

# Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Agenda

Wednesday, 10 September 2014  
**7.00 pm**, Committee Room 3  
Civic Suite  
Lewisham Town Hall  
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Timothy Andrew (02083147916)

## Part 1

<b>Item</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2014	1 - 8
2. Declarations of interest	9 - 12
3. Safer Lewisham Plan update	13 - 22
4. Violence against women and girls	23 - 46
5. Select Committee work programme	47 - 62
6. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet	

# Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 10 September 2014.

Barry Quirk, Chief Executive  
Tuesday, 2 September 2014

Councillor Pauline Morrison (Chair)	
Councillor David Michael (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Andre Bourne	
Councillor Colin Elliott	
Councillor Alicia Kennedy	
Councillor Pat Raven	
Councillor Luke Sorba	
Councillor Eva Stamirowski	
Councillor Paul Upex	
Councillor James-J Walsh	
Councillor Alan Hall (ex-Officio)	
Councillor Gareth Siddorn (ex-Officio)	

## **MINUTES OF THE SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 15 July 2014 at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Pauline Morrison (Chair), David Michael (Vice-Chair), Andre Bourne, Colin Elliott, Alicia Kennedy, Pat Raven, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, Paul Upex and James-J Walsh

**ALSO PRESENT:** Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager), Aileen Buckton (Executive Director for Community Services), Andreas Ghosh (Head of Personnel & Development), Pooja Kulkarni (HR Management Information Officer), Salena Mulhere (Overview and Scrutiny Manager), Barrie Neal (Head of Corporate Policy and Governance) and Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney (Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People)

### **1. Confirmation of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

Resolved: to confirm Councillor Morrison as Chair and Councillor Michael as Vice Chair of the Committee.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 Feb 2014**

Resolved: to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2014 as an accurate record.

### **3. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Elliot declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of the Lewisham Disability Coalition.

Councillor Michael declared a non-prejudicial interest as a patron of the Marsha Phoenix Trust and supporter of the Catford Wanderers Cricket Club.

Councillor Walsh declared a non-prejudicial interest as the Chair of the Lewisham LGBT community group and as a member of Rushey Green Community First.

Councillor Upex declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of Forest Hill and Sydenham Voluntary Services Association.

Councillor Kennedy declared a non-prejudicial interest as a patron of the Marsha Phoenix memorial trust.

### **4. Select Committee work programme**

Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) introduced the report.

The Committee discussed the work programme for 2014/15; the following suggestions for additions to the Committee's work programme were made:

- A review of work in the borough to combat gang violence, with a specific emphasis on initiatives to support girls and young women. This would focus on assessing the performance of efforts to prevent girls and young women becoming involved in gangs through education and prevention work.

- Scrutiny of the implementation of the borough's volunteering strategy.
- As part of the update on Local Assemblies update – a analysis of the links between Assemblies and community groups.
- A review of the incidences of dog bites as well as measures in place to deal with irresponsible dog owners.
- The delivery of services for people from Lewisham's LGBT community.

Aileen Buckton (Executive Director for Community Services) asked the Committee to note the following in relation to the scrutiny of the borough's volunteering strategy:

- It was likely that the Council would be carrying out a consultation on the main grants programme. It would be difficult to invite individual Lewisham based organisations to address the Committee because of the potential conflict of interest this would represent.

Resolved: to agree the work programme for 2014/15 incorporating the suggestions from members.

## **5. Council employment profile (2013-14)**

Andreas Ghosh (Head of Human Resources) introduced the report and presentation. The following key points were noted:

- The Council aspired to have a workforce that represented Lewisham's community.
- There were some areas where the Council was exceeding its targets for workforce representation and others where it was not doing as well.
- Tracking and monitoring of staff changes through the employee profile was of increased importance because of the redundancies and staff losses caused as a result of cuts to the Council's budget.
- The Council's workforce was broadly representative of the economically active population; however, as a result of reorganisations there had been a reduction in Black staff.
- There were a high number of job applications by people from the BME community, which demonstrated that the Council was perceived as a fair employer.
- The employment and retention of young people into the Council's workforce was recognised as an area for improvement.
- The Council aimed to ensure that there was a representative workforce, but officers were mindful of the potential for target setting to be discriminatory.
- Trends in the Council's employment data demonstrated that the Council's non-schools work force had declined substantially in the past 15 years. This was for a number of reasons, including: the move to provide some services through partner organisations; increases in efficiency and the loss of some professions. This decrease was offset partly by the increase in schools staff, however, it was noted that the increase in schools was largely in non-teaching staff.
- A high number of employees lived in the borough; this demonstrated a significant commitment by residents in the borough to the Council and contributed to employees understanding of, and commitment to, local issues.

- The recent upturn in the economy would have an impact on the Council's ability to attract and retain employees working in care because the Council continued to work with restrained resources, whilst this was not the case in the private sector.
- The majority of agency workers retained by the Council were in the areas of street cleansing and social care.
- Women were overrepresented in caring professions, but the Council also had one of the highest proportions of women in senior management positions in London.
- There were small numbers of self-declared disabled employees at the Council. It had been a struggle to ensure that there was an on-going disabled employee's forum.
- The Council's workforce was a characteristically older, not ageing, workforce. The older age profile of the Council was a result of the general employment of older people.
- Older people were employed at the Council more often for a number of reasons, including: the attractiveness of the Council as an employer for people returning to work (particularly women with caring responsibilities); that the Council was not a 'trendy' employer; the loss of the culture of apprentices, which the Council's apprenticeships programme was attempting to reverse.
- High redundancy costs also made it more likely for the Council to hold on to its older employees.
- Information from exit surveys indicated that there had been a fall in the number of people who were satisfied on leaving the jobs at Lewisham. This was thought to be the result of the Council's programme of reorganisations and redundancies.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following key points were noted:

- There was no official retirement age. People were entitled to take their pensions from the age of 60, with some exceptions.
- Information would be provided about the numbers of people working past the voluntary retirement age.
- The drop in motivation recorded by exit surveys could partly be explained by the programme of staff reorganisations and redundancies. Information from the last staff survey would be shared with the Committee.
- The Council would not discriminate against older people. The ambition was to ensure that the workforce represented the local population.
- Information was kept about disciplines and grievances. Numbers were low – so sharing any details about grievances would be difficult – because of the requirement to ensure staff anonymity.
- Year before last there was an increase in grievances and disciplinarys of staff at the lower grades. However, this was not disproportionate when viewed more widely.
- Information disaggregating the answers to the unknown/prefer not to say category of the equalities monitoring would be provided to the committee.
- Officers would be working with the various staff forums in order to determine how to encourage responses to equalities monitoring. As part of this work, it would be necessary to ensure that there were clear messages about what was being done with the data being collected.

- The Council had been successful in its attempts to reduce the amount of overtime being paid. A substantial proportion of time allocated as 'overtime' payments were in reality for weekend working.
- The number of applications for jobs available was typically 10:1, which was positive for the Council and appeared to show that the Council was an attractive employer.
- Information about the social work recruitment programme would be shared with the Committee. There were still some shortages of social workers, particularly in the area of child protection.
- Ofsted inspections in neighbouring boroughs often had a detrimental impact on the Council's ability to attract social workers, because authorities reacted to shortages by increasing rates of pay.
- There were some areas of under representation for staff from minority ethnic groups. This tended to be where there were low numbers of people from particular minority groups living in the borough- or where there had been a recent change in the local population.
- The internship/graduate programme was a small scale programme designed to give an opportunity to a few local people each year. It was established in order to ensure that there were opportunities at the Council alongside the National Graduate Development Programme.
- There were currently 13 on-going employment tribunals. The cost of bringing a tribunal had increased, which had reduced the numbers of staff coming forward. The number of tribunals taking place was also low in comparison to other organisations.
- Information collected in exit surveys and exit interviews was anonymous.

The Committee also discussed and noted the following key points:

- The perception of unfairness which could be created if the Council appeared to discriminate against older people in favour of young people by creating entry level jobs.
- A query was raised about whether there was sufficient targeting of Council employment programmes- to ensure support focused on people most in need.

Resolved: to note the report.

## **6. Safer Lewisham Plan (2014-15)**

Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney (Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People) introduced the report; the following key points were noted:

- The statutory crime and disorder partnership for Lewisham was the Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP).
- The Partnership focused a great deal of effort on prevention work.
- One example of this was the 'responsible retailers' scheme. The scheme encouraged retailers to restrict the availability of knives. Retailers were also encouraged to restrict the sale of high strength alcohol in problem areas.
- Crime figures were highly changeable. Figures altered from day to day and week to week, the Police verification process also had an impact on the final figures.

- The introduction of Policing and Crime Commissioners had brought about a change in the way in which policing priorities were set and monitored.
- The Mayor of London (currently Boris Johnson) was the police and crime commissioner for the city.
- In his Police and Crime plan, the Mayor of London had set targets for the reduction of seven priority neighbourhood crimes.
- Performance in Lewisham would be measured against these targets – but this didn't restrict the Safer Lewisham Partnership from setting local priorities.
- The SLP priorities were: dealing with volume crime; violence against women and girls; serious youth violence and antisocial behaviour.
- Anti-social behaviour was regularly highlighted as an area of concern for residents.
- A six month update on the Plan would be presented at the next meeting.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following key points were noted:

- There was no clear link between levels of recorded crime and the fear of crime; on occasion confidence data and reported levels of crime appeared divergent.
- It was clear that there was distrust in the community about the figures.
- Often wider publicity and communications issues – had an impact on confidence and issues of fear. These were not necessarily to do with local issues.
- There were 62 questions in the public attitudes survey. It was carried out by phone and whilst it was statistically relevant, it was recognised that a number of the questions were open to subjective interpretation.
- Training had taken place to ensure that the officers were alert to the fact that child sexual exploitation was not restricted to women and girls; but that it could also affect men and boys.
- There were initiatives in the borough that worked with the perpetrators of domestic violence. One such project was, 'Tryangle', which worked with perpetrators when they first came to the attention of the police.
- The recently completed Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan would be shared with the Committee. Information about female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage was being distributed to schools. The Council and its partners had developed a single point of contact for FGM and forced marriage, but information about incidences of both issues in the borough remained limited.
- Information about violence against women and girls was collected from the police and from accident and emergency departments.
- Further information would be shared with the Committee about crime 'hot spots' in the borough.
- There were no hotspots for domestic violence, incidences occurred across the borough.
- Further information would be provided to the Committee about ways in which Members could engage with businesses in their wards to support the responsible retailers scheme.
- The Council was working with the Police in Lewisham to ensure that resources and information could be shared, For example, the Police were using local assemblies newsletters in some parts of the borough to share information about local policing issues.

