

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
for LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

10 JANUARY 2006

**STOCKWELL COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTRE
STUDLEY ROAD SW9**

PRESENT: ACTING GROUP OFFICERS Paul Andell, Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Jim Toohill
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP Pauline Bower
Churches Together in Clapham; Greta Brooks
Churches Together in Brixton; Rod Brown
Lambeth Leaseholders; Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler
Clapham Town N'hood Watch; Stuart Horwood, John Gordon
Brixton Market Traders Assoc.; Dr Brian Mantell
Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women; Ros Munday
Clapham Community Partnership; Paul Reynolds
Herne Hill Society; Abdul Sultan
Virani Lambeth Pensioners' Forum; Marianna Tortell
LCPT; David Tomlinson
Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.; David Warner
Brixton Society INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS Shane Collins; Peter Harris, Lena James; Gill Kenealy, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior, Anna Tapsell
Jane Warwick STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP Sue Jacobs
Crown Prosecution Service; Lloyd Leon
Lambeth ICV; The Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy, Phylis Jackson
HMP Brixton Independent Monitoring Board John Roberts
MPA; SECTOR WORKING GROUPS George Tuson
Streatham Southern, John Wainwright
Clapham LAMBETH COUNCIL Cllr. Darren Sanders, Cllr. Peter O'Connell, Cllr. Lydia Serwaa, Mary Lynch, Lee Hewitson, Lambert Allman, Simon Harding (Head, Community Safety Team), Katy Gibbons
METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger, Supt. Stewart Low (Brixton), Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham), Supt. Alistair Sutherland; Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook (Safer Neighbourhoods), Insp. Steve Ainscough; PC Graham Alldus (LGBT Liaison Officer); Jez
SECRETARIAT Ben McKendrick

Members of the Public who signed in: James Fox; Valerie Ann Geen; Teresa McCaffery; Catriona Robertson

Apologies: Doye Akinlade, Jean Carpenter, David Corderoy, Gary Dando, Sheila Draper, Neil Flanigan, Cllr. Bernard Gentry, Lee Jasper, Bushy Kelly, Chris Lee, Cllr. R. S. McConnell, John Podmore, Cllr. Steve

Reed, Cheryl Sealey, Mehmuda Mian Pritchard, Sally Rance, Insp. Tim Scott, Arulini Velmurugu, Jane Warwick

Introduction

1. Paul Andell asked those present to join him in a minute's silence in memory of former Vice-Chairperson of the Group, Maurice Smith, and his wife Margaret, and also of Ella Frew, an erstwhile Group member, all of whom had passed away in recent weeks. Details of their funerals had been placed in the Group's briefing paper for January (tabled).

Information from Acting Group Officers and Members

2. Mr Andell referred those present to the January Briefing (attached) for further information from the Group's Board.

Minutes of the Meeting 6 December 2005

3. Minutes of the Meeting 1 November 2005 were accepted with the following amendments:

Add to those **Present:** Paul Andell, Canon Ivelaw Bowman.

Minute 47. *Mr Bridger asked Pauline Bower, who had expressed concerns that many crimes went unreported, because of the difficulty in contacting the police, to give further details of the incidents to which she had referred to Inspector Dean Hayden*

Minute 56. *...This he said went against the understanding that the residents of St Agnes Place, the wider local community and the conservation department of Lambeth, that the Unitary Development Plan supported sustainability. He asked that the police investigate the matter.*

Minutes 77. *...Moreover, Ms Kenealy said that she was aware of three incidents involving plain-clothed police officers driving their car in a dangerous manner at youths on bicycles, and in one instance knocking a youth off.*

Matters Arising from the Minutes 6 December 2005

4. A former resident of St Agnes Place, Ram, said that he had attended a meeting at which Lambeth Council offered to assess the needs of the vulnerable with priority housing needs. He added that places such as St Mungo's were mentioned, but when he had contacted them they seemed to be unaware of the issues of those evicted [Minute 62, 06/12/05].

