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Annual Report
2008/9

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Chair's Report

Like other voluntary groups, Lambeth's Community-Police Consultative Group (CPCG) seems to be engaged in a constant battle for survival. This year, 2008/9 was something of a watershed in that survival process as there was an acceptance by the statutory Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) that Lambeth CPCG could not be made to disappear and that a way had to be found of living with it. Discussion about a Constitution for SLP went on all year but, in the end, CPCG was successful in securing agreement from SLP to open up its minutes and decisions to the public gaze and, importantly, in securing the participation of senior Council officers at our monthly public meetings. All credit must go to Ann Corbett, Acting Director of Community Safety and to George Marshman, Divisional Director of Adults Social Care and Community Safety, for their commitment to forge a new and productive relationship with the Group.

Thanks to Shane Collins our popular Indian tent was again displayed at the Country Show this year and we had a successful debate on each day with two excellent panels leading deliberations and responding to questions; it was good to hear from Caroline Hewitt, Chair of Lambeth's Primary Care Trust, as the health component of community safety is not always understood and the NHS can appear insular and protective of its specialist role. Patricia Moberly, Chair of Guys and St.Thomas' Hospital joined the Group as an individual member in this year and the involvement of these two important NHS figures in our CPCG is important to our better understanding of the significance of the health services in improving community safety.

There is no more important issue for community safety and the NHS than the policing of mentally disordered offenders. Lambeth CPCG has a longstanding commitment to seek improvement in the interaction of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) with people who are mentally disabled. Members will recall that we produced a critical report for the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) in 2005. That report was closely followed by one from the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) on the use by the police of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. In 2009, we now have a further report by Lord Bradley covering a broader spectrum of mental disorder but making many of the same recommendations. The IPCC is currently engaged in writing

a report on deaths in custody, which is likely again to highlight the risks inherent in using police and police cells to care for sick people.

On August 22 2008, Sean Rigg, a delightful and musically talented young man, died whilst in police custody. Sean suffered from a treatable mental illness that was subject to occasional relapse. It was during one of these episodes that he was arrested by a Response Team and taken to Brixton Police Station, where he died in 'the cage' where he was placed to await admission to the Custody Suite. Sean had a close and very supportive family and they have shared with us at CPCG monthly, public meetings their frustration and anger, not just towards the police, but towards the IPCC, whom they believed failed, in its initial investigation process, to secure evidence of police wrongdoing. The findings of the IPCC investigation are due to be given to the Rigg family at the time of writing this report.

Whilst it can be little consolation to the family, Lambeth CPCG is now engaged in a review of local policing and mental health. Lambeth Council Adult Social Care Services has provided some funding to employ a specialist consultancy to research the data from both Lambeth Police, the South London and Maudsley Hospital, and a multidisciplinary working party, chaired by George Marshman, is studying that research in order to make recommendations for urgent improvements in this area. Jane Warwick, in her role as Chair of Lambeth's Independent Custody Visitors, and I are on that working party.

The autumn brought an unexpected and disappointing end to Notting Hill Carnival 2008 when gangs of youths from south and north London sought to disrupt the last day's events. Good intentions but immoderate action led to over a hundred young people, some from gangs, some not, being detained and handcuffed outside the Oval Underground Station from where, hours later, they were transported to Sutton police station. No proper arrangements were made for the care of minors nor were their parents or guardians informed by the police of their children's whereabouts.

Caring for vulnerable adults and children whilst being detained by the police must remain high on our agenda. It was good to hear that Kennington Police had taken measures to ensure that parents, whose children were of concern to the police or had been stopped for some reason, were contacted at home and helped to work through

any difficulties they might be having. This was an initiative brought in by Superintendent Alistair Sutherland whilst he was responsible for the North Lambeth area. We thank him for that and all his other positive contributions to the community when he was the Acting Borough Commander during the absence of Chief Superintendent Sharon Rowe, who left us this year to become the Assistant Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police Force based in Birmingham.

In October 2008, the Inquest into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes began at the Oval. I cannot begin to imagine how it must have felt for the family, and for Jean Charles's mother in particular, to view those awful events on the enlarged screen at the Oval. Those of us who attended or followed the full transcripts on the website each evening were disappointed, not only by the final verdict, which was contrary to the Jurors wishes, but to the seeming inability of Michael Mansfield to expose the failure of the police and security services to use the information they had been given two years before by Toaha Qureshi from Stockwell Mosque; nor the obvious need to make contact with Lambeth's then Borough Commander, Martin Bridger, before they belatedly set out to mount an ineffective surveillance operation on a block of flats they thought was a house and failed to deal with a suspected armed terrorist travelling on a packed bus through the centre of Lambeth. When asked by Mansfield why they hadn't contacted the local borough commander the reply was that they wouldn't do so!

Jean Charles and his family have not had justice and the people then at the top of the MPA as well as the MPS lost our confidence. How commanders at the centre liaise and use their borough colleagues and local intelligence remains a hot topic in Lambeth. We feel too often invaded by expensive units who are unaccountable to the community upon whom they descend. And, as we have recently learnt, it isn't always the TSG (Territorial Support Group) to blame. The TSG is now a member of Lambeth's CPCG and is welcome at our meetings. As we learn more about blanket Section 60s and Section 44 Stop and Searches the better we are able to monitor and scrutinise the MPS. And, as we become better informed about the workings of the Lambeth Partnership and how well or otherwise it coordinates its policies and projects, the better we will be able to make a worthwhile contribution to the safety and security of our community.

