



# City Management and Public Protection Policy and Scrutiny Committee

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**Title:** The Community Safety Partnership

**Report of:**

**Cabinet Member Portfolio** Public Protection and Licensing

**Wards Involved:** All

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## **1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of how the Community Safety Partnership in Westminster works, highlighting some examples of best practice and the challenges faced.

## **2 Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration**

- 2.1 Committee to discuss with Councillor Adams what success looks like and how we measure success in the context of new BCU.

## **3 Community Safety Partnership**

- 3.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities' which are:
- Police Service (Metropolitan Police Service);
  - Police & Crime Commissioner (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime or MOPAC);
  - Local Authority (Westminster City Council);
  - Fire and Rescue Service (London Fire Brigade);
  - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
  - National Probation Service (NPS) and
  - Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).
- 3.2 The Police and Justice Act (2006) brought in new statutory requirements for CSPs and have been updated by subsequent legislation until the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011. These include the duties;
- Produce yearly Strategic Assessments and partnership plans;

- Share information and have an Information Sharing Protocol;
- Report on work and progress on a yearly basis;
- Formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending;
- Conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews in relation to incidents of domestic homicide.

3.3 In Westminster the Community Safety Partnership is called the Safer Westminster Partnership and its aim is to ensure the responsible authorities work together to create strategies and practical interventions to reduce crime and disorder in Westminster.

#### 4 Safer Westminster Partnership

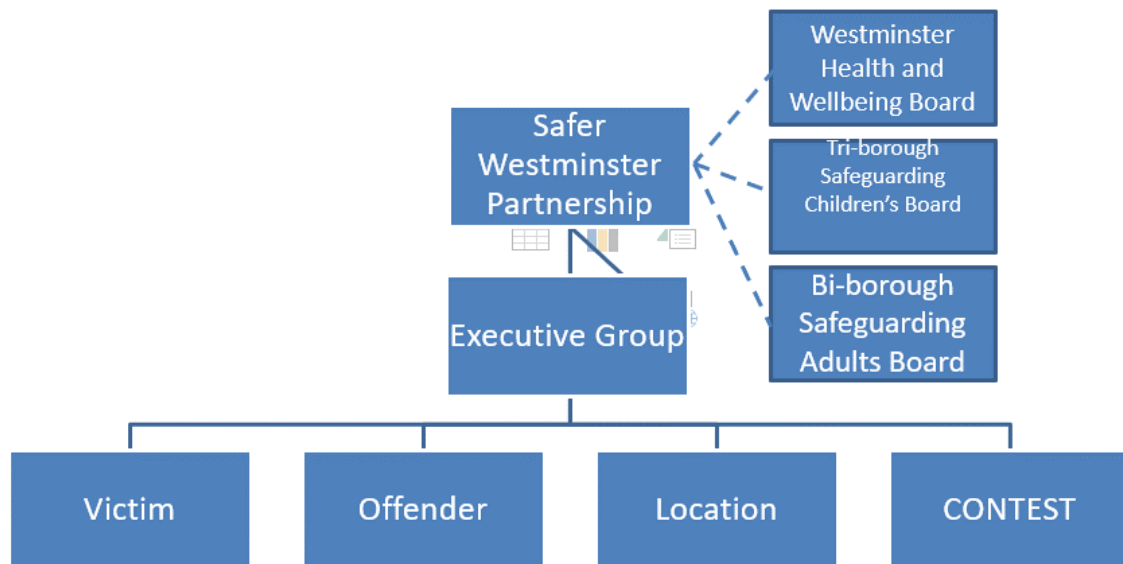
4.1 Membership of the Safer Westminster Partnership (SWP) is based on individual's ability to represent their own organisational interests and further ability to embed jointly agreed actions into mainstream frontline business or commissioning plans.

4.2 The SWP currently meets three times a year and is chaired by Chief Superintendent Rob Jones, Area West.

4.3 The membership of the SWP consists of two key groups, core members and advisory members. The core members are aligned to the responsible bodies listed at 3.1. These members retain the formal voting and decision-making responsibilities for the SWP and provide direction for resourcing and delivery to the strategic delivery groups.

