

Item No. 5	Classification: Open	Date: 15 February 2023	Meeting Name: Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		The Southwark Community Safety Partnership and Community Safety Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Report author(s):		Caroline Thwaites, Assistant Director, Community Safety & Partnerships	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Commission notes the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The [Council Delivery Plan](#) sets out our priorities and commitments to the people of Southwark until 2026. This includes four objectives that directly relate to community safety:

- **Upgrade street and estate lighting,**
- **Tackle misogyny and violence against women and girls,**
- **Make Southwark safe for young people,**
- **Make it clear that there is no place for hate in Southwark.**

Under each of these objectives lies a number of commitments:

3. *Upgrade street and estate lighting:*

- Work with the community to redesign lighting in locations that are a priority for Southwark residents

4. There is a programme of upgrading of lighting to LED lighting borough wide. In addition to this there are plans in place to undertake a programme of joint visual audits between police, community safety and residents in priority areas impacted by crime and anti-social behavior.

5. *Tackle misogyny and violence against women and girls:*

- Challenge misogyny, working with our schools, employers and community groups to deliver a major campaign to promote positive male behaviours towards women and make clear male harassment and violence towards women will not be tolerated in Southwark
- Improve public spaces where women tell us they feel unsafe
- Ask all organisations that operate at night in Southwark to sign our Women's Safety Charter. Including training their staff to support women who report harassment and take action to keep their female

- customers safe
- Establish a ground-breaking Women's Safety Centre, so women experiencing violence or abuse can access all the support they need in one place
 - Work with the Metropolitan Police to tackle male violence against women, and challenge them to work with women to rebuild their trust and confidence in the Met
6. Our 'positive action' campaign called "Through her eyes" was launched on 25 November to coincide with White Ribbon Day. All materials were developed with, and tested, among our key audience who are young men and boys aged 16 -25. The central focus of the campaign is a video showing sexual harassment 'through her eyes' this was launched at a special school assembly engaging over 80 boys aged 16-18. In addition, the video was shown and discussed at a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) community event held on a local estate involving both Southwark and Lambeth young people. Four poster designs were developed as part of the campaign and displayed on digital advertising boards in the three areas of Borough and Bankside, London Bridge and West Bermondsey, Camberwell Green (disproportionately impacted by VAWG).
 7. The council secured high profile advocates including the Mayor of London and Harriet Harman MP, and organisations including Millwall FC, to increase visibility of the campaign. We achieved coverage across national, regional, local, trade and broadcast media, including the Daily Mirror, the Evening Standard, and BBC Radio London. In Q3, the campaign video was watched more than 130,000 times across the Council's social media channels.
 8. Digital advertising is ongoing. Posters have also been distributed to community venues across the borough including libraries, leisure centres, and parks. This also includes schools for which a resource pack has been developed. Information about the campaign was sent to secondary schools in December as part of the Council's online newsletter. This will be followed up by a physical pack, including posters, to be circulated to 23 secondary schools.
 9. During 21/22, we undertook our first Public Women's Safety Survey, asking residents, workers and visitors to Southwark about safety in the borough; how safe they feel, when and where they don't feel safe. This information along with Police Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) crime data identified 5 areas in the borough which are disproportionately impacted by VAWG. A number of interventions were deployed to reduce crime and improve women's safety in these areas. This included Environmental Visual Audits (EVA's) identifying environmental factors such as lighting which could be removed/improved to make the areas safer. We will be building on this work and are currently preparing the release of our 2nd Women's Safety Public Survey which will indicate if the public has noticed any improvements in

the perception of safety in these area, and also if these areas are still a cause for concern.

