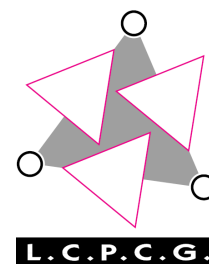


LEWISHAM COMMUNITY POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Tuesday 9 October 2012 - from 7.00 pm
Rooms 1 and 2, Civic Suite, Catford, London SE6 4RU



MINUTES

REPRESENTING MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Jackie Addison (Chair)	LBL Councillor
Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney	LBL Head of Crime Reduction Service
Ch Supt Russell Nyman	MPS Lewisham, Borough Commander
Sadiki Harris	Lewisham Stop & Search Scrutiny Group
Christine Kibblewhite	Crofton Park Ward Panel
Crada Onuegbu	LBL Cabinet Member for Youth
David Brown	Forest Hill Ward Panel (also Tyson Rd NW)
David Michael	Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust
Elsa Pascal	LEMP (Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership)
Florence Emakpose	World Of Hope
James Dobson	South East London Humanists
James Mitchell	Sydenham Ward Panel
Janet Daby	LBL Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Joanne Hall	Lewisham Central /Town Centre Panels
Laurel Saunders	Rushey Green Ward Panel
Lorraine Evers	Bellingham Ward Panel
Michael Taylor	MOPC Borough Information and Engagement Officer
Naomi Allen	XLP
Oladipo Ayoola	South London Counselling Service
Olivia Sandy	Kiwanis International Club of London South East
Phil Turner	Second Wave Youth Arts
Rose Davidson	Lewisham Independent Custody Visitors
Royston John	NCBI
Shelagh Fitzpatrick	Deptford Sector Working Group
Tayo Disu	The Tabernacle
Trevor Jones	Deptford Sector Working Group
OTHERS PRESENT	
Bryan Arthur Pope	Tyritt Rd NW
Gill Lewis	
Michael Mason-Mahon	
Paul Newing	LLHS
David Brown	Tyson Rd NW / Forest Hill Ward Panel
Musa A Jama	Somali Forum "Arches"
Maureen Allen	Lewisham Way YCL
Peter Troy	Lewisham ACT
Delores William	Audioboo
Fiona Noakes	Met Police, Lewisham STT
Lucy Olofinjana	ACT Lewisham
Sam Dias	LBL
Joanna Bish	LBL
Angela McDonald	Diverse
Michael Apata	South London Counselling
H D Levy	Resident

Alvan Wright	Youth Service
Thomas Joseph	Step by Step
D Ward	
O Douce	Ransom Church of God
Daisy Cairns	LCPCG Coordinator
Derek Johnson	LBL
Salena Mulhere	LBL
Paul Phoenix	
Dave Laurie	MPS

Item no.		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1.	Welcome and Introduction from Chair of the LCPCG	
	The LCPCG Chair, Jackie Addison, welcomed the audience and thanked them for coming.	
2.	Apologies for absence	
	<u>LCPCG members:</u> S&S group chair Emmanuel Imuere; Heidi Alexander MP, Martyn Grover; Nico Springman; Jenni Steele; Richard Holland; Anthony Scully <u>Others:</u> Tanya Edwards, Youth Offending Service Manager, Steve Hatfield of TfL	
3	Minutes of 26 June 2012 LCPCG meeting	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record. The Chair gave an update to the group on the future of the LCPCG and its sister organisations in other boroughs. As discussed at previous meetings, the Mayor of London has decided to close them and replace them with 'Safer Neighbourhood Boards' and it is now accepted that this will go ahead. The remit and function of what these new Boards will do are not yet known, but what is of concern is that in the small amount of information we have had from MOPAC there is no mention of community engagement. The consultative groups from across London have met and are trying to find a way to transition to these new boards while keeping the best of what we do now.	
4	Application for membership -ACT Lewisham	
	Lucy Olofinjana and Peter Troy from Lewisham Active Communities against Trafficking were present at the meeting and Lucy gave a brief speech about their work. The group was launched in March 2012 with the aim of raising awareness and understanding about human trafficking and do this in partnership with other local organisations and agencies. The definition is people being deceived or taken against their will, bought, sold and transported into slavery. More than 10 full jumbo jets of people are trafficked every day. <u>What to look out for</u> *Someone who seems fearful and poorly integrated into the community; *Someone who is under someone else's control; *Someone who is rarely allowed out of the house on their own; *A child travelling alone or with unrelated adults. <u>What to do if you see something suspicious</u> or need help. The Met Police have a special free phonenumber 0800 783 2589 and they can put you in touch with other forms of support for victims of human trafficking too. In an emergency use 999. To contact them please email LEWISHAM@ACTLondonforum.org or look them up on Twitter or Facebook. Leaflets will be available at LCPCG meetings. They are part of the wider campaign http://stophetraffik.org/ The LCPCG members unanimously agreed that ACT Lewisham be granted membership of the LCPCG.	
6	Chief Superintendent Russell Nyman - new Borough Commander for Lewisham's Police	

