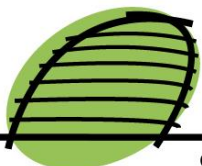


# RESPONSE TO THE MAYOR'S DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN



A consultation response by Sian Berry AM  
On behalf of the Green Party group on the London Assembly  
March 2017



## SUMMARY

I am responding on behalf of the Green Party Group to the Mayor's draft Police and Crime Plan.<sup>1</sup> The aim of making this a 'safer city for all Londoners' is completely right and our response is focused on addressing gaps and ensuring that no Londoner is forgotten when this important new strategy is finalised.

I support the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee's recommendations in its response. However, I have also been visiting community groups, service providers and campaigners across London and listening to what Londoners have to say in public and private meetings. This work has raised a number of the potential problems that I highlight here.

This response also includes issues raised in casework and our work on transport, including how the Police and Crime Plan can support the Mayor's objectives to improve how people travel in London and make it easier and safer to walk and cycle in our city.

My recommendations include that the Mayor should:

- Invest in youth work for real crime prevention and to help young Londoners thrive
- Adopt a more evidence-based and consistent approach to education about knife crime and violence
- Improve on plans for more local policing by doing more to support ward panels and community groups such as neighbourhood watch
- Task ward officers with helping residents avoid scams and fraud carried out online, and investigating these crimes where they have a local connection



- Fully fund the implementation of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, and protect specialist services for diverse groups of women
- Fundamentally reform how undercover police are managed and held accountable, and do more to improve officer confidence in whistleblowing processes within the service
- Push hard for the devolution of more aspects of criminal justice to show victims and the wider community more consistency in prosecutions
- Improve training for officers who deal with the public to help people with mental health problems and dementia
- Take more positive action to improve diversity in the MPS more quickly, in particular for the new Police Now graduates and direct-entry inspector and superintendent scheme
- Address inequalities in how different groups are treated by the police, with a particular focus on winning back the confidence of young BAME Londoners.

**Sian Berry AM**  
**March 2017**



# CONTENTS

1 POLICING AND THE COMMUNITY	4
2 POLICING AND THE PUBLIC	9
3 POLICING AND YOUNG PEOPLE	11
4 POLICING AND WOMEN AND GIRLS	13
5 POLICING AND JUSTICE	15
6 POLICING FOR SAFER STREETS	18
7 MANAGING THE MET	20
WHAT DO YOU THINK?	21



# 1 POLICING AND THE COMMUNITY

I welcome the Mayor's efforts to revive parts of the previous model of local policing, which was resource-intensive but very popular.

In addition to dedicated ward officers (DWOs) the final plan should be much clearer about how other important, community-based aspects of local policing will be managed and supported.

## 1.1 DEDICATED WARD OFFICERS

The guarantee of at least two DWOs is a very welcome change in the strategy and I have heard almost universal praise for this decision from Londoners and campaign groups alike.

### Police Now

Feedback from residents, members of ward panels and Safer Neighbourhoods Boards has been very complimentary about the quality of the graduate recruits coming from the Police Now national graduate leadership programme. The training they receive in how to be an effective dedicated ward officer has also been praised by former officers giving evidence to the Police and Crime Committee.

However, I do have concerns about the diversity of these recruits, and think that more must be done to ensure these well-trained new officers properly reflect Londoners. See chapter 2 for more on what should be done to improve police diversity.

### Police on bikes

The Mayor's focus on local policing and visibility could be better supported if more police officers, particularly the dedicated ward officers, were able to use bikes for travel around their area. The plan should set out ambitious plans to make sure all DWOs are trained and equipped with bikes as soon as possible.

## 1.2 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS INFRASTRUCTURE

The draft plan mentions the importance of Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNBs) but fails to propose any specific ways the Mayor will offer SNBs more support than they currently receive.

The draft also mentions the valuable contribution of the volunteers but does not mention the role of ward panels or Neighbourhood Watch groups or offer them any new funding or support. Ward panels don't currently receive funding from MOPAC for things like meeting room hire, and rely heavily on volunteers. In the new plan the Mayor should clearly state the future role of these groups and how they will be supported.

In its 2015 review of safer neighbourhoods, the Police and Crime Committee's recommendations included that: "MOPAC should support SNBs to hold the majority of their meetings in public".<sup>2</sup> The Mayor should look at this review and seek to include this and other recommendations in the final plan.

## 1.3 SETTING LOCAL PRIORITIES

I support the moves outlined in the draft plan to move away from the 'rigid' MOPAC 7 priorities. However, I have some criticism of how the new local priorities for volume crime are being decided this year. For example SNB representatives were not invited to the meetings in each borough, and the rushed timetable meant that there was no process to get input from ward panels or the wider public.

I know that public meetings have been held in some boroughs to look at the draft plan as well as these priorities, but these have been at short notice and not facilitated in a way to draw out specific feedback on local priorities from attendees.

The draft plan says that local priorities will be set annually, and I hope that we will see a more considered timetable and a more thorough engagement process set out in the final plan and used in future years.

In terms of the London-wide priorities set out in the plan, I do support these, especially the way they are focused on high harm crimes, vulnerability and repeat victimization.

## 1.4 FRAUD AND CYBERCRIME

At local meetings I have been impressed by the number of people suggesting that fraud carried out online is something they thought local police should be helping with, especially in terms of prevention and reporting.

