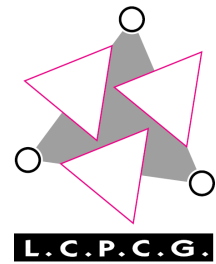


LEWISHAM COMMUNITY POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Tuesday 7 February 2012 - from 7.00 pm
Rooms 1 and 2, Civic Suite, Catford, London SE6 4RU



MINUTES

Members present

Chair - Jackie Addison	LBL Councillor
Gurbakhsh Garcha	Ackroyd Community Association
Jenni Steele	Bellingham Ward Panel
Richard Holland	Downham Ward Panel
(Deputy - G Hutt)	Ladywell Ward Panel
(deputy - Amina Mangera)	Lewisham Anti-Racist Action Group
Joanne Hall	Lewisham Central Ward Panel
(deputy - J Bradbury)	Lewisham College
James Dobson	Lewisham Humanist Group
Gordon Glean	Lewisham Shopping Centre
Harry Powell	Lewisham Sports Consortium
David Michael	Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust
Ch Supt Jeremy Burton	Met Police Borough Commander
Michael Taylor	MOPC BIE Officer
Royston Johnston	NCBI London
Phil Turner	Second Wave Youth Arts
Mahad Abdullahi	Somali and Somaliland London Community
Tayo Disu	The Tabernacle
Florence Emakpose	World Of Hope

Non members present

Jo Delaforce	The Haven	Elsa Pascal	LEMP
Gary Connors	LBL Crime Reduction	Judith Dore	Second Wave Youth Arts
D Catino	MPS	Hena Choudhury	"
T Wilkinson	MPS	Aminata Bah	"
Daisy Cairns	LCPCG Coordinator	Macey McMullen	"
Bryan Pope	Tyrwhitt Road N Watch	Ami Considine	"
Karin O Sullivan	Lewisham Healthcare NHS	Sacha Ray	Victim Support
K A Joseph Dublin	Lewisham Healthcare NHS	Barry Tucker	Hyde Housing
Teresa Ross	Lewisham Healthcare NHS	Carol Faithful	Community Safety
Siva Pillai	LEMP	Karen Duggan	Safe Neighbour
David Laurie	MPS	Kellie Williams	LBL Crime Reduction
Chioma Dijeh	MPS	Ade Solarin	LBL Crime Reduction
Jon Kelsey	LBL early intervention	H D Levy	Resident
Angela Mullen	LBL community safety	B T Langridge	Resident
Alfene Charles	LBL community safety	Sadiki Harris	Resident
Denis Savin	LBL	Alex Gaspard	LARAG
Anthony Scully	Friends of Home Park	Ian Anderson	LARAG
Thomas Joseph	Step by step	Richard Abendhof	LARAG
Alvan Wright	Youth service	J Rae	-unknown-
Wonu Adelaja	World of Hope		

1. Apologies

LCPCG members: Geeta Subramaniam - Head of Crime Reduction Services at LB Lewisham, Christine Kibblewhite - Crofton Park SNP, Martyn Grover - LBBAC, Joanne Bish and Mike Lewis- Lewisham Council Black Staff Forum, Nico Springman - Ladywell SNP, Heidi Alexander MP, Joan Ruddock MP, Graham Gaskell - Goldsmiths Union, Lee King - Lewisham Fire Service, Anh-Tu Nguyen - FORVIL Co-ordinator, Cllr Eva Stamirowski - L B Lewisham, Lakshmi Samarawickreme Ass. Of Sri Lankans in the UK, Laurel Saunders - Rushey Green SNP.

Others: Jane Duffy, Miriam Long - Lewisham LINK

2. Chair's Welcome

Jackie Addison welcomed everybody to the meeting. She passed on the news that Geeta Subramaniam is now on maternity leave after giving birth to a daughter and offered congratulations on behalf of the LCPCG. Gary Connors is attending in her place.

The Chair gave the group updates on a number of items. Metropolitan Police Authority has recently been abolished and the Mayor of London is now responsible for the scrutiny of the Metropolitan Police Service. Kit Malthouse has been appointed as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and he will run the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) who will provide LCPCG's funding now. This will probably make policing a more political issue in London but we have yet to see quite what difference it will make. We have had feedback from other CPEGs who attended the recent MOPC Roadshow in Croydon that they were troubled that views were being gathered only after key plans and decisions had already been made, that none of the questions which had been submitted were answered, and that the Deputy Mayor left at the mid-way interval. Michael Taylor is the officer at MOPC who provides liaison with Lewisham and he was introduced to the meeting.

