

Annual Report and Accounts

2004/5



Contents

	Page
As Good As It Gets?.....	3
Volume Crime.....	4
Guns.....	6
Drugs.....	8
Hate Crime.....	9
Stop and Search.....	12
Mental Health.....	14
Open Door.....	15
Policing Resources.....	16
Community Safety Audit and Strategy.....	17
Community Engagement and CPCG's Development.....	18
Farewells.....	19
Annual Accounts 2004/5.....	21
Appendix: CPCG Activities.....	24
Appendix: Membership.....	26
Appendix: Statistics.....	28
Contact Details.....	34

As Good As It Gets?

The past year saw Lambeth recover its position on a par with Kensington and Chelsea in terms of levels of overall reported crime, relative to the size of the resident population. This is a massive achievement on the part of the police, the local authority and all our communities and one in which CPCG is proud to have played a part.

But, as crime reduces then so will the extra gains become that much harder. And we still remain a high-crime borough, considerably so in respect of drugs, gun enabled crime and street crime. From here on, Lambeth will have to be smarter, more innovative and more open to challenge, in both the community and the agencies, if we are to maintain our momentum.

We record in this report our sad loss, during the year, of two of our founding members, Mr Hector Watson and Dr Victor Brooks. Their passing, and the recall of their efforts, their commitment and the battles they fought remind us just how much has changed in the relationship between the community and the police in Lambeth. But neither Hector nor Victor settled for 'as good as it gets' and continued to make wise and effective contributions to the Group, even into their frailty.

Their example shows us that we must continue, not only to challenge, to ask the awkward questions, to pose the novel solutions but to accept change ourselves, if we are to measure up to playing our part in the task ahead. Change has already started within CPCG and in this report you will find details of how we hope to become more accessible and more open, to better represent our community.

I hope you will find in this report a useful overview of the CPCG's activities and of the state of crime and community safety in the borough. More than that, I hope you will want to find out more, from ourselves, from the police, from the local authority, and to find your way into helping Lambeth become a safer, fairer borough. If you do, you will find an open door at CPCG.

Lee Jasper

Chairperson

July 2005

Volume Crime

Lambeth remains a high crime borough and one of the most demanding policing districts in Europe. Nonetheless, reported crime in Lambeth has fallen faster than in any other London borough, most notably within the so-called 'high volume crimes' - street crime, burglary and motor vehicle crime. In 2004/5, Lambeth had got back on a par with Kensington and Chelsea in terms of total notifiable offences per thousand population. High volume crime, and its reporting in the local media and by word of mouth, is an important contributor to the community's perception of safety in the public realm and of the police's capacity to contain lawlessness.

AS GOOD AS IT GETS?

STREET CRIME IN LAMBETH IS RESISTING FURTHER DECLINE



Source: MPS, Monthly Notified 'Street Crime' (Robberies plus Snatch Thefts) in Lambeth

But as crime falls, then additional gains become harder. This is especially true of Street Crime which after spectacular falls between 2002 and 2004 appears to have

hit a resistant lower bound. Further gains will require new approaches which recognise that deterrence through visible police presence and detection can only achieve so much. The clear up rate for Street Crime in the borough in 2004/5 was 9%; even across the whole of London (including boroughs with much lower incidence of Street Crime) clear-up was just 12% - clearly detection alone cannot answer the problem. CPCG has long argued for holistic approaches to this problem, which address the causes and opportunities for crime.

In so much as levels of street crime are in part sustained by new technology, in that many crimes involve the theft of high value mobile phones and personal audio equipment, the reverse is true of Motor Crime and Burglary. Here the increasing use of better methods of security, of improved detection through forensic examination of retrieved stolen goods and the fact that many portable and easily resold electronic goods (such as video players, hi-fi equipment or DVD players) are now so cheap that there is no substantial market for second hand goods. As a consequence, there has been a steady decline in Burglary rates and of Motor Crime (see Appendix) and, outside of very local problematic areas, neither cause the high levels of community concern that were the case, say, 5 years ago.

In contrast, violent crime is on an upward trajectory. Some of this is due to changes in reporting procedures and violent crime committed in domestic settings. Nonetheless, there is undoubtedly also a sense in the community that general incivility and anti-social behaviour, which more people experience than violence, is a barometer for an underlying decline in safety.

As volume crime has decreased, then so has anti-social behaviour risen in the public's scale of concerns, as attested by both borough level and London wide surveys. And within Lambeth, as elsewhere, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) and Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts (ASBCs) are increasingly used against persistent offenders. CPCG welcomes any attempts to relieve the lives of the victims of this type of behaviour but has expressed concerns that there should be transparency in the application of these tools and that their use should be proportionate, especially with regard to young people.

CRIME AND TRANSPORT

London's transport system is a locale for many 'volume crimes' as well as being a means for criminals to move around the city. This has a particular importance for Lambeth being the home of a national (and international) rail terminus and major transport hubs at Vauxhall and Brixton. Policing the transport system is the responsibility of the British Transport Police (BTP), a distinction not widely understood by the public. CPCG seeks to provide a public forum for local accountability on the part of BTP and to encourage, as far as is possible, seamless working and account across the two police services.

At CPCG's November meeting, Chief Inspector Randy Otter gave an analysis of crime patterns across the transport system within Lambeth. This showed that, for the first six months of 2004/5, the Waterloo complex accounted for over 50% of offences on the transport systems within Lambeth whilst Stockwell and Brixton (underground and mainline) provided a further 30%. Over the whole borough, theft from passengers accounted for just under 50% of offences. For comparison, for the full year, BTP would expect to record just over 2,000 thefts from passengers in the borough; MPS recorded just over 4,200 incidents of 'Street Crime'.

Guns

CPCG has had a long standing commitment and engagement around the blight of gun crime on our communities, including the use of replica weapons. The first Guns Amnesty was in Lambeth and a number of our members are also members of Trident Independent Advisory Group. The reduction in gun crime across the borough over the preceding year was welcomed, although it should be noted that the position has deteriorated since and, at the time of writing, Gun enabled crime in the borough is now static (on a twelve month rolling basis – see Appendix: Statistics). However, the spread of the use of weapons or the threat of their use, especially and increasingly amongst young people, and often in trivial disputes, remains a matter for extreme concern.

The police have expressed their concerns to CPCG that they have no wide contact with primary schools in the borough to address these issues. Both former Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Richard Quinn and his successor Chief Superintendent Martin Bridger have emphasised a pattern to the route for some young people into gun related crime, invariably starting with truancy through to suspension and exclusion, through minor offences to offences involving knives and guns – a pattern which has reinforced CPCG's deep and long standing concerns over the lack of opportunities for so many young people in the borough to see and experience credible lifestyles.

During the year, John Wainwright (Clapham Sector Working Party) produced a short paper querying the accuracy of counts of children out of school. In consequence a small working group was set up, involving the borough's Education Department, CPCG and the police to address the issue.

Detection rates for gun crimes in Lambeth are the second highest in London, itself a testament to the close working relationship between borough officers, the Flying Squad, Trident and Trident IAG and the Lambeth community. The effort was reinforced by an initiative by the incoming Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Martin Bridger, to open a personal direct line to himself, for intelligence around gun crime.

“I sometimes feel we spend our time trying to rescue our young people from a fast flowing river of crime.

I'd sooner we moved upstream and stopped whoever or whatever is throwing them in”

Sir Ian Blair, Commissioner of Police, speaking in 2003

Commander Cressida Dick (MPS, Specialist Crime Directorate), speaking at a CPCG event in December, reiterated the importance of police and community cooperation in addressing Gun crime. She warned of the dangers to perpetrators, as well as victims, of illegally carried weapons, especially converted firearms which are prone to fire whilst being carried in an individuals clothing. The session heard that the internet is increasingly becoming a source of weapons, especially replicas, which can be so realistic that an armed police officer has no chance of distinguishing them from the real thing. (CPCG has long argued for the banning of the sale of replica weapons.)

