

**For General Release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Cabinet 19 June 2017</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Shifa Mustafa - Executive Director of PLACE Andy Opie – Director of Safety</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Ali Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<p><b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON</b>  <b>Croydon’s Community Strategy 2016-2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure a safer, cleaner and greener borough</li> <li>• Secure a good start in life</li> <li>• A great place to work, learn and live</li> <li>• Improving the environmental wellbeing of our residents and communities</li> <li>• Importance of providing a safe clean environment to a place of success and future growth</li> </ul> <p><b>Corporate Plan/Priority projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth</li> <li>• Independence</li> <li>• Liveability</li> </ul> <p>The report sets out the council’s partnership approach to tackle community safety, which includes, tackling the overall crime rate in Croydon, including violent crime, domestic violence, serious youth violence, property crime, reducing re-offending rates, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), drugs and alcohol. The strategy also focuses on increasing community confidence and addressing issues of environmental crime.</p>	
<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b></p> <p>The main resource for delivering the strategy will be the partners themselves. Partner agencies include, Police, Probation, Courts, NHS, Prisons, and the Fire Authority. The Safer Croydon Partnership is responsible for commissioning projects from the London Crime Prevention Fund. Croydon has been awarded £833,527 in 2017/18 and £583,469 in 2018/19 from the London Crime Prevention Fund, so this strategy ensures that we are clear about our local priorities and that this grant is allocated to the right projects. Funding for the final year of the strategy will be confirmed at a later date</p>	

**FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: this is not a key decision**

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Cabinet recommend to Full Council that it agree the Community Safety Strategy for Croydon 2017-2020.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 This report presents an overview of the Community Safety Strategy for Croydon 2017-2020 (the Strategy) and seeks a recommendation for its sign off at Full Council. The Strategy has been developed following extensive research and consultation so that the Safer Croydon Partnership has a full understanding regarding crime trends and public perception. Following the development process the 5 main priorities of the Strategy have been agreed as:

- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic abuse
- Improve the safety of children and young people
- Improve public confidence and community engagement.
- Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime; focus on hate crime.

**3. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2017-2020**

3.1 The Safer Croydon Partnership (the Partnership) has a statutory duty in relation to reducing crime and ASB, including the misuse of drugs and alcohol and to tackle re-offending. The Partnership comprises the Council, Police, NHS, Fire Authority, Probation services, businesses and the voluntary and community sector. The statutory duties include producing a three-year Community Safety Strategy, undertaking annual reviews, regular assessments and consultation to ensure priorities and actions are clearly identified and based on good evidence.

3.2 The development of the strategy has taken place following the production of a Strategic Assessment, which analyses crime and anti-social behaviour trends together with extensive consultation with the public and partners. All of this information is then used to enable the Partnership to agree its priorities.

3.3 The Strategic Assessment interprets and presents the summary findings of an intelligence analysis of data provided from a number of different sources including the police, council, NHS, probation, fire and other partner agencies. The Strategic Assessment identifies current and possible future issues and its purpose is to help inform the Partnership work programme. The key findings from the most recent Strategic Assessment are detailed below.

### 3.4 Total Notifiable Offences (TNO)

- Overall the volume of TNO crime in Croydon, has been going down, reaching a low of 28265 TNO offences in 2014 from a base line of 34194 TNO offences in 2005.
- 2015 saw a small rise overall in the volume of TNO's to 28739 offences however this was still a 16% reduction against the baseline year of 2005.
- 2016 again saw a rise overall in the volume of TNO's to 30034 offences however this was still a 12% reduction against the baseline year of 2005.

### 3.5 Offence profile

- All violent crimes have seen increases in the last year.
- Racist and religious hate crime has seen an increase.
- Gun crime and knife crime saw reductions up until 15/16 but have then seen large increases in the last year.
- Residential burglary, and personal robbery have seen a marked reductions up until 15/16 with a small increase in 16/17.
- Theft of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle have both seen reductions up to 15/16 with increases in 16/17.
- Robbery saw a 70% reduction between 12/13 and 15/16 but has then seen a large increase in 2016/17.
- Domestic abuse continues to see an upward trend across London. In the rolling year to December 2016 there were 3800 domestic abuse offences recorded. Croydon is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> highest for domestic abuse, with 21 incidents per 1,000 population in the rolling year to December 2016.
- Fly tipping has also increased and is a concern for the public; however this may be a consequence of our successful 'Don't Mess with Croydon Campaign resulting in more people being aware of the problem.
- The current trend shows that anti-social behaviour has dropped significantly over the last few years but has seen a small increase in the last year.

