

Lambeth Town Hall, SW2 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell (Chair), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), Jim Toohill, Jane Warwick (Lambeth Women's Aid)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Jim Fairweather (WIESA), Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Road/Towers TRA), John Frankland (Herne Hill Society), Lena James (Churches Together in Clapham), Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects), George Tuson (Streatham Sector Working Group), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road RA), Jane O'Neil & Eli Puzey (Lambeth Women's Aid),

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Hope Barrett, Richard Dutton, Rosemarie Falaiye, John Howard, David Prichard-Jones, Richard Moore, Clare Moore,

STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: LAMBETH COUNCIL, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, George Marshman, Ann Corbett **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave, Insp. Malcolm Nichol, Supt Andy Howe; Insp Derek Renton (TSG), PC John Jeffrey (Police Federation), Zenobia Cowan-Davies (MPS Engagement)

VISITORS: Patrick Sullivan, Peter Todd, Steve Rodhouse (MPS), Deb Harrod (West Mids Police), Sylvia Ikomi, Hannah Mir, K Shaw, Susan Delwartre, Alan Moorhead, Christine Frank, Waleria Lyps

APOLOGIES: Patricia Moberly, David Tomlinson, Beryl Saunders, Gill Keneally, Neil Flanigan, Maude Estwick, Tia Henry Lindo,

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell (the Chair) welcomed a team from the Safer Lambeth Partnership Drugs and Alcohol Priority Action Group who were later to make a presentation to the meeting (see below).

Minutes of the Meeting 13 April 2010

- 2 The minutes were accepted with an amendment to note Patricia Moberly as present.

Matters Arising

- 3 Chief Supt Andy Tarrant (CO19) reported that five per cent of the CO19 establishment of officers was female and 2.3 per cent was from ethnic minorities. He said that this was an improvement over recent years but that there was much to be done and that CO19 were not complacent [Min 6, 13/04/2020]
- 4 In respect of the use of bicycles by Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Ros Munday suggested that given the numbers of officers seen about on

bicycles, perhaps inhibitions over their use (for fear of theft) had been overcome. [Minute 15, 13/04/2010]

- 5 Chief Supt Nick Ephgrave (Borough Commander) reported that a meeting between local police and head teachers from nice local secondary school had taken place on 28 April. [Min 19, 13/04/2020]. A number of issues were discussed:
 - 5.1 Joint patrols at vulnerable times eg school leaving times,
 - 5.2 Information sharing about young people at risk
 - 5.3 The use of search arches for weapons in schools. These are used in other parts of London but Mr Ephgrave said he was aware that views on their use were mixed in Lambeth
 - 5.4 Safer Neighbourhood Officers undertaking 'walk throughs' in particular looking for discarded weapons.
- 6 Another meeting was scheduled for 12 May 2010.
- 7 In response to a question from the Chair about cross-border joint working between schools and police (noting that many Lambeth children attend schools outside Lambeth), Mr Ephgrave said that the initiative had been instigated by Commander David Zinzan, who lead the Inner South East Cluster. It is being undertaken in all four boroughs in the Cluster (Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich), but at this stage was not cross-borough.
- 8 In answer to a question from John Howard, regarding the methodology for the MPS Satisfaction Survey, Mr Ephgrave referred back to the account he had given at the March CPCG monthly meeting. This was a quarterly, face to face survey at 640 randomly selected addresses with one adult being selected at each address (using a 'birthday rule' if there was more than one adult present). [Min 14 13/04/2010]
- 9 ***Mr Ephgrave said that he was aware of a survey by the Local Authority which was a postal survey and which had associated problems of non-respondents and self-selection by those who did respond. He said he would be happy for the issue of surveys to be a future agenda item.***
- 10 George Marshman (Divisional Director, Adult Social Care) addressed queries in respect of the

Appropriate Adults service. He said the service was provided by an independent company (called Tacs) and funded both by the police and from Adult Services and Children's Services within the Council. The service was subject to regular monitoring meetings and there had been no complaints to date about the standards of the service. He said he would be happy for members of the Group, with experience in Custody Visiting, to meet with the company and to be involved in the retendering exercise due in a year's time. [Min 33 13/04/2010].

