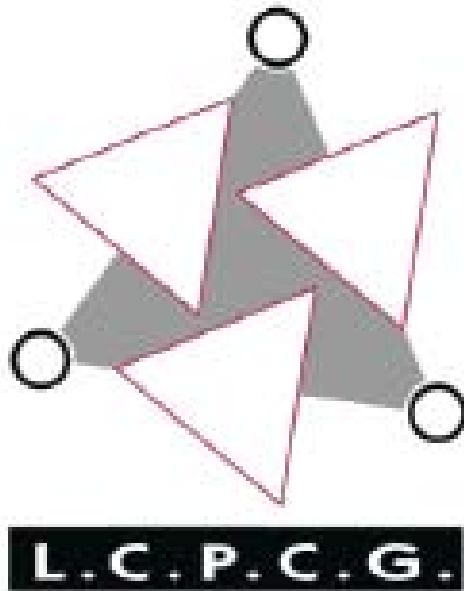


Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group



Special Conference 'A Community Call to Action'

**Working together for solutions on
gun, knife, gang and drug related crime**

Acknowledgements

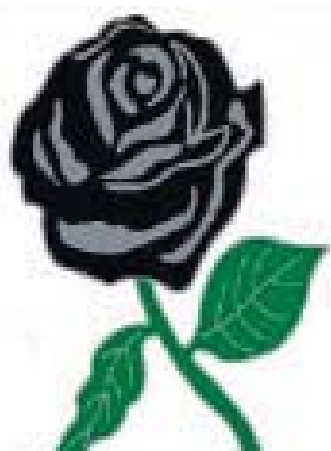
All participants and contributors to the Lewisham CPG Special Conference including:
Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham & Chair of The Safer Lewisham Partnership
Len Duvall, OBE, AM, Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority (at date of conference)
Bridget Prentice, MP Lewisham East
Jim Dowd, MP Lewisham West
Commander Paul Minton, Metropolitan Police Service
David Michael – Chair, Lewisham CPG, Co-Editor and CPG Adviser to report writer Dr Jill Jameson
Chief Superintendent Archibald Torrance, Borough Commander, Lewisham Police
Angela Slaven, Former Head of Crime Reduction Service and Supporting People, Lewisham Council
Superintendent Adrian Rabot, Acting Borough Commander, Lewisham Police
Superintendent Chris McDonald, Metropolitan Police Service, Operation Blunt
Councillor Jackie Addison, Vice Chair, Lewisham CPG
Lynne Costello, Founder – Mothers Against Murder and Aggression
Mike Franklin, Guns Amnesty Expert
Claudia Webbe, Vice Chair, Trident Independent Advisory Group
Twilight Bey, Lead Social Intervention Specialist
Alma Hunt, Lewisham CPG Strategy Group member
Gavin Jacobs, Youth Alliance
Khurram Shaikh, Lewisham Council, Community Safety Manager
Michael Clarke, Lewisham CPG Strategy Group member and Treasurer
Luziane Tchiegue-Nouta, Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham
Dami Benbow, former Young Deputy Mayor of Lewisham
Laverne Shirfield, Consultant on Young People's Issues
XLP Youth Group
Ty and The Young Black Positive Advocates
Philip Udeh, Youth Leader, Race Equality Action Lewisham
Anne Sharp, Lewisham Council Community Safety Team
Phil Turner, Lewisham CPG Strategy Group member
Detective Chief Inspector Will O'Reilly, Metropolitan Police Service, Serious Crime Directorate
Chief Inspector Simon Davis, Partnership Team, Lewisham Borough Police
Inspector Sarah Davies, Lewisham Borough Police
Inspector Tracy Jarvis, Partnership Team, Lewisham Borough Police
Juliet Alexander - Media Trainer & Lecturer in Communications - Conference Facilitator
Simon Woolley, Chair, Black Londoners Forum – Conference Facilitator
Helena Green, Lewisham CPG Temporary Co-ordinator
Roger Raymond, Lewisham CPG Temporary Co-ordinator
Marie Morrissey, Lewisham CPG Co-ordinator
Official photographer Tariq Chaudry
Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group, Special Conference Planning Group
Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group, Strategy Group Members
Compiled and edited by Dr Jill Jameson, University of Greenwich

Contact details for further information:

Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group
2nd Floor Civic Suite, Lewisham Town Hall, Rushey Green, Catford, London SE6 4RU
Telephone: 020 8314 8975

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This report is dedicated to those who have lost their lives in gun and knife crime in London, with sympathy to their bereaved families and thanks to The Black Rose Foundation.



The Black Rose symbol has been reproduced here with the kind permission of Stockwell High School whose pupils devised this symbol.

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Foreword by James Cleverley



Mayor of London's Youth Ambassador, Member of the Greater London Authority and Member of the Metropolitan Police Authority

Since the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, appointed me as his Ambassador for Young People in January this year, I have met with hundreds of young people, and organisations that work with young people, to hear about their concerns and priorities for London. Tackling youth crime is one of the top priorities, and through *Time for Action* we are seeking to address the complex, long-term root causes of crime and violence amongst young people. This is something I feel very strongly about: I am passionate about working with young people to address the issues which impact on their lives and their life chances. And I am determined that young Londoners should be given every chance of steering away from crime and violence to more positive alternatives.

The public is rightfully concerned that we do all we can to reverse serious youth violence. My hope is that we can draw together some of the excellent work already being done by the private, public and voluntary sectors, and unleash the talents of thousands of young people right across the capital. As someone born and brought up in Lewisham, I commend the work of the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group as a model for public agencies working on the issues that really matter to local communities.

Preface by

Professor Simon Holdaway

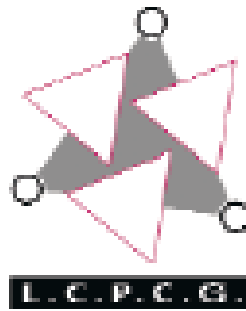


Professor of Criminology and Sociology – The University of Sheffield

Gun, knife, gang and drug-related crime – the focus of this report of a special conference – are deeply troubling but complex subjects. In order to solve the problems these crimes create, a wide range of circumstances need careful consideration. The inclusion of a statistical analysis of the extent of gun and knife crime that begins this report is excellent, and it should temper common misconceptions and over-reactions to already very serious matters. Once the dimensions of the problems are understood, there is a need to consider the proper contribution of the police, local authorities, schools, youth clubs, churches, parents (crucially) and many, many other resources that have to be brought to bear on these problems.

Critically ‘the local community’, in all its diversity, needs constantly to be in a central place. I hear the message of the report ‘this is our, not their problem, it is our problem’ shouting from its pages time and again. Unless the straightforward concern, goodness, proper outrage and energy that is found in Lewisham is harnessed to action where and when it is required of agencies and individuals, very little of significance will happen. The Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group has for a long time done and continues to do a wonderful job, bringing together agencies and individuals to tackle vital subjects affecting lives in dramatic ways for the better. This conference was a starting point. Lewisham’s communities must now sustain the momentum.

Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group



Special Conference Overview of Report

Part 1 – Executive Summary, Introduction

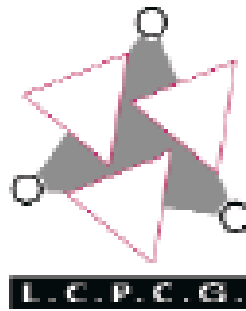
Part 2 – Proceedings of the Conference

Part 3 – Appendices

Part 4 – References



Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group



Part 1

Executive Summary

Introduction



A Community Call to Action

Executive Summary

This report, *A Community Call to Action (ACCA)*, has been produced by the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (Lewisham CPCG), with contributions from the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Lewisham Council, volunteer community groups, individuals and agencies who came together in the Council Chamber and committee rooms at Lewisham Town Hall Civic Suite on 13th April, 2007 to address issues relating to gun and knife crime incidents and their effects on communities and young people in Lewisham, its surrounding boroughs and more widely across London.

Following the executive summary and introduction in *Part 1* of this report, *Part 2* records the proceedings of the conference itself in April, 2007. *Part 3* includes a range of supporting documents such as *Appendices* and *Part 4* lists *References* relevant to the conference. The report is a testimony to the leadership and vision of David Michael, Chair of Lewisham CPCG, supported by the Strategy Group, Conference Planning Group and numerous other participating individuals who have encouraged a facilitative, open and democratic community involvement and participation in community-police liaison in Lewisham over several years.

The conference held in April 2007 provided a public space for the diverse communities of Lewisham to take responsibility for pro-active, positive actions about youth on youth violence. Held in the Council Chamber and public gallery of the Civic Suite of Lewisham Town Hall, the event was oversubscribed very quickly without any publicity, indicating strong concern and interest within Lewisham. Parents, school teachers, school governors, pupils, young people, elders and campaigning groups like Mothers Against Guns and Mothers Against Murder And Aggression (MAMAA) all came together as participants to register a general realization that communities had to work in partnership with the statutory agencies like the Police, Council, Police Authority and others to make progress on these issues.

The conference speeches and audience contributions demonstrated community recognition of shared values and purposes in Lewisham and commitment to engage in problem-solving regarding gun and knife crime. The partnership approach demonstrated was simultaneously sensitive to the diversity of those involved and also honest, critical and courageous in seeking lasting solutions. While the community had been shocked by a number of deaths and by the level of youth on youth violence, the conference noted that it was not good enough to be outraged and hopeless in response: there was a need to stand up to the situation and deal with it.

Conference speeches by community activists and the statutory agencies emphasised the need to involve and listen to young people in tailoring solutions, support, investment and strategies to tackle the disproportionate involvement of young people in violent crime, actively involving local people, agencies, schools, youth groups and the police and other statutory agencies in mutual endeavours to build safer neighbourhoods. Several speakers noted a

need to challenge negative thinking and empower the community through actions to strengthen individual self-esteem, personal and social development. Such community actions contribute to help save young lives, reduce injuries, strengthen families and mobilise the community into working together.

Two short films screened at the conference: *It Could Be* directed by Wayne Campbell and *Badman* by Jake Nava, highlighted the difficulty and complexity of situations of violence involving young people and the need for effective, positive solutions. Presentations by XLP youth group and Ty and the Young Black Positive Advocates emphasised opportunities and support for young people to improve life in their communities, while the Open Mic and Panel discussions considered ways in which an inter-generational community mix, including young people, could be involved in measures to increase trust and respect, debating solutions to stamp out violence and supporting the facilitation and provision of resources for youth clubs, mentoring, after-school projects and crime prevention.

Part 2 of this report provides a detailed record of the proceedings of the conference, which was notable for the range and diversity of the audience and the active participation and involvement of members. As numerous speakers observed, the conference provided an inspiring example of the way in which communities can together share actions for the improvement of complex, difficult social issues. *Part 2* also contains supporting items such as personal and biographical statements from speakers and panel members, notes of table discussions and supporting materials provided for the conference: all of these usefully contributed to the valuable work that has been done by the community to combat gun and knife crime and community involvement in this. The community in Lewisham has taken on these issues together in a responsible and positive way, to promote social cohesion for the benefit of all who live in the borough. There is considerable value in publishing this report in order to encourage and motivate others to carry out positive community-police liaison on gun and knife crime and related issues, work purposefully with key partners and to provide information on the processes, events and actions undertaken in Lewisham.

The participation and contribution of colleagues from surrounding boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark and those from afar as Harrow who came to support what they valued as good practice in community participation is also acknowledged.

Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group

August 2009

Introduction

This report, A Community Call to Action (ACCA), has been produced by the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (Lewisham CPG). The contributions of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Lewisham Council, volunteer community groups, individuals and agencies coming together to address the key issues of the Special Conference is documented here. The report provides a formal means of recording the presentations, discussions and participant contributions made at the Conference held in the Council Chamber and committee rooms at the Civic Suite Lewisham Town Hall on 13th April, 2007.

The Lewisham CPG 2007 conference was held to provide a forum for debate on issues relating to gun and knife crime incidents and their effects on communities and young people in Lewisham, the surrounding boroughs and more widely in London. The conference was about the community of Lewisham in all its diversity taking responsibility to do something pro-active and positive about youth on youth violence. The conference was held in the Council Chamber and public gallery and was oversubscribed very quickly without any publicity, thus registering the concerns and interest of Lewisham's community. The fact that parents, school teachers, school governors, pupils, young people, elders, campaigning groups like Mothers Against Guns and Mothers Against Murder And Aggression were participants indicated that there was a general realization that communities had to work in partnership with the statutory agencies like the Police, Council, Police Authority and others to make progress on these issues.

The report records a detailed account of the contributions made at that important conference, supplemented with information provided for the wider community on relevant conference-related materials and references. It is compiled to draw attention to the continuing problem of gun and knife-related violent crimes in London, and the important requirement for communities to work proactively together in a sustained way to reduce such crimes in the longer term. It is also written with mindfulness and respect for the tragic loss of life to the victims, families and communities involved in gun and knife crime in London. In remembering those who died, and those grieving from their loss, the report looks forward to positive actions that can be carried out in partnership to substantially diminish instances of such crimes.

The tragic, preventable loss of many young people's lives during recent years in London as a result of gun and knife crime has shocked local people. A devastating effect from such violent crime has occurred, involving the families of victims and offenders and many members of the wider communities that became caught up in the escalation of gun and knife crime involving young people in London. Gun and knife crime has a highly detrimental effect on all who become involved in it. Although minds and hearts are sometimes changed for the better as an unexpected community gift arising from such tragedies, this is a bleak consolation to those who have suffered. Such positive changes of hearts and minds are better achieved through preventative educational and

social measures against crime that succeed in averting death and injury. This report is therefore written in the hope that present and new generations may together create a more positive future that does not involve such crimes.

Statistics on Crime: UK and London

In the context of the above reported concerns relating to gun and knife crime, it is paradoxical that overall levels of total annual police-reported criminal offences have fallen in the United Kingdom in recent years, from 5.97 million in 2002-03 to 4.94 million in 2007-08 (see *Figure 1*). Within this, a substantial drop was recorded in London in the same period, from 1.08 million recorded offences in 2002-03 to 865,202 in 2007-08. Further, although recorded crime in the category of 'violence against the person' increased overall in the UK from 844,602 cases in 2002-03 to 960,167 in 2007-08, with a peak in recorded offences during 2004-06, *Figure 2* demonstrates that violent crimes against people in London have declined from a peak of 202,410 in 2004-05 to 172,989 in 2007-08.

Police Recorded Crime England and Wales Counting: Recorded Crimes 2002-08						
Geographic Area by Offence Type & Financial Year						
Offence Type - All Financial Year	Total					
Geographic Area	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
East Midlands	496,183	493,326	486,861	486,736	470,139	406,826
East of England	490,880	505,360	481,963	471,002	450,728	420,054
London	1,083,580	1,084,108	1,017,638	968,530	924,899	865,202
North East	280,480	280,038	258,183	257,035	250,873	223,712
North West	784,900	820,737	780,105	752,151	748,000	691,737
South East	691,916	733,760	726,687	728,309	746,797	680,390
South West	487,329	498,955	445,529	433,308	437,178	387,747
British Transport Police	17,264	19,182	17,800	19,380	19,400	16,000
Wales	244,781	249,264	267,624	268,010	268,873	284,023
West Midlands	600,141	601,302	533,343	521,205	510,348	457,600
Yorkshire & The Humber	674,810	680,487	680,625	608,688	578,400	521,293
Total	5,968,448	6,007,418	5,834,337	5,567,538	5,420,537	4,944,648

Figure 1: Police Recorded Crime in England and Wales 2002-08 (All offences)

Source: Home Office Statistics.

There is, then, an apparent anomaly between generalized Home Office statistical data on police-reported offences and the public street-level view, as portrayed in popular media, which is that violent crime is sharply on the rise, particularly in London. In accounting for these differences between official statistics on crime and public perceptions, it is important to note that trends vary from year to year owing to a complex range of factors and that police reported crime statistics are not always infallible: sometimes the categorization of crimes varies between different situations, police forces and geographical areas, and sometimes crime is un- or under-reported.

