

For general release

REPORT TO:	SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 7 June 2017
AGENDA ITEM:	7
SUBJECT:	<i>Developing the 2017-2020 Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy</i>
LEAD OFFICER:	Andy Opie
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Hamida Ali Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	<i>Andy Opie</i> <i>Director of Safety</i>

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	This item is contained in the Committee's work programme
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	This item is brought to the Committee for pre-decision scrutiny as part of the work programme for the municipal year.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the process and the current position regarding the development of Croydon's 2017-2020 Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy.

2. *Developing the 2017-2020 Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy*

- 2.1 The Safer Croydon Partnership Board is responsible for developing and implementing Croydon's Community Safety Strategy as stipulated in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 2.2 The strategy has been informed by the 2016 Strategic Assessment, which presents the summary findings of an intelligence analysis of data provided by the police, the council and partner agencies to provide an overview of crime and anti-social behaviour borough wide.
- 2.3 The Safer Croydon Board has to approve the final draft of the 2017-20 Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy prior to the document going through the council's decision making process. The timetable is set out below:

Safer Croydon Board Meeting Draft Strategy, Equalities Impact Assessment and Draft Cabinet report for final comments	14 Mar 2017
Draft Cabinet report deadline	29 Mar 2017
Informal Cabinet Meeting report deadline	10 Apr 2017
Informal Cabinet Meeting	18 Apr 2017
Cabinet Meeting	02 May 2017
Council Meeting	29 June 2017

- 2.4 The Safer Croydon team is currently engaging with partner agencies, for input on both the strategic priorities and the key actions the Safer Croydon Partnership will achieve over the next three years. A draft of the strategy has been circulated to partners asking for their contributions, which is attached as appendix A. We are therefore asking the Scrutiny and Overview committee to contribute towards the strategic priorities for the strategy rather than on the specific actions as these have not been worked up as yet. We are aiming to have a final draft ready by **Friday 24th March 2017** before the report goes through the council decision making process.

3. Strategic Assessment 2016

- 3.1 The Strategic Assessment interprets and presents the summary findings of an intelligence analysis of data provided by the police, the council and partner agencies. The product identifies current and possible future issues from sound evidence and robust analysis. Its purpose is to help inform the SCP's work programme for the coming year and beyond.
- 3.2 The partnership takes a problem solving approach by analysing data from a combined victim, offender and location perspective. By addressing or removing one of the three components the chances of a crime occurring are reduced or removed altogether. Using this approach helps the SCP to:
- Target and work with offenders and potential offenders to stop and divert them from committing crime
 - Provide support, advice and protection to victims, repeat victims and potential victims of crime
 - Identify problem locations and reduce the opportunities for crime to occur.
- 3.3 The key findings from the Strategic Assessment 2016 are set out below:

Total Notifiable Offences

- Overall the volume of Total Notified Offences (TNO) in Croydon, has been going down, reaching a low of 28265 TNO offences in 2014 from a base line of 34194 TNO offences in 2005
- 2015 saw a small rise overall in the volume of TNO's to 28739 offences however this was still a 16% reduction against the baseline year of 2005

- 2016 again saw a rise overall in the volume of TNO's to 30034 offences however this was still a 12% reduction against the baseline year of 2005
- The direction of travel demonstrates a clear downward trend with a current average of 2,421 TNO's per month and rate of 6.38 crimes per 1,000 population.

Violence

- Violent crime, violence with injury, common assault, and domestic violence have all seen an increase, only assault with injury (non Domestic Violence) has seen a reduction.
- Domestic abuse continues to see an upward trend across London. In the rolling year to September 2016 there were 3,829 domestic abuse offences. Compared to the other 32 boroughs in London Croydon is ranked 6th highest for domestic abuse, with 21 incidents per 1,000 population in the rolling year to September 2016
- Serious youth violence has seen a relatively low reduction.

Other offences

- Racist and religious crime has seen an increase.
- Gun crime has seen a reduction and knife crime has seen a marked reduction, although in recent months we have seen these rise
- Residential burglary, and personal robbery have seen a marked reduction.
- Theft of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle have both seen a reduction.
- Offenders most likely to commit offences of violence are aged 15 to 29
- Offenders aged 15 to 19 are most likely to commit knife crime offences
- Fly tipping has also increased and is a concern for the public; however this may be a consequence of our successful 'Don't Mess With Croydon Campaign resulting in more people being aware of the problem
- The current trend shows that anti-social behaviour has dropped by 19.58% when compared with the previous financial year.

Victims

- There were 10,698 victims of crime in Croydon. Of those victims, there were slightly more females than males, and slightly more white female victims than white male victims.

- The peak age range for victims are aged 20 to 24, the most vulnerable age group are aged 15 to 34.
- Repeat victimisation is also a key issue; around one in 10 crimes is committed against people who have been victims of crime in the previous year. Other crimes, such as domestic abuse, have much higher levels of repeat victimisation.

