

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018

**Subject:** Community Safety Partnership Update

**Report of:** Chief Operating Officer - Neighbourhoods

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**Summary**

This report was requested by the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee in order to provide an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

**Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

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**Ward Affected:** All

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**Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)**

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	This report will highlight how the Community Safety Partnership contributes towards this outcome by ensuring neighbourhoods are clean, safe, attractive and cohesive and therefore a destination of choice for people to live, visit and work
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

**Contact Officers:**

Name: Fiona Worrall  
Position: Chief Operating Officer - Neighbourhoods  
Telephone: 0161 234 3926  
E-mail: f.worrall@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Sam Stabler  
Position: Community Safety Lead  
Telephone: 0161 234 1284  
E-mail: s.stabler@manchester.gov.uk

**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Manchester Community Safety Strategy 2018/21

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Community Safety Strategy 2018/21 was launched in March 2018 following consultation with people who live, visited, and worked in Manchester.
- 1.2 This report will provide details of how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is working towards meeting the objectives of the Strategy. It will focus on the progress made in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, protecting people from serious harm, and changing and preventing adult offending.
- 1.3 The report will also provide an update on how the CSP has distributed Standing Together Funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and some of the activity which has taken place.

## **2.0 Community Safety Strategy 2018/21 – Key Priorities**

- 2.1 A key theme for the vision in the ‘Our Manchester’ Strategy is for a liveable and low carbon city. Within this theme is a pledge that the Council and partners will ensure that neighbourhoods are clean, safe, attractive and cohesive. Through the Community Safety Strategy, the CSP contributes towards the delivery of this pledge.
- 2.2 The Community Safety Strategy contains the following five priorities which were developed following consultation and analysis of local crime and disorder data.
  1. Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour
  2. Keeping children, young people, and adults with vulnerabilities safe
  3. Protecting people from serious harm
  4. Reducing the crime impact caused by alcohol and drugs
  5. Changing and preventing adult offender behaviour
- 2.3 These five priorities have a number of underlying themes to ensure that the CSP embeds the Our Manchester approach to delivery of the Strategy. These themes include building community resilience, early intervention, and changing behaviour. Tackling serious and organised criminality also runs through all five priorities and the CSP continues to develop their response to this. Activity to address this was reported to Scrutiny in June 2018.
- 2.4 Each priority is overseen by a theme lead who is responsible for developing the Partnership’s response in relation to their priority. This includes identifying community safety funding, commissioning activity and analysis based upon their delivery plan, monitoring activity and performance, and working with other theme leads on cross cutting areas of work.

### 3.0 CSP Activity

#### 3.1 Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

- 3.1.1 A dedicated city centre team was established mid-September 2017 within the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT). This team are embedded within the wider city centre Integrated Neighbourhood Management which has established relationships and effective partnership working across teams including Licensing, Compliance and Out of Hours, Rough Sleeper's Team, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Biffa, CityCo, Change Grow Live and NCP car parks.
- 3.1.2 In May 2018 the Community Safety Partnership hired and customised a vehicle to engage with rough sleepers and beggars in the City Centre, providing a visible presence and tackling the concerns associated with rough sleeping and begging. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) vehicle has become an invaluable resource to support on street engagement with people who sleep rough and / or beg in the city centre and officers attendance at Our Manchester community events and action days across Manchester. The vehicle is a van which provides a meeting space for up to four people. The vehicle has Community Safety Partnership signage, in addition to the Our Manchester, Council and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) logos.



One of the uses of the vehicle has involved the Rough Sleepers Team working together with health colleagues to identify people vulnerable to infection and administer on street health vaccinations. The benefit of having the vehicle is

the creation of a safe space off the street where health colleagues can undertake medical interventions and conduct confidential health assessments. The Rough Sleepers Team regularly uses the vehicle to engage with clients and occasionally transports people to attend initial appointments when they are unlikely to attend on their own accord.

The vehicle provides a base for officers to work from when used as part of enforcement operations and community events. Officers have increased their attendance at neighbourhood community engagement events since having access to the van. As part of police led multi agency operations officers have worked from the vehicle to engage members of the public and reassure them about the partnership work taking place to address public community safety concerns.

During recent on street operations such as a 'Begging Enforcement and Support Action Day' the vehicle was utilised to provide a support hub. Officers were able to encourage individuals to attend at the vehicle for immediate confidential support and advice in relation to substance misuse and accommodation. Officers found that the presence of the vehicle and accessibility to services meant that people who are reluctant to engage did engage and participated in assessments of their needs.

- 3.1.3 The Council and GMP have worked together to review and develop new, proactive approaches, to engage with people who beg to offer support and tackle aggressive begging. The review has involved researching best practice, engagement with the Crown Prosecution Service, coaching and training for staff engaged in this area or work and the establishment of a community safety commissioned project led by the voluntary and community sector (Riverside, Manchester Action on Street Health and On the Out) to engage with people who are accommodated and beg in Manchester.