- The Police were being encouraged to use social media – this was more effective in some instances than others – it was important to strike a balance between providing information and making people afraid.
- At one point, Lewisham had the lowest levels of confidence in the police in London. Confidence in Lewisham’s police force had improved, but it was still low.
- Confidence in the police was a wider issue for the criminal justice system. Confidence in the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts System were also vital to ensuring that people felt able to come forward with information after an incidence of serious violence.
- The Council had a statutory responsibility to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Council’s community safety teams were responsible for delivering initiatives in partnership with the police.
- Police contact points were not being well used; a review was being carried out by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).
- Further information about contact points would be shared with the Committee.

Resolved: to note the plan.

## **7. Main grants programme consultation**

Aileen Buckton (Executive Director for Community Services) introduced the report. The following key points were noted:

- The Council had a strong relationship with the community and voluntary sector (CVS).
- The Council was facing a major challenge to redesign its services and reduce its budget. For the first time in ten years, a reduction was being proposed to the main grants budget.
- It was no longer feasible to put forward a programme to protect the sector. A 25% reduction (£1.5m) was being proposed – which was at the lower end of the cuts being planned for Council services.
- The grants budget was £5.9m and a further £20m was spent across the Council on the commissioning and delivery of services from the community and voluntary sector.
- £330k of the budget was allocated to the London borough grants scheme, which supported organisations providing services across the city. There was no proposal to reduce this.
- It was important that there continued to be a vibrant and independent community and voluntary sector, which provided advice to residents and acted as a critical friend to the Council.
- Lewisham had a three year programme of grant funding, which enabled the core costs of organisations to be covered, enabling them to draw in other funding and resources.
- There would be funding available for infrastructure organisations.
- The new programme would encourage community and voluntary sector organisations to work in partnership with the Council to deliver services.
- Lewisham was the first London Borough to develop a community and voluntary sector compact. This long-term commitment to the community and voluntary sector made it important to ensure the consultation on the main grants programme was well run.



- Organisations would be expected to work collaboratively to deliver sector wide delivery of the Council's equalities objectives.
- Consultation events would be held across the borough. The consultation process would allow for flexibility in responses.
- The consultation would close on 30 October. A report would be available for the Committee's meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, but much of the information would need to be provided at the meeting.

The Committee resolved to suspended standing orders at 21:30 in order to enable the completion of committee business.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following key points were noted:

- The programme of small grants would continue. There was currently £100k allocated to this programme.
- The community and voluntary sector were not major employers in the borough, so it was unlikely that the reduction in funding would substantially impact on employment in the borough. However, it was recognised that CVS organisations were important local organisations, employing local people. The impact assessment being carried out on the proposals would identify where there would be an adverse impact on any particular group.
- The Council had, in the past provided 'investment in kind' through reduced rents or the use of shared facilities.
- Due to the programme of cuts the Council was required to obtain commercial rents for its assets. Even if the Council was in a position to provide buildings for the use of the sector, these would need to be on the basis of full repairing and maintenance leases, which many CVS organisations would be unwilling to take on and manage.
- Different funding amounts being allocated to the different grant themes would be made available once the results of the consultation were available.
- The community and voluntary sector was adaptable, and would be in a position to adjust to the requirement to deliver new services.
- One of the changes in the new programme was to allow organisations to bid to be a community development partner – which would draw together partners to coordinate the needs of a defined neighbourhood, working with local assemblies and other local groups.
- Officers would work to reduce duplication in the programme, in partnership with the sector, to ensure there was minimal duplication of effort.
- There would be a covering letter with the consultation document, setting out the context for the changes. This would most likely be from Councillor Millbank (Cabinet Member for the Third Sector)
- If there was to be a named person to deal with queries about the consultation, this would probably be an officer because typically queries about consultations focused on administrative issues.

Resolved: to note the report.

## **8. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet**

None

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm

Chair:

-----

Date:

-----

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Declaration of interests		
Contributor	Chief Executive	Item	2
Class	Part 1 (Open)	10 September 2014	

## Declaration of interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

### 1. Personal interests

There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct:

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests

### 2. Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person\* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship – payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person\* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person\* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
  - (a) that body to the member's knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough;

(b) and either

- (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
- (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person\* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

\*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

### 3. Other registerable interests

The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:-

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25

### 4. Non registerable interests

Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

### 5. Declaration and Impact of interest on members' participation

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take no part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in

consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.

- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

## **6. Sensitive information**

There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

## **7. Exempt categories**

There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

This page is intentionally left blank

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Safer Lewisham Plan 2014/15 - 6 month update	
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services.	Item 3
Class	Part 1 (open)	10 September 2014

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) (In Lewisham, the Safer Lewisham Partnership) to develop a three year Crime and Disorder Strategy which sets out how crime and Anti Social Behaviour will be tackled – Safer Lewisham Strategy 2014-2017
- An additional responsibility is also placed on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment to ensure emerging community safety trends are captured, and priorities are refreshed where necessary.
  - The Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment.
  - The accompanying **Strategic Action Plan** sets out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved.
  - This report summarises activity carried out by Lewisham Council in partnership with other agencies relevant to 'Safer' strand, most of which are part of the Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP) governance arrangement.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Safer Stronger Select Committee note the report; and
- 2.2 Request a further end of year update and briefing on the 2015/16 Annual Plan and priority setting, in February / March 2015.

## 3. Priorities set for 2014/2015

- 3.1 Lewisham Council and the Safer Lewisham Partnership have a statutory obligation to analyse crime and disorder problems in the borough and agree priorities for a given financial year where the Partnership will focus most of its resources and activity.
- 3.2 The March 2014 meeting of the Safer Lewisham Partnership agreed the following priorities for 2014/15:
- Volume Crime – 'routine' crime that affects the majority of victims, such are burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime.

- Violent Crime, with focus on Violence against Women and Girls and Serious Youth Violence
- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

#### **4. The MOPAC Challenge**

4.1 The challenge set by MOPAC for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) up to 2016:

“A Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) that becomes the UK’s most effective, most efficient, most respected, even most loved police force”

4.2 The 20/20/20, 20/20/20 Challenge promises to:

- Cut crime by 20%
- Boost public confidence by 20%
- Cut costs by 20%
- Reduce court delays by 20%
- Increase compliance with community sentences by 20%
- Reduce reoffending by young people leaving custody by 20%

4.3 **MOPAC 7** - MOPAC’S target for the MPS is to cut 7 key “neighbourhood” crimes by 20% by 2016.

4.4 The aim is to achieve an aggregate Metropolitan Police-wide reduction in these offences of 20% down on average levels seen in 2008-12, or even 20% down on 2011/12 (stretch target).

4.5 In summary, MOPAC both sets broad crime-reduction priorities and funds a portion of service activity at borough level. However, there is still a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to produce the annual strategic assessment, the aim of which is to analyse problems in the borough and nominate strategic priorities.

4.6 The challenge for Safer Lewisham Partnership is to align the existing statutory requirements with the new governance and funding reality, while reflecting local needs and feedback from residents.

4.7 In order to achieve this, the Safer Lewisham Partnership will be guided by the following overarching principles:

##### Maximum Victim Impact

The Safer Lewisham Partnership has listened to the views of residents and placed the needs of victims at the forefront of this plan while also ensuring that the priorities chosen are those that demonstrate the greatest impact on victims concerns. The priorities need to be able to impact on a high volume of offending whilst supporting the needs of the majority of residents. Throughout its work the SLP will continue to prioritise the needs of victims and ensure it is accountable to local citizens.

##### Intelligence Led Prioritisation of Local Issues

Our selection of priority areas is based on a detailed analysis of current crime and disorder trends in the borough and has utilised a wide range of data sources. The



assessment is not solely reliant on police recorded crime data and wherever possible the latter has been cross-referenced with data from a range of sources.

### Strategic Relevance

The Safer Lewisham Plan is also designed to take into account new government legislation and also key changes in how we commission services.

## **5. Priority 1 – Volume Crime**

5.1 This priority focuses on crimes which account for the majority of the crime experienced in the borough each year. Targeting those known offenders in key locations across the borough will have a demonstrable effect on satisfaction and confidence of victims of these crimes. This also aligns with the ‘MOPAC Challenge’, through intelligence-led efforts to reduce the ‘MOPAC 7’ crimes of:

- Violence with injury
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft of a motor vehicle
- Theft from a motor vehicle
- Theft from the person
- Vandalism (criminal damage)

5.2 In working to achieve a 20% reduction across these crime types, the Safer Lewisham Partnership will ensure all public services work collaboratively and with voluntary groups and communities to prevent crime, support victims and reduce re-offending while improving confidence across all criminal justice agencies.

5.3. Local Performance

5.4 Latest unverified crime to 15 August 2014 compared to 11/12, a baseline for MOPAC with Rolling 12 month crime statistics in Lewisham.

