

## **Safer Lewisham Partnership Response to MOPAC Police and Crime Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to this critical Plan for London. We feel that we have an excellent Safer Partnership which has for many years worked positively together to work towards a safer Lewisham and will continue to do so. Whilst the Plan is a positive step towards having identified priorities for London, we certainly would hope that local arrangements and the work that we have to date put into train will be supported to continue. In the work to date we have seen impact on a majority of our crime figures; less victims of crime, but also with our much broader approach to working with all key stakeholders in the criminal justice system and striving to support victims at court, to rehabilitating offenders and working to reduce demand on the system as a whole.

We have some specific areas which we feel are noteworthy.

### **Police stations / access and closures.**

You will of course have feedback on the issue of closures - whilst we accept the need for large budget savings to be made there is still the concern of locality and access for officers to local areas. There is concern that officers may be located at such a distance from the areas they serve that the notion of greater police numbers on Neighbourhood Teams may not actually be visible to the local residents.

There is clearly a concern that there is a feeling amongst local residents that the closure of public service buildings as a whole is symbolic and has feelings of loss and disinvestment. It would be helpful to local areas to have sight of all closures / changes across London and not just their own boroughs as this would assist in giving feedback on impact as a whole.

### **Confidence in the police**

We feel this is linked and should include confidence across the criminal justice system as a whole. Sadly the cuts in court services has already impacted on victims being supported through what often can be a difficult time in their lives. Delays in the system measure is welcomed however there is genuine concern about how this will actually be delivered. There needs to be much more of an active role across many more departments and agencies to ensure this area is given greater consideration than is currently the case.

There is clearly huge impact on confidence by the media. We feel it is important that greater consideration needs to be had (given?) in relation to this impact and to use the media to assist in delivering this difficult agenda.

### **Payment by Results**

Whilst we have led the work in using PBR in Local Authority and within criminal justice and vulnerable groups, we have learnt significant lessons. We feel it is important that we are all

held to account for delivering outcomes - but recognise that PBR is not the only way that better outcomes can be achieved. Before entering such a contract it is important to ensure that the voluntary and community sector are supported to be able to apply but also to deliver and that risk is clearly shared and not transferred. Significant consideration needs to be given to the measure and payment structure to avoid the obvious pitfalls of PBR, but also to balance out the administrative requirements with the cost and outcomes achieved. It is sad that a single vehicle for financing has been focused up when there are many other options and in fact very little evidence to date, despite many pilots, of the findings from these pilots to date.

You focus on delivering only on things we know work, however this not only stifles innovation but presumes we can continue to fund all the things that work. With the current financial situation there may need to be questions about what we stop delivering when we know it does make a difference.

### **General safety issues**

It is not felt that there is sufficient focus on safety on public transport, particularly as it is the thing our young people comment on most as feeling unsafe. We would appreciate some greater focus on this with bespoke schemes for each borough dependant on issues such as adult to child ratio after school for example which is different for Lewisham than it is for Westminster.

It is pleasing to see a focus on drugs and alcohol, we feel greater links to local structures such as the Health and Wellbeing board and public health would be helpful.

ASB is probably one of the greatest concerns amongst our residents however there appears to very little in this area about a strategic approach.

### **Youth reoffending**

A focus on youth is pleasing, however we are unclear as to why the reduction in reoffending is not for adults as well as for youth. In addition, we are extremely concerned that at a time when additional financial burdens are being placed upon the local authority in relation to remands there are expectations of this significant level of reduction.

We have concerns that there is very little regarding prevention and out of court disposals particularly the use of restorative justice.

### **Commissioning**

This whole area seems very limited and late in terms of funding arrangements being made. It is of grave concern that such significant amounts of external funding for boroughs is being treated in a way that does not appreciate the real impact on services, staff and above all service users.

Whilst there appears to be pledges towards victim services it is very unclear what commissioning of support services means in practice.

Whilst we are grateful that there is a commitment to 4 years funding, the rush in which bids have to be completed might not necessarily get the desired outcomes for the spend.

Whilst we are committed to joining funding streams, as we have a track record in doing, to get the best value for the collective funds, we are concerned about "match funding" - if this is a requirement for reviewing the funding this will pose difficulties in the current financial climate.

### **Public engagement**

There are concerns about the transition from CPEG to Safer Neighbourhood Boards and how these will truly represent the local communities along with sufficient funding to support the work of the board.

We feel significant work needs to take place to satisfy local communities about the remit and purpose of the new Board and how policing will be held locally accountable.

### **Performance**

The rationale for the 20:20:20 targets would be useful to understand how we might be able to deliver on these, but also how further policing targets set by the Met would impact on this. Whilst we know all parts of the criminal justice system are linked if you were travelling through it as a perpetrator or a victim, it is not always clear how the individual performance indicators for each agency link nor work towards a joined up seamless system.

Lewisham will be working closely with MOPAC colleagues to deliver on the outcomes indicated, whilst continuing to undertake annual static assessments to better understand out issues and set local priorities which meet the needs of our citizens.