

# Adults, Health & Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee

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<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Update on progress of the Safer Westminster Partnership</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Sara Sutton: Director Public Protection & Licensing
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	Public Protection and Licensing
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	All
<b>Policy Context:</b>	Community Safety
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work of the Safer Westminster Partnership.
- 1.2 The Safer Westminster Partnership (SWP) is the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Westminster. CSPs were formed under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are made up of representatives from the responsible authorities, who are; Metropolitan Police Service, Police & Crime Commissioner (Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime), Westminster City Council, London Fire Brigade, Clinical Commissioning Groups, National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company.
- 1.3 The responsible authorities are under a statutory duty to work together to; reduce reoffending, crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse. A responsible authority is statutorily required to be represented on the CSP and contribute to the formulation of a strategy to reduce crime and disorder within Westminster and for the production of a strategic assessment to underpin this.

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

- 2.1 For the committee to note the contents of this report and the strategic assessment in Appendix A.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 A strategic assessment was produced in March 2016 (**Appendix A**) to identify the key crime and disorder issues affecting Westminster and to record progress against the four existing priorities set in the SWP Plan;
- Reducing violence against women and girls
  - Tackling youth crime and keeping young people safe
  - Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Countering Terrorism and radicalisation.

A summary of the actions to tackle the 2015/16 priorities are detailed below.

#### **Reducing Violence Against Women & Girls**

- 3.2 The start of 2015 launched the procurement of two new specialist services to tackle Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG), broadening our approach from domestic violence to tackle all forms of gender based violence and abuse resulting in establishing a shared governance and a new VAWG strategy across the Tri-borough. Angelou is a partnership of nine charitable organisations who are providing specialist support for survivors and their families and Standing Together who contribute to coordinate successful Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) targeting high risk victims of domestic violence and two domestic violence courts including one at Westminster Magistrates Court.
- 3.3 Significant improvements in the outcomes for victims of domestic abuse have been demonstrated. Quarter one performance for 2016/17 showed that 93% of women report a reduction in abuse due to support and advice received from a baseline of 67%. In 84% of domestic abuse cases the Partnership was able to reduce the assessed risk at point of case closure from a baseline of 62%.
- 3.4 A 12 month pilot looking at new ways of engaging with domestic violence perpetrators was launched in October 2015. Specialist workers are now embedded across the Tri-borough area to ensure all police community safety teams, children's centres, and young offenders are able to access specialist support and interventions.

#### **Tackling youth crime and keeping young people safe**

- 3.5 The Integrated Gangs Unit continues to work with young people actively and persistently involved in gangs. The engagement levels of this very hard to reach group are relatively high and increasing. More than ever clients are in jobs (around 45% success rate for those referred), receiving health services and having support in terms of understanding the consequences of the law, housing issues, family dynamics, relationships, peer pressure, violence, mediation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) interventions.

- 3.6 Quarter one performance data for 2016/17 shows that 100% of all young people accessing services through the Your Choice Programme achieve a positive outcome.
- 3.7 For those who don't respond to support, enforcement interventions are taken. Between April 2015 and March 2016, 11 Criminal Behaviour Orders were obtained. 3.3.4 These are orders designed to tackle the most serious and persistent anti-social individuals where their behaviour has brought them before a criminal court. Prevention work is undertaken in schools and delivered by the charity Growing Against Violence who provide intervention packages to years 7-11, parents and staff groups. Targeted early intervention for those at risk of gang affiliation occurs at Send and Coldingly prisons and through a team of voluntary mentors.

### **Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

- 3.8 An ASB partnership meeting has been introduced which is intelligence led and provides an opportunity to review data relating to ASB and current partnership operations and task resources accordingly.
- 3.9 Following the restructure of Public Protection and Licensing there are now 75 City Inspectors providing 24/7 cover with expanded roles to include tackling ASB.
- 3.10 New ASB legislation under Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 has been utilised to give more power to tackle areas of ASB that often previously fell between other pieces of legislation. Officers across the partnership have been trained in issuing Community Protection Notices for a variety of ASB issues, over 100 have been issued to date. Much of this increased activity to reduce ASB has been linked to partnership operations tackling foreign national offenders and low level organised criminality.

### **Countering Terrorism & Radicalisation**

- 3.11 Westminster now has 3 multi-agency groups that each focus on a strand of the Home Office's counter-terrorism strategy 'CONTEST'. Each group has a terms of reference and drives performance and partnership work aimed at designing out risk and the potential impact of a terrorist attack. A key member of these groups is the Counter-terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) who brings specialist knowledge and input to each meeting.
- 3.12 A range of partnership activity is undertaken in response to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat the City faces from those who promote it. Over the last two years, the Prevent team has made significant progress in terms of engagement work with Westminster's communities and the delivery of a range of community projects. This has included the Prevent parenting project and a 'Creating Stronger Communities' project, which works to identify and address the social needs of Muslim women from vulnerable communities.

## **4. Governance**

- 4.1 The strategic assessment was presented to the SWP in May. The board agreed with the recommendations of the report, it was decided that foreign national offenders are to be included as a priority for 2016/17 and that the impact of mental health on community safety should be explored. In terms of the impact of mental health, a workshop took place in August that was well attended by key stakeholders from the partnership. A number of actions were taken from the meeting and these will be progressed over the coming weeks, all aimed the how the partnership can focus on improving support for victims with mental health concerns or tackling the behaviour of perpetrators.
- 4.2 In addition, a paper was prepared for SWP, which reviewed the current approach to partnership working in Westminster and provided a number of recommendations around the governance structure. This included the introduction of an Executive Group focused on driving performance against the SWP Strategy and agreed priorities.
- 4.3 The governance for each of the project boards is to be made more robust with the development of a standardised performance framework. A problem oriented approach has been proposed for the programme boards from 2017/18, focusing upon work to address the most prolific offenders, the highest repeat victims and target resources in problem/high crime locations in Westminster. This structure would provide a more streamlined problem oriented approach to enable cross cutting themes such as employment and mental health be discussed in relation to all victims or offenders rather than separate cohort groups.

## **5. Next steps**

- 5.1 An updated strategic assessment is being produced and will be discussed at the next SWP meeting in November.
- 5.2 The new Policing & Crime Plan and MOPAC funding arrangements, commencing in April 2017, is unclear at this time but we are expecting further information in the autumn. As MOPAC funding supports a significant number of projects and priorities from SWP, the strategic assessment will be instrumental in determining our bids for future funding from 2017 and beyond.
- 5.3 Cllr Aiken, as chair of the SWP, has initiated a review of SWP and will continue to work with partners in overhauling the whole governance framework and to secure a stronger buy in from Public Health across the priority areas. In addition, actions from the recent mental health workshop will be progressed.

**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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