

Date: Tuesday, 21 October 2014
Location: The Chamber, City Hall
Hearing: MOPAC Challenge - Quarterly Performance

Start time: 10.00am
Finish time: 11:15am

Members:

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair)
Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime)
Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member)
Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member)
Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member)
Helen Bailey (MOPAC Chief Operating Officer)

Guests:

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner)
Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner)
Mark Simmons (MPS Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing)

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary)

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Welcome to the latest edition of the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) Challenge. This morning we are mainly going to concentrate on the new MOPAC Crime Dashboard and I am going to ask Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC), to say a little bit more about it. Stephen, how are we doing?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Very impressive results, Mayor. I have a few introductory remarks and then Ash is going to then take us through the Dashboard very quickly. London is driving down the crime reduction in England and Wales. In fact, without London there would be a slight increase in levels

[The Challenge was interrupted by the installation of a desk for an additional guest.]

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Presumably we can just push on?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, push on.

As I said, London is driving the national crime reduction curve. In addition, we are well on the way, Mayor, to achieving the 20% reduction target in the MOPAC 7 crimes. It is currently at 18%. However, we will be focusing the second part of the meeting on an increase in Violence with Injury (VWI). It is fair to say that it appears to be a national challenge - 38 out of the 43 forces in England and Wales are seeing an increase in Violence with Injury and 20 forces have a higher increase than the Metropolitan Police Service. However, it is, nevertheless, a problem in our capital city that we need to concern ourselves with and, in particular, non-Domestic Abuse violence in particular places, which appears to be linked with the night-time economy.

Shall we quickly take you through the Dashboard then?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes, please.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Ash, do you want to bring up the first page?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Looks good.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): OK, as you can see from this chart it shows our objective for the reduction in MOPAC 7 crimes. As I said, at the moment we are around 18% reduction so still a little shy of the 20% but well on the way. Down from 411,000 MOPAC 7 offences to 337,000 MOPAC 7 offences. The lower left-hand corner you can see that the Metropolitan Police Service accounts for 42%; that is almost half of the reduction in crime nationally - that is the big blue blob.

Ash, can you show over time the increasing importance of London to that crime reduction? Which year is this?

Helen Bailey (MOPAC Chief Operating Officer): June 2009.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): June 2009? Keep going with each year and just show us. That is the Metropolitan Police Service --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): The big blue blob?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Well, it is a small blue blob here in 2009 and then it gets very small.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): This is very small.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is a very small blob.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): So, what is the point of it?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Keep going. We are just showing that as we move now in time the blob gets bigger.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): The blob, it is getting bigger all the time.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Then it gets bigger.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Oh my God!

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Then it becomes gigantic.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Mr President, the blob is getting bigger all the time!

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The blob suddenly explodes as it is showing London's contribution to the National Crime Reduction Board. It explodes. I hazard to say it explodes in the last few years, which is great to see.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): In addition to that, as I say, we have to recognise that more forces are actually seeing an increase. It would have been a 0.4% increase without the Metropolitan Police Service.

If we go to the second page looking at the MOPAC 7 rolling 12-month programme, this gives an overview of all London boroughs and how they are doing against the seven crime types. It basically indicates in a nutshell - and you can see the curves which is assuming they all have a 20% target - they are all on track for a --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Except --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Except for Violence with Injury, which you can see is rising. They are all positioned on the table to show their relative importance to the MOPAC 7. Burglary, obviously, is a critical crime to get on top of. If that

does not come down then we will not hit our target. All bar Violence with Injury are heading in the right direction.

Potentially we can look at boroughs at this stage. Faith, did you want to look at Lambeth?

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes, could we focus on Lambeth please?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): On which? Lambeth?

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Lambeth; and just view its current performance. I think we can see that the borough is, clearly, quite a challenge to the MPS performance. It is ranked 31st out of the 32 boroughs overall, and it is the worst for Violence with Injury offences. However, it is not uniform and I think this display shows that quite clearly because we can see from the rolling 12-month trends that performance has improved in a majority of areas with significant improvements in robbery, in theft from person and in burglary. However, Violence with Injury, clearly, is continuing to rise. Picking up on the point you have just made, Deputy Mayor, I think it suggests burglary can be quite an important aspect of differences between boroughs. In Lambeth, as a high-crime borough, it makes up less than a fifth of the total MOPAC 7 crimes but in lower-crime boroughs, such as Richmond, burglary can make up something like a third of their offences. I think that raises a question: given that we know that some crimes like burglary are easier to prevent than others, how important is a borough's crime mix to the challenge they have to cut crime overall? I think that is a general question.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): How important is burglary, did you say?

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Burglary is a good example, but the overall crime mix and the ability to get upstream and prevent some types of crime can have quite an influence.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes, I see that. Surely when we are looking at Lambeth here, Faith [Boardman], the issue is they are on track to get their burglary down to 20% whereas it is the VWI that is alarming.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): It is. Quite clearly the things on which they have to concentrate and the approach they need to take is going to need to differ considerably from other boroughs.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes. Sorry, I understand the point. I wonder if perhaps we could go to Craig [Mackey], Helen [King] or Mark [Simmons] - whoever wants to answer - on why you think we have this spike in VWI in Lambeth. Is that the question we should be focusing on?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Well, what about the crime mix point? Does that mean we should be having different targets for different boroughs depending on the crime mix there?

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Should we be devoting more energy to different types?

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): Yes. The simple answer is yes. The mix of the crimes in the borough will be different across the piece, as you say, and some of those crimes like burglary will be bigger drivers in boroughs that have predominantly lower overall levels of crime and different across the mix. It is not a one-size-fits-all across the 32 London boroughs.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): At the start of the year when we plan for the boroughs we set different targets for them for different MOPAC 7 crimes, depending on what their proportion is. At the start of the year we set Lambeth a 7% reduction in burglary as their staging post towards the MOPAC 7 challenge. Merton, for example, had a 5% reduction target. We look at how they had performed in the previous year, what the make-up of their crime types are - so which we should focus on - and we set them differential targets that are bespoke to those particular boroughs.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): OK. We are talking about varying the percentage targets within the MOPAC 7?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): However, obviously, achieving the overall MOPAC 7 and aiming for reduction in all crime types.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Right, so going back to Faith's [Boardman] point - which I think I misunderstood; apologies - the idea is where you have a place like Richmond where burglary makes up a very large proportion of the crimes then you really have a go at squishing down that spring in the lumpy mattress.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Absolutely, Mayor. For Richmond we set a 9% reduction target on burglary, which is one of the higher ones for this year as part of the MOPAC 20 four-year challenge because it is a higher proportion of their overall MOPAC 7 crimes.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Which you can see in this slide is much higher than the rest. This is Richmond now.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): This is Richmond, OK.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is showing that, relatively speaking, it is much higher.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes, because most of these other crime types are very low. Robbery is very low in Richmond, 226 offences down to 154, but burglary is still up in the thousands.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, that is right.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): OK, I have got the point. VWI, which is very high in Lambeth, is relatively low in Richmond.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): As a proportion of the total.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): As a proportion of the total. So what you are directing me to think is that it is right to vary the approach within the overall MOPAC 7 20% challenge.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Got it. Not all crime types are to be reduced uniformly by 20% but the overall mix --

