

Merton Council

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

Membership

Councillors:

Fidelis Gadzama
Abdul Latif (Vice-Chair)
Edith Macauley MBE (Chair)
Marsie Skeete
Charlie Chirico

Substitute Members: Adam Bush
Joan Henry

African Educational Cultural & Health Organisation (AECHO)
Deputy

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

Asian Diabetic Support & Awareness Group

Asian Elderly Group of Merton

Asian Youth Association

Bangladeshi Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Women's Association of Merton

British Muslim Association of Merton

Ethnic Minority Centre

Euro Bangla Federation

Deputy

London South West Chinese Community Association

Merton African Organisation

Merton Somali Community

Mitcham Filipino British Association

Deputy

Morden Citizen's Advice Bureau

Pakistan Cultural Association of Merton & Wandsworth

Pakistan Welfare Association

Deputy

Positive Network

South London Somali Community Association

South London Tamil Welfare Group

Victim Support Merton and Sutton

Wimbledon Mosque

Revd Mrs H Neale

Mr A. Hadi

Mrs N. Shah

Mr M S Sheikh

Mr T Hassan

Mr. N. Islam

Mr J Choudhury

Mr M Rahman

Mrs M Ahmed

Mr B. Afridi

Mrs Sabitri Ray/Mr A Savage

Dr Z Huq

Mr Q Anwar

Ms L Saltoon

Mr C J Lusack

Mr A. Ali

Ms A Colquhoun

Ms C Batallones

Ms J Gillies

Mr M A Shah

Mr S U Sheikh

Mr Rizvi

Ms G Salmon

Mr A Musse

Dr P Arumugaraasah

Mr A Morgan-Thorne

Mr Z Khan

Date: Wednesday 9 March 2016

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For more information about the agenda please contact diversity@merton.gov.uk or telephone [020 8545 4637](tel:02085454637).

All Press contacts: press@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3181

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

9 March 2016

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Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

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Agenda Item 3

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY
ORGANISATIONS
9 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair),
Councillor Fidelis Gadzama, Councillor Abdul Latif,
Councillor Marsie Skeete and Councillor Charlie Chirico

Rev Mrs H Neale, Mr Sheikh, Mr Rizvi, Mr Savage, Mr Anwar,
Mr Huq, Mr Islam, Mr Rahman, Evereth Willis, Paul Bailey, Chief
Inspector Mark Lawrence

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

None.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Mr Sheikh and Mrs Ahmed.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes were agreed.

4 MERTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (MSCB) - PAUL BAILEY,
MSCB MANAGER (Agenda Item 4)

Paul Bailey the MSCB Manager gave an overview of the work of the board. A strategic priority of the board is to engage with Faith and Belief and the Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

The objective of the MSCB is:

1. To coordinate the work of organisations around safeguarding the welfare of children
2. Providing quality assurance

The board also provides:

1. Free online training for voluntary organisations
2. Policy development – offer of advice and support to ensure that organisations and groups have policies in place that are fully compliant with relevant legislation regarding safeguarding.

There is a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) available to support organisations.

Paul informed the meeting that the MSCB wants to develop an effective partnership approach and encourage more involvement from voluntary and community groups. This will help the board to better understand the needs and concerns that communities have.

The Children's Act defines children as being aged 0-18 years. Distinctions are made between 0-11 years and 12-18 years.

5 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX - HAYLEY JAMES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE MERTON AND LAMBETH CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX (Agenda Item 5)

Ms James was unable to attend and the item was deferred to a future meeting.

6 POLICE UPDATE - CHIEF INSPECTOR MARK LAWRENCE (Agenda Item 6)

Chief Inspector Mark Lawrence presented the crime update, a key issue for the Police at present is counter terrorism and Prevent. He informed the media that the Metropolitan Police Service remains at a threat level of 'severe'. There is no intelligence to suggest that the threat is increased locally but the police remain on high alert after the Paris attacks.

CI Lawrence gave an overview of Prevent and gave examples of possible ways that people may become radicalised, eg:

1. through being encouraged
2. Being directed
3. Inspired through various forms of media

He said that the Police look to communities to pay attention and be aware of individuals. Schools are getting WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training. He added that there is no community tension in Merton at the moment.

CI Lawrence updated the meeting on the murder that occurred on 23 November in Mitcham. There was a violent attack involving rival Tamil gangs. The investigations are on-going and an arrest has been made.

The Metropolitan Police received good news from the Comprehensive Spending Review because funding will not be reduced. However, £200 million still has to be found.

Crime overall is up compared to the previous twelve months. There are plans to counter burglaries – there are 40 less this year than last year. There is concern for theft of motor vehicle (mopeds) and domestic violence is on the increase.

The MOPAC 7 target for reducing key crime types by 20% by 31 March 2016 is well on track and currently the reduction is sitting at 22.3% against the 2011/2012 baseline.

In terms of confidence, 76% of people are happy with policing. People in Merton feel less informed about what the police is doing. A communications plan is being developed.

Knife crime has increased across London and there is a targeted approach to Stop and Search.

A representative informed the meeting that he has recently been racially abused. CI Lawrence replied that over the last 12 months there has been 20 reports of Islamophobic crimes. The crimes included; Islamophobic graffiti, scarf pulling and Inter Faith.

CI Lawrence was asked whether improvements to the MOPAC 7 crimes were being achieved at the expense of other crime types? He replied that the MOPAC 7 was a priority but other crime types also have to be investigated.

Question – Public confidence is higher in other areas – what are they doing differently to us? CI Lawrence replied that the average is 67% for London, Kensington and Chelsea is 80% (but they have poorer performance on crime statistics). None of the boroughs are doing really well. Haringey and Croydon have low confidence levels.

Question – How can we educate people to prevent them being radicalised? CI Lawrence replied that schools and professionals use a programme called Channel) to support vulnerable people.

There was a reference to the fire at the Baitul Futuh mosque and the point was made that the Police should be quick to inform the public that it was not Islamophobic. CI Lawrence replied that the Police tried to put out information into the media. The challenge is reaching the wider community.