10. We are currently working jointly with Lambeth Borough and the Safer Business Network to create training to late-night businesses (hotels, shops, theatres, cafes, food venues) in hotspot areas to create 'Safe Havens' where women can access safety and support. If someone feels unsafe, has been threatened/harassed they can look for the Safe Haven sign in windows. Trained staff will help them exit the street, away from potential perpetrators, call family/friends/police, and access safe transport. This will include promotion of the London Women's Night Safety Charter.
11. The development of Safe Havens is being taken forward by the Safer Business Network who have been engaging with various business and other organisations in the areas of Borough and Bankside, London Bridge and West Bermondsey, and Camberwell Green wards, to see if they would be interested in participating in the scheme. Venues approached include fast food chains, supermarket, gyms, hotels, bars/restaurants. Meetings have been arranged at the beginning of January with the various Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) to further promote the scheme and develop links with local businesses.
12. Delivery of the 'sexual harassment in the public realm' training has started. This has involved the delivery of 2 training sessions to wardens: 1 in Southwark, 1 in Lambeth. 15 Southwark Community Wardens attended this training. Further training will be delivered and continue into financial year 23/24 for which the focus will be on appropriate late night economy businesses (including those with private security). This is also included in the discussions with the Business Improvement Districts in identifying appropriate premises to be approached.
13. We continue to develop the Safe Spaces Initiative which is now operational in 47 venues, comprising of Children and Family Centres, Secondary and Primary Schools and other community venues. Phase 2 of the project is currently underway with targeted promotion and awareness raising to expand the programme into the following sectors:
 - Libraries and leisure centres/gyms
 - Cultural and arts venues
 - Council buildings
 - Early years and further and higher education venues
 - Places of worship
 - Community centres
14. The development of a Women's Safety Centre is central to the recommissioning of our Violence Against Women and Girls Services. For which a new service will be in place from August 2024. Prior to the establishment of a physical centre work has taken place on developing

our 'virtual' offer.

15. The virtual content on the Council's website in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Abuse has been reviewed and, where necessary, updated. The intention being to make it easier for people to find and access support in a range of ways and settings while the work progresses on procurement of the partner to work with us on the new approach and Physical Centre. The virtual approach work so far includes:

- Building on, and improving, these resources with better information on where to get support,
- Co-ordination with a wider range of providers including council services and linking in to pre-existing services like the Nest and the Wellbeing Hub.
- The web resource include links to chatlines, apps, phone helplines etc.,
- The proposed development of an interactive map (Common Place) to identify areas where women feel unsafe

16. A partnership delivery plan in this area of work is under development through the Community Safety Partnership.

17. Make Southwark safe for young people:

- Work to end youth violence, putting young people, victims and their families at the heart of our community safety work. Take an evidence-based, public health approach and evaluate all of our efforts to ensure we reduce violence and make young people safer
- Work with the local community and police to ensure stop and search is used fairly

18. The partnership has a 2 year Violence and Vulnerability Action plan which was agreed in March 2022 for delivery between April 2022 to March 2024. Delivery is overseen by the Strategic Violence & Vulnerability Group. Progress has been made on all 7 areas identified; this includes implementation of new Community Safety Partnership governance structure and development of two new strategic groups; Violence Reduction Strategic Group and a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group. The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and associated Partnership Plan are being progressed and this will support a local needs assessment following the new Serious Violence Duty. Police crime data has been obtained for all areas and is currently being analysed. The seven areas are Governance, Analysis and Enforcement, Reducing Access to Weapons, Safeguarding and Educating Young People, Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods, Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability, Positive Diversion from Violence.

19. The work to reduce violence across Southwark reports into a Reducing Violence and Vulnerability Board chaired by the Director of Communities and the MPS lead for Violence.
20. Through the Combatting Drug Partnership “Hidden in Plain Sight” – the Southwark Narrative was produced. The purpose of the Southwark Narrative is :
- A live document, regularly updated, which provides a detailed evidence based narrative of the nature and scale of drug markets and the levels of violence, vulnerability and exploitation that exists in and around them. It is based upon the experiences and observations of those working with children, young people and adults affected by these issues.
 - Will inform the strategic, commissioning, and tactical activities of partners working to reduce harm to and safeguard those affected by, or vulnerable to involvement in, drugs and violence. The report was launched at the Strategic Drugs Partnership in December in 2022, which also reports to the local CSP.
21. With regard to our Information, Advice and Guidance Programme the number of families and young people affected by youth violence, seeking information, advice and guidance continues to grow. Officers have also worked alongside an independent evaluation team which review the impact of this programme and has judged it to be effective in reducing violence and mitigating the key predictors of violence. The programme is funded by the London Violence Reduction Unit. Feedback from parents, young people and professionals is good. Outcomes to date have showed that the service is highly effective. This programme has also been showcased on a regional level as best practice.
22. Our Community Harm and Exploitation Hub (Southwark’s Violence Reduction Unit) continues to engage with 72 young people and their families. These are young people who have been involved in or victims of gangs, county lines and/or serious youth violence. Their bespoke support packages are reviewed on a weekly basis. The team works closely with the Southwark Extra Familial Harm Team due to the involvement of young people aged under 18 and also works with other boroughs including Lambeth and Westminster. Due to a number of recent incidents the team have set up a dedicated operational mapping meeting to monitor trends and linked association between violent incidents across the Southwark and South London.
23. With regards to working with Police on Stop and Search the Young Advisors and Youth Independent Advisory group continue to work in this area delivering the following:
- The Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG), (funded by Community Safety Grant) continue working to compliment other