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): The totality adds up to 20%.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): OK, I have got it.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Shall we have a quick look at Westminster, Jonathan [Glanz]? This is the highest volume borough and, frankly, if we do not conquer crime in Westminster we do not get there.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): No.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Let us have a look at this.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Indeed, very high numbers relating to all of these crimes. Generally an interesting picture, but the huge improvement, of course, is in relation to theft from person. We have discussed that here on a number of occasions.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes, that was noticeable in the Lambeth figures too.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes. I know you have spoken before about how that is related to change in technology relating to telephones. Clearly, that is now showing a very significant improvement. On the other MOPAC 7, again, high numbers but whilst the trend is there it is still not looking as if it will reach the 20% reduction that we are hoping to achieve. Can we explore some of the particular challenges and issues around the very centre of the city where you have these huge numbers of crimes, but also the challenges around the sort of people that might be committing these crimes, given that not many people live there?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Of course, and you see that in the breakdown of crimes. Burglary has not been as high in areas that are not particularly residential because, obviously, you have to have a premises for it to be burgled. Whereas when you have a lot of people coming in, whether they are tourists or people to work, the street crimes - the theft from person, the Violence with Injury that is not domestic-related - is going to be a higher proportion of crime overall. This is more challenging in some ways to deal with, particularly the very transient street population that you have in Westminster. Things like crime prevention

messages. You are literally dealing with different people every day, people from different nationalities, people who are here for a whole wide range of reasons.

I suppose what is a good example of something we are doing in Westminster that is different to other places is the work in the impact zone around Leicester Square, and so on. We know the very high concentration of assaults there, we know the vulnerability of people coming into the area who maybe are not familiar with London, who are distracted by the sights, the opportunities - the reasons why we are there. And so that pilot, the 100 officers out on the street, through the night, on fixed points and also walking. We really want to see what impact that can have on such a crime density we have in that quite small area.

Certainly the feedback from the public when I have been out on the street myself is very positive. They like to see British officers. Speaking to the officers they are enjoying their work because they have that opportunity to stop and talk to people --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): They like to see what of? British officers, did you say?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, the British bobby [slang term for constable in British law enforcement].

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): As opposed to French ones, or whatever.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Well, yes. It is as iconic a bit of London as the red buses and the phone boxes, is it not?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): What we have to see is the impact on the numbers and I know we are going to get into talking about Violence with Injury shortly. The Borough Commander was telling me yesterday that the last 16 grievous bodily harm (GBH) offences were all actually discovered by the police and reported there and then. There has to be a question mark: if the police were not out on the streets, would they have all been reported? Clearly, the intention is by having officers there you can prevent crime from happening in the first place and you can prevent it from escalating so that low-level problems can be dealt with quickly in the first instance and prevented from escalating into anything more serious. People can be given advice and the tone of the area can be set, particularly around the night-time economy. However, Westminster is a particularly demanding borough because of the nature of it.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Thank you for that and, obviously, it is early days in relation to that high visibility scheme and much of the initial feedback is very positive, which has been noted and hopefully will be reflected in the figures when we next have the chance to have a look at them.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): We would hope so.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): The other issue, which I think perhaps is slightly more intently felt within Westminster, is foreign national offending. Again, is that something which you think is reflected in these high numbers?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): It gives us some challenges. I am sure that previously you have been briefed on some of the barriers to, for instance, obtaining intelligence or previous convictions around foreign-national offenders. We are doing a particular push on that. Over recent years we have seen much greater checks of foreign-national offenders while they are in custody so that we can get the information on them that we would have on offenders who have lived in the UK.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Does that include working with police teams from countries where --

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, it does. We have had visiting police officers from a range of countries working particularly closely with us, which helps with that.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): OK, thank you.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Excellent. I remember quite recently we went and launched a great new gigantic Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) --

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): That is the impact zone, yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): The impact zone, that is right. That was modelled specifically on a Times Square [major commercial intersection and neighbourhood in New York City] approach and trying to give a lot more reassurance to everybody. I think the point you make is really good. Are you starting to see any benefits from that yet? Is it too early to see how that is paying off? The mobile police station, or whatever, and all that stuff. Are you starting to see some of those high-volume crimes coming down a bit there or is it too early?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): I would not want to jump to a conclusion about the figures as yet. It is a bit early.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes. I suppose the other issue with Westminster, Jonathan [Glanz], that I remember is not so much just the West End stuff but some of the gang crime in those estates in the north/northwest of the borough and I wonder how all that is coming on.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, it is a very diverse borough and, clearly, we need to not forget about the areas that are not the city centre. You will be very well aware of the very close working between Trident [police operation formed to investigate non-fatal shootings where both suspects and victims were from black communities] and the local borough gangs' team and, indeed, the neighbourhood officers who are out in those areas.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes. Those figures on gang crime and knife crime are still very encouraging. Obviously, whatever you guys have been doing on mobile phones has been incredibly effective. I do not know what it was but we were all in a terrific panic about it, if you remember, and we got all the mobile phone companies together and we made a great hoo-hah but here it is. You are getting the numbers down very considerably. Mark [Simmons], what do you think it is all about? How are you managing to beat this?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): I think it is fair to say it is a combination of a range of things. The work that we have done with the phone companies has been really important. There is a change in the demand out there as a result of that. We have also focused on the places where the biggest volume of phones go missing. We know every time there is a big event at The O2 [large entertainment district] in Greenwich, at O2 Academy [one of London's music venues, nightclub and theatre] in Lambeth, at any of the big venues, and we know for which types of events, we know that people prey on visitors for their mobile phones. You get large numbers that go in a small number of events so we have really focused on those.

