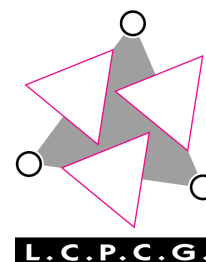


LEWISHAM COMMUNITY POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

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



MINUTES

REPRESENTING MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Jackie Addison	LCPCG Chair
Emmanuel Imuere	Stop and Search Group Chair
Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney	Head of Crime Reduction Service (Lewisham Council)
Russell Nyman	Borough Commander, MPS Lewisham
Rick Beavis	Lewisham Victims Support Scheme
Stuart Bell	Chief Inspector for Safer Neighbourhoods MPS Lewisham,
Tayo Disu	The Tabernacle
Christine Kibblewhite	Crofton Park Ward Panel
Florence Emakpose	World Of Hope
Harry Powell	Lewisham Sports Consortium
James Dobson	South East London Humanists
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Muladi Badibengi	Lewisham Wrestling Club
Obajimi Adefiranye	LBL Councillor (Chair of Council)
Olivia Sandy	Kiwanis International Club of London South East
Peter Troy	Active Communities against Trafficking (ACT) Lewisham
Phil Turner	Second Wave Youth Arts
Richard Holland	Downham Ward Panel
Sheelagh Fitzpatrick	Deptford Sector Working Group

Others present:

Daisy Cairns	LCPCG Coordinator (minutes)
A Adams	
Nina Obhi	
Sam Dias	Equaliteam Lewisham
Zara Coke-Davy	Kiwanis London SE
Gary Connors	LBL
Joanna Bish	LBL
Lorraine Harrison	MOSAC
Shakira Harris	MOSAC
David Laurie	MPS
Graham Price	MPS
P Phoenix	Parents Against Racism In Schools
Thomas Joseph	Step by Step Counselling
Hazel Brown	The Tabernacle
Sherlina Thompson	Theatre of the Oppressed

Sacha Ray	Victim Support
Jonathan Slater	Voluntary Action Lewisham
Imonu Adelaja	World of Hope
Julienne Matsi	World of Hope

Item No		
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction - Jackie Addison, Chair of the LCPCG.</p> <p>The chair thanked the audience for coming out on such a cold night. She noted that MOPAC have written to the LCPCG and say that they cannot confirm about grants until the Government announce how much money will be allocated to councils and other bodies. This should be around 20th December. Also they will announce a public consultation on their plans for “Safer Neighbourhood Boards” and so we are also going to have a public meeting to explain those plans in February, and we would like to canvas your views, as we want to ensure that public engagement is on the agenda as it doesn’t seem to be part of the plans.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Samantha Popely – Victim Support Senior Manager Lewisham gave her apologies, she was ill and not able to attend and speak at the meeting. Rick Beavis kindly agreed to speak on the general work of Victim Support as well as the Witness Service, at very short notice.</p> <p>Members:</p> <p>Nico Springman – Ward Panel Forum Chair; Gordon Glean – Lewisham Shopping; Siva Pillai – LEMP; Gurbaksh Garcha – Ackroyd Centre; Joan Ruddock, MP; Royston John – NCBI; Naomi Allen – XLP; Cllr Crada Onuegbu ; Cllr Janet Daby; Michael Taylor – MOPAC; David Michael – Marsha Phoenix Trust; James Mitchell – Sydenham Ward Panel Forum; Anthony Scully -Friends of Home Park; Joanne Hall - Lewisham Central Ward Panel</p> <p>Others:</p> <p>Steve Hatfield - TfL; Mervyn Kaye – LBL youth services; Lakshmi Samarawickreme; Bryan Pope</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Draft minutes of the previous LCPCG meeting, 9 October 2012 were presented and agreed by the group.</p>	
4.	<p>Chief Inspector Stuart Bell, Lewisham Police</p> <p>CI Stuart Bell, the new CI for Safer Neighbourhoods in Lewisham gave a presentation which is available online with other the meeting papers http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=280&MIId=2350&Ver=4 or on request from the LCPCG coordinator.</p> <p>Additional points he made included that Victim Care cards help police to give a consistent experience and to help victims identify key contacts. “Satisfaction” is used to describe the response from people who have been in touch with the</p>	

police, rather than the wider public. The Quality Call Back surveys speak to people who've been in touch with the police and the idea is to gather information to help improve the service – it does feed into the senior management's own performance processes and also feeds into individual officers reviews, in line with promotion and development.

