

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 7 July 2014	<b>Report to:</b> Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Community Safety priorities for the next 6-12 months	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
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## Background

1. The following report sets out the priorities for community safety in Southwark for the next 12 months. It also sets out the longer term priorities for the borough in the wider London context.

## Priorities for Southwark in the next 12 months

### 2. Partnership relationships

- 2.1. A strong relationship between the council and its partner agencies is at the heart of a successful and progressive community safety programme. MPS Southwark, Probation Services and London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LEFPA) are all undergoing significant changes, which are placing considerable challenges in retaining those strong relationships.
- 2.2. **MPS Southwark** - The changes to the management team over the last 6 months have seen the arrival of Chief Superintendent Zander Gibson as the new borough commander. The current acting superintendents, Des Fahy and Neil Paton, were successful in their promotions boards and will be leaving in the next few weeks. With the arrival of two, recently promoted Superintendents, (David Jackson and Gary Kelly) the senior management team at Southwark will all be relatively new and will require considerable support to establish strong working relationships.
- 2.3. The local policing model is still being embedded. The move away from dedicated safer neighbourhood teams have not necessarily been fully understood at a local community ward level, particularly the change of roles of the teams to focus on investigating crimes and managing offenders.
- 2.4. The move of dedicated analytical teams at a police borough level, to regional teams continues to have a significant impact on the borough and the intelligence capability. The lack of dedicated analysts means that problem solving and profile analysis is more difficult to access and impacts on an effective partnership response to emerging issues.
- 2.5. **Probation** - Probation Services are undergoing unprecedented changes, through the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda. The impact for Southwark and London means that a smaller National Probation Service will focus on high risk, high tariff offenders only. The remaining service will be tendered to a private company or consortium of companies. This will mean that the council and its partner agencies will have to re-establish its relationship with the two services and the mechanisms for managing offenders. This will become complicated as the level of assessed risk may change for an offender, resulting in negotiations between the different parties. Both the National Probation Service and the newly formed Community Rehabilitation Company have stated that they are committed to

working together to maintain the existing positive relationship with partners, and to deliver a safe and seamless service.

- 2.6. The transition between youth and adult offending support will need to be assessed. Furthermore, there are significant changes in the secure estate with the closure of a number of youth offender institutes resulting in prisoners being placed across the country. This will increase the pressure on council services who are working with offenders pre-release.
- 2.7. **LFEPA** - The reduction in fire personnel, loss of tenders and closure of Southwark Fire Station together with ongoing redevelopment of Old Kent Road fire station means that a significant proportion of the emergency response to fires is now delivered by crews from neighbouring boroughs. A further consequence is that routine familiarisation by local crews will not be possible at the same level as before. The council will need to build on its existing proactive and broad approach to fire safety preventative measures in all buildings that it manages. Some of the current initiatives include providing the fire service with better quality floor plans of each block and the provision of detailed fire safety guidance to each resident. A program of retro-fitting sprinklers to each of the council's twenty sheltered housing units and hostels is underway which will reduce risk to some of the most vulnerable members of the community.
- 2.8. **Working in partnership to support council priorities** - Community safety priorities are closely aligned to a range of other key priorities for the council such as Troubled Families, safeguarding, child sexual exploitation, mental well being and trafficking. Officers within community safety will continue to work closely with a range of internal and external partners on these key areas. This includes exploring how we can develop multi agency working to maximise a range of skills and achieve the best outcomes for those who required support.
- 2.9. **Governance for the Safer Southwark Partnership** - the community safety partnership governance arrangements has recently been reviewed with the aim of ensuring there is a strong strategic, performance and operational governance arrangements, that are linked to other governance boards in Southwark such as the health and well being board and safeguarding boards.
3. **MOPAC 7 priority crimes**
  - 3.1. The Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 has set out a number of priorities in terms of reducing crime and improving confidence. The Mayor's aim is to; "drive down crime by at least 20% in the key categories of burglary, vandalism/criminal damage, theft of and from motor vehicles, violence with injury, robbery and theft from the person."
  - 3.2. The council and agencies, which form the Safer Southwark Partnership, are measured on the progress against these crime types. This is a particular challenge for Southwark as a borough which has seen a significant change in the make up and demographics of its communities and the criminal opportunities this creates.
  - 3.3. It also has to be recognised that these basket of 7 crime types may not be the priority for the council or Southwark residents, particularly as the historic context of crime has been serious violence, domestic abuse and anti social behaviour.
  - 3.4. The current trends for the MOPAC 7 priority crimes, up to June 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 is as follows:-

