

<b>Safer Stronger Select Committee</b>			
Report Title	Knife crime and youth violence		
Key Decision	No		Item No. 5
Ward	All		
Contributors	Head of Public Protection and Safety		
Class	Part 1	Date: February 4 2019	

## 1- Background

The London Knife Crime Strategy was launched on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 and within it was a commitment for every London borough to have a bespoke knife crime action plan created in partnership with the Met Police. The Met Police worked with each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to develop a local plan, with the understanding that these should be based on a locally developed, partnership analysis of the knife crime problem'

One year on from the launch of the London Knife Crime Strategy and with the recent launch of the Met Police Violent Crime Task Force, there was an opportunity to refresh local plans to achieve a single consistent action plan format across London. A new template for action plans has been developed to support the refresh.

MOPAC, the Met Police, Local Authorities and London Councils have collaboratively developed a new action plan template drawing on the expertise of Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, Directors of Public Health and Heads of Community Safety from across London. This is very much a work in progress that can be developed further over time.

The first section is populated with a number of essential actions which have been developed from consistent practice across London. The second section contains a Menu of Options with additional actions that have been drawn from practice within the existing 32 action plans and recent work from the range of Local Authority officers. Recognising that every local area is different and will know how best to deliver its plan, the menu of options enables each CSP to review and chose actions from the menu that best fit local delivery.

In future the use of a single template for action plans will help in identifying innovative new action and good practice by CSP's that can then be shared with colleagues across London.

The intention is that the new action plans will be living documents, with a periodic review process coordinated by MOPAC, the MPS and London Council's., and will help inform the work of the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

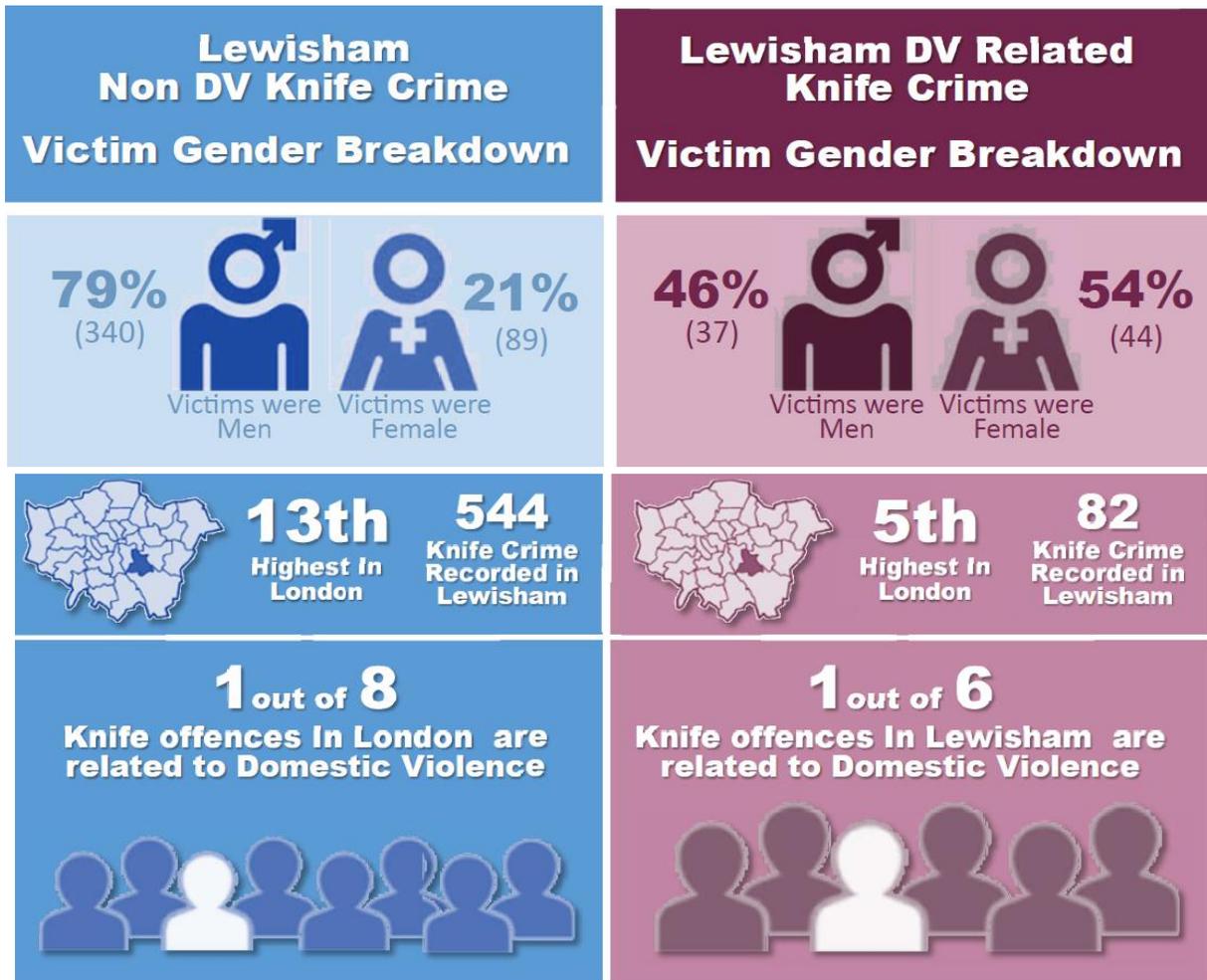
In Lewisham we have not siloed focus only on knife crime and have considered our approach in relation to violence more broadly. The public health approach to violence is a whole systems response to reducing violence and is the strategic approach within which tackling knife crime sits. Lewisham has also undertaken deep dive analysis to understand knife crime in the public space as well as within the home.