Burglary :	- 17.80%
Criminal Damage :	- 25.80%
Robbery :	- 37.90%
Theft From Motor Vehicle :	- 32.60%
Theft Of Motor Vehicle :	- 26.70%
Theft From Person :	-13.20%
Violence with Injury :	+ 6.80%

5.5 The following activity has taken place to date in 2014/15 to support this objective:

- Neighbourhood Watch database refresh and ongoing management
- Youth Awareness Project – personal safety, knife crime, robbery, property marking: iPhones/iPads
- Home Security Project – supporting vulnerable residents to improve security of their premises
- ‘Street-a-Week’ - Joint working with SNT on hotspots (burglary focus)

- OP Neptune & Project 'Immobilise' / UV Marking of CRAVED<sup>1</sup> items, stolen goods, Responsible Retailer Agreements
- Work with specific communities about crime and safety (i.e. Vietnamese and Romanian communities)
- Scams targeting older and vulnerable people – work with Trading Standards, offer TrueCall call screening service to victims and vulnerable – Home Security Project
- Reassurance visits to vulnerable / repeat victims of burglary
- Supplying residents with advice and materials – personal safety alarms, burglar alarms, UV pens
- Public events presence - crime reduction, personal safety and home security advice - Lewisham People's Day, Police Open Day.
- Motor Vehicle Crime – SNT giving out number plate screws (SafePlate) to prevent number plate theft
- OP Ferris - Scrap Metal dealers joint working to prevent catalytic converter theft from vehicles
- Shoplifting Project – First Time Offenders borough wide, predominantly in Lewisham Shopping Centre – LBBAC
- Quarterly Multi-Agency Crime focus meetings to coordinate and drive tactical partnership activity
- OP Big Wing >> OP Condor – operation targeting gambling premises and associated problems -gaming machines, licensing etc
- Lewisham Businesses Crime Partnership – LBBAC – retailer radios rolled out in Deptford High Street, in addition to existing coverage in Lewisham Centre.
- Retailers signing up to Responsible Retailer Agreements, not selling super-strength alcohol ('Reduce the Strength' Campaign), responsible knife sales, second hand (potentially stolen) goods etc.
- Cycle Marking – Lewisham the top borough in London for Cycle Marking
- Community Clear-Up (cadets) – clear up front gardens for vulnerable people which helps prevent burglary

## **6. Priority 2 - Violence – with emphasis on violence against women and girls and serious youth violence**

### 6.1 Serious Youth Violence - SYV

Activity to address Serious Youth Violence has been a key priority for the Safer Lewisham Partnership for the past six years, The Serious Youth Violence Strategic Action Plan has been developed to significantly reduce both the existence of youth gangs in Lewisham and the violence associated with and attributed to these gangs and street violence.

### 6.2 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Lewisham Council has a long history of commitment to tackling domestic and sexual violence. This work is now supported by a comprehensive approach to tackling violence against women and girls through a systemic VAWG Plan. This first Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan for Lewisham has been

---

<sup>1</sup> Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable, and Disposable - <http://goo.gl/dSBtVc>

developed as a result of the excellent partnership work over the last few years with individuals, organisations and victims of violence.

### 6.3 Local Performance

The success of the partnership's efforts will be judged by reductions in the following linked offences:

- Serious Violence
- Violence with injury
- Domestic Violence and abuse.
- Rape and Sexual Violence.
- Sexual Exploitation with specific focus on children.

6.4 Currently available figures to 15 August 2014 show that "Violence with Injury" category has shown an increase from previous Rolling 12 Months of 12.3% or 2,451 incidents compared with 2,182 incidents.

6.5 The bulk of the increase in "Violence with Injury" is due to an increase in Domestic Violence reports. The Safer Lewisham Partnership has developed an array of interventions and services for victims, and it is often suggested that Domestic Violence is usually under-reported, so an increase in numbers could mean more victims are confident and willing to come forward.

6.6 The following activity has taken place to date in 2014/15 to support this objective:

- Girls / gangs / violence – Youth Offending Serving Girls & Gangs Workshop
- Ongoing YOS, Probation (CRC & NPS) and Trident (Met Police) work on prolific offenders
- SYV – historic reduction in Ending Gang and Youth Violence (EGYV) basket, knife crime showing a reduction
- Youth MARAC review by EGYV task force – Lewisham staff and processes received 'excellent' feedback
- Trident (Met Police) 'County Lines' project aimed at tackling cross-border drug trade and violence that mainly involved young people.
- Joint Enforcement – Trident, Lewisham Police,
- Screening of all prison releases into the borough, prison visits by Lewisham police, Council, Community Rehabilitation Company and National Probation Service officers to ensure a smooth transition from custody and community and an intelligence link to police enforcement activity where appropriate.
- Many cases of successful resettlement of Lewisham individuals wishing to leave gang lifestyle
- Training delivered by Crime Reduction's Serious Violence Officers to local Safeguarding Children's Board on safeguarding and violence
- YOS performance shows a historic low in caseload reoffending
- 'Parents Standing Together for Safer Lewisham' – conference held in partnership with Voluntary Sector to encourage public confidence, good parenting skills and ultimately reduce Serious Youth Violence.
- 'Safe Havens' work with Jimmy Mizen foundation
- Peace Bus – '10,000 hands' events designed to communicate responsible pro-community behaviour.

- Inter-generational Transport Project – older people get on the bus mixed with YP to provide positive role models.
- Summer Nights Lights project aimed at developing community resilience, a sense of confidence and ownership with ultimate goal of enabling the community to be confident in preventing ASB and SYV at an early stage.
- Domestic Abuse shows an increase London-wide. This could be due to an increase in the number of incidents. On the other hand it is known that Domestic Abuse is hugely under-reported by victims, so an increase in numbers could mean victims having increased confidence to come forward. It is impossible to determine the true reason for the increase with existing data at our disposal, so partnership focus remains on providing the best service to victims of Domestic Abuse in Lewisham who do come forward and report it.
- Community Gold Group – representation and community reassurance after serious incidents
- Domestic Violence Court – coordinating outcomes at court with support for victims
- Youth Awareness Workshops – raising awareness of personal safety and knife crime in schools across borough

## 7. ASB

7.1 The Safer Lewisham Partnership is committed to ensuring that the issue of greatest concern to residents, 'Anti Social Behaviour' (ASB), is dealt with swiftly, proportionately and with the victim at the heart of finding a resolution.

### 7.2 Performance

The success of the partnership's efforts will be judged by reductions in the following linked offences:

- Police ASB CADS (Computerised Aided Dispatch)
- Incidents of Criminal Damage
- MOPAC 7 Component: Vandalism (criminal damage)

7.3 The following activity has taken place to date in 2014/15 to support this objective:

- ASB MARAC – over 35 cases met the threshold and came to conference, mainly vulnerable victims, remit of the MARAC is now widened to other complex ASB cases
- ASB and Policing legislation changes – 'Community Trigger' force from 20 October. Crime Reduction Officers developed a protocol for Community Trigger, in partnership with Registered Social Landlords.
- Multi-Agency work around licensing and problem premises
- Squatters, travellers, rogue landlords, drug warrants executed
- Noise Nuisance Caseworks
- CCTV monitoring/enforcement
- Neighbourhood Community Safety Service hold regular surgeries with residents in libraries, leisure centres, food banks, events and local assemblies

- SLP Bus – attends events and public spaces, where Police and NCSS staff offer crime prevention advice and property marking.
- Problem Solving Processes (PSP) in relation to street drinking, ASB and volume crime in specific areas
- ASB cases dealt with – Cases range from private sector housing issues, noise nuisance, harassment, abuse, environmental issues, safeguarding issues, neighbour disputes, mental health issues and vulnerable people.
- “Troubled Families Project” – involvement on the ASB component
- Dog Nuisance – RSPCA, Dog Days – chipping and responsible ownership, from 2016 all dogs need to be chipped.

## **8. Council Led Partnership Activity**

- 8.1 The Crime Reduction Service works closely with the Police, Probation, London Fire Brigade, Crown Prosecution Service, Health and other statutory and community partners to develop multi agency strategies to reduce crime and disorder and tackle anti social behaviour. The enforcement action undertaken by the Neighbourhood Community Safety Team, within the Crime Reduction Service primarily relates to anti-social behaviour as governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 and the new ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Issues dealt with often require a multi-agency approach; this team act as the main conduit between the Council and the Police and leads on multi agency problem solving actions plans to address identified problems as well as delivering the ASB casework management function on behalf of the Council.
- 8.2 The Crime Reduction Service also works closely with other enforcement functions within the Council, such as licensing, environmental health etc. In addition, the Service regularly supports the ASB team at Lewisham Homes and offers guidance and advice on ASB and Crime matters to a number of Housing Associations across the Borough. The Crime Reduction Service works on a wider remit context than just enforcement, delivering a number of strategies and community safety programmes on areas such as hate crime, reducing reoffending, violence against women and girls (VAWG), Serious Youth Violence (SYV), Counter Terrorism (Prevent) and acquisitive crime, and liaise closely with DAAT, Supporting People and YOS as many of the issues are interlinked.
- 8.3 The provision and management of CCTV also falls within the remit of the Crime Reduction Service. CCTV coverage for the Council and Lewisham Homes is managed by the CCTV Manager within this Service who oversees the two main contracts in delivering this work. Office Communication Systems (OCS) are contracted to operate and view the cameras on a 24hr service and Eurovia are contracted to fix and maintain the service of the physical infrastructure of the CCTV network throughout the Borough. Both of these contracts will run for a further three years.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend in relation to the MOPAC funding Resource allocation in relation to tackling emerging issues are agreed will be tabled for agreement at the Performance and Delivery Board or the SLP as required.

## 10. **Legal Implications**

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

## 11. **Equalities Implications**

- 11.1 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.

## 12. **Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 12.1 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.

## 13. **Environmental Implications**

- 13.1 Key decisions made which may have environmental implications. The Council lead for this is an advisor to the SLP and makes representations as appropriate in relation to impact. environmental services are consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

## 14. **Conclusion**

- 14.1 The SLP will continue to review its practice and that of the sub groups to ensure that all activity in relation to crime and disorder and drugs and alcohol is in line with the sustainable communities strategy, and the Safer Lewisham Strategy as well as having links to children's and young persons board and the health and wellbeing board.

For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8 314 9569.

This page is intentionally left blank



# Agenda Item 4

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Violence Against Women and Girls including Girls and Gangs	
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services.	Item 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	10 September 2014

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a multi-faceted issue that links to, and impacts on, a range of other social issues including poverty, unemployment, youth crime, homelessness, child abuse, health, and problematic substance use. A multi-agency, integrated approach to tackling these issues is therefore required.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2 The Lewisham VAWG Plan sets out three important objectives and goals for our borough;
  - Early intervention and prevention of VAWG – To develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in our borough;
  - To ensure an improved access to the support and protection of women and girls in our borough;
  - To hold perpetrators to account and consideration of rehabilitation provision.

## 2. Recommendation

Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are recommended to note the contents of this report which aims to assist the committee with the possible scoping of a future in-depth review.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Lewisham Council has a long history of commitment to tackling domestic and sexual violence. This work is now supported by a unified and comprehensive approach to tackling violence against women and girls through a systemic VAWG Plan.
- 3.2 A needs assessment was undertaken in the summer of 2013 to look at the prevalence of VAWG locally and to determine what our priorities should be. We also consulted with our Council partners as well as residents and victims of VAWG.
- 3.3 The needs assessment identified gaps in local knowledge in a number of areas; and proposes 3 key strands for local focus and priority:
  - Domestic violence and abuse
  - Rape and sexual violence
  - Sexual exploitation with particular focus on children

---

<sup>1</sup> Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2013-2017

- 3.4 As with all partnership intelligence development documents it is likely priorities may be revised as further information on all strands of VAWG becomes available. All local partners are committed to dealing with any aspects of VAWG and will be reviewing and reassessing areas annually.
- 3.5 In addition, significant work has been undertaken in relation to gangs – a menu of options has previously been shared with Members – specific focus will be placed on the work undertaken in relation to girls and gangs.

