
**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 4 June 2019

Subject: Community Safety, Violence,
Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy
– Annual Refresh
Youth Offending Team (YOT) Plan
Knife Crime Action Plan

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy
Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director of
People Services

**Scrutiny Lead
Member area:** Resources: Councillor Honey Jamie
And Councillor Kanti Rabadia

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures:

1. Community Safety, Violence,
Vulnerability and Exploitation
Strategy
2. YOT Plan
3. Knife Crime Action Plan

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 (CSVVE) Strategy for 2019-2020 and the Council's Youth Offending Team (YOT) Plan. It also includes our Knife Crime Action Plan 2019-20, a requirement for every Borough arising from the London Knife

Crime Strategy which was launched in June 2017. Both plans will be considered by Cabinet and Council in July 2019.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the CSVVE Strategy, the YOT Plan and the Knife Crime Action Plan and forward relevant comments to Cabinet for consideration.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

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 for 2019 was considered at O&S in April 2019. This report also covers the feedback received at O&S in April and how this has been taken into account in developing the strategy.

The Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (CSVVE) Strategy sets out the Council’s vision for tackling community safety in Harrow and takes into account the findings from our Strategic Assessment 2019. It also includes our vision for Domestic and Sexual Violence.

In developing the CSVVE strategy, 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 CSVVE 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) into the strategy in order to ensure a consistent and joined up approach across the Council.

Given the focus on youth violence and related challenges around such things as knife crime, for 2019 the council and its partners are coupling the Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation strategy and the YOT Plan, and this report also brings forward this plan for O&S consideration. Like the Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation strategy, the YOT Plan is a statutory plan and will be considered by Cabinet and Council in July 2019.

The Harrow Youth Justice Plan (also known as the Youth Offending Team plan or YOT Plan)

Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services.

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:

- how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
- how the youth offending team (YOT) or equivalent service will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

The youth justice plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.

'Modern Youth Offending Partnerships' and 'YOT Management Board Guidance for Wales' provide additional guidance about drafting a youth justice plan and its relationship to other strategic plans.

The Harrow Youth Justice Plan references and directly aligns to the Community Safety Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy.

Additional specific data relates to key national and local indicators these are as outlined in the main plan:

Nationally prescribed objectives

- a) Reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System
- b) Reduce the use of custody
- c) Reduce the number of people reoffending and the number of re-offenses per person

Youth violence, weapon based crime, vulnerability and exploitation.

- d) To reduce the number of young people involved in youth violence and gang crime and to decrease the number of young people carrying offensive weapons (guns and knives)
- e) To embed an awareness of actions which can shift attitudes within young people at schools and in other education settings towards the issues of sexual assault, child sexual, digital and criminal exploitation

Drug and alcohol misuse

- f) Reduce the incidence of young people possessing and using illegal and harmful drugs
- g) Reduce the incidence of young people being involved in the supply, dealing, distribution or the production of drugs and to build resilience in young people so that they are able to spot the signs of dealer grooming.
- h) To reduce alcohol and drug-related reoffending.

Wellbeing and welfare

- i) To promote the emotional and psychological resilience of young people at risk of offending behaviour so that they can make more civic and pro-social choices about their lifestyle.
- j) To provide a robust offer to youth at risk of offending to support them as they are diverted away from offending behaviour
- k) To provide a robust service which takes strategic action towards protecting the public and other vulnerable young people from the most prolific and high harming behaviours displayed by young offenders.
- l) To reduce the disproportionality of over-represented groups within the local criminal justice context

These key objectives are worked on by the Youth Offending Partnership which consists of statutory and voluntary sector stakeholders all working together to achieve these common goals.

The YOT plan is integrally aligned with the reducing High Harm and drug and alcohol priorities of Safer Harrow articulated through the CSVVE strategy.

All of the consultation about the CSVVE strategy is relevant for the Youth Justice Plan although there will be additional consultation sessions with youth groups and has already been consultation with the YOT team and management board.

Consultation and Engagement

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

- April – Strategic Assessment debated at Overview and Scrutiny
- April – Emailed CSVVE 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
- 26th April 2019 – hosted an engagement workshop inviting all partners, stakeholders and services to review the priorities and delivery plan
- 1st May 2019 – Attended the Youth parliament meeting to consult with members of the 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 CSVVE strategy
- 13th May 2019 – a workshop attended by officers and partners to discuss the issue of drugs, the impact on crime and possible interventions to address this.
- 13th May 2019 – Shared the draft CSVVE strategy with Safer Harrow for consultation and to be discussed at the meeting on 17th June 2019
- 15th May 2019 - Draft CSVVE strategy shared with wider voluntary sector partners who we collaborate with to deliver key projects within the strategy
- 29th May 2019 – Draft CSVVE strategy taken to CSB for feedback and comments