5. For clarification, Mary Lynch, Lambeth Council's Director of Housing, said that there had been a centre for respite care in a church, on the day of the St Agnes Place evictions. However, that had only been made available to other residents not being evicted and not to those who had been evicted. A risk assessment had concluded that a centre for those evicted at the site could have been problematic and that it would be better for them to attend Vauxhall Walk Housing Office as advised.

6. Furthermore, Ms Lynch said that a week before the evictions all residents had been given an advice pack and once again on the day of the eviction. Also, Council officers from the homeless, adult and children services had been available at the Vauxhall Housing Office. Ms Lynch added that the Council's statutory duty was only to house priority homeless people i.e. people with children or pregnant, those over 60 years of age or those suffering

from some form of illness such as mental illness.

7. Ms Lynch said the advice pack contained information of other organisations from whom people could seek advice, although the Council itself had not contacted those organisations, such as St Mungo's.

8. Ram said that there had been no advice offered and that people were being very rudely treated and asked to leave the church. He also said that when they did attend the Homeless Persons Unit upon the advice of Chris Lee, but it was a fiasco and that during this time Mr Lee had taken leave.

9. Ros Munday, who was present at the evictions, said there had been assurances that there would be a centre set up for those evicted, which did not materialise, while she concurred with Ram that two Council officers at the church were extremely rude and gave no advice about attending Vauxhall Housing Office. Ms Munday also questioned the reasoning behind the decision to store property of those evicted in Bristol.

10. Ms Lynch said there had been some difficulty, amongst the confusion during the evictions, concerning where people should go and that some of the barriers to deter people going onto the site were not in place at the beginning of the day. She added, however, that she had not heard previously that people had not been given advice packs, which were freely available. Nevertheless, she apologised for any confusion on the day and those that followed and said lessons had been learned.

11. With regard to the removal of property, Ms Lynch said that

it took longer than planned because there had been far more goods than expected, since it was not known how many people were in the properties due the lack of access for many years. She added that there had been a good deal more than the 50 people who left the site on the day; others having left within the days before the eviction and leaving property behind.

12. In respect of the property left behind, Ms Lynch said that video evidence was taken at each house, as they gained access into them, and similarly at the place of storage. Because of the amount of property, Ms Lynch said that some it was taken to a separate site in Swindon, not Bristol, which was accessible, and some people had made arrangements to have their property returned.

13. Citing difficult circumstances involving unknown issues, concerning people illegally occupying properties for a number of years, Ms Lynch said that the Council had done its best and lessons had been learned. She added that the Council sincerely apologise to anybody who was upset during the time of the eviction and felt that they had not been treated well.

14. Ms Lynch said that one family with children had been re-housed while another family declined the offer of help stating that they had somewhere else to go. Other former residents had attended the Homeless Office in December who, she said, had been treated fairly, i.e. like any other homeless applicant, but were not prepared to wait in the queue. She added that it would have been inappropriate for the project manager involved the

evictions to have been involved in their homeless applications.

15. Lloyd Leon said that the people evicted had not been treated as human beings. Furthermore, he contested the point that the residents were illegally occupying the premises, saying that in the past the Council had given people permission to live there and had paid thousands of pounds to make the houses habitable. He also asked in how many languages the eviction notices had been published

16. Ms Lynch, however, said that what may have happened historically was a different matter, but that all the people who had been living in the properties at the time of the evictions had been occupying them illegally. Ms Lynch said that she did not know in how many languages eviction notices had been published.

17. Paul Andell said that there seemed to be some disparity between accounts of the eviction and that the detailed questions that people wanted to ask were best left to a special meeting that the Group had given an undertaking to facilitate. **He said everyone would be informed as soon as the meeting had been arranged.**

18. In response to Cllr. Darren Sanders, Jim Toohill said that the Group had written to Cllr. Peter Truesdale about attending a special meeting and that he had said he would be happy to do so. The Group was in the process of progressing with it.

19. **In response to Shane Collins, Borough Commander Martin Bridger said that in respect of s44 stop and search figures which he had**

provided at the last Group meeting, New Scotland Yard had informed him the next day that he should not have given those details. Therefore, he not taken matters further as he had said he would. However, he added that he was of the view that he should be able to provide the details locally, and he come back to the Group on that specific issue [Minute 31, 06/12/05].

