

## Safer Neighbourhood Board 22 July - Exec Reports

### *Neighbourhood Watch – Caryl Harris*

Since taking on this role some two years ago now, I have attended 119 separate meetings of the RBKC local Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panels - which are perhaps the most important part of my task within the role of Neighbourhood Watch coordinator. As many of the guests that will attend the Meeting on the 22 July know, one of the most important learnings I have made is the fact that all the ward panels have similar, if not identical problems to each other.

Yes, there is a variance of course to the types of crimes and the cumulative amounts per crime category in the north RBKC Ward panels to the south - but overall the similarities outweigh the differences. However, there is no one, other than me, and perhaps Meredydd Jones, that see the patterns and obtain such a clear understanding of those similarities. Which I see as a real negative in the work we are doing in the ward areas as this 'shared knowledge' is of very great importance to the residents. I am quite sure the police do have sound information on the crime stats from ward to ward. And they too can see the patterns. But perhaps not as clearly as I am able.

These meetings take never less than 90 minutes. They are attended by the Ward DWO's and the ward panel made up from those helpful and dedicated residents who really do have an invaluable sense of community and a desire to help and engage. They drill down to opportunities, circumstances and repeating patterns that need to be shared.

But as I have said before, it is the absence of "engagement" between these meetings across all of the wards and indeed, all the London Borough's is missing, because we are still waiting for a vehicle that provides this communication. Next Door does provide some information. So too does the Met Police website. But nothing custom built and user-friendly. That in two clicks gives them the information they need.

There is nothing that provides those useful OWL messages. Ward statistics on Crimes which every resident can view. Nor the specific Ward information on SNP meetings and local opportunities to meet the police. They need a Notice Board where meetings and useful information and good practice can be shared (not intelligence of course). And above all a place for the wider public who want to learn a little more about their police teams and the RBKC view on safety without being drummed into a NHW grouping. Because not everyone, in fact these very few people have time to be a part of the NHW network as before. I have found that many local people just want to know "a little more" about their local police teams. But not join a ward panel.

I have also found that some people want to join up their mews street or terrace with a watch-link through a What'sapp or Next Door group, to provide a little more vigilance with shared smaller problems like rubbish tipping, or begging door to door.

I have found Safer Neighbourhood Teams, made up of dedicated ward police and their local ward engaged residents are a very powerful tool whose efforts create a safer and stronger community.

And the only real item holding our wards back is as I continue to push for - a dedicated ward network platform that they can view online, whenever they wish - which hopefully will be launched at the end of this September. I am continuing to work in unison with all the Wards Residents and DW

Police to provide this missing tool that will bring the Police tweets to everyone so any person who registers, can receive OWL messages, as before, they can also see what all the ward police are doing via their visual tweets throughout the day, week or year. Every week their Ward statistics on crime and maps of their “priorities” will be there on the platform to be clearly seen and updated. No need to search the Met Police Site. Any news or views within the ward, or wider in the Borough relating to

## *Independent Custody Visiting Panel (ICVP) – Vassiliki Stavrou*

**This report covers the period 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Custody Suites Visited	West End Central Police Station Please note that Charing Cross Custody Suite will be re-opening on 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2019, following extensive refurbishment. All visits after this date will be conducted at Charing Cross.
<b>Summary of ICV Visits</b>	
Visits scheduled: 10	Visits conducted: 10
Number held in detention at time of visits: 114	Number of detainees spoken to: 41
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.	
General Observations	The escorting DDOs were generally found to be very helpful. Heating issues are generally identified; however, the refurbishment of Charing Cross should improve the situation.
Issues Raised	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.  There was a specific incident with a man claiming to have been beaten up by officers, however the full CCTV footage was reviewed by ICVs, who found no issues in his treatment.  The issue of food availability, and bringing food into custody, has been raised a number of times. The general rule is that food from outside cannot be brought into custody, for risk of smuggling items/substances

	in. The food available in custody does cater to all (i.e. vegan, gluten free, etc.)
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crime or events will be posted. Information relating to the Ward Meetings will be shown well in advance so that the residents can attend if they wish or at the very least, know what is happening in their ward. Ward DWO teams will be shown individually (as they move on their replacements will be added) and above all under their photographs will be their Ward's preferred method of contact.

Two months ago, I was asked by Greg Hands to meet him at Portcullis House and demonstrate this Ward Network proposal as Fulham & Chelsea do not have their ward panels anymore. It may well be that Fulham & Chelsea adopt the test site before RBKC and the London Watch have asked me to join their communications panel to explore this with them London wide.

I am moving forward and hopefully with some more support I will get there sooner.

### *Stop & Search Monitoring – Lucy Smith-Ryland*

1,672 searches for the last 3 months, most have been for drugs 60.4%.

11.7% Stolen property

14.8% Weapons

5.7% Going equipped

There has been since June '18 to May '19 a 44% decrease in complaints. Across the BCU there were 5 in May and 1 in April. This is largely due to body worn video which the CMG vigilantly watch every month to keep a further eye on the situation.

There were 367 complaints for the whole of the Met. In my last report we had several section 60's due to the soar in knife crime. 100 section 60's has been issued since the latest change in drop of command to do so. The average searches for Kensington and Chelsea are 100-120 a week. We are sixth out of 32 boroughs for Stop and Search at the moment and positive outcomes remain fairly static.

Since our last section 60 at the end of April we have had none until the last week in June when we had a section 60 put in place on the 26th and 27th June. Our next challenge is Carnival and we await to see if the Met issue a double section 60 across the 2 days as they did last year.