Offenders

- There were 2783 offenders of those there were more male offenders than female, of the male offenders the highest number were black males closely follow by white males.
- The offenders most likely to commit offences of violence are aged 15 to 29. Offenders aged 15 to 19 are most likely to commit knife crime offences.

Locations

- Croydon town centre is the key crime hot spot together with the northern wards, primarily due to their large population and transport links.

Time and day

- Across the week the peak time for all offences is from 3pm to 7pm and 8pm to 1am, and the peak days for crime are Sunday and Saturday.

Public perceptions

As well as analysing data provided by partner agencies, the development of the Strategy also takes into consideration the views of local communities. The SCP ran an on-line survey which started 19 September and ended 20th November 2016 (sample size of 567 respondents).

The previous survey (2013) had 581 respondents, the top 5 crimes of most concern at that time were:

- violent crime
- anti-social behaviour
- youth crime
- robbery
- burglary.

In this survey the top 5 crimes of most concern are:

- anti-social behaviour
- burglary
- fly-tipping,
- people dealing or using drugs
- violent crime.

In the previous survey the top 5 comments identified the following issues as a concern:

- more police patrols
- praise for the police, council and SCP
- fear of crime
- lack of police resources
- fly tipping.

In this survey the top 5 comments identified the following issues as a concern:

- more visible policing in the borough, especially in the Town Centre at night
- more CCTV coverage for the borough
- tougher sanctions on fly tipping, littering and spitting
- more wardens patrolling housing estates
- tackling ASB in local neighbourhoods.

The SCP notes that although crime and anti-social behaviour are reducing, the fear of crime remains a concern for residents.

3.4 Road Safety

Safety and security on the transport network is a current priority for the Safer Croydon Partnership. This issue was not flagged as a particular priority by the public when asked as part of the Safer Croydon survey but this remains a strategic priority for the borough. Enforcement of road safety is the responsibility of the police but there are a number of partnership interventions. These include Operation Safeway, which is a high profile tactic of engaging with drivers at the most vulnerable junctions, providing education and enforcement where appropriate. The Council and Police Safer Transport Team also work in partnership to utilise the various speed detection devices at key locations around the Borough. In addition Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) work together to run Community Roadwatch - a road safety initiative which aims to reduce speeding in residential areas. If local residents want to take part they can contact their local MPS Safer Transport team, which can be located through the Met Police website or on the following link [MPS Safer Transport Team](#).

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The main resource for delivering the strategy will be the partners themselves. This will include statutory organisations as well as the voluntary, community and business sectors. All public sector services continue to face significant challenges in meeting budget cuts. The strategy takes into account these challenges and details a number of new ways of working in partnership to ensure that we provide both efficient and effective services.
- 4.2 The Safer Croydon Partnership was previously responsible for the management of a number of ring fenced grants although these have now

ceased entirely and replaced with the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) administered by the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC). The overall funds available for 2017/18 are yet to be confirmed but The Deputy Mayor formally wrote to Leaders and Chief Executives on 11 November outlining the formal decision that had been taken on the future of the London Crime Prevention Fund, as follows:

- a. *'The continuation at the same level of the LCPF budget for four years from 2017/18 to 2020/21 with no decreases to current borough funding allocations in the first year of the fund.*
- b. *In year 1 direct funding allocated to borough remains the same or increases.*
- c. *An uplift has been provided in the first year of the fund to those boroughs which were previously allocated less than their share of the LCPF budget according to an assessment of current levels of need and demand. This is in order to support a gradual transition to the redistribution of the direct borough funding according to need and demand. For the following three years of the fund (2018/19 – 2020/21), the direct borough funding budget will be distributed according to a calculation of local levels of need and demand.*
- d. *The LCPF budget is apportioned between direct borough funding (70%) and funding for co-commissioned services (30%) starting in year 2 of the fund, from 2018/19 to 2020/21. Boroughs will be core partners in the development of the criteria of the new co-commissioning funding pot and will be significant beneficiaries of the fund.*

Direct funding to boroughs is committed for 2 years to allow for flexibility in terms of spend over a 24 month period. Croydon's allocation is set out below;-

2016/17 Allocation	2017/18 Allocation	2018/19 Allocation	Compared to 2016/17	17/18 and 18/19 combined
£601,250	833,527	583,469	-177,810	1,416,996

4.3 All London Boroughs were requested to submit a summary of their spending proposals prior to releasing the funding. We anticipate confirmation in early March 2017. The current proposals for funding awaiting MOPAC sign off are as for projects to tackle the following issues:

- Gangs – County lines, key work and intelligence
- Knife crime prevention
- Young offenders – early interventions, education and training and mentoring
- Safer London Foundation – CSE
- Victim Support with a focus on young victims
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Hate Crime
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Integrated Offender Management

4.4 From April 2019 MOPAC are proposing a 30% top slice fund of LCPF

allocations across London, which will then be used for regional commissioning projects. For Croydon this is a reduction of c£250k. The process of agreeing the priorities for the regional projects is yet to be confirmed in any detail but this does represent a risk to the delivery of the local projects currently being commissioned. It is also worth noting that this also represents an opportunity for new projects being available in Croydon. The key issue for the partnership is to ensure that is engaging with the process and that any future regional projects take into account local needs.

