

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting
Reports from Executive Members

Report from the Chair – 7 January 2022

Meetings

Continued constraints with regard to the pandemic means we are not yet able to hold any public face-to-face meetings at this time. Hence we are holding a virtual meeting on the 17th January 2022 on MS Teams. Please submit any questions or concerns via the SNB email or during the meeting by using the chat function.

Project Funding

MOPAC (the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) approved all of the four community projects submitted by our SNB for the budget year 2021/22. The amounts of funds available from MOPAC for projects is quite a bit lower than previous years and amounts to £15,010. The following projects are being funded:

1. Gang Awareness & Preventing Knife Crime, focusing on vulnerable and disadvantaged young people aged 14-21 years old in the North Kensington / Grenfell area. Delivered by the Baraka Community Association.
2. Education to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls, focusing vulnerable young women and girls aged 13-19 years old who are at risk of grooming, sexual exploitation, and sexual violence. Delivered by the Harrow Club.
3. Fraud & Scams Awareness for Older Residents, focusing on vulnerable, elderly and potentially disadvantaged residents to prevent them from becoming victims of crime. Delivered by the Kensington & Chelsea Over 50s Forum.
4. Creative Activities for Disadvantaged Youths, focusing on young people from the World's End area. Delivered by the Chelsea Theatre.

MOPAC Initiatives

MOPAC is continuing to consult on the details of the Mayor's Action Plan (MAP) and a new Police and Crime Plan which is due by the end of March.

Met Call Centre & Response Performance

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

- Utilisation of Digital 101 (online crime reporting) continues to increase.
- Call handling performance has slipped a bit with absences. The average 999 call is answered in 19 seconds and the average 101 call answered in 3 minutes.

- Emergency response in Kensington & Chelsea is just below the 90% target with 87% attendance within 15 minutes from ~800 callouts in October 2021.

RBKC Community Safety Programme Update – Stuart Priestly

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 CCTV

The Council's existing CCTV network of 58 Fixed CCTV cameras and 15 demountable CCTV cameras has been bolstered via a CCTV capital development programme. This work has been guided by a resident-led and chaired CTV Advisory Group. The Group met on six occasions between November 2019 and September 2020 and agreed the purpose, scope and priorities for the Council's CCTV expansion which will see an additional 27 CCTV cameras in the following locations:

- Kings Road = 8 fixed camera, 1 deployable
- Portobello Road = 3 fixed cameras, 1 deployable
- High Street Kensington = 6 fixed cameras, 1 deployable
- Ladbroke Grove = 6 fixed cameras, 1 deployable

There are 23 new permanent cameras and 4 deployable cameras now in place in four locations in the borough (High Street Kensington, Kings Road, Ladbroke Road and Portobello Road). The first cameras went live in August 2021, but the project is still not 100% completed with 10 of the sites still with outstanding power connection. We hope that the final switch on for these cameras will be in early 2022, pending action from UK Power Networks.

Nine deployable CCTV Cameras have been funded through resident applications to the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL). These cameras are deployable so will continue to be moved according to local ward crime patterns. They are connected to the CCTV Control Room so are proactively monitored like fixed CCTV cameras in the borough.

You can read more about NCIL in your wards on the council website here:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-control/neighbourhoodcommunity-infrastructure-levy-ncil>

A commitment in the CCTV Strategy is that the CCTV Service has regular performance reviews to ensure it is as effective as possible. With this in mind there are a few recent incidents that highlight how the CCTV supports a mixture of crime and safety concerns:

- 8 November CCTV assisted Police following a stabbing, footage of the incident was gathered and police attended to view which led to suspects being identified as they were known to officers.
- 1 December CCTV assisted Police with searching for a person who was seen jumping over garden fences, CCTV monitored until police arrived and male was detained by police.
- 7 December CCTV requested to assist with searching for a person seen wandering the street possibly in distress and appeared confused, member of the public had welfare concerns for the person, CCTV picked up the person and directed officers to person's location. The person was assisted by police officers.

The Council's CCTV Strategy can be found via:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety/cctv-closed-circuittelevision>

3 The Community Wardens and Parks Police

The Community Warden Service provides a uniformed presence to tackle anti-social behaviour, including street-based enviro-crime, through engagement, behaviour change and enforcement. The service is comprised of two supervisors and 12 wardens and has been operational since early July 2020. The service operates peripatetically across the borough seven days per week excluding Bank Holidays.

