

London Crime Reduction Board

Minutes of Meeting

Monday 9 June 2014, 11:00 Mayor's Office, City Hall, GLA

Present

Board and advisors

Mayor Boris Johnson	Chair
Stephen Greenhalgh	Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC)
Helen Bailey	COO MOPAC
Natasha Plummer	MOPAC
Sam Cunningham	MOPAC
Commander Alison Newcomb	Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
Claire Wiggins	Victims Commission
Sara Robinson	London Probation Trust
Nick Smart	CRC London
Alison Frater	NHS
Joanne Murfitt	NHS
John O'Brien	London Councils
Mayor Jules Pipe	London Councils
Cllr Philippa Roe	London Councils
Cllr Claire Kober	London Councils
Nick Walkley	London Councils
Jenny Hopkins	Crown Prosecution Service
Lucy Bogue	Ministry of Justice

Officers

Blair Gibbs	MOPAC
Martin Tunstall	MOPAC
Doug Flight	London Councils
Tony Hawker	MOPAC

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/ACTIONS (24 March)

Paragraph 16 of the March 24 minutes was removed and with that change the minutes were agreed. Action updates were received.

ITEM 1. Developing An Integrated Approach to Victims' Services

1. As part of the background to the review of Victim Services the Board heard about the unique complexities of London. The capital has 50% and 20% of all robbery and sexual offences respectively. At the moment there is a disproportionate focus of resources on offenders and there is a need to address this for victims also. Although the Board agreed that, on a crime reduction basis, work targeted at offenders is also vital.
2. Claire Wiggins of the Victim Commissioner's Office was invited to give a flavour of the findings of the review. She welcomed the findings which indicated that a more personalized service for victims was required. It wasn't enough for agencies to supply information on services available to victims. Contact was required to make sure that victims understood the services they were being offered and could feed back concerns. There are various agencies, including the probation service, the police and courts authorities providing support to victims throughout the criminal justice process. Other support for victims, such as sexual assault referral centres and independent domestic violence advocates, are also important have been shown to also increase the likelihood of securing a conviction.
3. Commissioning of victims' services will be undertaken regionally rather than nationally allowing MOPAC to work more closely with the London boroughs. This will mean that services will be more 'joined up' with better management of the transition points between providers. As with Hackney's work with gangs this needs to be evolved at a higher level avoiding a 'one size fits all' approach. What is right for one individual is not necessarily right or appropriate for others.
4. The Board considered the nature of the problems to be addressed and agreed that it could be broken into three parts. 1. Reduce crime; 2. Increase confidence; and 3. Personalise the service provided to victims – some people require more care. London is a very complex place and not all victims are Londoners so it is important to make sure that we have all the connections. Additionally we need to ensure support is available for victims who choose not to report crimes against themselves.
5. The key consideration is to ensure that in the future needs assessment processes are sufficiently sensitive and sophisticated to provide effective and appropriate support. Many victims are already in the system and don't want another layer of victim/offender services. The move to regional commissioning is a benefit in this regard, because there will be better

understanding of what relevant services already exist.

6. The report following the review of victims' services will be available at the end of June. The Board agreed the recommendations as below subject to publication of the report:
 - Agree victims as a partnership priority area alongside reducing reoffending, gangs and anti-social behaviour
 - Agree to develop an ambitious 'whole system' approach to supporting victims of crime to cope and recover, protecting the most vulnerable and driving overall victim satisfaction and public confidence in the criminal justice system
 - Commission the Delivery Management Group to drive progress

ITEM 2 – LCRB Stock take: building on successes and driving future ambitions

7. John O'Brien of London Councils introduced the paper and began the discussion. Individually and as a group what were the thoughts on ambitions for the final half of the decade. It is important that decisions are not made in silos. With cuts to the public sector and changing demography in London, how best to align funding to mitigate loss of services following reduced budgets and how to combine granular local issues such as Gangs and ASB.
8. There are challenges for the continued joint working in key areas including CCTV. CCTV is acknowledged as an essential tool in fighting crime. The need and demand for it remain the same but resources are under pressure. CCTV benefitted from investment made ten years ago and much of what was installed was discretionary. The currently installed equipment is aging and an older technology type. The key question is how do we get smarter and better with less money. In this technology is on our side with diverse sources of imagery now available. As a preliminary to this research is needed to establish what the police needs are going forward.

Action 1 – Met to research future CCTV needs and the potential for other technology and report back to the December LCRB meeting.

9. With CCTV and other areas such as transforming rehabilitation, which have to be managed across London, partners are asked to go away and have difficult, gritty conversations on how to rationalize and concert activities given financial constraints. September was deemed too soon for a report so December has been chosen as the LCRB meeting most appropriate for partners to report back.

Action 2 – Partners asked to review budget reductions across partners in key LCRB priority areas, inclusive of CCTV to set out a case for risk management and collective budgeting; consideration on the overall LCRB targets. A report to come back to the December LCRB meeting.

10. The discussion moved to Gangs. The Mayor thanked London Councils for their support in the Gangs Summit. A lot of progress has been made. The DMPC continued with a report on a visit to Boston to fact find about the 'Cease Fire' initiative on gangs. The DMPC met Mayor Kennedy who provided insights into the thinking. The key points were firstly to deal with the most violent gangs first, secondly to install a contract with the gangs whereby if one member transgresses police promise to deal severely with all members of the gang. For this to work sanctions have to be severe.
11. The Board considered the Cease Fire initiative and its potential in a London setting. The US has a better legal framework for this type of action but equally requires the buy-in of the community. However, in London a higher number of gang members are under 18 making it more challenging in a community setting. If the police got it wrong in a borough like Haringey there might be serious problems. Also, in the US gangs work does not include the secure estates which is an important part of activity in London. The Met has a variety of methods at its disposal for an initiative such as this. For instance, Stop and Search could be used against gang members in an overt or covert way.
12. The LCRB DMG would be the engine for this work with Sam Cunningham leading for MOPAC and Commander Steve Rodhouse leading for the MPS. The DMPC recommended that pilots were the way forward in this work – perhaps conducted in boroughs of different types such as Westminster and Haringey. There is a need to do preliminary intelligence work because the areas in which gangs operate are not necessarily neatly defined by borough boundaries.

ITEM 3 Any Other Business

13. There was no other business.

Date of next LCRB meeting: 15 September 2014. 11:00am at City Hall
