

L.C.P.C.G.

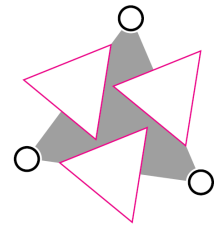
LEWISHAM COMMUNITY POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Working for a safer Lewisham for all

MINUTES

Tuesday, 8 October 2013 7.00 pm

Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Civic Suite



L.C.P.C.G.

PRESENT and representing LCPCG MEMBER ORGANISATIONS:

Councillor Jackie Addison	SG	(Chair) Lewisham Council
Gary Connors		(speaker) Deputy for Lewisham Council Crime Reduction Service
Supt Mickey Gallagher		(speaker) Lewisham, MPS
Chief Insp Graham Price	SG	(speaker) Metropolitan Police Service, Lewisham
Emmanuel Imuere	SG	(speaker) Lewisham Stop and Search Scrutiny group Chair / PYE Project
Gurbakhsh Garcha		Ackroyd Community Association
Margaret McCarthy		Bellingham Ward Panel
Tayo Disu		Chair of LCPCG Hate Crime Working Gr'p / Tabernacle Church
Christine Kibblewhite		Crofton Park Ward Panel
Trevor Jones		Deptford Sector Working Group
Anthony Scully		Friends of Home Park
Gitta Hutt		Ladywell Ward Panel
Martyn Grover	SG	LBBAC, Lewisham Borough Business Against Crime
Joanne Hall	SG	LCPCG Ward Panel Forum Vice Chair / Lewisham Central SNP
Elsa Pascal (deputy)		LEMP (Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership)
Councillor Crada Onuegbu		Lewisham Council
Councillor David Britton		Lewisham Council
Louise Hubbard	SG	Safer Lewisham Partnership rep (Probation)
Phil Turner	SG	Second Wave Youth Arts
Mahad Abdullahi	SG	Somali and Somaliland London Community
Naomi Allen		XLP
		SG = Member of LCPCG Strategy Group

OTHERS PRESENT:

Supt Neil Evans	(speaker) Lewisham Police (MPS)
Vanesa Antar	(speaker) Lewisham Homes
Daisy Cairns	(minutes) LCPCG Coordinator
Ali Alao	SSLC
Bill Konos	Alternatives4.com blog
BT Langridge	Bellingham Ward Panel
Cheryl Holder	Survivor Jenés
Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham Council
Damian Griffiths	-
David Brown	Tyson Road Neighbourhood Watch
Deirdre Mason	Crofton Park SNP
Delroy Downer	LBL
E McB.	Reach Dem
Gary Cummins	London Borough of Lewisham (LBL)

H D Levy	-
K Whipp	-
Karen Westbrook	London and Quadrant
Poonam Mahadik	Family Services UK
S Oliver	Micah
Sam Dias	LBL (Stop and Search Group member)
Steve	-
Thomas Joseph	Step by Step
Tina Symonds	Family Services UK
Yekolia Amartsoo	Reach Dem