Furthermore, regarding longer-term trends, public perceptions about rising crime are possibly correct, if we examine figures on police recorded homicides

Police Recorded Crime: All		England and Wales: Countings: Recorded Crimes: Office Type & Area by Financial Year					
Offence Type	Financial Year	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Violence against the person	Geographic Area						
	East Midlands	65,621	73,851	76,043	78,484	78,778	75,358
	East of England	68,086	81,951	88,068	83,571	81,645	73,727
	London	179,339	186,685	202,410	197,579	181,797	172,089
	North East	39,164	48,561	41,537	46,206	49,194	41,065
	North West	103,509	118,041	143,773	144,156	135,655	118,690
	South East	93,479	113,394	133,008	140,569	151,654	145,650
	South West	66,761	78,251	86,100	85,715	86,955	78,851
	British Transport Police	30,175	11,482	13,114	14,381	15,112	15,525
	Wales	53,134	53,014	53,335	52,592	53,667	49,376
	West Midlands	97,509	107,362	103,526	103,481	105,914	96,360
	Yorkshire & The	87,704	94,250	102,087	112,041	105,178	92,376
	Total	844,892	968,882	1,047,770	1,058,788	1,041,369	980,187

Figure 2: Police Recorded Crime for Violence against the person in England & Wales 2002-08

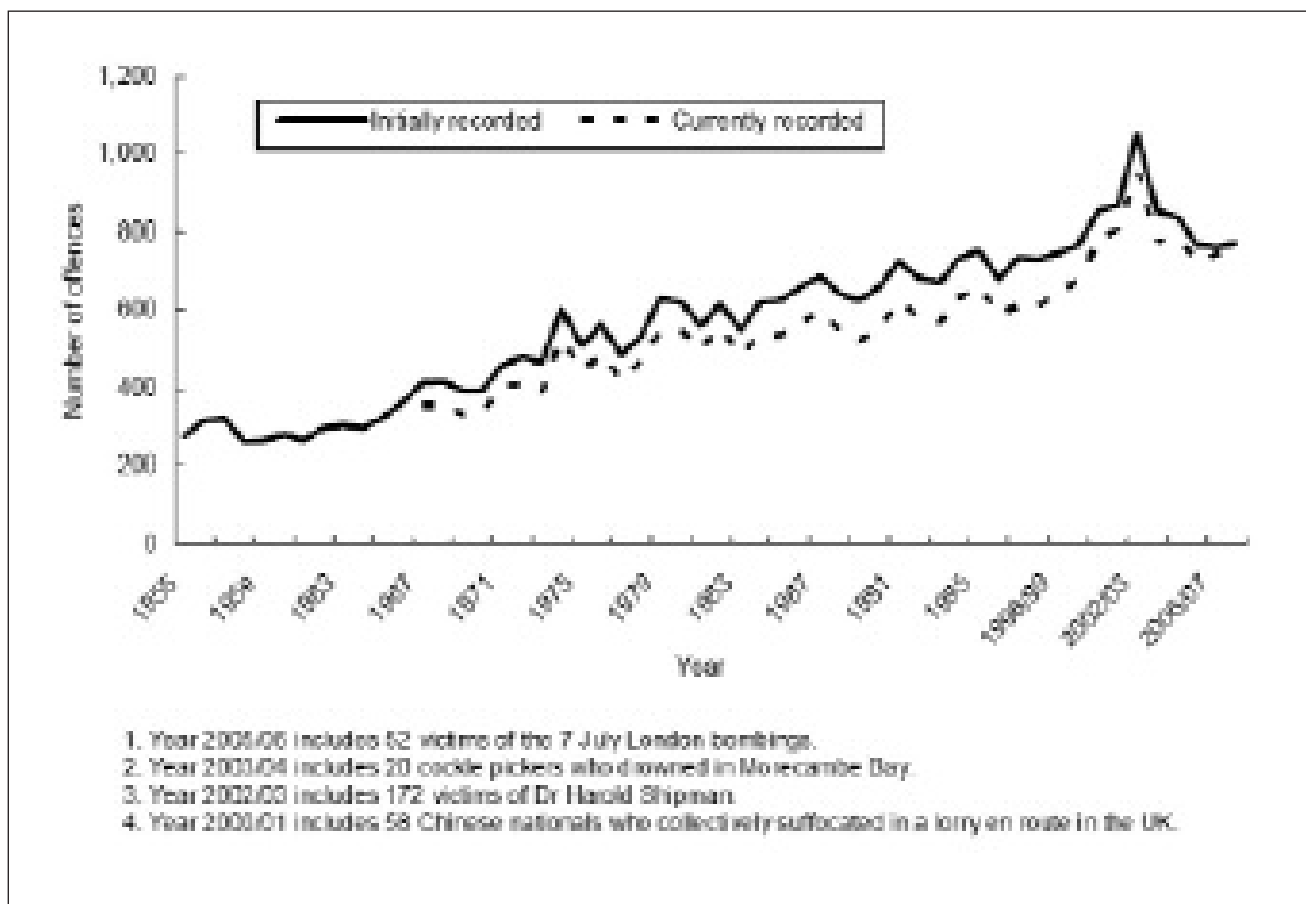


Figure 3: Homicide offences recorded by police in England and Wales, 1955 to 2007/08

Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin Supplementary Volume 2 Third Edition 2007-08

during the longer period 1955–2007, as illustrated in *Figure 3*. Over this period, it becomes clearer that there has been a steadily rising trend in UK police reported homicidal cases over the past fifty or so years, with some peaks and troughs within the overall trend. In this context, more specifically, *Figure 4* reports homicide statistics in England and Wales from 1997–2008. Examining these and the summary of findings by Povey, Coleman, Kaiza and Roe (2008), it becomes apparent that of 773 UK-wide deaths initially reported as homicide in 2007–08, almost three-quarters of homicide victims (73%) were male, that the most common method of killing people involves a sharp instrument (35%), while the number of homicides involving sharp instruments in 2007/08 (270) is, as the editors point out, ‘the highest number recorded during a financial year since the Homicide Index was introduced in 1977’ (ibid: 9). In addition, we should note that these figures only report homicide, whereas there are many non-fatal crimes involving guns, knives and other weapons.

The particular problems of London

Investigating the data more deeply, we can also observe that there are particular problems relating specifically to London. Generalized criminal statistics do not necessarily highlight issues that are crucial regarding London-based gun and knife-related crime that concern this report, nor do they single out incidences in which young people and specific communities are involved. By contrast, the more focused statistics reported from the Metropolitan Police’s Trident Unit included here (see pages 84–88) are revealing. Originally established to examine issues of gun crime relating to London’s black communities, the Trident Unit reported initial findings to the Home Affairs Committee (HAC) inquiry into young black people and the criminal justice system in 2007 (HAC, 2007). Trident provided a statistical analysis of firearm homicides and shootings in 2006 within the London Metropolitan Police Area. The unit’s statistics demonstrated that African/Caribbean males had committed 79 per cent of the offences involved in gun crime, and that 75 per cent of overall incidents also involved African/Caribbean victims. Trident also put these crimes into wider context, noting that gun and knife-enabled homicide is in fact very rare:

Gun and knife enabled offences are uncommon. In London during 2004/05, only 2 percent of all recorded violent crime involved a gun and 5 percent involved a knife. This said, in 2003/04 more gun-enabled crimes were recorded in London than any other region in England and Wales: around 40 percent of the national total. This may seem a large figure, but it equates to around 6 offences per 10,000 Londoners per year.

Source: Trident reporting MPS recorded crime and Povey, D (2004) Home Office

The focus provided by Trident is therefore significant in the context of this report. The findings are crucial in enabling the families and communities involved in recent gun and knife-enabled crimes in London not only to come to terms with their loss, but also to identify and make sense of community trends that have been emerging. Making sense of these apparently senseless gun and knife crimes enables the community to begin to see the ways in which young

people in London are being affected by wider trends so that communities can also identify methods by which young people may be protected and assisted. The Trident Unit has drawn attention to the issue of youth involvement in crime, as Squires, Grimshaw and Solomon (2008) report:

Trident unit commented that '[t]he most worrying trend over recent years is the commission of Trident offences by younger suspects', with the peak age of both offending and victimisation being 19 years... its evidence also confirmed that 'gun crime' is predominantly committed by males the evidence of the Trident unit noted: 'Much of Trident gun crime is, unsurprisingly, linked to the poorer London Boroughs, areas of deprivation, high ethnic minority population and high unemployment' (HAC, 2007).

Squires, Grimshaw and Solomon (2008)

The involvement of increasing numbers of people in violent crime in London boroughs has over the past several years been much reported in the news, with numerous expressions of concern. For example, in 2007, an article in *The Sunday Times* reported that knife crime had doubled in the past two years (Leppard, 2007). Leppard's article cited David Davis, then shadow home secretary, who said that ministers had been complacent about this hitherto:

This explosion in knife crime is the most astounding symptom of Britain's broken society. The Government has been slow to recognise and even slower to act to deal with this plague on the streets of our towns and cities. Leppard (2007)

Leppard's article also cited Enver Solomon, Deputy Director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (CCJS) at King's College in London, who said that:

There is no doubt there are more kids carrying knives, but it's not clear why Much of it is for personal safety rather than for putting it against someone's throat.' (ibid)

Leppard further cited the 2007 research report published by CCJS which analysed figures from the British Crime Survey and concluded that: 'Since it's extremely difficult if not impossible to limit the availability of knives, and knives are merely a tool used in violent crime, success in fighting knife crime will only come with success in dealing with the underlying causes of violence, fear and insecurity.' (ibid, 2007).

Despite the overall downward trend in UK crime, it is evident that crime is on the increase in specific instances. Most notable are those instances involving drugs, knives, guns and young people from black communities in London, specifically African/Caribbean males. As Brown (2008), notes in relation to both the UK as a whole and to London:

'... statistics show violent crimes are sharply up in recent years, with those using guns and knives rising the fastest. Twenty years ago, gun crime in Britain was so unknown that a single incident of it would

Table 1.03: Offences currently¹ recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1997/98 to 2007/08

Numbers	Recorded crime										
Apparent method	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male victims											
Sharp instrument	157	151	155	150	164	170	185	188	170	168	212
Blunt instrument	47	41	43	40	58	58	83	80	41	34	44
Hitting, kicking, etc.	78	78	82	86	120	112	111	111	91	108	140
Strangulation ²	12	28	28	34	18	28	18	18	14	28	30
Drowning ³	45	40	52	63	91	72	61	60	38	53	47
Explosion ⁴	1	2	5	2	-	2	-	2	24	1	-
Burnings	18	13	9	9	18	2	19	17	18	14	14
Drowning ⁵	5	3	3	7	8	4	20	8	3	8	5
Poison or drugs ⁶	12	28	28	21	28	62	11	10	28	28	38
Motor vehicle ⁷	12	11	10	11	15	18	15	17	12	3	9
Other	28	28	28	48	25	27	21	20	17	28	30
Not known	9	12	29	9	17	28	42	20	41	44	22
Total	400	420	484	544	608	647	664	664	478	517	585
Female victims											
Sharp instrument	65	53	68	58	67	10	58	72	51	18	30
Blunt instrument	21	24	26	27	24	22	28	17	18	11	22
Hitting, kicking, etc.	24	13	15	18	25	58	28	65	28	13	25
Strangulation ²	58	49	38	63	60	47	49	40	42	21	41
Drowning ³	2	4	9	9	8	28	8	10	11	8	8
Explosion ⁴	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	28	-	-
Burnings	13	18	4	9	14	15	9	15	12	15	13
Drowning ⁵	1	3	5	2	4	3	4	4	1	1	1
Poison or drugs ⁶	5	23	23	12	15	138	9	10	11	1	4
Motor vehicle ⁷	1	3	1	5	4	3	7	5	2	3	5
Other	12	17	18	22	18	21	18	13	8	18	22
Not known	18	11	21	6	14	26	18	20	31	18	16
Total	289	218	228	229	289	412	222	230	204	195	230
Total victims											
Sharp instrument	202	204	223	218	231	280	243	260	221	286	242
Blunt instrument	68	65	70	77	82	48	73	80	48	45	66
Hitting, kicking, etc.	102	91	98	104	145	178	137	127	111	121	165
Strangulation ²	62	77	66	107	78	67	67	60	52	49	67
Drowning ³	47	44	61	72	99	72	69	72	49	61	52
Explosion ⁴	1	2	6	2	1	2	-	2	24	1	-
Burnings	31	31	13	18	22	22	28	32	29	29	27
Drowning ⁵	6	6	8	9	12	7	28	12	4	9	6
Poison or drugs ⁶	17	51	51	33	33	202	29	20	31	29	32
Motor vehicle ⁷	13	14	11	16	19	21	22	22	14	6	14
Other	40	45	46	66	43	48	39	33	25	41	52
Not known	27	23	50	15	31	54	60	50	72	62	38
Total	689	638	712	773	897	1059	786	784	629	712	783

1. As at 1 November 2008, figures are subject to revision as cases are determined by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Including asphyxiation. Year 2003/04 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a karaoke music bar in the UK.

3. These figures may not agree with those in the 'Firearm, chapter 10' as (a) figures include cases where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument, and (b) homicide figures include shooting by roadblocks and are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.

4. Year 2002/03 includes 10 victims of the 7 July 2005 bombings.

5. Year 2003/04 includes 28 roadblockers who drowned in Mexico's Gulf.

6. Year 2002/03 includes 172 victims of Dr Shipman.

7. Excluding death by car/cyclist/roadside hitting and apparent vehicle taking.

Figure 4: Homicide offences recorded by police in England and Wales, 1997 to 2008

Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin Supplementary Volume 2 Third Edition 2007-08

make front page news, but now it occurs daily. Home Office figures show that the number of people injured in firearm incidents rose from 864 in 1998/89 to 3,821 in 2005/06. Hospital admission figures show that assaults and injuries from knives and sharp implements led to 12,340 people going to hospital in England and Wales last year, a 19 per cent rise on five years ago. The number of children suffering stab wounds has nearly doubled from 95 in 2002/03 to 179 in 2006/07. In the first seven months of 2008, 31 teenagers have been shot or stabbed to death in Britain; by early July 2008, 18 teenagers had been stabbed to death in London alone, more than in all of 2007. Children openly tell newspapers that everyone they know carries knives for protection. Although flick-knives were popular in earlier decades, the knife culture now seems far more widely spread.

Brown (2008: 6)

The London-based Guns, Gangs and Weapons (GGW) Forum, set up in September 2005 in response to concerns about gun and knife-enabled crime in London, has also reported similar trends, noting that:

Gun crime has a devastating impact on the lives of victims, perpetrators, families and communities. At a time when overall crime is falling in Britain, gun crime is on the rise. Police figures show that people involved in gang violence are getting younger, and the offences more serious. Between January 2005 and January 2006, gun-related offences went up by 5%, and recent research by Communities that Care found that 1 in 10 school-children in the UK has carried a knife.

GGW (2009)

Within this overall picture, Gunther has observed that 'there is a dearth of empirical research – rooted within local neighbourhood settings – that attempts to explore many of the complexities and differences inherent within the contemporary black British youth experience(s) (2008: 350). He notes that criminological and critical theorist perspectives have been limited regarding investigation and understanding of the lived experiences of young black people and their unique perspectives:

In general, criminologists and critical cultural theorists interested in exploring race and crime in the British context have tended either to focus on why certain black youths commit crimes (Pryce, 1979; Pratt, 1980; Lea and Young, 1984; Pitts, 1986; Burney, 1990; Barker et al., 1992) – or alternatively on young black males' continued victimization and criminalization by the media, police and criminal justice system (Hall et al., 1978; Gilroy, 1982, 1987b; Gordon, 1983; Gutzmore, 1983; Bowling and Phillips, 2002)..... By solely focusing on the offending behaviours and activities of young people (see, for example, Hallsworth, 2005; Sanders, 2005; Wright et al., 2006), as researchers we fail to obtain a more holistic picture of them and situate their actions and behaviours within a wider neighbourhood context.

(ibid: 350)

The situation in Lewisham

The Lewisham CPGC conference explored these issues from a wider community perspective, including specific contributions from young people themselves in the context of the shocking crime that has been experienced in London, in the South London boroughs, and in Lewisham in particular. In *Figure 5* we include updated numbers of 'violent crimes against the person' recorded by police in South London in 2007-08. These figures demonstrate that, although many positive actions have been achieved since the 2007 conference, there is still much work to do together to tackle both violent crime and crime-related issues that continue seriously to affect London boroughs.

A Community Call to Action Conference: 13 April 2007

In the context of the shocking experiences experienced by the local community in Lewisham and surrounding boroughs regarding gun and knife crime in London as reported above, the *A Community Call to Action* conference was held on 13th April, 2007 in the Council Chamber and committee rooms at the Civic Suite in Lewisham Town Hall. It attracted numerous participants without the need for any formal publicity, highlighting the community's strong desire to participate in collaborative action to improve this complex and difficult situation. The events of the day are described in detail in *Part 2* of this report and a short summary is provided here.

Proceedings of the Conference

Following an introduction to the conference by conference facilitator Juliet Alexander, a welcome from Lewisham CPGC Chair David Michael and opening address by the Major of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock, the conference was addressed by Len Duvall, OBE, AM, Commander Paul Minton and the current and former Deputy Young Mayors of Lewisham. A presentation by the youth group XLP was followed by a break and a speech by Twilight Bey, Lead Social Intervention Specialist in conflict mediation.

A heart-rending personal testimony from Reverend Nancy Odunewu, in remembrance of her murdered son Emmanuel, was followed by a presentation by Detective Chief Inspector Will O'Reilly, who described the work of the Metropolitan Police Service, Serious Crime Directorate Family Liaison team, and a presentation by Superintendent Adrian Rabot and Inspector Sarah Davies on the work of Operation Trilogy in Lewisham borough. A range of table discussions were then held, followed by a lunch and networking.

After lunch, the afternoon session was opened by Simon Woolley, Chair of the Black Londoners' Forum, following which the conference was addressed by Superintendent Chris McDonald on Operation Blunt. Contributions from Lewisham Members of Parliament, Bridget Prentice and Jim Dowd followed. There was then an Open Mic discussion, with members of the audience debating a range of issues. A Panel addressed a range of questions from the audience, and many items were raised on issues of community concern.

