

REPORT TO: CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE: 10th January 2019

REPORT TITLE: Update on North Area Knife Crime & Serious Youth Violence Action Plan

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PURPOSE OF REPORT: To brief the Crime Scrutiny Panel on development and delivery of the North Area Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence Action Plan.

SUMMARY: This report summarises the background and implementation of consistent knife crime and serious youth violence action plans across London and how this work is being developed and delivered in Enfield and Haringey boroughs.

1. BACKGROUND

A 2018 a review of knife crime and serious youth violence plans in place in each London borough revealed a variety of format, content and detail leading to difficulties in identifying good practice and the effectiveness of differing approaches. In June 2018 MOPAC, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and London Councils collaboratively developed a new action plan template drawing on the expertise of senior police officers, Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, Directors of Public Health and Heads of Community Safety from across London.

Each Community Safety Partnership was required to develop a plan based on this template and agreement was reached with Enfield and Haringey Councils to form a single collaborative cross-border action plan coterminous with the new North Area Basic Command Unit (NA BCU) local policing structure with brings together the policing of both boroughs into a single unit. It is strongly believed that a single plan delivered in partnership across both boroughs offers best opportunity to maximise the safety of young people through effective co-ordination, sharing of good practice and identification of shared objectives.

North Area Knife Crime & Serious Youth Violence Action Plan

Every London CSP's action plan, including the plan developed for Enfield and Haringey, is structured around six consistent themes:

1. Keeping deadly weapons off the streets
 - *Reducing opportunities for knife crime by minimising accessibility and availability of bladed weapons*
2. Protecting and educating young people
3. Targeting lawbreakers
 - *Enforcement focus driven by strategic and tactical analysis*
4. Offering ways out of crime
 - *Working with criminal justice partners to provide opportunities for young people to access services, training & employment*
5. Standing with communities, neighbourhoods and families against knife crime
 - *Comprehensive community engagement strategy*
6. Supporting victims of violent crime
 - *A victim-focussed approach to the response to, and investigation of, violent crime*

The contributory activities of each member agency / department (see below for membership) for each of the six themes have been comprehensively listed and categorised within the North Area (Enfield and Haringey) Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence Action Plan. Delivery of these activities is also mapped and tracked against existing strategic plans to improve the safety of young people in place in each of the contributing organisations and therefore should complement and drive wider council and other agency objectives. The action plan has been reviewed by MOPAC and assessed as strong.

Delivery

To ensure continued and effective development, coordination and delivery of the action plan the North Area Violence Reduction Group (NAVRG) has been created. The group, which meets every six weeks alternatively in Enfield and Haringey, consists of senior representatives from:

- Enfield Borough Council
- Haringey Borough Council
- Metropolitan Police
- Enfield Public Health Team
- Haringey Public Health Team
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- London Fire Brigade
- Community Safety Manager for both Boroughs
- Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust
- Clinical Commissioning Group representatives
- Courts Services

- Transport for London
- British Transport Police
- North Middlesex Hospital
- Victim Support
- Safer Neighbourhood Board to support community oversight
- Registered Social Landlords
- Voluntary Sector including identified groups such as ECYPS
- Business Sector
- Haringey Business Improvement District
- Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

Individuals / organisations not represented on this list may request or be requested to attend for specific discussions.

Purpose

NAVRG is responsible for coordination and reporting of this work to the Community Safety Partnerships and Safeguarding Boards/ arrangements in respective areas. The project will provide an opportunity for increased effectiveness through the development of analytical products to evidence need and from sharing examples of good practice and outcomes. This work will be shared as appropriate with other groups including the MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit.

Specific aims are to:

- be community-centric
- identify opportunities to better coordinate and anticipate incidents of violence across the BCU.
- support the development of a Public Health approach and identify and share best practice.
- particularly focus on early intervention to reduce vulnerability.
- include actions to support young people transitioning from children to adult services.
- develop and test strategies to counter the opportunity for violence.
- maintain both strategic and operational overview of occurrences and trends in relation to these issues.
- complement MOPAC strategies and the work of the Violence Reduction Unit
- regularly receive intelligence and performance information;
- constructively challenge on areas of underperformance as well as understanding and identifying best practice;
- ensure that the work is consistent with, and complementary to, the wider remit of existing Partnership Boards in both Boroughs and other relevant agencies' plans and strategies.
- ensure clear engagement with key partnerships such as Health and Wellbeing and the Safeguarding boards.
- maintain and develop positive relationships with other forums and groups.
- ensure that effective mechanisms are in place and are being used to consult and engage local communities and businesses;

- ensure that due account is taken of social cohesion and diversity issues including those related to priority groups, neighbourhoods and communities;
- have a communications plan in place to publicise its work and encourage greater community confidence and engagement.

Governance

Within the BCU there are two Community Safety Partnerships and separate safeguarding arrangements where reports and progress will be reported. It is envisaged that, for the life North Area Violence Reduction Group, a standing item should be agreed for these borough-based arrangements to ensure that all contributing partners across the area are fully briefed in a timely manner. These written briefings can then be shared with other groups as required

All members of the Partnership will be in a position to make or influence decisions within their organisation and commit resources, where appropriate. Group members will be responsible for reporting to the Group on relevant issues and developments from within their own organisation and wider areas. They will also be responsible for communicating Group business down to all departments and staff within their own organisation, as appropriate.

2. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Whilst there are now positive signs of stabilisation, knife crime and youth violence remains a significant challenge for London as a whole and locally - in the 12 months to November 2018 Enfield and Haringey had the 3rd and 5th highest volumes of serious youth violence in London – and tackling violent crime remains the number one priority for the MPS.

Work is underway within MOPAC to establish a new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) of specialists in health, police and local government to lead and deliver a long-term public health approach to tackling the causes of violent crime. The unit will be a multi-disciplinary team operating across London, expanding the work of the Mayor’s Knife Crime Strategy to include wider types of violence and look to address the links between violence in the home and on the street. It aims to better understanding the risk factors in a person’s early life that can lead to serious violence by using data from health, criminal justice and other public services. It will also focus on improved and sped up interventions at a local level, with the aim of reducing violence and protecting those vulnerable to exploitation. Once established, it is anticipated that a clear relationship between the VRU and local violence reduction delivery groups will be set out.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the updates provided within this report and to support the work of the North Area Violence Reduction Delivery Group. It is recommended that further updates be provided at subsequent Crime Scrutiny Panels.

4. NEXT STEPS

The MPS is funding provision of analytical and project co-ordination support to NAVRDG to drive targeted and focussed intervention in the areas most affected by violent crime. Additionally, a funding bid for £4,600 has been successful for the Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club to deliver additional coaching sessions to young people in a part of the borough most affected violent crime.

As NAVRDG progresses towards delivery against the action plan, further opportunities for funding bids are being explored and assessed to ensure that interventions are driven effectively and sustainable for the longer term.