

**Report of: Corporate Director for Environment & Regeneration**

<b>Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b> 25 May 2017	<b>Ward(s):</b> All
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**SUBJECT: The Governance of Community Safety in Islington****1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the revised governance arrangements for community safety in Islington, as governed by the Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) which oversees partnership work in relation to the reduction of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the borough.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the report.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) has been in existence since 1998 when the Crime and Disorder Act made the establishment of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership a statutory requirement. Since its inception, the SIP has grown, both in terms of its core membership and in terms of the number of subsidiary meetings that underpin its work. The operation of the SIP needs to be reviewed regularly to ensure that it fulfils its duties effectively and efficiently.
- 3.2 Over the last year, the council and a number of partner agencies have undertaken re-structures to attempt to work more smartly within the diminishing resources available. In recognition of this, a review of the governance of community safety in the borough and of the membership and operation of the SIP has been performed. This report presents the results of that review in the form of a more streamlined and less duplicatory set of governance arrangements, moving forwards.

- 3.3 The community safety function within the council is now discharged through the Corporate Director of Environment & Regeneration (E&R). Day to day activities are delivered through teams in both E&R (in respect of ASB, hate crime, Prevent, street population, offender management, etc) and Children's Services (in respect of youth crime and violence against women and girls). Work on drugs and alcohol is delivered largely through Public Health.

## **4. Legal context**

- 4.1 The term Community Safety has a broad definition. Under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA 1998), the council has a duty, when undertaking its functions, to take into account how it can prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour) as well as the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances. The council also has an important role in improving outcomes for and providing support to vulnerable children and adults and victims of crime.
- 4.2 The term 'Crime and Disorder Partnership' is not set out in legislation but is nonetheless the collective term by which the public authorities covered by Section 5 of the CDA 1998 are in practice known. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations set out how the responsible authorities are to work together. The responsible authorities are not just the council and the chief officer of police, but include others listed below.
- 4.3 The responsible authorities under Section 5 of the CDA 1998 are:
- the council (LBI)
  - the chief officer of police (MPS)
  - the police authority (MOPAC)
  - the national probation service (NPS)
  - the fire and rescue authority (LFB and LFEPA)
  - the clinical commissioning group (CCG)
- 4.4 The responsible authorities need to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the relevant police and crime plan (in our case, the London Police and Crime Plan 2017–2021) and formulate and implement:
- a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment)
  - a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area
  - a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.
- 4.5 A strategic group needs to be formed to meet this duty and its responsibility is to prepare and oversee strategic assessments and the partnership's community safety plan. In our case, this body is the Safer Islington Partnership's strategic board. The partnership plan should bring together the various strategies required to meet our legal duties. The strategy group needs to consist of representatives of the responsible authorities listed above and other invitees as is felt appropriate. The council is responsible for convening the group.

## **5. The Safer Islington Partnership (SIP)**

- 5.1 In Islington, the top-level, strategic group which oversees all work on community safety across the partnership in the borough is the Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) Strategic Board, chaired by the council's Executive Member for Community Safety. The group now comprises members from:
- London Borough of Islington (LBI), including community safety, children's services, housing, public protection, public health and adult social services
  - Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
  - London Fire Brigade (LFB)
  - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

- Whittington Health
- Mental Health Trust
- Pentonville Prison
- Victim Support
- Housing Associations
- Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB)
- Highbury Magistrates Court
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)
- Transport for London (TfL)

Previously, the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards were unrepresented on the SIP and other members had ceased to attend: they are all now (re-)engaged.

5.2 The SIP now has five themes or workstreams, covering the priorities identified in its annual strategic assessment and addressed in its annual community safety plan, as follows:

- Youth Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Hate Crime
- Offender Management
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Prevent

5.3 Previously (see Appendix 1), each theme had a strategic subgroup and then a proliferation of operational subgroups. The total number of meetings under the SIP umbrella totalled 20, with 15 further regular meetings sitting outside the SIP structure.

These arrangements were considered by the council and partners to present a significant drain on resources, featuring excessive repetition and duplication, with the same attendees often meeting to discuss similar issues.

Now (see Appendix 2), each SIP theme has a dedicated subgroup and 9 of the previous meetings have been deleted.

The changes that have been made (and are reflected in Appendix 2) are set out below:

### Groups deleted

Islington Gangs Team (IGT) Operational Group	No longer required. Work here will be picked up in either the IGT daily tasking or the revamped Bronze Group
Multi-Agency Geographical Panels in Islington (MAGPI) Steering Group	This work can be overseen at the ASB & Hate Crime subgroup of SIP as a standing agenda item. Equally, with the ASB team now in Public Protection, the focus around places will better aligned.
Registered Providers' (RPs) Forum	The strategic engagement work with RPs can be overseen by the ASB & Hate Crime Subgroup. The ASB team now sit with Public Protection which means a more joined-up approach to RP engagement can happen outside of a regular meeting process.
Reducing Reoffending Board	This has not been running for a long time due to changes in Offender Manager services. If / when SIP requires an overview of adult offending, the Community Safety leads can ensure

	<p>this occurs.</p> <p>Plus, this will be monitored regularly and fed into other reporting and scrutiny panels that currently exist.</p> <p>The Local Justice Area Group should become a formal subgroup of SIP. This group has senior representation from the police, probation services, Youth Offending Service (YOS) and the Courts.</p>
Borough Tasking Meeting (BTCG)	This is an internal police tasking meeting so should not sit under the SIP umbrella.
DV Persistent Perpetrator Panel	The perpetrator work of this panel has been subsumed into the DV MARAC.
Harmful Traditional Practices Group	This group currently reports to the CCG but this piece of work will be covered in the VAWG Strategic Group. Deletion of this group will reduce duplication of effort and resource.