One of the ways we very much want to make a contribution is around the idea of Mediation and Restorative Justice. We started work with colleagues from Lambeth Mediation Service (LMS) in early 2008 when Paul Andell (CPCG Vice-Chair), Jai Jayaraman from LMS and Chief Inspector Patrick Beynon piloted the project. Together with Jai and the Chair of LMS we presented a costed proposal to our Borough Commander, Sharon Rowe and, at her request, to local representatives of the Police Federation and the MPS Professional Standards Unit. We also received support from the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Together we worked out a protocol that would ensure that the process would be voluntary for everyone concerned, regularly evaluated and never impinge on the public's right to make a formal complaint to the MPS and the IPCC.

Our aim in progressing this Mediation Project is to ease local tensions by dealing quickly and effectively with individual complaints that do not involve any illegalities and for the outcome to be client satisfaction; for the police, a positive learning experience and, where required, a change in attitude or tactics. Sadly, this project is one of the casualties of changes in our Borough Command. The thread and continuity is lost and it is difficult not to lose heart.

Our new Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Nick Ephgrave joined us in July 2009 and we were heartened to hear that he is making a commitment to Lambeth for two to three years. We welcome that commitment as we welcome him. It's good to see that he has moved his base to Brixton Police Station and is already making some positive changes that should improve local confidence in our Lambeth MPS. I hope that he will look hard at our Mediation proposal and give us his support.

Lastly, my thanks to the retiring Board all of whom, together with the ever patient Ben McKendrick (our Administrator), have been a lively, argumentative and committed crew, and thanks to all of you who make sure that our Lambeth CPCG is still here and still an irritant in the backside of bureaucracy.

Anna Tapsell

Chairperson

Vice-Chairs' Report

The past year has brought with it many challenges for the Group as is evidenced in this annual report. The CPCG still remains creative and dynamic in facilitating open access for the public to discuss policing and community safety concerns in our borough and in doing so provides a borough wide hub for community engagement.

The stop and search monitoring group has continued to work towards ensuring that stop search becomes a precision instrument in addressing crime and not a blunt tool which undermines public confidence. It could be argued that we still have some way to go in achieving this aim. In order to improve public confidence the monitoring group has piloted an early resolution project whereby members of the public can voice their concerns to reach an understanding and settlement with the police in some cases where they may feel aggrieved by an encounter with police officers. This pilot has been developed in conjunction with Lambeth Mediation Service and does not replace the formal complaints system but offers a more rapid channel to reach informal resolution where appropriate. It is hoped that this work will continue in the forthcoming year but much will depend upon the engagement of our statutory partners.

The stop and search debate has been taken into communities and has involved more people by having public debates at events such as the Lambeth Country Show and the Urban Green Fair where a lively debate was held on policing protests and the powers of s60. It is clear that Stop and Search remains a key issue for the communities of Lambeth and much work needs to be done by the Group and its partners in ensuring that all encounters with the police of this type are fair equitable and efficient.

Generally speaking the coming year will see new challenges in forging ahead to ensure policing by consent and to reduce harm to the communities of Lambeth. The credit crunch may produce a driver for increased property crime and fraud which can have a disproportionate impact on relatively deprived neighbourhoods. As a Group we can continue to support local policing initiatives and encourage our partners from the Safer Lambeth Partnership to ensure that prevention strategies are in place to nip crime in the bud. We also need to ensure that adequate services are available for offenders

returning to Lambeth from prisons and Young Offenders Institutions to prevent crime being a chosen career particularly in these times of high unemployment.

Youth crime and gangs remains an area of concern for the Group with too many young lives lost over what appear to be relatively small disputes. However we are happy to observe that serious violent crime has fallen in the borough. It is hoped over the coming year that the Group will engage more with our younger communities which will assist with our understanding of the lived world of our young people.

Despite the challenges ahead I believe the Group remains at the cutting edge of community engagement and innovation in community orientated policing. Just as we have broadened our remit to provide an engagement vehicle for the Safer Lambeth Partnership we would also like to see the Group engage more with the range of agencies that make up our Criminal Justice System to ensure responsiveness, public accountability, confidence and fairness. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all as the communities of Lambeth for your continuing support and participation.

Paul Andell (Vice-Chair and Chair of Stop and Search Monitoring Group)

Wesley Walters-Stephenson (Vice-Chair)

Report from Arulini Velmurugu

(Member of CPCG and of MPS Pan-London Disabilities Independent Advisory Group)

The most important thing that we, the DIAG, have achieved this year has been the improvement to Crime Report Information System (CRIS). The new version of recording and flagging of crime which has been up and running since December 2008. Now, MPS can not only produce statistics about crime against disabled people, but can also provide a breakdown of disabilities (such as blindness, deafness, mental illness). We have also been given an opportunity to make amendments on Equality and Diversity Standard.

Recently, we had a meeting with the Crown Prosecutor who is a Policy Implementation Advisor - Disability. Now, there are new safeguards for witnesses who are disabled – such as the video recorded evidence which is now accepted in courts. In the past some judges have thrown out cases involving witnesses who have learning difficulties or other forms of mental illness. Now, judges should think twice, before they do such things or treat disabled people as unreliable witnesses.

In July, I attended a sub-committee meeting of Domestic & Sexual Violence Board (MPA) where I was given an opportunity to raise issues about abuse on disabled people and grooming by perpetrators. I have also organised a petition regarding Lambeth police employing a Disability Link Officer (DLO) in order to get public support. The idea of a DLO was put to DIAG members by the senior officers at Scotland Yard. Ever since, I continue to campaign for a DLO for Lambeth and I have now handed in the petition with a covering letter to the Commissioner of the MPS to our Borough Commander. I would like to thank the CPCG for supporting my quest for a DLO.