We have also done a lot of prevention work that means that you can tailor what we do from places like Kingston or Richmond, who have very small volume, but working with smaller shops like coffee shops in the High Street, you can make them more aware for their customers with crime prevention, through to the Camdens and the Westminster and so on that have much busier town centres where the same prevention messages really work. It is a combination of those factors that have really worked for us.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good. That whole issue where Apple [American multinational consumer electronics corporation] was receiving stolen goods and all that, what has happened with that? Do you remember? We were getting very stroppy with Apple because they were basically picking anybody's phone and --

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): The work that we have done with the phone companies around the nature of the warranties and what that means for people being able to take phones back, the ability to make phones useless once they are no longer in the possession of the owner, which the companies have worked really well with us on and made a big difference on that. That is really pleasing.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): That is very encouraging. Any more on Westminster anybody?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That is it.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Thank you.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The third bit of the MOPAC Crime Dashboard is looking at the percentage reduction since the baseline year by borough. What you can see is although we are cumulatively at an 18% reduction against a 20% four-year target, so well on track, the reduction in crime varies dramatically between boroughs. The best performer is Hounslow with a cumulative 27% reduction against Bexley who, since the baseline year started in March 2012, has a 1% reduction. What we can see particularly in Bexley

is that it really has an issue around burglary, which has peaked in December 2013 with a volume of 224 offences and there is also a steady increase in Violence with Injury. In these lower-volume crime boroughs, if you do not get on top of burglary, in particular, then you do not drive an overall reduction in crime. I think that is the message. Are there any comments, Helen [King]?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): I suppose around burglary in particular I was very struck coming to the Metropolitan Police Service at the seasonality of burglary offences, where it goes up by about 25% over the winter months. We are working very hard at the moment; Operation Bumblebee [police operation formed to crack down on burglary in London] has been re-launched for this winter period. In Bexley last year they were hit particularly badly last winter with a number of burglary teams out there clearly very active. I visited the Borough Commander. He is very aware of what happened last year and is absolutely determined to make sure it does not happen this year.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good. Obviously, when you have a low-volume crime borough and you get a particular spike in one crime type, it is going to throw your figures very badly out of whack. Who is doing all the burgling in Bexley? Who are the Bexley Burglars? Do we know who they are?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): The last lot are not at liberty to be burgling this winter but, obviously, one of the things you have to do, particularly in the small-crime boroughs, is one or two very active crime teams can make a real difference to your crime figures.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): You mean burglars?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, burglars or offenders of any type. Things like tracking people as they come out of prison so we know where they are coming to when, intervening with them very early and picking up any patterns at the earliest opportunities so that you know if a team is operating in your area and can get on to them as quickly as possible.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): There is a recent example in Bexley of a team that committed offences in Brent - it is all the Bs funny enough - Bexley, Bromley and then out in Kent that were offending on a kind of arc through there - and probably in between as well if we could identify those. They were travelling looking for opportunities across that range.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Brent to Bexley?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Brent to Bexley and then out into Kent. It was quite a high-volume series of offences that Bexley identified - they were the nexus for the identification of the offenders. We have a mix. We do look at the number of burglaries that are committed by people resident on the borough versus those that travel into the borough and we look at the balance. In Westminster, for example, it is fairly high that they come from outside. In other places it is a closer mix and then we try to track those

offenders and how we can best control them when they are not in custody through looking at that. However, that is just an example of how burglary has become much more of a travelling crime, we would say, over the last few years in London and much more cross-border work to catch the teams that commit the highest volume of burglaries and hurt us the most.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Burglary, generally, has been coming down, has it not?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Yes, coming down.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): A few years ago we had a bit of a worry and we had a big Bumblebee operation. What are burglaries generally after? Is it stuff they can flog to buy drugs?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): They are things that can be converted into cash or is cash; so cash, jewellery, credit cards, high-value items that are easy to carry. It changes over time to some extent. As car security got better the phenomenon of car key burglaries - breaking into someone's house to get the keys so you can then steal the car - increased. It does change over time.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Just before we leave the Dashboard, are we able to look at burglary as a crime type across all the boroughs? Is that possible? Because, Mark [Simmons], you briefed us that actually one of the success stories of burglary has been thinking about crime prevention and preventing it. I remember it was in Brent with Helen [King] where we saw a significant reduction in burglaries where they have done a lot of smart watering and in Hounslow where the overall reduction is huge and they did the electronic tagging of repeat offenders.

What I am interesting in in these figures: do these figures indicate which tactic - and then there is cocooning and other things that you do to target crime - is the most effective or whether it is just a suite of doing all of those things?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): It is a combination of all those things and it is making sure that for the profile of burglary in that particular place we are using the right tactics. If you go to somewhere like Hackney, for example, their burglaries are about half-and-half residential and non-residential and we know tactically to prevent non-residential burglaries you are much more working with business and commercial enterprises as opposed to getting homeowners to improve their security. The tactics are different in different places. It is a menu of those different things that you have described, Deputy Mayor, and then applying them in the right place.

Residential locations; yes, it is overwhelmingly cocooning work we do, which is giving specific crime prevention advice to people in the vicinity of every burglary so that the burglars that go back to the same place know we give people a better chance of preventing them. It is the bespoke problem-solving stuff that, again, needs to look at the local factors, the local features.

If it is in commercial premises then it is often maximising the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) but it is also shared responsibility around locking office blocks and that sort of thing and controlling access. Then you have the things like the traceable liquid stuff, which has been really successful in those places where we have majored on it and where we are looking, as you know, to spread that right across the Metropolitan Police Service. We are not getting the full impact of that yet in every single borough, so there is still work in taking that out further, as you know. I was talking to the Borough Commander in Kensington and Chelsea yesterday and they have a bit of a spike in burglary. It is not a huge one and does not show up here. They have not had as big a reduction, but they do not yet have a traceable liquids initiative there. That is one of the things that we know will start to help them make that small blue thing look a bit bigger, as it were. It is all those things and applying them in the right mix.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I think we agreed to roll out traceable liquids, did we not? When is that going to happen?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): It is in the process at the moment so it is being rolled out and it is contributing to where --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Where was it? Harrow?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We did the launch. Yes, I think we launched it in Harrow.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): We have spoken about this before, but I think the long-term success around burglary has been the imbedding and systemising of these approaches. I know the HMIC picked it up during their recent inspection, but whilst people do not talk overtly around crime prevention, when you say to a group of officers or to a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), "Have you done your cocooning?" they all know what you are talking about. The response to burglary, the way it has been embedded and driven over the last number of years by people, that is what is making those results. We keep going back to those things we know that work, we use them consistently and do not have this approach where it was not invented here, or anything like that. It is being used really, really well and officers have driven this across the piece. It is a real success.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): I would say the Metropolitan Police Service is probably ahead of the game around preventative patrolling, so using the data to predict where crime is likely to happen and then getting that visible policing out there for short bursts regularly through the day. Preventative patrolling, again, will be having an impact on bringing those figures down.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Thank you very much. I think before we go to the next section, which is going to be on Violence with Injury, I just want to ask Steve Otter if you would like to comment, Steve, on the Metropolitan Police Service's performances as you see it relative to the rest of the country. That blob getting bigger and bigger is very encouraging. There are signs of Metropolitan Police Service dominance in bringing crime down nationally.