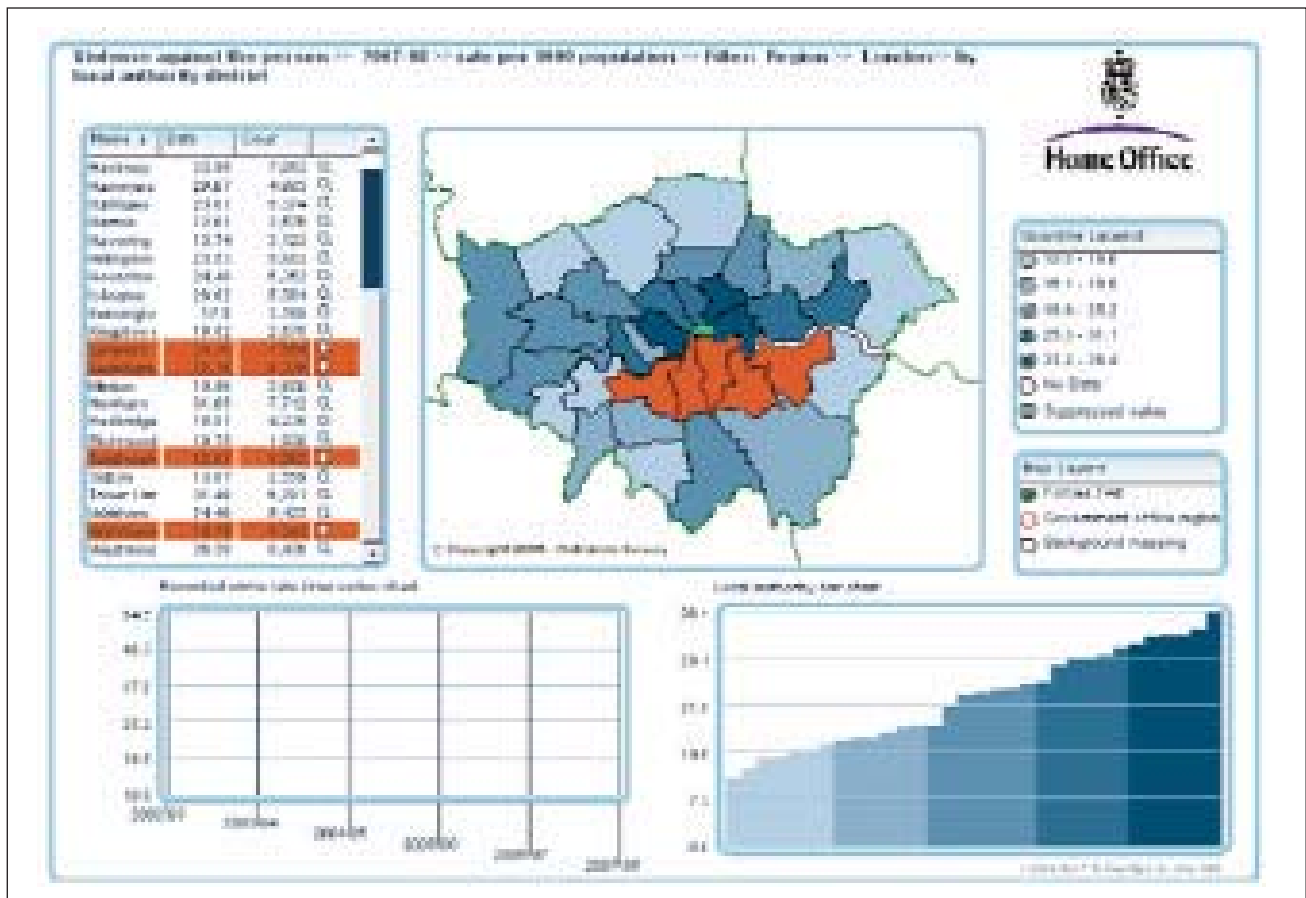
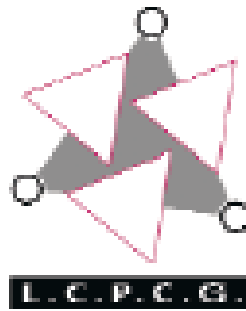


Figure 5: Violence against the person: offences recorded by police in South London, 2007-08

Source: Home Office Research Development Statistics

Following the panel discussions, there was a speech by Claudia Webbe, Board Director of London Crimestoppers and Vice-Chairperson of Trident Independent Advisory Group. Ty and the Young Black Positive Advocates then delivered a presentation to show the way in which young people are involved in positive actions in the community. Simon Woolley summarised the events of the day, thanking speakers, panel members and delegates. David Michael delivered the closing address, saying that Lewisham CPCG had agreed that the event should not be a one-off consultation but would be followed by a range of ongoing community actions and events. David gave a final thanks to all, including those organising, supporting and participating in the conference. The event closed at around 4.30 pm.

Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group

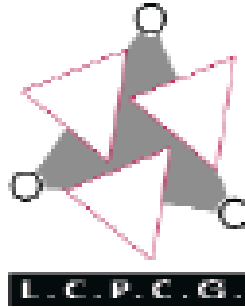


Part 2

Proceedings of Conference



Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group



Special Conference 'A Community Call to Action'

Friday 13th April 2007
Programme

- 9.30 Registration and Refreshments
- 10.00 Conference Begins – David Michael, Chair, Lewisham CPCG
- 10.05 Short Films: "It could be" by Wayne Campbell and "Badman" by Jake Nava
- 10.15 Welcome by David Michael, Chair Lewisham CPCG
- 10.20 Opening by Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock
- 10.25 Len Duvall OBE, AM, Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority
- 10.30 Commander Paul Minton, Metropolitan Police Service
- 10.40 Luziane Tcheigue-Nouta, Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham and Demi Benbow, former Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham
- 10.50 Youth Group Presentation by XLP
- 11.05 B R E A K
- 11.20 Twilight Bey, Lead Social Intervention Specialist

Proceedings of Conference

- 11.40 Personal Testimony: Reverend Nancy Odunewu
- 11.50 Detective Chief Inspector Will O'Reilly, Serious Crime Directorate
- 12.00 Operation Trilogy by Acting Borough Commander, Superintendent Adrian Rabot and Inspector Sarah Davies
- 12.10 Table Discussions
- 1.00 Lunch
- 1.45 Superintendent Chris McDonald, Metropolitan Police Service, Operation Blunt
- 1.55 Gavin Jacobs and Michael Grace to introduce Rough Diamond Short DVD
- 2.15 Bridget Prentice MP and Jim Dowd MP
- 2.25 Open Mic Discussion
- 3.15 B R E A K
- 3.30 Panel and questions
 - Mike Franklin, Guns Amnesty Expert
 - Claudia Webbe, Vice Chair Trident Independent Advisory Group
 - Gavin Jacobs, Youth Alliance
 - Philip Udeh, Youth Leader, Race Equality Action Lewisham
 - Laverne Shirfield, Consultant on Young People's Issues
 - Lynne Costello, Founder, Mothers Against Murder and Aggression
- 4.10 Ty and Young Black Positive Advocates
- 4.25 Summary by Simon Woolley, Chair Black Londoners Forum
- 4.30 C L O S E – David Michael, Chair Lewisham CPCG



Introduction

Juliet Alexander, Facilitator

Juliet Alexander, Media Trainer and a Lecturer in Communications on Boston University's UK programme, welcomed people to the conference as the facilitator for the morning session. Juliet said that the conference had been called in response to youth on youth violence, leading to murders of young people in London, affecting families, neighbourhoods and the wider community. The situation had been widely reported in the media.

Juliet thanked Helena Green for her hard work in co-ordinating the various aspects of the conference for Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (Lewisham CPCG). She then introduced David Michael, the Chair of Lewisham CPG.



The Conference Begins:

David Michael, Chair of Lewisham CPG

David Michael, the Chair of Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (Lewisham CPG) welcomed everyone to the conference. David said that he had been a resident in Lewisham for 34 years and had deep knowledge of the local area. He was pleased to introduce this special conference. It was about young people we've lost through gun, knife, gang and drug related crime, in a series of tragic and senseless incidents involving loss of life and serious injury through violent crime.

David asked the audience to observe an official minute's silence, for everyone in the audience to remember and pay their respects to the young people who had lost their lives in violent crime across London and elsewhere, and to their bereaved families.

All conference delegates stood to observe a minute's silence to remember the lives lost



David Michael

David MICHAEL has been a resident in the Borough of Lewisham for 34 years. He is Chair of Lewisham CPGG. He Chairs the Lewisham CPGG Strategy Group and is a member of the CPGG Stop and Search Monitoring Group. David also represents the group on the Pan-London CPGG Chairs Community Engagement Group. The Group meets periodically with the Commissioner and Management Board of the Metropolitan Police Service.

David has also been on the Executive Committee of the Pan-London CPGG Chairs Community Engagement Group representing the interests of Lewisham, Southwark, Lambeth and Wandsworth CPGGs. He is an appointed Adviser to the Mayor of Lewisham and Lewisham Council on Community Cohesion and Community Relations. David is a retired Detective Chief Inspector. He served in the Metropolitan Police Service for 30 years and twice worked as a Police Officer in Lewisham.

LCPCG Special Conference pack materials, April, 2007

Short Films: *It Could Be* by Wayne Campbell; *Badman* by Jake Nava

It was announced that two short films would be screened at the conference: *It Could Be* directed by Wayne Campbell and *Badman*, directed by Jake Nava. Both films focus on situations of violence involving young people.

It Could Be, directed and edited by Wayne Campbell, and featuring a poem written and performed by Mosaique, with photography by Poe Panayiotou, is a short film that highlights the senselessness of knife-related violent crime. The film tells a short story in which a young man, wearing a hoodie, talking happily on the phone, is walking in a city road when he is attacked by a group of three young men, for no apparent reason. The recording fades to silhouette, and a narrator then comments on the craziness of life in the streets, in which an aggressive, commercialised self-seeking mentality has led to unnecessary violence. Shots of the bleeding victim are interspersed with commentary, as the narrator asks the community to heal these scars, because 'this is how it is, but not how it could be'. The film reports the 91 serious knife attacks carried out between May 24th – June 30th 2006, including 19 deaths. A commentator reports that knife crime consistently accounts for around half of all murders each year. The narrator concludes by saying that what people need to do is respect their lives or they will end up with 'blood on their hands'. The end shots comprise statistics in white on black text reporting increasing knife crime in 2005-06.

Badman, directed by Jake Nava, focuses on gun crime, telling the story of a young man who accidentally shoots a young woman in a minor incident in which, having had a drink, he brandishes a gun opportunistically seized to show off to others. He is pushed by a rival who wants him to get rid of the gun. In the scuffle a bullet is fired and a young girl passer-by is injured. When he realises what has happened, the young man runs off to escape. However, he discovers he can't escape the crime so easily. He becomes increasingly guilty, isolated and withdrawn as he realises that his family and friends, aware of the crime, are shunning his company, and another young man has been arrested for it. The film charts a rapid deterioration in his mental state from the first shots of him as a happy young man with his family, to the last blacked-out shot, in which he imagines he hears again the gunshot incident and the girl screaming. *Badman* is also the title of the first single from Roll Deep's second album, *Rules and Regulations*. The Metropolitan Police Service, Trident Team funded the film, which was named as video of the year by MTV in 2007.



Welcome Address

David Michael, Chair of Lewisham CPCG

David delivered the official Welcome Address to the Special Conference. David observed that the idea of the conference had originated towards the end of last year (2006), as a response to recent events involving violent crime in London and the tragic deaths of a number of young people.

The murder of Jason Gayle Bent on the Milton Court Estate in New Cross, other murders in the same time frame and the level of youth on youth violence, had resulted in calls from the community asking what could be done. It was not good enough for people just to be outraged by these occurrences. The conference organisers and audience were *not* here with a sense of hopelessness, but needed to stand up to the situation and deal with it.

David quoted former Metropolitan Police Service, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, (now Professor) John Grieve, who held portfolios including Director of Intelligence, Director of Training, Director of the Anti-Terrorist Branch and first Director of the Racial & Violent Crime Task Force (now the Diversity & Citizen Focus Directorate) at New Scotland Yard. John Grieve's mantra was, "it is communities who solve serious and organised crime" and "it is communities who solve terrorism." In the same way it is communities who have a significant part to play in solving youth on youth violent crime. David was also been a contributor to the evaluation of the *Stephen Lawrence Inquiry* report. Rather than just doing the body count, people needed to put their heads together to do something positive to address the issues and concerns.



Opening by the Mayor of Lewisham Sir Steve Bullock

Sir Steve Bullock opened the conference, congratulating David Michael and others who had organised it, saying that the desire of the community in Lewisham and elsewhere to address the issue of violent crime involving young people was laudable.

Sir Steve said that there wasn't just one thing that could solve the problem of violent crime, something that is multifaceted and has many roots. He noted that incidents involving violent crime don't happen in isolation: there are many complex parts involved in this. There is not just one issue involved – for example, race is only a part of incidents of violent crime; many other aspects are involved. Sir Steve said that the pressures that young people face today are diverse and complex. There is a strange divergence between the values that we, in the community, want our young people to live by and the media messages constantly being put out which say that it is OK to behave in ways that are different from these values. He summarised as follows:

- Many people are addressing part of the issue but often work in isolation
- There is a need to try and see the big picture if we are to find a way forward
- We must not fall into the trap of believing that this is just an issue for the black community – it affects us all
- There have been problems with youth violence in the past – we need to learn from these
- What is different today is the pressures that young people face
- We need to work together – across age groups, across communities, citizens and public bodies
- We need to offer young people positive alternatives and support.

Sir Steve said that we need to give young people in our communities hope, so that they can fulfil their talents and dreams, and so that every young person is able to see a future for themselves. He believed that positive things emerging from the conference would enable the community to look forward together with optimism. He said he was looking forward to the day and to working together.

Sir Steve Bullock – Mayor of Lewisham – Supporting Statement

Violent crime among young people can have devastating consequences for those caught up in the violence, their families and the communities in which they live. But we should not be overly influenced by the sensationalist headlines and the emotive journalism that sells the newspapers we see everyday.

We have responsibility as community leaders to come up with real solutions to real problems; solutions that involve young people and respect their concerns as much as the concerns of the community around them. Solutions that lead young people away from crime and offer hope through education, jobs and improved life chances. If that is not enough and does not work we do have to work with the Police and others to ensure those who are intent on a life of crime ultimately pay their dues.

It is our turn to make sure that we do the right thing by our young people and offer the right solutions.

LCPCG Special Conference pack materials, April, 2007



Len Duvall, OBE, AM

Chair, Metropolitan Police Authority

Len Duvall addressed the audience, saying that no one agency could solve the challenges that we face – he wanted every institution and agency to take their part in finding solutions. The problems were far too complex to leave to one agency to ‘solve’ – we must work together.

Len reminded the audience that the majority of young people are law-abiding citizens, but the media does not report that: they tend to respond instead with knee-jerk reactions. Quick responses are needed. Len said that he wanted to minimise harm and hurt to young people through such responses. However, he said that we also need sustainability and long-term solutions and to be proactive in working on solutions and in working differently. We need to move from a reactive mode to a more proactive way of being, with a different type of engagement.

Len stated that we need to develop strategies of support. Young people don’t have confidence in us to find solutions – they and their parents need support and appropriate responses. He said that we do need law enforcement and the right to challenge crime, but we also need to stop emerging trends of usually young men undertaking crime who aren’t connected with communities. We need to target those involved. We haven’t got all the answers, but need to listen more and to interact and engage with young people, by picking up and interacting with young people positively and learning, ourselves, to listen. We need to work together. Len said that he welcomed the conference today. We need to think about and through some of these strategies, to work out ‘what works’ and to defeat the challenges facing us.

Lewisham CPCG Event on Gun, Knife, Drugs and Gang Related Crime Message from Len Duvall AM, Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority

The Metropolitan Police Authority is clear that tackling youth involvement in gang-related crime is a top priority in order to maintain the reduction in firearms offences, tackle knife crime and to reassure Londoners that the latest spate of murders in south London are being urgently addressed.

Every gun crime is extremely disturbing, but it should be noted that gun crime in Lewisham is down by over 8% in the last year. Crime involving knives is stable. We recognise the concern however, that those involved in these crimes are getting younger.

We will continue to work determinedly with the Met Police and our partners to do everything we can to reduce further violent crime and victims. Any illegal use of guns or knives is taken extremely seriously and will not be tolerated. We are pleased to see the support being given to this serious issue by the Lewisham CPCG and would like to express our commitment to working together with stakeholders to develop long term solutions to this serious problem.

A key issue for all of us involved in this fight is the need to divert young people away from the gun and knife culture, preferably long before they find themselves caught up in this invidious criminal world where it is mistakenly considered cool to carry a gun or knife. There is nothing cool about carrying offensive weapons as fashion accessories or as tools of intimidation, suppression and control. This sort of behaviour can and does lead to a tragedy, both for the victim and the culprit. In both cases lives are destroyed.

The MPA has always made combating gun crime a very high priority. In 2004 our gun crime scrutiny highlighted areas where the Met could improve. Since then, significant progress has been made in most areas, and the work also precipitated changes to the law, with the mandatory minimum five-year jail sentence being introduced for the possession of illegally held firearms. We support the approach taken by the Met, in particular with regard to the specialist teams they have in place, like Trident and the work of Operation Blunt, which have developed very good community relations and can point to a number of successes in crime prevention. Other structural changes will improve the amount of credible intelligence available and the way it is used.

Partnership working is very important and it is improving, and we have to recognise that this is not something the police can do on their own. It is crucial that local networks are established to develop wide-ranging and cohesive strategies to divert our young people away from violent crime.

Some of the key issues we now need to address include the unwelcome development of offenders becoming younger (a quarter are aged under 18), and their lives being more chaotic and their behaviour more unpredictable than ever before. And to compound the problems they are often unknown to police, making it much harder for police to intervene and prevent incidents.

There is also an over-representation of gun crime in black communities, which is why we have the specialist teams such as Trident to address this issue with black communities. But despite all of this, we should point out that although horrific, there are still a relatively small number of incidents each year, involving a relatively small number of people. But it does cause much alarm and distress among communities and we must reassure them that everything that can be done is being done to address the problem.



**Chief Superintendent Archibald Torrance –
Borough Commander, Lewisham Borough Police**

‘Lewisham is an exciting and dynamic place where there is a lot to be proud of and to celebrate. There is every reason to be optimistic about Lewisham’s future because so much potential still exists to be realised especially from within young people.

But sometimes with tragic consequences, a significant minority seeks to undo all the good that Lewisham represents.

Lewisham Police have a vital role to play in making places safe but the police cannot do that alone.

The police together with other agencies and principally our Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership need the community’s support, particularly to tackle the underlying causes of violent crime.

That is why I applaud the inspirational work of Lewisham’s Community Police Consultative Group (Lewisham CPCG) in hosting this special conference about gun, knife, drug and gang related crime.

I believe this ‘Community Call To Action’, under the leadership of the Lewisham CPCG’s Chair, David Michael, could prove to be a turning point in combating the ‘men of violence’ and those that peddle misery.

This is a rich opportunity to contribute to the solutions and I commend the conference to you. I look forward to a successful day and an even bigger future for Lewisham.’

LCPCG Special Conference supporting statement materials, April, 2007



Commander Paul Minton

Metropolitan Police Service

Commander Minton addressed the conference, saying that he had served in the police force for around 26 years: he was conscious of the range of experience and knowledge in the hall. Paul said that the issues involving knives, guns, gangs, drugs and violent crime in general were real issues, and we need to deal with them. The focus on the sorts of weapons involved is less important than understanding the complex nature of the problem and developing regional and national solutions.

He reported that around a third of all recorded crime is committed by 10-17 year olds, and around half of all victims of crime are under the age of 18.

The violence used by young people in such situations was one of the most serious issues and we need to reduce the risk to young people. The numbers involved were less important than the daily reality of worry for our own safety. Worry was very important – young people have a right not to be victimised.

Crime in London was falling, in fact: there had recently been less violence and gun crime than in previous years. However, Paul said that the reduction in age of both victims and offenders alongside the involvement of gangs were critical elements in the latest incidences of violent crime. He advised that we need to:

- listen to young people and tailor solutions to them
- give support for parenting, schools, communities and agencies
- invest in youth provision for those at risk and learning via education and training
- arrive at an understanding of what works, with evaluation of strategies that work.