4.4 The advisory members do not hold decision making or voting responsibility but draw upon their expertise to influence and shape the decisions made.

4.5 The current structure of the SWP shown below.



4.6 The Executive Group meets quarterly and is Chaired by the London Fire Brigade Borough Commander for Westminster Paul Kavanagh. The Executive group is made up of Chairs of the Victim, Offender, Location and Contest strategic delivery groups. The role is to drive performance and ensure delivery against the SWP Strategy and agreed priorities.

4.7 The Strategic Delivery Groups, i.e. Victim, Offender, Location and Contest meet quarterly. Standardised project progress reports are produced to provide consistent details of the RAG

status of the projects being delivered, performance towards the agreed indicators, budget data and any risk and issues to delivery.

- 4.8 The dotted line to the strategic partnership group; Health and Wellbeing Board, Tri-borough Children's Safeguarding Board and Bi-borough Adults Safeguarding board, highlights the clear cross over and commonalities between the work of these partnership boards.
- 4.9 Due to the significant organisational restructures within the police and local authority, Public Protection and Licensing department, a governance review has been undertaken and will be presented to the SWP on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
- 4.10 The review looked at meeting attendance, synergies of strategic priorities with other partnership boards and the strengths and weaknesses of each of the meetings. The proposed new structure will look to maximise the opportunity for partnership attendance at meetings and duplication in subjects discussed. It will capitalise on the refreshed Effective Neighbourhood Working (ENW) tasking and problem-solving process so that new and emerging problems are addressed or escalated as necessary. The structure will incorporate more issue specific task and finish groups.

## **5 Strategic Assessment and partnership plans**

- 5.1 A strategic assessment is produced annually as a requirement of the Police and Justice Act 2006 on behalf of the responsible authorities for the Safer Westminster Partnership. The latest Strategic Assessment was produced in September 2018 a copy of which is attached in the Background Papers.
- 5.2 The Strategic Assessment is the evidence base for the partnership and aims to identify the key crime and anti-social behaviour issues affecting the borough and to make recommendations on SWP priorities for the following year.
- 5.3 This evidence base is used to refresh and revise the three year strategy 2017/20 and sets out the vision '*Making Westminster safer by working in partnership to reduce the risk and harm of crime and anti-social behaviour, focusing on protecting the most vulnerable within our communities*'.
- 5.4 Below details some of the new and emerging findings from the Strategic Assessment. This covers the period July 2017 to June 2018.
- 5.5 Crime continues to rise in Westminster at a greater rate than across London. There were on average 14 more victims of crime a day than the previous year. Whilst some of the increases can be attributed to improvements in police recording practices, not all can. Despite this, public confidence and feelings of safety have increased.
- 5.6 Vulnerability to crime and anti-social behaviour is becoming increasingly concentrated within certain places and among certain individuals. Four wards in Westminster are defined as having greater than the London average level of vulnerability of crime; Church Street; St James's; Harrow Road and Queen's Park.
- 5.7 Older people are at a greater risk of repeat victimisation. Nearly two thirds of people referred as a safeguarding crime or potential crime were aged over 65. Most abuse was financial, but nearly half physical. The abuse was concentrated in the vulnerable Church Street ward. Evidencing the need for shared strategic objectives with the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 5.8 The number of offenders residing in the borough is decreasing at a much greater rate than the rest of London, despite a steadily increasing population. In the last decade, the number of adult offenders in Westminster has nearly halved whilst there has been an 85% reduction in juveniles. Juveniles make up only 7% of the offending population in Westminster and

continues to decline. Despite the reduction in offenders, those that remain and reoffend are responsible for a considerable proportion of crime. In particular, adult male offenders have greater re-offending rates in Westminster than the London average.