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): We can confirm the Metropolitan Police Service is a major contributor to it.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Can you confirm this? Is this optimism justified, do you think?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): It is justified. You are the major contributor to the reduction nationally at the moment. The latest unpublished data, so just drawing on how well the Metropolitan Police Service is reducing its crime out of the seven, shows it is the best out of its most similar group in four out of the seven, the second best in one, and third best in two. It is still showing strong performance. Robbery is the area where it is still very significantly much higher than its most similar group - twice as high as West Midlands, and we have talked about that before. It is slightly narrowing the gap but it will take a long time because it starts at a very, very level.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Are those things like mobile phones?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Well, it is the relative difference between the two areas. Even if you take into account the demographic issues and the depravation issues, which the Home Office have done some work around nationally, it is still very high in London. The area where the Metropolitan Police Service has really made a significant difference in terms of its crime levels is burglary - we have just been talking about it. West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester are higher than the Metropolitan Police Service in terms of per 1,000 population. That is a real success because that is really turning that round.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): I would not have expected that.

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): They are making good progress. There is a strong picture. I think the area that you are right to focus on is Violence with Injury, and you have been doing that. If you, again, look at the data that the Home Office provides, where it compares against the most similar group and factors in a fairly complex mix of factors, such as depravation and demographic but do not ask me specifically which ones, actually in terms of rate you could argue that the Metropolitan Police Service is about the same as West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. You do need to factor these things in for some of the depravation and demographic issues when you look at comparisons.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good. That is, obviously, very encouraging and, Steve [Otter], you are right, we should focus on the stand-out data at the moment, which is about VWI. Stephen [Greenhalgh] now has a PowerPoint presentation he is going to lead.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Hopefully we will rattle through.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): You will rattle through this one.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Then take a chance to talk about it with colleagues because I think the key to this is can we get on top of this crime type and be more preventative in our approach generally.

Slide 3

Let us go to slide three. It just generally says that the Violence with Injury rise, which Steve [Otter] has said, is a national issue as much as anything. Twenty forces with a higher increase than the Metropolitan Police Service. Thirty-eight out of the 44 forces have seen an increase.

Slide 4

Let us go onto slide four. This really just restates that point.

Slide 5

So, moving onto slide five, this is important because initially the concern was that a third of the offences were Domestic Abuse and that has gradually started to increase, but the recent upturn is the concern. You can see that in the second chart that 63% of the increase is non-Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury and, therefore, it is predominantly driven by stuff that is happening on the streets outside the home. That is a concern. It is a recent trend, as you can see from the chart.

Slide 6

Let us go onto slide six. It shows you that the peak time for offending is at night, between midnight and 3.00am within the MPS as a whole.

Slide 7

This is important to highlight that the severity of offences is not increasing, essentially the vast majority of this is assault with injury as opposed to grievous bodily harm.

Slide 8

Let us move onto slide eight. This point is that there is an increase in grievous bodily harm when it comes to Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury. We are seeing an increase in that.

Slide 9

Just importantly the attendances by the London Ambulance Service (LAS) to assaults has actually decreased so that may back up the point that we are not seeing an increase in the severity of offences. Although the date is a little bit out of date but certainly there is no obvious increase in any attendances.

Before I go on, does this accord with your own picture of Violence with Injury? Any comments on these trends?

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): I think overall it fits with our own analysis, and we will come on to it. I think there are a number of things driving the change with Violence with Injury, ranging from how we actually record it all the way through to real changes and incidents happening on the street and in public places. We have absolutely seen that change. We spotted the change far earlier in the Violence with Injury around domestic assault, but that change in terms of non-domestic assault we can see that graph kicking up in terms of doing it.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Just quickly, this is not an evenly-spread increase so just a couple of slides before we get into maybe some specific boroughs. Around a quarter of Violence with Injury occurs in five boroughs. Let us move to slide 11.

Slide 11

These five boroughs are: Lambeth, Westminster, Croydon in the south, Newham in the east and Southwark where we are today. Those have about a quarter of Violence with Injury offences in those boroughs.

Slide 12

Let us go to slide 12. 27%; so over an increase of the volume comes from five boroughs and they are in Newham, Lambeth, Croydon, which are in the top five - so biggest increases in three of the five - but also Haringey, a big percentage increase, and Redbridge.

Slide 13

Let us move to slide 13. The most important thing is for a lot of these places Violence with Injury is occurring in the same places as it has happened over time. These are not new locations, predominantly --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Right, are they town centres?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): They are essentially linked to areas where you have a predominance of bars, nightclubs and licensed premises.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Westminster, St James's it says.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): St James's ward, Leicester Square.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Oh OK, not St James's where chaps are coming out in whites and bashing each other.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No. The only area where there is a huge increase is in Hoxton East and Shoreditch where there is a massive amount of economic development, as you know, Mayor, so that has come from 38th placed to 9th for Violence with Injury. That is a reflection of the preponderance of licensed premises in that area.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): OK, right. Basically it looks like it is men aged 20 to 33, in particular areas overwhelmingly, coming out of bars, pubs, or whatever, mainly between midnight and 3 o'clock in the morning and either sustaining or causing moderate injury, usually to each other. That is what seems to be happening, presumably under the influence of --

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): In a sense, that has been the story of violence for quite some time. I do not think it is any coincidence that we are seeing the biggest volume of increases in the places largely where the biggest volume was in the first place. Therefore, there is an underlying theme for the Metropolitan Police Service, as for other forces round the country, as acknowledged by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), that some of the increase

is around recording issues. When we go back and look at our incidents which are created when people telephone us to report an incident, the proportion of those that start off as being viewed as a violent incident that then turn into a violent crime - that conversion from an incident into a crime record - is much higher now than it used to be. Over the last couple of years it has gone up from around a 40% conversion to a 75% conversion rate. Now, you would never expect it to be 100% because what is said in a phone call which can often be under pressure, a bit garbled, and not easy to understand, later on when you get there you can find out it is something quite different.

