

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 7 December 2022
(10:00-12:30)

Members Present: Cllr Syed Ghani (Co-Chair), Stuart Bell (Co-Chair), Cllr Elizabeth Kangethe, Chris Lyons, Andy Opie, Nathan Singleton and Sarah Robertson

Also Present: Ifthahar Ahmed (NOTETAKER), Clare Brutton, Ilirjeta Buzoku (NOTE TAKER), Daniel James, Gary Jones, David Lingard & Amolak Tatter

Apologies: Fiona Taylor, April Bald, Steven Calder, Matthew Cole, Jennie Coombs, Narinder Dail, Angie Fuller, Stephen Hynes, Kevin Makambe, Alison Stuart, Steve Thompson, Melody Williams, Cllr Maureen Worby and Kit Weller

1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Councillor Ghani, the Cabinet Member for Enforcement & Community Safety and Chair opened the December 2022 Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board and apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest to note.

3. Minutes

The October 2022 CSP board minutes were approved. The following actions have been completed:

- **ACTION: Daniel James to contact Stuart Bell about access to police data (COMPLETED).**

- **ACTION: Andy Opie and Chris Lyons to meet and create a timetable of the tasks and governance processes that need to be completed leading up to the publication of the 2023-2026 CSP Plan and share this with CSP board members, sub-group chairs its members (COMPLETED).**

- **ACTION: Amolak Tatter to draw up a plan of how to bring an element of the Combatting Drugs Partnership and share this in Decembers 2022 CSP board for approval (COMPLETED).**

- **ACTION: Chris Lyons to share the Women's Safety Comms Campaign plan with CSP members when finalised (COMPLETED).**

- **ACTION: Daniel Thompson to inform Chris Lyons and Andy Opie of when walk and talks take place so this can be promoted through the Women's Safety Comms Campaign (COMPLETED).**

- **ACTION: Chris to share the National Hate Crime Awareness Week event plan with CSP board members (COMPLETED).**

- **ACTION: Angela D'Urso and Chris Lyons to meet outside of the CSP board to discuss how the priorities in the VAWG group and CSP Strategy link up (COMPLETED).**

4. Combating Drugs Partnership

- As a part of the government's new 10-year Drug Strategy, legislation states that a Combatting Drug Partnership (CDP) Board must be formed.
- Three main ambitions of the 10-year Drug Strategy:
 1. Breaking drug supply chains
 2. Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
 3. Reduce the demand for recreational drugs
- The implementation of the 10-year Drug Strategy subsequently means there will be an increase in core funding to tackle drug misuse in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBDD).
- Partnership working is another key component of the CDP as tackling the misuse of drugs and alcohol is 'everyone's business'. LBBDD does well in terms of partnership working but it would be useful to also access additional intelligence that further informs how we can take this drug strategy forwards.
- The CDP will be renamed to include tackling alcohol abuse due to the increased alcohol use in LBBDD, especially since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic. This new group will be named Combatting Drugs & Alcohol (CDA) Meeting.
- The purpose and membership of the CDA significantly overlaps that of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). To avoid duplication of work and increase efficiency, it is proposed to devote the CSP some strategic oversight of the CDA by creating a combined '*Community Safety and Substance Misuse Partnership (CS&SMP) Board*'.
- The CS&SMP Board will feature the CDA Meeting as an additional sub-group whereby the majority of operational work is carried out and deliver quarterly updates to the board to ensure legislative strategic oversight.

Nathan Singleton questioned if the funding to carry out the government's 10-year Drug Strategy came from the Standard Public Health Grant. Amolak Tatter responded that as well as an increase in the Public Health Grant, LBBDD received an additional Universal Grant last year. The Universal grant was used to commission the creation of a Complex Criminal Justice Team with an identified range of expertise across children's and adult social care. For this year and next, the Supplementary Grant will sustain the funding of the Complex Criminal Justice Team, as well as increase the work that is being carried out to tackle drug and alcohol misuse, recovery, and relapse prevention.

Nathan Singleton further quired how partnership working could be improved in light of partners no longer having access to police databases. Andy Opie and Stuart Bell confirmed that there is a new system being created under a new framework within the police, which partners will have access to when completed.

Amolak Tatter informed that there is a Drugs and Alcohol needs assessment that has been drafted and is due to be circulated. Having access to police and wider partner intelligence will be crucial in the finetuning of the Drugs and Alcohol needs assessment,

as this document will inform where the gaps are within the service. This will therefore influence LBBD's 5-year Drugs and Alcohol Strategy priorities, the subsequent action plan, and the re-commissioning of providers.

Amolak Tatter also noted the cultural competencies work will begin in January 2023. Over half of LBBD is from an ethnic minority background, however, drug and alcohol services are mostly accessed by White-British residents. The cultural competencies work will explore why ethnic minority residents are not accessing services and seek to improve engagement.

