The Greenwich Society response to Police and Crime Plan

The Greenwich Society has been established for over fifty years and has more than five hundred households in membership mainly in the Greenwich West, Peninsular and Westcombe Wards of the Royal Borough. Representatives of the Society serve on three local Safer Neighbourhood Panels.

Members of the Society attended the January consultative Mopac meeting held in Greenwich and we welcome the opportunity to comment now on the draft plans.

The Society supports the Mayor's targets for crime reduction and the intention to redeploy more resources from back offices to the frontline

We are however concerned at the lack of detail in two important respects. First we consider it is essential that, with the closure of the central Greenwich station at Burney Street, there should be local arrangements in place for face to face and confidential contact between police officers and the public. For many of the elderly and other vulnerable groups, telephone or email access are not adequate or appropriate methods. Details of how this essential requirement is to meet have not been provided and need to figure in further consultations on the Plan.

Secondly members of the Society have valued the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and their close identification with the communities in the three wards mentioned above and we are concerned that insufficient details have been provided of the role of SNTs in the new structure, how they will operate, their locations and the command structure. The Society considers it essential that this aspect is the subject of further consultation when plans are more advanced.

The Society would welcome the opportunity to contribute to future consultations on the Mayor's Plan.

Richard Baglin Chair Greenwich Society