Question – Will the PCSOs be visible? CI Lawrence replied that there are still cuts to be made and it is not yet know how much funds are available locally.

There was a question about why the confidence levels are higher for white respondents compared to black respondents. Cl Lawrence replied that user satisfaction is being looked at further to identify the reason for the differentials.

Domestic Violence – there has been 50 crimes, the victims and perpetrators are all white. Black and Mixed recorded equal figures and Asian the lowest. There is possible DV in the Asian community but it is under reported.

7 VICTIM SUPPORT - ANTON MORGAN-THORNE (Agenda Item 7)

Unfortunately Anton Morgan-Thorne was unable to attend. Evereth gave an overview of the work of Victim Support (VS) which is no longer based in Merton. She encourage people to volunteer for VS.

8 FEED BACK FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD - ABAYEH SAVAGE (Agenda Item 8)

Abayeh Savage gave an update on the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), he said that it felt safer than a few years ago, especially in Mitcham. He encouraged people to report crime that they see.

Councillor Macauley assured the meeting that DV cases are getting through at court.

There was a question about how many DV cases result in successful conviction? Cllr Macauley replied that cases are heard regardless of whether the victims are at court or want the case withdrawn. The case is heard in their absence.

Cl Lawrence said it is difficult to keep people engaged and victims that change their minds need the support not to drop the case.

9 BAME VOICE UPDATE - EVERETH WILLIS, INTERIM HEAD OF POLICY, STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS (Agenda Item 9)

Evereth updated the meeting by announcing that Hannah Neale is the Chair of BAME Voice and Slawek Szczepansk is the Vice- Chair. The organisation will be launched on 4 February 2016 at Vestry Hall.

JCC representatives were encouraged to bring their communities with them to the event. Hannah was applauded for her commitment to BAME Voice and Evereth was commended for supporting the development of BAME Voice.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item)

None.

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Domestic Violence & Abuse Awareness

Domestic Violence/ Abuse





What is Domestic Violence & Abuse?

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Domestic Violence/ Abuse



What is Domestic Violence & Abuse?



Destructive criticism and verbal abuse: including - shouting; mocking; accusing; name calling; verbally threatening.

Pressure tactics: including - sulking; threatening to withhold money, disconnecting the telephone, taking the car away, taking the children away, or reporting you to welfare agencies unless you comply with his demands; threatening or attempting suicide; withholding or pressuring you to use drugs or other substances; lying to your friends and family about you; telling you that you have no choice in any decisions.

Disrespect: including - persistently putting you down in front of other people; not listening or responding when you talk; interrupting your telephone calls; taking money from your purse without asking; refusing to help with childcare or housework.

Breaking trust: including - lying to you; withholding information from you; being jealous; having other relationships; breaking promises and shared agreements.

Isolation: including - monitoring or blocking your telephone calls; telling you where you can and cannot go; preventing you from seeing friends and relatives; shutting you in the house.

Harassment: including - following you; checking up on you; not allowing you any privacy (for example, opening your mail), repeatedly checking to see who has telephoned you; embarrassing you in public; accompanying you everywhere you go.

What is Domestic Violence & Abuse?



Threats: including - making angry gestures; using physical size to intimidate; shouting you down; destroying your possessions; breaking things; punching walls; wielding a knife or a gun; threatening to kill or harm you and the children; threatening to kill or harm family pets; threats of suicide

Sexual violence: including - using force, threats or intimidation to make you perform sexual acts; having sex with you when you don't want it; forcing you to look at pornographic material; forcing you to have sex with other people; any degrading treatment related to your sexuality or to whether you are lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual.

Physical violence: including - punching; slapping; hitting; biting; pinching; kicking; pulling hair out; pushing; shoving; burning; strangling.

Denial: including - saying the abuse doesn't happen; saying you caused the abusive behaviour; being publicly gentle and patient; crying and begging for forgiveness; saying it will never happen again.

Is domestic violence a crime?

Domestic violence can include a number of different behaviours, and there is no single criminal offence of 'domestic violence'.

Definition



Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Home Office Definition

Women experiencing DV are.....



- 15 times more likely to abuse alcohol
- 9 times more likely to abuse drugs
- 3 times more likely to be diagnosed as depressed or psychotic
- 5 times more likely to attempt suicide
- 3 times more likely to experience gynaecological problems



DV is a Child Protection Issue

- DV is a factor in 66% of child deaths
- 75% of children on CP plans have DV in their households
- In 50% of DV cases, children are directly abused
- In 90% of cases, children witness the abuse
- Witnessing DV is a recognised form of child abuse
- Living with DV can lead to a range of negative outcomes for children

DV Statistics



Nationally:

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience DV in their life time
- 2 women murdered each week across the UK
- Domestic violence has a higher rate of repeat victimisation than any other crime. [Home Office, July 2002]
- At least **750,000 children a year** witness domestic violence. (Department of Health, 2002).
- Around 1.2 million women were estimated to have experienced domestic violence in 2011/12 (Women's Aid)
- The National Domestic Violence Helpline (run in partnership with Women's Aid and Refuge) receives on average 150,000 calls per year

DV Statistics continued...



Locally:

- 959 offences flagged as domestic were recorded in Merton borough in 201/14.
- 80% of domestic offence victims last year were female.
- Where victim's nationality was given, 60% were British and 10% Polish.
- 81% of those suspected of a domestic offence in 2011 were male. 51% were white European; 25% African Caribbean; 12% Asian; and 3% dark European. In terms of ages, 31% of suspects were in their twenties; 30% in their thirties; and 21% in their forties.
- The suspect was most commonly victim's ex-boyfriend (23%), husband (19%) or boyfriend (17%). Other victim-offender relationships such as son, girlfriend, father, wife or ex-husband were much rarer constituting a maximum of 5% of offenders each.

