

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 21st November 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Organised Criminal Gang Board

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the verbal report and presentation in relation to Halton Councils response to Organised Criminal Gangs and the Government Strategy to tackle “County Lines” and Criminal Exploitation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the report attached as “appendix 1” be noted; and**
- 2) the Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

ORGANISED CRIMINAL GROUPS (OCG)

Serious and organised crime: local profile guidance

The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy places significant emphasis on the importance of effective local partnerships. Strong multi-agency working, a key commitment of the Strategy, can be supported by a shared view of the threat set out in a Local Profile.

To support this we have now established a partnership group chaired by David Parr (Chief executive) to tackle organised crime groups in Halton. (Operation Portfolio). This group will initially meet on a monthly basis.

The aim of Operation Portfolio is to deliver an effective partnership response to the threat posed by serious crime and organised crime groups impacting on communities in Widnes and Runcorn.

The group has a number of key objectives which are highlighted below:

Objectives

- Identify and research the threat posed to local communities by serious and organised crime in Widnes.
- Document the threat posed by serious crime, Organised Crime Groups, Urban Street Gangs, cross border criminality and thematic serious crime threats in a format which can be shared. This document is termed be the 'Widnes Local Profile'.
- Single or group 'Partnership Profiles' will be the information basis for assessment of specific individuals, Organised Crime Groups, Urban Street Gangs, or locations.

Partnership Profiles will be produced by police for each meeting
- Identify and establish a partnership group to use all available civil, criminal and legal powers to implement enforcement, disruption and safeguarding tactics to reduce the threat.

The group meets on a bi monthly basis and agrees a partnership action plan against a number of key nominals that have been identified by the partnership profiles. This group is now currently working on two profiles with Partners

This will now be a standing item on the Safer Halton Partnership agenda.

COUNTY LINES

County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines". It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'.

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority. However this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.