



Meeting of the

# TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

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Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

(or at the rise of the Extraordinary Council Meeting  
scheduled for 7.00 p.m., if later)

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## S U P P L E M E N T A L   A G E N D A

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### VENUE

Council Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,  
5 Clove Crescent,  
London E14 2BG

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

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# LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012

7.30 p.m. (or at the rise of the Extraordinary Council Meeting, if later)

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NUMBER  
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### 9 .1 Community Safety Plan 2012/13

To adopt the Community Safety Plan for 2012/13.

The report of the Mayor in Cabinet of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012, shown as 'to follow' on the agenda for the Council Meeting, is attached.

Council on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 considered the proposals of the Executive for the Community Safety Plan 2012/13. The Council agreed a number of amendments that it wished to make to the draft Plan and in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, these were referred back to the Mayor and Executive for consideration.

The Mayor and Executive considered the Council's proposed amendments at the Cabinet meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012, and decided not to amend their proposals for the reasons set out in the attached report. The proposals of the Mayor and Executive for the Community Safety Plan 2012/13 are therefore resubmitted to the Council for adoption.

In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules the Council may at this meeting amend the Plan in line with the amendment(s) previously agreed, subject to those amendment(s) being supported by two-thirds of those Members present and voting on the matter.

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### REPORT OF THE MAYOR IN CABINET

04 JULY 2012

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday **04 July 2012**.

Mayor and Councillors in attendance at the meeting: -

#### **Cabinet:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	(Mayor)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Rania Khan	(Cabinet Member for Culture)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

#### **Other Councillors:**

Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Ann Jackson	(Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Md. Maium Miah	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet on Third Sector and Community Engagement)
Councillor Gulam Robbani	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet on Adult Social Care)

#### **1. Community Safety Plan 2012-13: Reference from the Council meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (CAB 015/123)**

The report (attached as Appendix 1 to this council report) informed the Mayor and Cabinet that: -

- The full Council, at an extraordinary meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012, received the draft Community Safety Plan 2012-13 as proposed by the Executive [Mayor in Cabinet 04 April 2012] for adoption.
- The full Council agreed a number of amendments to the draft plan and these were set out at section 6 of the report before the Mayor/ Cabinet, and now referred back to the Executive for consideration.

- The Development and Consultation Plan and Equalities Analysis in respect of the draft plan; and the Membership of the Community Safety Partnership and Delivery Structure, were as previously reported to the Cabinet and Council and no amendments were proposed to those documents.
- The Mayor in Cabinet was recommended to:
  - Reconsider the draft Community Safety Plan and decide whether or not to revise the draft plan by including some or all of the amendments agreed by the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
  - Resubmit the draft plan, revised as necessary and with reasons for any disagreement with the Council's amendments, to the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 for adoption.
- The reason for the recommended decisions, was in order to comply with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules at Part 4.3 of the Council's Constitution, and the statutory rules regarding the development and adoption of the Authority's Policy Framework.
- It summarised the relevant Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules at section 8 including:
  - The Mayor, on behalf of the Executive must reconsider the draft Plan and either submit a revised plan to the full Council, or alternatively inform the full Council of any disagreement that the Executive has with the proposed amendments and the reasons for this.
  - That the full Council must then consider the revised plan of the Executive and any reasons given by the Executive for any disagreement with the full Council's amendments before adopting the plan. If at this stage the full Council still wishes to insist on any of its amendment(s) that the Executive has not accepted, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting is required for the amendment to succeed.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor, in introducing the report before the Mayor/ Cabinet, summarised the key points contained therein, commenting as follows:-

- The Authority had had successes over the past financial year, but where there had been increases in levels of crime and disorder, Community Safety Partnership (CSP) resources had been targeted to address this in line with the priorities in the Community Safety Plan (the Plan). This had lead to significant decreases in the levels of serious youth violence, robbery, burglary and gun crime in 2012.
- The proposed Plan identified 10 key priorities for the CSP, the drivers of crime and disorder and the governance structure through which the CSP aimed to address these priorities in 2012/ 13.
- Each sub-group within the CSP produced a delivery plan against the relevant Plan priorities. Performance against these delivery plans was monitored on a bi-monthly basis by the CSP to ensure action was being taken against each priority.

- It was a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) for Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Community Safety Plan.
- The previous and proposed decision of the Mayor/ Cabinet on this matter, along with the priorities within the Plan were based on the findings of the Strategic Review 2011, consultation with partner agencies (through the CSP) and the community through the Police and Community Safety Board public meetings.
- The proposed Plan had been thoroughly discussed at various panels and boards and already been through a rigorous approval process, both internal to the Authority, external with the CSP and the Police and Community Safety Board Executive.
- Given that the public and partners (both Statutory and Third Sector) were overwhelmingly in support of the proposed Plan and its priorities, both he and the Mayor considered that the originally proposed CSP 2012/13 was robust and it should be endorsed unrevised by the Mayor and Cabinet, with onward recommendation for adoption by full Council. Accordingly Councillor Ahmed **proposed an alternative option** in relation to recommended decisions 2.1 and 2.2 for the Mayor's consideration [see Decisions 1 to 3 below].

The Service Head Strategy & Resources & Olympic Impact, Mr Beattie, at the request of the Chair, commented on the reference before the Mayor/ Cabinet that:

- The proposed amendments to the Plan from the full Council appeared to be based on the premise that the Plan did not refer to targets on crime or an associated performance management process. Whilst this concern was understandable it was based on a misconception as to the function of the Plan which was a high level document. Underneath the Plan sat targets for each CSP sub group which referenced the overarching priorities of the Plan, and which in turn informed the target setting. Performance against the targets was monitored by the CSP Executive. The CSP strategy was also defined by statute. He could therefore give an assurance that there were targets and structured performance management underpinning these.

A short discussion followed which focused on the following points:-

- Their were targets associated with the originally proposed Community Safety Plan 2012/13. It was not appropriate for the targets to be set by the Authority alone as it was one element of the Community Safety Partnership and the concept of partnership working was that such matters were agreed together. Performance on crime was a matter for the Metropolitan Police not the Authority. Consideration therefore that the proposed amendments would add little value to the Plan and therefore the Plan that had been proposed by the Executive in April 2012 should continue to be supported.

The **Mayor**, having considered the contents of the report before him, the recommended decisions set out therein and the alternative option proposed by

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, agreed the proposed alternative option and consequently **agreed** the following:

### **Decision**

1. That the proposed amendments to the draft Community Safety Plan 2012/13 which the extraordinary full Council, held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012, requested that the Mayor in Cabinet should consider and agree, be noted.
2. That the decision of the Mayor in Cabinet, made on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012, in relation to draft Community Safety Plan 2012/13 be reaffirmed, and that full Council be recommended to adopt the Plan, as contained in Appendix A to the April Cabinet report (CAB 102/112); and
3. That it be agreed that the draft Community Safety Plan 2012/13 be submitted unrevised to full Council together with the Mayor's reasons for disagreement with the full Council's proposed amendments.

**The Executive's reasons for disagreement with the full Council's proposed amendments** to the Plan are set out above in the deliberations but could be summarised as follows:

- The Executive had been advised that the proposed Community Safety Plan (the Plan) identified 10 key priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). CSP Sub-Groups produced a delivery plan against the relevant Plan priorities. Performance against these delivery plans was monitored on a bi-monthly basis by the CSP Executive. Officers had also assured the Mayor that there were targets for crime associated with the Plan and structured performance management underpinning these.
- The decision of the Mayor to recommend adoption of the Plan, along with the priorities within the Plan, were based on the findings of the Strategic Review 2011 and extensive consultation with partner agencies and the community. The approval process for the proposed Plan had been rigorous both within the Authority and externally with the CSP and Police and Community Safety Board. Given that the public and partners (both Statutory and Third Sector) were overwhelmingly in support of the Plan and its priorities, the Executive considered it was robust and should be adopted by full Council without further revision.
- Where there had been increases in levels of crime and disorder, CSP resources had been targeted to address this in line with the priorities in the Plan leading to significant decreases in crime levels. The CSP was therefore focused on addressing public concerns about crime in Tower Hamlets.



**Council is therefore recommended to: -**

Adopt the draft Community Safety Plan 2012 - 13, as contained in Appendix A to the 04 April 2012 Cabinet report (CAB 102/112) and Appendix A to the 04 July Cabinet report (CAB 015/123) **(the latter attached at Appendix 1 to this Council report).**

**Lutfur Rahman  
Mayor**

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)**  
**LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

<b>Brief description of "background paper" number of holder</b>	<b>Tick if copy supplied</b>	<b>If not supplied, name and telephone</b>
Draft Cabinet minutes 04/07/12		Angus Taylor 020 7364 4333

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## APPENDIX 1

<b>Committee/Meeting:</b> Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b> CAB 015/123
<b>Report of:</b>  Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)  <b>Originating officer(s):</b> John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services		<b>Title:</b>  Community Safety Plan 2012-13: Reference from the Council meeting, 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2012.  <b>Wards Affected:</b> All	

<b>Lead Member</b>	Deputy Mayor
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	A Safe and Cohesive Community, A Great Place to Live
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	Focusing on Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, Reducing Fear of Crime

### 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council, at an extraordinary meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012, received the draft Community Safety Plan 2012-13 as proposed by the Executive for adoption. The Council agreed a number of amendments to the draft plan and these are now referred back to the Executive for consideration.

### 2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Reconsider the draft Community Safety Plan and decide whether or not to revise the draft plan by including some or all of the amendments agreed by the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012; and
- 2.2 Resubmit the draft plan, revised as necessary and with reasons for any disagreement with the Council's amendments, to the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 for adoption.

### 3. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 To comply with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules at Part 4.3 of the Council's Constitution, and the statutory rules regarding the development and adoption of the Council's Policy Framework.

### 4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 No alternatives are presented, as the process for adoption of the Policy Framework is set out in legislation. As part of this process, the

Executive may decide whether or not to revise the draft Plan in accordance with the amendments proposed by the Council.

## **5. BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The Council, at an extraordinary meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012, received a report (CAB 102/112) from the Cabinet presenting a draft Community Safety Plan for the Borough for 2012-13 following Overview and Scrutiny consultation, and requesting:
1. That the draft Community Safety Plan 2012-13 and the priorities set out within it, be noted and endorsed;
  2. That the Development and Consultation Plan for the Community Safety Plan 2013 onwards be noted and endorsed; and
  3. That the Council adopt the Community Safety Plan 2012-13, as attached at Appendix A to this reference.
- 5.2 During the course of debate on the matter, Councillor Abdal Ullah moved, and Councillor Judith Gardiner seconded, an amendment as set out below. The amendment, and then the substantive motion as amended, were put to the vote and were agreed.