20. In relation to the proposed central Brixton square, Mr Bridger said that some progress had been made concerning this issue, such as discussions with Simon Harding, Assistant Director, Community Safety, about the lighting in that area in relation to the No Deal initiative. Mr Bridger said he would come back with further information at the next meeting [Minute 32, 06/12/05].

21. In response to Pauline Bower, Paul Andell said that a website address had been included in the minutes at which property could be registered. However, Ms Bower said that not everyone had access to or skills to use a computer and said she wished to know by what other means people could register their property [Minute 80, 01/12/05].

22. In response to David Tomlinson, Mr Bridger said that there had been a problem with cycling on the pavement in relation to street robbery, i.e. robbers on bicycles snatching handbags whilst riding past. Mr Bridger said that this had led to a number of arrests and individuals taken into custody, many of whom were unable to verify ownership of their bicycle. As a result, police had recovered around 100 bicycles across the borough, not one of which, he believed, had been

reclaimed by the person it was taken from.

23. In response to Rod Brown, Mr Bridger said that he could provide details of the number of bicycles reported as stolen, but on average he understood that were about 70 bicycles stolen each month across the borough. He added that perhaps police needed to do more to establish ownership as some them appeared to relatively expensive. Furthermore, he said that police were looking into the issue of marking bicycles before the point of sale.

24. Richard Moore suggested that the cycling proficiency scheme in Lambeth could perhaps be developed further by youngster using the unclaimed bikes at the velodrome in Herne Hill.

25. Further to Mr Moore's comments, Gill Kenealy said that work with Brixton Cycles in conjunction with Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) was to be undertaken on Moorlands Estate with youngsters signed up to a programme addressing issues of crime, belonging and ownership. Ms Kenealy said the young people on the estate taking part, were very much at risk at becoming involved in crime, and that there was a bid on their behalf that could make them beneficiaries of unclaimed bicycles from the police.

26. In response to Lloyd Leon, Jim Toohill said that a letter had been sent to the MPS Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, regarding Kratos policy and a response was still awaited. Mr Toohill said he would chase up a response [Minute 9, 06/12/05].

27. Stuart Horwood commented on the drug dealing and the blight it brought upon Brixton market and surrounding area. He said the message it gave out was that it was a crime area where the criminals ruled. Mr Horwood suggested that a better message would be to advertise the 161 stops and searches and 52 arrests thus far carried out during No Deal [Minute 81, 06/12/05].

28. In response to Paul Reynolds, Jim Toohill said that he understood that Brixton market traders as well as local residents were to be asked to join the No Deal monitoring group.

Lambeth Police Report

29. Mr Bridger gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance during the past month meetings (see attached).

30. Mr Bridger said that up to about five months ago the police and its partner were experiencing some difficulty in respect of crime reduction and there was some worry about how reduction could be achieved. However, he said that by the end of November significant reductions had been made and, although there was still a long way to go, he asked that judgement on performance be deferred until the end of the financial year.

31. In relation to MetCall, a new system that would make it much easier for people to contact the police, which was to be rolled out across London by 8 August 2006, Mr Bridger said if the Group wanted further details he would be prepared to do so at a future meeting.

32. In terms of celebrating the good things that the police and its partners had achieved, Mr Bridger said that he would be looking at ways and means by which they could inform people in a positive way of all the good work that was going on.

33. Paul Andell offered his congratulations to Mr Bridger and his officers for the amazingly high percentage of arrests in relation to stop and search throughout the No Deal initiative, which demonstrated the effectiveness of intelligence led policing.

34. In response to Marianna Tortell, Mr Bridger said that in relation to trying to reduce incidents of domestic violence the police were working in partnership with others and were committed to doing so. However, he added that if there were any other specific avenues or ideas that could be pursued he would glad to hear about them.

35. In response to John Roberts, Mr Bridger said that the money from fixed penalty notices (which are generally issued as a result of disorder) did not come back to the police. On this matter he said that there was work ongoing concerning the number of people who eventually paid their fines while there was also an issue of police filling in the tickets correctly. Mr Bridger said that Lambeth had perhaps been slow off the mark compared to some boroughs in respect of handing out fixed penalty notices

36. In response to Rod Brown, Mr Bridger said that with regard to drink related offences, anti-social behaviour legislation had been used in Lambeth but probably not in respect of banning people from licensed premises. While it was possible

to attach conditions to community penalties, Supt. Sutherland said that landlords still retained the power to ban individuals from their premises.

