

Met Forward: Monthly progress bulletin (January 2011)



1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a snap shot of the progress being made to deliver Met Forward. Met Forward is the Metropolitan Police Authority's (MPAs) three year strategic mission outlining the priorities it wants the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to focus on and key areas of development for the Authority to improve policing in London.

2. Met Forward Project and Workstream Updates

Standardisation of community engagement structures

On 4 October, members of the Communities, Engagement and Citizen Focus Sub-committee (CECF) received an update report on initial findings from the value for money review of Community and Police Engagement Groups (CPEGs)

The report outlined the value that CPEGs bring including;

- improved engagement and relationships between young people and the police;
- the establishment of third party reporting sites and of a crime prevention desk in a local supermarket, making the police more accessible to the community; and

- provision of opportunities for the community to nominate projects for the Community Payback Scheme (unpaid work carried out by offenders), ensuring offenders repay their debt to the community while helping to improve the local environment.

To view this report please go to: www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/cecf/2010/101004/04/

To build on the findings from the report, the MPA held a consultation event for representatives of CPEGs on 9 November looking at issues including 'what is a model CPEG'. This well attended event will help us identify areas of good practice across London and any gaps or areas where we can improve. The final report is due to be presented to the CECF in December.

London Crime Reduction Board

The executive group for the London Crime Reduction Board met on 11 November. An interim set of pan-London priorities were discussed, focusing on anti-violence and offender management. The second meeting of the board takes place on 7 December.

The Board brings together a number of agencies with pan-London responsibilities, with the aim of pooling resources and knowledge to tackle key community safety priorities.

To read a summary of the key issues and feedback arising from the consultation on the proposals for the development of the Board go to:

www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward/lcrb-feedback/

MPA/MPS estates programme

Met Forward outlined its intention to review the MPA estates programme to ensure that our assets are used effectively to meet the demands of policing in the 21 century.

The MPA is responsible for the Metropolitan Police estate which needs to be modernised and adapted to accommodate up-to-date policing practices and functions. Central to this is making policing more accessible to the public and consulting effectively with communities to make sure we get this right.

The revised estate strategy for 2011/14 was agreed at the Finance and Resources committee on 21 October 2010. The strategy acknowledges the current economic climate and the need for significant savings. This strategy supersedes previous plans and can be found at: www.mpa.gov.uk/downloads/committees/finres/101021-07-appendix01.pdf

The Race and Faith Inquiry

The MPA and the MPS presented progress reports on the implementation of the Race and Faith Inquiry to November's full Authority.

The Authority and the MPS have yet to finalise arrangements for implementing the recommendations and embedding the lessons learnt from the Inquiry, and these will be the subject of further discussion once the response from the MPA and MPS have been fully considered.

A full copy of the Race and Faith Inquiry report can be obtained on the MPA website at: www.mpa.gov.uk/downloads/publications/race-faith-inquiry.pdf

To view the formal MPA response to the inquiry, please go to: www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/mpa/2010/101125/06a/

To view the formal MPS response to the inquiry, please go to: www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/mpa/2010/101125/06b/

Met specials and volunteers

Met Forward announced big plans for special constables and the crucial role they play in uniformed governance of the streets. We believe they form an important part of the inter-relationship between the police and the public.

At the end of October, 3,985 specials had been recruited and we are on target for having recruited 2,500 specials this financial year.

A report is to be presented to the Communities, Equalities and People Committee (CEP) in December. To view this report go to: www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/cep/2010/101203/06/

Civil liberties – the national DNA database and use of DNA in policing

Met Forward introduced the MPA Civil Liberties Panel (CLP) as a means of securing public confidence in policing tactics in the capital and ensuring the Met maintains public trust. The panel convenes to consider issues on a priority basis as agreed by the MPA and the current area of focus is the National DNA Database (NDNAD) and the use of DNA in policing.

The Civil Liberties Panel continues to obtain information from various key individuals and groups involved in managing and using the national DNA database, including the Association of Chief Police Officers and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). In November the panel met and took evidence from the chair of the national DNA database ethics group, the Forensic Science Regulator and the Director of Forensics at the MPS.

An announcement on the government's Freedom Bill is likely to take place in December and the contents of this Bill will focus the final CLP report which is scheduled for publication early next year and will include recommendations for the MPS on the governance of DNA. For more information go to: www.mpa.gov.uk/clp/

GLA/MPA crime and community safety roadshows

The second round of GLA/MPA roadshows has started. So far we have been to Greenwich (South East cluster), Croydon (South West cluster), Wembley (North West cluster) and Alexander Palace (North and Westminster cluster). We have one remaining roadshow to take place at the Stratford Old Town Hall (North East cluster) on 14 December.

This round of roadshows is intended to update people on joint action being carried out across the capital to tackle violent crime and to encourage greater participation in the delivery of Met Forward, Time for Action and the Way Forward.

The audiences have been enthusiastic and asked lots of interesting questions. Key themes have been around:

- potential cutbacks to frontline policing;
- the impact of cuts in funding for local authorities; *and*
- the Safer Neighbourhood's review and community engagement review.

Full details of Q&As stemming from these roadshows will be circulated to all CPEGs and to all persons in receipt of this monthly highlight report.

To find out more about these events and book your place for the Stratford roadshow on 14 December, please go to: www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward/roadshows/

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

This Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 30 November 2010 and published on 1 December 2010.

It is envisaged that this Bill will create an important new sense of ownership and investment by the public in the police, and will provide one, clear unequivocal voice of authority in setting the priorities, strategy and tax precept level in each force area. It is hoped that the Bill will bring clarity, transparency and focus. But most importantly it will give local people a direct say in how they are policed.

To view the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, please go to:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/116/11116.i-v.html

Getting involved

- To find out more about Met Forward go to:
www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward/
- To help us ensure that the information we provide on the progress of Met Forward is useful please take part in our short on line survey at:
<http://surveys.mpa.gov.uk/v.asp?i=23237kqgvk>
- To find out more about committees and information on attending go to:
www.mpa.gov.uk/work/