



## Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

25 July 2012

### Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnership & Improvement

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Changing the Delivery of Crime Reduction – Local Joint Action Groups

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At the last meeting the Partnership & Place asked for a more detailed report on the Changing the Delivery of Crime Reduction project outline in the Partners for Brent progress report. This report does that by focusing on the introduction of the Local Joint Action Groups which are designed to streamline the delivery structure of Brent's Crime Prevention Strategy group.

### 2.0 Recommendations

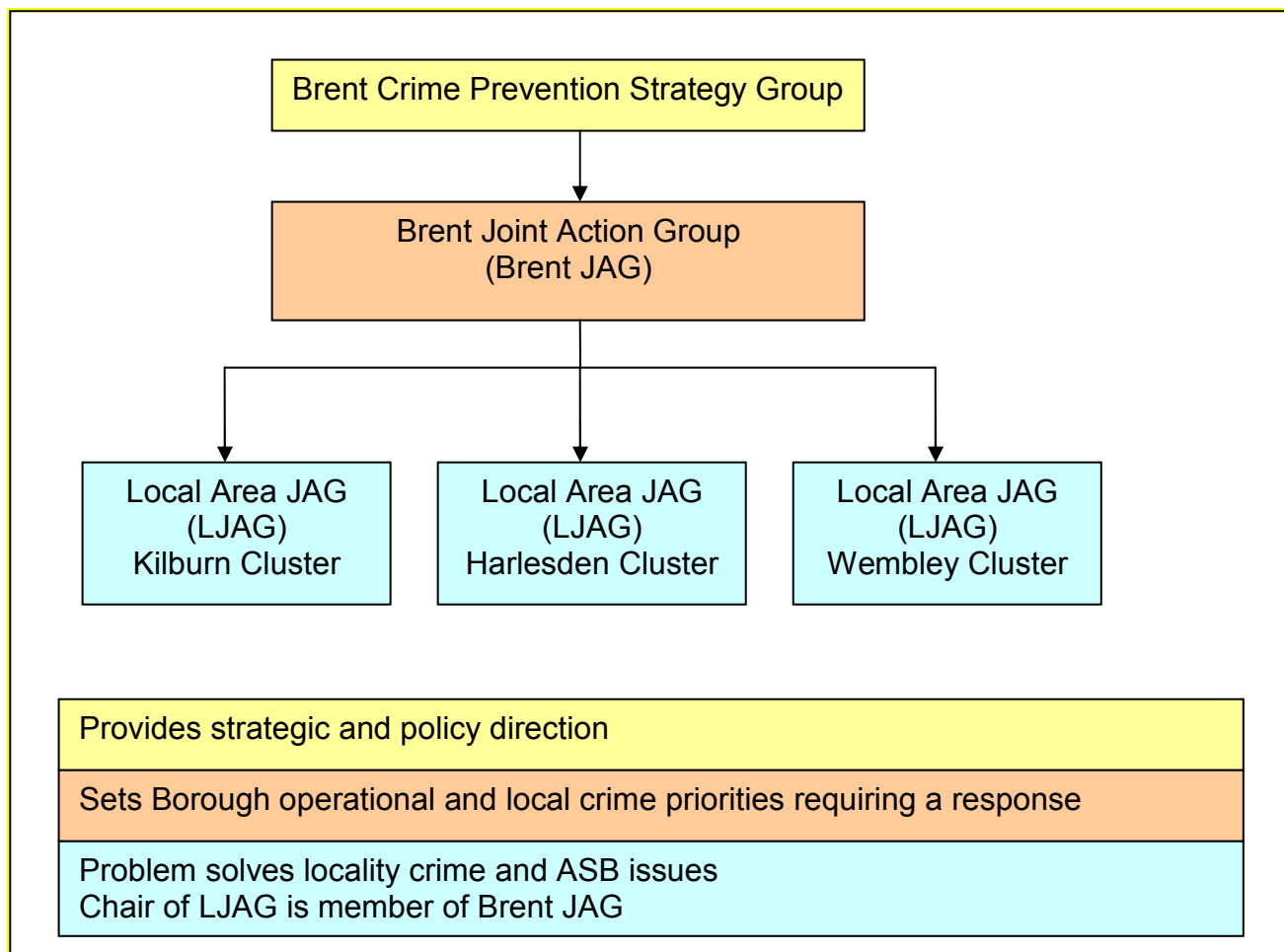
- 2.1 The committee notes and comments on the contents of the report.

### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 Following a review in 2011 of the delivery structure for Brent Crime Prevention Strategy Group (CPSG), Brent's Community Safety Partnership (CSP), it was decided to streamline the delivery structure and sub-groups sitting under CPSG.
- 3.2 In order to establish a more 'problem orientated' approach and adopt an intelligence led business process<sup>1</sup>, Brent CPSG deleted a number of sub groups and considered the introduction of Local Joint Action Groups (LJAGs).
- 3.3 Problems solving models implemented by other Community Safety Partnerships were considered. Officers from Brent Community Safety

Partnership Unit and Brent Police visited Sunderland Safer Partnership and Redbridge Safer Communities Partnership.

