

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Reports from Executive Members

Neighbourhood Watch – Caryl Harris

My role as NHW coordinator continues as I try to attend as many Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meetings as I am able.

These take place, as you know, every three months and each ward (18 in the Borough but some are joined) hold the meetings for at least an hour often two, with their local residents and the DWO teams to share local crime information.

I have probably attended and taken notes on over 80+ meetings over these past 18 months and got to know both the wonderful DWO teams and those marvellous dedicated, local residents, who, come rain or shine, get themselves along to the chosen venue to demonstrate that there still is this brilliant community spirit out there in our Borough. And that both sides of this unique shared concern for safer neighbourhoods is alive and well.

It is very interesting to note that there is, of late, a much greater interest it appears, from the more senior teams at the Met Police on these local NHW groups and especially how they need to link together. I have said this almost from the moment that I first took on this role that 'tweeting' will replace the old 'twitching curtain'. Because no matter what our ages, technology is the way forward for local groups in order to coordinate and share information. And I place the emphasis on being able to "share" information being important, more than any other.

Very shortly, and I hope it will be available for the NHW ward teams to test and research, we will have (as Greenwich NHW have just launched) our own Dedicated Ward Platform whereby the police tweets will be streamed so that everyone who wants to see what is happening (in the same way that OWL offered messages) will be able to view the live and current activity of their local Dedicated Ward teams and also what is happening on the ward. The public's sign-up (GDPR compliant/conversant) will allow them to view activities on their ward, view stats on crime and successes, and also, there will be a private, verifiable entry point, that provides a fire-walled and secure message board to leave intelligence that may be helpful to the DWO police teams.

I am really excited about this innovation as it appears to have caught fire and also getting the nod from all sides of both teams. Hopefully, we will have a pilot scheme up and ready to test by the time of our AGM this March.

Stop & Search Community Monitoring – Lucy Smith-Ryland

At the moment when asked by the general public, 75% say that they believe Stop and Search is being used fairly. Cressida Dick says that she believes one of the most important ways we can tackle violent crime is Stop and Search.

No one in London is oblivious to the soaring knife crime, and we the Community Monitoring Groups have been told that as a result of this, Stop and Search will be greatly increased.

Carnival this year was as far as the Police are concerned and we the Community Monitors who attend a success. It is felt that this was largely down to Section 60 being used over 2 days which means individuals can be stopped and searched randomly.

At the moment we are 6th for Stops and and Searches over the 32 boroughs. From October 2018 to December 2018 we had 1,129 searches 341 positive outcomes which equals 30%, 10% more than is expected so that's good.

221 drugs

21 weapons

47 theft fraud and counterfeit

4 common assault

7 immigration

4 Criminal damage

9 Public order

20 other

3 Road traffic offences

4 violence

3 Criminal justice offences

2 Psychoactive substances

Due to future increased Stop and Search we may see the positive outcomes decrease, however we as Monitors will watch carefully.

In the last 3 months through to December we have had 2 complaints both in December, none in October and November. Those complaints will be being looked into now. Since body worm video complaints are few.

Independent Custody Visiting Panel – Vassiliki Stavrou

This report covers the period 6th August 2018 – 18th January 2019

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| Custody Suites Visited | <p>Charing Cross Police Station (prior to Jan 4th 2019) (upstairs and downstairs)</p> <p>West End Central Police Station (post Jan 4th 2019)</p> <p><i>From January, Charing Cross Police Station is closed for refurbishments and so West End Central is being used for the coming months.</i></p> |
| Summary of ICV Visits | |
| Visits scheduled: 26 | Visits conducted: 18 |
| Number held in detention at time of visits: 214 | Number of detainees spoken to: 101 |
| <p>There are a number of reasons why a detainee may not be interviewed; they may be asleep or out of the cell being interviewed, booked in or released, or with a solicitor or healthcare professional; custody staff may advise ICVs not to interview a detainee on health and safety grounds and a detainee may decline an interview. Visual checks can be made on those detainees in their cell but not interviewed.</p> | |
| General Observations | <p>The escorting DDOs were generally found to be helpful.</p> <p>The downstairs custody cells in Charing Cross were being used again to house juveniles and females.</p> <p>As of 4th Jan 2019, Charing Cross is closed for refurbishments for a number of months, and so West End Central is being used as custody instead.</p> |
| Issues Raised | <p>The minimum staffing level is 5 Sergeants and 8 DDOs. This is for both upstairs and downstairs to allow the Inspector the flexibility to alter staff deployment across the two floors, to react to changes in capacity and risk. Minimum staffing levels for West End Central can be discussed at the next ICV Panel meeting.</p> <p>There are sporadic issues with ICVs gaining access to custody due to phones not working, however the custody sergeant has provided a</p> |

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| | <p>full list of phone numbers which ICVs can use to gain entry.</p> <p>Appropriate Adults are very hard to find, particularly for adults with mental health issues. The ICV Panel felt that MOPAC should be pushing the issue of appropriate adult provision in London. There was acknowledgment that this is a national issue and should also be raised through the ICV chairs' meeting.</p> <p>There have been immigration cases where the detainee hasn't had a shower for days. It would be good if police could be more proactive when dealing with immigration cases who are in for several days: detainees don't always realise they need to ask for a shower.</p> <p>There were reports of detainees not being able to make international calls from custody however Insp. Flynn informed the panel that the yellow phone upstairs is now enabled for international calls and this has been successfully tested.</p> |
| <p>MOPAC ICV Panel Coordinator for Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea</p> | <p>Max Lawson</p> <p>Max.Lawson@mopac.london.gov.uk</p> <p>020 7084 2648</p> |