



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Update from the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities

**Date:** 5 March 2020

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Cabinet Member for Safer Communities

## 1. Summary

This report provides an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on some of the achievements in the Safer Communities portfolio.

## 2. Recommendations

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report and ask questions.

## 3. Policy Context

3.1 This report will be responding to the Council's Corporate Strategy and Strategic priorities:

- **Open Lewisham** - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
- **Building Safer Communities** - Every resident feels safe and secure living here, as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

## 4. Update on Corporate Strategy Priority Commitments

4.1 *We will actively challenge all forms of discrimination, including racism, sexism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, ageism, and all other forms of hatred.*

- In July 2019, Lewisham Council officers, in partnership with the founder of National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW), held a conference at Goldsmiths University for local authorities nationwide and their police hate crime leads to come together to share ideas

and good practice in delivering events for the 2019 NHCAW. During National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2019, Lewisham council, Met police officers, working with various community organisations, undertook a number of community events in Lewisham to raise awareness of the wider harms of hate and the implications it has for young people.

- In 2019, three local community organisations, Second Wave, African Advocacy Foundation and the Rio Ferdinand Foundation all received central government funding through the *Building a Stronger Britain Together* programme to proactively deliver projects to tackle hatred and intolerance in Lewisham.
- Council officers provide regular support to the Safer Neighbourhood Board Hate Crime Working Group, bringing a wide range of community groups together with the Council and the Police to analyse hate crime data and develop multiagency actions to tackle all forms of hate.
- Council officers have worked closely with faith groups in the borough and have supported them to establish the Lewisham Interfaith Forum, for all faith leads to come together in unity to tackle hatred locally. General meetings are held regularly, with the next scheduled for March 2020, which will focus on Hate Crime.
- Lewisham's Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Sites network has been revisited, re-established and the reporting sites have been retrained to receive and deal with reports from the Community. Lewisham's Third Party Reporting scheme aims to deliver a coordinated response to hate crime by bringing together key agencies to work in partnership to ensure victims and witnesses have access to support and protection, and offenders are brought to justice which will help create a safer and more cohesive community. There are currently 14 third party reporting sites across Lewisham.
- In January 2019 Lewisham Council, in partnership Karma Nirvana (an award-winning national charity supporting victims and survivors of Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage) hosted a conference for professional agencies, community groups, leaders and community members interested in increasing awareness and confidence in identifying Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage and committed to building a more resilient community.

#### 4.2 We will tackle unconscious bias and support local awareness campaigns

- The Youth Offending and Crime Enforcement and Regulation Services have been leading on the application of the MOPAC plan to reduce over-representation and unconscious bias across the borough. This work aligns strongly with the Lewisham Equalities Review and the Single Equality Framework 2020-2024 to promote fairness and equality across the provision of services.
- We have invested in unconscious bias training for all senior leaders across the partnerships of Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP), the Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) and the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and this will be refreshed and widened to include other partners. We have undertaken a self-assessment for all agencies on the SLP and have an action plan in place to ensure a consistent, collective approach. This forms a key element of our whole systems model, which is Trauma Informed, Restorative practice aware and underpinned by unconscious bias awareness.
- There is work underway to embed unconscious bias training across all staff in the council.
- The Community Champion's programme (under Lewisham's Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction) has begun and unconscious bias training has been delivered to the 22 community champions, who are leading on our community conversations on violence.
- Disproportionality in the criminal justice system is reviewed quarterly at the Safer Lewisham Partnership and The Safer Lewisham Plan 20-21 (revised) will include a sequence of actions monitored against new MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) criteria across the criminal justice system, from pre criminal and arrest &

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prosecution to the secure estate (custodial sentences). The Youth Offending service will devise a plan to ensure the MOPAC priorities are delivered.