I am certain there is a role for dedicated ward officers in this. The kinds of scams being perpetrated by email are similar to the 'doorstep' frauds that used to be more

prevalent and preyed on older and vulnerable people. They do not employ high technology and don't require special skills to educate residents to avoid.

The Mayor should state in his plan how he will take preventing online fraud to the local level. Ward officers should be tasked with helping residents spot and avoid scams, and with investigating these crimes where they have a local connection

## 1.5 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Consistent feedback at local meetings I have attended asks that the plan does more to address anti-social behavior. Anti-social behavior can range from noise and harassment to littering and vandalism, and can have a profound effect on residents' quality of life.

I believe that common causes of anti-social behavior in local places could be targeted and tackled by new dedicated ward officers, but this needs to be mentioned in the plan and built into the overall strategy.

## 1.6 HATE CRIME

I support the strong commitments in the plan to tackle hate crime. The rise in these crimes along with the lower conviction rate in London is incredibly concerning. I am particularly pleased to see proposals for a Hate Crime Victims' Advocates (HCVA) scheme with targeted support for victims.

Improved information and monitoring will also help – I am glad to see disability and trans hate crimes are now being recorded but I have raised questions about how the different categories of hate crime are shown on the MOPAC dashboards and these should be reviewed.<sup>3</sup>



I have been pleased to see the Nottinghamshire police service running a trial of recording misogyny as a hate crime and would like to see this in London too.<sup>4</sup> The definition is valid when so much violence against women is being committed in London and better monitoring could help support efforts to tackle this problem.

## 1.7 THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

The draft plan only contains a brief mention of the role of the new Night Czar and how the night time economy will be policed in order to keep Londoners safe and maintain the vitality of our culture.

The final plan should contain more on this including an ambition to create a night time economy strategy. The new strategy should cover all areas of London, not just the centre, and should take on board the recent work carried out by the London Borough of Havering and the Safe and Sound partnership.<sup>5</sup>

## 1.8 MENTAL HEALTH

The rise in mental ill health has also led to a rise in incidents involving the police. The draft plan does not contain details of any specific actions for improving how people with mental health problems are treated when coming into contact with the MPS, or ways in which the work of local police and preventive work within MOPAC will address mental health inequalities.

In response to my question about mental health funding in London the Mayor said:<sup>6</sup>

*"I will ensure that we maximise the potential of the GLA family to prioritise mental health in all policies."*

It is important that the final plan echoes this ambition and draws up clear plans to achieve it.

## 1.9 DEMENTIA

Alzheimer's Society has told me that the MPS should be working to raise officer awareness of how to interact with people affected by dementia. They have asked for:

- A pathway to be in place for when people affected by dementia come in to contact with the police force in any way, or spend nights in prison cells
- An assessment of what support can be put in place to ensure people with dementia and carers don't get contacted by fraudulent emails or calls
- When a person with dementia goes missing for the police to respond immediately when contacted and not have to wait for 12 hours

I have asked the Mayor about a negative experience someone with dementia had with a police officer, with the hope that the MPS learn from this incident to review their current training and that the Mayor will include this in his final plan.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.10 APPROACH TO DRUGS

I support the Police and Crime Committee's recommendation for the final plan to set out more clearly how the Mayor will address problems caused by drugs in London.

In addition I would like to see details of how the MPS will prioritise resources in this work. For example by tackling anti-social behaviour concerns through dedicated ward officers, and taking a preventive and public health approach to increases in hard drug use.



## 1.11 CONFIDENCE IN POLICE FOR ALL LONDONERS

Particular communities, age groups and ethnicities currently have low confidence in the police, and some programmes and tactics cause particular feelings of distrust or disrespect. The draft plan recognizes this, but I have a number of comments and suggestions for making these initiatives stronger and more effective.

### Problems with Prevent

There has been much controversy around the Government's Prevent strategy and it is important that the Mayor presents a clear and positive direction for MOPAC and MPS to effectively engage with Londoners and community groups to tackle this.

Campaigners have told me that Mayor should improve the transparency around the London CONTEST Board. This board was set up to oversee the Government's counter-terrorism strategy in London. However, one year on there is very little public evidence of the work they have done or are planning to do.

The lack of overall transparency is concerning and I have asked the Mayor a series of questions to try understand the board's role and performance.<sup>8</sup>

The view of extremism set out in the draft plan is much more encouraging, in particular the Mayor's efforts not to suppose that all forms of extremism lead to violent crime. This assumption was raised as a concern by my predecessor Jenny Jones AM in a minority report accompanying the Police and Crime Committee report *Preventing extremism in London* in December 2015.<sup>9</sup>

The section on 'Strengthening early intervention and prevention' clearly makes the link between vulnerability to extremism and vulnerability to other forms of exploitation. This more sophisticated and positive approach to safeguarding Londoners against extremism is very welcome.<sup>10</sup>

### Armed officers

I have previously raised concerns about the number of armed officers and the method by which these are agreed and made public.<sup>11</sup> The draft plan briefly mentions armed officers but in the final plan the Mayor should be clear that in order to keep Londoners safe we want to keep armed officer numbers to a minimum – we do not want a militarised MPS. More weapons on the streets can lead to an increased risk of mistakes being made and could make people feel less safe and more fearful.

