



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report from the Interim Policy & Partnerships Adviser

Wards Affected:
ALL

Update on community safety issues

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides information to the committee on three community safety issues:
- An update on the Safer Brent Partnership
 - An update on work by the Council and its partners on ending serious youth violence and gangs
 - Crime and disorder statistics

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the updates and progress being made.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Safer Brent Partnership

The Crime Prevention Strategy Group met in June. This Partnership Board – now called the Safer Brent Partnership – brings together partners like the police, fire, probation and health services and the Council to set the overall direction on issues associated with community safety.

At a successful meeting, the Board agreed a number of key ways forward:

- A new vision - “A strong, safe, fair and just Brent where individuals and communities are safe from harm.”
- Underpinning this, a series of key priorities for the Partnership have been agreed, and a set of actions and performance indicators will also be agreed to

ensure the Board remains on track throughout the year. These priorities are based on a needs assessment and are noted below.

- A commitment to link with other important work programmes being delivered, such as safeguarding children, to ensure that there is no duplication or waste but instead all energies go on working together to make real improvements for people in Brent.

Key strategic priorities for the Safer Brent Partnership:

Reducing crime - targeting areas of key community concern and working to stop offenders repeating their crimes, focussed on:

- Residential burglary
- Crime hotspots
- Integrated Offender Management

Reducing Violence against women and girls - supporting victims of these crimes and bringing the perpetrators to justice:

- Domestic violence
- Female genital mutilation
- Sexual exploitation (incl. trafficking & prostitution)

Reducing anti-social behaviour – tackling ways of behaving that make people feel uncomfortable or unsafe in our shared public spaces:

- Hate crime
- Safer Neighbourhoods (incl enviro crime)

Reducing the use and mis-use of drugs and alcohol – helping people overcome their addictions and stopping drug dealing

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Enforcement

Preventing & reducing youth offending and re-offending – encouraging & supporting young people to stay out of crime

- Gangs
- Prevention & restorative justice
- Life diversionary schemes

The Partnership Board will meet quarterly to ensure that work is on track. Underpinning the Partnership Board will be action groups tasked with delivering each particular priority area. The leaders of these action groups will meet together every month to share information and ensure that work is delivering against the key milestones set.

3.2 Update on gangs and ending serious youth violence

In September 2011, the Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Group conducted a review of gangs in Brent and the development of services for prevention, intervention and exiting¹.

¹ A review of gangs in Brent and the development of services for prevention, interventions and exiting – A partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Task Group Report, March 2013.

The key findings of the task group were as follows:

- The need to define gangs and develop a partnership gangs strategy.
- Development of a multi-agency process which assesses identifies and manages risk factors for a gang member.
- Gain a better understanding and respond to the issue of girls in gangs.
- Increase activity to divert young people away from involvement in a gang by providing prevention, intervention and exit services.

In December 2012 Brent was subject to a Home Office Peer review on Ending Gangs and Serious Youth Violence. This review process acted as a 'critical friend' for the SBP and considered the seven principles of Ending Gangs and Youth Violence. These are:

- i. Strong local leadership
- ii. Mapping the problem
- iii. Responding in partnership
- iv. Assessment and referral
- v. Targeted and effective interventions
- vi. Criminal justice and breaking the cycle
- vii. Mobilising communities

It identified that the SBP could further improve their strategic response and the co-ordination of delivery by establishing a strategy and vision alongside a clear implementation plan which sets out ownership and how the strategy will be communicated across the partnership and communities.

Building on the lessons of both of these pieces of work, a range of agencies are now working together under the Safer Brent Partnership to tackle gangs and serious youth violence.

The SBP is best placed to provide the clear strategic direction with operational delivery achieved through a number of multi-agency partnerships and services, for example Brent's:

- Integrated Offender Management Scheme (IOM)
- Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Sapphire Team and Rape Crisis/Haven
- Domestic violence services and housing
- Youth Offending Service and Brent Centre for Young People
- Local Joint Action Groups
- Brent PMAP
- Working with Families
- Local Children Safe Guarding Board
- Adult Safe Guarding Board

The Safer Brent Gangs Delivery Group will audit and assess the cohesion across these and other partnerships to ensure services are linked together and are contributing towards addressing gangs and youth violence. It will ensure there is a shared vision and provide the strong leadership and direction required to drive change and improvement.

