

Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee Meeting 7th December

Youth Crime Scrutiny Sept 2015 – March 2016

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

Subject: Proposed visits

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1. Overall aim of scrutiny:

- 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.

2. Purpose

The aim of the visits proposed below is to provide the committee with opportunities to review Islington's approach by comparing and contrasting the work of Islington with other areas and identifying best practice and inform the findings of the Youth Crime Scrutiny.

3. Proposed visits

The PPSC is asked to consider visits to the following organisations in January / February 2016. Please note that the visits below are subject to the availability of the organisations and where more convenient for the committee, we may ask a representative to attend a meeting at the Town Hall instead.

3.1 Westminster Your Choice Gang Diversion Programme

- Background

The Westminster Your Choice programme was designed and reviewed through the Safer Westminster Partnership and started in October 2011 and is built on the principle that by creating and designing a sustainable service offer for young people (aged 16-24) levels of serious youth violence will reduce.

The council and partners came together to launch a bespoke local gang programme. With the right mix of prevention, intervention and enforcement the programme offers our young people a choice; to either desist from gangs with the necessary support or face a range of enforcement options.

- Purpose of visit

The CSPU visited Westminster when developing the model for Islington's Integrated Gang Team. The visit will therefore provide an opportunity for the committee to hear from an established Integrated Gang service which has achieved success in reducing knife crime in Westminster.

3.2 Margate Task Force

- Background

The **Margate Task Force** is a multi-award winning, co-located integrated services team based at Thanet District Council, Kent. The team comprises of 30 staff from 14 statutory and voluntary organisations delivering street-level social justice and safeguarding to the most deprived wards in Kent. The MTF aims to identify the most complex social issues and deliver a joint 'street level' service to respond to risk and vulnerabilities and has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at risk from gangs.

- Purpose of visit

The Home Office Ending Gangs and Youth Violence have recommended that Islington visit Thanet as they offer a particularly good example of multi-agency working focused on the safeguarding of young people at risk of gang related child sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence.

3.3 Arsenal in the Community

- Background

A 2011 report from New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) and Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, **Teenage Kicks: The Value of Sport in Tackling Youth Crime**, concluded that sport is a cost-effective early intervention with young people at risk of crime. Arsenal has been running the Kickz programme in Islington since 2006, using football to work with 12- to 18-year-olds at risk of offending, or already offending, in deprived areas with high levels of antisocial behaviour and youth crime. The wider package also has a big focus on education and employment and the project has invested heavily in training and employing participants in football coaching and youth work.

Since 2012 Arsenal has been working very closely with the 18 – 24 Gang Transition Service and have supported a number of young adults to exit gangs through mentoring and EET provision. Arsenal also continue to work very closely with New River College Pupil Referral Unit including gang prevention education in class and last year piloted a new targeted initiative with a cohort of young people on the MPS gang matrix which has shown early signs of success.

- Purpose

To raise awareness of the successful work of local third sector organisations in prevention and diversion of young people at risk of being drawn in to knife crime and mobile phone theft etc.

3.4 New River College Pupil Referral Unit

- Background

New River College (NRC) is a consortium of three Pupil Referral Units (PRU) split across four sites in Islington. The Secondary PRU is based at Lough Road, with a satellite centre for pupils with social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties at Golden Lane. The Primary PRU is also based at the Golden Lane site, whilst the Medical PRU offers provision at the Whittington Hospital and Elthorne Road, and also provides home schooling where necessary. New River College aims to provide a short term educational intervention which is designed either to maintain a pupil's mainstream school placement, or in cases where this has already broken down, to facilitate a return to mainstream as soon as appropriate.

- Purpose

A visit to the secondary PRU will provide an opportunity for the committee to hear from the head teacher and other NRC staff about crime prevention and diversion work at the school.