- 11 In response to a question from Lloyd Leon, Mr Ephgrave said there was indeed a statutory duty to ensure that an Appropriate Adult was present during interviewing of a minor or a vulnerable person in custody and also that a responsible person should be informed of their detention. He was unaware of the precise details of the case Mr Leon had referred to (the detention of two minors in respect of a murder in Ferndale Road).
- 12 Anna Tapsell (Chair) pointed to the Annual Report of the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) in Lambeth (which was tabled) and invited comments on the report from Jane Warwick (Chair of Lambeth ICVs) and more generally her views following on from the inspection of custody suites in Lambeth last year by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary.
- 13 Ms Warwick commended the efforts of police officers in Lambeth to resolve outstanding issues in Lambeth Custody Suites, in particular in attempts to provide adequate washing facilities at Streatham custody suite. Ms Warwick expressed particular concerns in this regard where individuals were detained under Immigration legislation, who can be held for up to seven days, without adequate exercise or bathing facilities. She also pointed to the provision made for the religious observances of detainees.
- 14 Ms Warwick said she would be happy to answer specific queries which might be raised concerning her annual report, and the HMIC report, at a future date and the Chair agreed that this was an issue which should be returned to.
- 15 Belinda Washington (Karibu Education Centre) raised a query regarding the Policing Pledge and police response times, which is minuted under Lambeth Police Report (below).
- 16 Richard Dutton enquired after Chief Supt Clive Walkley's recovery following his accident in Italy.

Chief Supt Ephgrave responded that he was in touch with Mr Walkley's family and that Mr Walkley was still in a coma in Italy, whilst his prognosis remained unclear.

Drug and Alcohol Overview

- 17 This presentation, coordinated by Megan Jones (Drug and Alcohol Team Manager, LBL) and Denis O'Rourke (NHS Lambeth) is attached and was preceded by a 'quiz', details of which are also attached. The minutes following are to be read in conjunction with the presentation.
- 18 Dennis O'Rourke gave an overview of the Governance, Priorities, Targets and Action Plan of the Drug and Alcohol Priority Action Group (PAG). This is one of five PAGs within the Safer Lambeth Partnership, and one which Mr O'Rourke co-chairs.(see slides). He stressed the involvement of service users, who were integral to the PAGs work.
- 19 Kenneth Gregory (NHS Lambeth) and Steve Burrows (Service User Involvement Council) gave an account of the 'Remodeling' of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment System in Lambeth, which was underway.
- 20 It was anticipated that better integration of care, and associated services (eg Legal, Employment, Housing, Training and Educational advice), would yield increased capacity (a 25 per cent increase in 'slots'), a more comprehensive service for users and carers (eg more 'out of hours' support and better access to primary care) whilst achieving cost savings.
- 21 This was being achieved by negotiation with existing providers (rather than retendering the whole service) and would build on successes such as Lorraine Hewitt House in Brighton Terrace.
- 22 Mr Burrows pointed to the long history of service user involvement in shaping services in Lambeth, which was continuing in the current exercise and their commitment to treatment as a priority.
- 23 Paul Lennon (Service User Involvement Council) and Luke Mitchison (a psychiatrist based at Lorraine Hewitt House) explained further the clinical and social underpinning of 'recover and Integration', addressing the nexus of factors

