

REPORT TO:	SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 6 th September 2022
SUBJECT:	SAFER CROYDON PARTNERSHIP
LEAD OFFICER:	Nick Hibberd Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Kristian Aspinall Interim Director, Culture and Community Safety
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Ola Kolade Cabinet Member for Community Safety
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Councillor Ola Kolade Cabinet Member for Community Safety
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	Public

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	The Scrutiny & Overview Committee has a statutory duty to review community safety arrangements in the borough.
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to review the performance of the Community Safety Partnership with a view to seeking reassurance on the effectiveness of the partnership.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides a strategic overview of the progress and challenges of the Community Safety Partnership.

2. SAFER CROYDON PARTNERSHIP

- 2.1 The Safer Croydon Partnership is the statutory partnership that brings together the Police, Council, Health, Probation, and Fire Brigade to tackle crime and disorder in Croydon. The Partnership uses data and intelligence to identify the key issues facing the borough and then commits resources through a partnership plan and strategy to tackle those issues.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

- 3.1 In January 2022, following consultation with key partners and members of the public, the Safer Croydon Partnership produced the Community Safety Strategy. The Community Safety Strategy lists the strategic priorities as:

- Tackle domestic abuse
- Protect young people from violence and exploitation

- Tackle disproportionality in the criminal justice system
- Strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services, focusing on Hate Crime, and build trust in the partnership
- Focus on high priority neighbourhood

3.2 Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of the Community Safety Strategy

4. DATA DRIVEN: STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

4.1 The Strategic Assessment is a yearly analytical product, which gives an overview of the current and long-term issues affecting or likely to affect a specific area or borough.

4.2 The yearly Strategic Assessment was used as the main evidence base for the Community Safety Strategy as it highlighted the key issues we as a partnership need to respond to.

4.3 It is used to make inferences and provide recommendations for prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance priorities as well as the future partnership strategy. It provides direction for the partnership in deploying resources efficiently to reduce crime and ASB in the borough.

4.4 The Strategic Assessment will assist with providing an overall monitoring framework of the crime data and being able to evidence if what we are doing in a specific location is having an impact on crime trends.

4.5 Please refer to Appendix B for the Strategic Assessment 2022

5 REVIEWING THE PARTNERSHIP

5.1 The Safer Croydon Partnership is the statutory crime reduction partnership that brings together the Police, Council, Health, Probation, and Fire Brigade to tackle crime and disorder in Croydon. Crime Reduction Partnerships were first established in 1997 in the Crime and Disorder act, and since then have had additional legal duties placed on them such as the delivery of domestic homicide reviews. Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are statutory reviews of cases where one person has been murdered by a family member or partner. They can include family members as well as intimate partners.

5.2 The partnership has met 3 times over the last twelve months, and the primary focus of the work has been the oversight of the six domestic violence homicide reviews currently taking place in Croydon. This number is atypically high for the Borough, and partly a reflection of the inability to conduct reviews during 2020/21 due to Covid.

5.3 In 2022 we will carry out a review of the partnership. This aims to:

- Refocus the board on the goals of the partnership as outlined in the community safety strategy and enable effective decision making at a strategic level
- Ensure the membership of the board is appropriate and fit for purpose to deliver on the goals of the community safety strategy
- Streamline the sub-groups that sit below the executive to ensure operational delivery is effective
- Refresh the performance framework for the partnership so we can monitor and manage performance against the five priorities of the community safety partnership
- Give greater means for the community and residents to feed into the work of the partnership through establishing a dedicated “voluntary sector” forum

5.4 This review will be conducted by the chair of the Croydon Safer Partnership and the Director of Culture & Community Safety, who will have individual meetings with the statutory members of the Croydon Safer Partnership to discuss the current state of the board and how they see it developing and changing in the future.

5.5 Following those interviews, we will then draft new terms of reference and proposed membership of the Executive. There is potential that this could create new sub boards for the Community Safety Partnership as outlined in 5.3.

6. KEY UPDATES:

a) YOUTH SAFETY STRATEGY

6.1 Significant amounts of work have taken place over the last three years since the publication of the Vulnerable Adolescents Review (VAR) in 2019. However, Croydon continues to suffer from high levels of violence against young people and high numbers of homicides of young people. Predominantly the victims and the perpetrators are from Black African, Black British and African-Caribbean families, and these crimes have an extremely disproportionate effect on these communities. The root causes of this violence tie into the wider work the borough has been delivering on systemic racism and racial equality as well as contextual safeguarding

6.2 As a result of the five homicides in 2021 of young men under 20, a rapid desktop review was undertaken of the services and processes in place to safeguard young people currently at risk and the work being delivered to protect the next generation from being victims of violence.