❖ **RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED:**

- The CSP will have oversight of the CDP and embed this board as part of a CSP sub-group on a trial basis.

- **ACTION: Chris Lyons to amend the Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference to reflect the new Community Safety & Substance Misuse Board.**
- **ACTION: Amolak Tatter to bring Alcohol and Drugs Needs Assessment to the next Community Safety & Substance Misuse Board.**
- **ACTION: Amolak Tatter to bring an update on the Cultural Competencies work to the next Community Safety & Substance Misuse Board.**

5. RESTRICTED: Domestic Homicide Review

6. Forward Plan

Chris Lyons outlined the items that would be presented in March's 2023 CSP:

- Women's Safety Update
- CCTV Update
- Local Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan
- Substance Misuse Profile
- Update of DHR.
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- Substance Misuse Profile
- Update of DHR.

7. Sub-group Update

No sub-group updates were presented.

8. Safer Neighbourhood Board

No sub-group updates were presented.

9. Safeguarding Board Update

No sub-group updates were presented.

10. Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-2026

- Every three years the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board are required by legislation to develop an overarching Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- The plan provides an overview of the work and priority areas that fall under the responsibility of the CSP which is informed by the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment which shapes and sets out activities to address local and MOPAC priorities for reducing crime and disorder.
- The plan is published on the council website to keep the residents of the borough informed on the progress of the CSP.

CSP Plan Timeline:

1. Strategic Assessment priorities agreed (October 2022)
2. CSP subgroup chairs consultation on the rewriting of the plan (Late November 2022)
3. CSP board members workshop (December 2022)
4. Draft plan circulated to CSP board members (January 2023)
5. Formal sign-off of CSP Plan at the CSP Board (March 2023)
6. Paper delivered to LBB Corporate Strategy Group (April 2023)
7. Approval from members at LBB Cabinet (May 2023)

Key Findings from the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment:

- In Barking and Dagenham in 2021/22, all major crime types had exceeded pre covid 19 levels except for the following offence types: burglary, robbery, theft, and vehicle.
- In 2021/22 there was a total of 20,560 offences recorded by the Police - an increase of 1,931 offences (+10.4%) from the previous year.

Recommendations from the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment 2022:

- Based on this year's assessment of offence volume, cost, and estimated harm the existing priority crime and disorder types should remain priorities in 2022/23.

This includes:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (mandatory high harm MOPAC priority area)
- Gun Crime (Mandatory high harm MOPAC priority area)
- Hate Crime (mandatory high harm MOPAC priority area)
- Knife Crime (mandatory high harm MOPAC priority area)
- Sexual Offences (mandatory high harm MOPAC priority area)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (mandatory high harm MOPAC priority area)
- Non-Domestic Abuse Violence With Injury (Agreed MOPAC high volume Priority)
- Robbery of Personal property (agreed MOPAC high volume priority)
- Adult and Juvenile reoffending (locally set)
- Arson (locally set)

Community Safety Partnership Plan Workshop feedback:

1. **Is anything missing in the plan that has been identified as a priority In the strategic assessment?**
 - **Group 1 – Andy**

- Burglary: This crime is down within the borough and across wider London though this continues a priority set by the Met's Police Crime Commissioner. *Is this both residential and non-residential burglary?*

- Knife Crime: Reducing serious violence is a key priority for MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan.

- Safety of young people online:

- Access to fraudulent crime due to financial vulnerability and the cost-of-living crisis through social media apps.
- Social media apps such as Tik Tok and Snapchat are being used to sell and promote the drug market and are also being used to exploit young people into county lines and gang-related activity.
- Social media makes young people more exposed to being victims of anonymised hate crimes as well as increasing the likelihood of people becoming perpetrators of hate crimes.

○ **Group 2 – Chris**

- Disconnect between the strategic CSP board and the operational work: There needs to be a stronger link between the CSP and the operational enforcement plan.

- Priority 2 - 'Tackling Crimes that affect people the most': There is a need to increase the visibility of the council and the services within our community – this is a shared power amongst CSP partners.

- Cost of living: Crimes stemming from the cost-of-living crisis such as selling counterfeit goods, theft, and petty crime need to be captured accurately. There was also a consensus that these types of petty crimes will lead to an increase in large-scale crime and ASB within the borough. *How will the CSP message into wider corporate discussions within the local authority? Is there a group within the council dedicated to having conversations about the cost-of-living crisis, how can the CSP have an input into this?*

- Tackling organised crime: Romanian street begging issue within the borough where there is an organised crime element that sits behind it such as deploying people to certain areas and also filters down to lower-level crime.

