

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Reports from Executive Members

Report from Chair – Kim Howell

Meetings

As a member of LCP2 (the London Community Police Partnership) which is a committee of SNB chairs, we have met with the new Commissioner Mark Rowley and most recently Commander Alison Heydari who is in charge of Neighbourhoods for the Met. The main topic of discussion has been the need to strengthen and prioritise neighbourhood policing. Commander Heydari also presented the details of the Met's new Transformation Plan.

The next K&C SNB public meeting will take place on Tuesday the 21st March 2023. The Transformation Plan will be presented and workshops relating to Ward Panels will be held.

Project Funding

For each the last two years, the K&C SNB has received £15,010 from MOPAC (the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) for community projects. For the budget year 2022/23, the following projects were delivered:

1. Creative Activities for Disadvantaged Youths focusing on young people from the World's End area. Delivered by the Chelsea Theatre.
2. Fraud & Scams Awareness for Older Residents, focusing on vulnerable and elderly residents to prevent them from becoming victims of crime. Delivered by the Kensington & Chelsea Over 50s Forum.
3. Youth Engagement & Diversion, focused on young people aged 14-25 years old primarily in North Kensington to provide targeted individual and group mentoring sessions on violence, vulnerability and exploitation. Sessions will also involve positive activities incorporating interests including music, boxing, football, arts and other local youth club activities. Delivered by the St Giles Trust.

The SNB Vice-Chair, Roger Baresel, has written a report on his visits to the above projects. This report is part of the SNB Exec reports published along with this Chair Report.

Met Call Centre & 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 (December 2022) indicate the following:

- Emergency response in Kensington & Chelsea is not meeting targets.
- For K&C, only 77% of emergency response attendance is within the 15-minute target. Response times are 91% within 22 minutes and 94% within 27 minutes
- However, average response time was just less than 12 minutes for our BCU (the Basic Command Unit consisting of K&C, Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster).

SNB Chair Change

Having been SNB Chair for more than six years, I feel it is time to hand over to someone else to take forward the good work that the SNB does. Along those lines, we will be taking applications for Chair over the next few weeks, and a new Chair is likely to be appointed by the Board at its next meeting.

Report from Vice-Chair – Roger Baresel

SNB Projects

Members of the RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board are aware of the responsibility of receiving public funds for redistribution to appropriate organisations within the Borough.

To that end, the Board follows the guidelines and required procedure for selection as supplied by MOPAC. At this point, the Board wants to put on record its appreciation of the recent work done to simplify the application process, which is helpful to people in organisations whose talents may lie more in practical matters of helping those in need, rather than in box ticking and identifying hypothetical objectives.

As a corollary of the Board's duty to safeguard public funds, this Board runs a programme of discreet observation of recipient organisations at work to ensure that funds are put to proper use and in accordance with the aims stated in the application. The Notes relating to those observations are as follows:

K&C Over 50's Forum 19 October 2022

I attended a meeting at the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre organised by the K&C over 50's Forum. About 50 women were in attendance and watched a presentation in which 2 men acted out a common roofing scam, where the charge for going up a ladder escalates from £10 to £5,500 as the scam artist alarms the householder with a tale of rotting joists. The audience reacted very well to this piece of theatre which was translated for some of them. The audience understood the story and offered their own experiences of similar scams.

This was followed by a less effective PowerPoint presentation by the police. The subjects covered included:

- Voluntary walkabouts with a police officer, although they failed to sign anybody up on the spot, instead telling them they could book it via the Internet.
- Spiked drinks
- Bogus utility inspectors
- WhatsApp Fraud
- Distraction theft
- Jewellery muggings

These are all important examples of current types of fraud but they would have benefited from a bit of play acting to set the scene. And the presentation could have been better, a point that I have subsequently raised with the police.

The whole event was very well received by the audience. The Forum is to be congratulated for getting such a good turnout and running it so smoothly.

Chelsea Theatre 31 October 2022

I attended the rehearsal of a play at the Chelsea Theatre at World's End. This involved a very good diverse group of young people. The play was called 'Girls' and centred around a sexual assault on a teenage schoolgirl at an after school party. I believe that the play had been written by someone within or very close to the group. The young actors were clearly engaged by the material and interpreted it with great passion and commitment, despite the fact that they were still at the stage of using the typescripts of the text.

The Theatre hopes to stage the play in 2023, if financing is available.

St Giles Trust

The third recipient of MOPAC funds from the SNB in 2022-23 is St Giles' Trust. They applied for funds for a specific outreach exercise with young people which was carried out in the Borough in the summer of 2022. Unfortunately no-one from the SNB was able to attend. We will be getting a video recording of the event.