In Lewisham they have also recently developed a QCB particularly for victims of Anti-Social Behaviour –all victims will get calls and personal visits for particularly vulnerable victims – to give additional support and make sure that we haven't missed anything.

The results from the Lewisham QCB performance data are shown is looked at every month with the Borough Commander holding officers from Superintendent to Inspector to account. Because they are measuring this, it helps us to get a grip on how officers are interacting with the public. It is not just about generating good statistics, they are taking victims experiences very seriously and how important it is to improve the services. At another level, the borough commander and his 31 colleagues are also held to account by the Deputy Commission of the Met. An example is shown of the top half of London's boroughs, with Lewisham having recently risen from 26th to 15th of the 32 boroughs in the Met.

**5. Rick Beavis,
Lewisham Victim Support and the VS Witness Service**

Rick explained to the group that VS is a charity, and is not supported by the police. It offers practical and emotional support to victims, but you don't need to have spoken to the police or reported a crime to get help from them. Most help is provided by their trained volunteers. As well as someone confidential to talk to they can help you deal with other organisations, such as housing and health. In Lewisham there is a special Home Security Programme – they can come and provide advice and also fit and provide new fixtures such as secure locks, or window bars. There is also a specialist Domestic Violence Advocate at Lewisham, who helps people involved in all kinds of relationship and family related violence, same sec, young people, parents at risk from children. Nationally Victim Support are also a lobbying organisation trying to make sure that taking care of victims of crime is recognised and good changes come about.

VS also run the Witness Service which helps victims and all witnesses who are involved in the courts. Before the trial dates they can show you the layout of the buildings, explain what is going to happen, and on the day of the trial they provide a safe and secure area, joining you in court if need be, as well as refer you onto other organisations afterwards. They cannot however talk to you about the evidence.

Rick's role is unique, and he can make home visits to give extra support for particularly vulnerable victims and witnesses who are unable or very reluctant to attend court. Vulnerabilities such as age, mental health issues, physical health issues and more. He can find out what they need to make them able to give evidence, including screens, removal of wigs, evidence via video link and much more. He also has video and computer packages which he can take to homes to demonstrate what the court experience will be like without witnesses coming in. This particular post was originally specially funded out of the Borough Commander fund, and then a grant was received. There is now one year left of 3 years funding. He is currently helping vulnerable witness related to Lewisham, but has moved base to Sidcup, and may change to covering 6 boroughs including

Lewisham, Greenwich, Bromley, Bexley. This might mean he would have to raise the bar of vulnerability on who he could help.

6. Question and Answer session

Support for Victims of Crime: CI Bell and Mr Beavis.

Q Peter Troy Lewisham ACT

Police are concerned particularly with those victims who are Lewisham residents, do Lewisham Victim Support also operate this way, e.g. for a local resident when the crime took place elsewhere.

SB – Understanding is that Lewisham Police deal with crimes that happen in the borough.

RB- Victim Support do a bit of both – provide support here but can also refer to other local VS bases.

Q Sasha – VS worker in NW London has found that many victims don't know about Witness Impact Statements.

SB and Russell Nyman - This should be done, we will check it is being dealt with properly here.

Q Sam Dias – Equaliteam

When people are talking about Total Victim Care it doesn't seem right that you are going to increase the areas you cover. A lot of crimes are not reported and we should be trying to improve faith in the court systems.