CPCG has taken many opportunities during the year to commend the courage and professionalism of police officers tackling people carrying guns, especially when the officers themselves have been unarmed.

During the year, CPCG members have contributed to the campaign against gun crime in a number of ways. In February, group member Cheryl Sealey organised a Gun Crime Rally, following the tragic shooting to death of Solomon Martin over the New Year. Members routinely contribute to critical incidents groups following gun incidents, to initiatives addressing gangs and guns, and Trident IAG input.

For much of the year, CPCG (together with Southwark CPCG and Croydon CPCG) has provided volunteer observers for Operation Hermes, which took place on an almost monthly basis. These were substantial operations involving a hundred or more police officers, some armed, who mounted cordons and used Automatic Number Plate Recognition (APNR) technology to identify cars associated with serious crime. The operations took place in late evening/early morning at a number of locations around the three boroughs. Observers were able to offer reassurance to the public, who may have been alarmed by the sight of armed officers or numbers of vehicles being searched.

Observers were able to feed back to the police that these exercises did offer reassurance to the public of the commitment of the MPS to tackling gun crime, but were also able to raise questions of the cost benefit of the exercise overall, the accuracy of ancillary identification methods used and the use of Section 60 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994). At the time of writing, Operation Hermes is being refashioned.

Drugs

The dealing and abuse of Class A drugs, particularly crack cocaine and heroin, and the belligerent street trading in cannabis in parts of the borough, are damaging to our communities in a multiplicity of ways.

- Users' lives are damaged, mentally and physically;
- A generality of crime is often associated with drug dealing locales. This was well illustrated after a group of residents from the Tulse Hill area attended a CPCG event to highlight a dealing problem in their neighbourhood. A subsequent police operation resulted in the arrest of two 'middle-market' dealers but there was also an associated drop in robbery, burglary and vehicle crime;
- Chaotic behaviors of drug users and the activities of dealers are hazardous and disturbing for those who have to live with them in their neighbourhoods – this is especially true of crack houses. Chief Superintendent Richard Quinn's report to a CPCG meeting that the borough police were unable to meet their targets for crack-house closures because there were now only single numbers of houses in operation, met with approval. However, it was noted that, if left unattended, former crack houses could easily return to business. Ch Supt Quinn tasked the Community Safety Partnership to analyse the profile of crack houses in order to develop strategies to prevent their reopening;
- Belligerent drug dealing, and associated crime, degrades public amenity and is economically damaging. Brixton town centre has been a particularly persistent example of this, but there have been notable successes. In the summer of 2004 a major police operation closed a number of premises in Coldharbour Lane, which had been associated with drug dealing. CPCG members were active in community reassurance around this operation. One of these premises is due to open as a local Safer Neighbourhoods and Community Police office, a significant symbolic as well as practical development. Towards the end of the reporting period, in summer 2005, another major operation arrested a number of individuals who were allegedly responsible for a significant proportion of drugs dealing activity in the town center;
- As with crack houses, CPCG continues to press for *sustainable* solutions to public dealing in drugs which are to attack both supply and demand in the market and the habitats within which these markets thrive.

“A strong correlation exists between crack cocaine and firearms, with many people arrested with guns found to be crack users”

Ch Supt. Martin Bridger,
Lambeth Borough
Commander

Hate Crime

The Police deal with five categories of hate crime; domestic violence (DV), race and faith hate, abuse of the disabled and homophobia i.e. hate crimes against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community (LGBT). These are crimes involving hateful and damaging behaviors, which may include violence and even murder, towards individuals simply because of who they are. Many such crimes will have no other motive than to terrorise or damage and are recorded as hate crimes pure and simple; others will have some other motive, such as robbery or road rage, but none the less have a hate crime element and will be flagged as such by the police in their records.

Whereas the high-volume, 'public-realm' crimes spread unease across the community, as well as damaging individuals who fall victim, hate crime can create private hells for the individuals concerned, often ongoing, debilitating and disempowering. The individual nature of this type of crime and/or its restriction to a particular part of the community can, sadly, result in the community at large regarding it as 'someone else's problem' or denying its occurrence in their midst, as with domestic violence. CPCG has always been committed to ensure that these 'private' crimes remain a public priority.

“3,317 calls were made to the National DV Helpline from London, July – Sept 2004.

Lambeth had the highest identified number for a London borough”

Marianna Tortell

DV Coordinator, LCPT

at CPCG March 2005 event

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At CPCG's March meeting, a session on domestic violence was run by Marianna Tortell, (Domestic Violence Coordinator, Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust), together with Sue Jacobs (Crown Prosecution Service), Anna Tapsell of Lambeth Domestic Violence Forum, DI Charlie Hodge and Insp Graham Sunderland of Lambeth Police with contributions from members, borough Councillors (including the Deputy Executive member for Housing) and members of the public.

Any crime involves both dealing with offenders and supporting victims but it was clear that in the case of domestic violence these two are inextricably linked, with implications for the public services and criminal justice system in tackling both. From the analysis given, this is reflected onto the policing response, the criminal justice system and the social and welfare services.

Key issues emerging were:

- The relative success of Lambeth relative to other boroughs in terms of clear up rates for DV was in some part due to the training given, through which a large proportion of front line officers had been taken;
- The disparate and unconnected multiplicity of computer systems, on which information gathered at these incidents is recorded, certainly consumes a lot

of officer's time. There was also concern that important links may go unnoticed;

- The commitment of the Crown Prosecution Service to pursuing every possible avenue to prosecute perpetrators of DV up to and including prosecutions where the victim is unable to give evidence directly;
- The potential benefits to be gained through third party reporting and the 'one stop shop', soon to open in Coldharbour Lane, where victims could also access solicitors, housing officers and outreach workers;
- The focal position of children in many DV cases, from the expectation that officers will interview every child in a household when investigating cases, through the possibilities (and difficulties) of using children's evidence in prosecutions to the inhibition some victims feel in reporting crimes for fear of having their children taken into care. The Group was shocked to hear that the incidence of DV is often associated with pregnancy;
- The huge potential of a domestic violence court at Camberwell and the potential of 'cross-prosecutions';
- The inadequacy of a sound information base of services available across the statutory and voluntary sectors;
- The perceived lack of capacity of Housing Services within Lambeth to address the needs of DV victims in a timely fashion. The absence of Housing Department staff from the session was a disappointment.

For its part, CPCG undertook to support lobbying for a DV Court at Camberwell, to assist in anyway possible with the proposed Audit of services and to explore the potential for raising male awareness and responsibility for the DV problem in our midst. (Though domestic violence does occur in same sex relationships, and is not exclusively a male crime, overwhelmingly it is a problem of men abusing women and children).

RACE HATE

CPCG's November meeting included a session on Race Hate crime from DI Bruce Lawrence of Lambeth Borough Police Community Support Unit. A race hate incident is "any incident that is perceived as racist by the victim or any other person." The trend in reported incidents presented covered the period 1999/2000 to 2002/3, and showed a year on year reduction of 8% (from almost 700 incidents to 460). However, there are concerns around under-reporting, although there had been an

“Between April 2003 and March 2004, police in Lambeth attended over 5,000 domestic incidents, 2,864 of which resulted in a crime being recorded.”

Marianna Tortell
 DV Coordinator, LCPT
 at CPCG March 2005 event

increase in the number of reported racist incidents towards police officers. The analysis suggested that:

- The majority of incidents comprised episodes of 'road rage', neighbour disputes, and abuse of staff (in retail settings or public services), which were racially aggravated;
- The use of weapons in such incidents is rare, though criminal damage together with verbal abuse is common, which can cause victims to become extremely distraught;
- The geographical distribution of race hate incidents around the borough is not significantly different from that of crime generally nor is the propensity amongst any particular age group more than any other;
- in 65% of cases, the victim and the perpetrator were known to each other (with the majority of the remaining cases relating to road-rage incidents).

