

Tower Hamlets Overview & Scrutiny Committee Feb 2022

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Central East BCU



Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Panel Identified Areas for Discussion

- Overview of Tower Hamlets policing priorities for 2022-23
- Operation Continuum including arrests made, convicted and rehab
- Hotspots and measures to address issues including PSPO's, Section 60 powers, patrols carried out.
- Focus Youth Violence (enforcement from policing and safer neighbourhood board perspective) including ASB



CE BCU Priorities 2022

- Street & Youth Based Violence (Gangs & Weapons)
- VAWG
- Drugs and Anti Social Behaviour
- Burglary
- Public Protection (Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse & Sex offences)
- Trust, Confidence & Engagement 'getting closer to the community'
- Strengthening Partnerships



Priority Crime and Detection Figures for FYTD as of 03/02/2022

Crime Type	Tower Hamlets		MPS	
	Volume	Detection %	Volume	Detection %
Kiv U-25's (Not VWI)	66 (+3%)	-	1024	-
Robbery	898 (-30%)	8	20521 (-40%)	8
Knife Crime	446 (-18%)	18	9421 (-31%)	16
Weapon (Possession)	200 (-17%)	72	4961 (-17%)	66
Lethal Barrel Discharges	3(-)	-	176 (-27%)	-
Burglary	2141 (-24%)	8	45841 (-32%)	5
Domestic Abuse	3731 (+22%)	16	82513 (+17%)	11
Hate Crime (exc. DA)	1117 (+42%)	17	22043 (+23%)	13
Sexual Offences	963 (+40%)	6	21222(+25%)	6

All data rounded up or down to the closest number. () -% shows drop, +% shows increase. Volume is compared to Financial year 2019/20 pre Covid.

We're cracking down on drug dealing

Operation Continuum 2021

Tower Hamlets Council is working with the police in Tower Hamlets to crack down on drug dealing and make your neighbourhood cleaner and safer. In 2021, working together has resulted in:

65



warrants executed

89



arrests and 60 people charged for drug supply related offences from Continuum raids

692



total arrests across the borough for drug supply related offences

288



people charged in total with 641 drug supply related offences

7,673



stop and searches conducted (not just for drugs)



large quantities of Class A (heroin and cocaine) and Class B (cannabis) drugs seized

61



Community Protection Warnings issued including 3,570 ASB Warnings served

£366k

in cash seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act



176



dangerous weapons recovered

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/OperationContinuum

Convictions

- Due to delays created by Covid the number of conviction is hard to quantify currently due to impending cases still to be heard at Crown Court. Arrests/charges made in 2021 will likely be heard at court sometime in 2022
- Ranked no.1 in the MET for charges in relation to drug trafficking offences – increase of 151% from 2019

Rehabilitation

- All drug users are offered the opportunity to speak to a drugs worker in custody and can be referred to external agencies
- Those involved in drug dealing/youth violence and/or are on the gangs violence matrix are followed up with intervention visits
- Partner units engage with probation around management of offenders upon release
- Operation Adder; strengthening dip/drug testing on arrest with a widening use of out of court disposals. Increasing IOM capacity and co-ordination to meet demand
- Knife crime prevention orders being utilised
- Substance & misuse outreach teams
- 18 – 24 year olds identified through Continuum now followed up by ADDER Community Navigator
- TH residents identified within prison and due for release supported by ADDER 'Through the Gate' workers into community support

ASB Interventions in 2021

Intervention	Total issued
ASB Warning	4,996
Intervention Letter	606
Home Visit	119
Live CPNW	236
Live CPN	11
CBO	41

Anti-social-behaviour in Tower Hamlets 2021

Highlights;

- Number of ASB calls is decreasing as a snapshot In July we had 1871 calls and in December 911 showing a 50% reduction. Largest reduction in the MPS over that time period.
- Over 100 active CPW/CPN's through the early intervention scheme; live on PNC. More in place than the rest of the MPS combined.
- PSPO's – Council based Nitrous Oxide PSPO in place; enforced by the funded teams along with partners.
- Problem areas remain; Whitechapel, Bethnal Green, Weavers field in particular.
- ASB car and enhanced VA desk is being utilised to target ASB in problem areas.
- Over 250 Licensed Premises visited in the last 3 months by the late night levy team resulting in 30 further visits from the CE Licensing Team. Pub Watch meetings held and several licenses reviewed.
- Dispersal zones are being utilised to prevent ASB including UME's
- Closer links with partners utilising joint intel to target specific issues in geographical locations
- Test Purchasing Operations with Cadets
- Joint work with the Council to Launch “No Laughing Matter Campaign” to target NOX related ASB
- Repeat Callers are identified; Marac referrals are completed for intervention to take place
- Repeat Venues and locations are highlighted at partnership tasking meetings and addressed

Stop & search Tower Hamlets

Learning/development

Stop and search figures

	Volume	Positive outcome	Arrests total
2020	16926	3709	1910
2021	12273	3208	1453

Section 60 authorisations (totals)

	Authorisations	Searches	Pos. Outcomes	Arrests
2020	23	216	25	14
2021	12	57	12	4

- Increased Authorising Inspector training.
- Section 60 review panel formation.
- We now have young person scrutiny in the South of the BCU.
- Anecdotal feedback is that YP go to ground when authorisation publicized.
- All in all, evidence shows we are being more considered in our approach around authorisations.
- Work already completed - continuing to work with partners in the form of; Account and Voyage.

Tackling Youth Violence

Activity:

- Intel led Stop and Search and Patrols
- Intel led investigations of gangs
- Targeting Drug Supply and possession through OP Adder and County Lines
- YOT intervention schemes
- Working with Partners – Key4Life, No Place for Hate, Cadets, Voyage, Summer sport programmes, Sexual Offence workshops, Trading Places, Schools Officers., My Endz, Osmani Centre, Faith Groups
- Addressing ASB problem areas
- Challenging CPS decisions to take dangerous individuals off the street
- Utilising new legislation around the Offensive Weapons Act
- Listening and engaging with young people
- Weapon Sweeps

Resources being Utilised:

- Wider MPS assets – TSG, VCTF
- Integrated Gangs Unit
- Robbery Task Force
- Partnership Task Force
- Violence Suppression Units
- Tower Hamlets Home Team
- VAWG – specially trained officers to support victims of sexual offences
- More robust Missing Person reporting with Inspector level oversight to safeguard vulnerable youths
- Other forces through county line investigations

Public Spaces Protection Order – Tackling Nitrous Oxide Abuse



- The LBTH Partnership Intelligence Team actively monitor reports of ASB related to the misuse of nitrous oxide (Nox). This in turn informs the analysis of hotspots and the taskings that are assigned to THEOs, Police and other council teams to tackle this issue.
- Where officers, both council and police have been able to engage with suspects (groups that are mainly aged over 24) they have advised them on the dangers of using psychoactive substances and issued information about support available to those with a substance misuse problem.
- However, the misuse of Nox often results in ASB and unacceptable levels of disturbance to residents and so in appropriate circumstances, officers have also dealt with any related ASB by issuing FPNs. Police and THEOs work closely together and to date, 57 FPN's have been handed out and this number is increasing. Action against misuse of Nox using this PSPO has included the seizure of large quantities of cannisters, The spotlight remains on this issue with particular recognition of its likely increase in the coming warmer months.
- To tackle the supply element of this issue, THEOs and police work alongside LBTH Trading Standards and this has resulted in a number of test purchasing operations and several prosecutions against shops are pending.