RB – Although we work with police, we aren't actually part of them, and Total Victim Care is a police initiative. The work is reported to the Criminal Justice Board.

Q Thomas Joseph – Could Rick's role be funded through Asset Recovery.

Russell Nyman (RN)– it would probably have to come out of the business property fund, but times are tough and money is tight across the police. We do fund several local organisations, and there are a number in this room.

Geeta Subramaniam – The council also contribute to funding Victim Support.

RB – also he does receive support in kind from the police, somewhere to work and office basics.

Q Cllr Adefiranye – Lewisham is very multi-ethnic and there are many languages – also people can be very scared. How do you adapt to this?

RB – People are normally referred to me some time down the line, so it is mostly fear of the court system, but I will do whatever works with the person to help them.

Q Shakira – MOSAC

We work with abused children. What happens to the victims and the extended families, we often find that they are left traumatised.

SB For vulnerable victims we do an assessment which includes the family and looking at their circumstances and issues. In Domestic violence cases where someone maybe a repeat we work with a panel of other organisations such as housing, community safety, health and see how we can solve the problems.

Q Shakira – MOSAC

Question for Rick 1) Do police refer cases 2) How are you judged to be doing a good job 3) how do you get BME groups to come forward

RB Yes police refer cases, so my role isn't to get people to report crimes, but to support them through the courts. The Criminal Justice Board do review my work and there are forms to complete and the outcomes are judged against people who haven't had the same support.

Q LCPCG Chair – Sometimes people are too scared to report or are unwilling to

	<p>give evidence – what do the police do? RN – We do work closely with local communities but there are times when it is difficult. There is a Witness Protection Scheme, but it wouldn't be appropriate to talk about it in detail here. Q Olivia Sandy – Kiwanis LSE asked about the Victim Care Card. SB – the purpose is to give them some way of keeping all the important information together, key dates, crime number, contact information. Q Elsa Pascal – LEMP Are there particular crime types where satisfaction is higher than others. RN – Yes, for example people are less satisfied with Auto Crime- we are doing extra work on car crime as a result so the satisfaction is rising but we haven't done enough and don't want to be complacent. Q Sam Dias – Equaliteam, We are working with the Metro Centre on LGBT issues, and there are a lot of people experiencing Hate Crime. And regarding people not being willing to report crime or act as witnesses, it is right that police are focussing on Confidence and Satisfaction as this is key.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Chief Superintendent Russell Nyman Lewisham Police - Update from the Borough Commander Mr Nyman announced that his Deputy, Superintendent Suzanne Wallace, is shortly to retire from the police, Supt Mickey Gallagher will be the new Deputy and he introduced Graham Price, who will be taking over for the short term as Supt for Partnership. Graham has worked in Lewisham and with the LCPCG before. Mr Nyman then went through his presentation which is available online with other the meeting papers http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=280&Mid=2350&Ver=4 or on request from the LCPCG coordinator. Current crime figures are also available online via http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/index.php and Confidence and Satisfaction figures via: http://www.met.police.uk/confidence/lewisham.html</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Lewisham Council - Update from Head of Community Safety Services Geeta gave a brief update on the Victim Event which happened recently and thanked everyone for their support – more work is planned around prevention of crime and domestic crime next year. The Safer Lewisham Partnership are working with retailers on issues such as selling knives, high strength alcohol as well as cooperating on ASB and other crimes. Christmas traditionally gives opportunities to burglars, Safe Drinking messages will be going out, particularly to youngsters. New legislation will be coming into effect next year “Legal Aid, sentencing and punishment of offenders Act” – this includes changes to youth justice and although it doesn't affect police or council directly it does affect other parts of the Criminal Justice System such as courts and the crown prosecution service. Geeta volunteered to distribute any guidance which the council produced via the LCPCG. Also the council recently produced a report – one year on from the riots which we will also send out. The pilot scheme of reducing the demand for Criminal Justice has been successful and hopefully has reduced the number of victims of crime. The Safer Lewisham Partnership took a risk with this work so we</p>	<p>Geeta/Daisy “</p>