Commander Minton called attention to the ‘acute’ concern he shared about the disproportionate involvement of young people in violent crime.

He noted the tragic events that had happened in February, 2006. In a period of twelve days, there were five murders of teenagers in the area of Southwark and Lambeth. In Lewisham, Jason Gayle Bent was stabbed in September, 2006. Tragic murders had also occurred in Southwark and in North and East London.

He said a range of solutions was needed – this was not a problem just for the police alone to deal with. The current widespread practical support from communities was vital. A ‘real appetite for joining forces to confront shared problems’ had emerged and he believed this would deliver positive outcomes.

Speech from Commander Paul Minton, Metropolitan Police Service –

I am conscious of the range of expertise and knowledge that resides within this hall and I am very grateful to be able to speak. The issues surrounding the use of guns and knives to inflict harm, of drugs as a cause of harm, and of groups – or gangs – operating co-operatively in a way that increases the harm, are all real and we have to confront them.

They are issues that need to be dealt with both collectively and separately, for example, whilst drugs may be a significant driver for some gang and weapons related activity, it isn't behind all such activity. There is consensus also that the focus on the nature of the weapons used is less important than understanding/dealing with the root causes of the violence. As with any complicated issue – particularly one as multi-faceted as this – understanding and defining the problem or problems is key to determining what can be done, this is both at the broader, national level, and in relation to what is happening in a particular location, place or time.

One of the central themes, however, that binds these issues together consistently – sadly borne out so publicly and tragically by recent events – is the disproportionate involvement of young people. Somewhere in the region of a third of all recorded crime, and two-thirds of anti-social behaviour, is committed by 10 –17 year olds and around a half of all victims of crime are under 18.

It is certainly the view within the Metropolitan Police, a view that I know is informed and shared by many partners and by communities, that violence visited on, and used by, young people is one of the most significant and serious problems facing us all.

Reducing the risk to young people – the risk of becoming victims and of offending – has to be a core aim of whatever we do to reduce harm, both for now and in the longer-term.

In many ways of course, the numbers are less important than the reality for many young people of daily worry for their own safety; this is fear that constrains lives and, in some instances, leads to increasing risk, for example where it seems safer to associate with the gang or carry a weapon for protection. The worry may be disproportionate to the actual risk but it causes its own harm and has to be addressed along with the reality. Young people have the right not to be victimised or to fear victimisation.

There are also conflicting indications as to what is happening. The overall position regarding crime in London – both recorded crime and as measured by the British Crime Survey [which measures people's actual experience of crime] is that it is reducing. I can't give you the exact recorded crime statistics for 2006/07 as the counting is going on as I speak but there has been significantly less crime in the 10 main crime types that mirror the British Crime Survey: that includes less violent crime, and less crime involving the use of guns. The context also is that serious offences and serious offenders are not common in a city of 8 million people. However, there is evidence to support the view that gang related activity has increased in London [although this not phenomenon confined to London] and that there is a reduction in age of those committing some of the more serious crimes. There also remains a widespread concern relating to the under-reporting of crime that we as a police service must continue to address; and this may be a particularly acute issue amongst young people.

As I've mentioned the solutions require a clear understanding as to the problem, but it seems to me that there are some principles that are almost certain to apply, these include:

- The need to listen to young people themselves
- Improving the support for parenting – the findings of the social trends survey published this week must provide some clues as to what is happening
- Providing support for schools
- More effective sharing of information
- Active engagement of local people and communities in finding solutions
- Agencies working together effectively and supporting voluntary action
- Effective enforcement at the national, regional and local level
- Investment in youth provision and diversion for those at risk of offending
- Learning from elsewhere and to be open to new ideas, and to take risks
- Ensuring we understand – through proper evaluation – ‘what works’

At a local level, it is possible to make a real difference, and I know that there are people here today and in Lewisham as we speak who are doing extraordinary work.

For me, as for many of us, the events of February brought these issues into stark relief. Over twelve days in Southwark and Lambeth, there were five murders - three of the victims being teenagers. In Lewisham, the experience of last autumn that crossed into Southwark, and the murder of Jason Gayle Bent is still very clear, and since February sadly, there have been further murders of young people in North and East London, as well as elsewhere in the country.

I have led the Metropolitan Police response to the events in South London, working closely with Chief Superintendent Archie Torrance here at Lewisham and the other police Borough commanders, but, as I've indicated, we would be the first to acknowledge that the issues leading to these events are complex and require a range of solutions across agencies, communities, Government and voluntary sector – they are clearly not for the police alone.

The overall policing response has been about ensuring that we are doing everything we can to build on what the boroughs, with their partners and communities, are already doing – and to do more of it. This has focussed on solving the murders, providing reassurance to communities, increasing our intelligence and targeting key suspects in order to bring them to justice, and to remove weapons and drugs from the streets. This ranges from the work of local safer neighbourhood teams and schools involvement officers at one end, targeting outlets selling replica weapons, through, at the other end of the spectrum, to the work of Operation Trident – investigating and working to prevent and investigate murders within the black communities – and intelligence-led armed operations and covert [undercover] operations to target serious criminals.

There have been operational successes, and these are important in terms of reducing offending and providing reassurance.

There has also been widespread support from communities for the policing response. That support has

been very practical and its importance cannot be overstated, for example, there has been an increase in intelligence which is vital; and community members have participated directly on armed operations, both observing their conduct and providing information and reassurance to the public.

There is clearly - not least evidenced by this conference and events like the recent vigil in South London – a real desire to increase community-led action to address the issues, particularly amongst the black community. There are projects and initiatives led by committed and brave people in communities – many represented here – that provide means of addressing the risk that can never be achieved by statutory agencies.

And yet, there is that sense for all of us that there is more that we must be doing. The sense that young lives are being wasted is acute.

One of the initiatives – that started in part because of events that crossed the Southwark/Lewisham border that I've referred to – involves five boroughs in South East London; Lewisham are at the forefront of this work. At the most senior level, the local authorities are working together, along with the Met and the Police Authority, to identify those areas - particularly regarding gang-related criminality- where it makes sense to improve cross-border work. Preliminary work has started in areas such as improving cross-border information and intelligence sharing, identifying those at risk, mediation, re-housing and community development. It is early days for this work and we will need to invest over the longer term, but there is a real appetite for joining forces to confront shared problems that I believe will deliver positive outcomes.

Commander Paul Minton

Metropolitan Police Service





Luziane Tchiegue-Nouta

Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham

The Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham, Luziane Tchiegue-Nouta, gave a message from Siobhan Bell, Young Mayor of Lewisham.

Luziane said that gun and knife crimes were very important issues and around ten people had lost their lives in the last few months. People blamed the Government for not dealing with this, but the Government are just people like us, so we should be the ones finding solutions to deal with this.

Luziane said that her boundaries were set for her by her mother and by her religion. She said that we could not let the Government deal with this alone, we had to deal with it as a community.



Dami Benbow,

Former Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham

Dami Benbow, former Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham, spoke to the conference audience, saying that two people die when someone is murdered. The second 'person' is the murderer's humanity. He said that these murders were not just another series of numbers in the system: these were real people. The role of the media has not been beneficial in this. Dami asked, 'What put the gun in the person's hand in the first place? What was the idea behind it?' He told the audience that ideas were a lot more difficult to kill than people.

Siobhan Bell – Young Mayor of Lewisham – Supporting Statement

Like all young people I find the idea of knife and gun crimes really scary, worrying and something that just seems to be there in the news in our lives and conversations. I've talked with the young advisors, friends and people at college. Everyone I talk to whether young or old thinks we have to work together to find ways to stop this happening.

Hopefully, we can find ways of working together at this very important conference. We, as Young Advisors will continue to try and work with the community to play our part. Somehow we need to find a positive way forward, so no one else has to grieve.

LCPCG Special Conference supporting statement materials, April, 2007



XLP Youth Group Presentation

Nadia and Jason, representatives from XLP Youth Group said that the group had formed in 1996. Nadia was introduced and she performed a song for the audience, to much applause. XLP is a youth-led initiative that provides opportunities and support for young people. They also provide an Arts Showcase. The next show is in June and is for schools. Further details are available at their website: www.xlp.org.uk. The XLP presentation gave a brief description of the two projects run by XLP. The first project was the 'Gunz Down' programme, an interactive hour-long show for secondary schools, dealing with anger management, bullying, lifestyle choices and discussion with young people. 'Gunz Down' is a multi media stage show that tours schools and is followed up by lessons. This is a joint venture between XLP and hip hop group Greenjade. The tour and lessons focus on the area of gun and knife crime, making wise lifestyle choices and how to handle your anger.

The second project presented was the XLP Arts Showcase. This is a talent show which happens four times a year – in Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark and then a grand finale that covers all three. The showcase is run in conjunction with local schools and has proved to be a successful diversionary project for the young people involved. The XLP presentation included a performance from last year's winner, Nadia, from Sydenham Girls School.

Tim Powell

XLP Marketing and Communications Manager





Twilight Bey,

Lead Social Intervention Specialist

Twilight Bey, Lead Social Intervention Specialist and Co-Founder of the London Social Solutions Institute for Research & Development (SSI), addressed the audience. Twilight said he was a former gang member from Los Angeles who had experienced first-hand the LA uprisings in 1992 at the Rodney King case verdict. Twilight is now a specialist in conflict mediation and social intervention solutions. He observed that when he was growing up in Los Angeles, more than a third of a generation had been wiped out from violent crimes between rival street gangs. Twilight had been one of those initiating the 1988 peace talks between the gangs. As a result of this, he had become one of the main organisers of the ceasefire agreement between the Bloods gang and the Crips gang in 1992 in California. The Bloods and the Crips had, as a result, become highly engaged to build peace. Twilight said that he had also been involved in initiatives around the world, including in France, Brazil and London to promote peace from a global perspective. Twilight is involved in educational programmes, but he realised that to just talk about peace is not enough. The promotion of networking had enabled young people to influence law enforcement/government.

Social Solutions: Discussing social solutions, Twilight said that he promoted the development of leadership programmes and young people's programmes. He had grown up in a violent lifestyle and had watched his friends die. He was amongst those who had helped the police to learn human qualities in working with the community. He referred to the work of rapper Tupac Amaru Shakur, also known as 2Pac or Makaveli, after the work of Nicolai Machiavelli in 'The Prince'. Tupac's group Thug Life and their record 'Thug Life Vol. 1' developed the words 'Thug Life' from a philosophy based on the idea that 'The Hate U Give Little Infants Influences Everybody'. The message of this has to be consistent – it is the idea that: 'give me a child before the age of seven and I will show you the man'. Twilight asked, 'What is the schooling involved in violent crime?'

Twilight said that we needed to challenge negative thinking – there is a vicious circle involving low self-esteem and crime. The self-determination of young people is the key to changing this. Will the courts consider the process being undergone by young people? Money was going in the wrong direction and needed to be channelled into community empowerment leading to personal social development and strong families, which were the backbone of strong communities. Twilight said that we needed people in London who understand the issues. 12th Man workshops were being held for young people to counteract negative influences. Twilight asked – 'Is the education that our young people are having fit for purpose?'

Twilight Bey – Lead Social Intervention Specialist

A specialist in working with young people. He has worked as a gang facilitator, a mentor as well as being an advocate of 'Social Literacy' which believes that in order for a young person to understand themselves they must understand how the world operates around them.

Twilight Bey is the lead Social Intervention Specialist of the London based Social Solutions Institute of Research and Development (SSI). He has more than 16 years of education and experience in life management skills, social literacy development, youth work, conflict mediation, gang intervention, practical education, facilitation and community and civic organising. Mr Bey grew up and lived for 26 years in the economically deprived, gang and drugs affected communities of South Central Los Angeles. The work he has undertaken spans a broad range of US and international communities and institutions. Contributing to local and international efforts in youth and community focused initiatives, e.g. violence reduction strategies, service learning, community building and leadership development.

Mr Bey was also a key figure in the initiation of the Peace Talks in 1988 between rival Los Angeles street gangs. This led to him becoming a key organiser of the Cease Fire Agreement between the Bloods and Crips of Watts, California in 1992.

LCPCG Special Conference pack materials, April, 2007



Reverend Nancy Odunewu

– Personal Testimony

Reverend Nancy gave a personal testimony about her son, Emmanuel, who was born on 14th January, 1987, by caesarian section at Lewisham Hospital. Emmanuel was stabbed to death on 30th November, 2006. She gave a heart-felt description of life with him and without him. His loss had been extremely devastating.

Reverend Nancy said, 'We are all one human race. We are all God's humanity. We owe our lives to God.' Emmanuel's name means 'God with us' but he had been taken away viciously. Reverend Nancy now prays to God that we can find solutions to improve the situation regarding violent crime and the death of young people. She said that she was working to develop leadership with young people, as there was a spirit of murder across our country. Her aim and desire was to work with young people to improve things. Juliet thanked Reverend Nancy for her courageous and inspiring speech, affirmed that 'our love must make young people better'.

Media article: BBC Friday, 30 November 2007, 13:03 GMT

Bus stop murder victim honoured **Emmanuel Odunewu**

A teenager murdered in south London will be honoured when a charitable trust is launched in his name. Emmanuel Odunewu, 19, described by his family as a gentle giant, was stabbed near a bus stop outside Lewisham Police station in November 2006. The Emmanuel Odunewu Memorial Foundation Trust will be launched later at St Stephens Church, Cressington Road, Lewisham. The key aims of the trust will be to steer young people from a life of crime through mentoring and support.



**Reverend Nancy Odunewu
Launch of The Emmanuel Odunewu Memorial Foundation December 2007**

In December, 2007, Reverend Nancy Odunewu launched The Emmanuel Odunewu Memorial Foundation at a service in St Stephens Church in Lewisham, near the place where her 19 year old son Emmanuel was killed. In a moving address and in a follow-up BBC interview, Reverend Nancy said that the Foundation will highlight positive things in the community, including positive role models of those young people who are 'doing a very good job' at schools, universities and colleges.

The Foundation will aim to support young people who decide to 'turn their life around' to 'get into the positive road', providing an alternative perspective from negative media reports. Reverend Nancy said she understands that 'crime is there, the police are there, the checks are there', but that she will highlight positive things rather than negative examples. She will work with Lewisham Police and Lewisham Council to provide supportive activities for young people. Following the service, a one minute silence was observed outside Lewisham Police Station where Emmanuel was killed.



Detective Chief Inspector Will O'Reilly, Serious Crime Directorate

Detective Chief Inspector O'Reilly introduced himself to the audience and said that he had been a police officer for more than thirty years. In the Metropolitan Police Service, he had been part of the team investigating homicide. Will made reference to the work of Trident, which was investigating gun crime in London.

There had been massive investment in murder investigation, and the Met was committing resources for this. Through family liaison, a clear-up rate of 89% had been achieved in the last few years, but the murder rate has also risen in London over the same period. The police were now working on homicide prevention.

The Family Liaison team has a primary role as an investigator with a duty of care to families. This team are conscious that they need to treat families well. The study of victimology finds out how victims lived and died. Family liaison is thus very important. Will said that no greater honour is bestowed upon an officer than when they are investigating a murder. Post conviction and prior to sentence, family liaison meetings are held with the Crown Prosecution Service.

Family Liaison

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

- = Recommendations 23 to 28 relate directly to Family Liaison.
- = 23. That Police Services should ensure that at a local level there are readily available designated and trained Family Liaison Officers.

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

- = 24. That Training of Family Liaison Officers must include training in racism awareness and cultural diversity, so that families are treated appropriately, professionally, with respect and according to their needs.

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

- = 25. That Family Liaison Officers shall, where appointed, be dedicated primarily if not exclusively to that task.

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

- = 26. That Senior Investigating Officers and Family Liaison Officers be made aware that good practice and their positive duty shall be the satisfactory management of family liaison, together with the provision to a victim family of all possible information about the crime and its investigation.

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

- = 27. That good practice shall provide that any request made by the family of a victim which is not accorded to, and any complaint by any member of the family, shall be formally recorded by the SIO and shall be reported to the immediate superior officer.

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

- = 28. That Police Services and Victim Support Services ensure that their systems provide for the pro-active use of local contact within minority ethnic communities to assist with family liaison where appropriate.

HOME SECRETARY'S ACTION PLAN

- = Partnership and Involvement
- = Policing Diversity
- = Recognising and Rewarding Success
- = Raising Standards and Promoting Professional Competence

Core Policing

- = How do we connect ourselves?
- = We connect criminals by evidence, intelligence and information.
- = Where do we get this from?
- = Communities and families.
- = Could we seriously alienate these sources if we treat a victim's family inappropriately?

Family Liaison

Everyone Gains.

- If the discipline of Family Liaison is performed effectively everyone gains.
- Families gain through an open, honest and transparent enquiry.
- Community gain in increased confidence in Police and their effectiveness.
- Police gain through a more efficient enquiry.

Family Liaison

Who?

Who are Family Liaison Officers

- Family Liaison Officers are Police Officers
- The primary role of a Family Liaison Officer is that of an investigator, an investigator with a duty of care to the family.

Mission Statement

One of the most important considerations throughout any investigation into a sudden, violent or unexpected death is the relationship between the family and police. Families will be considered as partners in an investigation. Families must be treated appropriately, professionally, with respect and in accordance with their diverse needs. This principle must be reflected at all levels of the police service.

Primary Goals of family Liaison.

- To provide a dedicated, two-way communication channel between family and police which is fully recorded using the Family Liaison log.
- To gather evidence and information from the family to a suitable extent which contributes to and preserves the integrity of the police investigation function.
- To mitigate, as far as possible, the negative effects of the police and criminal justice processes through the provision of timely information and practical support to the family community.

Primary goals of family liaison (contd.)

- The investigation / action / procedures / to date and ongoing which may include the interaction with other agencies such as local authorities, media, coroners' officers and so on; and
 - The on going processes / procedures of the criminal justice system due to Crown Prosecution Service, coroners and other voluntary bodies interacting in the process.
- To contribute to a co-ordinated response to the needs of families, ensuring that the family positions and given information about support agencies and the services are made to Victim Support and other agencies in accordance with the victim / families wishes.

Family Liaison is a function not just a role.

"Every MIP officer is a Family Liaison Officer".

