

Safer Communities Partnership Board
Minutes of meeting held on 25 October 2013
Committee Room 2, Hendon Town Hall

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Cllr David Longstaff	Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement (Chairman)
Adrian Usher	Barnet Borough Commander, Met Police
Dr Simon Harding	Middlesex University, Department of Criminology
Tim Harris	North West London Magistrates
Hamera Asfa Davey	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
Kiran Vagarwal	Head of Community Safety, LBB
Mathew Kendall	Assistant Director, Community & Wellbeing, LBB
Bridget O'Dwyer	Interim Public Health Commissioner for SMS Barnet & Harrow Public Health Service

Also present:

Richard Bell	Crime Information Manager, Community Safety, LBB
Julie Pal	CEO, CommUNITY Barnet
Dov Gerber	Chair Barnet CSEG
Caroline Birkett	Division Manager, Victim Support, North London
Duncan Tessier	Assistant Director, Early Intervention & Prevention, LBB
Nicola Francis	Director of Family Services, LBB
Steve Leader	London Borough of Barnet Fire Service Commander
Peter Clifton	Crime Analyst, LBB
Garry Randall	DCI, Met Police
Ash Tadjrishi	Overview & Scrutiny Officer, LBB

Apologies for Absence

Douglas Charlton (London Probation), Annette Dhillon (Victim Support, North London), James Mass (Family & Community Well-being Lead Commissioner, LBB), Ann Graham (Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, LBB), Pam Wharfe (Director for Place, LBB)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed the Board to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to a spelling correction from "Murrant" to "Mariner" (p4, para 3) the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

Board noted actions taken since the 19 July meeting.

ACTION: Ash Tadjrishi to circulate the Localised Policing presentation to all SCPB Members.

3. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Cllr Longstaff, Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement introduced a paper setting out proposals and recommendations for developing the work of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership.

Board Members considered the report and its recommendations.

ACTION: All recommendations approved as presented, subject to the following amendments:

R1 – to include representatives from Community Barnet; Victim Support; and, Middlesex University as Board Members.

R2 – to include the Assistant Director for Early Intervention & Prevention as a formal observer, removing Community Barnet (as now included in R1)

It was noted that reports and presentations should be written in plain English and free from jargon where possible.

Board also noted that the new Safer Neighbourhood Board would be independent and that the Safer Communities Implementation Group would escalate matters directly to the SCP Board.

4. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Board received a presentation from Adrian Usher, Barnet Borough Commander giving an update on crime performance across Barnet.

The board were told that Residential Burglaries were down year-on-year (-7.7%). However the data historically evidenced a tendency for burglaries to spike at this time of year. This was believed to be due to the darker evenings making empty houses easier for criminals to profile.

Police were focusing on raising awareness of deterrent measures that residents could take such as using timed lights, rear security lights and anti-climb paint.

The number of Non-Residential Burglaries were also going down, however the target for this area had not been achieved (-1.2% against a target of -6.5%). The Borough Commander highlighted that whilst this included commercial property a high-proportion of non-residential properties targeted were sheds and building sites.

Board noted that Robberies had reduced by 21.8% since last year. Following a question from Dr Simon Harding, the Borough Commander advised that, whilst current profiling data was unable to give a clear picture of who the most at-risk student would be, many robberies related to theft of mobile phones from young people. It was suggested that students were more likely to be a victim of robbery in the first two months of joining University than at any other time. Board supported a proposal from Kiran Vagarwal, Head of Community Safety for LBB, to consider ways in which the Strategic Crime Needs Assessment could include analysis of this data under the priority of 'Keeping Young People Safe'.

ACTION: The Strategic Crime Needs Assessment, under keeping young people safe, to consider including further analysis of victim profile data to aid efforts in reducing crime and victims of crime in the borough with a particular focus on young people (Kiran Vagarwal, Head of Community Safety for LBB)

Knife and Gun crime was noted as being very low for the borough, though difficult to completely eradicate.

Domestic Violence was noted as having the second lowest rate of repeat victims in the borough at 7%. The Borough Commander attributed some success in this area to increased convictions supported by evidence recorded by body-worn cameras.

Nicola Francis, Director of Family Services at LBB requested that there be more detail given on the Marac level of repeat victims.

ACTION: Peter Clifton to provide additional analysis of Marac data.

Anti-Social Behaviour was reported as reducing - an indicator that the new neighbourhood policing team were having a positive impact. The Borough Commander expressed a need to promote this message to the wider public to address their concerns in this area.

Offender Management data showed that the three key measures for reoffending rates in the Borough had improved; total reoffending was down from 8% to 6%, there had been a drop in expected reoffending levels, and Barnet now ranked 5th best of all London boroughs (from a position of 15th around 18 months previously).

Assistant Director for Early Intervention & Prevention (LBB), Duncan Tessier, reported that Youth Offending rates had fallen. The number of first time entrants to youth crime was also dropping. Trends were being identified and would be picked up through the Strategic Crime Needs Assessment.

Responding to a question on whether the cost to the public of the top 100 Troubled Families should be captured, the Assistant Director for Early Intervention & Prevention stated that the value of such a measure would be limited. Successful interventions often increased costs in other areas as services may be accessed for the first time.

The Head of Community Safety, Kiran Vagarwal, highlighted that successful outcomes in this area were measured through associated indicators such as reductions in Anti-Social Behaviour and increased school attendance.

