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London Borough of Hackney  
Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission  
Municipal Year 2020/21  
Tuesday, 23rd June, 2020

Minutes of the proceedings of  
the Living in Hackney Scrutiny  
Commission held at  
Hackney Town Hall, Mare  
Street, London E8 1EA

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**Chair:** Councillor Sharon Patrick



**Councillors in Attendance:** Cllr Sade Etti (Vice-Chair), Cllr Anthony McMahon, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Anna Lynch

**Apologies:**

**Officers In Attendance:** Karen Law (Partnership Strategic Analysis and Performance Manager), Maurice Mason (Community Safety Manager), Gerry McCarthy (Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation) and Tim Shields (Chief Executive)

**Other People in Attendance:** Chief Supt Marcus Barnett (Hackney Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police), Councillor Caroline Selman (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy and the Voluntary Sector), Councillor Carole Williams (Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources), Emmanuel Onapa (Campaigns manager), Tim Head (Account Group Project Officer) and DCI Daniel Rutland (Detective Chief Inspector)

**Members of the Public:**

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**Councillor Sharon Patrick in the Chair**

**1 Apologies for Absence**

1.1 Chair informed meeting participants of the virtual meeting etiquettes.

1.2 No apologies for absence.

**2 Urgent Items / Order of Business**

2.1 Discussion was as per the agenda.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 No declarations of interest.

### 4 MPS Hackney - Stop and Search & Trust and Confidence

4.1 The Chair welcomed to the meeting Detective Chief Superintendent Marcus Barnett (BCU Commander) and Detective Chief Inspector Dan Rutland. Tim Head, Project Co-ordinator and Emmanuel Onapa, Account Campaigns Manager from HCVS Account Youth Independent Advisory Group and stop and search monitoring group for Hackney.

4.2 Verbal updates and presentations were provided from the Metropolitan Police Service for London Borough of Hackney and the YIAG (The Account is the Youth Independent Advisory group and stop and search monitoring group for Hackney).

Time code in recording 2.30

4.3 The Chair explained the back ground to this item and outlined the promises of the previous Borough Commander made to the Commission in their discussions at the LiH in January 2019.

- they would train officers to use cameras
- Make sure officers did not have their coats over the camera or facing shoes.
- Work with schools and talk to pupils to understand stop and search.

4.4 A year on the Commission wanted to consider if trust and confidence in the police from the community had improved.

4.5 At this meeting the LiH Scrutiny Commission looked at Stop and Search and Trust and Confidence.

Time code in recording 4.08

4.6 The Borough Commander commenced his opening statement by acknowledging the current climate and tensions within the community from the events of recent weeks – citing Covid-19, the lockdown, economic impact and the tragic incident in America with the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter campaign. The MPS acknowledged the hurt and pain the Afro-Caribbean community is feeling and recognised the impact of this on the residents of Hackney.

4.6.1 The Borough Commander explained how trust and confidence is complex and has spanned a number of years, and is as a result of the work that they do in communities, how they police in the community and enforce the law. Highlighting for some sections of the community this is a very real issue.

4.6.2 The officer agreed in Hackney trust and confidence was low and that he was the officer responsible for improving this. Explaining he has a duty to work with the community and partners to build and raise confidence. Recognising Hackney Police have a lot of work to do but wished to work alongside the community. The Borough Commander made clear he was committed to the community of Hackney.

Time code in recording 9.05

- 4.6.3 It was confirmed body worn cameras have been rolled out in Hackney. Hackney is in the process of implementing the second iteration of body worn cameras which are better quality, robust and have a more stable platform in terms of usage. This has been rolled out across main stream policing.
- 4.6.4 It was explained all the officers are trained to use the body worn video and this sits alongside clear guidelines, processes, procedures and policies. These provide officers with clarity on how and when to use body worn cameras. There was a cultural period where officers were getting used to wearing body worn cameras. Now the majority of Hackney Police do wear and use the cameras.
- 4.6.5 The Borough Commander emphasised the work and activity of the police is open to scrutiny. As a public service the Police are held to account. This covers public complaints about arrests, use of force, stop and search etc.