are very grateful to all who took part. The council, like all other parts of public services are undergoing cuts, and the proposals are on the council website as they are being viewed by the Select and Scrutiny Committees and are also out for public consultation . Reductions in Community Safety are proposed particularly be around ASB work, Drug Treatment work and the Youth Offending Service. Other areas which particularly overlap are voluntary sector grants, and in youth services. Geeta asked the audience to get in touch via their councillors or other feedback methods, e.g. the council website.

9. Question and Answer Session - Police and Crime Reduction Services

Q Cllr Adefiranye – is there a correlation between knife crime and school holidays? RN – we do know that there is a correlation with the school day, and knife crime rises around 3-5pm.

Q T Joseph asked for an exact number re knife crime figures and the effect of the cuts. GSM Not all of the Cuts plans have been published in detail, but for example there will probably be 12 fewer rehab places and staff reductions in Youth Offending Team and across Youth Services. RN provided the exact figure requested and noted that some shops with a particular knife theft problem have agreed not to stock them at all, so reducing access to knives in a problem area.

Q Sam Dias - Interim Director for Equaliteam, Lewisham Equal opportunities forum commended police for good work but worried about knock on effect of cuts in areas such as housing, welfare, etc on crime and policing, as we recognise that police are not social services. However parents often ask what can we do about younger kids who are just beginning to get into trouble.

RN – Thank you.

Q Shakira – MOSAC

Young people who feel threatened often end up carrying knives as a preventative thing, then get in trouble themselves. Why don't people go into schools and show the bad effects of drugs, crime, A&E, stabbings etc to warn children of the realities. There are people who would do this on a voluntary level if there could be some support. GSM passed the question to Emmanuel Imuere, as he does similar work to this with young people. Emmanuel explained that he runs a group called "Double Edge" for young people who have been found carrying knives and they do exactly this type of work with them, although it isn't via schools but via the Youth Offending Service. He thinks sometimes we can be too critical, and we need to publicise the good work that is being done – I think we need to work on eradicating fear particularly amongst young people. What are we doing with people in society who think it is right to resolve problems with violence – it is a question of morality.

Q Paul Phoenix – Parents against Racism – wants to congratulate on all the good work being done by agencies across Lewisham. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. Shouldn't the police focus on talking to young people rather than stopping shops from selling knives. What work is being done getting people to move away from gangs and are police being used as well as they could be? SB - We think that prevention is better than cure and we are contributing to a range of activities in schools. Also we have 11 full time officers based in secondary schools across the borough, and schemes such as Growing against Gangs- educating about gang membership, risks, harms. We do that work, but it is very important to us to engage with young people because as you say confidence

within the community of young people is critical.

Q P Phoenix – I think there is a massive gap between young people and police – last years riots told police “We can stop you”. Police need to have better connections with grass roots. GSM - There are lots of schools, youth clubs, Community Safety Officers, community groups, Victim Support who are all working with young people to get the messages that violence and carrying knives is not ok and Headteachers are working with us very positively.

Q James Dobson – South London Humanists

Good to see that you are all working together to reduce crime. Tonight there is another meeting taking place at the same time as this one which is about fighting against the closure of Lewisham A&E. What will Lewisham council be doing about that campaign? GSM – There are public consultations around the closure, council and police have contributed to the consultation. There will be negative impacts of that closure and our mayor is supportive of that campaign. We are doing all we can to make sure that the right information gets to the right people by the 13 December. We have to hope that as a partnership we can make sure that we can continue to do the work we have started, but it is a challenge.