#### **4. What is Violence Against Women and Girls?**

- 4.1 Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights. Locally we adopt the United Nations declaration on elimination of violence towards women, which defines violence against women as:

‘Any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women [or girls], including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty’

*United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence towards Women (1993, Article 1)*

- 4.2 Lewisham’s Plan links to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the recent launch of the London Mayors “Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls (2011) and the refreshed Plan in 2013.
- 4.3 VAWG includes violence that is targeted at women or girls because of their gender or affects women and girls disproportionately. The strands of VAWG as outlined by the government are;

- Domestic Violence
- Rape and Sexual Violence
- Prostitution and Trafficking
- Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- Honour Based Violence
- Stalking and Harassment

- 4.4 This does not mean that men are never victims of, for example, rape, forced marriage, or domestic violence, or even that women are not sometimes perpetrators. The Council is equally committed to tackling the needs of men and to addressing all forms of violence and abuse across the borough. We will do this by ensuring the services we commission also provide support to male victims.

#### **5. Lewisham’s VAWG Plan**

- 5.1 Victims are at the forefront of the Council’s wider Crime Reduction Plan, and this continues to be the focus within the VAWG Plan.

- 5.2 Although domestic violence and abuse has been a key priority for the Safer Lewisham Partnership over the last five years, more can be done to address all other strands of VAWG and how they affect each other.
- 5.3 We are committed to awareness raising programmes on the issue of VAWG as well as training for all professionals in the borough.
- 5.4 We aim to ensure that victims of gender-based violence are provided with an effective multi agency approach through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) conference and other fora.
- 5.5 We also aim to continue to work with perpetrators to reduce future harm and all criminal justice partners working together to ensure that responses reduce risk of harm and contribute to victim safety.

## **6. Our Principles and Priorities**

6.1 The Government's approach to ending VAWG involves a number of actions<sup>2</sup>, including, but not limited to:

- widening the definition of domestic violence and abuse following a public consultation, to include coercive control and to cover 16 and 17 year olds
- publishing a pocket sized declaration opposing female genital mutilation document for girls and women to carry when abroad, explaining the law and potential criminal penalties
- running the teenage relation abuse and teenage rape prevention campaigns to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse and directing them to places for help and advice
- providing protection for victims of stalking by introducing two new specific criminal offences, along with additional related police search powers and training for police and prosecutors
- signing the Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence - the 'Istanbul Convention'.

### 6.2 Lewisham's Principles

The Partnership is committed to delivering an integrated provision for VAWG, working to achieve the following goals and objectives:

- Early intervention and prevention of VAWG – To develop a better understanding of VAWG and its impact in our borough;
- To ensure an improved access to the support and protection of women and girls in our borough;
- To hold perpetrators to account.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk>

### 6.3 What we aim to achieve:

Within the principles outlined and with a clear commitment as set out in the Safer Lewisham Plan 13/14, we want to achieve the following;

- Reducing key crimes with particular reference to VAWG and serious youth violence.
- Ensuring all public services work collaboratively and with communities to prevent crime support victims and reduce re-offending and improving confidence across all criminal justice agencies.

### 6.4 Our identified VAWG priorities are:

- Tackling and reducing incidents of domestic violence and abuse year on year.
- Tackling and reducing rape and sexual violence year on year.
- Tackling sexual exploitation with specific focus on children.

## 7. Public Consultation - The Views of Stakeholders and Local Residents

7.1 To help develop this plan, a consultation was undertaken to seek the views of a wide range of partners in the borough between November 2013 and January 2014. Lewisham Council commissioned a London-based VAWG charity<sup>3</sup> to consult with local residents (women and girls only) on a variety of issues such as barriers to accessing services and whether a single service would be more beneficial.

7.2 This consultation involved the following;

- The consultation sought to obtain the perspectives of women and girls on their experiences of accessing support services across the voluntary, statutory and community sector, how current services could be improved and recommendations for how VAWG should be tackled in the future.
- Consultation with professionals and partners through our local violence against women and girls professional networks.
- An on-line consultation with professionals and service users

7.3 49 women and girls were consulted, 25% of whom were young people between the ages of 13 and 25.

7.4 A recommendation from the consultation with local women and girls is for Lewisham to consider a one-stop-shop type service, where women and girls can access a variety of needs such as counselling, outreach support or crisis management. See attached for executive summary.

## 8. Current Service Delivery

8.1 Currently, a number of specialist services are commissioned – and located in different parts of the borough – to deliver services to victims of domestic violence

---

<sup>3</sup> Imkaan - <http://imkaan.org.uk/AboutUs>

and abuse. The current service is disjointed, with service users often having to access multiple different services before being referred to the appropriate service.

- 8.2 In Lewisham the refuge provision is commissioned by the Prevention and Inclusion Team and is delivered by Refuge (the charity). The domestic violence and abuse support service is commissioned by the Crime Reduction Service and is delivered by a number of providers namely, Refuge, Victim Support Lewisham, TRYangle Project and the Community Groups Programme.
- 8.3 Victim Support Lewisham is located in the south of the borough, offering community services for victims of domestic violence and abuse, while Refuge is located in Lewisham Police Station offering crisis management and risk reduction services, but no counselling or community service.
- 8.4 The TRYangle service, which is a perpetrator programme for male abusers, is jointly commissioned with Bromley Council but located on the border of Lewisham and Bromley.

## **9. The Way Forward**

- 9.1 The proposed borough commissioning model will see the provision of refuge accommodation and community based domestic violence and abuse support services included in a single contract for three years, with an option to renew the contract for two years subject to satisfactory outcomes.
- 9.2 A VAWG service in Lewisham will aim to achieve;
- Expansion of services.
  - Additional support of gender based violence issues for service users.
  - Efficiency in contract management.
- 9.3 The Lewisham VAWG service will see an expansion of services, for example, services will be expanded to a younger age group (currently over 16 only) and include wider VAWG strands such as female genital mutilation, human trafficking, prostitution, and domestic violence and abuse advocates co-located in primary health care settings.
- 9.4 In addition officers propose to widen the remit of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) in the service specifications to include other violence against women and girls issues such as female genital mutilation (FGM), honour based violence, forced marriage and prostitution.
- 9.5 The commissioned service will measure progress against the following outcomes:
- An increase in the number of referrals to the service.
  - Increasing the number of victims and families made safe and who stay safe.
  - A reduction in repeat reports of domestic violence and abuse.
  - Increased interventions and therefore reductions in risk and cases of significant harm.
  - Successful work with perpetrators, such as change in the behaviour of perpetrators and an awareness of the impacts of their behaviour.
  - Improving outcomes for individuals and groups in other areas of their lives.

- Increased and improved service user involvement

## 10. Expected Outcomes

- 10.1 Lambeth Council currently have a one-stop shop type VAWG service, where service users are able to access the service easily and quickly through a single referral pathway.
- 10.2 In addition to providing domestic violence and abuse services, gender based violence support (trafficking, honour based violence, etc) is also provided. These services were not provided by Lambeth prior to commissioning their VAWG service in 2011.
- 10.3 Data from Lambeth show that in the most recent quarter of operation, their VAWG service received 525 referrals, over 100% increase from 250 referrals in the first quarter of operation.
- 10.4 The Lewisham VAWG service would be expected to see an increase in annual number of referrals, including an expansion of support services such as early intervention, additional community outreach and high risk advocacy support.
- 10.5 Some of the broader expected outcomes include, but not limited to;
- Reduced repeat victimisation.
  - Reduced repeat perpetrators and positive changes in perpetrator behaviour.
  - Increased reports and criminal justice outcomes e.g. sanction detections
  - Increase in the number of referrals to the service for support.
  - Improved safety for children and young people
  - Reducing the risk of children and young people becoming a future victim / perpetrator of domestic abuse

## 11. Girls and Gangs

- 11.1 Though there is not currently an agreed definition of gang associated women and girls the local partnership uses the ACPO definition of “a woman or girl who is a family member of or in an intimate relationship with a gang nominal.

## 12. Strategic Context

- 12.1 Historically, approaches to tackling gang violence have centred around the experiences of men and boys and neglected the specific needs of gang associated women and girls, many of whom are at heightened risk of violence and sexual exploitation<sup>4</sup>. Public authorities have a legal duty to eliminate discrimination and promote equality under the Equality Act 2010, and the Partnership is committed to ensuring there is no discrimination in the provision of services to men and women. Recent MOPAC guidance such as the Strategic Framework for Responding to Gang Associated Women and Girls is intended to help address this oversight and local partnership work is also informed by the findings of the Children’s Commissioners Report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups .” One

---

<sup>4</sup> Inevitably this tends to focus on violent perpetrators whilst many females who may be victims of retaliatory attacks/sexual assaults and/or the object of grooming will not be highlighted.

of the principal areas of concern in this field is the hidden nature of the problem, and it remains a key priority to effectively profile at risk groups and ensure timely sharing of information

## 12.2 Issues

Changes in the modus operandi of gangs across London point to a more prominent role for female nominals. Lewisham mirrors a trend across the capital where drug dealing, mostly outside London, is supplanting conflicts over territory and vulnerable females have a high value as couriers. Gang members are also increasingly using girls/young women to safe house drugs/weapons. The MPS's Trident unit are currently leading on co-ordinated enforcement against gangs involved in the exploitation of children in particular, and safeguarding protocols are being actively reviewed in light of updated intelligence profiles.