### 3.6 Victims

- There were 10,698 victims of crime in Croydon. Of those victims, there were slightly more females than males.
- The peak age range for victims are aged 20 to 24, the most vulnerable age group are aged 15 to 34.

### 3.7 Offenders

- There were 2783 offenders of those there were more male offenders than female.
- The offenders most likely to commit offences of violence are aged 15 to 29. Offenders aged 15 to 19 are most likely to commit knife crime offences.
- Offenders most likely to commit offences of violence are aged 15 to 29.

### 3.8 Locations

- Croydon town centre is the key crime hot spot together with the northern wards, primarily due to their large population and transport links.

### 3.9 Time and day

- Across the week the peak time for all offences is from 3pm to 7pm and 8pm to 1am, and the peak days for crime are Sunday and Saturday
- 3.10 There is a correlation between areas of high deprivation and crime rates in Croydon; more crime is committed in the north of the borough, largely due to a higher population density, and more pockets of deprivation. Vulnerability is becoming increasingly concentrated within certain places and amongst certain individuals. According to Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC's) Vulnerable Localities Profile, the top 10 per cent of wards (63) are disproportionately impacted compared to other parts of London. On average, over 3 times more victims of burglary, robbery, sexual offences live in these top 10 per cent compared to the least vulnerable. It is therefore important that interventions are targeted to the most vulnerable locations.
- 3.11 One priority location moving forward will be the town center and West Croydon area. Since the summer of 2016 the town center and West Croydon has experienced anti-social behavior, which requires long term strategies to tackle. Particular issues worth highlighting are street drinking in the Queens Gardens and high volumes of school children congregating on North End with some significant disorder on a couple of occasions and a serious stabbing in early February 2017. Partnership strategies will be a priority in the forthcoming strategy, including exploring the use of Public Space Protection Orders.
- 3.12 As well as the short and medium term priorities to tackle the issues in the town centre it is important that we look to the future of Croydon and the significant growth that will be happening over the next few years. The construction phase will pose a unique set of safety and security issues but it is essential that we take every opportunity to ensure that we end up with a safe, modern, attractive space. Designing out crime through our planning processes is essential as well as reviewing our CCTV service. This includes opportunities for modernising and improving our current infrastructure as well as making better use of the CCTV Control Room as a partnership operations hub.
- 3.13 Safety and security on the transport network is a current priority for the Safer Croydon Partnership. The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions on Croydon in 2015 is at an all-time low, having dropped from the previous record low of 71 in 2014, to 65 in 2015. The three year rolling average has fallen to 69.0, and is below the target figure of 87.8 for the year 2020. This issue was not flagged as a particular priority by the public when asked as part of the Safer Croydon survey but this remains a strategic priority for the borough. Enforcement of road safety is the responsibility of the police but there are a number of partnership interventions. These include Operation Safeway, which is a high profile tactic of engaging with driver's at the most vulnerable junctions, providing education and enforcement where appropriate. The Council and Police Safer Transport Team also work in partnership to utilise the various speed detection devices at key locations around the Borough. In addition Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) work together to run Community Roadwatch - a road safety initiative which aims to reduce speeding in residential areas. If local residents want to take part they

can contact their local MPS Safer Transport team, which can be located through the Met Police website or on the following link:

[MPS Safer Transport Team](#)

## Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

3.14 MOPAC have recently launched a new Policing and Crime Plan for London. This can be found at:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mopac\\_police\\_and\\_crime\\_plan\\_2017-2021.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mopac_police_and_crime_plan_2017-2021.pdf)

This sets out a focus on the following key priorities:

- Keeping children and young people safe.
- Tackling violence against women and girls.
- Standing together against extremism, hatred and intolerance.

Underpinning themes include:

- Vulnerability
- Meeting the needs of victims
- Social integration and tackling inequalities, with an aspiration that '*the place that you live in, the communities you belong to and the individual that you are should not disproportionately impact your exposure to crime*'

3.15 There are a number of proposed commitments by MOPAC including:

- 2 dedicated PCs plus 1 PCSO per ward
- Consideration of merging Borough Command Units. The current proposal is for Croydon to merge with Sutton and Bromley
- Focus on protecting vulnerable children and adults, in collaboration with statutory and voluntary sector partners.
- Invest in new technology and ways of working to keep police officers out on the front line and help them do their jobs more effectively.
- Encourage more female and BAME Londoners to join the MPS and build lasting, successful careers for all MPS officers and staff.
- Support the work of the Night Czar to deliver a safe and enjoyable night time economy.
- Work together with the MPS, TfL, British Transport Police (BTP), City of London Police and other enforcement partners to keep our transport network and roads safe.
- Work with businesses to help protect them from crime, making our city a safer place to work and do business.