## **6. AMENDMENT AGREED BY THE COUNCIL**

- 6.1 The amendment agreed by the Council is as follows:-

### **“Community Safety Plan 2012 – 2013**

#### **This Council notes:**

- There continues to be serious public concern about the levels of crime in Tower Hamlets.
- Incidents of serious violent crime and serious acquisitive crime have increased over the past year.
- The proposed Community Safety Plan contains very few targets or measurable criteria for success, therefore allowing little oversight.
- The proposed Community Safety Plan does not clearly focus on the issues of most importance to local residents, those of serious violent crime and serious acquisitive crime.

#### **This Council believes:**

- Every step should be taken to combat criminality in Tower Hamlets.
- Priorities for community safety in Tower Hamlets should be clear and measurable in order to maintain public support and oversight.

- It is the role of every elected representative to work towards a safer community.

**This Council therefore resolves to amend the report as follows:**

- Delete the second bullet point on page 31, (“Exploit the Mayor’s role as a unifying figure via the Citizen Engagement Strategy”).
- Delete “through scrutiny and its role in the budget process” from the third bullet point on page 31.
- To add a new page after page 3, in the same font, size and layout as page 3, stating:

**Note from Tower Hamlets Councillors**

Tower Hamlets councillors represent residents living in all corners of our borough and so every day we hear about the crime and anti-social behaviour experienced by local people.

We know that for too many of our residents, Tower Hamlets doesn’t feel safe enough, and that too many people are still the victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

That’s why we were concerned that this Community Safety Plan did not seem to recognise this reality. Undoubtedly a lot of good work has been done by the Council, the police, housing providers and others in tackling crime and ASB, and every year there are lots of successes.

But despite that good work, some types of crime are rising. In the last year, both serious violent crime and serious acquisitive crime have gone up. At the same time, residents’ concern about drug-use and dealing, drunk or rowdy behaviour, and vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage has also risen.

In a year when visitors from all over the world are coming to East London to enjoy the Olympics, the Community Safety Partnership needs to be better than ever at identifying the risks and causes of crime and ASB, and putting in place challenging targets and strategies for reducing them. Whilst there is clearly good work being done by the partnership, Tower Hamlets councillors were disappointed that this Community Safety Plan contained few targets, had very little in the way of concrete plans and didn’t reflect the concerns that residents raise with us. It also is of great concern that the Plan does not set out a clearer strategy for halting the rise in serious violent and acquisitive crime and reducing the fear of crime in our borough.

As councillors we have opposed police counter closures planned for the borough, called for action to tackle drink-related ASB around Brick

Lane and united against the threat to order in our borough posed by extremists – yet none of this is reflected in the plan.

We hope that, despite this, the Community Safety Partnership will work effectively this year to address the concerns of our community. We also hope that the Partnership will make more of an effort to use the expertise and knowledge we have, as representatives of our whole borough, in doing so.

### **Tower Hamlets councillors**

## **7. COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

7.1 In agreeing to the amendment, the Council **Resolved** -

“That the draft Community Safety Plan 2012-13 be referred back to the Executive for further consideration in the light of the amendment agreed by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.”

7.2 The draft Community Safety Plan 2012-13 as submitted to the Council meeting is attached at Appendix A to this reference. The Development and Consultation Plan and Equalities Analysis in respect of the draft plan; and the Membership of the Community Safety Partnership and Delivery Structure, are as previously reported to the Cabinet and Council and no amendments are proposed to those documents.

## **8. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES**

8.1 The Community Safety Plan is one of the plans and strategies that make up the Council’s Policy Framework. As such it is subject to statutory rules regarding the process for its development and adoption. These rules are set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 and incorporated into Part 4.3 of the Council’s Constitution.

8.2 Under these arrangements it is the role of the Council’s Executive, having carried out consultation including with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to propose the plan for adoption by the Council. If the Council wishes to amend the draft plan, it must inform the Executive of the amendment(s) that it wishes to make and instruct the Executive to reconsider the draft plan in the light of those amendments. The Mayor, on behalf of the Executive must be given a period of at least five working days to undertake this reconsideration and either submit a revised plan to the Council, or alternatively inform the Council of any disagreement that the Executive has with the proposed amendments and the reasons for this.

8.3 The Council must then consider the revised plan of the Executive and any reasons given by the Executive for any disagreement with the

Council's amendments before adopting the plan. If at this stage the Council still wishes to insist on any of its amendment(s) that the Executive has not accepted, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting is required for the amendment to succeed.

## **9. ACTION REQUIRED**

- 9.1 In accordance with the above, the effect of the Council's resolution at section 7 of this report is to require the Executive to reconsider the draft Community Safety Plan, decide whether or not to revise the draft plan by including some or all of the amendment agreed by the Council, and resubmit the draft plan with reasons to the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

## **10. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES, LOCALITIES AND CULTURE**

- 10.1 The comments of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, in response to the matters raised in the amendment agreed by Council, are set out at paragraphs 10.2 to 10.6 below:
- 10.2 Whilst the statutory / constitutional approval process for the Community Safety Plan requires the Executive to endorse it the document itself has been developed by the Community Safety Partnership and is overseen by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive. The Partnership has approved both the Strategic Review and the Community Safety Plan in October 2011. The Community Safety Plan entered the Council's formal approval process in December 2011 and has been approved every step up until Full Council.
- 10.3 The Community Safety Plan is an overarching Partnership Plan the purpose of which is to identify priorities and provide direction. It is not intended to contain detailed actions and targets/measures as these are subsequently developed and detailed within each CSP Sub-group Delivery Plan and referenced back to the priorities and direction set out in the CSP. The Structure of the Community Safety Partnership and its sub-groups (spanning all of the public agencies that deal with the complex issues that impact on community safety) has been updated to reflect the Community Safety Plan Priorities and to enable the partnership to tackle these priorities more effectively and efficiently over the coming year. Each Sub-group produces a delivery plan which identifies all targets applicable to the partnership in this theme, all the actions/activity that they plan to carryout and the resources which will be available in that period.
- 10.4 Sub-groups are required to ensure their delivery plans reflect the priorities within the Community Safety Plan and that all activities are SMART before the Partnership will approve them. The Community Safety Partnership monitors the progress of these delivery plans via the bi-monthly Community Safety Partnership Meeting, where Sub-group Chairs are required to present updates on their delivery plans. The

Community Safety Partnership is then monitored on performance at the Partnership Executive, which oversees all the Community Plan Delivery Groups in the Borough.

- 10.5 Targets are wide ranging and represent the contribution of a number of different partner agencies. Some examples include reductions in crimes reported to the police. Examples include robbery (12% reduction in offences and 18% detection rate), burglary (6% reduction in offences and 12% detection rate), motor vehicle crime (8% reduction in offences and 8% detection rate) and violence with injury (5% reduction in offences and 34% detection rate). Probation also have targets such as to increase the number of probation clients in accommodation and employment. There are also targets relating to the Annual Residents Survey, such as concern about drunk and rowdy behaviour in public places (reducing from 44% to 41%). These targets drive a range of partnership activities within delivery plans that are designed to bring about these performance improvements, such as particular operations focusing on seizures of weapons or alcohol and searches of individuals, vehicles or premises.
- 10.6 The above clarification directly addresses all of the substantive concerns raised by the resolution and clarifies the role and function of the Plan within the inter-organisational target setting and performance management processes. As the resolution was predicated on a mistaken notion of the Plans technical function and the wrongly assumed that there was no target setting or performance management infrastructure it is not considered necessary or appropriate to amend the plan as the resolution sets out.

## **11. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 11.1 The report sets out the Community Safety Plan 2012-13 (Appendix A) detailing the priorities for the year. Whilst there are no specific financial implications emanating from the plan any financial implications as a consequence of events will need to be met from within existing resources or as part of the Medium Term Financial Planning process.

## **12. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)**

- 12.1 On 13 July 2011, the Council adopted a revised Community Plan, which contains the Council's sustainable community strategy as required by section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. A key theme of the Community Plan is to make Tower Hamlets a safe and cohesive community, that is, a safer place where people feel safer, get on better together and where difference is not seen as a threat, but a core-strength.
- 12.2 The Council is one of the responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets, within the meaning of section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.



Other responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets include: every provider of probation services in Tower Hamlets; the chief officer of police whose police area lies within Tower Hamlets; and the fire and rescue authority for Tower Hamlets. Together, the responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets are required to formulate and implement strategies for: the reduction of crime and disorder; combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and the reduction of re-offending. When formulating and implementing these strategies, each authority is required to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan for Tower Hamlets.

- 12.3 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require that there be a strategy group whose functions are to prepare strategic assessments, following community engagement, and to prepare and implement a partnership plan and community safety agreement for Tower Hamlets. The partnership plan must set out a crime and disorder reduction strategy, amongst other matters. The strategy group must consider the strategic assessment and the community safety agreement in the formulation of the partnership plan. The Safe and Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group discharges these functions in Tower Hamlets. The report indicates that the Community Safety Plan is the relevant partnership plan and has been prepared in accordance with the Regulations.
- 12.4 The making of a crime and disorder reduction strategy pursuant to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is a function that is required not to be the sole responsibility of the Council's executive. This is the effect of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. The requirement is reflected in the Council's Constitution, which makes the crime and disorder reduction strategy part of the Council's policy framework.
- 12.5 When planning action under the Community Safety Plan, it will be necessary for officers to have regard to the Council's statutory functions and ensure these are not exceeded.
- 12.6 Before adopting the Community Safety Plan, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. An equality analysis is set out in the proposed Community Safety Plan that may form the basis of these considerations.

### **13. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 Equalities analysis has been carried out on the priorities identified in the Plan with recommendations made for further considerations when supporting action plans are developed.

**14. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

14.1 Implementation of the Community Safety Plan 2012 is expected to have a positive effect on the environment by helping to reduce anti-social behaviour. This will then reduce the amount of criminal damage, graffiti, fly-tipping and fly-posting and other environmental crimes in the borough.

**15. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 The Community Safety Plan sets out an overarching structure and framework of priorities within which management of risks will take place. There are no particular risk management implications attached to the plan itself.

