

**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY  
DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Tuesday 22 June 2021

**Title:** **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SAFER BROMLEY PARTNERSHIP  
STRATEGY**

**Contact Officer:** Joanne Stowell, Assistant Director of Public Protection  
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**Chief Officer:** Director of Environment and Public Protection

**Ward:** (All Wards);

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1. Reason for report

For the purpose of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006, this Committee acts as the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee and as such is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the work of the Safer Bromley Partnership Board (SBPB). This report provides an update on the progress made by the Partnership against the priorities within the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy 2020 (SBPS 20) for the year 2020-21, and further summarises the findings of the strategic assessment.

Representatives from the SBPB will be available at the meeting to respond to questions raised by the Committee in relation to this report.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee notes the progress of partners, and considers whether there are any matters of significance it wants to draw to the attention of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement.

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy 2020-23 (SBPS) is intended to serve all members of its communities, and to improve all forms of hate crime reporting and domestic violence and abuse related incidents which are under reported.
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## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council Quality Environment Safe Bromley Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres :
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: MOPAC Grant £367,140
  4. Total current budget for this head: Not Applicable
  5. Source of funding: Source of funding: Revenue Budget 2021/22 and grant funding from Mayors Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC)
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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## Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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## Customer Impact

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

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

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Safer Bromley Partnership Board (SBPB) is a statutory partnership set up under Section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; the overarching aim is to ensure that Bromley continues to be one of the safest boroughs in London. There is also a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy every 3 years (known locally as the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy (SBPS) Appendix A)).
- 3.2 For the purpose of Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006, this Committee acts as the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee and as such is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the work of the Safer Bromley Partnership Board (SBPB).
- 3.3 The SBPB (The Board) is currently chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement, and usually meets on a quarterly basis, however, the previous Portfolio Holder Cllr Lymer has moved portfolio, and Cllr Angela Page now represents this area. Cllr Page suggested that moving forwards the Board should have a joint chairman arrangement between the Police (as a primary partner), and Community Safety. As such, the position will be shared between Chief Inspector Craig Knight (South BCU) and the Assistant Director of Public Protection Joanne Stowell, who is the current Vice Chairman.
- 3.4 The Board has established a structure that brings together Partners at a strategic, performance and operational level. Membership of the Board is based on an individual's ability to represent their own organisational interests and further ability to embed jointly agreed actions into mainstream frontline business, commissioning, and strategic plans. The SBP members include senior representatives from the: Council, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, National Probation Service, National Health Service, and other Non-statutory Partners.
- 3.5 The current SBPS (Appendix A) covers the period 2020 to 2024 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, and incorporates the Community Plan and the Crime Reduction Strategy into a single document. The strategy was produced by the Community Safety Team on behalf of the SBPB, and the overarching aim for the Partnership is for Bromley to continue to be one of the safest Boroughs in London.
- 3.6 In attempting to maintain and indeed improve Bromley's current position, broad strategic themes are identified as priorities within this strategy. This enables flexibility in responding to changing crime trends and any emerging issues. Delivery will be reviewed annually in line with Bromley's annual strategic assessment and local trends, to ensure that delivery reflects need whilst also maximising opportunities for joint working across the borough.
- 3.7 Delivering on the priorities outlined in this strategy requires a range of partner organisations working together, to share the skills, powers and resources that are available to them, and Safer Bromley Partnership (SBP) has established a structure that brings together partners at a strategic, performance and operational level, that of the Safer Bromley Partnership Board (SBPB).
- 3.8 The SBPB holds the overarching responsibility for the SBPS, and works closely with other key strategic boards, to support the delivery of the priorities set out within the strategy. Issues such as violence against women and girls, tackling serious violence and keeping children and young people safe, requires a safeguarding focus and long-term interventions, to ensure that the underlying causes are addressed. To be effective, a number of the priorities, cross cutting themes and emerging trends outlined in the plan are shared across the strategic partnerships. As such, the intention within the SBP Strategy is not to provide comprehensive, prescriptive detail on Partner actions, but to provide a broad outline of Partner ambitions in supporting the priorities within, and further signpost the Partner Strategies, Policies and Plans that contain their respective detailed actions.

## **MOPAC pan-London and Local Priorities**

- 3.9 MOPAC consulted with local police leaders, Chief Executives and elected Leaders in every borough and developed a new system of agreeing local priorities that reflect local need. This means that local police teams are focusing on local priorities, backed up by data and evidence and local strategic assessments.
- 3.10 In accordance with the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021, The Strategy must have priorities that tackle both high volume crime (see 3.11) and high harm crimes which reinforce the commitment to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation in the borough (see 3.15).

