

17th March 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your full and detailed response to the draft Police and Crime Plan.

I'm pleased to be able to respond to the recommendations made by the Police and Crime Committee below.

- **Keeping children and young people safe** – Like you, we are clear that serious youth violence and knife crime are not solely related to gang activity and we make this point clearly in the Plan. One of our core commitments under the keeping children and young people safe section is producing and implementing a new knife crime strategy. This will bring together stakeholders – including young people – to take tough action against knife crime, challenge perceptions about it and encourage young people to come forward and report knife crime. We will continue to fund support provided to victims of knife and gang crime in London Major Trauma Centres and extend it further to other Accident and Emergency departments in Boroughs that have high levels of knife crime, allowing us to reach and support more young people who may not wish to report crimes formally.
- **Violence against women and girls (VAWG)** – The Mayor is determined to tackle violence against women and girls in London and will be working with partners to refresh the London VAWG Strategy. We will continue funding both ISVAs and IDVAs to support survivors through the criminal justice process. We also commit to working with currently commissioned providers to develop a new sexual violence service model to better meet the needs of all victims and survivors.
- **Standing against extremism, hatred and intolerance** – We have committed to work with the Home Office to deliver more tailored counter-radicalisation activity across London, alongside our other work to protect people vulnerable to crime and prevent them from being drawn into harmful activities.
- **Harmful practices: FGM** – We are unequivocal in our condemnation of FGM and other harmful practices and clear in our commitment to improve training for frontline professionals who come into contact with potential victims of harmful practices so they can identify those at risk and take appropriate steps to intervene.
- **Fraud and online crime** – The final Plan contains detail on our ambitions to protect organisations and individuals from fraud and online crime, including through the London Digital Security Centre and through our support to the MPS FALCON team.
- **Tackling drug use** – The Plan describes how we will work to tackle drug use, which is a key driver of offending and reoffending. This includes encouraging a problem solving approach in communities – tackling core issues like drug dealing that can be the driver of many other crime and antisocial behaviour problems in local areas. It includes our commitment to support partnership work to tackle the organised crime groups responsible for trafficking drugs in London and across county lines. It also includes work to improve drug testing on arrest, so that people found to be using drugs can be

directed to appropriate support, and working with London health partners to ensure continuity of healthcare support as offenders transfer between services.

- **Health and policing** – We commit to reviewing the provision of healthcare in police custody to ensure that this important service is provided in an effective and well-managed way. In addition, the document sets out plans to trial new, dedicated Mental Health Teams in the MPS to ‘problem solve’ cases and reduce demand by addressing the underlying issues of vulnerability linked to mental health.
- **A better criminal justice service** - Following lobbying by the Mayor, on 8th March 2017, the Chancellor announced an agreement to work towards the devolution of responsibility for some elements of the Criminal Justice Service out of central Government and to the Mayor of London. We know that the Assembly has supported devolution and this will be as welcome to you, as it is us. The Plan sets out the strategic ambitions for the Criminal Justice Service that we hope to achieve through devolution.
- **Local volume crime priorities** – The Plan sets out how we have agreed the local priorities, and the new approach has been well received. Details of the agreed priorities for all 32 Boroughs will be published alongside the Plan. We will review these priorities with Boroughs on an annual basis. The Plan sets out our continued commitment to Ward Panels and Safer Neighbourhood Boards, and they will play an important role in linking with neighbourhood teams to ensure they are tackling issues of high concern.
- **BCU pathfinders** – The Mayor has committed to reviewing the outcome of the Basic Command Unit pathfinder to assess whether it is suitable for a wider rollout across London. This will happen in a timely and appropriate manner.
- **Holding the Met and MOPAC to account** - MOPAC has created a comprehensive performance framework which indicates how performance will be measured. This is set out in detail within the final Police and Crime Plan.
- **Delivering in uncertain times** – The morale, motivation and passion to serve of London’s police officers, staff and volunteers is precious, and we are determined to work with the new Commissioner to make the MPS a better place to work, encouraging a culture of fairness and respect, opening new pathways for Londoners of different backgrounds to join the MPS, and supporting work underway in the MPS to ensure that leaders respect and embrace diversity.

Regarding the wider consultation, we had a considerable number of responses – Over 230 written responses and over 530 responses to our online survey. I have also undertaken many consultation meetings with stakeholders as well as 5 public meetings.

The consultation was undertaken when the proposals in the draft plan were still at a formative stage. All responses to the consultation were given careful consideration, and read and analysed. This analysis has been taken into account in formulating the final Plan.

The final Police and Crime Plan will be published on Monday 20th March 2017. We will ensure that you are sent a copy, along with the agreed local priorities for the MPS. I look forward to working with the Committee in the years ahead as we work to make London a safer city for all.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sophie Linden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small horizontal line at the end.

Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime