



Metropolitan Police Authority

**Notes from the
Metropolitan Police Authority Domestic Violence Board
12th June 2007**

Introductions:

Board Members

Cindy Butts, Deputy Chair of MPA (*Co-Chair*)
Anni Marjoram, Mayor's Advisor – Women's Issues, GLA
Anthony Wills, Partnership Officer (DV), Local Government Association
Dru Sharpling, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS London & London Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)
Elizabeth Howlett, MPA London Assembly Member
Davina James-Hanman, Greater London Domestic Violence Project (GLDVP)
Doreen Sangster, Violent Crime Manager, GOL

MPS

Shaun Sawyer, Commander Violent Crime Directorate
Yasmin Rehman, Director of Partnerships & Diversity Violent Crime Directorate
Gerry Campbell, Detective Chief Inspector, Violent Crime Directorate
Glen Lloyd, Violent Crime Directorate
DS Steve Cassidy, Hammersmith & Fulham
DI Sheila Annesley, Hammersmith & Fulham
Bob Reed (BC), Sutton
Michael Smith, Sutton
Paula Bond, Sutton
Warren Shadbolt, Sutton
Mike Pierce (Sutton local authority)
Simon Latham (Sutton local authority)

MPA

Laurence Gouldbourne, Head of Equality & Diversity
Hamida Ali, Policy Development Officer, Equality & Diversity
Guy Beattie, Engagement & Partnerships Officer
Michael Wadham, Project Assistant, Equality & Diversity
Melissa Wagstaff, Planning and Performance
Graham Tope, MPA Member

Other Attendees

Mark Coulter, Male Victims Development Officer
Julie K Wilkinson, DV Coordinator for Lambeth
Venesha Patel, Westminster Domestic Violence Forum
Tarj Sehanger, Havering
Pauline Magowan, Independent & Contract Researcher on Disability and Domestic Violence



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Margaret Hallah, DV Coordinator for Hammersmith and Fulham
Victoria Kielinger, MPS
Nicola Sharp, Refuge
Helen Oliver, GLA
Sylvana Perdoni, Hammersmith & Fulham Victim Support
Magda Devas, Southwark Domestic Violence Co-ordinator
Cllr Greg Smith, Hammersmith and Fulham
Elizabeth Harrison, The Haven Whitechapel
Victoria Hill, Standing Together
Michael Pierce, Safer Sutton Partnership Service
Catherine Orr Deas, Freelance Associate Trainer
Beryl Foster, Standing Together
Tanya Borsi, Standing Together
Anjum Mouj, Imkaan
Samantha de Silva, DV Coordinator, RBKC
Sandra Anlin, Standing Together
Sally Steadman, Advance
Joanne Tutt, London Councils
Mee Cheuk, DV Co-ordinator, London Borough of Waltham Forest
Sharon Tucker, Sutton Women's Centre
Anna Cummins, Sutton Women's Centre

Apologies:

Hilary McCollum, Director, Social Policy & Grants (Children & Domestic Violence Lead), London Councils
Aneeta Prem, MPA Magistrate Member
Linda Regan, Child & Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University,
Shaminder Ubhi, ashiana
Kelly Whitehead, DV coordinator Kingston
Minu Patel, Merton Domestic Violence Coordinator
Roger King, GOL
Helen Slinger
Richard Barnes MPA
Gerry Campbell, MPS
Dave Gaywood, Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, London Borough of Bromley
Sandra Horley, Refuge
Kirsten Hearn, MPA Independent Member
Jane Owen, MPA
Susan Paterson, MPS
Frances Martineau, London Borough of Newham

Minutes of Previous Meeting 12th June 007

1. Cindy said a briefing note had been requested on the Service Level Agreement but it had not been received. The agreement had been written in a different environment before the CPS took over responsibility and in now needs to be altered to reflect the current environment. Shaun Sawyer & Wendy Williams have been asked to review it.



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It was commented that although the agreement is a MPS piece there is a relationship on a national level as well. The review may take two months or longer to complete.

2. MARAC will be the model rolled out across the MPS. They are working with the CSUDI and other partners in the voluntary sector to be inline with the National Model. The London Criminal Justice Board is now committed to rolling it out, however it should be noted that this is a multi agency model and not necessarily police driven. Those boroughs who are close enough to running a MARAC model will receive funding from the Home Office. Training is an issue. Diana Barran from CAADA will speak to the CSUDIs to ensure consistency in training. Cost is an issue as funding from the Home Office is not going to cover the entire exercise. Would a MARAC model save more lives than the current model that is in place even though it is not a pure MARAC model? The comment was made that models that are not pure MARAC are less cost effective. It was suggested that the cost issue is almost a red herring as there are tremendous savings to be made through a MARAC by reducing repeat victimisation. We need to be clear that boroughs should be working with a MARAC model and also how much local autonomy they have when working with it. The police in some boroughs feel that Social Services should be more involved in the process and chairing the MARAC. It is about competence, training and commitment. A good Chair is needed, regardless if they are from the MPS or not. Guidance is available on how to run a MARAC and has been disseminated through the CSUDI meetings and is also available on the website. Training is the main cost involved in a MARAC.
3. Cindy repeated her request that Tower Hamlets give the board a clearer understanding of what action is being taken around community engagement and how it relates to DV crime. **ACTION: MPS**
4. Yasmin said the LSJB audit has been conducted and the responses are being collated. A paper should be ready for circulation by the next meeting. **ACTION: MPS**
5. The meeting between Anni Marjoram and Lee Jasper to discuss disproportionality will have to be moved forward because we are still awaiting the report. **ACTION: Anni & Lee**
6. Gerry said there have been issues around the quality of MET Call as a first response. Domestic calls are allocated an '1' (Immediate) grade in line with MPS standard operating procedure. However, does this mean that a DV I call will be at the top of the priority list for an individual officer? It depends on what information they then receive from dispatch. Is the generic training sufficient? The SOP looks fit for purpose however the operational reality may be different. There is a GOLD group this issue could be referred to. Cindy said this issue has been raised as a real concern. The board would like to know if training is sufficient and if there is room for improvement. Anni said that the training is not working. Although it may be fit for purpose, it is perhaps being given to officers who do not have the right attitude to DV crime. Gerry agreed there is probably more work to do within call centres. **ACTION:**