Time code in recording 13.32

- 4.6.6 The Police acknowledged the dip in trust and confidence particularly in 2017/18 following events in the borough. Last year the rating was around 50%. At this point the borough was experiencing a 40% increase in the number of robberies and an increase in the volume of ASB, drug use and weapons.
- 4.6.7 The police pointed out the information shows there is an overwhelming volume of Afro Caribbean young men involved in violent offences linked to gangs, robberies and the usage of weapons in Hackney.
- 4.6.8 The police pointed out the work they have done to keep the community safe. This involved setting up new teams to look at violence, dedicated resources focused on robberies and offences of robberies. Increased capacity to work on the streets and work with the Integrated Gangs Unit. They look at various options including diversion, housing, education and not just the traditional methods of enforcement.
- 4.6.9 The police referred to the use of force and acknowledged the use of stop and search, Section 60s Tasers and handcuffing was a key issue for the community.

Time code in recording 16.00

- 4.6.10 The police also pointed out until the Covid – 19 pandemic Hackney had a very busy night time economy particularly concentrated in Shoreditch but also in other parts of the borough too. Highlighting Hackney has more licensed premises than Westminster.
- 4.6.11 The NTE attracts lots of offences linked to drink, drugs, sexual offences, violence and public disorder. These crime trends were of particular concern to the community safety partnership and the police have worked with partners to reverse and manage this trend.
- 4.6.12 The police set up a team to drive down crime and pointed out this involved taking enforcement action. Their commitment to the borough means they will not shy away from law enforcement action to tackle crime and as a result of

their work they have seen a 2% reduction in robbery as opposed to an increase like last year.

Time code in recording 16.11

4.6.13 The police talked about enforcement, community concern, and reasons why they need to use stop and search. The police explained to tackle offences such as robbery and violent crime they must use the powers of stop and search and Section 60s. They have to stop and talk to people. Particularly where incidents of robbery and knife offences to inflict injury are happening. The police is duty bound to follow up on what the intelligence tells them and where the offences are happening including the particular times of day.

4.6.14 The police explained with a significant increase in violence they had to take enforcement action to keep the community safe. This means using the activity of stop and search and Section 60s. As a result they are working with young people groups and have set up a youth engagement team to work with schools and do other aspects of community engagement work with young people linked to cadets and volunteers.

4.6.15 The police enforcement work has helped to reduce level of violence and people being injured and killed.

Time code in recording 19.46

4.6.16 In relation to the statistics about stop and search, proportionality and coding. The information tells them that in Hackney linked to violent crime and drugs there is a large number of African and Caribbean young men aged between 15-24 years involved in these crime types. Particularly in relation to robbery and in gangs.

4.6.17 Therefore in relation to what they do and how they search people this is led by the intelligence and they go where the crime is being committed.

4.6.18 The police pointed out if this shows disproportionality it is because a large number of African Caribbean young black males are believed to be involved in drugs and violence linked to gangs so are being stopped and searched for weapons.

4.6.19 Hackney Police do not work to the BUSS system (this outlines the home office guidance for best use of stop and search) but they adopt all the principles of it.

4.6.20 In reference to the arrests rate approximately 20% stopped and searched result in an arrest outcome. When doing a stop and search the officer works on intelligence and the belief they have lawful grounds to stop and search - either under PACE or section 23. That is the suspect meets the description or they are acting in a certain way. Stop and search is intelligence led and acted upon where an officer believes the person may have a weapon or is about to commit an offence.

Time code in recording 22.47

4.7 The Account IYAG presentation and points raised in response to Hackney Police opening statement.

- 4.7.1 The Account Project Co-ordinator outlined the following points in response to the Borough Commander's opening statement.
- a) There has been no explanation from the police on their own statistics. In March 2020 it shows 9 out of 10 young black people are more likely to be stopped and searched under Section 60 powers. And in general 4 times more likely to be stopped and searched.
  - b) Police explanation for this is that African Caribbean people are carrying out the violent crime. The officer pointed out even if that was the case Hackney's statistics show 50% of the stop and searches are for drugs not violent crime or robbery. Research from across the country shows that drug crime is not carried out predominately by black people as described by the police. The police have failed to give an explanation about the statistics for stop and search.