youth engagement, Youth Parliament, Youth Justice Peer Navigators. This will ensure a cross section of youth led voices are channelled through policing and community safety programmes.

- A new tranche of recruitment for the YIAG in 2023 to add to the current compliment.
- The Young Advisors Streetbase team continue to support the community in areas such as the Kingswood Estate, Peckham and Camberwell, following incidents of violence, working closely with the local neighbourhood teams and council wardens.
- The YIAG continue providing community representation on Independent Police Complaints Commission groups, including the high-profile cases across the Borough. Work has also included advice and guidance to the IPCO on raising aware and improving understanding of their role amongst the community and young people.
- Members have attended Hendon Police College, to experience and participate in the training of police officers, areas such as stop and search, control and constraint. It is a two-way dynamic, which is powerful, and commands a new found level of respect between young people and officers.
- Work has started, and continues, between the young people and Police Borough Command Unit on the effective use of social media. Positive feedback has been received by young people and the community.
- New reducing violence projects are being discussed with the Young Advisors and Youth Independent Advisory Group, Youth Services, the Police and Health.

24. Make it clear that there is no place for hate in Southwark:

- Take a zero tolerance approach to hate crimes

25. The anti hate crime strategy is being refreshed through a local steering group is formed from members from the statutory (police and local authority) and voluntary sector. They have met several times: the current focus of the steering group is to:

- Build an enhanced understanding of the hate crime profile for the Borough
- Organise a hate crime conference ensuring representatives of all parts of the community have a voice when it comes to Hate Crime and the consequences.
- Utilise the conference findings to co-design, ratify and subsequently co-deliver the anti-hate crime strategy
- Work with the Young Advisors to ensure the Youth Voice is heard on the subject of Hate Crime – this may take to form of a youth conference or smaller focus groups – discussions are still ongoing.
- Recruit further Hate Crime champions (target is 20).
- Encourage organisations and businesses who attend the conference

volunteer to become third party reporting sites for hate crime.

26. The Police have identified an additional dedicated Hate Crime Officer to progress the work across the Borough.

Community Safety Partnership Priorities

27. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, every local authority is required to have a Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which has a statutory responsibility to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, fear of crime, and substance misuse. The CSP works with the local Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to deliver their joint priorities; for Southwark, the PCC is the elected London Mayor as occupant of the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC).

28. The responsible authorities are required to formulate and implement:

- A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).
- A strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in the area; and
- A strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.

29. When carrying out the functions detailed above, the CSP must have regard to MOPAC's police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan for the police area.

30. In addition, under the Crime and Disorder Act 2007 Regulations, a CSP's strategy group must annually:

- Prepare a strategic assessment
- Prepare a partnership plan
- Engage with the community to inform the development of the assessment and partnership plan
- Ensure an information sharing agreement is in place and nominate a designated lead for each authority

31. From 31 January 2023, the statutory Serious Violence Duty was implemented introducing additional requirements for CSP's. Authorities must create and implement a strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence and reducing instances of serious violence in the area. This will fall to Community Safety Partnerships, with the current arrangements being developed in consultation with both National and Regional Government. Southwark and Lambeth boroughs

will be pilot sites for several areas within the legislative framework, namely Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews¹.

