

**Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton**

**PRESENT: CPCG BOARD:** Anna Tapsell (Chair), Sandra Moodie, Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), Wesley Walters-Stephenson (Your Story), Jim Toohill

**COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** Ervell Bailey ((Bethesda Ministries); Jim Fairweather (WIESA), Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Nick Mason (LSPT), Catriona Robertson (CSFF), David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.); George Tuson (Streatham Southside NW); Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town NW); Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Road/Towers TRA); John Wainwright (Clapham SWG); David Warner (Brixton Society); Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road RA)

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Hope Barrett, Rod Brown, Richard Dutton, Betty Evans-Jacas, Rosemarie Falaiye, Tia Henry-Lindo, John Howard, Lee Jasper, Veronica Ledwith, David Prichard-Jones, Richard Moore, Cheryl Sealey, Fernando Senior

**STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP:** *MPA* Natasha Plummer *LAMBETH COUNCIL* Cllr. Kingsley Abrams, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, George Marshman, Ann Corbett *METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE* Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave, Ch. Supt. Andy Tarrant (CO19), Ch. Insp. John Dale (TSG), Insp. Malcolm Nichol, PC John Jeffrey (Police Federation), Zenobia Cowan-Davies

**VISITORS:**, Kelly ben Maimon, Allan Douglas-Smith, Nicholas Gray, G. Harson, Jermaine, Barfah Joof, Elaine Lilley, Sue Lilly, David Michael, Hannah Mir, Peter, Sam Noel, Beryl Saunders, Ibrahim Serra-Mohammed, Patrick Sullivan, Chuka Umunna

**APOLOGIES:** Paul Andell, Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Cllr. Lorna Campbell, Wally Channon, John Cheetham, Shane Collins, Maude Estwick, Rowena Estwick, Neil Flanigan, Gloria Gomez, Gill Kenealy, George Marshman, Patricia Moberly, Richard Orrin (Probation), Caroline Pidgeon (MPA), Martin Ryan (CPS), Jude Sequeira (MPA), Jane Warwick, Hilary-Claire Wears

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

**Introduction**

- 1 Anna Tapsell (the Chair) welcomed Andrew Morley, Ch. Exec. of the London Criminal Justice Partnership to the meeting.

**Minutes of the Meeting 2 February 2010**

- 2 The minutes of the meeting 2 February 2010 were accepted without amendment.

**Matters Arising**

- 3 The Chair said that she had received a response to her letter to Caroline Pidgeon, MPA, Lambeth Link Member, regarding her attendance at Group meetings and changes to

the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) scheme.

- 4 The Chair said that in her letter, Ms Pidgeon explained that MPA Link Members were not required to attend consultative group meetings although she valued the work that the Group undertook. However, Ms Pidgeon said that while ongoing commitments made it difficult for her to attend, she hoped that she would be able to do so at some future date. Furthermore she said that she received the Group's papers and had full briefings from the MPA Link Officer, which would enable her to take up issues with MPA Officers.
- 5 In respect of ICVs, Ms Pidgeon said that she thanked them for the hard work that they did and that they were very much appreciated. And although ICVs were now formally required to attend fewer meetings with the police to discuss ICV visit reports, she said that ICVs, supported by the Borough Commander, would meet informally. However, she said that the MPA would continue to monitor the impact of the changes and that she would welcome any feedback [Min 17, 02/02/10].
- 6 More recently, the Chair said that Ms Pidgeon had made it known publicly that she would be relinquishing the MPA Link Member role.
- 7 Jim Toohill said that there was a misapprehension about the role of the MPA Link Members, which was not a case of them representing their boroughs at the MPA but one of being MPA's representative to the boroughs to which they were appointed. Mr Toohill said the Group could not compel Ms Pidgeon to attend Group meetings, although it was perhaps foolish for Link Members not to spend time with their Consultative Group and Safer Neighbourhood Panels.
- 8 John Howard said that it was about time that the Group had an involvement in the process of selecting Lambeth's Link Member and looked ahead in terms of the next Lambeth appointment to ensure their attendance, involvement and connection to the borough.
- 9 Richard Moore said that while Jenny Jones, MPA Link Member to Southwark, attended their Group meetings and the MPA Link Member for Lewisham also attend their CPCG meetings, Ms Pidgeon had too many other commitments to be an effective Link Member. He said that she was already a member of the