Administrator's Report

The functioning of Lambeth CPCG owes a great deal to the work and commitment freely given by its elected Board members who oversee the day to day running of CPCG business and contribute, on behalf of CPCG membership and the community at large, to various forums such as Safer Lambeth Partnership, Gold Groups, IPCC reference groups, London-wide Chairs' meetings, its own sub-groups and more. However, it is perhaps fair to say that none of this would be possible without the CPCG membership and members of the community who, as a whole, also give freely of their time and energy to make everything CPCG does possible. In fact, one could say that CPCG burdens itself with much more than it ought to considering the resources at its disposal, which, unfortunately, can diminish its impact in terms of bringing about change for the good more readily but never its focus or resolve.

As such, CPCG continues to try to make improvements to many aspects of policing and community safety in our borough by providing a community voice, something which cannot be replicated, and therefore we find that much of CPCG business is directed through or emanates from its monthly, open access, public meetings, internal business meetings and special meetings to accommodate urgent community concerns. As alluded to, CPCG has addressed a fair number of issues during the course of the past year, some ongoing, some new. Below you will find a recap of some the major concerns that CPCG have considered important to bring to the community's attention or raised by the community itself at CPCG meetings. This does not mean that CPCG has lost sight of any issue brought to it by one of its members or a member of the public, as we may find that more and more people share a particular concern, but wishes to highlight the issues that have been CPCG's main business during the course of the year. That said, CPCG would encourage and support any section of the community which feels that something needs to be done to address a problem which affects the quality of their lives and needs to be taken up by SLP. In this respect, CPCG believes that it could do more to help the community by increasing its membership and involve more people in helping to make the lives of Lambeth's residents be safer and feel more secure. CPCG members could help out by

encouraging others to attend CPCG meetings and perhaps become members themselves. The greater the membership, the more active and better CPCG will become.

Territorial Support Group

5 TSG, one of five Territorial Support Groups operating in London, is based in Larkhall Lane, Stockwell SW4. Since reporting on TSG activity in relation to the Notting Hill Festival during August Bank Holiday 2008, TSG have been a regular presence at CPCG meetings throughout the year. Last October, in order that the community should have a better understanding of TSG's role, Ch. Supt. Michael Johnson gave a presentation last October on how the TSG was portrayed by the media through a compilation of images taken from news programmes; as heavy-handed riot police trying to contain violent disorder. However, Ch. Supt. Johnson told CPCG that the public seemed to be unaware of TSG's involvement in day to day policing, community projects, engaging with the public and supporting local policing and Safer Neighbourhood Teams activity. TSG were therefore working towards becoming more involved with the community and improving relations by undertaking reassurance patrols, talking with local businesses about their expectations and needs, building relationships with young people, working on ongoing projects with church associated youth groups and assisting with initiatives such as the Lambeth Summer Projects Trust by running a six-a-side multi-faith cricket tournament, giving coaching lessons, donating equipment and supervising a non-contact boxing tournament (TSG have established a permanent boxing club at the former Lillian Baylis school). To further promote community relations, an invitation was extended to the public to attend a TSG Open Day at its base on Saturday, 22 November.

While CPCG welcomed TSG's desire to become more accountable to the community, there was, perhaps unsurprisingly, some scepticism about TSG's capacity to be as open and fair as the community would like. Talking from personal experiences, some people questioned TSG use of Stop and Search, physical restraint, aggressive and racist behaviour, poor communication skills and sense of anonymity, which discouraged people from making complaints and undermined the work of local police. It was also suggested that TSG had a long way to go to lose its tag of being a

reincarnation of the notorious Special Patrol Group of the 1980s. TSG have acknowledged the negative perception that the public has of them, internally and externally, and that they have not always got things right, but in the main believe that they are a Command of highly motivated officers and strong supervisors which tries its best to police Lambeth and other difficult areas, which was not always easy.

TSG have been as good as their word in terms of their attendance at CPCG meetings and did not shrink from being held to account at CPCG May meeting following the G20 Summit in April 2009, where TSG appeared to have been met with some provocation and aggression but had been shown on TV and in the press to have been the aggressors, which did little to change any negative perceptions already held by the public, a view which was perhaps exacerbated by the death of a member of the public during the protests which had led to an IPCC investigation.

CPCG heard from the floor that the police had been quoted as being 'ready for it' and 'up for it', and that many peaceful people concerned about climate change had been treated like terrorists while policing itself was becoming more secretive and unaccountable, using a wide range of laws introduced over the last decade to label ordinary people as extremists. TSG, on the other hand, argued that in terms of press and television coverage the police were under greater scrutiny than any police force in the world.

From witness accounts of people present at the G20 protest there was a general if not overwhelming view that the force used by police had been disproportionate. At the time, CPCG were aware of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary review of the policing of G20, to which we together with other London CPCGs made representation and has since been published, as well as the IPCC investigation (see IPCC below for web links). TSG continue to attend CPCG meetings on a regular basis.

Immigration

CPCG is aware that the issue of immigration is a matter of national interest and that hardly a day passes without it featuring in television news programmes and the press, largely in a negative context in terms of its adverse impact on the economy and crime. However, the fact remains that for various reasons there are people entering the UK

illegally, and who at some point may come to the attention of the police. In this respect, CPCG has an interest in the effect that immigrants have on policing and the role police play in the process of their management. In order that CPCG should have a clearer understanding about immigration and policing issues, CPCG invited Fiona Cooper, an Inspector at the Detention and Population Management Unit, to give an overview of Border & Immigration Agency activity, Immigration Legislation and Powers of Immigration Officers, Immigration Control, Detention Estate and Use of Police cells. Her presentation can be found at <http://tiny.cc/JaSHk>

Collectively, CPCG raised a number concerns about immigrants and their welfare, including:

- immigrants detained under the Immigration Act being in police detention for up to seven days in unsuitable conditions, putting an extra burden on the work of the police
- the anxiety and stress suffered by immigrants being removed from their cells, not knowing what will happen to them i.e. would they be deported and, if so, able to collect their possessions to take with them.
- the need for an Immigration Officer to be based at borough level or in a police station to provide answers to immigration detainees' concerns.
- female immigrants with domestic violence issues having no access to resources or being too scared to report domestic violence to the police for fear of being deported.
- using Stop and Search as a means of identifying immigrants with no supporting papers, which could lead to deportation.
- the poor standard of care and conditions for children held in detention centres
- the effect on public confidence in policing due to the police's involvement in immigration matters
- immigrants used as cheap labour.

