

Briefing to: South Sefton Area Partnership

Briefing From: Steph Prewett, Head of Corporate Commissioning & Neighbourhood Coordination

Briefing about: Gun and Gang Crime in Sefton

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013

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## **Introduction**

Sefton has experienced a recent increase in incidents relating to gun and gang activity and as such has agreed to develop a specific strategic approach to how we tackle the issue in partnership. Until recently we were considering the issue within existing mechanisms and approaches, however, given recent changes in circumstances and the escalating nature of these events we have taken a decision to develop our approach further and dedicate a targeted focus on these issues.

The following outlines a timeline of progress to date:

- 5 May 2012 - Gun Crime Summit organised by Chief Constable Merseyside Police at which it was raised that gun crime was becoming an increasing concern within Sefton. At this stage Sefton was still behind Liverpool and Knowsley in terms of incidents but it was considered an emerging issue. Meeting attended by Ch Supt Nikki Holland, Peter Morgan and Chris Jones.
- 15 May 2012 – Discussion about how we might consider approaching the issue of Youth Gang and Gun Violence was raised as an urgent item at a workshop of Sefton Operations Board (Operations Board is a partnership of senior representatives of organisations in Sefton). At this time it was agreed that as the Police already had their OCG (Organised Crime Group) in place it would be reviewed whether this was the most appropriate place to respond to this issue.
- 21 August 2012 – Respect day held in Linacre Bridge following shooting. Multi-agency reassurance day to demonstrate Police presence in the area; delivering a clean up and engaging with residents in the area. Involving a number of partners including Sefton MBC, Merseyside Police, RSLs and residents.
- 1 October 2012 – SSCP (Sefton Safer Communities Partnership) considered recent events and how we responded to them. It was suggested at this point that given changing circumstances the OCG was no longer the most appropriate place for this agenda and that something more specific was required. Issue escalated to Operations Board to agree a strategic approach to gun and gang issues be adopted.

- 20 November 2012 – Structured session around the issue of Gun and Gang Crime at Sefton Operations Board. Received a detailed briefing on Merseyside context and strategy from Chief Superintendent Richardson, Head of Matrix, Merseyside Police as well as recent activity in Sefton relating to gang and gun crime. He indicated that in the light of this recent activity Sefton may now wish to consider strengthening its arrangements. The Sefton Borough Partnership (SBP) also received presentations on, what other areas were doing (Liverpool and Knowsley). The SBP agreed to developing a strategic approach to responding to this issue of Gun and Gang crime. Action point for SSCP to implement the approach.
- 5 December 2012 – SSCP held a dedicated planning session on detailing and implementing a partnership approach to responding to local issues of Gun and Gang Crime. It looked at what we currently do, where gaps exist and whether there are any other approaches we can learn from to develop our response

### **Multi Agency Response to Gun and Gang Crime (MARGG) Feedback**

MARGG and COMPASS have now been merged and met for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on 13/2/13. Seven Gun Crime Nominal's were identified.

As it was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the majority of actions were for agencies to trawl for information which they have been asked to feedback to police within two weeks.

The group had a good attendance and there was a good level of information sharing.

A Merseyside Organised Crime Group (OCG) meeting has just been established where each area can present their OCG's for discussion. As it is a Merseyside-wide meeting, a number of national agencies attend who may not attend 'local' meetings.

Meetings are currently held monthly but this will continue to be kept under review.

### **Gun & Gang Crime Strategy Group**

The Partnership Vision is committed to:

- Reducing violence committed by armed groups.
- Increasing communities sense of pride, confidence and safety in areas of Liverpool most affected by armed groups.
- Helping build Sefton with a positive and forward looking reputation

The Membership of the Group consists of :

- Merseyside Police
- Mersey Fire and Rescue Service
- Probation
- Housing
- HMP

- PCT - CCG
- Voluntary Sector
- Peter Morgan – Council – Strategic Lead
- Community Safety Lead

The Membership will be responsible for:

- To consider Strategic Intelligence Assessments and undertake consultation to inform the setting of strategic priorities and the planning and targeting of partnership resources.
- To develop and implement a Gang and Youth Violence crime reduction strategy and associated action plans.
- To pool partnership resources and commission partnership activities and action in support of strategic priorities.
- To monitor performance in relation to actions and priority outcomes.
- To up-date the Gun and Gang Crime group about the completion of actions / initiatives, successes and possible difficulties.
- To research examples of notable practice and translate into operational practice.
- To adapt to changes in government legislation.
- To provide reports on progress against strategy for each meeting.
- To involve agencies, community and voluntary sector in the completion of initiatives / actions.
- To ensure that all press / media exposure is co-ordinated through the Community Safety Partnership press channels and marketing material is branded under this banner.
- To ensure that all actions / initiatives reflect the diversity of the communities which comprise Sefton and that it reflects the diversity of the need of those communities.
- To ensure that the correct level of seniority / accountability is represented at meetings.

### **Lessons Learnt from Marion Square Incident**

Following the recent incident at Marion Square a Community Intervention Meeting was held on 5/2/13.

From a policing perspective, the investigation was made more difficult due to the press coverage involved. There were also issues in relation to the age of the alleged perpetrator's and the current push force-wide in relation to safeguarding and PPO's.

There was a miscommunication at officer level between Police and Children's Services in relation to safeguarding and PPO's.

The Local Authority does not have the powers to make PPO's and on this occasion there were not grounds to put the parties involved in front of the Courts in order to restrict their liberty.

From a Local Authority perspective, further understanding is needed about the time constraints placed on Police in relation to the 'custody clock'.

All parties are currently under bail conditions and some have chosen to remain out of area.

At the Community Intervention Meeting, clear information and key messages were given the public and it also allowed the public the opportunity to air their concerns.

At the Community Intervention Meeting it was agreed that council workers will share information with the police on behalf of the public who may not usually share information with police due to fear of reprisals.

It has been agreed that more Community Intervention Meetings will be held in the future and Steph Prewett has asked her Neighbourhood's Team to introduce them into other areas in the Borough.

Since the meeting Merseyside Fire and Rescue have target hardened a number of properties.

A public reassurance meeting was held in Netherton on 13/2/13 and a further one held on the 15/2/13.

### **Terriers Play**

The play shows the consequences of becoming involved with guns and gangs and the difficult decisions that young people can face. The performance of the Terriers Play includes a performance, Q&A session with the actors and a teaching pack for the school. There are planned performances for secondary schools in Sefton and Knowsley for a four week period beginning on 25 February 2013. This will also take in Walton Prison and Hugh Baird College. There will be a VIP performance on 1 March 2013 at Royal Court and two matinee performances for year 6 pupils on 18/19 April. There is an independent evaluation running alongside the performances to evaluate the success.

### **ASB Statistics**

Please find below the Stats re ASB referrals to the Unit since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 for SOUTH SEFTON;

ASB Incidents referred to Unit - **61 – 22** of which are linked to 'Gun & Gang Crime' members.

ABC's Issued by Unit - **28 – 12** of which involved known or suspected Gun & Gang Crime members.

CrASBO's obtained from Court - **6 – 2** of which are on known or suspected Gun & Gang Crime Members.

There are a further **28** CrASBO's currently being pursued by the Unit, at least **12** of these are linked to known or suspected Gun & Gang Crime members.