- Fire Authority, a member of Greater London Assembly and a Southwark Councillor, and more recently had become a parliamentary candidate for Vauxhall. Therefore, he said that the Group should make strong representation about the matter of her tenure.
- 10 With regard to the sample size taken for the police's Public Attitude Survey (PAS), Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave said that 640 people took part and 160 as he reported last month. In terms of the methodology, Mr Ephgrave said that the survey was carried out by Market Research UK, which carried out face to face interviews with people selected at random using a Post Office database. He said that this included a language service whilst a dip sample of interviewees was compared against the national census [Min 21, 02/02/10].
  - 11 With regard to the User Satisfaction Survey (USS), Mr Ephgrave said that interviews of victims of crime were undertaken twelve weeks after the event on quarterly basis with reports sent to the Home Office, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and MPS. The survey asked questions in relation to contact with the police, actions taken, information given and how they were treated. He added that both the PAS and USS ask the respondents if they had a disability.
  - 12 The Chair said that people with disabilities anecdotally did not like to disclose the fact and that it was a matter that required some attention. At the same time, Hannah Mir questioned why the survey took the people interviewed as a group and why it was not broken down by the range of diversity such as age, ethnicity and disability. Rod Brown also pointed out that people under the age of sixteen were not interviewed.
  - 13 In respect of the diversity of the Lambeth population compared to Lambeth police, Mr Ephgrave said that figures from 2007 showed that there 270,000 people living in the borough in 120,000 households. Of these, he said that a third were born outside the UK, 38% were members of BME communities whilst 150 languages were spoken and that half the residents were between 20-39 years of age. [Min 32, 02/0210].
  - 14 With regard to the police, Mr Ephgrave said that at present 42% of civil staff were from BME communities, which reflected the MPS's policy to recruit locally, while 11% of police officers and 26% of Police Community Support Officers were from BME groups.
  - 15 Mr Moore said that the present ethnic figures for residents were likely to be different today from the 2007 Census with a 25% turnover [of people entering and leaving the borough] while many people from different parts of the world having failed to complete the census.
  - 16 Lloyd Leon said that it had to be remembered that Mr Ephgrave did not employ the officers he had but that they ha been sent to him by the MPS. He added that he and others had tried to encourage young people from BME communities to join the police but it was very difficult.
  - 17 ***Fernando Senior said that only 11% of Lambeth police officers coming from BME communities was an appalling figure. Furthermore, he said that he would like to know how many BME officers were of the rank of sergeant and above, and what proportion that was of the whole.***
  - 18 Mr Howard said that he wanted to make it clear that he had not attacked Mr Ephgrave's integrity in relation to the PAS and USS statistics but questioned their veracity in relation to previous satisfaction surveys undertaken in London [Min 44, 02/02/10].
  - 19 ***With regard to the HMIC inspection of Lambeth custody suites at Brixton, Kennington and Streatham police stations, the Chair said that the Group had a number of concerns and suggested that it would useful for a Custody Sergeant, mental health practioner and ICVs to give an account of how custody suites were managed.***
  - 20 In response to Kelly ben Maimon, Mr Ephgrave said that the HMIC report dealt with conditions and processes and not the individuals being held in police detention, whether or not they were immigration detainees.
  - 21 Ann Corbett's response to Gloria Gomez's concerns about the proliferation of licensed premises in Clapham, which she had said was the cause for a rise in crime and anti-social behaviour, had been published in the Group's Briefing Paper tabled on the evening.

**Lambeth Police Update**

- 22 Ch. Supt. Ephgrave tabled a copy of his PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth Crime Overview comparing the current and previous 'year to date' (26 February 2010), the Confidence and Satisfaction Survey, and the Policing Pledge (see attached).
- 23 With regard to Operation Blunt, Mr Ephgrave said that police officers looking for knives required the use of s.60. However, he said that while this was never meant to be policy, officers from around London who had been assembled to come to Lambeth, where a s.60 was already in place, it became an expectation. Mr Ephgrave said that there was absolutely no way that he would seek the use of s.60 solely for the sake of Operation Blunt.