### Remits changed

The Hate Crime Forum to operate under the ASB strand of SIP. The strand will then be renamed ASB & Hate Crime.	The Hate Crime forum currently does not report to any formal strategic board. It is closely aligned with ASB and hence should sit under this strand, reporting to the ASB & Hate Crime subgroup. This will also allow the agenda to feed directly into SIP.
Local Justice Area Group	To become the strategic lead group for offending. Other related topics that aren't deemed relevant for this group to discuss can occur in other forums of SIP. This will equally give SIP oversight of this group and the work it does.
YOS Risk Panel (MARF)	This panel deals with young offenders so should sit under the Youth Crime theme. The Youth Justice Services Management Board will act as the Silver function in terms of reporting.

Before ringing these changes, the Council consulted deliberately with relevant partners, the SIP itself and the Chair of LBI's Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee to secure their approval to them.

## 6. Other partnership activities

6.1 The SIP and its associated working groups are not the only routes through which partnership work is undertaken in this field. Others include:

- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) in relation to funding, initiatives and cross-borough issues
- Children's Safeguarding Board, which also oversees child sexual exploitation and missing children
- Adults' Safeguarding Board
- Police Liaison Meeting (PLM) – officer level representatives from the council, police and others convening to review casework
- Gold Group meetings to review serious incidents
- LFB Liaison meeting
- Hoarding Panel
- Suicide Prevention Panel
- Borough Resilience Forum

All of these groups link back to SIP through the lead organisation's attendance at the Strategic Board.

6.2 On a day to day basis, officers across the council are working with counterparts in partner organisations

to deliver the action plans that underpin the relevant strategies. Multi-agency teams exist in several areas of the council, including those associated with community safety in both public protection and children's services.

- 6.3 The community also has a key part to play and this is channelled through the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB). The SNB is funded by MOPAC and through it communities' views on policing and community safety are sought. The SNB is informed by, among others, the Safer Neighbourhood Panels (SNPs) that exist for each of Islington's 16 wards. LBI Community Safety supports the SNB and Islington Police supports the SNPs. SNPs have assisted the SNB with a recent review of membership and this will now mean that each ward panel is represented. The Chair of the SNB is a member of SIP.
- 6.4 There are two other important community groups involved in community safety issues who are represented at the SNB – the Hate Crime Forum and the Stop & Search Community Monitoring Group. Islington Police also sometimes convenes an Independent Advisory Group comprising community members in the case of a critical incident.
- 6.5 An updated schedule of which council officers and members and which partners attend the partnership's various fora is attached as Appendix 3.

## **7. Governance and the Council**

- 7.1 The Local Government Act 2000 (LGA 2000) includes crime and disorder scrutiny as one of the functions the council must ensure its scrutiny arrangements cover. The specifics of the duty are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006 (PJA 2006) and related regulations and guidance. To ensure that the council meets its responsibilities, there is a hierarchy of controls.
- The Corporate Directors of Environment and Regeneration and Children's Services oversee the response to community safety and report to the Chief Executive.
  - The actions required of officers are included in service plans and will be reported through departmental arrangements.
  - There is an identified Lead Member for Community Safety and officers report to the Lead Member and other Members on performance through the Monthly Performance Panel.
  - SIP receives performance reports, including the annual strategic assessment which allows it to assess success against its themes and produce its annual community safety plan.
- 7.2 The council has a duty to include crime and disorder scrutiny as one of its functions and this is delivered through the Policy & Performance Scrutiny Committee. The legal duties demand that the committee must meet at least once every 12 months to 'scrutinise decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by responsible authorities'. Currently, the Policy & Performance Scrutiny Committee receives an annual report on community safety and policing from the LBI Lead Member for Community Safety and the Borough Commander of Islington Police in addition to receiving quarterly written reports on corporate community safety performance. The committee can also review strategies as they are developed, as well as their implementation. It can call officers or employees of partner organisations to meetings to answer questions. It is doing this, for example, at tonight's committee meeting, where, outside of any formal annual reporting process, it is hearing from council officers and police colleagues an update on the partnership's work to tackle serious youth violence.

## **8. Implications**

### **Financial implications:**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications as changes have been made within the available budget.

**Legal Implications:**

- 8.2 Legal implications are set out within the report.

**Environmental Implications**

- 8.3 The environment plays a significant role in ensuring that crime and ASB reduction measures are successful. The partnership plan ensures that due consideration is given to environmental factors.

**Resident Impact Assessment:**

- 8.4 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Residents Impact Screening Assessment (RIA) will be completed for the partnership's community safety plan in June after its consideration at SIP.

## 9. Reasons for the recommendation

- 9.1 The council has a legal duty to ensure that crime prevention and reduction is part of its mainstream operation and, in addition, to coordinate effective partnership working across all sectors in Islington. The recent review of governance arrangements and subsequent revisions to them mean that the mechanisms to comply with this duty are in place and enhanced.

Signed by:



Cllr Andy Hull  
Executive Member for Community Safety

**Date:** 16 May 2017

**Appendices**

- Appendix 1: The Previous Structure of the Safer Islington Partnership
- Appendix 2: The Revised Structure of the Safer Islington Partnership
- Appendix 3: The Governance Structures of the Safer Islington Partnership

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