That conversion rate, I think, demonstrates the considerable work that has gone on in the Metropolitan Police Service to make sure our recording is absolutely as accurate as it could be, where it is clearly more likely that a crime has happened than not is recorded as such, and that is why when you look at the borough breakdown on the most recent data there is only one borough that is showing a fall in Violence with Injury.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Which is?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Which is Kingston.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Well, they have a pretty lively town centre.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): They have and we have looked back at the work that they have done over the last 18 months. Eighteen months ago they actually had the ward with the highest level of violence in the Metropolitan Police Service.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): That is right, I do remember that.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): They have done a huge amount of work with partners, particularly around licensing and the way that they police the area, which has shown this decrease. We have just launched this last week Operation Equinox, which is about tackling violent crime particularly around the night-time economy locations, the not domestic-related violent crime. Every borough has a plan for how they are going to address this over the coming months. In particular we are focusing on the areas, times and locations where most of these crimes are happening.

We have our top 30 wards from the analysis that has been done. We have also identified the top 25 licensed premises as well as the top 25 fast-food outlets and what we are doing is taking the good practice and learning from Kingston and other places about what we can do. Some of it is the visible presence; setting the standards of behaviour; warning people; working with local authorities around things like dispersal zones; around policies; around licensing; working with the licensed premises and our other partners to try to do the turnaround that we have seen in Kingston. Some of our other town centres are picking up some of the really good ideas to make that difference. We now have a real focus on this issue where people should be seeing and feeling the difference in the coming months.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Thank you very much. Can I return just to what you said which was very interesting about the conversion from complaints about an assault to the recording of the crime? I wonder whether that ties in at all with what Stephen [Greenhalgh]

was saying about the surprisingly low ambulance call-out rates. What I am trying to get at is: is it possible that there is something in the figures that is a little bit rum, that actually for one reason or another they are being slightly exaggerated? Is that what you are trying to hint at?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): I do not think we would use the word exaggerated but some of it clearly is a recording issue as opposed to actually that people are experiencing something different out on the streets. We do look at a wide range of data to try to get a sense of what is happening as well as recorded crime statistics. You have seen the ambulance data and there may be other things playing into that as well but Accident and Emergency (A&E) admissions would not suggest that they are seeing an increase as yet. In the latest data of the Crime Survey of England and Wales --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): You are not seeing increases at A&E? What sorts of injuries are we talking about then?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Well, Violence with Injury goes from very low-level.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Injury to feelings?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): It could be psychological but probably bruising; a small bruise.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): A bruise?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes. Absolutely.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Bruised feelings? No?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Well, psychological damage can be an assault but most of these will be physical injuries.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): It has to be physical damage?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Common assaults. If you look at violence in total, there does not have to be any damage whatsoever for a common assault, and that is recorded as a crime in the overall violence figures.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Does not need to have any evidence of damage?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): No.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): OK.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): It could be a push.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): A push?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Would that be VWI?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): No, but it could be violence. If it left a bruise or if you fell over and sustained a bruise in the process of being pushed then that could be Violence with Injury.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Right, and would the officer require to see the bruise?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): You would want some evidence of the bruising, yes. However, if the person says they have a bruise it should be recorded as actual bodily harm (ABH) even if the individual refuses to show it to us.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): I mean, I am not accusing people of making up their injuries but I am just interested in this odd mismatch between the very sharp rise in VWIs and the failure of either ambulance call-outs or A&E admissions to rise.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Or the Crime Survey where the public is asked direct. The latest data for that would show a 20% fall in violence in terms of what the public have reported. I think that data goes to March or April this year so there are a few months of lag in that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): I think it is very important, in spite of these figures, just to point out that London is incredibly safe and getting safer. We are seeing a problem in what we think is quite a small number of areas and it seems to me that you have a pretty good strategy for tackling it.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The interesting thing, obviously, from the analysis is, as Boris [Johnson] says, this is not linked to gang and serious youth violence. The rise that is non-Domestic Abuse related, in a sense, is an older male, it is linked to the night-time economy, it is linked to alcohol consumption where there are a preponderance of licensed premises. It is entirely predictable. If we are talking about places - and it is probably useful now to look at some case studies - and it is predictable, presumably we can get ahead of the curve and police this. If we know it is Friday and Saturday nights we can do something about it.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes, and a bit of exemplary punishment for rowdy behaviour. If people are going to get tanked up and get a bit - what is the word I want?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Rowdy.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Rowdy? Is it tasty?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Tasty? Well, it is a word, yes.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): It is also the wider issue through the partners and through the local authorities in getting the licensing right. When you look at some of these areas, the challenge is when you look at the volume of licenses and the predominance of both fast-food outlets and licensed premises, they are going to be attractions for large groups of people. That is the reality of a 24-hour city.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I would agree with that. That is the lesson. I have been to Kingston town centre - I am sure we all have - and that was the police and the local authority, but also working very hard with the venues to police themselves better. They brought in technology, Scannet [Safer Clubbing At Night Network - provides ID scanning systems which help venues cut Anti-Social Behaviour] and other things to really start to iron out some of this trouble. I think that is what we have to try to do, Boris [Johnson]. We have to go to some of these venues - and I am telling you to go with Helen [King] and Mark [Simmons] - and visit some of the places to see what we can do on a wider front to get on top of this.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good, OK. I think we should bring in other Board Members now and just look at some of the specific wards. I know, Faith [Boardman], you are keen to hear a bit more about what is going on in some of these wards.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes. If we could move to slide 14.

Slide 14

This one shows three sets of wards from different boroughs, all of which have a high number of offences. I think we have covered a number of the points already on this. If you look at the blobs towards the bottom, you can see there is a great difference between those three boroughs about the proportion of people who get into trouble who actually come from the borough in question. In the case of Westminster and also Hackney they are relatively small numbers of people who live locally, whereas in Croydon it is a much higher proportion of people who come from Croydon. Some of those factors will be very materially different between boroughs and I would imagine that that would affect the tactics and the approaches that have to be adopted.

I think I am interested in how far the Metropolitan Police Service is really aware and working around this home and away issue.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Absolutely. We know, for example, that in Westminster, of the people we arrest and charge with violent offences only about 10% are known to the person they have assaulted. In Barking & Dagenham, who have the other end of the scale in terms of that, it is about a third of them. In terms of being able to bring offenders to justice - it is obvious in one sense, is it not - as Westminster has more people coming in it is more difficult to find the offenders as they are less likely to be known to each other from school or from wherever else. That is very much a factor. What that means, for Westminster, is a much greater reliance on the use of CCTV. We know that Westminster has a much higher coverage of CCTV of offences. We can tell what proportion of violence offences that are reported, potentially, have CCTV coverage. We then look at how good boroughs are at using that CCTV to track through. Places like Islington, for example, have a very high rate of success from using CCTV - they are very good at assessing that and then converting that into detections. That helps to overcome some of the issues about whether