Actions will include:

- Training materials for officers on unconscious bias and disproportionality in stop and search.
- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) will convene a Youth Stop and Search Scrutiny Group to involve more young people affected by Stop and Search in the scrutiny process.
- Supporting and funding a nurturing and inclusive programme to support children at risk of exclusion and their parents.
- 'Voice of the Child' focus groups with minority ethnic young people under the supervision of the Youth Offending Service to hear their experience of being arrested.
- A strategy to reduce the criminalisation of children in the care system.
- Culturally competent services and inclusion of community agencies in supporting representative interventions

*4.3 We will develop a public health approach to youth violence and knife crime that looks at tackling the root causes. We will ensure all agencies - social services, schools, police and our NHS - work together while involving parents and local communities*

**Lewisham is taking a public health approach to reducing violence** - which means:

- Understanding the extent of all violence, where and how it happens and who is affected to better inform including youth violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.
- Understanding that violence damages physical and emotional health and can have long-lasting negative impacts. It increases individuals' risks of a broad range of health damaging behaviours – including further violence – and reduces their life prospects in terms of education, employment and social and emotional wellbeing.
- A wide range of factors relating to individuals, their relationships, and the communities and societies in which they live can interact to increase or reduce vulnerability to violence. Issues such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have significant impacts on families.
- There are a wide range of strategies that can be used to address risk factors for violence and promote protective factors across all ages. Some can be implemented universally and others are targeted specifically. Using evidence based models will shape impact.
- Working with the strengths that exist in communities to listen and collaborate on designing solutions together.
- Dialogue that challenges social norms aim to prevent violence by making it less socially acceptable.

The Aim is to:

- Reduce the impacts and actual violence across Lewisham.
- Identify the causes of violence in Lewisham, and act to deliver short and longer term reductions.
- Listen and work with communities to build on their strengths and deliver solutions together.
- Create a learning environment for continuous improvement.
- Impact positively on wider social, economic and health outcomes for our residents.

Building on the work already in place, the following key strands of work that form part of this strategy have been introduced:

- Creation of a Violence Reduction Board
- Community Dialogue

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- Review of Services and Provision e.g. Early Help Review, YOS, VRT
- Homicide and Attempted Homicide Cases Review and learning
- A Strategic Needs Assessment and Performance Framework
- Supporting workforce resilience and creating Trauma informed restorative aware organisations
- Develop a Youth panel to guide the work.

Under Lewisham's commitment to this public health approach to reducing violence we have introduced:

- **Lewisham Violence Reduction Board** - A Violence Reduction Board (VRB) for Lewisham has been convened and meets quarterly to:
  - Support Lewisham's violence reduction approach with clear leadership and strategic oversight responsibilities
  - Oversee the delivery of Lewisham's public health approach within the Council.
- The Concern Hub – Lewisham's Concern Hub works with children and young people up to the age of 25 primarily and focuses on missing, child sexual exploitation, child exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, county lines, serious youth violence and gangs, taking into account a number of changes in our understanding and focus on a public health / whole systems approach to violence as well as rationalising multi agency actions for exploited children.

The focus of the Concern Hub is to:

- Provide a preventative offer of support for the client and family with earlier identification of risk
- To provide a multi-agency forum to jointly risk assess/ safety plan and agreed joint actions and lead agency
- To use a contextual safeguarding approach to make short/ medium and longer term change
- To join up resources across a cohort to avoid duplication
- **Trauma Informed Approach** – Lewisham's Youth Offending Service has been highlighted for best practice by the Department for Education Innovation Unit as a Trauma-informed Service identifying the importance of consistent and meaningful contact and trusted relationships. The YOS is also an accredited Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Community base delivering intensive, high quality and personalized family interventions to support desistance. These workforce transformational programs have seen significant outcomes for Lewisham, such as;
  - a resilient, committed and high quality staff team working sub-clinically
  - half as many young people sentenced to custody
  - reduction in re-offending for young people
  - a positive change in direction for services for prevention
  - a model to high risk and complexity which addresses the drivers for violence: fear and stress, bias and adversity
- **Community Conversations** - Our determination to tackle violence using a public health approach ensures that we put the community at the heart of our vision. Over the summer 2019 we recruited 22 community Champions who are currently working in the community, hosting 'Community Café' sessions for groups to come together and talk about their experiences of violence and how they think the best way to approach it is. These conversations will help the council form an overarching Community Strategy over the coming months.
- **Licensing Policy** - The Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service has commenced its

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consultation on the revised Statement of Licensing Policy for Lewisham and will close on March 22nd 2020. The Licensing Act 2003 (Section 5) requires every Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy every 5 years. The new revised version for 2020-2025 aims to set out a clear set of principles that the Licensing Authority will uphold and promote in everything it does in administering the licensing regime in the borough.