- changes to legal aid which has led to practitioners giving up immigration work or charging huge amounts to take on cases
- the limitations of the Council to help immigrants not legally entitled to support while bearing in mind that the Council did not receive money from central government to fund services for them.

Asset Management Plan/Walrus II

Walrus II 2008, followed on from the original Walrus I project (2001) which sought to identify ways of making Lambeth police estate better disposed to meet new priorities and targets. Instead of choosing a functional model of a Superintendent given the lead on functional responsibilities, thereby moving away from the geographically zoned responsibilities of three superintendents heading three subcommands, Lambeth police Command Team had opted for a more streamlined structure of north and south subcommands; each with its own management team with support from pan-borough specialist investigators e.g. Domestic Violence, Hate Crime and Sexual Offences, leaving police response teams and SNTs as they were. From a police perspective, this had led to improvements to accommodation for police and civilians working at Streatham police station, demonstrating that police valued its staff, whilst continuing to provide effective policing. Another benefit was a more resilient CID able to develop more officers becoming attracted to CID work.

Lambeth is believed to be one the most complex and challenging policing environments in Europe (HMIC), and CPCG were told that while Lambeth had managed to reduce Total Notifiable Offences on a yearly basis for the past six years, the police had recognised that the future would become more and more challenging. In considering its unique structure of three distinct sub-commands, police found that there was too much duplication occurring which hindered cohesiveness and could not be justified with the ever increasing demands to improve performance.

CPCG have commented on the apparent discrepancy whereby the MPS has seen an increase London-wide in the number of police officers over the past few years from 29,000 to 34,000, yet the Lambeth establishment had remained constant with around 950 officers based in the borough. This has led to a suspicion that the use of 5 TSG, a

London-wide resource of about 140 officers, which seemed to operate in the borough every day of the year, was effectively an extension of Lambeth police, which was unfair to both TSG and borough based officers. However, police refute the notion that TSG are used to make up for a shortfall of Lambeth staff as TSG officers were trained for different duties and had particular skills and experiences which they used to support Lambeth's policing priorities, such as serious violent crime.

Many issues surrounding Walrus II have yet to be concluded, and while many can see the value in seeking to improve services for the benefit of both the public and police, at the same time people are wondering whether the whole exercise is a means to save money in the face of financial cuts.

Running in conjunction with Walrus II, the MPS Asset Management Plan (AMP) was ostensibly produced for each London Borough to identify particular issues and concerns (CPCG had contested that it was but a generic document for every London borough and something that the Group could not have been properly consulted about). However, in May 2008, following the election of a new Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, a MPA review was undertaken to look into Londoners' fears, not least in Lambeth, of the potential closure of their local police stations and the creation of centralised patrol bases and custody suites

Independent Advisory Group

During the course of the year, CPCG has discussed the creation by the police of a Lambeth Independent Advisory Group (IAG). By now a reality, many see it as an unwanted and unnecessary collective of individuals recruited by the police. CPCG does not take issue with the individual members of the IAG who have been chosen but does question the accountability of an IAG. At the same time, CPCG believes that with its representativeness, wide-ranging skills and experience it is more than qualified to do undertake the advisory work proposed and, in fact, has been doing so for many years.

Despite reassurances that IAG performed a different function from CPCG, which police see as the community holding the police to account, while IAG members are valued for the advice they give from an individual perspective, CPCG are concerned that the

police will increasingly turn to IAG members who are unknown to the community who to date have no idea how many times the police used the IAG, what advice had been sought and received and whether or not it was acted upon. The very fact that there appears to be no openness in relation to the role of the IAG is a concern to CPCG and others. For example, there are concerns that anonymous IAG members had been consulted and used as observers at the G20 protests.

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

CPCG has had ongoing dialogues with IPCC since its inception in 2005, when it replaced the Police Complaints Authority as the investigative body looking into complaints against the police. The fact that the Nick Hardwick, IPCC Chair, and IPCC Commissioners have probably attended more Lambeth CPCG meetings over the past four years than any other CPCG in London perhaps says as much about the IPCC's willingness to personally address issues of concern in Lambeth about complaints against the police as much as it does about the number of incidents that have brought the IPCC into our borough, particularly those involving deaths in custody.

Throughout the year, CPCG has been monitoring the progress of the IPCC investigation into the tragic death in custody of Sean Rigg after being taken to Brixton Police Station on 21 August 2008. IPCC has been investigating not only the immediate circumstances of his death but also the handling of telephone calls to the police in relation to his arrest. Sean Riggs family and friends have been attending CPCG meetings over the past year where they have expressed their concerns about the IPCC's investigation which they have claimed to have been incompetent and handled by inexperienced investigators with many months passing without investigators taking statements from police officers, as well as IPCC's poor communication with them. As a result of concerns, IPCC established a reference Group involving CPCG members Anna Tapsell, Sandra Moodie and Wesley Stephenson.

Further to the tragic death of Sean Rigg, CPCG continues to reiterate the broader issues concerning the protocols and communications which exist between the police and those working in the field of health and their responsibilities, and the situation of holding people with mental health problems in police cells. CPCG believes that this a desperate situation which needs to be resolved urgently, and that the provision of

specialist and medically supervised facilities should not be so difficult, particularly in the context of the MPS's Asset Management Plan.