Time code in recording 25.18

- 4.7.2 The Key points from the presentation were as outlined below.
- 4.7.3 The IYAG research was been led by young people and commenced March 2019.
- 4.7.4 The research involves a mixture of interviews and analysis of statistics. Some are police statistics and other survey data.
- 4.7.5 The research covered the 4 areas listed below. The focus of the update covered the first 3 headings.
1. Trauma
  2. Trust
  3. Accountability
  4. Policing and education.
- Under Trauma the key points were:
- 4.7.6 There is psychological long term impacts from being stopped and searched particularly with use of force and handcuffs.
- 4.7.7 Over the last 3 years the use of handcuffs has increased by 158% and this correlates with the increase in stop and search.
- 4.7.8 Young people are observing more of this in their streets.
- 4.7.9 The humiliating nature of being put in handcuffs can also impact on how a young person sees them self.
- 4.7.10 There have been a few high profile incidents in the borough around this issue recently.
- 4.7.11 Young people's view is they are being racial profiled from a young age. Viewed as having links to gangs from the age of 11/12 years old. The commented often this can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- 4.7.12 The relationship with the state is broken at a young age. This can be really damaging and result in young people falling into crime from a young age.

4.7.13 Referred to statistics on use of section 60 and the disproportionate use in March 2020.

4.7.14 Highlighted there are historic issues in Hackney with the use of Section 60s as campaigns that this being target at black people. This is supported by the statistics.

4.7.15 Black people are 9 times more likely and 40 times more likely nationwide to be stopped and searched under Section 60 powers.

Under Trust the key points were:

4.7.16 Very low trust in the Police by young people. Often linked to personal experience or observations.

4.7.17 A large proportions of young people do not feel they can trust the police if they need help from gang crime and serious violence. The view is take matters into your own hands.

Under Accountability the key points were:

4.7.18 Young people feel powerless to holding the police to account and getting their views across.

4.7.19 No getting justice or trust in the police complaints system.

4.7.20 Cases like Rashan Charles have been a huge shock wave and impacted on the community.

4.7.21 Trust has dropped from 80% in 2017 to 50%.

4.7.22 There is the perception the Police and IPCC are working together. This is nationwide view.

4.7.23 The problems with accountability in Hackney is historic and go back generation in terms of deaths and accountability.

Time code in recording 33.08

4.7.24 Through their research they have made a number of recommendations to the Central East Basic Command Unit (BCU)

- Significant improvements needed in use of body worn cameras (BWC)
- Fundamental changes needed to develop effective transparency and accountability around racial disproportionality
- BCU needs to sign up to the Home Office Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme.
- Handcuff usage and its impact on community relations needs independent evidence-based evaluation.

4.7.25 They want to see evidence that shows what is actually reducing crime in Hackney.

4.7.26 There are recruitment concerns. Police officers not staying from long. On average 1-2 years. This is from the bottom to senior officers.

4.8 **Question, Comments, Discussions and Answers**

Time code in recording 10.35

- (i) **The Chair asked the police to provide some comments on the statistics in the agenda on stop and search. The Member pointed out they overwhelmingly show Hackney police are stopping and searching black males. The Chair asked the Borough Commander to explain further about this trend.**

- (ii) **The Chair also asked the Borough Commander to comment on some of the recent events in the borough such as the incident in Dalston that had been reported as the police using excess force on a shop lifter.**

Time code in recording 35.53

- (iii) **A question from Cllr Rathbone referred to the police statistics and an age group of 10-14 year olds being stopped and searched. He was concerned about the police stopping and searching young people aged 10 and 11. The Member asked if the approach taken towards this age group was different to the approach for adults.**

- (iv) **The Member also referred to the statistics on ethnic appearance. Pointing out it seems to indicate more white people are being stopped. The Member asked if the category white included the Turkish ethnic group.**

Time code in recording 37.14

- (v) **Cllr Lynch extended her sympathy to officers recently assaulted and wished them a speedy recovery.**

- (vi) **The question from Cllr Lynch referred to the statistics showing a low percentage of females stopped and searched. The Member enquired if the police have a strategy to manage any potential increase given that girls can be at risk from exploitation by gangs.**

- (vii) **In reference to the IYAG research the question from Cllr Lynch asked if their research looked at gender specific risks to stop and search. Enquiring if they investigated if the females stopped and searched are from a particular ethnic background.**

Time code in recording 38.25

- (viii) **Cllr Wrout acknowledged police concern about crime and the need to address this. The Member enquired if the police were over using stop and search to address this. The statistics indicate in May there were more weapons searches in Hackney than in London. However Hackney's arrests rate from these searches was lower. The Member commented this may not be a solution in the long term despite there being a short term positive affect on the figures.**

Time code in recording 39.45

- (ix) **The Member referred to the use of handcuffs and comment the Commission was surprised at the use of handcuffs for stop and search and now the large rise in use. The Member enquired what proportion of stops under Sections 60s use handcuffs? Is the data collated? Pointing out this type of stop requires scrutiny so feels it is important to know what proportion of Section 60 stops have had handcuffs used.**