2. **Are the cross-cutting themes covered sufficiently, and how are they best delivered – VAWG, cost of living, perceptions/engagement, drugs? Where should the responsibility sit?**

○ **Group 1 – Andy:**

- Delivery groups need to be fit for purpose and need some amendment to ensure that remits are clear. For the sub-groups who do not have a delivery plan, it would be useful to have one that outlines priorities, actions, outcomes, accountable leads, and timelines.

- Priority 2 of the CSP plan - 'Tackling Crimes that affect people the most' is vague in its description and there is no sub-group that tackles that specific priority. This priority may need to be re-named into a priority that tackles safety in the

neighbourhoods/community such as anti-social behaviour.

- **Group 2 – Chris:**

- VAWG area is well covered with the launch of the strategic board.

- Cost- of- living crisis - How can the CSP message be brought into wider corporate discussions within the local authority? Is there a group within the council dedicated to having conversations about the cost-of-living crisis, how can the CSP have an input into this from a safety perspective?

3. Does the CSP feel as though it has sufficient oversight of delivery against the plan? Could future meetings be organised differently?

- **Group 1 – Andy:**

- For there to be sufficient oversight of the CSP, *all* sub-group chairs need to provide updates on a regular basis so that all partners are updated each quarter on the work that is being carried out to tackle crime and disorder.

- **Group 2 – Chris**

- It was agreed that there was a disconnect between the strategic CSP board and the operational work being carried out on the ground. There needs to be a stronger link between the CSP and the operational enforcement plan.

- Data is paramount in understanding the crime and disorder trends – though is this actually reflective of what is happening on the ground? Other technology needs to be used to accurately capture different types of crime that can produce a holistic and accurate picture of crime in the borough and its effects on residents.

- There should be a 'deep dive' of different items, such as Women's Safety, Serious violence etc on rotation at the CSP so that partners gain sufficient understanding of the work and outcomes when tackling crime.

4. Are we doing enough engagement? Should we be asking for more feedback on priorities, suggestions for delivery etc

- **Group 1 – Andy:**

- Engagement has been high e.g.: The Women's Safety Survey, Annual Residents Survey, Youth Safety Summit, Public Perception of Police survey and the Mets ZEN City App that engages with young people and collects data on their perception of crime through pop-up surveys.

- A simple survey to consult residents on the draft CSP Plan 2023-2026 priorities could be carried out through LBBB's One Borough Voice Platform and through partner networks. Due to the timeline of the CSP Plan being published, there would not be enough time to run an in-depth consultation with residents.

- **ACTION: Sub-group chairs that could not attend December's 2022 CSP are required to give feedback on the current CSP Plan 2023-2026 priorities.**

- **Group 2 – Chris**

- Residents are not keen on sharing any crime they have witnessed or have been the

victim of as the report becomes 'just another statistic'. Increased engagement with residents will ensure that crimes occurring on the ground are recorded more accurately.

- There needs to be an increase in engagement with our communities, businesses, and grassroots facilities such as youth zones to facilitate engagement.

- There is a wide range of support networks we can reach out to like, safer neighbourhood teams, British transport police and security services. *How are we going to link all these partners up strategically and deliver an effective operational plan on the ground?*

- Residents should be engaged through different forums such as events and digital consultation to engage with a variety of different cohorts.

- There needs to be more visibility of CSP partners, police and the voluntary sector within the borough, as well as having a stronger online presence. *What does visibility actually look like from the CSP?*

- Involve developers like BeFirst, Housing and Community Solutions to collate data which will be useful for the police/council.

5. Do the CSP sub-groups pick up all of the priorities for delivery? Is the governance structure right? What could be done differently that would improve delivery/outcomes?

- **Group 1 – Andy:**

- There is good practice of delivery plans in some areas such as EGYV and Serious Violence and Barking Town Centre action plans. This practice should be extended so that all sub-groups have a delivery action plan.

- The CSP Plan should highlight case studies of how the CSP and its sub-groups have met the priorities over the last three years.

- **Group 2 – Chris**

- There should be an increase of joint patrolling between the police and the councils Operational ASB team.

- The local authority should increase their support of grassroots organisations to carry out work that tackles crime.

- The actions and focus of the CSP sub-groups are correct, however, there is a lack of resources within the council, the police service and partners – how are we going to tackle this through operational delivery?

- **ACTION: Reach out to sub-group chairs and ask them to review the plan and priorities and how this aligns with the work of their sub-groups to inform the next draft in January.**

- **ACTION: Stuart Bell to share data acquired through the Zen City app with the CSP.**

11. Details of next meeting

Community Safety Partnership Board
Wednesday 29th March, 10:00am-13:00pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams
Chair: Stuart Bell