After two IPCC reports, a Health and Safety trial, and Coroner's Report, CPCG continued to follow the legal processes resulting from the death of Jean Charles de Menezes, shot by police at Stockwell Underground Station on 22 July 2005. Between October and December 2008, CPCG members attended the inquest into Jean Charles' death, the final, although perhaps not for many, conclusive chapter of a tragic end of life and judicial story which has saddened everyone.

CPCG also took the opportunity to speak to the IPCC about the policing of the G20 Summit in April of this year, at which a man, Ian Tomlinson, died, and the many complaints made about the way the protest was policed (see Territorial Support Group above). The IPCC and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary have both produced reports about the MPS's handling of protestors at G20 which can be found at the links below.

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/news/pr060809_bishopsgate.htm

<http://inspectors.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/docs/ap/>

Designated Public Places Order (DPPO)

As part of its consultation exercise, Lambeth's Drug and Alcohol Team (DAT) brought proposals for using DPPOs i.e. the Council's authority to designate open public areas as places where drinking alcohol would be forbidden and accompanied with a power to confiscate alcoholic drinks. DPPO legislation was seen as a way forward to deal more quickly and effectively with anti-social behaviour related to the consumption of alcohol in public place instead of using old drinking bylaws, which were seen as a very lengthy, bureaucratic process. Instead of using a reactive measure such as arresting someone for being Drunk and Disorderly and detaining them in a cell until they sobered up, confiscation of alcohol was seen as a preventative, targeted measure that would reduce the amount of time required to deal with people involved in alcohol related offences.

The community raised a number of concerns, not least in respect of civil liberties, particularly as some parts of the country, and indeed London, had made whole

boroughs designated areas. Many people thought that a 'blanket' ban on drinking did not discriminate between different groups such as those who drank socially whilst picnicking in parks and other groups of people who took over particular areas, became drunk and abusive and increased the fear of crime. Furthermore, it was argued that existing police powers were available to the authorities which could be applied to particular situations and areas. Concern was also expressed about how wide consultation would be, such as with Ward Councillors and Safer Neighbourhood Panels amongst others. In terms of policing, the issue of displacing one problem to another was also mooted, although it was claimed that the legislation was not about moving people on from public spaces and denying their rights but about addressing anti-social behaviour with people less likely to behave in an anti-social way in the knowledge that they could have their alcohol confiscated,.

Apart from the legal aspects of DPPOs, members highlighted the medical considerations of those who used alcohol and illegal substances on the street, and the help they needed to reduce their dependency, as well as to support such people by getting to the root of their problems. Some people were simply not persuaded by the need for another law which affected everyone but could be implemented because of the behaviour of a few, and which could be applied to other perceived forms of anti-social behaviour that others deemed to be legitimate cultural preferences.

CPCG were told that following consultation, any legislation agreed by the community would be subject to Human Rights law and would be used proportionately and only when necessary.

Lambeth Women's Aid (LWA)

CPCG sought to support Lambeth Women's Aid, which as of 1 April had to begin its process of tendering for government funding through local authorities like many other organisations providing services supporting people. In Lambeth, most of the services provided for women and children suffering from Domestic Violence (DV) have been provided by the Voluntary Sector in the form of safe and anonymous refuge spaces, outreach services and specialist children's services. However, under the tendering process, Lambeth Council were not under any obligation to consider DV projects within its tendering framework, while there are four refuges operating in Lambeth: Asha,

working with the Asian population; Refuge, a national organisation providing for Black Minority Ethnic groups; Solas Anois, an Irish Women's Domestic Violence Project; and LWA, offering generic services.

Although LWA had received some funding from Children and Young People Services, there was a fear that its refuge was under threat with the possibility that it would not have a building from which to work as a result of competing DV services. Having provided a service for thirty-five years and suddenly being asked to tender for funding, LWA believed that their future existence was under threat, not just to its refuge but also its core and specialist skills, and training and service provision. In recognising the work of the other DV services in Lambeth, LWA questioned how support could be given to the diverse groups of people in the borough competing for funding from the same pot.

Policing Pledge

At the beginning of 2009, MPS published its Policing Pledge, a new set of promises on the standard of service they provided and a commitment to keeping those promises. In Lambeth, police believe that providing a quality service to increase confidence and satisfaction in policing is of particular importance to the borough where confidence levels have been an issue and have been taken very seriously. The community's view are of the utmost importance to the police who want to increase engagement with the community through SNTs and build confidence with the public through better interaction and providing a level of service that people wanted to receive; based on professionalism and respect leading to fewer victims and less witnesses withdrawing from the Criminal Justice System and more sanctioned detections and community intelligence.

CPCG welcomed what some people saw as a re-affirmation of its role in serving the public but questioned whether the police had the capacity to deliver on the finer points. In such cases, CPCG were told that there if pledges were not met complaints could be made which would be investigated and an explanation provided.

More can be found about the Policing Pledge at the MPS website at

<http://www.met.police.uk/pledge/>

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

In June, Martin Ryan attended the CPCG meeting to give an account of his role as Borough Crown Prosecutor for Lambeth. Based at Frank O'Neill House, Kennington, Mr Ryan works closely with the police, giving officers advice at various stages of investigations and counsel in respect of appropriate charges. In the previous year, Mr Ryan's thirteen prosecutors had dealt with around 10,000 cases.

One issue identified by CPS has been its low profile in terms of public visibility compared to other parts of the criminal justice system, which, it was felt, had an impact on public confidence. Therefore, initiatives aimed at addressing this concern have been instigated to provide information about the CPS's role locally. This enables CPS to be better informed about local priorities for consideration in decision making, in tackling various crime and disorder issues, and being up to date with current, local priorities in order that they could be better addressed. For example, Borough CPS is aware of the work done on community impact statements such as the nuisance and harassment in relation to drug dealing in Brixton, which may not have quite got through effectively into the court system. CPS also recognises that another issue for the community is being able to obtain information from the courts about the outcomes of trials, and CPS were looking at how information could be made better available. Mr Ryan has said that CPS would have a greater physical presence at future CPCG meetings.