## 12.3 Interventions

Safeguarding women and girls from the threat of violence and of places a premium on identifying at risk females, and ensuring that current intelligence on female partners and siblings is shared with relevant safeguarding agencies, represented on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) MASE (Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation) and Youth MARAC panels. Intelligence is constantly reviewed in order to ensure at risk individuals are known and that safeguarding decisions are taken with full disclosure of information between key agencies

12.4 The Youth MARAC and MASE remain key forums for co-coordinating interventions, enforcement in the area of gang connected CSE . Intelligence gained from referrals is also used to inform the strategic profiling of sexual violence ; this meets MOPAC's best practice guidance in ensuring effective needs mapping within the Community Safety Partnership of domestic and sexual violence<sup>5</sup>. Such panels also act as early warning alerts for at risk females – e.g. many girls involved in the 'county lines'. Given the reduced repeat victimisation rates attested to by external audit<sup>6</sup> such forums offer a solid foundation for reducing the harm to vulnerable females, and the partnership will continue to work with the Home Office EGYV team to drive down levels repeat victimisation

12.5 The EGYV team are also working with the Youth MARAC to further develop good practice in strategic and operational planning in this area, and the Serious Violence Team is working with the Early Intervention CSE leads to ensure a uniform approach by school safeguarding leads in responding to the needs of gang associated girls.

12.6 The Serious Violence Team tasked with working with gangs is the primary co-ordinator of the Youth MARAC and also sits on MASE as well as the Domestic

---

<sup>5</sup> MOPAC Strategic Framework for Responding to Gang Associated Women and Girls 2013

<sup>6</sup> The Youth MARAC was formally audited by the Bright Ideas Partnership in 2011 which concluded with following observations

Overall the project has been successful in meeting its key aims as it has: made young people feel safer and more secure; reduced the likelihood of repeat victimisation (the 25.9% repeat victimisation rate reported in this project is considerably lower than the normal re-victimisation rate of young victims of 58%); addressed the risk factors which can lead to offending, and as a result is likely to have reduced the number of young victims adapting offending behaviour; and has increased young victims' confidence in different agencies, such as the police, increasing the numbers of young people accessing services and reporting crimes

Violence steering groups. This will ensure key recommendations by MOPAC and Home Office on joint strategic planning in this area.

- 12.7 The Safer Lewisham Partnership has also merged the Strategic Assessment and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and will adopt an integrated approach to Violence with Injury and ensure linkages with wider VAWG specific targets
- 12.8 The partnership regularly delivers training under the auspices of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Group to frontline practitioners on gangs and these events will be used to disseminate a consistent safeguarding approach.

### 13. Financial Implications

- 13.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend in relation to the MOPAC funding Resource allocation in relation to tackling emerging issues are agreed and tabled for agreement at the Performance and Delivery Board or the SLP as required. External funding is heavily relied upon in the delivery of this agenda currently.

	15/16	16/17	17/18
Total value	£678,877	£678,887	£485,887 Potential Reduction of £192,990 in external funding

### 14. Legal Implications

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.



## **15. Equalities Implications**

- 15.1 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.

## **16. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 16.1 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.

## **17. Environmental Implications**

- 17.1 Key decisions made which may have environmental implications. The Council lead for this is an advisor to the SLP and makes representations as appropriate in relation to impact. environmental services are consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

## **18. Conclusion**

- 18.1 The SLP will continue to review its practice and that of the sub groups to ensure that all activity in relation to crime and disorder and drugs and alcohol is in line with the sustainable communities strategy, and the Safer Lewisham Strategy as well as having links to children's and young persons board and the health and wellbeing board. This plan will link closely to the London Mayors recent VAWG plan and continue to investigate and understand better the local Lewisham picture.

*For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8 314 956*

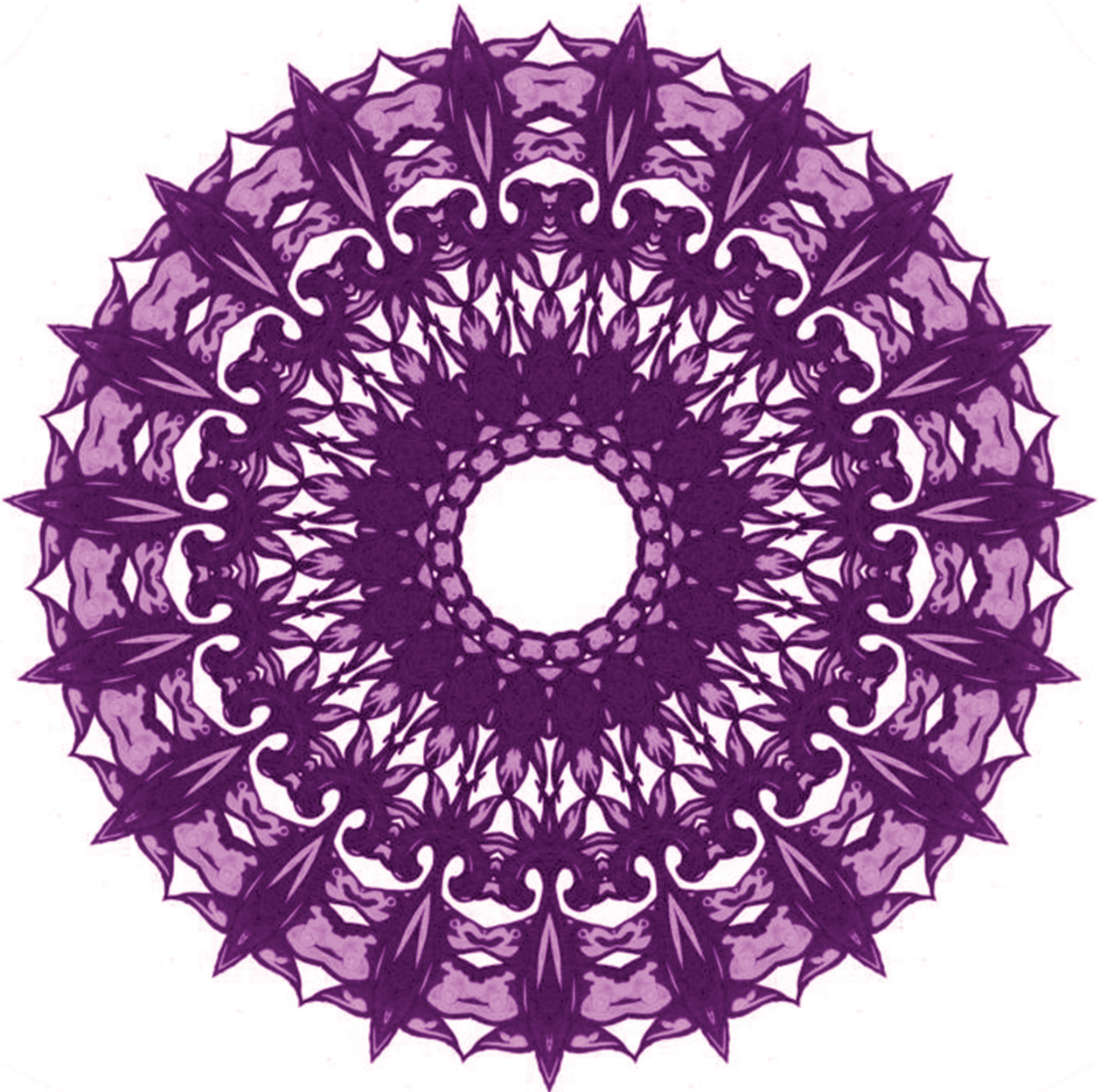
This page is intentionally left blank

# CREATING SAFE SPACES:

A consultation with survivors on Lewisham's approach to  
addressing violence against women and girls

Executive Summary

June 2014



*imkaan*

*"I was welcomed, made to feel comfortable and relaxed, it was like being at home and she understood me and I told her things I never have told anyone."*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In February 2014, Lewisham Council commissioned Imkaan to undertake a consultation on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Lewisham. Imkaan is a UK-based, black feminist organisation dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls.

The consultation sought to obtain the perspectives of women and girls on their experiences of accessing support services across the voluntary, statutory and community sector, how current services could be improved and recommendations on how VAWG should be tackled in the future. The outcomes will help to inform Lewisham's future planning as part of the updated VAWG strategy (2014-17) which is due to be launched in autumn this year. Lewisham Council are currently reviewing the delivery of VAWG services to all victims in the borough and hope to commission a new VAWG service in April 2015. The process will involve working with internal and external partners to determine what the service will look like and using the outcomes from this consultation to influence the active review. Lewisham have also updated the Borough's Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum to a VAWG Forum, which still has an active voluntary community sector (VCS) membership and are hoping to expand membership further to ensure there is adequate and appropriate representation. Lewisham are committed to lobbying stakeholders, key partners and services to ensure that VAWG is taken seriously in Lewisham.

## **SUMMARY OF KEY EMERGING ISSUES AND THEMES**

### **Barriers that prevented women from accessing support sooner**

- Women often spoke about not feeling confident, blaming themselves for the violence, feeling 'ashamed', minimising what had happened and developing their own strategies for coping without external support. Fears and actual threats to personal safety were also a strong factor in not seeking help.
- Women with immigration or asylum issues spoke about the additional barriers, they experienced, both from the perpetrator(s) and institutionally . Difficulties in accessing refuge accommodation, threats of deportation, fears of being deemed as 'illegal' and reported to the immigration authorities, entrapment and isolation were common to the way in which violence manifested and presented a major obstacle to accessing support .
- The social stigma and gendered expectations still associated with VAWG often affected interaction with and disclosure to agencies. Having to cope with and resist victim-blaming attitudes, rejection, pressures to reconcile and threats from the perpetrator(s), peer-groups and family/community members were key factors and obstacles to seeking help.
- Concerns about judgement and not being believed by external agencies were more likely to be expressed by young women, trans individuals and BME women.
- Decisions to access safety and support were triggered by several different factors. For example, when the violence became more life-threatening or where women came into contact with health professionals as a result of experiencing more acute mental health problems as a consequence of the violence..