Costs of Domestic Violence



- The cost to the criminal justice system is **£1 billion per annum**. (This represents one quarter of the criminal justice budget for violent crime including the cost of homicide to adult women annually of £112 million).
- The cost of physical healthcare treatment resulting from domestic violence, (including hospital, GP, ambulance, prescriptions) is £1,220,247,000, i.e. **3% of total NHS budget**.
- The cost of treating mental illness and distress due to domestic violence is **£176,000,000**.
- The cost to the social services is **£0.25 billion**.
- Housing costs are estimated at **£0.16 billion**.
- The cost of civil legal services due to domestic violence is **£0.3 billion**.
- The cost of domestic homicide is estimated by the Home Office at over one million pounds: a total of **£1, 097, 330 for each death**, or **£112 million per year**.

Information from Women's Aid

Costs of Domestic Violence to Merton



The average cost of Violence against Women and Girls to Merton £19,102,800

The average cost of Violence against Women and Girls to the Council
£4,604,651

(All figures are for 2010/11 and cover ages 16 to 59 are from the national tool for estimation of Violence against Women and Girls this does not cover men and 25% of our clients are men)

The Barriers



- Victims find it hard to report or tell anyone. The average victim is assaulted 35 times before reporting the abuse to anyone.
- Language
- Culture (in some countries you do not go to “authorities”)
- Shame that the abuse is happening
- Trying to keep the family together
- Faith
- Travelling Community
- Children
- Shame
- Financial dependency
- On average, it takes 7 attempts to leave the relationship

Effects of DV on Victims



- Depression
- Lack of self-esteem / 'I deserved it'
- Feeling of helplessness
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Alcohol & drug misuse
- Mental health problems
- Increased risk of suicide
- Friends, family, children may not be supportive, or don't understand why she doesn't leave
- Victim might fear retribution from perpetrator
- Aggression and avoidance are coping mechanisms

The Risks



It is very important to carry our risk assessments on all Domestic Violence cases. In Merton the DASH risk assessment is used.

- The Victim isolated from family/friends. The abuser(s) try to stop the victim from seeing friends/family/doctor or others
- The victim maybe feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Weapons objects to hurt the victim
- Pregnancy or had a baby in the last 18 months
- Stalking and Harassment
- Cultural issues
- The abuse is happening more often or getting worse
- Strangulation/choking/suffocate/drowning

The Risks continued...



- The partner controls everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous?
- (In terms of relationships, who the victim sees, being 'policed at home', telling the victim what to wear for example. Consider 'honour'-based violence and specify behaviour)
- Things said that are of a sexual nature that make the victim feel bad or that physically hurt victim or someone else
- Threats to the victim or who is the victim afraid of? (Consider extended family if HBV.)
- Mistreatment of an animal or the family pet
- Financial issues
- The partner has Criminal convictions for violence

What can you do?....



- Ask the question.... “are you experiencing domestic violence? How is the relationship?”
- Active listening with the person in front of you or on the phone
- Non judgemental – do not judge the situation
- Don’t ignore the person in front of you or on the phone - What ever is happening could seriously harm that person!
- Do not Collude with perpetrator (where agencies have to see both parties)
- Believe the person in front of you or on the phone
- Consider High risk factors: Pregnancy, Women murdered at point of leaving or shortly after.
- Talk with other agencies to get advice if you don’t have the answers.

Safety Planning



Safety planning is critical to do with a victim of Domestic Violence.

Some of the planning options is:

- Make sure their mobile phone is always charges
- Keep important documents safe
- Have an exit plan to get out of the house quickly
- Inform someone what is happening rather than keep it to yourself.
- Tell the children's school what is happening and who should pick the children up from school
- Keep a log/ diary but keep it in a safe place.
- Refer the case to a Domestic Violence worker or IDVA

Just for thinking..... Put yourself in their shoes!



You have 15 minutes to leave your house as you are going in to refuge.

You will never go back as it is not safe to do so and what you take is all you have.

What would you take?

What is important?

What would you take for the children?

What happens to the pets?

You now have a little insight to the feelings a victim would have when fleeing.

Would you flee?

Services Available



- Met Police – Community Safety Unit 020 8649 3170
- Merton Refuge
- One Stop Shop – Morden Baptist Church, Monday's 9.30 – 12.00
- Non Molestation Orders
- Victim Support Merton IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisors – 020 7801 1777
- National Domestic Violence Helpline (including refuge) - 0808 2000 247
- Helping Hand Project - <http://www.jigsaw4u.org.uk>, 07908861814
- Men's Advice Line (for male victims) – 0808 801 0327



What is VAWG?

Domestic Violence/ Abuse



What is VAWG?



Violence against Women and Girls is the governments overarching strategy to tackle the below forms of violence.

Within Merton this will include male victims of violence.

- Child sexual exploitation.
- Domestic violence and abuse.
- Female genital mutilation.
- Forced marriage.
- Violence committed in the name of “honour”.
- Prostitution.
- Sexual exploitation.
- Sexual harassment.
- Sexual violence, including rape.
- Stalking.
- Trafficking.

What is VAWG?



Type of VAWG	Definition	Source
Child sexual exploitation	<p>Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.</p> <p>Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.</p>	Department for Education (2009)
Domestic violence and abuse	<p>Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • psychological • physical • sexual • financial • emotional <p>Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.</p>	Home Office (2013)

Domestic Violence/ Abuse



What is VAWG?



Type of VAWG	Definition	Source
Female Genital Mutilation	Involves the complete or partial removal or alteration of external genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is mostly carried out on young girls at some time between infancy and the age of 15. Unlike male circumcision, which is legal in many countries, it is now illegal across much of the globe, and its extensive harmful health consequences are widely recognised.	MOPAC (2013)
Forced marriage	A marriage conducted without valid consent of one or both parties, where duress is a factor.	MOPAC (2013)
Violence committed in the name of "honour"	Violence committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family and/or community. Women, especially young women, are the most common targets, often where they have acted outside community boundaries of perceived acceptable feminine/sexual behaviour. In extreme cases, the woman may be killed.	MOPAC (2013)
Prostitution	Women and girls are forced, coerced or deceived to enter into prostitution and/or to keep them there.	MOPAC (2013)
Sexual exploitation	Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where someone receives 'something' (e.g. food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, protection money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability. Girls involved in or connected to gangs are at risk of sexual exploitation by gang members.	MOPAC (2013)

What is VAWG?