## 2- Data

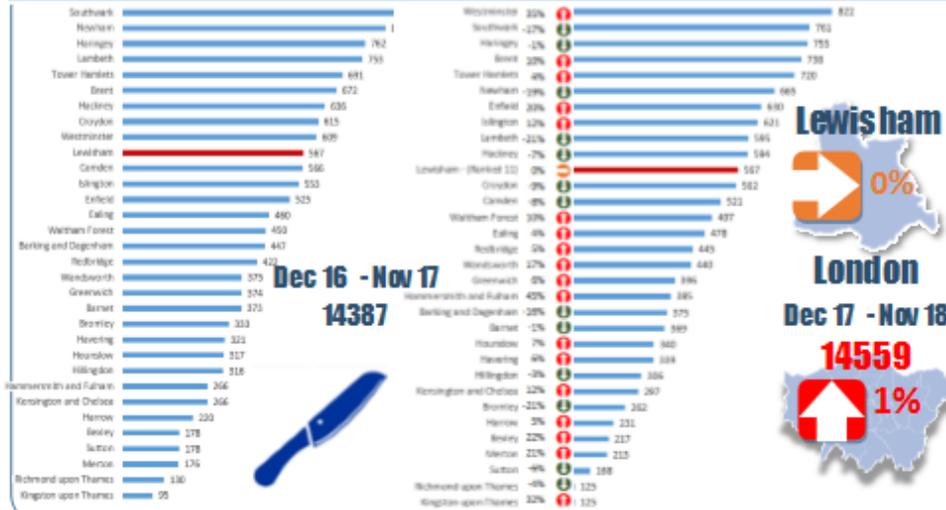
The following outlines the current analysis showing:

Lewisham is only 1 of 3 boroughs in London which has seen a reduction in overall violence; with Lewisham seeing a 0% change in knife crime and a 5% reduction in knife crime with injury.

For knife crime and domestic violence, some detailed analysis was undertaken which showed the following noting that female Victims formed 54% of all of DV knife crime Victim.



