

Met Forward: Monthly progress bulletin (September 2010)



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 three year strategic mission outlining the priorities it wants the MPS to focus on and key areas of development for the Authority to improve policing in London.

2. Met Forward Project and Workstream Updates

Dogs as weapons

The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) recognised that there were real concerns surrounding the numbers of dangerous and status dogs which were being used as weapons. In response, the MPS set up a dedicated Status Dogs Unit (SDU) who now leads on all aspects of dealing with MPS seized dogs.

The SDU works in partnership with key agencies including; the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, whilst encouraging partners such as local authorities, housing associations and the Crown Prosecution Service to take responsibility and develop strategies, that promote responsible dog ownership.

Key successes since 1 April 2010:

- over 392 dogs seized;
- 95 premises entered under warrant by borough and SDU officers where prohibited dogs were believed to be present (to 31 July 2010);
- 299 pre-planned operations to deal with dangerous dogs; and

- 174 prosecutions are in progress (44% of seizures).

A report was presented to the Strategic and Operational Policing Committee on 16 September providing an update on progress and performance of the SDU.

To view the report in full go to <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/sop/2010/100916/08/>

The Policing Pledge

The Policing Pledge was created as a public promise about the level of service that the public should expect from police forces across the country.

In a move to reduce bureaucracy, the Home Secretary announced her decision to abolish the Pledge. Whilst the MPS accept and endorse this decision, recognising that a corporate pledge does not allow for policing services to be locally tailored to meet the needs of particular communities, both the MPS and MPA continue to focus on the delivery of excellence in customer service and public confidence.

A report was presented to the Strategic and Operational Policing Committee on 16 September providing an update on the MPS response to the abolition of the Policing Pledge and proposals for continued delivery of quality customer service and increasing public confidence.

To view the report in full go to <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/sop/2010/100916/09/>

Safer Neighbourhoods Scrutiny

Met Forward outlines the Authority's intention to make sure that resources allocated to Safer Neighbourhoods are still being deployed effectively and maximum impact is achieved from the investment made.

The Authority completed a Safer Neighbourhoods scoping study in July focusing on '*what do partners and partner agencies need from Safer Neighbourhoods policing?*'

To view the study in full go to www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/sop/2010/100701/09/

The Authority will be conducting a formal scrutiny focusing on the structure of Safer Neighbourhoods in the autumn, reviewing the effectiveness of the current model. The terms of reference for this scrutiny were agreed at the Strategic and Operational Policing Committee on 16 September.

To view the terms of reference go to <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/sop/2010/100916/>

MPA Civil Liberties Panel: DNA - Londoners have their say

The Metropolitan Police Authority's Civil Liberties Panel held an open meeting at City Hall on the 1 July to hear what individuals and campaigning organisations think about DNA in policing and the use of a National DNA Database. The meeting enabled participants to provide written evidence or to voice their concerns about the current and future use of DNA. In addition, a DNA public survey hosted on the MPA website (which closed on the 31 August) generated over 600 responses.

Consulting with the public is one element of the review into the use of DNA which will also involve discussions with expert witnesses and site visits, including one to a DNA laboratory and custody suites. The evidence gathering phase is due for completion in November.

London Crime Reduction Board

There is a plethora of organisations, statutory and voluntary, involved in crime and community safety. This landscape is confusing. The Authority set out its intention to establish a single London Crime Reduction Board, led by the MPA, to bring clarity and ensure delivery. Initial stakeholder consultation meetings have now been completed and a feedback report has been produced and positively received by key stakeholders including London Councils, the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Probation services.

The Board will be chaired by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. The Board's first meeting is due to take place in late September. 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 <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward/lcrb-feedback/>

Specials and Volunteers

Special Constables play a crucial role in the policing of our streets and strengthening the relationship between the police and the public. Met Forward supports the Mayor's commitment to increasing the number of Specials.

In August 2010, there were 3,900 Special Constables providing additional presence on the streets of London. The MPS receives approximately 900 applications each month and we are confident the number of warranted officers patrolling our streets will continue to increase steadily.

A report will be presented at full Authority on the 30 September highlighting the MPS's proposal to use the Special Constabulary as the primary means of recruiting regular officers in the future. To view the papers for the full Authority go to <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/mpa/2010/100930/>

'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people'

The government recently published its consultation paper *'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people'*. This presented proposals on how the coalition government seeks to strengthen the governance and accountability of policing.

The *'Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill'*, which is due to be published in October, will give us a greater understanding of what policing will look like in the next five years and the implications for the delivery of Met Forward.

If you would like further information on *'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people'* go to

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/policing-21st-century/>

To view the MPA response to *Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people'* go to

<http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/mpa/2010/100930/08/>

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 to go <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/work/>