

Policy & Performance Scrutiny Committee
Annual Community Safety Update

November 2016

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Councillor Andy Hull, Islington Council

Safer Islington Partnership (SIP)

Current Position (1st Apr 2016 to 15th Nov 2016 v same period in 2015):

- Reduction in Violence with Injury (2%), Burglary (20%), Robbery (3%), Thefts (5%)
- Increase in Knife Crime (36%), Gun Crime (380%, 45 offences), Sexual Offences (13%)
- This picture mirrors the crime trends across London
- Five areas of focus for the Safer Islington Partnership: Youth Crime, Violence Against Women & Girls, Hate Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Preventing Violent Extremism
- Recent restructure of Community Safety function in Islington Council

Positive Areas of Working:

- Seven months sustained reductions in Burglary
- Five months sustained reductions in Violence with Injury
- Improved partnership working
- Successful Co-location (Integrated Gangs Team, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Licensing Team & Anti-Social Behaviour Unit)
- Islington Police Schools Engagement Programme

Challenges for the future:

- Tackling rising youth violence and knife crime
- Ensuring the police BOCU merger is beneficial for Islington residents
- Ensuring the re-structure of the Neighbourhood Policing Team has a positive impact on crime reduction
- Full integration of YOS / Police which has been hampered by MPS system delays
- Managing financial constraints as a partnership to continue to deliver high quality services

Youth Crime

Current Position (1st Apr 2016 to 31st Oct 2016 v same period in 2015):

- Theft from Person offences have shown a decrease of 5%
- Serious Youth Violence has shown an increase of 21% (21 offences)
- Gun Crime & Knife Crime remain a challenge and have seen increases this year – mainly linked to gang / group crime
- Operation Teal has been established to combat habitual knife carriers
- Recent successful Islington Police and MPS Trident joint operation led to the arrest of 34 offenders for drug dealing in two key youth crime areas
- Improvements seen in youth re-offending, although it remains an area of concern
- Islington still has higher than expected levels of young people in prison custody

Areas of Progress:

- Integrated Gangs Team fully operational since May 2016
- County Lines Profile developed by LBI for Islington, informing national approach
- Additional mentoring support & key working for YP at risk
- Phase 2 of additional capacity through Council financial investment in Preventing Youth Violence ready for procurement in Jan 2017
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance recruitment commenced to help reduce high rates of youth custody
- Ongoing improvement in the Youth Offending Service

Areas for Development:

- Ensure appropriate use of Community Behaviour Orders
- Pilot Multi-Agency Hub in the local community to deliver local services to local people (particularly for young people)
- Build on the progress made following the YOS inspection

Violence Against Women & Girls

Current Position (1st Apr 2016 to 31st Oct 2016 v same period in 2015):

- Domestic Abuse (DA) offences have increased by 8% (4% across London)
- Estimates suggest that only 38% of DA was reported in Islington in 2015, and only 19% of sexual offences
- Sanction Detection rates stand at 34% which, while better than London (30%) as a whole, is a reduction on previous years as a result of other sanctions being used
- More young women are victims of Domestic Abuse than those in older age groups in Islington, showing the need for early identification and intervention at an earlier age

Areas of Progress:

- Training & increased awareness raising in health services has led to an increase in referrals
- Peer review of MARAC showed effective governance and partnership working
- Continued investment in the Domestic Abuse policing team
- Abianda (charity working with gang-affected girls) in Integrated Gangs Team

Areas for Development:

- Refresh of the full VAWG strategy and the multi-agency action plan due for sign-off at SIP in Dec 2016 ready for implementation in Jan 2017
- Ensure a coordinated pathway of service provision for VAWG in Islington
- Hold more perpetrators to account while supporting the victims
- Ensure service delivery while demand increases

Hate Crime

Current Position (1st Apr 2016 to 31st Oct 2016 v same period in 2015):

- Increase seen in Racial (20%), Faith (61%), Homophobic (38%) and Disability (380%, 25 crimes) Hate Crime, mirroring the pan-London picture
- Britain's referendum on leaving the EU and recent terrorist attacks around the world have led to rises which returned to levels previously reported soon afterwards
- Islington has achieved detection rates above the MPS average in Racial, Faith (Anti-Semitic) and Homophobic crimes
- Islington has detection rates under the MPS average in Faith (Islamophobic), Transgender and Disability hate crime
- The SIP's new Hate Crime Strategy was launched in October 2016

Areas of Progress:

- Hate Crime Awareness week in Oct 2016 improved working relationships with community groups
- Community-led Hate Crime Forum established and functioning well
- Roll out of Disability training to Islington Police Officers
- Use of a range of languages to encourage victims to report crimes
- Increased police engagement with hard to reach communities

Areas for Development:

- Implementation of the Hate Crime partnership action plan
- Delivery of online training package to raise awareness among front line staff, key partners and community groups
- Explore opportunities to create third party reporting sites

Anti-Social Behaviour

Current Position (1st Apr 2016 to 31st Oct 2016 v same period in 2015):

- ASB calls to the LBI hotline have increased 6%, while ASB calls to the police have decrease 3% - a trend witnessed for some time
- There has been a 20% reduction in the number of persistent repeat callers to the police and LBI ASB hotlines
- The Community Risk MARAC continues to help vulnerable victims and repeat callers, ensuring a co-ordinated plan of support for cases
- Public confidence in policing in Islington has risen from 57% in 2011 to 72%

Areas of Progress:

- Improvement in partnership ASB problem solving for places of concern (particularly cross-departments)
- Alignment of most ASB teams now co-located under Public Protection
- Increase in referrals to the Community Risk MARAC from a range of partners for various vulnerabilities
- ASB clinical psychologist having a positive impact on cases

Areas for Development:

- ASB Partnership Strategy and supporting action plan to be agreed & launched
- Improve joined-up approach to early intervention and prevention of ASB
- Broadening of the Outreach Service remit through procurement

Prevent

Current Position:

- Islington has been identified by the Home Office as a priority area in relation to risks and vulnerabilities relevant to the Prevent strand of CONTEST
- The borough has established a corporate Prevent Board which released an updated Prevent position statement earlier this year
- Investments have been made in Children's Services, Housing, Schools, Policing and in the Community to raise awareness and address any gaps

Areas of Progress:

- Corporate Prevent Board established
- LBI Prevent Officer recruited
- Effective & proportionate Channel panel
- Schools sensitively & proportionately implementing their Prevent duties (support by the Police Schools Engagement Programme)
- Effective online training, including creating pan-London resources

Areas for Development:

- Continued implementation of the Prevent action plan for year 2017/18
- Refining our needs analysis to ensure our responses are targeted effectively and proportionately (Feb 2017)
- Possibly recruit a Counter-Extremism / Hate Crime officer