Report from Lucy Smith-Ryland - Stop & Search Report March 2023

2023 was started with an in depth report on what Mark Rowley intended to do to increase confidence in the Met. Many of the things he suggested were strategies some of us had been pushing for, for a long time. Namely the importance and significance of PCSO's. I personally wrote an email imploring that our PCSO's stayed in their roles for more than 2 years, not just because it is vital for the Community and good relationships but better for the Met as a whole. A good PCSO can steer kids in the community in the right direction when they go wrong, therefore cutting down crime hopefully in the future. We look forward to seeing the drive on Community policing, with an enormous drive for a bigger intake

During the BCU change Borough Commanders were taken from our individual boroughs. We have a Superintendent now for each borough for Neighbourhoods. Kensington and Chelsea's starts at the end of this month. His name is Owen Renowden

Stop and Search continues to be at similar figures with the peak in K&C always being in August with Carnival. This years Carnival we monitored as usual, and one of our PCSO's got some youth IAG to watch the searches on screen. This was a success and one of the youth IAG's expressed an interest after the experience in being a Policewoman.

We have a very good Stop & Search group to which those interested are welcome. Our aim is not just to monitor figures but build good relations between the Community and the Met. Let people air their feelings and everyone learning from everybody else. One of our latest discussions has been how a member of the Police should address someone when commencing a Stop & Search. This needs to be done to cross the cultural divide.

We continue to watch bodyworn video. Our greatest tool to monitor Stop & Search. Once again this is a 2 way exercise. The Police learn and hope take on board our comments, congratulate or constructively criticise the individuals conducting the search.

The figures for Stop and search are as follows. Positive outcomes being important, which on the whole should be 20%.

Kensington and Chelsea	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Total volume	263	235	385	307	339	265	230
Stolen Property	12.9%	14.9%	13%	12.40%	10.60%	20.00%	12.60%
Drugs	57.8%	64.3%	64.70%	66.80%	66.10%	50.60%	67.80%
Weapons	19.4%	15.7%	13.80%	11.70%	10.90%	10.20%	11.30%
Positive outcome rate	26.9%	37.5%	30.50%	29.90%	25.60%	32.30%	38.20%
Ethnic appearance outcome rate	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
White	96 stops at 25%	99 stops at 40.4%	166 stops at 33.7%	117 stops at 34.2%	155 stops at 24.5%	144 stops at 34.2%	96 stops at 36.5%
Black	90 stops at 26.7%	64 stops at 32.3%	119 stops at 33.6%	93 stops at 28%	86 stops at 32.6%	90 stops at 33.3%	64 stops at 34.4%
Asian	23 stops at 21.7%	25 stops at 32%	41 stops at 26.8%	25 stops at 28%	44 stops at 18.2%	18 stops at 38.9%	22 stops at 45.5%

Kensington and Chelsea	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	
Total volume	175	266	590	259	323	260	248	344
Stolen Property	14.90%	14.30%	7.50%	14.1%	12.1%	11.20%	15.30%	14%
Drugs	62.90%	57.10%	41.90%	60.8%	59.8%	54.20%	50.40%	60%
Weapons	12.60%	21.10%	34.20%	17.5%	12.7%	20.40%	25.40%	19%
Positive outcome rate	32.80%	37.20%	28.30%	37.0%	36.5%	22.60%	25.00%	27%
Ethnic appearance outcome rate	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23
White	69 stops at 42%	97 stops at 38.1%	151 stops at 31.1%	85 stops at 47.1%	114 stops at 40.4%	107 stops at 24.3%	83 Stops at 32.5%	100 stops at 31%
Black	52 stops at 30.8%	101 stops at 33.7%	326 stops at 26.7%	94 stops at 27.7%	120 stops at 30%	75 stops at 22.7%	92 Stops at 16.3%	119 stops at 26.1%
Asian	14 stops at 28.6%	14 stops at 28.6%	47 stops at 38.3%	29 stops at 34.5%	24 stops at 58.3%	24 stops at 25%	27 Stops at 25.9%	37 stops at 29.7%

Report from Vassiliki Stavrou – ICV Summary

We continue to have a shortage of ICVs this is an issue across London.

Within Westminster we are averaging about 1 visit every 2-4 weeks.

There are issues with ICVs collecting security passes which is also having an effect on the number of visits that can be carried out.

Met detention are using a new custody record system called connect. There have been some initial issues but custody staff seem to be getting used to using it.

We have been asked by MOPAC to collect diversity information of detainees but we are awaiting clarity on how we obtain and record this information.

The ICVA conference is happening again this year we are waiting to see if we have been allocated tickets.

Report from Stuart Priestly - RBKC Community Safety Programme update

1 Purpose

This report provides an update for SNB members regarding some of the key priority programmes of the RBKC Community Safety Partnership. It does not reflect all the work or all of the priorities.

If you have any questions about the Council's Community Safety Services please contact Stuart Priestley, Chief Community Safety Officer, via stuart.priestley@rbkc.gov.uk

2 The Earl's Court Creating Safer Neighbourhoods Project

The Earl's Court Creating Safer Neighbourhoods Project provided a Council led multi-agency month of action from 21 November to 18 December 2022. Its aims were:

- To bear down on crime and anti-social behaviour issues reported by residents, businesses and Councillors.
- To engage and consult with businesses, residents and Councillors to build a better understanding of the lived experience of the local issues and to gather views on what more could be done in this area.
- To develop learning from a partnership model of delivery which might usefully be replicated elsewhere.

Each of the four weeks of the project had a themed focus with week four repeating week one as these were the issues of most concern to residents and Councillors.