3.16 Croydon welcomes the shift in focus away from the high volume crimes such as thefts and criminal damage to more of an emphasis on supporting victims and reducing vulnerability. Croydon experiences high levels of domestic abuse, sexual violence, serious youth violence, hate crimes and have already started shifting its focus for commissioned projects through the London Crime Prevention Fund (see 3.20) in line with the Mayor of London's plan.

3.17 From March 2017, MOPAC are proposing to adopt a new method for prioritising and scrutinising local (Croydon's) policing priorities. High harm crimes and protecting vulnerable people will be included in local priorities in every borough across London to ensure that the police and local partners are focused properly

on these most serious and harmful offences against vulnerable people. This includes a focus on child sexual exploitation, violence against women and girls, gangs, knife crime and gun crime.

- 3.18 However, the issues of greatest concern and the highest volume crimes in one borough may be very different to those of another. The Partnership have been liaising with MOPAC over its local priorities and these have been agreed as violence with injury (non-domestic), burglary and anti-social behavior.
- 3.19 This change in focus makes it even more crucial that the Safer Croydon Partnership works collaboratively with the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Children’s and Adults Safeguarding Boards to ensure that there is clear leadership and responsibility where there are issues that may overlap in to different partnership agendas. The community safety strategy presents high level priorities and actions so these will be underpinned by more detailed plans that will be developed with the relevant partnerships.

**London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF)**

- 3.20 The Safer Croydon Partnership was previously responsible for the management of a number of ring fenced grants although these have now ceased entirely and replaced with the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) administered by the Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC). Direct funding to boroughs is committed for 2 years to allow for flexibility in terms of spend over a 24 month period. Croydon’s allocation is set out below;-

<b>2016/17 Allocation</b>	<b>2017/18 Allocation</b>	<b>2018/19 Allocation</b>	<b>Compared to 2016/17</b>	<b>17/18 and 18/19 combined</b>
£601,250	£833,527	£583,469	£-177,810	£1,416,996

- 3.21 Croydon has continued with a number of existing projects but have used the opportunity to develop some new projects, which are more in line with MOPACs new policing and crime plan. The projects confirmed for 17/18 and 18/19 are for the following areas:
- Gangs – County lines, key work and intelligence
  - Knife crime prevention
  - Young offenders – early interventions, education and training and mentoring
  - Safer London Foundation – Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
  - Victim Support with a focus on young victims
  - Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Hate Crime
  - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
  - Integrated Offender Management
- 3.22 From April 2019 MOPAC are proposing a 30% top slice fund of LCPF allocations across London, which will then be used for regional commissioning projects. For Croydon this is a reduction of c£250k. The process of agreeing the priorities for the regional projects is yet to be confirmed in any detail but this does represent a risk to the delivery of the local projects currently being commissioned. It is also worth noting that this also represents an opportunity for new projects being available in Croydon. The key issue for the partnership is to ensure that is

engaging with the process and that any future regional projects take into account local needs. Discussions are underway with regional colleagues to assess joint priorities and what opportunities there may be to commission services together.

## **Priority Setting**

3.23 As we set out our three-year plan, we also need to consider external factors such as on-going financial pressures, the impact of Brexit, the threat of terrorism, and how crime is changing. For example, burglary offences are reducing but on-line fraud has nearly doubled during the past few years. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), recorded 119,426 incidents in 2011/12 but this rose to 230,406 in 2014/15 and 85% of all identity fraud now occurs online.

3.24 Taking into account these factors, and the findings from the 2016 Strategic Crime Assessment, public consultation as well as the views from stakeholders, during the next 3 years our draft strategic priorities are:-

- **Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic violence.**
- **Improve the safety of children and young people.**
- **Improve public confidence and community engagement.**
- **Tackle anti-social behavior and environmental crime.**
- **Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime; focus on hate crime.**

3.25 The community safety strategy was discussed at the Scrutiny committee on 7th March 2017. The draft strategy was shared with the committee who were supportive of the draft priorities. Although the committee's conclusions and recommendations are still to be formally agreed the areas of discussion at the committee have been included in the final draft of the strategy.