- influencing routes into and out of addiction and misuse (the 'Recovery Star')
- 24 James Morris (Alcohol Strategy Coordinator, LBL) gave an account of the health impact of alcohol abuse before setting out the elements of Lambeth's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy under the key themes: Crime and Disorder, Licensing, Health and Treatment, Children and Young people.
- 25 Mr Morris described enforcement actions taken to date (eg Controlled Drinking Zones, underage test purchasing etc) and pointed to plans to better integrate alcohol misuse treatment, including earlier identification of problem drinkers, within the overall treatment strategy.
- 26 Mr Colin O'Connor (Service User Involvement Council) described his own experience of the impact of alcohol misuse and also of the work he, and other members of the Council, undertook in mutual support in recovery.
- 27 Elizabeth Clowes (Assistant Director – Social Inclusion Commissioning, LBL) described the key elements and approach of the Drug Treatment System Change Pilot in Lambeth. The pilot addresses the drug treatment and reintegration needs of offenders. It is one of seven in England and Wales and the only one in London.
- 28 Ms Clowes outlined the key aims as going beyond (but including) reduction in reoffending and including social reintegration and health.
- 29 Services within the Pilot were commissioned from third party providers, in addition to treatment options provided within the NHS-LBL integrated system. She pointed particularly to the peer-to-peer mentoring provided by RAPt (Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners Trust), a charity based in Vauxhall.
- 30 George Porter gave an account of his own involvement in the peer-to-peer mentoring scheme and the benefits he perceived it as delivering.
- 31 Points raised from the floor were:
- 31.1 The dangers of driving under the influence of drugs and the possibility of using 'drugalysers' ,as it was understood some police services do.(Richard Moore)
- 31.2 The questions of whether drug and alcohol misuse are lifestyle choices and should be treated as such. What were the rates of return to misuse following treatment. (Arulini Velmurugu)
- 31.3 The issue of whether it should be permissible to drive having consumed *any* alcohol. (John Howard)
- 31.4 A query regarding the charitable status of RAPt. (David Warner)
- 31.5 The importance of Housing policy in supporting recovery (Hannah Mir)
- 31.6 The need to support families (Belinda Washington)
- 31.7 The larger issue of the legalising, or decriminalising, the use of currently proscribed substances (Anna Tapsell)
- 31.8 Can users self-refer to the services described? (Anna Tapsell)
- 32 More generally, there were several expressions of appreciation from the floor for the part played in the presentation by service users.
- 33 Particular responses were:
- 33.1 There is work undertaken in supporting families, albeit within limited resources, eg Family Therapy is provided from Lorraine Hewitt House (Brighton Terrace) and a very good family support worker. It was important that family relationships were maintained as well as that child protection issues were properly addressed/ (Megan Jones)
- 33.2 Housing is indeed a major issue and there is close working with LBL's Housing Department as well as a raft of support services helping individuals find, and keep, housing, This is, for example, a significant part of commissioning under the Diamond Initiative (Dennis O'Rourke)
- 33.3 Initial involvement with drugs or alcohol may be a 'lifestyle choice' but addiction is not. There is three monthly profiling to check on people's offending behaviour (for those entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System). There is also longer term monitoring of a cohort of prolific offenders over a five-year period. Relapsing isn't anywhere near as high as the 90 per cent asserted from the floor. (Megan Jones).

- 33.4 All community based services (ie excluding residential based treatments) could be accessed on a self-referred basis and contact details were available in the May edition of Lambeth Life, copies of which were tabled (Megan Jones)
- 33.5 With regard to driving under the influence of illicit drugs, Megan Jones said that whilst there were trigger offences for drug testing, these were mostly acquisitive crime. She was unsure how big a problem road traffic offences, under the influence, were in the borough. Chief Supt Ephgrave said that there was not a clear answer as to the scale of the problem, although he was sure it was significant. He could also see problems in detection and in gauging degree of influence, but he felt the point made to be a valid one.