The LCPCG's AGM is the next meeting on 27 March. Nomination papers have been distributed to members. A list of members is available on the side table for information, please contact Daisy if you have any questions.

The LCPCG is also holding a workshop event on 1st March. For a number of years we have held meetings where people can contribute to the Safer Lewisham Partnership's Strategic Assessment. This year they are running an online survey for people to contribute and our meeting will be focus on finding solutions to the issues raised in the survey.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

Jo Hall asked when the minutes of the August 2011 meeting would be presented. Jackie

LCPCG

Royston John asked if there was an update on the point about the New Cross Fire - mentioned on page 5. The Borough Commander didn't have an update but offered to get back to Royston directly about the matter

J Burton

4. Guest Speaker: Jo Delaforce Haven - support centre for rape and sexual assault victims.

Jo Delaforce explained that she is a specialist nurse practitioner in forensics at The Haven in Camberwell, which is the specialist referral unit for victims of rape and sexual assault for 12 boroughs - the whole of South London. The Haven was the first partnership of its type between the National Health Service (NHS) and the Metropolitan Police (MP) and it

delivers a gold standard service to victims of Sexual Assault. Kings College Hospital were asked to set up a specialist service as it was found that the victim suites used in police stations were often not fit for purpose, often cold, isolated and not at all suitable places for victims of trauma.

The centre opened as a pilot scheme in 2001 - originally intended to be for adults only, but on the first night a 14 year old victim arrived at A&E and the Haven agreed to help as there were no alternative facilities to send her to. In 2004 the pilot was completed and 2 other centres were opened in other parts of London. The Haven in Camberwell is based within Sexual Health Services. Referrals have increased by over 40% since opening, not only from police but anyone else: A&E, third parties and clients' self-referrals. The team give 24 hour cover, doctors, crisis workers, other health professionals and client advocates. Most of the nurses have an A&E or Sexual Health background. All Haven staff are specially trained to care, advise and treat survivors of Sexual Assault and to gather Forensic evidence for potential prosecution. Across the country there are now 39 similar specialist centres.

There is a myth that only "stranger rape" is true rape, where someone is dragged into the bushes, but this is far from true, most cases of rape are in fact domestic. An average of 167 women are sexually assaulted every day. 1 in 5 will go on to report the assault. 1 in 10 men experience sexual assault, but men tend not to report. 1 in 4 women experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime.

The services offered by the Haven start with first aid - this will take priority before any tests are discussed, although intimate injuries are rarer than the public perceive, <1%. Victims are then offered a range of forensic tests, clean new clothes, washing facilities, emergency contraception, infection prevention and treatment (for sexually transmitted infections including HIV, Hep B). Clients are also offered psychosocial care for the long term repercussions of the assault.

For self referrals (i.e. not through the Police) the Haven offer anonymous forensic testing so clients can decide at a later stage whether they want to give details to the police. But, if tests find a DNA match to series of other crimes then they may be passed onto police as it is critical to the public interest to catch serial offenders. An alternative is to have samples taken and frozen so if the victim feels ready they can be tested later, they also offer just the counselling and advice.

Jo explained that The Havens also offer a unique opportunity for clients to have a conversation with the police without having to report the case. This will help by giving a true idea of what is likely to happen. TV and press often give a very unrealistic representation of court cases. This is special because normally a police officer would *have to* formally report the case if it was discussed with them. And it really does work. Over 60% of clients go on to report to the police which speaks volumes.

What we can't do - the service can't confirm if victims were drugged, as the tests don't work once the effects fade. They can't fill in the gaps or confirm if it was sexual assault/rape or sexual intercourse that took place. They also can't provide housing or shelter, but they and the police do have relationships with a range of other services where clients can be referred to.

CONTACT DETAILS 020 3 299 1599 www.thehavens.co.uk/camberwell.php

5. 5 i) Guest Speaker: Acting Detective Inspector Domenica Catino SCD2 / Sapphire (MPS police rape investigations unit)

A/DI Catino has been a police officer for 12 years and is working in Walworth station,

although she was at Lewisham until recently. She has 6 years of experience dealing with violence against women.

