

South London Liberal Synagogue

Prentis Road Streatham SW16

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell, Chairperson (Ind. Memb.), Canon Ivelaw Bowman (Ind. Memb.), Gill Kenealy (Ind. Memb.), Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Pensioners Forum); Jim Toohill (Victim Support) **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY:** Nick Abengowe (Herne Hill Forum), Rod Brown (Lambeth Leaseholders Forum), Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town N'hood Watch), Elizabeth Gibson (Churches together in Clapham), Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Association), The Most Rev. Dr. Bancroft McCarthy, Phyllis Jackson (HMP Brixton, Independent Monitoring Board), Brian Mantell (Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen), Hazel Saunders (Victim Support Lambeth), Keith Shaw (WIESA), David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.), George Tuson (Streatham Common (Southside Neighbourhood Watch Assoc.), David Warner (Brixton Society), John Wainwright (Clapham Sector Working Party), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.) **MEMBERSHIP INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Peter Harris, Lena James, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior, Jane Warwick **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP:** Lloyd Leon (Panel of Independent Custody Visitors for Lambeth) **LAMBETH COUNCIL:** Derrick Anderson (Ch. Exec.) Cllr. Pav Akhtar, Cllr. Florence Nosegbe, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, Cllr. Helen O'Malley, Cllr. D. K. Marchant, Simon Harding (LBL Asst. Dir.) **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Ch. Supt. Martin Bridger QPM (Borough Commander), Supt. Stewart Low, Supt. Jonathan Tottman, Det. Ch. Insp. Patrick Beynon, Insp. Peter O'Donnell, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan **SECRETARIAT:** Ben McKendrick

NON-MEMBERS: Ann Donoghue (LBL Adult Services), P. Fisher, Patrick Gillespie (SLaM), Anthea Gordon Davidson, Lulu Gravergaard (LBL), Peter McDonach (Streatham Hill SN), James Odularu, Catrioana Robertson (Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum), Beryl Saunders, Leon Watson (South London Press), Ruth Woodcraft (Streatham South SN)

Apologies: Cllr. Kingsley Abrams, Chris Adamson, Doye Akinlade, Kevin Barton, Cllr. Mark Bennett, Supt. Ellie Bird BTP, Jean Carpenter, Neil Flanigan, Cllr. Neeraj Patil, Cllr. Steve Reed, Paul Reynolds, Cllr. Peter Robins, Cheryl Sealey, Clive Simmonds, Cathy Valentine, Arulini Velmurugan, Cllr. Clare Whelan

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

Information from Board/Group Members

1. Anna Tapsell welcomed Patrick Gillespie (Service Director, South Lambeth and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust), Ann Donoghue (Adult Services, LB Lambeth), Derrick Anderson LB Lambeth Ch. Executive), and Hayley and Jerome, two members of the CPCP Youth sub-Group, to the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting 9 January 2007

2. Minutes of the Meeting 9 January were accepted with the following amendment: Add John Frankland to those present.

Matters Arising from the meeting 9 January

3. Youth sub-Group member, Hayley, informed the Group that since the last Group meeting

she and Jerome had been organising a promotion day for the sub-Group, and also planned to meet with Nacro (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders) in respect of a Stop and Search Schools pack, a resource for schools funded by the CPCG.

4. ***In relation to police endorsed ID for community spokespersons, Supt. Paul Wilson said that he had a draft document to share with the Group's Board [Minute 4, 09/01/07].***
5. Jim Toohill said that since the last Group meeting, Lambeth Council's wardens schemes would, except on the South Bank, cease to exist as of 1 April 2007. Instead, around £400,000 p.a. would be given to the MPS to fund 21 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Mr Toohill said this raised questions about whether the PCSOs would be used a separate resource for problem areas or spread across each of the Borough's wards, and whether, after the first year, they would continue to remain as an additional resource and kept out of the MPS Resource Allocation Formula (RAF).
6. Supt. Wilson said that the police were in negotiation with the local authority about how the PCSOs would be deployed and that in respect of their addition to Lambeth resources, they would not affect the RAF for Lambeth [Minute 9, 09/01/07].
7. Supt. Wilson said there was an expectation by the police that there would be a two year commitment on behalf of the Council for funding for the additional PCSOs after which they would be mainstreamed. Ms Tapsell said it appeared that Lambeth residents would be paying twice for police.
8. For Lloyd Leon's clarification, Borough Commander Martin Bridger said that a DNA swab was taken when a person was arrested (for a 'trigger offence') and not upon being charged. Mr Leon said that he realised this was a government directive and he wondered if the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, had to give a sample when questioned by police [Minute 19, 09/01/07].

