

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	5 th June 2018
Subject:	Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy – Annual Refresh
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Community: Councillors Ali and Lammiman
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy2. Strategic Assessment 2018

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the strategic vision of Harrow's Community Safety Partnership in the Annual Community Safety, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy for 2018-2020.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Strategy and forward relevant comments to Cabinet for consideration.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

All Community Safety Partnerships (known in Harrow as 'Safer Harrow') are required by law to conduct an annual assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending within the borough. This is known as the Strategic Assessment. The Strategic Assessment previously came to Overview and Scrutiny along with the draft Community Safety Strategy. However, following feedback from scrutiny that this does not allow scrutiny sufficient opportunity for its comments and reflections on the strategic assessment to inform the refresh of the Community Safety Strategy, this year the strategic assessment came to Overview and Scrutiny separately, in March 2018. The Strategic Assessment is then used to inform the partnership's Community Safety Strategy. The last Community Safety Strategy was published in 2017 and is refreshed on an annual basis.

This Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) Strategy sets out the Council's vision for tackling community safety in Harrow and takes into account the findings from our Strategic Assessment 2018, and includes our vision for Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The following high volume crimes have been prioritised in agreement with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC):

1. *Burglary*
2. *Non-domestic violence with injury*
3. *Anti-social behaviour (ASB)*
4. *Motor Vehicle Crime*

The Strategy also has a strong focus on the following aspects of high harm crime which reinforce the commitment to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation in the borough. This also firmly echoes the current Mayor's priorities, and includes a renewed focus on tackling Youth Violence. The following areas are seen as priorities in Harrow:

1. *Youth violence, weapon based crime, vulnerability and exploitation. (including gang crime, and Child Sexual Exploitation)*

2. *Modern slavery*
3. *Domestic and sexual abuse*
4. *Drug and alcohol misuse (including tackling the supply of illegal substances, and targeted support for ex-prisoners)*
5. *Extremism and hate crime*

In addition to this we have incorporated our commitments to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in order to ensure a consistent and joined up approach across the Council.

Consultation and Engagement

In refreshing the strategy and priorities, consultation and engagement was undertaken with partners, stakeholders and relevant services within the council.

- March – Strategic Assessment debated at Overview and Scrutiny
- April – Met with Young Harrow Foundation to discuss findings from the Young Peoples survey and how this can be incorporated into the strategy
- April – Emailed Strategy to partners represented on Safer Harrow (Police, Probation, Fire, CRC, CCG, LCSB, Harrow Youth Parliament, Young Harrow Foundation) and services (Youth Offending Team, Housing, Regeneration, Policy Team) requesting updates to inform the refresh
- 8th May 2018 – Met with members of the Youth Parliament to understand the impact of crime on young people and how this can be reflected in the priorities and delivery plan, as well as how the Council and the Youth parliament will work together going forward.
- Liaised with colleagues from the Regeneration team to understand how crime was being designed out through regeneration and included this in the strategy
- 21st May 2018 – hosted an engagement workshop inviting all partners, stakeholders and services to review the priorities and delivery plan
- 25th May 2018 – Draft strategy sent to Safer Harrow for consultation and to be discussed at the meeting on 4th June 2018
- 6th June 2018 – Draft strategy taken to CSB for feedback and comments

Responding to Scrutiny's feedback on the Strategic Assessment 2018

The Strategic Assessment is an annual review of the patterns of crime and anti-social behaviour, fulfilling partnership responsibility under sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to conduct an annual review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in Harrow & Greater London.

The findings of the Strategic Assessment have informed the annual refresh of Harrow's Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation Strategy.

The draft Strategic Assessment was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 20th March 2018.

The final Strategic Assessment is available as an enclosure to this report. In addressing the issues raised at Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the key revisions are:

- Updates to tables and Maps
- A reference to further details provided on the methodology of the Public Attitude Survey (sample size, age groups neighbourhood areas)
- Additional youth crime data
- Inclusion of motor vehicle theft

Further work has been done to address specific points raised by members of the committee in March:

Robustness of data and ownership by police:

The sources used in the Strategic Assessment have been checked and verified as providing up-to-date official data released by the Metropolitan Police Service. Police colleagues are being fully involved in the review of the data and development of the VVE strategy.

Disaggregation of data:

At present, the data is available to the local partnership at the level shown in the Strategic Assessment – usually at Ward level. To be able to ‘drill down’ to a lower level needs a skilled analyst with access to Police systems. Access to this resource, which will be important to support at operational level, and make sure that interventions are appropriately targeted, is being discussed under the new Borough Command Unit (BCU) arrangements, and the local authority is looking at all possibilities, including sharing resource with other boroughs, or secondment from the Metropolitan Police Service.

Public Attitude Survey:

The Public Attitude Survey uses a sampling methodology that gives results grouped in line with the organisation of local policing into neighbourhoods, led by a Police Inspector. Although this brings together areas of Harrow with significantly different characteristics and crime rates, it enables the police to measure confidence and public satisfaction in line with their neighbourhood policing structures.

Location of crimes:

Looking at the impact on crime rates of the location of Harrow Police Station in Harrow on the Hill ward, it has been confirmed that any further crimes taking place once an individual is in police custody would be recorded in the ward. However, this is a comparatively small number of incidents and the appropriate ward location is used for the original crime.

Legal Implications

This strategy is to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee before referral to Cabinet, with ultimate approval reserved to Council as set out in the Council’s Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 , as amended by the Police and Crime Act 2009 requires that the Partnership be set up, and the formulation of the strategy is required under s6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The plan , formulated with the relevant partner agencies , must address

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of re offending, crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in the area
- (b) the priorities identified in the strategy for the previous year
- (c) steps necessary for responsible authorities to implement the strategy and meet priorities
- (d) How resources should be allocated to implement the strategy and meet priorities
- (e) steps for each responsible authority to take to measure its success to implement strategies and meet priorities
- (f) steps strategy group proposes to comply with community engagement obligations, considering the extent that people in the area can assist in reducing re offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse, and publicising that partnership plan.

S17 of the Act imposes a duty on the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to prevent, crime and disorder, misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re offending.

Financial Implications

All London Councils have received funding under the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) to tackle priorities in the new London Police and Crime Plan. Harrow has been allocated £266,525 in year 1, and £186,376 in year 2 (after a 30% MOPAC top slice), which provides the authority with a combined 2 year allocation of £452,628. As part of this, the service have approved funding aimed at a programme of Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation projects which will help us respond to the gangs peer review, and the rise in youth violence that we are seeing in the borough. There will be no impact upon existing service budgets.

Performance Issues

In delivering this Strategy we are in the process of drafting a themed Delivery Plan which will oversee projects that will contribute to the strategic objectives outlined in the strategy, including all of the MOPAC funded projects agreed for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. The Delivery Plan will include specific actions and measures with greater clarity of ownership of projects across the partnership.

Environmental Impact

There are no specific environmental issues associated with this report at this stage.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

Equalities implications

No; equality implications may have to be considered on implementation of the recommendations.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This Strategy relates to the corporate priorities of:

- Protect the most vulnerable and support families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required

Ward Councillors notified:	NO – affects all wards
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mohammed Ilyas, Policy Officer, 020 8424 1322
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Background papers: None