SCD2 is the new name for what used to be known as Operation Sapphire. SCD2 was set up in 2009 to provide a consistently high level of service for rape victims across London, that cases are identified and offences recorded in the same way in each borough. This also means that suspects who are involved in a series of cases can be identified more effectively even if when cases are spread geographically. There is a rigorous selection programme to join the unit, then a 1 week training course, but if officers don't work out they will be sent back to make sure that all are suitable.

Thousands of reports of rape are made to the Metropolitan Police every year from men and women of all ages. All reports are treated with the same professional response. Despite a modern world there are still many myths which exist today regarding the word RAPE. Most reported rapes are domestic rapes. The majority of rapes are reported by the victim or a friend of the victim. 999 calls will go to a call handler whom will give specific advice to a victim and despatch a police officer to the victim. Police now receive a large number of reports from a third party for example social worker or other party.

The first response after a 999 call will be uniformed officers. The priority is to use first aid and to make the victim safe, and then contain the crime scene. After this they will bring the victim to the police station, a private area called a Comfort Suite and take an initial account. Within an hour a specialist SOIT officer will be assigned who is trained to provide care, support and information in a sensitive and compassionate manner. They do also receive reports via third parties, schools, social care, friends and family, but once a report has been made police are duty bound to meet with the victim. We do meet with them but are sensitive to the circumstances and there is no pressure to report the incident. Of course the Police do have to think about forensic testing though as this will help the case if they do prosecute.

Forensic testing. Victims will be advised not to wash, go to the toilet, eat or drink until they have attended the Haven. It is understood that this can be extremely distressing therefore police will complete an Early Evidence Kit (EEK) with a victim. An EEK consists of: 1) Urine Sample, 2) Mouth Swab, 3) Mouth Rinse. Specialist SOIT officers will support a victim from the start to the end of an investigation. . SOIT - Sexual Offence Investigative Techniques trained officer - there is a 6 week training programme. They are crucial to the investigation and maintaining the relationship with the victim. They are careful to explain each test and process and SOIT officers are very conscious of what a traumatic situation this is for the victim and are very much led by the wishes of the victim. They can explain police procedure and instil confidence in the victim to attend the Haven and support an investigation. They will also gather evidence and information from the victim in a manner which contributes to the investigation and refer victim to support agencies

Suspect - once a suspect is arrested we will seize the clothing that the suspect was wearing at the time of the offence, nail clippings, mobile phones, laptops. They do need a suspect's permission to take intimate samples such as penile swabs or pubic hair.

Even if the victim doesn't want to deal with the details of the case, the police will ensure that the suspect is fully investigated, to check if they are wanted for any other offences, and the police will take any other steps which could help.

The victim themselves is also technically a crime scene. So Police will take her to the Haven for full testing. This includes taking clothing and swabs from anywhere that the suspect has touched, not just intimate areas. There was a case in Beckenham where

female joggers were being molested, and the type of contact left DNA and the offender is now on the Sex Offenders register. Forensic examination of the crime scenes will take place by specially trained officers. These crimes can take place anywhere, homes, parks, streets, roads, all types of places, and as with the testing of the victim, there are time limits of when the tests can be done effectively.

5 ii) Guest Speaker: Detective Inspector Tim Wilkinson SCD2 / Sapphire

DI Wilkinson introduced himself - he leads the team of officers who investigate serious sexual offences in Lewisham. His aim tonight is to answer questions, and to reassure audience that anyone who reports a sexual offence will be taken seriously, from the very first contact. According to the British Crime Survey only 12% of sexual offences are reported. 92 % of the victims his team see report that they do feel taken seriously.

This is an important aim - in order to make sure that victims and offenders are dealt with properly it all starts with a victim having enough confidence to come forward and report an incident. Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 there are 13 different categories of sexual offence. Between Sept 2009 and now there has been an increase of around 30-35% of all types of sexual assault. DI Wilkinson sees that as an increase in the proportion of victims who are willing to report the cases, and an improvement in consistency across boroughs in London.

Alison Saunders, Chief prosecutors for the CPS in London gave a speech recently and highlighted some interesting statistics about the challenges which people who report sexual assaults are facing. In a month snapshot 87% of rape victims were vulnerable through at least one of these areas: through drink or drugs, being under 18, having a mental health issue, or being or having been in an intimate relationship with the suspect. These aren't excuses, but think about those individuals, ask yourself if you were that person would you want to share details of your over use of drink or drugs, if you were young, naïve and vulnerable as you don't have the experience of life, or if you were terrified of what the perpetrator would do to you or your family. Think how this would make you feel about standing up in front of 12 men and women good and true. It is a fundamentally different area of business. This has a bearing on prosecution rates.

