

Report for: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Meeting: 14 December 2021

Subject: Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2021

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Director, Strategy & Partnerships

Scrutiny Lead Member area: Councillor Kairul Kareema Marikar
Councillor Kanti Rabadia

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Appendix A – Annual Strategic Assessment 2021

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

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 will help inform the annual refresh of Harrow's Community Safety Strategy

Recommendations:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the findings of the Strategic Assessment and provide comments to officers to be fed into the review of the Community Safety Strategy.

Section 2 – Report

All Community Safety Partnerships are required by law to conduct an annual assessment of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the Borough. This is known as the Strategic Assessment. The requirements for a Strategic Assessment and Strategy were suspended during the emergency measures under Covid, and the work is now being carried out towards an updated strategy to be published in Spring 2022. This will be based on a Strategic Assessment that is provided in draft alongside this report, and will be updated until publication alongside the Strategy.

The Strategic Assessment considers a range of analysis across different crime types in the Borough. The assessment considers the priority areas that have previously been agreed with MOPAC as both locally relevant and in line with the Mayor's priorities. These are:

High Volume

1. Burglary
2. Non-domestic violence with injury
3. Anti-social behaviour
4. Vehicle Crime

High Harm

5. Sexual Violence
6. Modern Slavery
7. Domestic Abuse
8. Weapon Based Crime
9. Hate Crime

As a result of the Strategic Assessment, we believe the priorities should remain the same. However, the Strategy will be updated accordingly based on responses from stakeholders.

Legal Implications

This Strategic Assessment is to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform the Community Safety Strategy. The Strategy will be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, with ultimate approval reserved to Council, as set out in the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Policing 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.

Under section 7 of The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 the strategic assessment must include:

- (a) an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area;
- (b) an analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous strategic assessment;
- (c) an analysis of why those changes have occurred;
- (d) the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area;
- (e) the matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area;
- (f) an assessment of the extent to which the partnership plan for the previous year has been implemented; and
- (g) details of those matters that the strategy group considers should be brought to the attention of the county strategy group to assist it in exercising its functions under these Regulations.

These requirements are fulfilled through the Strategic Assessment which is appended and the partnership plan, which is being developed from the assessment.

Under section 11 the partnership plans must set out:

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in the area in the three year period beginning with the year referred to in regulation 10(2);
- (b) the priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the year prior to the year referred to in regulation 10(2);
- (c) the steps the strategy group considers it necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement that 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; and
- (f) the steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its obligations under regulations 12, 13 and 14.

Section 17 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 (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and re offending.

The draft Community Safety Strategy is scheduled to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 8th February 2022.

Financial Implications

All Councils have received funding under MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund to tackle priorities in the new London Police and Crime Plan. We received £200,271 for financial year 2021-2022 towards projects and an additional £10k for the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards. Funding from 2022-23 to 2024-25 is not yet confirmed but we should expect to receive something in the region of just under £700k across the 3 financial years, so around £230k pa.

Performance Issues

The Strategic Assessment provides a wide range of crime measures that will shape the Strategy through the Safer Harrow Partnership. Key crime measures are reported quarterly via the Corporate Scorecard and are also monitored through Safer Harrow.

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? **N/A**

Separate risk register in place? **N/A**

Equalities implications

Equalities implications arising from the Strategic Assessment will be considered in the development of the strategy.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This Strategy relates to the following corporate priority:

- Protect the most vulnerable

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Sharon Daniels

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 01/12/21

Statutory Officer: Stephen Dorrian

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 01/12/21

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: N/A – affects all wards.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: David Harrington, Head of Business Intelligence
Tel. 020 8420 9248

Background Papers:

Appendix A – Annual Strategic Assessment 2021