	<p>CS Nyman introduced himself and explained that he had taken over the role of Lewisham’s Borough Commander in August. He had a very detailed handover period with Mr Burton and while in Kent, he also worked very closely with a former Lewisham Borough Commander, Alan Pughsley and learnt a lot from him. He recognises there is sound work in the borough, but also that there is no room for complacency. Although he had spent a few months working at Scotland Yard before Lewisham, most of his work history has been with Kent Police and covers custody, intelligence, the major crime unit, partnerships, working on international teams, and includes periods as Borough Commander for Tonbridge Wells and the Deputy Borough Commander for Medway.</p> <p>Lewisham is a challenging area, of 13 square miles, with a population of 275 thousand including a high number of young people and very different balances at different times of day as adults leave to work elsewhere. There is also a wide range of diverse communities and he realises how important this is in understanding the borough.</p> <p>Mr Nyman then spoke about the presentation on Borough Crime Figures, which is available as an appendix to these minutes. Key highlights of his commentary include that Lewisham is the 4th most improved borough in terms of total notifiable offences, that the year to date figure for robberies is 186 lower than the same time last year (down 21%), Burglaries have increased and he is working on plans around this. Motor Vehicle Crime (which is both theft <i>from</i> cars and theft <i>of</i> cars) has fallen slightly but Mr Nyman is concerned that the detection rate is low at around 4 or 5%. This compares badly to Kent police force, which has the best record in the country for car crime and he has set up a special auto team to look at this. He is waiting to be judged by the result of these efforts. Violence with injury has fallen from 369 to 245, Knife Crime has also fallen. He explained that a Sanction Detection is where a crime has been solved and someone has been either charged, or cautioned, or issued with a PND or had the offence taken into consideration.</p> <p>The Chair then asked Mr Nyman to give the audience an overview on the changes which will be coming across the Met. Mr Nyman explained that under the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010 all public sector services have undergone very significant savings. Due to the additional pressures of the Jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics the Met had held off, but now has to find £500 million pounds. This is equivalent to the entire budget of Greater Manchester Police, or twice the total budget for Kent Police. There is also an improvement programme in the Met as the new Commissioner is not happy with low performance levels. At the moment there are 32 “Borough Operational Command Units” but these will become between 16-24 “Basic Command Units” which will share resources, many covering more than one borough. The changes will have a positive focus on neighbourhood policing and 2000 more officers will be returned to streets. All the details are still being discussed and agreed by chief officers and the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime, who have to give final approval. Kent have already been through this process and their outcomes are actually better than before. The current plan is that this will go live in April 2013. In Lewisham policing will shift from the current 1-2-3 system of wards to clusters, which will enable police to brigade and use resources more effectively.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Head of Lewisham Council’s Crime Reduction Services</p>	
	<p>Geeta Subramaniam gave the meeting an update on a number of events happening across London which impact on Lewisham. We have already talked about MOPAC and the new Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (or Police Crime Commissioner) who has been appointed. As well as the policing, a really key part of that is the work on crime prevention and reducing-reoffending and there are changes happening, including that funding which used to come from the Home Office, is now going to MOPAC for them to redistribute, and in some cases to commission across London. Some of the work which I have talked to you about, like our gangs unit, Domestic Violence work and other prevention work. These were all funded by grants from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice. So our role is now to influence MOPAC and to ensure they understand how important this work is and continue to fund it. Some services might be commissioned across London, and this can be very beneficial such as</p>	

Paul Newing was pleased to hear that Mr Nyman has worked with former Lewisham BC Alan Pughsley and asked how he intends to use experiences from Kent in this borough? Mr Nyman said that coming from outside gives a chance to view everything with a fresh set of eyes. One area is that the low yield of “cases taken into consideration” in Lewisham compared to Kent. This has to be handled very carefully, but officers should be able to increase this and to improve clear up rates. Lewisham officers have visited colleagues in Kent, and Kent officers are coming to Lewisham to give a masterclass.

Phil Turner asked “How can we work together to strengthen relationships with young people and the wider community?” Mr Nyman said that there is more we can do, we have a very young workforce in this borough and need to help them learn and improve. Groups such as Second Wave and XLP are doing very good work, but the funding picture is cloudy. He has met the principal of Lewisham College, who represents 10 thousand young people, and they are working more together to strengthen these links.