Q T Joseph – He congratulated all people who are working with secondary schools, but questioned the role of parenting and role models in problem behaviour in young people. GSM – We do work with truancy, parents, carers groups, troubled families and a lot of other work. And although perhaps we are not doing everything possible we are influencing where we can and try to get in touch with kids in a range of ways to encourage them to go down positive roads. EI – Sometimes parents may be involved in these things themselves, or in other cases parents are not able to control their kids. A lot of this stuff is learnt behaviour, we as society need to stand up and say what is wrong and to provide young people with alternatives.

Q Florence Emakpose – World of Hope

Recently was in Lewisham McDonalds and there was an incident of ASB involving young people, it was scary, but it was handled extremely well by the two officers, perhaps they saved some lives that night? Many people are willing to volunteer, and Lewisham Council and Police should work more closely with the voluntary groups to relieve the financial burden.

The Chair read out a question which was sent in by a member.

Q Naomi Allen – XLP Having looked at the crime statistics it is really encouraging to see that generally Lewisham seems to have had less crime this year. However, I am concerned that one of the only increases is that of “gun-crime” which is up by 22 incidents from last year. Mr Nyman what is being done to address this increase?

Mr Nyman and CI Bell looked at the latest figures and noted that they currently stood at only 1 more than last year, and had been only up 6 at the October meeting which isn’t a particular increase. They invited Naomi to correspond with them further.

10. Stop and Search

Emmanuel Imuere, Stop and Search Scrutiny Group Chair

Emmanuel provided a written update on the groups work, available with the meeting papers. Also the Met publish monthly reports online

http://www.met.police.uk/foi/units/stop_and_search.htm

On top of this update he discussed the aims of the group, which he feels are to challenge stereotypes and perceptions from both sides, put on the police by

communities and of people by the police. To promote fair use, transparency and accountability and to build better relationships between communities, young people and the police as we have discussed this evening.

Stop and Search could be some people's first experience of the police without necessarily being a criminal or having done anything wrong so it is important to get it right. We hope to achieve this by scrutinising the data, by promoting education and best practice around stop and search. We are working with police to find a way of helping people to make comments or complain about Stop and Search, especially young and vulnerable people. We take part in activities such as dip sampling, and are hoping to widen the membership of the group. We are all volunteers and want the group to reflect more aspects of the community. Happy to take questions.

Q Paul Phoenix said that he had been misrepresented in the report but it was then noted that he was in fact talking about the minutes of the previous meeting, not Emmanuel's report and he was reading the wrong document.

He then said that the group needs professional assistance to offer service to people that need help.

Q Thomas Joseph – Lewisham has a lot of pilot and voluntary schemes – if we value this work we should pay them. EI – When he was given the opportunity he knew it was voluntary and would be a lot of work, but he feels it is would be a chance to influence change, and he cares about Lewisham and wants to help to improve. Sometimes we put too much onus on the council and police – but we are the community – if we stand up and fix things there will be no problems. We don't always need to be paid or told what to do.

Comment from Sam Dias

She commended Emmanuel for his work and for providing positive role models these kind of changes are all about people like him building relationships and she asked the audience to support him in his work.

Comment from Borough Commander Russell Nyman – commented that he has met recently with Emmanuel, and really welcomes the scrutiny of the group, and thinks it is a healthy thing. He is well aware that Stop and Search is an emotive issue and is a huge infringement of people's space. We have talked about other issues such as gun and knife crime and robbery and police have to address that. Stop and Search is a necessary tactic but it should proportionate be focussed and intelligence led and must be carried out with dignity and compassion. If we don't do it in that manner he needs to know about it. We do try to get things right, but sometimes we don't and he wants to learn what this is and how it works.

11. Any Other Business

There was a brief discussion about knife amnesties and knife bins. There are currently no knife bins in the borough, but there have been knife amnesties in the past. People can safely dispose of knives in police stations.

The chair also thanked everyone for coming, especially given that there is a public consultation meeting on the A&E closure at the Calabash centre down the road.

She noted brief details of the future meetings, **5th Feb and 5th March 2013**, wished everyone a Happy Christmas and the meeting closed at approximately 9.10pm.