3.26 The strategy supports the 2017-2021 London Police and Crime Plan and builds on a solid foundation of successful partnership working on crime and anti-social behavior in Croydon. Much of what we set out in our previous strategy has been achieved. However, we also recognise that there is still much more to do, but we are determined to work together to make Croydon a safer place to live, work and visit.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 As well as analysing data provided by partner agencies, the development of the Strategy also takes into consideration the views of local communities. The SCP ran an on-line survey which started 19 September and ended 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (sample size of 567 respondents). The respondents to the questionnaire were self-selecting meaning that there are limitations with the conclusions that can be drawn from it. However, the sample size was significant so it does give a useful indication of public feeling.

In this most recent survey the top 5 crimes of most concern are:

- anti-social behavior
- burglary
- fly-tipping,
- people dealing or using drugs
- violent crime.

The top 5 comments identified the following issues as a concern:

- more visible policing in the borough, especially in the Town Centre at night
- more CCTV coverage for the borough
- tougher sanctions on fly tipping, littering and spitting
- more wardens patrolling housing estates
- tackling ASB in local neighbourhoods

## **5 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**5.1** There are no direct consequences as a result of this report.

### **5.2 The effect of the decision**

The decision approves the wider strategy in relation to crime reduction but does not commit the council to any additional spend. The Safer Croydon Partnership is responsible for commissioning projects from the London Crime Prevention Fund. Croydon has been awarded £833,527 in 2017/18 and £583,469 in 2018/19 so this strategy ensures that we are clear about our local priorities and that this grant is allocated to the right projects. Funding for the final year of the strategy will be confirmed in the future and expenditure will be contained within the funding available.

### **5.3 Risks**

The main resource for delivering the strategy will be the partners themselves. This will include in particular the Police, Council, Probation, Courts, NHS and Prisons. All public sector services continue to face significant challenges in meeting budget cuts. The strategy takes into account these challenges and details a number of new ways of working in partnership to ensure that we provide efficient and effective services.

#### **5.4 Options**

No options have been identified.

#### **5.5 Future savings/efficiencies**

None have been identified which arise directly from the report recommendations.

(Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk, and Deputy S151 officer)

### **6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

- 6.1 The Council Solicitor advises that Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000 imposes a duty on local authorities to prepare a community strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas and contributing to the sustainable development in the United Kingdom.
- 6.2 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Section 22 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) responsible authorities are required to work together through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. In this respect Section 6 requires these authorities to formulate and implement a Strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in their area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area
- 6.3 Regulations made under S.6 provide that the Strategy must be published and include the objectives to be pursued and the long term and short term performance targets for measuring the extent to which these objectives have been achieved.
- 6.4 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Section 22 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) imposes a duty on local authorities and police authorities to exercise their functions with regard to effect on crime and disorder. They are required to do all they can to prevent crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) & the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

(Approved on behalf of the Director of Law and Monitoring Officer)

### **7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 7.1 There are no immediate human resource impacts arising from the recommendations within this report.
- 7.2 Approved by: Jason Singh, Head of HR Employee Relations on behalf of the Director of HR.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.1 All activities in the Community Safety Strategy have been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) which highlights a range of potential positive impacts arising from the new strategy and the approach of the Safer Croydon Partnership. Positive impacts include improved services for victims of crime, which disproportionately affect young people and women, such as robbery and domestic violence. Furthermore, the strategy sets out actions to positively impact other protected groups including reducing hate crime, trafficking, violent extremism and honour based violence.
- 8.2 It also highlights the potential negative effect on young people with regard to enforcement action to tackle ASB, which should be mitigated through our work with Children's Services and community engagement generally prior to and during such an intervention. However, overall the strategy will have a positive impact on protected groups.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 9.1 This is contained within the Community Safety Strategy and includes activities to deal with a range of environmental crimes such as graffiti and fly tipping.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 10.1 The Community Safety Strategy is influenced by the strategic assessment, an audit of crime and disorder in the Borough and sets out a range of priorities and activities aimed at reducing the impact of crime and disorder in the community.

## **11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Section 22 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) Local Authorities are required to work together through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to formulate and implement a Strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in their area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area. The agreement of the Community Safety Strategy is therefore a statutory requirement.

## **12. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 12.1 There are no other options available.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Andy Opie, Director of Safety

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Equality analysis

**Appendix to this report:**

Appendix A: Draft Community Safety Strategy 2017-20