people are known in the local area. That is just an example of how we use the tactics in responding against the profile of what the offenders and victims are and their relationship and so forth.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): We are trying, as far as we can, to get to the prevention end of this, are we not? You would need intelligence and analysis, it seems to me, around potential individuals and potential trouble spots. If they are coming from off-borough that must be a different ball game. I am conscious that in intelligence and analysis arrangements within the Metropolitan Police Service have been changed recently. How has that affected - has it helped, is it hindering in any sense - the necessary intelligence and analysis to get to the prevention point?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): I think it has changed some of the ways in which we get the analysis we need. Talking to colleagues yesterday at the very local level, we are probably relying more heavily on joint analysis with local authorities rather than the things we have done independently. With the greater efficiency we have had from the changes in intelligence, meaning for the support of Operation Equinox, we have been able to get a standard range of products across London that give us the information we need for the particular hotspots. It is a mix. It is getting the best use out of the asset we still have and how we have deployed that in standardising and improving the quality of products, although with less resource, and then using partnership resource where we are working with local authorities and there is analytical capability in both organisations to generate local problem solving. We are doing both of those pieces.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): What can the local authorities bring to the table that you find more difficult to bring to the table?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): It is not necessarily what is more difficult, it is who has access to what data. Just as an example, things like noise complaints would come in, some aspects of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). For most of these hotspots it is a continuum through from the low-level Anti-Social Behaviour up into violence. All those things are in the same place, that is the nature of those challenges. They will bring in different bits of data, they will bring in data about people in the places where it is residents, where there is more a local centre for local entertainment - if you see what I mean?

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): That was your earlier point. They would bring in information around that. Equally, what they bring then is the ownership of the problem jointly and the ability to target the problem jointly, which is obviously the holy grail we are after here, which is joined-up enforcement, joined-up management of the night-time economy and joined-up activity to reduce the offences. That is the goal, I guess; the prize.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): That is the ideal that you want from a local authority.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): What Faith [Boardman] was saying is: how do we get to prevent this from happening in the first place? Obviously, analysing a problem is a process – you always analyse every problem unless you do not want to solve it – and you always have an action plan – and ideally it would be a joint action plan. What are the kinds of things that we are looking to do that get you ahead of the curve? Could you be more specific?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Very specifically, from our point of view, the use of our crime prevention advisers; our crime prevention experts; our licensing teams, both a central team of expertise and the people who do that locally; to having done the analysis to then target the premises. We have identified the top list of premises which have violent offences in them or around them, and that is both licensed premises but they are also things like fast-food shops. Then we have the top 30 streets – in fact just to start with the top 30 to get it rolling – that have the most violence in as well as the premises. Then what you can do is you can go straight into there with the crime prevention people and the licensing people and look at what the state of the licensed premises is there; what the density of licensed premises is; what the capacity of the licensed premises is; what the terms of the licenses are; what the street lighting is like.

There was an example yesterday that came out in terms of Kingston, as it happens, where having one very brightly lit spot after the clubs kick out draws people into it – a bus stop as it happened – which increases the chance of fights breaking out with people who have had too much to drink or in a state of excitement. If you spread that out you spread out the people and you disperse the problem. It is that very specific --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Spread out the light? What do you mean?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Yes. So people coming out of a nightclub in the small hours of the morning --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Like moths?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): -- for safety all congregate under a well-lit bus stop --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Do they, and then they have a fight?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): -- then what we found was that, surprise-surprise, fights break out because they are all --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): I thought strong light was meant to be a good idea.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Not if it brings crowds of lots of people who have had too much to drink into a very condensed place. That was the point. What they did was actually spread it out and have more places with light --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Have more light.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): -- to spread people out so they did not have quite the same tension. They are small things like that, that cumulatively, start to reduce the flashpoints for violence. Fast-food outlets are significant for us because it is people getting the munchies after being out on the town, they come out and they want to go into a chicken shop or a McDonald's, or whatever it is. Disproportionately, you get in the queues and that is, again, where people with drink on where the tension breaks out. We have very specifically listed those premises, both licensed premises, fast-food premises and so forth, where we most often get the spark for fights breaking out most often, and that is where we are sending our neighbourhood teams, our crime preventive people and so on to say, "What can we do to reduce that?" It might be about educating the staff there, it might be about a policing presence there at certain times, it might be about CCTV in the premises and making that more high-profile and advertising that. They are all those tactics that then come specifically into play for a specific place where we know a fight is more likely to break out than in other places.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): It is that very local understanding. Throughout policing, fights are caused because of the way someone has looked at someone's girlfriend, it is about jumping a queue, it is about trying to take a taxi when it is not your turn - these kinds of pinch-points that you have to get into and find a way of controlling that and just setting the tone of behaviour through the night. This is one of the reasons why high-visibility officers out from earlier in the evening, while people are still sober enough to take the warnings, to be served with notices to leave the area if they are already causing problems, or, if need be, arrested when they are maybe drunk and disorderly as opposed to waiting until they get more drunk and then commit a more serious assault later in the night.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): Just that one on light, and I know we have touched on it before - and I think, Deputy Mayor, one of the visits you are going to do is into the West End of an evening, you will see the challenge with lighting. Even around places like Leicester Square and parts of the West End.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Let us go to that and Jonathan [Glanz], because he has the St James's and West End wards where all these chaps are coming out with their bowler hats and umbrellas and striking each other.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Indeed, yes, if only it were there. If we look at this idea we can see this great cluster within what is effectively a square kilometre right in the centre of Westminster, including West End Ward, but it also includes, as the Mayor was saying, St James's ward. That is because that includes Leicester Square, Covent Garden, etc, and I do not think it is people bashing each other with gloves outside Boodle's [a London gentlemen's club] but I may be wrong.

On that, really my first question is: do you think it is safe to go for a night out in the West End if you look at that?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Yes. Averages do not necessarily tell the story, do they? In all of that ward, not just in that bit, there are 17 offences in a week and most of them are minor injuries. The time they occur is not affecting

tourists as they are families and so on, to the extent that we would ever say that the West End is not a safe place for people to visit. That does not mean we are being complacent about this challenge - absolutely not - but that is the kind of scale. When you look at the profile of the people who are involved in it, and we have every sympathy with them, for the vast majority of people at the times they are going out in Westminster and the West End then, yes, it is safe; yes, they are unlikely to get into any trouble and we would encourage them to do so.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Well, thank you very much for that because I would certainly agree with you and I am out and about in the West End and in and about my ward on a regular basis and I feel a lot safer as a result of that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): No one has caused you any violence, have they?

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): No.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): No.

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Only my constituents!