Type of VAWG	Definition	Source
Sexual harassment	Unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It can take place anywhere, including the workplace, schools, streets, public transport and social situations. It includes flashing, obscene and threatening calls, and online harassment.	MOPAC (2013)
Sexual violence, including rape	Sexual contact without the consent of the woman/girl. Perpetrators range from total strangers to relatives and intimate partners, but most are known in some way. It can happen anywhere – in the family/household, workplace, public spaces, social settings, during war/conflict situations.	MOPAC (2013)
Stalking	Repeated (i.e. on at least two occasions) harassment causing fear, alarm or distress. It can include threatening phone calls, texts or letters; damaging property; spying on and following the victim.	MOPAC (2013)
Trafficking	Involves the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of women and children for the purposes of prostitution and domestic servitude across international borders and within countries ('internal trafficking').	MOPAC (2013)



What is MARAC? What does MARAC stand for?

Domestic Violence/ Abuse



What is MARAC?



- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- National initiative backed by the Home Office
- Meets every 3 weeks to discuss the highest risk DV cases
- Multi-agency information sharing
- Aim is to reduce the risk of serious harm or death for the victim, and increase the safety, health, and well-being of the victims and their children
- Agencies refer cases determined as high risk based on the CAADA DASH Risk Assessment
- The questions on the form reflect risk indicators identified from analysis of DV homicides

DASH Risk Assessment



The introduction of the new Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model means that for the first time all police services and a large number of partner agencies across the UK will be using a common checklist for identifying and assessing risk, which will save lives. ACPO Council accredited the DASH (2009) Model to be implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009.

WHO DEVELOPED THE DASH?

- The DASH (2009) Model has been developed by Laura Richards, BSc, MSc, FRSA on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and in partnership with Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA).

WHO CAN USE THE DASH RISK MODEL?

- The DASH is for all professionals working with victims of domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and honour based violence.
- In England and Wales, the police service will use the ACPO DASH and partner agencies the CAADA DASH.
- There is also a risk checklist for victims of domestic abuse, stalking and honour based violence. This is called the [Victim-DASH](#) (V-DASH 2010).
- There are also further questions on stalking called the [Stalking-DASH](#) (S-DASH, 2009) Risk Identification Checklist. This again has been adapted for victims to use, [Victim Stalking-DASH](#). (VS-DASH 2009).

15 HIGH RISK FACTORS OF SERIOUS HARM AND HOMICIDE IN DOMESTIC ABUSE (DA) CASES



1. **Victim's perception of risk of harm:** victims of domestic abuse often tend to underestimate their risk of harm from perpetrators of domestic violence. However, if they say they fear further harm to themselves, their child(ren) or someone else this should be taken seriously when assessing future risk of harm.
2. **Separation (child contact):** victims who attempt to end a violent relationship are strongly linked to intimate partner homicide. Many incidents happen as a result of child contact or disputes over custody.
3. **Pregnancy/new birth (Under 18 months old):** domestic abuse can start or get worse in pregnancy. Victims who are assaulted whilst pregnant, when they have recently given birth or who have young children should be considered as high risk. This is in terms of future harm to them and to the unborn/young child.
4. **Escalation:** repeat victimisation and escalation must be identified. DA victims are more likely to become repeat victims than any other type of crime; as violence is repeated it gets more serious.
5. **Community Issues/Isolation:** needs may differ amongst ethnic minority victims, newly arrived communities, asylum seekers, older people, people with disabilities, as well as travelling or gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people. This might be in terms of perceived racism, language, culture, insecure immigration status and/or accessing relevant support services. Be aware of forced marriage and honour based violence whereby family/community try to restore their mistaken sense of honour and respect. Victims may be particularly isolated and/or vulnerable. Take their concerns seriously.
6. **Stalking:** Persistent and consistent calling, texting, sending letters, following. DA stalkers are the most dangerous. Stalking and physical assault, are significantly associated with murder and attempted murder. This is not just about physical violence but coercive control and jealous surveillance. Consider the perpetrator's behaviour and whether victim believes it is being done to deliberately intimidate.
7. **Sexual Assault:** those who are sexually assaulted are subjected to more serious injury. Those who report a domestic sexual assault tend to have a history of domestic abuse whether or not it has been reported previously. Many domestic sexual offenders are high risk and potentially dangerous offenders. Be aware of the link between domestic and stranger rape.
8. **Strangulation(choking/suffocation/drowning):** Escalating violence, including the use of weapons and attempts at strangulation must be recorded when identifying and assessing risk. This includes all attempts at blocking someone's airway.
9. **Credible Threats to kill:** A credible threat of violent death can very effectively control people and some may carry out this threat.