HMIC into Liaison

Training

- 4 day accredited FLAT course.
- 3 day Critical Incident Training for ACPTA through Communities and RCPs with an FLAT input.
- Assessment training in Family Liaison is given to all Community Safety Unit officers and CID Foundation Officers for new assignments.

Training (contd.)

- Detective Inspector and Chief Inspector receive Family Liaison inputs on both the 2 week and 1 week courses they attend.
- First contact with bereaved families has been introduced into initial training.
- An awareness package with video and written notes has been produced and be delivered to all MIP officers from top to bottom and certain civilian staff members.
- 112 through Social Inspectors and Chief Inspectors have been given a brief incident training with FLAT input.



Operation Trilogy

**Superintendent Adrian Rabot
and Inspector Sarah Davies**

Adrian and Sarah talked to the audience, saying that people aged 11 comprised 44% of the victims of crime.

The peak of age ranges is between 12-16 (for males) and between 14-18 (for females).

The peak hours involved in crime incidents are between 15.00 – 16.59. Of those involved, 91% are male, with 84% being Afro-Caribbean and 14% being White European.

In terms of Operation Callisto Lewisham Police are targeting offenders covertly and disrupting overtly.

The new process is called Operation Trilogy. It has discovered that there is a strong link between street crime and gang culture, which is defined at Level 1 as Peer Group; at Level 2 as Gangs and at Level 3 as Criminal Networks.

Operation Trilogy was also targeting gangs to deal with both gangs and guns.



Five Borough Gang Project

Aim

- The aim of the project is to reduce the harm caused by gangs across Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham, Greenwich and Southwark.

Activity

The work of the project falls broadly into three categories:

- Intelligence/ information/understanding the problem
- Prevention
- Pro-activity

OPERATION TRILOGY

Targeting offenders covertly, disrupting overtly

WHY TRILOGY?

1. Bridge – Building gang members and criminal networks
2. Break – Targeting selected individuals, one-on-one
3. BITE – Focusing on specific priority offenders

OVERVIEW

OpT is a covert law enforcement initiative. It is a joint effort between the UK and the US, aimed at disrupting the activities of the UK's most serious and violent criminals, and their networks.

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TARGETING GANGS

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Why include PPD's into Op Trilogy?

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RESOURCES

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Table Discussions

Evaluation of the Flip Chart Notes for the Special Conference

Introduction

This evaluation report summarises key themes and issues arising out of the Special Conference on knife, gun, drugs and gang-related crime, which took place on 13 April 2007. The conference drew together key stakeholders from across the statutory, public and voluntary & community sectors. Details of attendees participating in the table discussions are outlined in the *Appendices* at the end of the conference report.

Overview

Analysis from the conference is aggregated under the following key headings:

1. Objectives
2. Where We Are Now and Barriers To Progress
3. Next Steps and Action Points

1. Objectives

The principal objectives of the Conference were to:

- Save young lives, reduce serious injury, stop broken families
- Mobilise the community to action



- Capture community ideas and solutions
- Help the community, police, the council and others work together
- Outline where we are now and key barriers to solutions
- Devise some Recommendations and Key Action Points to take forward.

2. Where We Are Now and Barriers to Progress

Conference delegates identified a number of issues that have contributed to the current situation as well as those which present significant challenges in terms of moving forward. These have been set out in the following common themes:

- a. Perceptions of failure in the education system
- b. Social pressures and perceived lack of positive engagement

a. Perceptions of failure in the education system

- The lack of resources for young people, especially gifted young people
- The disproportionate exclusion of black children and young people from school
- The lack of choice for parents regarding the education of their children
- Not enough parental involvement in young people's education
- Low expectations of black children and young people especially in education
- The lack of adequately trained teachers to relate to and communicate with young people
- The lack of after-school activities for young people.

b. Social pressures and perceived lack of positive engagement

- The issue of the easy access to weapons and the ease/willingness to carry guns and knives, leading to crime
- The sense of 'helplessness' in the community about tackling the problem of knife, gun and gang-related crime. This is exacerbated by poverty and deprivation
- The concern about the attitude of young people to obtaining 'easy money' through crime and idolising street attitudes and the local gangsters and drug-dealers etc.
- The lack of positive role models, especially positive young role models for black children and young people
- The issue of the media stereotyping of young black men

- The concern of the disproportionality of young black men involved in knife and gun crime
- The lack of resources for children and young people in the community in relation to funds available to spend.

3. Next Steps and Action Points

To address the various areas of concern and barriers to progress, conference delegates identified a number of actions. These have been aggregated under the following sub headings:

- a. Strengthen partnership and community engagement
- b. Emphasise local policing
- c. Refocus the education system
- d. Impact on/change the social environment.

Strengthen partnership and community engagement

- Within the community, individual and group intervention should be supported. The community should understand its collective role in tackling the problem of knife, gun, drug and gang-related crime
- Encourage cross-borough working to tackle the problem
- Community groups, police, council, schools, colleges and other important agencies should work closely together to help children and young people make positive choices
- Community groups and the police should have meaningful dialogue in addressing policing and perception issues
- Explore the possibility of involving Members/MPs in working with the community to tackle knife, gun, and gang-related crime.

Emphasise local policing

- More visible presence in areas of concern in the borough, especially on public transport
- Work more closely with schools and colleges – for example regular school visits to discuss issues such as knife, gun and gang-related crime.

Refocus the education system

- Address the issue of excluded children and well-funded special unit places
- Better teacher training to relate to children and young people
- Create and promote better, well-publicised after-school activities and raise

awareness

- Earlier intervention in respect of “at risk” children
- More choice in education for parents for their children.

Impact on/change the social environment

- Explore more ways to use positive young role models, alongside the use of older role models and mentors, as well as people who have left gangs and are able to relate to children and young people about their experiences
- Encourage parental involvement and more personal and parental responsibility
- Social issues such as poverty, deprivation, self-esteem and mental health need to be addressed
- Create a confidential helpline for people who want help to leave gangs
- Lobby for effective deterrents for knife, gun, and gang-related crime.







Afternoon Session: Simon Woolley

Conference Facilitator

Simon welcomed delegates to the afternoon session of the conference.

He noted that the communities involved in this initiative were taking responsibility for change.

He acknowledged the keen and serious concerns and interest of Lewisham's communities in the issues of youth on youth violent crime and their determination to address those concerns and contribute to the solutions.

Their presence at the conference in significant numbers and in representing the diversity of the borough was a visible representation of how the communities were keen to come together with statutory partners and others to address the issues directly.

Simon then welcomed and introduced Superintendent Chris McDonald.



Superintendent Chris McDonald

Metropolitan Police Service, Operation Blunt

Superintendent McDonald said that Operation Blunt was the Met's response to knife crime. Discussing the complexities of the problems we face in violent crime, he said that the causes were multiple, including, for example, drugs crime, gangs, family tensions, media glamour, etc. The Superintendent said that the past is for learning and not for living: we needed to learn and need young people as role models.

We need to 'front end' and stop these problems of knives, guns and gangs at the beginning. It is only when the community engages that we can solve the problem. Noting the use of radio and website, he said 'It's not a game' – we need a lot of things to occur in a collaborative coordinated way. We also need to build an intelligence picture from extra information, for example from Homerton Hospital.

He made reference to the remarks made by Reverend Nancy, who said that no matter how incredible the evil, on the other side of the coin there is a force for good which is absolutely inspirational. She stated that she had no doubt that this evil will be eventually overcome.



Reverend Gavin Jacobs

Youth Alliance

Gavin gave an example from South Africa to say that we can all create champions when tackling the issues involved in violent crime. He said that the involvement of young people from the streets is very important. You can do anything with them if you value and respect them. We need to embrace and care about families in this. Gavin introduced the short DVD 'Rough Diamond'.





Bridget Prentice, MP and Jim Dowd, MP

Bridget Prentice MP addressed the audience, saying that we do all have to take responsibility for things that happen in the community. For example, the organisation NetMums had been set up to deal with the issues regarding the avoidance of guns and crime involvement by young people.

Young people are really interested in the issues and are *not* disengaged from politics and they should be brought back into politics. We needed more black politicians and should bring in television and other media to recognise good, positive messages.

Jim Dowd MP thanked the Lewisham CPG for the work it was doing in this conference and elsewhere. He noted that there had been an 'almost hysterical tone' in the media during February, 2007, within the space of a few days regarding violent crime.

Jim said that he wanted his home local area to be the best that it could be. But the criminal justice system cannot be the only way to handle these issues. Respect is necessary and action needs to link with what takes place. Families are victims too of this violence and need to be trusted and respected.

Bridget Prentice MP – Supporting Statement

As an elected representative you see the passing of many political fads and fashions. Among a small, but vociferous, political and media class narrow issues become hot talking points before sliding away again on to the periphery. Outside of these small, self-regarding groups one of the leading issues for ordinary voters is always crime and the fear of crime.

The relationship between crime and the fear of crime is complex and not always coherent. Crime may go down overall, as it has over the last ten years, and yet the fear of crime may rise. Under these circumstances people's lives may be blighted by a fear that is sometimes unwarranted and those people doing a dangerous (and superb) job on the front line may feel under-appreciated.

It would be too easy to simply blame the media for the disparity between actual crime and the fear of crime. Recent media campaigns have been instrumental in highlighting sincere concerns over knife crime, gun crime and the insidious, anti-social influence of gangs. Often it has been the public leading the media into a concern about these issues rather than the other way round.

For some time now, I have been a strong supporter of Netmums. Netmums is a national parenting organisation boasting over 200,000 members – with 1,000 living in Lewisham – that recently conducted a survey on knife crime. There were clear recommendations on custodial sentences but what really came through was a belief that parents need to shoulder a share of the responsibility if their youngsters are found carrying knives.

Answering these concerns, the Home Secretary recently announced a review of the legislation on gangs, guns and knives, focussing in particular on gangs. The review covers: sentencing policy generally, including in relation to juveniles; gun supply issues; gang membership as an aggravating factor; what new powers might be needed; and other relevant issues.

Focussing on the themes of Policing, Powers and Prevention communities can help Government in their task of ensuring public safety. In that task, Lewisham's CPCG is key. I highly commend the excellent work and dedication of David Michael. I would also like to extend my thanks to all members and volunteers who play such a constructive role in the life of their community.

Bridget Prentice MP

Jim Dowd MP – Conference Materials MP for Lewisham West since 1992

Political Career:

- Member – Health Select Committee since 2001
- Senior Government Whip 1997-2001
- Opposition Spokesperson on Northern Ireland 1995-1997
- Former Opposition Whip with responsibility for London
- London Borough of Lewisham Councillor 1974-1994
- Mayor of Lewisham 1992

Previous Career: Before entering Parliament, worked as an electronics engineer for Plessey/GPT and as a petrol station manager

Main Political Interests:

- Health
- Education
- Transport
- Economy
- Industry
- Animal Welfare

Affiliations: Member of the Co-operative Party, Co-operative Wholesale Society, MSF, GMB, League Against Cruel Sports, WWF, IFAW, RSBP, NSPCC, Oxfam and Bromley Labour Club.

Education: Studied at Dalmain, Sedgehill and London Nautical Schools

Leisure Interests: Music, Theatre and Reading

Born: 5th March 1951 – Bad Eilsen, Germany

Jim Dowd MP

LCPCG Special Conference materials, April, 2007



Open Mic Discussion

Debate and questions from the audience included comments about delegates being disturbed by the way in which young people were criticised; and the need to deal with businesses and media regarding guns. There was a consensus amongst some audience members that we need to think radically as a community.

Issues debated included:

- the demonisation of black young people by the police and the way in which these issues are reported by the media
- the need to involve young people in debate if we wanted to stamp out violence
- the need for young people to be trusted by police, and vice versa
- although efforts are made to address organised crime and the proceeds of crime, there is a need for events, e.g. the conference, to involve more young people
- a building was proposed to facilitate work with young people
- no respect is shown to young kids in school, and especially no notice taken of good kids: there needs to be more investment in kids in school
- a local parent queried how realistic it is to facilitate this work and ensure there are resources for it and also a transferral of resources?
- the panel responded to the last question by saying that an inter-generational mix was necessarily involved regarding facilitation and resources provision.



Panel and Questions

Panel members included:

Mike Franklin, Guns Amnesty Expert
Claudia Webbe, Vice Chair Trident Independent Advisory Group
Gavin Jacobs, Youth Alliance
Philip Udeh, Youth Leader, Race Equality Action Lewisham
Laverne Shirfield, Consultant on Young People's Issues
Lynne Costello, Founder, Mothers Against Murder and Aggression

A member of the audience commented that resources for youth clubs were needed. A further comment from the audience was made suggesting that teachers did not need to put pupils down. Some teachers are undermining all children. The delegate asked, 'Where are the mentors?' Simon Woolley replied that there was a need to go into schools to tell pupils that they are OK – that they are beautiful and that they can succeed. Kenny D. Roberts from Race Equality Action Lewisham spoke about the Mentor Scheme School Pastors, which provides mentoring to those who are vulnerable, engaging parents as well, saying it was in the pilot stage. Gloria Copeland from Race Equality Action Lewisham said that there should be a request to Lewisham Governors to talk to people who are actually out on the streets. David Michael was convening a meeting with local activists.

A delegate commented that the community has always taken action, but at a black leadership level, they are silent nationally. Gloria from the young people's support services queried how we could support young people and provide support for those from other countries. The former Deputy Young Mayor Dami said that media structures were against guns and yet spent money on weapons. An audience member commented that we needed to put time into after-school projects. The television is showing so much violence that people have been desensitised to this. We need to nurture new leadership for the future.

At this point there was a break in the proceedings prior to the resumption of the second half of the Panel and Questions session.

B R E A K

A member of the audience commented on parenting regarding smacking, saying that we need clear boundaries with firm guidelines. The Leapers Group – ‘Leap into Learning’ – is a parenting group that provides support and help. Gloria and Angela commented on an initiative on empowering the community – ‘A Voice for Lewisham’, saying that they would convene this and get funds from the local authority for it and also ask for some answers from politicians. A further delegate asked a question about young people’s employment in Lewisham. Another member of the audience commented that we had a system of representative politics in a knowledge-based economy. There were training initiatives available, but we needed a new way of governance – young people needed to find their voice again. A delegate commented that there was a lack of resources in the Youth Service: youth workers work very hard but they are not supported enough. A comment was made that Operation Trident dealt with gun related violence but media focus on specific communities could lead to isolation.

The issue of the *Cost of Crime* was discussed – there was around a £1.5m cost to investigate, e.g. one stabbing. Instead, funding could go to supporting and preventing crime. There was no price on a life. Lynne Costello of Mothers Against Murder and Aggression (MAMA) commented that she was horrified that children were being killed, saying that MAMA was working to address this. Over the years they had changed the law and Lynne said that she wished they could change things again now. She noted with sadness that three women in the room had lost their children, including one asian woman, one white woman and one black woman.

Claudia Webbe, the Vice Chair of the Trident Independent Advisory Group, commented that she had been involved in dealing with gun crime for twenty years, had experience of working on the front line and had seen its effects on the community. The black community had taken this issue on for many years and its biggest strength was the understanding of racism and the attitudes involved in racism. Her style of response was to continue in these initiatives, to ensure that we had that change by any means.

Libby spoke regarding Trident to say that Operation Trident was operating in a sophisticated way and not within the context presented by the tabloid press. This was within a wider context of all issues impacting on life in the inner-city. However if people involved are asian or Moslem men, they may react in a different way. Fear and safety in the community must be addressed for all young people. There is a major opportunity to improve this.

The panel then noted that there would be a round robin email list for people to get in contact on these issues if they were serious about tackling the challenges involved.

Mike Franklin, Guns Amnesty Expert said that in Lambeth there had been an Amnesty for Guns – how many initiatives needed to be successful? The answer to this is – one. Even though there was a fatal shooting on the fourth day of the amnesty, gun amnesties do work in terms of asset seizure. It is important that we make people aware of the impact of gun crime. Also, it is important to

talk about the pain, the blood, the guts, the mess and the cost of gun crime. Mike gave credit to David Michael that he was at the conference and was organising it. He gave his congratulations and thanks to David and Lewisham CPCG, saying that what they were doing today would save lives.

Gavin said that 'enough is enough is enough' – we must get rid of what is causing the community to rot; we must unite as a family, including black, white and yellow people. Chris said that the work being done in the conference reinforces that being done by others. There was a huge momentum for change in the UK.

Mike Franklin – Pen Picture

Mike Franklin is the former Chair of the Community Police Consultative Group for Lambeth. He is a former member of the Trade Union Congress Race Relations Committee and has worked as a specialist employment law advocate.

His interest in policing led Mike to become a regular trainer of police officers at Hendon, Bramshill and other establishments in the UK. He is regularly requested to train police officers in investigation techniques in the UK and abroad. He has also been a member of the Prison Board of Visitors.

Mike was one of the inaugural members of the first Independent Advisory Group, set up to advise the Metropolitan Police Racial and Violent Crime Task Force, following the publication of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report. He relinquished this role when he was appointed as Her Majesty's Assistant Inspector of Constabulary in 2000. As part of that role, Mike regularly spoke on matters relating to community, policing, violent crime, investigations techniques, race relations and employment.

Mike Franklin is the National Adviser to Crimebeat UK and is an Honorary Life Member of the National Black Police Association (USA). Mike is also a Commissioner for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and is responsible for Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, Mersey Tunnel and Port of Liverpool police forces.