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Did you say 17 offences in a week or 7? What was the figure?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Seventeen it averages out for St James's, which is far and away the highest ward in London.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good, but we have a strategy for it and --

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Just on that, in terms of the teamwork that you said was being done elsewhere with local authorities, one of the things which has played quite well both in Westminster and in Lambeth, and elsewhere, is the introduction of business crime reduction partnerships. They are getting businesses to help themselves, particularly with the night-time economy. They are able to share information about persistent offenders and people that can be barred from one club and barred from all of them so you can deal with that and sharing data on it. Do you think that that is a useful way forward and a useful model to roll out elsewhere?

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Absolutely. This may not apply to St James's and West End in particular but what we are seeing in some of the town centres is we are working with businesses to get an agreement, for instance, about not selling high-strength lagers, things like that --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): That would be good.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): -- which we know fuels violence. That is a voluntary thing.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Thank you. Steve O'Connell, you have some quite similar sorts of things going on down there in Fairfield and Broad Green [two wards in the London Borough of Croydon]. Any point you want to raise?

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes, some are similar but there are different nuances to them, I would suggest, because, again, the town centre - and Craig [Mackey] and Helen [King] will know this - actually is contained within Fairfield ward and stops on the boundary with Broad Green. Then you take the London Road, which has different challenges. So I would be interested in your comments around that.

Also, that is reflected in the timings in the offences because there are a lot of offences committed between midday and 6.00pm, so we have perhaps some slightly nuanced issues compared with Westminster. I would be interested in your thoughts around that, Mark [Simmons].

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Absolutely different profile. One of the tactics - and it is about bespoke tactics - they are using in Croydon is much more work in schools because that time profile suggests it is more of a younger profile and more kids from school are getting into fights. One of the things we are doing there is getting into schools and trying to get the crime prevention and safety messages across in there. That is absolutely recognised and trying to get bespoke tactics around it. You are right about the concentration; it is a strong concentration there. In the last three months it has averaged about 30 offences a month in that ward as a whole. That is not consistent, they obviously peak at some times rather than others. That is the kind of level. It is an average of one a day in that ward, therefore, the prevention bit is the bit that is going to give us, in many ways, the biggest opportunities.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): We would not necessarily want to lump them together because I think there are slightly different issues and slightly different solutions. However, going back to Fairfield ward, where the entire town centre sits within, Fairfield ward has, for as long as I have been looking at the measurements, sat in the top four, five or six for VWI and other serious offences. I think what I am excited about is thinking about the preventative side because we do not want to accept it just as it is the norm because there happens to be lots of licensed premises. There will be a strategy but, really, what are we going to do to actually, in a couple of years' time, see it drop completely out of that top five or six?

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): The first stage to that that we are doing at the moment is taking stock of what our joint licensing approach is. We know, as you can see on the slide here, the number of pubs, clubs and bars and the concentration is part of the issue we know we need to think about. Our licensing people working with the local authority people, assessing how well the premises are managed at the management level, how well the conditions are kept to, what can we do in terms of increased enforcement, what can we do in terms of looking differently at some of the conditions. So, that is the stage we are at at the moment.

We have done some short-term things. For example, for the weekend/evenings Croydon are putting out, with some help, an additional 50 officers as part of our work on Equinox because this is such a focus for us. That is a short-term preventative presence but the key bit, as you

absolutely say, is going to be working with those businesses and those premises. If I stand here now and tell you what I think the answer will be I think would be too early for me so I would not do that, but I think there will be an answer and we will be able to arrive by that focus on the preventative work there.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): With the new enhanced ward teams, through the Local Policing Model (LPM) and with the larger numbers, and also given a different brief around crime prevention - which is the new brief, in essence, for the team - there would be an expectation they would go out into those, being Westminster or elsewhere, to look at the preventative piece.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Obviously, the Local Policing Model gives the local neighbourhood inspector the opportunity to do that in the way that they could not do with the dedicated ward resources. We have those neighbourhood officers working further into the night and more at weekends than we have ever had before. I think Kingston is the example that we would point to historically that says if you put in that sustained effort over time, and if the local authority and if businesses work with you, you can make a real difference in areas where you have this kind of density.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): OK, let us replicate that in Croydon and elsewhere then. Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): That would be very good. Croydon has been one of the most difficult nuts to crack in my memory, and what you say about the kids coming out of school, that certainly strikes a chord with me. That has been a big issue in Croydon and in the town centre for ages.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): There is a challenge that we just need to be aware of with some of the night-time economy data. Obviously, we are looking at a time of day when the pressure is on visibility around the policing, and people talk about seeing more and more police on streets. When you hear the sorts of numbers we are putting out on the streets from 10 o'clock at night till 4.00 in the morning, we are just very alive that lots and lots of members of the communities of London do not see that, but it is a huge commitment and demand --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): No, you do notice it.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): -- and whilst we have talked before about working teams later and later into the early hours of the morning, the trade-off for that is the people who then say, "Well, they are not in my street at 11 o'clock in the morning." No, they are in your street or in your town centre at 1.00 and 2.00 in the morning. We just need to be alive to that. When you talk of the hundreds of people in the West End, 50 extra in the town centre in Croydon, that will have an impact on visibility at other times.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): It does, yes.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): That is the reality of policing a 24-hour a day city.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): You mean Londoners do not appreciate quite how much policing goes on when it is really needed.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): It is quite a hackneyed phrase but when people talk about visibility, we say, "Come with us into the West End or into Croydon town centre in the early hours of the morning, you will see visibility."

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): My last point is about transport hubs, particularly with the younger people and where they accumulate. They may be going to schools in different parts of the borough, but they will then assemble in the middle of town to then go further on and get their second bus. I think we need to be thinking about designing a safe and effective place where you have transport hubs and, in fact, in Croydon, Transport for London (TfL) - with your leadership, Mayor - are building a whole new interchange in West Croydon. I think what we need to do is sit down and think about how that works from a safety point of view.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): I think I remember that was where we launched the first Safer Transport Team, was it not, down in Croydon.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): Indeed, yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): I think they have had a big impact overall. Notwithstanding everything we have been saying, the overall picture is still very encouraging. On transport in particular the figures are very good.

Helen King (MPS Assistant Commissioner): We need to think about when the Tube is working 24 hours, what impact that is going to have and what we need to do about our resourcing as a result.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Yes. Good.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): Absolutely, thank you.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Thanks, Steve [O'Connell]. Shall we push on then to slide 17, which is you, Deputy Mayor, on Hoxton East and Shoreditch?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes.

Slide 17

In a nutshell we have seen an increase in the ward from 38th position up to 9th. That is really reflecting a huge amount of economic development and growth of the local economy, including the night-time economy, in that area. It is clearly linked to the night time economy. Nearly 69% of offences occurring on Fridays and the weekends. That is a relatively new night-time economy. Two-thirds of the Violence with Injury offences happening between midnight and 5.59 in the morning - that seems a very accurate point in time to cut things off, but certainly the early hours of the morning - and particularly in the areas where in Shoreditch High Street

and Old Street 81% of the pubs, clubs and bars are within a 0.5 square kilometre area, so very concentrated again, therefore, predictable.