### **High Volume Crimes Priority One: Safer Neighbourhoods (Appendix A)**

- 3.11 The following high-volume crimes have been agreed with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC):
1. Non-domestic violence with injury NDVWI
  2. Residential Burglary; and
  3. ASB (mandatory for all London boroughs);
  4. Financial abuse of the elderly and vulnerable (a local priority)
- 3.12 As a result of the 2019 consultation on the SBPS, Bromley has also set the theft and taking of a motor vehicle, and financial abuse against the elderly and vulnerable as local priorities. As the financial abuse priority is not recognised by MOPAC, they do not collect data or track the success of reductions in this area, and this is considered locally at the board.
- 3.13 The decision to add the non-MOPAC priority financial abuse of the elderly and vulnerable was taken as a result of Bromley's aging population. The proportion of older people in Bromley (aged 65 and over) is expected to increase to 18% of the population by 2022, additionally, the rise in the number of over 75 year olds since 2010 continues to have an impact on the provision of health and social care services within the borough. Although this is not a MOPAC priority, it has been included to capture the work carried out by Bromley Trading Standards in relation to scams. The aim of this priority's inclusion is to prevent older (and otherwise vulnerable) residents from becoming victims of scams and doorstep crime, enable 5 them to stay within their homes, and further contribute to reducing their dependence on social care support, which is a common outcome for those who become victims.

### **MOPAC Local Priorities for 2021-22**

- 3.14 In setting the local priorities for 2021-22, MOPAC again looked at data on high-volume crime at a Borough level to recommend priorities for the coming year. The crime picture in London was so drastically different from previous years because of COVID-19 and the lockdowns that MOPAC felt they should go back to the last year of "normal" data which was 19-20; as such, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MOPAC decided to continue with the current priorities selected for each borough, as these priorities arose out of that data.

### **MOPAC Mandatory High Harm Priorities**

- 3.15 The Strategy' also has a strong focus on high harm crimes that have been identified as priority issues within the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021, and they reinforce the commitment to tackle violence, vulnerability and exploitation in the borough. These are:
- Violence Against Women and Girls (Priority Two within the SBPS);
  - Keeping Young People Safe (Priority Three within the SBPS);
  - Standing Together Against Hate Crime and Extremism (Priority Four within the SBPS);

## **Performance against Priority One Safe Neighbourhoods**

- 3.16 This Priority looks at the crime and anti-social behaviour that concern our residents the most, and that MOPAC has identified as relevant to our borough. Within this priority we tackle issues across the borough as well as targeting resources on those areas that are highlighted as hot-spots, through either the highest levels of crimes reported, or through noted increases. The aim for this priority is to reduce crime, reduce ASB and improve the confidence of residents and provide reassurance.
- 3.17 Detailed end of year performance for this priority is highlighted in Appendix B, and the metrics for the 3 MOPAC sub-priorities of NDVWI, Residential Burglary and ASB are contained within that Appendix.
- 3.18 In addition to the above, data on the following has also been included:
- Total Burglary
  - Theft of Motor Vehicles
  - Knife Crime Offences (links with Priority Three- Keeping Young People Safe)
  - Gun Crime Offences (links with Priority Three as above)
  - Domestic Abuse (links with Priority Two- Violence Against Women and Girls)
  - Hate Crime (links with Priority Four – Stand Together Against Hate Crime and Extremism)
- 3.19 The committee is asked to note the success against Priority One at the end of year 1, whereby the data demonstrates that there were percentage decreases for most areas of crime that are considered under the SBPS, as well as the Violence Reduction Action Plan.
- 3.20 Notwithstanding the above, increases were recorded for reports of hate crime, and emerging evidence highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic is associated with an increase in hate crime reporting, especially against Chinese and East Asian minorities.
- 3.21 With regards to the exponential rise of ASB calls, this again is attributable to the pandemic, as many of the calls were made to report alleged breaches of Covid 19 legislation.

## **Priority Two Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)**

- 3.22 This priority looks at protecting women and girls from violence, and the VAWG Team supports MOPAC in their stance of taking a zero-tolerance approach wherever this violence and abuse takes place, with meaningful support for victims and survivors, and significant consequences for perpetrators. This does not mean that the suffering experienced by men and boys is ignored, as the services commissioned support victims and survivors whatever their gender.
- 3.23 The MPS has made tackling domestic abuse a high priority, and has a dedicated unit within the BCU that investigates all instances of domestic abuse, even in cases where a victim has not reported it themselves.
- 3.24 The aims under this priority are to reduce violence against women and girls, change the culture that allows this to happen, and empower them to take control, and detailed end of year performance for this priority is highlighted by partners including the VAWG Team, MPS and Community Safety in Appendix C, and this includes the new Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2021-24.

- 3.25 The Committee is asked to note the success against Priority Two at the end of year 1, whereby the majority of the commitments within the SBPS have either been delivered or in progress.