**16. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 The Community Safety Plan 2012 will help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and meet the Mayors priorities whilst reducing fear of crime and contributing to relevant community plan commitments.

**17. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

17.1 There are potentially significant efficiency gains from working in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. The Community Safety Plan 2012 is a partnership document and brings together key crime and disorder reduction agencies to work together and share resources.

17.2 There are also further efficiencies from addressing problems before they escalate, requiring less resource than would be necessary in dealing with a more serious problem at a later stage. These efficiencies would be spread across the Council and key partner agencies. This work is integrated in to the corporate efficiency planning processes supporting the Medium Term Financial Plan.

**18. APPENDICES**

**Appendix A – Draft Community Safety Plan 2012/13**

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**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)  
List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of “background papers”	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
None	n/a

**Tower Hamlets Community Safety Plan**  
**2012-2013**

## **Foreword from Lutfur Rahman, Tower Hamlets Mayor**

A great deal has already been achieved in Tower Hamlets to ensure that the borough is a safer place in which to live and work. The performance review of the Community Safety Partnership Plan from 2008 to 2011 speaks for itself in terms of the significant reductions in crime over that period. However, I also know that crime and anti-social behaviour remains a key area of concern for residents, and it is essential that we continue to make progress in tackling these issues. That is why I have made Community Safety one of my top five priorities for my Mayoral term of office and I'm working to ensure delivery in the many aspects that contribute towards a safer and more cohesive community.



This plan sets out how the Tower Hamlets Partnership organisations, through the Safe and Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group, will continue to tackle crime and ASB; protecting communities as the Partnership addresses the exceptional challenges that we face over the next twelve months.

The challenges to be faced are significant. They include the requirement for the Council and Partnership to meet major reductions in the funding that comes from central Government. The economic downturn also has an impact, driving some types of criminal behaviour and influencing drug and alcohol use at a time when the Partnership organisations must reduce costs. There are major organisational and governance changes underway for the Police, the Council and the local NHS, and while all this is taking place we are working hard to ensure that everyone can safely enjoy the Olympic and Paralympics Games next summer.

Whilst these challenges are pressing, the Council has strong partnerships and excellent practices to tackle them. We are continuing to work towards tackling inequality, strengthening cohesion and building community leadership and personal responsibility under the One Tower Hamlets programme. Recent disturbances across the country demonstrate our robust structures for handling incidents and issues of community tension. The comparatively low levels of disturbance we experienced in the borough is testament to the excellent work across the council and by our partners to engage our young people and tackle the root causes of crime. In addition, our response, both organisational and from the community, to the threat posed by the English Defence League is a visible demonstration of our strength in the face of adversity.

Since being elected I have taken steps to ensure that there are more police officers on our streets where they work alongside the Council's own Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers, to reassure residents and reduce anti-social behaviour, and it is good to see that public confidence in the way the Police and Council deal with concerns of crime and ASB is stronger. The Council's service localisation processes, sharing operating bases with front line Police staff, is helping to ensure that our focus is on the specific issues that affect communities across the borough.

I will continue to seek and prioritise actions that take us towards achieving a safe and high quality environment in which our communities can thrive.

## **Introduction from Cllr Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor and Co-Chair of Community Safety Partnership**

I believe that the residents of Tower Hamlets have the right to live safely in their local community with a good quality of life. The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012 sets out our priorities as a partnership for the year to ensure that we achieve this for everyone in the borough.

I know that crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse are top priorities for residents in the borough. As the partnership continues to tackle these successfully we have seen an increase in residents feeling safer. The latest Annual Residents Survey, which took place in January 2011, showed that whilst crime remains our residents biggest priority, their concern about crime has reduced by 5% on the previous year (2010) and a 13% reduction on the year before that (2009).



Over the past 8 years partners in Tower Hamlets have made some of the largest year on year reductions in crime across London, in fact it is now 30% lower than it was in 2003. The Partnership is committed to maintain these reductions in the future and make Tower Hamlets one of the safest boroughs in London.

This document includes a summary of our performance over the past year, which, along with community views, has helped us to set the priorities within it. It has been developed and updated with the involvement of a wide range of partners including residents, police, council, fire brigade, probation, health, housing, voluntary, faith and community groups and businesses.

# The Community Safety Plan - Strategic Framework

The Community Safety Plan is a key document, established by the Tower Hamlets Partnership to ensure that actions towards achieving the Community Plan Vision and Safe & Cohesive theme are delivered. The group with responsibility for establishing and monitoring the Community Safety Plan is the Community Safety Partnership which is known locally as the Safe & Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group.

Further details of the relevant plans, strategies and governance arrangements are set out in the section.

## Our Community Plan to 2020

The overall vision for the Community Plan remains to:

*'Improve the lives of all those living and working in the borough'*.

Turning this vision into reality requires us to achieve four priorities, articulated as the four themes of the Community Plan:

### A Great Place to Live

- Tower Hamlets will be a place where people live in quality affordable housing, located in clean and safe neighbourhoods served by well connected and easy to access services and community facilities.

### A Prosperous Community

- Tower Hamlets will be a place where everyone, regardless of their background and circumstances, has the aspiration and opportunity to achieve their full potential.

### A Safe and Cohesive Community

- Tower Hamlets will be a safer place where people feel safer, get on better together and difference is not seen as threat, but core strength of the borough.

### A Healthy and Supportive Community

- Tower Hamlets will be a place where people are supported to live healthier, more independent lives and the risk of harm and neglect to vulnerable children and adults is reduced.

The focus of the **Safe and Cohesive Community** theme is on reducing crime, drugs and anti social behaviour and on building a more cohesive and resilient community. Previously the crime agenda came under the Safe and Supportive Community plan theme. The 'supportive' element of this is now incorporated in the Healthy and Supportive Community theme, to better recognise the interface between health and social care.

Though presented as four distinct themes, these priorities are not mutually exclusive but interdependent. For example, improving housing, employment and health will all reduce crime and vice versa. Collectively these themes are aimed at

delivering the social, economic and environmental changes necessary to improve the lives of local people.

More detail on the vision for a Safe and Cohesive Community is included in the section below.

The Community Plan priorities are underpinned by four cross-cutting principles that will guide how we work together to achieve our shared vision. These principles apply to each of the Community Plan themes and are integral to the delivery of the Plan. They are as follows:

### **One Tower Hamlets: tackling inequality, strengthening cohesion and building community leadership**

- During the refresh of the Community Plan in 2008 residents articulated their worries that the achievements and aspirations of the borough could be undermined by community tensions arising from the experience of inequality in a diverse area. Since then 'One Tower Hamlets' has become more than a unifying slogan and is a cycle of action underpinning and overarching all we do. In a tough economic and political climate it describes our vision and values and thereby builds the resilience of partners, their staff, residents and elected councillors to seek the right local solutions to reduce crime. One Tower Hamlets therefore is key to challenging the many forms of crime (including Hate Crime), anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse arising from poverty and inequality.

### **Tackling inequality through efficiency and the delivery value for money services**

- We are experiencing the most financially challenging time for public services ever. As such, we need to ensure that our approach to crime and cohesion becomes more efficient and uses resources more effectively through a robust understanding of the communities we serve and their needs.

### **Strengthening cohesion through engagement with a powerful public**

- Action by any one agency alone cannot reduce crime and anti-social behaviour or improve cohesion. We need to continue to work together both internally and externally through generic working, joint tasking, development of intelligence and analytical models, asset sharing and joint commissioning. In turn staff that see themselves as partners are better able to work with local people on finding local solutions. This will involve building on our strong history of using innovative methods to engage the borough's diverse communities to help improve services.

### **Building community leadership and responsibility through delivering services closer to people**

- Our localisation programme is bringing services together locally, increasing coordination and local knowledge, and enabling local people to take greater ownership of their services. This relationship has the potential to get to the heart of reducing crime where it most impacts on everyday life.

There is therefore a business, moral and reputational case for making 'One Tower Hamlets' real. In addition since April 2011 we have a statutory duty to have 'due regard' to the public sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate harassment and discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relation between different people

All public bodies are subject to the Duty, as are private and third sector organisations providing public services. It involves having an understanding of our communities and workforces based on the 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sex and sexuality. Reducing crime effectively will be a fundamental way of demonstrating 'due regard' in Tower Hamlets.



## **A Safe & Cohesive Community**

As set out in our refreshed Community Plan to 2020, our vision for a Safe and Cohesive Community is:

*To have a safer Tower Hamlets: a place where everyone feels safe, gets on better together and difference is not seen as threat but a core strength of the borough.*

### **Challenges and Opportunities for Tower Hamlets**

Over the past 8 years, the partnership agencies in Tower Hamlets have made some of the largest year on year reductions of crime when compared to the rest of London. Crime in the borough is now 30% lower than it was 8 years ago although rates continue to be amongst the highest in London. We recognise that reducing crime alone is not enough; residents need to feel safer in their neighbourhood and when moving about the borough.

Visible crime plays a strong role in people's sense of feeling safe; this includes drug use and drug dealing, with many people reporting it to be a problem in their local area, particularly around Bethnal Green, Spitalfields and Banglatown.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is also a key driver to people feeling unsafe. ASB is a complex issue. What might be perceived as antisocial behaviour by one group could be seen by others as appropriate use of public space. What is clear is that ASB affects all members of our community. It can blight neighbourhoods and affect people's wellbeing.

The Tower Hamlets Partnership defines ASB as any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity which damages or destroys another person's quality of life. Better managing ASB, particularly low-level persistent ASB such as nuisance and intimidating behaviour, is crucial to improving people's sense of feeling safe. Residents have told us that the council's Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams have improved the levels of visible enforcement and made them feel safer but believe that more needs to be done to tackle and prevent crime in the borough.

The Annual Residents Survey (ARS) 2010/11 results show that whilst crime remains the biggest overall concern for residents, with 42% Tower Hamlets residents listing it as an area of personal concern, this figure shows a 5% reduction from 2009/10 and a 13% reduction since 2007/08. Much of this perception change is linked directly to the steadily improving perceptions local people have regarding the level of ASB in their area. Since 2008 residents perceptions of all main categories of ASB being a big or very big problem has dropped significantly.