### Tasers

The use of tasers is also of deep concern to me. Evidence from the Children Rights Alliance for England and The Guardian has shown that tasers are increasingly being used on children and disproportionately on people from BAME backgrounds.<sup>12,13</sup>

Former Assembly Member Baroness Jenny Jones has criticised the MPS and the previous Mayor for tripling the number of Taser-armed officers without providing compelling evidence of the need.<sup>14</sup>

I do not believe that the Mayor should increase the number of police officers with Tasers or other potentially lethal weapons without good evidence and clear public support.



## Stop and search

The draft plan highlights the lack of satisfaction among young and BAME Londoners with the police compared with other groups and the likely effect of stop and search practices on this, including the fact that BAME Londoners are 2.5 times more likely to be stopped than white people.<sup>15</sup>

I am encouraged that the draft plan commits the Mayor to scrutinising the use of stop and search. Since these concerns were raised the MPS has made progress in reducing the quantity of wasteful stop and search it carries out, but more must be done to cut racial disparities.

Continued support for the Stop and Search Community Monitoring Network will help to achieve this, and will help achieve a more targeted approach. I would also like to see the final plan include additional face-to-face training for officers with young people to improve the quality of searches.





## 2 POLICING AND THE PUBLIC

The Mayor's manifesto says: "I will ensure that building trust across London, with all communities, is a core priority for the Met over the coming years."<sup>16</sup>

With trust as a priority, winning more confidence from all Londoners needs to be covered in much more detail in the final plan. This should include information on performance, more transparency about the work of the police and more diversity in police ranks at all levels.

### 2.1 PERFORMANCE AND TARGETS

I support the move away from London-wide targets for volume crimes (the 'MOPAC 7') and the shift to locally set objectives. The draft plan says this will "give local areas greater control of local police priorities".

However, as outlined in chapter 1, I am concerned at how the process for setting the first of these annual targets has been handled this year.

It is important, too, that the new local target setting does not reduce the level of information provided by MOPAC on MPS performance or reduce the transparency of the current dashboards. All current data on these dashboards should continue to be available in future to help the public track the changing performance of the MPS over time.

Overall the new focus on vulnerability and the retention of London-wide targets for tackling the crimes that do the greatest harm to Londoners, and to our society, is very welcome.

### 2.2 TRANSPARENCY

Much police work is necessarily confidential. However, the MPS and MOPAC as a whole could do a lot to improve the transparency and accountability of their organisation and procedures. A strategy for achieving this should be part of the new plan.

Issues to be covered should include:

- How to improve the publication and accessibility of MOPAC decisions
- Increasing transparency and communication about the structure of the MPS – the abolition of certain ranks and the restructuring of borough commands provides a chance to do this
- Making sure specialist operations and commands have much better information provided online, with clarity on how they are accountable
- Improved transparency in MPS budgets, with more input sought from the public and more evidence provided for cost-effectiveness

The strategy should also include how the MPS can improve consultation when new operational guidelines are needed, and where there is a public interest or concern – for example drones and spit hoods.

The College of Policing is now responsible for most operational guidelines but MOPAC should be helping Londoners to understand and feed into these processes. The Mayor has responded to my questions about these issues in a positive way and these commitments to consult and engage also need to be in the final plan.<sup>17</sup>



## 2.3 POLICE DIVERSITY

I am encouraged to see that the draft plan outlines the continued need to attract and recruit diverse officers within the MPS. This is essential to create a police service that can work effectively for all communities and win back the confidence of all Londoners.

The plan should also set out how the Mayor will seek continued advice on diversity issues with a wide range of citizen groups, including those representing women and BAME groups who are not currently linked to the police. This could help tackle questions around why more people from these groups do not enter policing as a career.

The Mayor should provide clarity around his aims and commitment to improving diversity. The Mayor should work with the new Commissioner to continue lobbying government for a change in the law, supporting the recommendations made in the recent Home Affairs Select Committee report on police diversity.<sup>18</sup>

Promoting diversity in the police workforce is also a challenge when police officers find it so hard to live and settle in London.

In 2013, the MPS recognised that the number of officers based outside London was something they needed to change. However, my report last year *Where do our police officers live?* found that 49 per cent of officers still live outside London.<sup>19</sup>

I recommended that the new Police and Crime plan should revisit the issue of where police officers live and should make more effective plans to recruit from within London, and said that more should be done “to support and incentivise officers to stay in London when their family circumstances and housing needs change.”

I therefore welcome comments in the draft plan on using the police estate better to support affordable housing in general. I would like to see plans set out for working with other GLA organisations and government departments (who may hold much more public land) to help provide homes specifically for key workers.



## 3 POLICING AND YOUNG PEOPLE

I am pleased to see that children and young people are mentioned as a priority in the draft plan. However, much of the content in this section stops short of the necessary action or funding needed to achieve the stated objectives.

### 3.1 CUTS TO SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The draft plan says “prevention is key to protecting young people and reducing crime over the long term” and yet it fails to outline practical measures for how the MPS and MOPAC will work at the earliest stages of risk to prevent youth crime.<sup>20</sup>

My recent report *London's Lost Youth Services* shows that facilities to support young people in London have been under threat for some time, with a future that is increasingly bleak. An update to this report will be published soon.