15 HIGH RISK FACTORS OF SERIOUS HARM AND HOMICIDE IN DOMESTIC ABUSE (DA) CASES continued....



10. **Use of Weapons:** Abusers who have used a weapon, or have threatened to use a weapon, are at increased risk of violent recidivism.
11. **Controlling and/or Excessive Jealous Behaviour:** Complete control of the victim's activities and extreme jealousy are associated with serious violence and homicide. Consider honour based violence – the victim may not have the freedom of choice. Examples may include fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, DA, child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, harassment, forced abortion. The perpetrator may well try and control professionals as well.
12. **Child Abuse:** Evidence shows that both DA and child abuse can occur in the same family. Child abuse can act as an indicator of DA in the family and vice versa - please note if the child(ren) witness or hear the abuse.
13. **Animal/Pets Abuse:** there is a link between cruelty to animals, child abuse and DA. The use or threat of abuse against pets is often used to control others in the family. Abuse of animals may also indicate a risk of future harm.
14. **Alcohol/Drugs/Mental Health:** the abuser's use of drugs and alcohol are not the cause of the abuse, as with all violent crime they might be a risk of further harm. Physical and mental ill health does appear to increase the risk of DA.
15. **Suicide-Homicide:** Threats from an offender to commit suicide have been highlighted as a factor in domestic homicide. A person who is suicidal should also be considered homicidal.
For training enquiries in the use of the DASH Risk Model, contact laura@laurarichards.co.uk or go to www.dashriskchecklist.co.uk

DASH Risk Assessment



Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned. Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer. It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case please indicate in the right hand column	Yes (tick)	No	Don't Know	State source of info if not the victim e.g. police officer
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? (Please state what and whether this is the first injury.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Are you very frightened? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think (name of abuser(s)...) might do and to whom, including children). Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends i.e. does (name of abuser(s)) try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)....) within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there conflict over child contact? N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Does (.....) constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? (Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Does (.....) try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? (In terms of relationships, who you see, being 'policed at home', telling you what to wear for example. Consider 'honour'-based violence and specify behaviour.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

DASH Risk Assessment



Tick box if factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	Yes (tick)	No	Don't Know	State source of info if not the victim
13. Has (.....) ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has (.....) ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? (If yes, tick who.) You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Has (.....) ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Does (.....) do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? (If someone else, specify who.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? (If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Do you know if (.....) has hurt anyone else? (Please specify whom including the children, siblings or elderly relatives. Consider HBV.) Children <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member <input type="checkbox"/> Someone from a previous relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Has (.....) ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on (.....) for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Has (.....) had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life? (If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.) Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Has (.....) ever threatened or attempted suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Has (.....) ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children? (You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.) Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/> Child Contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Do you know if (.....) has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? (If yes, please specify.) DV <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Total 'yes' responses				

MARAC referral Form

co-ordinated action against domestic abuse



MARAC referral form

MARAC referrals should be sent by **secure email or other secure method** to **mertonmarac@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net** or **zoe.pullman@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net**

Referring agency					
Contact name(s)					
Telephone / Email					
Date					
Victim name			Victim DOB		
Address			Diversity Data (if known) B&ME <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled <input type="checkbox"/> LGBT <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/>		
Telephone number		Is this number safe to call?		Y / N	
Please insert any relevant contact information e.g. times to call			N/A		
Perpetrator(s) name			Perpetrator(s) DOB		
Perpetrator(s) address			Relationship to victim		
Children (please add extra rows if necessary)	DOB	Relationship to victim	Relationship to perpetrator	Address	School (If known)



MARAC referral Form



Reason for Referral / Additional Information

Professional judgement		Visible high risk (14 ticks or more on CAADA - DASH RIC)	
Potential escalation (3 or more incidents reported to the Police in the past 12 months)		MARAC repeat (further incident identified within twelve months from the date of the last referral)	
If Yes, please provide the date listed / case number (if known)			
Is the victim aware of MARAC referral?		If no, why not?	
Has consent been given?			
Who is the victim afraid of? (to include all potential threats, and not just primary perpetrator)			
Who does the victim believe it safe to talk to?			
Who does the victim believe it not safe to talk to?			
Has the victim been referred to any other MARAC previously?		If yes where / when?	

Domestic Homicide Review



Domestic homicide reviews should be carried out to make sure lessons are learned when a person has been killed as a result of domestic violence (domestic homicide).

In order for these lessons to be learned as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to understand fully what happened in each homicide, and most importantly, to identify what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future

The Homicide reviews became STATUTORY this year under law in Section 9(3) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004).

There is a guidance document from the Home Office that Community Safety partnerships have to follow when conducting a review. The findings are then published on a public website and logged with the Home Office.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/DHR-guidance>



Any Questions, Comments or thoughts?



Zoe Gallen
Strategic Lead for Victims and Witnesses
020 8545 4146
zoe.gallen@merton.gov.uk
www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence

Morden Leisure Centre

This is the fourth Morden Leisure Centre newsletter. We said we would produce newsletters as the project progresses, and here is the next one.

EXCITING TIMES! DESIGNS READY FOR CONSULTATION

“I am delighted that Merton Council’s Leisure Team has developed the Morden Leisure Centre so well and so quickly to date, and I’m really glad that we’ve had the support of so many local people when we’ve consulted with you.

As this newsletter shows, we’re reaching the stage when we can share with you our design of what the centre will look like and what it will provide. Building is always complicated and details might need to change along the way, but I’m confident we will open the doors of your new leisure centre on 1st January 2018, ready to use and within budget.”

Cabinet Member for Community and Culture, Cllr Nick Draper



CONCEPT DESIGN (without sports hall)

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, all designs will have to take into consideration the available budget and the community consultations which took place in 2014.

YOU ASKED FOR

	Designs include:
Café	A café area in the leisure centre foyer with views across the park and into the main pool hall. There are accessible toilets and you will be able to get hot and cold drinks and snacks.
Diving facilities	Diving has been retained with a moveable floor in the smaller pool, allowing for a variety of swimming lessons and activities for all the community including our local diving clubs.

You asked for:	Designs include (continued.)
Main pool - 25m, 6 lanes with extra 2 lanes to give you more water space	A 25m x 13m pool with 6 lanes, because we have included a larger 'small pool' to increase the available water space by 29%. Timetabling of both pools will give greater use and flexibility for all.
Small pool	A 13m x 15m pool with moveable floor will allow for a greater range of activities for all ages and abilities, including the potential for inflatables and water play.
Gym	There is a 100 station fitness suite on the first floor, an increase of 60 stations over existing Morden Park Pools.
Community space	A large studio/community space is included on the first floor.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Come and hear about and see the proposals on:

Thursday 4 February, 7.15pm

Morden Area Forum, Council Chamber, Civic Centre, London Road, SM4 5DX.