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7. Davina said she would like some clarification on training for Safer Neighbourhood Teams as this is not clear. Also she would like information on training for DS and DI and Section Sergeants. Glen said all Constables and Sergeants in Safer Neighbourhood Teams would have undertaken mandatory MPS Consult to Inspector training. The MPS are trying to develop a training package purely geared towards SN Teams so they understand their role in managing risk around DV. There is a package for Section Sergeants developed by the Crime Academy. There are discussions about if this will be rolled out to all Section Sergeants across the MPS. The training is being steered towards the poorer performing boroughs. Davina said she could not understand why the MPS are developing a training package for the SN Teams when she had developed one four years ago and repeatedly raised this point at these meetings. Davina said training for Section Sergeants needs to be a priority. In some boroughs dual arrest is becoming standard practice and officers who meet their arrest targets are being rewarded with additional annual leave. Davina said that in his letter to the Board Shaun referred to specific training on multi agencies working in the CSU core and as far as she knows this is not true. Gerry said dual arrests are an emotive issue. It is not MPS policy to be involved in dual arrests. There may be occasions where dual arrests are appropriate due to the dangerousness of the situation but these occasions are in the minority. The MPS want to prioritise training to front line sergeants and inspectors because of the clear leadership role they have for quality assurance.

Shaun said he wants to look at the issue of dual arrests in detail. Officers should not be receiving additional annual leave in connection to this and Sean will be intervening in cases of this. Shaun said he can't comment on Davina's training package until he has referred the matter to MPS HR. Cindy asked how the MPS are tested around the issue of dual arrests and the extent to which they are being used. Gerry said the MPS have been aware of concerns around this issue. Data recorded on the MPS Crime Recording System shows dual arrests are taking place but there is no undue disproportionality. Work needs to be done on the Crime Reporting System to make it easier to extrapolate the data. Cindy requested that details of the review of the borough mentioned who has been flagged as conducting dual arrests is forwarded to the Board.

ACTION: MPS

8. Anni said Safer Neighbourhood Teams need to receive the information they need such as information line numbers etc to be able to pass on to the public about DV crime. An MPS representative said that he took back this comment to SCU DI meetings. DIs are to link in with Safer Neighbourhood Teams to give them this type of information. The DIs are aware this information is on the intranet to pass on. How this will be quality assured remains an issue and he will work with link DCs on this.
9. Anthony said a lot of issues raised at this Board demonstrate that there is still not a true understanding of DV crime within the MPS and that it is not considered a priority. Performance needs analysis will not solve this. Dru said the MPA need to understand what it is we want to see by way of measurement and testing to show a qualitative rather than quantitative approach.



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Shaun said the MPS is light years ahead in the way in which it is assessed and measured. Shaun said awareness needs to be kept fresh and constant especially in light of the high turn over of staff in management. The National Violence Strategy will start to look far more at violence as a whole. This will take us into why the MPS has so many risk assessment models. It has been said the MPS want to focus more on harm and less on acquisitive crime.

10. Davina asked when the external consultation of the DV SOPS is likely to happen. Davina said the LGBT DV Research Project reported last November. What will be the MPS continued involvement in this?

Gerry said the internal DV SOPs have been written and there has been consultation with a wide range of external partners. A paper has been issued on this. Gerry said discussions have started with Dr Catherine Donovan who has conducted an LGBT DV research project in Bristol.

11. Anni said success is hard to measure in connection to DV crime. There can be success in cases where the victim does not seek criminal justice in terms of the positive interaction with Havens for example.
12. Hamida reminded the board that a questionnaire has been sent to everyone who has attended a DV board meeting. One of these questions is what would you like to say to government and the MPA in terms of performance management. It could be a powerful tool if the MPA could reflect the answers to this question in the annual report.
13. A Board member requested a copy of the 124D audit. **ACTION: MPS**
14. The end-to-end review mentioned at the last meeting will encompass the review of the 124D. This will start in September.

15. Domestic Violence Murders 2001 – 2007

Shaun said this work had been done by the MIB. It gives the current ACPO definition and the current definition of a DV murder. It uses a definition used by the Audit Commission for Black and minority ethnic victims and perpetrators. There is no self-defined ethnicity in that the victim is dead but Shaun feels there is work we could do on that in the follow up with the family.

16. The report shows the figures for levels of homicide murders within London. The peak is in 2003/2004 when there were 211 murders in London. 2006/2007 was the lowest level of homicide murders in London for some considerable time. DV victims declined dramatically in 2006/2007. Shaun said he feels this decline is due to the good work being done on DV crime within the MPS, including the work done by this Board. Anni said she feels the decline in DV crime could be attributable to the change in attitude to DV crime from management down.