- Time code in recording 40.51
- (x) **The Member referred to the body worn cameras and asked if the police monitor if officers repeatedly report their body camera not working. The Member wanted to know if there are officers that do this. A year ago the Commission was informed this would be monitored. Has this happened? What are the sanctions for repeat offenders?**
- Time code in recording 41.50
- (xi) **There was a question from Cllr Ozen about CCTV and if the camera and CCTV department help the police to address crime and find the right persons to stop and search. The Member enquired what could be done to make CCTV more helpful to police work.**

Time code in recording 44.00

In the Borough commander's responses he confirmed the number of young people in this age group was small. But he shares the concerns raised. He works on the basis of officers applying the grounds for searches i.e. there has been a need and the grounds are met.

It was confirmed they do apply the same process, style and approach to stop and search for the young people age group.

- (xii) **For clarification Cllr Rathbone asked if they handcuff 10, 11, 12 and 13 year olds.**

In response the Detective Chief Inspector informed hand cuffing was subjective and the law requires the police officer to make a decision. If an officer believes or suspects they are a threat an officer has the right to handcuff.

Although the police accepted handcuffing can be a trauma it is also used for protection so they do not swallow drugs.

There should be a good reason to handcuff and although it sounds harsh the age is irrelevant.

The police highlighted a 14 year old can look like a 16/17 year old. The police officer will only find out their age when they have stopped and searched and obtain their details.

If they have concerns about a young person in relation to vulnerability, weapons and drugs they will flag with safe guarding and partners.

In response to the people categorized as white ethnicity. The Police will ask people or go by their appearance if the information is not forthcoming. In this group there is a code for differentiation. The category depends on officer determination and the conversation with the individual.

As an officer stopping a person suspect the individual of having a knife, weapon or drugs there are reasons for handcuffing to keep the officer safe and prevent a crime being committed.



It is impactful handcuffing but aimed at making sure the young person does not panic and try to swallow any drugs if they have drugs on them.

The police officer pointed out handcuffs should only be applied if they feel there is a need.

- (xiii) **For clarification the Chair asked if handcuffing was a decision by the officer.**

In response the officer confirmed it is.

Time code in recording 50.51

- (xiv) **The Chair presented a scenario where a young person feels they have been racially profiled and wants to make a complaint. If there is no criteria for a police officer to be judged on how can they determine the outcome if the stop and search and handcuffing is subjective to the officer?**

Time code in recording 51.29

In response the Detective Chief Inspector informed if a person is stopped based on racial profiling the officer would not give an explanation or have reasonable grounds for the search. If the officer has turned on their camera and there is no grounds for search they will see. If that was the case the person would have a fair case to present a complaint for racial profiling.

The use of force is totally for the officer to justify. Officers should be accountable and turn on the camera so the grounds would be a matter of fact and explained on camera.

Time code in recording 52.40

- (xv) **The Chair explained if it's subjective and all done by the book. It would be hard to prove racial profiling if subjective because they do not know the thoughts of the officer and there is no criteria to go by.**

Time code in recording 53.16

In response the Detective Chief Inspector explained that was the law. Any use of force is for the officer to justify. If they receive a call and in their view the suspect matches the description or they are in an area with a high volume of gang related crime and cannot account for why they are there or it is the early hours of the morning. These are all grounds for a stop and search. They have a trust the officer.

Time code in recording 55.00

- (xvi) **Cllr Etti referred to matching the description and asked if they applied and used the home office guidance for best use of stop and search.**

- (xvii) **The Member referred to the use of force and officer discretion to use handcuffs. The Member pointed out 10-14 year olds are children. The Member referred to a video on twitter showing a person in handcuffs being punched by an officer. The Member asked the police to explain this action?**

- (xviii) **The Member enquired if there has been any professional development for police officers as outlined by the previous Borough Commander?**
- (xix) **The Member referred to drugs and enquired what support was provided to young people aged 10-14 to avoid mental health and better support the life of the child.**
- (xx) **The Member extended her sympathy to officers recently assaulted in Frampton Park and wished them a speedy recovery.**

Time code in recording 59.49

The Account IYAG response to question raised by Members earlier were:  
In relation to females in their research this was not investigated. They will take this point away for consideration.

Following the research the IYAG made recommendations about body worn camera. Young people pointed out there are still issues with officers not turning the camera on.

