

EALING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD (ESNB)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 18 November 2014

PRESENT:

Martin Mallam
Idris Ali
Chris Carrington
Richard Chilton
Hamera Asfa Davey
Arwel Davies
Cllr Ranjit Dheer
Neil Fretwell
John Gallagher
James Guest
William Hardman
Ann Hunter
Cllr Seema Kumar
Paul Martin
Latoya Ridge

REPRESENTING

Chair of ESNB – N/P/G'ford Ward Panel Lead
Police Independent Advisory
Acton Ward Panel Lead
Lay Member / ECPCG Representative
MOPAC
Lay Member
LBE / Portfolio Holder, Community Services and Safety
Lay Member
Lay Member
Ealing Ward Panel Lead
Ealing Chamber Representative
Ealing Broadway BID Representative
LBE / Shadow Portfolio Holder
Acting Borough Commander, Ealing MET
Victim Support, North West London

Also Present:

Gemma Benton - Youth & Connexions Service
Jess Murray - Service Manager, Safer Communities, LBE
Lee Teasdale - Democratic Services Officer, LBE

1. Welcome and Introductions (Agenda Item 1)

Following round table introductions, Paul Martin was introduced to the Committee as the new Acting Borough Commander for Ealing. He advised the Board of his experience working within the Borough.

Apologies were received for Alan Murray and Jagjit Sanghera.

2. Minutes of Meeting 22nd July 2014 (Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Seema Kumar noted that her apologies should have been tendered for the previous meeting.

3. Matters Arising (Agenda Item 3)

There were none.

4. **Terms of Reference** (Agenda Item 4)

The Chair advised the Board that further minor amendments had been made to the Terms of Reference. He thanked James Guest for the hard work he had put into drafting it.

James Guest stated that MOPAC had requested three further changes to the Terms of Reference. He stated that he would take the Chair's steer and quickly send round the version incorporating the MOPAC requested changes to Board Members before finalisation.

The Chair also advised that a short paragraph about declarations of interest was to be included so that anyone with an indirect or direct 'ability' to influence was noted on funding application to protect the Board from any accusations of improper/biased use of funding.

Resolved – That James Guest be asked to make the MOPAC requested changes to the Terms of Reference on behalf of the Board.

5. **Report From BIDS Sub-Committee** (Agenda Item 5)

Richard Chilton advised that recent progress had been slow and somewhat difficult. He raised three key areas of focus for the next financial year:

- General Public Engagement
- Engagement With Hard To Reach Groups (with a particular focus on Somali and Polish communities)
- Crime Reduction Projects (looking at particular initiatives)

He then asked that the Board provide feedback on these areas of focus.

Cllr Ranjit Dheer agreed that engaging with hard to reach groups was an increasingly important area of focus. He asked for an explanation of why the initial focus would be particularly around Somali and Polish communities.

It was stated that within Polish communities there was an inclination towards solving problems within the communities themselves, this was due to a perceived distrust of police forces generated by cultural differences in the relationships between the police and public in the UK and Poland. Within Somali communities there were still immoderate levels of drug use and anti-social activities being seen. There was a need for more general engagement and willing integration within the wider local communities.

Neil Fretwell commented that crime reduction was the overriding focus and that everything else should feed into that. He also noted that general public engagement should be part of the day to day work of the Police and should not require a specific focus.

Paul Martin agreed that general public engagement is part of a police officer's job. With regards to Polish communities he stated that there had been a recent influx of a

generally younger community who had differences and conflicts with the more established Polish communities within the borough, it was this new generation that needed to be conversed with regarding culture changes in their attitudes to the Police.

With regards to crime reduction, mention was made of 'Operation Equinox'. This was a new initiative looking to target those committing anti-social behaviour in populated areas, with a particular focus on street drinkers, the outcomes of the operation were hoped to be a decrease in the levels of 'violence with injury' (VWI). As part of this there would be an increase in high visibility patrols in areas where incidents of VWI were anticipated.

