

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee

Date: 10/11/24

Subject: Update report on Policing in Hammersmith and Fulham

Report author: Craig Knight, Superintendent Neighbourhoods, Met Police

Responsible Director: Detective Superintendent Chrissy Jessah, Met Police

SUMMARY

This report comes to the attention of the Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee at the request of the of the panel.

Following previous attendance at the PAC this report, and attendance on the evening of the meeting, is intended to update the board on the work of the Metropolitan Police regarding overall crime, updates on the work of the Baroness Casey Review and the New Met for London Plan, alongside highlighting some key partnership work undertaken between the Metropolitan Police and Hammersmith and Fulham Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For the Committee to note and comment on the report

Wards Affected: All

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None

DETAILED ANALYSIS

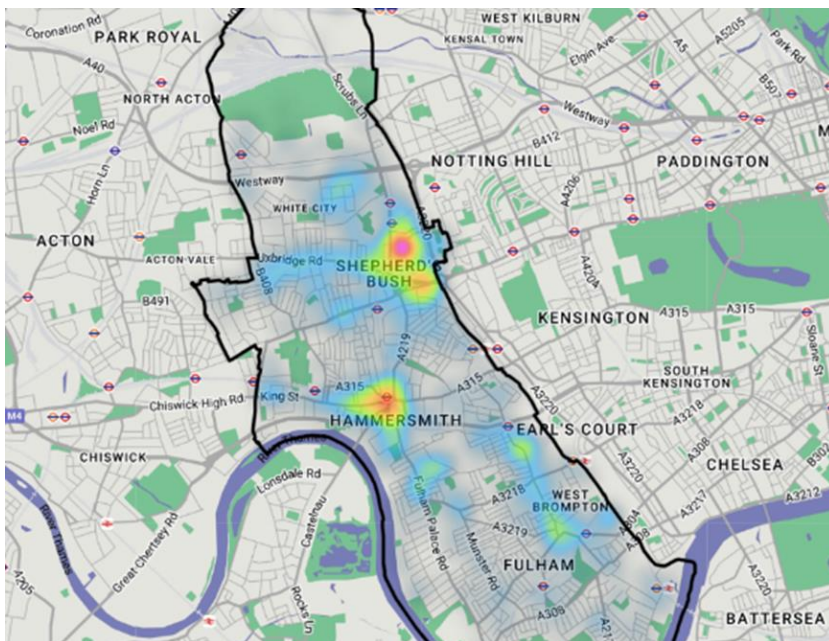
1. I am delighted to present this report as part of our partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour across Hammersmith & Fulham. I look forward to our discussion and to our continued joint activity serving our communities.

Context of this report:

2. The Metropolitan Police continues to struggle to recruit police officers and PCSOs across London. We have a significant budget deficit which will present unique challenges in the coming years unless substantial increased funding is made available. The New Met for London Plan, Race Action Plan and Culture Plans are all beginning to bear fruit. Confidence and satisfaction in policing has stabilised and in some areas is increasing again but we recognise the need to increase the pace of change. As we do all of this, it is important to recognise the amazing work many of my colleagues do, day in and day out, and for all of us to remain optimistic about what continues to be one of the finest police services globally.

Crime in Hammersmith and Fulham:

3. Overall crime across the Borough compared to the previous rolling 12 months has reduced by 6.1%. This equates to 845 fewer victims of crime in that period.
4. The hotspots for crime remain predominantly Shepherds Bush Green and Hammersmith Broadway. The heat map below is representative of this trend, showing overall crime density for the 4 weeks to 30th Sept 24.