The Warden's focus is directed by crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) analysis as well as requests from council departments and the police for joint patrols and actions via weekly partnership tasking arrangements. The Wardens also support the enforcement of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which the Council have enacted to tackle specific issues. These include the PSPO to tackle noisy cars covering a section of Brompton and Hans Town ward, the PSPO to tackle nuisance busking in key locations and the PSPO to tackle antisocial behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol in public places.

The warden service has played a key role in the Council's response to COVID-19; offering advice and guidance to retail and licensed premises, monitoring breaches of legislation and supporting vaccination sites and foodbanks.

Between 1 December 2020 and 30 November 2021, the wardens carried out 9008 actions. The main issues dealt with were begging, litter, rough sleeping, busking, graffiti/vandalism and cycling/scooting on pavements. The wards most affected by street-based anti-social behaviour are Brompton & Hans Town, Earl's Court and Holland.

For more information about the work of the Wardens please see the report item A5 to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 November via the following link:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/committees/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/669/Meeting/8276/Committee/1613/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

The Parks Police operate across the borough's 36 Parks and open spaces every day of the year. Between 1 December 2020 and 30 November 2021, they carried out 5932 patrols (Holland Park has a constant patrol and is not included in patrol data). The service responded to 1122 incidents, the majority of which were breach of byelaw and anti-social behaviour.

The Council offers a free graffiti and fly-poster removal service to residents of private properties where the graffiti or posters:

- front the highway
- are at ground floor level, and
- permission has been secured from the owner or managing agent

For more information, please visit the Council's website: <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/parkingtransport-and-streets/street-cleaning/graffiti-and-fly-poster-removal>

4 Scams, Hate Crime and Target Hardening

Scams

The Council's Community Safety Team has, for a number of years, partnered with the Met Police Cyber Crime Team, the Council's Trading Standards Team and the Fire Brigade to run targeted "Safer Roadshow" events. These sessions have been co-designed for a variety of older persons groups and community organisations and focussed upon the latest scams alongside information on other crime

and community safety issues. The sessions support residents to understand how to keep themselves safe and how to report incidents to Action Fraud and the Police.

Over the last 12 months five sessions have been delivered under Covid safe conditions and the sessions have focussed upon:

- Covid and vaccination scams
- Awareness of scammers techniques
- Door Stop and Distraction Crime
- Cash dispenser awareness
- Fire Safety
- Subscription scams
- TV licence frauds
- Loan Shark Awareness

Hate Crime

Hate crime is a priority for the Council's Community Safety Services. A multi-agency Hate Crime Partnership, with membership from statutory and Voluntary and Community Services, faith and community organisations, guides this work with leadership from the police and Council's Community Safety Team. The focus is upon developing the local understanding of the nature and extent of hate crime in the borough; understanding barriers to reporting incidents and accessing support and increasing the awareness of hate crime and the services available to those who might be victims.

Victim Support Kensington and Chelsea have been commissioned to deliver an Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime advocacy service providing emotional and practical support to victims of hate crime, supporting their safety and recovery and further delivering in partnership with statutory agencies both community and professional training sessions.

Community Safety officers work closely with the Police Hate Crime Unit to ensure that services across statutory and voluntary sectors are joined up to provide a coherent and effective response to victims and ensure that perpetrators can be held to account.

Target Hardening

Target Hardening refers to physical works to make a place or a space less vulnerable to crime or antisocial behaviour. The Community Safety Team Target Hardening Project works to reduce repeat victimisation of vulnerable victims of burglary and fear of crime by securing their homes against crime.

Over the last 2 years Target Hardening referrals and our eligibility criteria has been expanded as we recognised that Target Hardening interventions are a common thread across all our key priorities which include Anti-Social Behaviour, Hate Crime, Serious Youth Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and are supporting the needs of our residents. During 2020/21 some 207 dwellings benefitted from security works.

5 Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The term Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) describes a number of crimes which include: domestic abuse (including coercive control), rape and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, crimes in the name of 'honour', sexual harassment, stalking, trafficking and prostitution/sexual exploitation. Ending VAWG is a local priority and work has taken place across the borough to increase safety and ensure support is available to those who need it. We have recently commissioned The Angelou Partnership, a collection of 10 specialist agencies, who provide expert

advice and support for survivors of abuse and their children. We have also focused on raising awareness to end VAWG. This has included recently running a campaign as part of the United Nations 16 Days of Activism, where we ran events, training and social media campaigns to highlight the role we can all play in ending VAWG.