- 5.9 Previous victimisation is the single best predictor of future victimisation than any other characteristic of crime. Across London, one in five victims are repeat victims. Whilst excellent work is on-going across the partnership around victims of domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, there still remains a lack of co-ordinated action to identify all repeat victims. This is needed, to ensure agencies are compliant with the Victim's Code of Practice.
- 5.10 Domestic abuse prevalence is estimated at 6.1%. Data from high risk victims, shows over one fifth were identified as having a disability, far greater than the national figure (6%). Further examination is required to understand the nature of the disability, to assess if additional support is required. There is also a gap in domestic abuse provision for male victims. Local provision is for females only and pan-London provision for males is limited.
- 5.11 Of increasing concern is the level of hate crime, which has a particularly harmful effect on its victims. Whilst hate crime continues to rise across Westminster, it has begun to decline across the Metropolitan Police Service. It accounts for 3% of all crime in Westminster and 9% of all hate crime across London. Due to the lack of detailed data on hate crime, Westminster City Council have recruited a policy officer to undertake a hate crime commission and will report on the findings in one year.
- 5.12 Drugs and alcohol are two of the key drivers of crime and disorder. The National Strategic Assessment for Serious Organised Crime 2018 predicts that the UK drugs market and associated crime will continue to grow and cause increasing harm to the UK. Crack cocaine is linked to county lines drugs supply networks and has been identified as a driver for an increase in serious violence. Individuals dependant on opioids and/or crack cocaine are responsible for an estimated 45% of acquisitive crime, approximately 6,943 recorded crimes in Westminster. Around 40% of all violent crimes are alcohol related, which equates to 5,287 crimes in Westminster.
- 5.13 A key risk in our response to counter terrorism is the capacity to respond to counter terrorism related demands and risks. The Government expects the threat from Islamist terrorism to remain at its current heightened level for at least the next two years, and that it may increase further. The threat from extreme right-wing terrorism is also growing.

## **6 Challenges**

- 6.1 A robust evidence base is vital to be able to direct scarce resources where they are most needed and to assess the impact of work undertaken. A lack of access to police data, compounded by the lack of police analysts and limited data on council anti-social behaviour continues to hinder this process.
- 6.2 Improvements are expected, with Area West police receiving three analysts in May. The Council are developing business intelligence and have bought software to improve the recording of anti-social behaviour. Information sharing agreements are being reviewed to facilitate the sharing of data between partners.
- 6.3 The amount of funding we receive from MOPAC through the London Crime Prevention Fund continues to reduce and is now half of what we received three years ago. For 2019/20 to 2020/21 we will receive £550,930 per annum to spend on projects to reduce violence against women and girls, tackle gangs and youth violence, reduce re-offending and anti-social behaviour.

- 6.4 Council funding has been secured to address some of this funding gap. Alternative funding sources are being sought. Westminster has been awarded a share of Home Office funding to prevent children and young people becoming involved in serious violence and exploitation. The funding will be used to extend and expand the successful Integrated Gangs Unit model in Westminster to Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham and to coordinate activity across the boroughs to share learning.
- 6.5 There are challenges endemic within any multi-agency setting. Tackling crime and disorder is challenging as it straddles many areas. The governance review highlighted lots of overlap of strategic priorities between the SWP and in particular the Children's and Adults Safeguarding boards. The review has recommended an annual meeting is held with representatives of each board, to identify synergies and seek agreement upon leads for delivery. This should be further supported with an alignment in the timescale for producing annual needs assessments.
- 7 The following sections 8 to 11 provide a summary of the key highlights of the strategic delivery groups over 2018/19.