Adrian Usher, Borough Commander for Barnet, Metropolitan Police queried the sustainability of the programme. Duncan Tessier confirming the DCLG had committed a further £200m for 2015-16, it was expected that the Troubled Families Programme would continue for received support.

ACTION: For clarity and context, future reports to contain a glossary of common terms and benchmarking data given explanatory information (i.e. volume reported per household measures) – Peter Clifton

5. BURGLARY INTERVENTION UPDATE

Richard Bell (Community Safety Team LBB) updated the Board on the 'Winter Burglary Awareness' campaign that had been launched recently. Leaflets highlighting simple steps that could be taken by residents to protect themselves against burglary were being distributed to around 200,000 residents across the borough and at the University. Four afternoon sessions on burglary prevention were being held to support the campaign and around 8,000 residents would be identified to receive fire surveys and assistance with smoke alarms or other home protection as needed.

ACTION: The Board to receive an update from Dr Simon Harding, Chairman of the Burglary Group, together with any action plan in April 2014.

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

None.

7. INTERSERVE PILOT PROPOSAL

Members were asked to note that the item was not the Interserve Pilot but the GPS tagging scheme provided by the Hadley Trust.

Detective Chief Inspector Gary Randall, Metropolitan Police, introduced the report on a pilot scheme trialling the use of tagging selected offenders with GPS trackers, on a voluntary basis.

The Hadley Trust had put together the pilot proposal and had been commissioned by Bromley, Hillingdon, Lambeth and Barnet to conduct the initial trials. The cost of the scheme to Barnet was to be reimbursed by the Hadley Trust.

The Board heard how the scheme was being run in conjunction with the Choices & Consequence programme in Hertfordshire; a key aim of which was to reduce reoffending. Through individual assessment, intensive probation and deferred sentencing, selected offenders who volunteer for the programme would be supported through rehabilitation. 12 offenders had signed up to the scheme in Hertfordshire, which has been running for over three years and contributed to a year on year reduction in burglary rates.

The Borough Commander commended the work of DCI Randall in coordinating the numerous agencies involved, citing dedicated officer time as the key challenge for other boroughs considering the scheme.

On a question as to whether drug screening was undertaken for those offenders volunteering for the scheme, the Borough Commander confirmed that probation management was personal and bespoke to each volunteer, therefore any identified drug misuse could be factored in to the individual's programme.

The Board supported continuation of the pilot scheme arrangement.

8. BARNET SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD PROPOSAL

Hamera Asfa Davey from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) introduced the item to the Board and explained how Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNBs) would need to be in place by 1 April 2014.

Members from CommUNITY Barnet and CSEG had both put forward formal proposals for MOPAC to consider when drawing together guidance for the formation and structure of the SNB. The Board agreed that and in the formation of such arrangements, MOPAC should be encouraged to consider:

- retention of experienced and motivated volunteers;
- a dynamic new approach; and,
- improved communication with residents.

It was hoped that a meeting scheduled for 4 November 2013 would find consensus prior to draft proposals being distributed more widely.

ACTION: The Board receive an update from MOPAC on SNB arrangements at the January 2014 meeting.

9. PROPOSED FORWARD PLAN

The Board considered its forward plan for items to be considered at the next two meetings and approved as follows:

January 2014:

- Update from MOPAC on Safer Neighbourhood Boards and future funding arrangements.
- Strategic Crime Needs Assessment - update
- Keeping Young People Safe
- Offender Management

April 2014:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Burglary Update
- Outcome of Strategic Crime Needs Assessment

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 16.30pm. Date of Next Meeting: Friday 24th January 2014.

Safer Communities Partnership Board
Action Log of meeting held on 25 October 2013
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Action Log

Date of Meeting	Action	Officer/Member	Completed/ Outstanding
25.10.2013	Localised Policing presentation to all SCPB Members.	Ash Tadjrishi	
25.10.2013	Governance structure and membership of group: all recommendations approved subject to the following amendments: R1 – to include representatives from Community Barnet; Victim Support; and, Middlesex University as Board Members. R2 – to include the Assistant Director for Early Intervention & Prevention as a formal observer, removing Community Barnet (as now included in R1)	Kiran Vagarwal Head of Community Safety LBB	
25.10.2013	The Strategic Crime Needs Assessment, under the priority of keeping young people safe, to consider including further analysis of victim profile data to aid efforts in reducing crime and victims of crime in the borough with a particular focus on young people	Peter Clifton, Community Safety Team, LBB	
25.10.2013	Additional analysis of Marac data to be included in the performance report, especially around repeat victims.	Peter Clifton Community Safety Team LBB	
25.10.2013	For clarity and context, future reports to contain a glossary of common terms and benchmarking data given explanatory information (i.e. volume reported per household measures)	Peter Clifton Community Safety Team LBB	
25.10.2013	The Board to receive an update from Dr Simon Harding, Chairman of the Burglary Group, together with any action plan in April 2014.	Dr Simon Harding Metropolitan University	
25.10.2013	The Board to receive an update from MOPAC on SNB arrangements at the January 2014 meeting.	Hamera Asfa Davey MOPAC	
25.10.2013	Forward plan to be drafted with agreed agenda items and emailed to members.	Kiran Vagarwal Head of Community Safety LBB	