

Welcome to the Community Safety Partnership Board (CSP) Chair's Report



In this Chair's Report, I discuss the local crime and disorder priorities agreed with MOPAC, some recent successes and recent events related to terrorism; local and national and give information about on-going work. Board members are welcome to talk about any of these updates at the meeting.

*Best wishes,
Anne Bristow. Chair of the LBD CSP Board*

Local Crime and Disorder Priorities

As reported in March, Sophie Linden, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) met with individual council leaders and chief executives across London to discuss their local policing priorities. This meeting took place on the 2 March and the priorities for Barking and Dagenham were agreed as:

- Violence, with an emphasis on youth violence
- Burglary
- Antisocial behaviour in Barking Town Centre and other shopping parades

As you will have seen from the performance report, we are seeing reductions in violence with injury, serious youth violence and burglary.

Drugs Operation Reaches Conclusion

There have been increased reports of antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months. Barking town centre accounts for a substantial amount of reports, with one of the key issues being reports of drug supply and ASB in Ripple Road and Sunningdale Avenue. There has been a covert operation targeting drug supply in the area which is reaching its conclusion. So far, this operation has resulted in 54 charges in relation to drug dealing matters and 13 offenders are currently in custody. The conclusion of this operation will allow partners to focus on other issues in the area including complaints about street drinking. This work has been communicated to residents and will be publicised more widely once Court action is complete.

Injunction Prevents Encampment

An encampment was prevented by the civil injunction obtained on 29 March. The injunction is a court order that sets out that any person cannot set up an illegal encampment on any of the 140 identified sites across the borough. The order provides the power of arrest and the seizure of assets. This was the first test of this order and was successful in preventing an encampment and the associated cost of clearance.

PSPO Goes Live

The borough's first Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) starts on the 12 June. This order prevents antisocial driving in Thames Ward. This order was in response to events in Choats Road and Halyard Street in which hundreds of spectators visited the area to watch vehicles speeding and 'drifting'. This order should deter this activity, make the area safer for other road users and quieter for residents of Great Galley Fleet estate and Scrattons Farm.

Perceptions of Crime and Safety

The Council is looking at the perceptions of crime and safety of the borough's residents. Information from the recent Residents' Survey suggests that our residents feel much less safe than residents of other areas with similar crime rates.

The Council's Delivery Unit is working to identify what steps need to be taken to get our residents feeling as safe as the average for London. To develop an action plan towards this, data is being analysed to look for patterns. Workshops with stakeholders will then be held to get their insight. We would welcome any stakeholders who would like to assist in this valuable piece of work.

BCU Pathfinder

The Council and partners are continuing to work with the police on the 'pathfinder' towards the One Met Model; which in the East Area is the creation of one police command covering Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

There are obvious challenges with being a 'pathfinder' area: we are testing to see if the model works and to this end have been working with colleagues in the police as issues have arisen. Notably there have been issues around communications and police colleagues have agreed that there needs to be a communications lead within the BCU model. This officer is now in place. There are some substantial challenges around response times and we are also working through how we work in partnership at a borough level when the BCU operates on a tri-borough basis. This is requiring us to re-think some of our partnership arrangements and ensure that they are fit for purpose.

Working Together Against Terror

Four men were arrested on 17 May charged with offences related to terrorism. One of the males was a resident of Barking. The four defendants will be appearing at the Old Bailey. The Council and partners have been supporting the police in any way we can with their investigation.

The terrorist incident in Manchester had a huge impact on the whole nation. On the 22 May an event was held with stakeholders and community leaders to understand the temperature in Barking and Dagenham and reassure community leaders in light of the Manchester attack. This gave an opportunity for the Council to update on Community Safety, Prevent, Counter Extremism and Community Cohesion; for the Police to update on priorities in the borough in light of the threat level and to establish a clear channel of communications between faith groups and statutory agencies.