Lambeth Police Report

- 34 The borough commander, Chief Supt. Nick Ephgrave, gave his report (attached) which he termed an 'end of term' report, in that it covered the financial year 2009/10. He also introduced Supt Andy Howe, who had joined the borough to replace Supt Dave Musker and had assumed his responsibilities.
- 35 He described his report as a mixed bag of successes and failures.
- 36 There had been a welcome decline in reports of crimes of 'Most Serious Violence' (and an increase in detection rate): this was in contrast to many other boroughs. Robbery- which had declined in the first six months - had then risen and ended the year up 11 per cent or 230 offences.
- 37 Burglary had likewise shown a year on year 10 per cent increase (265 offences). This represented a recovery from the mid-financial year position, when Burglary was running 40 per cent up, year on year. Mr Ephgrave expected a much more positive outcome for Burglary in the current financial year.
- 38 Motor Vehicle Crime (Thefts of MVs and from MVs) continued its downward trend, a consequence largely of better securing systems in cars and vans.
- 39 Knife Crime and Gun Crime had both shown increases - albeit of small numbers (29 and 69 additional offences respectively). The main contributor to the latter has been an increase in commercial robbery, and not youth related gun crime. Mr Ephgrave felt that the borough had got through that now, with important 'players' having been removed from circulation.
- 40 Serious Youth Violence (a sub-set of Most Serious Violence, where both the victim and perpetrator are young persons) had shown 30 additional offences in the financial year, which represented a continuing challenge into the current financial year.
- 41 Mr Ephgrave viewed the reduction in notifications of Domestic Violence offences as, whilst superficially positive, a 'double-edged sword', given that it was always unclear how much of the change was in reporting rates rather than occurrence.
- 42 With regard to Hate Crimes, Nick Ephgrave noted that there had been 24 fewer offences of Racist or religious Hate, but overall Hate Crime had gone up. There had also been an increase in detection rate for these crimes.
- 43 There was no update to the Public Satisfaction Survey given that the last quarter's survey (for 2009/10) had yet to report.
- 44 Looking forward to developments in the current financial year, Mr Ephgrave highlighted:
- 44.1 Early indicators for Serious Violence, Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime (which in some cases can be the same crimes) were not looking great. There have been rises in each in the first month of the year. Much of this was youth-on-youth, fighting in the street.
- 44.2 Nick Ephgrave pointed to the need for the police, partnership and community to look for solutions and pointed to the meeting which CPCG was facilitating for residents on Stockwell Garden Estate later in the month as one example of a way forward. He noted that enforcement is only one part of the solution, and may itself raise issues eg increased police numbers of the street, increases in Stop and Search. He likewise pointed to the 'fantastic' work being done on Myatts Field.
- 44.3 This was not an issue exclusive to Lambeth, and was being experienced across London.

- 44.4 Supt Andy Howe was working up proposals to take a small number of officers from each of the teams, to form a small cadre or support team which could, working on intelligence, could be deployed to potential areas of trouble to work proactively to diffuse that potential.
- 44.5 There are proposals to work with the Councils Community Safety Department to look at ways of deploying LBL funded Community Police Support Officers in a similar way to address lower level issues of anti-social behavior.
- 45 Belinda Washington (Karibu Education Centre) asked for clarification regarding the Policing Pledge, of which she said she had received conflicting accounts from the [then] Home Secretary Allan Johnson and from an Inspector at Brixton Police Station. She was particularly concerned about responses to 999 calls and also the deployment of out of borough police officers in response to calls
- 46 Chief Supt Ephgrave described the Policing Pledge as Home Office initiative which applied to all forces in England and Wales and which involved a number of service commitments by the police. It was subject to a huge performance monitoring framework eg through mystery shopping exercises, dip sampling etc. He said that it was a work in progress and that the borough was good in some areas, less so in others. He felt there were no areas where Lambeth was performing particularly badly. He said that the majority of Policing Pledge issues sat at the Safer Neighbourhood level and he **invited Ms Washington to visit Lambeth police for a fuller explanation. Anna Tapsell added that if MS Washington took up the offer then CPCG would be very pleased to give her the opportunity to feed back.**
- 47 Mr Ephgrave explained the Metcall system whereby 999 calls are received at one of three dedicated call centres across London, one of which is in North Lambeth and covers the whole of South London. Call centre operators take details and then pass them over the air to response teams in the vicinity of the reported incident, in the case of calls classified as requiring Immediate (I) or Soon (S) response. In less urgent cases, arrangements would be made for an appointment between the caller and the appropriate police team.
- 48 With regard to deployment of out-of-borough officers, Mr Ephgrave explained that under Operation Blunt (an initiative against knife crime), teams of officers, drawn from across the boroughs, had been formed centrally and were available to be deployed to any borough, in response to intelligence. The aim has been to provide a more efficient and flexible use of resources but it does mean that deployments to Lambeth of a Blunt team will inevitably mean that some (or all) of the officers will not be 'Lambeth' officers.
- 49 Inspector Derek Renton gave details of forced entries carried out by TSG groups, relating to drugs possession, receipt of stolen goods and burglary. Commissioner's Reserve had been deployed across the borough, earlier in the month as part of Operation Verano (a part of Operation Blunt). These deployments had resulted in 2 arrests following a stabbing, an arrest for possession of a knife and an arrest for cannabis possession. Over the month '4 Unit' had made 126 Stops, 94 Searches and 24 arrests.
- 50 Later in the meeting, Lloyd Leon asked what was the ethnic composition of the TSG.**
- 51 Chief Supt Andy Tarrant (C019) introduced a colleague, 'Andy', an operational firearms officer and instructor. He explained that deployment of firearms officers, for example in response to a 999 called was usually by Armed Response Vehicles (ARBs) – BMWs marked up as normal police vehicles but with yellow circular stickers in the window.
- 52 In terms of preventative work, Andy Tarrant pointed to the commitment of five firearms officers, abstracted from their normal duties, to work with young people in an attempt to divert them from getting involved with firearms.
- 53 It was agreed by the meeting that Andy's display of deactivated arms, including TASER, would be given after the meeting for those with an interest [a number of those present at the meeting, particularly young people, availed themselves of this opportunity].
- 54 Andy stressed that whilst firearms officers are deployed thousands of times every year (which may include false alarms), the numbers of times where arms are discharged are in single figures. The most important aspect of the officers' job is to engage with individuals and to de-escalate the situation.