Youth Issues

As well as regular attendance from George Marshman, LBL Adults and Community Services, to CPCG meetings, John Readman, LBL Children and Young People's Services, has also been more interactive with CPCG, bringing his team's Young and Safe programme to CPCG meetings and spelling out how Lambeth plans to tackle young people becoming involved in crime and responding to concerns about the Youth Service.

Young and Safe's broad objectives are to reduce the number of first time offenders and to reduce youth violence. In doing so, a broad range of services for young people have been commissioned, such as Parentline Plus and a programme addressing gang related issues called 2XL, replacing the successful X-it programme, and involving 120

young people over the next two years. Young and Safe is a Partnership document signed by SLP, including, amongst others, police, probation, health, child adolescence and mental health services.

As seen with the tendering for other Council services, Young and Safe is moving away from annual grant funding and will use a three year commissioning programme to enable tenderers to better plan services. However, small or short lived projects could be funded by an Emerging Needs Programme.

With regard to 2XL, however, Wayne Rowe, who had previously worked on the Phoenix programme designed to focus on gun crime, claimed that Phoenix had received no assistance from the Council and that £150K had been taken out of the programme's budget without any consultation, which had left fifteen young men vulnerable. In a statement, the Council said that Phoenix service providers were de-commissioned in 2008-9 and due to the departure of some staff the programme team was scaled down. In May 2009 the Council said that there were four young people actively engaged with key workers, five not engaged and six on a waiting list due to lack of capacity. Under Young and Safe all young people on the waiting list had been accepted and assessed and a total of twenty-three young people either have been or were engaged on the programme, including eight who had successfully exited the programme.

Throughout the year, a number of people, not least Cllr. Graham Pycock, have expressed their concerns about a Lambeth Council and police authorised gang members' mediation trip to Birmingham involving the Youth Service and young people from Lambeth over a weekend in 2007, from which arose some serious allegations. As a result of CPCG member David Prichard-Jones tabling a Public Notice Question to the Council's Young People and Children's Scrutiny Committee (CYPCSC), Cllr. Pycock informed CPCG that a CYPCSC commission had been established to look into the allegations and its findings would be published in January 2010.

Elder Abuse

Neena Khosla, LBL Safeguarding Adults Programme (SAP) Manager, gave CPCG a presentation aimed at raising the profile of safeguarding vulnerable adults in relation to abuse or likelihood of it through three key priorities; protection, prevention and raising

of awareness. The Programme is aimed at people aged 18 years and over who may be unable to care for themselves or are open to exploitation including, amongst others, those with disabilities, mental health problems or have substance misuse issues, and were perhaps dependent on others and less able to care for themselves and complain.

Amongst the concerns raised by CPCG members and members of the public were:

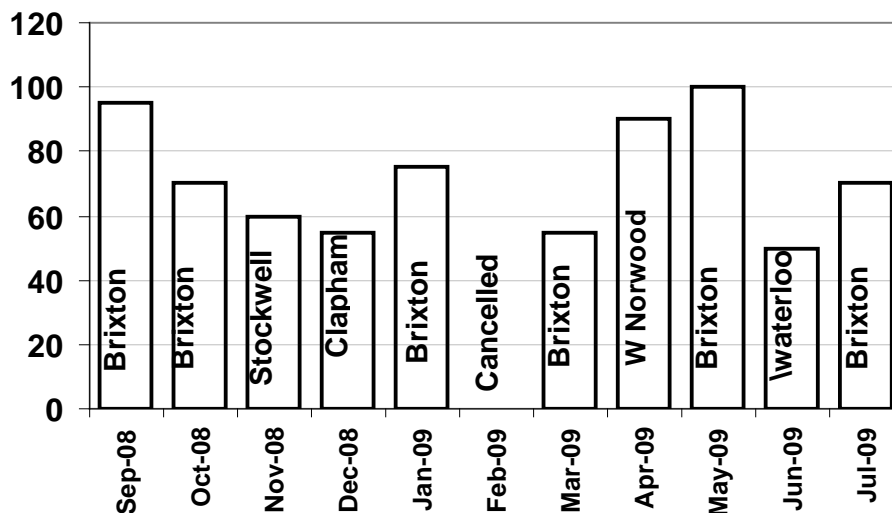
- people with disabilities not receiving the same service of policing as the rest of the community, with London-wide Disabilities IAG Member, Arulini Velmurugu, campaigning for a Lambeth Link Officer dedicated to dealing with issues raised by the disabled community
- respect for the elderly in care, institutional abuse, need to make surprise visits on care homes and the qualifications of care workers and training to spot abuse.

Further information on the above can be found in CPCG Minutes, Briefing Papers and Police Reports at CPCG website www.lambethcpcg.org.uk

Honorary Comptroller's Report

CPCG has had another successful year in its activities. Our public meetings around the borough continue to attract a good attendance. The average attendance at our monthly meetings over the past three years has been 64, 81 and 72 respectively (the monthly attendances and locations are shown below).

