

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PARTY

27 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

Councillor Adel Khaireh (Chair); Councillors Angela Cornforth, Ian Hawking, Clive Mardner and John Hills.

Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Ivis Williams, Anthony Okereke, Pat Greenwell, Pauline Sheath and Monsignor Rothon.

Under Standing Orders:

Councillor Jackie Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Community Safety.

Officers:

Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment; Director of Housing & Safer Communities, Head of Safer Spaces, ReSETService Manager and Corporate Governance Officer

Item

No.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Ann-Marie Cousins.

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Garry Dillon and Linda Bird as members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor John Hills extended apologies for leaving early.

2. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

3. Declarations of Interest

Resolved –

That the list of Councillors' memberships as Council appointed representatives on outside bodies, joint committees and school governing bodies be noted.

4. The implementation of the Reduction in Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation Team (ReSET)

At the invitation of the Chair members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel were in attendance to participate in the debate on this item.

In presenting the report the Director of Housing & Safer Communities drew attention to the key aspects of the service, achievements and aims. He advised that ReSET evolved from the work of the Knife Crime Task Force and community engagement work, with the aim of providing a multiagency pro-active response team. That MOPCA and s106 monies had been secured to enable ReSET to function until March 2021, after which an in-depth evaluation would be undertaken to establish the way forward.

The ReSET Service Manager advised that the ReSET Team was full staffed, consisting of officers from many services and team development training had been a key tool in creating a common methodology and operational practices. The Team strived to avoid duplicating work already being undertaken by other service providers whilst ensuring any gaps in service were identified and filled. He gave assurance that partnership building was ongoing to ensure better co-ordinated support was provided.

He drew attention to the four main work streams of the Team;

- People – establishing direct working practices with young people, their family and any support workers.
- Direct work – risk does not stop when a person reaches 18 and ensuring that provision does not become a limited adolescence cantered approach.
- Play Space – contextualise the situation to consider influences, not just family and associates but environment. A key function of ReSET was the collation, analysis and sharing of information quickly.

- Community Engagement - cross partnership working, including working with ex-gang members, to identify and work with known and challenging groups.

In response to Members Question's the ReSET Service Manager advised that approximately 60% of their clients were aged 14-19, 30% were aged 22-25 and 10% were aged 10-14. In terms of ethnicity breakdown, 16 people identified as black/afro Caribbean; 4 mixed race, 11 white and the remainder identified as Other.

The Director of Housing & Safer Communities confirmed to Members that the evaluation of the service was due to take place in September and a report on the service review would be presented to the Panel. The Chair confirmed that this should be included in the Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2020-21.

Action: Corporate Governance Officer

The ReSET Service Manager confirmed that working with schools was a vital element of the work of ReSET and a close working relationship had been established with the Newhaven pupil referral unit through weekly meetings. Contact was also made to schools via the School Bulletin, issued by Greenwich Council.

The Director of Housing & Safer Communities added that a regular quarterly report was presented to the Schools Forum. He also assured Members that ReSET had also established close working relationships with the Academy Schools, within the Borough

In response to a Members questions as to intervention action to address bullying, the ReSET Service Manager stated that experience had shown that the transition point from primary to secondary school was an opportune time for any intervention action. He also noted that whilst there are close workings with the Pastoral Officer and schools ReSET's role was to look beyond the child, to their wider support group.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Community Safety noted that ReSET was not a replacement for existing services but an additional service. There were existing groups that offered pupil support through school transition, who should be the primary contact. The aim of ReSET was to support the most vulnerable children with complex needs or at risk of serious harm.

The ReSET Manager presented a case study exemplifying the wrap around support with schools and community groups offered by the team.