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17. A Board member said an interesting table shows a link between those boroughs that have had reductions in DV crime and good partnership work.
18. Shaun said the breakdown by ethnicity shows White victims in one group and all the other EA codes put together to compare White Europeans at 98% or 53% of victims against 88% or 47% of Black & minority ethnic (BME). The 2001 census shows the BME community in London at 42%. So 47% for BME victims does not seem disproportionate. Shaun said he is uncomfortable that the EA1 group is not broken down around Bulgarian, Polish and other nationalities. As a percentage of the total White victims are increasing across the five years. In terms of BME DV crime there have been some very bad years. An issue is what is being done for the Black women of London.

Shaun said the report is missing the relationship around mental health.

19. Cindy said the figure is still too high, but the fact that we are seeing a consistent fall in DV homicide crime is brilliant.
20. Anthony asked if there is a way of producing a table that uses comparisons with Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) crime. Gerry said this overlay factor is already happening with the view to looking at trends with the perspective of performance outcomes.
21. Dru asked if there is any data on suicides within DV relationships. Davina said she has data on this that she will pass on. Gerry said suicide is written into the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for Stand 6 of project UMBRA. Harrow is running a pilot project around this, analysing all unexplained deaths to look at issues around DV. Shaun said MPS data on suicide should be obtainable. He will look at it for 2005/2006 and report to the Board. Dru said she is not sure if this is an area for data capture or for research. **ACTION: Davina**
22. Cindy asked how the MPS collected the data for this piece of research and how difficult it was to achieve. What points did it flag for future data collection? Shaun said timing was difficult because the MPS has just moved to the MIB. There were conflicting views on how data should be collected and presented. Shaun said MPS systems do not necessarily lend themselves to this type of data collection.
23. Anni said this piece of work, taken in conjunction with Strand 6 and the murder reviews, will give us the kind of information that these figures alone cannot give us. Shaun said it depends on other agencies being willing to share their data with the MPS. There is not a statutory requirement to do this. A member agreed that there is not a statutory duty but in the past there has not been the feedback through the other bodies which UMBRA 6 will now ensure happens. Once information is being fed back to the London DV Form Steering Group then pressure can be put on at this level to ensure engagement at a local level. Anthony said this is also an issue of Central Government failing to deliver on the guidelines. Government won't impose things on local government that will cost them money so there is now a dispute between the LGA and the Home Office about costs. However every DV review



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demonstrates that some part of the system has not worked very well within an existing partnership. It is the moral responsibility of the agencies that are dealing with DV to review their practice and make positive changes for the future. Partners do have to come on board.

- 24. Davina said a piece of work is planned to look at the help seeking patterns of Black minority ethnic women not from the Indian Subcontinent. This report being discussed today throws up that insufficient attention has been paid to other communities. Anni said that we do know from work we have all been involved in is that women do disclose information, often to workmates rather than family. It is key to get information to these points of disclosure, so that people who are disclosed to know what their options are in that situation to deal with it.
- 25. Yasmin said she would be taking away the mentioned work on BME DV homicide and trafficked women as part of her dissertation for her PhD.
- 26. Shaun said Boroughs who feature highly in the report will be invited to meet with the Commander to go through it.
- 27. Shaun said the report does not pick up on disability cases and should form part of the work on victimology. Hamida said she had discussed this with Shaun in terms of the additions to equality legislation. We now have a gender equality duty and a disability equality duty. There is potentially a single equality act which will mean that our organisations will be asked to understand more in relation to the 6 equality strands.
- 28. Dru commented that there has been a high conviction rate in relation to all DV murders. Guilty pleas were recorded in 9 out of 18 cases which is very high and is a sign of good investigation, preparation and prosecution.
- 29. Cindy requested that all the information is compiled together as a response to the report to show what will now come out of this work.

ACTION: MPS

Hammersmith & Fulham

- 30. Steve said performance at the start of the last performance year in relation to certain key performance indicators has not been as strong as it should be. This is despite the significant support Hammersmith and Fulham receive as a borough from partner agencies including Standing Together and ADVANCE. This has been recognised and as of January 2006 the borough has reinvigorated the systems and processes and changed key personnel. The structure has been changed with the introduction of the Vulnerable Persons Unit. These changes have led to increased investigative strength within the Community Safety Unit by four extra members of staff. Key performance indicators are now rising month on month. There has also been an increase in the number of defendants arriving at court and in the number of defendants convicted. There has been an increase in the percentage of early guilty pleas. There have been decreases in the mean number of hearings, the number of



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days between charge and conviction and percentages of discontinuances and withdrawals. Steve said these factors indicate a successful process.

31. Steve drew attention to the positive HMI Inspection the borough received in relation to DV performance and the creation of the Vulnerable Persons Unit.
32. Data compiled by the Violent Crime Directorate shows 55% of all DV Sanction Detections between March 2006 and January 2007 were charges. This is the 8th highest charging rate in the MPS. Hammersmith & Fulham only use cautions as an alternative when prosecution is not viable or taking into account the survivor's views. Standing Together and ADVANCE dip sample cases resulting in caution to ensure the use of caution is both appropriate and proportionate.
33. There are monthly joint operations meetings with Standing Together and Advance to tackle both repeat victimisation and repeat offending. This has resulted in a reduction in repeat offenders. Local Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers attend these meetings to raise knowledge of members of the community who they can provide a service to. It could be said that these meetings are the for-runner to the MARAC process.
34. There has not been a DV homicide case within the borough for two years. However, the previous two homicides were subject to review in line with the MPS model. Relevant partner agencies were involved in the review process and in both cases partners chaired the reviews not police officers. Recommendations made were presented to the Borough Strategic Forum and progress and implementation were then monitored.
35. Training relies heavily on partner agencies. The training programme is devised with consultation from survivors to inform the process. It is joint training delivered by police, Standing Together, ADVANCE and the CPS. It has been aimed more recently at Safer Neighbourhoods Team Officers and PCSOs. The Community Safety Unit DI personally delivers training to all staff, particularly new staff to the borough.
36. As of April 2007 the borough has made the decision to employ a full time Offender Management Inspector. Research by Standing Together shows 75% of high-risk offenders have previous convictions not related to DV.
40. There is a video link via SDN to Southwark Crown Court. This assisted a disabled survivor of racially motivated assault to give evidence from their local police station at Fulham. This video access now allows access to all Crown Courts in England and Wales. The borough has invited other boroughs to share the funding and make use of this facility.

