

## Have Your Say on Policing in London

**Thank you for taking part in the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) *Have Your Say on Policing in London* public consultation last year.**

As you know, the consultation ran from July to November 2009 and gave the public an opportunity to contribute to the Policing London Business Plan priority setting process.

Public consultation is central to informing the MPA and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) what London wants from its police service. It enables the organisations to address any differences between public concerns and the MPS strategic objectives, and ensures that Londoner's views are reflected when deciding how to direct resources. Communicating with and listening to the concerns of Londoners is a key strand of Met Forward, the MPA's strategy for London's police outlining how we want the MPS to develop and perform to improve services, provide better value for money and fight crime. More information on Met Forward is available at [www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward](http://www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward) or call the MPA on 020 7202 0202

### **Your policing priorities**

We looked at a number of different sources to find out what policing issues matter to Londoners. Your top priorities for policing in London were:

- ◆ anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- ◆ gun and knife crime
- ◆ accessibility and visibility of the police
- ◆ drugs and drug-related crime
- ◆ traffic and road-related issues

ASB, gun and knife crime, accessibility and visibility of the police, and drugs and drug-related crime also appeared in the top five priority areas identified in other public consultations.

All responses were read, analysed and discussed at MPA committee. They were then passed to the MPS to use in the development of the Policing London Business Plan and other work across London. A full analysis is available at [www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans](http://www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans) or you can call the MPA on 020 7202 0202 for a hard copy.

This newsletter provides further information on the top priorities identified in the consultation.

## Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

The MPA continues to support the MPS in working closely with Londoners and in partnership with local authorities, schools, youth services and other agencies to tackle ASB. All wards in London have a dedicated Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) focused on local policing and tackling problems that matter to local communities, particularly ASB.

The MPS is keen to identify and promote the benefits of early intervention to stop people, particularly young people, behaving in an anti-social way. The MPS Kickz and Met Track programmes to engage with and divert young people away from crime and ASB through sport have proved hugely successful.

The MPS has adopted a partnership, problem solving approach to respond to nuisance caused at particular times of the year such as Halloween and Fireworks night. This has resulted in a continual reduction in reported crime over these periods for the last three years. The MPS is currently piloting work with partners to make parks and open spaces safer and more accessible for all.

Londoners should feel safe wherever they are in the capital, not just in their own areas. The Mayor of London has redirected money from Transport for London (TfL) to the MPS to help tackle crime and ASB on London transport and is working with partners to maximise current MPS resources to make town centres safer.

The MPA welcomes recent good news stories from SNTs and their partners around tackling ASB in London. These include working with the community to successfully prosecute an anti-social moped rider, a closure order imposed on a flat causing nuisance to neighbours, 'days of action' to address residents' concerns around groups of youths, speeding vehicles, inconsiderate parking and litter, and joint action with the local housing authority to seize drugs from a property.



The MPA is aware that ASB is still making many Londoners' lives a misery. We will continue to support the MPS and rigorously hold them to account in their work to tackle ASB.



How SNTs and their work to tackle ASB develops in the future is important. As part of Met Forward, the MPA recognises the need to build on the problem solving and preventative approach that has been core to Safer Neighbourhoods and bring together the various elements of neighbourhood policing into a more integrated and effective model.

## Gun and knife crime

The MPA has pledged to support the Commissioner in tackling knife crime, particularly Operation Blunt 2, until there is a significant reduction in knife-related violence.

Operation Blunt 2, launched in May 2008, is part of a continuing and sustained drive by the MPS to tackle violence against young people and take lethal weapons out of the community.

A Blunt 2 taskforce of 42 officers is deployed each day across London in response to incidents and intelligence indicating the threat of serious youth violence.

Since January 2010, additional support has been provided to tackle youth violence and knife-enabled crimes, particularly robberies, under Operation Protect. This covers post-school transport routes and town centres.

A number of youth engagement and education initiatives are also conducted as part of Blunt 2, including Young Londoners Engagement Days explaining police stop and search powers and the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife, and 'Stolen Lives', a joint MPS and local authority project aimed at secondary school pupils in ten London boroughs.