#### 4.0 Looking local - Format & structure



- 4.1 The three LJAG's are managed by officers from Brent Integrated Community Safety Team. Referrals are sent directly to these officers who assess whether they require the input of the LJAG.
- 4.2 To date the LJAG's have met regularly and have generally all had a good attendance from partners. Minutes and agenda's are sent out on time with sufficient details of the cases that will be heard at LJAGs, allowing partners to make informed decisions and agree actions.
- 4.3 Task and Finish Groups (TFG's) have successfully been set up as and when required. They have assisted the LJAG's to focus in on more complex issues and relieve the main LJAG from lengthy discussions about a single problem.
- 4.4 General feed back from partners on the effectiveness of the LJAG's has included the following comments:

- 'I feel it is an invaluable tool in pooling resources and getting things done, enjoyable and useful'
- 'Works well in its current format'
- 'The referral process works well, we are briefed with good information'
- 'Problems are resolved quickly as a result of good partnership working'
- 'Information on referrals has improved since the LJAG's started last year'
- 'Problems that have been presented have gone through a good process to achieve good outcomes'
- 'Referrals need to come from a wider selection of agencies'
- 'Good partnership working, sharing of information has helped resolve cases and ensuring actions have been followed'
- 'Voluntary sector should refer more cases'

## **5. What is in what is not?**

- 5.1 The LJAG terms of reference clearly set out the criteria for referrals and the focus of the LJAG's. All the Ljag's are closely following the terms of reference, however these should now be reviewed by the respective LJAG's in order to improve or amend if needed.
- 5.2 Partners were asked if there was anything the LJAG's did not cover and they felt it should. Partners felt:
- the current format and contents work well
  - Particular agencies and teams remain unrepresented and are crucial to the process for example social services and mental health.
  - More information is needed around the development and intelligence of gangs
  - There needs to be more representation and referrals coming from other departments of the council
  - Individual cases of 'Earn your Travel Back' scheme should not be discussed at the LJAG's as they do not follow the criteria and aims of the LJAG's.
  - All cases referred should go through Brent Integrated Community Safety Team officers managing the LJAG's and assessed as to whether they are suitable to be responded to by the LJAG. Chairs should be consulted if required.
- 5.3 Initially there were referrals of individual cases and this has now stopped. Where the case involves domestic violence, this is referred to the appropriate agency using clear referral pathways.

## **6. Potential, limitations and risks**

- 6.1 Potential limitations and risks highlighted by partners include:

- The meetings still last two hours, if cases are dealt with they are taken of the agenda unless something contrary comes to light.
- Some organisations provide Brent wide services and are having to attend all three LJAG's which can be quite resource intensive especially where partners are providing services across a number of boroughs
- The profile of the LJAG's requires raising and publicity, this includes its successes and encouragement of more partners coming on board
- There is a risk of LJAG's not working towards improving the partnership response to certain common factors such as mental health
- Policing cuts may have an impact on the LJAG's and the contribution of the Police
- Partners need to provide feedback and progress updates on cases in a timely manner to avoid delays in achieving the desired outcomes
- The Olympics and police resources during this period will impact on the LJAG's
- There is still room to improve the support form a wider range of agencies
- Limitations around information sharing need clarity on what can and cannot be shared, what is relevant? Also limitation around lack of information around funding available to support the LJAG's
- General commitment from partners to support the LJAG's despite cuts and restructure and the process is useful and saves time
- A potential risk due to restructure, cuts or changes to organisational priorities may result in reduced referrals and reduced partnership attendance
- Not having the Brent Joint Action Board running impacts on the support the LJAG's should be getting from this 'parent' forum. It provides an opportunity for the chairs of the three LJAG's to come together and can provide further direction as to what the LJAG's should be tackling in their clusters
- LJAG's can be used more effectively to secure partnership action to respond to increasing crime trends in the clusters, success of this is based on the information, intelligence and data shared with partners to enable them to respond

## 7. Recent Achievements

### Harlesden LJAG

- 7.1 The LJAG has met 8 times, received 24 referrals to date and has established 3 task and finish groups.
- 7.2 The Harlesden LJAG has been focussing on crime and ASB issues in the Kensal Green Ward (Willow Terrace), Barnhill Ward (Chalkhill Estate), Harlesden Ward (Challenge Close and Odeon Court). Reports responded to include drug dealing, prostitution, litter, alcohol debris, poor lighting, overgrown bushes, individuals gaining false entry into premises and

intimidation of residents. Other areas being responded to are Ace Cafe and Mitchell Brook Way in the Stonebridge ward.