- Teenagers hanging around on the streets (from 67% to 54%)
- People using or dealing drugs (from 62% to 52%)
- Drunk or Rowdy behaviour (from 47% to 40%)
- Vandalism and graffiti (from 54% to 37%)

- Abandoned cars (27% to 12%)

However, we are now entering an incredibly challenging period. We are facing the run up to the Olympic Games coinciding with unprecedented public sector budget cuts, punitive welfare reforms and a faltering economy. It has the potential of a perfect storm of circumstances that is likely to manifest in significant upward pressures in all areas of Crime and ASB.

The Metropolitan Police is currently proposing a policy of reducing the numbers of Police counter service facilities (Public 'walk in' police offices staffed with a public facing counter service) across London. This will result in a reduction of such facilities in the Borough. The Police case is that modern methods of communication and telephone channels no longer require so many counter based facilities and they are realigning the service to reflect modern shifts in communication.

Currently public counters exist at Bethnal Green, Bow, Limehouse, Brick Lane, and the Isle of Dogs. Lime House and Bethnal Green are open 24 hours and the others have restricted opening times. The London Wide MPS review sought views on closing all counters, apart from one in each borough that may be open 24 hrs. There is also a possibility that that some boroughs may be required to share a 24 hr front counter.

However, in Tower Hamlets, a high proportion of residents remain technology poor and are less likely to use alternative reporting routes. It is currently not clear at a borough level what business data on visitor numbers has been used or the extent to which the move is supported or understood by residents.

Tower Hamlets has long been a place where people from different backgrounds have lived together and there are now over 90 languages spoken in the borough. Part of the vibrancy and strength of the borough is its historic attraction of diverse people and communities. However, a fear of crime, a lack of understanding of difference between some communities and the historic social and economic challenges facing the borough, can threaten its cohesiveness. Strengthening community cohesion is important as it impacts upon the social fabric of the borough and the wellbeing of residents.

If the Council and its partners are to be able to go forward together and tackle the challenges outlined above, a comprehensive review of our enforcement functions are required to ensure that we can quickly target enforcement services where they are most needed, in a way that is intelligent which has a visible impact.

### **Making Tower Hamlets a Safe and Cohesive Community**

The Partnership's problem-solving approach to tackling crime focuses on the victim, offender and location of crime to better detect and prevent crime. We know that the majority of crimes are committed by a small group of people and are concentrated in particular areas across the borough. Shared crime data will be used to analyse crime trends and develop better initiatives to target crime hotspots.

This is underpinned by a stronger focus on enforcement. The Council and Police will use existing enforcement powers, particularly on licensing, to target anti-social behaviour around particular premises and establishments. Local partners will be bringing together their enforcement resources to ensure that effort is targeted where it is most needed in a co-ordinated way to achieve maximum impact. For example we have integrated local police and Council enforcement services in the Toby Club, to effectively deploy our resources in one of the highest crime areas in the borough, and the next shared facility is already being planned.

This strong enforcement approach is coupled with interventionist support to address the socio-economic causes of crime and anti-social behaviour. Poverty, deprivation, poor parenting and a lack of positive activities often lead people, particularly young people, into anti-social and criminal activities. Providing support for those at risk of criminal activity, including effective treatment for problematic drug users and housing and employment support for ex-offenders will help prevent crime and social exclusion.

Greater community involvement in community safety and in holding the police and community safety partnership to account is crucial to making Tower Hamlets a safer and more cohesive borough. We will make greater use of ward panels, neighbourhood watch groups, police volunteers, police cadets and the Police and Community Safety Board – a resident-led body informing policing priorities – to help improve local policing. Using the community role of Councillors will also be crucial both at a ward and borough-wide level using the expertise and different perspectives of Executive members and those on Overview and Scrutiny.

A fundamental aspect to cohesion is the perception of fairness. Tensions often arise between communities when one group feels that it is being treated less favourably compared to another. Our approach to fostering community cohesion is based on providing inclusive services and working closer with communities. The way we deliver services and take decisions has a significant impact on how people feel about their local area and perceptions of fairness. We will work with communities to help build stronger relationships between people. Promoting community cohesion amongst our young people is an important aspect of this. It will help support interaction, mutual understanding and respect between and within communities.

The work of the borough's community forums, including the Inter Faith Forum, Rainbow Hamlets (our local LGBT forum), the New Residents and Refugees Forum and the No Place for Hate Campaign, will be important to celebrating and strengthening community cohesion. Local community leaders also have an integral role to play in fostering community cohesion. Councillors, for example, have championed cohesion in the borough, spearheading innovative work to tackle cohesion issues.

Tackling violent extremism remains a key priority for the Partnership. We are currently evaluating what we have learnt over the last three years about the risk of violent extremism in Tower Hamlets and what works in reducing the vulnerability of individuals to extremism and improving community resilience. We are using this information to develop a more effective and flexible local response to preventing

extremism and applying learning in key service areas including youth services and safeguarding. The government recently published its new Prevent Strategy and work is progressing with partners to develop our local response.

To make Tower Hamlets a Safe and Cohesive Community the Partnership will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Objective 1: Focusing on crime and anti-social behaviour
- Objective 2: Reducing re-offending
- Objective 3: Reducing the fear of crime
- Objective 4: Fostering greater community cohesion
- Objective 5: Tackling violent extremism

### **One Tower Hamlets Focus**

As part of making Tower Hamlets a safer borough the Partnership is committed to reducing crime and making people feel safer, including protecting and supporting victims of crime. The borough has experienced an increase in violence against women which remains largely hidden and victims often suffer in silence. Children who experience domestic violence are denied the safety and protection they need at home to achieve and become confident, healthy adults.

Hate crime also remains a challenge for the borough. Diversity is one of the borough's key strengths and the majority of people get on well together. However there can be levels of tension between groups. If these are left unchecked they can undermine cohesion in the borough and make people feel unsafe, denying them of the right to live, work and study in the borough safe from fear and intimidation.

The Partnership recognises the importance of cohesion to delivering One Tower Hamlets and the Community Plan priorities. It will work together to foster cohesion supported by a shared cohesion framework.

In order to achieve our commitments to One Tower Hamlets we will:

- Prevent and reduce violence against women and girls.
- Target all forms of hate crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Develop and deliver the Partnership's approach to community cohesion.

### **Contributing Partnership Strategies**

Alongside this document, the following strategies will help make Tower Hamlets more safe and cohesive:

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Substance Misuse Strategy 2011-2014 (Drugs & Alcohol)
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Integrated Offender Management Plan
- PREVENT Plan (under review in line with National Guidance)
- ASB Profile
- Hate Crime Strategy



## A Safe & Cohesive Community - Delivery Structure

The Safe & Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group (Community Safety Partnership) exists to ensure there is efficient and effective governance, reporting and accountability against the Community Plan themes and vision. The delivery structure brings together two approaches:

### The VOLT model

VOLT stands for Victim – Offender – Location - Time: These are the elements that make up virtually any crime. This model has been developed by the Metropolitan Police Service to help ensure best use of resources. It does this by helping ensure that the right resources are in the right place at the right time and targeting the priorities identified through analytical intelligence. The result is enhanced operational co-ordination.

The VOLT approach is reflected in the CSP governance model:

- The Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Boards are primarily **victim** focussed
- The approach to **offenders** is to be co-ordinated through a single Integrated Offender Management Board
- **Locations** are at the centre of Service Integration work detailed below which has adopted a Joint Tasking approach to ensure that resources are deployed at the most appropriate **location** and **time**. This will be monitored through the Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Board.

### Service Integration

The Service Integration Teams will seek to make best use of existing local structures to enable effective tasking and resolution of identified local priorities and problem solving. This involves a review of the way we engage residents, work together to solve problems and implement strategy.

The Service Integration Team will have 3 characteristics:

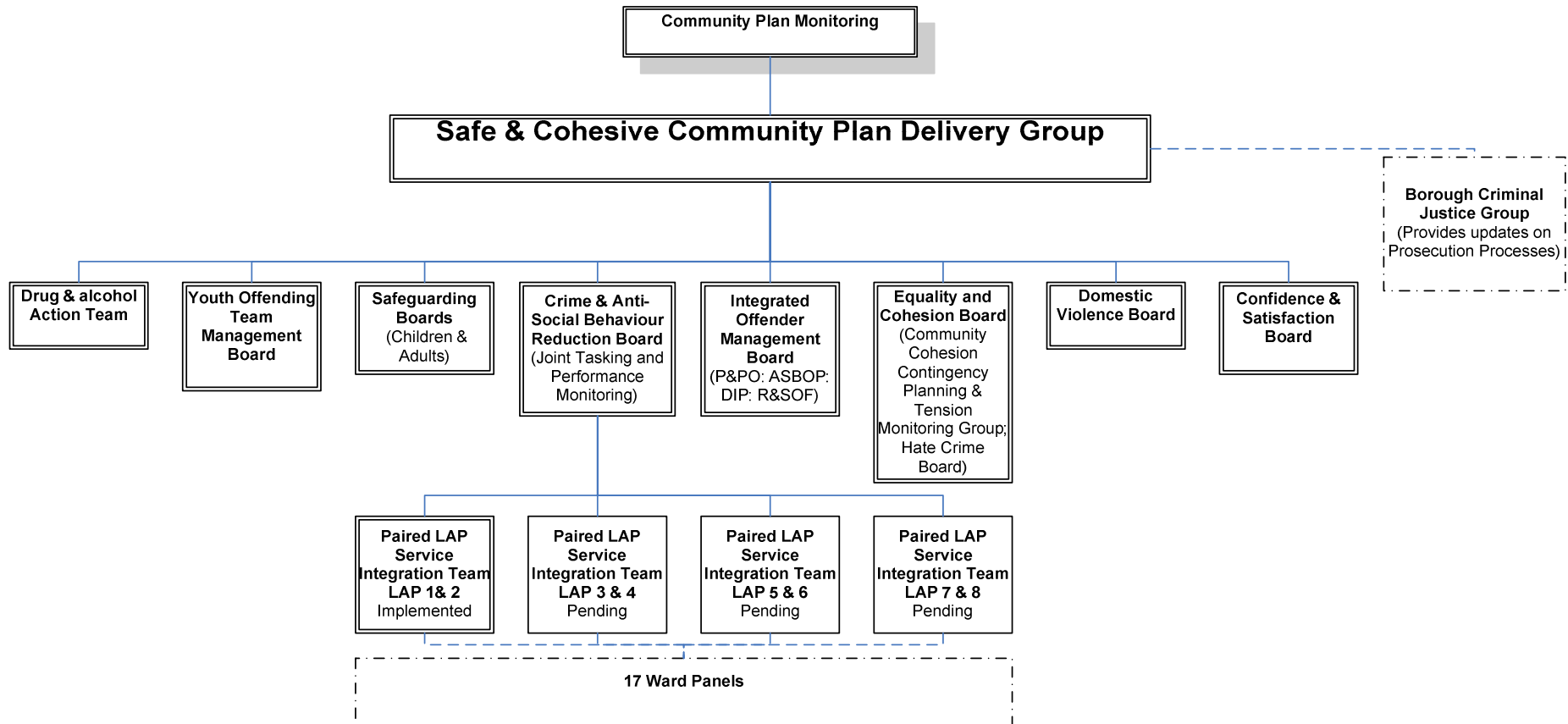
- Neighbourhood focus to enable direct management of service standards and local accountability by residents through the Neighbourhood Agreement.
- Locality prioritisation through the Police Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels. The recommendation is that the Ward Panels will set at least 3 community priorities which will cover policing and LBTH Communities Localities and Culture priorities. It will become the responsibility of the Service Integration Team to problem solve against these priorities.
- Strategic delivery and accountability: Service Integration Teams will be responsible for the local delivery of the Community Safety Plan. Cross-agency activity will be co-ordinated through joint tasking on a monthly or more frequent basis. The Crime & Anti-social Behaviour Reduction Board will meet quarterly to monitor the performance of each of the Service Integration Teams.