9. Stuart Horwood said that he would welcome a debate involving the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Magistrates Courts to look into the problem of repeat offenders in relation to drug dealing, particularly in the Brixton Market area. He added that he would like to see regular attendance by the CPS at Group meetings [Minute 20, 09/01/07].
10. In respect of Stop & Search, Mr Toohill said that an update to Group had been scheduled for the Group's May meeting (Briefing Paper February 07, tabled) [Minute 25, 09/02/07].

Lambeth Police Report

11. Mr Bridger gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance for the year to date (see attached). The statistical police report was tabled.
12. In addressing the long term problem of gun crime in Lambeth, which in the main concerned the young, black community, Mr Bridger said that Lambeth police continued to do the extra, innovative work it had started, and he said that the sad and tragic fatal shooting of James Smarrt-Ford at Streatham Ice Rink on Saturday, 3 February, was a step backwards from the good work going on.
13. In relation to terrorism, Mr Bridger said that a great deal was being done in partnership in the borough, and Lambeth had been chosen to be one of two pilot schemes in the country, alongside Preston, on behalf of the Home Office. Mr Bridger said that he would provide further details at a future date.
14. In terms of crime reduction, Mr Bridger said Lambeth's performance was going very well and the borough was currently the third best in the MPS. Mr Bridger reminded the Group that where there had been significant reductions in crime over the past four years and said it was becoming increasingly difficult to bring about further reduction. For example, he said that four years ago reported street robberies averaged 52 per day in Lambeth while today this had been reduced to seven per day.
15. To illustrate the pressure that the Partnership put on other agencies to improve the environment, Mr Bridger said that from where he had been sitting having a coffee in Morley's on Brixton Road, he could see graffiti being removed from railway's property.
16. Supt. Jonathan Tottman went through a timeline of events in relation to the shooting of James Smarrt-Ford. He said that it was around 10.55 p.m. on 3 February when police and ambulance services received a 999 call. Streatham officers and those from CO19 (firearms unit) attended the scene where they found two people present at the venue already giving medical assistance. However, Supt. Tottman said that James Smarrt-Ford was pronounced dead at St Georges Hospital around midnight.
17. Importantly, as far as the police were concerned, Supt. Tottman said that they tried to make sure that nobody left the scene without talking to them, and therefore they had quickly secured the area. A few hours after the shooting, Supt. Tottman said that Croydon officers stopped a number of youths who had apparently been in Streatham that evening. Seven male youths were arrested and subsequently bailed pending further investigation. Supt. Tottman said that Operation Trident had taken over the case and a Gold Group meeting had taken place on 5 February.
18. Supt. Tottman said that the events of that evening had been very traumatic and had a corrosive effect on everyone on the borough and surrounding boroughs. With the fatal shooting of a 15 year-old in his bedroom the previous evening and the recent fatal stabbing in Merton, he added that one of his colleagues Det. Supt. Richardson had said on radio that he was shocked at the apparent youth of the perpetrators and victims, who appeared to be becoming younger and younger.