DCI Wilkinson also mentioned a few points which had come up in the earlier presentations. Only in 15% of cases are the offender unknown to the victim, and even fewer have never even met the offender in passing. Stranger rape really is very uncommon.

If you look at the bare facts then in a certain period only around 30 cases ultimately come to successful prosecution in Lewisham, out of about 240 reported offences. As well as all the reasons why the victim may not wish to take the case forward, the CPS have to have a pragmatic view. Public interest will be taken into account, but if a witness' credibility has been severely compromised then CPS have to consider if it is a good use of public funds to take the prosecution through.

Linked series of Sexual assaults. In the 12 months we have identified 104 series of linked assaults across the capital. This is a success of the intelligence led approach and has roughly doubled, and is a very positive area.

Drug facilitated offences. This is a significant problem for police to investigate. What this often means in practice is that a victim wakes up after a traumatic and dramatic incident with hazy or limited memory of what has happened – it is difficult if they don't know what happened for them to work up the confidence to report it to anyone, let alone report a rape to the police. Also there is only a short window where stimulants can be detected after being used, whether deliberately or unknowingly.

Alison Chambers speech can be viewed at goo.gl/PveUD and the Met Police webpage for information on the SCD2 teams is <http://www.met.police.uk/sapphire>

Questions for Jo, Domenica and Tim.

The Chair took questions from the floor and asked speakers to identify themselves for the minutes.

Karen O’Sullivan – As a worker in sexual health services in Lewisham, I’d urge anyone who might need help, or is at all unsure to visit us for advice and support, we work closely with the Havens and can refer survivors on (with consent) on or help in other ways. Young women often hide the clothes they were wearing, e.g. in a carrier bag at the bottom of the wardrobe. This type of evidence can be critical. Also after drug facilitated rapes, young people may not be sure if they have been assaulted. Please if you do know anyone who is concerned send them to one of the Sexual health services where we can help and support them.

Thomas Joseph, Step by Step counselling – If we had been talking about similarly serious questions of drugs and alcohol, we would have heard about some education program, are there any targeting this subject on young children and men? **Chair** – That is a very good question and one that Gary will be discussing later in the meeting so if you don’t mind we will move on to the next question.

Cllr Crada Onegbu had a question about the satisfaction levels for rape investigation in Lewisham. **DI Wilkinson** was able to clarify that the 92% was actually a good figure and apologised for not being clearer. He noted that the police have grasped the need to engage with people and to make sure that people can be confident that their reports will be taken seriously.

Royston John, NCBI- Thank for the presentation but there was some horrendous information. 6% success rate is terrible the scenario is where a women reporting rape is effectively putting herself on trial, she can’t have any slip in her image, this is an appalling situation to be in in 2012. Also gangs carrying out rape seems to be becoming more prevalent, what can we do as a society? **A/DI Catino** – there does need to be education, in schools - politicians need to make this part of the curriculum happen. She speaks in schools and finds that there is a lot of misunderstandings. Boys don’t understand that oral sex can be rape and there is a lot of peer pressure. Its about giving the confidence and the information to the girls to say they don’t have to put up with that. I’ve spoken to girls who have been raped by gangs who tell us it has been set up by their friends. Education is key, but the consequences do need to be strong and I don’t feel they are at the moment. **Jo Delaforce** - The Haven has a specialist youth worker and Jo often accompanies her into schools and speaking to young people. Some schools are open, but other schools aren’t, and insist that none of their children get in trouble, drink alcohol, have sex or are raped. She also noted that even though this is 2012, there is still an issue with public perception, the Havens ran a survey and the majority of respondents were women and the majority thought that most women asked to be raped – the way the dress or act, going back to his place, etc. The barriers are there so unless we get into schools attitudes won’t really change. **DI Wilkinson** – one of the biggest barriers to prosecution is jury attitudes and preconceptions, particularly when the victim and perpetrator are know to one another, or when the victim has been drinking alcohol. As a society we need to be aware that juries bring these attitudes to court and they affect outcomes and ultimately lives. **Chair** – Indeed there has been a media campaign recently – particularly that judges are allowed to warn juries about being influenced by preconceptions, but only during the summing up, which is after the damage is already done. The campaign is to allow judges to say this at the beginning of the trial when it would make a serious difference.