### **Women's experiences of accessing support services**

- Women described encountering helpful and responsive professionals across the sector (health, police, specialist voluntary sector/ VAWG agencies). Overall, women and girls wanted the responses of statutory agencies to be more VAWG sensitive and consistent.
- Processes of help-seeking were described as confusing and stressful, particularly where women and girls are required to retell their situation to several different agencies. They wanted processes to be simpler and more flexible.
- Experiencing negative attitudes, tone and treatment, racism and discrimination and a lack of empathy towards survivors of VAWG influenced the extent to which women trusted and felt safe to engage with external services. This issue arose in connection with women's interactions with some statutory agencies and in the treatment of trans women and BME survivors of VAWG.
- Women emphasised the importance of safety and confidentiality particularly when they made contact with a range of statutory agencies. A number described feeling compromised and unsafe to discuss their needs fully particularly if they were expected to discuss their personal circumstances in public spaces.
- Overall, women were more likely to be satisfied with police responses and described responses as poor when there was a lack of follow-up on cases, and/or where disclosures of violence were not taken seriously, despite physical evidence or because of an excessive

focus on physical injury as proof of the violence resulting in emotional forms of violence being ignored

- Interventions from health were considered helpful and positive when professionals demonstrated a good understanding of the health impacts of VAWG and appropriate referrals were made to specialist services.
- The interventions through NHS counselling services<sup>1</sup> and the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Team (CAMHS) were considered both crucial and helpful. Therapeutic (and other clinical) interventions are considered less effective when they are not framed around the women's individuality of experience and identity and where agencies do not have a VAWG expertise. For example, the need for trans-sensitive mental health services/provision was highlighted.
- Concerns about housing related to the health impact of living in poor housing conditions as well as the practical problems of being relocated to areas that were at a distance from existing networks. The importance of timely relocation was key to women's safety and wellbeing particularly when risk is heightened because of engaging with the criminal justice system.

### **The types of support women and girls value**

- Overall, women and girls spoke positively about their interactions with existing voluntary sector specialists in Lewisham.
- Being able to access specialist voluntary sector services with an expertise on how to respond sensitively to different forms of VAWG through safe housing; consistency of support, counselling and other therapeutic activities and empowerment work and provide specialist advice on legal and welfare issues. There should be a recognition of the need for women-only spaces; BME women-only spaces.
- Young women centred provision and BME led organisations were described as spaces where women and girls felt heard, listened to and supported.
- Improving the availability of support services to those that experience specific barriers, e.g. women involved in prostitution, young women, BME women and girls, women with disabilities, women who have a history of offending, women who have experienced and/or at risk of female genital mutilation and lesbian, bisexual, trans women (LBT) groups.
- An investment in peer-led/ community based VAWG advocates to raise awareness of VAWG and extend outreach/support to women and girls who experience a range of barriers in accessing support.

### **Prevention and early intervention to reduce VAWG**

- The importance of a whole-school prevention approach within schools and other youth-based settings to ensure that young people are knowledgeable about VAWG, their rights and access information and support.

---

<sup>1</sup>A hospital based counselling service that was previously commissioned by the Council (the service no longer exists).

- The need to engage with young people outside of school settings who may experience specific forms of marginalisation including young people who are not engaged in mainstream education.
- The need for more specialist and intensive work with girls affected by FGM and different forms of sexual violence and exploitation.
- The need for more work to better support disabled women and girls who experience specific barriers to accessing information and support.
- Commissioning existing voluntary sector organisations working on VAWG to deliver prevention based activities.

### **Awareness-raising**

- Lewisham could do more to promote a zero-tolerance culture and approach to VAWG in all its forms.
- The use of different forms of media to send out clear messages that condemn VAWG and improve women's access to information about who to approach and what type of support services offer. The use of everyday community settings such as libraries, GP surgeries, health centres, supermarkets, places of worship, social media, TV and radio.
- Use creative approaches to address the physical and emotional restrictions imposed by the violence itself often acts as a barrier to women being able to access information safely and/or approach agencies for support, and to address barriers experienced by disabled women and/or for women who do not have English as their first language.
- The importance of community engagement through faith organisations and work with men and boys led by men to shift the attitudes of other men and boys.
- The need for more awareness-raising in the workplace to encourage more proactive and informed policy and practice by employers.

### **Work with perpetrators**

- The need for the CJS to have a more consistent approach in the punishment of perpetrators and ensure they are accountable for their behaviour.
- Attempts at rehabilitation were considered more effective if perpetrator programmes focus less on anger management but more consistently address the root causes of VAWG.
- The need for perpetrator programmes to address the behaviour of men who also have histories of imprisonment, torture and detention.

### **Views of other residents and local professionals**

- Lewisham should adopt a strong political commitment to addressing VAWG in all its forms, and this should include a holistic response to support women and girls to exit prostitution in line with the Mayor of London's strategy and the position of the European Parliament.<sup>2</sup> Current work on sexual exploitation should also include a stronger focus on the experiences of adult women.

---

<sup>2</sup><http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20140221IPR36644/html/Punish-the-client-not-the-prostitute>

- Lewisham should develop an integrated prevention strategy for consistent work in schools, further education and other youth-based settings and which also recognises the need for embedding prevention-based targets across health and social care.
- Developing more robust and consistent methods of data collection from agencies outside of the criminal justice system e.g. education, health and social services and workplaces to help identify gaps, needs and encourage stronger multi-agency responses. Conduct further research where there a lack of data e.g. prostitution.
- Strengthen access to age-appropriate support and the development of holistic and integrated provision for young women affected by VAWG to address the lack of services for young women.
- Strengthen access to specialist support for BME women and girls affected by VAWG in all its forms.
- Work in partnership with local FGM experts to develop a much more robust multi-agency response to addressing FGM given the high levels of under-reporting and the range of barriers women and girls experience in reporting and gaps in the policy, practice and training of different statutory agencies.
- Consider the economic barriers that women and girls experience as an obstacle to leaving violence and accessing help.
- Ensure regular dialogue between statutory and voluntary sector agencies with specialist expertise on different forms of VAWG to inform on-going service planning, policy development and monitoring of the VAWG strategy.



## CONCLUSION

This consultation with women and girls in Lewisham highlights a range of issues that require consideration by the London Borough of Lewisham and its partners. The findings point to the complexities and overlapping nature of women's experiences of VAWG in all its forms, therefore reinforcing the value of a robust integrated VAWG approach with key stakeholders in the borough.

A number of women expressed a range of barriers that prevented them from seeking help. Not feeling confident, feeling ashamed, finding their own strategies for coping, the stigma of reporting sexual violence, concerns about threats and judgement from peers or family members and the difficulties in reporting due to immigration controls were highlighted. Therefore, the need for more outreach and prevention work to challenge gendered attitudes that condone violence but which also assists women to access information and help more easily.

Whilst women and girls described encountering helpful and responsive individuals across the sector (health, police, specialist voluntary sector/ VAWG agencies) a number identified the need for agency responses and practice to more consistently reflect an understanding and sensitivity on VAWG. This was a more notable feature of women's interactions with statutory agencies. When professionals lacked a VAWG understanding it clearly had a negative impact on women's confidence, and their patterns of disclosure and help-seeking. For example, the importance of confidentiality and safety during any agency interaction where women are expected to share personal details and the value of speaking to a female therapist or police officer to aid disclosure and engagement was identified.

The interviews with young women, BME and LBT groups also highlighted racism and other discriminatory attitudes which women frequently experience in their daily lives but which can then be reinforced by the responses of some professionals. These factors highlight the need to ensure that consistent training and minimum standards on VAWG are in place across the sector to ensure that agencies are sensitive to the needs of victims/survivors but which also seeks to challenge any harmful attitudes that may influence practice. Furthermore, the feedback reflects the importance of updating current policy and practice so that systems of routine enquiry, management of disclosures, referral, information sharing and data collection reflect different forms of VAWG.

Equally, it was also clear that Lewisham has a diverse range of VAWG and community-based organisations that women and girls trust and value. Trust often translated to several different factors including accessing the same worker with expertise on different forms of VAWG: women-only spaces, BME women-only spaces, agencies that offer practical and ongoing emotional support (safe housing, counseling, support groups, legal advocacy) and have a good understanding of how to work with different groups of women and girls, e.g. BME, young women, LBT groups and expertise on specific forms of VAWG such as female genital mutilation. The role of local community groups was also crucial to women who still remain in situations of violence but were navigating a number of different challenges and barriers, e.g. not wanting to approach a mainstream agency, the combined impact of immigration restrictions and destitution. This highlights the need to improve the availability of support services outside of 'crisis' based responses by strengthening the capacity of local organisations who are not solely funded to deliver VAWG work and creating opportunities for partnership work between the VAWG and community sector. Therefore, it is important that future commissioning plans recognise the value of diverse range of service providers. The consultation also identifies the need to strengthen knowledge

and develop effective service responses in areas where women and girls are likely to experience specific barriers to accessing support including a lack of identifiable service provision. For example, women and girls spoke about inadequate service responses (outside of a CJS response) to tackle issues such as prostitution, female genital mutilation , or the specific barriers experienced by young women, disabled women and women in or at risk of entering the CJS which would merit further consideration and which in turn links to the agreed actions within Lewisham's strategic plan. Leadership and political will are key to the borough being able to transition to a VAWG approach. Therefore, the appointment of a VAWG co-ordinator, institutional champions and the development of a VAWG scrutiny panel would help to ensure that Lewisham has robust mechanisms in place for encouraging leadership, accountability and promising practice on VAWG.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Recommendation 1: A commitment to developing an integrated VAWG response**

- Developing an integrated VAWG response should be treated as a political and corporate priority within Lewisham similar to other areas including Southwark, Brighton, Lambeth, and Harrow to ensure leadership and strategic buy in from within all levels of the Council. This should also ensure that the borough has a proactive approach to addressing prostitution as part of its work on sexual exploitation.
- Prevention should be central to the development and delivery of the VAWG strategy.
- Ensure that all agencies with a responsibility for VAWG have consistent approaches to data-collection, routine enquiry, training, pathways for prevention, early identification, referral and support across health, education, social services, housing, probation and the CJS.
- Appoint a full-time VAWG co-ordinator to lead on the development, monitoring and co-ordination of Lewisham's VAWG strategy and consultation with local partners (this is key to the development of an effective and robust response). This post could be held by Lewisham's Community Safety partnership (CSP) as is the case in other boroughs, e.g. Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, Newham. This could be supplemented by local champions within different departments of the Council to encourage leadership and consistency.

### **Recommendation 2: Improving support services to women affected by VAWG**

Consider the development of a "women only one-stop shop VAWG service" to support women and girls to easily access consistent information and support and appropriate referrals at the earliest opportunity. The following objectives should be considered as part of a commissioned needs assessment (see for example, commissioning guidance on VAWG produced by Imkaan and Women's Aid<sup>3</sup>).

- A recognition of the need to retain women-only spaces to ensure safety and confidentiality for survivors of violence.
- Involve a mix of providers with expertise of working with specific groups. For example, services run and led by BME women, services targeting young women.
- Offer flexible arrangements for accessing advice, e.g. through out-of-hours provision, child-care arrangements.
- Ensure women and girls have access to the same support worker at different points to provide face-to-face emotional and practical support.
- Avoid a one-size fits all approach to ensure service is targeted, responsive and designed to consider the most appropriate responses to VAWG in all its forms. For example, consider co-commissioning services from the specialist sexual violence sector in partnership with BME organisations to improve support to victims of sexual violence and exploitation.