The MPS is working in partnership with the UK Border Agency, Serious Organised Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and other agencies to tackle the import, sale, conversion and use of guns. Operations Vanguard, Betguard and 'Open All Hours' are specifically aimed at tackling gun-enabled commercial robberies, while work is also ongoing to address 'gang conflicts' and disputes, and confiscate criminal assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The MPA and MPS are working to increase understanding of the factors that lead people to carry and use guns and knives by interacting with communities and identifying, engaging with and supporting those young people and their families who may be at risk as victims or offenders. Alongside this, the MPA will continue to monitor the use of stop and search to help the MPS to do their utmost to ensure everyone is treated with respect when stopped.

### Accessibility and visibility of the police

As part of Met Forward, the MPA recognises that Londoners want to see more police officers on their streets. The MPA wants to find ways for police officers to spend as much time out and about in the community as possible by reducing bureaucracy, using technology and maximising the use of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and special constables.

The MPA supports and monitors the delivery of the MPS '*Policing Pledge - our promise to the public*'. As part of the Pledge, SNTs commit to spend at least 80 per cent of their time visibly working in your neighbourhood, to publicise details of your team so you know who they are and how to contact them, and attend regular public meetings at least once a month.



The MPS aims to answer all 999 calls within 10 seconds and non-emergency calls within 30 seconds, and to attend within 12 minutes or much sooner if possible. All messages sent to your SNT will be responded to within 24 hours. More information on the MPS *'Policing Pledge - our promise to the public'* is available at [www.mpa.gov.uk/about/pledge](http://www.mpa.gov.uk/about/pledge) or by calling the MPS Customer Service Unit on 020 7230 4737.

SNT patrol bases across London are located in local neighbourhoods which means SNTs are more visible, available and accessible to local communities, while Safer Transport and 'hub' teams work exclusively on bus routes and in transport hubs to tackle crime and disorder and make people feel safe when travelling around the capital.

## Drugs and drug-related crime

The MPA is aware that drugs and drug-related crimes affect the lives of many Londoners. The MPS is working in a variety of ways to tackle drugs and the problems they cause through joint work with partners to tackle criminal networks involved in the import and sale of drugs,



closing cannabis factories and crack houses, targeting the open drugs market, making effective use of stop and search powers and confiscating criminal assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The MPS is also working hard to address crimes caused by drug selling and use. Between December 2008 and November 2009, the MPS and partners directed more than 8000 drug users involved in crimes such as burglary and robbery into treatment and rehabilitation programmes through the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP).

## Traffic and road related issues

The MPS is committed to cutting the number of people killed and seriously injured on the road, denying use of London's roads to offenders, and addressing the top four issues that cause collisions and injuries: not wearing seat belts, mobile phone use, speeding and drink driving. This work is fully supported and monitored by the MPA.

Operation Reclaim is an ongoing Met-wide initiative aimed at taking uninsured vehicles and unlicensed drivers off the road. It gives all uniformed police officers the power to immediately seize any vehicles that are being driven with no insurance or if the driver does not have a license.

RoadSafe is a web-based reporting system that enables the public to report anti-social and poor driving, while Bikesafe offers a practical education programme to reduce motorcycle casualties.

The MPS runs a Cycling Fatalities Forum which involves a variety of partners aiming to reduce cyclist fatalities in London, while a Commercial Vehicle Unit carries out enforcement measures concerning large goods vehicles.



## Looking forward

The MPA welcomes MPS successes and acknowledges the hard work and dedication of officers to make London a safer place for everyone.

However, neither the MPA nor MPS can be complacent. The MPS is faced with a number of challenges and must continue to further reduce crime, tackle ASB and bring more offenders to justice. Through the work of Met Forward, the MPA will play its part by monitoring the performance of the MPS, holding the police to account on behalf of Londoners and offering support and assistance where appropriate.

Gathering the views of Londoners to inform the work of the MPA and MPS is essential. The MPA will continue to do this through its work, particularly the annual *Have Your Say on Policing in London* consultation. The MPA is constantly reviewing the consultation process and exploring new and innovative ways to encourage people to take part.

**Thank you so much for taking part in the *Have Your Say on Policing in London* consultation.**

**The next consultation will begin in summer 2010. Keep an eye on the MPA website ([www.mpa.gov.uk](http://www.mpa.gov.uk)) for further details on how to take part and have your say.**