19. In response to Rod Brown, Supt. Stewart Low said that from stop and search data it seemed that about 50% of those that came into contact with police in relation to No Deal were not Lambeth residents.
20. In response to Mr Horwood, Mr Bridger said that like everyone he one else would like to see more police on the streets and through Partnership activity there would be more PCSOs who have been proven to give increased reassurance in the community. Furthermore, he said that Lambeth police believed they had a case for starting to articulate an argument for more officers, not just in terms of Brixton, bearing in mind that 82% of visitors to London attended the South Bank and the Partnership's need to address the challenges that came with the influx of people.
21. Supt. Low said that in terms of immigration problems in relation to drug dealing, Lambeth was not much different from anywhere else and that police worked in partnership with Immigration Services. Supt. Low said he was also particularly grateful to the local authority and its formation of an Anti-social Behaviour Team and all the work that was going on around it.
22. In response to Richard Moore, Mr Bridger said that there had been a significant step-up in Partnership activity in Lambeth and he had seen and felt a real shift. However, he said that there was always more that could be done. With regard to keeping gun crime high on the agenda, Mr Bridger said that this was definitely the case and during the past year there had actually been an overall reduction in the level of gun crime, but sadly there had been cases in which people lost their lives. He added that the community were being asked to become much more actively involved in addressing the firearms problem.
23. Mr Leon said he was not surprised that Lambeth had been chosen as a place for an anti-terrorism pilot scheme since the borough had always been at the forefront. Furthermore, he praised Mr Bridger and former borough commanders for their personal input by going onto the streets themselves to see what was going on.
24. ***In response to Mr Leon, Mr Bridger said he did not know exactly the demographics or level of deprivation of Hackney and Tower Hamlets, the two boroughs he believed were performing slightly better than Lambeth in terms of policing crime reduction, but he would bring data to the next meeting.***
25. In response to Hayley, Mr Bridger said that it would seem that those using firearms were more and more youthful and that that he wasn't sure why this was so. However, he said that there was still the issue of responsibility and the decision making about pulling a gun's trigger to consider. Mr Bridger said that ideas were being developed involving the Gun Consortium regarding younger people's involvement in gun crime, which would need working with young people themselves. He added that cross-borough work was also being undertaken involving Southwark, Croydon, Wandsworth and Merton around gangs.
26. Gill Kenealy said that she and colleagues tried to tackle issues concerning gang membership but Southwark anti-gang workers were employed to go into schools and youth clubs and that there needed to be a similar investment in Lambeth. Ms Kenealy added that while the Gun Consortium was doing a good job it could only do so much, and the wider issue of gang membership needed to be quickly embraced by the local authority.
27. Derrick Anderson, LBL Ch. Exec., said that a great deal of work was already being done in the area in relation to gangs such as through the Youth Offending Team and other projects. However, Mr Anderson said that the whole issue about whether or not enough was invested in youth was tied to resources, and though he didn't think enough was being invested, it was a matter of living within your means. Mr Anderson added that he was replicating the cross-

- borough work done by the police with neighbouring local authorities, their youth services and departments for young people, and at the end of the month he would bring four or five local authorities together to look at how they might share resources and ideas.
28. Mr Anderson said that it must be remembered that 90% of young people in Lambeth got on with their lives and shouldn't be painted with the one brush. Finally, Mr Anderson said that young people with guns was a London-wide and sub-regional problem and that victims and perpetrators of gun crimes in Lambeth did not necessarily come from the borough
29. In terms of youth provision, Mr Bridger said that when he first met the new LBL Chief Executive, Derrick Anderson, he had expressed the view that he did not want to look at short term solutions when he didn't know what the youth want. Therefore, he said that had advocated taking some time to find out what young people wanted and to get it right i.e. something sustainable that would have an impact.
30. Ms Tapsell said that having lived in Lambeth for over thirty years, working for Social Services for much of that time, she felt that she had to say that as a community Lambeth had let its young people down very badly. She said that Lambeth had far more young people taken into care than other boroughs and also taken out of the borough and receiving little or no support upon their return. She said that there was also a shortage of people coming forward to foster and adopt. Ms Tapsell said that the Group would return to the issues of youth and gun crime in the Autumn and hear more about the Gun Consortium's work, the health services and others who pick up the pieces around broken homes and those who need a sense of belonging, such as to a gang.
31. In response to Hayley, Mr Bridger said that the prison population had no bearing on the work of the police and the number of arrests they made. However, Mr Bridger said that it was a matter for the courts and others within the wider criminal justice system to make decisions about whether people should be in custody or not.
32. Lena James said that there was a greater need for schools and families to talk more to young people about the dangers of guns and knives.
33. Anthea Gordon Davidson said that she wanted to know who the suppliers of guns in the community were, where they were coming from, where they were manufactured, and how they ended up on our streets. Mr Bridger said that as far as he was aware the supply of firearms in the the country didn't appear to be a priority for anyone in the police or other agencies, and that he was regularly pressing many people about the issue. He added that there was a real need for some hard work to find out where guns were coming from and who was involved in distributing them and that the community could help by, for example, putting pressure on MPs.
34. Canon Ivelaw Bowman said that the issue of the supply of guns was very complex with so many ways of bringing guns into the country, such as the thousands of container ships, each carrying hundreds of containers. He said that with limited resources it was difficult but that was not to say that the agencies responsible were not working day and night. Canon Bowman added that as well as the police, the community and local authority had a responsibility for such matters. Furthermore, he said parents and families had a responsibility for their children. Referring to parental and familial responsibility, Canon Bowman said a youth had been shot and killed at the Streatham Ice Rink and someone must have left a home somewhere with a gun.
35. In response to David Tomlinson, Mr Bridger said that talks about the Rise Festival on Clapham Common had taken place the previous day and his officers were meeting regularly with Robert Overall (LBL Exec

Environment). Mr Bridger said that the police had already told the Ken Livingstone's office that they wanted the festival fenced so that people could be controlled coming in and out, and he had asked who was going to pay for it. Mr Bridger also said that he had already assessed how much it would cost to police the event and the figures were being submitted to the Mayor's office.