The Chair then introduced the next speaker Gary Connors who was about to describe some of the work the local authority is doing to educate young men and women who are vulnerable in terms of gangs and sex.

6. Gary Connors - Lewisham Council Crime Reduction Service Manager

6 i) The Heart Programme

In 2009 there was a conference in London about serious youth violence – one of the issues which came up was that young people have issues with relationships, they don't understand what behaviours are appropriate or not. The police then applied for and got European funding for criminal justice projects, working in partnership with a programme in Lithuania. They needed local authorities to work as partners and Lewisham, Newham and Waltham Forest boroughs volunteered to be involved in this pilot. The Lithuanian side of the project is looking closely at the trafficking of young women and in London the focus is to support vulnerable young men and women and improve the relationships they have with both peers and boy/ girl friends. HEART stands for "Healthy Relationships Training" and the programme will run for two years, starting from mid 2011. There are four strands - to produce the maximum impact in diverting young people from becoming victims of crime, or committing crime themselves.

The first two strands are available to all young people in London, not just the 3 pilot areas - they are aimed at 11-16 year olds

1. Helpline: 0800 1111 A 24/7 Free phone helpline number that young people can phone for advice about any issue that might be concerning them. The helpline is being delivered by Childline and it is anonymous and confidential.

2. Website: www.heartprogramme.org. Online advice for young people and parents

The other two strands are only being run in the 3 boroughs and are aimed at 11-14 year olds. Both tenders were won by the same company, Foundation for Life.

3. Workshop packages on healthy relationships: In Lewisham 120 young people will be put through targeted provision (i.e. based on their identification as vulnerable), and 120 through a "universal" provision. The targeted package is a 12 week course being delivered to cohorts of 10 young people, in single sex groups. So far in Lewisham we have been working with John Evelyn school and have put two cohorts of 10 young men and a cohorts of 10 young women. There have be challenges as we have developed the course, and Lewisham have had the most input of any of the boroughs in shaping the direction. The course provides young people with a model of what healthy relationships look like. It also covers issues of consent in sexual relationships, impulse control, emotional development, negotiation skills, and respect for self and others. Another school and several youth groups are lined up to run the 9 week universal package shortly.

4. Mentoring provision: Provision of one-to-one mentoring by youth workers for 60 young people in Lewisham, some of these have come through the targeted workshops. Young people are being referred to the targeted course and the mentoring from a range of other partners, including police, Youth Offending, schools, and social services. A number of young people who regularly go missing are at risk in this area.

Questions for Gary and further questions for Jo, Domenica and Tim.

The Chair took questions from the floor and asked speakers to identify themselves for the minutes.

Ami from 2nd Wave - You said that only 1 in 5 women report when they have been raped. Do you know if there are figures which relate to young women? **DCI Wilkinson** - I don't have the figures to hand but I am sure there will be lots of data available through the Home Office website, you might want to look up the name Steven Kavanagh.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/sexual-violence/>

David Michael - Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust. What is your relationship like with the child protection services, and what about male on male sexual assault and rape? DCI Wilkinson - We work with the child protection services on a case by case basis. In terms of male rape there is considerable underreporting. All the barriers to a woman reporting an assault, plus the relationship or the person's sexuality may not be publicly known which may give further concern. Several times we have had specialist help from "GALUP" which is a specialist Gay and Lesbian police organisation providing support nationally - sorry but I can't remember the details of the acronym.

Sadiki Harris - 316 Media - Question for Gary - The HEART programme sounds very good, but I was concerned that there was no mention of the parents of the 11-14 year olds. Gary Connors - sorry I should have mentioned that - parents will receive letters explaining about the workshops if their kids are involved, and there will be other information sent home throughout the course. In the mentoring side, the mentor will always meet with the family and be able to speak to them - our mentors are very tuned into working with parents and dealing with any disclosure which may come about. They parents will be very much involved.

