

# Adults, Health & Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	19 June 2017
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Metropolitan Police Service Update – and Mayor’s Policing &amp; Crime Plan 2017-2021</b>
<b>Briefing of:</b>	Peter Ayling: Police Borough Commander
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	Public Protection & Licensing
<b>Ward Involved</b>	All
<b>Policy Context</b>	Community Safety
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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper seeks to provide a detailed update on key issues currently within the Metropolitan Police Service alongside implementation of the Mayor’s Policing & Crime Plan.
- 1.2 A specific update is provided covering the potential MPS reorganisation and BCU (Basic Command Unit) model, potential changes to the neighbourhood policing structure and implementation of the Mayor’s Policing and Crime Plan 2017-2021.

## 2. MPS Reorganisation

- 2.1 There are two principal elements to the reorganisation of local policing; delayering of management structures, and a reduction in number of operational commands (Boroughs to BCUs).

## 2.2 BCU Management Model (Delaying):

In addition to the test that is ongoing at Westminster, the East Pathfinder BCU is now operating without Chief Inspectors. There is a nominal saving to be made by reducing the number of ranks. It is yet to be confirmed by the new Commissioner if the BCU initiative will go ahead.

## 2.3 BCU Implementation:

There are now two BCU's in operation in 2017. Islington and Camden merged to form the 'Central North BCU' and Redbridge, Barking and Havering formed the 'East BCU'. In line with the proposal the BCU's are operating with four distinct functions: Response; Neighbourhood Policing; Investigations; Protecting Vulnerable People. These have presented some challenges which we are in the process of reviewing and using the learning to inform the next stage of the BCU process. These are a mixture of operational, people management and geographical issues.

2.4 The actual configuration of the BCU's is still under consideration and is impacted by a number of factors which includes further conversations with Local Authorities, infrastructure that influences deployment such as notable physical boundaries (the river and major transport routes) and operational factors. There are still ongoing discussions about the viability of any single borough commands and the optimum scale for a BCU.

2.5 There are a number of recognised cross-border policing issues both within the MPS and with Home Counties. Much of this will be business as usual through already established links, however the BCU model would mean a streamlined area tasking process at a command level, allowing focus on any specific cross-border issues such as moped-enabled crime, which can be cascaded back down within BCU's. The proposed Partnership and Prevention Hubs will also provide a direct link for other boroughs to liaise with each other and raise any cross border issues at a central partnership level

## 3. Changes to Neighbourhood Policing

3.1 The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan supports the commitment to neighbourhood policing with at least two DWO's (Dedicated Ward Officers) and one PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) for each of London's 629 wards. This is the minimum and not the maximum as there are additional DWOs being allocated across the busiest wards and town centres.

3.2 There is a proposed substantial investment in our Youth and Schools officers in an attempt to divert more young people away from crime and harm. This will see an increase in PCs (Police Constables) allocated to Pupil Referral Units and named points of contacts for all schools, including primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities and children's homes designated as

priority establishments. There will also be 32 PCs in the VPC (Voluntary Police Cadet) coordinator role across London, a role we have already been committed to at Westminster for over two years. Keeping young people safe is an important part of our control strategy and schools will remain an important part of neighbourhood policing in both Westminster and the wider MPS.

3.3 The exact numbers of officers allocated to roles has is remaining flexible at this stage whilst we review current learning from the Pathfinder BCU's but hopefully this gives you some confidence in the continued commitment to effective neighbourhood policing. This enhanced focus on partnership work and neighbourhood policing will allow us to respond more effectively to anti-social behaviour which is a key priority within the Mayor's Policing and Crime Plan.

#### **4. Implementation of the Mayor's Policing and Crime Plan in Westminster**

4.1 The Mayor's Policing and Crime plan was discussed locally with Westminster City Council, the Metropolitan Police Service and MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime). Prior to the release of the plan, we agreed upon the local prioritisation of Non-Domestic Violence with Injury (VWI) and Personal Robbery. In addition, alongside other Boroughs in the MPS, we were also asked to focus on mandatory high harm crime and anti-social behaviour.