## **8 Victim delivery group progress**

- 8.1 The overarching aim of the group is; *identifying and working with repeat victims to reduce their vulnerability.*
- 8.2 Domestic violence has some of the highest levels of repeat victimisation and services are commissioned through the Angelou partnership to address this along with Standing Together to work with high risk victims of domestic abuse. 93% of women who worked with Angelou reported increased physical and or psychological safety and feelings of safety as measured by exit surveys/closing assessments over 2018/19.
- 8.3 Funding was secured for three years to fund a Modern Slavery and Exploitation (MSE) worker across the Tri-borough. They will be responsible for delivering training to multi-agencies to raise awareness of MSE and equip professional with the knowledge to identify and respond to potential victims of trafficking.
- 8.4 Further funding has been secured for The Green Room project for 2018/19 and 2019/20. This is a 12 space Pan London women's night centre specialising in violence against women and girls and targeting London's most vulnerable female rough sleepers. The service provides a key 'stepping stone' addressing the historic gap in service provision for a 'quick access' option for female rough sleepers with severe and multiple disadvantage. In the first 10 months of operation, 225 referrals were received, 86 women accessed the project and 35 moves off the street were achieved.

## **9 Offender delivery group progress**

- 9.1 The overarching aim of the Offender Delivery group; working with the most problematic offenders to reduce their re-offending.
- 9.2 Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a multi-agency partnership approach that brings together key partners to supervise, manage and positively impact on the criminal activity of high recidivist offenders within the community. Data from the cohort has evidenced that of the 30 people who have left the cohort for over one year, 26 people did not re-offend within that year, that is a binary re-offending rate of 13%. Preventing re-offending for this small cohort is estimated to have saved the partnership approximately £484,000.

- 9.3 Turning Point have been commissioned to provide additional support to some of the IOM cohort. 6 of the 30 people in the cohort analysed above, worked with Starting Over and none re-offended. In just quarter 3 of 2018/19, 3 clients who worked with Turning Point were now drug free.
- 9.4 The Serious Youth Violence Task Group was established in June 2018 to ensure partners work together to reduce serious youth violence and the fear of violence in our communities. The Young Westminster Foundation has been commissioned to conduct individual interviews and small workshops with young people from the IGU, Youth Offending Team and Beechcroft Academy, to understand young people's views of serious youth violence, obtain feedback on current youth activities and explore how young people can help safeguard each other.
- 9.5 A violence reduction pilot aimed at year 5 and 6 pupils in Church Street is being developed. It will aim to create greater join-up and communication, with schools and police. To ensure schools know about incidents or police operations taking place that may affect their young people. It will also map programmes taking place in schools to identify if a universal programme can be established.

## **10 Location delivery group progress**

- 10.1 The overall objective of the Locations delivery group is to; Reduce high harm crime in Queens Park and Church Street wards and the West End.
- 10.2 One of the key outcomes of the Locations Delivery group is to improve employment opportunities within the vulnerable Queens Park and Church Street wards. This group has benefited from forging new links across the partnership in particular with the Economic team. At the end of December 35 clients who live in Church Street and 4 in Queen's Park are being supported. 2 have been supported into employment and 1 has gained some work experience.
- 10.3 ASB protocols have been developed and training is being delivered across the partnership to improve the partnership response to tackling ASB. An ASB officer within City West Homes is intervening early in low level threshold ASB, through family support and joint visits to identify what parental support is available.
- 10.4 As part of the Effective Neighbourhood Working a review of problem solving and tasking has been undertaken. This has included the purchase of software to help improve ASB case management. This revised process will improve the escalation of problem solving and the escalation of new and emerging issues into the Location delivery group.

## **11 CONTEST progress**

- 11.1 The local delivery counter-terrorism activity follows CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. This has four strands; pursue; prepare; protect and prevent.
- 11.2 38 advice and guidance sessions to businesses and other organisations around the terrorist threat and on the importance of having appropriate security plans have been delivered in the first three quarters of 2018/19.
- 11.3 As part of the Prevent Programme projects and to commence to deliver a range of projects in order to support and empower Westminster's communities including; deliver strengthening families, strengthening communities parenting programme and Deliver fathers for future.