Anthony Scully- Friends of Home Park - the Heart Programme does sound quite good - I have 2 Questions - At the end of the pilot who do you report to? And secondly is it possible to incorporate that into the PSHE in schools? **Gary** - at the end of the programme we only have to report to our European funders, but as council officers we will also report to the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which includes the Mayor and the Borough Commander to pass on what the benefits have been for Lewisham. We would like to include elements in the PSHE curriculum, and certainly one of the reasons that Lewisham officers have been closely involved in developing the training is so that we can plan an exit strategy, but those discussions haven't begun yet.

The chair then thanked Jo, Domenica and Tim very much for coming and for their interesting presentations, she noted that you could tell they were very good by the depth of the questions they provoked.

7. Jeremy Burton - *Lewisham Police Borough Commander*

Mr Burton noted that he was going to speak about the headline performance figures in the borough and give a short powerpoint presentation. He explained that this was a work in progress, and that he wanted to provide a clear and consistent set of data at these meetings, and was continuing to work with the Strategy Group to evolve this. He would also be discussing, policing of the Olympics, Total Victim Care, the recent Stop and Search developments, and Sydenham Police Station.

Mr Burton referred to the slides for Serious youth violence, Knife Crime and Personal Robbery. These three areas are interlinked and are of concern to the police - every effort is being made to reduce them. Mr Burton mentioned a positive figures of some sort for each area, which varied by area, and included percentage increases or number of offences increased - both compared to "last year", or in the case of Personal robbery, over the last three months - he also noted that 33 Personal Robberies were generated by the August Disorder in 2011. Residential Burglary was reported to be a positive position compared to last year, as was Theft of Motor Vehicles, Theft from Motor Vehicles was noted to be below last year but climbing and so was an area being monitored. Overall there was some good news and some challenges still, and Lewisham Police are working incredibly hard to try and reduce those, but it is about sharing responsibility, and we are doing that with the community, with our partners, with . Overall crime is 6% down, which is 1500 offences and this has been falling for the previous 2 years. Anti Social Behaviour

is down 17 % compared with this time last year. *(The slides were not provided to the public so any figures spoken by Mr Burton, which were solely comparative, will not stand alone out of context. Therefore they are not recorded here.)*

It is roughly 120 days until the Olympics begin - a 16 day period. It will be a significant drain on London's policing. The Opening Ceremony will require 9 thousand officers, 2,000 are coming from outside forces. The Notting Hill Carnival uses about 5 or 6 thousand officers. This will be a significant drain, so we are looking at changing shift patterns, restricting annual leave, and maintaining minimum strengths in certain areas. We are mindful of the challenges it will present for local policing, and equally of the strain it will put on my staff

Total Victim Care - there was a big launch internally within the police yesterday. The Commissioner has a Total policing ethos. We have reviewed the way we update victims of crime, and improved our IT systems to help us manage this. There are areas in Lewisham where we need to improve this, not least burglary. I've found through my own sampling that we make false promises and ultimately we let people down. We are doing a host of work internally, but the best feedback I can get is from you. If you feel you have been let down, then get in touch with me, drop me a line, an email, give me a ring. We do a random survey on victims of crime to see how they feel but if there are particular bad news or even particularly good news - please feed that back to me.

Stop and Search - I know that Gordon will be talking about this shortly. We have a new deputy commissioner - who is the ACPO lead on Stop and Search. This is a good thing as he and the Commissioner have provided a renewed focus. There was a briefing on Thursday last week for all Borough Commanders, and in the afternoon for all borough's lead officers and also a member of the community for each borough. Phil from Second Wave attended, and Gordon was guest of honour and gave presentations.

Sydenham Police Station. There have been rumours circulating that it is going to close. I've put out a press statement and also have visited Sydenham station to speak to staff about why this is the case. The MPS have to save 22% of our budget over the next 3 years. The balance has to be made between getting rid of staff and officers, and getting rid of logistics, infrastructure and buildings. There are 800 buildings in the MPS which are actually owned by MOPC, not the MPS. The Estates Management team are running a long term ongoing programme looking a large number of buildings which could be sold across the capital but there is no specific plan to close Sydenham Station. It is one of the buildings across the capital which they are considering the future of - and this also includes Brockley Station. I have spoken them yesterday, in preparation for this meeting and they confirmed that there are no specific plans for the closure of Sydenham station.. They are carrying out what is effectively a feasibility study.

Questions for Mr Burton

The Chair took questions from the floor.

