

Public Protection & Safety (PP&S) PDS Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board AGM and meeting on Tuesday 14 June.

The first Public Protection & Safety PDS of the 2016-17 municipal year was held on Wednesday 29 June. The agenda included a presentation by the London Fire Brigade which focused on the LIFE course that teaches teaches young people between the ages of 14 and 17 firefighting skills alongside real firefighters. Launched in Tower Hamlets in 2002 as a response to antisocial behaviour against firefighters, the LIFE scheme now operates in all London Boroughs and has engaged with more than 12,000 young people. Members of the PDS have been invited to attend a LIFE passing-out parade when participants "graduate" from the intensive one-week course.

The PDS also received a Police Update and the MOPAC Update. The Draft Portfolio Plan for 2016-17 was presented by Cllr Kate Lymer, the PP&S Portfolio Holder and the contents discussed. A review of last year's priorities and targets was also given. The Portfolio is hitting its targets in every area except in the inspection of Risk B food premises, where only 73% had been inspected.

The PP&S Portfolio Priorities for 2016-17 are to:

1. Tackle night time anti-social behaviour using targeted interventions
2. Take action against rogue traders
3. Tackle the sale of age-related products to under-age buyers
4. Inspect 100% of high-risk food premises
5. Maintain and enhance the CCTV monitoring service in town centres and other key areas

Members also received a Food Safety Service Plan because PDS Members had shown a strong interest in this key area of the Council's work. The Food Safety Team is currently under-strength by more than 4 FTEs, so must target its scarce resources at the highest Risk A food premises. The intention is to tackle the backlog of Risk B premises during the 2016-17 year. PDS Members commended the Food Safety Team for its work in dealing with the highest priority cases and agreed that Food Safety should be the Portfolio priority for any additional funding if available.

Cllr Alexa Michael
Chairman, Public Protection & Safety PDS
July 2016