The response from the meeting was that concerns over low reporting could be addressed by proactive survey work amongst hard to reach groups, and that the relatively high proportion of incidents being between people known to each other points to a role for mediation. In addition, there was a consensus that police analysis and public reporting of race hate crime should be ongoing rather than ad hoc.

LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT)

During the 12 months to May 2005, Lambeth recorded more reported incidents of homophobic hate crime (131) than any other London borough. This accounts for 10% of the total for London. The borough population comprises just over 3% of the capital and this disproportionality may reflect the location of a growing number of gay facilities and businesses in the borough, in Vauxhall and Clapham particularly.

Policing of LGBT hate crime in the borough has benefited from the appointment of an LGBT liaison officer and an active LGBT forum. This was particularly evident in the reassurance the police were able to offer the LGBT community following the brutal murder of David Morley on London's South Bank on 30 October 2004. CPCG joined many others in commending the police investigation and handling of the incident and called for greater efforts to be put into educating young people in respecting diversity. Sgt Sandy Pepper and PC Andy Hewlett, both of Lambeth Borough Police, obtained £150,000 from Children First Strategic Partnership to fund a programme for teachers and school governors in the borough regarding their responsibilities for bullied children and for raising awareness amongst young people of the issues.

During the year, CPCG was able to contribute to an event (Speak Out!), organised by Lambeth LGBT Forum, at a South London gay venue where public and voluntary agencies addressed the issues of providing for the needs of the LGBT community.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Crimes against people with disabilities are not collated as 'hate crime' in routine reports, though there are many instances where disabled people suffer abuse because of their disability and still more where their vulnerability is exploited as an opportunity for crime. CPCG continues to press for the concerns of people with disabilities to be properly acknowledged and are delighted that a CPCG member (Arulini Velmurugu, Lambeth Towers and Lambeth Road TRA) has been appointed to the London-wide IAG for disability.

Accessing police services can also be a problem for disabled people. Sometimes this can be down to simple, practical issues such as an easily negotiable ramp or a text telephone. There has been good progress through the year in refashioning access to the major police stations in the borough, During the year the Metropolitan Police Authority commissioned a study, by Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD), from which the key findings and action areas formed the basis of discussion at a community conference in October 2004, into which CPCG was able to have input.

ELDERS

Older people are also often the victims of crime as a consequence of their perceived vulnerability, either through frailty or because they are considered to be a 'softer touch' to crimes of deception, given that they may not be abreast of rapidly changing norms of society. They are also more susceptible to anxiety and disquiet as a consequence of low-level, but persistent anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods. Such ongoing anxiety rarely makes the headlines, unlike the brutal murder of grandmother Victoria Adu Mensah in 2003, and yet can be devastating on hard-earned retirement years.

Stop and Search

Stop and Search has long been a contentious power, particularly amongst people in Black Minority Ethnic (BME) communities who are disproportionately represented amongst those stopped. With memories of earlier powers passing down the generations, Stop and Search retains its potential to undermine community confidence. At the same time, the potential of the power to enable police to apprehend criminals, especially with regard to street crimes of widespread public

“It is not the accessibility of a building we are only concerned about; it is the accessibility of the whole service.”

Lambeth disabled resident,

“Disabled people and the police – a new relationship”,
GLAD/MPA

“It is this group, of people stopped and searched but not arrested, who are our first priority, since it is they who are most likely to feel aggrieved, the more so if their experience was not a good one or if they feel they have been unfairly targeted because of their appearance, lifestyle or ethnicity.”

CPCG/Lambeth MPS
Stop and Search Sub-
Group – Submission to
MPA Scrutiny

concern (robberies, use of weapons or drug dealing for example), is recognised by the community. How should we weigh the balance?

In 2003, CPCG and Lambeth Borough Police tasked a small group of police officers and CPCG members to examine the operation of Stop and Search in Lambeth in three key respects.

- Fairness. Is the power being exercised fairly across the community or are some groups being disproportionately stopped?
- Effectiveness. What is the return to the community, in terms of the conviction of wrongdoers relative to the costs, both in terms of police effort and community reaction?
- Respect. Are people being stopped, the overwhelming majority of whom are not arrested, being treated in a decent manner?

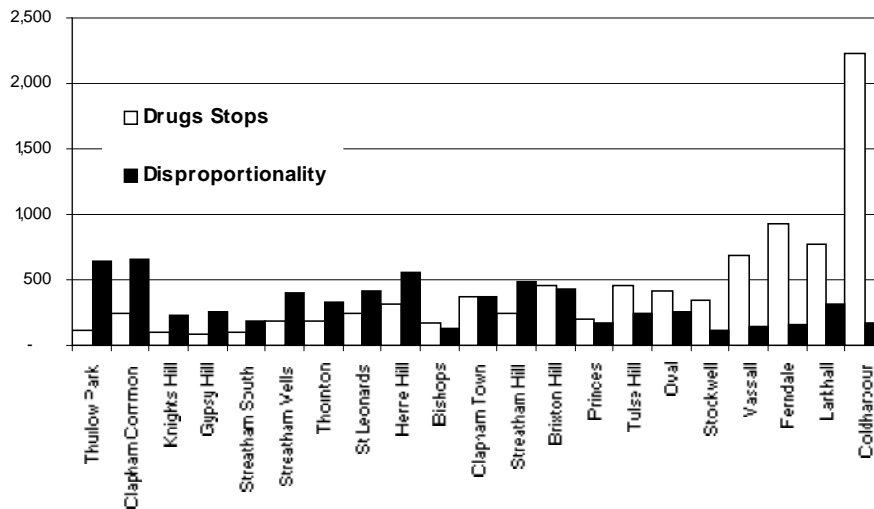
Working with Lambeth Youth Council, who have led on the Respect issue, the Stop and Search Sub-Group has become a model for community police joint working to address an issue of common concern. The work has generated significant and important insights into the operation of the power. Examples are:

- That disproportionality, for the borough overall, in Stops and Searches of BME people is not an arithmetic consequence of there being more Stops in areas with a higher BME population, a commonly held perception. There are more Stop and Searches, but disproportionality is *lower* in those areas. Further work across London has revealed exactly the same effect with boroughs with higher incidence of Stop and Search showing lower disproportionality.
- That gain in actual convictions is small, with only 10% of those stopped and searched being arrested and only about half of those arrests resulting in convictions. Are there other gains that justify the cost?
- The apparent drop in effectiveness towards the end of 2004 was first identified in Lambeth as was its cause – the redesign of the Stop form to accommodate the introduction (in October 2004) of the Lawrence Enquiry Recommendation 61, the recording of Stop and Account.

There is some expectation within the MPS that the formalising of Stop and Account procedures will encourage officers on the street to see it as a valid alternative to Stop and Search, which may progress to a Search only if the officer's judgement indicates. In that way, it's hoped that the number of Stop and Searches may decline without any loss of effectiveness, whilst tensions with the

community are reduced. There is some indication from our analysis that, in Lambeth, this is already happening.

DRUGS STOP AND SEARCHES: DISPROPORTIONALITY IS LOWER IN WARDS WITH HIGHER NUMBERS OF STOP AND SEARCHES



Source: CPCG for Lambeth/Lambeth Borough Police Stop and Search Sub-Group, Drugs Stops, 2003/4
 (Drugs Stops and Searches account for 68% of all Stops and Searches)

The Stop and Search Sub-Group now includes the monitoring of Stop and Account as part of its work which centres round a quarterly cycle of reporting to CPCG, of both routine monitoring and specific investigations. Members of the Sub-group also contribute to London-wide tasks groups which, in a number of aspects, are replicating work started in Lambeth. During the period, a number of presentations and reports have been produced which are available from CPCG or for download from its website.