5. Mayors Office for Policing and Crime

5.1 At the time of writing this report MOPAC are currently consulting on a new Policing and Crime Plan for London. Whilst not yet published, the Deputy Mayor has indicated that the plan is likely to focus on the following key themes:

- neighbourhood and local policing.
- keeping children and young people safe.
- tackling violence against women and girls.
- tackling violent extremism, extremism, hatred and intolerance.
- ensuring an effective Criminal Justice System (which may extend to seeking devolution and reform in relation to youth justice and community rehabilitation).

Underpinning themes are expected to include:

- vulnerability
- meeting the needs of victims
- social integration and tackling inequalities, with an aspiration that *'the place that you live in, the communities you belong to and the individual that you are should not disproportionately impact your exposure to crime'*

5.2 There are a number of proposed commitments within the draft plan including:

- 2 dedicated PCs plus 1 PCSO per ward
- Consideration of merging Borough Command Units. The current proposal is for Croydon to merge with Sutton and Bromley
- Focus on protecting vulnerable children and adults, in collaboration with statutory and voluntary sector partners.
- Invest in new technology and ways of working to keep police officers out on the front line and help them do their jobs more effectively.
- Encourage more female and BAME Londoners to join the MPS and build lasting, successful careers for all MPS officers and staff.
- Support the work of the Night Czar to deliver a safe and enjoyable night time economy.
- Work together with the MPS, TfL, British Transport Police (BTP), City of London Police and other enforcement partners to keep our transport network and roads safe.

- Work with businesses to help protect them from crime, making our city a safer place to work and do business.

- 5.3 From March 2017, MOPAC are proposing to adopt a new method for prioritising and scrutinising local (Croydon's) policing priorities. High harm crimes and protecting vulnerable people will be included in local priorities in every borough to ensure that the police and local partners are focused properly on these most serious and harmful offences against vulnerable people. This includes a focus on child sexual exploitation, violence against women and girls, gangs, knife crime and gun crime
- 5.4 The issues of greatest concern in one borough may be very different to those of another. Therefore, antisocial behaviour and volume crime priorities will be selected by each borough on the basis of their local assessments, crime statistics and local residents' views to result in a manageable level of priorities.
- 5.5 MOPAC have been providing support to Croydon and have made additional data on crime and antisocial behaviour available. The likely local priorities will be non-domestic violence with injury and burglary although these are still to be ratified with MOPAC at the time of writing this report.
- 5.6 In addition, MOPAC will use data from quarterly surveys to monitor Londoners' levels of confidence and satisfaction in the job the police are doing MOPAC will publish new crime data when the Police and Crime Plan is finalised in March 2017.

6 Localities

- 6.1 There is a correlation between areas of high deprivation and crime rates in Croydon; more crime is committed in the north of the borough, largely due to a higher population density, and more pockets of deprivation. Vulnerability is becoming increasingly concentrated within certain places and amongst certain individuals. According to MOPAC's Vulnerable Localities Profile, the top 10 per cent of wards (63) are disproportionately impacted compared to other parts of London. On average, over 3 times more victims of burglary, robbery, sexual offences live in these top 10 per cent compared to the least vulnerable. It is therefore important that interventions are targeted to the most vulnerable locations.
- 6.2 One priority location moving forward will be the town centre and West Croydon area. Since the summer of 2016 the town centre and West Croydon has experienced anti social behavior, which requires long term strategies to tackle. Particular issues worth highlighting are street drinking in the Queens Gardens and high volumes of school children congregating on North End with some significant disorder on a couple of occasions and a serious stabbing in early February 2017. Partnership strategies will be a priority in the forthcoming strategy, including exploring the use of Public Space Protection Orders

7 Summary

- 7.1 As we set out our three-year plan, we also need to consider external factors such as on-going financial pressures, the impact of Brexit, the threat of terrorism, and how crime is changing. For example, burglary offences are reducing but on-line fraud has nearly doubled during the past few years. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), recorded 119,426 incidents in 2011/12 but this rose to 230,406 in 2014/15 and 85% of all identity fraud now occurs online.
- 7.2 Taking into account these factors, and the findings from the 2016 Strategic Crime Assessment, public consultation as well as the views from stakeholders, during the next 3 years our draft strategic priorities are:-
- **Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic violence**
 - **Improve the safety of children and young people**
 - **Improve public confidence and community engagement.**
 - **Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime**
 - **Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime.**
- 7.3 The strategy supports the 2017-2021 London Police and Crime Plan and builds on a solid foundation of successful partnership working on crime and anti-social behaviour in Croydon. Much of what we set out in our previous strategy has been achieved. However, we also recognise that there is still much more to do, but we are determined to work together to make Croydon a safer place to live, work and visit.

Appendices

Draft Community Safety Strategy

CONTACT OFFICER: Andy Opie, Director of Safety

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None