

MOPAC Quarterly ERG Meeting Note

Thursday 8th February 2023, 17:00pm – 19:00pm-virtual

Present: Paul Munday-Castle, Lynn Ferguson, Aba Abekah-Mensah, Sara Owusu, Jamila Bernard-Stevenson, Dionne Usherwood, Piran Dhillon-Starkings, Leona Smith, Yusuf Deerow, Mel Asare (MOPAC) Natasha Plummer (MOPAC)

Item 1. Welcome and Matters Arising

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was conducted due to the request of members.

Item 2. London Policing Board

The Chair updated members that he has accepted a seat on the LPB People and Culture Sub Committee with the first meeting due to take place live on the 13th of February. He informed that he attended the virtual pre-meets ahead of this meeting. He expressed that he believes his attendance on the sub board will provide a good interface between the Board and the External Reference Group.

Members asked whether he as Chair of the ERG was formally invited to this sub-committee and Paul confirmed this.

Members asked if there were other sub committees. Paul confirmed that there is only one other sub-committee currently which is the Performance and Finance Committee.

Item 3. Disproportionality Board Update

Dionne (member) provided an update of the last Disproportionality Board informing members of the presentations that were delivered on two pilots by the SIU and CPS: Disproportionality in Out of Court Disposals and the Joint Enterprise Pilot. She also informed them of the Crest ethnographic research that is being undertaken to try and understand officer decision making in stop and search in two London boroughs and a third with the lowest and highest rates of disproportionality. Dionne explained that the ERG Policing Powers cohort are also planning S&S research focusing on reviewing the 'grounds' used in stop and search and will be linking with Crest and MOPAC's Evidence and Insight Team and may also be using the same boroughs to complement the Crest research.

Dionne explained that Commander Wingrove has provided his support with their (ERG) research as well as London Councils, providing them with opportunities to engage with their community partners.

Lynn updated the recent achievement of her local Community Monitoring Group (Haringey) where they submitted a complaint on behalf of a 16-year-old and his mother in April and June 2023. This complaint related to six incidents where the child was stopped and searched by Met officers between January and May of that year across Tottenham and Stratford. As a result of the complaint eight officers are under investigation.

Lynn explained that the data set they are using may also look at intersectionality. She also expressed their disappointment of Crest not providing them with a position on their roundtable after offering this out at the Disproportionality Board.

MOPAC updated that they are following this up with Crest.

Item 4. Stephen Lawrence Investigation Update

The Chair invited members who attended the meeting with DAC Ward-Head of the major crimes unit for the Met to provide feedback of this meeting.

Members agreed that they appreciated DAC Ward's introduction of himself, providing them an understanding of his experience of a young Black person growing up in England and the impact that Stephen Lawrence had on him and his route into the Met as well as his progression.

Members appreciated the overview DAC Ward provided of the case including the reviews and investigations that were conducted as well as the reasons to why another review will not be conducted. The Chair expressed his dissatisfaction that given that the first investigation was conducted exceptionally poorly that the original investigators are not being held to account for this and that their pensions should be impacted as a result.

Action: MOPAC agreed to follow up with Commander Wingrove regarding how the Met are currently contributing to the Stephen Lawrence Foundation.

Members would like to note their dissatisfaction that the Commissioner did not make a point to acknowledge ERG members when he was working next door to them at NSY.

Additionally, members would like to note their concerns that the Commissioner has not responded to their letter that they sent several months ago and find this to be disrespectful given their remit.

Action: MOPAC to follow up with the Commissioner's Office.

Item 5. Police Powers and Lifecycle Breakouts

Given that that the meeting moved virtually the Chair replaced this agenda item with the recent news about the Chair of the National Black Police Association.

National Black Police Association

The Chair provided an overview of the recent statement made by the National Black Police Association (BPA) whereby the chair is facing gross misconduct proceedings after allegedly sending and receiving inappropriate WhatsApp messages. The BPA have stated that “this is a deliberate and concerted effort to find dubious evidence against him.”

ERG members expressed their concerned that this action by the Met could be due to the Chair having voiced previous concerns about racism within the ranks of senior leaders. Members want to ensure that there is going to be an independent, unbiased investigation and have agreed to send their concerns to the DMPC.

Action: Yusuf to draft a letter

Additionally, members would like to meet with the Vice Chair of the BPA.

Action: Paul to arrange a meeting with Vice Chair of the BPA

Item 6. MAP Event Planning

MOPAC raised the opportunity for ERG members to shape and co-deliver the next and final public review meeting related to the MAP. MOPAC went through the draft agenda and members provided their views.

It was agreed that the Chair will present after the DMPC providing information to attendees about the ERG, what its been involved in to date and what their priorities are moving forwards. It was also agreed that the focus should be on children and young people given the Child First component of the agenda and that the Police Powers research has an emphasis on children and young people, providing a synergy to Child First. The agenda will also have a “you said, we did” focus. Additional member involvement includes ERG young people attendance, a presentation about the Policing Powers cohort, a Q&A panel and roundtable discussions.

Action: MOPAC to send draft invite for ERG review

Action: Cohorts to discuss who will be involved with what.

Item 7. Trello Boards

Due to time constraints a tour of Trello did not take place but members agreed to access the link and review their boards.

AOB

ERG Members have their meeting with the DMPC on the 20th of February.