MOPAC Crime	Offences		
	FY 11/12^	Current R12	% Chg
<b>MOPAC 7</b>	<b>17,087</b>	<b>15,382</b>	<b>-10.0 %</b>
Burglary	3,529	3,234	-8.4 %
Criminal Damage	3,023	2,443	-19.2 %
Robbery	2,476	1,855	-25.1 %
Theft From MV	2,074	2,119	+2.2 %
Theft/Taking Of MV	1,083	1,019	-5.9 %
Theft From Person	2,069	1,990	-3.8 %
Violence With Injury	2,833	2,722	-3.9 %

3.5 Southwark is currently showing a 10% reduction against the 2011/12 baseline figure up to June 24<sup>th</sup> 2014. Robbery is showing an improvement above the 20% target, theft from motor vehicle is the only priority crime type recording an increase against the original baseline figure.

#### 4. Domestic Abuse

4.1. The council has led on a re-commissioning of domestic abuse services in Southwark in recent years with the aim to provide those seeking support with a single easy access. Whilst we are confident that the support offered to both victims and perpetrators is of a good standard, we continue to look at ways we can make improvements. The recent focus has been on under 18 year olds who are in abusive relationships and inter family abuse.

4.2. We are also conscious that reports of domestic abuse continue to rise. Research is underway to look at the underlying trends, including social and economic factors which may be influencing this increase.

#### 5. Anti social behaviour

5.1. Whilst the council and its partner agencies have made great strides in reducing crime levels, particularly serious violent crime, anti social behaviour remains a concern for our local residents. Recent satisfaction surveys indicate that around 46% of residents consider anti social behaviour is a big problem in their area. The breadth of anti social behaviour issues are very wide, ranging from dog fouling to intimidation from littering to youths hanging around an area. As a result it remains a challenge to the council and its partner agencies to understand and respond to local concerns in a consistent way.

5.2. We are also looking at how the council responds to noise complaints to ensure that the service offer provides the support and advice that residents are seeking, particularly at the times when noise nuisance has the most impact.

5.3. In the autumn of 2014, the Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 comes into force. The act makes significant changes to the current legislation, reducing the number of orders from 19 to just 6. It introduces the Criminal Behaviour Order and an Injunction to prevent nuisance and annoyance, a new area based order referred to as the public places protection order and new powers that allow police to implement Dispersal areas at short notice. In addition the act introduces the community trigger which sets out grounds for how residents can escalate concerns which, in their opinion have not been responded to.

5.4. As a result the council and its partners will be undertaking a review of anti social behaviour and the noise service over the next 6-9 months.

#### 6. Violent crime

6.1 Southwark has traditionally ranked as one of the highest volume boroughs in London, particularly for violent crime. Since 2009/10, Southwark has improved its position relative to

other boroughs; in particular, moving out of the top five for violence with and without injury and youth violence. The performance in terms of long term sustained reductions, are some of the best in the UK.

- 6.2 Despite our progress it will remain important that we continue our work in reducing violent crime, particularly knife and weapon crime, improving our support for victims and developing exit routes for those who want to move away from a lifestyle of violent offending and a specific focus on child sexual exploitation and the links to gang and drug criminality.

	2009/10	2012/13	2013/14	Trend
	Ranking out of 32 (1 is highest volume)			
<b>Total crime</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Violence</b>				
Violence with injury	1	4	6	
Violence without injury	3	7	7	
Knife crime	1	1	2	
Gun crime	2	1	2	
Serious youth violence	1	1	3	
Youth violence	1	2	6	
Personal robbery	3	2	4	
Serious sexual offences	5	5	5	
Domestic violence	1	3	3	

#### Changes in recorded crime by crime type

Category	Number of offences	One year trend	Four year trend
		% change in 2013/14 v 2012/13	% change since 2009/10
<b>Total crime</b>	<b>31,098</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-16%</b>
<b>Violence</b>	<b>5,916</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>-26%</b>
<b>Violence with injury</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Knife crime</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-20%</b>
<b>Knife crime with injury</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-43%</b>
<b>Gun crime</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>-32%</b>	<b>-51%</b>
<b>Serious youth violence</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>-28%</b>	<b>-33%</b>
<b>Youth violence</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-41%</b>
<b>Personal robbery</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>-12%</b>

## 7. Support for victims

- 7.1. The Council currently have a risk management process in place for repeat and vulnerable victims of crime and ASB. This is used across the Council and by police. We are working with the London Crime Reduction Board to help design and deliver a pan London definition of vulnerability which Councils, MPS and other partners would sign up to. Achieving strategic engagement with health partners in relation to victims or perpetrators who may have mental health issues is a key component of this work. The council and its partner agencies are looking at the most effective way to manage high risk anti social cases where a multi agency response is needed.