- Week 1: Street Population issues – begging, street drinking, ASB, public drug taking/dealing, etc.
- Week 2: Night-time economy – licensing, drunkenness, drug dealing and taking, etc.
- Week 3: Environmental – Waste and Street Scene, Trading Standards, Environmental Health, etc.
- week 4: Street Population issues – begging, street drinking, ASB, public drug taking/dealing, etc.

Council Teams including the Community Wardens, Street Population Outreach Team, Environmental Health (Noise & Nuisance, Construction Management, Licensing, Trading Standards and Food), Community Participation, Detached and Outreach and Waste and Street Scene Enforcement (WSSE) carried out additional shifts and activities during the relevant weeks. The Police were also a key partner and undertook additional patrols during the four-week span of the project.

Resident, business and stakeholder engagement was a central theme with a police and Council Street engagement session taking place each week alongside a questionnaire survey.

75 residents and 42 business owners were surveyed during the project. The average length of time spent with each respondent was 25 minutes. Respondents were asked two questions:

- What are the top three concerns about where you live/work?
- What do you think the Council and Police could/should do about it?

The main concerns were drug use/dealing (54 responses), ASB (40 responses) begging (34 responses) and litter/waste (34 responses).

When asked what could or should be done to reduce the concerns raised, 38% of respondents thought that more police presence/patrols would improve the area and reduce drug related crime. Requests for more CCTV featured, and more warden patrolling came out strongly, though their lack of powers to arrest was a concern.

During the four-week period Council Teams increased their activities in the ward by 39% with the main issues responded to being: begging, dumped bags, music disturbance, anti-social behaviour, cycling on the pavement and rough sleeping. Twenty-two Fixed Penalty Notices were issued compared to 19 the month prior.

Recorded crime reduced during the period of the delivery of the project and has remained lowered. The table below illustrates the number of reported crimes.

Month	October	November	December	January	Feb
Total Crime Earl's Court Ward	131	121	99	96	106

Resident and business feedback on the project was very positive with good attendance at the weekly engagement sessions. Residents reported the crime and antisocial behaviour issues had decreased during the period of the project. A lessons identified process has been completed and consideration is being given as to how this model might usefully be replicated across the borough.

3 Wardens and Parks Police

The Parks Police operate across the borough's 36 Parks and open spaces every day of the year. Between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023, they carried out 6596 patrols (Holland Park has a constant patrol and is not included in patrol data). The service responded to 1223 incidents, the majority of which were breach of byelaw and anti-social behaviour; issues with dogs also feature.

The Community Warden's focus is directed by crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) analysis as well as requests from Council departments, residents, members and the police for joint patrols and actions via weekly partnership tasking arrangements.

Between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023, the wardens carried out 8778 actions. The main issues dealt with were begging, sex carding, rough sleeping and busking. The wards most

affected by street-based anti-social behaviour are Earl's Court, Brompton and Hans Town, Royal Hospital and Queen's Gate.

4 CCTV

The total number of cameras in the borough has increased and there are now 130 cameras (fixed and deployable) in comparison to 58 three years ago.

The deployable (moveable from location to location) cameras have increased through applications from NCIL grants. In total, there have been 30 additional cameras purchased with funding and cameras are ring-fenced to the ward but can be moved to reflect changing patterns of crime in the local area.

The Council is conducting a feasibility study to inform the future monitoring arrangements of CCTV in the borough. One of the commitments of the CCTV Strategy was to ensure that the Council works to ensure that its CCTV resources are joined up. This feasibility study is informing Community Safety and Housing on the options and costs association with joining the different networks of CCTV together.

5 Youth Violence and Exploitation

The RBKC Strategy was published in June 2021 and has an action plan to deliver over the next 3 years to achieve the overall outcome of "reducing the harm caused by youth violence and exploitation". The strategy can be read here: <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety/youth-violence-and-exploitation>

Some progress to update from the previous 12 months includes:

- The Community Safety Team have expanded the number of Youth Violence Advocates from 1 to 3. These staff work with young people and families directly affected by violence or at harm of criminal exploitation. Each member of staff will work with between 8 and 12 young people at a time and will support them with safety planning, ETE, criminal justice outcomes, peer and family relationships and their physical and emotional wellbeing. They will work for each young person for as long as is required.
- St Giles Trust has been awarded a new contract to deliver the community violence reduction service in the borough including supported those up to the age of 25, as well as a gendered provision for females affected by violence.
- The Community Safety Community Development Coordinator has been delivering workshops with professionals, residents, and young people as part of a VRU funded project in North Kensington to raise awareness of the signs and risks of violence. They have delivered sessions in schools, youth settings, ward panels, residents associations and parents including foster and kinship carers. This post will continue in 2023/24.
- A Capacity Building Project funded via the VRU has awarded 12 small grants for youth services working in RBKC to increase the positive activities and support available for young people in North Kensington. Young people attending the projects will be encouraged to have discussions about their safety and concerns related to youth violence, with findings reported back to aid the understanding of the local experiences in the borough.

- The Youth Violence Parenting Champions coordinated by Midaye have continued to train and support parents in the borough. The programme will continue in 2023/24.
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