

Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PDS COMMITTEE

Date: 21 January 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: TACKLING GANGS IN BROMLEY

Contact Officer: Peter Sibley, ASB Co-ordinator E-mail: Peter.Sibley@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

This report is an update on the Tackling Gangs in Bromley report presented to the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group in September 2012. That report presented a number of issues and recommendations and included an action plan for the implementation of the proposed changes. See Appendix 1.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the progress made on the implementation of the recommendations of the action plan

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: New Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Safer Bromley
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost :
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Protection Public Protection & Safety Portfolio
 4. Total current budget for this head: £3.5m
 5. Source of funding: Existing controllable revenue budget 2013/14
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 57 FTE
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 80 hours per year
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The original report dated September 2012 summarised the findings from the Gangs Review which had been undertaken to assess the impact of gangs and gang membership on the Borough with a view to delivering a cross agency response to identify and minimise any negative consequences of gang membership and activity in the Borough. It set out a list of short and long term recommendations that needed to be addressed to provide an effective response to any gang activity.
- 3.2 The report included a current position statement in relation to not only gangs, but also peer groups, neighbouring gangs, those relocating to the borough and those who were vulnerable to joining a gang. The statement, found at page 2 of the report, summarised the findings which concluded that there were no gangs operating in Bromley and the risk of the emergence of gangs in Bromley was generally low.
- 3.3 The action plan identified the key issues through the delivery of a number of short and long term initiatives which included the establishing of a single point of contact for gangs and a Gangs Panel
- 3.4 The Panel was set up and established by the ASB Coordinator and has been operating since February 2013. The panel is made up of the following partners
- The Police Gangs Unit
 - The ASBU
 - The Youth Offending team
 - The Probation Service
 - The Police Schools Unit
 - The London Borough of Bromley Housing Team
 - The Targeted Youth Service
 - Tackling Troubled Families team
- 3.5 The Panel were tasked with implementing the short term recommendations which have now been implemented. For example, a Single Point of Contact has been identified for Police and the local authority. The Police Gangs team maintain a nominal index which is shared with Panel members. New processes being established will allow Health Services to refer clients with mental health issues who may have gang related connections. A process has also been established which monitors out of borough housing referrals by local authorities which seek to transfer gang nominals to this borough and avoid the official procedures for transferring gang nominals. The RAG status of the progress is shown in the Appendix 1. Around 50% of the recommendations have been started.
- 3.6 Other agencies due to send representatives to the Panel include the Education Behaviour Service and the Children and Adult Mental Health Service.
- 3.7 Recent changes to local policing have impacted on the implementation process, resulting in a temporary absence of police on the Panel, but this has now been resolved and the police have committed to maintaining the previous staffing levels as soon as practicable. During this time the infrastructure of the panel was progressed.

- 3.8 Additional activities around diversion techniques are being considered for high end offenders who are consistently coming to the attention of authorities, some of whom may be vulnerable to peer pressure to join gangs.
- 3.9 During 2014 the Panel will look to implement further recommendations whose current RAG status is AMBER. The Current Position Statement in the original report found there were no high risks to Bromley in relation to the existence and emergence of gangs. Those recommendations listed at 5.1 to 5.5 in Appendix 1 are not critical to the delivery of the plan within the current framework. There is scope for engaging partners in the medium and long term to take forward some of these recommendations. The framework introduced as a result of the recommendations from the gangs report will ensure the Panel is able to monitor the emergence of any gang activity and identify gang nominals.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Children and Young People; Safer Bromley;

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is expected that the recommendations in the action plan will be implemented within existing resources.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Within existing resources

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	A Multi Agency Approach to Tackling Gangs in Bromley /September 2012. Located within Community Safety