

Your reference:

Our reference:

Date: 24/06/2008



**METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE**

Cindy Butts  
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Dear Cindy

## **MPA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BOARD**

Thank you for your letter of the 29/04/2008, it appears to have been delayed in the post as it arrived here on the 10/06/2008. None the less please find below our response to the issues raised by the board.

### ***Use of Safer Neighbourhood Teams for gathering intelligence on domestic violence.***

Safer Neighbourhood teams on the borough are briefed on and sensitive to issues of domestic violence on their wards. Intelligence or information obtained by the teams is recorded and placed on the crimint system and responded to either by the community safety unit and / or through the partnership where appropriate.

As part of the community safety unit risk strategy particularly in medium and high risk cases of domestic violence and vulnerable adult abuse, safer neighbourhood teams have specific responsibilities in assisting with information in relation to the risks and to provide additional support to victims where appropriate.

Safer neighbourhood teams are also required to assist in identifying domestic violence issues within communities or locations where under reporting is suspected. Safer neighbourhood teams are also advised of all outcomes of domestic violence matters where there have been a judicial disposal and the matter has not been proceeded with and there is concern of risk / escalation.

### ***Welfare checking of sex workers and action taken around violence against women in regards to working in the sex industry.***

At the domestic violence board the borough offered evidence of its pro-active work which we labeled as 'welfare visits' whose purpose is to check on issues of violence and trafficking in relation to sex workers. And also to identify any other enforcement issues.

Further enforcement takes place in connection with the sex industry evidenced by the arrests in recent months of 53 sex card workers who have been put before the court. Around 30 premises have been closed and in addition there is a strong partnership with clubs and vice and the immigration service to support enforcement activity.

Many of the premises are flat type premises with a single sex worker, consequently offences in terms of brothels cannot be established in law. However, where appropriate matters are brought to the attention of landlords for appropriate action to be taken to close the premises, particularly where there are issues of sub-letting.

### ***Domestic violence advisory support group***

We are unsure regarding the title you use in the letter of the domestic violence advisory support group as this is not a description we are familiar with, the approach on the borough for dealing with domestic violence is structured as follows;-

The responsibility for strategic oversight rests with the Community Safety Partnership Board (CDRP) sitting underneath is the domestic violence management committee with the domestic violence partnership group and MARAC in addition.

The domestic violence partnership group is a relatively newly formed group and its main responsibility is for delivering the domestic violence action plan for the borough.

### ***Community Safety Unit engagement with Moroccan communities***

Engagement with the Moroccan community on the borough from a community safety and confidence perspective sits firmly with the safer neighbourhood teams who have numerous contacts with community groups and individuals from this community.

On the specific issue of domestic violence in addition to the work undertaken by the safer neighbourhood teams, the community safety unit by the very nature of their work are key stakeholders on the domestic violence partnership group and the MARAC and the domestic violence management committee. There are two Moroccan groups who are key partners in the field of domestic violence, firstly, Al-Hasaniya who worked very closely with the Community safety unit and are full members of the DVPG and MARAC. Additionally the director of Al-Hasaniya sits on the domestic violence management committee.

The second group with whom the police community safety unit work are Al-Aman. This is a dedicated project tackling the issue of: -

1. Supporting Arabic Women suffering domestic violence by providing non-coercive and empowering interventions;
2. Strengthening statutory agency capacity and motivation to work together with voluntary organisations and the Arabic community to address the problem of domestic violence;
3. Strengthening the capacity and motivation of Imams and Arabic Community Leaders to work together with voluntary organisations and their own communities in addressing the problem of domestic violence;
4. Establishing Perpetrator Programmes specifically for Arabic speakers so as to tackle the cause of domestic violence.

Overall there are strong ties with the Moroccan report in the borough, both in the broadest sense and in particular the joint working.

I hope the above information assists the board.

Yours sincerely

Mark Heath  
**Borough Commander**  
**Kensington and Chelsea**