- 7.2. Hate Crime - There continues to be a strong focus on the hate crime agenda under the guidance of the Southwark Hate Crime Network. A series of high profile and successful community engagement and training events have been delivered, which form part of delivering the Hate Crime Strategy 2011-2015. Over the next 12 months we will be reviewing our objectives and ensuring that we the priorities reflect the needs of our changing communities.
- 7.3. Victim Care Points - In 2013 Cabinet agreed funding for victim support care points to be established for crime victims in key locations across the borough as a direct response to police station closures. Points were set up and in June 2013 and initially operate from Harris Street Housing Services Office, Aylesbury Housing Office, Dulwich Library, Canada Water Library and Southwark Council Queens Road Office. A pool of ten volunteers have been recruited and trained and publicity produced. Initial project development included pre-arranged 1-2-1 support at these sessions although drop in visits are now becoming more common.
- 7.4. To date, 267 'contacts' have been made across all five sites, (June 13 – May 14). Data provided by Victim Support Southwark suggests that young people are not utilising the service. We are looking at a number of ways to improve the usage of this age group including the possibility of setting up a contact point at Southwark College and looking how we can promote the service to young people such as using the VDUs at the libraries to advertise. In addition the council will look at how it can use the Southwark Young Advisors, Southwark Youth Council and voluntary sector organisations to see how we can improve the service and make it more accessible to young people.

## **8. Community involvement**

- 8.1. Community involvement is key in ensuring that the programmes that we develop and deliver reflect the needs at a local level and that local people have the opportunity to be actively involved in shaping and delivering those programmes. Over the next 12 months we will be working to expand specific programmes around community involvement such as Neighbourhood Watch and City Safe; further details of which are outlined below; as well and looking at ways that we support those people in our community who want to make a positive contribution to making their area safe.
- 8.2. Neighbourhood watch - Over the past year Southwark has doubled the number of people actively engaging with neighbourhood watch from 100 to over 200 coordinators. The priorities for the next twelve months are to continue to work with partners to increase community engagement within the scheme and to further increase the programme.
- 8.3. CitySafe - Southwark has signed up to the CitySafe Haven campaign which offers young people a safe place to go if they feel threatened or are in immediate danger. The CitySafe Havens are located in local businesses or premises such as libraries, supermarkets, and One Stop shops with trained staff that can provide a safe refuge to young people who find themselves in difficult situations. There are currently 45 CitySafe Havens across the borough.
- 8.4. The CitySafe Havens are run by Citizens UK, a charity which aims to create safer communities across the country. Over the next twelve months we will continue to work in partnership to promote our current network of safe havens in the borough as well as to identify areas for potential expansion of the programme.

## **9. Regional priorities**

- 9.1 There are a number of regional priorities that are being developed through the London Crime Reduction Board and MOPAC which will impact on Southwark over the next 12 months.
- 9.2 London Anti Gangs Strategy- this was launched earlier this month and sets out the priorities of prevention, exit and enforcement. The strategy has a stronger focus on intervention and a stronger collaborative approach between partner agencies, schools and the voluntary sector. The overarching focus will be to provide a consistent offer across London for those wishing to exit gang lifestyles with a move toward pan London commissioning.
- 9.3 Victim Services – The responsibility for commissioning victim services now falls to the Mayor’s office. Currently MOPAC are considering the range of victim services that are required across the capital. This work will be progressed over the next 6-9 months.
- 9.4 Alcohol and violence – The mayors office are looking at different tools to reduce alcohol related violence and its impact on policing and A&E resources. A pilot alcohol abstinence Monitoring Requirement (AAMR) programme is currently being trialed in several south London boroughs. This is likely to be extended further and be part of a wider range of tools to address alcohol related violence.
- 9.5 Counter Terrorism – there continues to be a focus on the counter terrorism agenda ranging from borough based prevention to high level intervention led through specialist services. It is likely that, over the next 6-12 months, the Police and MOPAC will be asking local councils to review their current arrangements and have a greater involvement in this agenda.
- 9.6 The above is not an exhaustive list of priorities for community safety but provides a broad outline for the council and its partners.