The IYAG pointed out just having an encounter filmed is not enough accountability for a young person wrongfully stopped and searched or subjected to excessive force. What is of value is how the footage is used, who views it, who evaluates and assesses whether the use of force is justified. That is important.

The structure of the police means it is down to the police officer to justify their action. Then senior level look into this. However in the community young people do not want to complain because they do not want the case investigated by the same people (police).

The complaints process is a broader issue that needs a review of the system for complaints and accountability. They need to be mindful of this when discussing body worn cameras as evidence. The key is what is done with the footage to make a case.

The IYAG pointed out there was still no answer to explain the reasons / rationale for racial disproportionality in figures. There is no disagreement about crime, gangs, serious violence, robberies and that certain communities involved. But that does not explain disproportionality.

Time code in recording 1.03.09

In response to earlier questions the Borough Commander provided the following responses.

For females stopped and searched they have a strategy. He confirmed the same approach is applied for the stop and search. They will have a female officer for search if possible to maintain dignity.

In response to the query about weapons searches for Hackney in May 2020 being the highest in London. The police officer pointed out Hackney has the highest level of robbery offences in London. Hackney has had additional resources in the form of TSG, violent crime task force and new recruits as they

build police numbers in London. Therefore there were more officers out on the streets particularly in lockdown to make sure people were adhering to the rules. They carried out stop and search activity because violence and robbery were still occurring.

The Borough Commander informed the Commission the officers from HCVS Account were invited to a Gold meeting. They were invited because the police want to work with the community to improve relations. They acknowledge they do not always get things right and that their officers have to account for their actions and that there is scrutiny.

There was no immediate data at the meeting about the use of handcuffs for Section 60s. However in the last year they have had 37 Section 60s in Hackney, which is an average of 15 searches for Section 60s.

The police officer explained section 60s are set up to prevent serious violence in an area or to prevent violent crime from occurring. Therefore they may see more people handcuffed during the period of a section 60.

Time code in recording 1.07.21

- (xxi) **In response to the police officer points about section 60s and handcuffing. Cllr Wrout referred to section 60s and explained from the information presented handcuffs were more likely to be used. The Member pointed out the impact this would have on tensions and can be perceived as a disproportionate impact on the people in the community being stopped and search. The Member also pointed out it looks very aggressive.**

Time code in recording 1.08.31

In response Detective Chief Inspector explained for section 60s they do not need to give legal grounds for search but do need lawful grounds for handcuffing. Handcuffing should still be completely justified and rationalised with conversation and an explanation.

The police officer pointed out the legality of the stop and search and use of handcuff is two separate issues.

Time code in recording 1.10.29

- (xxii) **Comments from Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member Employment, Skills and Human Resources explained the Cabinet has been in discussions about community tensions following the Black Lives matter movement and murder of George Floyd.**
- (xxiii) **The Cabinet Member commented she had hoped the presentation from the police would match that of the IYAG making reference to police figure and community relations. Account gave a good presentation.**
- (xxiv) **In comparison the Cabinet Member explained she heard the police give a description about policing in the borough based on beliefs, feelings and should; rather than facts and statistics.**
- (xxv) **Pointing out taking into consideration the last few weeks they should have heard more from the police about the facts and statistics of the**

**borough to respond to the community's growing concerns about policing and community relations. This was a missed opportunity.**

Time code in recording 1.13.09

The final responses to the questions from the Borough Commander were:

All the comments, concerns and questions have been heard.

It was pointed out Hackney police work hard to embed themselves within the local authority and reach out to the community. They do have areas of improvement but their view is they have been making progress. They work to understand and improve what they do.

Hackney Police are committed to working with Account to look at training, stop and search, how they train officers for stop and search and to talk about handcuffing.

Officers have to use their judgement but to give context to the situation in London officers have experienced a 20% increase in assaults on the street.

In relation to disproportionality there is intelligence that indicates the people they need to target to reduce the elements of crime are black African and Caribbean males who are involved in violence and crime and included in the crime profile are crimes related to gangs, drug trafficking, county lines and using drugs. They are not racially profiling young African Caribbean men.

The Borough Commander issued an open invitation to meeting attendees to come and view the work of the police and to look at their police activity.

(xxvi) **The Chair closed the item and pointed out there were a number of controversial points raised in the meeting. The concerns and loss of faith by the community in the police was coming out strongly. The Commission recognised the Police's partnership work and work with the council. However this discussion needed a further meeting.**

Members agreed to a further meeting.