The overall aim of the project is for people who are accommodated and persistently beg to reduce the time they spend begging through appropriate intervention. The people who beg persistently are identified through an evidence based approach with Council officers having been trained to undertake informed begging observations. This information is shared with the police and individuals are prioritised. This project commenced on 1st October 2018 and although in the initial stages there is evidence that the work is beginning to have a positive impact and people who were identified as the most prolific have reduced the time they spend on the street begging or have stopped begging all together. For more details about this initiative, please see section 4.4

- 3.1.4 Unfortunately some people who beg do so in an aggressive and/or threatening manner causing alarm and distress for people who live, work or visit in the city. In these circumstances GMP and the ASBAT work together applying an integrated approach to investigate, gather the appropriate evidence and provide support to the victims and witnesses. Use of civil powers including Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions and Criminal Behaviour Orders prohibit the individuals acting anti socially in the future and provide protection to the

community. Robust action is taken when the orders are breached and individuals have served prison sentences for breaching the Council's ASB Injunctions. The offer of support to the perpetrator of the anti-social behaviour is always available before legal action is taken, during proceedings and post action. When individuals decline to work with services on a voluntary basis officers are responsible for identifying positive requirements that can be included in orders to promote attendance at assessments with our homelessness services or substance misuse services for example.

3.1.5 A case study is provided in appendix 1 highlighting some of the work the CSP has been involved in in North Manchester tackling anti-social behaviour.

### **3.2 Protecting people from serious harm**

3.2.1 This is a multi-layered priority which encompasses domestic violence and abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, modern slavery/trafficking, missing from home or care, and preventing violent extremism. This report will provide an update on the work taking place by the CSP and partners to address some of these issues, together with an update on the Complex Safeguarding Hub which has been established to safeguard children, young people, and adults with vulnerabilities from criminal activity, often organised, where there is exploitation, a risk of exploitation, and/or a safeguarding concern.

3.2.2 The Complex Safeguarding Hub, based at Greenheys Police Station, went live on 1 October 2018. Partners involved include the police, Children's Services, Early Help, Health, National Probation Service, Barnados, and the Independent Child Trafficking Advocate service (ICTA). The Hub will initially concentrate on the following three strands of exploitation:

- Sexual exploitation
- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Organised crime groups / serious youth violence / child criminal exploitation

The Hub brings together skills and expertise from partners to undertake assessments, deliver interventions, and signpost to other relevant services.

3.2.3 Activity to address sexual exploitation has broadened to ensure that staff have a good understanding of sexual exploitation, including the exploitation of adults. Learning from across the country, has been shared to inform this approach.

3.2.4 A strategic overview panel has been established in relation to Child Criminal Exploitation and a local Criminal Exploitation Policy Statement developed. Manchester is moving away from the County Lines label which focuses on exploitation in drugs markets to widen the definition to include other forms of criminal exploitation and exploitation of adults. An action plan has been developed with leads for each of the four areas (Protect, Prevent, Pursue, and Prepare) identified.

3.2.5 The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy 2018/20 has been adopted by the CSP and Safeguarding Boards. In order to meet the challenge of workforce development, the Council and a number of partner staff were trained to be champions and raise awareness amongst their colleagues. Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA) have recently been commissioned to raise awareness in communities of modern slavery and how to report it. AFRUCA is a national charity with a base in Manchester, established in 2001.

This project is going well with a community development worker in post and regular project meetings taking place to track progress and problem solve. Recruitment of community champions is underway and a number of information events have been held. Training for the champions is planned for November 2018.

3.2.6 The Missing from Home and Care Strategy was refreshed in 2017. There is link between going missing and risk and vulnerability to criminal exploitation. A multi-agency delivery group has been established and locality partnership arrangements are in place to identify early MFH&C, coordinate a more effective response, and prevent persistent missing, through four Missing from Home and Care Panels. A challenge has been around effective responses to prevent persistent missing. One solution has been engaging with Unity Radio to undertake an initiative. Earlier this year a number of Manchester children who were frequently missing took part in a project with Unity Radio. This produced positive results for the young people, stabilising their education, improving their well-being and reducing missing. It is hoped to replicate this initiative over the next few months.

### **3.3 Changing and preventing adult offender behaviour**

3.3.1 Accommodation for offenders, particularly those leaving prison, continues to be a challenge to the CSP and we are exploring ways of addressing this. National Probation Service (NPS) have engaged Justlife to support offenders in temporary accommodation. This includes supporting people to maintain tenancies and move into more settled accommodation. NPS select suitable referrals taking into account risk levels and offender needs. Justlife then provide assistance to offenders accepted onto the Targeted Referrals Project by:

- Helping them to find meaningful use of time, budget, and build resilience
- Supporting them to attend appointments, i.e. medical and benefits
- Providing advice around housing and landlord issues including tenancies, housing providers, Manchester Live, and disclosure

This initiative is in its infancy and an update will be available in the next Community Safety Partnership update.