Mental Health

Lambeth has one of the highest incidences of psychosis in London, and indeed globally. About 40% of people admitted for treatment have a history of substance misuse and 30% have a criminal history. There are also controversial issues relating to the disproportionate admission of people from BME communities into the mental health system and their subsequent treatment.

There are many ways in which the police interact with people with mental illnesses, from attending incidents of disorder, to processing people in respect of drug offences who also have mental health problems and to assisting social workers in removing

“One mother told us about her son who went from a local authority secure unit to Feltham Young Offenders Institute where he tried to hang himself. Hardly out of Feltham he was quickly in trouble and is now hardly ever out of Brixton Prison ...the police have developed an almost fond response to his habitual but petty criminality but neither they nor social services or probation offer support to her as she attempts to care for him at home. She knows that his self-harming is likely to end in death.”

mentally ill people to a place of safety. These interactions place demands on the police, in terms of time, resources and training needs, but can also condition the relationship between the police and a vulnerable part of the community.

In 2004, the MPA instigated a joint scrutiny (with the NHS) into Policing and Mental Health. CPCG formed a Mental Health Sub-Group, whose initial task was to articulate community concerns in Lambeth, to the scrutiny. The Sub-Group drew on a wide basis of knowledge and direct experience in the borough, including that of the police, and made their submission in June 2005. The submission focussed on the sharp end of interactions between people with mental health problems and the police and key points were that:

- Police cells should not constitute a ‘place of safety’ and that systems should be adapted to ensure that the police know when they are interviewing a person with mental health or behavioural problems, which should always be carried out with a properly trained and supported ‘Appropriate Adult’ or Social Worker present;
- Inadequacies in Social Worker cover within the borough, especially out of hours, be addressed;
- The MPS, London Ambulance Service (LAS), NHS and London Boroughs develop and pilot a specialist, multi-agency crisis team to provide a humane, ethical and effective response to individuals who may require Section 136 or 135 of the Mental Health Act, and that the LAS make proper and appropriate provision for transporting people with mental health or behavioural problems;
- Proper support be given, from within the MPS, to police officers dealing with people with mental health problems.

Further details of the submission can be obtained from CPCG or downloaded from the website.

Open Door

It has always been a function of CPCG to provide an ‘open door’ where members of the public can raise issues of concern and currency in a public forum. This provides a degree of transparency for the police not matched by any other public service in the borough. There have been numerous examples of this in the year, including the concerns of the Tulse Hill residents (see above) or disquiet over shootings in West Norwood and the SOS campaign earlier in the year.

Two particular issues were those relating to Sylbert Farquharson and Derek Bennet. The former concerned the return to work of an officer, ahead of any conclusion to an

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) enquiry, who had been described by a civil court judge as having taken part in a “explicit racist abuse in the street and a particularly vicious and cowardly form of racist abuse at the police station”. The issue was addressed in a public meeting with the Chair of the IPCC (Nick Hardwick), the Regional Commissioner for the IPCC (Mehmuda Mian Pritchard) and the then Head of Professional Standards for the MPS (DAC Steve Roberts). The IPCC have yet to report and the issue is ongoing.

Following the ‘lawful killing’ outcome of the inquest into the tragic death of Derek Bennet, who was shot dead by police officers whilst he was wielding an imitation firearm, led to a CPCG meeting addressed by Commander Phillip Gormley of SO19. The concerns expressed at that meeting added further impetus to the CPCG Mental Health Sub-Group and to CPCG’s commitment to see an end to the sale of replica weapons.

(Further details of individual cases brought to at CPCG meetings can be gained from the Minutes of meetings which are available from the CPCG office or can be downloaded from the website).

Policing Resources

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

During the year, the MPS and MPA instituted a major review of the ‘Resource Allocation Formula’, an arcane algorithm by which policing resources (and specifically numbers of officers) are allocated to boroughs. CPCG contributed to this review. Although the formula was substantially modified, the outcome was that for the current year at least, no borough would lose out on allocation whilst none would gain more than 2%.

At the time of writing, the borough has just fewer than 1,000 officers together with a complement of Police Community Support Officers. This is a substantial increase over the past three years, of approximately 18%. However, CPCG still argues for the particular problems of the borough to be recognised in the allocation.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

The introduction of Safer Neighbourhood (SNs) teams has the potential to bring policing much closer to communities on a very local level, and has been welcomed by CPCG. Lambeth now has eight Safer Neighbourhood wards (Clapham Town, Coldharbour and Vassal, Bishops, Ferndale, Herne Hill, Oval and Streatham Wells). A CPCG meeting in May included a session on Safer Neighbourhoods from which raised the following key issues:

- The management of expectations and the need to ensure that resources in other agencies eg the local authority needs to keep pace with the roll out of Safer Neighbourhoods, such that they are able to respond quickly to the extra demands that SNs will place on them. Examples might range from removing abandoned vehicles of graffiti to rehousing vulnerable tenants.
- There should be stability in the police staffing of SN's so that officers had time to build up relationships and gain a close understanding of local issues (the meeting was surprised to learn that joining SN teams is not considered an attractive option within MPS and that recruitment and retention in the teams is a problem);
- That there should be adequate training for officers;
- Any uncertainty over future funding for SNs needs to be resolved so that the roll out can continue and the borough isn't faced with the emergence of 'postcode' policing;
- Currently, there is very little public awareness of who the SN Community Panel members are, how they can be communicated with or what priorities they are setting. Access needs to be opened up
- Local solutions to local level problems need to be consistent with borough-wide policy and strategy and, in particular, any tendency for displacing crime from ward to ward needs to be avoided.

In a number of contexts eg Stop and Search, Domestic Violence and Mental Health, CPCG has expressed concerns about the shortcomings of the plethora of legacy IT systems within the MPS and the poor communications between them.

CPCG has congratulated MPS on the improvements made to its estate in the borough, especially where access to the public (including people with disabilities) is concerned.

Community Safety Audit and Strategy

Under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), the borough's Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP) is required to conduct an Audit of Crime and Disorder and to develop in response a Community Safety Strategy every three years. 2005 was such a year for Lambeth

CPCG supported and assisted the development of the Audit and of the Strategy in a number of ways – in workshops, focus groups, distributing opinion polling questionnaires and so on, and was acknowledged by the then Head of Community

Safety to have had “had more representation throughout the process than any other body”.

For its part, CPCG welcomed the publication of the Audit as providing a new clarity and an evidential basis for policy and planning. CPCG also valued many of the commitments given within the Strategy (eg to the treatment of drug offenders) but expressed a major disappointment in the absence of any substantial response to the problems relating to Young People, highlighted in the Audit, and the failure to coherently address issues of disproportionality in respect of minority communities.

Community Engagement and CPCG’s Development.

CPCG for Lambeth has a long and distinguished history. It was one of the first CPCG’s to follow from the Scarman report into the Brixton disturbances in 1981, and has provided an important forum for consultation between the police and community in Lambeth.

Throughout it’s history it has made innovative interventions whose effects have gone well beyond Lambeth, from the *Lessons from Tragedies* report, through the first Firearms Amnesty, to the current work on Stop and Search. It has benefited from a diversity of talented and committed community activists and police officers working together to address issues of central importance to the well being of our communities.

The commitment of CPCG to fair and effective policing for our communities is undiminished but the context has changed. Key changes have been:

- The history of joint working has changed the climate in which we work ;
- The formation of the Metropolitan Police Authority,
- The institution of the CDRP;
- The emergence of a multiplicity of consultation fora and mechanisms for the police, the MPA and the local authority;
- The national policy position on community safety and engagement;
- The introduction of Safer Neighbourhoods,
- The inadequacy of CPCG’s legal form, given it’s new relationship with the MPA

In this new context, CPCG is undergoing a process of reshaping in order to better serve its core purposes. An option has been developed which will provide for:

“We recognise that effective policing will only be sustained over the long term when it is citizen-focused – responsive to people’s needs and performed as a shared undertaking with the active involvement of the public.”

