

Met Forward: progress bulletin (June 2011)



1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a snap shot of the progress being made to deliver Met Forward Two. 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

Safer Neighbourhoods

A key commitment in Met Forward was to undertake a Safer Neighbourhoods scrutiny. In Met Forward it was outlined that the MPA would consider whether Safer Neighbourhoods resources are being deployed effectively and ensure maximum impact is being achieved from the investment made. It is possible to condense the MPA scrutiny findings into two key points:

1. Safer Neighbourhoods policing has been a huge success for the MPS. Safer Neighbourhoods teams have bought a change to how Londoners relate to and perceive their local police.
2. A wholesale revision to how Safer Neighbourhoods policing is delivered in wards is not required. Rather a majority of the participants requested the flexibility for borough

commanders alongside local authority partners and residents to devise a Safer Neighbourhoods response that best met the needs of their boroughs.

To view the findings in full please visit:

www.mpa.gov.uk/downloads/committees/sop/100701-09-appendix01.pdf

The MPS also carried out a review of Safer Neighbourhoods teams which focused on what Safer Neighbourhoods teams deliver, the location and structure of the teams and their demand. The findings correspond closely with those of the MPA scrutiny with both highlighting:

- Strong support for the concept of Safer Neighbourhoods;
- A desire for even closer partnership working with local authorities and other strategic partners with improved sharing of intelligence, tasking, service provision, accommodation and procurement; *and*
- A high demand by boroughs for flexibility within central parameters to deliver 'Safer' services.

To read the proposals in full please visit:

www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/sop/2011/0616/09/

Dangerous dogs

In response to the increasing concerns of the MPA regarding the issue of dangerous dogs, the MPS set up a 'Status Dogs Unit' (SDU) on the 2 March 2009.

The SDU has continued to seize dogs and the number of dogs seized each month has remained broadly consistent. One of the key tasks of the unit has been to speed up the removal of dogs from MPS kennels, and work to reduce kennel contracts which have had a positive effect on reducing the MPS costs associated with tackling dangerous dogs in London.

SDU officers are committed to working with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home (BDH) to encourage local boroughs to take responsibility for local issues and look to develop strategies that promote responsible dog ownership through a variety of means.

That work continues to be progressed in the following boroughs:

Lambeth, Ealing, Southwark, Haringey, Greenwich, Waltham Forest, Hackney, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets.

In each of the MPS boroughs highlighted above there is an identified police officer who acts as a single point of contact for related issues. In each area there is partnership activity involving local authorities and other agencies, based upon local needs, aimed at addressing problems associated with dangerous dogs and irresponsible dog ownership.

A number of initiatives are being progressed that are intended to improve local issues such as local information sharing, joint patrols, education, prevention, the introduction of tenancy agreements and other enforcement provisions.

To view the full progress report on tackling the issue of dangerous dogs please go to:

www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/sop/2011/0512/08/

Met Specials and Volunteers

Met Forward announced plans for increasing the number of Special Constables serving within the MPS. Special Constables play a crucial role in the uniformed governance of our streets and we believe they form an important part of the interrelationship between the police and the public.

At the end of October 2010, 3,985 specials had been recruited this increased to 5,021 on 30 April 2011. The target is to have recruited 6,667 Special Constables by 31 March 2012.

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 MPS maintains public trust. The panel considers issues on a priority basis as agreed by the MPA and the latest area of focus was the National DNA Database (NDNAD) and the use of DNA in policing.

The panel engaged with the public, community and civil liberty groups through a public meeting and an online survey. Evidence was taken from senior MPS officers, forensic science practitioners and national policing organisations. Visits to an MPS Custody Suite, an accredited DNA laboratory and the National DNA Database Custodian were undertaken. The panel also spoke to government groups and advisors including the Forensic Science Regulator and the Chair of the National DNA Ethics Group.

In summary, the panel found:

- Public uncertainty about when and why DNA is taken by the police, how it is used and who else has access this personal information. There was a lack of clear and simple information available to inform the public
- A need for consistency and integrity across all DNA processes within the MPS from collection through to the eventual storage, recording and destruction.
- Some members of the public raised concerns about the process for applying to have their DNA removed from the DNA Database, including the time taken to be deleted after wrongful and/or unlawful arrest.
- A fear from some sections of the community that their DNA may be taken and used for unethical or illegal purposes.