- The ultimate aim of this policy is to promote the four licensing objectives as set out in the Licensing Act 2003:
  - Prevention of Crime and Disorder
  - Prevention of Public Nuisance
  - Protection of Children from Harm
  - Public Safety
- This policy is also focused on supporting key priorities in the council's Corporate Strategy, and also underpins other important work streams such as the promotion of Lewisham's evening and night time economy and Lewisham's Women's Safety Charter.

#### 4.4 We will focus on combatting sexual violence and domestic abuse

- **Athena** -The Athena Service, run by Refuge, (which has recently been re-commissioned to deliver VAWG services in Lewisham) provides confidential, non-judgmental support to those living in the London Borough of Lewisham who are experiencing gender-based violence. It opened its doors in April 2015 and provides outreach programmes, independent advocacy, group support, refuge accommodation and a specialist service for young women.
- In 2018, Lewisham received £324,786 of Home Office funding from the **Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Fund** (2018-20) to deliver interventions designed to support children who are exposed to domestic abuse. In partnership with Early Years Alliance, MET Police and a number of other local providers we developed and submitted a bid focused on enhancing and expanding our exceptional borough wide VAWG and domestic abuse partnership to deliver a two year phased approach to improving outcomes for children who are or have suffered domestic abuse through a three step pathway; PREVENT-PROTECT-REPAIR. Prevent-Protect-Repair was led by Lewisham Council who commissioned existing key partners to deliver a range of interventions to support affected children and their families. Our aim was not just to create a raft of new services but to build on the existing partners together, enhancing staff competence and confidence for a long-term sustainable approach. Actions undertaken in this project included;
  - Expanding and enhancing our successful, evidence-led Freedom and Community Groups Programmes.
    - **Freedom Programme** – a group for women who are at risk, have experienced or are experiencing Domestic Abuse – delivered by Lewisham Children Centres and Health Visitors.
    - **Community Groups Programme** – a therapeutic programme for children of all ages which also supports mothers – delivered by the Early Years Alliance
  - The commissioning of a film about the experience of children affected by domestic violence. The premier screening for this film, The Timekeeper, will take place at Catford Mews Cinema on Wednesday March 18th.
- **Community Groups Programme – YOS**  
Lewisham has received recognition from **Against Violence and Abuse** (AVA), for being the first London borough to imbed the Community Groups Programme within the work delivered by a Youth Offending Service. Community Groups is a 12 week therapeutic child centred programme for children who have witnessed violence against their mothers. The Community Groups Programme is usually delivered to children who are 4-

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11 years of age, Lewisham have trained officers within the YOS who are now delivering a programme to teenagers. Work is under way to also start to deliver programmes for 0-4 years.

- **16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence**

The 16 days of activism against gender based violence took place from 25th November (international day for the elimination of violence against women) to 10th December (Human Rights day). Lewisham ran a number of partnership activities across these 16 days, which included White Ribbon Day. Lewisham Homes and other Housing Associations across the Borough held events of their own around White Ribbon Day. This year, the activities across the 16 days had an emphasis on domestic abuse affecting those with complex needs and also domestic abuse and the LGBTQ+ communities.

- **Young Ambassadors Programme (Healthy Relationships)**

Lewisham Council VAWG officers and Belevé UK have been working on a young ambassador's scheme with an emphasis on how young people tackle sexual harassment and other issues that they face within gender based violence and interpersonal relationships. More than 50 young people from Lewisham signed up to be a part of this project and they have worked with Belevé UK and Rio Ferdinand Foundation to create a film which portrays the underlying issues young people face on a daily basis, including being asked for sexual favours and being subjected to inappropriate comments and rumours. The launch for this campaign was held in Parliament Square on International Day of the Girl on the 11th of October.

- **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)**

The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance's (DAHA), works to a mission to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an accreditation process. DAHA is a partnership between three agencies who are leaders in innovation to address domestic abuse within, Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV), Peabody and Gentoo.

Lewisham Housing and the Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service has commissioned DAHA to develop a new bespoke local strategy to assist them with implementing good practice when faced with victims of Domestic Abuse and VAWG. Lewisham Homes is also currently working towards this accreditation.