‘Building Communities, Beating Crime’ Home Office 2004

- A fully open membership;
- A broader and more representative governance, including input from statutory partners;
- The capacity to develop a wider range of engagement opportunities to attract and retain a broader membership base;
- Charitable status and limited liability, to give access to alternative income sources and to put CPCG on a secure legal footing;

Farewells

In February 2005, Chief Superintendent Richard Quinn QPM, left the borough to undertake duties in respect of the Tsunami disaster and was succeeded by Chief Superintendent Martin Bridger. The regard which Dick Quinn had earned during his time as Borough Commander is best summed up by the inscription on a small token presented to him by CPCG at a social event organised for his farewell. It read 'In appreciation of his commitment, accessibility and leadership during his time as Lambeth Borough Commander'.

Jonathan Toy left his post as Head of Community Safety for Lambeth Borough Council at the end of the financial year. The Community Safety Audit and Strategy in themselves are testament to his achievement in the borough and CPCG in particular is appreciative of his efforts and his responsiveness to our concerns.

Joanna Woodd retired as Director of Victim Support Lambeth, also at the end of the financial year. Through her many years in that post she had achieved much for the victims of crime in the borough but she was also a committed member of CPCG whose well informed contributions were always especially valued.

We wish them all three well.

Annual Accounts 2004/5

Income and Expenditure

	£
<i>Notes</i>	
<i>Income 1/4/2004 to 31/3/2005</i>	
MPA - Direct Payment of Salary Costs	31,861
MPA - Grant	15,854
1 LPICV	170
2 Sundry	123
3 Donation	100
	<u>48,108</u>
 <i>Expenditure 1/4/2004 to 31/3/2005</i>	
4 Salary Costs	31,861
Travel	26
Telephone, Fax and Broadband	1,940
Room Hire	1,511
Rent	3,425
Relocation	1,823
Refreshments	887
5 Professional Services	1,995
Postage & Printing	2,362
Office Supplies	2,188
Conference	200
Cleaning	66
Office Equipment	2,994
Sundry	41
<i>Total Non-Salary Costs</i>	19,458
	<u>51,319</u>
 Net (Deficit) Movement in Funds	 <u><u>(3,211)</u></u>

- 1 Contribution of 20% rent for first six months of financial year from LPICV
- 2 Sundry income includes Focus Group costs passed on to MPS, book sale and rebate from BT.
- 3 Personal Donation in respect of Chief Superintendent Richard Quin's leaving event
- 4 Salary costs apportioned 20% to Lambeth Panel of Independent Custody Visitors (LPICV) for the first 4 months of the financial year
- 5 Professional Services include Accountancy, Legal, Insurance and Domain Hosting

Balance Sheet at 31/3/2005

<i>Notes</i>	<i>Current Assets</i>	£
	Cash in Hand and at Bank	4,082
	Debtors: MPS (Focus Group Costs)	105
		<u>4,187</u>
	<i>Current Liabilities</i>	
6	Creditors: J Toohill (Reimbursements)	148
	Creditors: Sussex Spring Water	86
7	Creditor: London Borough of Lambeth (Rent)	850
		<u>1,084</u>
	Net Funds at 31/3/2005	<u>3,103</u>

Balance Sheet Movements

	Cash in hand and at Bank 31/3/2004	7,096
	Debtors at 31/3/2004	2,051
	Creditors at 31/3/2004	(2,592)
	Net Funds at 31/3/04	<u>6,555</u>
	<i>Debtors as at 31/3/2004, Written Off</i>	
8	MPA Outstanding Funding Grant	(998)
9	Sundry Debtors from 2001/2	(87)
	<i>Creditors as at 31/3/2004, Written Off</i>	
10	Prudential Assurance	828
	Net Movement Due to Write-Offs	(257)
11	Understatement of Debtor/Creditor	16
	Revised Funds at 31/3/2004	<u>6,314</u>
	Net (Deficit) Movement from 2004/5 Income/Expenditure	<u>(3,211)</u>
	Net Funds at 31/3/2005	<u>3,103</u>

6	Smart Stamp Subscription	50
6	Cressinghan Gardens Room Hire (Invoice/Receipt awaited)	50
6	Office World	48
7	Office Rent 25 March to 23 June 2005	
8	Resolved without payment	
9	Very old photocopying charge settled in kind	
10	Account (in respect of pension fund) declared closed, with no outstanding debts, by creditor	
11	Actual Debtor/Creditor payment or receipt different from estimate	

19 July 2005

James Toohill
Honorary Comptroller

Accountants' Statement

We have examined the 2004/5 Accounts produced to us (shown on pages 22 and 23), together with the books, vouchers and records produced to us, and report that the Accounts are in accordance therewith.



.....
ANDREW THURBURN & COMPANY
Chartered Accountants
38 Tamworth Road
Croydon
Surrey CR0 1XU

19 July 2005

Appendix: CPCG Activities

Event	Subject	Presenters
July 2004	Lambeth Police Report	Borough Commander
September 2004	Lambeth Police Report CPCG Draft Action Plan	Borough Commander
October 2004	Lambeth Police Report, Stop & Search	Borough Commander Stop and Search Sub Group
November 2004	Lambeth Police Report Racist Incidents Crime on the London's Transport Systems	Borough Commander DI Bruce Lawrence Ch Insp Randy Otter (BTP)
December 2004	Lambeth Police Report Community Safety Audit Gun Crime	Borough Commander Jonathan Toy (Head of Community Safety, LBL) Commander Cressida Dick (MPS, Specialist Crime)
January 2005	Lambeth Police Report Sylbert Farquharson Derek Bennett	Borough Commander Nick Harding (Chair, IPCC) Mehmuda Mian Pritchard (Regional Commissioner for South East, IPCC) DAC Steve Roberts (Head of Professional Standards, MPS) Commander Phillip Gormley (S019, MPS)
February 2005	Lambeth Police Report Community Safety Strategy - Input	Borough Commander Jonathan Toy (Head of Community Safety, LBL) Community Safety Team (LBL)
March 2005	Lambeth Police Report Domestic Violence	Borough Commander Marianna Tortell (DV Coordinator, Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust) Sue Jacobs (Crown Prosecution Service) Anna Tapsell (Lambeth DV Forum) DI Charlie Hodge (Lambeth MPS Community Safety Unit)
April 2005	Lambeth Police Report	Borough Commander
May 2005	Lambeth Police Report Safer Neighbourhoods	Borough Commander CI Nigel Cook
June 2005	Lambeth Police Report Mental Health and Policing Lambeth Community Safety Strategy 2005-8	Borough Commander Mental Health Sub-Group Andy Tarrant (Acting Head of Community Safety, LBL)

Minutes of meetings are available at www.lambethcpcg.org.uk.

APPENDIX: CPCG ACTIVITIES (CONT)

Working Groups

Stop and Search Sub-Group: Since autumn 2003 this Sub-Group (comprising community representatives and Lambeth police officers) has been analysing the performance of Stop and Search in the borough (and latterly Stop and Account), meeting on a monthly basis. Reports and presentations are available at www.lambethcpcg.org.uk.

Mental Health Sub-Group: This Sub-Group was formed in spring 2005. Its first report, a submission to the MPA-NHS Joint Review is available at www.lambethcpcg.org.uk.

Observations

Operations Hermes: CPCG provided two observers, twice monthly for much of the reported year (see page 7).

Diversity Training: Pauline Bower (Nominated Representative for Churches Together in Clapham) has, over a considerable number of years observed and contributed to Diversity Training of police recruits at Hendon. Reports are available at www.lambethcpcg.org.uk.

Stop and Search Training: The Stop and Search Sub-Group provided observers for training given, by Lambeth Youth Council, to new officers coming into the borough.

Major Incident Simulation: CPCG provided a lay observer to a simulation of an underground train derailment with associated terrorist involvement, held at Lambeth North Tube Station in October.