Activity to tackle gangs in Brent includes

- Intelligence led enforcement action by the police
- Gangs and exit provision
- Localised response to priority offenders through Brent Integrated Offender Management Service (IOM).
- Brent's Working with Families² scheme complements this work by supporting those families affected by a number of problems which can also lead to a young person's involvement in gangs.
- Implementation at a borough level of the Trident Gang Commands identification matrix to identify the most harmful gang-affiliated offenders in Brent. In line with the Trident approach entries on the matrix are assessed and ranked in accordance with level of risk of harm posed, and targeted for appropriate enforcement or prevention/diversionary interventions. In 2012 Brent's Matrix had 800 individuals identified and assessed.
- An active use of alternative enforcement options criminal anti-social behaviour orders and tenancy enforcement against gang members.
- The use of Community Impact Statements and Victim Personal Statements to highlight gang aggravating feature for consideration at sentencing
- Prison flagging ensuring we are notified of gang nominal being released from prison into Brent.

However, in line with recent reports, it is recognised that more needs to be done to ensure 'joined up delivery', and to this end, work on gangs is being refocused around seven key principles of ending gang and youth violence:

	Principle	Strategic Action
1	Strong Local Leadership	A clear vision and governance structure provided by this gang's strategy supported by a delivery plan which sets out ownership and how this strategy will be communicated across the partnership and communities.
2	Mapping the problem	Maximise the partnerships use of data from all agencies including the voluntary and community sector to ensure the SBP develops a partnership response based on a well-informed profile of gangs, girls in gangs and sexual exploitation.
3	Responding in partnership	Ensure community safety partners are making progress in delivering objectives set out in this strategy and delivery structures are fit for purpose.
4	Assessment and referral	Improve management of risk, threat and harm to victims and high risk gang nominals by maintaining robust multi-agency identification, assessment and risk management processes with clear referral pathways.
5	Targeted and effective interventions	Improve outcomes relating to targeted interventions e.g. prevention, diversion, gang-exit programmes, resettlement and reducing re-offending for gang members by: (a) Assessing and improving commissioning arrangements and priorities between statutory, voluntary and private sector (b) Identifying priority issues, gaps in provision and opportunities for adding value to existing provision

² Brent's version of the DCLG's Troubled Families scheme

		(c) Incentivising all partners to use (and generate) evidence of proven approaches at all times
6	Criminal Justice and breaking the cycle	Strengthen the links with custodial estates and develop Rehabilitative programmes for individuals that provide appropriate support in education, training and employment.
7	Mobilising communities	Build and maintain community trust and support.

Work on each of these is now underway and regular feedback will be presented to the Safer Brent Partnership and other relevant stakeholder and groups in the months ahead.

The work of the recent Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Home Office Peer Review have been critical for establishing this particular way forward.

As part of this programme of work, work is underway concerning the **Definition of a gang**.

The Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on gangs recognised an agreed definition of the term 'gang' was required in order to ensure a common understanding amongst everyone when gathering evidence about gangs in Brent and avoiding the generic term leading to the everyday activities of a group of young people and even criminal activity as being labelled as gang related when they might not be.

Based on the largely Hallsworth and Youngs 2005 definition and that of the one used by the Centre of Social Justice and the recommendation of the Scrutiny Task Group, the Safer Brent Partnership will adopt the following definition of a gang:

'A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:

- (1) See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, and
- (2) Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence.

They may also have any or all of the following features:

- (3) Identify with or lay claim over territory
- (4) Have some form of identifying structural (or labelling) feature
- (5) Are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.

Crime data

12 months to May 13 (year) 12 months to May 12 (year)

Number of Offences	Brent	Met Total	Brent	Met Total
Total Crimes	26,481	754,306	30,886	806,507
Homicide	3	102	6	101
Violence Against the Person (Total)	6,195	147,753	7,145	152,871
Rape	123	3,181	106	3,283
Other Sexual	242	6,674	261	6,742
Robbery (Total)	1,349	33,355	2,079	37,880
Robbery (Person)	1,262	30,959	1,975	35,188
Robbery (Business)	87	2,396	104	2,692
Burglary (Total)	3,507	91,734	4,018	95,273
Burglary Residential	2,633	59,875	3,108	63,026
Burglary Non-Residential	874	31,859	910	32,247
Gun Crime	80	1,904	105	2,285
Motor Vehicle Crime	2,684	87,661	3,238	98,147
Domestic Crime	1,946	49,236	2,056	46,496
Racist & Religious Hate Crime	321	9,058	343	8,595
Homophobic Crime	32	1,072	33	1,210
Anti-Semitic Crime	5	160	4	182
Islamophobic Crime	15	396	17	302

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

Meeting
Date

Version no.
Date

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There is a statutory responsibility on partners such as the Council etc etc

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None

Background Papers

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