Jess Murray agreed that street drinking was a particular issue at the present time and that engagement was required. He also raised concerns about the difference between people enjoying a drink in a park or open space and those causing ASB and the fact street drinking was a high perception issue, with people feeling intimidated by groups of people drinking whether their behaviour was reasonable or not, and in turn what action, if any is appropriate in these circumstances.

Cllr Seema Kumar asked for more information on work being undertaken, and whether there had been any successes so far?

Paul Martin stated that one area of work had been looking at the licensing of off-licenses who were known for high-proof sales, test purchase operations had been taking place at these locations with some success. Outreach workers were going into communities with particular street drinking problems and enforcement was taking place where deemed necessary with ASBO orders being placed on some repeat offenders.

He felt that the Police Licensing Team being embedded within Ealing Council was helpful and allowed for immediate action to be taken on particularly prevalent issues.

William Hardman felt that a lot of issues could be averted if more attention was made to environmental factors, such as additional lighting and further CCTV provision.

Cllr Dheer stated how challenging the last few years had been in the borough with ever changing demographics from around the world, and the associated cultural issues that can arise from this. He felt it was testament to the abilities of the local Police that in spite of these issues, they had still managed to bring crime levels down. He stated that it was important to keep raising awareness in these communities of what is not considered as acceptable.

Hamera Asfa Davey pointed the Boards towards looking into the 'Tilley Awards' for good examples of problem-orientated policing.

Discussion then took place around budgets, it was stated that, as a good source of funding, Ward Forums should be considered if the bid fits within their remit. Each Ward Forum had a budget of £37,500 and they were willing partners for projects.

The Chair asked that a list of on-going crime reduction projects already funded by MOPAC be provided to Board Members.

Resolved: That

- (i) the update be received; and
- (ii) the Service Manager for Safer Communities be asked to provide a list of on-going crime reduction projects to the Board.

6. MOPAC Data Pack (Agenda Item 6)

The latest MOPAC performance summary was provided to the Panel. It was noted that there had been a 11.1% reduction in 'MOPAC 7' crimes.

John Gallagher wondered whether the list of recorded crimes in Ealing on page 2 of the summary could be unpacked in future to show crimes broken down by ward. It was advised that breakdowns by ward and sub-ward could be seen on the Metropolitan Police Service's crime mapping webpage.

In relation to this, the Board were advised that the pack of the summary included links to various webpages that provided further detailed information on statistics and crime mapping, including the MOPAC interactive crime dashboard.

Richard Chilton queried why fraud was not listed as a crime when there were high levels of such activity being reported. Paul Martin agreed that there had been significant increases in levels of reported fraud, particularly online fraud from outside the UK. These were dealt with separately by a specialist E-Crime Unit based in the City of London.

It was then asked whether geographical targeting trends could still be analysed. It was advised that this was considered, and that there had been significant increases in investigation requests. The Police looked for trends and patterns developing, areas with lots of elderly residents as an example.

Neil Fretwell asked why more localised cases of fraud, such as a stolen card being used in a supermarket, weren't recorded. It was advised that these were included under the 'other crimes' statistics, Mr Fretwell stated that fraud did not fit within any of the crimes labelled in the statistics. Paul Martin stated he would look into this and feedback to the Board.

Cllr Ranjit Dheer asked what the rationale was behind fraud being dealt with by the City of London. It was explained that due to the history of corporate fraud seen within the City of London, the department based there had significant historic experience and were best placed to combat fraud. It was stated that Councillors were free to contact them to ask for statistics and feedback on fraud in the Borough. It was agreed that a request would be sent on behalf of the Board for further information.

Arwel Davies raised a query around the statistics for serious sexual offences. Whilst the overall Metropolitan Police statistics had risen 25.1%, Ealing had only seen a 0.6% rise. Did this indicate a reluctance to report sexual crimes within the Borough? It was stated that a lot of activity had been taking place around awareness of sex crimes and encouraging victims to report incidences. The high Metropolitan Police figure also took into account the increased level of historical crimes that had recently seen an upsurge in reportage.

Discussion took place around the success of the Domestic Abuse Team, with a 55% success rate outcome, only Heathrow Airport saw a higher rate within Greater London. The schemes run by the Community Safety Unit had been successful enough to encourage four other boroughs to look to replicate them.