My research has found that, since 2011:

- £28.4 million in budget cuts across London's borough councils
- an overall cut in youth service staff of 48 per cent
- the loss of at least 36 youth centres (data from 17 councils)

### 3.2 SUPPORT THAT MOPAC ALREADY OFFERS

MOPAC and the MPS already support a number of initiatives for young Londoners, but this should be expanded if we are to achieve real crime prevention and a new generation of Londoners who can flourish.

### Youth workers in A&E

MOPAC currently supports the provision of youth workers in four accident and emergency (A&E) centres in hospitals. Run by Redthread, these workers aim to reach young victims of violence at the ‘teachable moment’ of attending A&E. The draft plan commits to continuing this support, though not to expand it to more hospitals or more areas, as Assembly Members have called for in the Police and Crime Committee response.<sup>21</sup>

More vitally, youth workers targeting those in A&E are very clear that they need to be able to signpost young people to general youth services once the young person has decided to make changes to their lives. Therefore, this model alone cannot make up for the loss in council youth services or operate effectively without them.

### The London Crime Prevention Fund

In the draft plan, the Mayor recommits to maintaining the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF), which provides £18 million per year to support crime prevention services, via local councils.<sup>22</sup> Only around £3 million of the LCPF is spent each year on youth-related initiatives.<sup>23</sup>

### 3.3 NEW SUPPORT MOPAC SHOULD PROVIDE

In January, for the GLA budget for 2017/18, I proposed that MOPAC should extend funding via the LCPF to mitigate the cuts to youth services across London.



Funding for this budget amendment would have come from council tax by extending the Mayor's proposed increase up to the overall two per cent council tax referendum cap. It would have raised an additional £4.3 million next year and over £17 million over the next four years.

I was very disappointed that, in his final budget in February, the Mayor did not either take up this proposal for the council tax or devote any of the additional MOPAC funding to youth services. The risk to real crime prevention and the risk to the safety of young Londoners is clear and I believe the Mayor does have a duty to act on a strategic, London-wide level.

The final plan must set out how the Mayor will act to mitigate the effects of these cuts, even if he won't directly replace any of the lost funding.

### 3.4 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

I have asked the Mayor about MOPAC and MPS spending on crime prevention communications and found that more than £1.8 million has been devoted to these initiatives since 2012.<sup>24</sup>

I have also questioned the use of images of weapons by the police in their communications. Evidence to the Police and Crime Committee has shown that a driver of knife crime amongst young people "could, in part, be fuelled by a perception of the number and severity of weapons on the streets."<sup>25</sup>

With the police routinely distributing photos that could increase this perception, I am concerned that the Met does not have a strong strategy or evidence base for its communications on these issues.

When visiting the Ben Kinsella Trust I was encouraged to see that they focused their

educational materials for young people on the emotional and family consequences of knife violence, rather than showing graphic images or pictures of weapons. This approach means that their sessions and images are also suitable for primary school children.

At the Mayor's final Budget meeting on 20 February, he announced an extra £250,000 to be spent on knife crime initiatives. I believe it is important that all funding for communication with young people about violence is devised in an evidence-based way, using consistent and appropriate messages and I would like to see a strategy for this in the final plan.

### A central source of non-judgmental information

More consistency could be provided by the Mayor by setting up a central source of information and advice on youth violence. This could be modelled on the successful national Talk to Frank resource for young people who have questions about drug use, and includes online support, a helpline and referrals to other services when needed.<sup>26</sup>

### 3.5 SAFER SCHOOLS OFFICERS

Following comments made to me by some Londoners, I have asked the Mayor a series of questions about the deployment, effectiveness and training of Safer Schools Officers (SSOs).<sup>27</sup>

This is because I am concerned that the Mayor has made a pledge to provide an officer for any school that wants one without a review of this role and how cost-effective this will be for the MPS.<sup>28</sup>

I encourage the Mayor to look at this issue and gather more evidence before the final Police and Crime Plan is published.



## 4 POLICING AND WOMEN AND GIRLS

I am very pleased that the Mayor has dedicated a large portion of the draft plan to his aims for tackling crimes against women and girls and preventing violence, abuse and harassment.

### 4.1 FULLY FUND THE STRATEGY

The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWG) has been very well received and is proving positive and effective. However, the Mayor should continue to improve standards where possible and, as part of the new plan, make sure all the necessary initiatives are included and fully funded.

In a timely way, the strategy should be reviewed to ensure it remains relevant, and this review should involve a high degree of public engagement on progress and what women still need from the Mayor.

### 4.2 REFUGES

The housing crisis in the capital is making provision for emergency and moving on accommodation for women extremely difficult.

In response to the End Violence Against Women coalition, the Mayor supported their call to ensure London's housing strategy includes safe pathways for women at risk.<sup>29</sup>

I have gained commitments from the Mayor to include refuges in his housing funding plans, and I am very encouraged to see that the plan clearly links together the Mayor's housing plans with support for women who survive domestic violence.<sup>30</sup>

### 4.3 SPECIALIST SERVICES

Campaigners Imkaan have told the Police and Crime Committee that the Mayor needs to do more to protect London's network of specialist support domestic violence services for BAME women. The value of these specialist services in terms of social return on investment (SROI) has been demonstrated in a recent study by Solace Women's Aid and Ascent Advice and Counselling.<sup>31</sup>

The Police and Crime Committee response asks for long-term funding to secure the future of these services and I agree that this must be guaranteed by the Mayor in the final plan.