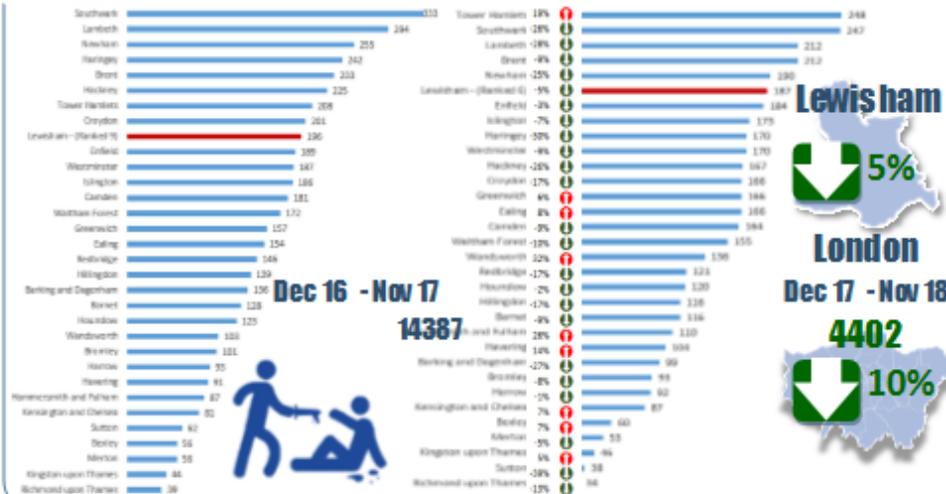
### Knife Crime



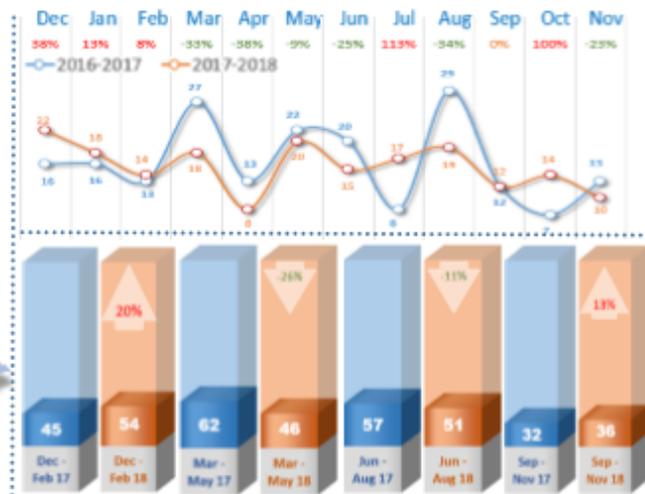
### Lewisham Monthly & Quarterly Comparison



### Knife Crime with Injury



### Lewisham Monthly & Quarterly Comparison



### **3- Lewisham's knife crime Action Plan :**

Lewisham completed the plan, and in addition, we have been working with police colleagues who are keen to develop a 3 borough BCU action plan which we would support whilst also focusing on the Lewisham specific plan.

3.1 The following areas are deemed as **minimum standards**.

#### **❖ Governance:**

- ✓ Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Meeting agendas to include Knife, Gun and Serious Violence Performance, consideration of habitual knife carriers, community tensions and stop and search as standing items. Monthly Violent Crime Partnership Tasking Meeting (or local equivalent) to include Violence Intelligence Briefing, tasking of partnership services to target offenders and hotspot locations; maintain and or review Events Tracker to identify and manage events of risk, monitor and review community tensions

**Detailed analytical products have been developed with further analysis being produced there are a number of structures in place that review the above and performance is monitored at every Safer Lewisham Partnership.**

#### **❖ Targeting Lawbreakers:**

- ✓ Analysis to support targeted enforcement - Community Safety Strategic Assessment to include Serious Youth Violence, Knife and gun enabled crime (to be refreshed annually)
- ✓ Use ISTV data, social media intelligence, local drugs markets and analysis of local county lines, plus any other relevant local authority data sources to inform the strategic assessment analysis
- ✓ Police Activity Tracker to be maintained to record, monitor and review key police tactical interventions and activity
- ✓ Reviewing key police tactical interventions and activity
- ✓ Multi-Agency Panel response to those repeatedly committing knife crime offences,

**There is a detailed strategic needs assessment being undertaken currently to inform the 19/20 plan. There are some sources of data that require further exploration. There are a number of multi-agency boards to review, risk assess and safety plan for individuals.**

