assessment have informed the annual refresh of Harrow's Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation Strategy.

The draft Strategic Assessment was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 20th March 2018.

In addressing the issues raised at Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the key revisions are:

- Updates to tables and Maps
- A reference to further details provided on the methodology of the Public Attitude Survey (sample size, age groups neighbourhood areas)
- Additional youth crime data
- Inclusion of motor vehicle theft

Further work has been done to address specific points raised by members of the committee in March:

Robustness of data and ownership by police:

The sources used in the Strategic Assessment have been checked and verified as providing up-to-date official data released by the Metropolitan Police Service. Police colleagues are being fully involved in the review of the data and development of the VVE strategy.

Disaggregation of data:

At present, the data is available to the local partnership at the level shown in the Strategic Assessment – usually at Ward level. To be able to ‘drill down’ to a lower level needs a skilled analyst with access to Police systems. Access to this resource, which will be important to support at operational level, and make sure that interventions are appropriately targeted, is being discussed under the new Borough Command Unit (BCU) arrangements, and the local authority is looking at all possibilities, including sharing resource with other boroughs, or secondment from the Metropolitan Police Service.

Public Attitude Survey:

The Public Attitude Survey uses a sampling methodology that gives results grouped in line with the organisation of local policing into neighbourhoods, led by a Police Inspector. Although this brings together areas of Harrow with significantly different characteristics and crime rates, it enables the police to measure confidence and public satisfaction in line with their neighbourhood policing structures.

Location of crimes:

Looking at the impact on crime rates of the location of Harrow Police Station in Harrow on the Hill ward, it has been confirmed that any further crimes taking place once an individual is in police custody would be recorded in the ward. However, this is a comparatively small number of incidents and the appropriate ward location is used for the original crime.

Options considered

No other option has been considered as it is a statutory requirement for Council to produce an Annual Community Safety Plan. The new Strategy has been updated to reflect changes in the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime priorities.

Risk Management Implications

Issues of Community Safety are a growing concern, the Council, and partners approach to resolving the current rise in violent crime in the borough are important. The strategy sets out activity that can be delivered within existing resources, but there are still risks given community engagement will be an important part of addressing the issues set out in this strategy and based on further growth in incidents resources will become further stretched..

Procurement Implications

The refresh of the strategy did not include the procurement of services. The projects being delivered in relation to the strategy objectives are funded through the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) which runs for four years. We are currently in the second year of the four year programme. These will be reviewed after the second year to identify need and projects for years three and four.

Legal Implications

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Crime Act 2009 requires that the Partnership be set up, and the formulation of the strategy is required under s6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The plan, formulated with the relevant partner agencies, must address

- (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 strategy for the previous year
- (c) Steps necessary for responsible authorities to implement the strategy and meet priorities
- (d) How resources should be allocated to implement the strategy and meet priorities
- (e) Steps for each responsible authority to take to measure its success to implement strategies and meet priorities
- (f) Steps strategy group proposes to comply with community engagement obligations, 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.

S17 of the Act imposes a duty on 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 prevent, crime and disorder, misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re offending.

Financial Implications

All Councils have received funding under the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) to tackle priorities in the new London Police and Crime Plan. Harrow has been allocated a combined two year (2017/18 and 2018/19) allocation of £452,000. As part of this, we have approved funding aimed at a programme of Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation projects which will help us respond to the gangs peer review, and the rise in youth violence that we are seeing in the borough.

All other activities as set out in the delivery plan will be met within existing budgets, although any demand for activity on top of this may need to be funded separately.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The EqIA hasn't identified any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics. The priorities identified within the strategy will in fact have a positive impact.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This Strategy relates to the corporate priorities of:

- Protect the most vulnerable and support families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sharon Daniels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 7 June 2018		
Name: Jessica Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 12 June 2018		

Section 3 - Procurement Officer Clearance

Name: Nimesh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Procurement
Date: 28 June 2018		

Ward Councillors notified:	No – affects all wards
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------

EqIA carried out:

YES

EqIA cleared by: Alex Dewsnap,
Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mohammed Ilyas, Policy Office, 020 8424 1322, Mohammed.Ilyas@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

**Call-In Waived by the
Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE

(Call-in does not apply)