36. Mr Bridger said that there would be no loss of police manpower for normal duties as he had already negotiated for extra officers coming from outside the borough. As a Partnership, Mr Bridger said that when request came in for events across the borough, dealings were much better and more sophisticated than previously. Mr Bridger said that he would share the police's plan as it was developed leading up to the event as much as he could.

Mental Health and Policing

37. Ms Tapsell reminded those present how the current agenda item arose out a presentation from the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) to Lambeth Police Stations to the Group in November 2006. Ms Tapsell said that the ICVs gave an agonising report on the problem of people clearly suffering from mental illness being inappropriately detained at police stations. Ms Tapsell said that like the Group, the ICVs had also given evidence to the Metropolitan Police Authority's scrutiny into mental health and policing in 2004.
38. Ms Tapsell said that the main issue that had arisen was the appropriate use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, by which police were able to detain people they believed to be a danger to themselves or others (when outside their homes) and Section 135 (when inside of their homes). From this, Ms Tapsell said that further questions arose about the adequacy of the S.136 suite at Lambeth hospitals, the difficulties of transporting people to it and availability of hospital beds. Since then, Ms Tapsell said that there had been issues about the closure of the South Lambeth and

Maudsley (SLaM) emergency clinic and reports of people needing mental health assessments having to undertake them in police stations, which she said was intolerable for both the detainee and the people looking after them.

39. Before giving a PowerPoint presentation on Mental Health and Policing from a police perspective (see attached), Ch. Insp. Peter Beynon introduced Patrick Gillespie (Service Director, SLaM) and Ann Donoghue (LBL Social Care).
40. Jane Warwick, Lambeth Appropriate Adults Scheme (LAAS) said that taking a S.136 person to the hospital from a police station, which she said she did not deem to be a place of safety, involved a driver and an escort and often they arrived there only to find that there was no bed for the patient. She said that this meant returning with the patient to the police station and going through the booking-in process again, putting the person in a cell and placing police officers on watch
41. Ch. Insp. Beynon said that although a police station was a designated place of safety it was not an automatic place to which people with mental health issues were taken to after arrest. However, he added that it was important to identify and flag up individual cases so that they could be fed back into the Partnership, in order that the circumstances for certain individuals being kept at police stations could be understood.
42. Patrick Gillespie said that when anyone was detained by police under S.136, the protocol followed, which had been jointly agreed by all agencies across the borough, was that the police would contact the 136 suite at Lambeth Hospital and, stating that they had detained a person under the Act, would enquire about its availability. Mr Gillespie said that nine times out of ten the suite would be unoccupied and police would be told to bring the patient in.
43. Due to staff and patient safety, Mr Gillespie said that only one person at a time could be