Questions

41. Davina said there is some excellent examples of good practice in the report, in particular practice around cautioning and consultation with survivors. There is staff continuity within the CSU which is so important.

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One issue is the low level of charging versus the number of Sanction Detections. Is this an issue to do with CPS or with the level of evidence being gathered by police officers? The Mosaic mapping contains some strange conclusions. Have the DV murder reviews led to any learning?

42. Steve said the sanction detection rate has been rising month on month since March 2006. The borough has a good working relationship with the CPS, however it struggled in the past with victimless prosecutions. This is moving forward and should assist with the charging rate.
The Mosaic data threw up the conclusion that more staff were needed in the Community Safety Unit and is resulting in four additional staff being employed. Steve said excellent intelligence products from other areas such as burglary and vehicle crime drive knowledge and understanding when tasking resources. It was decided to commission a problem profile. The resulting information has not been that informative. The data is primarily used to inform the private sector in relation to advertising. The borough used it to see if it could assist in understanding crime problems. It did challenge police officers perceptions of where DV crime sits which is a positive.
43. Anni said she is interested to see that Hammersmith & Fulham have picked up on the important role the Safer Neighbourhood Teams can play in DV work.
Annie said she would like to know if other agencies learnt from the Murder Reviews and how many agencies were round the table at these discussions.
Anni said it is her understanding that a murder investigation costs £250,000. Steve said this figure is actually one million. Anni said that in that case in the years where there was no murder case the borough have saved one million. Perhaps a business case could be put together which looks further than the borough to how money can be saved by investing in this area. Steve said the borough have invested money in four additional staff which shows they recognise the importance of DV work. The way the borough has integrated the work across DV, Hate Crime, Missing Persons, Sexual Offences and Management of Dangerous Offenders as meant that they are all under one umbrella now and has added to the quality of service given.
Steve said once cross over that stands out in the Murder Reviews was with the NHS. Beryl said all key partners were invited to the Murder Reviews. Those that did not attend sent in written reports. The learning achieved is being brought into Strand 6 of Project Umbra. There was very little police involvement prior to the two murders.
44. Sheila said it is vital that intelligence is shared on survivors and perpetrators within wards. This was not being done before the Vulnerable Person's Unit was set up but it is now. Sheila said she sees the Safer Neighbourhood teams assisting in assuring compliance with bail conditions set at court. Follow up visits to victims have been considered but there are risks inherent in that such as the couple getting back together after the event.
45. Anthony said it is pleasing to see the investment put into the CSU. Anthony asked how Steve feels about that when the priority crimes referred to are the ones he is probably held to task on more often. Where does DV sit as a priority in relation to other priorities?

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Other boroughs have referred to Intelligence Offices that check on a call to see what is going on. Does Hammersmith & Fulham do this?

How is work on referrals to ADVANCE going?

Steve said DV targets were an objective set for him by the Borough Commander and by the ACPO lead.

The Integrated Borough Operations Office now enables the facility to do live checks as officers are being dispatched.

Sheila said referrals performance was poor before last year. It is a matter of educating staff. Now unless there are good reasons not to refer a case then this is standard practice whereas it did not used to be.

46. Shaun said there was a performance objective for every borough in the MPS around improving sanction detections. Does this lead to a dual arrest policy as an unintended consequence? Shaun said the boroughs main peak times seem to be Friday and Saturday night. What is the provision of services from the police and partners on Saturday morning and Sunday morning?

Steve said the borough has invested heavily on training for responding appropriately to DV cases. Last year the borough was given funding by GOL for an operation plan to be developed. A group of officers available to go out and provide specialist support and advice was brought in. Friday and Saturday night are peak times for a lot of crime and DV falls into this but the specialist officers mentioned are on hand to deal with this. Sheila said ADVANCE is on call 24 hours a day so CSU officers have direct access to advocates and can make referrals 24 hours a day. Sheila said there are incidents where dual arrests are made based on the evidence that confronts them at the scene but it is not something that is advocated in training. Cindy asked that the Board be sent Hammersmith & Fulham's figures on dual arrests. **ACTION: H&F**

47. Dru said the Criminal Justice System struggle with the speed of the disposal of cases once the charge had been authorised and comes before the court. The contest rates are high. Dru said she was pleased to note the time from arrest to disposal had been reduced in the borough. There is a scheme in London where defendants are brought before the court from the police station within hours of arrest via video link. Dru asked how successful Steve and Sheila thought the utility of that service would be in the DV forum. Is speed of the essence in these cases? Sheila said she would welcome this and would like to have a court that deals specifically with DV perpetrators. If cases are dealt with speedily we are more likely to keep survivors on board.

