

**Waterloo Action Centre
14 Baylis Road SE1**

5 December 2006

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD Anna Tapsell (Chair), Paul Andell, Shane Collins, Gill Kenealy (Individual Members), Jim Toohill (Victim Support), Paul Reynolds (Herne Hill Society) **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP** Nick Abengowe **Herne Hill Forum**; Jean Carpenter **Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust**; Elizabeth Godowski **Churches Together in Clapham**; Neil Flanigan **West Indian Ex-Servicemen's/Ex-Servicewomen's Assoc.**; Brian Mantell **Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen**; Hazel Sunnders **Victim Support**; David Tomlinson **Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.**; Hazel Watson **Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.**; **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Peter Harris, Lena James, Richard Moore **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP; LAMBETH COUNCIL** Robert Overall (Exec. Dir. Community Safety); Cllr. Kingsley Abrams; Cllr. Mark Bennett; Chris Adamson (LBL Housing); Cllr. Diana Braithwaite; Cllr. Darren Sanders; Cllr. Clare Whelan; Simon Harding (Asst. Dir. Community Safety), Chris D'Sousa (Community Safety Manager); **METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY** John Roberts **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE**: Supt. Alistair Sutherland; Det. Ch. Insp. Steve Ainscough; Ch. Insp. Suzanne Wallace; Insp. Patrick Beynon; Sgt. Ronnie Whelan **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE** Insp. Graham Croucher) **SECRETARIAT**: Ben McKendrick

Visitors: Hannah Barker (Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum); Byron Green (LBL Scrutiny Team); Nicola Joachim (British Red Cross); Anna Long; David Mills; Junior Shabazz (LBL Youth Offending Team); Rosa Wright, **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS PANELS** Lee Alley (**St Leonard's Ward**), John Cox (**Vassal Ward**), Ian Sweeney (**Stockwell Ward**), Sheila and Kevin Philips (**Bishop's Ward**)

Apologies: Doye Akinlade, Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger, Shawn Collick (Stockwell SN Panel), David Corderoy, Brenda Goddard, Maude Estwick, Graham Nicholls, Yvonne Okiyo, David Pritchard-Jones, Fernando Senior, Jane Warwick, Cllr. Christopher Wellbelove, Rosalind Burns (Stockwell Safer Neighbourhood Panel), Caroline Ghazaros (Thurlow Park SN Panel), Robert Hill (St Leonard's SN Panel), Rosalie Lawlor (St Leonards SN Panel) Cllr. Andrew Gibson, Supt. Paul Wilson, Supt. Stewart Low, Det. Supt. John Corrigan

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

Minutes of the Meeting 7 November 2006

Minutes of the Meeting 7 November 2006 were accepted with amendments provided by Jane Warwick.

Matters arising from the Minutes

1 Supt. Alistair Sutherland said that the police were working on protocols that would need to be drawn up to be agreed by everyone before a form of identification for community spokespersons could be produced [Minute 5, 07/11/06]. Ms Tapsell said that the matter had

arisen from the McDonald's shooting and other serious incidents where community figures had endeavoured to assist the police but were unknown to officers at the scene of an incident.

- 2 Supt. Sutherland said the Lambeth's previously poor detection rate had substantially improved over the past month and was currently only 1% below its target for the year [Minute 9, 07/11/06].
- 3 Ms Tapsell said that the Group would be addressing the issue of mentally ill people in police stations at the Group meeting on 6 February 2007 [Minute 66, 07/11/06].
- 4 Following his questions about victim support letters, David Tomlinson said that he had received a very helpful call after the meeting from Inspector Jon Kirkpatrick who clarified matters, enabling him to explain the procedure to local residents. Mr Tomlinson explained the issue had been raised by some residents who felt that it was unnecessary to receive 'letters of deep condolence' when their car had been broken into to steal the radio. At first believed to have come from Victim Support, Mr Tomlinson said that the 'standard letters' were actually from the police telling people to contact Victim Support if they needed help. With so many letters sent out for different crimes, Mr Tomlinson said that he accepted that letters could not be individualised and residents would be satisfied with the police response [Minute 67, 07/11/06].
- 5 Supt. Sutherland said that the Territorial Support Group (TSG) were not in Lambeth for any particular public order problem but had been posted on the borough on a monthly basis to conduct crime patrols [Minute 33, 07/11/06]
- 6 With regard to police response times following the introduction of MetCall, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan read a statement from Supt. Stewart Low. Sgt. Whelan said that for November 2006 Brixton was the best IBO (Integrated Borough Operations) across the MPS, achieving a response rate to "I Calls" of 79.8% within 12 minutes, just below the MPS target of 80%. He added that Brixton averaged 34 "I-Calls", which required an immediate response, each day.
- 7 Gill Kenealy said that Kelly ben Maimon had erroneously stated that children from the Moorlands Estate would not be able to attend the new, nearby secondary school in

Shakespeare Road as they weren't in the schools catchment area. Ms Kenealy said she had since established that the proposed school did not have such a policy. when the school didn't have one.