37. In response to a question from Anna Tapsell (on behalf of Neil Flanigan), Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook said whilst working closely with the outreach agencies that dealt with prostitutes, police were keen to try and break the complex circle that women found themselves in. In terms of enforcement, he said that for the past two years the police have tried to change the emphasis away from focusing on the women supplying services to those creating the demand i.e. kerbcrawlers.

38. While last year's targets had been met in this respect, Ch. Insp. Cook said the main problem faced this year, due to central reorganisation, was that the tactic of using female, decoy officers had not been used as much this year, although CCTV has been used with a modicum of success. Ch. Insp. Cook said in future more data on prostitution would be provided.

39. Anna Tapsell also asked if the Group could consider examining domestic violence figures in different manner, possibly looking at repeat offenders and the relation to gun crime. Now there was much better investigation by the police and more information gathered on the 124d forms used in domestic violence cases, Ms Tapsell said there was an opportunity for greater analysis to be conducted in the future.

40. As far as domestic violence incidents involving firearms, Mr Bridger said that while it would be reported as

a gun crime it would also be picked up as a domestic violence issue. Mr Bridger said that police would consider doing more analysis regarding domestic violence as result of the data gathered on the 124d form.

41. In relation to the murder of Aleksandra Dronjak, Mr Bridger said that an arrest had been made but no charges had been brought. Mr Bridger said that he would update the Group when further information came to light.

42. In response to a question from Stuart Horwood (asking whether Lambeth Council could be held liable for allowing drug dealing in Lambeth run markets), Cllr. Sanders said that he would raise the matter with the appropriate people in Lambeth Council.

43. In response to Shane Collins, Mr Bridger said that the reason why the police detection rate was not higher than it could be was, in the main, due to victims being unwilling to support a prosecution, for reasons such as being frightened or intimidated. While he agreed that police could charge perpetrators without the victim's cooperation, the Crown Prosecution Service still sought a level of support via the victim's evidence in cases of domestic violence.

44. With regard to No Deal, Mr Collins said that he was wary about the demonising of a section of the community and suggested that if drug dealers were aggressive it would be far more likely because people were rude to them, particularly since they had already been demonised.

45. Paul Andell said that in terms of folk devils and moral panic, and the way that matters were reported, Mr Collin's point had already been well made and well researched, but the example given by him had somewhat stretched the point.

46. Lloyd Leon expressed his concerns about the effects of drugs on young people, particularly on their mental health, and that he, therefore, saw no issue in the matter of drug dealers being demonised.

47. Jim Toohill said that the feedback received by the Group via phone calls, e-mails and the website was that people felt a range of reactions, including highlighting belligerent street dealers, a sense of annoyance and feeling threatened. This was perhaps more so from women on their own and those with children. Mr Toohill said that No Deal (for which there was widespread support) was not about demonising people but rather about demonising a behaviour.

48. However, Mr Toohill said that he agreed with Mr Collins on the point of how to keep oneself safe, which was not to respond to belligerence with aggression, and to walk away from drug dealers. Equally, he said that it was important maintain some balance and not to overstate the risk. Some of the recent press coverage might give the impression that people were routinely violently assaulted, simply for turning away from dealers, thereby increasing the fear of crime.

49. In response, Mr Collins said that according to statistics, between 8-10% of the population used cannabis and around half a million were involved in the sale and cultivation of cannabis, and that we could not demonise that size

of the population. Making a comparison with the prohibition of alcohol in the USA, Mr Collins said that prohibition only created a criminal market. According to the Home Office, Mr Collins said that the alcohol industry was a legal drug trade worth £8 billion pounds a year.

50. Mr Toohill reiterated that No Deal was about illegal, aggressive drug dealing in Brixton town centre that irritated and annoyed people whilst intimidating others and gave the impression that the law did not apply there.