48. Victoria said she sits in on a specialist court. Personnel are trained in these issues and then they go back into the SDV cycle where the expertise and support structures are in place. There are solid systems for cases that do come in on other days for tracking DV matters. We need to see good file review from the CPS. Steve said they will often object to bail in cases of DV from the police station. Potentially the person could be arrested and back out within a few hours instead of being held at the station for 24 or 36 hours which gives others opportunities to support survivors whilst they are in custody. Victoria said she is confident that bail decisions are accurate within court.



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49. Pauline said that the borough reports that all people are treated according to their individual needs. It would appear that most diverse groups do have a dedicated officer. However for the disabled it says that their case is reviewed at sergeant level to ensure their needs are met. Has this sergeant been fully trained in disability issues? Why is there not interaction with disability groups?
Steve said Hammersmith & Fulham Against Disabilities have agreed to become involved in the borough training cycle. Cameron Malik is due to take part in a series of hands on demonstrations to identify shortcomings.
50. Yasmin asked what the Local Authority has done in terms of additional resources for tackling DV.
A representative for the local authority said there have been a number of initiatives started over the past year on DV, not least educational initiatives in schools. It was questioned if the local authority allocate any funding to DV. A rep for the local authority said that they are aware that over the years they have not put in as much funding as they should have done. Recently voluntary and community sector grants awards have been put into ADVANCE and Standing Together.
51. Anni said a well funded and supported sanctuary makes a huge difference in terms of the money a local authority has to spend emergency housing. It has to have the proper services supporting it.
52. It was asked if no DV cases also flagged as honour based or forced marriage cases has been explored or not.
In terms of continuous learning and a multi agency approach has the borough considered the Near Miss Reviews in terms of the Murder Reviews.
Sheila said one of the objectives for this year is to identify and engage with groups suffering from honour based and forced marriage crime and advertise the support that can be offered.
Steve said that the borough has not considered Near Miss Reviews but this is not for any reason. Steve said he feels the borough is strong on utilising the skills within the partnership. The operations meeting is a regular process in the borough where the police and the partner agencies bring their high risk offenders and there is a joint meeting about all these offenders. There is good evidence in a reduction in repeat offending from persons brought to these meetings.
53. Elizabeth asked how many persons report sexual violence as a part of domestic violence. When this happens how is the rape and DV SOPs combined in terms of making a positive arrest if the person then withdraws that allocation of rape.
Sheila said there has been an increase in the reported number of DV rapes. Sheila said she does not see a clash in the two SOPs. The Sapphire Unit, the CSU unit and the PPU all work within the same office and there is a cross over of expertise and training. The Sapphire Unit deal with all DV related rapes and serious sexual assault. Minor cases of sexual assault are dealt with by the CSU.
54. A member of the MPS asked how Hammersmith & Fulham find dealing with partners who see themselves as dealing specifically with DV and specifically with rape. How does this work, is there any disconnect?

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Sheila said she does not experience any problems in this regard at all. Steve said it is interesting to note the number of reported rapes within DV have gone up. Sheila uses her resources to send officers into local hospitals and groups to talk about the work of the Vulnerable Unit.

55. Cindy said the borough has seen an increase in reporting when the MPS have seen a 10% drop in reporting. What is the borough's perspective on this?
Steve said they commissioned the problem profile to gain an understanding of why this was. One is a quality assurance issue. 100 of the reports should not have been flagged as DV and there is now a strong quality assurance process in place. Steve said he also feels there is a greater confidence in the reporting process within the community. There is a good support service available with the partners when people do report.
56. Mee Cheuk asked what the take is on the boroughs health and safety issues. Steve said there are now IBO rooms with fast time intelligence. This informs a dynamic risk assessment.
57. Anni asked about engagement with the borough's diverse communities. In particular the young transient population and the new wave of migrants from Eastern Europe. How do you get information out to these communities via partnership working?
Sheila said there has been an increase in sexual offences involving polish men. This is now being seen in relation to DV crime as well. There has also been a huge increase in the number of girls as young as twelve engaging in sexual practice and seeing nothing wrong with this. Sheila said it is her personal objective to engage with minority and migrant groups within the borough this year. Anni said there is a good Hammersmith and Fulham refugee forum. This organisation will have feelers into the new migrant communities. There is a pilot scheme at White Chapel with a young person's worker and as a result there are now three young people workers in all the Havens. Anni suggested the MPS relationship with the Havens and in particular the young people workers will be of benefit.
58. The outgoing Chair of the DV forum in Hammersmith & Fulham said the need has been identified to improve the membership of the forum across the BME groups. Money has been received from the CSU and the council to translate resources within the borough including polish resources. Information leaflets have been translated into community languages at the Specialist DV court. They have been distributed across the support services.
59. Cindy asked how internal DV cases within police staff are handled.
Sheila said she is a point of contact for advice for any survivors that need help and support. To date she has received four people seeking advice. There has been one incident involving a PSO as the perpetrator. Steve said the Borough Commander has chaired a meeting with female members of staff to identify support networks.
60. Cindy asked what the succession planning strategy is. Steve said at DC level regular six monthly meetings are held with the management team of crime operations. All individuals are looked at in terms of the way forward for them. The CSU is the only

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unit within crime operations that has the caveat of specialist skills and where officers are kept in one post for longer periods of time. Other officers are moved regularly. There is also a system of attachments. Young officers from response teams are attached into the CSU environment. This gets expertise back into front line policing. At inspector level it is more problematic. Work force planning has select lists where people are posted to us. Steve said he has campaigned to have the ability at borough level to select DIs.

