

**Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea**

# **RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting**

## **Reports from Executive Members – July 2023**

### **Report from the K&C SNB Chair Kim Howell**

#### **Meetings**

The Chair is a member of LCP2 (London Community Police Partnership), a committee of SNB chairs. We recently met Deputy Commissioner Dame Lynne Owens who briefly outlined the recently published strategy, a New Met for London, which resulted from the consultation on the Turnaround Plan. It will be presented on 17th August 2023 at 6pm at Refettorio Felix at St Cuthbert's Centre, Earls Court, SW5 9EB. A free ticket is available using Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-new-met-for-london-tickets-680843349787?aff=oddttdcreator>.

At our March SNB meeting, the Turnaround Plan was discussed in workshops with residents and local police representing each ward. Extensive feedback was consolidated and presented to the K&C Met Neighbourhoods Team. Also receiving a copy of our feedback was Commander Alison Heydari, the Met's head of Neighbourhoods at Scotland Yard.

#### **Project Funding**

For each the last three years, the K&C SNB has received £15,010 from MOPAC (the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) for community projects. For 2023/24, the following projects have been submitted by the SNB to MOPAC and approved by them for funding:

1. Late night sessions for disadvantaged youths focusing on Communications Skills using ChatGPT Artificial Intelligence. Delivered by the Harrow Club.
2. Activity-based (such as boxing) workshops for youths focused on anti-crime, antigangs, anti-violence, etc. Delivered by the Baraka Community Association.
3. Creative Activities for Disadvantaged Youths focusing on young people from the World's End area. Delivered by the Chelsea Theatre.
4. Football diversionary mentoring of youths. Delivered by Fit for Life Youth CIC.

The SNB Vice-Chair plans on visiting the above projects to review attendance and success in delivery. The SNB also receives mid- and year-end reports on the activities.

#### **Met Call Centre & Emergency Response Performance**

The SNB Chair is a member of the MetCC Steering Group and Community Forum, set up to challenge and support, and review performance, of the Police Call Centre and Emergency Response. The most recent findings (May 2023) indicate the following:

- Emergency response in Kensington & Chelsea is not meeting the Met's target, which is attendance within 15 minutes for 90% of 999 call emergencies.
- For K&C, 81% of all emergency response attendance is within target.
- Emergency calls for Domestic Abuse is only 72% is within 15 minutes.

## **SNB Chair Change**

Recruitment for a new Chair of the SNB is ongoing. The Board will be informed as the process develops.

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## **Report from Lucy Smith-Ryland - Stop & Search**

Various pilots have gone on across England and Wales with stop and search, with the use of Section 60. The report has and I quote drawn together data from a range of different sources to provide an insight into the relaxations of the use of section 60 stop and searches. Section 60's have fallen by 60% and they are now no longer in most cases borough wide. Monitoring, using community assessment is examining what effect it has. It is always reviewed by a Superintendent.

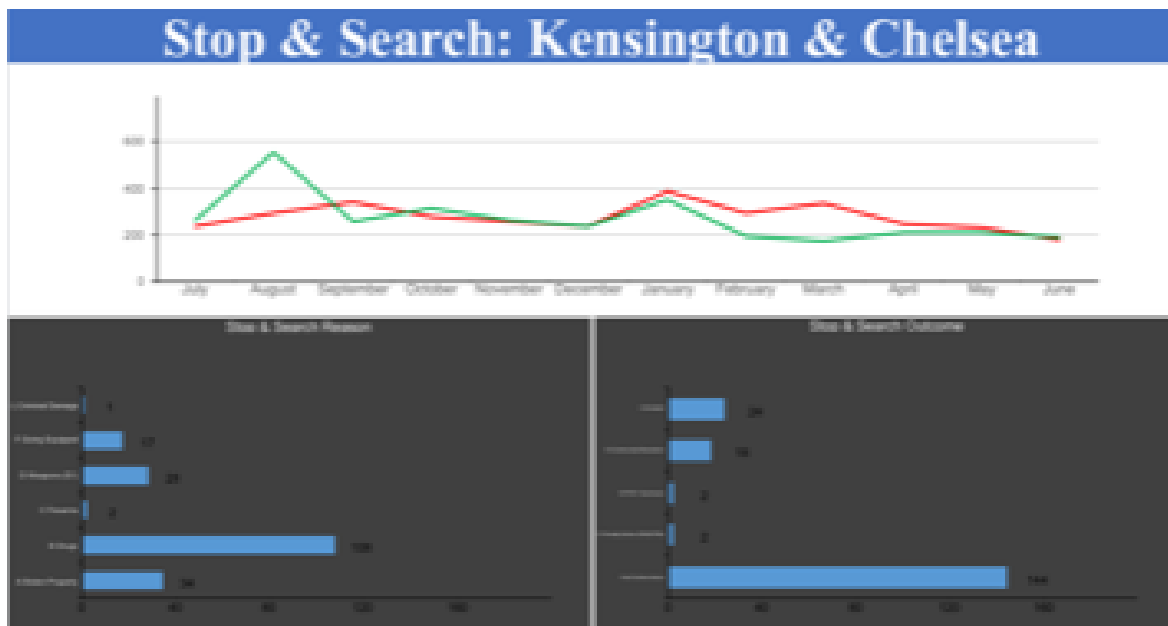
The pilots for Stop and Search are for the improvement of legitimacy and surgical value of data being in the right place at the right time. In short, a detailed explanation is used instead of grounds for a stop, so people have proper understanding. This can come as a letter, email or QR code. This research is going on to see if it is more successful and give better results for the Met/Police and general public.