The Director of Housing & Safer Communities confirmed that the stakeholder consultation undertaken as part of the formation of ReSET involved faith group leaders and the Young Peoples conference, which had representatives from all schools in the Borough. He confirmed that he would ask the Assistant Director Early Help and YOS to provide fuller details to Members

Action: AD EH&YOS

The ReSET Manager accepted that there were challenges intervening with young people at risk and involved in knife crime, particularly within harder to reach communities and groups. He continued that the use of intelligence and community engagement was at the heart of identifying groups and communities not already reached and it was essential that officers got out of the offices to meet and listen to people to enable identification of and contact with communities beyond the known. He advised that a clear methodology was being established to undertake this type of outreach work. He noted that a range of partners held information and part of the role of ReSET was to 'join the dots' and identify a child at risk, rather than looking at the single aspect of a child's situation. He stated that it would be wrong to give the impression that there were no areas of risk which were hidden and difficult to see and the Team aspired to develop methods of monitoring social media, to help break into some of these areas.

In response to clarification on whether there was regular patterns or locations that caused greater concern for a child's welfare the ReSET Manager advised that there was a complex mix of issues which would be captured and used to create a good analytical to focus. He exemplified a case where evaluation of various strands of information had resulted in stopping a child from serious harm or death, as a result of child exploitation.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Environment advised that there were known areas of activity and hot spots, in the Borough and it often appeared that the focus was often not where the child lived but where they congregated. There was a need for complex mapping as there was associations and links with County Lines activity. She noted that ReSET was not the solution to serious youth violence but acted more like an intelligence hub, as this was an area that would not be resolved in isolation.

In terms of areas for improvement and challenge, the ReSET Manager responded that the key challenges, at this time, was the integration of the 20 staff members from different working culture and backgrounds. There was a need for them to merge in a new way to create a common goal and a united team. He exemplified that a Police Officer may have to work closely with, at an equal level, a community volunteer who had spent time in prison.

He continued that other challenges included the accurate identification of risks not yet encountered or seen whilst rolling out the community engagement strategy.

The Director of Housing & Safer Communities confirmed that ReSET was an ambitious programme and an entirely new team and working practices was being established with a real and immediate investment impact. He confirmed that ReSET had been joint funded to September by MOPAC and the Council, with a further allocation of Council funding, which would allow the Team to continue until March 2021. After that point there would be a requirement to look at further substantial funding for the unit.

The ReSET Manager noted that many organisations were facing resource challenges and the work of GRASP enabled the swift sharing of information held by all partnership membership including CHAMS. He added that good multi-agency working allowed for the escalation of a case when needed, and offered a wider response to the overlaying issues, not just the child.

The members of the Children & Peoples Scrutiny Panel sought guidance as to whether regular updates should also form part of their work programme. To which the Chair's for both Scrutiny Panels felt that it would be best to continue to present the reports to the Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel but, as on this occasion, invite the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel to attend and participate in the meeting. The Chair requested that this be recorded as part of the work programme activity for the Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel

Action: Corporate Governance Officer

Resolved -

That the report on the implementation of the Reduction in Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation Team (ReSET) and the work undertaken in the first 3 months of operation be noted.

Councillor Hills, Pauline Sheath and Mrg Rothon left the meeting

5. Update on Integrated Enforcement for Community Safety Scrutiny

In presenting the report the Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment advised that it looked at the evolution of service from concept to establishment. That Integrated Enforcement was not the establishment of a team or section, but a new way of working across different teams and directorships and was funded through established budget and utilising s106 monies. That Integrated Enforcement was a cultural change, particularly of the front facing services and he was already seeing positive change but cautioned there was a need for improved performance and monitoring.

The Head of Safer Spaces advised that two Police Officers, who were assigned to support the scheme, were funded through s106 monies and were an asset to the Councils intelligence capabilities. Further, working relationships between the Police and Council Officers had improved over the past 6 months as a practical understanding of working practices had been established. She noted that there had been 13 arrests as a result of pro-active joint working and 51 Stop & Search, which has been supported by Council led specialist training on ASAB legislation and problem solving. Compassionate enforcement and trauma informed working was being modelled and rolled out into the wider context.