61. Anthony asked Steve if he recognises that the DI and the VPU are specialist posts beyond that of a normal borough DI. Is he asking for that kind of facility because of its specialist nature? Steve said all DI roles involve incredible responsibility in different fields. The boroughs ability to select those persons is limited to a select list from promotion. Anthony said if the MPS can't do this across the whole force because there are too many DIs and the scale is too difficult to deal with then there is a case for making the VPU DI a specialist post.
Sheila agreed it is quite a specialist role and only certain people would have the ability or desire to do it.
62. Beryl said there is new training in Hammersmith & Fulham this year for Inspectors.
63. Shaun said he accepts that the way Territorial Policing (TP) is treated compared to the specialist squads in other parts of the MPS means that you do get good people but it is sometimes more by chance than design. If public protection is going to go up the agenda then we will need to look at better trained and equipped units which are better led as well. Shaun said he will take this back with him.
Shaun said that in the Standing Together document it says that Merlins were included in most of the cases where children were present. The word 'most' disturbs him. Shaun asked what could be improved in terms of information sharing within the borough.
It was noted that Merlin has been discussed within the Strategic Partnership Group. It has been a huge piece of work for Children's services to undertake an audit of Merlin. The findings were concerning over the numbers of reports being completed and the quality of the reports. It was suggested to do an exercise to look at the gaps and what needed to be improved. Children's Services decided to get their own house in order before conducting this audit. At the recent Children's Services Review it was said that the quality of the Merlin reports has improved dramatically. The dip sample of the cautions predates a lot of that work.
Davina said that officers say they have a lot of different reports to fill in after a DV incident and so often the Merlin report does not get done.
64. Shaun wondered if the MPS could help with access to police crime data at the centre. Beryl said there is now ten years of information sharing within the borough. The protocol has been revised within the last year and we are left with the practical problems about getting the right information to the right places and the resources needed to distribute this information. Pauline made the point that all text should be available in size 14 font.



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65. Anni said the GLA have done a piece of work based on Professor Walby's work about the cost of DV in terms of England and Wales. They have costings for individual boroughs and Anni offered this information to the group.
66. Sally Steadman from ADVANCE said information sharing is improving but not to a significant level yet. There is still an issue over consent. Sally said she would like to see automatic referral happening.
67. **Follow Up Points**

Cindy said that she would like to think that given the resources the local authority are putting in to DV work in Hammersmith & Fulham as well as the MPS, we will see the fruits of this increase in resources. Cindy asked to see how the MPS are going to engage with the Polish Community over incidents of DV / sexual offences beyond the translated leaflets. Cindy asked the borough to look at the dual arrest issue and confirm the findings with the board. Cindy asked for the borough to look at the issue around young people. She asked for the possibility of exploring Near Miss Reviews to be looked at. Cindy asked for feedback on how automatic referrals to ADVANCE might be put into place. Cindy asked Shaun to look into the possibility of appointing specialist DIs. Davina asked for further detail on charging. Why are there 1448 crimes and only 201 charges?
68. Cindy asked what is needed from the unit to support the boroughs work. Steve said the ability to employ a DI.

Sutton

68. The Borough Commander Bob Reid said Sutton is one of the smaller boroughs in London with a population of 188,000. As a small borough things are tight around resourcing. The borough has a mature partnership with the local authority and other agencies that has been developed over a number of years. The borough has robust leadership around domestic violence which complies with standard operating procedures provided by MPS corporately. They take a partnership approach. They now have a Primary Care Trust (PCT) who are not yet engaged locally as much as Bob would like them to be and there is a meeting on the 26th June to establish this and cover more diversity issues. Bob said they would like to gain a greater understanding of vulnerable victims and repeat victimisation and how to get into early intervention, particularly with the local housing authority. Bob says he sees this very much as a CDRP initiative, not just a Sutton Police initiative.
69. Bob referred to sanction detection rates. The borough was second in the MPS with 63.3% detection rate for domestic violence and Bob would like to improve on this further. Sutton are first in the MPS for charging and don't rely on cautioning in the sanction detection rate.
70. Anthony said the charges may be the highest, however the figures show that 43% of sanction detections are charges and 57% are cautions. This seems a significant number of cautions. How does Bob feel about this?

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A member of Sutton CSU said there are only three options available to them. Firstly to charge. The second is to caution and the third is to take no further action. A caution is given when the suspect admits the offence but the victim has not made a statement. It is presented to the CPS to do a victimless prosecution but this does not happen unless it is a serious offence. She said to take the option of taking no further action sends out the wrong kind of message to that person. If the person offends again then the previous caution can be used as bad character evidence.

71. Anthony said victimless prosecutions do happen more often now with the CPS. This begs the question of what is being done to secure other best evidence if the victim does not choose to make a statement.

Anthony also said that if Sutton is asked to achieve a high sanction detection rate then it is easier to get a caution and there is a danger that officers will take that approach.

The member of Sutton CSU said that CPS would only take a victimless prosecution if it were at the top end of an ABH or a GBH case. Common assault will not be pursued as a victimless prosecution. She said that she does not think cautions are the easiest options with regards to sanction detection. If a case can be charged then it will be.

72. Cindy said the Board would like to be able to see the evidence that supports cautions are not given for serious offences.

ACTION: Sutton

73. Davina said one of the ways to increase the number of women prepared to support a prosecution is to create an IDVA service. She said she was concerned to read in the report that Sutton is considering using a volunteer for this. It is a professional role and deserves to be paid within specific guidance and support and supervision. The accredited IDVA service specifically states that it is not a suitable role for a volunteer. Michael said that the guidance on IDVAs only sustains for six months with nothing beyond it, and this is clearly not acceptable. If something can be developed longer term to prevent re-offending then that is the route to be taken.

