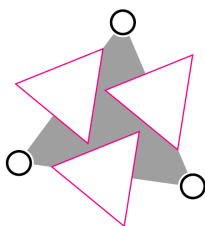


LEWISHAM COMMUNITY POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Working for a safer Lewisham for all

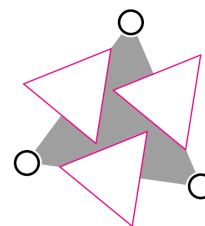


L.C.P.C.G.

MINUTES

Tuesday, 5 February 2013 7.00 -9.15pm

Rooms 1&2 Civic Suite, Lewisham Town Hall, London SE6 4RU



L.C.P.C.G.

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 (speaker)
Michael Gallagher	Dept Borough Commander, MPS Lewisham (speaker)
Nico Springman	Ladywell SNP
Richard Holland	Downham SNP
Anthony Scully	FOHP
Martyn Grover	LBBAC
Cllr Crada Onuegbu	LBL
Laurel Saunders	Rushey Green SNP
Elsa Pascal	LEMP
S Carney	Lewisham College
Harry Powell	Lewisham Sports Consortium
Sam Popely	Victim Support
David Michael	Marsha Phoenix
Royston John	NCBI
Phil Turner	2 nd Wave
Tayo Disu	Tabernacle

Late arrivals	
Cllr Duwayne Brooks	LBL
Florence Emakpose	World of Hope
Cllr Janet Daby	LBL

Others present:

James Tate	MOPAC (speaker)
Wendy Kyrle-Pope	LCP2 (speaker)
Daisy Cairns	LCPCG Coordinator (minutes)
Sherlina Thompson	
A Fakoya	
Heidi Spiers	New Cross SNP
Elsa Pascal	LEMP
Hazel Brown	Tabernacle
Angela McDonald	Micah Church
David Laurie	MPS Lewisham
Alvan Wright	Lewisham Youth Service
H D Levy	
Thomas Joseph	Step by Step counselling
B T Langridge	
K Adelaja	

Item No		ACTIONS
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction Jackie Addison, Chair of the LCPCG</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the guests and members to the meeting. We had received a notice from Lewisham’s Trading Standards team asking LCPCG to pass on their warning to residents not to make payments to anyone claiming to be from Trading Standards or the police Fraudsters posing as Trading Standards officers have been offering to help get compensation and asking for money up front. Residents are warned not to let them in and to ring Lewisham Trading Standards on 020 8314 2288 if in any doubt (NB don’t ring a number from the identification card).</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p><u>LCPCG Members</u>: Joanne Hall (Treasurer), Cllr Obajimi Adefiranye; Nico Springman, Trevor Jones; Florence Emakpose; Heidi Alexander MP, James Mitchell, Lucy Olofinjana, Christine Kibblewhite, Dith Banbury, Trevor Jones, James Dobson, Michael Taylor, Ron Dixon</p> <p><u>Others</u>: James Sewell – Chair of L&G Ind Custody Visitors, Cllr Darren Johnson; Joe Burchell.</p> <p>Notice of anticipated lateness was also received from Cllr Janet Daby</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the previous LCPCG meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 4th December 2012 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
4.	<p>James Tate, Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Scheme Manager at the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)</p> <p>The Chair introduced James Tate who manages the Independent Custody Visitor Scheme for MOPAC. Unfortunately the advertised guest speaker, James Sewell, an Independent Custody Visitor who chairs the joint Greenwich and Lewisham Panels, was unable to attend at short notice. Mr Tate’s speech is summarised as follows: Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are ordinary members of the local community who visit police stations. They talk to detainees, look around, talk to staff, look at records and make sure that the people who detained there are being given good treatment and are being given access to all their legal requirements. Normally a pair of ICVs will visit unannounced at police stations every week, at a time they choose. They write short reports about their visit and their recommendations can require the police to make improvements for the welfare of detainees. MOPAC collate the reports and send them to the stations every 6 weeks but if the ICVs are particularly concerned they can raise problems immediately with MOPAC. In Lewisham, the feedback received is positive and people are generally very well treated.</p> <p>ICVs work as part of a local Panel but unfortunately there have been some problems recruiting to the Lewisham group, and there is a now a critical need for more volunteers in the borough.</p> <p>Recently ICVs don’t report any systemic problems or evidence of abuse. Four particular changes over recent decades have improved things</p> <p>1– PACE – the Police and Criminal Evidence 1984, which has codes of practice</p>	

