

Metropolitan Police Authority meeting – 30 September 2004

Agenda item 9 - MPA gun crime scrutiny

Recommendation 1

The MPA recommends that the MPS clarify the roles and responsibilities and terms of reference of central units and boroughs in tackling gun crime and drafts a working guidance manual covering operational procedures by June 2004

Current status

The roles and responsibilities and terms of reference were clarified before the scrutiny was published. Matters have been simplified by the incorporation of what was previously known as the 'Shootings Team' into SCD 8. This means that 'Trident' and 'Trafalgar' (other communities) shootings are investigated and prevented by the same Command. In addition the formation of the Specialist Crime Directorate Reserve ensures that with one phone call, at any time, a Borough officer can ensure that the right specialist units are despatched. The guidance manual 'TP and SCD Support for the Firearms Priority' was published in June 2004. Status: Complete.

Recommendation 2

The MPA recommends that the MPS tactical assessment is supplemented by a continuing long term analysis of emerging trends in firearms offences, that this should become a fundamental part of any threat assessment and should be linked to the allocation of resources by December 2004

Current status

A gun crime problem profile which includes analysis of long term trends has been drafted and is presently being refined. The deadline will be met. Gun Crime will be included in future resource allocation processes. Status: Ongoing.

Recommendation 3

The MPA recommends the MPS consider expanding the remit of Operation Trident to cover gun crime in other minority ethnic communities. The MPS should consult with marketing experts around the expansion of the Trident brand and the IAG structure should be extended in tandem with any changes

Current status

The MPS continues to consider the possible expansion of Trident. It is not thought to be right at this time. 'Trafalgar' shootings continue to reduce and the disproportionality affecting London's black communities remains very considerable. Marketing research indicates that the Trident 'brand' is very well known and

understood. Status : Complete (but MPS will continue to consider at regular intervals).

Recommendation 4

The MPA recommends that the level of serious firearm offences is considered as a factor in the borough budget setting process and that a process to assess the cost effectiveness of new gun crime operations is developed by December 2004

Current status:

Gun Crime will be included in future resource allocation processes and integral part of NIM is to review results and impact of operations. SCD7 (Serious and Organised Crime OCU) is a pilot site for processes designed to measure overall cost of the operations more effectively. Status: Ongoing

Recommendation 5

The MPA recommends an assessment of the resources available to Operation Trident both currently and taking predicted demand into account is carried out by June 2004

Current status

This assessment was carried out in September 2003. As a result SCD 8 has acquired flexibility by incorporating 'Trafalgar' (previously known as the 'Shootings Team') and has also grown resulting in greater intelligence and proactive capability – although in common with the rest of SCD some of the growth has been delayed and SCD 8 is currently 20 officers below BWT. In addition SCD 8 has begun to take delivery of the proactive vehicles and equipment it has lacked. In addition some of the units have moved into more suitable accommodation. Status Complete.

Recommendation 6

The MPA recommends that a feasibility study be carried out to explore the costs of linking the IT systems used to record drug and gun offences and should be reported back to the MPA by June 2005.

Current status

All MPS data about drug and gun crimes and criminality are now recorded on the corporate systems : CRIS and CRIMINT. No stand alone systems are used. Drug and gun crimes are therefore recorded on the same systems. The MPS do not regard such a feasibility study as now necessary. Status: Complete.

Recommendation 7

The MPA recommends that an analysis of the links between the drugs and guns markets should be carried out by November 2004

Current status

The MPA Scrutiny commissioned academic research to attempt to analyse the links between drugs and guns. This research encountered severe difficulties, as have previous attempts elsewhere. This is because of the highly complex and hidden nature of gun and, in particular, drug criminality. Nevertheless the MPS will attempt further analysis in the light of new data. Status: Ongoing.

Recommendation 8

The MPA recommends that the MPS ensure its response to drug crime is coordinated more closely with the response to gun crime and that consideration is given to setting up a joint focus desk by June 2004

Current status

The response to gun and drug crime has been considerably better coordinated since before the scrutiny reported. The gun and drug focus desks in SCD 10 now work together as they do on Boroughs – several of which have a joint drug and gun desk. Status: Complete

Recommendation 9

The MPA urges the Government to provide sustained resources for a national publicity campaign to provide young people with alternative role models both on a national level and through a programme of active development of role models within the community

Current status

The MPA has urged the Government to consider funding a programme aimed at developing alternative role models for young people as part of the MPA's response to the section on young people in the Government's recent firearms legislation consultation. Status: Complete

Recommendation 10

The MPA urges the Disarm Trust to expand its remit, becoming a national body co-ordinating a multi agency response to gun crime as soon as possible. If requested, the MPA will consider what resources it can provide to support this work

Current status

In response to pressure from the MPA and others the Home Office have taken on responsibility for co-ordinating and funding local responses to gun crime including providing lists of contacts, advice on securing funding and direct access to resources through the Connected project. Status: Complete

Recommendation 11

The MPA recommends that the MPS facilitate the development of a pan-London gun crime working group as an expansion of existing work on the MPS gun crime strategy by June 2004

Current status

An initial meeting of a pan London working group took place before the deadline. There was general support and enthusiasm from the interested parties. However, as this has not yet resulted in clear terms of reference or future structure this should be regarded as Status: Ongoing

Recommendation 12

The MPA strongly urges the Government to consider an outright ban on all replica weapons capable of being mistaken for real weapons as a matter of urgency

Current status

The MPA has recommended that the Government ban replica weapons as part of the MPA's response to the Government's recent firearms legislation consultation. Status: Complete

Recommendation 13

The panel recommends that a review of the long-term viability of witness protection following the introduction of the mobility scheme be carried out and reported to the MPA by December 2005

Current status

Ongoing

Recommendation 14

The MPA urges the Government to consider a publicity campaign following the introduction of the minimum sentence, to deter potential offenders by pointing out the lengthy sentence they can expect and the new techniques open to the police to catch them

Current status

The MPA has written to the Government as part of the recent consultation on firearms legislation to press for a publicity campaign around the minimum sentence and new police techniques to deter potential offenders and enhance the effectiveness of the new legislation. Status: Complete.

Recommendation 15

The MPA supports the Safer Clubbing Initiative and urges the MPS to continue to develop it and report progress to the MPA

Current status

The Safer Clubbing initiative has now been successfully developed and launched recently. MPA member Cindy Butts has assisted greatly in the development. Progress will be reported once evaluation has taken place. Status: Ongoing

Recommendation 16

The MPA supports the charity Miss Dorothy.com and urges the MPS to consider working with it more closely in future

Current status

The MPS have been working very closely with Miss Dorothy.com and have provided financial and practical support for the Phase Two workbooks for junior school children. Status: Complete

Recommendation 17

The MPA recommends that the MPS report progress made on implementing the scrutiny recommendations, as well as other gun crime initiatives, to Co-ordination and Policing Committee every six months

Current status

This report is the first six monthly update to members. Status: Ongoing