

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 8th April 2019 Item 9 - Review around serious violence - discussion on findings and recommendations	Item No 9
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Outline

The Commission's substantive review for 2018/19 has focused on how the Community Safety Partnership (made up of the Council, the police, probation and a range of other partners) responded to an escalation in the most serious forms of violence in the borough, and the strengths of its approaches.

The review was set in a context of Hackney having seen significant reductions in crime. Overall levels fell by 34.7% between 2002/03 and 2014/15, and they remain significantly below historic levels. On violent crime specifically there have been reductions in gun crime and knife crime offences with injury in the borough over the last 3 years.

However, it was initiated following a rise in some of the most serious forms of violence. This had been most tragically exhibited in the 6 murders occurring in the borough in 2017/18, compared to 2 in the previous year¹. The escalation in Hackney was reflective of regional and national patterns. Officers confirmed that in Hackney, gang-related activity largely accounted the upsurge in the most serious and tragic incidents which had occurred.

A very wide range of elements could be explored within this topic area. The Commission prioritised a number of these based on a range of factors. These included the intelligence mentioned above around gang activity having played a role in the increase in violence, particular community concerns which Members were aware of and a range of research and evidence making it timely gain assurance on a number of elements. The Commission also aimed its focus on areas which were within its remit and not those which are covered by other Commissions.

The Core Questions that the review set out to answer are listed below.

This item has been scheduled for the Commission to reflect on the evidence that it has heard over the course of the review, and to discuss the findings and any potential recommendations emerging from its work.

A paper will be circulated to Members in advance of the meeting seeking to recap on and summarise on the evidence gathered.

¹ <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/year-end-crime-statistics/>

Core Question 1 - How is the Integrated Gangs Unit working to tackle serious violence and what are the pros and cons of its approach?

- How is it tackling gang related violence?
- What tools does it use?
- How is the Metropolitan Police's Gangs Matrix used by Integrated Gangs Unit partners and what are its benefits and risks?

Core Question 2 – How has the Council responded to the escalation in violence, how is the response developing, and what is it showing?

- What are the emerging findings of the mapping exercise into provision in the borough?
- Noting the profile of the Integrated Gangs unit client cohort (90% are aged 18 or over with the majority aged under 26), what is the mapping exercise showing in terms of provision and support for 18 – 25s, and how is this provision meeting (and how might it better meet) the needs of the community groups disproportionately affected by serious violence?
- What is it showing around support to under 18s identified as at risk of gang activity / gang exploitation, after they reach 18?
- What is the offer to parents of young adults and to victims of violent crime and their families?

Core Question 3 – What are the opportunities and risks of changes to local policing in relation to tackling serious violence?

- What effect if any have reductions in Police Officer numbers had on the capacity to tackle violent crime and reassure the community?
- What implications do the move to a Basic Command Unit structure have on police work to tackle violent crime in Hackney?

Core Question 4 – What role is the use of Stop and Search and Section 60 Orders playing in the response to the escalation in violence?

- What are the trends in Stop and Search (and Section 60 notice) activity in terms of numbers, outcomes and profiles of those stopped?
- How is the community being kept informed, and how are good quality interactions with the public during the deployment of Stop and Search being best achieved?

Core Question 5 - How is the Community Safety Partnership working to ensure effective relationships with the community?

- In the midst of greater use of tactics associated with greater community tensions (most notably Stop and Search), and with evidence showing generally lower levels of confidence in the police, what is the Community Partnership doing to achieve effective relationships?

Action

Members are asked to reflect on the evidence that it has gathered over the course of its review. They are asked to discuss the findings which come out of this, and any potential recommendations.