#### **❖ Keeping weapons off the street**

- ✓ Develop an agreed joint programme of actions to remove weapons and provide reassurance including Trading Standards initiatives (e.g. knife crime test purchases)

**This activity is done and a programme of work is being developed so activity can be assessed. There is a programme of community knife searches as well as availability of wands in schools if appropriate. Responsible Retailer Agreements to be refreshed with key businesses in the borough, limiting the availability of knives being sold to young people. This is supported by the Safer Lewisham Business Partnership and overseen by the SLP Safer Spaces and Places multi agency working group.**

#### **❖ Protecting and educating young people:**

- ✓ Work to ensure schools are safe places to learn that build young people's resilience

- ✓ Schools to include knife crime and youth violence within their safeguarding plans as per Ofsted guidance expected September 2018
- ✓ Work to minimise school exclusions and support young people back into education, employment and training
- ✓ Monitor exclusions data through local education arrangements and also six monthly at CSP
- ✓ Supporting children in care and care leavers through diversion and preventative work that is bespoke to the risk of them becoming involved in serious violence

**There is work being undertaken with For Jimmy to understand the issues from the children's perspectives and mapping to take action around safe spaces and places. In addition, a school policy was adopted in 17/18 in relation to knives/ weapons in schools. A focus on exclusions is part of the work programme of select committees and data is being accessed to report regularly on this aspect. Knife Crime/Violence awareness programmes across all education establishments is to be mapped to better understand the offer alongside the universal schools safety programme which is being delivered to Yr7 and covers knife crime, bullying, substance misuse, on line and healthy relationships.**

❖ ***Standing with communities, neighbourhoods, and families***

- ✓ Develop or update CSP approaches to working with communities to tackle knife crime, including appropriate programmes of community development, capacity building and structured dialogue
- ✓ Community Tensions Monitoring - Assessment by MPS to be supported by CSP partners so it is based on multi-agency data
- ✓ Facilitate community involvement in Stop & Search - including the monitoring S60 by community representatives and including a standing agenda item at Safer Neighbourhood Boards

**There are a number of approaches and programmes which are reviewed and reported on. The Safer Neighbourhood Board is an important forum to support community development as well as its stop and search scrutiny committee.**

❖ ***Supporting victims***

- ✓ Local Safeguarding partners to ensure all young victims of knife crime have are referred to appropriate packages of support across both statutory and voluntary provision
- ✓ All young victims of knife crime to be assessed for referral to CAHMS where determined appropriate in the light of risk / harm
- ✓ London Trauma and A&E centres to provide safeguarding information to local partnerships and hence maximise opportunities for "teachable moments" and rapid service referral/support

**The borough has adopted a trauma informed approach which assists with understanding sub clinical mental wellbeing which may not meet thresholds for CAHMS provision**

**The trauma centres work began in Lewisham in 2009 and is well embedded with this model is now rolled out across London.**

❖ **Offering ways out of crime :**

- ✓ Pre-court and post-conviction knife crime offenders to be provided with bespoke community sentence interventions. Develop local schedule of intervention options taking account all available services,

**There are a number of interventions including within the YOS who have created a Trauma Informed violence reduction programme.**

**The Violence Reduction Programme** gives young people insight into why they may respond to situations with violence including knife crime. It enables young people to recognise moments of hyper vigilance and manage stressful situations. The programme uses academic research on the causes of violence from a trauma informed perspective, it also aims to help young people develop internal controls, resilience and emotional intelligence. The programme also incorporates, mindfulness and breathing techniques to encourage a focused mind and positive affirmations to encourage positive thinking

**3.2 Additional actions from the knife crime plan:**

In addition to the above Lewisham has adopted the following aspects to support the work:

- Promote the London Needs You Alive Campaign within local prevention awareness campaigns
- Adoption of a restorative justice approach
- Adoption/promotion of City Safe Haven's
- Develop a post incident community response - a local partnership response to serious violence critical incidents. To be based upon forthcoming commissioned work commissioned by MOPAC in collaboration with the MPS and London Councils
- Business Community to be involved through Business Improvement District, Regeneration agencies and/or Business Crime Partnership meetings
- Refresh of the Responsible Retailer Agreements on sale of knives.
- Map provision across the borough

**4 Youth violence**

4.1 County lines, or 'going country' means groups or gangs using young people or vulnerable adults to carry and sell drugs from borough to borough, and across county boundaries. It is a tactic used by groups or gangs to facilitate the selling of drugs in an area outside of the area they live, reducing their risk of detection. This issue is affecting all London boroughs and its impact can be seen in the Home Counties and many other towns and cities.

