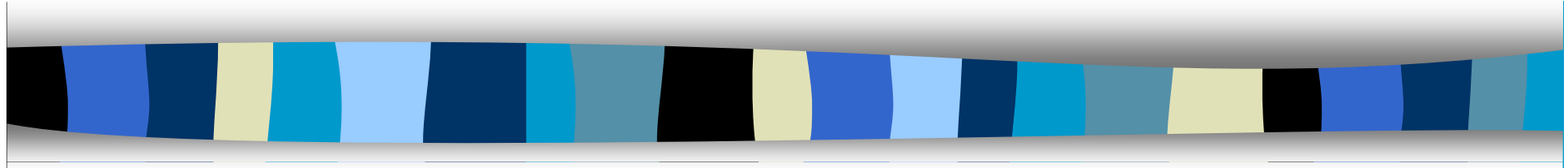


GORDON GLEAN



LEWISHAM COMMUNITY & POLICE CONSULTATIVE STOP & SEARCH SCRUTINY GROUP

10/12/2012

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INTRODUCTION

- **IS STOP & SEARCH - OUR BEST FRIEND OR OUR WORSE ENEMY?**
- HAVE WE GOT IT RIGHT IN LEWISHAM?
- We have worked hard in Lewisham to build something tangible, that is capable of being understood and evaluated.
- It is important that the strategic assessment of stop and search involves a wide range of partners and this is already happening in Lewisham. We involve the Local Authority, the Fire Service, Business Crime Reduction Partnership, the Youth Offending Team, Youth Service and other agencies. Because we look at this as one challenge for all to engage.



THE SCRUTINY GROUP

WHAT DO WE DO?

- It is very important that groups scrutinise themselves as well as policing behaviour from time to time.
- Are we getting it right?
- Are we adding value to the overall process?
- Are the things we do reflected in the final act and outcomes?
- Lewisham is reassessing the way we scrutinise and there are 2 strands of work we need to look at going forward.
- WHY are the arrest rates so low, is 9.6% good or are the police getting it wrong 90.4% of the time? Drugs are not one of the policing priorities in Lewisham however, 47.3% of all grounds given were for drugs.
- HOW do we influence the quality of encounters?



THE SCRUTINY GROUP

WHAT DO WE DO?

- **MONITOR DISPROPORTIONALITY**
- **MONITOR SECTION 60 NOTICES**
- **OUTREACH MEETINGS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE**
- The partnership consisting of Lewisham police, the local authority, the local community, the scrutiny group and other agencies, engage in transparent dialogue looking for answers.
- We believe two way communication is a key attribute to the whole process. However, the approach need to be layered. Closed meetings to share information that is not for public consumption followed by good consistent community engagement. If there is no counter balance the process will always fail.



LEWISHAM POLICE CONSULTATION

- Locally, the police service has opened more doors to the monitoring group over the last 5 years so as to build better relationships and instil more trust and confidence in the scrutiny group and Lewisham communities. We recognise that there will always be local challenges that can only be address in partnership, however: -
- The consultation has always been **transparent, professional** and mostly without bias. We feel that there has been a high level of **integrity** and **willingness to engage** on both sides.
- Developing the local process such as convincing the local police to give us access to attend tasking meetings, dip sampling stop slips, accompany officers on patrols, involving local people in officer training and supplying the additional confidential local data to help the group better evaluate local behaviour, were great leadership choices. I would like to add Lewisham is the envy of most London borough when it comes to police & community engagement.



IS STOP AND SEARCH FAIR?

- The key to the acceptance of Stop and Search as a policing tool is still peoples' perceptions. Unfortunately there are no right answers, stop & search will always be subjective, based on individual feelings rather than on the facts or evidence.
- What do communities reasonably want from stop & search?
- A balance between none and too much will always be a perception game, a local game, so if there is going to be issues such as disproportionality, they need to be justifiable, based on facts and evidence and clearly communicated.
- The police need to show through their data that those using the tool are fair, respectful and without bias.
- We need to see more intelligence lead and more indicators for quality and not quantity.
- More leadership accountability and stewardship.



BUILDING PUBLIC TRUST & CONFIDENCE

- There is a great deal of optimism in terms of the new police partnership team on the borough. The relationship was especially effective whilst working with the partnership Chief Inspector during the August riots. I am convinced that his sensitive handling of events during and post riots, engaging with community members, prevented further conflict on the streets of Lewisham.
- These are the very characteristics communities look for in policing along with the police acceptance of **Constructive Criticism**, **Willingness to Change**, better **Discipline** of those who abuse the system, better **Communication** in terms of rights and public awareness and better **Supervision** of those conducting the task.



BUILDING PUBLIC TRUST & CONFIDENCE

- The police should also look at the reverse prospective and ask themselves this: -
- Realistically how much trust and confidence do we have in the communities that we work with?
- One can't have confidence in something you don't trust
- **Is stop and search your best friend or your worse enemy?**



QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

10/12/2012