**London Criminal Justice Partnership (CJP)**

- 24 A briefing on the work and the role of London CJP had been prepared by Paul Andell, Group Vice-Chair, and circulated prior to the meeting.
- 25 Andrew Morley, Ch Exec of LCJP, a former Chair of Lewisham CPCG and Lay Visitors, said that CJP provided a place and a space to ensure that the various parts of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) did not work in silos but came together to help the system worked more effectively.
- 26 Mr Morley said that CJP sought to support those on the brink of ending up in custody or leaving custody to stop their criminal ways. In this way, he said that the risk of sanctions was a greater deterrent to commit crime than the seriousness of the sanction.
- 27 Before CJP, Mr Morley said that the system had been dated with disjointed processes which slowed it down. He said that at the heart of CJP's work was the introduction and piloting of Virtual Courts, which used technology to deal with cases in which the defendant's physical presence was not required in court.
- 28 With 81 cases put before Virtual Courts, Mr Morley said that the pilot had proved to be meaningful and a benefit to all those involved, including defendants. Eliminating the need for prison transport, and following a judge's

decision that a case was suitable for a Virtual Court, i.e. not involving young people or complex issues, a case could be processed in four hours from the time a person had been charged.

- 29 Mr Morley said that Virtual Courts were subject to robust and independent evaluations. He said that there was a webspace where CJP could share documents giving it a paperless appearance which was effective, proportionate, timely and modern.
- 30 Mr Morley said CJP was also interested in reducing re-offending, particularly of those persons detained in custody for less than a year who had no access to support. In this way, the Diamond initiative provided a bridge from custody via the police, probation and local authority to community and help people deviate from criminal behaviour. Mr Morley said that there were pilot initiatives in Brixton Hill, Coldharbour, Herne Hill and Tulse Hill.
- 31 In terms of young people, Mr Morley said that the number of first time entrants into the CJS had been reduced by a third. Under the Daedalus project, Mr Morley said that Resettlement brokers worked and mentored young people before and after release from custody on matters including employment, education, addiction and housing. In this way, he said that more investment was being put into community provision and less in imprisonment, thereby creating a transition from a system to a service.
- 32 Mr Morley said that the CJP had high public confidence, which was amplified by the work it was doing with SNPs and CPCGs to inform and influence.
- 33 In response to David Tomlinson, Mr Morley said that Youth Restorative Disposals (YRD) were used in the cases of young people from ten to seventeen years of age following an evidential review. He said that the criteria for issuing a YRD took into consideration the nature of the offence, a gravity factor of one or two out of five, an admission to the offence and having no previous CJS disposals.
- 34 After a case had been considered by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) to have no complications or concerns, Mr Morley said that a YRD would be issued for a restorative intervention, which would look at what could have been done to prevent the offence. The offender would then be expected to draft a

- written statement of apology in which there was a recognition of how the victim had been affected, and which could be seen by the victim. He said that that 74 there had been 74 YRDs issued to date by officers trained to do so.
- 35 Mr Leon said that in his time working voluntarily as an Appropriate Adult he had come across a number of young black children with as many as twenty convictions to their name. He said that the system should never have allowed such a matter to reach that stage and he was glad to hear that something was being done to improve that situation.
- 36 John Wainwright said that he had read in The Week magazine an article about West Midlands police being encouraged to deliver bespoke justice programme in relation to perpetrators of petty crimes having to pay their victims back for financial loss or suffering. Since the programme started last year, Mr Wainwright said that it has paid dividends with victims welcoming it, perpetrators receiving a 'moral clip' around the ear and each of the 10,000 cases saving fifteen hours of police time.
- 37 In respect of the youth referral order, Mr Wainwright said that youth re-offending in recent years had dropped from three out of four to two out of four but not enough resources were being put into the provision of reparation. He added that having witnessed Restorative Justice in action it should be a matter of routine, because it worked.
- 38 Mr Morley said that more specialist work needed to be done in terms of Restorative Justice and he was keen to see this happen. He said he agreed that it was a viable option when done properly particularly with younger people where it had more impact.
- 39 A group of youths from Myatts Field said that more resources needed to be pumped into the community and while there had promises of such, there was at the end of the day no action, just talk. They said that their church was a cramped space and youths who wanted to change for the better had to be turned away and were being lost.
- 40 Mr Morley said that he commended community groups that were trying to make a difference but CJP was not a funding service. However, he said that CJP was looking into how money was spent and promoting spending more on community provisions and less on prisons by making a case for community justice re-vestment. He added that people enter the CJS upon arrest and more funding was needed to address pre-offending issues.
- 41 Wesley Stephenson said that the problems for Myatts Field were raised three years ago and by the time they get what they wanted they wouldn't need it. He said that an opportunity to use young people to help to reduce crime was being lost due to red tape and the Council not being legally bound to support a Youth Service.
- 42 Mr Morley said that everyone agreed that there was a desperate need for effective community provision and CJP was trying to gather evidence for a re-balancing of funding to make a financial case, particularly in light of the cost of incarcerating people.
- 43 In response to a member of the public's question about how the positive Daedalus project, which had been started in Feltham Young Offenders Institution, could connect with local communities, Mr Morley said it would be an interesting proposition to extend the work into boroughs to help those working with young people responsible for criminal behaviour.
- 44 Arulini Velmurugu said that at the last CPCG meeting she had raised two issues concerning disabled people and wanted to know what safeguards were in place to protect vulnerable victims. For example, she said victims with a stammer should have access to a Witness Intermediary to represent them on behalf of the victims. She said that while it was important that judges and jurors saw the impact of the crime and ordeal revealed on the face of victims, by providing access to computer speech software or interpreters, as with deaf people, to read out what victims had written.
- 45 Ms Velmurugu also raised the case of a woman in coma who was raped by her carer and although the perpetrator had admitted his crime, the police had not taken the matter seriously and made a referral to the Medical Board. She said that the case should have been taken to court and an example made of the case.
- 46 In response, Mr Morley said that he was concerned to hear about the problems accessing Witness Intermediaries she had