- 11.4 A key aspect of the Prevent Programme is to provide, advice, guidance and training. Over this financial year, 22 educational institutions have received training. 1,198 participants have received training from Critical Thinking & Challenging Prejudice workshops.
- 11.5 The Home Office conducted a Prevent Peer Review in October 2018. The review found that Westminster is generally delivery Prevent to a relatively high standard. Partnerships are firmly developed, some practices are strong, and leaders are aware of challenges whilst demonstrating a firm commitment to reducing the risk of radicalisation. Raising awareness of Prevent delivery to elected members was recommended as a priority. A delivery plan has been developed based upon the feedback which will be delivered in 2019.

## **12 City Survey Results**

- 12.1 The Westminster City Survey for 2018 asked 2,599 residents a variety of questions including feelings of safety and concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour issues in the borough. Despite the increasing crime levels, 97% of residents felt safe compared with 96% the previous year.
- 12.2 21% of residents felt that their quality of life was affected by fear of crime a slight increase from 19% in 2017. When residents were asked what do they most like about living in your local area, the second highest (27%) was feeling safe.
- 12.3 People using or dealing drugs and begging remain the highest antisocial behaviour concern of residents at 30% and 29% respectively.

## **13 MOPAC Co-commissioning**

- 13.1 The London Crime Prevention Fund for 2017 – 2021 which provides money to boroughs to spend on addressing local crime issues was top sliced by MOPAC by 30% to create a new co-commissioning fund. The purpose of the fund was to drive innovative, new approaches and to extend the reach of existing effective services in London through the co-design, co-commissioning and co-delivery of services.
- 13.2 Four services were awarded funding from the co-commissioning fund of which three benefit Westminster.
- 13.3 Advance Minerva Wrap Around Female Offender Service was allocated £3 million to deliver a female offender service in 15 London boroughs, including Westminster. To date 26 women in Westminster have been receiving support.
- 13.4 South London Alliance Female Offenders Service was allocated £1.6 million to deliver a female offending service in south London, this does not include Westminster.
- 13.5 Taith (Journey) London – this project was allocated £1.8 million to deliver a specialist harmful sexual behaviour service in nine London boroughs including Westminster.
- 13.6 Out There Response and Rescue – this project was allocated £3 million to deliver a pan-London 'county lines' service to support vulnerable young Londoners exploited by criminal gangs. This project is the first large scale county lines service that brings together police intelligence analysis, London boroughs and specialised voluntary and community organisations to tackle this complex issue.

## **14 Other work of interest to the Scrutiny Panel**

- 14.1 The Integrated Street Engagement Unit was funded as part of the #MyWestminster programme and began in April 2018. It is a multi-agency taskforce that brings Council resources, such as Neighbourhood Co-coordinator, City Inspectors and Resource Coordinator together with local police teams and externally commissioned

outreach and substance misuse services, in a formal partnership structure to tackle the challenges associated with Westminster's 'street population' such as drug-taking, begging, street-fouling and other anti-social behaviour.

- 14.2 Since the inception of ISEU, they have undertaken numerous key works through referrals and tasking requests in addition to proactive coordinated deployments across the city delivering multiple successful outcomes through joint operation with partners. Over October to December 2018, 180 street contacts were made all of whom were signposted to services. 38 Community Protection Notices have been issued by the Council and Police. 90 stop and searches took place and 6 weapons seized.
- 14.3 The Soho Angels and Soho Night Hub is a new initiative to help people who are vulnerable or need support while out at night. It is hoped it will relieve the pressure on emergency services and increase the safety and sustainability of nightlife in the area. They will operate every Friday and Saturday night from 10pm to 5am.
- 14.4 A team of volunteers, known as the Angels, will patrol Soho looking out for anyone who needs help. They'll offer anything from water and directions, to helping people contact friends and family, sitting with them while they sober up, or helping them get medical attention. The Night Hub, on Dean Street, will provide a safe space where people can rest, recover or simply charge their phone.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact Report Author x5753  
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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Safer Westminster Partnership Strategic Assessment 2018



Safer Westminster  
Partnership Strategic

Safer Westminster Partnership Performance dashboard



SWP performance  
dashboard.pptx