#### Female genital mutilation (FGM) and 'honour' crimes

Direct funding for BAME women's support services in London can also help ensure that MOPAC provides holistic support for survivors of FGM, forced marriage and 'honour-based' violence.

I fully support the Police and Crime Committee's recommendation that the Mayor should provide more detail on how he will achieve his goals to eradicate FGM.

### 4.4 MALE VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SERVICES

Recent MPS figures show that reports of domestic abuse experienced by men have grown 9,245 in 2012 to 16,681 in 2015 – an 80 per cent increase.<sup>32</sup>

Support for male victims is less well developed than for women, and this could be exacerbated



by the fact that there are no refuges in London specifically for male victims of domestic abuse.

The draft plan acknowledges these issues as a problem, but I would like to see more details of the proposals to support male survivors of abuse, including with housing options.

## 4.5 SUPPORT IN A&E

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) deployed in A&E departments are a valuable service, identifying women at risk at a crucial moment.

The Police and Crime Committee has recommended that the Mayor should use his commissioning powers to support an increase in their use, and I agree that it is important for the final plan to include this.

## 4.6 YOUNG WOMEN AND VIOLENCE

The Police and Crime Committee has looked with concern at the increase in young women involved as both perpetrators and victims of violent crime.<sup>33</sup>

We heard evidence last year that though the number of girls involved in crime is small the rise in this phenomenon is significant.

This issue is complex but potentially very worrying so the Mayor and MPS should look more closely at this.



## 5 POLICING AND JUSTICE

For policing to work Londoners must be able to trust officers and know that they can be held responsible for wrongdoing.

Misconduct and the abuse of power have hurt the trust between the public and some sections of the police, especially where operations are necessarily clandestine. Police must not operate outside the law and the Mayor must do more to hold the police accountable.

### 5.1 A VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR LONDON

As outlined in the draft report, the appointment of an independent Victims' Commissioner for London will be to "promote better outcomes for victims throughout the Criminal Justice Service."

It is important that the Victims' Commissioner also monitors and reviews practices throughout the MPS to promote better outcomes for victims who come into contact with the MPS.

The role of the Victims' Commissioner is so far not described in detail in the draft, and I would like to see more in the final plan, including a clear set of goals and outcomes expected.

### 5.2 SURVEILLANCE OF CAMPAIGNERS

The revised plan needs to set out the Mayor's approach to surveillance of non-violent opposition groups and campaigners. It must make clear that police officers are not above the law and that their duty to protect us should not come at the expense of our civil liberties.

The definition of 'domestic extremist' was supposedly tightened under the last Mayor, and the use of surveillance and undercover officers is now only supposed to be targeted at serious crime. However, campaigners need more assurances on this from the new plan.

Recent revelations show that many environmental campaigners and politicians have been monitored by the MPS and the National Domestic Extremism and Intelligence Unit, including me, Baroness Jenny Jones and Caroline Lucas MP. Much more should be done to review this data collection and prevent abuses creeping back into police practice.

The Investigatory Powers Act has increased the range and scope of these powers and the Mayor needs to take an active role in addressing concerns about how these new powers are being used.

This could be done in confidence and behind the scenes (without compromising operational independence) but MOPAC needs to publicly state that it has asked the right questions and that the MPS has given satisfactory answers.

### 5.3 ABUSE BY UNDERCOVER OFFICERS

The evidence of serious abuses carried out by undercover officers and the Special Demonstration Squad is extremely shocking. A number of our citizens have suffered the most heartbreaking and difficult invasions of their personal lives by officers who engaged in long relationships to spy on entirely peaceful campaigners.



The scale and nature of these cases illustrate the huge failures of accountability within the existing system of managing and monitoring police snooping.

I welcome the Pitchford Inquiry into illegal spying by the police, but the Mayor should not wait until the end of this long process to improve these practices.

The final plan should be clear on how the MPS will reform the governance of undercover work and how they will target and manage undercover operations to prevent these kinds of abuses happening again.

## 5.4 WHISTLEBLOWING

The MPS does not have an effective system for dealing with whistleblowers and the public interest issues that they raise. Many officers don't have confidence in the internal processes they should follow, as shown by a number of incidents where officers have approached politicians or even the press to raise concerns instead.

This should not be necessary, but officers need to know they will find reassurance and support when they want to raise genuine issues of public interest. The MPS should put more effort into developing a strong culture against wrongdoing and internal processes that more effectively protect officers who report issues.

The current plan contains no mention of the approach that Mayor will take in relation to whistleblowing, and this must be rectified.

## 5.5 SUPPORT FOR YOUNG VICTIMS

The victims of youth violence are often only identified as the people who have directly sustained physical injuries. However, when a violent incident takes place involving young people, the witnesses and others around the

perpetrator and victim are often deeply affected. These can include the friends and family of both the perpetrator and victim, and the wider community.

These wider effects of a violent incident can serve to continue the cycle of violence and spread fear and mental ill health.

The Department for Health said in a 2012 report:

*"Much like many infections, violence is contagious. Violence in the community can have negative impacts on individuals' emotional and mental wellbeing, even if they are not directly victimised themselves.*

*For example, young people living in communities affected by gang violence and crime (e.g. muggings) may constantly fear for their safety in public places. Exposure to community violence through victimisation, witnessing or even just hearing about violence has been associated with post traumatic stress and internalising (e.g. anxiety) and externalising (e.g. aggression) problems in young people."<sup>34</sup>*

In the updated plan I would like to see the Mayor and the Victims' Commissioner develop a broader public health approach to the effects of youth violence within communities to help address these issues.

