

Appendix 2

Overview of the IPLDP community engagement programme

Community Engagement

1. Through the implementation of IPLDP (Initial Police Learning Development Programme), the MPS has embraced the opportunities presented within the new curriculum to establish strong community links and meet the community engagement elements directed by the Home Office.

Met volunteers programme

2. The IPLDP fully utilises the services offered by this resource during Mandatory Street Exercises that form part of the new curriculum. The experience of the volunteers participating in the exercises contributes to an effective feedback session to the student officers at the conclusion of their exercises.

Community volunteers

3. Through established partnerships with Borough Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers, volunteers are also identified from within the communities where the Mandatory Exercises are to take place. Contributors are specifically encouraged from within the immediate locality of the exercise venue and must reflect the diversity of that area. Selection is broadly random, they are drawn from various religious backgrounds, are non-gender specific and are non-ageist. However, to facilitate the training requirements, specific groups may be targeted to provide realism.

Community links

4. Throughout the curriculum sessions are made available for further opportunities of community engagement. Links are continuing to be developed between different religious groups on each of the Boroughs, encouraging both classroom contributions and students visits to the respective religious venues. Examples of these include visits facilitated by the Muslim Safety Forum to mosques in Brent and in Hackney, visits to synagogues and involvement with the local Parliament of Faiths. In addition to these, partnerships have also been established between IPLDP sites and vulnerable communities within the Boroughs, including special needs Schools, Refuges, Hospitals and Care Homes dealing with the elderly and those with terminal illnesses.

Assessment

5. The very nature of the IPLDP demands that assessment is continuous throughout the course.

Staff observations

6. If development needs are identified by their Staff (or Tutor during live Borough attachments or 'summative weeks') development or action plans will be set for the student depending on the scale of that need. In

addition to the general every day assessment that is carried out there are additional scheduled opportunities for assessment.

Policing Action Checklists (PACS)

7. PACs are completed by staff at the conclusion of a Mandatory Street Exercise and throughout summative weeks. These assessment forms comply with the NVQ style of assessment demanded by the Home Office. The students practical performance during an exercise will be measured against specific competency areas and that student will, at the conclusion of the exercise, be deemed either 'Competent' or 'Not competent', the latter resulting in either a development or action plan being set.

Feedback

8. Verbal assessments from Met volunteers and Community volunteers is an integral part of the Mandatory Street Exercises and provide a valuable tool for independent assessment of a student's performance. The content of this feedback could result in a development plan being set for the officer in relation to communication skills.

Knowledge assessment

9. At present there are four scheduled Knowledge Evaluation Exercises during the course, which are positioned to coincide with the conclusion of each of the modules. These exercises provide a further tool with which to assess the progress of a student. At this time, the process is used purely as a developmental tool, indicating areas of knowledge that a student is required to improve upon. Resources exist on site to facilitate additional learning opportunities for the student and support in identifying study and exam techniques.

Evaluation

10. The IPLDP is relatively new to the MPS having initially been piloted on five independent sites throughout London. The full implementation of the programme across the remaining 27 London Boroughs began in April 2007 with structures for the Community Engagement aspects of the course in place in June 2007.

In view of the timescales involved, the programme has not been running sufficiently long enough for an official evaluation to take place to date.