

Funding

Provisional figures suggest we shall have ended 2004/5 having run a deficit of around £3k, reducing our reserves to just over £3k at the year end. Lee Jasper and Jim Toohill have met with MPA officers to discuss the year end position and next year's activities, as agreed earlier in the year.

Sylbert Farquharson

Paul Andell met with borough commander Ch Supt Martin Bridger and Assistant Commissioner Alan Brown, in respect of DAC Steve Robert's presentation to the January CPCG meeting concerning the Sylbert Farquharson case (AC Brown now has responsibility for Professional Standards - DAC Roberts having moved to other duties). Paul reiterated the view that the return to work of the PC involved in this case, ahead of any Crown Prosecution Service conclusions or recommendation from the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), eroded community confidence and that the MPS took seriously the issues involved. It was agreed to meet again after the IPCC has published its conclusions.

Children out of school in Lambeth

As a result of Lambeth Council's response to John Wainwright's paper proposing an investigation into the number of Lambeth children out of school, John attended a meeting on 23 March with councillors Anthony Bottrall, Jeremy Baker, Robert McConnell and Chris Ashton (LBL Divisional Director, Inclusion and Standards), Brian Gilhooly (LBL Asst. Director, Inclusion) and Diane Burton (LBL Head of Social Inclusion). It was agreed at the meeting that all parties would work together to establish whether the number of Lambeth children missing education was as accurate as officially recorded. It was further agreed to invite Supt. Andy Tarrant to the next meeting on 25 May.

Mental Health Working Group

An initial meeting of the Mental Health Working Group (MHWG), a sub-group of the CPCG, was held on 17 March, attended by Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Bushy Kelly, Gill Keneally, Rev. Rosemarie Mallett, Cllr. Angie Meader, Anna Tapsell and Ben McKendrick. The MHWG agreed to respond to the Metropolitan Police Authority's *Mental Health and Policing Joint Review*. The MHWG would next meet on 7 April.

Other Meetings

Jim Toohill visited the Coldharbour and Angel Working Group of Brixton Area Forum to describe LCPCG's work and also met with Toaha Qureshi (Community Empowerment Network lead on Crime) to discuss community involvement in the Community Safety Strategy and also CPCG's Stop and Search work. On 16 March, Lee Jasper was a guest speaker at Lambeth Women's Aid AGM, alongside Harriet Harman MP.

Absent friends

Responses to this month's mail out included the following:

From **Sean Crighton**:

"I see that the Group is discussing Stop and Search. When I was Secretary of the Group 1984-89 the Group successfully lobbied for the provision of the Code of Practice in Stop and Search in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. It also played an important role in influencing the contents of the first version of the Code. Without this work of the Group none of the debate since about the use of stop and search would have been possible because there would have been no statistical analysis.

It is probable that many Group members and the police representatives do not know about this important previous work of the Group. It would be worthwhile the meeting being told."

My best wishes to those members of the Group who I had the privilege to work with as Secretary. "

From **Martin Smith** in respect of Maurice Smith and his wife, who would welcome contact from old friends. Details available at Group Office.

Police Report

As part of our work to suggest a refreshed format for the monthly police report, we have benchmarked other boroughs and collected examples of 20 or so police reports from across London. We shall draw on any useful ideas in these in drawing up our suggestions for the borough commander. We'll be doing this work in April; if you'd like to be involved, please contact the office.

Lambeth Police Community Safety Unit (CSU)

Detective Superintendent (DS) Phil Kay is leaving Lambeth CSU and is to be replaced by DS Jonathan Tottman, who will join Lambeth police in May.