51. Mr Collins said he, himself, had been arguing consistently for years to take drug dealing off the streets and into cannabis cafés in order to separate the supply of cannabis from heroin. In comparison, he said that Holland had less than half the rate of heroin addiction to that of Britain. He added that those people with addictive drug habits were responsible for half the crime in Britain.

51. In reply, Mr Toohill said that everyone knew that there were not going to be any cannabis cafés in Brixton in the foreseeable future. In any case, it did not alter the fact that the matter of the drug dealers on the street had to be discouraged.

52. John Gordon, Brixton Market Traders, said that he would like to congratulate the police, stating that ten years ago he would have had between 40-60 drug dealers around his stall every night. Nowadays, he said it was between 12-15. Mr Gordon said that the drug dealers' attitude was to make money any way they could. And if they could not befriend when trying to sell drugs, they would become violent. Mr Gordon invited anyone who thought that

drug dealers were nice people to come and work on his stall.

53. In respect of Safer Neighbourhoods (SN), Mr Collins said that in view of the volume of people using Brixton market, that it should be treated like a Safer Neighbourhood Ward with two or three police officers building up a relationship with the market traders in order to rid the market of Class A drug dealers. Mr Collins contrasted Brixton market with supermarkets that had their own security and a different atmosphere. However, he added that unlike supermarkets, Brixton market comprised of local traders, local jobs and that the money stayed in the area and that therefore it should be supported.

54 In response, Supt. Stewart Low said that he already committed one inspector, three sergeants, twenty-one constables and nine Police Community Support Officers to Brixton town centre while other resources were also being brought. All in all, they had responsibility for the area on a 24/7 basis.

55. Mr Low said that therefore the town centre actually received more resources than the other wards, which was necessary in terms of tackling crime and disorder, and which was why No Deal was special. It was not, he said, about cannabis but the anti-social behaviour, the dealing and all the other crimes that took place there. No Deal, he added, was a multi-agency approach that was long term.

56. Referring to the police staffing levels for Brixton town centre, Mr Gordon said that the figures were an illusion. For example, he said that he had been told that police in the town centre team had been given

training in crowd control and that the officers were a target for abstraction when it came to being called up to assist at football matches and protest marches.

57. As for the drugs dealers in the market, Mr Gordon said that he was a little puzzled, since a number had been operating in the market for a minimum of five years. He said that he wondered why they were not amongst the 52 arrested during the course of No Deal.

58. Mr Gordon said that he was all for the police using resources for No Deal but there was a need for consultation and there were ways of reducing the encouragement of crime in the market area and the town centre. Another point, he said, was the surprising lack of intelligence, for example the use of some premises for drug dealing for the last ten years.

59. Mr Bridger said that the police did need to link in with people, and he offered his commitment to working with the market traders. However, he said that he was of the understanding that they were already linked into discussion about how the partnership was to progress matters and to find a sustainable way forward to achieve a long term reduction of crime. Supt. Low offered to exchange details with Mr Gordon after the meeting.

60. Paul Reynolds said that he had been pressing for the establishment of a Safer Neighbourhood forum to cover the centre of Brixton for some time, since the surrounding ward based forums did not focus on the issues of the market. Mr Reynolds said there was already an embryo of a Brixton town centre forum which needed to engage not only with the police but also with

environment, transport and local residents

61. In response to Lloyd Leon, Mr Bridger said that the police were not the best at branding and marketing their achievements but asked anyone with those skills, and willing to come forward with their views as to how to market the successes of the partnership, to contact him. He added that getting the right message across was a challenge.

62. John Wainwright said that towards the end of last year he commended Lambeth police for the relatively low murder rate in Lambeth. He therefore suggested that the police put out a press release to the local papers stating as much.

63. As far as the flouting of licensing laws by off-licences, perhaps through ignorance born out of language barriers, Mr Bridger said that it was a challenge, and the new licensing/alcohol strategy being put in place would take account of it.

64. In respect of professionals working with young persons who were subject to Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), David Tomlinson suggested that it would make sense if their identities were known to those working with them.