Information

- 8 Anna Tapsell said that she was glad to be in Waterloo for the present meeting and explained that the Group moved to different venues around the borough as part of its outreach obligations. She said that the next meeting, on 9 January 2007, would be held in the Karibu Centre in Brixton, where issues around drugs would be discussed. At the meeting on 6 February at the South London Liberal Synagogue in Streatham, Ms Tapsell said mental health issues would be discussed and it was hoped that representatives from the Primary Care Trust would be present, not least in view of the situation of mentally ill offenders improperly being kept in police cells, not at the fault of the police, as raised by the Lambeth Independent Custody Visitors at the last Group meeting. The February meeting would also look at LGBT issues in policing.
- 9 A monthly information Briefing paper was tabled.

SLP –Community Safety Strategy Update

(Powerpoint presentation attached)

- 10 Simon Harding, London Borough of Lambeth (LBL) Asst. Director Community Safety, said that the Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) was a statutory functioning body, the result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which made tackling crime a matter for the local authority and other agencies as well as the police. Mr Harding said that the SLP Board was therefore drawn from a number of organisations, amongst them the LBL Chief Exec., Lambeth Primary Care Trust Chief Exec., MPS Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade Borough Commander, HM Prison Brixton Governor, LBL Executive Directors for Environment, Culture and Community Safety, Children and Young Peoples Services and Lambeth CPCG Chairperson.
- 11 Mr Harding said below the SLP Board, which was the strategic, overarching group, there was a LBL officers led Executive which drove forward performance and delivery. To take forward key areas of work. Mr Harding said that there were seven, themed Joint Action Group looking at Drugs and Alcohol, Young People, Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Hate Crime and Victims and Witnesses, Anti-Social Behaviour and Liveability, respectively. Mr Harding also illustrated the other ways in which partners worked together, through the area based Community Safety Partnerships in each of the five Town Centres, the Safer Neighbourhoods or stand alone groups such as the Persistent Prolific Offenders Steering Group, for example.
- 12 Mr Harding said that the SLP also had the function of being part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA), a new way of linking central government with local government and the latter with the people to deliver around a number of key priorities identified in the Community Plan. From this, Mr Harding said that four block groupings of work had been identified which would work on a series of outcomes, targets and priorities in order to deliver the LAA. Over the next two years, Mr Harding each block would receive funding and put together he said it represented the LAA, which had to be signed off by the government. One of the blocks, Safer and Stronger Communities, he said was the responsibility of the SLP.
- 13 Mr Harding highlighted a list of funding streams which the Community Safety Division currently worked with, including grants from Building Safer Communities, Neighbourhood Renewal Funds and MPS Borough Command Unit funding for dealing with issues such as domestic violence, drugs, violent crime and anti-social behaviour. As part of the LAA, Mr Harding said that all the disparate funding streams were being pulled together to create one funding stream, Safer and Stronger Communities.
- 14 Before taking questions from the floor, Ms Tapsell said that although she was on the SLP board it was the first time anyone had explained the Partnership's role and work in a coherent manner. Mr Harding agreed to provide a hard copy of his presentation so that it could be distributed. Ms Tapsell said it would also allow people to better understand the funding streams and the complexity of bureaucracy in accessing them, and to whom the Partnership was accountable.

