



Cabinet
11 November 2019

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Regeneration and Environment
& Operational Director of
Integration and Improved
Outcomes**

Partnership Tasking Team Underspend Options

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s):	<p>Colin Wilderspin Interim Head of Community Protection Email: colin.wilderspin@brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8937 5367</p> <p>Sue Gates Head of Early Help Email: sue.gates@brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8937 2710</p>

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This paper sets out the proposal to cease the council funded Met Patrol Plus s92 officers' known as the Partnership Tasking Team (PTT) on 30 September 2019; rather than at the contractually agreed 31 March 2020.
- 1.2 The paper sets out alternative spend options for the remaining 2019/2020 revenue funding allocated for the PTT spend, as well as options for spend going forward, utilising the ring fenced PTT budget from 2020/2021. This involves offering community safety support and diversionary activities for our Safer Brent Partnership priorities, designed to reduce and prevent serious youth violence and support vulnerable young people in Brent.

2.0 Recommendations for Cabinet

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the position with regard to resourcing the PTT beyond 30 September 2019 as set out in paragraph 3.4.
- 2.2 Note the intention to terminate the grant funding agreement with the Police from 30 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 2.3 Agree the allocated 2019/2020 PTT revenue funding should cease from 30 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter via Met Police Service (MPS) agreement and reallocate the remaining 2019/2020 budget to provide services for community safety and serious youth violence concerns and interventions.
- 2.4 Agree the allocated PTT revenue funding from 2020/2021 should provide continued services for community safety and serious youth violence concerns and interventions.
- 2.5 Agree the spend options presented in this paper within section 4.0, noting the recommendation within 4.3.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In March 2017 Brent Council agreed to fund, in partnership with the Police, 12 additional PTT police officers on the Met Patrol Plus Scheme buy-one-get-one-free offer, Brent Council provided funding for 6 of these officers at a cost of £400k per annum for a period of two years until March 2020.
- 3.2 Since March 2019 the Police have had difficulty with staffing and resourcing the PTT due to current demand and vacancies of MPS personnel. As well as this, the issue of the contract coming to an end and officers also looking for other opportunities and wishing to leave the PTT has also resulted in reduced resourcing. Current officer levels within the PTT have dropped and since around May/June 2019 the PTT have mostly consisted of 4 officers.
- 3.3 Following the cessation of the Met Patrol Plus scheme, and as part of Brent Council's decision to withdraw funding for the PTT from March 2020, the Council has established a Neighbourhood Patrols Team within the Environmental Improvement Service. This team will carry out a number of the current PTT functions including enforcing PSPOs and conducting monitoring patrols. There is currently a pilot team in action since August 2019.
- 3.4 The current PTT provision is no longer sustainable due to vacancies and staffing issues within the Police. This is also reflected in the scope and performance of what the PTT are able to deliver. The expected budget spend for the PTT until the end of Q2 2019/2020 will be approx. £100-120k. This provides approx. £280-300k of the budget remaining for 2019/2020. Due to the vacancies and

staffing issues within the Police, the Police have now indicated that they will be unable to continue to commit to the PTT from 30 September 2019 and therefore will not require further funding beyond this date.

- 3.5 From April 2020 the allocated revenue budget for the PTT (£400k) will also become available for alternative spending. This budget was initially put forward as possible savings. However, considering the evidential need, Cabinet have since agreed to not take this budget as savings. It was agreed to utilise this budget for community safety and serious youth violence concerns, for preventative and diversionary activity.
- 3.6 Serious Violent Crime, including amongst young people, Gang crime, Drug markets, Criminal Exploitation, Community Fears and Tensions continue to be an issue of concern for Brent residents. It is proposed that the remaining PTT 2019/2020 budget and future PTT budget from 2020/2021 could be better utilised to tackle some of these issues and provide an opportunity for prevention, intervention and earlier detection.
- 3.7 This would be done by further enhancing our current intervention provision (currently funded via MOPAC grant funding). The fund would be applied to violence and vulnerability issues related to gaps we have detected in the current provision, to help better meet the needs of our residents and increase our prevention and diversionary offer.

4.0 Alternative Options for the Funding

- 4.1 If the PTT continued at the current rate of 4 officers until 30 September 2019, the unspent budget at the end of the 2019/2020 would be approx. £280-300k.
- 4.3 There are many available options for the council to utilise this underspend within 2019/2020, and the £400k budget from 2020/2021. The favoured option however would be to enhance current provision and utilise the fund to work towards diversionary activities for the priorities and concerns detailed in 3.6.
- 4.4 An options approach has been considered based on partner feedback and discussions around services; this includes feedback from the recent '*Safer Brent for Young People Workshop*' in July 2019, and recent Youth Offending Service (YOS) Inspection. The proposed options are based on an assumption that the services would continue into 2020/2021 and until further review.