Laverne Shirfield: Panel Member Contribution

From the Panel, Laverne raised the following issues, which were well received:



i) We live in a very violent society and children are exposed to that violence from a young age. The 9.00 pm watershed has vanished. Now you can hear swearing during day time hours on TV and radio (usually as part of song lyrics) and violence is openly displayed. For example, I felt quite disturbed by a film advertisement that was on the sides of buses and at bus shelters (Saw III), available for even small children to view. Showing people, especially the young, images of torture and violence, is just criminal, desensitizing them from the horrors that those acts of violence create (bereavement, anger, sorrow, family breakdown, depression, mental disorders, etc). We ask why our young have no regard for life? Look at society and see where the biggest gains are, the film and music industry, arms and warfare, what does that tell you about this government? It allows, in fact supports this trend. Again this is totally unacceptable, as it will be our young who suffer as the desensitization becomes embedded into their psyche.

ii) Many children are unhappy at school and therefore fall behind or begin to display challenging behaviour. Some teachers demotivate children by way of negative programming (i.e. "you'll never be anything"). This is unacceptable. We do not want our children to be demotivated by school, or, rather, a few individuals. We have Ofsted reports that tell us as parents how the school is run, but why not introduce a system where children give their evaluation of the school and teachers, either via questionnaires or via an external body that evaluates the children's happiness rather than evaluating what a school wishes the Ofsted Inspector to see for the few days?

iii) Parents are feeling as though government has created laws which prevent them from being able to discipline children, especially those that display challenging behaviour. The 'old school' way of dealing with children was pull them back in line, and that was done without fear of being arrested for assault by the police. The balance is askew: unruly children see themselves as untouchable by their parents, police, schools, etc. This must be addressed.

iv) In conclusion, if the government wants us to believe that they actually care about our young people, they have to put them before the desire to cash in (i.e the film industry), they have to listen to parents, they must accept that our young people say they are living in fear. Society, by way of individuals, has some great people who work hard to make a difference, I have met with countless police officers and teachers who do what they can, but government cannot leave this issue to the community to deal with. It is far more demanding and will create more gangs (home grown terrorists). Its time to listen to the people, not just to big businesses.



Claudia Webbe:

Presentation Summary

In her presentation, Claudia focussed on the historical involvement and response of the black community to the disproportionate effect of gun crime against a systematic withdrawal of Government money to local voluntary and community groups over the last 15 years. This had ultimately led to a gap that had, over time, left young men and women vulnerable to gangs and criminality.

- The black community had played an historical pivotal role in combating the rise of gun and violent crime and had done so for over 20 years and without such involvement, the extent, nature and scale of gun crime would be much worse. My own involvement had extended over 20 years tackling gun crime on the front lines of Chapeltown, Leeds; Handsworth, Birmingham; Hyson Green and St Ann's, Nottingham; and across London
- That white society including the media, statutory and government bodies had simply for years ignored the problem, with incidents only being reported in the minority ethnic press. It was as though "white society" had simply brushed it off as a black problem: as long as black people were killing each other in "urban ghettos", they were not interested
- Historically, the police response was to import "police informants" from abroad, setting them up with accommodation and living expenses. We in the

black community called them “criminal informants”, because whilst informing they were left free to peddle drugs into the community and commit violent crime. Women and children were often the victims of their crimes and communities were terrorised not just by the gunmen but by these violent criminal informants

- The black community challenged this position and said “enough was enough” and ten years ago formed Operation Trident, the first community led, intelligence based policing response to tackle the disproportionate effect of gun crime on the black community
- The involvement of the independent advisory group to Operation Trident has helped to build trust and confidence between the black community and the police and consequently the community are at the heart of providing the necessary information to solve gun crime.
- The police, however, are not the only solution and we need to address the problem prior to the bullet being fired
- Thus we need to encourage the government and decision makers to:
 - invest and significantly invest in the youth service and different types of youth provision, particularly “detached youth work” (operating without a building base, working with young people from where they are at)
 - ban the importation, sale and distribution of guns and drugs
 - implement a total ban on imitation firearms and/or anything that looks like the real thing
 - develop awareness programmes in schools and provide for greater after school provision, including prioritising the historical role of Saturday Schools and other similar community based provision.
 - rebuild and invest in the voluntary, community and faith sector who are doing so much with so little
 - ensure that the assets recovered from the proceeds of gun crime are reinvested into frontline community work
 - ensure that all agencies: – schools, housing, local authorities etc are engaged with the police in tackling gun and violent crime.

Claudia Webbe

Board Director of London Crimestoppers

Vice-Chairperson of the Operation Trident Independent Advisory Group

Sadly, more young people will die from this culture of violence – by Claudia Webbe

The implementation this year of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, which gives amongst other things powers to teachers to search pupils for weapons, will be of little comfort to the parents of 15 year old Adam Regis and 16 year old Kodjo Yenga who were recently stabbed to death in public.

Some of our young people located at the heart of some of our urban neighbourhoods are caught up in a culture of violence, where carrying a knife or carrying a gun seems part of the norm of belonging. Far too quickly the gang, which initially provided sanctuary and protection, becomes the very tool which perpetuates a more violent response. All too often this deadly cycle of abuse is enshrined in a culture of silence, which feeds from the depths of fear.

In the UK we are probably witnessing just the tip of the iceberg and more young people will be targeted and murdered unless we can stem this culture of violence and encourage more to speak up and speak out. It almost requires amongst other solutions an innovative collaboration between the charities Childline and Crimestoppers, who separately do much valuable work.

In London, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) set up Operation Trident in response to the Black communities' demands to tackle the disproportional effect of gun crime. Yet, nobody would ever have predicted that the work of this dedicated investigative unit would be focussed on children and young people as victims.

A worrying trend over recent years is that an increasing number of those arrested as a result of the work of Operation Trident are under the age of 19 years. By criminal standards the time span from young people's first offence to being charged with an Operation Trident type murder is relatively short with many not even on the MPS/Trident 'radar' in the first place.

Black young people at the heart of this culture of violence are particularly vulnerable because they suffer most, in my view, as a result of societal racism from poor self esteem, poor self worth and lack of a positive identity. This minority of young people who are otherwise unable to cope have very few positive role models in schools and for them all the evidence points to a future devoid of opportunity and hope. Their survival is thus on the streets, on our estates and neighbourhoods as glorified 'Urban Soldiers'.

Often, young people's first physical violent weapon is something called a "shank"; a sharpened piece of material, usually plastic or wood, made to resemble the sharpened point of a knife. Their career progression into the use of an actual knife and their conversion of an imitation or replica weapon into a deadly gun happens in quick succession.

There are many who want to blame parents or "rap music", yet it would be my argument that it has been drugs from cannabis to crack cocaine, that has been most responsible for fuelling this

culture of societal violence, visible on our doorsteps, from which young people learn. Although long overdue the Independent newspaper in its Sunday edition has recently publicly apologised for its pro-cannabis stance. Of course drug taking amongst adults and its effects are still only the symptoms and thus the cause lies much deeper still. A boycott of TV on school nights and dramatically limiting it at weekends might also help.

For young people we are collectively failing to provide them with the necessary emotional and cognitive prerequisites so that they can make informed choices and whilst even in spite of this failure many survive, far too many others fuelled with internalised self-hate, fall through the net. Our work with young people should be about empowering them to develop the necessary self awareness, actions and decisions, which lead to their betterment and not to their detriment. We need to urgently review the style and quality of input being provided to our children and young people in the name of statutory provision.

Earlier this month I attended the Home Secretary's eleventh 'Round Table' discussions on guns, knives and gangs. The Home Secretary's Action Plan is now well developed into a focus on powers, policing and prevention. I argued for a greater emphasis on the multi-agency approach; more investment and support for witness protection; preventative support for young people in new forms of street style youth work and greater respect for community, voluntary and faith organisations, which have provided in the absence of statutory support and resources the desperately needed out-of-school and after school provisions. Whilst the government appears to be listening, in terms of preventative action and work we still have a long way to go.

Nonetheless the dynamic and tireless work of Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group to mobilise community action, to contribute solutions in partnership with the police, Lewisham Council and others will go a long way to close the gap and thus this work deserves our full support.

Claudia Webbe
claudia.webbe@gmail.com

Claudia Webbe is a Board Director of London Crimestoppers and Vice-Chairperson of the Trident Independent Advisory Group tackling gun crime across London. She is a former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of two Race Equality Councils and adviser to the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone.

LCPCG Special Conference supporting statement materials, April, 2007



Samuel Agbesi

Chair of Young Black Positive Advocates

Ty is a UK rapper who spoke to the audience and introduced Laniya and Words from the Heart. Education has a strong role to play in how we conduct ourselves in the future. High achievers are not celebrated enough. How teachers treat you is what you take on board. What we know is that education, parenting and the media are involved in these issues and there are opportunities to change and to increase accessibility to education.

YBPA Event Summary

The Young Black Positive Advocates (YBPA) raised a number of issues at the conference regarding gun crime and its effects on young people.

Some of the issues we discussed were:

- Exclusion of young people from schools
- The media and how they glorify gun crime.

Young people who are excluded from schools are often stereotyped as being the perpetrators of violent crime. The YBPA portrayed young people in a positive light through an example of poetry. The meaning of the poem was to show how many young people are involved in positive activities within their communities. This helps them to improve life in their local area rather than become involved in criminal behaviour. The poem also portrayed how young people are influenced through different mediums e.g. video games, films and marketing of products from famous celebrities such as 50 Cent [the rap singer] who glorifies violence.



**Ty and Young Black Positive
Advocates**





Philip Udeh

– Race Equality Action Lewisham: Panel Member Contribution

For me the key factors that explain the issue of gun and knife crime and gang culture amongst black youth can be summarised as being discrimination and disadvantage. Discrimination is a factor in that these young people are most likely to be excluded from school, more likely to be unemployed and more likely to be engaged in the criminal justice system. There are also factors of disadvantage and growing up in an area with high levels of social deprivation and a lack of positive role models. In the inner-city young people face very serious challenges in visualising a positive future for themselves in society and have even less clarity on the pathways to achieving these outcomes.

When I go into schools with other young adults to deliver workshops, one of their main concerns is the fear of being robbed or being victims of violent crime. This fear factor is what can cause young people to affiliate to certain groups of boys who have built up a reputation in the local area (i.e. a gang). Even worse they may engage in violent crime, sometimes using these weapons, to further build up their own personal reputation or to prove themselves to the group. As part of a gang or independently, these young people may carry knives or even a gun for self-preservation.

The key challenge for us as a community is to look at how we promote positive aspirations for these young people. We need to promote and celebrate achievement equally as much as we address negative social behaviour. We should resource mentoring and coaching programmes as well as resourcing projects such as For REAL which takes a youth-led approach to youth engagement. The key thing is that we take decisive action now as the more time is wasted and the longer it takes to secure proper investment the more chance that other young lives will be lost.

Philip Udeh
Race Equality Action Lewisham (REAL)

Summary by Simon Woolley

Conference Facilitator

Simon summarised the day and contributions made by the speakers, panel members and delegates, thanking people for organising and participating in the conference.

Close of Conference by David Michael, Chair of Lewisham CPG

David Michael delivered the closing address to the conference, saying that Lewisham CPG had agreed that this shouldn't be a one-off consultation. People should see what this community can do. The representation of black youth in the criminal justice system was excessive and inappropriate. In his Dimpleby Lecture, Lord Denning had referred to the 'Misuse of Power' and this was relevant today. Ignoring the messages from this community would involve a flagrant misuse of power.

As a prelude to thanking the organisers and participants involved in the conference, David cited the words of Sidney Poitier from his memoir *The Measure of a Man*:

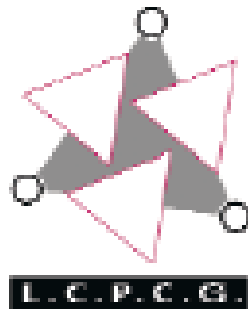
"But when I'm done wrong by someone, I'm not above putting that person on the rack in my mind, you know? I rage against the misdeed by devising all kinds of responses and reactions that would dissipate my anger, but it's all in imaginary form. Then I become sorry for the thoughts and contemplate forgiveness.

"In this life of mine I can't recall any situation in which forgiveness hasn't ultimately been the settlement. However, getting to forgiveness hasn't necessarily been a rapid transition. Still I level out with most such relationships at least cleansed of rancour, if not intact. And I live better with the situation even if a relationship is altered irreparably in some ways."

David said that there was a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. He cited the poem *Children Learn What They Live* by Dorothy Law Nolte, saying that, "If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn. If they live with fairness, they learn justice. If they live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them." David gave thanks to everyone involved in organising, supporting and participating in the conference, including, Sir Steve Bullock, Len Duvall, Paul Minton, Aileen Buckton, Archie Torrance, Adrian Rabot, Angela Slaven, Simon Davis and Helena Green.



Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group



Part 3

Appendices

Gun and knife enabled crime in London

What is gun and knife crime?

The police record crime into different offence categories, e.g. robbery. If a weapon is used to assist a crime the offence will also be classified as a gun or knife enabled offence, e.g. a knife enabled robbery.

Owning or carrying an illegal gun or knife is an offence in its own right, even if it hasn't been used to carry out a crime.

Are crimes involving guns and knives common?

Gun and knife enabled offences are uncommon. In London during 2004/05, only 2 percent of all recorded violent crime involved a gun and 5 percent involved a knife.

This said, in 2003/04 more gun-enabled crimes were recorded in London than any other region in England and Wales: around 40 percent of the national total¹. This may seem a large figure but it equates to c. 6 offences per 10,000 Londoners per year.

Source: MPS recorded crime and Povey, D (2004) Home Office

Is gun and knife crime increasing?

Long term crime trends between April 2003 and August 2005 show consistent levels of gun and knife enabled offending in London. Monthly fluctuations occur but the number of offences have not increased or decreased significantly over this period.

Recent trends, comparing the July to September quarter for 2004/05 with that of 2005/06, indicate that there have been increases in gun-enabled violence (14 percent) and also increases for gun enabled homicide and knife enabled homicide (4 more offences for each compared to period in the previous year).

Source: MPS recorded crime

What types of crime involve guns and knives?

It is important to note that crimes involving guns and knives do not always result in physical injury; guns and knives are also used to threaten, and damage property. The following tables list the types of gun and knife enabled crime in order of prevalence.

¹ There are also large concentrations of gun crime in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands metropolitan areas.

Gun enabled offence	Percentage
Criminal damage	46
Violence against the person	30
Robbery	20
'Other notifiable' offences	3
Burglary	2

Knife enabled offence	Percentage
Robbery	29
Violence	29
Illegal possession of a knife	25
Criminal damage	4
Theft and handling	4
'Other notifiable' offences	4
Burglary	3
Drugs	1

Source: Metropolitan Police Authority (2005, Report 10)

What types of weapons are used to commit crimes?

The following table lists the types of guns used to commit crimes in order of prevalence for England and Wales.

Gun type	Percentage of gun enabled crime
Air weapon	57
Hand gun	23
Imitation	8
Unidentified	6
Other firearm	3
Long barrelled shot gun	1
Sawn off shot gun	1
Rifle	0

Source: Home Office 01/04 (2004)

Different types of blades and sharp implements can be used to threaten and attack people although the statistics here relate to incidents involving actual knives.

To what extent are victims of gun and knife crime harmed or killed?

Victims of any crime suffer a certain amount of trauma. The involvement of a weapon is likely to increase the severity of an offence and also increase the risk of serious physical harm.

A threatening situation involving a weapon can escalate quickly and become violent. Weapons increase the likelihood of someone being killed, be it the intended victim or the attacker themselves.

The probability of serious injury is four and a half times greater when a knife is used to assist a crime. The risk of serious injury is more than twice as great for knife-enabled crimes than for gun-enabled crimes.

It is important to consider these statistics in context however: gun and knife enabled homicide is very rare and accounts for around one percent of gun and knife enabled violence each year.

Source: MPS recorded crime and MPA report 10



Who is committing gun and knife crime?

In the three months to September 2005, those legally proceeded against for a gun or knife enabled crime tended to be male (90 percent), predominantly aged between 18 and 25 (53 percent) and were mostly either black (47 percent) or white (38 percent).

Those aged between 10 and 17 accounted for over a quarter of those accused (28 percent).

Source: MPS recorded crime

Which areas in London have the highest levels of gun and knife crime?

Generally neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation and social exclusion have the highest rates of gun and knife crime.

The following table indicates which London boroughs have the highest and lowest level of gun enabled offending when taking different population sizes in to account.

Borough list	Rate of gun offences per 10,000 population
Hackney, Lambeth, Southwark	10 - 12
Haringey, Waltham Forest, Lewisham, Brent	8-9
Tower Hamlets, Newham, Islington, Greenwich, Ealing, Barking & Dagenham	5-7
Hammersmith & Fulham, Enfield, Camden, Wandsworth, Redbridge, Croydon, Merton, Hounslow	4
Havering, Westminster, Barnet, Kensington & Chelsea, Kingston, Hillingdon	3
Bromley, Harrow, Sutton, Bexley, Richmond	1-2

Source: MPS recorded crime 12 months Oct 2005

Community Safety Inquiry presented by Tricia Campbell

(formerly a Manager at Hyde Housing in Lewisham and Heathside and Lethbridge Neighbourhood Manager)

Executive Summary

The Community Safety Inquiry was initiated at Deptford Green School to research the issue of community safety². The purpose of the CSI was to encourage community participation, to involve residents and young people in finding solutions to the problems and develop more creative ways of engaging people and gathering information.

To conduct the research the CSI steering group identified the key groups of people to interview and then divided these key stakeholders into three groups: the community, young people and statutory providers. There were a range of approaches used to gather information from witness statements, to interviews and focus groups as well as three CSI events held at Deptford Green School.

What makes people feel safe and unsafe?

i. Feelings about the Police

Residents felt most vulnerable going out at night. This was when they most felt the lack of police presence. For young people there was an overwhelming feeling that they did not have a positive relationship with the police. They felt that they would be not taken seriously by police even as victims of crime and that there was a lack of diversity in the police with little representation from ethnic minorities. They were concerned that not all officers treat black people equally.

However, the police are a key factor in increasing feeling of safety. When residents were asked what would make them feel safer they said a more visible police and warden presence. Overwhelmingly residents agreed that this helped them to feel safe and reassured, particularly at night.

ii. Feelings about Young People

Many residents commented on the fact that young people “hanging around in groups” made them feel intimidated and unsafe. People linked anti-social

² During the summer/autumn of 2005, Magpie surveyed a random sample of 103 people on the streets and in community venues in Deptford (Evelyn Ward) and New Cross (New Cross Ward) that revealed local people had many useful points to make on stop and search. The research was conducted for Evelyn Neighbourhood Management as part of the Community Safety Inquiry (CSI) to better understand public opinion of stop and search. See also Lewisham CPG Stop and Search: The Way Forward Conference Report, 2007.

behaviour and lack of respect with some young people. This form of group or gang intimidation was also experienced by young people.

