



Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## What are the opportunities and risks of changes to local policing in relation to tackling serious violence?

- We have a Gangs Task Force servicing Hackney and an Integrated Gangs Unit at Hackney. They work under 1 Detective Inspector.
- They tackle violence using enforcement, diversion and prevention tactics in a partnership forum.
- Both units have had some significant success and Hackney has seen a reduction in knife crime in particular.
- These units are well staffed and they are considered to be a priority and will remain fully staffed as much as possible.
- We are fortunate to have our resources split geographically and have not had to stretch our existing asset to cover Tower Hamlets. There have been opportunities to learn best practice from both sides without working in silos.
- We are funding local projects to improve our community engagement with young people to deter them from violence.
- 1 Detective Inspector covering both boroughs presents a risk of capacity and this individual may not be as visible to partners and officers in a role that was previously covered by 2 detective Inspectors. This officer may have to reassess his attendance at meetings and delegate to a rank below which is not a familiar position and expectations will need to be managed.

## What affect if any have Police Officer reductions had on the capacity to tackle violent crime and reassure the community?

- Whilst we have lost some Police Officers through centralisation and restructuring, the MPS overall reductions have come from supervisory ranks. A new Violent Crime Task Force has been created to support Boroughs.
- Violent crime remains a priority and sufficient resources are in place to tackle it.
- We are supported by corporate assets on a regular basis. Hackney is often deemed a priority borough and therefore we are awarded additional asset to support us.
- Any additional assets are adequately briefed regarding High Risk offenders and Hotspot areas, they are linked in with the Gangs Unit and are briefed to tackle violent crime as a priority by attending violent incidents and engaging in Stop and Search tactics.
- They are also deployed to track down and arrest high risk violent offenders.

## What implications does the move to a Basic Command Unit structure have on police work to tackle violent crime in Hackney?

- The move has had an impact on way the Night Time Economy (NTE) is policed. The team have been amalgamated into a Neighbourhood Partnership Team (NPT) that services both boroughs.
- Resources for NTE are more consistent and activity is supplemented by designated Special Constables. The NPT work closely with Licensing Officers to support the NTE.
- Crime Squad tackles high risk violent offenders and crime types that fall outside of the Gang remit. Notable success and part of the remit is to track down violent individuals/habitual knife carriers wanted for violent offences.
- More officers are now engaged in proactivity under the BCU model to reduce demand before situations escalate.
- We are already experiencing the benefits of an analytical product enabling us to put resources in the right areas and identifying suspects & locations for potential linked series.
- There have recently been 3 very distinct linked robbery series identified. Once highlighted we are able to allocate dedicated resources accordingly and have experienced success.