<b>ACTION</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Officer to schedule a meeting date for further discussion about trust and confidence.
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## 5 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019-2022

5.1 The Chair welcomed to the meeting Cllr Caroline Selman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy and the Voluntary Sector; Tim Shields, Chief Executive and Co-Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP); Gerry McCarthy, Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation; Maurice Mason, Community Safety Partnership Manager and Karen Law, Partnership Strategic Analysis & Performance Manager from London Borough of Hackney. Also in attendance for this items was the Co-Chair of the

community Safety Partnership Detective Chief Superintendent Marcus Barnett (BCU Commander) from Hackney Metropolitan Police Service.

- 5.2 The Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission has the statutory duty to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership in London Borough of Hackney. At this meeting the commission received an update on the progress to date against the community safety partnership plan. The commission would also review the strategic priority area *street based drug market and substance misuse* to consider the coordinated response of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle street drug dealing and associated ASB.
- Time code in recording 1.29.22
- 5.3 The Chief Executive of Hackney Council commenced his opening statement highlighting the points below.
- 5.3.1 The agenda has a copy of the Community Safety Plan which outlines the strategic priorities.
- 5.3.2 The plans contains 4 strategic priority areas:
1. Serious Violence and Gang Crime
  2. Alcohol Related Crime & Disorder (in particular licensing and safer socialising)
  3. On Street Drug Markets and Substance Misuse
  4. Domestic abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- 5.3.3 Adjacent to this plan are action plans for each area.
- 5.3.4 There have been discussion the previous night and at the meeting tonight on the impact of the crimes on the community and disproportionate impact.
- 5.3.5 It is key to think about how they can make Hackney a better place in a balanced way whilst thinking about how they can support young people. This includes tackling poverty, delivering outcomes through better education, job opportunities and better housing. Reducing crime is key to making Hackney a better place to live for everyone.
- 5.3.6 In developing the community safety partnership pla there was engagement with the voluntary sector and other partners. The community safety partnership plan is evidence based with priorities drawn out from the strategic needs assessment.
- 5.3.7 The main ambition is to keep the residents of Hackney safe and provide opportunities. In the assessment a point that came out strongly from residents was the need to focus on drugs and the drug market and to recognise the impact it was having on their daily lives. In particular street based dealing. This is also an impact within the night time economy (NTE). The NTE is appreciated by Hackney and enjoys the benefits but this area also needs to be regulated.
- 5.3.8 The area of drugs was highlighted as a strategic priority not just because it is a key area of local concern but that Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) also require local authorities to have a plan with strategic priorities. Although drugs is not a London wide priority this is a local priority to make the borough safer.

- 5.3.9 The Council uses its community safety enforcement team to pick up and identify issues that need to be addressed. But the community safety team has limited powers. Therefore they decided to make this a key priority within the community safety partnership to tackle hot spot areas.
- 5.3.10 They are aware of the need to provide support. There also has to be recognition of the impact of drug dealing on users and crime and that young people can get drawn into this area.
- 5.3.11 Data is collated from various sources to understand the picture. But it is an area they believe is under reported.
- 5.3.12 Interventions are not just enforcement they also think about how to support people out of crime and the interventions needed to tackle drugs and crime.
- 5.3.13 They need to think about diversion, support, talking to the community to understand the underlying causes of the activity. Therefore supporting drug users, young people and helping people out of crime. There are a number of services commissioned to support this work.
- 5.3.14 Therefore their main focus is not just enforcement but also about looking at how they provide support and interventions too.
- 5.3.15 In relation to key performance statistics for this area they are challenging. This is due to the complexities around reporting, arrest and convictions but also about obtaining the feedback from residents about the success of interventions.

#### 5.4 **Question, Comments, Discussions and Answers**

Time code in recording 1.40.10

- (i) **The Chair pointed out since lock down she has noticed an increasing number of people openly smoking drugs in the park. The Member asked about the arrest rate and enforcement action for this?**

Time code in recording 1.41.13

The Community Safety Partnership Manager advised they have done a detailed analysis on all the parks including Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Covid-19 and drugs taking. There is also a detailed analysis on the NTE.

In relation to Enforcement Officers they do not have any primary powers around drug possession. Therefore they do not have the powers to stop and search or arrest an individual. But they do have powers to interject, issue ASB warnings, seek injunctions and have other civil remedies.

For example the Council is currently in the process of collating evidence to inform the application for an injunction in the London Fields park area.

The information about the number of fixed penalty notices, ASB warnings and community safety protection notices will follow shortly.