Thursday 11 February

Civic Centre Merton Link – 11.30am – 2pm

Morden Park Pools – 4.30pm – 7.30pm

PARTNERS

We have been working with the Morden Park Playing Fields Community Trust over the last 18 months to firstly bring your family friendly leisure centre together and secondly, to realise their vision of a new pavilion to serve the sports fields and introduce two floodlit artificial grass pitches. Neither partner wants to duplicate facilities and now we know what is possible with Morden Leisure Centre we will work to supplement this with the Trust's own pavilion.

"We're delighted to be working in close cooperation with the London Borough of Merton on this project. Morden Park Playing Fields Community Trust has been aiming for more than ten years now to bring back outdoor sport to the Playing Fields and for this to be a binding force to bring together the different local communities, especially young people. This announcement is an important turning point, and we are happy to say that we can now see a clear way forward."

Simon Davison, Chair of Morden Park Playing Fields Community Trust

Greenwich Leisure Limited have been involved in the detailed design and technical aspects as well as ensuring that operationally the design works best both for the operator and for the users.

“Leisure Services in the London Borough of Merton are continuing to grow from strength to strength and this project promises to really complement recent developments within the other local centres. GLL’s leisure team are very excited to be involved with such a fantastic project, which will bring state of the art of leisure facilities to the surrounding community in the Morden area.” **Greenwich Leisure Limited, partner and operator**

YOU ALSO ASKED FOR:

	Current Position:
Sports Hall (4 badminton court size)	Included in the overall design and in the planning application but the timing of the sports hall will be dependent on contractor prices and other fund-raising.
Climbing Wall	This was not possible to include in this facility, but is available elsewhere in the borough at Wimbledon Park Watersports Centre.
Spa and Sauna	This was not possible but Wimbledon Leisure Centre recently opened their superb London Spa which is just two stops on the tube and a short walk away.

We have designed the new Morden Leisure Centre with a 4 court Sports Hall and a Spinning Studio and we will be submitting a Planning Application with the full design, however we have to wait until the contractor prices are received to see if we have sufficient funds to build the whole facility at the out-set. If not, we will build the centre in two phases with the Sports Hall and Spinning Studio being added when funds become available.

As well as going out to contractors to get the best prices possible, we are also looking to see how else we might be able to raise additional money. We will keep you up to date as the project progresses.

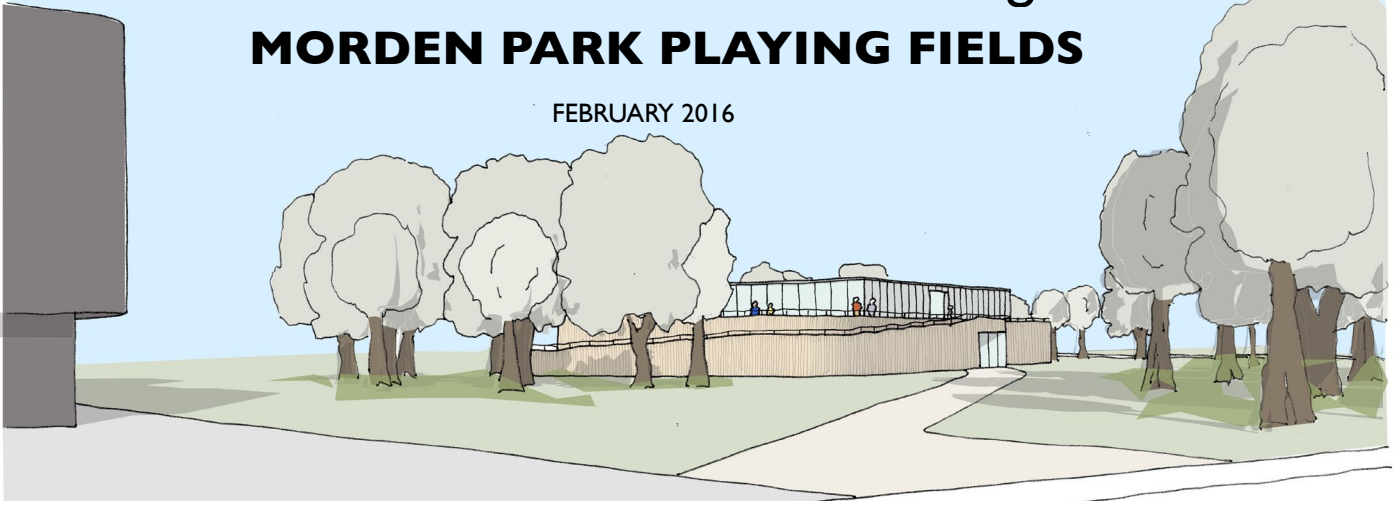
CONCEPT DESIGN (with sports hall)