The Council and its partners published the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021- 2026 in December 2021. The Strategy can be found on the Council's website via the link below:

[Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea \(rbkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-and-violence-against-women-and-girls)

The Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will tackle VAWG over the coming years aligned to four objectives:

- Violence Against Women and Girls is prevented
- Survivors are Supported
- Partnership Working
- Abusers are held to Account

We are currently working with partners in developing an action plan that will accompany this strategy and which will clearly set out the steps we will take as a partnership to end VAWG through a coordinated community response.

6 Tackling Serious Youth Violence, Gangs and Exploitation

The Council is currently drafting a new Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy to reflect the changing need and approach since the Serious Youth Violence Strategy in 2019. This new three year strategy will detail the local approach and delivery plan. This is planned to be published in March 2022 dependent on the local Leadership Decision (see Council Forward Plan for Governance dates). The Strategy will take a public health approach to explain how it will work to reduce the impact of violence using evidence from

- crime analysis to understand local crime patterns.
- what works from London and elsewhere in the UK.
- resident's views including young people and existing service users.
- professionals and stakeholders from services across RBKC.

Meanwhile, delivery of existing programmes demonstrates good performance and meeting project outcomes. These include:

- St Giles Trust Young Adults Violence Reduction Programme – Violence Reduction Unit grant project to support those aged 18 to 25 change violent offending patterns. This programme will have an independent evaluation completed in 2022.

- Safer London Girls Worker – a gender specific programme to support females involved or associated with gangs and violent offending.
- Serious Youth Violence Parenting Champions – Midaye led programme supporting community members to increase knowledge so they can provide community support to families affected by violence.

- Your Choice Programme – professional training led by colleagues in Family and Children's Services to give staff skills to deliver Cognitive Behavioural Therapy approaches with those affected by violence.

- Detached and Outreach Team engaging young people to provide street based support and sign post young people to appropriate youth services.

7 Modern Slavery and Exploitation

Modern Slavery and exploitation (MSE) is an umbrella term for human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. MSE occurs when someone is forced or coerced to do something, and another person gains from this.

The most common ways people are exploited are:

- forced labour – being made to work for little or no money
- sexual exploitation – being coerced or forced into selling sex
- domestic servitude – being made to work within a home environment for little or no pay
- criminal exploitation – being forced to break the law for someone else (for example selling drugs or begging)

The Council lead a multi-agency, Tri-Borough MSE group to tackle modern slavery across the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council.

The Council published its first Modern Slavery Strategy in 2021 which can be found via the following link: <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety/modern-slavery>

The Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will tackle MSE aligned to its four priorities:

- Victims are identified
- Exploitation is prevented
- Victims are Supported
- Exploiters are brought to Justice

In December 2021 the Council published its second annual Modern Slavery in Supply Chains Statement, focusing on how the Council works to mitigate the risks of modern slavery in its supply chains. The statement can be found via the following link: <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety/modern-slavery>

8 Personal Attack Alarms

The Council has made available a limited number of personal attack alarms for residents to collect from the Council's Town Hall, Customer Service Centre.

RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels Report - Caryl Harris

This has been a very much more cohesive year for the Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels - with most of the 18 Ward panels returning to their three monthly Ward Panel meetings schedule.

Obviously, with the disruption of the Covid regulations on meeting sizes, some have kept their meetings to a Microsoft Teams format, but several others, particularly over the summer months, introduced some regular face-to-face SN WPM in a variety of 'safe' venues - but also offering, in most of these meets, the availability of the online Microsoft Teams engagement also.

However, It has been recorded, that there has been a significant downturn on attendance from the residents who are signed up, mainly due to the covid impact but also the general view, that meeting in person is more productive. Something that many organisations and religious centres are also experiencing.

From my position of attending every RBKC ward meeting (as the SNW coordinator for RBKC), I have the unique opportunity to not only see every wards' most recent statistics in the DWO's

presentations, but also to listen to the ward panel residents who often report recent changes to aspects within their areas that are being experienced right across the Borough but actually are not seen as a pattern by the police teams.

For example, I noticed a growing concern in those early months of the Covid pandemic, the worry of using public transport, and then the increase of e-bikes and e-scooters, but using using the pavements rather than the allocated lanes in the road. Older residents and people with children and dogs felt very unsafe. I noticed that this was happening all over the Borough and was a growing concern - but not one that was considered then to be a priority. It is now and cycling on pavements has become a replacement priority in 60% of the wards. Similarly, the darker, deserted streets during Covid, the closed shops and cafes making the streets feeling uncomfortably unsafe to many of the women walking back in these darker winter afternoons and evenings. Plus the added face marks and hoodies covering almost all of the faces of the young men on the street add to this feeling. Again, it is now being addressed by the police, but better shared intel would have brought this to everyone's attention much sooner.