James Mitchell - Sydenham Ward Panel. We are very happy with the Sydenham SNT and are very concerned about the distance that they would have to travel from the next nearest base at Catford. We are looking for reassurance from you that you are feeding into the process about what a negative impact this would have on our very effective teams. Mr Burton - Thank you for the positive comments. I have put my concerns to them, about the community, and the question of where those three safer neighbourhood teams would be based if the building was closed and the serious impact it would have on their work - as you know transport would be an issue, as cars and even bicycles are also being reduced. I don't think my opinion will count for much, but community voices can have an impact so I urge you to make your feelings known.

Unknown gentleman - I live in Downham and we are undergoing a steep rise in house burglary - what is going to happen during the Olympics, how are you going to maintain an adequate level of staff? **Mr Burton** - the minimum number of officers will be one sergeant and one constable on each ward, but we are able to put in a bid for additional cover due to particular issues. In other wards in the borough we have been very successfully tackling burglary, arresting a burglar nearly every day. As you know - there isn't a one to one match - but arresting a burglar prevents many offences.

Antony Scully - like James earlier I am on Sydenham ward panel, and also on Bellingham ward panel. Recently Bernard Hogan Howe visited Lewisham and he talked about the great importance of neighbourhood policing. It is very important to keep the local presence, could you take the example of Penge Station from Bromley and sell the building to raise funds but build a smaller, modern building on the site for the team to work from. Mr Burton - Also recently the NPIA came to Lewisham and in their report they said our Safer Neighbourhood teams were among the best in the country. Some teams are only 6 people, you can't expect them to solve every problem themselves, but they are an effective liaison with other services.

Brian Pope - Brockley ward Panel. I'm on Brockley and Ladywell Panels and the police have been working with me - in Ladywell they have helped me turn things around but in Brockley - ever since the sergeant left there have been problems, now we are down to only 3 in the team when there should be 6. Also the sergeants are now being stretched and have to work on two wards at a time. Mr Burton - Across the borough we are 5 constables light at the moment. Recruitment is underway in Brockley but we have to get the right person for the job.

Thomas Joseph - many years ago there was a police station in Catford Hill. I made enquiries a few years ago and it is used for police archiving - I see police going in and out all the time. It is still functional, it is next to my church, Kings Church. - Mr Burton - there's a couple of things - one is that I need to get out more as I don't know about that. We've made a note of it and will find out what it is used for.

Jackie announced that she had taken a written question earlier from Cllr Onuegbu - it is claimed that gang rape of young girls is on the increase in Lewisham - is this true. DCI Wilkinson. Yes it is on the increase. Typically those crimes are reported to us via 3rd parties, as there are huge barriers to reporting for those victims. The Met are looking at dealing with gangs in a more joined up way, its about disrupting things. There will be difficulties - I think the confidence required by those victims to go through the criminal justice system would be huge. I think there were 7 multi perpetrator attacks reported to us last year, this is 7 too many. In my recollection at least half of those were not reported to us directly, they were reported to us via child protection systems such as schools, etc. Following a further question from Cllr Onuegbu DCI Wilkinson noted that these problems weren't even being discussed a few years ago but that didn't mean they weren't happening, but that the systems in place to look out for and protect young people are getting better.

8. LCPCG Stop and Search group - *Gordon Glean* , *Chair*

Gordon spoke to the group about the presentation he gave to the 32 borough commanders and A/Commissioner Tony Eastaugh. He strived to send a community message out so that as a community we could make a difference around Stop and Search. One of the things I got from my networking is that we are far ahead of other boroughs in terms of community relations and community liaison. Having said that there are challenges ahead that I'm really excited about. Of the things that the Met said they would like to do, we are already doing in Lewisham, so I think we have been quite

innovative in terms of the way we interact with our local service. They are talking about police being more accountable for introducing Section 60s - there is already a great relationship around this with the group- they are talking about drugs stops and better intelligence led policing around that. They are also talking about arrest rates - I do have concerns about that - the MET wants 20% "outcome" rate. At the moment the arrest rate is about 4% - a lot could be read into that, how is that going to be achieved without the community feeling an effect - there needs to be more consultation. The local group are looking to change our focus - we need to scrutinise ourselves on behalf of you - are we scrutinising the police in that way that you want us to. We ought to be asking the right questions of our local service. A lot of doors have been opened to the Lewisham S&S scrutiny group over a series of time. We are the benchmark, but will strive to do better.