3.3.2 The CSP, CRC and NPS continue to jointly commission Community Led Initiatives (CLI) to provide a peer mentoring service to offenders to build upon existing motivations and identify new things to do with their time to develop a

healthier lifestyle away from offending. Activities include job searches, training, driving lessons and sport.

#### **4.0 Standing Together Funding**

4.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) allocated the CSP £200,000 additional funding this year to be used to enable Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to support the delivery of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan objectives which are:

- Keeping people safe
- Reducing harm and offending
- Strengthening communities and places

4.2 This funding has been allocated to address the following:

- Keeping children and young people safe
- City Centre – keeping people safe, reduce harm and offending
- Neighbourhoods – improving safety, building upon cohesion and resilience and creating stronger, connected communities

4.3 Keeping children and young people safe

4.3.1 The CSP together with Young Manchester and One Manchester have established the Positive Engagement Programme (PEP), a two year programme which aims to develop positive and sustained approaches to improving opportunities for children and young people and reduce anti-social behaviour. VCS organisations were invited to submit applications to undertake detached youth work and engage young people in positive activities in identified wards with the successful bid being awarded to Manchester Young Lives (MYL). MYL will be supported by Odd Arts, N-Gage and Families Against Violence and will be responsible for meeting the programme's objectives:

- To increase numbers of young people engaging in universal activities, including education, employment, training and volunteering
- To increase numbers of young people involved in positive social action as a way of giving back to their communities and benefiting themselves
- To contribute to the reduction of youth anti-social behaviour in identified areas by working directly with young people through detached youth work
- Attend regular multi-agency meetings with partners and provide feedback (including number of young people engaged with who are attending school and how many are not, number of referrals to early Help and other related services, and any emerging issues).

4.3.2 The programme commenced in July with the partners allocating areas and engaging with local young people and agencies to build up a picture of the challenges and opportunities in each area. Since then, MYL and partners have begun to look at existing services, identifying the various needs in each area, undertaking risk assessments, ascertaining where detached youth work

should take place, identifying who the young people are, and disseminating details of the new programme to people in the community. This includes Councillors, ward coordination, Housing Providers, residents, and community groups. Partnership meetings have been established for each area which highlight specific locations, young people, and needs. Sessions have been planned based on a six month plan, following feedback from the CSP and residents. Feedback from MYL has reported engagement with 390 young people up to the end of September.

- 4.3.3 The Council and GMP are testing out a Youth Contact Card scheme in the certain areas of Manchester for instances when young people come to the attention of the Police at a pre criminal level. Its aim is to intervene early and steer the young people away from a path that would inevitably lead to enforcement sanctions. There are opportunities within this scheme to make referrals to appropriate agencies including early help.

#### 4.4 City Centre

A workshop was held on 12 July by the Community Safety Team and the Homelessness Commissioning Team to engage Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in the city. The workshop discussed gaps in service and possible solutions for preventing crime and anti-social behaviour in the city centre. Following the workshop, a panel discussed the applications and funding was awarded to Riverside in partnership with Manchester Action on Street Health (MASH) and On the Out.

The focus of their bid is to work with those who have accommodation but continue to beg, supporting people to reduce begging and developing an understanding of why people who are accommodated still beg. The initiative brings together three organisations who work with those on the street:

- Riverside – work with rough sleepers and those with a history of eviction or not managing tenancies
- MASH – provide support to female sex workers and, more recently, women who are rough sleeping and/or begging
- On the Out – provide peer support to those with a history of criminal activity and/or who have come out of prison

These groups also have well established links with other providers such as the Rough Sleepers Team and will seek to address the underlying causes for begging which may include addiction, benefit issues, and exploitation.

- 4.5 Following the workshop, bids of up to £5,000 were invited with organisations encouraged to work together and submit joint applications. 34 applications were received, and a panel, which included VCS representation, identified 11 projects which will:

- recruit and train volunteers for a befriending service for isolated and lonely older people

- provide peer to peer training aimed at increasing confidence in people with disabilities to use public transport
- increase skills in young offenders around furniture refurbishment and joinery to increase their employment prospects

MACC supported the CSP in this process which ensured that a wider range of groups were reached across Manchester.

## **5.0 Next Steps**

- 5.1 Community Safety Strategy leads continue to progress their plans on the priorities. Performance is reported quarterly to the Community Safety Partnership Board The strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains current and is reflective of the concerns of local people and emerging threats.
- 5.2 Utilising the vehicle, the CSP will continue to work with voluntary and community sector organisations in the city centre. A date has recently been confirmed when Council Officers will work together with a charity to provide a presence and opportunities for engagement at the Homeless Arts Summit.
- 5.3 The CSP will monitor the impact of the new initiatives currently being supported through the Standing Together funding to help identify what works and to inform future funding programmes.