Now some of our Ward Panel members were aware that for the past three years or more, I have been looking at an ONLINE device that would link the Ward Panel members more easily to their team members. Currently to see the DWO's activity, you have to be linked to a twitter account. And to be able to share information ward panel members have to wait until the next meeting in three months. With IT at our finger tips and knowing from our research that 97 % of the residents on the ward panels has access to an Ipad, smart phone or lap-top, we started to devise a method of communication that would link very simply the DWO's and the ward members together. A platform or App that would provide an opportunity to share this kind of Intelligence for the Wards Teams to impart and share.

Thanks to Inspector Tom Sincock we are about to trial our new App/Platform **Better Borough** in Dalgarno/St Helen's Wards - and if it passes the trials and looks like it is serving the community well, we hope to roll it out across the Whole Borough as fast as we can.

I have started to present it at the Ward Panel meetings and also to the Safety Team at RBKC and several of the senior officers and councillors.

Hopefully, this simple to use App/Website will be a great extra tool for the residents to keep in touch with their Dedicated Ward Officers, even if they do not sit on a Ward panel. It will also solve that endless question about "Where are our local beat policemen?" as the App/platform will have a Twitter feed which will be updating itself throughout the day and demonstrate exactly where your local Safer Neighbourhood Teams are currently policing.

It will also have the Ward statistics feeding directly into it, a message board for local SNW meetings, community announcements and local events, posters and messages to remind the neighbours to keep the windows locked in summer and not to leave valuables on display in their car (very much what OWL used to provide) and it will have photographs of each of their Ward Police Team, their contact details and how to leave a message for them.

It is not a device for reporting crime. Problems and emergencies will be directed to use 999 and 101. But it will be a place to raise or report a concern.

I am really excited about this App and from the panels reaction to my presentations, the police and members are too (and I have done 8 so far). It seems they are confident that this simple addition to the SNWP resources will be helpful.

Hopefully, it will be in wider use by early summer '22 and we can begin the refining work to make it an-all-round winner for the RBKC Wards.

Report for Stop and Search – Lucy Smith-Ryland

Last year was a record high for knife crime and Stop & Search remains the most important tactic for the Police. However this has to be done well and fairly in order to gain trust in the Community. We continue to monitor and at the moment we have a new initiative to help improve relations between the Police and young people who have been stopped. We plan to have meetings between the Police and these young people to discuss their experiences. Hopefully this will heighten awareness on both parties.

The CMG continues to monitor bodyworn video sessions every 2-3 months. The BCU which comprises in our case of ourselves K&C, Westminster & Hammersmith & Fulham meet monthly with the Met and discuss any outstanding issues. We also scrutinise the stats.

For the last 3 months the stats are as follows:

October 2021

227 Searches

13% Stolen Property

69.3% Drugs

10.1% Weapons

32.5% Positive outcome

November 2021

263 Searches

12.9% Stolen Property

58.8% Drugs

19.4% Weapons

26.9% Positive outcome

December 2021

235 Searches

14.9% Stolen Property

64.3% Drugs

15.7% Weapons

37.5% Positive Outcome

Positive outcomes are important. It is expected to be 20% for the Police to have a satisfactory outcome, so the stats tell us they are exceeding that. The figures over the year have all exceeded 20% and have remained pretty static. In fact the lowest positive outcome was in November with 26.9% still well over what is expected.

The Ethnic appearance rate is as follows:

October

99 stops at 35.4% for White

95 stops at 35.8% for Black

22 stops at 27.3% for Asian

November

96 stops at 25% for White
90 stops at 26.7% for Black
23 stops at 21.7% for Asian

December

99 stops at 40.4% for White
64 stops at 32.3% for Black
25 stops at 32% for Asian

We have had 1 Section 60 in the last 3 months on the 17th October, north half of of K&C. 4 males stole a victims phone and car at knifepoint and gunpoint, some

Making off in a car and some on foot. Serious violence in the area with suspects and weapons outstanding. A section 60 was authorised to identify the suspects and recover weapons.

We shall continue to monitor to the best of our ability to allow Stop and Search to be done correctly and fairly and increase confidence between the Met and the community.