The officer pointed out in some cases a person taking drugs can exhibit other forms of ASB behaviour.

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Through their weekly and monthly tasking meetings (which the police attend alongside other partners) there is enforcement. This is supported by other interventions (as outlined earlier) and a lot of work through their outreach worker who links in with various partners inside and external to the council to prevent drug taking from happening. This work is very much led by reporting, professional assessment and analysis.

When enforcement officers take action they keep a track of the action taken. This is collated and incorporated by the Partnership Strategic Analysis & Performance Manager into the analysis.

Drug taking is a criminal offence but the drug dealing has the most pernicious effect on a community. Through working with the police, the police have introduced a local operation that has led to a number of arrest for drug dealing in an area. This initiative is now moving its focus onto other hot spot areas in the borough. Giving them an audit trail of all the activity.

Time code in recording 1.45.30

- (ii) **The Commission put on record their thanks to all the enforcement staff, parks staff and the police who have had to manage the upsurge of ASB in parks.**

Time code in recording 1.46.07

- (iii) **The Chair referred to the previous discussion under item 4 about the disproportionate number of young black men being stopped by the police for drugs. The Member pointed out (this is not backed by statistical analysis) from her observation it is not young black men smoking drugs in the park. Therefore her question related to what action was being taken for this group in comparison to the action taken on another parts of the community related to the same crime area but who feel they are being targeted by the police.**

Time code in recording 1.47.02

The Community Safety Partnership Manager acknowledged the point being made and highlighted the NTE is not predominantly young black men.

The Community Safety Team are keen to ensure they use their ASB policy powers in a way that is proportionate and is not led by the race of the person but the criminal activity. However it was acknowledged there needs to be a focus on the drug dealers than the people taking drugs.

Time code in recording 1.48.45

The Chief Executive and Co-Chair of CSP explained there may be a perception that the Council is not doing as much as they can in relation to enforcement in open spaces. The Officer pointed out the Council is using all the powers they have particularly in relation to ASB policy in relation to incidents like public urination. They are exploring all options to ensure the parks and open spaces can be used safely by all the community. But acknowledged they also need to address people dealing drugs within the community.

Time code in recording 1.50.38

The Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation confirmed the community safety officer would not issue a fixed penalty notice to a person under the age of 18.

In relation to the issue of ASB warning they record the demographic information.

The Council's enforcement officers use the full range of powers they have from the ASB Crime and Policing Act. Last month they successfully secured an extension to a closure order they received from court for drug dealing. This was causing ASB to the residents around them. They also have received 2 further orders in respect of a block of flats with extensive drug dealing. These are for 3 months and can be extended. The Council is using the powers they have to tackle ASB related to drug dealing.

There are many people not reporting drug dealing through fear etc. But unless there is reported to the police it will not come to their attention. The officer wanted to encourage more reporting to help put it high up on the radar of the police.

Time code in recording 1.52.20

The Community Safety Partnership Manager clarified there is no injunction in London Fields Park but highlighted this was used as an illustration of the fact they consider all the options in partnership with the police. The Council does consider both civil and ASB powers within their remit.

Time code in recording 1.53.15

- (iv) The Chair suggested they also discuss the NTE and the affect it was having on residents in the local area.**

Time code in recording 1.53.41

- (v) Cllr Etti acknowledged the problems from drug dealing particularly on estates. But her comment related to the speed of the response and getting feedback about resolutions after logging and police attending. The Member asked if there would be a more speedy response now there was a focus on this as a priority?**

- (vi) The Member echoed the points made by the Chair in relation to the impact of the NTE on residents and how the Council is working with them.**

Time code in recording 1.55.43

The Chief Executive and Co-Chair of the CSP pointed out this came under the community safety pan's strategic priority 2. He wanted to reiterate that they want to encourage people to report any suspicion of drug dealing at a venue to the Community Safety Team or the police. They have closed venues.

The officer highlighted this priority is also about safer socialising for people and in particular women feeling safe going home.

Time code in recording 1.58.11

The Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation pointed out the NTE is a strategic priority in its own right. But drug dealing is a significant problem too for areas like Shoreditch and other NTE locations.



They have put a specific focus on drugs and associated ASB. It was highlighted that enforcement officers with the police run a night time operation to target specific places. This is funded by the night time levy.

The patrols involve a number of services: police, council licensing, TSG, safer neighbourhood teams, police neighbourhood task force team and police neighbourhood improvement district.