74. Davina said she also found Suttons plans for developing a MARAC concerning. By the gold standard of MARACs 80% of MARACs are undertaken by IDVAs and Sutton does not have one. How does Sutton intend to plug this gap?

75. Anthony said he is surprised the Home Office provide funding for IDVAs. Clearly the savings that this service provides, for example preventing a million pound murder enquiry, are of benefit to the borough. The Home Office should be providing evidence that it works and then asking the boroughs to take on this funding as a local issue.

Mike Pierce said he agrees with this point and consequently still thinks that to provide only six months of funding is nonsense. Consistent resourcing needs to be available. Throughout the borough there is going to be a complete overhaul of DV services. The model of care approach for the drug misuse framework will be rolled out in a similar way for DV. High risk cases would constitute relatively small numbers in respect of the other people they would need to provide services for. Strategically



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what to do with the other victims needs to be decided. Resources are available but not the higher level ones over a long period of time.

Davina suggested looking on the Home Office DV mini site which currently as the Alpha consultation and the Coordinated Community Response model. This model is DV specific rather than borrowing one related to drugs.

76. Bob said he accepted these points and the team would take them away for further work.
77. Anni referred to the piece of work the GLA have done based on the cost of domestic violence. She said that the figures will be rejigged to include inflation and then re-issued. In terms of what DV is actually costing Sutton, investing in DV services in the borough has a complete knock on effect in terms of social services, housing and education.
Anni asked if any figures were available on dual arrests and also to hear more about the borough policy.
A representative from Sutton said there were no figures and there is not a policy as such. Any officer going to a DV call is termed as the initial investigating officer. They assess the situation and take appropriate action. In situations where both parties are making allegations then dual arrest would be the obvious answer. The investigating officer must find out who is the primary victim and also if there are children on the premises.
78. Shaun said an issue throughout the day has been if the performance approach of the MPS skewed into a dual arrest policy. There are a number of influencing factors including if children are present.
79. Anthony said both boroughs have answered questions on this using a sensible approach. We need to find out what the figures are in general for the MPS to confirm what is happening across the police service.
80. It was said that if there were cross allegations for one incident, it would be classed as one crime anyway so there would only be one notification of arrest and one detection. It would not be a motivation to dual arrest because there would be two detections. Cindy said the issue is around the understanding and knowledge of the broader issues involved in the situation by the officer.
81. Beryl said she would think the key would be risk assessment in sorting out who the primary aggressor is and where the danger lies.
82. A representative from Sutton said risk assessment is drummed into officers to the point it is an accepted part of policing.
83. Davina asked for clarity on the employment policy and staff experiencing or perpetrating DV crime.
Sutton had not any staff involved with DV crime at the time of the report; however, there have been staff before and since.

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84. There is an active Sutton Women's Centre, is this seen as the vehicle for delivering the advocacy service?
A representative from Sutton said the Women's Centre is seen as an essential vehicle in achieving what is needed. It may be that the Women's Centre will become a sort of one stop shop but this is all work in development. What is needed is a central method to collate information in a more consistent fashion.
85. Cindy asked about DV training. How many are involved in the SMT? Bob said there are currently 8 members on the police-side. Mike Pierce sits in the Safer Sutton Partnership Service and he is also a member of the SMT. Cindy asked how many have received DV training. Bob said that he thinks all have received DV training as it was a mandatory requirement for all staff on the borough. The borough is approx 96% trained overall. The training is done locally on the borough. Cindy asked about training for safer Neighbourhood Team members. Bob said they have been part of the MPS training.
86. Cindy asked if officers are trained in local knowledge. Are they able to signpost people to where they can get help and support? Bob said he feels there is engaging community reassurance through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Bob said he couldn't guarantee that all officers can direct people to DV services, but he would like to think they could. Bob said he will take this back to the borough.
87. Anni said Safer Neighbourhood Teams should have access to a lot of intelligence about their neighbourhood. They are ward based. Bob said he agreed. We need to equip them and ensure they are firmly integrated into the community. The borough uses a system called INSI which questions the community in all 18 wards to find out the community's opinions on what is happening in the borough. We need to make sure that this information is not just filed but is put to use.
It was said that victims of DV may well present to other organisations and agencies apart from the SMT. Often victims will have multiple and complicated needs and we need to make sure victims are signposted to the most appropriate services to meet their needs at that time.
A representative from Sutton said Safer Neighbourhoods Team Sergeants regularly interrogate the Crime Reporting System for information. They liaise with the MPS and pay reassurance visits to victims.
Bob said that Simon does a lot of work with Adult Social Services. This service should not be ignored as a valuable service. DV is a complex issue; we need to break the cycle with regards to children who are involved.
88. Beryl community safety is given a lot of publicity in local authorities; however DV is almost never mentioned. If Safer Neighbourhood Teams do not ask the questions around DV then they are not going to get the answers. The report does not make it clear where the operational partnerships are and where support is given for DV victims.
A representative from Sutton Social Services said 70% of incidents of DV do involve children. The Children and Young People's plan features DV in a significant way and the borough is proud of the Stronger Families Project which supports children who have been involved in DV. There is a Safeguarding Adults Board with MPS

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representation on it. However, even with the new powers that will come when the tracking of Perpetrators of violence against vulnerable adults is in place, there will still be large gaps. The challenge will be to imbed within operational practises better links.

