

Report of Director of Environment and Housing

Report to Environment & Housing Scrutiny Board

Date: 12th January 2016

Subject: Community Safety – Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

This report provides a brief update on a number of community safety related themes that were presented to the Board in October 2015.

- New Psychoactive Substances
- Human Trafficking
- Prostitution
- Leedswatch
- Police Community Support Officers (Local Authority Funded)

Recommendations

Scrutiny Board are asked to note the content of this report and following discussions identify any specific areas for further information and/ or investigation.

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Scrutiny Board is requested to note the content of this report and identify areas for further investigation.

1. Purpose of this report

The report provides a brief update on a number of community safety related themes that were presented to the Board in October 2015.

2. Main Issues

Summaries are outlined in the report.

3. Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

Consultation and engagement is embedded within the individual policy/ areas of activity.

Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

An equality impact assessment is not required at this stage as this report is primarily an information report.

Council policies and City Priorities

Community safety policy and activities contribute to the overarching outcome that Safer Leeds Partnership seeks to achieve: *People in Leeds are safe and feel safe, in their homes, in the streets and the places they go.*

Resources and value for money

Individual evaluations are undertaken within the individual policy/ areas of activity

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

Risk Management

Risk management is embedded within the individual policy/ areas of activity.

4. Conclusions

The report covers a range of policy areas demonstrating the breadth and complexity of activity.

5. Recommendations

Scrutiny Board is requested to note the contents of this report, and highlight any areas for further investigation.

6. Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

1 New Psychoactive Substances – December update

Enforcement Update

- At Leeds Magistrates Court on Thursday 3rd December 2015 WYJS Trading Standards successfully applied for a forfeiture order against 2 head shops in Leeds. Redeye based on Otley Road in Headingley and High Rollerz based on Compton Road in Harehills were known to be selling NPS products. Both premises had previously been warned about their sales of NPS under General Product (Safety) Regulations 2005 (GPSR) and had been subject to enforcement action in May 2015.
- The magistrates agreed with the application and issued a forfeiture order and destruction of the items seized which had a street value at £34000 in total.
- This was seen as a landmark case for Leeds and a first for West Yorkshire and Safer Leeds.
- Two further cases have been adjourned until February 2016.

2 Human Trafficking – December Update

- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the decision making process relating to identifying and responding to approaches of a person/people who state that they are victims of human trafficking. West Yorkshire Police is defined as a 'statutory agency' and Leeds City Council as a 'first responder' within the NRM. The NRM places a legal duty on statutory agencies to notify the Home Office of potential victims of human trafficking. The NRM is subject to a review and West Yorkshire is one of the two pilot areas for the review.
- Finding 'safe' living accommodation, pending the trafficking assessment, is a key part of the service offer within the NRM. The Home Office has contracted the Salvation Army to provide 'safe' accommodation for up to 45 days whilst the trafficking assessment is carried out. There may be a short delay (up to five days) for the accommodation with Salvation Army to be set up, however; Leeds City Council will provide emergency accommodation in these circumstances, as and when required. The victims of human trafficking invariably do not have recourse to public funds and therefore the cost of the initial accommodation is covered by the Council rather than through housing benefit. The Council has used commissioned supported housing services such as Oakdale House (service for single women) and Holdforth Court (service for single men) to provide the initial accommodation.
- There has been 10 initial accommodation placements in 2015. The Home Office (UK Visas and Immigration) can offer a person some level of limited leave to remain in the UK as a response to a confirmed trafficking situation. This would give the person recourse to public funds – including eligibility for housing allocation. A person would be subject to the same immigration conditions, right of residence based upon status as a 'worker', as other EEA citizens at the end of the leave to remain period.

- Approximately 1450 Leeds City Council staff have received training on the NRM. Officers from Leeds City Council are key stakeholders in different forums relating to human trafficking: Leeds District Human Trafficking Forum, West Yorkshire Anti Trafficking Network and the Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN).

3 Prostitution – December Update

- Holbeck was identified in a scoping exercise as an area with significant issues related to outdoor sex workers. To address the associated issues a project started on the 1st October 2014, in an agreed managed area, located in the industrial part of the Holbeck Hub. The area consists of light industrial premises, offices, a couple of large shops and car showrooms but is away from domestic locations. Within the managed area, officers do not enforce offences such as loitering, soliciting or kerb crawling, subject to adherence with a set of agreed rules. However, other offences are enforced in the normal way.
- The project reports to the Members Steering Group on Prostitution and the Strategic Partnership Group on Prostitution. In November 2015, the project was presented to the Safer Leeds Executive and it was agreed that the Holbeck Managed Area project would be an ongoing project.
- Since the last report in October 2015, an action plan has been drawn up taking recommendations from both Dr Sander's evaluation and the Police Crime Reduction Officers, Safe Spaces report of the managed area. This action plan will be progressed through the managed area operational group.
- The Locality Environment Team has commissioned additional cleaning on businesses premises, which will be undertaken twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays). Progress will continue to be monitored through the Operational Group.
- A number of key areas have had vegetation cut back (Network Rail have undertaken some major cut back on their land and additional activity has been commissioned by the Locality Environment Team).
- Safer Leeds Security Officers are undertaking vehicle patrols, parking and patrolling as well as responding to alarm calls through within the managed area.
- Businesses have been provided with details of the new online reporting systems that West Yorkshire Police have introduced. This includes the ability to speak an operator online via live chat and the online reporting tool. Progress will continue to be monitored through the Operational Group.
- A further case has now progressed through the courts resulting in a violent offender receiving a 10 year custodial sentence.
- Streetlight survey to be completed with highways engineers to assess the street lighting currently in place and as per the crime reduction officers report, examine ways in which lighting can be improved (e.g. increase intensity in certain area),