---

<sup>3</sup><https://www.dropbox.com/s/y1f2z5jhme5fseq/Imkaan%20Women%27s%20Aid%20Successful%20Commissioning%20Guide%202014.pdf>

- Ensure that provision remains independent of the statutory sector and management structures reflect equitable arrangements that value and support leadership of smaller community-based organisations with expertise on VAWG.
- Linked to an on-going training and development programme to ensure that staff are trained to understand different forms of VAWG.
- Commission a range of VAWG providers to deliver prevention-based activities alongside the delivery of frontline services to women and girls in youth-based and community settings e.g. Colleges, University, youth-groups, faith based organisations. This should include specific work with adult women and girls, men and boys, sessions with parents
- Build on existing work to develop a whole-school approach to VAWG within local schools. For example, the Bristol Ideal project provides a good model and standards for developing a whole-school approach.
- A one-stop shop service should not mean a single access point as this could exclude women who already experience specific forms of marginalisation and could increase risk for particular groups. For example, the London VAWG consortium funded by London Councils is a pan-London service but it has also retained the specialism of individual agencies through a consortia approach.

### **Recommendation 3: Improving access to support services to women and girls who experience barriers and may not have disclosed the violence**

Alongside the funding of core service provision, work with local community/voluntary sector organisations already engaged with working with women and girls to pilot a peer outreach community-based programme with different strands to be delivered by a range of different specialist providers. To improve awareness, access to support, information and referral to groups who experience specific forms of marginalisation and isolation.

- Involve a range of grassroots organisations with specific expertise of working with particular groups and on gender, and who are linked to/located in specific communities. For example, young women affected by peer-on-peer/gang related violence, ex-offenders, women and girls affected by female genital mutilation and/or forced marriage, women involved in prostitution. Programmes should recognise the specific needs of disabled women, women with mental health needs and/or substance use issues, chronic health problems and LBT groups.
- Building the capacity of key community organisations that work with specific groups (those who do not receive core funding to address VAWG) but which are regularly accessed by local women and girls affected by VAWG through training, partnership working, and strategic development. Stronger partnerships could also be built between local community groups and VAWG providers.

### **Recommendation 4: Improving the evidence base and developing informed approaches**

Convene a series of multi-agency thematic action-based round-table meetings (as part of the VAWG forum) with local and other voluntary and statutory sector experts/partners to consider current gaps, needs and promising practice. For example, it would be useful to draw on learning

from the Women in Prison and Eaves service for women at risk of and/or involved in the CJS commissioned by LB Lambeth or the MOPAC pilot to improve borough responses to forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour'-based violence as part of an integrated VAWG response (see for example, Missing Link,<sup>4</sup> MOPAC VAWG refresh strategy). These discussions should inform the development and commissioning of VAWG services.

Discussions should focus on:

- Prostitution/sexual and other forms of exploitation.
- Women involved in and at risk of entering the CJS.
- BME women and girls and VAWG including female genital mutilation, forced marriage and 'honour'-based violence.
- Specific barriers/challenges experienced by young women and interactions with support services (including youth MARAC).
- Women, health and wellbeing (improving support to address mental and physical health via access to specialist VAWG services and looking at methods for improving routine enquiry, support and referral to specialist agencies across health). For example, explore adapting the IRIS model to address other forms of VAWG. See Women's Health & Equality Consortium (WHEC) guidance on developing a gendered response to the JSNA.
- All the sessions should consider the specific barriers experienced by lesbian, bisexual and trans women, disabled women and girls, younger and older groups.
- All the sessions should consider the impact of economic barriers, e.g. use of food banks, homelessness/destitution, unemployment/redundancy which present obstacles for accessing support.

Alongside this commission a series of scoping papers/research to improve the current evidence base on the particular contexts within which VAWG occurs and which directly impact on help-seeking. Research should involve a review of existing literature and data (academic/voluntary sector) to develop a better understanding of the responses required and collate promising practice.

### **Recommendation 5: Awareness-raising**

Work with specialist VAWG providers to develop an awareness-raising campaign using a range of media to challenge myths and stereotypes on VAWG; enable women to easily identify indicators of VAWG and ensure that information about where to seek help is accessible.

- Publicity materials should be developed to ensure the needs of different equalities groups are met and that consideration is given to victims of VAWG who are not readily able to access information.
- Develop relationships with local employers/businesses to promote awareness-raising on VAWG. Consider ways of improving information on VAWG in public spaces.

---

<sup>4</sup><http://imkaan.org.uk/resources>

## **Recommendation 6: Training and quality standards**

All statutory agencies that are likely to come into contact with women and girls should access regular accredited training on all forms of VAWG and equalities issues commissioned from VAWG and equalities voluntary sector experts as part of their ongoing professional development. The training should consider the way in which women and girls experience different forms of marginalisation and discrimination and seek to challenge the stereotypes and harmful attitudes that exist about particular groups.

- This should include a specific review of practice and approach of customer services at the 'first point of contact' and the management of disclosures to embed a consistent VAWG sensitive approach which recognises the need for safety, and confidentiality. Social services and housing departments should be prioritised.
- Ensure that agencies leading on delivering work on VAWG in Lewisham meet and/or are working towards sector standards that are appropriate to the nature of the service. For example, Rape Crisis, Women's Aid, Imkaan, Respect and CAADA to ensure a consistency and robustness in approach.
- Mechanisms should be in place to ensure that victims and survivors of VAWG are referred for counseling services only where they have access to a female practitioner with expertise on VAWG. The approach of counselling and psychotherapy services in the Borough should meet the standards of safe professional conduct as developed by the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy.<sup>5</sup>

## **Recommendation 7: Monitoring and co-ordinating VAWG responses**

Establish a multi-agency VAWG scrutiny panel with key stakeholders from the VAWG voluntary/community sector and representatives across health including Public Health, clinical commissioning groups, education, CJS, housing and social services to monitor and evaluate agreed actions and outcomes and hold relevant agencies to account.

- Ensure the group is represented with expertise from agencies working on VAWG but also a range of equalities groups.
- Conduct and commission a yearly poll with victims-survivors of VAWG to evaluate and monitor agency responses.
- Conduct and commission a yearly survey with local stakeholders to consider successes, outcomes and emerging issues.

---

<sup>5</sup>See ethical practice guidelines developed at [http://www.bacp.co.uk/prof\\_conduct/](http://www.bacp.co.uk/prof_conduct/)

*imkaan*

52-54 Featherstone Street  
London, EC1Y 8RT  
[www.imkaan.org.uk](http://www.imkaan.org.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank



# Agenda Item 5

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Select Committee work programme		
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item	5
Class	Part 1 (Open)	10 September 2014	

## 1. Purpose

To advise Members of the proposed work programme for the municipal year 2014/15, and to decide on the agenda items for the next meeting.

## 2. Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the new administration, each select committee drew up a draft work programme for submission to the Business Panel for consideration.
- 2.2 The Business Panel considered the proposed work programmes of each of the select committees on 29 July 2014 and agreed a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme. However, the work programme can be reviewed at each Select Committee meeting so that Members are able to include urgent, high priority items and remove items that are no longer a priority.

## 3. Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the work plan attached at **Appendix B** and discuss any issues arising from the programme;
- specify the information and analysis required in the report for each item on the agenda for the next meeting, based on desired outcomes, so that officers are clear on what they need to provide;
- review all forthcoming key decisions, attached at **Appendix C**, and consider any items for further scrutiny.

## 4. The work programme

4.1 The work programme for 2014/15 was agreed at the Committee's meeting on 15 July 2014.

4.2 The Committee is asked to consider if any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny and if any existing items are no longer a priority and can be removed from the work programme. Before adding additional items, each item should be considered against agreed criteria. The flow chart attached at **Appendix A** may help Members decide if proposed additional items should be added to the work programme. The Committee's work programme needs to be achievable in terms of the amount of meeting time available. If the Committee agrees to add additional item(s) because they are urgent and high priority, Members will need to consider

which medium/low priority item(s) should be removed in order to create sufficient capacity for the new item(s).

## 5. The next meeting

5.1 The following reports are scheduled for the meeting on 3 November 2014:

Agenda item	Review type	Link to Corporate Priority	Priority
<b>Main grant programme funding</b>	Standard item	Community leadership	High
<b>Violence against women and girls: girls and gangs scoping report</b>	Standard item	Safety, security and a visible presence	High
<b>Lewisham Future Programme</b>	Standard review	Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity	High

5.2 The Committee is asked to specify the information and analysis it would like to see in the reports for these item, based on the outcomes the committee would like to achieve, so that officers are clear on what they need to provide for the next meeting.

## 6. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 7. Legal Implications

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

## 8. Equalities Implications

8.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

8.2 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.

