

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 25 September 2012, 15:00 at Mayor's Office, City Hall, GLA.

Present

Mayor of London	Boris Johnson
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime	Stephen Greenhalgh
London Councils	Mayor Jules Pipe
London Councils	Cllr Claire Kober
London Councils	Cllr. Philippa Roe

Apologies

London Councils	Nick Walkley
Commissioner	Bernard Hogan-Howe

Officers

Deputy Commissioner	Craig Mackey	Metropolitan Police Service
Principal Advisor	Blair Gibbs	MOPAC
Chief Crown Prosecutor	Alison Saunders	Crown Prosecution Service
Chief Executive for London Probation	Heather Munro	London Probation Trust
Chief Executive for London Councils	John O'Brien	London Councils
Commissioning & Commercial Director (NOMS)	Ian Poree	National Offender Management Service
Head of Strategic Policy Group	Doug Flight	London Councils
Private Secretary to the Mayor	Leigh Greenhalgh	Greater London Authority
Head of pan-London Policing and Crime Strategy	Siobhan Coldwell	Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime
Head of Policy and Programme Delivery	Christian Steenberg	Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime
London Crime & Reduction Board Planning & Delivery Officer	Naomi Simpson	Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1. Mayor Boris Johnson opened the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

2.1. The minutes were agreed. Action updates were received.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No papers were presented at this meeting allowing fluidity of discussions. As a result, the record of the meeting will not be in accordance with the agenda.

3 DRAFT MOPAC POLICE & CRIME PLAN UPDATE

Stephen Greenhalgh provided a brief verbal update on the development of the draft MOPAC Police & Crime Plan stating it comprises of three key categories.

- 1 Crime Prevention & Reduction
 - Making places safer
 - People
 - Problems
 - Neighborhood Watch
 - Looking at what measures prevent crime - E.g. controlled drinking zones
 - Community empowerment & community champions
- 2 Criminal Justice & reducing re-offending
- 3 Policing & Accountability

4 LCRB PRIORITIES

Anti-Social Behaviour

DMPC led a discussion on the requirement for quicker and more effective routes for addressing ASB – There is a need to speed up processes for granting ASBO and eviction orders. The amount of data that neighbours are required to collect as evidence makes taking further action extremely challenging.

There is a need to work closely with the judiciary/criminal justice system (CJS) ensuring that not only are they aware of the challenges faced by partners; but we are also aware of their challenges and their ask of us. This will allow us to work together and problem-solve some of the issues / blockages currently faced.

Initial suggestions for ensuring positive outcomes included providing additional briefings when liaising with partners to help speed up processes and securing appropriate sentences.

Craig Mackey advised that there is learning from the Gangs enforcement approach such as presenting problem profiles, which has helped in securing appropriate sentences.

Her Majesty Court Services have a pan-London structure. Whilst the partnership is unable to tell judges what to do, they are able to ensure they are aware of the totality of the issues to be addressed.

The LCRB agreed that London Councils and the Crown Prosecution Service should work with the Courts to establish effective communication channels between the boroughs and the Courts to obtain better outcomes. This could be supported through the work programmes for the LCRB 'Task & Finish Groups'

Members the Board raised concerns about ASB and tolerance – There is a lack of tolerance / understanding between different groups / cultures around ASB and what constitutes as ASB. Further work is required to manage expectations regarding the realities of living in built up cities such as London. This will also be picked up in the work programme for the ASB 'Task & Finish Group'.

Action: ASB 'Task & Finish Group' to do further scoping work and initiate the conversation with the CJS.

Neighbourhood Watch

There is a tendency for Neighbourhood Watch to be present in more affluent areas of London; there is a need for Neighbourhood Watch to spread across all wards in London including council estates.

The LCRB discussed what role it could play in supporting the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch across London including the circulation of 'good news stories' of successful interventions; (Hammersmith & Fulham have good examples).