The below is a summary of the recommended services:

- a) Mental Health street outreach
- b) Community Safety Liaison Officer – Fixed Term contract
- c) Young Female Diversionary Project
- d) Enhance current LCPF provision (commissioned services)
- e) Enhanced YOS Triage resource

4.5 a) Mental Health street outreach

Following the recognised need for more trauma informed approaches to the way we work, and the heightened need of 'flexible' mental health services for our young people who are engaging in violence and vulnerability issues. It is important we create outreach services to promote usage, and fill the gap where current CAHMS thresholds may not be met.

This service would work in conjunction with the Police and wider Violence and Vulnerability Programme partners, and will offer advice and support to people who may be experiencing mental health difficulties at the preventative stage.

Approx. 12 month costs = £90,000

4.6 b) Community Safety Liaison Officer

Following the now evident need for support and dedicated collaborative prolonged resource following fatal or serious incidents, this post would pilot the benefits offered to a dedicated function for community safety liaison.

This post would primarily offer operational support to Brent Council and work alongside partners to provide targeted response and proactive activities following fatal and serious incidents, as well as enhancing community cohesions and resilience around community safety issues.

Approx. 12 month costs = £55,000

4.7 c) Young Female Diversionary Project

Following a pilot project in 2018, pan London County lines engagement work and best practise projects in other boroughs, the gap in female specific provision to support vulnerabilities linked to gangs and criminal exploitation has been highlighted.

This post would work with 11-24 year old females, who are at risk or are involved in gangs and or criminal exploitation. This would include 1:1 support and group approaches to help support them and make positive decisions for diversion.

Approx. 12 month costs = £63,000

4.8 d) Enhance current LCPF provision

There is currently not enough prevention and intervention provision for the need in the borough, similar to most demanding borough needs. The recent implementation of outreach intervention has proven really useful in helping to engage and divert young people on the fringes of criminal activity and engagement via hotspot tasking through an evidenced base deployment.

This would provide an additional 1.5 FTE to support the current provision for additional outreach services identifying individuals vulnerable to joining a gang and/or other criminal networks.

Approx. 12 month costs = £80,000

4.9 e) Enhanced YOS Triage resource

Recent YOS Inspection feedback has internally highlighted, the possible need for heightened Triage resource for increased Early Interventions within YOS, helping to reduce Criminal Justice disposals.

This intervention would provide an additional 1.0 FTE to support the current provision for additional Triage resource.

Costs over 12 months approx. £58,000

- 4.10 The total estimated cost for all of the five options above is £346k. Community Protection are currently funding a CYP 'Violence and Vulnerability Analyst' post, which is a required post in supporting trend analysis and early detection for young people affected by violence and vulnerabilities. Community Protection do not currently have a budget for this post therefore the £54k left over from the £400k budget would help to fund this post going forward.

4.11 Additional Considerations

- 4.12 Regarding wider spend options not discussed, the Community Safety team continue to explore external funding opportunities. We are currently supporting two bids from a consortium of providers for the Home Office VAWG fund. It has been recently confirmed that additional funds will be made available through the GLA Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) budget into our MOPAC London Crime Prevention Funding budget. This additional grant funding from the GLA VRU budget will need to be spent within 2019/2020. With this VRU contribution, Officers are currently reviewing the current offer of support and diversionary activities in our schools and settings. Officers will ensure any bids or future grant funding align with our priorities and current approach to reduce serious youth violence.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Terminating the contract by 30 September 2019 would generate an underspend in the Community Protection 2019/20 budget in the region of £280k - £300k and this underspend would be available to fund the 2019/20 costs arising from the options proposed in paragraph 4 above.
- 5.2 From 2020/21 onwards the recurring budget of £400k within the service would be reallocated towards crime and community safety priorities as set out in the report.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There is a current Met Patrol Plus s.92 agreement with the MPS until March 2020, however the MPS has indicated that it will be unable to continue to commit to the PTT from 30 September 2019 and therefore will not require further funding beyond this date and is in agreement that the current PTT funds could be used in a more effective way.
- 6.3 Where a grant agreement is terminated early and this causes an underspend in the budget for the service, this can be used for other purposes in the service subject to anything in the virements and transfers scheme.
- 6.2 The council has a duty under s17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of its functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:
- (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
 - (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
 - (c) re-offending in its area.

7.0 Equality Implications

- 7.1 An EIA was completed when the PTT was implemented in March 2017, this recorded a nil impact on equality concerns. A further consideration for an EIA was discussed in September 2018 when looking to cease the PTT interventions. A nil impact was further concluded as this resource is believed to be an additional asset to usual borough policing resource. The intention would be to look at the EIA further before making any formal recommendation to Cabinet to terminate the s92 grant.

8.0 Any Other Implications (HR, Property etc - if necessary)

- 8.1 None for Brent Council. The PTT currently utilised a locked room in the basement which could be utilised for other teams and usages when the PTT cease.

9.0 Proposed Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 9.1 The Lead Cabinet members, Council Leader and Corporate Management have been made aware of the proposal. Key stakeholders involved in the Brent violence and vulnerability agenda have also been consulted.

Report sign off:

Amar Dave

Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Nigel Chapman

Operational Director, Integration and Improved Outcomes,
Children and Young People