In addition to the arrangements outlined above, there is a statutory requirement to have a Drug and Alcohol Action Team board, a Youth Offending Board, and the Adults Safeguarding Board.

Other boards exist that do not specifically fit the VOLT / Service Integration model outlined above due to their specific focus. These include the Cohesion Board and the Confidence & Satisfaction Board which are detailed below.

The diagram on the following page shows the delivery structure for the Safe & Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group (Community Safety Partnership):

# Safe and Cohesive Community Delivery Structure





With regard to each of the groups within this structure:

- **Safe & Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group (Community Safety Partnership)**

This group is accountable for the reduction of crime and increasing community cohesion. It will determine priorities and oversee the statutory and non-statutory boards and panels responsible for the specific elements of this. It meets on a bi-monthly basis and is co-chaired by the Metropolitan Police Service Tower Hamlets Borough Commander and the Deputy Mayor for Tower Hamlets with responsibility for Community Safety. It is also responsible for ensuring that the Partners meet their statutory obligations in relation to strategic review and planning for the safety of the borough's community. Membership to this Group is at Chief Executive or Corporate Director level across key public agencies. For a full list of members see Appendix 3

- **Youth Offending Team Management Board**

The YOT Management Board oversees the youth offending multi-agency team which comprises of staff from; the Council; Police; Social Services; Education; Youth Service; Probation and the Health Service. The team works with young people from arrest through to sentencing. They provide services to the youth court, and work with young people given final warnings from the police and those given community sentences. The team also works with young people and the community to prevent young people from entering the criminal justice system.

- **Safeguarding Boards (Children & Adults)**

These two separate multi agency steering groups comprise of lead officers from; Health; Police; Housing; Education; Commissioning Bodies; Voluntary Sector; Probation; Legal Services; Department of working Pensions; and Social Services who are the lead agency. The steering groups co-ordinate activity aimed at ensuring that vulnerable children and adults are protected through the application of the London Borough of Tower Hamlet's Children and Adult Protection Policies.

- **Drug & Alcohol Action Team Board**

This is chaired by the council Corporate Director for Communities, Localities and Culture, with membership consisting of representatives from the Tower Hamlets NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT), the Metropolitan Police Service, The National Probation Service and LBTH Adult and Children's (social) services. It is a statutory board with responsibilities for coordinating and commissioning services relating to drug and alcohol treatment; young people's treatment, education and prevention developing community capacity; and tackling the availability of drugs.

- **Domestic Violence Board**

This board oversees our multi-agency approach to domestic violence. It has oversight of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Case conference

(MARAC) and monitors the effectiveness of the Serious Domestic Violence Court.

- **Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Board**

This Board will be established as part of the programme to join together service delivery in the localities. The group will meet quarterly to monitor the performance of each Service Integration Team (SIT). On a monthly basis this group will carryout joint tasking across all 4 Service Integration Teams. The membership of this group will include Service Heads from CLC, Police Superintendent, and the Service Head Youth Services. Day to day management of the SIT's will be the responsibility of the Locality Co-ordinator with monthly meetings chaired by Chief Inspector or CLC Service Head on a rotating basis. External partners such as Head Teachers, RSL's, and religious leaders will also be invited to these monthly meetings.

- **Integrated Offender Management**

This new group will responsible for the management of offenders in the community. It brings together a range of activity including the Priority Prolific Offender Scheme, the Youth Offending Team, Probation and the Drugs Intervention Programme. The objective of this work is to increase community safety through reducing re-offending.

- **Equality and Cohesion Board**

This board has responsibility for the delivery of the Preventing Violent Extremism (Prevent) programme and partnership work to promote cohesion. It also has oversight of the Community Cohesion Contingency Planning & Tension Monitoring Group, the Hate Crime Board and the Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board.

- **Confidence & Satisfaction Board**

The confidence and satisfaction of the community in our shared approach to crime and cohesion are key success measures. This group will have an overview of activity to ensure that community views and concerns are understood and addressed efficiently and effectively. It will also ensure that residents have access to relevant information, including feedback of actions taken.

NB. Key Partners of the Community Safety Partnership also come together for Olympic Planning via the Olympic Planning Operations Group for the period leading up to and including the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## **Drivers of Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

For a crime to take place there needs to be reason. If a crime is an effect, then the cause or 'driver' as we call it is normally that reason.

There can be many reasons for crime and anti-social behaviour to take place. Drivers include poverty and unemployment, both of which are high within the borough. Others can include poor parenting, low academic achievement or society in general. Two key drivers within the borough are drugs and alcohol.

In some respects, the Olympics could also be seen as a driver of crime, due to the increased population both leading up to and during the games.

### ***Drugs***

<sup>1</sup>There is a clear link between dependent drug users of Class A drugs, like heroin and crack cocaine, and acquisitive crimes, such as theft, burglary, robbery, fraud and shoplifting committed in order to fund that habit. People arrested for "trigger offences" – those most associated with drug use – are tested for drugs and many test positive.

A Class A drug habit may cost the user in the region of £15,000 - £30,000 a year. As stolen goods may only sell for about a third of their value, this could mean a single user being responsible for up to £90,000 per year of acquisitive crime.

There are an estimated 130,000 - 200,000 problematic drug users in the United Kingdom. It is estimated that the market value of goods stolen to fund drugs habits in the UK could be £2 - £2.5 billion each year.

Drugs are linked to crime and anti-social behaviour in a number of other ways. There are the crimes of possession, supply of drugs and driving whilst unfit through drugs. However there are also links to violence and possession of weapons, particularly relating to drug dealing.

Drug use and dealing can also lead to anti-social behaviour due to the effects it has on the surrounding community. Drugs can cause users to act differently, becoming less considerate of others, more abusive and sometimes violent. Drug users may also discard drugs paraphernalia once they have taken it, leading to drugs litter such as needles. Groups of people congregating in public to use drugs can impact on the local community's feeling of safety and confidence to go out in public.

A high percentage of sex workers are addicted to Class A drugs. Whilst prostitution itself is not a crime, in some cases it can have negative impacts on the local community, through anti-social behaviour, sex acts taking place in public and discarded condoms.

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<sup>1</sup>Drugscope How much crime is drug related? January 2004

## **Alcohol**

Alcohol affects the human body by lowering inhibitions, increasing the likelihood of making bad decisions, misinterpreting situations and acting out of character. All these effects on the human body can make a person more likely to be either a victim or perpetrator of crime.

Alcohol is often linked to violence and anti-social behaviour, Drink Aware estimated that 23,000 alcohol related incidents take place in the UK every week, including street fights, breaches of the peace and drunk and disorderly conduct.

Research by the Home Office found that more than half of all violent crime is committed by offenders who are drunk and more than a third happens in and around pubs and clubs. One third of all reported domestic violence is linked to alcohol misuse. The British Medical Association has said that Alcohol is a factor in:

- 60 -70% of homicides
- 75% of stabbings
- 70% of beatings
- 50% of fights and domestic assaults

It is important to emphasise that the majority of people who drink alcohol are not violent but drinking increases the likelihood of being a victim of alcohol related violence.

According to the Home Office<sup>2</sup>, the overall cost of crime and anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol misuse in the UK is estimated at between £8 and £13 billion per year. This is solely based on the crime element of alcohol misuse and does not include the costs which are borne by the NHS for related health conditions. The rate of alcohol related hospital admissions is increasing by 70,000 every year.

Alcohol misuse is known to be a driver for violence towards strangers in public places (including in and around licensed premises) and towards family members (domestically in the home). Nationally, it is estimated that nearly half of all violent crimes and anti-social behaviour is alcohol related.

Alcohol misuse is closely linked to anti-social behaviour in a number of ways, all stemming from the effect that alcohol has on the user's behaviour. People drinking in licensed premises can cause disturbances in the surrounding area as they make loud noises upon leaving, are less considerate to local residents, discard rubbish (either empty bottles/cans or food) and urinate in public.

Alcohol misuse in public places can impact on the community's feeling of safety and confidence to go out in public as residents report feeling intimidated, particularly by noisy, abusive and inconsiderate behaviour.

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<sup>2</sup>Home Office 19-01-2010 "Government reveals tough new powers to tackle alcohol crime"

## ***Olympics***

From one perspective, the Olympics and Paralympics can be seen as a driver of crime and anti-social behaviour, through attracting larger numbers of people into Tower Hamlets and London more generally, including through employment, development, and to attend events. This may impact in a negative way through providing more opportunities to commit crime.

Particular phases of the Olympics could stimulate an increase in specific types of crime and anti-social behaviour, for example the construction of venues could link to acquisitive crime from building sites and contractor vehicles and the 'games time' may be linked to increases in prostitution, robbery, domestic violence and drug dealing.

Analysis of over 100 crime and disorder documents relating to Tower Hamlets, the national picture and the international picture has shown the following are potential risks related to the Olympics and the large number of people entering and or gathering in Tower Hamlets:

Large public gatherings / events and sporting events can lead to alcohol consumption, assaults, robbery, theft, disorder, recreational drug use, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour as they leave the venues.