The Board agreed that more needed to be done to recognise the achievements of Neighbourhood Watch and celebrate members of the public who play an active role in ensuring their communities are safe. This should be led by local councils. Mayor Jules Pipe cited an example of a local man who had been nominated by his tenants group for Hackney Council's 'Capable Guardian' award by the Hackney Downs SNT; after he assisted with the investigation which led to the closure of a pub. (Concern was expressed about the name, 'Capable Guardians', it was suggested that this name should be changed).

Further support could be achieved from:

- ✓ Neighbourhood Watch Champions
- ✓ Local Councils – Circulation of good news stories and statistics through London Councils Communications networks.

- ✓ City Hall – recognition of volunteers, raising of the Neighbourhood Watch profile via Boris Johnson.
- ✓ The creation of a supportive environment for Neighbourhood watch
- ✓ Greater support from Safer Neighbourhood Teams

It was agreed that while LCRB could endorse Neighbourhood Watch as a positive way of supporting safety in communities; the process needs to be a bottom up process which is led by the local authorities.

Action: London Councils and Deputy Commissioner, Craig Mackey to lead on promoting Neighbourhood Watch and raising its profile across the boroughs.

A pan-London controlled drinking zone was discussed by the Board. Craig Mackey explained that a controlled drinking zone (CDZ) is a designated public area in which police have powers to confiscate alcohol or require a person to stop drinking. (CDZ is not a ban and does not make drinking alcohol in public an offence.) CDZs are intended as a way of dealing with alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. A number of boroughs have introduced CDZs; it was stated that west London Boroughs have been more reluctant due to challenges around enforcement.

The Board questioned the success of the enforcement of TfL's no drinking zone. There have been suggestions that the figures for alcohol consumption on public transport are going back up. This needs to be looked into and confirmed.

The Board agreed that a pan-London CDZ would be a proactive step towards tackling alcohol related ASB. London Councils were asked to do further scoping with the boroughs around this issue, and the feasibility of obtaining their support before the LCRB lobbies for a pan-London CDZ.

Cllr Roe mentioned that Westminster use CCTV to monitor licensed premises, incentivizing pubs and bars to take greater responsibility with regards to the sale of alcohol. This has also proven to be effective for tackling alcohol related offences.

Action: Siwan Haward (TfL) to look into enforcement data regarding TfL's controlled drinking zone.

Action: London Councils to do further scoping into CDZs and the reasons behind some boroughs reluctance.

Gangs

Mayor Boris Johnson congratulated the Metropolitan Police Service on the successful delivery of the Trident enforcement approach which has achieved positive outcomes in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

He stated there needs to be a greater focus on prevention/diversion activities for addressing gang activity, and asked what partners are doing to support the MPS. He also asked what City Hall could do to help; noting that the Olympics had highlighted that people are willing to help and support their communities.

Cllr Roe mentioned Westminster's successful 'Your Choice' programme, a multi-agency programme which builds on the principles of early intervention, information sharing and personal responsibility. It allows young people to make a real choice - to take up the services on offer and become upstanding members of their community, or to face a range of enforcement options. She noted however that consistency of funding was a problem.

The Board agreed that this is a challenge, as is the number of funding streams. Boroughs need to know that they have a lump sum e.g. £500K which can be used to fund an initiative over a period of three to five years.

DMPC emphasised the need to distinguish between the programmes and initiatives which are proven to work and achieve results, and those that do not. An evidence base needs to be established allowing the partnership to draw down cash in a transparent and informed, evidence based way. At present money is being drizzled all over the place with little understanding of how the money is being spent with limited or no measurable outcomes.

Tackling gangs is a key issue for the LCRB. A single pot of funding is needed and the Board needs to ensure spending is effectively focusing on co-commissioning programmes and initiatives which will ensure positive outcomes and measurable reductions in ASB/criminal activity.

Project Oracle was re-launched on the 24 September, and is now fully resourced and as such, part of the solution to identifying programmes and initiatives that are able to produce positive / measurable results.