## 5.6 DEVOLUTION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Achieving justice and good outcomes for victims of crime is not just about the actions of the MPS but also about ensuring the wider justice system deals with crimes effectively.

Unfortunately, in a number of areas, good work by the police has been undermined when the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has failed either to prosecute crimes or achieve





convictions. Particularly bad examples include several high profile road deaths and recent cases of 'honour' crimes.<sup>35</sup>

It is also hard to monitor this problem. I have asked the Mayor for data on successful prosecutions following a number of crime types, including hit and run offences, but the separate data systems of the CPS and the MPS mean that justice outcomes cannot normally be tracked.

These issues, which could serve to reduce community confidence in the Met, need to be addressed, and though I support all the proposals in the draft plan for devolution of criminal justice, I would like to see the Mayor push for much deeper integration between the MPS and the CPS, as recommended by the Assembly's Devolution Working Group in 2015.<sup>36</sup>

### 5.7 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

I applaud the draft plan's focus on supporting restorative justice initiatives. This, along with new funding from the Mayor, is a very welcome addition to the criminal justice system in London.<sup>37</sup>

Restorative justice has been shown elsewhere to have excellent outcomes and to empower victims and benefit offenders.

I hope the work done in this area will be appropriately resourced and properly evaluated so that its impact and value can be assessed.



## 6 POLICING FOR SAFER STREETS

More than 2,000 Londoners are killed or seriously injured on our streets each year. Making our streets safer must be a high priority for the Mayor in his new plans.<sup>38</sup>

### 6.1 VISION ZERO

It is encouraging to see that the Mayor will adopt a Vision Zero approach to reduce road casualties. An increase in ambition in this area is signaled by the draft plan, with an integrated approach “using a combination of enforcement, education and engineering.”<sup>39</sup>

Achieving these goals means prioritising road danger reduction by putting the needs of people at the heart of all Transport for London (TfL) schemes and reducing the dominance of motor vehicles. To do this effectively it is important that the different organisations within the Greater London Authority work together.

The police must also put more resources into activities like enforcing 20 mph speed limits and advanced stop lines, and they should adopt a more robust harm-reduction approach to their communications and recommendations following collisions.

### 6.2 INCREASE POLICE CAPACITY TO MAKE ROADS SAFER

I have asked the Mayor for assurances about the future budget of the Metropolitan Police Roads and Transport Policing Command (which is part-funded by TfL) and the Traffic Criminal Justice Unit.<sup>40</sup>

In spite of MPS budget pressures I am glad the

Mayor has said that this funding will not be reduced and that the structure of the command will not be changed.<sup>41</sup>

However, I remain concerned that the current capacity of the MPS isn't sufficient to deliver on the Mayor's goals. I would like to see more support for tackling these crimes and a higher priority for road crime in the revised plan.

### 6.3 TREAT ROAD CRIME AS CRIME

RoadPeace has told me that it applauds the commitment to appoint an independent Victims' Commissioner. The campaigners have called on the new commissioner to “ensure that road crash victims are presumed to be victims of crime until the contrary is proven, as with missing children and victims of other reported crime.”<sup>42</sup>

The plan needs to say more about how justice outcomes will be improved for road crimes. More needs to be done to put victims at the centre when setting goals for the police.

To monitor progress, those bereaved and injured in road collisions should have their satisfaction with the police recorded and this should be reported and analysed by road user type to identify whether certain groups are more affected or less supported than others.

### 6.4 TARGET HIT AND RUN OFFENCES

My recent report *Hit and Run: an unacceptable epidemic* revealed a 60 per cent increase in hit and run incidents that cause injuries between



2009 and 2015.<sup>43</sup> One in five collisions in London is now a hit and run, and this is extremely worrying.

Targeted work to reduce these incidents should be part of the final plan.

## 6.5. PUBLISH THE ANNUAL REPORT

The MPS and Transport for London have been promising to release the Traffic Law Enforcement Annual Report since January 2016.

Since being elected I have repeatedly asked the Mayor where this document is, but it is still delayed.<sup>44</sup> The Mayor needs to rectify this as a matter of urgency and ensure that future annual reports are published promptly, as the draft plan promises.

## 6.6 WIN THE CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE ON BIKES

To fulfil the Mayor's objective of increasing cycling in London people need to see clearly that their safety on the road will be prioritised. Policing on a range of cycling-related issues is inconsistent across London and the Mayor should put a strategy to improve this into his plans.

Road and cycling campaigners have been impressed with the pilot in Camden of a 'close pass' initiative, in which officers on bikes record examples of drivers passing dangerously close and immediately stop and show them footage of the event, to give them advice or take further action in particularly bad cases.

This initiative follows a successful programme in the West Midlands, which won a Road

Danger Reduction Forum award in November 2016.<sup>45</sup>

Initial data from Camden provided to me by the Mayor show good results from only a small amount of work so far.<sup>46</sup> I would therefore like to see close pass work expanded to all areas of the city, and for this commitment to appear in the final plan.