8.3 There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

**9. Date of next meeting**

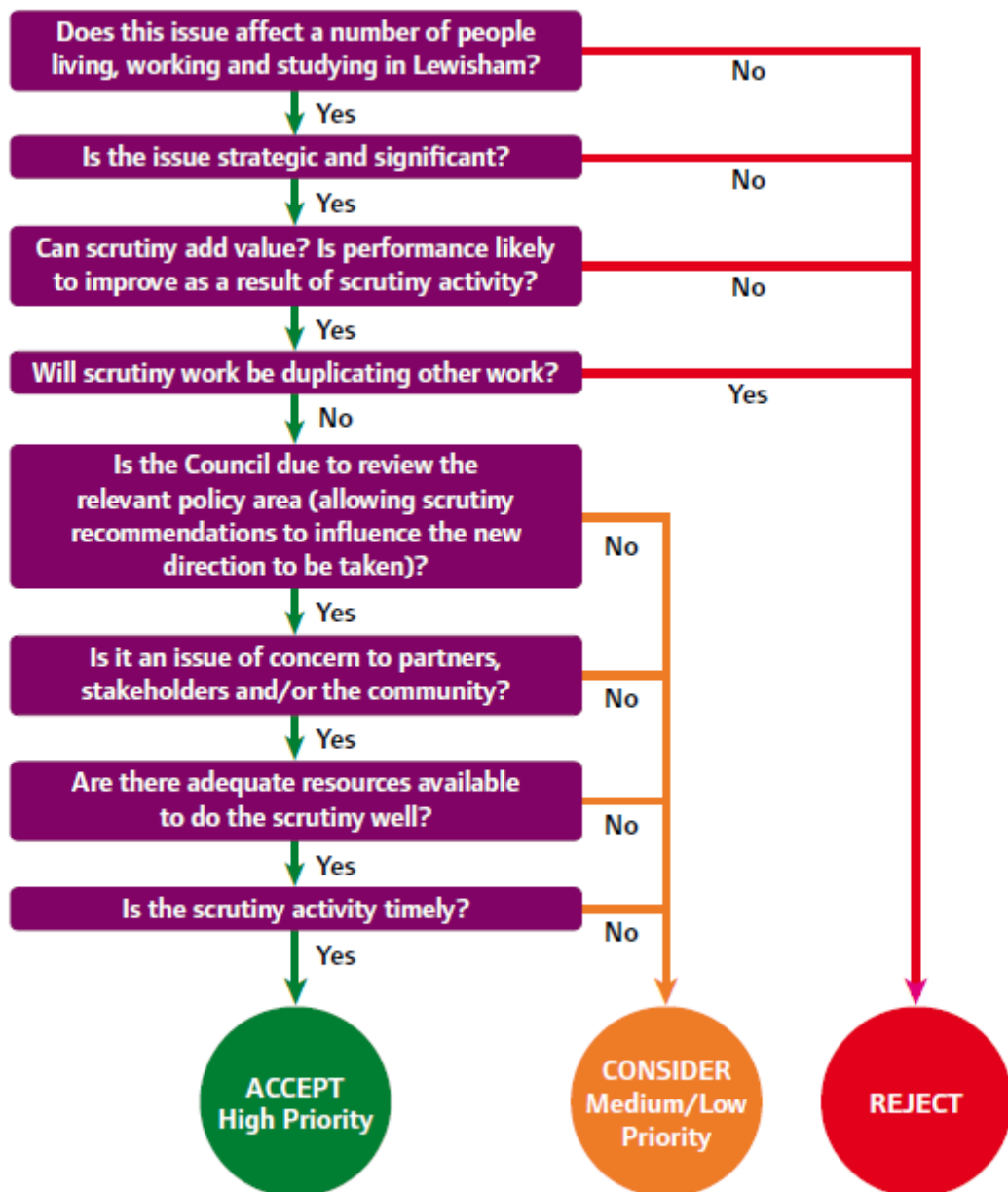
The date of the next meeting is Monday 3 November 2014

**Background Documents**

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide

## Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



**Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee work programme 2014/15**

**Programme of work**

Work item	Type of item	Priority	Strategic priority	Delivery deadline	15-Jul	10-Sep	03-Nov	03-Dec	22-Jan	04-Mar
Lewisham Future Programme	Standard item	High	CP10	Jul						
Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair	Constitutional requirement	High	CP10	Jul						
Select Committee work programme	Standard item	High	CP10	Jul						
Council employment profile	Standard item	Medium	CP10	Jul						
Main grant programme funding	Standard item	High	CP1	Nov						
Safer Lewisham Partnership plan and update	Standard item	Medium	CP4	Sep						
Violence against women and girls	In-depth review	High	CP4/CP9	Mar		Update	Scope	evidence	evidence	Report
Probation service update	Standard item	Medium	CP4	Dec						
Dog bites and status dogs	Standard item	Medium	CP4	Dec						
Emergency services review update	Standard item	High	CP4	Jan						
Invitation to Borough Fire and Police Commanders	Performance monitoring	Medium	CP4	Jan						
Local Assemblies report	Performance monitoring	Medium	CP1	Jan						
Implmentation of the volunteering strategy	Performance monitoring	Medium	CP9	Mar						
Equalities in Lewisham	Standard item	Medium	CP10	Mar						
Safer Lewisham Strategy - monitoring and update	Performance monitoring	High	CP4	Mar						
Comprehensive Equalities Scheme - monitoring and update	Performance monitoring	Medium	CP10	Mar						

	Item completed
	Item ongoing
	Item outstanding
	Proposed timeframe
	Item added

Meetings					
1)	Tue	15 July	4)	Wed	03 December
2)	Wed	10 September	5)	Thu	22 January
3)	Mon	03 November	6)	Wed	04 March

Shaping Our Future: Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020		
	Priority	
1	Ambitious and achieving	SCS 1
2	Safer	SCS 2
3	Empowered and responsible	SCS 3
4	Clean, green and liveable	SCS 4
5	Healthy, active and enjoyable	SCS 5
6	Dynamic and prosperous	SCS 6

Corporate Priorities		
	Priority	
1	Community Leadership	CP 1
2	Young people's achievement and involvement	CP 2
3	Clean, green and liveable	CP 3
4	Safety, security and a visible presence	CP 4
5	Strengthening the local economy	CP 5
6	Decent homes for all	CP 6
7	Protection of children	CP 7
8	Caring for adults and older people	CP 8
9	Active, healthy citizens	CP 9
10	Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity	CP 10

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

### Key Decision Plan September 2014 - December 2014

This Forward Plan sets out the key decisions the Council expects to take during the next four months.

Anyone wishing to make representations on a decision should submit them in writing as soon as possible to the relevant contact officer (shown as number (7) in the key overleaf). Any representations made less than 3 days before the meeting should be sent to Kevin Flaherty, the Local Democracy Officer, at the Council Offices or [kevin.flaherty@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.flaherty@lewisham.gov.uk). However the deadline will be 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting.

A "key decision"\* means an executive decision which is likely to:

- (a) result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;
- (b) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
June 2014	<b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
August 2014	<b>Financial Forecast 2014/15</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
August 2014	<b>Freehold Acquisition of Brookdale Club Property by CRPL</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
June 2014	<b>Lewisham Homes Business &amp; Delivery Plan</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
August 2014	<b>LIP Annual Spending Submission 2015/16</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
May 2014	<b>New Homes, Better Places: Phase 2 Programme</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan,		



**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS**

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Cabinet Member Housing		
August 2014	<b>Adult Social Care Block Contract Extension</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Chris Best, Cabinet Member Health-Well-Being-Older People		
August 2014	<b>Adult Social Care Domiciliary Care Framework</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Chris Best, Cabinet Member Health-Well-Being-Older People		
June 2014	<b>Resurfacing Works Contract Award</b>	Wednesday, 03/09/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
June 2014	<b>Campshill Road Extra Care Scheme</b>	Wednesday, 01/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
August 2014	<b>144 Evelyn Street (Parker House) Surplus Declaration and Approval to Demolish</b>	Wednesday, 01/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
June 2014	<b>Housing Regeneration Schemes</b>	Wednesday, 01/10/14	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for		

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
		Mayor and Cabinet	Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
June 2014	<b>Options for the provision of permanent school places</b>	Wednesday, 01/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Frankie Sulke, Executive Director for Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
August 2014	<b>Reconstitution of Governing Bodies</b>	Wednesday, 01/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Frankie Sulke, Executive Director for Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
June 2014	<b>Surrey Canal Triangle - Compulsory Purchase Order Resolution</b>	Wednesday, 01/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
August 2014	<b>Award of Contract for Banking Services</b>	Wednesday, 01/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
June 2014	<b>Annual Parking Review</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and		

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
			Councillor Rachel Onikosi, Cabinet Member Public Realm		
June 2014	<b>Application to become an accredited Timewise council</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Joan Millbank, Cabinet Member Third Sector & Community		
August 2014	<b>Approval for public consultation Lewisham River Corridors Improvement Plan SPD</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
March 2014	<b>Community Infrastructure Levy Adoption version</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
September 2014	<b>Deptford Southern Sites Regeneration Project</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
March 2014	<b>Planning Obligations SPD Adoption Version</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
August 2014	<b>Reconstitution of Governing</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14	Frankie Sulke, Executive		

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
	<b>Bodies</b>	Mayor and Cabinet	Director for Children and Young People and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
September 2014	<b>Winter Maintenance Policy and Plan 2014/15</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
September 2014	<b>Corporate Energy Contracts</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Rachel Onikosi, Cabinet Member Public Realm		
September 2014	<b>Deployable Temporary Accomodation Single Tender action</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
September 2014	<b>Drumbeat 6th Form School: Phase 3 New Build</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
May 2014	<b>Education Contract Awards ICT Specialist Service Provider Framework</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Frankie Sulke, Executive Director for Children and Young People and		

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
			Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
September 2014	<b>Procurement of a Corporate Scanning Service Provider</b>	Thursday, 23/10/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
September 2014	<b>Campshill Road Extra Care Scheme</b>	Wednesday, 12/11/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
September 2014	<b>Church Grove Custom Build</b>	Wednesday, 12/11/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
September 2014	<b>Deptford Southern Sites Regeneration Project</b>	Wednesday, 12/11/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
September 2014	<b>Introduction of a Borough 20mph zone</b>	Wednesday, 12/11/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
May 2014	<b>Introduction of a Street Naming &amp; Numbering Charging Service</b>	Wednesday, 12/11/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
May 2014	<b>Kenton Court and Somerville Extra Care Schemes: Update</b>	Wednesday, 12/11/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
September 2014	<b>Learning Contract Provider</b>	Wednesday, 12/11/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
June 2014	<b>Housing Strategy 2015 - 2020</b>	Wednesday, 03/12/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
August 2014	<b>Customer Service centre out of hours switchboard Procurement</b>	Wednesday, 03/12/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
December 2013	<b>Strategic Asset Management Plan 2014/15</b>	Wednesday, 03/12/14 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
August 2014	<b>Extension of Drug and Alcohol contract</b>	Wednesday, 03/12/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Janet Daby, Cabinet Member Community Safety		
August 2014	<b>Award of 3 drug and alcohol contracts: young People, Aftercare, Shared Care</b>	Wednesday, 03/12/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Janet Daby, Cabinet Member Community Safety		
August 2014	<b>Award of Single Violence against Women and Girls Service Contract</b>	Wednesday, 03/12/14 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Janet Daby, Cabinet Member Community Safety		
September 2014	<b>Housing Regeneration</b>	Wednesday, 21/01/15 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
March 2014	<b>Review of Blackheath Events Policy 2011</b>	Wednesday, 21/01/15 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Rachel Onikosi, Cabinet Member Public Realm		

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS**

<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
--------------------------------------	--	--	--	-----------------------------	--------------------------------------