



15th December 2014

Joanne McCartney AM,
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee
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Dear Joanne

Police and Crime Committee Q&A —9 October 2014

Further to my attendance at the Police and Crime Committee on 9 October 2014 I agreed to write to you with questions on the topics that did not get discussed at the meeting. These are as follows:

ASB and 'The Community Trigger'

1. How well do relevant agencies in London understand the Trigger and what it might mean for them?

- How will you ensure that agencies don't simply rely on victims to know about the Trigger?

The Community Trigger gives victims and communities the right to request a case review and promotes a multi-agency, problem-solving approach to find a solution. The MPS has worked with MOPAC, London Councils, all London Boroughs and a number of the large social housing providers to ensure all partners have a shared understanding and policies regarding measures in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act.

All BOCUs have plans in place with their partners to assist the public and to review all cases meeting the threshold. Plans will differ from BOCU to BOCU but all will publicise it locally with their partners, ensure all officers have undertaken the online training and know how to signpost any applicant to the appropriate website. This will vary from borough to borough. During the Richmond pilot, Borough police used Twitter, ward panels, NHW coordinators, local councillors, partnership posters, local newspapers, radio stations and a leaflet drop. It is expected that all boroughs will use some or all of these options.

Sexual offences in prisons

2. The Howard League for Penal Reform recently highlighted that sexual offences in prisons across England and Wales is the on the rise. How many sexual offences take place in prisons in London?

- What are the barriers to reporting rape or sexual assault in prisons?
- How are partners working to ensure that this does not remain a hidden issue in London?

The Metropolitan Police's Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Command is committed to investigating all forms of sexual violence, which includes sexual violence within prisons.

Like sexual offences in general, we know that sexual offences in prisons are under-reported. The MPS has agreed protocols with London prisons to respond to sexual violence and our partners, London NHS Sexual Assault Referral Centres (the Havens), are also able to undertake their work within prisons.

The SOECA Partnership Team in the Met has implemented Information Sharing Agreements with prisons, immigration centres and young offender institutes in London to facilitate the exchange of information that can be developed into intelligence.

The SOECA Partnership Team is also working with the prison health commissioning service to facilitate a consistent service to all victims of sexual crime within a detention setting.

The MPS has been working with Holloway and Pentonville prisons to discuss the practical elements of prison staff initially responding to reports of sexual assault, including preservation of evidence, victim care and recording of crime. The Havens will be involved in future joint training to prison staff.

We are also in the process of developing a training process for front line staff in young offender institutes with regard to initial disclosure, administration of Early Evidence Kits, forensic awareness and information sharing. This has yet to be delivered but it is in the design stage.

Do please let me know if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Mackey
Deputy Commissioner