- 7.3 Challenge Close – Harlesden Ward: Actions agreed by Harlesden LJAG included high visibility patrols, outreach by Brent CRI to engage with sex workers identified, park service's carrying out a cleansing of the area removing debris, litter, mattresses and make shift tents which were being used as a shelter for prostitution. Lighting was also assessed and shrubs, bushes cut back. These actions helped reduce the amount of blind spots where sexual activity was taking place. Work is still ongoing with long term plans being considered to change location into a community garden. Reports have reduced however the police and CRI continue to visit the location on a regular basis.
- 7.4 Odeon Court - Harlesden Ward: Actions agreed included change of police shift patterns to ensure police presence at the time incidents were taking place. Residents were provided with re-assurance and potential offenders identified. Metropolitan Housing Trust (MHT) also installed a stronger communal door which only allows access with a fob, therefore not allowing individuals to enter to communal area and cause ASB. Residents have also been written to.
- 7.5 Willows Terrace – Kensal Green Ward: This location provides youths with a cut through to the High Street Harlesden. Reports were received of young male's drug dealing, using and urinating in the area. Evidence was gathered to support a dispersal order to prevent the large groups gathering in the area and causing ASB, it has also provided respite to residents. Drugs outreach services were provided by CRI to engage with the individuals. Negotiations with Stadium Housing to install a gate and sensor lighting in the area were successful. No further reports have been received from the local community or the landlords. Kensal Green Police Safer Neighbourhood Team has confirmed that groups no longer congregate in the area.

#### Kilburn LJAG

- 7.6 The Kilburn LJAG has been responding to issues at Peel Precinct in South Kilburn, Unity Close, Newfield Rise and the following up on the individuals identified as causing gang related ASB and crime in the South Kilburn area.
- 7.7 Actions have included moving a vulnerable individual to St. Mungo's Care Home after there were reports that his flat was being used to sell and take drugs. Whilst evidence was being gathered daily welfare checks were conducted and partners worked together to identify the individuals concerned and put the appropriate support in place for the vulnerable adult.
- 7.8 In the Unity Close area evidence was gathered for a group of individuals involved in robberies and burglaries. Residents reported being abused, communal doors being broken, loitering and a particular individual bringing

large groups of boys on to the estate. The Police SNT set up a street briefing for residents, engaged with the local community and were successful in obtaining a description of the individual concerned. All the boys were identified, meetings took place with all of them and their parents, written warnings were issued.

- 7.9 The ring leader and his family were referred to social care as there were serious issues of parental support. The children were taken into care and the family moved out of Willesden. Funding was also secured from Brent Joint Action Board to deliver outreach to the young people in the area who had been affected by the crime and ASB. Feedback from residents is that the ASB has drastically reduced from the group and the targeted interventions successfully focussed on the underlying cause of the problem.
- 7.10 ASB problems at Newfield Rise were resolved by obtaining an Anti-social Behaviour Injunction on the alleged perpetrator banning him from the area. Close partnership working took place with Brent's MARAC and the Police Community Safety Unit as there were also reports of domestic violence, alcohol abuse and issues of adult safeguarding.

#### Wembley Central LJAG

- 7.11 Wembley High Road- Fly tipping, ASB, housing issues relating to HMO properties and KHAT house causing ASB in the area. Actions included businesses written to by environmental services and notices served to those who were causing the problems, ensuring they all have waste contracts. Landowners written to about disposing their rubbish as well. There has been a reduction in fly tipping and rubbish. The case is being monitored. London Fire Service has visited the HMO's, provided advice on fire safety and fire safety checks conducted.
- 7.12 Hirst Crescent – Preston – ASB issues. RSL's have taken appropriate action i.e. one tenant had mental health problems, one tenant took out a non-molestation order against her son who was also part of the group causing problems and a number of arrests by the police. Landlords include Catalyst and Asra. A task and finish group has been set up to manage this case.
- 7.13 Farm Avenue – Sudbury – Small block run by BHP, issues of ASB, youths congregating in communal areas and visiting one particular address. A female was identified as being the cause of the individuals coming and causing ASB. Residents leafleted by BHP and SNT. Incidents reduced no further reports.
- 7.14 Alperton Village – a new development. There were issues with Tamil gangs hanging around Atlip Road and canal area. They intimidate businesses and do not live in the area. The canal bridge was not properly lit up and a potential mugging hotspot – partners are looking at lighting. A dispersal was implemented and ASB reports have reduced. We are awaiting the names of the individuals to assess each one and agree appropriate action.

- 7.15 Wembley LJAG considered two individuals who were causing ASB on transport and part of the Earn youth Travel Back Scheme, the LJAG decided the travel concession should be withdrawn.

## **Background Papers**

### **Contact Officers**

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