## 7 MANAGING THE MET

The MPS budget is under enormous pressure. London is currently underfunded for its duties as a capital city, and further cuts in central government funding are threatened. This makes managing the organisation in the coming years very challenging.

### 7.1 REORGANISATION

I fully appreciate the huge pressures on the organisation and the rationale behind reorganising structures and ranks. My own borough of Camden is one of the pathfinders, and is currently merging its command structure with Islington.

Work so far on this project appears to be well thought through. However, the changes were brought in without input from Safer Neighbourhood Boards, ward panels or local residents. I have asked the Mayor whether officers were consulted and hope to have an answer soon. I would like to see any failings in this engagement process rectified if the model is expanded to new areas.

I still have some concerns about the effects on response times that might be felt by outlying areas of both boroughs and this needs to be carefully monitored in all the pilot boroughs before further mergers are rolled out.

### 7.2 TRAINING

The Police and Crime Committee response identifies low morale among officers as a serious risk to achieving the Mayor's goals. I recently asked the Deputy Mayor about improving officer access to training.<sup>47</sup> I believe that increasing its quality and frequency would be an effective way to show officers they are

valued, as well as to respond to the changing needs of Londoners.

The draft plan raises the need for training in various sections but I would like to see a consistent message across the board in the final plan. I would also recommend creating a new training strategy so that officers can also see what support they can expect in future.

### 7.3 TECHNOLOGY

The draft plan sets out some ways that investment in technology can help to improve policing not only for Londoners but also for the officers. Body-worn cameras are an example of this – with the potential to protect officers and increase their accountability to the public at the same time.

However, each new technology has the potential to cause harm as well as improvements, as well as impact on public confidence, civil liberties, equality and privacy. Therefore the plan should set out clearly how the introduction of new technology will be managed and consulted upon. Examples likely to come up in the near future include the wider use of drones and new facial recognition equipment or databases.

I am pleased to see increased investment planned for new technology. I have some concerns about the leadership and management of past projects, which have overrun on costs and delivery, and these issues need to be carefully monitored by MOPAC in future.



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I would like to hear more from Londoners about what should be in the Mayor's plan for policing and crime.

Please get in touch with me if you have any comments or suggestions.

**Sian Berry AM**, Green Party Member of the London Assembly

Tel: 020 7983 4391  
Email: [Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk](mailto:Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk)  
Address: London Assembly, City Hall, London, SE1 2AA

**Azrees Minott**, researcher

Tel: 020 7983 4358  
Email: [Azrees.Minott@london.gov.uk](mailto:Azrees.Minott@london.gov.uk)

This report sets out my views as an individual Assembly Member and not the agreed view of the entire Assembly.

Cover photo credits:

1. Alisdare Hickson on flickr (cc-by-sa)
2. David Holt on flickr (cc-by)
3. Metropolitan Police (copyright)

## References

---

<sup>1</sup> A Safer City for All Londoners. MOPAC and Mayor of London, Dec 2016

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/draft\\_police\\_and\\_crime\\_plan\\_for\\_london\\_2017-2021\\_-\\_consultation\\_document.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/draft_police_and_crime_plan_for_london_2017-2021_-_consultation_document.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Safer Neighbourhood Boards – two years on. London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, Dec 2015

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/safer-neighbourhood-boards-two-years>

<sup>3</sup> Hate crime statistics. MQ 2016/3075

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_289403](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_289403)

<sup>4</sup> Police in England and Wales consider making misogyny a hate crime. The Guardian, Sep 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/sep/10/misogyny-hate-crime-nottingham-police-crackdown>

<sup>5</sup> Safe and Sound initiative. Havering Borough Council accessed on 02 March 2017

<https://www3.havering.gov.uk/Pages/ServiceChild/Safe-and-sound.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> Mental health funding in London. MQ 2017/0091

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291598](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291598)

<sup>7</sup> Police and dementia. MQ Feb 2017 <http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/>

<http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/>

<sup>8</sup> London Contest Board. MQ 2017/0082

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291589](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291589) and London Contest Board applications. MQ 2017/0083 [http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291590](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291590)

<sup>9</sup> Preventing extremism in London (Jenny Jones minority report on page 38). London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, Dec 2015 [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/preventing\\_extremism\\_in\\_london\\_report.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/preventing_extremism_in_london_report.pdf)



<sup>10</sup> Ibid, page 57

<sup>11</sup> Public information on the number of additional firearms officers. MQ 2016/4602

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291086](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291086)

<sup>12</sup> Black and mixed race people in London more likely to be Tasered. Liam O'Hare and Damien Gayle, Feb 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/16/black-and-mixed-race-people-in-london-more-likely-to-be-tasered>

<sup>13</sup> The Use of Tasers in London. Stop Watch, Apr 2016, <http://www.stop-watch.org/uploads/documents/Briefing.Tasers.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Why arming all police with Tasers is wrong, Baroness Jenny Jones, Feb 2015

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/12/why-arming-police-tasers-wrong-jenny-jones>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid page 11

<sup>16</sup> A Mayor for all Londoners. Manifesto, Sadiq Khan, 2016

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/themes/569cb9526a21db3279000001/attachments/original/1457451016/x160668\\_Sadiq\\_Khan\\_Manifesto.pdf?1457451016](https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/themes/569cb9526a21db3279000001/attachments/original/1457451016/x160668_Sadiq_Khan_Manifesto.pdf?1457451016)