The panel acknowledged clear improvements in the management of DNA in custody suites within the MPS. However, the panel believed that there remain issues around guidance, training and consistency which should be addressed. Additionally the panel identified issues around communication to, and information provided by, police to forensic service providers.

To view this report including recommendations for the MPS please go to:

www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/mpa/2011/0630/04/

GLA/MPA Crime and Community Safety Roadshows

The third round of joint GLA/MPA crime and community roadshows began on the 9 June 2011. The focus of this round has been 'Moving Forward - Working with local communities to tackle violent crime,' and the changes we will face in the forthcoming months when the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill replaces the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC).

At each roadshow the Deputy Mayor of Policing, Kit Malthouse, provided an update on the Mayor's key strategies.

- ✓ Met Forward 2: The MPA's revised strategic plan for the MPS, which includes improving the safety of town centres and public transport and tackling gangs, knives and weapon dogs.
- ✓ Time for Action: the Mayor's programme to offer better life chances to young people who might otherwise be caught up in crime or violence.
- ✓ The Way Forward: the Mayor's violence against women strategy to tackle a range of serious and often un-reported crimes that impact on women in all parts of society.

- ✓ The Right Direction: the Mayor's priorities for improving safety for transport and travelling
The plan covers travel on public transport, cycling, road safety and walking.

Kit Malthouse has been joined at these events by either Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing Ian McPherson or Deputy Assistant Commissioner Steve Kavanagh.

Emerging themes, which have been consistent across all roadshows, are concerns with the loss of resources to Safer Neighbourhoods teams, single patrolling and reduced funding to Community Police Engagement Groups (CEPGs).

If you would like to view further information on these roadshows please visit:

www.london.gov.uk/crime-and-community-roadshows

D.I.A.L. 101 (Direct.Information.Accessible.Local.)

As latest figures reveal that less than a quarter of 999 calls require an emergency response, the MPS together with other police forces in the south east launched a new contact number for the public on Monday 11 July 2011.

The new number, 101, is part of a national programme to improve access and will give you one easy way to get in touch with the police for calls that do not require an urgent response. For example, the public should call 101 to report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make the MPS aware of local policing issues.

As with 999, calls to 101 in London will be handled 24 hours a day, seven days a week by specially trained officers and staff at the MPS who will help deal with enquiries. For people who speak no or little English they can also dial 101 where their call will be connected with an interpreter. Callers who are deaf, deafened or have a hearing or speech impairment can use a textphone to call: 18001 101; or in an emergency it's 18000.

For more information please visit:

www.met.police.uk/101/

Met Forward Two: Focussed on fighting crime

Met Forward was the MPA's three year strategic mission for policing priorities in London. It was recognised that Met Forward would be a living document that would need to be updated. Met Forward Two is a refreshed document which notes the developments that have taken place and builds on the success of Met Forward describing the future priorities for policing in London.

Met Forward was complimented as an example of good practice in a joint inspection of police authorities by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Audit Commission.

Met Forward Two continues to develop good practice and the work strands for Met Forward – Met Streets, Met Specialist, Met Partners, Met Connect, Met People, Met Olympics, Met Support and Met Standards.

A new strand has been included, Met Oversight and Governance, which has been developed to ensure sufficient preparation for a new model of policing in London and to prepare for the implementation of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

The Authority remains focussed on delivering the three strategic outcomes outlined in Met Forward:

- Fight crime and reduce criminality;
- Increase confidence in policing; and
- Deliver value for money.

In addition to these, two new strategic outcomes have been articulated in Met Forward Two:

- Protect the most vulnerable from harm; and
- Deliver safe Olympic and Paralympics Games in 2012.

To view Met Forward Two please visit:

www.mpa.gov.uk/downloads/committees/sop/110317-10-appendix01.pdf

Getting involved

To find out more about Met Forward go to:

www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward/

To find out more about committees and information on attending go to:

www.mpa.gov.uk/work/