4.2 Mandatory High Harm Crime is defined by MOPAC as sexual violence, domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, weapon based crime and hate crime. At this point we have not received information as to the baseline for performance and performance ambition.

4.3 Westminster's Control Strategy 2017;

As part of the implementation process we have developed a Control Strategy to ensure an enhanced focus on priority areas identified by the Policing and Crime Plan and local analysis. Whilst we must deliver a number of key services, some things must be given more emphasis in order to develop meaningful intelligence, use our resources effectively and ultimately protect the public and bring offenders to justice. This control strategy aligns precisely with that of the Safer Westminster Partnership.

4.4 Our priority strands and their key objectives and focus are as follows;

CW Control Strategy 2017	
Keeping Young People Safe	Foreign National Offenders
Night Time Economy	Drugs and vulnerability

**Keeping Young People Safe** will have a particular focus on;

- **Missing Children**
- **Child Sexual Exploitation**
- **Under 18 victims of VWI and knife crime**
- **Children exposed to and experiencing domestic abuse**

**Foreign National Offenders** will have a particular focus on;

- **Working in partnership** to bring offenders to justice
- **Responding to safeguarding issues** presented by vulnerable foreign nationals involved in crime and ASB in Westminster.
- Building a community impact evidence base to **influence national policy and procedures.**
- **Developing intelligence** regarding offending by foreign nationals to detect, disrupt and deter to make Londoners safer.

**Night Time Economy** will have a particular focus on;

- **Reducing mandatory high harm crime** in the West End and **our two local priority crimes**, non-domestic VWI and Robbery.

**Drugs and Vulnerability** will have a particular focus on;

- Gangs
- The West End
- Improved intelligence, resourcing and tasking
- Enhanced diversion from drugs, gangs and rough sleeping.

Many of the strands overlap and are intertwined which ensures limited gaps and encourages cross-portfolio working. All four of our priority areas are only achievable in partnership.

#### 4.5 Responding to Robbery and Weapon Based Crime

We have developed a Knife Crime Strategy for 2017 which outlines those leading within their portfolio and our strategic aims and objectives. We are aware of the challenges and MOPAC data for knife crime and robbery in Westminster.

#### 4.6 Our Knife Crime Strategy is aimed at four key strands based on a model developed in Lewisham; **Protect, Prevent, Prepare** and **Pursue**. This is by no means exhaustive but our strategy is aimed at preventing knife crime through education, awareness and local weapon sweeps, protecting vulnerable locations, targeting high harm individuals and pursuing offenders.

#### 4.7 Baseline and Performance;

Key performance indicators will be released shortly. Look like and how we ensure tangible outcomes. From there we can identify a baseline and begin to scrutinise our own performance in more detail.

4.8 However, it is possible to review the original MOPAC 7 series of offences from 2011/12 base line and see the improvements we have made in broader terms and identify where challenges still exist. Violence against the person (VAP) and sexual offences have shown a notable increase since 2011/12 and are very much at the top of the agenda for the MPS and locally for Westminster, with a specific focus on non-domestic violence with injury in Westminster as part of the Mayor's Policing and Crime Plan.

4.9 In terms of the last 12 months against this baseline we have also seen a significant increase in for Robbery, another Westminster specific priority under the Mayors P&C Plan. Issues are typically concentrated within the Night Time Economy footprint, particularly around Soho and the West End.

Major Crime Type	2011/12 Baseline	25 May 2016		25 May 2017	
		Rolling total	Variation from Base	Rolling total	Variation from Base
Burglary	3,473	3,214	-7.5%	3,193	-8.1%
Robbery	2,067	1,643	-20.5%	2,018	-2.4%
Criminal Damage	2,430	2,114	-13.0%	2,230	-8.2%
Theft and Handling	39,878	27,951	-29.9%	29,311	-26.5%
Sexual Offences	611	819	34.0%	937	53.4%
VAP	8,310	10,380	24.9%	11,968	44.0%
Drugs	6,680	2,175	-67.4%	2,142	-67.9%

Source: MPS Performance Pages)