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MORDEN PARK PLAYING FIELDS

FEBRUARY 2016



VISION

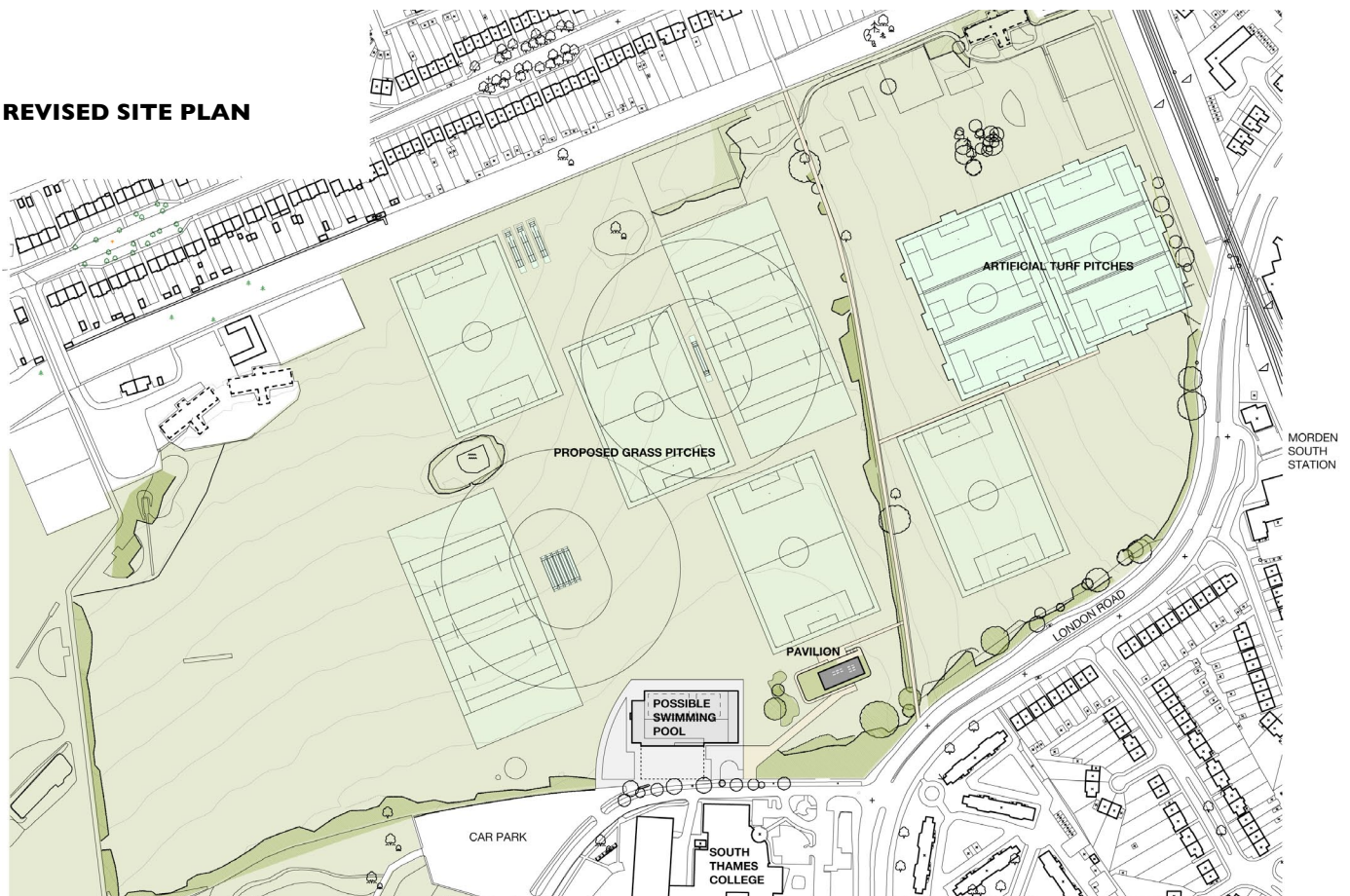
To promote community cohesion and mutual respect among the diverse communities living in and around Morden through an inclusive outdoor sports facility.

AIMS

To bring 65 acres of disused playing field land in Morden Park back into use for a range of sports through a community led enterprise which is sustainable and economically viable in the long term.

Morden Park Playing Fields Community Trust, with Kilburn Nightingale Architects, has responded to the revised plans for Morden Park as set out by Merton Council.

REVISED SITE PLAN

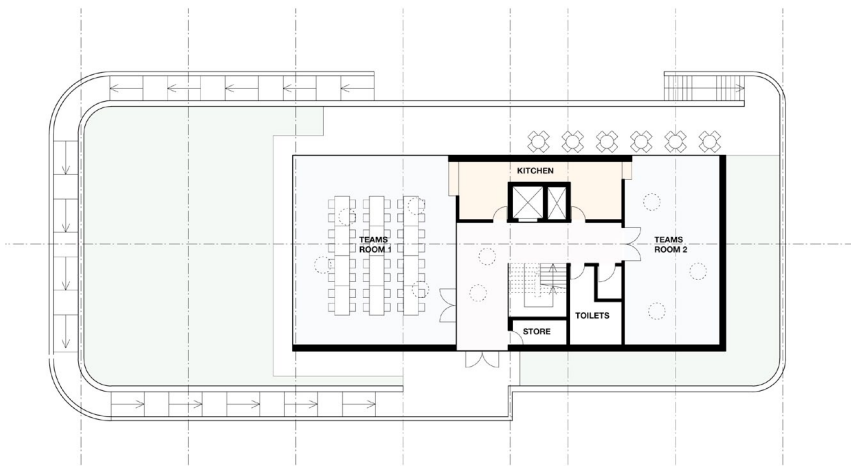


The proposal comprises the creation of 4 new grass football pitches, 2 grass rugby pitches, 2 floodlit 3G artificial turf pitches and 2 cricket pitches along with 3 cricket wickets. The new Pavilion is sited to co-ordinate with the new swimming pool and to give convenient access to, and fine views over, the pitches.





VIEW FROM PLAYING FIELDS



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

The Pavilion is a low lying building designed to sit happily in its green setting. It comprises a simple form clad in untreated timber with a ramp and stairs leading to a planted roof terrace and amenity spaces.

The lower floor accommodates reception, changing rooms, first aid and support spaces. The upper floor is a glazed lightweight structure housing teams room, cafe, kitchen and toilets. and affords views over the park and pitches.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Environmental factors are a key concern in the design. Green technologies have been adopted in many areas in order to reduce energy demand. For example, solar thermal panels will provide the hot water for showers, and passive means of environmental design will help maintain comfort levels.

Queries please to:
 Ray Skinner (Trust Secretary)
 skinhicks@tiscali.co.uk
 07773394701



“BAME VOICE” is the new independent voice of Merton’s minority ethnic communities.