Responding to Scrutiny’s feedback on the Strategic Assessment 2019

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 9th April 2019. At the meeting members of the Committee raised questions around the data and some of the resulting priorities. As a result the Strategic Assessment has been updated to support the refresh of the CSVVE strategy. The key revisions are:

- Updates to tables and maps
- Addition of data on aggravated burglary (which is brought into the CSVVE Strategy)
- Clarification of priorities to ensure they are consistent throughout the strategic assessment and with the refreshed CSVVE Strategy
- Correction of dates and typographical errors in the draft document
- Consistency in terminology throughout the document

Responding to the Recommendations arising from the Youth Violence Scrutiny Review

The Council has recently completed a scrutiny review on Youth Violence in Harrow and the recommendations coming out of the review include:

Recommendation 1: Each time a strategy or policy is reviewed a specific perspective on reducing youth violence should be included.

Recommendation 2: The Council to work in collaboration with the Police and Schools to address the priorities agreed within the CSVVE Strategy

Recommendation 3: The council to explore interventions that prevent young people from using and dealing drugs.

Recommendation 4: Harrow Council explores the use of early intervention programmes in year 6 of primary schools

The review is also being considered by O&S on the same agenda as the CSVVE Strategy and the YOT Plan, so the recommendations need to be formally agreed. However, once these have been agreed, the intention is to formally incorporate these into the CSVVE Strategy accordingly.

At this stage, recommendations 2-4 have already been considered through the refresh of the CSVVE Strategy. As with all scrutiny reviews, the relevant service managers within the Council will be responding to these recommendations to Cabinet in July this year. We will also work in collaboration with partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to take these recommendations forward. A conversation around possible interventions to prevent young people from using and dealing drugs has already started in the form of workshops with partners and the VCS. Discussions are also being led by a head teacher at Harrow High School looking at establishing a referral process for schools, building on the work already carried out in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Knife Crime Action Plan

The London Knife Crime Strategy was launched in June 2017 and within it was a commitment for every London borough to have a bespoke knife crime action plan created in partnership with the Met Police. The Met Police worked with each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to develop a local plan, with the understanding that these should be based on a locally developed, partnership analysis of the knife crime problem.

Harrow's Knife crime Action Plan has been developed in consultation with officers across the Council and partners on the Safer Harrow Partnership. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and updates provided to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). The Action Plan is to be submitted to MOPAC at the end of May 2019, and is refreshed for O&S consideration on the basis that the actions within it clearly set out some of the activity the partnership are taking around the priorities associated with Youth Violence and are integral to the CSVVE Strategy and YOT Plan.

Financial Implications

All London Councils have received funding under the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) to tackle priorities in the new London Police and Crime Plan. In the first round, Harrow was allocated £266,525 in year 1 (2017/18), and £186,376 in year 2 (2018/19) (after a 30% MOPAC top slice),

which provides the authority with a combined 2 year allocation of £452,628. In the latest round, Harrow has been awarded £185,000 in year 3 (2019/20) and £235,000 in year 4 (2020/21), providing the authority a combined 2 year allocation of £420,000. As part of this, the partnership have approved funding aimed at a programme of Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation projects which will help us respond to the issue of youth violence that we are seeing in the borough, and also approve our DV service. As all of this funding is one off in nature, it is used to fund specific time limited projects without any ongoing revenue implications and therefore there will be no direct impact upon existing service budgets.

The Youth Justice Board provide a good practice grant. Last year's figure was £211,435 which must be used towards the agreed good practice priorities contained within the YJ plan. A figure in the region of last year's amount is expected again this year though figures were not released last year until the autumn and there is further financial pressure expected this year.

Performance Issues

In delivering this Strategy we are in the process of drafting a themed Delivery Plan which will oversee projects that will contribute to the strategic objectives outlined in the strategy, including all of the MOPAC funded projects agreed for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. The Delivery Plan will include specific actions and measures with greater clarity of ownership of projects (including specifically for the YJ plan) across the partnership.

Environmental Impact

There are no specific environmental issues associated with this report at this stage.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? An EqIA is being developed alongside the development of the CSVVE Strategy. At this stage, the EqIA hasn't identified any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics.

Council Priorities

Please identify how the decision sought delivers these priorities.

1. **Building a Better Harrow**
 - More young people are actively engaged in various interventions in ways that will hopefully reduce the risk of them getting involved in youth violence and crime
2. **Supporting Those Most in Need**
 - Children and young people are given the opportunities to have the best start in life and families can thrive
3. **Protecting Vital Public Services**
 - Harrow continues to be one of the safest boroughs in London
4. **Delivering a Strong local Economy for All**
5. **Modernising Harrow Council**

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sharon Daniels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 22 May 2019		

Name: Paul Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director of People Services
Date: 21 May 2019		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Mohammed Ilyas, Policy Officer, Tel: 020 8424 1322

Mark Scanlon, Head of Youth Offending Service, Tel: 020 8424 6610

Background Papers: Strategic Assessment 2019