- admitted to the 136 suite and that if it wasn't available the police were advised to use the Maudsley or other 136 suites within the SLAM Trust i.e. Lewisham or Croydon. Police stations, he added, were utilised as a last resort and in the previous year 5 out of 157 people were detained at a police station under S.136.
44. In response to Anna Tapsell, Ann Donoghue said that there was only one Approved Social Worker available to deal with the full range of problems that arose out of hours, which she said was also quite common with neighbouring boroughs. Therefore, she said there was a need for prioritisation, as clearly they did not want people who should not be detained in police custody to be there, but this did not guarantee there would be no delay.
45. **In response to Canon Bowman, Ch. Insp. Beynon said that he would provide an ethnic breakdown of those held under S.136 as well as age and gender.** In relation mental health awareness training, Ch. Insp. Beynon said that all officers undertook mandatory safety training and during the last round of training mental health issues had been included. As part of an ongoing process, Ch. Insp. Beynon said that there would be further input which would include an instructional DVD for officers.
46. Mr Gillespie said that SLAM's mental health promotion team had a standing offer to provide training to the police as and when they required it. With regard to a police station being unsuitable and unacceptable for people with mental health problems, Mr Gillespie said that there would be occasions, due to the safety of staff in the hospital, when it would be appropriate to use a police station until more secure services could be found. Although not ideal, he said, that if a person had a treatable mental illness it was in the Trust's interest to get them out of a police station as quickly as possible and that was what they strived to do.
47. Ms Tapsell said that the issue of police cells, which under the Mental Health Act were technically places of safety, had been discussed in reports for years and years by the BMA and other bodies that researched and reported on mental health, such as the King's Fund, and they were found to be totally unsuitable. While it was not the fault of the police, Ms Tapsell said that some of the cells were completely appalling and transporting a person with mental health problems in a police van was unacceptable and acknowledged as such for years.
48. In respect of only having one S.136 bed available in the borough, Mr Gillespie said that on average, during the course of the week, three people were detained under the Mental Health Act S.136. It was, therefore, felt to be ample provision.
49. In response to Hayley, Ms Donoghue said that there was currently a review of out-of-hours services for Approved Social Workers to establish the demand. Ms Donoghue said that out-of-hours came under Children's Services and not Adult and Community. With regard to mental health services, Ms Donoghue said that there were extended hours in home treatment teams across the borough so, for example, if people needed to be admitted to hospital there were services available to keep them in the community. **Ms Donoghue said that one of the difficulties of S.136 was that sometimes the people involved were not from Lambeth, information about which she would provide.**
50. **In response to Rod Brown, Mr Gillespie said that he could provide figures for people detained under the Mental Health Act and who subsequently diagnosed as being or not being mentally ill.** In relation to people in prison with mental health problems, Mr Gillespie said that there was a mental health team, including a consultant psychiatrist and nurses, working in Brixton Prison and upon a prisoner's release it was made sure that he was integrated back into the mental health team he came from.

51. **Ch. Insp. Beynon said he would produce some statistics and figures for the next meeting, which would allow for monitoring on a monthly basis. Mr Toohill suggested that the statistics should be included within the monthly Lambeth police report.**

52. In response to Peggy Tyler, Mr Gillespie said that the decision to close the Emergency Clinic at the Maudsley was the result of a review of crisis services within the borough due to the investment that has been undertaken in both Lambeth and Southwark in terms of 24 hour home treatment teams, and the development of psychiatric liaison nurses and psychiatrists working within the A&E departments at both Kings College Hospital and St Thomas'. However, Mr Gillespie said that the Maudsley opened a S.136 suite in mid-2006.

53. Before closing the emergency clinic, Mr Gillespie said that an action plan had been produced and a number of recommendations made by the Joint Scrutiny Committee of Lambeth and Southwark in terms of what they expected from mental health services in each borough. Mr Gillespie said a report would be presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee in March and both Lambeth and Southwark PCTs would have to be satisfied that the action plan was robust before giving the Trust authorisation to finally closing the clinic.

54. Ms Warwick said that as far as she understood, Lambeth social workers would not attend Lambeth police stations to act as an appropriate adult if the person was not known to Social Services and not on their books. Ms Warwick also said that it wasn't just for S.136 cases and that during last year, Lambeth Appropriate Adults visited around 800 people, of which two thirds had mental health problems. Ms Warwick said people held under S.136 could be serious self-harmers and that anyone with any kind of mental illness should not be held in police cells. Mr Leon added that during such time,

a person with mental health issues needed to be constantly watched at a time when the police were stretched to capacity.

55. In relation to people from outside of Lambeth being detained in custody, Mr Gillespie said that it was a challenge to adult mental health services since the Trust's commissioners only funded services for Lambeth people. However, at St Thomas' hospital, Mr Gillespie said psychiatric nurses would screen everyone they saw. And in terms of the S.136 suite, he said people from abroad had been brought in from Waterloo Station by British Transport Police, and responsibility for them assumed by the Maudsley. In one instance, he added, one person was taken back to China to ensure that they were reunited with their family.

56. Mr Gillespie said that it was not possible to always respond to everyone who was arrested (and who then exhibited signs of mental illness developing), and who had no actual links to Lambeth. Clearly though, he said, it was not desirable to have people who were acutely unwell and who needed to be in a hospital, held in a police cell any longer than necessary. Mr Gillespie said he would welcome further discussion with police about such cases and how their safe transfer was ensured.