Large influx of tourists unfamiliar with the local environment can lead to increases of theft and robbery.

World media attention on the area can lead to increases in public protests and counter demonstrations and in turn flash points for disorder, criminal damage and violence.

Increased demand for prostitution can lead to increases in people trafficking, sexual exploitation and related anti-social behaviour.

Increased alcohol consumption following sporting events often leads to increases in anti-social behaviour and domestic violence.

Disruption to the public transport network could impact of drug treatment services which in turn could lead to increases in drug use and acquisitive crime.

It is important to remember that while the Olympics can be seen as a driver for crime and anti-social behaviour, the partnership's effort to manage the potential risks could also have positive effects on crime and public perceptions of safety. For example, an increased level of service resourcing and highly visible officers in the public realm could act as a deterrent for opportunist crime and also increase public feelings of safety and confidence in partnership agencies. This increased high visibility could also act as a deterrent to criminals in the surrounding areas.

Evidence gathered from previous Olympic host cities has shown that crime and ASB increase both in absolute terms and rates. For example, downtown Vancouver experienced 30% increase in overall violent crime during the 2010 Winter Games while Manchester reported a similar uplift during the Commonwealth Games in 2002 (personal communication from Mark Ross, Business Link Manager). As a consequence of the Olympics and

Paralympics, it is therefore highly likely that partner agencies will face significant rises in local crime and ASB reports across the summer of 2012 which may jeopardise targets based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and statutory response times.

## **Community Safety Plan Priorities**

The Community Safety Partnership is made up of a large number of agencies who have a responsibility to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour or to improve community cohesion. As a partnership, we are committed to the following priorities in 2012-13.

### ***Violence***

Violent crime has a far reaching and enduring effect on its victims. The fear of violent crime within a community can greatly affect the way that the community behaves and interacts. These crimes by their very nature have an effect on the victim which is often traumatic and life long. Often a single encounter of a violent nature will cause an individual to change the way in which they conduct their lives, often to the detriment and hardship of the victim.

Our approach to violent crime is focussed on tackling and reducing all types of violent crime within the community. Violence includes gun crime, knife crime, 'most serious violence' and 'assault with injury'<sup>3</sup>

The partnership also recognises the seriousness of violence towards hospital and ambulance workers. It will improve data sharing protocols to increase reporting and robust prosecutions.

#### **Measures of the partnership's performance on Violence include:**

- Number of 'Most serious violence' offences (formerly NI15)
- Most serious violence Sanctioned Detection (SD) rate
- Number of Gun Crimes and Gun Crime SD Rate
- Number of Knife Crimes and Knife crime SD Rate
- Number of Assaults with Injury

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<sup>3</sup> Gun Crime

Violence Against the Person, robbery, burglary and sexual offences in which a firearm (defined as a weapon covered by Firearms Acts 1968 to 1988 and excluding CS/pepper spray) are used.

#### **Knife Crime**

All offences of Murder, attempted murder, threats to kill, manslaughter, infanticide, wounding or carrying out an act endangering life, GBH without intent, ABH and other injury, sexual assault, rape, robbery where a knife or sharp instrument (defined as any instrument that can pierce the skin) has been used.

#### **Most serious violence & assault with injury**

MSV: Homicide and Child Destruction, Attempted Murder, Wounding or other act endangering life, GBH (Part), Causing Death by Dangerous/Careless/ Inconsiderate Driving, Causing Death by Aggravated Vehicle Taking.

Assault with injury: ABH and other injury and racially or religiously aggravated ABH and other injury

## ***Serious Acquisitive Crime***

An acquisitive crime is one where the victim is permanently deprived of something that belongs to them by another person/s. Serious acquisitive crimes are the most harmful which include burglary, robbery and vehicle crime (both theft from and theft of a motor vehicle). These crimes are often committed by a small number of prolific offenders with drug misuse acting as a driver and the proceeds of acquisitive crime used to fund addictions.

Acquisitive crimes have a high impact on the community's feeling of safety and dealing with acquisitive crime quickly has the biggest impact on levels of public confidence in local community safety agencies.

Integrated offender management and targeted work around prolific and priority offenders is key to reducing these types of crimes. Working in partnership, agencies such as the Police, Probation, Drug Treatment Services and the Council can manage these offenders by providing a range of interventions from treatment and support which seek to address the causes, to criminal justice interventions such as the courts.

Our work in this area focuses on residential burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime. It utilises an intelligence and evidence based approach to target activity in areas where it will make the most difference, such as around markets and transport hubs. Around transport hubs it will require partnership officers to work closely with Police Safer Transport Teams, Transport For London and the British Transport Police, to ensure people are safe on journeys in Tower Hamlets.

While community safety agencies have a responsibility to prevent, investigate and bring offenders to justice for acquisitive crimes, the community also have a responsibility to take reasonable steps to safeguard their property and prevent crime from happening in the first place. Following crime prevention advice and participating in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes will be crucial in helping us to reduce this type of crime.

### **Measures of the partnership's performance on Serious Acquisitive Crime include:**

- Number of Serious Acquisitive Crimes (formerly NI16)
- Number of Personal Robberies
- Number of Commercial Robberies
- Total Robbery numbers
- Robbery SD Rate
- Number of Residential Burglaries\*\*
- Residential Burglary SD Rate
- Residential Burglary SD Rate excluding offences Taken Into Consideration (TIC)
- Number of thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Number of thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Serious Acquisitive Crime SD Rate



## **Youth**

While Tower Hamlets has one of London's highest proportions of young people in its population, young offenders are a small, but growing minority within that population. In the recent London disturbances only seven young people residing in Tower Hamlets were charged with related offences.

Priority areas set by the Government for the coming year for Youth Offending Services (YOS) are;

- The Reduction of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System
- The Reduction of Custody (remands and Custodial Sentences)
- The Reduction of Re-offending

Serious Youth Violence, Youth Violence and Youth Anti-Social Behaviour rightly remain a concern for the Community Safety Partnership and are part of our strategic plan.

The Partnership and the Mayor's priorities show commitment to improving youth educational attainment thereby giving young people positive futures to work towards. We hope to continue to intervene early to divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour by providing positive activities for young people, and supporting them to resist entering into destructive lifestyles, anti-social behaviour or criminality. Our record in doing so through the YOS Early Intervention and Prevention strand is well documented in the current Strategic Review Update draft as follows.

### **First Time Entrants (FTE) 2010/11**

The 2010/11 rate per 100,000 is the lowest since records began in 2000/01. Since 2009, the youth offending service has been able to make a significant reduction in the FTE rate per 100,000 youth population, despite the rise in the number of young people receiving pre-court disposals. In 2010/11, we exceeded our FTE target; however, it remains above the London average.

Despite the evident success of the Early Intervention/Prevention work of the Youth Offending Service, the demand on the statutory services of the Youth Offending Team has still increased - and the threat to the continuation of early intervention work through uncertain funding (The service is not funded beyond March 2012) represents an additional threat in terms of achieving all of the Government's targets - If Early Intervention is discontinued, Re-offending and Custodial rates will inevitably increase. This is a further concern for

Community Safety and the Council's budget as the government is transferring the cost of custody to the Local Authority and introducing Payment by Results for our service.

## The Reduction of Custody (remands and Custodial Sentences)

### The Reduction of Re-offending

The Youth Offending Team has recently been subject to a Core Case Inspection by HMIP which focussed on three areas;

- The Safeguarding of young people
- The Management of Harm (Public Protection)
- The Likelihood of Re-offending

Findings were as follows:

	Scores from Wales and the English regions that have been inspected to date			Scores for Tower Hamlets and City YOT
	Lowest	Highest	Average	
<b>'Safeguarding' work</b> (action to protect the young person)	37%	91%	68%	<b>64%</b>
<b>'Risk of Harm to others' work</b> (action to protect the public)	36%	85%	63%	<b>49%</b>
<b>'Likelihood of Re-offending' work</b> (individual less likely to re-offend)	43%	87%	71%	<b>71%</b>

Our plan for the coming year in the statutory area of work is to devise and implement a robust action plan to raise our performance in these areas - whilst we recognise that the Inspection focussed on processes rather than outcomes for children and young people (in the latter our performance is strong) we fully accept the Inspectorate's findings that our assessment of offenders needs and the delivery of our work could be smarter, more efficient and even more effective. We will also continue to innovate and adapt as the Ministry of Justice becomes our governing body, with the imminent demise of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

For example, along with Hackney (as lead Authority) Haringey, Islington, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest we are embarking on a two year "Youth Justice Re-investment" grant funded (Reducing Pathways to Custody) pilot using Multi-Systemic Therapy to work with Offenders on the brink of custody and their families where home conditions and relationships are assessed to be a core cause of offending. This is one of the first "Payment by Results" pilot schemes in the country it commenced in October 2011

**Measures of the partnership's performance on Youth include:**

- Number of Serious Youth Violence and Youth Violence offences
- Triage diverting 1<sup>st</sup> time offenders from Youth Justice Board
  - a) referrals to triage
  - b) satisfactory completion of intervention
  - c) satisfactory completion of intervention who go on to re-offend
  - d) failed to complete intervention who go on to re-offend
- Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders (formerly NI19)

## ***Violence Against Women and Girls***

Violence against women and girls includes domestic abuse / violence where the victim knows the offender / perpetrator, sexual offences where the offender is not known to the victim and crimes such as female genital mutilation and honour based violence. Sex workers are particularly at risk of being exploited and victimised in these ways and so are specifically considered as part of this section.

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse which is of a psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional nature between two adults who are or have been intimate partners regardless of gender. It also includes family members which are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, and sister, grandparents, in-laws and step family. It is a major cause of homelessness, as well as a factor in a high proportion of child protection cases.

Our work on domestic violence is focused on increasing reporting, increasing successful prosecutions, and reducing incidents.

We aim to prevent domestic violence and reduce the harm it causes by developing a co-ordinated community response that supports and protects victims, holds abusers to account and reduces social tolerance through awareness raising campaigns and community education activities. The Tower Hamlets Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference ensures that high risk victims are identified and assessed so that each is given the appropriate level of support from suitable agencies. The Specialist Domestic Violence Court ensures that court cases are fast tracked and victims effectively supported to ensure that more cases are successful at court.

