

Serious Youth Violence

In June 2008 the LCSP agreed to prioritise 'serious youth violence' in its work plan, reflecting growing public concerns across the capital.

The LCSP meeting in June 2008 focused solely on serious youth violence. In the absence of Paul Stephenson, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, it was chaired by Chris Hayes, Regional Director of the Government Office for London. Its purpose was to develop a common understanding of the issues impacting on London and to determine what, if any, collective response the LCSP should coordinate. To date the Metropolitan Police has launched a number of initiatives including the new high-profile policing and enforcement operation (Blunt 2) to tackle the carrying of knives and weapons and to reassure Londoners. The LCSP meeting provided a significant opportunity for strategic partners to examine the issues, identify knowledge gaps and determine the way forward.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Rose Fitzpatrick opened the meeting's discussions with an overview of this profile of serious youth violence. Observations within this profile included:

- African-Caribbean victims are disproportionately represented as victims of serious youth violence;
- the largest concentration of offences occurs on Saturday and Sunday evenings;

- consumption of drugs and alcohol were not deemed significant drivers of serious youth violence in London;
- it was difficult to establish any correlation between successful outcomes and resourcing levels where Youth Offending Teams are concerned.

Discussion, questions and comments then followed from around the table. Central to the discussion was the argument that local authorities should provide leadership around youth crime. As a result, it was agreed that London Councils will set up an event, from which a new sub-board on serious youth violence may emerge. Desired outcomes will include:

- improved information sharing
- improved risk management
- clearer accountability
- improved understanding of what works

The event will lead to the development of new initiatives but also embrace and build upon the work of the Gangs, Guns and Weapons Reduction Board.

Other London Priorities

▲ Youth Crime Prevention

The London Youth Crime Prevention Board (LYCPB) has brought together agencies working right across the youth crime spectrum - from early prevention to enforcement - under an independent Chair, Lord Victor Adebowale. Partners have agreed on a handful of powerful new measures to improve how certain key institutions deliver youth crime prevention. These include:

- a new programme, currently being piloted, for London schools and their partners who are taking decisive action to keep pupils safe and out of trouble;
- making sure that children excluded from school for poor behaviour get back on the right track with a pan-London improvement programme for Pupil Referral Units;
- piloting new ways to ensure that young people encountering the criminal justice system, whether as a victim, witness, offender or simply someone who comes to the attention of the police, get a response that supports prevention.

The Youth Justice Board, the Metropolitan Police, National Strategies, Government Office for London, London Councils and the London Criminal Justice Board are among the agencies providing the leadership and resources to make these changes happen.

LYCPB is also exploring the potential for a new annual index for London on young people's sense of safety, their experiences of crime, their resilience to risk and the positive contributions they make to their communities.

Finally, the LYCPB is seeking to influence national policy so that it reflects London's needs and concerns.

For further information on LYCPB activity please contact Mick Duggan on 020 7217 3138 or Michael Mensah on 020 7217 3584

▲ Anti-Social Behaviour

The last meeting of the London Anti-Social Behaviour Board was held on 10 July 2008. It is now chaired by Michael Lockwood, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Harrow. Using evidence from surveys and listening to advice from expert practitioners in London, the Board has prioritised five key areas of work for 2008/09. They are:

- environmental ASB
- ASB and young people
- alcohol-related ASB
- a pan-London ASBO register
- a pan-London Halloween/Fireworks Night initiative

Work is already progressing on specific activities aimed at tackling these concerns and details will shortly be circulated through a separate London ASB Board newsletter. If you have any queries in the meantime please contact Nick Bagshaw on 020 7217 3183.

Other news

The Safer Streets Partnership Board which focused on robbery has now come to an end. London achieved an estimated 21 per cent reduction in robbery for this year (April - April). Work is progressing to bring analysts from different agencies together to identify a new focus area for the LCSP. This process is in its infancy but the Board is ready to emerge as soon as a new priority issue is agreed.

Date of next LCSP meeting:
Tuesday 9 September 2008,
2.30-4.30pm,
New Scotland Yard

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