- 15 In contrast to Mr Harding's view about undertaking more research into gangs, Gill Kenealy said that she thought there was already great deal of research into gangs available. She said that money would be best spent on putting specialist providers to develop programmes in schools where there were concerns about young people turning up 'wearing colours' and becoming involved in fights and rows. In relation to prostitution, Ms Kenealy said that the borough had lost an organisation called Safe Space which provided a space for young 'working women', some as young as 12 years old, and some money needed to be put into that area of work.
- 16 Mr Harding said that one of the problems the SLP had was that funding was too often short term and part of the downside of funding of programmes from central government was that projects ended too quickly. However, Mr Harding said that the SLP wanted to build on the evaluation of the previous gang intervention programme and put in place a programme that would be more enduring than one year. Going into a two year LAA, Mr Harding said that a need to keep the programme going had already been identified and it would therefore be funded a further two years. He said that the approximate funding on a yearly basis would be around £350K to pay for gun crime coordinators but mostly fed into the voluntary/Third Sector to deliver specific programmes for 50-100 key individuals each year.
- 17 In terms of an evaluation of the first year, Mr Harding said that a evaluator, probably a criminologist, was being sought.
- 18 In respect of research about gangs, Mr Harding that he often heard that there a great deal of information 'out there' about why people joined gangs, which was partly true, but there were specific issues around gangs across the whole of south London. For example, he said that there were cross border issues with Southwark, Wandsworth and Lewisham, with whom discussion was taking place with a view to seeking funding from the Government.
- 19 Mr Harding said he had not been aware of Safe Space, although it sounded like a good programme. While he said that he would be happy to look into the provision for prostitution he added that presently much of that kind of work was picked up by substance misuse programmes.
- 20 In respect of the SLP, Richard Moore said that he was surprised that British Transport Police were not members, considering that many drugs in the borough were brought in on public transport. Mr Moore also urged that the minutes of SLP meetings should be made public.
- 21 In response, Mr Harding said that it was a regret that the SLP Board minutes had not thus far been published, which he said was partly due to the website not being up and running in the appropriate manner. With regard to membership of the SLP Board, Mr Harding said that within many such Boards there were some gaps, but that while organisations like British Transport Police did not sit strategically at the top table they were involved at other levels such as Joint Action Groups (JAG). For example, he said that anti-social behaviour (ASB) on public transport was perhaps best expressed on the ASB JAG. In respect of not having the remit for everything concerning crime and disorder in Lambeth, such as the Youth Offending Service and domestic violence, Mr Harding said that he was the main contact for community safety and that he and his team would be happy to direct people to the relevant services.
- 22 In terms of the success rate of drug treatment programmes, some of which, Mr Moore had said, had a 98% failure rate, Mr Harding said that most people acknowledged the difficulties such programmes had but said that the matter would best be addressed by Megan Jones, the borough Drug and Alcohol Action Team Coordinator, at the Group meeting on 9 January.
- 23 On the matter of meeting the target of a 20% reduction in crime by 2008, about which Mr Moore said success could lead to a reduction in funding, Mr Harding said that not to succeed would be a failure for the whole SLP, not just the police, as well as for the community.
- 24 In response to Mr Moore, Robert Overall, Exec Dir. Environment, Culture and Community Safety, said that Council Officers had been challenged by Lambeth Council's administration to provide evidence on the Council's Warden Scheme performance and delivery of key outcomes, and the long term viability of funding wardens. Therefore, he said, an extensive review of the Warden Scheme structure had been undertaken as part of the edict featured in the Council's corporate plan and an options appraisal concerning wardens would be delivered to the Council Cabinet for it to make a decision in

January. In response to Ms Tapsell, Mr Overall said that the Council would consider where else it could spend its money if it decided not to pay for wardens. He added that funding streams that had paid for wardens thus far were short term and unsustainable.

