

Report of: Executive Member for Community Safety

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Policy and Performance	July 21, 2014		All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

SUBJECT: Executive Member's response to Safer Neighbourhood Policing scrutiny review

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee conducted a review of Safer Neighbourhood policing in Islington. The review commenced in July 2012 and recommendations were presented to the Executive in July this 2013. This report is to inform the Committee of the range of actions undertaken and progress made over the past year in response to the recommendations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the actions undertaken to address the recommendations of this review.

3. Background

- 3.1. Safer Neighbourhood policing teams have been in Islington since 2005 and was supported by council funding until 2007 to ensure that all wards had a team. The teams have been successful in providing a visible local presence, in engaging residents and in identifying and responding to local crime and disorder.
- 3.2. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) decided to introduce changes to local policing models, including Safer Neighbourhood Teams in a bid to achieve financial savings while at the same time improve policing at local levels.
- 3.3. The Council's Policy and Performance Committee decided to conduct a scrutiny of neighbourhood policing, with two main aims as follows:
- 3.3.1. To examine the ability of Islington's communities to influence policing priorities and ensure that police operations reflect the true needs of the locality.
- 3.3.2. To examine the constitution, governance and operation of safer neighbourhood panels and the relationship with the mayor's office for policing and crime
- 3.4. The scrutiny ran from July 2012 to June 2013 and took evidence from a variety of sources, including presentations from witnesses, visits to other boroughs and written documentation. The Committee

examined the constitution, governance and operation of Safer Neighbourhood Panels and the relationship with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. The Committee also examined how corporate and community priorities can be balanced at Safer Neighbourhood level, especially in view of the impending introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Boards.

- 3.5. The Committee identified a number of areas where there could be improvements in resident engagement with Safer Neighbourhood Police, including greater input from businesses and young people. The Committee agreed a total of 14 recommendations, which are set out in Appendix A, along with a summary of what actions have been taken in response.

4. Response to the recommendations

- 4.1 I thank the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee for conducting this review as it rightly examined the extent of community engagement by the neighbourhood police and the means by which residents may shape neighbourhood and wider policing priorities.
- 4.2 The actions in Appendix A reflect significant progress against the recommendations, with examples of youth and community engagement delivered by police and council services in partnership and individually.
- 4.3 There are some areas that will require more purposeful actions, such as recommendation 1, relating to merger of the council's Ward Partnerships and the police's Safer Neighbourhood Panels. While this model may not be appropriate everywhere there may be wards where the model would fit into the community infrastructure and assist the ambition to improve resident engagement.
- 4.4 There is a need to keep a close overview of performance against recommendation 9, regarding police urgent responsiveness and the presence of neighbourhood policing teams at local level. Additional officers are being allocated to Islington and the police must ensure they are able to quickly become acquainted with residents in their local wards and understand the issues and individuals driving crime in their local communities.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial implications

The recommendations set out in the review are being accommodated within budget.

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications at this time.

5.3 Environmental Implications

There are not environmental implications as part of the implementation of the individual actions.

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

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.

6 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 6.1 The committee's consideration of the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Policing is welcome and the recommendations will help to ensure residents have continued influence over policing in their wards and wider areas of the borough.

Background papers:

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Action Plan and update on Recommendations
- Appendix 1 :Islington Safer Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2: Report on Youth Crime Survey

Final report clearance:

Signed by: