

SCRUTINY REVIEW INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)

Review: Youth crime – youth violence, mobile phone theft, and crime hotspots

Scrutiny Review Committee: Policy and Performance Review Committee

Assistant Director leading the Review: Alva Bailey

Lead Officers: Catherine Briody

Overall aims:

- To better understand the issues and causes of knife crime and what we can do to reduce knife crime in the borough.
- In parallel with the above, to review and improve what the Council and its partners can do to reduce mobile phone theft by thieves on bikes within the borough.

Objectives of the review:

- A review of Islington's current performance on moped/mobile phone theft, benchmarked with other areas with a focus on knife crime, moped theft and mobile phone theft and mapping of main crime hotspots
- Review current approach by comparing and contrasting the work of Islington with other areas and identifying best practice
- Consider the borough's approach to youth crime as set out in the new Youth Crime Strategy and the actions required to achieve the necessary improvements.
- To review and compare how the council is working with and providing support to families to prevent crime among children and young people and the effectiveness of such work.
- To review the use of the full range of enforcement available to the partnership to encourage positive changes in behaviour as well as holding offenders to account.
- To review the role of schools/young people in tackling knife crime and how they can contribute towards shaping solutions.
- To review policing around knife crime and knife possession including the use of NFAs and impact of stop and search tactics.
- To review policing of moped enabled crime.
- To consider how we use the intelligence on crime hotspots to reduce theft in those areas and how local communities can assist with solutions.
- To consider the role of the council in addressing the sale of stolen goods including mobile phones and bikes etc.
- To increase the relationship with the key statutory partners in delivering a more robust collaborative approach to youth crime: YOS, police, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, courts, secure estate
- To consider the impact of mental health on knife crime and review the work around health in the YOS and 18 – 24 team (Forensic Psychologist)
- To look at communication between neighbourhood police and the community, and how to improve public confidence
- To explore the links between mobile phone theft and drug dealing and how we can use tenancy law and other civil powers to address these
- To explore the role that local businesses can play in reducing thefts.

- To explore new methods of community engagement, and a young people friendly approach including using social media, virtual panels and other modern technology to tackle youth crime.

How is the review to be carried out:

This review is undertaken at a time when the borough has experienced a disturbing rise in youth crime, especially violence, which has caused widespread anxiety to residents, particularly families with children. The council is committed to stopping this rise in crime as a matter of urgency, and recognises that we all need to do more if we are to achieve the improvements required to turn the tide and prevent further harm to young people and community. This review will therefore be undertaken over a relatively short period so that the findings can inform improvements to the council's approach and the delivery of the new Youth Crime Strategy.

The review will look at various aspects of the council's work with young people and their families to prevent crime and keep young people safe, including the extent to which the community believe the council is tackling the issues that concern them most. It will examine opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the council's approach in delivering services to prevent and engage/divert young people at risk of being involved in crime, and the use of enforcement powers where young people continue to offend.

The review will involve a deep dive on to the causes and impact of knife crime and will include a focus on mobile phone theft and crime hotspot areas.

It will explore the extent and nature of youth crime and anti-social behaviour in Islington and the impact of current services and initiatives and consider good practice from other areas that can be replicated in Islington. It will explore with young people their experience and perception of youth crime and views on the police, and their thoughts on how we can reduce crime and improve the safety of young people.

It will specifically consider the proposed model for the new Integrated Gangs Unit in Islington which will involve a collaborative approach and in some cases co-location of council staff (YOS, 18 – 24 team), police, probation and JCP etc.

Scope of the Review:

Types of evidence will be assessed by the review:

1. Documentary submissions:

- Crime statistics
- Young people as victims
- Strategic Assessment
- Islington Youth Crime Strategy
- London Mayors Gang Strategy

2. It is proposed that witness evidence be taken from:

- Metropolitan Police (Gangs / IOM / YOS teams)
- MET Police Borough Commander?
- Community Safety Partnerships Unit
- Anti-social Behaviour Team, including MAGPI officers
- Youth Offending Service
- Children's Services Safeguarding
- Legal Department
- Public Protection
- Local residents
- Local businesses
- Safer Neighbourhood Panel chairs and members
- Victim's families
- Youth workers and young people
- Ex-offenders/ ex-gang members
- Ward Panel members
- Voluntary and community sector representatives
- Islington Community Safety Board
- Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- Probation: NPS/CRC
- Victim Support
- Knife Crime charity
- Rep from Secure estate (Pentonville?)
- Two local MPs

3. Visits

- LB Lambeth
- Schools and head teachers
- Some scrutiny sessions to be held in community settings

Additional Information:

Programme

Key output:

1. Scrutiny Initiation Document

2. Final report

To be submitted to Committee on:

17th September 2015

14th March 2016