

Mayor of London Public Review Event 7 July 2021

Plenary comments and Feedback

On 7th July 2021 the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime hosted the second public review meeting with over 80 stakeholders and community members to review progress in delivering the Mayor's Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust – working together to provide a police service that has the confidence of all Black Londoners.

Following an overview of progress in specific areas of focus from both MOPAC and the MPS which can be found published on the London.gov website, delegates engaged in plenary and breakout discussions to explore community ideas on how to build trust and confidence and improve communication with our communities. A summary of the feedback and comments provided by delegates is below.

Introduction / Overview

- 23 London boroughs were represented at the event.
- The Deputy Mayor was joined by Assistant Commissioner Helen Ball, Commander Catherine Roper and Chief Superintendent Roy Smith from the MPS.
- Delegates said they were attending the event because they wanted to hear about real progress, practical deliverables and honesty, as well as information on how this work will affect SNBs.
- Overall there were positive comments about the pre-reading material and the initial inputs from both the Met and MOPAC, but some delegates felt this could have been shared earlier along with topics for discussion so that delegates could have prepared thoughts and questions.
- Delegates were keen to ensure we are doing all we can to reach into and ensure representation from all communities at these meetings. This is an area of ongoing work for both MOPAC and the Met.

Positive activity initiatives are aimed at improving trust and confidence, what more could be done and how could you support?

- Local justice panels as recommended by David Lammy
- Provide better data and analytical support to boroughs to understand and address local issues
- Ensure volunteers are properly supported and informed
- More engagement and visibility with and from SNTs
- Issues around racism need to be acknowledged before community relations can move on.
- Police need to be representative of communities when engaging with them – cultural competency and empathy
- Opportunities to engage with police need to be led by communities and publicised more effectively
- Engage with community elders and support inter-generational work – this will help ensure respect of younger people from Black communities.
- Rejuvenate local engagement structures such as ward panels and SNBs to improve local engagement.
- Really listen and engage with Youth on a regularly basis. It takes times to build up trust, make sure you engage outside of stop and search activity – proactively.
- Work more closely with other partners and community organisations to build trust and bridge gaps.
- Engage other partners such as CPS so communities have a better idea of the whole CJS process.

How could communities help support the Met's Use of Force work?

- First the police need to inform the communities about their use of force - when and where etc, then the community can help by sharing this info within their organisations, communities, groups etc
- Some felt that the emphasis of this question was wrong and the focus should be on how the MPS can better work with communities to be more transparent, and explain and justify use of force and build their confidence in it.
- Several comments mentioned the need to acknowledge racism, and institutional racism in the MPS, and that community relations won't move forwards until an open honest conversation about this with communities happens:
 - *"To build trust is to acknowledge institutional racism"*.
 - *"If you want the Black community to invest trust than we need you to be honest with the existence of racism in the institution"*.
 - *"Diversity in recruitment does not address existing Institutional Racism"*
- Provide more information about the use of force, when, where and why it is used, and make BWV more available to communities so they can develop a better understanding of what goes on.
- Greater use of technology to raise awareness and share information with communities.
- Decision making should be open and transparent and made with communities.
- More proactive, positive interaction with communities will increase the likelihood that they will support police when they need it.

How can communities help ensure that people who are stopped by the police understand what might happen and avoid conflict?

- Include stop and search, use of force and people's rights as part of the PHSE curriculum in all schools.
- Communities need to be empowered to know and exercise their rights; there are a number of Voluntary organisations who can work beside Police to enable this understanding.
- Use social media to circulate information about people's rights and how they can exercise them.
- A number of comments suggested it is not possible to prepare people to have force used against them repeatedly when so often the grounds and justification is unclear and the treatment is so negative.
- Promote the work of organisations such as Liberty and Stop Watch.
- IOPC needs to work more with communities so that they have the confidence to complain to them when they need to.
- Some delegates felt it is the police's job to ensure communities know their rights – not the other way around.
- Work with youth-led organisations like Y-Stop who already have legitimacy and credibility in communities, and are already working in this space.
- Again several comments mentioned the need to address and acknowledge the existence of racism and disproportionality or trust and confidence will not move forwards.

If the Met were to stop doing something in your local area what should it be?



If the Met were to start doing something in your local area what should it be?



If the Met were to continue doing one thing in your local area, what would it be?



If you could have changed one thing about this session, what would it be?

- For the Met to acknowledge racism so that we can all move on.
- To hold events like this in the evening as many have to work during office hours.
- To allow more time for delegate input and plenary discussion – it always feels rushed at the end and not enough time for full responses from the Met.
- Share questions with delegates in advance to provide proper thinking time and time to form questions and responses.
- More focus on what MOPAC is doing in this space – too Met focused
- Too much detail, not enough dialogue.
- More evidence of what has actually been achieved in delivering the action plan and since the last meeting – visible timelines so progress can be seen.
- Lots of praise for C.Supt Roy Smith who speaks honestly and openly
- But again several calls for open discussion about racism. This was a recurring theme in feedback to every question – failure to facilitate an open conversation about the presence / history of racism in the MPS and what is being done to address it is likely to become a significant barrier to continued engagement with communities on this programme of work.