

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>30 June 2011</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Initiatives for Partnership Priorities in 2010/2011</b>
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## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of progress in relation to the priorities for action set by the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety (and Safer Bromley Partnership Chairman) in 2010/2011.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Strategic Group is asked to
- Note the progress made in relation to the three priority areas adopted by the Portfolio Holder in 2010/2011.
  - Support the further development and action to be taken in 2011/2012.

## **3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Having been appointed Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety and Chairman of the Safer Bromley Partnership, in 2010/2011, Councillor Peter Morgan set out three priority areas for action during the year. The first of these related to the harm caused by problematic drug use within the borough. Whilst supporting the provision of effective treatment services and the diversion of drug using offenders into treatment, the Portfolio Holder called for a renewed emphasis on the targeting of those responsible for dealing illegal drugs (delivered under the banner of "Enough is Enough"). The Portfolio Holder also prioritised the provision of support in the form of mentoring for those young people at risk of crime and anti-social behaviour. Recognising the positive influence and guidance that an effective mentor and role model can have on those young people at risk, funding was ring-fenced for the provision of enhanced services. Finally, the Portfolio Holder proposed that there was a need for enhanced communication with local communities and commissioned a number of additional notice boards within local areas and the provision of a Council/Partnership information poster that would encourage the public to engage. A summary of progress is provided overleaf:

## ***Enough is Enough***

This the banner given to the cross-partnership work that has been undertaken to tackle drug supply issues within the borough. The work has had a number of key themes, the largest being increased and targeted police action to identify and disrupt those believed to be dealing drugs within the borough. A number of operations have been undertaken and figures for the performance year 2010/2011 indicate 31 warrants that were executed where illegal drugs were recovered. There have been seventeen offenders charged with drug related offences and a further twelve remain on pre-charge bail for drugs or Proceeds of Crime Act offences. Significant quantities of illegal substances and cash have been seized. In addition, as part of the prevention work undertaken by the Police Schools Team, officers have delivered in excess of 225 talks and awareness sessions in relation to drugs, many of which included input ByPass, the borough drug service for young people.

In addition to this targeted work, the borough undertook an advertising campaign highlighting the fact that drug supply would not be tolerated and inviting member of the community to report evidence of drug supply. This campaign took the form of street based advertising within the borough's primary town centres, newspaper advertising and editorial in partnership with the NewsShopper and beer mats and other advertising within licensed premises. Licensed premises and the role of the Council's Licensing Policy were also important with the review of the Licensing Policy providing a timely opportunity to re-focus the areas of that document relating to managing drugs etc. Moreover, through cooperation with licensees within the borough, a number of drug dog operations have been carried out within licensed premises across the borough. A total of six operations have been supported by drug detection dogs from a private contractor and, whilst there have been no drug related arrests as a result of these operations, the high visibility, high impact nature of the work has sent a clear message to those using licensed premises that drug dealing will not be tolerated within the borough. Additional operations have also been conducted in partnership with British Transport Police.

## ***Support for Young People – Mentoring Project***

Preliminary work revealed that the existing Bromley Mentoring Project was working with a bank of 62 trained and vetted mentors and these individuals were offering support to 50 young people. Whilst some of these young people could be identified as being at risk of criminal or anti-social behaviour, it was acknowledged by all that these individuals were not targeted for the provision of mentoring support in any arena other than through the behaviour service. Having identified this as a gap in coverage, the Portfolio Holder secured funding for a three year period to support the development of the service.

A service level agreement has been agreed with the Bromley Mentoring Project with headline delivery targets of doubling the number of trained and vetted mentors and doubling the number of young people who are supported by a mentor (target of 125 mentors and 100 young people). Priority within these targets must be given to those young people at risk of crime or anti-social behaviour and, as such, particular emphasis would be placed on work with the Youth Offending Service and the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. In

addition, a key element of the service level agreement is the progression towards trust status for the Bromley Mentoring Project, enabling access to increased and alternative levels of funding in future years.

Since the project commenced in March 2011, introductory sessions have been delivered to both the Youth Offending Service and the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and referral mechanisms and criteria have been approved. In the first three months of delivery, the number of mentors has increased by 29 and agreement secured to provide mentoring support for all young people subject to Reparation Orders at the Youth Offending Service. Referrals of young people are also increasing from the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit.

### ***Improved Communication – Notice Boards***

Having conducted a review of the placement of Council notice boards across the borough, a gap analysis identified several wards that did not have coverage. These wards were prioritised for initial assessment regarding the suitability of placing notice boards in locations, including the issue of ownership and maintenance of these boards. In total, seven of the anticipated nine new notice boards have been installed with the final ones due for installation later this year. The wards that have benefited from this additional resource are Plaistow & Sundridge, Mottingham and Chislehurst North, Orpington and Farnborough & Crofton. In addition, a new “pro-forma” information poster has been designed to be displayed on these new notice boards but also on those existing notice boards across the borough. A draft example of this notice is attached but details include those of local Councillors, Members of Parliament, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and other useful community contacts.

- 3.2 It is envisaged that the Mentoring Project will continue for the coming three years, with the scheme being ready to advance to Trust status at the end of the second year. Work will continue to target drug supply and disruption of illegal drug markets throughout 2011/2012. Further update reports will be presented to the Partnership as appropriate.