- 25 John Roberts said that he personally thought that the synergy between Safer Neighbourhood (SN) teams and wardens hadn't worked and that the warden scheme wasn't particularly effective in Lambeth and couldn't see where they sat in terms of enhancing community safety. Therefore, he said that he would be urging the Council to look at better funding for SNs and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).
- 26 Arulini Velmurugu said that the Community Safety Strategy had failed to include the disabled and the elderly and crimes committed against them. She said elderly people were being abused in their homes and were socially excluded while the Council never looked into it or reported it and were unwilling to touch on the subject. Mr Harding said he thought that the issues of fear crime and violence against the elderly and disabled had not been picked appropriately or thoroughly. However, he said that it was intended that such issues would be covered by the Council's Hate Crime Strategy, which also included hate crime against the street population and homeless people.
- 27 Mr Harding apologised for not specifically mentioning the disabled or the elderly in his presentation but said that such issues were central to the Council's work, which by law was required to undertake an impact assessments. Therefore, he said, the Council had to rigorously assess its own work against lists and tables of equalities issues and that he could guarantee that all the strategies, on which the Council worked, would go through that process, as would the LAA.
- 28 Ms Velmurugu said that the warden employed around Lambeth Towers did make a difference in terms of reducing ASB and when the wardens stopped walking around the estate the problems returned.
- 29 Paul Andell said that he was encouraged to hear about the more joined up approach between the local authority and the police service and asked if it had been extended to other partnerships in the borough, such as the Lambeth Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Criminal Justice Board. (CJB), and whether there were any formal structures and processes in place to address specific issues such as domestic violence, Priority Persistent Offenders and gangs. Mr Harding said that the local authority and the police were on both the LSP and CJB, which led to a level of partnership working.
- 30 With regard to the LSP, Mr Harding said the SLP had a vertical relationship with it and therefore issues concerning it were encumbent on the SLP. However, he said that the CJB, which included the courts, Probation Service and the Governor of Brixton Prison, worked slightly differently, and that it would perhaps be a valuable exercise to invite CJB representation to a meeting for an account of how the CJB worked.
- 31 Under the new LAAs from April 2007, Paul Reynolds said that the LSP would receive substantially increased budget of £70 million, which would be split between aligned and pooled funding. Mr Reynolds asked if there were any safeguards to ensure a reasonably equitable distribution amongst the most significant switches of funding from, for example, the Third sector to public sector. Mr Harding said that much of the pooled money was not new money but over the next year or two there would probably be a greater opportunity to have more pooled money than aligned money. At the moment, he said that the aligned money was needed to fund personnel, staff and projects that were running, and which could not just be dropped. However, over the next two years he envisaged robust decisions being made with the LSP setting the direction.
- 32 Mr Harding said that although he could not guarantee that the Third sector would not lose out on funding he hoped it would not be the case, as it was very much part of the delivery of the LAA. Throughout January and February, Mr Harding said a series of workshops would be held about how the LAA would be delivered and the local voluntary and Third sector would be very much part of that. In terms of safe and stronger communities, Mr Harding said that there was a whole section around increasing volunteering, improving active citizenship and community engagement, which would be driven by Lambeth Voluntary Action Council and the Community Empowerment Network.
- 33 In terms of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, Jim Toohill said that it could be a powerful

- lever for communities, as the Council had to comply with the law in terms of considering crime and disorder in all its decision making. He said that the Council was training its officers in S.17 and had kindly offered to provide a trainer for members of the community at 6.30 on 25 January at the Karibu Centre, Gresham Road, Brixton SW9.
- 34 A member of the public, Grace McCann, expressed her concerns about anti-social behaviour around her estate and also activities centred around McDonald's in Brixton
- 35 In response to Ms McCann, Mr Harding said McDonald's had suffered an unfortunate experience in the past couple of months which had impacted on the staff and the people who witnessed the shooting there, and many people's sympathies lay with them. He said that many young people used McDonald's as a meeting place and as a venue for getting together. Wherever that happened, he said, there were going to be specific issues and some young people used the place after having successfully shoplifted to change their clothes.
- 36 Mr Harding said work was ongoing with the manager of McDonald's, the Regional Director and the Regional Security Director and, on 7 December, they would be meeting with local businesses and Robert Overall to discuss business crime, including the expansion of Lambeth Business Against Crime (LBAC), a specific Home Office initiative. In respect of the upper rooms, Mr Harding said that the manager of McDonald's had offered them to LBAC for their use and this was being taken forward. Mr Harding said he would talk to Ms Gann about the problems on her estate outside of the meeting.
- 37 In response to Ms Kenealy, Mr Harding said that he would ask Chris Adamson to give advice on transfers for victims of crime. However, for his part, Mr Harding said he would raise the issue, which seemed to be coming more to the fore as a result of critical incidents in the borough, with the Victims and Witnesses JAG.
- 38 Chris Adamson, LBL Housing Manager, Brixton Central, said the issues regarding rehousing via a transfer were difficult. While Lambeth had an emergency housing system and cooperative transfer arrangements with other boroughs, he said every borough wanted to sort out its own internal housing problems before working with its neighbouring boroughs. Mr Adamson said he would talk with the member of the public seeking an emergency transfer, who was accompanied by Ms Kenealy, outside of the meeting.
- 39 John Cox (Chair, Vassal Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel) pointed out that while Councils had reciprocal arrangements with other local authorities, they also had similar arrangements with housing associations.
- 40 In response to Mr Reynolds, Ms Tapsell said that the matter of the attempted suicide on Tulse Hill Estate would be raised at the next Group meeting.
- 41 Cllr. Darren Sanders, LBL Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, said a scrutiny into the the Wardens Scheme was running parallel with LBL Administration's review. Cllr. Sanders said that there were various funding streams for wardens e.g. in Clapham Park through regeneration money, in West Norwood as condition of a Section 106 agreement for Elm Green School and in Streatham via Home Office funding for St Leonards Ward. Cllr. Sanders said that the both the scrutiny and Administration's review wanted to see how the local authority dealt with visible reassurance across the borough. He said that the Scrutiny Commission wanted to consult over the next few months and the CPCG was a good place to start. It was agreed that the CPCG would facilitate a meeting for the public to give its view about wardens, park rangers and Safer Neighbourhood teams, and also assist in electronic survey.