65. In response, Mr Bridger said that there were no restrictions to declaring the names of those subject to an ASBO or ABC, and if police needed to manage that process with local community leaders and those who worked in the community then he would welcome it.

66. Supt. Algar added that names of those in receipt of

ASBOs and ABCs were often publicised in the media and therefore there was nothing secret or private about those subject to them. However, he cautioned that there may be a need to differentiate between ASBOs and ABCs. Therefore, he proposed to come back to the Group with an explanation of the differences that needed to be taken into account.

67. In response to Mr Tomlinson, Mr Andell said that he could go back to Stockwell Park Estate community leaders with what had been the Group's reaction. However, as a note of caution, and before getting carried away with the naming and shaming furor, Mr Andell said that it may have to be balanced against the effects of labeling i.e. that persons labeled in a particular way could behave in a particular way.

68. Mr Tomlinson stressed that it was not the intention for the information to be used to name and shame but to allow those that worked with such individuals to know with whom they were working.

69. Lambert Allman, Lambeth Council Assistant Director, Children and Young People Services, stated that one of his responsibilities was for youth clubs in the borough and one of the things he did in relation to ASBOs was to consult with the different organisations that worked with young people; many of whom would tell workers themselves that they were subject of orders. He also said that workers who had a good relationship with young people should, by definition, know what was going on. Furthermore, he said there were issues about confidentiality and matters which had to be managed in relation to that, while that there

was a point of formally informing.

70. Catriona Robinson, Chair of Stockwell Faith Forum, said that she had recently come across some packs for self reporting of hate crime, for example, Islamophobic crime, faith hate crime more generally, LGBT and domestic violence. Ms Robinson asked if there were any available to be distributed.

71. Marianna Tortell, on the other hand, said that she thought the self-reporting forms were quite appalling, containing many spelling mistakes and inaccuracies, and should not be handed out. Mr Bridger said that if there were issues about the reporting forms he would look into it.

72. In response to a comment from Gill Kenealy about Mr Bridger referring to black on black crime, and how the colour of a perpetrator and victim should not matter, John Wainwright said that he took the point she had made. However, he also said that over the years the Group had increasingly talked more frankly with each other and that he thought it was important that the Group should recognise and talk about black on black crime.

73. In order to counterbalance Ms Kenealy's point, Mr Wainwright said that the use of the term black on black crime could be taken by the black community as a sign that the police were just as concerned about crime in the black community as much as the white community. His point was, he said, one of openness and a demonstration that a largely white police service was doing something about crime that affected the black community

74. Mr Bridger said that when he heard of the fatal shooting the previous evening, his first question to himself was it a black on black crime, which, on reflection, led him to question his own perceptions.

75. *In response to Marianna Tortell, Mr Bridger said that there was a positive arrest policy in relation to domestic violence, but for various reasons, perhaps fear of retribution, some victims did not wish the police to pursue the matter. Mr Bridger said that he would provide figures for positive arrests.*

76. *In response to Fernando Senior concerns about police halting an exhibition at the Betty Moulton gallery in Railton Road, Mr Bridger said that he would look into the matter and report back at the next meeting.*

77. *In response to Cllr. Lydia Serwaa, Mr Bridger said that he would provide figures for how many stops and searches had been conducted around the market area.*

78. Greta Brooks commented that the contribution of those at the meeting had culminated in a wealth of information. And while it was not certain how it would all be dealt with, the Group would work one with each other and slowly but surely make Lambeth a good and happy place where people wanted to live.

79. Ch. Insp. Cook agreed to defer his presentation on Safer Neighbourhoods to a future meeting.

Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

80. Lee Hewitson, Lambeth PAYP Manager, and Lambert Allman, Lambeth Council Assistant Director, Children and Young People Services, gave a presentation, which they had tabled (see attached) on the PAYP scheme in Lambeth.

81. Prior to the presentation, Mr Allman offered to do a wider presentation on youth provision across the borough, as the Council was currently developing a youth strategy. Mr Allman said he would like to consult the Group about a draft youth strategy document in the near future. Jim Toohill said that the Group would be eager to support and assist in the strategy's development.