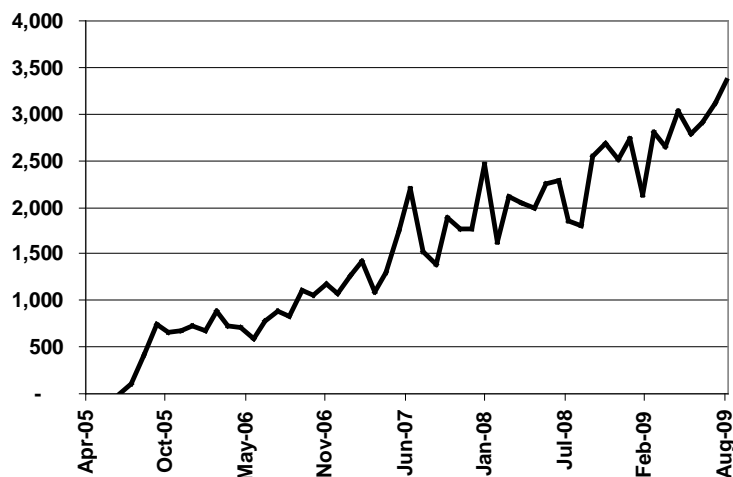
ATTENDANCE AT CPCG MONTHLY MEETINGS



(February 09’s meeting was cancelled due to severe weather)

Our routine meetings have been supplemented by additional events to address such specific issues (such as the public meeting with Nick Hardwick, Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Authority in May 2009) as well outreach activities like our presence at the Lambeth Country (our third) or at the People’s Expos. We also provide news and information to many more people through our website, visitors to which continue to grow month by month.

UNIQUE VISITS TO CPCG WEBSITE EACH MONTH



A ‘Unique Visit’ is one where the visitor loads more than one page

Taken together, these activities have not only resulted in us attracting new members through the year but also steadily growing our mailing list; the latter being the lifeblood of any community organisation involved in engagement and campaigning.

A representation of our Accounts for 2008/9 is shown on the pages following – these are not the formal Company Accounts for approval by the AGM, which are published separately, but are in our familiar format and perhaps easier to follow. We have again reduced our running costs (allowing for exceptional items in 2007/8) and, despite having to purchase a photocopier in the year, ended the year with funds of just under £22k. Of this, £10k was a grant payment from the Safer Lambeth Partnership for a research project to devise new opportunities for engagement for the SLP (see below), to be spent in 2009/0. Thus our underlying funds position was just under £12k, which is our Reserves Policy position.

However, as we explained in last year's report the underlying dynamic for the Group remains unsustainable, with core costs of £55k meeting core funding from the MPA of £50k. The Group has survived for the last five years by progressively reducing costs and carrying forward a diminishing surplus. On current projections, in the event of no significant change to income or expenditure, the Group will become insolvent at the end of financial year 2010/11.

The Engagement Research Project is of particular significance in this respect. The work, now underway, stems from the welcome recognition in Safer Lambeth Partnership's new Constitution of the particular place of CPCG in its engagement activities. The research project is seeking to establish how engagement around community safety, in Lambeth, might best be configured for the benefit of all who live, work or study in the borough. Early indications are that the findings will present challenges to CPCG in how it can fill its role in delivering meaningful engagement but may also provide directions for establishing a more stable future.

Jim Toohill

Honorary Comptroller.

Annual Accounts 2007/8

Expenditure		2008/9	2007/8
<i>Notes</i>		£	£
	Salary Costs	36,928	35,843
	Travel	4	19
	Telephone, Fax and Broadband	1,298	1,393
	Room Hire	1,317	3,716
	Rent	9,662	9,104
	Refreshments	1,878	2,235
	Professional Services	1,097	5,383
	Postage & Printing	793	474
	Office Supplies	679	1,548
	Cleaning	194	-
	Office Equipment	52	808
1	Depreciation on tangible fixed asset (photocopier)	1,112	
	Conference/Training	-	241
	<i>Total Non-Salary Costs</i>	18,085	24,922
		55,012	60,765
Income		2008/9	2007/8
<i>Notes</i>		£	£
	MPA - Direct Payment of Salary Costs		5,805
	MPA - Grant	50,000	36,836
2	Safer Lambeth Partnership	10,000	
	LPICV (Copying, Room Hire etc)	510	340
	MPS - Contribution to Refreshments	660	550
3	<i>Written Off Creditor (NACRO)</i>	2,000	
		63,170	43,531
Net (Deficit) Movement in Funds		8,158	(17,234)

Balance Sheet Movements

	£
Cash in hand and at Bank 31/3/2008	24,246
Debtors at 31/3/2008	300
Creditors at 31/3/2008	(8,604)
Net Funds at 31/3/2008	15,942
Movement on Funds 2008/9	8,158
Net Funds at 31/3/2009	24,100

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2009

	£
<i>Current Assets</i>	
Cash in Hand and at Bank	25,193
	<u>25,193</u>
<i>Current Liabilities</i>	
<i>Creditors</i>	
4 HMIC - PAYE and NI	3,196
5 WIESA	120
	<u>3,316</u>
Net Funds at 31/3/2009	21,877
<i>Fixed Assets</i>	
1 Tangible Assets (Photocopier)	<u>2,223</u>
Total Assets at 31/3/2009	24,100

Notes

- 1 CPCG had to make new arrangements for photocopying in Feb 2009 following the removal of the MPA provided leased copier.
- 2 CPCG received a grant of £10k from Safer Lambeth Partnership in March 2009 which will be spent in 2009/10
- 3 This relates to a disputed invoice from NACRO originating in the 2005/6 financial year.
- 4 PAYE and NI are paid quarterly. The last payment for 2008/9 was due 5 April after the end of the financial year.
- 5 WIESA had yet to invoice CPCG at the end of the financial year, for room hire for our December 2008 monthly meeting.