57. John Wainwright said that he personally found it to be one of the most depressing things in society when agencies like the police, social services or Primary Care Trust tried to offload their responsibilities and financial liabilities onto each other. However, he said his sympathies went out to the police for having to deal with matters which they shouldn't have to. He added that if it was true that 25-30% of people in prison had mental health issues then they should not be there but rather in a secure hospital.

58. Ann Donoghue said that it was a real challenge to provide appropriate adults for all the people who required them in Lambeth. If a person was known to Social

- Services, she said that the policy was for the Care Manager to be asked to attend. However, she added that attendance could depend on resources and the Social Worker's current undertakings and commitment such as the appointments booked in for that day with people that they were meant to be looking after. Ms Donoghue said that it was a problem that was recognised and last year work had been carried out with the police, Youth Offending Team and out-of-hours service on terms of their contribution to the LAAS.
59. Ms Donoghue said that meetings with the police had restarted in order to look again at the provisions to bolster it, as money was set aside from the budget with a view to expanding it with the Youth Service. Ms Donoghue said that Adult Services accepted the responsibility for clients that were known to them and who had a serious problem or appeared to be seriously ill. However, she said it was acknowledged that there were different degrees of mental illness and not all the needs could be met.
60. Ms Warwick said that she would like to have some dialogue on the matter and said that difficulties had arisen in terms of paying Appropriate Adults expenses because the name of a Social Worker who approved the volunteers acting for them was needed, but many would not help. Ms Donoghue said she would take up the issue of volunteer expenses with the out-of-hours service manager. Ms Tapsell suggested a dialogue with the Group's Mental Health sub-Group and said that the provision of appropriate adults was a statutory requirement and shouldn't have to rely on a voluntary service.
61. For clarification on some points, Insp. Peter O'Donnell said that when officers went to Lambeth Hospital, there was a period of an hour while the staff tried to locate the right people to deal with the person. After an hour the Duty Officer would look at their resources and the nature of calls they had before making a decision whether they would withdraw or not. Insp. O'Donnell gave credit to Lambeth for accepting people who had alcohol on their breath, in the knowledge that they had 72 hours to assess them. In relation to monitoring, Insp. O'Donnell said that he had instigated a policy whereby officers signed in and out when attending Lambeth Hospital, which was part of a parcel of monitoring mechanisms.
62. In relation to transport, Insp. O'Donnell said that it was always a judgement call, for example, with a violent person an ambulance was not always the best method of transport since there was lots of equipment that could be used to cause injury, to officers, NHS staff or the detainees themselves. Insp. O'Donnell said that he therefore instructed officers to make sure the head of the medical crew goes in the police van with the person with mental illness or the ambulance follows close behind.
63. Catriona Robertson, Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum, said that some of the places that people in mental distress went were churches, synagogues and mosques, especially out of hours when there was nowhere else to go. Ms Robertson said that she believed there was a Spirituality of Well-being Group based at Lambeth Hospital which tried to work with faith groups to work on better care.
64. Cllr. Helen O'Malley, Chair of Lambeth Health Scrutiny Committee, said she hoped the meeting would produce a robust follow up to the issues raised. She said that with cutbacks Mr Gillespie faced unenviable tasks and that one of the outcomes which needed to be seriously looked at was resources. Cllr. O'Malley gave an example of an individual whose mental health distress resulted in a call out of rapid response teams on ten occasions. After being dealt with by police, she said the buck was passed through every agency in the borough and the person ended up trashing his flat twice, costing Housing an enormous amount of money.