- 55 In response to a question relating to responses to incidents, Andy explained that the usual procedure would be to cordon off the area, to ensure safety for officers and the public, to give first aid if necessary or to search for the subject, as well as searching for any weapons. Andy Tarrant added that the target was to attend incidents within 12 minutes, on 70 per cent of occasions (as with '1' classified calls generally). Currently the 12 minute response was being met 100 per cent of the time.
- 56 Chief Supt Ephgrave explained that 999 calls reporting a firearms incident would be relayed through Metcall (see above) to both the borough police and to CO19, who would both respond to the incident, with local officers using their judgement in waiting for CO19 to arrive before addressing the incident, depending on the circumstances on the ground. In the case of information received through Crimestoppers or other sources of intelligence, then operations would generally have been pre-planned between the borough police and CO19.
- 57 Three young people associated with Word of Grace Ministries (on Myatts Field) gave powerful accounts of their frustration with the situation of their church group. Their key points were:
- 57.1 That the church group was manifestly successful in diverting young people from involvement with gangs and gangsterism and providing a route back for those who had been involved.
- 57.2 That members of the church group had attended CPCG meetings over an extended period and had been given assurances and encouragement, and yet (they felt) little was being achieved.
- 57.3 That the success of the church group was at risk, and that discouraged individuals may revert to criminal behaviours whilst the opportunity to divert others may be lost.
- 57.4 These points were underscored by Pastor Mimi Asher, who explained the circumstances at her own house, which functioned as an open house for the group, and the costs of which she had to meet from her own pocket
- 58 Anna Tapsell (Chair) responded that CPCG, being itself a voluntary community group, could not provide the church group with resources, but could provide it with a public platform and seek access for the church group to people who did have decision making power in the allocation of resources.
- 59 ***In that respect, she suggested that CPCG and others seek to ensure that Word of Grace Ministries had direct access to present their case to the leaders of the new Council administration. Chief Supt Ephgrave added that he likewise did not have finance or a building to offer but would give his time and influence to ensure that the church group had access to those who do.***
- 60 She summarised the position to date, as she understood it. This was that the Council had offered Word of Grace Ministries financial assistance with charity registration, which would put the church group in a better position to obtain funding. She said that there were requirements for CRB checks in obtaining that funding, but that they need not be prohibitive.
- 61 Ms Tapsell reported that there had been a suggestion that Patmos Lodge might provide a suitable location, but investigation had revealed that half of the building is currently being leased to a company providing facilities for older people.
- 62 George Marshman (Divisional Director, Adult Social Care, LBL) explained that he had been categorically informed by LBL's Estates Department that Patmos Lodge was not available. A number of 'shop-front' properties owned by LBL had been considered and found unsuitable. ***Nonetheless, he said he would continue to press to see if suitable premises could be found.***
- 63 A number of contributions from the floor added emphasis to the view of the urgent need to respond. David Warner queried whether the Brixton Domino Club might be able to help out whilst Lloyd Leon made comparison with the resources devoted to drug and alcohol treatment, described earlier in the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Stockwell Resource Centre, Studley Road, SW4 6RA

6. 00 p.m. TUESDAY, 1 June 2010

Lambeth Community-Police Consultative Group
Unit 58 Euro link Business Centre, 49 Effra Road
London SW2 1BZ,
T: 020 7733 0878 E: admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk
F: 020 7274 7623 W: www.lambethcpcg.org.uk