1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction from LCPCG Chair</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the audience to the meeting and updated them on the work of the Strategy Group since the last meeting. This included the stall at People’s Day, where Strategy Group members promoted the LCPCG’s work and the recently closed Home Office consultation on Stop and Search. Meetings have been held between the LCPCG Chair, Vice Chair, and Lewisham Council and MOPAC in order to further the development of a Lewisham Safer Neighbourhood Board. The Chair explained that there were both positive developments and areas of concern remaining and that the next LCPCG public meeting would cover this in more depth.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from</p> <p>LCPCG STRATEGY GROUP: Lewisham Police Borough Commander Russell Nyman; Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney - Lewisham Council; Nico Springman – Ward panel forum chair/Ladywell; Richard Holland– WP Forum co-vice-chair / Downham; Sadiki Harris– Stop & Search group vice chair; David Michael; Florence Emakpose; Royston John (Vice Chair)</p> <p>LCPCG MEMBERS: James Dobson; Laurel Saunders– Rushey Green Ward Panel; Man Mohan; Heidi Alexander MP; Joan Ruddock MP; Gill Lewis – Grove Park ward panel; Judith Seymour – Crofton Park ward panel; Anita Whitfield – Lee Green and Blackheath ward panel; Cl Stuart Bell; Cllr Jimi Adefiranye and notice from Cllr Janet Daby that she will attend but will arrive late.</p> <p>And also in particular the meeting noted that LCPCG Vice Chair Royston John was attending a meeting of the umbrella group LCP2 to discuss the Safer Neighbourhood Boards, how groups can work together and sharing what is working; and that another Strategy Group member Florence Emakpose has been seriously unwell, and wishing her a speedy recovery.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes were agreed by the meeting and the following items were raised by members of the audience. Barry Langridge noted the apologies of the Borough Commander and that there is a worrying trend of him not attending LCPCG meetings.</p> <p>ACTION: The LCPCG Chair was asked to raise this lack of attendance as an issue of concern.</p> <p>ACTION: Bryan Pope noted that he had expressed interest in the Stop and Search group at the last meeting and given his phone number to the S&S</p>	<p>LCPCG Chair S&S Chair</p>

	group chair but had not heard back.	
4.	<p>Tribute to Asquith Gibbes</p> <p>The Chair gave a speech in memory of the first chair of the LCPCG, Asquith Gibbes MBE who passed away in July. He was Chair of the group for 18 years, and the meeting noted his ground breaking work, and the wide range of roles he had held and they celebrated his efforts working for safer and fairer communities both in the borough and across London. The meeting observed a minute's silence in Asquith's memory.</p>	
5.	<p>Anti Social Behaviour - Special Topic</p> <p>Gary Connors, Strategic Manager of the Lewisham Council Crime Reduction Service spoke to the meeting. He gave an explanation of what Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is and provided the following definition which is used in Lewisham and widely across the country. He explained that he had been able to arrange a speaker from a local Housing Association to advise on their ASB work, and Vanesa Antar from Lewisham Homes would be taking questions with the other speakers at the end of this section. He went on to talk about the ways in which local authorities are empowered to tackle ASB and what is being done in Lewisham. His speech covered "skitching", the Neighbourhood Community Safety Service (NCSS), partnership work dealing with burglary hotspots, Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting, the up-coming Victims Conference, Street Drinking, Nuisance calls, CCTV, Knife Crime and responsible retailing charters. Gary also shared the good news that Multi-Agency teams in Lewisham have recently won 2 London Problem Oriented Policing Awards, and went through the new legislation on ASB (Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill 2013-14) and the bill is currently going through the Houses of Parliament and is expected to be enacted during 2014. <i>(Gary's detailed presentation is available on the meeting website.)</i></p> <p>ACTION: Gary offered to send the following to LCPCG for distribution: the briefing document about the London POP Awards, details about the NCSS surgeries, further information about the new ASB legislation, the date for publication of Lewisham's Hate Crime Manual</p> <p>Chief Inspector Graham Price from Lewisham Police then spoke about police responses to ASB. His speech covered how calls to 999 and 101 are managed, at the call centres and then in the Grip and Pace centre at Lewisham station. He explained that there will be vulnerability assessments of ASB calls, and that all repeat callers will get visits from their Safer Neighbourhood Team and further measures depending on these assessments. There have been around 2500 fewer calls than last year, and repeat ASB callers and noise-nuisance related calls both down by roughly 1/5th. There has been a Dispersal Zone in place around Lewisham Town Centre which has been very successful and has recently been extended for a further 3 months. This time of year often sees a spike in ASB and Burglary, which is related to the earlier hours of darkness, and longer nights, and other seasonal events such as Bonfire Night and Mr Price noted various methods which police use to tackle this.</p> <p>Superintendent Neil Evans then introduced himself as this was his first visit to an LCPCG meeting and he has recently been appointed as Supt for Operations at Lewisham Police. He explained that there is a special police operation to tackle</p>	<p>Gary Connors</p>

the spike mentioned above, called Operation Autumn Nights. Aspects of concern and some methods being used to tackle issues include: Seasonal rises in ASB, Robbery and Criminal Damage, Illegal imports and illegal sales of fireworks, Undercover purchasing by police cadets, Involvement of Safer Schools Officers, Zero Tolerance for ASB around fireworks and Trick or Treat, Working with local partners to identify vulnerable people and advise on security. He noted that LCPCG have been sending representatives to the planning meetings for Operation Autumn Nights. Members of the audience were invited to contact him via the Lewisham Police website.