I think what the analysis is showing is there are some generic tactics that the police have just identified, some of which they require partners to work with and to do that. So the issues around licensing and dealing with problem premises; lighting; but also the use of CCTV not only as a way of solving crime but as a preventative tool and as a deterrent; and working on dispersal zones. All those tactics are well put but the policing and getting the night-time patrolling right, if it is happening and occurring Friday or Saturday night between particular time periods in the early hours of the morning, then you will want to get your night-time patrolling aligned to that and hopefully it is.

It sounds like you need to have local plans. You cannot have a one-size-fits-all as even this analysis of a few areas shows the balance and variation between the West End, where it is almost all night-time economy driven, to Croydon, where there are issues around young people and the school day effectively. I intend to go and make some of those visits. I think we should get out and about and start to think about getting other people to recognise these important areas.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): This is all the sort of tech city type area, is it not? Well, part of it. You would expect them all to be very learned and studious --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Well, after a hard day Googling --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Maybe they just want to let off steam as they have been coding for so long.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): There is an arc just around the edge of The City there that goes from Tower Hamlets through to Hackney through just into the bottom of Islington where there has been huge growth in the night-time economy entertainment and where, for London as a whole, not just in violence. That has been a really significant hotspot area for various types of crime, non-residential burglary is in there, the violence piece we talked about, the theft of phones we talked about before very heavily concentrated in there and so on. There has been a lot of work in that crescent that cuts across those two-and-a-bit boroughs there.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): When you have an area like Hackney where they have had that amount of economic development then they have clearly got planning and they will be investing that. There are some choices they have to make, and I know they have invested in dealing with the gangs and serious youth violence problem, but it seems to me that the figures indicate they have a problem around non-residential burglary and they have a problem to do with the night-time economy. There are things like the night-time levy so it is important to get an action plan that addresses that requirement as well. We need to sit down and get them worked out.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): In a way I hesitate to say this but this is a sign of the incredible strength of the London economy because what you have in this whole area is a

new mini West End. It is where people want to go, they want to hang out the joint's jumping all over the place. There is no surprise perhaps that there is a bit of letting off of steam.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Sorry, Mayor, but as an example of what the Deputy Mayor is talking about, Hackney are now trialling their own version of the impact work that Westminster are doing in this area, not 24/7 but at the peak hours - as your point by the analysis of when this most happens - and the peak footfall for people in this area to have their own version of the tactics Westminster are using. If any of you have been down Spitalfields [area of London in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets] and round there late of an evening, which I have done recently, the joint is jumping, it is absolutely heaving, people are on the streets not just in the places - certainly in the warmer weather - and it is very easy for the visible police presence to disappear if it is not really consistent and --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Assertive.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): -- assertive, yes. It is a sign of vibrancy, of course, absolutely, but that is the challenge we are responding to.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good. It is still worth stressing that although the figures are concerning, the overall crime picture in that neighbourhood is actually amazingly good.

Mark Simmons (Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Territorial Policing): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good. Anything else on Hoxton East and Shoreditch and all these trendy areas? Any other thoughts on that?

Well, I think that has been a very, very useful picture of the problem with VWI and what we are doing to deal with it. I take what you say about the figures. I think we need to look into what these injuries are and what is happening exactly. I think that is something that comes out for me from this conversation. It is not quite clear what kinds of injuries are being sustained and in what number. There is this conflict with the Crime Survey and ambulance data and so on. I wonder, Steve [Otter], whether you have any comment on how London is faring compared to other areas in tackling VWI? Do you notice anything in these figures that could help us to explain the phenomenon? Is there something different that is happening in other parts of the country? I think the first slide Stephen [Greenhalgh] showed us was that actually lots of other parts of the country have a similar sort of thing going on. To what extent should we feel consoled by that or should we feel generally alarmed about what is happening in the country?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Our view is that there is a similar phenomenon in most urban areas. The increase is connected to violence, late-night drinking types of premises. I think the role of the local authority is crucial. Where a high level of Violence with Injury is turned round and reduced is nearly always because the police and the local authority are pooling their efforts --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Like Kingston.

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Yes, and you see that in other cities as well. If you think about the powers that local authorities have, they are considerable. If you were to map out the powers that local authorities have and what the police have you will realise that actually local authorities have a very significant role here. Sometimes the absence of an overall strategy allows this sort of crime to increase and only when the strategy is brought together can it actually reduce it.

Do not forget the organised crime element, particularly, I think, in Westminster, where although it will not cause the Violence with Injury directly, it creates an environment where criminals are drawn in to certain areas. Particularly in London and the bigger cities there is an organised crime part of that, not gangs necessarily but it is about the prostitution handling and those sorts of issues that are rife in areas with crime, particularly robbery. If you have robbery on top of Violence with Injury you often have some other criminal activity in the background.

There are things about transport. People are travelling into the West End from other areas and those transport routes, working with the British Transport Police (BTP). The local authority element and the alcohol element are the two key factors I would say.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): What could we do with transport? Try to intercept people as they go in or ...?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Well, mostly it is intelligence. I did actually take the opportunity and look specifically at the crime problems in the central part of Westminster and the West End and visited Charing Cross Police Station. I had a presentation. I was struck by where people lived who were committing crimes, and it is on transport routes into the centre. They are obviously travelling to drink and then whether they just had a propensity for violence or whether they are committing crimes is another thing.

Now, I am not an expert, but I am struck by that central point in London and if you were able to reduce the robberies in that area you would transform the robbery levels in the whole of London because that is where the hotspot is.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): In Westminster?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Well, that is what we have to crack then. The theft from the person was well down but it is the robberies.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We are having a smash and grab summit actually. Helen [King] and I are attending a round table --

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Tomorrow.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): -- tomorrow, because that is --

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Are you smashing and Helen [King] is grabbing?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, I am not doing any smashing and grabbing personally, but I think that is also a particularly nasty phenomenon of robbery.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): There are high-value targets there.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): High-value targets, yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London)(Chair): Good. Anybody else want to come in on any of this? Faith [Boardman], are you happy? Any other thoughts on this?

Well, look, I think that has been an extremely valuable discussion and power to your elbows, folks, you obviously have a very good plan to bring this thing down and I am sure that by the next MOPAC Challenge we shall have some encouraging figures.

This suite of dashboards, I should say - all the stuff that we have been talking about today - is obviously going to be on the website so everybody can see it. Thanks very much, all.