Within local authority housing services there is an Arms Length Management organisation. The MPS work closely with this service.

89. Someone said we do not need 32 boroughs creating a data tracking system separately. Something needs to be put in place to say we need a common template to input data so that it can be shared.
Davina said she is in active discussions about the potential of buying London-wide tracking system for DV cases.
90. Anthony asked if social services are trying to develop a process where front line workers are seeking out domestic violence and also can provide a sensible response when they find it. Do front line workers include teachers, youth workers, social workers etc?
Sutton Social Services said they are trying to move in this direction but don't have it at the moment. A quarter of Sutton schools are signed up for a family support service which does provide referrals for DV cases. The complexities involved if say a teacher triggered concerns about DV within a family make it difficult.
91. Cindy asked about equality and diversity implications. How does the borough deal specifically with DV victims from minority groups and across the equality spectrum as a whole?
A representative said he has been pushing for a reorganisation of DV services. There needs to be consistent information from a commissioners perspective about what is being commissioned and why. These sorts of issues are undergoing a process of modernisation within a bigger agenda. Issues for minority groups need to be monitored to see how big a problem they are and what services need to be provided to meet these needs.
92. Cindy said she gets the impression Sutton need to work on some of the basic issues around domestic violence. Some of the more difficult innovative work that Sutton is doing is exemplary.
93. Anni referred to the Information kiosks in Sutton. She said the operators this had approached her and offered free DV portals where a safety plan could be accessed. Davina has devised a safety plan for these kiosks. Anni said that between Sutton and Bromley, 2000 safety plans were being downloaded in a month. Anni said that this tells us that people in Sutton don't know where to access this information. They don't know whom to contact within their local social services.
94. Anni asked to hear from Sutton Women's Services to see what DV work they are involved in.
The Chair of the Sutton Women's Service Management Committee said she works on this in a volunteer capacity and has a full time job elsewhere. It is a local women's group run for and by local women. They offer support information, advice and



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education. They have existed for 25 years and started under the GLC. There is an extremely good mother and toddler group subsidised by Help a London Child. There are English as a second language courses along with IT courses. There is a website which includes links. The aim is to start parenting classes and Self confidence classes for women. There are three workers, two of whom are part time. The Service provides a holistic first port of call service for domestic violence in providing advocacy in a range of areas. The service tries to keep networked with other agencies although it is difficult with the staffing resources available.

95. Bob said Sutton need to take a long hard look at the services available and what is needed. The work being done in the borough needs to be overhauled and developed over time.
96. Cindy said Sutton have a very good victim satisfaction record. How possible is it to drill down to find out the views of survivors.
Bob said the system is not sophisticated enough to do this. Bob said the borough is just not big enough to conduct independent surveys etc.
The MPS would ask for regular service user involvement information from the Women's Service.
The Women's Service said they do have heavy service user involvement in the service they provide. This goes from formal focus groups to the monthly management meetings where workers feed back. There are also client evaluations.
97. Anthony said it worried him that the Women's Service delivers a service to women including domestic violence. However, it was said that they didn't have the capacity to feed into the work going on in developing new services. Anthony pointed out that the drugs agenda is funded enormously compared to the DV agenda. This makes it much easier to deliver services related to drug abuse. What is needed in DV work is coordinated responses, IBVA's and MARACs.
98. Bob said the borough knows it is vulnerable around having greater inclusion around diversity aspects. Bob said he feels they need something bigger and more sophisticated to do with working with the voluntary sector.
The first date for setting up a MARAC is the 26th June.
99. It was suggested that the Crime Victims Survey does not actually cover any DV victims at all. It was asked if Sutton were aware of the Performance Information Bureau help desk. They can break down figures by ethnicity, gender and disability.
100. Shaun said SNT's will never flag DV because it is behind closed doors. Sutton's performance is good because they work hard in those difficult areas but because the MPS have raised the bar the borough might get left behind if they don't get behind some of the other areas. For the last six years Sutton have not had a DV homicide, however it is likely they will get one within the next two years if the bar is not raised.
101. Davina said there are 2000 DV incidents in Sutton and yet there are four allegations of rape. This seems low.
Sutton could not give an answer as to why this was.



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102. It was asked what the 124D compliance is like. Feedback suggests 124Ds from front line officers frequently miss two of the specifications. They don't ask about pregnancy or about rape and sexual abuse.
A representative from Sutton said compliance is good. The 124D's are quality assured by the Uniform Police Sergeant and then by herself.
103. Anthony said that rape would be reported to an advocacy service and although this might not turn into a crime report it would at least give the MPS a flavour of what is going on.
104. Anthony said that management training is important. Unless a Chief Superintendent gets trained around DV then often the borough does not get the training. Does this involve partners within training to talk about experience with DV? This multi-agency training can often make more of an impact.
A representative from Sutton said this is a great idea to take away. This is being done with vulnerable adults and it would be good for DV as well.
105. Cindy said Hamida would forward on issues to be followed up as a result of this meeting to Sutton. There is an issue around the IDVA and the MARAC due to go live within a matter of weeks. She mentioned the SNT being able to signpost to other services. Another key issue is around voluntary sector involvement. She asked them to look at DV multi agency training. She asked them to look at if dual arrests are an issue for the borough. She asked them to look at drilling down on cautions and seeing how many relate to common assault. There are issues around equality and diversity. She asked them to investigate ways to capture victim's satisfaction with the service they received.
Hamida added the points around SNTs and the work they do around domestic violence. Training for PCSOs.
Shaun is also going to look at dual arrests.