- A further newsletter is planned for January 2016 providing an update for residents and businesses
- The Strategic Partnership Group on Prostitution continues to explore and develop the approach to indoor sex work. West Yorkshire Police are currently reviewing and changing their policy on indoor sex work. Third Sector partners have been consulted on the new policy, via the Strategic Partnership Group on prostitution.

4 Leedswatch – December Update

- The Board requested an outline of potential future options for delivery of Leedswatch and this is currently being progressed with a report of produced in the New Year. This will also include benchmarking information with other comparable cities, in terms of CCTV systems operated by other local authorities.
- Leedswatch values its customers and all stakeholders now receive a weekly CCTV incident log report which gives details of all incidents captured in 'real time'. Further work is planned to incorporate within the report the information requested by WYP in relation to crimes which have been caught on CCTV. Work has recently been completed to improve the performance information to Community Committees and other services and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. In addition, The Safer Leeds Partnership Analytical Team have recently been commissioned to help Leedswatch develop their Performance Management Framework, Intelligence Pathways, and help enhance reports produced by Leedswatch.
- The service is integrating Parkswatch into the existing services to ensure a co-ordinated approach is taken when response and planning operations. Construction of a new garage at Leedswatch is due to commence early in the New Year (2016). This will accommodate Parkswatch staff, bikes and equipment meaning all Leedswatch services operates from one site.
- The service is also working with Housing Leeds to plan and deliver a concierge service to the Clyde and Wortley tower blocks. Recruitment of 5 x Safer Leeds Officers is underway with a view to them commencing employment early January. The project will also include an upgrade of internal CCTV cameras to each floor within each of the four blocks. Cabling is currently being installed to accommodate this.
- Work is underway for Safer Leeds Officers to respond and re-set Fire Alarms across the City within Sheltered Housing complexes. A full key holding audit has begun to ensure all sites can be accessed. Full sign off is expected in the New Year.
- BT Fibre costs are an area of concern and the service is looking to explore changing cameras from analogue to digital to decrease ongoing costs. The current BT fibre contract ends in 2018. Opportunities to decommission cameras in locations where circuit costs are high or the camera is deemed to be sited in a location where little activity takes place are being examined. Other options

include determining alternative options for camera feeds to link back to Middleton, utilisation of wireless / radio technology already in situ. This would reduce the number of circuits required and therefore reduce costs considerably.

- A review of camera locations is to take place to ensure that cameras are located in the right places, and where they are not, that these are decommissioned. A piece of work is required prior to 2018, working alongside WYP, to establish high crime areas and where CCTV cameras are located. This would be an opportunity to ensure cameras are correctly sited for maximum benefit to fit the crime reduction strategy.
- A review of all processes within LeedsWatch is currently being undertaken to assist with any decisions made before approaching the private sector. LeedsWatch has recently written to members of the Cross Green Industrial Estate scheme to request feedback on the existing service with a view to ascertaining where improvements / changes are required to further enhance the provision provided.
- There is strong commercial potential within this section of the service and with adequate resources could expand into the private sector. The development of a long term business plan for sustained growth of the service is underway.

5 Police Community Support Officers (Local Authority Funded) – December

- Since the position regarding the number and allocation of PCSOs was presented and discussed at the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Housing) in October 2015 a small focussed working group to discuss the direction of travel for the funding and allocation of PCSOs funded by the Local Authority has been formed.
- Since October 2015, the Scrutiny Working Group (PCSO) has met on two occasions and discussion has been detailed and supplemented by briefings around the changing and evolving policing structures in Leeds District and across West Yorkshire Police.
- Discussions have been on-going with the OPCC as to budgets and allocation of funding to Leeds District. In November 2015 the Governments latest CSR was undertaken and an update regarding Policing budgets is anticipated in the very near future. These budgets from the OPCC have not been provided as yet, as at December 2015.
- As a result of the Scrutiny Working Group (PCSO), it has been agreed that an options paper for consideration will be circulated to elected members for their consideration.
- It is anticipated that an early meeting will be undertaken in January 2016 with the Director of Environment and Housing and the PCC to confirm funding allocation and clarity.