### **Priority Three – Keeping Young People Safe**

- 3.26 The ambition here is for our Borough to be safe for our children and young people, where they can grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish, and are happy to call Bromley home. To achieve this, partners work towards improving neighbourhoods affected by ASB and crime, and reducing crimes that cause the most harm to children and young people by preventing them through early intervention (where possible) for those who are at risk of offending, or reoffending.
- 3.27 The aims under this priority are to improve outcomes and life chances for children and young people in contact with the youth justice system, or at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour by: reducing the number of first time entrant children in the youth justice system, and reducing re-offending; reducing the number of knife crimes, by volume and repeat victims, reduce levels of serious youth violence; and preventing and reducing substance misuse. Details of the end of year performance for this priority is highlighted by partners including the Youth Offending Service Team, the MPS and ASB Team in Appendix D; the Committee is asked to note the success against Priority Three at the end of year 1, whereby the majority of the commitments within the SBPS are in progress and on track.

### **Priority Four – Standing Together Against Hate Crime and Extremism**

- 3.28 This Priority focuses on work to tackle those crimes that are motivated by malice or ill-will towards a social group, on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity, or other protected characteristic. The aims of this priority are to improve reporting of hate crime and to reduce repeat victimisation of victims of hate crime.
- 3.29 As mentioned above, increases were recorded for reports of hate crime, and emerging evidence highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic is associated with an increase in hate crime reporting, especially against Chinese and East Asian minorities.
- 3.30 Details of the end of year performance for this priority is highlighted by partners including the MPS, Trading Standards and Community Safety Team in Appendix E. The Committee is asked to note the success against Priority Four at the end of year 1, whereby the majority of the commitments within the SBPS are in progress and on track. Within this priority there are several amber statuses, and this includes the status for reporting hate crime, as the target for increasing the reporting of this crime type is being achieved, however, ongoing work and commitments need to be maintained, in order to effectively deal with this high harm issue.

### **Crime Statistics - MPS**

- 3.31 Challenging performance is a key role which has been identified for the SBPB. The MPS Crime Statistics updates partners in relation to performance issues, highlights any new challenges, and gains consensus as to how the group can work together to address these. From Quarter Four, the report will present the ratified data collected by MOPAC for the high harm and volume crimes that have been identified as a priority for LB Bromley. The high Harm Crimes reported on are:
- Domestic Abuse (Covered under Priority Two Violence Against Women and Girls)
  - Weapons based Crimes (Gun Crime, Knife Crime covered under Priority One Safer Neighbourhoods and Priority Three Keeping Young People Safe)
  - Hate Crime (covered under Priority Four- Standing Together Against Hate Crime and Extremism)

- Sex Offences (Covered under Priorities One, Two and Three)

The Volume Crimes that are reported on are:

- NDVWI
- Burglary
- ASB (all London Boroughs)

3.32 Details of the end of year overall performance for the MPS are presented in Appendix F. The Committee is asked to note the success against the majority of high harm and high-volume priority crimes, with the exceptions being for ASB and hate crime (the rationale for this has already been provided in para 3.20 and 3.21).

### **Crime Needs Assessment**

3.33 The Crime Needs Assessment (CNA) is a statutory requirement of all Community Safety Partnerships, and is produced in order to better understand the crime related needs in the borough, and to help decision makers set strategic high-volume local priorities related to crime. It also can be used in supporting future commissioning processes, and helps to gain a greater understanding of the needs of the victims and where the highest offence rates may be.

3.34 The CNA for year ending Feb 2021 is presented in Appendix G; it demonstrates that the 2 high volume local priorities of NDV WI and Domestic Burglary (as proposed by MOPAC for 2021-22) remain appropriate as:

- NDVWI currently constitutes 64% of the Violence with Injury offences in the borough, and
- The reduction in burglary is resultant of lockdown, and the high harm from residential burglary is a priority for Bromley residents.

## **4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

4.1 The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy 2020-23 (SBPS) is intended to serve all members of its communities, and to improve all forms of hate crime reporting and domestic violence and abuse related incidents which are under reported.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no adverse policy implications, and the SBPS supports the aims of all partners who have the responsibility of delivering specific work streams to achieve Corporate goals.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Work associated with delivering the SBPS is funded by MOPAC (£367k) and other third-party funding, and also is undertaken by officers within existing budgets. As such, there are no direct additional costs arising as a result. However, should and external funding streams be reduced or cut, the ability to deliver to all the ambitions within the framework strategy, and associated partner strategies identified within, will be restricted.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 In line with the statutory duty under Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Safer Bromley Partnership must formulate and implement a strategy for reducing crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Procurement Implications Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<p>Report No. ES20032 SAFER BROMLEY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY UPDATE (CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY) July 202</p> <p>Report No COMMUNITY IMPACT DAYS UPDATE BRIEFING PP&amp;E PDS 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021</p>