After recent events the Met are now increasing the use of wands. This improves the capability of finding weapons. These wands are in every vehicle. The new ones are highly sensitive although there is a limitation in that they do not pick up anything ceramic, which comes in the form of kitchen knives. These wands are also in Custody suites in order to prevent another tragedy that happened in Croydon with an Officer.

As far as Kensington & Chelsea is concerned are figures are fairly static and you may view them below this report.

We, The CMG had a successful Meeting at the Harrow Club interviewing young people with the Met and discussing their experiences with stop and search. This is hugely helpful to both parties and we shall continue to do this borough wide with various youth clubs. In the process hoping to get better understanding.

We watch and help with the Mets new Turnaround plan and hope for improvements all round.




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### Report from Vassiliki Stavrou – Independent Custody Visiting Panel (ICV)

We are still short of custody visitors however new visitors are slowly being recruited. Recruitment of ICVs remains an issue across London with many panel members leaving the scheme.

Because of the lack of ICV visitors we continue to do 1 visit every 2 weeks instead of the required weekly visits

ICV chairs have raised a number of concerns with MOPAC relating to the running of the ICV scheme in London. This has now been escalated to the Deputy Mayor for policing and crime and a meeting is a scheduled in the next few weeks

In Westminster we are now conducting 1 visit every 2 weeks. We no longer conduct virtual visits so all visuals are now face to face.

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### Report from Caryl Harris - RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels

There are 18 wards in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and many of them, since the reduction of the DWOs per ward, are now holding joint meetings with nearby wards to maximise the attendance. COVID, without doubt, impacted upon the number of meetings held, where they took place and also the number who attended.

This year, meetings were more often held at the Kensington Police Station, at a suitable location or at a member's home. Despite sending out a large number of invitations, meetings still had fewer attendees than before COVID. However, the positive contributions the residents made was far greater, with more questions being asked, new problems being raised and follow-up at subsequent meetings.

As I attend every meeting held, I am able to see the “bigger picture” within each ward, and also how many ‘local’ problems are shared problems.

For some wards, the issues in 2023 have included bikes on pavements, scooters not using designated areas to ride, nor returning their device. Enabled theft was another frequent crime reported. As we know from the DWO’s on the beat, the same offenders simply ‘work the turf’ with a pattern of crime that the officers can predict.

Bikes are often targeted by young offenders who take full advantage of an opportunity. And teams of young gangs hanging around on estates pose an underlying threat to the older residents, many of who are the ward panel members. It was hoped that a recruitment drive may bring in younger panel members. However, currently I have found only 3 younger members out of approximately 80 residents.

Intelligence is invaluable at these meetings. Many of the ward panellists are very aware of their environment, and notice issues such as the same cars parked in the same dark corners, where they carry out usually drug-related crimes. This also applies to recognisable people seen by locals as being undesirables. It is hoped that available CCTV cameras will be positioned in hot spots to deter begging and harassment.

One idea which came out of the last public SNB Meeting was to turn, small high street empty locations (where there may be one or two empty shops since COVID), into a “Pop-Up” police desks, thereby putting our local police right in the heart of our communities. Most shops have ample room at the front to create a desk and seating area and the back rooms can be a welcome space for DWO’s lockers and perhaps a kettle and cups during those cold winter-beat weeks. We are currently in conversations with three large property owners and pension funders in the Borough to get three or four of these started.

I have also finalised an app called **StreetSafe** which is ready to programme and put into the App Store. We are looking for a small budget to programme the App so that all the statistics, hot spots priorities, news board, Twitter feed and good news is updated automatically so that there is no input required from our over-stretched officers.

One aspect of this new app will be a visual Twitter feed which will automatically show where our DWOs are and what they are policing. This would answer the constant question asked at every meeting I attend: “**where are our police?**”

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**ENDS**