During Questions from the floor, the following issues were clarified and actions agreed:

- NCSS are working with Youth Service to address concerns arising from cuts to Youth Services.
- Fireworks are often sold from shops which are only set up for that short season.
- Local housing associations share information about “troubled families” to ensure that evicted families are not re-housed inappropriately, e.g. in close proximity creating untenable areas.
- Most phone calls to the police are answered in one of the call centres at Bow, Lambeth or Hendon, and not in local police stations.
- Catford and Deptford police stations no longer have 24 hour front counters open to the public, although officers will still be working in the buildings.
- Barry Langridge asked a question about a famous case involving CCTV and Supt Evans noted that it was not always a panacea, as footage may not always be clear, actions can be hidden from camera, and it does not include sound.
- The 2 stage closure orders in the new ASB bill can be used if sustained ASB can be proven. They will apply to company premises and public areas rather than private properties.
- An anonymous woman asked the council why they had not published a review of the Safer Lewisham Partnership’s Minimum Standards for ASB document as had been recommended by the Local Government Ombudsman, and why it was no longer available in the public domain. She then made allegations about particular police officers and gave their badge numbers. She was advised by the Chair that it was not appropriate to make public allegations about individuals at this public meeting, but that she could put in a FOI request about the other part of her question. A former LCPCG Strategy Group member then had a private conversation with the lady outside the meeting room.
- The Community Safety Service are absolutely willing to engage with voluntary and community organisations to either continue established projects, or to discuss new ones.
- The Lewisham Homes grading process for rehoming families affected by Domestic Violence is to compile a history of the case, with interviews and victim reports, which will be put to a panel. Only the top 5-10% will be considered by the Domestic Violence MARAC.
- Lewisham is part of the Troubled Families programme, although this is led by council officers from the CYP directorate as it is focused around the

	<p>children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybercrime, which has many aspects including email hacking, online fraud, theft of bank details, is handled by a specialist Met Police unit, rather than local officers, as it is very technical and increasingly common. <p>ACTION: Gary agreed to contact Ken Bateman from Telegraph Hill about NCSS officers visiting a Residents Meeting. <i>(Coordinator has supplied contact info)</i></p> <p>ACTION: Gary agreed to distribute his presentation for this meeting so that people could have the information in writing. <i>(Presentation on the meeting website shortly after the meeting)</i></p> <p>ACTION: Supt Mickey Gallagher agreed to contact Bryan Pope with information about how his Neighbourhood Watch, which is a very high burglary area, could apply to install short term CCTV in his road <i>(LCPCG Coordinator & Ladywell SNT have contact details for Mr P).</i></p> <p>ACTION: Chief Insp Graham Price agreed to look at why there was no Police Officer at the last Bellingham Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meeting.</p>	<p>Gary Connors</p> <p>Gary Connors</p> <p>Supt M Gallagher</p> <p>CI Graham Price</p>
6.	<p>Membership applications and update</p> <p>Both Membership applications, from Reach Dem and Family Services UK were approved unanimously.</p> <p>The Chair also noted the report explaining how LCPCG will deal with communication problems with members, and explained that it is important members keep LCPCG informed of any changes to contact information.</p>	
7.	<p>Lewisham Police - Update from the Borough Commander</p> <p>The Borough Commander was not able to attend but his Deputy, Superintendent for Partnership, Mickey Gallagher, spoke on his behalf about the crime statistics shown in the presentation provided by police. This showed Weekly figures for Offences from April to Dec for Burglary, Robbery, Theft from Person, Theft from Motor Vehicles, and Percentage change for offences FYTD for Gun Crime and Knife crime as comparison with other boroughs. It also included the additional information which requested about TASER usage from the last LCPCG meeting in June and Mr Gallagher gave a brief description of the circumstances in which TASERS had been fired in the last 3 months. The presentation did not cover Domestic Violence (DV) or Racist and Religious Hate Crime. Mr Gallagher did discuss DV as a significant problem in the borough, and also Hate Crime - he had been to a meeting of the LCPCG's Hate Crime working group, and they are setting up focus groups with "Hard to Reach" communities in the borough. <i>(This presentation was uploaded to the website shortly after the meeting and is available with the meeting papers.)</i></p> <p>Superintendent Neil Evans spoke again to the meeting, this time about some of the specialist operations which are currently underway. These included: Operation Autumn Nights (described above); Operation Neptune – looking at markets for secondhand goods which is led by Safer Neighbourhood Teams; Operation Undercut – across the borough aiming to undercut the crime rates from the previous year across all crime types. Methods employed include: having targets based on Sanction Detections instead of offences; Internal review of mistakes; Focus on supervision; Positive mental attitudes; 'Taking Into</p>	