- **Operation Encompass**

Operation Encompass directly connects the police with schools to secure better outcomes for children who are subject or witness to police attended incidents of Domestic Abuse. Rapid provision of support within the school environment means children are better safeguarded against the short- medium and long term effects of Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass launched in Lewisham in February 2019, and most Lewisham Schools (Secondary/Primary) have signed up. All Designated Safe Guarding Leads for those signed up have attended briefings/training provided by the Council's VAWG Manager, Athena and the Safeguarding Lead for Lewisham Schools.

Lewisham Council were recently successful in a bid for funding under the MHCLG one year funding opportunity to Support for Victims of Domestic Violence in Safe Accommodation. Lewisham received £99,995 for extra staffing resources in its Athena Refuges.

#### *4.5 The Council will continue with efforts to combat child sexual exploitation and peer-on-peer abuse*

- Lewisham developed a forward thinking model in 2016 which did not focus on 'labels' of types of risks such as youth offender/ CSE; but took an approach which recognised the

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drivers and multiple complex issues that affect children and young people as well as focussing on preventative aspects and earlier support. At this time the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked strategy was developed alongside a Serious Youth Violence Prevention Panel.

- The move in 2019 to the **Concern Hub** came from the current structures being reviewed taking into account a number of changes in our understanding and focus on a public health/whole systems approach to violence as well as rationalising multi agency actions for exploited children. The Concern Hub model works with children and young people up to the age of 25 primarily, includes missing, Child sexual exploitation, child exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, county lines, serious youth violence and gangs.

The focus of the change is:

- To provide a preventative offer of support for the client and family with earlier identification of risk
- To provide a multi-agency forum to jointly risk assess/ safety plan and agreed joint actions and lead agency
- To use a contextual safeguarding approach to make short/ medium and longer term change
- To join up resources across a cohort to avoid duplication

### **What is working well in supporting children through the Concern Hub?**

- Good weekly grip and understanding of the cases
- Swift responses
- Improving collective understanding of the issues
- Good recording to support risk and safety planning
- Improved multi agency responses to interventions and actions
- Cases are reviewed as per concern rating and removed etc

### **What more do we need to do?**

- Develop the child exploitation strategy including principles for safeguarding adolescents
- Build a reporting and data outcome reporting system to measure success
- Develop the mapping and analysis of cases to identify hotspots and contextual risk responses
- Strengthen our joint approach to schools, community and parents
- Ensure the joint action plan on disproportionality is applied to the exploitation approach

#### *4.6 Lewisham Council will work with local retailers to tackle underage purchasing of knives by supporting more businesses in Lewisham to sign up to our Responsible Retailers Agreement*

- Officers from the Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service have worked with 69 stores in Lewisham to sign them up to Responsible Retailer Agreements.
- To roll this out further, Lewisham has worked with the Home Office as one of the London boroughs chosen to take part in a knife crime project as part of its Violent Crime Strategy. Lewisham received funding to both undertake an audit of businesses which sells knives across the borough and to enhance enforcement of under-age sales of knives legislation. Lewisham officers visited and spoke with 252 premises over a period of 3 months in the summer of 2019, working with Police cadets to undertake test purchasing and followed up with education and enforcement where sales were made.
- Working with businesses specifically in Lewisham Town Centre, in June 2019 The London Borough of Lewisham won the award for the **Best Programme to Reduce Impact of Crime on Small Businesses** at the London Councils Small Business Friendly Borough awards – Lewisham was recognised for the work of the Safer Lewisham Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), a membership scheme where businesses work with the Local Authority, police and other interested stakeholders to reduce crime, violence, anti-social

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behaviour, and other crimes that affect the profitability of businesses. There has been a Lewisham Business Crime Partnership in place for more than a decade currently supporting a membership of 120 businesses in Lewisham through the roll out of our radio link scheme and providing regular communication to businesses on issues and individuals of concern. In March 2018, across Lewisham Town Centre, and particularly Lewisham Shopping Centre (LSC) itself became a gathering point for larger numbers of young people than usual to meet and socialise. This quickly escalated to groups of young people (aged between 11-18), involving themselves in anti-social behaviour (ASB). The partners of the Lewisham Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) came together to meet with local schools, youth services and local businesses. The response to these issues initially began with an increased police and security presence as a short-term solution. The Council, Police and the BCRP set up local business meetings, inviting relevant parties and providing a forum for businesses to share their concerns whilst simultaneously being updated on the actions being completed by relevant authorities. This received positive feedback from businesses who felt they were being kept well informed and re-assured that local authorities were taking the right steps to support them. A number of key decisive partnership actions were undertaken and within a month of the original intervention, the feedback from the businesses and the shopping centre management was overwhelmingly positive, whereby they felt well informed and had seen a reduction in the number of incidents related to ASB. The partners involved in this maintained excellent communication with each other and the local businesses while they delivered information and intervention efforts throughout a period of angst amongst the business community.

