

## 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)