The National Crime Agency suggests around 1500 county lines known nationally (NCA website)—although thought to be likely much higher. NCA state third of known lines originate from London (although again likely to be underestimated). Latest estimate is that around 4000 teenagers affected by County Lines in London.

Lewisham have been using a Missing, exploited and trafficked (MET) approach which considers the multiple risk, harm and vulnerabilities to focus partnership work. Based on our methodology it is guesstimated that there would be approximately 5400 people across London engaged with exploitation activities linked to organised crime and drug networks. This is further supported by Safer London Foundation figures who suggest that over 4000 young

people they are working with show as having risk indicators for being 'exploited' by a form of criminal network in London.

We understand the issues are multiple considering risk, harm and vulnerability at all times and therefore have set up a multi-agency violence reduction hub and using a contextual safeguarding approach will be safety planning and support those involved in serious violence and county lines.

4.2 Lewisham has undertaken an extensive body of work to reduce serious violence. The work we have already undertaken has been guided by the following key principles:

- Building adult capabilities, meeting their needs and building confidence – minimising the stress within the family
- Looking at the progress of every child each and every day
- Skills for all: whole workforce skills in mindfulness, nurture, thrive, trauma informed and restorative approaches
- Active learning with inclusion at the heart
- Parents as first teachers
- Access and availability
- Building social capital / co production and creating stronger community networks

#### 4.3 **Examples of current activity**

***Trusted adult's: community champions - Lewisham's Community Champions*** - Many individuals and community groups in our borough feel passionately about putting an end to youth violence and are motivated to be part of the solution. Lewisham officers are working with various individuals within the community and are developing workshops for volunteers and practitioners. Workshops will include information about youth violence and our Lewisham approach (trauma informed, challenging unconscious bias and restorative approaches). The model is designed to improve engagement and extend reach and support to communities. The aim is for community champions who, with their legitimacy within the area, will be able to signpost fellow members of the community to local service provision.

***Safe havens*** - These havens continue to be delivered by For Jimmy. These are havens are local businesses in the community that are able to offer safe spaces to children. Working with schools and For Jimmy to understand safe spaced and places from the perspective of children and what could be done collectively.

***Universal Schools Safety Programme*** - Following a series of roundtables with young people in 2016/2017 5 key messages emerged that they were most concerned about: knife crime, bullying, drugs and alcohol, domestic abuse and social media dangers. These formed the basis of a universal schools programme which was co-created with the Council and Youth First.

The important aspects of the model was to be youth service led; embedding youth workers in schools delivering these sessions enabled follow on work and early identification of those who may need additional support. Also to signpost and refer to afterschool youth services would offer and enable improved positive activities. The programme is delivered alongside the provider for teenage health and wellbeing to Yr 7.

**Supporting early childhood development and meeting the needs of adults (parents)** - A range of parental support services through the children's centres and early years services are available in some areas with a focus on 5 to thrive: Talk, play, relax, cuddle, respond.

Recognising some of the triggers that lead to adverse childhood experiences such as Domestic Violence, parental Mental Health, and parental Substance misuse, parent in prison, abuse or neglect has led to analysis of adult's needs and a focus on support to meet the needs of these parents/ adults.

Our strategies rely on Identifying protection and safety for those who may need additional support. A review of some of the critical flags including exclusion is being undertaken by children's select committee which will report early in 2019.

Greater understanding of the speech, language and communication triggers within criminal justice has led increased access to services to support learning for these children.