6.3 The next steps on the back of the Vulnerable Adolescent Review and the work completed subsequently is to develop a longer term, “whole borough” strategy

that takes a holistic, whole system approach adopting public health principles to prevent longer term violence against young people. This will include the role of residents, communities and the third sector as well as statutory partners. Although significant activity has taken place in this area, through ongoing maternity support work including maternal mental health, the developing Early Years strategy, the Community Safety strategy, the review of Fair Access processes and improved data sharing, alongside strengthening early intervention for our vulnerable CYP, the Violence against Women and girl work and others, the next step is to develop this dedicated strategy for reducing violence against young people. This is the next stage of our work that will tie all the ongoing work into a single strategic framework, and including key elements such as the community leadership, role of housing and public space design and other elements.

6.4 This strategy is currently in development, and we are currently working to four key themes:

- Prevention – stopping the next generation becoming victims of violence
- Intervention – helping the young people currently at risk
- Disruption – tackling the criminal gangs exploiting our young people
- Diversion – our positive offer for young people

6.5 Please note these themes are purely initial drafts to organise and review our work and may change as we develop the strategy. We have included them here for scrutiny comment and feedback at the initial stages of this strategy development.

b) VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

6.6 As highlighted in the Strategic Assessment (Appendix B), Domestic Abuse is a key issue in Croydon and continues to be a priority for the partnership. This was also confirmed through our women and girls survey in 2021 (please refer to Appendix A for the results) where we highlighted areas where residents did not feel safe and what would be needed to improve safety.

6.7 As a result, we want to develop a detailed three-year plan to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), to align with with the Pan-London VAWG Strategy. The strategy would seek to set out a clear multi-agency, preventative approach to tackling and preventing VAWG and to take the network to the next level by actively involving a greater number of people and partners in our solutions to reduce violence against women and girls. We will seek to reach out and include the views and ideas from the full range of our residents, communities, and partners.

- 6.8 A 'Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)' Statement of Intent is being taken to September Cabinet to confirm the Mayor's commitment to reducing and tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in our borough.

SCP PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK (VRN)

- 6.9 The councils Violence Reduction Network is made up of five key elements:
- CCTV
 - Performance and Intelligence
 - Anti-social Behaviour
 - Prevent
 - Domestic and sexual abuse support (the Family Justice Centre)
- 6.10 The CCTV Control Room (Intelligence Hub) is based at Strand House, Thornton Heath and staffed 24/7, 365 days a year. The CCTV team monitor 94 permanent networked colour CCTV cameras, deployable cameras as well as cameras on Housing land of various designs with Pan, Tilt & Zoom facility. The team have helped the Police to identify knife crime perpetrators as well as identify a fire at a property before emergency services were informed. The CCTV suite was significantly involved in the recent Owami Davies missing person case, providing substantial support to police efforts. Currently the team are refreshing the CCTV system, moving from an analogue system to a digital.
- 6.11 The Performance and Intelligence team carry out the Statutory Requirements for the Safer Croydon Partnership such as: producing and monitoring the partnership plan that has regard for MOPAC's policing plan priorities, engaging and consulting with the community about their priorities and progress achieving them and produce an annual strategic assessment. The team also supports the council and wider partnership with intelligence and data to provide effective decision making around crime reduction. The team have recently secured additional funds to assist with Croydon's response to serious violence from the London Violence Reduction Unit.
- 6.12 The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team investigate reports of ASB such as excessive household noise, drunk and disorderly behaviour, drug using and taking in properties, loud music, verbal and racial abuse, cuckooing (where a vulnerable person's flat is taken over by drug dealers), harassment and intimidation, ASB caused by people vulnerable due to substance and alcohol abuse and mental health, threats of violence and actual violence. The team acts as the "escalation point" for ASB issues within the partnership – they take on and handle the hardest and most challenging cases passed to them by other frontline teams. The team recently obtained a Criminal Behaviour Order (CB) against a resident who was causing significant issues within the Town Centre.

6.13 The Prevent team are responsible for implementing the UK Government's Prevent strand of Counter Terrorism (CONTEST). Prevent is a statutory duty on the public sector and revolves around three main objectives:

- *Ideology*: Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from it
- *Individuals*: Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and given appropriate advice and support
- *Institutions*: Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address

The team have been recognised for their work on linking Domestic Abuse and the Prevention to Terrorism.

6.14 The FJC is a centrally located resource offering a multi-disciplinary approach to services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their children. The centre seeks to offer victims wrap around support and to prevent individuals having to go from agency to agency, telling their story repeatedly, in order to access the support they need. The FJC also lead on the statutory requirement of commissioning domestic violence homicide reviews (DHRs). As outlined in 5.2 we currently have six DHRs to conduct.

CONTACT OFFICER: *Chris Rowney, Head of the Violence Reduction Network*

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Appendix A: Community Safety Strategy
Appendix B: Strategic Assessment 2022

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: *None*