	<p>establishing the rights of people in police custody.</p> <p>2 – Training of Custody Sergeants – this has developed strongly over the last few years and it is now a specialist role</p> <p>3 – CCTV in custody suites – not preventative but allows for review</p> <p>4 – ICVs – there is now a well trained and informed group of ICVs who have developed good working relationships with the police.</p> <p>During the Question and Answer Session, Thomas Joseph, Barry Langridge, Richard Holland, Cllr Crada Onuegbu, Royston John, Mahad Abudullahi and Anthony Scully all asked questions: It was established that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the most likely issues encountered - in other parts of London – are access to washing facilities or other concerns related to out of date buildings. • ICVs should not encounter any problems accessing custody suites as all are under instruction to let them enter immediately. The only time ICVs would not be allowed in immediately is if it is “kicking off” within the suite and there would be safety concerns. ICVs would report back if there are problems with this process or ask to speak to PACE inspector. • Mr Tate sees the main reasons for volunteering as an ICV as being able to give something very worthwhile back to the community, in a way which is very flexible and timed to suit you. Application forms are available online and he will distribute leaflets and posters via LCPCG after the meeting. • The Council and LCPCG offered to help MOPAC with links to local media, community groups, local online forums, Local Assembly meetings, Council magazines, and other potentially useful communications for a recruitment campaign. • An Audience member had heard about problems with detainees whose 1st language was not English or who haven’t been able to practice their religion. Mr Tate said that prayer mats and most common religious texts as well as access to simple information on rights, and if necessary a telephone translation service should be available in all stations and he will look at these concerns. <p>Russell Nyman the borough commander spoke briefly to confirm that he personally receives the 6 weekly ICV reports, and that senior officers visit the custody suite at Lewisham station every single day.</p>	<p>J Tate</p> <p>Council / MOPAC /LCPCG</p> <p>J Tate</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Wendy Kyrle-Pope -Vice Chair London Community Policing Partnership (LCP2)</p> <p>The Chair, Jackie Addison, noted that there was a link between the two topics for today – ICVs are run by MOPAC, who also fund groups like the LCPCG. The Mayor of London has proposed that MOPAC should replace LCPCG and others, with new bodies called Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNB) for each borough. Jackie referred to the two documents included in the Agenda pack, one explaining what changes are being proposed and one with a theoretical idea of how this might work in Lewisham which involves as little change from the current system as possible.</p> <p>She then introduced the next speaker – Wendy Kyrle-Pope from LCP2 a charity made up of chairs and vice chairs of groups like the LCPCG from all the different London boroughs.</p> <p>Wendy thanked the group for inviting her and explained that LCP2 have been</p>	

trying to negotiate, on behalf of CPEGs (groups like LCPCG), with the Deputy Mayor of London, Stephen Greenhalgh and his officers at MOPAC. They have been trying to steer MOPAC into making the new SNBs as similar as possible to the current groups, and getting agreement the best work which groups do can continue under the new scheme.

James Tate confirmed that MOPAC are now expecting boards to come in during 2014 – Wendy went through several areas of concern including

Timing of any changes– this has not been made clear and appears to have shifted a lot since the announcement in May 2012, which makes difficulties for CPEGs in planning and maintaining their work and staffing.

How will members of the boards be chosen – will they be elected, or selected?

Including the Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels in the new Board structure

How to incorporate the work of the ICVs and the Police’s Independent Advisory Groups?

What will the responsibilities of the new boards actually be?