Board 2008/9

Board Member	AGM Last Elected	AGM Term Ends	Board Meeting Attendance Max 11	CPCG Monthly Meeting Attendance Max 10	Expenses Claimed 2008/9
Doye Akinlade	2008	2010	10	8	NIL
Paul Andell	2007	2009	6	5	NIL
Canon Ivelaw Bowman	2008	2010	8	8	NIL
Shane Collins	2008	2010	5	7	NIL
Gill Kenealy	2008	2010	7	8	NIL
Sandra Moodie	2008	2010	7	6	NIL
Ros Munday	2008	2010	2	7	NIL
Anna Tapsell	2007	2009	9	9	NIL
Jim Toohill	2007	2009	11	10	NIL
Wesley Walters-Stephenson	2007	2009	5	5	NIL
Jane Warwick	2008	2010	9	9	NIL

(Attendances are from AGM 2008 to AGM 2009. Expenses are for financial year 2008/9)

Appendix: Membership

Membership during CPCG year 2008/9 (July to July) with those who have joined since, up to the time of publication, shown by *

Community and Voluntary Organisations

Angell Town Tenants Management Organisation Cathy Valentine
Brixton Domino Club Lloyd Leon
Brixton Market Traders Federation Stuart Horwood, John Gordon
Brixton Society Doye Akinlade
Churches Together in Brixton Rev Stephen Sichel
Churches Together in Clapham Anna Long
Clapham Community Partnership David Hart, Ros Munday
Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum Rebecca Brewin
Clapham Sector Working Party John Wainwright
Community Empowerment Network Toaha Quereshi
Clapham Town Neighbourhood Watch Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler
Cressingham Gardens Tenants and Residents Association Sandra Moodie
Flipside Jean Carpenter
Friends of Brockwell Park Robert Holden
Herne Hill Forum Nick Abengowe
Herne Hill Society Paul Reynolds, John Frankland
HM Prison Brixton Independent Monitoring Group Phyllis Jackson
Kennington Sector Working Party Michael Somers
Lambeth Independent Appropriate Adults Support Group Jane Warwick
Lambeth Leaseholders Council
Lambeth Older People's Forum Abdul Sultan Virani, Martin Walsh
Lambeth Summer Projects Trust Nick Mason
Lambeth Towers and Lambeth Road TRA Arulini K. Velmurugu
Lambeth Women's Aid* Mary Ann Mhina, Jane Warwick
Milkwood Residents Association Maude Estwick, Hazel Watson
NACRO Tony Chrouch
Popular Youth Association Rowena Estwick
St Matthew's Estate TRA Sheila Draper
South London Synagogue Dr Brian Mantell
Stockwell Park Residents Association David Tomlinson
Streatham Common Southside Neighbourhood Watch Anna Hunter
Streatham Southern Sector Working Party George Tuson
Tulse Hill TRA Rhoda Anderson
Victim Support Lambeth Hazel Saunders
West Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association UK Neil Flanigan, Jim Fairweather
West Indian Standing Conference Hedley Johnson
Your Story Wesley Walters-Stephenson

Statutory Organisations

British Transport Police Insp. Ian Mixer

Crown Prosecution Service Martin Ryan, Claire Holder

HM Prison Brixton Paul McDowell

London Borough of Lambeth Council (pre-April 2009) Cllr. Kingsley Abrams; Cllr. Donatus Anyanwu; Cllr. Diane Braithwaite; Cllr. Lorna Campbell; Cllr. Rachel Heywood; Cllr. Stephen Morgan; Cllr. Neeraj Patil; Cllr. Graham Pycock; Cllr. Imogen Walker

London Borough of Lambeth Council (post-April 2009) Cllr. Kingsley Abrams; Cllr. Mark Bennett; Cllr. Diane Braithwaite; Cllr. Lorna Campbell; Cllr. Betty-Evans-Jacas; Cllr. Rachel Heywood; Cllr. Stephen Morgan; Cllr. Graham Pycock; Cllr. Imogen Walker

London Borough of Lambeth Divisional Director Adult Social Care/Community Safety

George Marshman, Ann Corbett

London Probation Service Adam Kerr

MPA Caroline Pidgeon (Link Member), Susan Doran (Link Officer)

MPS Lambeth Ch. Supt Sharon Rowe, Ch. Supt Nick Ephgrave (as of July 2009), Supt Paul Wilson

Panel of Independent Custody Visitors for Lambeth Doye Akinlade, Jane Warwick

Individual Members

Paul Andell

Hope Barrett

Steve Bolarina

Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman

Rod Brown

Shane Collins

Habiba Compaore

David Corderoy

Richard Dutton

Rosemarie Falaiye

Zoe Fonteyn*

Gloria Gomez*

Peter Harris

John Howard

Lena James

Lee Jasper

Bushy Kelly

Gill Kenealy

Veronica Ledwith*

Tia Henry-Lindo*

Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy*

Patricia Moberly*

Clare Moore

Richard Moore

James Osho*
Brian Parker
David Pinder*
David Prichard-Jones
Juneary Raymond*
Cheryl Sealey
Fernando Senior
Jean Slater
Jim Toohill
Anna Tapsell
Mike Tuppen
Julia Wolton*

Board 2008/9

Individual Membership:

Anna Tapsell (Chair); Paul Andell (Vice-Chair); Canon Ivelaw Bowman; Shane Collins; Gill Kenealy; Jim Toohill (Honorary Comptroller)

Community and Voluntary Organisations:

Wesley Walters-Stephenson (Your Story: Vice Chair); Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society); Sandra Moodie (Cressingham Gardens TRA); Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership); Jane Warwick (Lambeth Independent Appropriate Adults Support Group)

Safer Neighbourhood Panels: Vacancy

Observers: Supt Paul Wilson (MPS Lambeth); Anne Corbett (LBL.)

Administration: Ben McKendrick

Sad losses

The following members died during the year.

Peter Harris

David Hart

Paul Reynolds (Board Member, 2006 – 2008)

They were valued colleagues who will be missed. Our thoughts remain with their families and friends