It’s key aims and objectives are:

- To advocate on behalf of Merton’s BAME communities in their dealings with public sector agencies and other statutory and non-statutory organisations.
- To provide a unified and strategic voice within the Borough ensuring that the BAME communities are actively involved in strategic decision making and that services provided meet the needs of these communities.
- To identify commonalities, but recognise the need to work through the issues a particular community might have.
- Reach out to newly settled minority ethnic communities and assist them in setting up structures and gaining access to services as well as delivering good quality services to their members.
- To promote and encourage mutual cooperation, assistance and the sharing of resources, expertise and information between members.

Formally launched on 4th February, the event attracted over 125 guests. This included a strong contingent from Merton Council led by the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Cabinet members, Councillors, the Chief Executive and heads of department. Statutory agencies, local and neighbouring voluntary/community groups, representing the breadth of Merton’s ethnic diversity attended and put up stalls to promote their services.

Guests were given a traditional African welcome by the pulsating drums of local musicians. This was followed by a resume of the origins and significance of BAME Voice for Merton and Merton Council’s response to its formation.

The Guest Speaker, an international consultant /trainer, specialising in community development and social policy issues, stressed the importance of giving recognition and support to grass roots community groups who make a significant difference to the way in which statutory policies and services are received by BAME communities.

The afternoon was taken up by workshops on a variety of issues of concern to BAME communities. Feedback from these workshops will form the basis of discussions BAME VOICE will be having with various stakeholders and the wider community. The event ended with a cultural show put on by dancers from different ethnic groups in Merton

With a Grant of £40,000 from Merton Council, spread over two years, the key areas of focus over the next two years will be:

- Identifying suitable BAME grass roots residents and providing training where necessary to represent BAME VOICE on various strategic, decision making bodies.
- Marketing culturally appropriate training programmes to the various sectors working with BAME communities e.g Social Services, NHS, Schools, the Police.
- Run workshops/programmes to encourage intercultural communications particularly between the more established BAME communities and the newer incomers to the area.
- Securing additional funding to develop and extend awareness of the heritage of the various BAME communities in Merton as a legacy for future generations.
- To preserve the BAME contribution to Merton's growth and development through the production of written and oral publications/DVD's.
- BAME VOICE to be a visible, contributing presence through joint community action in the disadvantaged areas of the Borough. e.g Community gardening, creation of 'harmony' spaces where people of different ethnicities can meet.

We hope that all BAME organisations, groups and communities will come behind BAME VOICE and make it truly representative of Merton's diverse communities.

Report for the JCC on the Safer Neighbourhood Board 25/02/2016

Evaluation/Appraisal Report on Merton SNB since its inception

Objective: Safer Neighbourhood Board is created to ensure the partnership between local communities and the local police to work on crime reduction issues. The SNB is also empowered to hold the police unto account and wherever necessary to guide or encourage the police to have an effective mechanism to communicate with local people to achieve MOPAC 7 objectives to reduce key neighbourhood crimes by 20%, boost public confidence by 20% and cut costs by 20% from 2013 – 2016.

IS THE SNB MEETING THE ABOVE OBJECTIVE?

At the last meeting held in December 2015, the Borough Commander, Stuart Macleod said Merton is on target to meet the 20/20/20 promise set in 2011/2012. Quoting from figures recorded on his dashboard (Oct 2015) that burglary reduction by 5.0%, robbery by 8.4%, theft from persons 1.5% and theft from motor vehicle 16.5%. Whilst other offences have correspondingly shown increases.

For the past four years percentages have been going up and down due to small number of changes. The board seem to spending most times on statistics, we need more narratives and that we should be discussing causes, solutions of crimes besides MOPAC 7 which is fluctuating and the police finding hard to reduce. Rather than been content with figures, SNB should be more concerned with finding out the reasons why these variations.

My personal worry has always been about the benefits of having MOPAC 7 and whether having these as priorities had been at the expense of other crimes. There are about 21 other crimes listed and 16 are year on year increase. The Borough Commander has in the past assured me this would not be the case, as all crimes are treated seriously and would like to see reporting of crimes on the increase. In summary, there are pockets of crime that if didn't happen would make people safer, better, increase confidence and satisfaction.

The Role of the Board Members: To represent their community voice on the board, bring issues from their community and feedback to the community and to share all consultations and information documents with their community.

This hasn't been happening on all the meetings I have attended. SNB will need to give serious consideration to the wider local community and how best to ensure their views are represented.

Meetings: quarterly; one face the people; one open conference at which priorities and issues identified by members of the public can be raised.

Merton's SNB have been having its quarterly meetings in doors but none of the others.

Public engagement at neighbourhood level through ward panels will provide greater opportunities for the public to engage with the police and other partners about the things that matter most in the area where they live. This gives the board the opportunity to bring together all those in the community who have been working to make the borough safer, to

update the wider community on the work that has been carried out over the year and to consult and engage with them on plans for the coming year.

We know that people are most likely to engage on matters of direct relevance to themselves and local panel meetings are the appropriate place for this kind of engagement. For examples crimes such as disability, hate, and domestic violence are under reported. These can only improve or encourage by face the people and open conference. Any face the people meeting must include Chief Executive, Borough Commander and others.

Stop and Search: There is where a police officer stops a member of the public and searches them. We have been getting statistics from the police on this issue showing a greater number of BAME are being stopped that their White counterpart. A black person was 3 times more likely to be stopped than a white person. We are also aware that Merton is not doing badly on public confidence & victim satisfaction but these are not currently being monitored or seek further explanation why it is so and what can be done.

Funding: About £22k was allocated to Merton SNB for projects in line to reductions in key neighbouring crime and to increasing community confidence. From hindsight this has proved to be inadequate and the funding process needs overhauling. We need bids on diversion opportunities i.e. any project that will take people off the streets.

I would conclude that the foregoing analysis show our SNB needs a vigorous assessment to deliver what it's supposed to do. More involvement with communities and local people, proper monitoring system and hold the police to account.

Finally, I need more interaction with BAME Organisations and would encourage dialogue on reporting of crimes and will be flagging the above concerns at the next meeting.

ABAYEH SAVAGE (JCC Representative)