<sup>17</sup> Community engagement on sensitive tactics. MQ 2016/3698

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_290111](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_290111)

<sup>18</sup> Police Diversity -first report of session 2016-17. Home Affairs Committee, May 2016

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/27/27.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Where do our police officers live? Sian Berry AM, Jun 2016

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sian\\_berry\\_police\\_housing\\_report\\_jun2016.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sian_berry_police_housing_report_jun2016.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Ibid page 38

<sup>21</sup> Keeping children and young people safe. Police and Crime Committee, Feb 2017

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/police\\_crime\\_committee\\_response\\_to\\_the\\_mayors\\_draft\\_police\\_and\\_crime\\_plan.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/police_crime_committee_response_to_the_mayors_draft_police_and_crime_plan.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> MOPAC decision PCD79, Nov 2016. <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/governance-and-decision-making/mopac-decisions-336>

<sup>23</sup> MOPAC spending on youth crime prevention. MQ 2016/3695

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_290108](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_290108)

<sup>24</sup> Met police spending on crime prevention communications. 2016/4616

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291100](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291100)

<sup>25</sup> Serious Youth Violence. London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, Sep 2016 <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/fear-fuelling-violence-among-londons-young-people>

<sup>26</sup> Talk to Frank. Accessed 2 Mar 2017 <http://www.talktofrank.com>

<sup>27</sup> Safer Schools Officers. MQ 2016/3074

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_289402](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_289402) and

Safer Schools Officer time. MQ 2016/4164 and

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_290620](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_290620)

Safer Schools Officer training. MQ 2017/0080

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291587](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291587)

<sup>28</sup> People's Question Time, Nov 2016, full video, comments at 1h32m: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0In65V0SCoA>

<sup>29</sup> Zac and Sadiq asked to pledge to end violence against women and girls. End Violence Against Women, Mar 2016

<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/news/237/zac-and-sadiq-asked-to-pledge-to-end-violence-against-women-girls>

<sup>30</sup> Capital funding support for domestic violence refuges. MQ 2016/3064

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_289392](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_289392)

<sup>31</sup> Social Impact Report 2015. Ascent Advice and Counselling and Solace Women's Aid. 2015

<https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/research/publication/social-impact-report-2015-ascent-advice-and-counselling-for-women-and-girls-affected-by-domestic-sexual-violence/>

<sup>32</sup> London safe house call for male domestic abuse victims. BBC News, Sep 2017 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-38986336>

<sup>33</sup> Serious Youth Violence. London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, Sep 2016 <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/fear-fuelling-violence-among-londons-young-people>

<sup>34</sup> Protecting people promoting health – A public health approach to violence prevention for England Department of Health, Oct 2013 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/216977/Violence-prevention.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216977/Violence-prevention.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Metropolitan Police accuses honour crimes whistleblower of gross misconduct. Daily Telegraph, Feb 2017



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/13/metropolitan-police-accuses-honour-crimes-whistleblower-gross/>

<sup>36</sup> A new agreement for London. London Assembly Devolution Working Group, Sep 2015

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/a\\_new\\_agreement\\_for\\_london.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/a_new_agreement_for_london.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> Mayor launches £1.3m restorative justice service. Mayor of London, Aug 2016 <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-launches-13m-restorative-justice-service>

<sup>38</sup> Collisions and casualties on London's roads. Transport for London, 2015 <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/collisions-and-casualties-on-londons-roads-annual-report-2015.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> Ibid page 20

<sup>40</sup> Road crime traffic police funding. MQ 2016/4611

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291095](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291095)

<sup>41</sup> Metropolitan Police Service restructure. MQ 2017/0077

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291584](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291584)

<sup>42</sup> Joint response to A Safer City for All Londoners. RoadPeace, British Cycling, Cycling UK, Living Streets, London Cycling Campaign (LCC), Road Danger Reduction Forum (RDRF) and 20's Plenty for Us. Mar 2017

[http://www.roadpeace.org/resources/Joint\\_response\\_to\\_London\\_Assembly\\_Police\\_and\\_Crime\\_Committee\\_re\\_road\\_traffic\\_crime.pdf](http://www.roadpeace.org/resources/Joint_response_to_London_Assembly_Police_and_Crime_Committee_re_road_traffic_crime.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> Hit and run - an unacceptable epidemic. Sian Berry AM, Nov 2016 <https://www.london.gov.uk/people/assembly/sian-berry/publication-sian-berry-hit-and-run-unacceptable-epidemic>

<sup>44</sup> MPS/TfL Traffic Law Enforcement Annual Report. MQ 2016/3093

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_289421](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_289421) and

Traffic Law Enforcement Annual Report. MQ 2016/4620

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291104](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291104)

<sup>45</sup> A new dawn in policing to prevent danger to cyclists? The RDRF award to West Midlands Traffic Police, Road Danger Reduction Forum, Nov 2016 <https://rdrf.org.uk/2016/11/22/a-new-dawn-in-policing-to-prevent-danger-to-cyclists-the-rdrf-award-to-west-midlands-traffic-police/#more-1747>

<sup>46</sup> Close pass offences (1), MQ 2016/4613

[http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_291097](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_291097)

<sup>47</sup> Minutes of Police and Crime Committee meeting on 23 Feb 2017.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=240&MId=6080&Ver=4>