65. Calculating that waste of resource against a more efficient service whereby the right people could have talked to him, Cllr. O'Malley said that a case conference could have been held to which the person concerned could have responded.. When told there weren't the resources, Cllr. O'Malley said that she had asked herself who was doing the calculations. In this respect, she said the police and SLaM needed accurate figures for the resources that were necessary.
66. Cllr. O'Malley said that a further number of issues had come up during Scrutiny discussions, such as that concerning Community Health Teams, and gaps in the system identified, such as having only one duty social worker, who had a priority for children, as admitted by Adult Services. Cllr. O'Malley said that she questioned how Adult Services could possibly cope and Scrutiny meetings would be continue to held over the next few months.
67. In respect of the Emergency Clinic, Cllr. O'Malley said that one of the key issues, if she understood it right, was that people who were aware that they were under stress had the right to self-refer. Cllr. O'Malley thanked the meeting and said that she hoped progress could be made around all the issues.
68. In response to Canon Bowman, Mr Gillespie said that Bridgehouse was a new 24 bedded, medium secure unit that opened in September 2006 for people that had committed offences, and who had been cared for in hospital a long way from home. Mr Gillespie said that the unit was full and it had enabled 24 patients to come back into the borough, to be closer to their families, re-establish their links with the local community, and become engaged with voluntary services and education within the borough. ***In terms of SLaM's spend on agency staff, Mr Gillespie said that while he did not have the figures with him he would be happy to provide them in due course.***
69. John Howard, Lambeth Law Centre, said it was a much more serious and complex issue than people suffering with mental health illness being held in an inappropriate place of custody. He said that the whole question had to be looked at holistically; about society caring, the establishment, the police, the courts, doctors and mental health services abandoning these people. Agreeing with Mr Leon's point that a person with a mental illness could not be sent to prison, and the assertion by a police doctor at a Group meeting some time ago that it could not happen, because there was a safety net.
70. However, Mr Howard said that if people read the media and listened to governors and inspectors of prisons they would understand that the prisons were crammed full with mentally ill people. To achieve anything, he said it would be necessary to shape and change the views of society to accept that there were people with mental health issues who should not be in prison. On that premise, he said that in terms of the bigger picture, what happened in police stations, although serious in itself, did not compare to people being sent to prison with mental health illness, even though everyone was told that it couldn't happen, since the law was there to prevent it and that there was a safety net to stop it occurring.
71. ***In terms of sharing information, the monitoring processes and breakdown of statistics, Ch. Insp. Beynon suggested that the best forum to report back to would be the Mental Health sub-Group.***
72. ***Mr Gillespie said that SLaM would like to be part of the Mental Health sub-Group which should also feed back to Mental Health Partnership Board in Lambeth which in turn feeds back into the commissioners for Lambeth who were the funders of SLaM's services.***
- LGBT and Community Safety Issues**
73. Amy Donovan, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender Anti-Hate Crime Coordinator,

gave a PowerPoint presentation on the LGBT Forum's strategy.

74. Ms Donovan said that it was estimated that 5% of Lambeth's population was L, G, B or T, although the real figure was not known as there was no national research to look up about LGBT communities, their issues and where they were located. In terms of existing resources and service provision, Ms Donovan said that it was a major problem. Ms Donovan said that Lambeth was comparable to Soho in terms of being a draw for LGBT visitors and this, she said, could be a positive or a negative in terms of the different effects on the community, which needed to be discussed from a community safety perspective with regard to resources enabling the borough to cope and provide services.

75. In response to Canon Bowman, Ms Donovan said that there was a very visible BME LGBT community in Lambeth which was quite active in a borough where there had always been social movements. In relation to BME LGBT issues, she said that some serious matters had been raised in terms of homophobia from their own BME communities and racism from the white lesbian and gay community. In terms of the gay business community, Ms Donovan said that it often tended to be white, gay male led and not representative of the wider LGBT community of Lambeth.

76. Ms Donovan said that accessing compound minority groups within the LGBT community could be difficult for agencies as such groups often had many issues and demands upon them to contribute, not only in terms of LGBT matters but also race agenda issues. As a borough, Ms Donovan said that she thought it was time that hate crime issues were addressed without looking at minority groups as if they were in isolated boxes but to bear in mind that people had multiple identities and to try to be inclusive of every member of the community regardless of their background.

77. Mr Toohill said that all types of hate crime were small in volume, e.g. compared to street robbery, with the more substantive issues, those of discrimination and anti-social behaviour, laying 'below the water', making it difficult for the police alone to deal with. Mr Toohill questioned whether the other agencies, particularly the local authority, were doing their job. In reply, Ms Donovan said that when Lambeth's Hate Crime Strategy became public the response to hate crime will focus on the local authority.

78. In terms of reporting hate crime and addressing anti-social behaviour, Ms Donovan said that many people felt that they didn't want to waste police time, but it was something the local authority could be proactive about. Ms Donovan said that the local authority was a large organisation with access to a lot of people which needed to be capitalised upon.

79. Ms Donovan said that the LGBT Forum would be happy to contribute to the Fear of Crime agenda item at the next Group meeting on 6 March

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.00 p.m. TUESDAY, 6 March 2007

Assembly Hall
Lambeth Town Hall
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