Joanne Bish asked Mr Nyman for the exact YTD figures (for this year and last year as comparison) for Violence with Injury and for Domestic Violence, which he hadn’t read out, unlike the other statistics. On the Local Policing Model she asked how the clusters will go and if there will be a Level 1 trained officer on each to prevent the problems we saw last year. On the 11% reduction in all crime in financial year – how many of these crimes are to do with people who have mental health issues – or is that held separately?

Mr Nyman offered to provide details on mental health directly to Joanne and explained that police are changing the way Domestic Violence is being recorded and it is possible that it was being over recorded, so we might expect some changes over time. Level 1 officers are those that are fully trained in riot-duty. We do have a number of these officers working in neighbourhood teams, but there is a need to balance the teams, and to recruit officers on their particular merits so I cannot promise exactly how many Level 1 trained officers will be in each area.

The Chair read out a question received by email from Helen Buckley, the former chair of the LCPCG’s Mental Health sub committee. *“The Met Police has commissioned an independent review into how the force responds to people with mental health conditions following criticism of the Met’s action prior to the death in custody of Obaseni Lewis and Sean Rigg. Both men had experienced mental health issues. How much concern, if any, does the Commander think there is in the Lewisham Community regarding this matter and is he confident that the right systems are in place to deal with people experiencing mental health issues when confronted or arrested by the police?”* Mr Nyman asked the audience if they felt there is a concern in the community about these matters. They said yes. Mr Nyman is aware of the review and said that it is important that the police learn as a service. Geeta Subramaniam also answered and explained that the police and council have been working closely with the Ladywell Centre at Lewisham Hospital.

Sam Dias asked about racial and religious offences which have previously been shown on these slides. Mr Nyman confirmed that these have gone up to 179 this financial year from 114 at the same point last year. Geeta Subramaniam also explained that there are 13 local groups or places where people can go to report hate crimes in the community, without visiting the police and they can also help and support if you want to take it further. You can also report hate crimes to the council’s Community Safety officers and if any organisations want to become a third party reporting site, please contact them too.

Cllr Crada Oneugbu answered Mr Nyman’s earlier question to the audience that Yes there are resoundingly concerns in the community about mental health issues and policing. She also asked Mr Nyman to clarify in layman’s terms about the low yield of offences in Lewisham re offences being taken into account – this doesn’t mean fast tracking or offenders being let off too easily does it? Mr Nyman gave an example to illustrate this – Imagine that someone does 10 shoplifting thefts in 10 shops. Police could arrest someone and they could be charged with all 10 crimes and if all 10 are taken to court separately, the full level of criminal evidence needs to be gathered for all 10. But if the offender does admits to all the offences, we could just charge with one or two and ask the judge to take the other 8/9 into consideration, and this can be reflected in the sentence. This improves clear up rates, involves less officer time,

but the cases will all still be solved.

Thomas Joseph noted that there are figures which say that black men are 7 times more likely to suffer from schizophrenia and asked how many arrests are mental health or drug related. His context was that black men can be mislabelled with mental health problems when it is drug related. Geeta Subramaniam agreed that this is a very critical area, but noted there are many cases where it is both a mental health and a drug related issue, or dual diagnosis. Drugs intervention and treatment officers work closely with police at the point of arrest, but there is more work needed with our mental health colleagues. She explained that there isn't a single figure which can be given as the answer to the question, but she did give the audience several snapshot figures from particular points in the criminal justice process, such as during probation.

James Mitchell asked about the closure of Sydenham Police Station and stated that there is a great deal of concern locally. Local residents don't know what will happen to the 3 Safer Neighbourhood Teams who work from the building and would like to know how the police will continue to have a local base they can work from? Mr Nyman stated that Sydenham Station is on a list of buildings whose future is being looked at and his understanding is that it will be closed. What isn't certain at this stage is when this might be. The Met's Management Board and then the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime will make the final decisions. Mr Nyman did meet with Property Services today and they are looking at alternative office space for those officers, but as there isn't yet a time scale the best he could say is that we expect to find out more in 2012/13. Cllr Janet Daby suggested that residents who were concerned about the closure of the station could also contact their local councillors. James Mitchell confirmed that it is not the building itself, or even the public access to the front counter which most concerns residents, but the additional travelling time, and reduced capability of the Safer Neighbourhood teams in the areas which they serve. Mr Nyman said that this also concerns him, and he is keen to know if there are pieces of estate which those teams could use as an alternative base.

