

**Notes on event attended by Cllr Rathbone – A Community Forum event organised by Second Wave as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week 2018.**

The main themes for the evening's discussion were 'Trust, Leadership and Resilience.

Police-Community relations were mentioned on several occasions, in regards to reporting and the need for improvement. The event itself was a positive example of Police-Community relations.

Although very interesting the majority of the event was not directly relevant to the review by Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, however, the closing discussion was incredibly relevant.

Some comments were raised that community engagement was not part of current police training, and could be challenging for new officers. The corporate nature of policing was emphasised and the fact that training is done on a national basis making it challenging to take into account the particular differences of communities across different forces. Comments were made that practical training and good community engagement was something that was learnt on the street, informally. The importance of having a representative force that people could relate to was raised, as was problems relating to political correctness; that some officers may feel unable to ask awkward questions, and thus acted on incomplete knowledge and in ignorance.

There was some discussion on how there used to be more emphasis on community engagement as part of training, with new/probationary officers expected to embed themselves in the community and engage with groups.

The Police and Community working together to engage with each other was key to developing positive relationships that enable the Police to do their job in the borough. Comments raised included that attitudes of young people could change from defensive/confrontational to open/cooperative when they deal with them in a policing capacity, once they recognise the officer in question as someone they have dealt with before in a non-policing situation and had positive engagement with.

A key takeaway for me from this part of the discussions was that prior engagement with the BAME community and Police on an equal basis, was vital.

Please note this is not minutes of the meeting but notes of some of the issues raised that may be of relevance to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee's in-depth review.