

Jenny Jones

August Riots

1. Do you feel that the criticisms of Haringey's borough commander were justified following the police response to the rioting in Tottenham on Saturday 6th August?

I am proud of officers and staff who put themselves in harm's way during the events of that day and of the Command Teams who made difficult decisions in a fast changing situation.

2. Do you think that similar incidents could happen again? Would the Met be better prepared?

We will do everything we can to prevent a reoccurrence. I should stress though that we have never witnessed such significant multi site disorder so to suggest we were unprepared is a little unfair.

Our comprehensive review and subsequent learning from these events will make us more prepared for the future?

Gang Intervention Work

1. Does the Met have enough resources for gang intervention work, or do you need more?

When it comes to tackling gangs and the wider issue of serious violence on our streets, our primary objective is to enhance the combined efforts of police and partners in relation to diversion, prevention and enforcement activity.

A key strand of this is about embedding Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) across London in order to maximise the significant safeguarding benefits that arise from key agencies co-locating to share intelligence and information. Agencies such as health, education, probation, youth workers are working closely with police, sharing information in order to inform operational decision making.

At a strategic level the MASH approach is being driven by the Mayor's Anti-Violence Partnership, which is also carrying out work to ensure that the many anti-violence initiatives in place across London are focused and coordinated to achieve the greatest impact.

One example of this is the Communities Against Guns Gangs and Knives funding that is allocated in consultation with local boroughs and targeted to the most appropriate locations and high risk individuals.

Of course there will be some concern about a potential loss of funding for some projects, but our focus, and that of our partner agencies, is firmly on streamlining the resources we have in a direction from which we can realise clear benefits.

Operation Connect is one such example where the MASH approach is starting to deliver some real results. Since its introduction in March 2011 Waltham Forest has seen significant reductions in serious youth violence offences, knife crime and gun crime.

Fifteen key offenders have been charged for a range of homicide, firearms, violence and robbery offences. Thirty class A drug users, named suspects in 375 offences, have been identified and are now supported by the partnership.

This success is down to an approach that is jointly police and Local Authority led with a multi-agency input. It directs resources to deal with families of most concern and is supported by a performance framework so we can effectively assess activity and incorporate learning for the future.

2. I understand that a Community Initiative to Reduce Violence scheme, along the lines of the scheme operating in Glasgow, was considered but not pursued in London. Can we have a briefing on the considerations and decisions made?

Further clarity was required and a response to this question is currently being sought.