To exemplify the multiagency service approach of Integrated Enforcement the Head of Safer Spaces advised that numerous complaints were received regarding toxic vehicle emissions from itinerate ice cream sellers in Greenwich. Due to the level of profit they were making, fines were not a deterrent and they were becoming abusive to staff. Over three weekends in the summer a new integrated approach was adopted to curtail their behaviour, and which addressed, not just the vehicle emissions but lack of allergy/ingredients lists. Instead of issuing a Fixed Penalty notice, for which they had the £90 ready to pay with, a Community Protection Warning was issued, and CCTV and body cam footage was used to take action on breaches of the Warning Notice. The impact of this action will be monitored in the upcoming summer as services now have a set practice which was developed through this action as well as improved officer's confidence in the change of working approach.

The Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment advised that further examples of the change in approach and progress were given on page 17 of the report. He noted that Integrated Enforcement covered a wide range of areas such as keeping streets safe and clean, dealing with abandoned vehicles to HMOs and air B&B and it was his role to priorities areas and lead on integrated service development.

In response to Members questions the Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment advised that the Director of Housing and safer Communities was the lead on Homes for Heroes and had set up a working partnership with L&Q thought this was in the early stages and some providers needed more persuasion to participate than others.

With regards to HMO's the Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment confirmed that 12,000 providers had signed up to the HMO Licensing scheme, which was in line with other Boroughs.

A Members requested a copy of the Creating Safer Spaces Policy, to which the Head of Safer Spaces confirmed that she would provide a copy.

Action: Head of Safer Spaces

The Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment confirmed to Members that Highways were issuing fix penalty notices at a rate of 60%, and loitering and spiting at a rate of 63%. However, Integrated Enforcement was not just about issuing Fixed Penalty Notices but identifying ways to stop the behaviour in the first place.

A Member noted the excellent work that had been undertaken to address the parking issues in the Plumstead Ward and the improvements around the Common had been noticeable. She added that a wider parking imitative for all of Plumstead would be appreciated.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Community Safety advised that she was aware that her Cabinet colleague, with responsibility for highways, was looking at the practicalities of the wide implementation of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ).

The Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment confirmed that the Plumstead Representatives they had contact with had also noted the improvements in the area and it was his intention to relay the positive feedback to the Director of Housing and Safer Communities. In line with the

requested the Assistant Director of Community Safety & Environment confirmed this could be sent on behalf of the Scrutiny Panel.

Action: AD CS&E

A Member exemplified an issue to seek guidance if the Integrated Enforcement Team would be involved; where people congregated to drink, and it had become apparent that one of them had been 'cuckooed' out of his home and was seeking re-housing.

The Assistant Director of Community Safety and Environment re-iterated that Integrated Enforcement was not a single, physical team and such a case would be picked up via the Councillors casework process and assistance, via multiple agencies, would be formulated.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Enforcement addressed the Panel to thank the Assistant Director of Community Safety and Environment for his excellent and innovative work on developing the Interrogated Enforcement ethos.

She continued that over the past five years it had become apparent that joined up working would be the most productive way to resolve issues. That case work should not be looked at as single issues situations with each directorate working in isolation, but to consider if a wider range of actions were required, from different departments or partners, to ensure an effective resolution. Further, the working practices of Street Wardens had evolved and change, and work was ongoing to develop more effective practices in the Noise Nuisance and Anti-Social Behaviour teams.

She added that she shared the passion of the Assistant Director of Community Safety and Environment and Head of Safer Spaces and their dedicated team in developing and implementing integrated working practices through a multiagency approach and believed that they were developing a model that other Authorities would be looking at to emulate.

Resolved -

That the updates provided by this report, in respects to the Royal Borough of Greenwich's (RBG) Integrated Enforcement approach, be noted.

6. Commissioning of future reports.

Resolved -

That the work items scheduled to be presented to the Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel meeting of 1 April 2020, be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Chair