Female prostitutes are often at risk of violent crime in the course of their work which can include both physical and sexual attacks, including rape. Perpetrators of such offences include violent clients and pimps. Many prostitutes or sex workers also face domestic abuse / violence from their partners, especially if the partner is also their pimp. Violence is a common mechanism of control.

There tend to be higher levels of violence committed against street sex workers compared with off-street workers, the latter often going unreported to the police. Prostitutes often put themselves at increased risk by taking their clients to 'out of the way' places, where they are less likely to be interrupted.

There is evidence that trafficked women are working in the borough. The increase in human trafficking for sexual exploitation is also fuelling the market for prostitution in the UK, although this is largely confined to off street and residential premises such as brothels, massage parlours, saunas and in residential flats. This is a lucrative business and is often linked with other organised criminal activity such as immigration crime, violence, drug abuse and money laundering. Women may be vulnerable to exploitation because of

their immigration status, economic situation or, more often, because they are subjected to abuse, coercion and violence.

Safe Exit at Toynbee Hall is a key agency bringing together voluntary and statutory agencies to develop better services for people in prostitution and to reduce the impact of prostitution on communities. They work in partnership on strategies to reduce harm to those involved, to support them to change their lifestyles and to prevent vulnerable people entering prostitution.

The Partnership's work on sexual violence focuses on increasing reporting and prosecutions, reducing incidents and raising awareness of services. We will work on encouraging victims to report these crimes to the police, and encouraging take up of specialist support available, for example, through Haven Sexual Assault Referral Centre, in Whitechapel. We will focus on providing training to key professionals such as health service and housing providers to increase their understanding of the issues involved.

**Measures of the partnership's performance on Violence Against Women and Girls include:**

- Number of domestic Violence Offences
- Domestic Violence SD Rate
- Domestic Offence Arrest Rate
- Number of rapes
- Rape SD rate
- Number of other Serious Sexual Offences\*\*\*
- Other Serious Sexual Offences SD Rate
- Reduce the length of time Domestic Violence is experienced before it is initially reported to a specialist agency.
- Number of repeat incidents of domestic violence
- Number of DV Murders (was NI34)

\*\*\* Other Serious Sexual Offences – includes sexual activity involving a child under 16, incest or familial sexual offences, exploitation of prostitution, soliciting for the purpose of prostitution, abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature, sexual grooming, other miscellaneous sexual offences, unnatural sexual offences, exposure and voyeurism.

## ***Drugs / Alcohol***

Alcohol consumption is increasing and particular concerns include underage drinking and alcohol related health problems. Anti-social behaviour caused by excessive drinking has an impact in many areas of community life.

<sup>4</sup>Nationally, it is estimated that nearly half of all violent crime and antisocial behaviour is alcohol related. Between April 2009 and March 2010 drug related offences (dealing and possession) in Tower Hamlets accounted for 12.2% of all “notifiable” offences dealt with by the police. This is the second highest rate in London. Where mandatory drug tests in police custody suites have been undertaken, 30% of those tested have had a positive result for opiates or cocaine (Class A drugs).

The most recent estimate suggests that there are around 3,795 problematic drug users in Tower Hamlets; Of this number, 1,775 (47%) are estimated to have not yet engaged with treatment.

It has been estimated nationally that the cost of alcohol misuse is huge, with at least £6 billion wasted every year. However it is also a fact that treatment can be cost effective – for every £1 spent on treatment, £5 is saved elsewhere. For drug misuse treatment, similar financial benefits are possible: for every £1 spent on drug treatment in Tower Hamlets, £3.95 is saved on health and crime costs.

In Tower Hamlets, we will support people and families to make healthy lifestyle choices; we will reduce harm to those at risk, and empower those who are addicted or dependent on drugs or alcohol to recover. We will relentlessly bear down on the crime and anti-social behaviour associated with drug and alcohol misuse that impacts on our communities.

The Partnership aims to help people who are addicted to or dependent on drugs or alcohol to recover, by enabling, empowering and supporting them to progress along a journey of sustainable improvement to their health, well-being and independence.

The Partnership is very aware of the serious social, psychological and physical complications of drug use, as well as the issue of multiple drug use or combined substance misuse and mental health problems (known as dual diagnosis). We believe that our services are particularly attuned to the needs of complex clients and while this is a historically challenging client group for traditional drug services, we will aim to ensure that Tower Hamlets services continue to develop and effectively meet their needs.

We have organised our commitments on drug and alcohol misuse around the three cross-cutting pillars of Behaviour Change, Treatment, and Enforcement and Regulation.

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<sup>4</sup> Tower Hamlets Substance Misuse Strategy 2011-14

- Behaviour Change includes the actions we will take to ensure high quality information is available on drugs and alcohol, the promotion and prevention activities we will develop, and the advice and initial support options available to people who might have early stage problems with drugs and alcohol.
- Treatment includes the actions we will take to improve the access and treatment options available for people who are dependent on, or who have problems with, alcohol or drugs
- Enforcement and Regulation includes the actions we will take to enforce the law as it relates to alcohol and drugs, and reduce the anti-social behaviour and crime associated with drug and alcohol misuse.

The Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team offers help and support to people who use substances (both drugs and alcohol) and is working to reduce drink and drug related anti-social behaviour on the streets in Tower Hamlets. The team works in estates, hostels, parks and other public spaces to build relationships with street drinkers and drug users so they know where to turn to when they are ready to kick their habit. By tackling the problems at street level, the council is able to provide long-lasting solutions to issues such as begging, anti-social behaviour and shoplifting, while helping people reclaim their lives.

The partnership has recently introduced a Responsible Drinking Borough policy which effectively means that alcohol related anti-social behaviour can now be tackled in public places by both Police and Council Enforcement Officers, when it happens with additional powers to seize alcohol from those drinking in public.

The Council continues to fund activity to reduce drug supply. This includes a dedicated police team (Partnership Task Force) to tackle drug dealing on the borough's streets and related ASB. Other activity includes work towards a Police target to arrest 'a dealer a day'. There are also specific covert operations to tackle high level drug dealing and remove teams of drug dealers in specific hotspots. These targeted operations are extremely resource intensive and owe their effectiveness in large part to the important role the community plays in sharing intelligence with partner agencies.

**Our priorities in 2012-13 include:**

- Undertaking Treatment Review and implementing recommendations to:
  - a) Support more people into treatment and do this earlier
  - b) Improve outcomes
  - c) Improve voluntary uptake of treatment for statutory and non-statutory offenders with issues but no treatment requirements
- Greater NHS involvement in alcohol licensing

**Current measures for Drugs and Alcohol include:**

- Number of drug intervention programme referrals that re-offend
- Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment (formerly NI40)
- Perception of drug use or drug dealing as a problem (formerly NI42)



## ***Integrated Offender Management***

Integrated Offender Management is a partnership approach to reduce the actions of prolific or other priority offenders. Prolific offenders are a small number of offenders who carry out a high proportion of crimes. This work is linked to longstanding work on priority and prolific offenders (PPOs), which works under the strands of 'Prevent and Deter' and 'Catch and Convict'.

The overall aim of this approach is to support and improve the prosecution process and reduce the re-offending of prolific and other priority offenders, which should consequently reduce the number of crimes and their victims.

Through effective partnership working between police, probation, health and the council, we will identify prolific offenders; get them into appropriate rehabilitation/treatment where possible, remove the causes/drivers of their crimes and prevent them from committing further crimes. Where this approach is inappropriate or ineffective we will manage their offending behaviour with intensive interventions to disrupt their offending and fast track investigations/court cases so that the prosecution success rate increases.

Ultimately our aim is to prevent the 'revolving door' effect, where offenders leaving custody, court orders or treatment, re-offend very quickly.

Current measures and priorities for Integrated Offender Management include:

- Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence (formerly NI 143)
- Drug intervention programme referrals that re-offend
- Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or license (formerly NI 14)
- Rate of proven re-offending by adults under probation supervision
- Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision (formerly NI18)

## ***Anti-Social Behaviour***

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) includes a wide variety of incidents from substantial criminal offences, through disorder to nuisance and noise. It may even be described as anything which impacts on the normal tranquillity of life within a community. Deliberate fire setting and arson are also considered here under this anti-social behaviour section.

Within Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership we utilise multi-agency approaches to all ASB reports. Partnership working is the most effective way to tackle problems and to supervise the progress of these issues to a satisfactory conclusion, irrespective of how long it takes. The Borough Crime Tasking Group (BCTG) monitors and tasks partnership resources in response to emerging community issues across the borough.

Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and ASB Investigators, Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) and Housing Officers have important roles to play in the identification and investigation of anti-social behaviour.

When necessary, partnership officers will progress cases against perpetrators of anti-social behaviour through the partnership's ASB Legal Consultation and Certification Board. The board oversees legal applications and enforcement action, ensuring that appropriate partnership consultation and interventions have been carried out.

London Fire Brigade work with partners to reduce fire related anti-social behaviour. LFB work with partners in the following ways:

- Attending Safeguarding Adults Board to identify most at risk and engage with that community effectively
- Joint working with Tower Hamlets Homes and Poplar Harca to promote home fire safety, identify hotspot areas for rubbish fires and develop reduction action plans including estate action days and arson reduction plans.
- Working with Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams to develop arson reduction plans for hotspots using practical measures and education.
- Working with the Public Realm to identify and report rubbish hotspot areas to prevent rubbish fires occurring.

### **Current measurements and priorities for ASB are set out below:**

- Anti-Social Behaviour and Drugs
- Number of Arson incidents (all deliberate Fires)
- Number of Deliberate Fires (Deliberate)
- Number of Grass/open land fires – deliberate and unknown
- Number of Rubbish Fires – deliberate and unknown
- Progress Council Enforcement Review
- NI33 Arson Incidents–there are 2 targets which make up this indicator:
  - a) measures the change in primary fires
  - b) measures the change in secondary fires

## ***Cohesion and Hate Crime***

The Tower Hamlets Community Plan aims to make the borough a better place for everyone who lives and works here. The borough's diversity is one of its greatest strengths with the richness, vibrancy and energy that our communities bring. At the heart of the Community Plan is a commitment to build One Tower Hamlets, to tackle inequality, strengthen cohesion and build community leadership and personal responsibility. These objectives are reflected in all our key strategic activities.

In committing ourselves to building One Tower Hamlets, the Tower Hamlets Partnership has made a public commitment to treating people with fairness and respect regardless of their differences. Everyone living, working or visiting the borough has the right to live free from discrimination and prejudice. Tackling inequality and ensuring that the borough is a place where people feel safe and where difference is seen not as a threat but as a core strength requires strong local leadership and active community participation.