Discussion then revolved around public perceptions of crime in the Borough, it was felt that a survey of residents on what they 'perceived' to be the most concerning and prevalent crimes in the Borough could be enlightening.

Page 11 of the summary made reference to allegations against Officers and Staff. The Board were advised that since the production of the performance statistics, Ealing's figures had improved and they were now the Borough with the 4th lowest level of allegations.

Further discussion took place around public complaints. Paul Martin advised that training was taking place, as it not only helped reduce levels of complaints received, but also aided in helping to deliver problem solving within communities. An approach in trouble hotspots of emphasising searching for weapons over drugs was well received.

It was stated that spikes in complaints were often caused when external officers had to be temporarily seconded within a different Borough, as these officers often didn't employ the same sort of tact in working with the community as that employed by officers who knew the area.

The Chair asked about 'Traffic Irregularity' complaints; he wondered when Bluetooth connectivity or another form of hands free device would be employed by the Police. Paul Martin stated that a Safer Driving Policy was in place and airwave radios with earpieces were coming into use so that drivers no longer had to use handsets.

Discussion then took place around the work of magistrates. It was felt that work was needed to understand issues around magistrates turning good cases down. The conversation then considered shopkeepers who were now reluctant to report recurring crimes due to a lack of faith in the system following cases being turned down by magistrates.

Latoya Ridge described some other options open following crimes against local shopkeepers such as 'restorative justice'. Behaviour changes were key and the network of school liaison officers were helping to encourage such changes.

This was considered a wide-ranging topic worth looking at in more depth at a later date, and could include such questions as 'What are the pressures on court services?' 'How rapidly can cases be dealt with?' and 'How much officer time is wasted as a result of these issues?'

Resolved: That

- (i) the MOPAC performance summary data pack be received;
- (ii) information about how localised cases of 'fraud' are statistically recorded be fed back to the Board;

- (iii) a request for statistics on e-fraud cases in Ealing be made to the City of London E-Fraud Department on behalf of the Board; and
- (iv) issues around cases being rejected by magistrates courts be considered as a possible future item at the Board.

7. Press Publicity (Agenda Item 7)

The Chair advised the Board that the next meeting would be open to the public. Local press sources would be contacted, the Council website would be updated and Police Ward Newsletters would advertise the event.

Jess Murray reminded the Panel that advertising of the event needed to be clear that the Board was not led by the Council or Police and was acting on behalf of the Mayor of London.

Councillor Dheer stated that he had a meeting conflict for the proposed date of 23rd March 2015; he advised that many other Councillors would have a conflict on that date as well. Jess Murray would look into the options for an alternative date in late March and would liaise with the Head of Democratic Services to avoid conflict with other meetings. He would feedback to the Panel once a revised date was confirmed.

Discussion then took place around interactivity at the open meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would need to be more resident specific than usual and that the structure would likely follow a 2/3 roadshow, 1/3 housekeeping approach.

The Chair advised that he had been in contact with Ealing Voluntary Service, who had agreed to set up an Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board website which would explain the purpose of the Board and provide information on funding, the cost of running the website would only be a nominal fee of £5 per year. This separate website would aid in differentiating the Board from the Council.

Resolved: That

- (i) the Service Manager for Safer Communities be asked to look at alternative meeting dates for the next meeting of the Board and feedback as appropriate; and
- (ii) once a date is confirmed, Board Members be asked to publicise the open meeting through appropriate sources.

8. Any Other Business (Agenda Item 8)

Chris Carrington stated that due to the infrequency of meetings, Board Members needed to be kept up-to-date in-between the meetings with emails advising of any developments as they occur.

The Chair confirmed that the Terms of Reference would be circulated to Board Members.

9. Date of Next Meeting

(Agenda Item 9)

As per the discussion in agenda item 7, a revised date for the next meeting would be investigated.

Resolved: That the next scheduled meeting of the Board takes place on a date on a date to be confirmed by the Service Manager of Safer Communities.

Martin Mallam, Chair.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.