
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	11 th July 2019
Subject:	Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy – Annual Refresh
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Krishna Suresh, Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion and Crime
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (CSVVE) Strategy2. Delivery Plan 2019/203. Delivery Plan 2018/19 (with progress against actions) <p>Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>

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 2019-2020.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend endorsement and adoption of the Community Safety Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2020 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 Harrow Full Council meeting in July 2019.

Reason: To endorse the Safer Harrow Partnership's Community Safety Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2020 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 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 combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) into the strategy in order to ensure a consistent and joined up approach across the Council.

An Executive Summary of the strategy has also been produced which pulls out the strategic priorities and key areas of work we will carry out to achieve these. This will be published alongside the full strategy.

Key Priorities Outcomes We Want to Achieve

This strategy covers a number of areas from tackling knife crime and youth violence to reducing burglaries, from eradicating FGM to reducing and supporting victims of Domestic Abuse. These are all things the Council and its partnerships want to impact on. However, with ever decreasing resources for the Council and also our partners, it is important that we have a greater and clearer focus on those areas we think are more important to our residents and community. Below are the principle areas that the success of the CSVVE strategy should be judged upon:

Reductions in Burglary across the borough

Burglary rates have reduced slightly in Harrow over the last year, despite a London increase. Harrow also benchmarks well for burglary amongst nearest neighbours. However, Aggravated burglary shows a significant increase in the last year, despite still being a relatively low proportion of the total reported offences. Burglary is also the highest volume crime in Harrow so it's a focus for the Safer Harrow Partnership to put in place initiatives that will reduce burglary and improve resident perception of the fear of crime.

Specific outcomes we will be measured upon are:

- The number of burglaries, including aggravated burglaries, have reduced in the Borough;
- Fear of crime has reduced across Harrow.

Reductions in Knife related crimes and especially violent crime with knives

Crimes involving knives increased slightly in the last year, but the concern around knife crime in Harrow has risen from 12% in 2016 to 24% in 2018. However, the number of knife crimes that resulted in injury fell as a proportion of overall knife crime from around 50% in December 2017 to 22% in December 2018. Work is ongoing to support the early identification of

individuals at risk / vulnerable to gang association, and as part of this we have invested in an enhanced intelligence gathering system called E-Cins system to allow more effective and earlier interventions.

Specific outcomes we will be measured upon are:

- The reduction in 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) by 10% each year;
- An overall reduction in knife crime levels, and the number of knife crimes resulting in injury;
- Meaningful community participation to ensure there is a community response to tackle youth and knife issues (building on the work started in Wealdstone through the Wealdstone Action Group).

Stopping Young people from being drawn into criminal and high risk activity

The Council is only one of the partners that can make a difference to the lives of young people. The 2018 Young People's Needs Analysis carried out in partnership with Young Harrow Foundation identified youth violence as one of the top five areas of concern for young people, but the issues associated with young people being drawn into activity such as knife carrying, drug use/dealing or sexual exploitation/violence are both complex and varied. Through the partnership with others, and in particular schools, the Council is working to support more early intervention opportunities and ways to engage young people to divert them away from harmful activity. We are working to improve collaborative working across third sector partners, schools and the Police to maximise use of resources, as well as working with families, communities and other organisations to understand the drivers of such activity.

Specific outcomes we will be measured upon are:

- Develop a shared and consistent understanding within both primary and secondary schools on the issues of sexual assault, child sexual exploitation and digital exploitation;
- Reductions in young people carrying knives
- More schools involved in commissioned activities, such as Synergy Theatre and Unblurred Lines
- Reductions in cases of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Increasing the number of young people aware of digital exploitation
- Increasing further the number of young people who have an improved sense of safety about prevention of sexual assault

Reducing the level and impact of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB covers a number of things from rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours to vandalism and street drinking. In terms of reported incidents, the number of reported ASB incidents fell slightly from 2017 to 2018. However, we know that there will be a number of incidents that aren't reported to the police or Council and these impact on residents and communities lives. Specific actions have

been undertaken in the last year, which have been more place based, for example the Wealdstone action Group, where the focus has been on reducing levels of ASB, which in turn give the community greater confidence to use their local facilities and become more active themselves in their local community. Drug crime is also an emerging area which we will have an increased focus on during 2019/20.

Specific outcomes we will be measured upon are:

- The number of reported ASB incidents reduces;
- Residents feel that ASB issues that they face are being tackled effectively;
- Appropriate enforcement and education actions are taken to deal effectively with ASB, including targeting hotspot areas, to reduce the impact on communities Identification and support of repeat and vulnerable victims to reduce risk;
- Reoffending is reduced in the most persistent offenders through partnership working.

Reducing the levels of Domestic Abuse (DA) and Supporting Victims

The numbers of offences of domestic abuse have risen in Harrow from 1,756 in 2017 to 1,905 in 2018. However, the number of incidents has remained fairly static over the last 4 years at around 3,000 a year, although there has been a slight decrease from 2017 to 2018. Regardless of the numbers of offences, the Council considers dealing with and reducing Domestic Abuse as a priority and has a number of programmes in place to support this, through commissioned services such as Hestia and our own Early Support Services, through to working with local partners such as Wish.

Specific outcomes we will be measured upon are:

- Reductions in the number of DA offences reported;
- Reductions in the number of DA incidents where victims experience injury;
- Increase in victims supported;
- Commissioning of a perpetrator programme (based on securing appropriate external funding).

Reducing Hate Crime

Community cohesion and resilience has had a long tradition in Harrow of being strong. However, hate crime is emerging as a growing concern, even though the actual reported incidents has remained relatively static in 2017 and 2018. Hate crime is recognised as an under reported crime, and the partnership has organised a number of events with the community to discuss how communities can support themselves as well as being clear on the support available. We will continue to work with our communities, through Harrow Interfaith and with specific institutions where there is a clear need to offer support.

Specific outcomes we will be measured upon are:

- Improved community cohesion (where people of different backgrounds get on well in their area - measured via the Reputation Tracker);
- Improved hate crime reporting rates;
- Increase the number of victims of hate crime who are supported.

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
- 4th June 2019 – Draft CSVVE strategy to O&S 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.

The final Strategic Assessment is available as an enclosure to this report. In addressing the issues raised at Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the key revisions are:

- Updates to tables and maps
- Addition of data on aggravated burglary
- Clarification of priorities to ensure they are consistent throughout the strategic assessment and with the Strategy
- Correction of dates and typographical errors in the draft document
- Consistency in terminology throughout the documents

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 CS, VVE 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 has been submitted to MOPAC at the end of May 2019, and is available on request. 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.

Options considered

No other option has been considered as it is a statutory requirement for Council to produce an Annual Community Safety Plan. The Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation 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 third year of the four year programme.

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 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. There will be no direct impact upon existing service budgets.

All other activities as set out in the delivery plan will be met within existing budgets.

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:

- Supporting Those Most in Need
- Build a Better Harrow

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sharon Daniels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Chief Financial Officer
Date: 20 th June 2019		
Name: David Hodge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Monitoring Officer
Date: 25 th June 2019		

Name: Dawn Calvert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director
Date: 20 th June 2019		

MANDATORY	
Ward Councillors notified:	No – All Wards Affected
EqIA carried out:	YES
EqIA cleared by: Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mohammed Ilyas, Policy Office, Ext 2322,
Mohammed.Ilyas@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: Strategic Assessment 2019

Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NO
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