82. Mr Allman said that it was very exciting time for young people with a Government Youth Green Paper ('Youth Matters') that had recently been published containing significant proposals about how the community to be engaged in relation to young people. As such, he added that it would be a real opportunity for the PAYP to engage the Group in some of the discussions raised by the paper.

83. Gill Kenealy explained her role as an PAYP Individual Key Worker who was able to do very good quality and intensive one to one developmental work with young people, because of the way PAYP operated. Ms Kenealy said that this was not just about providing some activities but also about growth, housing and supporting young people to make changes.

84. Ms Kenealy said that work was carried with young people between the ages of 9-19 years, a wide age range with a diverse range of issues, such as risk of exclusion from school and difficulties at home. The

work also involved trying to make young people feel better about themselves. At the more extreme end of the spectrum, Ms Kenealy said some cases could be very challenging, for example where they involved offending, drug use, possible exploitation, homelessness or young mothers.

85. Ms Kenealy said that there were many stories to tell of how young people were making the most of the opportunities offered to them to turn their lives around.

86. Ms Kenealy said that while referrals to the PAYP came from places such as Social Services, schools, youth clubs and Women's Aid, the majority were self-referred and there was ever growing list.

87. Lloyd Leon asked what was the input from Lambeth Youth Council and specifically what was the representation from BME communities within PAYP. Mr Hewitson responded that the clientele of PAYP were 70% from BME communities as were 15 of the 17 team members. Lambert Allman added that the Youth Council had undertaken a peer review of youth club provision in the borough.

88. In response to Pauline Bower, Lambert Allman said that in terms of a strategy around exclusion, the Young People's Service was currently developing an inclusion strategy and consultation was progressing well. Exclusion, he added, did not just refer to those excluded from school but also those excluded as result of offending or through other types of behaviors. Mr Allman said further information on the exclusion strategy could be provided if wished for.

89. Anna Tapsell congratulated the people working on PAYP

project for their endeavours. However, she said that she would wish to see the family dynamic addressed. She added that there seemed to be a lack of working together with children, adults and families and that she would like to see resources going into skilled family therapy.

90. In response, Ms Kenealy said that Key Workers did work with families and took a holistic approach. Whatever the issues, she said that they tried to work with other agencies as they could not work with children in isolation.

91. In response to Paul Reynolds, Mr Allman said that while he recognised the issue of youths excluded from schools in Lambeth he could not give a figure regarding children out of school in Lambeth.

92. Fernando Senior congratulated Mr Allman and Mr Hewitson for their presentation but said that ultimately it was a matter of resources; the Youth Service within Lambeth had been 'decimated'. What prospect was there of enhanced provision? Mr Allman responded that in the current year, Youth Services had seen an increase in resources where other areas had seen falls. Moreover, if undertakings given were adhered to, there would be further increases in the years ahead.

93. John Roberts asked a series of questions; (1) what was the relationship between the Persistent Prolific Offenders Scheme and PAYP, (2) what had Lambeth's response to the Government's Youth Green Paper been and (3) was there any evidence of crime reduction attributable to PAYP activities. He also noted that Lambeth's Youth Offending Team had been ranked bottom by the

Youth Justice Board league table.

94. Mr Allman responded that he didn't think that Lambeth had in fact been ranked last, that attributing reductions in crime to specific initiatives was very difficult, not least due to the time lags involved. Mr Hewitson pointed out that the project provided detailed (anonymised) tracking data on individual clients as part of it's monitoring.

95. Richard Moore asked if there was any provision by PAYP for supplementary education and warned of the dangers of 'silo working'. He added that the Group should be deeply concerned about John Roberts report of the ranking of Lambeth Youth Offending Team.

96. Mr Hewitson replied that though PAYP did not have resources for after school schemes, there was a grants programme available for the provision of supplementary education.

Any Other Business

97. Paul Andell thanked DI Dean Hayden, who was attending his last meeting, for all the hard work he done in terms of working with the Group.

98. Mr Andell also thanked Greta Brooks and Jane Warwick for their assistance in setting up the meeting and providing hospitality

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**7:00 pm Tuesday
7 February 2006**

**Council Chamber
Lambeth Town Hall**

* Minutes in ***bold italic*** indicate action points