32. Other Duties Fulfilled by the CSP

Domestic Homicide Reviews, (DHRs)

- The chair of the CSP holds responsibility for establishing whether a homicide is to be subject of a DHR.
- This decision should be taken in consultation with local partners with an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence.

Prevent Multi-agency Board

- Local authorities should establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate Prevent activity with partners that fall under 2015 Prevent duty, to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

33. The vision of the Community Safety Partnership is to make Southwark a safer and healthier place to live, work and visit. The CSP Plan 2017 – 2020². Identified eight thematic areas (identified through annual strategic assessment and community engagement) which supported national and local priorities including the delivery of the Southwark Borough Plan. The key community safety priorities were:

- Tackling Youth Violence
- Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Reoffending
- Reducing Substance Misuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Hate Crime
- PREVENT

34. Following the 2021 review of the Safeguarding Boards' structure and governance arrangements, the Community Safety Partnership was established as a standalone body with two strategic groups reporting in to it: the Violence Against Women and Girls Group and the Violence Reduction Strategic Group. The co-chairs have since reviewed the purpose, priorities and structure of the CSP for these groups, in order to provide the partnership with a firm foundation for its future development as a standalone statutory body.

¹.In recognition of the important role of CSPs in this context, the Government also intends to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for CSPs. The Community Harm and Exploitation Reduction Plan provides the pathway for the CSP to set out how the Serious Violence Duty will be complied with, and how it is being prioritised.

² [Southwark Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 – 2020](#)

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

35. Work is underway to refresh the local Community Safety Partnership Plan for the next three years, which will be underpinned by a new Community Safety Strategic Assessment. Progress is being made on the assessment, due to be finalised at the beginning of the new financial year in April 2023. The initial data analysis has already been completed for which a data and insight pack has been developed (see Appendix one attached) providing the key headlines of the assessment. This supports the decision making to agree future priorities. Areas covered include:

➤ Total Notifiable Offences	➤ Robbery
➤ Violence Against the Person	➤ Serious Youth Violence 2
➤ Weapon Enabled Crime	➤ Modern Slavery
➤ Child Exploitation	➤ Domestic Abuse
➤ Violence Against Women & Girls	➤ Hate Crime
➤ Substance Misuse	➤ Anti-Social Behaviour
➤ Preventing Radicalisation & Violent-Extremism	

36. The Community Safety Partnership has also agreed five local priorities and these are:

- Reducing and preventing violence and vulnerability,
- Tackling VAWG and promoting women’s safety
- Increasing trust and confidence
- Reducing drug related harm
- Safe and sociable estates and neighbourhood

37. Community Insight

38. Engagement to date with communities has been a key feature of the partnership covering key areas such as Violence Against Women & Girls, including Women Safety, Serious Youth Violence, Hate Crime. Young People have and continue to feature as central drivers of insight in understanding the issues that impact them and local communities along with solutions to address local crime and disorder issues. These range from a newly recruited Youth Parliament which names Knife Crime as one of the top priorities to be addressed in the borough through to developing a Youth Independent Advisory Group, (YIAG),

delivering outreach in the community through to facilitating virtual sessions on gangs and youth violence, supporting parents through to training police officers on the use of stop and search.

39. Trust and confidence within the police and public authorities is a key area of concern for communities. This is evident through the voices heard at local engagement and listening events and more broadly through the delivery of workstreams under Southwark Stands Together. Disproportionality of young black men stopped or coming to the attention of police and who feature within the criminal justice system remains a significant concern for us all both locally and across London. How the new CSP seeks to tackle and address this issue will need to be a key consideration, both in terms of collective accountability to communities and also challenge and accountability by each of the responsible authorities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2020	Community Safety & Partnerships, Communities Division, Environment & Leisure Department.	Caroline Thwaites caroline.thwaites@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Community Safety Strategic Assessment – Data and Insight Pack

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Caroline Thwaites, Assistant Director Community Safety & Partnerships	
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Dated	13/02/2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included

Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
List other officers here		
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team / Scrutiny Team	13 February 2023	