Mayor Boris Johnson spoke of the success of MPS Police Cadets, and the need to invest to expand the scheme. There is a need to build links and improve confidence and relationships between the police and communities. It is envisaged that the cadets will help with achieving this.

DMPC spoke of the requirements for further gang mediation initiatives. Whilst there are numerous initiatives currently in place, there is a need to be confident with regards to their effectiveness before any investment is made.

Hackney Council have a tried and tested evidence base, Mayor Jules Pipe stated that the borough got their 'biggest bang for their buck' by funding Trident officers within their borough and the joint partnership working between the local authority and Trident.

Mayor Jules Pipe spoke about Pembury Estate in Hackney which was the 'poster boy' for the riots last summer. The Board heard how in the last five to six years the living conditions on the estate had significantly improved with an excellent school, community resources, transport links and availability of jobs as well as proactive policing which had put away some of the most serious criminals in the area. Despite all of this, young people from the estate were quoted as saying nothing is being done to support them.

Prevention and diversionary activities at times appear to be a temporary solution. It is clear that access to effective education and the availability of jobs is the only long-term and sustainable solution to addressing gangs and criminal activity. Young persons need to establish a clear path

to take themselves away from criminal activity.

Action: Mayor Boris Johnson to lobby for a single pot of funding linked to evidenced based commissioning criteria.

Reoffending

Heather Munro provided an update on the reducing re-offending LCRB 'Task & Finish Group' workshop which looked at:

- What is currently being done to address reducing re-offending?
- What are the pressure points, trends, issues and strategic gaps?
- What could the LCRB do to make a difference?

The desired outcome will be to establish a roadmap of activities which identifies key pan-London priorities for addressing reducing re-offending in London. This will be discussed in further detail at the next Delivery Management Group on the 31 October and reported back to the next Board in December.

Heather Munro identified some of the key outcomes from the reducing re-offending 'Task & Finish Group':

- 1) Re-settlement – Linking in with employment services and how we can better work with employers.
- 2) Recognition that stable housing is one of the key factors which contributes to an individual's ability to address other criminogenic needs such as employment and drug treatment etc. An address also determines which services are available to individuals e.g. health provision.
- 3) Concerns that the changes to both housing and benefits legislation will significantly impact on the offender population. This is likely to affect outer London boroughs that will see a greater number of offenders migrating to their areas due to the un-affordability of inner city areas. Shared accommodation for the under 35s also creates issues regarding risk management.
- 4) It has been suggested that a pan-London housing 'Working Group' should be established to review the current picture in some depth and to report back to the LCRB on potential risks and solutions.

Mayor Boris Johnson asked what the Board is doing to assist with the housing challenges and questioned whether there was a lobbying role for the Board. There is a need to ensure London Councils are involved especially as some individuals are not associated or linked with a particular borough, which has posed challenges for providing support. Heather Munro stated that London Councils are already engaged and a separate workshop will be hosted by MOPAC to look at these challenges in greater detail.

Action: LCRB Planning and Delivery Officer to host a second 'Task & Finish Group' workshop

Mental Health

Concerns were raised regarding a perceived withdrawal of support from health and mental health service providers. At a recent visit to Feltham, YOI, it became apparent MPS officers were still required to intervene and deal with patients with mental health issues. It was acknowledged that deaths in custody could be avoided or minimised if officers were provided with the right medical information on detainees.

Ian Poree suggested that new NHS commissioning Boards and structures may help and offered his assistance with engaging these boards; particularly with regards to offender health. The Board was keen that our colleagues within the remit of health understand the challenges as seen by the Criminal Justice System.

Action: Meeting to be arranged between David Mellish and Stephen Greenhalgh to discuss challenges with partnership relations between the Criminal Justice System and the NHS London.

5 NEXT LCRB AGENDA PLANNING

Suggested agenda items for the next LCRB were:

- Police and Crime Plan
- LCRB pan-London anti gangs strategy
- Progress on the development of the three 'Task & Finish Groups'.

The meeting finished at 16.00

Date of next meeting: 13 December 2012