However 28% would see more money spent on young people. Whilst young people were highlighted as contributing to feeling unsafe there was a real feeling that improving facilities would help to solve this. Young people highlighted either a lack of facilities, a lack of affordable leisure activities or a lack of publicity/ information about activities as barriers to participating in activities.

iii. The Environment

A poor environment added to feelings of fear with lack of lighting, graffiti, vandalism and abandoned vehicles named as contributing factors. Pupils at Deptford Green School highlighted particular environmental hot spots where they would not walk or make use of facilities because of safety issues.

iv. Gangs

Young and old people talked about gangs. There were a lot of negative comments made about gangs. Young people interviewed said they felt threatened and bullied and that gangs were involved in stealing things such as money or mobile phones. The intimidation extended outside of school *"sometimes we feel unsafe walking through gang's territories"* and contributed to feelings of fear associated with travelling from place to place because of territorialism.

v. Drugs

Drugs were a general concern for everyone and their association with violent behaviour, guns and knives was perceived and expressed by the whole community.

vi. Street robbery

There were many stories about incidents of muggings and robbery throughout the area. Residents were often reluctant to report crime some feeling that nothing would be done, and amongst some of the minority groups there was an inability to communicate incidents that had happened.

What are the solutions?

Ten solutions were developed through the CSI.

i. Develop Partnership Training

Young people felt there needed to be better relationships between themselves and the police. Numerous examples were given about the breakdown in communication between police officers (particularly the rapid response unit officers) and themselves. Finding ways of involving young people in the training of new recruits was one solution to this issue.

ii. Challenge Stereotypes

Young people felt the older generations held a negative view of young people. This was one of many stereotypes held within the community. Challenging a range of stereotypes from views about older people to Islamophobia is an important element in improving community safety. Encouraging the media to publicise good news stories is one way of achieving this.

iii. Building Communities

A sense of community was seen as highly important in reducing fear of crime. People reported feeling safer when they knew their own neighbours and had friends locally. Community celebrations are one way of encouraging community spirit, developing a united community and getting to know your neighbours – and service providers.

iv. Develop New Approaches to Community Justice

There was a feeling that the criminal justice system was not effective. There are examples of new approaches to community safety such as restorative justice panels and restorative cautioning and it was felt that more extreme measures such as ASBOs should be used as a last resort.

v. Specialist Mediators

The Vietnamese and Somali community felt that knowledge of what was going on, better communication from service providers and meetings would all help them to feel not only better able to cope but also safer. There were difficulties communicating because of language but time taken to keep people informed was seen as important and would also impact on under reporting.

vi. Improve Communication

The CSI process has been about partnership and it was felt that improved communication and opportunities to work together (police, statutory agencies, residents and young people) are part of a long term solution to reducing fear of crime and making areas safer. Continuing the work of the CSI in bringing residents and services providers together to develop solutions was seen as vital.

vii. Policing Together

Young people have complained about police aggression and misunderstandings, and police have commented on young people's attitudes. There are already joint patrols with police, PCSOs and wardens but there is an opportunity to develop a better chain of connection between those enforcing community safety and the youth services. The development of detached work teams with youth workers involved was seen as a missing link.

viii. Increase Reporting

Under reporting is a universal issue and one idea was to use more technology to make reporting easier. The CSI will explore the development of a blog site where information can be reported, updates can be posted and the site can be accessed by members of the community.

ix. Develop Local Solutions and Community Compacts

The CSI has been about improving local knowledge and finding community solutions. It was felt that this kind of approach should be extended and ideas such as community compacts could be developed in local neighbourhoods to agree local standards of behaviour.

x. Police Recruitment and Retention

Young people felt that the lack of ethnic minority recruits in the police service was an issue. At the action planning day we expressed the need for police officers from minority groups who have a long history in the area such as the Somali and Vietnamese communities. To encourage greater diversity within the police service will require support from communities as well as commitment from the police service.

The MPA – Food For Thought

METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY
MPA 21/06

‘FOOD FOR THOUGHT’ – A COMMUNITY LED GUN CRIME FORUM HOSTED BY METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY ON 28/03/06

‘Food for Thought’, a community led forum for victims and witnesses of gun crime to talk about their experiences, was held on 28 March 2006 at the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA). The purpose of the meeting was to enable communities to speak directly to the agencies responsible for tackling gun related crimes.

Kola Williams, who hosted the event with Raymond Webb, said:

This was an opportunity for real people to give the decision makers the real messages of what actually happens on the streets. We must start including real people who have first hand knowledge about the problems so we can come up with workable practical solutions. Local authorities and police must try harder to work together to engage with their local communities.

Cindy Butts, MPA deputy chair and lead member on gun crime, said:

Gun crime blights all our communities, particularly the African and African-Caribbean communities. Whilst much is going on to fight gun crime, communities continue to suffer firearms related crime and the devastating impact it has on their lives. This forum was an excellent opportunity for everyone involved to exchange frank and forthright views and begin to work together to develop coherent policies to fight this shocking crime.

Nazir Afzal OBE, Director, Crown Prosecution Service London West Sector and Lee Jasper, chair of Trident Independent Advisory Group and policy director on Equalities and Policing to the Mayor of London, GLA, both gave presentations on the roles of the community and key agencies in the fight against gun crime.

Notes to Editors

1. ‘Food for Thought’ was an invitation only event. Attendees included:

30 representatives from the community including victims and witnesses of gun crime from across the Trident boroughs, support groups for victims of gun crime and Trident Independent Advisory Group members. Full details of Trident Operational Command Unit can be found at

www.met.police.uk/scd/units/trident.htm

40 attendees were from key statutory and voluntary agencies.

2. The MPA has carried out a mini gun crime scrutiny which will be presented

Appendices

to the MPA Full Authority on 27 April 2006. Whilst 'Food for Thought' did not form part of this scrutiny, there was some 'read-across' to this area of work.

MPA Gun Crime Scrutiny report
(www.mpa.gov.uk/issues/gun-crime/scrutiny.htm)

was presented to the Co-ordination and Policing Committee on 6 Feb 04

Website: www.mpa.gov.uk

National Black Police Association Paper on Gun Crime

Title: GUN AND GANGS CRIME, NBPA WHERE TO NOW?

Date: 13th June 2006

Author: Glen Williams Vice President and NBPA Gun Crime Representative

Purpose of the Brief:

To create a discussion paper that forms a centrepiece for the guns and gangs workshop at the International Police Conference to be held in Manchester between 7 and 12 August 2006. The main premise of the workshop is to look at the issue of gangs, guns and serious violent crime and ask the question “Where should the NBPA be strategically now in relation to this issue?”

There are many good examples in both the United States of America (USA) and United Kingdom (UK) of how communities and law enforcement agencies have worked together to overcome, or deal with, the increase in violence within their inner cities connected with guns. The issue is a huge one and this report in no way attempts to be comprehensive; in fact, it acknowledges that it will only touch on a fraction of the good work being done in this arena by ordinary people. It is sought, though, to establish where the National Black Police Association (NBPA) has been, is now, and where it is going strategically in this arena.

An explanation will be given of the involvement of the NBPA in deconstructing the perception of the police service and government in viewing gun crime as a “Black Thing.” This perception shaped how the police, at the highest strategic level, made decisions and formed policies that lead to the way those communities were, and in some cases still are, policed and had a direct impact on the trust and confidence those communities had in the police service.

At a recent meeting, a leading black minority ethnic (BME) manager asked the questions:

- “Where is the NBPA strategically?
- What policy and decision making tables does it sit at?
- What relationships does it have with people of influence?”

These questions are just as relevant for this issue and will be answered.

In terms of the future direction of the NBPA, in this arena, it has been noted that the issue of violence and the use of guns amongst young people has also seen an increased use of knives to settle petty arguments and disputes that far too frequently result in death. The number of knife related incidents has increased dramatically and we are now seeing more families being torn apart

through the loss of a loved one. Where will the NBPA be placing itself strategically to ensure that the same issues encountered through gun crime do not repeat themselves here?

The question of guns within the police service is one for which BME staff and communities have not been consulted, so the question will be asked: “Is there a need for the debate amongst BPA staff and communities?”

NBPA Gun Crime History on Strategic Criminal Use of Firearms (SCUF) Group

Background:

DCC Allen Green (now retired) became the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead on gun crime in March 2003. At that time, there had been a significant rise, nationally, in the use of firearms for criminal purposes.

He had responsibility for 4 national groups associated with looking into the Criminal Use of Firearms, (CUF) within the UK, namely:

- The Criminal Use of Firearms Group
- The Caribbean Gun Crime Group
- (and the overarching) Coordinating Group
- (There was also another national high-level group – the Firearms Consultative Group).

DCC Green radically revised these groups and created a National Strategic Group made up of senior police officers and members from associated agencies. This included the National Black Police Association, under the watchful eye of Kirk Dawes, then Chair of the West Midlands BAPA. I took his position when Kirk retired from the police to become involved with a mediation team in the West Midlands dealing with issues of gangs and violence in that area.

A further four tactical groups, under the National Intelligence Model criteria of Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement and International Liaison were created to support the strategic group.

The stance of the NBPA was to support legislative change through consistency in sentencing for possession of firearms to help bring down the incident of deaths and to dispel the myth that this was an issue that only affected black communities. The NBPA suggested that the name “*The Caribbean Gun Crime Group*” be dropped and thus, in part, deal with the issue of people coming from that area being treated as part of the overall problem and perception of being involved in gun criminality. The issue of terminology and targeting of a county or region in this way lead to stereotyping of people from countries and regions populated by black people and affected the way police viewed them. This argument was accepted and the group disbanded and incorporated into the *Serious Criminal Use of Firearms Group (SCUF)*, on which the NBPA still sit.

Current Legislation: -

It was understood that legislative issues would have an impact on the criminal use of firearms and this led to the implementation of the following legislation

- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- 22/01/2004 – five year Mandatory Minimum Sentence for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm
- 01/04/2004 – Possession of Self Contained Air Cartridge System air weapon punishable by mandatory minimum sentence
- Violent Crime Reduction Bill.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 became law on 20th January 2004 in relation to the carrying of imitation firearms and air weapons in a public place without lawful authority.

On the 22nd January 2004 a five year mandatory minimum sentence for unlawful possession of a firearm came into being. This was supported by the NBPA and the various voluntary groups, such as Mothers against Crime, a group that found support amongst local BPAs such as Manchester, London and Nottingham.

In addition, on the 1st April 2004 the possession of a Self-Contained Air Cartridge System air weapon became an offence punishable by the mandatory minimum sentence. There is an ongoing debate about the implementation of these statutory sentences because not all judges are implementing the sentence when they should be. This has led to a request that any information on convictions where this sentence has not been imposed be passed to the SCUF group for it to be looked into so representation is made if proven that the sentencing criteria was not followed.

Future Legislation

The Violent Crime Reduction Bill proposes to:

- increase the age limit for buying or firing an air weapon without supervision from 17 to 18
- make it illegal to manufacture or sell imitation firearms that could be mistaken for real firearms
- bring in higher sentences for carrying imitation firearms;
- create tougher manufacturing standards to ensure that an imitation firearm cannot be converted to fire real ammunition
- and make it an offence to use other people to hide or carry guns or knives.

Police Operations: OPERATION TRIDENT: *London's Trident Boroughs*

Achievements:

- Enforcements - in level 2 crime, proactive targeting of individuals; very high detection rate
- Developing a more strategic approach to breaking up the net works
- Focus on community confidence, support and engagement
- Better understanding of dynamics risk complexity of why young people get into this activity
- Research has been done extensively
- Have developed very good educational programmes – “Boyhood to manhood”, and
- “Not another drop” campaigns and projects to name a few - what they all have in common is that they are community based.

Challenges:

- Changing profile of gun crime offences - younger people getting involved in homicide and moving to homicide crime very early in years
- Issue of availability and the challenges of reducing availability - more acceptable to use guns in trivial issues and guns more readily available
- Kidnap and use of violence on the rise
- Big challenge over volume, far more gangs than known of
- Challenge in relation to avoiding stigmatisation and representation by referring to people belonging to gangs when in fact they do not
- High levels of victimisations through organised crime
- Confidence in police not high in many affected communities because of past experiences or perceptions
- Lack of coordination in terms of funding which leads to a short-term approach and funding streams that do not cross boundaries
- Bad risk factor assessment
- Difficulty in identifying those who want to move out of crime.

WEST MIDLAND MEDIATION AND TRANSFORMATION SERVICE

Birmingham mediation teamwork managed by Kirk Dawes

- This is a team of local individuals trained in mediation whose job is to identify where problems are occurring or when they have occurred using mediation to bring about a non-violent resolution or stop the incident from escalating
- Their work in the recent troubles in Birmingham between the Asian and Afro Caribbean communities was exemplary
- Work being looked at by the SCUF group as example of best practice.

OPERATION BEMBRIDGE

- A national proactive operation targeting people who have bought prohibited weapons over the internet was undertaken under the code name Bembridge which resulted in:

- 276 Arrests
- 895 Weapons Seized
- Class A drugs were also recovered

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (Just two examples for consideration):

A Better Los Angeles

This project is made up of local leaders from the private and non-profit sectors, social services, faith-groups, as well as representatives of the education and law enforcement sectors. This partnership is committed to supporting communities from Los Angeles' south and central districts in their goal of reducing gang violence. It works with 12 to 18 year olds to address drugs, self-esteem, motivation, and to help them prepare for the future. *(Extract from Joe Montgomery Director General Tackling Disadvantaged Group, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and ex resident of Hyson Green and St Ann's).* After a meeting in London where the LA contingency gave a presentation of the work being done, it was clear that because of the scale of the problem LA were approaching it from an enforcement angle. The question was raised, however, regarding what was being done about understanding the motivation behind why the crimes were being committed. In Britain, our problem was very small by comparison to theirs (See above background section) but this allowed us a unique opportunity to grasp an understanding of the motivation behind crime, an opportunity that LA appeared not to have or undertaken.

Nottingham Holding Hands Around St Ann's

This project is based on empowering communities in one of the local areas in Nottingham that has received bad press in relation to gun crime activities that have occurred there over the years. The idea came from a local person who had a vision of people from the area holding hands in solidarity and visual statement representing how proud they were to live in that area. On Saturday 17th June 2006, the event entered its third year. Each year the event moves from strength to strength. It is run by the local people and has drawn attention from the Nottinghamshire media outlets who normally only turn up in the area when there has been a report of a shooting. The Notts BPA and Hope In the Cities have given their support to the event from its formation through providing finance and human resource support all year round.

These are just samples of the works being done and mention here is not a reflection of importance over other projects being run in Manchester, West Midlands and elsewhere. In 2005, the NBPA started discussions with BPA members from Manchester, West Midlands, Nottingham, and Avon and Somerset to look at collecting information on the type of work being done by them in this arena, unfortunately this was not followed through after the first meeting. It is intended to look at restarting this process but this time run as a project with stated aims and objectives, terms of reference and stated outcomes within a given period.

What is the current situation?

Firearms Amnesties:

Do firearms amnesties affect levels of firearms offences? This conversation is still ongoing. It can be argued, however, that from a public confidence perspective they do have an impact. There is a counter argument, however, that the weapons being recovered are not those used in criminality and thus the impact of amnesties on reducing gun crime is minimal.

The Home Office Report on Crime in England and Wales for the period 2003-2004 shows that in 2003/04 there were a provisional 10,340 firearm offences in England and Wales. This was an ***increase*** of less than one per cent since 2002/03. Therefore, ***whilst the number of offences has risen each year since 1997/98, the 2003/04 rise is the smallest.***

HOWEVER, the number of serious crimes of violence against the person involving firearms ***increased by six per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 and currently stands at an increase of 10% 2005/06.***

Results of main firearms amnesties because of murders from use of firearms:-

- 1988 – Hungerford
- 48,000 firearms & 1.7 million rounds of ammo
- 1996 – Dunblane

- 23,000 firearms & 700,000 rounds of ammo
- 2003 – Charlene Ellis and Letisha Shakespeare
- 44,000 firearms & just over 1 million rounds of ammo.

Home Office Statistics up to December 2005:

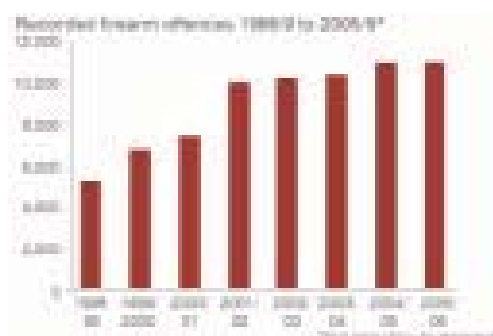
- 10,878 firearm offences
- 30% reduction in fatal injuries
- 21% increase in serious injuries
- 10% increase in slight injuries
- Handguns remain the most popular weapon
- 54% firearm offences occur in 3 force areas.

In the year to December 2005, there were a provisional 10,878 firearm offences, a decrease of 3%, compared to the same period last year. (*Home Office Crime in England and Wales Quarterly update to December 2005*)

Fatal injuries fell from 73 to 51 in the year to December 2005, but there were increases in offences causing other injuries. Serious injuries were up by 21% and slight injuries were up by 10% - this rise is considered attributable to the use of imitation weapons.

There were 4,614 offences where handguns were used, in the year to December 2005.

Most offences involving a firearm are violent crimes and more than half (54%) occur in just 3 metropolitan forces: The Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester Police, and West Midlands Police. This figure is a reduction from the previous year where two thirds of all firearms offences were believed to have been committed in those three metropolitan force areas. The reason for the reduction may be attributable to the spread of drugs markets to more rural areas as the metropolitan markets have become saturated.



Gun crime

Just under 11,000 firearms offences were recorded by police in 2005/6 - virtually the same as the previous year.

However, the level remains well above that at the start of the millennium, and have continued to rise - though at a much-reduced rate. Gun crime use over all has increased by 10% from 2005/06.

Homicides involving firearms were 40% down on the 2004/5 figure at 46.

(Figures taken from Home Office Recorded Statistics 2006)

New SCUF command team

The new ACPO lead on SCUF since February 2006 is DCC Keith Bristow from Warwickshire Police. He also has a new Secretariat in Phil Henley. The Purpose of the Secretariat is:

“To reduce the threat and harm caused by gun crime and the fear of gun crime through prompting, facilitating and coordinating the development and implementation of an effective national partnership strategy on gun crime”

Three priorities of ACPO Criminal Use of Firearms group (CUF):

- Supply
- Criminal Use and
- Managing Harm Caused by Firearms.