### **Cohesion**

Since 2008 the development of 'One Tower Hamlets' has placed cohesion as part of a cycle of action embedded into day-to-day work: tackling inequality leads to the strengthening of cohesion and thereby builds community leadership and personal responsibility which can tackle inequality, strengthen communities.

The strength of our local partnerships has been crucial to enabling us to develop this work. We have well established partnerships between the Council, Police and other statutory and community organisation to promote community cohesion and tackle hate. A long standing commitment to fighting discrimination is shared by a wide range of partners, which is framed by our borough wide No Place for Hate Campaign. A wide programme of work continues to bring communities together including projects delivered through the One Tower Hamlets Fund.

Our approach to fostering community cohesion is also based on providing inclusive services. The way we deliver services and take decisions has a significant impact on way that people feel about their local area and their lives, as well as those of their families and the people around them.

### **In 2011-12 we will:**

- Implement the Community Cohesion Framework, which will provide a clearer strategy for our high level commitment to ensure that cohesion policy translates into effective service delivery
- Explore the local implications of the public sector Equality Duty and the Localism Bill
- Use the experience of a pilot on the Boundary Estate to develop Neighbourhood Agreements which link the delivery of localised services and to the respective responsibilities of the Council, partners

and residents and the strengthening of relationships between people from different backgrounds

- Use the One Tower Hamlets fund to commission up to eight local organisations to support work on bringing residents together through the Neighbourhood Agreement process
- Exploit the Mayor's role as a unifying figure via the Citizen Engagement Strategy
- Develop the community leadership of all elected members through scrutiny and its role in the budget process

### **Hate Crime**

The Tower Hamlets we live in today is a diverse and tolerant place where the vast majority of people treat each other with dignity and respect; however a small minority don't hold those values and perpetuate hate.

Hate crimes are committed on the grounds of prejudice against people of different races, faiths/beliefs, sexual orientations, gender, identities, ages and disabilities.

The Partnership works in three ways to tackle and reduce hate crimes in the borough:

- 1) To ensure that victims have access to appropriate protection and support – all hate crime victims are visited in person by police investigating officers and offered support through Victim Support Tower Hamlets.
- 2) To hold perpetrators accountable for their actions – the Hate Incident Panel operates on a monthly basis to co-ordinate multi-agency responses to hate incidents, the Police Community Safety Unit robustly tackle perpetrators charging where possible and working with schools, parents and young people to challenge bullying behaviour and attitudes
- 3) To prevent hate through raising awareness, encouraging reporting and building community cohesion – the No Place For Hate Campaign delivers four outreach events in the community each year and attends numerous community events to raise awareness of the partnership's response to hate crime and how member's of the community can pledge their support of zero tolerance to hate. The network of No Place For Hate Champions and youth champions continue to promote this work to the community.

### **Current measurements for hate crime are:**

- Racist Offences
- Racist SD Rate
- Homophobic Offences
- Homophobic SD Rate
- % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- Develop citizen engagement strategy for Bangladeshi Youth

## **Preventing Violent Extremism**

For the Tower Hamlets Partnership, work to reduce extremism and prevent individuals becoming involved in violence is fundamental to achieving One Tower Hamlets. Work on preventing violent extremism began in 2007 but our local approach developed out of existing partnerships, approaches and programmes which had enabled us to tackle complex and contentious issues in the past. Underpinning our work has been a commitment to engaging with all communities, to listen and address concerns and work with community and statutory partners to develop appropriate interventions. We recognised from the outset that we could not achieve our aims by working in isolation and have been committed throughout to strengthening accountability and transparency. Engaging with our communities has been key to increasing understanding of the impact on residents of extremism and its links to violence.

The Tower Hamlets PVE programme 2008-11 achieved a huge amount, with a number of local projects and activities recognised locally, nationally and internationally as effective and innovative. Given that this was a new area of work for local authorities and police forces, it posed significant new challenges. Evaluating our learning was a key part of our programme and developing a new phase for work beyond 2011 provides us with an opportunity to refine and develop our approach.

The evaluation and learning from our work on PVE from 2007-11 provides a firm foundation for the development of the next phase of work. However, the context for delivering work on PVE (now Prevent) has changed significantly since 2008 in financial, political and policy terms and our refreshed approach must respond effectively to these changes.

The strategic objectives for the next phase of our Prevent programme are designed to enable us to respond effectively to the following:

- The achievements and learning derived from work on Prevent between 2007-11
- Our on-going commitment to One Tower Hamlets within our refreshed Community Plan 2011
- The revised national Prevent strategy
- The reduction in funding for Prevent work and wider pressure on public service finances

### **The objectives are:**

1. Target social, peer and educational support and advice to individuals identified as at risk of involvement in extremist activity and violence
2. Strengthen community leadership to enable key individuals and organisations to challenge extremist ideology
3. Strengthen positive social networks and institutions to increase their capacity to challenge extremism and violence and disrupt networks and organisations which are sympathetic to extremism and terrorism
4. Ensure robust evaluation is built into the delivery of the Prevent programme and activities to ensure effective monitoring of impact and increased capacity of local organisations to deliver Prevent objectives

## **Public Confidence**

While the level of violent crime in Tower Hamlets is relatively low compared to other Boroughs, the fear of being a victim of violent crime is disproportionately high. Public confidence in how we respond to crime and disorder and reducing the community's fear of crime is a priority for the partnership as one leads to the other.

The partnership are committed to responding to the community's concerns and ensuring that the public believe this is happening, will lead to increased confidence and reduced fear of crime. However, addressing these priorities is complex due to the fact that we are dealing with people's perceptions which can differ for many reasons. An individual's perceptions are not solely based on their own direct experience of crime, it could be based on a friend or relatives experience. The local and national media's coverage of crimes is thought to have a huge impact too.

The partnership is committed to a two way communication process with members of the community, as this is essential to improving confidence and reducing fear.

We will continue to ask the community what their concerns are and how they feel we should tackle them through holding public meetings and consulting existing local groups including Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels, Neighbourhood Watch and Tenants and Resident Groups.

We will continue to give information on action taken responding to local concerns in the most appropriate format, be that through targeted leafleting, in person at public meetings or on the street and utilising local media.

### **Current priorities and measures for Public Confidence are:**

- ASB Satisfaction – satisfaction with Police and Community Safety Partnership
- Local Concern about ASB and Crime
  - a) Drunk and rowdy behaviour in a public place
  - b) Vandalism and Graffiti
  - c) Drug use or drug dealing as a problem
- Develop a PR Strategy to continue to change public perception of ASB
- NI21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police

## ***Olympics***

The Olympics and Paralympics will take place across London from 9<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and some of our neighbouring boroughs will be hosting a large number of events during this time.

While the Borough will not be hosting any of the Olympic or Paralympics events, it will still feel the impact of the unparalleled increase in visitors to and traffic through the borough. An Olympic Live Site will be situated in Victoria Park which will have up to 1,000,000 visitors over 15 days during the games and this will put further pressure on existing transport links within the borough.

Research of previous Olympic and Paralympics Games show an increase in visitors to boroughs will normally lead to increases in crime and disorder.

Sections of the Olympic Route Network converge at several points in Tower Hamlets which will mean an increase in the number of vehicles coming into the borough and closures/restrictions of use of roads throughout this period (due to traffic management systems and the Olympic Family Lanes which only blue light emergency vehicles can use).

The Olympics and Paralympics will put unprecedented drains on borough resources in the form of Policing and Health Services from visitors alone; it will also impact on our ability to respond to unrelated crime and disorder. Restriction in public /non games transport could see inabilities of residents to get to important drug treatments, non emergency support to victims of crime and the ability for crucial victims and witnesses to get to court cases to give evidence.

Each individual agency within the partnership is expected to experience unique risks, have their own priorities to work towards and action plans to ensure there are countermeasures for each risk.

Hosting the Olympic Games will increase the threat of a terrorist attack taking place, as the games focus the global media spotlight on London. Existing high profile locations often thought of as possible targets will be added to with the Olympic venues and national teams' training bases. The Partnership's Resilience and Counter Terrorism Group, which sits under the Olympics Operations Group works to devise our Counter Terrorism Strategy. This Strategy includes Business Continuity Plans, increased security measures for perceived targets, emergency planning and exercises to ensure we are suitably trained to counter terrorist threats/incidents.

The partnership's priority is to ensure that business as usual continues during the Olympics period, that we continue to offer the high standards of services to our residents and continue to respond to crime and disorder in an effective way that residents are accustomed to.

## **Partnership Agency Actions:**

The Drug and Alcohol Action Team are developing and implementing treatment services to respond to increased demands during the Olympics period. They are working to ensure that service users are aware of potential disruptions and ensuring contingency plans are in place to maintain key services.

NHS London is required to deliver the following objectives:

- Deliver business as usual performance levels, including any increase in demand associated with the games;
- Meet the bid commitments by providing LOCOG with the necessary ambulance and paramedic resources at all LOCOG events and through the designated hospitals provide free healthcare for the 'Games Family'
- Provide appropriate contingency for health resilience at Games Time in compliance with Department of Health guidance.
- Joint Exercises, reducing service demand, maintaining blue light services, sharing information, establishing role of NHS in 3 councils
- Delivery Board to be established in August for governance and management arrangements for 2012 Planning
- Strategic Regeneration Framework vision and strategy for achieving convergence of the socio-economic conditions of the people of the host boroughs to that of the average for London within 20 years. Relevant Indicators used to measure this:
  - Overall satisfaction with the local area
  - Perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour
- A key area of the Health Legacy's 'developing successful neighbourhoods' within the SRF is to reduce levels of violent crime and gang activity

London Fire Brigade Olympic Impact:

- The London Fire Brigade will have three permanently staffed fire stations within the Olympic Park during games period. These will deal with any incidents within the park and call on any reinforcements from neighbouring LFB fire stations as required.
- The resources within the park are additional to LFB establishment and will not impact on numbers available elsewhere in London.
- We intend to be as close to business as usual –there will be no change in numbers of staff available or numbers of appliances available within the borough. There is no intention to change shift pattern or work practices outside of the Olympic Park.
- Within the borough we are taking part in a detailed Testing and Exercising Programme to ensure that our crews are ready for the anticipated increase in operational incidents of all types and complexity right across the games period.