#### *4.7 We will work with the police to ensure that use of stop and search is used in a responsible intelligence-led manner*

- To achieve this priority and in response to recommendations and referrals arising from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee's 2018-19 review entitled "The Impact of Stop and Search and Prevent on community relations".
- Council officers are working closely with the Police and other partners to support dialogue between Police officers and young people. A key manifesto commitment made by one of Lewisham's previous Young Mayors was to support more dialogue between the Police and Lewisham young people and Council officers worked to assist this. There has been work done to engage secondary age young people on topics such as stop and search, either through direct engagement with schools Police Officers or through involvement in a wide number of personal safety programmes (mainly aimed at secondary age young people) Additionally the Council, Police and community partners have more recently been working with primary schools in the borough, listening to children's individual and collective concerns and working with both students and teachers to map the issues and create safety plans around their concerns.
- Senior Police officers in Lewisham (and across the BCU) have undertaken unconscious bias training alongside other senior officers partners on the Safer Lewisham Partnership. Unconscious bias training has been delivered as mandatory corporate training for all officers on Professional Development Days. All officers receive four Professional Development Days training per year, so one day was allocated to this training. In addition, as part of the Leading for London programme (which is leadership training for all officers from the rank of Sergeant and above), everyone received input from the unconscious bias programme. Lewisham Police, along with other partners in the Safer Lewisham Partnership have committed to work towards making Lewisham a "trauma informed borough" and unconscious bias training is a key facet in the training all agencies need to acquire to achieve this.
- Lewisham Council officers have asked that the Met Police work to make Stop and Search complaint data more easily available on the Met Police website and that this data is also presented in a more user-friendly way. Lewisham Police are also looking at alternative ways to better identify complaints about stop and search and facilitate mechanisms to support young people to make complaints

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4.8 *We will support the community to scrutinise the use of stop and search to ensure it is genuinely intelligence led, and challenge the police where it is not*

- A data analysis masterclass, facilitated by the Director of Public Protection and Safety, was held with members of this group to better understand the police stop and search data in 2019.
- The Council, through the Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service, has continued to support the Stop and Search Scrutiny Committee, both through the direct provision of data analysis and also assisting the group in finding this and analysing this data for local scrutiny. The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities provides support to the group and will liaise with them to find out how best the Council can support them further.

4.9 *We will continue to support the Lewisham Safer Neighbourhood Boards by working with partners, including the police, to focus on the needs of our local communities*

- This support continues with the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and the Director of Public Protection & Safety being members of this board.
- The Director of Public Protection & Safety and the Head of crime, Enforcement & Regulation regularly present at the Safer Neighbourhood Board, with recent community discussions held on the council's Public Health Approach to Serious Violence and at the January SNB Board, we facilitated a community cafe conversation on violence.
- Council and Police officers also support the Stop and Search and Hate Crime SNB subgroups

## **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no specific financial implications at this stage. The work described in this report has been funded from base budgets or from specific external funding.

## **6. Legal implications**

6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report, save for noting the following obligations upon the Authority for complying with the Equality Act 2010:

6.2 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.3 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.4 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed at 12.2 above.

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6.5 The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

6.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>

6.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- [The essential guide to the public sector equality duty](#)
- [Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making](#)
- [Engagement and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities](#)
- [Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities](#)
- [Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities](#)

6.8 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1>

## 7. Crime and disorder implications

7.1 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.

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## **8. Equalities implications**

8.1 The Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities and help ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

8.2 With respect to the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20, the activities described in this report make a clear contribution to the following equality objectives:

- Tackling victimisation, discrimination and harassment
- Improving access to services
- Closing the gap in outcomes between citizens
- Increasing mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
- Increasing participation and engagement

## **9. Environmental implications**

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications to this report.

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