


<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND ACCOUNTIBILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>05 December 2018</p>	
<p>REVIEW OF OPERATION PUGLIA</p>	
<p>Report of the: Director for Residents' Services</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Policy & Advisory Review & Comment</p>	
<p>Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Consultation None</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report is to give members the opportunity to review the Council's role in Operation Puglia.
- 1.2. In October 2017 the Metropolitan Police began Operation Puglia – a proactive and intelligence led operation across Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, and Westminster, in response to an increase in violent crime across the three boroughs. This included a rise in the use of knives and firearms.
- 1.3. The majority of these incidents related to escalating retaliatory violence between a gang in Westminster and a gang in Shepherds Bush, both of which were involved in feuds with a gang from North Kensington. Class A drug supply played a prominent part in these feuds, and the activity of these gangs.

- 1.4. Operation Puglia took on a multi-agency approach and broke new ground for partnership working to tackle the exploitation of children and the intimidation of local communities by these criminal gangs.
- 1.5. July 2018 saw Operation Puglia come to fruition as 78 individuals from across the three boroughs were arrested during the enforcement phase of the operation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Members review the information surrounding Operation Puglia, the Council's involvement through joint working with the Police, and the results achieved by the operation.

3. RATIONALE

- 3.1 Operation Puglia was a response to a rise in violent crime linked to gang activity and drug supply across the three boroughs. Criminal networks were taking over the addresses of vulnerable adults to manufacture, store and sell drugs. They exploited children to traffic drugs, and intimidated and terrorised the local communities as they progressed their criminal enterprises.
- 3.2 However, it was found that the drug trafficking was not exclusive to gangs. Other smaller enterprises and lone suppliers joined the market to further erode the quality of life of the residents.
- 3.3 In response Operation Puglia aimed to:
 - execute warrants to search for evidence related to offences of supplying Class A controlled drugs.
 - arrest identified subjects involved with the supply of Class A controlled drugs.
 - suppress the risk the individuals posed within the communities, reducing violent crime and raising public confidence.
- 3.4 Operation Puglia was founded on intelligence from several different sources. Intelligence was gathered by Police covert surveillance, partner agencies, and community intelligence provided by residents.
- 3.5 During the intelligence phase of the operation, 78 Subjects were identified. The operation then moved into the arrest phase.

4. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 4.1 Officers from the Council's Community Safety Unit, Youth Offending Service, and Children's Services were involved in the planning and

strategy meetings in advance of the enforcement phase of Operation Puglia.

- 4.2 Operation Puglia broke new ground by incorporating a Safeguarding Custody and Public Protection hub as part of the arrest phase. This included a reception centre for children at risk.
- 4.3 Partner agencies and neighbourhood police delivered a community engagement plan across the three boroughs, which involved short, medium and long-term strategies. The plan involved a range of engagement activities and reassurance patrols, as well as utilising drugs outreach services and youth workers to support local officers and drug users.
- 4.4 A key learning point from the operation was for Police colleagues to release the names of those children and young people to be arrested, prior to their arrest taking place. Partners felt this improved planning and enabled probable outcomes to be assessed effectively.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 At the conclusion of the operation 76 search warrants had been executed by the Metropolitan Police, 40 of which were in Hammersmith & Fulham. Search warrants were conducted in the following wards:
 - Wormholt & White City
 - Shepherds Bush Green.
 - Hammersmith Broadway
 - Askew
 - Addison
 - Avonmore & Brook Green
 - Ravenscourt Park
 - North End
 - Town
 - Fulham Reach
 - Munster
 - Fulham Broadway
- 5.2 Following the execution of these warrants, 78 individuals were arrested. 12 of these individuals were identified as gang members, 33 were adults from Hammersmith & Fulham, while 7 were juveniles from the Borough.
- 5.3 A total of 16 young people were taken into custody as a result of the operation, and subsequently referred to the youth offending teams.
- 5.3 Following consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service, 71 individuals were charged with a total of 344 offences. 300 of these offences were concerned with the possession and/or supply of a controlled drug.

5.4 Criminal Behaviour Orders were obtained for 69 of the 78 individuals originally arrested.

6. ROLE OF THE YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

6.1 All of the seven young people arrested and charged from Hammersmith & Fulham were known to the Youth Offending Service. All but one had some involvement with Children's Services.

6.2 All of the young people stated they had been subject to coercion.

6.3 The Youth Offending Service sought advice from the Crown Prosecution Service on the Modern Slavery Act. The CPS advised that the young people may have a statutory defence under Section 45 of the Act, as children who have been internally trafficked and exploited.

6.4 The Youth Offending Service convened multi-agency meetings to discuss each case on an individual basis. As a result, a total of five referrals were made under the Modern Slavery Act via the National Referral Mechanism. Two of these referrals were confirmed as victims of modern slavery.

6.5 Sentencing was adjourned for those young people awaiting the outcome of a referral under the Modern Slavery Act. Three referrals remain outstanding pending a decision from the National Crime Agency.

6.6 None of the young people received a custodial sentence. Most remain engaged with the Youth Offending Service through a bespoke intervention plan devised to address the issues leading to their involvement in crime.

7. THE ROLE OF THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT

7.1 As a result of Operation Puglia the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit identified that 16 Council tenancies were directly involved in the drug activity.

7.2 This has led to a considerable amount of work for the Anti-social Behaviour Team. Most of the tenancy action is ongoing until sentencing results are known.

7.3 One tenant has already received a lengthy custodial sentence. To avoid possession proceedings and increasing arrears he submitted a vacation notice to end his tenancy.

7.4 A partial closure order was obtained on another address and the perpetrator, who was a household member, has been excluded from the property and is now in supported accommodation. The tenant of the property has reported that family life is much improved and neighbours have reported a decrease in anti-social behaviour. The Anti-social Behaviour Unit have applied for an injunction to exclude the perpetrator from the property and the surrounding area.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The recommendations do not affect either Council's equality duties.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The legal implications are contained in the body of the report.

10. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications for the purpose of this report.

11. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

11.1 There are no implications for business.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.			