	Consideration' other offences; Forensic improvements; Targeting hotspots; Officers wearing high-vis jackets.	
8.	<p>Lewisham Council - Update from Head of Community Safety Services</p> <p>Gary Connors gave an update on behalf of Geeta Subramaniam, who had sent her apologies in advance for the meeting. Next week is Hate Crime Awareness week, and the NCSS have an information campaign about this, and also coming up is Alcohol Awareness Week, and there will be further events involving council officers and treatment providers. At the end of November there will also be a campaign and events dedicated to White Ribbon week, which is awareness raising about violence against women and girls.</p> <p>ACTION: Details of all three sets of Awareness Week events will be shared with LCPCG .</p> <p>NCSS officers have also been working with Money Lenders and mobile phone kiosks, to avoid purchasing second phones which may have been stolen. The Youth Offending Service has been visited by a minister from New Zealand, who met volunteer panel members and visited a community payback project on allotments. The Youth Offending Service are looking for volunteers to work with young people and</p> <p>ACTION: Gary to circulate copies of the YOS volunteer recruitment letter by email after the meeting.</p>	<p>Gary Connors</p> <p>Gary Connors</p>
9.	<p>Question and Answer Session - Police and Crime Reduction Service</p> <p>Audience members stated that the Gun and Knife Crime charts were incomprehensible and requested that they be shown in the same format as the other crime types and the Chair pointed out that the crimes shown in the presentations have changed from what was originally agreed with LCPCG.</p> <p>ACTION: Mr Gallagher agreed to provide the figures in a meaningful way in future as previously discussed with the LCPCG</p> <p>Another audience member pointed out that the crime figures from the Met Police website www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/ showed a range of Hate Crime figures, but lumped Racist & Religious Hate Crime together. His request, which has been made at previous meetings is for the Racist and Religious figures to be shown separately. Supt Evans said they are shown this way as it is a Home Office recording requirement. Another audience member questioned why Disability Hate Crime figures are not shown separately.</p> <p>ACTION: In answer to a further question Supt Gallagher promised to provide to the next meeting, figures on how many Guns and Knives are found as a result of Stop and Search.</p>	<p>Supt M Gallagher</p> <p>Supt M Gallagher</p>
10.	<p>Stop and Search Group update</p> <p>Emmanuel Imuere, Chair of the LCPCG's Stop and Search Group gave an update on their work. This included: that the group had welcomed the recent Home Office consultation; members attended meetings outside the borough about Stop and Search; and members attended local events about Stop and Search; the group held a meeting with young people and a press officer from the Home Office, which led to interviews in a Radio1 NewsBeat documentary on Stop and Search- in relation to the Home Office consultation. He feels that the group have identified a few areas of concern, and are willing to work with the police.</p>	