Lambeth Police Report

- 42 Supt. Alistair Sutherland gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance since the last Group meeting (see attached). (The statistical police report had already been circulated and was tabled.)
- 43 Supt. Sutherland highlighted the point that, compared to last year, there had been 2874 fewer victims of crime in Lambeth, including 180 fewer personal robbery victims.
- 44 Mr Tomlinson asked Supt. Sutherland if it was possible to be provided with statistics concerning the response time for original calls to police made to the switchboard operator, as there were complaints from people about being put on hold before getting through to the police.

- 45 Supt. Sutherland said that the performance in terms of answering calls had been poor and targets had not been met. However, he said that Asst. Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur had since taken action and ensured that the staffing levels in the information room were sufficient to make an improvement. Unfortunately, he said, the knock on effect had been that staff from Lambeth and other boroughs were spending time answering calls at New Scotland Yard. Supt. Sutherland said it was a temporary measure while recruitment was taking place on but the improvement in performance in answering calls would continue. Supt. Sutherland said he would try for the next meeting to provide statistics for the last quarter performance in that area.
- 46 Supt. Sutherland said there was an issue about switchboard operators keeping people on hold if there was not a police telephone operator immediately available to pass the call onto. Insp. Patrick Beynon added that when switchboard operators passed on calls to emergency services they were not allowed to disconnect the call until they had received a response from that service.
- 47 John Roberts said there were three MetCall centres in London and he would invite ten people from the Group to visit the Lambeth MetCall Centre in the new year. Ms Tapsell said the MetCall issue would remain on the Group's agenda until it was satisfactorily understood.
- 48 In response to Ms Velmurugu's concerns said that Bishops Ward had one less SN PCSO than it should have, Supt. Sutherland said that one of the PCSOs had been temporarily transferred to other duties, which he would be reviewing himself, but was not a matter that was at liberty to discuss. However, in relation to the Bishops SN team as a whole, Supt. Sutherland said that Bishops had been the most successful in the borough in terms of reducing violent assaults and robbery by 25% and 34% respectively. Supt. Sutherland also said that with 80% of tourists to London visiting the South Bank he would be making a business case to New Scotland Yard to increase the number of officers in Kennington and in Bishops Ward in particular.
- 49 Ms Tapsell said that she thought with the wealth of South Bank employers that they themselves would pay for officers to service the area.
- 50 In response to John Cox (Chair, Vassal Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel), John Roberts said that each SN Ward Team had been allocated £1000 for publicity, accessed through the Borough Commander via Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook and he couldn't understand why there was any problems getting it. Mr Roberts that he had also allocated a further £6000 to produce a Lambeth-wide SN newsletter to be delivered to every household in the borough. Mr Roberts said that if there had been some difficulties in rolling out SNs in terms of identifying office space and acquiring equipment but to date they had showed themselves to be a success in helping reduce crime. He added that anyone who had issues concerning SNs to write to him personally at the MPA. In terms of administration, Mr Roberts said he was sure there would be someone who would volunteer to take minutes of meetings.
- 51 Supt. Sutherland concurred that the money for SNs was available and said that if there was a blockage in terms of accessing it he should be made aware.
- 52 Mr Moore said that in his ward the Lambeth Crime Prevention Panel were developing a partnership with the SN team through which applications for funding could be made for suitable schemes.
- 53 Mr Toohill said that CPCG were pulling together a small team from Safer Neighbourhood Panels to develop ideas for joint working around communications issues.
- 54 Insp. Beynon informed the meeting that a full-time Lambeth volunteer coordinator, Caroline Chase, had been employed and he said he had been very encouraged by the attendance of prospective volunteers at open evenings at police stations. Insp. Beynon said that the areas they had been prioritising were assistance at the front office and assisting the SN teams. Insp. Beynon said that he would supply Caroline Chase's contact details to the Group.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. 00 p.m. TUESDAY, 9 January 2006

Karibu Centre, Gresham Road (opposite Brixton police station), Brixton SW9