Critical Incident Groups and IAG's

CPCG has contributed to a number of Critical Incident Groups through the year and to membership of Trident IAG and the MPS Disability IAG

Outreach

Throughout the year, CPCG Officers and members have visited a number of fora and organisations in the borough to explain the working of CPCG and to listen to their concerns.

Appendix: Membership

Affiliated Organisations

Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women Dr Brian Mantell, Sid Nathan

Brixton Domino Club Lloyd Leon

Brixton Market Traders Association Stuart Horwood

Brixton Society Doye Akinlade

Churches Together in Brixton Greta Brooks

Churches Together in Clapham Pauline Bower

Clapham Community Partnership David Hart, Ros Munday

Clapham Town Neighbourhood Watch Peggy Tyler, Wally Channon

CressBrock Neighbourhood Watch Gary Dando, John Horrocks

Friends of Brockwell Park Robert Holden

Herne Hill Forum Nick Abengowe

Herne Hill Society Paul Reynolds

Knight's Association of Christian Youth Clubs Maurice Smith

Lambeth Chamber of Commerce David Corderoy

Lambeth Pensioners' Forum Abdul Sultan Virani, Martin Walsh

Lambeth Towers and Lambeth Road TRA Arulini K. Velmurugu, Johny Walker

North Clapham Housing Forum Ade Soetan, Marie Hennelly

St Matthew's Estate TRA Sheila Draper

Stockwell Park Residents Association David Tomlinson

Streatham Common Southside Neighbourhood Watch Anna Hunter

Tulse Hill TRA Kathy White, Rhoda Anderson

West Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association UK Keith Shaw, Rene Webb

West Indian Standing Conference Hedley Johnson

Permanent Members

Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust Harriet Smith, Jean Carpenter

Victim Support Lambeth Jo Metcalfe, Neil Flanigan

Streatham Southern Sector Working Party George Tuson

Brixton Northern Sector Working Party Kathy Valentine

Clapham Sector Working Party John Wainwright

Kennington Sector Working Party Michael Somers, Rosa Wright

British Transport Police Ch Insp Kevin Shanahan, Insp Tim Scott, Ch Insp Paul Crowther

Crown Prosecution Service Sue Jacobs

HM Prison Brixton John Podmore

HM Prison Brixton (Independent Monitoring Board) Most Rev Archbishop Bancroft McCarthy

London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Angela Meader

London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Bernard Gentry

London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Charles Anglin

Permanent Members (cont)

London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Darren Sanders
London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Geraldine Evans
London Borough of Lambeth Cllr June Fewtrell
London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Lydia Serwaa
London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Peter O'Connell
London Borough of Lambeth Cllr Robert McConnell
London Borough of Lambeth Head of Community Safety
MPA Link Member John Roberts
MPS Lambeth Ch Supt Martin Bridger, Supt Andy Tarrant
NACRO Joe Hellawell
Panel of Independent Custody Visitors for Lambeth Lloyd Leon

Individual Members

Paul Andell
Steve Bolarina
Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman
Peter Harris
Lena James
Lee Jasper
Bushy Kelly
Richard Moore
Ann Savage
Cheryl Sealey
Fernando Senior
Wesley Stephenson
Anna Tapsell
Jim Toohill
Jane Warwick

Co-opted Members

Peter Clapton
Shane Collins
Gill Kenealy

Honorary Officers 2004/5

Chairperson: Lee Jasper
Vice-Chairpersons: Paul Andell, Wesley Walters-Stephenson
Chair, Racial Harassment Committee: Rev Canon Ivelaw Bowman
Honorary Comptroller: Jim Toohill

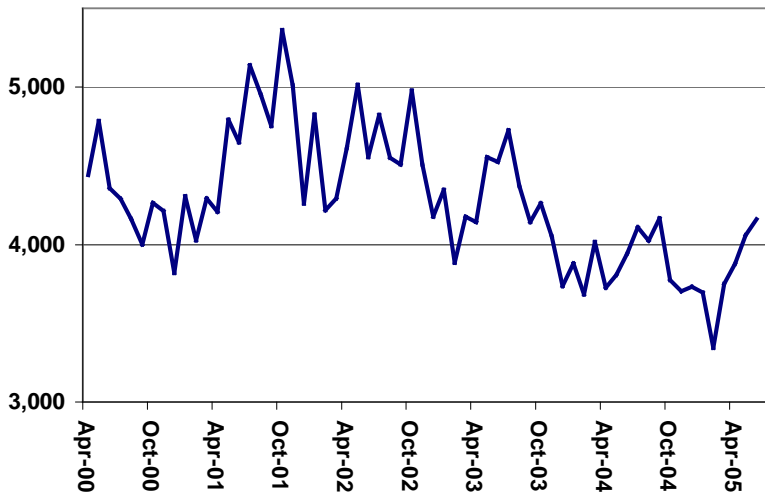
Administration

Secretariat: Ben McKendrick

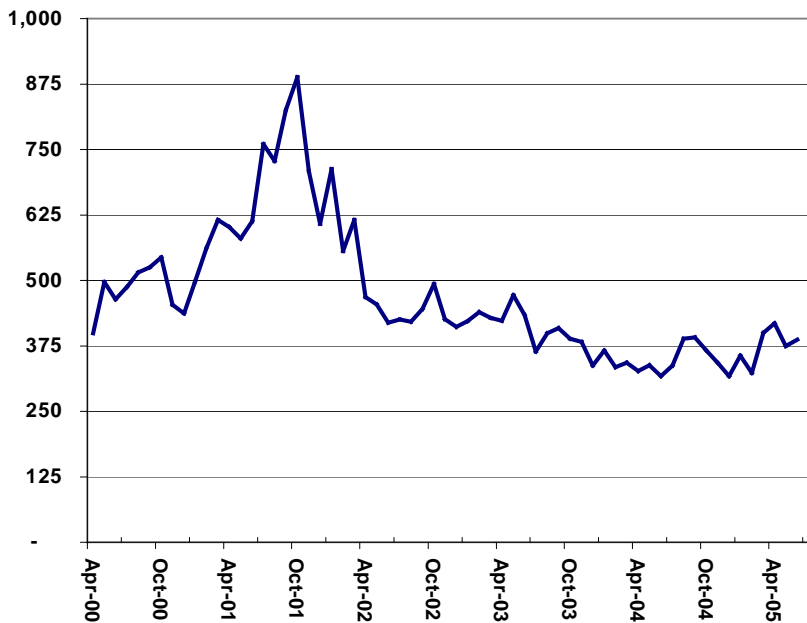
Appendix: Statistics

LONG RUN TRENDS IN MAJOR CRIME CATEGORIES – MONTHLY RATES

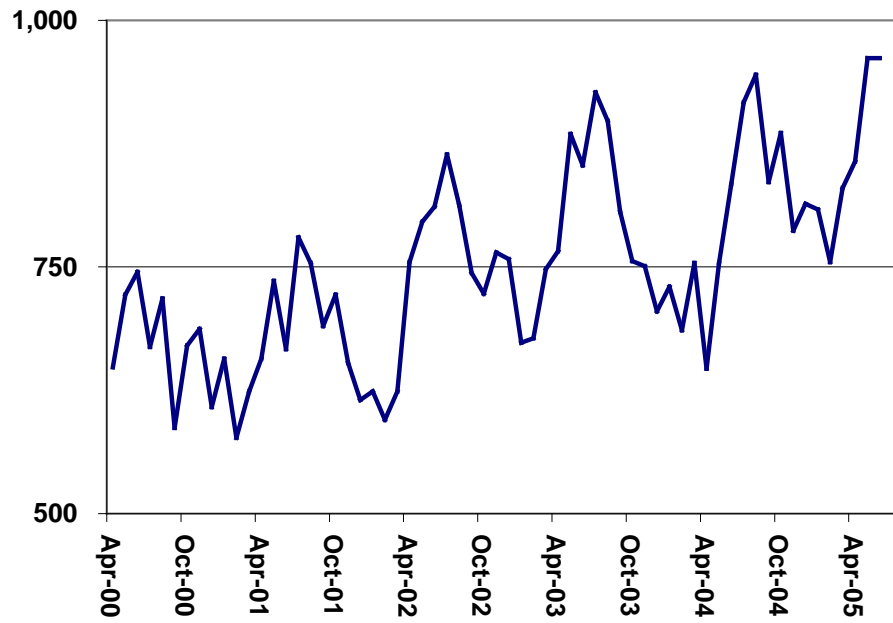
TOTAL NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES



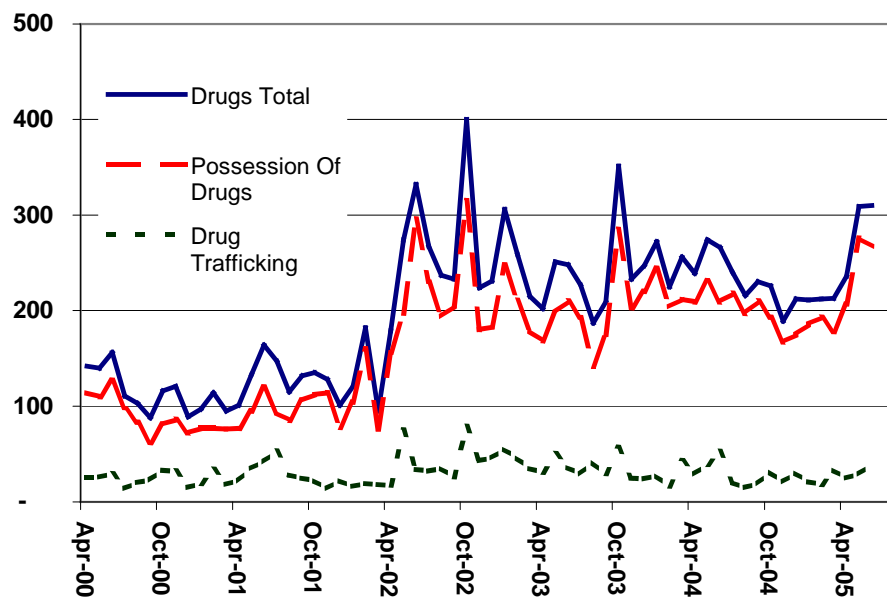
STREET CRIME (PERSONAL ROBBERY PLUS SNATCHES)



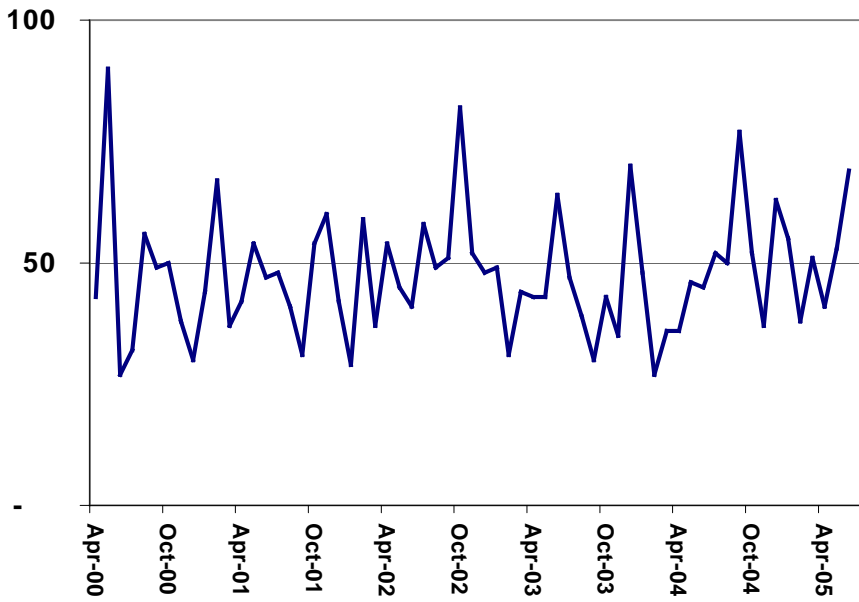
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON



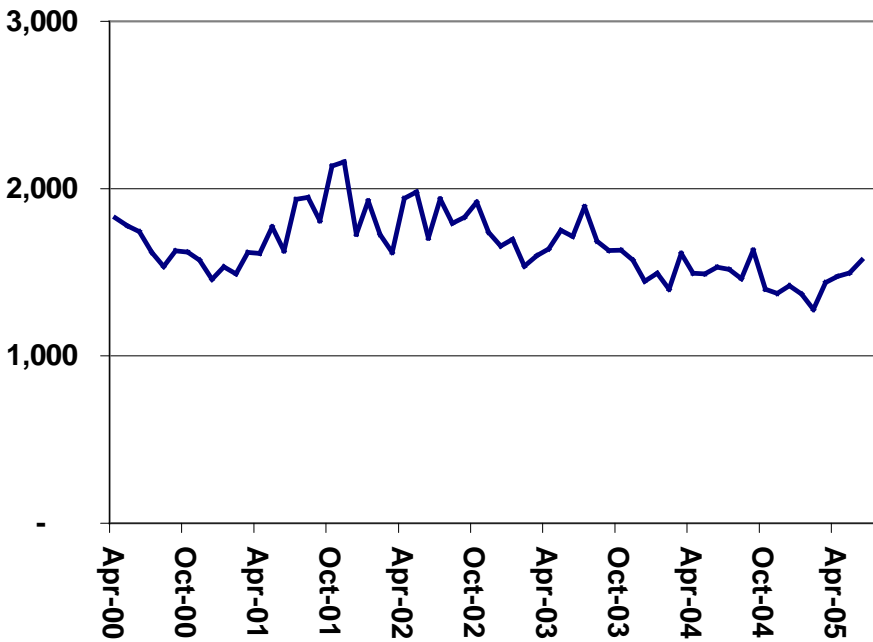
DRUG CRIME



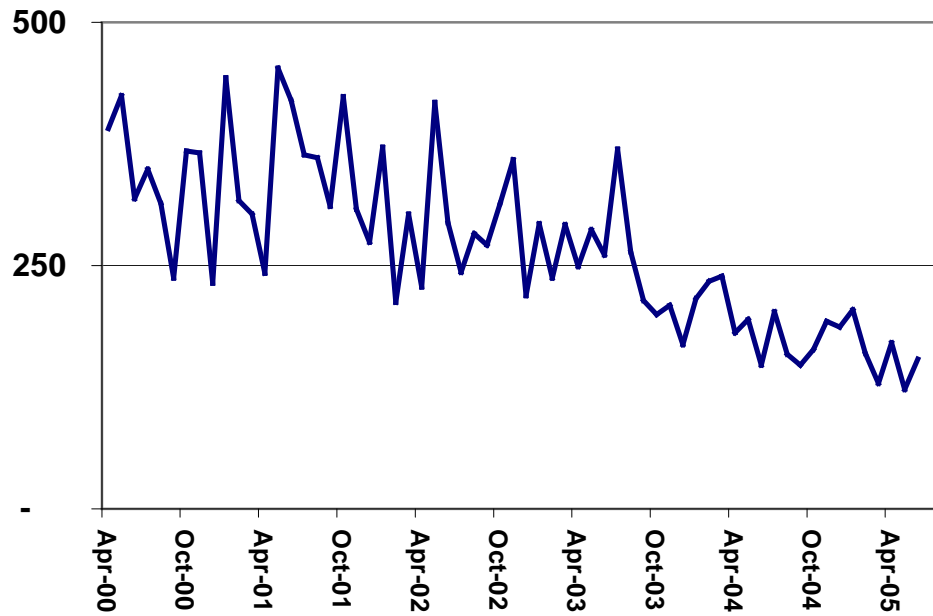
SEX OFFENCES



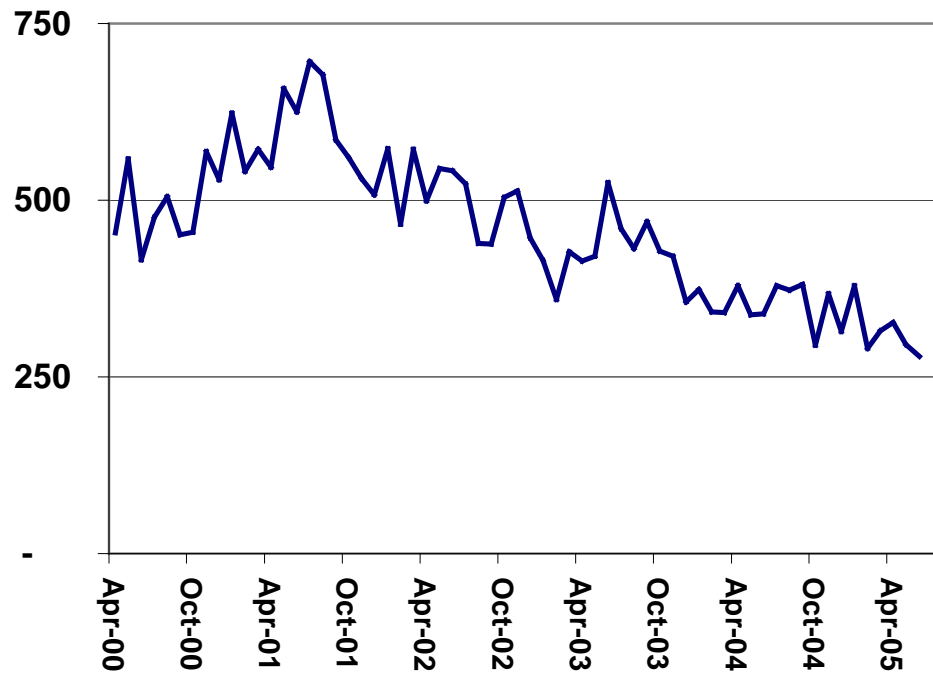
THEFT AND HANDLING



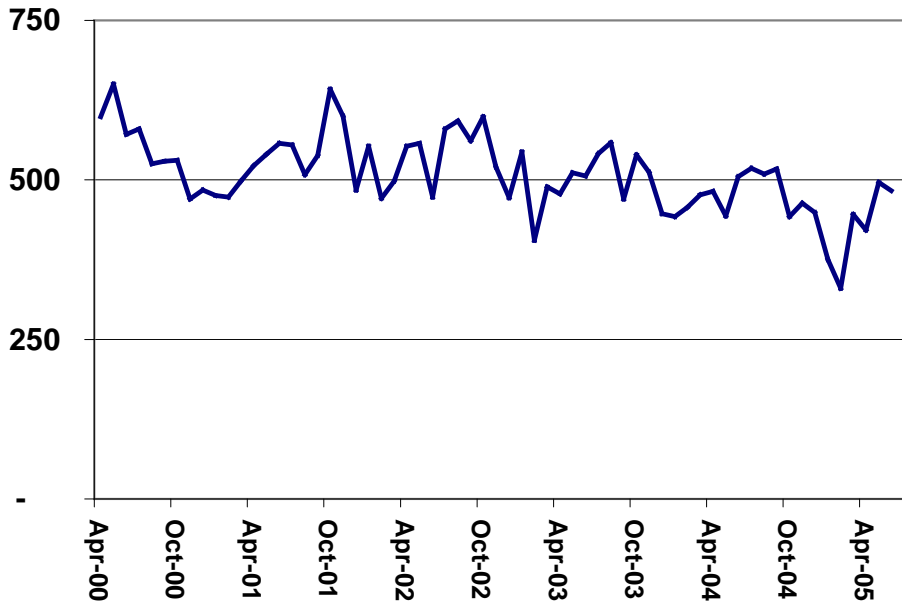
FRAUD OR FORGERY



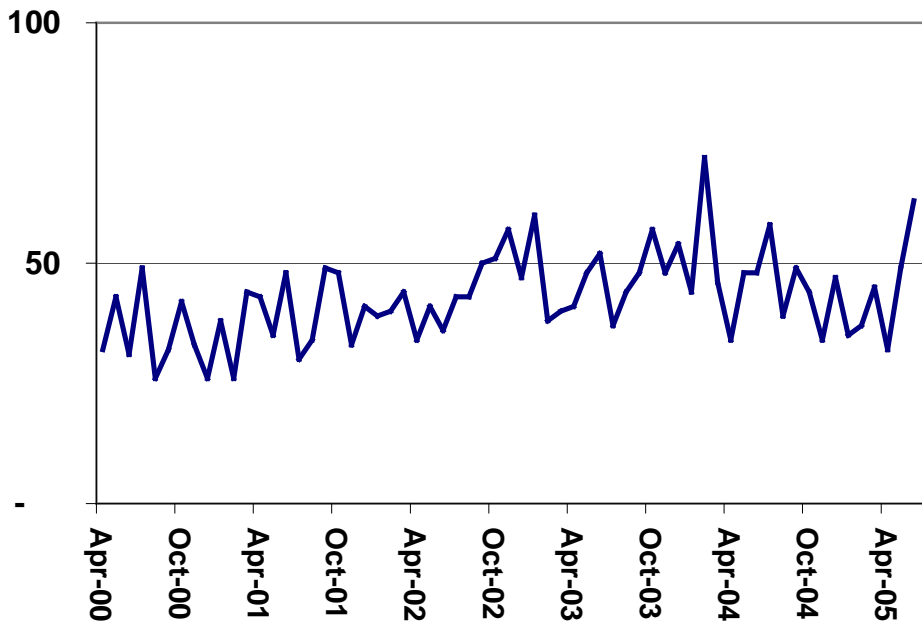
BURGLARY



CRIMINAL DAMAGE



OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES



CHANGE IN KEY CRIME TYPES DURING REPORTING PERIOD (JULY 2004 TO JUNE 2005)

Number of Offences	Lambeth 12 Months to June 2004	Lambeth 12 Months to June 2005	Change	London Wide Change	Lambeth As A Proportion of London Wide, 12 Months to June 2005 ¹
Total Crimes	48,340	46,406	-4%	-4%	4.6%
Homicide	13	6	-54%	-19%	3.6%
Violence Against the Person (Total)	9,259	10,359	12%	10%	5.0%
Rape	140	164	17%	3%	6.3%
Other Sexual	352	474	35%	12%	5.5%
Robbery (Total)	2,998	3,199	7%	2%	7.9%
<i>Robbery (Person)</i>	2,854	3,090	8%	4%	8.1%
<i>Robbery (Business)</i>	144	109	-24%	-24%	4.8%
Burglary (Total)	4,677	3,996	-15%	-1%	3.9%
<i>Burglary Residential</i>	3,524	2,982	-15%	-5%	4.7%
<i>Burglary Non-Residential</i>	1,153	1,014	-12%	7%	2.6%
Gun Enabled Crime	275	276	0%	-4%	7.3%
Motor Vehicle Crime	5,765	5,093	-12%	-11%	3.7%
Domestic Crime	3,162	3,320	5%	6%	5.2%
Racist Crime	413	476	15%	-5%	3.8%
Homophobic Crime	132	129	-2%	-8%	9.4%

Notes: Source – MPS; ¹ Lambeth's resident population comprises 3.6% that of London (2001 Census)

Contact Details

COMMUNITY-POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR LAMBETH

1ST FLOOR, INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

CANTERBURY CRESCENT

LONDON SW9 7QE

T: 020 7733 0878

F: 020 7274 7623

E: admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk

W: www.lambethcpcg.org.uk