Questions from the floor

Gurbakhsh Garcha - For many many years there has been a problem of disproportionality in Stop and Search, how fast do you think this needs to change now - what still needs to be done? Gordon - Well if you are simply looking at one area of disproportionality, ethnicity, then yes there is still work to be done, but there are lots of areas of disproportionality, sex, age and it is not just a job for the police to scrutinise that - we have to ask them those challenging questions. We also have to look at our community engagement and how we get them on board with what they are doing so that their behaviour changes.

Richard from LARAG - described a friend that is having a problem (*details were inaudible*) they have been subjected to a serious verbal assault - they have been advised to report to a local police station but have had to wait for over 4 hours on two separate occasions without being able to make the report. Mr Burton suggested that the gentleman pass the details over to him and he could see how far on the system it has got and see what can be done.

Amina, LARAG - The coalition government are saying that they are getting rid of bureaucracy and not having to record stop and search - is this happening in Lewisham In her experience in Lewisham it so rare to see non-black person being stopped that it is worth commenting on. I talked to a lot of young people during the riots and they said they wanted to pay the police back for the way they have been treated. There hasn't been much change since the 70's and the racist behaviour of the police here then. There is disproportionality and racism in the system. I am concerned that you are saying there isn't much disproportionality because I think there is. Less than 2% of Stop and Searches result in an arrest, Dr Richard Stone has suggested that we charge police for wasted time. **Gordon** - I'll have to pass some of that onto Jeremy but I'd really like to invite you to one of our scrutiny meetings. I really agree with some of what you say and refute other bits things have changed a lot since the times you were talking about. I believe that we are going to keep stop and search and stop and account slips. **Jackie** - it was the MPA that made the decision several months ago to keep recording the full details for Stop and Account, across London. It can now be done or not on a force by force basis, and we campaigned for that.

The Chair took one last question from Macey at Second Wave - 2 quick questions - if you are making a complaint against the police on behalf of a young person but the parents won't give their consent, what do you do? Also if the police are harassing a young person, can you make a complaint for that? I don't think they will take young people seriously. My little brother was arrested when he was 12 and held for 9 hours without contacting my mother, but she don't like the police so she won't make a complaint. Macey also said that another young person she knows was trying to make a complaint,

but wasn't able to be taken seriously until she helped and said she was from Second Wave. Mr Burton said that people should feel encouraged to make a complaint if they wanted to, mentioned that it was possible to make a complaint online and offered to speak to Macey after the meeting about both particular cases.

9. Membership applications:

9 ii) LEMP (Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership)

Mr Siva Pillai stood up and gave a brief description of the group, LEMP has been going for 26 years and has close links to many other organisations - a particular concern at the moment is elderly people who don't speak English as a first language suffering burglary, and not knowing how to report it or who to talk to, LEMP would like to offer these people help and to interact with the police

The chair noted that the strategy group were recommending the membership application.

David Michael stood up and said that we should encourage every group or member to be part of this group. While not asking the group not to vote for them, he said he had a long history with them but didn't know they still existed - therefore he asked that LEMP should improve their accountability transparency and governance if they want to be part of this group.

The LCPCG agreed that LEMP could become members.

9 i) Friends of Home Park

Antony Scully stood up and spoke about FoHP. The group was formed in April 2009, partly in response to antisocial behaviour in the area, but mostly to improve the park for local residents, there are 10 key members, and although unconstituted the meetings are open to the public. They have adopted the Lewisham Equality and Diversity policy. We make decisions on a show of hands. There are 4 meetings a year and we try to publicise at least one of them with a lot of leaflets and posters. We have worked closely with the local SNTs and we think this would be a good opportunity to network and that we can contribute to the work of the group.

The LCPCG agreed that FoHP could become members.

10. Any Other Business

No other business was raised. Jackie thanked the speakers once again, and also thanked Kellie Williams, an Lewisham Council officer who had given a lot of help in making sure the details got out to the right people. It has been a very productive meeting and she hopes that people will have more confidence after tonight that reporting any crime, not just rape, and getting a professional and sympathetic response.

Finally she reminded the audience that the next meeting will be on **Thursday 1st March** and asked them to ensure that they had signed in the register, as LCPCG need to keep this information for their funders MOPC.

Dates of future meetings:

Thursday 1 March

Tuesday 27 March (AGM)

Tuesday 26 June

Tuesday 9 October

Tuesday 4 December