Part of the SCUF brief is to look at:

- Development of Mediation Techniques
- Development of Education Packages
- Development of Best Practice.

Identify Websites selling firearms to people in the UK which are illegal in the UK

- Encourage True Multi-Agency working
- Effective Management of Firearms Offenders
- Proactively Targeting and Combating Main Offenders.
- Develop Strategies with Key Source Countries to Combat the Diversion of Firearms from the Legal to the Illegal Market
- Close Liaison with Port Authorities
- CPS/Witness Intimidation.

The SCUF have started the process in the formulation of the following forums:

- The group belonging to the practitioners on which the NBPA sits
- National IAG forum on which the NBPA sit and includes representatives from BME communities and voluntary service from Manchester, West Midlands, and London, the three main police areas of concern. The NBPA also sits on this forum
- The strategic Criminal Use of Firearms group, which has over arching responsibility. Again, the NBPA sits on this forum.

Conclusion

The NBPA sits at the highest policy and decision-making tables in this forum. It has a place at the Gun Crime Roundtable set up by the Home Office and chaired by the Home Secretary, although there has been no indication from the current Home Secretary John Reid that this forum will continue. A discussion needs to be had as to how the NBPA can make full use of this positioning strategically. Against the background of flat budget increases and the removal of funding from the Criminal Asset Recovery Agency for voluntary projects such as those run by Mothers Against Guns and gun crime initiatives in general, this dialogue has become even more important. There is also the discussion to be had about arming of police officers. Is this the way forward? What are the views of police officers, and police staff on this? What do minority ethnic communities feel about it? With this in mind, an approach has been made to the Police Federation to ask them to look at the response they received to such a query in relation to police officers and to break that response down into ethnic groups. The outcome of this will be published in due course.

I feel very strongly that we in Britain were actually doing better than we give ourselves credit for, especially in the area of trying to understand why crime is being committed. This does not mean that we should be complacent though. The USA and broader European experience is different from ours. The USA has a greater handle on how to motivate and get agencies, particularly private companies, to work together. Their attitude to positive thinking is very persuasively argued in many cases, even sermonic at times. However, I believe that, even though we have a long way to go, our community interaction and diversity interaction is still better than those found in USA and Europe. For example, in the USA the groups are very segregated and there appears to be no interaction between them. In France after the recent riots, it was clear that there was no interaction between the police and the community leaders, preventing them from getting to the heart of the problems.

I leave this thought with you for discussion in the gun and gangs workshop.

NBPA Constitutional Aims and Objectives met:

2.2:

(1) Representing the views of all representative members of constituted Black Police Associations (herein known as BPAs) who are affiliated to the NBPA

(3) Influencing the direction of policies nationally in line with equality issues and anti-discrimination policies in the police service and wider criminal justice system

(4) Advising and consulting on matters of racism, nationally.

(5) Working towards improving relationships between the police and the minority ethnic communities within the United Kingdom

(7) Assisting the police service in the development of new and existing policies, where necessary.

Glen Williams

Vice President

National Black Police Association

NBPA

Recorded Crimes Involving Firearms – National Figures

1a Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were used? by degree of injury (Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07)

Year	Non- Air Weapons				Air Weapons				
	Total	Fatal Injury	Serious Injury ²	Slight Injury	Total	Fatal Injury	Serious Injury	Slight Injury	Total Injuries
1998/99	864	49	162	653	1514	0	133	1381	2378
1999/00	1195	62	200	933	1977	0	171	1806	3172
2000/01	1382	72	244	1066	1821	1	166	1654	3203
2001/02	1877	95	392	1390	1915	2	165	1748	3792
2002/03	2179	80	416	1683	2377	1	156	2220	4556
2003/04	2367	68	437	1862	2395	0	157	2238	4762
2004/05	3912	77	411	3424	1497	1	145	1351	5409
2005/06	3821	49	476	3296	1180	1	119	1060	5001

¹ By weapon being fired, used as a blank instrument or in a threat

² A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fracture, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds

- The number of firearms crimes which resulted in injuries has more than doubled in seven years – from 2378 in 1998/99 to 5001 in 2005/06

- The entire rise comes from non-air weapon offences resulting in injuries which have risen more than four-fold in that time.

1b Types of Crimes where Firearms are used (Non – Air Weapons)

Violence against the Person	50%
Robbery offences	37%
Criminal Damage	7%
Other	6%

(Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07)

1c Violence against the person using firearms (national)

Year	Homicide	Attempted Murder & Other Acts (including Wounding)	Other	Total
1998/99	49	724	2910	3683
1999/00	62	759	3881	4702
2000/01	73	831	3869	4773
2001/02 ¹	97	1110	4636	5843
2002/03 ²	81	1285	5767	7133
2003/04	68	1350	6434	7852
2004/05	78	1383	6486	7947
2005/06	50	1271	5977	7298

¹ Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1/04/2002.

² The NCRS was introduced on 1/4/2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this. (Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07)

- There were 50 firearms homicides in 2005/06. This is the second lowest level in 8 years
- Attempted murder and 'other' firearms related crimes have also fallen from 2004/05, but have shown a steep increase over the last 8 years
- Crimes classed as 'violence against the person' using firearms have doubled since 1998/99

2 The London Perspective

2a Firearms Homicides in London vs National (Source: Metropolitan Police March 2007)

	England and Wales	Metropolitan Area	% of total deaths
1998/99	49	16	33%
1999/00	62	29	47%
2000/01	73	28	38%
2001/02	97	46	47%
2002/03	81	39	48%
2003/04	68	25	37%
2004/05	78	26	33%
2005/06	50	23	46%
Total	558	232	42%

2b Victims of Firearm Homicide by Age (Source: Metropolitan Police March 2007)

	0-17 years	18-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60+ years
1998/99	0	6	6	3	1	0
1999/00	0	12	6	6	5	0
2000/01	0	16	7	1	2	2
2001/02	3	27	8	4	3	1
2002/03	0	22	11	3	1	2
2003/04	3	11	5	3	2	1
2004/05	0	19	6	1	0	0
2005/06	0	16	4	1	1	1
Total	6	129	53	22	15	7

From 1998/99 – 2005/06 129 people aged between 18-29 were murdered by firearms in London alone.

2c Victims of Firearm Homicide by Ethnicity

	White European	Dark European	African/ Caribbean	Indian/ Pakistani	Chinese/ Japanese	Arabian/ Egyptian
1998/99	6	0	10	0	0	0
1999/00	9	0	18	2	0	0
2000/01	7	2	17	2	0	0
2001/02	16	4	23	3	0	0
2002/03	7	2	27	3	0	0
2003/04	2	1	16	3	2	1
2004/05	3	0	22	1	0	0
2005/06	6	0	16	1	0	0
Total	56	9	149	15	2	1

(Source: Metropolitan Police March 2007)

- From 1998/99 – 2005/06, the ethnic origin of 149 victims was African/Caribbean. This accounted for 64% of the total firearms homicides in London throughout this period
- Of the 232 people killed by Firearms in London over this period, 18 were female and 214 were male.

2d Firearm offences (excluding air weapons offences) in Police Force area vs. national figures (Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07)

Police Force	Total number of offences 2004/05	Total number of offences 2005/06	Offences per 1000,000 population (05/06)
London Region	3697	3884	52
Greater Manchester	1268	1200	47
West Midlands	959	946	37
North Yorkshire	13	15	2
Total number of offences Nationally (including London)	11071	11084	21
Total number of offences nationally (excluding London)	7374	7200	16

London, Greater Manchester and West Midlands have the highest numbers of firearms offences. These three police force areas account for 54% of all firearms offences (2005/06).

North Yorkshire has the lowest recorded firearms offences at just 15 for 2005/06.

What can the Community do?

- Already have examples of good Community Action – Guns Amnesty in 1997 lasted 28 days and took 28 firearms (including semi-automatic guns, 9mm pistols, shotguns etc.) and 3 500 rounds of ammunition off the streets.
- Communities must keep the momentum and pressure up
- Highlight the consequences of gun crime – not only to the victim, to the wider family and community and also to the perpetrator and their families
- Retaliation and revenge escalate crime
- Freedom to state ‘not acceptable’ – standing together as a united voice
- Bringing pressure on suppliers of replica guns

- Judicial System
 - Improve witness protection via multi-agency approach
 - Harness new technology – voice screening, anonymity for life (Walker)
- Capture, Conviction, Co-ordination – via CPS, police ensuring that sentencing is proportionate and appropriate
- Media Strategy – countering the cynicism and sensationalism with the successes. Maintaining the momentum and interest.

3a What Lessons have been learnt?

- Communities DO make a difference by working together.
- Positive approach essential for success
- All about individuals taking responsibility and saying 'Not in my neighbourhood.'
- Promoting the idea from a young age that Actions have Consequences.
- That there is strength in numbers.

Mike Franklin

Commissioner, Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)



Table Discussions Participant List

Committee Room 1

Table Discussion (64)

(4 Groups of 16)

Anna Tapsell (Group Leader)

Althea Smith, Councillor (Group Leader)

Alma Hunt (Group Leader)

Sam Dias (Group Leader)

Adejumo Hilda
Aidoo Magna
Ajana Mary
Akinsnmi Taiye
Akinso Margaret
Al-Rahman Abd
Ashby David
Asihene Bishop Clement
Bell Sarah
Berbeck Jenny
Bernard Ethan
Bostridge Carol
Brown Angela
Burrell Janet
Calnan Chris
Clarke Michael
Copeland Gloria
Costello Lynn
Day Alison
Devine Gerry
Duncan Carl
Evans Samantha
Fannon Lisa
Gilbert Lorraine
Gordon Michelle
Gushway Janice
Hafford Chris
Haggarty Kevin
Hamilton Lennox
Holland Julie
Ide Sgt Michael
Jarrett Anthony
Latch Linda
Lawler Ann

Lewis Christopher
Mathurin-Boucher Peter
Menzies Eileen
Morrison Pauline
Newing Paul
Obeya Judie
Onuegbu Crada, Councillor
Oshevire Gilbert
Palmer Eleanor
Pereira Oliver
Prentice Bridget
Rafe Melaine
Khurram Shaikh
Silvester Michelle
Soffa Maurice
Sunmola Mr K
Thomas Marcia
Tournay Reverend Corinne
Turner Phil
Turner Vashti
Tyler Steve
Wade-Williams Noyana
Walters-Stephenson Wesley
Webley-Brown Caroline
Williams Eve
Williams Fred
Wilson Angela
Young Yat

Committee Room 2 (Council Chamber)

Table Discussions (38)

(1 Group of 20 and 1 Group of 18)

Jenny Berbeck (Group Leader)

Elaine Bowen-Duncan (Group Leader)

Anderson Barrie, Councillor

Ashley Kayleigh

Bowen-Duncan Elaine

Campbell Carol

Cobbold Sylvester

Franklin Mike

Gayle Sherol

Hall Nigel

Henry Jacqui

Jarrett Cherry

Jarrett Tracey

Jolley Terence

Knight Monica

Kuti Benjamin

Lawrence Angela

Levy Hubert

Lofting Ian

Mathurin-Boucher Fluer

Parker Brian

Potter Anne

Rabot Adrian, A/Chief Superintendent

Reid Rosalyn

Reynolds Paul

Rodney Grace

Rumble Pastor Geoffrey

Salih Nalan

Sandford Hannah

Scott Selina

Sterling Andre

Webb Henri

Wilson Luke

Committee Room 3

Table Discussions (24)

(2 Groups of 12)

Thomas Joseph (Group Leader)

Frankie Sulke (Group Leader)

Afuape Minister Layo

Alexander Bernice

Bent Rowenta

Rogers Bill, Chief Inspector

Bowles-Dove Glennette

Buckley Helen

Burton Leonard

Cohen Keith

Coulson Joan

Daley Antoinette

Dunbar Chris

Francis Sueanne

Gay Allan

Gould Vanessa

Jayaraman Jai

Murray Carlton

Okoh Ehiabor

Reid David

Richards

Robinson Winston

Thomas Asher

Thomas Jacqui

Tidball Ellen

Woodley Karin

Committee Room 4

Table Discussions (24)

(2 Groups of 12)

Dennis Wade (Group Leader)

Leroy Bowles (Group Leader)

Balfour Tekla

Bardowell Derek

Bent Krystal

Bernard Ethan

Curran Steve

Daniel Dalewyn

Davidson Rose

Duvall Len

Ferguson Nicholas

Foster Jenny

Fullerton Delroy

Hamilton Michael

Hartley-Forbes Althea

Lumeka Pastor Prince Flory

Malkani Sonoo

Paul Andrea

Torrance Christopher

Wallace Gayle

Wanless Sean, Acting Superintendent

Webbe Claudia

Committee Room 5

Table Discussions (20)

(1 Group of 14)(1 Group of 6)

Trevor Pybus (Group Leader)

Joanne Meredith-White (Group Leader)

Aidoo-Bell Nzinga

Ali-Tarneberg

Archer Esther

Berkeley Malachi

Brennan Melanie

Burns David

Christie Yvonne

Ejimofo Beverley

Emakpose Florence

Gundry Pearlina

Higgins Diana

Jarvis Inspector Tracy

Jones Palmira

MacDonald Jude

McKenzie Remmel

Taylor Karen

Unthank Tony

White Francesca

White Peter

Wilson Clive

Committee Room 6 (Mayor's Parlour)

Table Discussions (16)

(1 Group of 16)

Dr William (Lez) Henry (Group Leader)

Barnett Spencer, Detective Sergeant

Bull Chris

Fuller Denise

Houston Fay

Jusu Samina

Ogundare-Ali Ade

Parker Clive

Phoenix Romaine, Councillor

Pusey Dean

Remi Sharon

Rizvi Iffat

Rumble Brenda

Scott Matthew

White Sandra

Willis Leleeth

Committee Room 8

Table Discussions (14)

(1 Group of 14)

Cureau Celine

Davis Inspector Sarah

Ferguson Melaine

Fonteyn Zoe

Hamilton Shirley

Huie Stephen

Nistri Paola

Phillip Yvonne

Sealey Sharon

Sergeant David

Taylor Jane

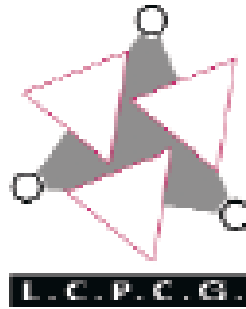
Thompson Andre

Ward Paula

Weis Stuart

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Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group



Part 4

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www.london.gov.uk/gangs/projects/lewisham/project-01.jsp

Connected Fund Projects

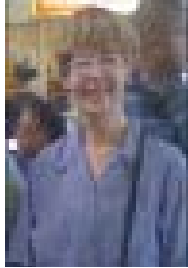
www.connected.gov.uk/funding/projects-funded/third-round/index.html

Useful telephone numbers

Childline	0800 1111
Crime Stoppers (call Crime Stoppers anonymously)	0800 555 111
Anti- Terrorism Hotline	0800 789 321
Lewisham Council	020 8314 6000
Lewisham Police	0300 123 1212
British Transport Police Lewisham	020 8694 4214 0208 694 4255
Lewisham Council Community Safety Team	020 8314 7531
Lewisham Probation Service	020 8297 2766
Metropolitan Police Authority	020 7202 0202
Independent Police Complaints Commission	08453 002 002
Victim Support Lewisham	020 8698 4583
Lewisham Citizens Advice Bureau	0870 126 4037
Race Equality Action Lewisham	020 7587 2556
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	020 8333 3000
Lewisham Strategic Partnership	020 8314 7073
Lewisham Community Network	020 8692 5274
Talk to Frank (drugs advice)	0800 77 66 00
The Haven (sexual assault advice)	020 7346 1599
Imobilise mobile phones	0870 123 123
Crime Concern (a national crime reduction organisation)	01793 863 500
Lewisham Fire Station (Community Fire Safety Advice)	020 7587 4521
Lewisham People's Day	020 8314 7730
Local Assemblies	
Darnell Bailey - Local Assemblies Team	020 8314 6730
Sam Dias - Forest Hill/Sydenham/Bellingham	020 8314 3386
Ade Joseph – Grove Park/Downham/Lee Green	020 8314 6026
Sarah Cooper - Crofton Park/Evelyn	020 8314 9608
John O'Reilly - Whitefoot/Perry Vale/Catford South	020 8314 3384
Jason Fleming - New Cross/Rushey Green	020 8314 3253
Nancy Stridgen - Telegraph Hill/Brockley	020 8314 9608
Paul Gale - Lewisham Central/ Ladywell/ Blackheath	020 8314 3387
Paul Jackson – Local Assemblies Programme Manager	020 8314 9676

Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group
 2nd Floor Civic Suite, Lewisham Town Hall
 1 Catford Road
 London SE6 4RU
 Telephone: 020 8314 8975

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Dr Jill Jameson is Director of Research and Enterprise at the School of Education and Training, University of Greenwich. The author of four books and hundreds of other publications, Jill is a Fellow of the Institute for Learning (FifL), with a PhD and MA (Distinction, King's College), MA (Goldsmith's), MA and BA Hons (University of Cambridge), PGCE (Distinction, University of Nottingham) and BA, PG Dip (UCT). Co-Chair of *ALT-C 2008*, National Convenor, Society for Research in Higher Education HE-FE Research Network, Special Editor for *BJET* (2006) and *ALT-J* (2000), Jill is a reviewer for *AACE*, *ALT-J*, *Studies in HE* and the *Journal of F&HE* and 24-book Series Editor for *Continuum International* publishers. Jill was the author of the *Lewisham Community Police Consultative Committee Stop and Search Conference Report* (2006). With more than 20 years HE-FE senior management experience, Jill is a UK appointed Assessor for the LSIS Principals' Qualifying Programme (PQP) and was Director of the JISC eLIDA CAMEL and eLISA projects. Jill was born in Zimbabwe and frequently returns to Africa to visit family and friends. Her family originally derives from Edinburgh, but has a long history of legal, medical and academic professional work in Africa.

Contact details for further information:

Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group
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