FURTHER DETAILS ADDED FOR INFORMATION:

Government review on Swift and Sure Criminal Justice System
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/creating-a-swift-and-sure-criminal-justice-system>

Government websites dealing with fraud criteria and reporting
[http://www.sfo.gov.uk/fraud/sfo-confidential---giving-us-information-in-confidence/serious-fraud-office-\[sfo\]-criteria.aspx](http://www.sfo.gov.uk/fraud/sfo-confidential---giving-us-information-in-confidence/serious-fraud-office-[sfo]-criteria.aspx)
<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> <http://www.met.police.uk/fraudalert/>

Hate Crime reporting in Lewisham:
<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/publicsafety/hate-crime/Pages/Third-party-reporting-of-hate-crime.aspx>. For more information or to report Hate Crime you can contact the Council's Community Safety Team on 020 8314 7531 during office hours and 020 8314 6000 for out of hours reporting. Any other organisations who would like to join the Third Party Hate Crime Reporting Scheme please also get in touch via this number.
 Police Crime figures online: <http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/index.php>

8 Stop and Search sub-group - update from Vice Chair, Sadiki Harris

Sadiki Harris, the Vice Chair of Lewisham's Stop and Search Scrutiny Group, a sub-group of the LCPCG, gave a quick update on their work.

Members of the group meet regularly with police, to talk about the community's concerns about Stop and Search, and also recently specially to discuss the police complaints system and to carry out "dip-sampling". During the dip-sampling the volunteers chose and examined a random sample of Stop and Search slips, looking at the different reasons why people are stopped and searched, which were quite varied, and it was a very interesting exercise.

The group is also developing a new website, which is designed to give young people in the borough information about Stop and Search, and there are also parts of the site which are specifically for older people. They hope to launch the site in a few weeks time during the

launch event for Equaliteam, the borough's new equalities organisation. Another aim of the group is to help people who are unhappy about a Stop and Search. The website will have the information they need so that they can take it further or make a formal complaint if they aren't happy. At this moment the group do not have enough resources to champion individual complaints, but the volunteers are talking to the police about the difficulties involved and about how people going through the system can be given support.

Mr Nyman gave a response, thanking Sadiki, and all the Stop and Search Group volunteers for their efforts. He noted that although the Metropolitan Police make up 25% of the police in the UK, they carry out 75% of Stop and Searches and there is something not quite right there. CS Nyman said that he is keen for the borough to reduce the number of Stop and Searches and to ensure that they are being done respectfully and based on intelligence. The numbers in Lewisham are less than in other boroughs, but we need to ensure that the police have the correct skills

The LCPCG Chair noted that Sadiki as Vice Chair and the Chair, Emmanuel, have only been in these positions for a few short months, but have a very refreshing influence and they are having a hugely positive impact on the Stop and Search Group.

Cllr Oneugbu asked Mr Nyman if he saw any contradiction between the target for positive S&S outcomes and reducing the numbers of Stop and Searches. Mr Nyman explained that a 'positive outcome' for Stop and Search is if the Search results in an arrest or a drugs warning. The target is to increase these to 20% of all searches but this doesn't mean that police will carry out more searches altogether. Even if fewer searches take place if they are better targeted using better intelligence, then the proportion which don't find anything suspicious should fall, and the number of positive outcomes will rise. There should also be a focus on how the encounters take place, and ensuring that people are informed why searches are taking place, and appreciates that this is a contentious area.

Thomas Joseph said that he was sorry that local police didn't deal with racist abuse of players at a recent football match. Mr Nyman's staff sergeant, Dave Laurie, answered as he had been working at that match and explained that after the match the player had made an official complaint about the behaviour which police are now following up with a full investigation. Paul Phoenix noted that in terms of making complaints about Stop and Search, young people have a lot of difficulty with the bureaucracy of systems like police complaints and find them very off putting. Even adults have problems and need help from others with more know-how and in his opinion one to one support is more important than a website. Sadiki explained that these concerns were exactly what the group has been discussing with the police, and that they are exploring different possibilities, such as using third party organisations, and having alternative, less formal ways for people to take up a concern. But what they don't know yet is what the end result will be, because the discussions are in the very early stages. Paul Phoenix stated that he wanted the group to make a solid commitment now to giving one to one support to every person who wants to make a complaint about Stop and Search. Sadiki again explained that the group is made up of volunteers, and they realise this is an important area, but are just not in a position to make such a commitment at the moment. Another member of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Group, Alvan Wright stood up to say how much work Sadiki and Emmanuel are putting into this, and how much the group appreciate their efforts.

9	Any Other Business	
	No other business was raised and the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.	

Dates of future meetings – 4th December 2012, 5 February 2013, 26 March 2013 (AGM)