5. Data provided to 27th October shows the following FYTD figures in comparison to the same period last year:
 - Robbery: Reduction of -10%
 - Residential Burglary: Reduction of -9.5%
 - Theft of MV: Reduction of -7.5%
 - Theft from MV: Reduction of -47%
 - Interference with MV: Reduction of -40%

- Violence with Injury: Reduction of -13.6%
6. Challenges remain in some priority areas and while the overall crime numbers are falling the following crime types are showing an increase:
- Sexual Offending: Increase of +13% (37 more victims, inc. DA)
 - Theft Person: Increase of +49.8% (226 more victims)
7. Both offence categories contain several different offences and are both subject to ongoing attention particularly in the Force and Borough priority of VAWG.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

8. FYTD calls for service for ASB are up by 14.6%, which represents 552 more incidents.
9. We continue to face some challenges regarding single sites, particularly when police have acted to close premises and other agencies such as housing providers, fail to then follow up with evictions or removal of tenants.
10. There has been some outstanding partnership work recently and we continue to focus on those areas and specific sites where we face the greatest proportion of calls. However, positive, and immediate joint action to divert or enforce those responsible remains essential.

Stop and Search:

11. The trend concerning stop and search numbers remains fewer than in previous years (-17%) with a consistent average of a circa 30% positive outcome rate.
12. I can report that the NH teams have increased the number of stop and search carried out. This is particularly good news when considering these local officers will have the greatest capability to bring legitimacy of the tactic through understanding of the local priorities and issues in their areas.

New Met for London and Local priorities:

13. At Borough and ward meetings, police listen, and record priorities and actions required of communities to guide the ward teams operational deployments and increase trust in our services. NMfL priorities are themed and actioned over three months and updates are provided at subsequent meetings or in the police monthly newsletter (launched November for first time).
14. Ward priorities are placed on our internet for public visibility and are now a core performance indicator for monthly internal performance meetings. Ward teams update activity undertaken at each ward panel meeting.

Other Areas of partnership work to note:

Street Harassment PSPO:

15. The work of the Borough and Police to introduce the first borough wide street harassment public space protection order (PSPO) that tackles sexual harassment has been exemplary. This has set a clear standard of what is expected in public spaces, with the aim of making our borough safer for women and girls. Critical to the success of this PSPO will be our joint activity in engaging residents to report incidents so that the both the Borough and Police can respond effectively.

Drugs Intervention:

16. The LA, with Police have been working to produce a detailed analysis of the open space drugs markets in the Borough. This product, when complete will allow all agencies to better target this significant contributory factor to volume crime, VAWG and public space ASB.
17. The findings will identify areas for more detailed analysis as well as where diversion, engagement and enforcement can be best targeted. This work is likely to be the subject of a separate conversation at the Scrutiny Panel and elsewhere in coming weeks.

CCTV

18. The effectiveness of CCTV in supporting police is vital and ongoing. Police are now working with CCTV teams to understand how we can again provide actionable intelligence images without breaching GDPR legislation to improve our responses, particularly to volume crime.
19. The CCTV teams add immense value to operational incidents. They have provided directed information, live time, supporting multiple arrests this year.

Ravenscourt Theft of MV operations

20. The joint work conducted by police and LET this year has contributed to a significant fall in the theft of and from motor vehicles across the Borough but particularly in Ravenscourt Ward. Work is continuing to improve the parking arrangements across the Ward to reduce opportunistic crimes of this nature through changes to parking restrictions in some areas.

Other Actions:

21. I would like to make mention of the excellent work Trading Standards are doing regarding test purchase operations, working closely with our youth teams and Cadets. These are contributing to safeguarding of young people and the

identification of a number of offences of supplying alcohol or cigarettes/vapes to those underage.

Joint Patrols and operational deployments

22. The LET and Police continue to co-operate closely with joint patrolling in critical areas. Examples include robbery patrols through Hammersmith Broadway and ASB patrols in Stanlake and throughout the North of the Borough. This co-operation is closely aligned to tactical weekly joint meetings and the new monthly community crime-fighting forum, which has broadly replaced the Tactical Enforcement Group (TEG) meeting, focussing on strategic objectives and longer-term solutions.

23. Submitted to facilitate discussion and debate at Scrutiny Panel.

Supt. Craig Knight
Hammersmith &
Fulham