Biggest problem is that there is no funding at all available for these new boards – each borough will have to think of a way to get around this. LCP2 are trying to get some funding for all from big London charities, but cannot guarantee anything, and it may not be possible to use this for core funding such as administration.

Questions and Statements from Audience members

- If it ain’t broke don’t fix it. – repeated by several audience members!
- As one of the people who founded the LCPCG I am very passionate and feel patronised by this. The changes are deliberate to break boroughs like this.
- One audience member was personally rude to Wendy, the speaker from LCP2. Chair - cautioned the audience member for their behaviour and asked them to show respect to the speaker. Also noted that she and all the LCPCG committee members were also angry about the threat to the LCPCG but that policing is now a more political issue, as the Mayor of London controls strategy and the purse strings. The only way we can survive and save the best bits is to make some changes so we can keep some control.
- Why isn’t there anything in the new plan about members of the public holding the borough commander to account? Wendy - there have been some hints from MOPAC that this could come under the “confidence” sections.
- People who can make decisions, really need to take on board messages from the community who are not happy. Protests letters etc don’t seem to be listened to and that isn’t good for confidence, If it is felt that “they” are going to do what they like this isn’t a good legacy for young people to learn to respect authority and to respect democracy. We don’t want wheels to be reinvented – we want constructive changes that make a difference on the ground.
- Russell Nyman the Borough Commander – whatever the new group is called doesn’t matter so much – Police will continue to engage as they are doing now. We will up our effort even further – we are your police and serve you or your families and you can’t switch providers. I am more than happy to come to meetings like this and to be held to account.

J Tate: MOPAC’s intention is not to throw the baby out with the bath water. We

R Nyman

want to have a conversation with you – we want to know how you think this can work. We already have a service level agreement with groups about what they do each year, and we will be setting a similar set of guidelines for the new groups. We don't think the funding should be used for running costs and perhaps the groups can get funding from councils. Groups aren't consistent across London.

- Is this a realistic idea – we - the membership - haven't these papers before and are pretty angry – when is the implementation going to happen James T of MOPAC said that some CPEGs are broke and don't have any money – they are failing – the LCPCG coordinator noted that MOPAC have actually heavily cut the funding already for CPEGs over the last few years and that is a major cause of them “failing”. Lewisham wouldn't have been able to continue this year unless they had saved money in previous years.
- Cllr Janet Daby said it was very clear that there is a lot of passion in the room. London did vote Boris Johnson in as Mayor of London, so that means he does have the power to make these changes – so we do have to find a way of working with this. What she is hearing is that the branding might change—but perhaps what LCPCG does underneath that can stay the same. If there are particular things which this group thinks need to change this group is quite large and vocal and could campaign.
- A new attendee talked about the empty names on the sign in list in the foyer – who are those people and why aren't they here? She suggested that the group might be able to raise money from local businesses to support community cohesion.
- David Michael reflected on the origins of the LCPCG and the disturbances in August 2011. He suggested that people shouldn't be discouraged and it is important that we look at ways of fundraising.
- Wendy ended the item by saying that it is important that Lewisham keeps the flame of their passion going, despite politics, and despite lack of funds, and not let changes from above take away from over 25 years of work. She will take the message of the passion in Lewisham back to LCP2 the umbrella group.

6.	<p>Lewisham Head of Crime Reduction Services Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Geeta said there are no updates from the comprehensive report she gave at the last meeting but she is happy to take questions later.</p>	
7.	<p>Lewisham Police - Borough Commander CS Russell Nyman Mr Nyman introduced Supt Mickey Gallagher who has taken over as his deputy from Supt Suzanne Wallace. He discussed the crime figures in his presentation and then took questions from the audience.</p>	
8.	<p>Question and Answer Session - Police and Crime Reduction Services. During the Q&A session, Mr Nyman discussed the upcoming changes to local neighbourhood policing, the recent rise in burglary – and possible links with events in neighbouring Bromley. Barry Langridge noted that his local officers are adversely affected by lack of resources, but a gentleman in Downing St who had a problem with a bicycle has</p>	