Early Help review - we are developing our local Public Health approach to youth violence. This means that the things we are seeking to change are not just about violence, but rather about conditions for individuals, families and communities. As such any effort to address these must be a whole system, partnership approach seeking to prevent poor outcomes for Lewisham residents across a wide range of areas socially, economically and personally. This means reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors wherever we can, and intervening early where issues emerge across the partnership in Lewisham. The Council is therefore undertaking an Early Help review, governed by a partnership board including the Head of Public Protection and Safety.

The review will:

- Review approaches to reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors
- Review the Lewisham offer of support internally, across commissioned provision and the wider partnership to inform recommissioning for April 2020
- Develop a new Early Help strategy from 2019.

**Preventing escalation-** Lewisham's Youth Offending Service and Violence Reduction Team have set up the Violence Reduction Hub which is progressing a trauma-informed delivery practice model. This multi-modal model offers three methods which are considered key components in creating safe spaces and empowering individuals and these are:

- Trauma-informed practice
- Restorative Justice approaches
- Unconscious bias principles.

**Enforcement** – the partnership work with the police to focus on those dangerous individuals who are grooming children to deal drugs/ habitual knife carriers/ involved in organised crime continues. In the past year a number of operations has led to significant arrests and the seizing of drugs, weapons and money. Additional support is provided via the Met wide Violence Taskforce when required. This is a critical arm of the overall approach.

**Reducing the effects** - The wide spread effects of violence in the public realm and within the home is well evidenced so ensuring a whole systems approach which works with a range of professionals across the statutory and voluntary sector to embed a joint philosophy and skills development will increase the ability of all to stop the violence.

Wide scale **campaigning** to de-normalise violence / change the narrative about children and focus on aspiration and positive childhood experiences is being developed.

Facilitating a **community led conversation** is being developed, leading to co-production of a 5-10 year strategy will help to sustain the change for a longer period of time bringing about the cultural and societal changes needed to stop violence.

**Pan London Rescue and Response – county lines** - This project is delivering a support service for young people who are vulnerable and caught up in County Lines drug distribution networks across our region. This issue brings together gangs, national policing strategy, CSE, trafficking, exploitation and vulnerability; underpinned by a complex range of social and structural disadvantage. The need has been identified but is so far only partly understood and sporadically mapped, with support models untested at any scale. The project is being evaluated by Bedfordshire University.

It is the first County Lines support service that:

- Operates at scale - pan London and for 3 years until March 2021.
- Includes support providers, intelligence analysis as well as looking to break the cycle through front line practitioner training.
- Is led by a coalition of London boroughs with support from MPS special commands and the voluntary sector.

## 5 - **Summary**

There has been a continued focus by the partnership on violence including knife crime and youth violence. The Impact of this is significant on those directly involved but also those who live in the borough. The fear that young people and adults have in relation to violence and knife crime cannot be underestimated and the impact of this fear in terms of stress, ability to go about your daily life, and distrust leads to greater fear and trauma that's spreads widely.

The knife crime plan is an important focus for action as a partnership and this will be reviewed quarterly at the Safer Lewisham p[partnership but this is seen within the wider context of violence and the public health approach.

The partnership will continue to focus and prioritise this issue.

## 6. **Financial Implications**

- 6.1 currently this has not been identified but consideration about collective resources will need to take place to deliver on this agenda

## 7. **Legal & Human Rights Implications**

- 7.1 The Council is under a number of statutory obligations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder; the Anti-Social Behaviour 2003 requires the Council as a local housing authority to have policies and procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places the Council under a duty to have, when carrying out its functions, due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.

- 7.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.3 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area.
- 7.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.
- 8. Equalities Implications**
- 8.1 Developing safe and secure communities is central to the work of the Council as a whole and in particular to the Community Services directorate. Reducing and preventing crime, reducing fear of crime and supporting vulnerable communities is critical to the well-being of all our citizens. This agenda directly impacts on this area and any actions must review impact in relation to equalities.
- 9. Crime and Disorder Implications**
- 9.1 Section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.
- 10. Environmental Implications**
- 10.1 Key decisions made which may have environmental implications. Environmental services are consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

*For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Public Protection and Safety,, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8 314 9569*