Focusing on prevention engagement and enforcement for crime but also focusing on links to planning and environmental objectives particularly for Shoreditch.

They have done work on safer socialising too. Developing training packages, advertising at Christmas and the night safety charter. They are also looking at an online portal to offer training to businesses.

Time code in recording 2.00.36

The Community Safety Partnership Manager acknowledged the volume of analysis by the Partnership Strategic Analysis & Performance Manager and how instrumental it has been and has helped the police to focus finite resources.

Through the Night Time Levy Board they have tried to implement a problem solving approach to cover the offender aspect, raise awareness of victims, design out crime and work with licensees.

They have a plan in place for when the NTE reopens so they are ready to resume their work.

Time code in recording 2.02.40

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy and the Voluntary Sector highlighted the Night Time Levy Board is conscious the contributions are from licensees across the borough. They have built up links with licensees in the different areas so they have a good sense of needs across the borough.

Time code in recording 2.03.31

- (vii) The Chair commented the problems did not seem to be with the venues but in the streets around the venues and likely to be attributed to people traveling from clubs, between venues and going home.**

Time code in recording 2.04.10

- (viii) The Chair asked Hackney police to comment on their work and their use of the analysis from the community safety partnership team by the police for their NTE work.**

Time code in recording 2.05.01

In response the Borough Commander made reference to the partnership operation. The police explained they work through covert and overt methods to gather intelligence and target operations. Their operation is aimed at taking out the top tier of operations and they have successfully taken out people linked to drug trafficking and violence in Hackney.

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They have an understanding of the locations for street dealing, hot spots and vulnerability. They send officers to these locations for covert work to tackle drug usage, trafficking and violence on the streets.

They have set up a night time improvement district with a dedicated focus on 5 wards linked to the City of London and Tower Hamlets boarder.

They are doing more in terms of violence and robbery which also includes work around county lines, vulnerability, exploitation and modern slavery. They recognise young people involved in drugs and the vulnerability around them as users and trafficking. They are doing more through the violent reduction unit at MOPAC to look at those that are vulnerable. This is a complex piece of work through partnership that is bearing fruit.

Drugs and ASB underpins the work of the police in terms of their activity and enforcement.

The Borough Commander paid tribute to the partnership working of the Council staff and Cabinet Member with his police officers. Pointing out this was a testimony to their strong partnership working.

Time code in recording 2.08.45

The Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation confirmed the community safety team have served 27 ASB warnings for drugs and only 4 were served to black people.

Time code in recording 2.09.59

- (ix) **Cllr Rathbone commented the people on estates were feeling disappointed and disillusioned because when they report incidents nothing seems to happen. The Member wanted to know how they can make better networks for reporting. People are frightened and not trusting about reporting or making a phone call because they will get identified. The Members suggested they build up networks that act as (listening) ears and (seeing) eyes. The Members acknowledged there are Police Panels but they need to keep looking at ways to report back to people so they know what is happening and are encouraged to report. Building networks so citizens feel part of it and see it as performing their civic duty was a suggestion made.**

Time code in recording 2.11.57

- (x) **The Chair acknowledged the good work of the partnership but advised residents do not see there has been any action as a result of their reporting. They suggested looking at communication with residents and reporting the action and successes as a result of reporting ASB.**

The Chief Executive and Co-Chair of CSP welcomed the focus on this issue. The officer highlighted the Council's key aim was to remove the impact of the drug market on residents and on the vulnerability of young people.

The Council wants a safer borough, safe night time economy and safe socialising. They do not want people to prey on the vulnerability of the young people and the vulnerability of people in the NTE. They want a safe borough for young people and to create opportunities.

In response to Cllr Rathbone's question about safer reporting. The Council take confidentially issues extremely seriously and want to make sure they protect the identity of the residents; to give them assurance in reporting problems to the Council. The Council wants to get this message across to residents to build their trust and confidence that as a public body they will take action.

The Chair thanked all meeting participants.

## **6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 6.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were agreed.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	Minutes were approved.
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## **7 Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission- 2020/21 Work Programme**

- 7.1 The Chair informed the Commission the latest version of the work programme was on pages 191 – 196.
- 7.2 The July LiH meeting will cover the final evidence session from their scrutiny review.
- 7.3 A full review of the work programme will take place in September 2020. A number of items from the previous work programme have been rolled over due to changes with the schedule of meetings and the pandemic.

## **8 Any Other Business**

- 8.1 None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00 - 9.25 pm