raised as well as the matter of the alleged rape, which he would discuss with her outside of the meeting and obtain details.

- 47 In response to Rod Brown, Mr Morley said that if the evaluation of Virtual Courts showed that they were detrimental to the process of justice they would be abandoned
- 48 With regard to engagement between the local Criminal Justice Board and the community, Lee Jasper said that people were unable to find out who they were, what they did, the name of the Chair or how well they were doing. In respect of the proceeds of crime, Mr Jasper said that the confiscated assets of drug dealers in Lambeth should be given to the community.
- 49 As a quango, Mr Morley said that CJP did not normally accept engagement invitations but that the Crown Prosecution Service had a Community Prosecutor and Coordinator who were encouraged to engage. However, he said that CJP did provide performance reports which were published on CJP website. [lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/london](http://lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/london)
- 50 In response to Mr Jaspers's concerns about the disproportionate ratio of BME communities in the prison population, Mr Morley said that diversity data was held within CJS which was generated at both local and national level through CPS, Courts and Probation. He said that CJP had made a case for consistent and reliable information from which it formed the basis of any interventions.
- 51 In relation to asset confiscation, Mr Morley said that national arrangements had not changed and they were not to the advantage of the borough. However, he said that he could provide a report of project bids pan-London for funding from proceeds of crime.

### **Territorial Support Group (TSG)**

- 52 Sgt Jason Goom, TSG5 based at Larkhall Lane, said that TSG5 had been posted to other boroughs for the six months prior to the CPCG meeting and therefore there were no incidents concerning Lambeth to bring to the Groups attention raise.
- 53 Sgt Goom said that TSG were involved in a number of projects including a lead in the Growing Against Gangs project aimed at year 11 pupils and delivered on a module system

with TSG officers participating in the 'myths of gangs' module. He said that it had been trialed at Lambeth Academy and was currently running at Stockwell Park High School.

- 54 Sgt. Goom said that TSG was also producing a bespoke Stop and Search presentation which would also be used in the Growing Against Gangs delivery but would be structured in a manner so that it could also be delivered to adult audiences.
- 55 Sgt. Goom said that each of the five teams within TSG5 had been allocated a borough for the purpose of working with the community while there was some research being completed around allocating a TSG officer to each SNT Ward team as a liaison between the community policing team and the TSG.
- 56 Sgt. Goom made a plug to promote the TSGs Outreach programme which identified and enrolled wayward youths onto a project which culminated in a trip to the Brecon Beacons. He said that last year no young people from Lambeth took part in the programme. Sgt Goom concluded his report with an invitation to interested parties to visit TSG base at Larkhall Lane to see what TSG did.
- 57 A member of the public said that she had had a terrible experience with TSG involving CS spray which was taken to court only to be thrown out. She said that despite all the talk of engagement she did not think that matters had progressed very far

### **CO19 Firearms Unit**

- 58 Ch. Supt. Andy Tarrant said that of the 3,000 armed officers in the MPS mostly were static, e.g. guarding embassies, with only 300 on operational duties. He said that in 2009, no one had been killed by police firearms officers. Mr Tarrant added that the last Olympics to be policed by unarmed police officers took place in London in 1948.
- 59 ***Mr Jasper asked if he could have an ethnic profile of CO19 firearms officers, both static and operational.***

### **Next Meeting**

**7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 13 April 2010**

**St John's Waterloo, Waterloo Road SE1**