



Camden Community & Police Consultative Group



Annual Report 2009 - 2010

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Chair's overview

This past year has been a challenging one for everyone concerned about community safety in Camden, if for no other reason than our standards have been set quite high. We ended the previous year (2008/09) with an all-green scorecard, meaning that Camden police had succeeded in meeting all of its crime reduction targets for a 12-month period.

This year, further reductions have been difficult to meet in all crime areas and we have seen some rises in Robbery, Gun Crime and Knife Crime. Nevertheless, the total number of reported offences has dropped by 1.3%, from 34,176 to 33,730. Furthermore, community engagement in Camden has gone from strength to strength and “partnership” has become the operative word.

The impending cuts to public services will test this partnership, making it more important than ever to engage with local communities in setting priorities.

Partnership work

In May 2009, the CCPCG hosted Camden's first ever “Meet the People” event, bringing together for the first time at a public meeting the whole of the Community Safety Partnership, including the Council, police, NHS, British Transport Police, probation and others. The

event was well attended and gave the



Members of Camden People First chatting with Dominic Clout, the Borough Commander, after Face the People event

public a chance to question those who play an important part in community safety but often do so in the background.



Janine Griffis

As chair of the CCPCG, I was a member of the Community Safety Partnership Executive and attended bi-monthly executive meetings. This body oversees the community safety strategy for the Borough and reviews targets and performance. For example, some of the issues considered this year were the Partnership's on-going work against the threat of terrorism, preparations for the 2012 Olympics and strategies to reduce re-offending and youth violence.

Other board members and our administrator, Peter Ward, attend other operational groups of the Partnership, including the Performance Management Group, communications, preventing violent extremism and a new perceptions group chaired by Borough Commander Dominic Clout.

On behalf of the Group, I also worked with Council and Camden police officers in developing a new protocol concerning dispersal zones. Last December, we canvassed views from our members, some of whom felt that there could be better and wider consultation. As a result, we established a new database, managed by the CCPCG, of people to be consulted whenever a new dispersal zone is proposed. The protocol gives detailed guidance on how dispersal zones will be introduced and managed and the sort of consultation that will take place before, during and after the implementation.

Consultation at work in Camden

Focus on antisocial behaviour, hate crime and perceptions

Antisocial behaviour continued to be a concern for many of our members and at last year's AGM, we focused on dog-related antisocial behaviour, a huge and growing problem not just for Camden but for London as a whole.

At our meeting in October, we tried something new and turned the evening into a workshop examining how the public perceives the police and Partnership. The Partnership incorporated many of the ideas generated at our meeting into an improvement plan that the Partner-



Peter Ward leading a focus group at the Camden BME Alliance offices

ship followed throughout the year. In November, we heard how the Partnership tackles re-offending through its Prolific and Priority Offender Scheme. We learned about how a very small proportion of offenders account for a disproportionate amount of the Borough's crime and the intensive work and support needed to break the cycle of re-offending. Those attending the meeting fully supported the work of this small team.

In January, we tackled antisocial behaviour again, this time the heated subject of responsible cycling. Both cyclists and pedestrians were well represented and there was an intense debate about what could be done to make the roads safer for both groups. This large and complex issue was not going to be solved in one night and the Borough Commander made

it clear that it was up to local Safer Neighbourhood panels to decide that cycling on pavements was a local priority; however, the Council was able to adopt some of the suggestions in its cycling policy.

Our last meeting of the financial year was in March and focused on the many kinds of hate crime including race, homophobic and disability hate crime. What was abundantly clear from this discussion was that much more needs to be done to make people aware of what constitutes a hate crime and to encourage more people to report incidences.

Throughout this past year, what I found most encouraging about our public meetings was the number of new people who attended, many attracted by a particular topic. What this means, I think, is that our efforts to publicise our meetings are working.

And the number of those attending our meetings was up as well. More than 80 people attended the "Meet the People" event and over 300 people attended during the course of the year, including a number of young people.

Consultation at work in Camden

Outreach work

It's not all about meetings at the Town Hall, however. Last autumn, the Group facilitated 12 focus groups to identify community safety priorities for the Council and police. The groups included a wide range of Camden residents, including young people, minority groups, residents groups and Safer Neighbourhood panel members. The priorities given helped determine how the partnership would allocate its resources.

This past spring, the Group organised the first six of 24 "Preventing Violent Extremism" desktop exercises with young people in youth settings across the Borough. The Group facilitated these sessions with support from Camden Police.

We also held three meetings across Camden to bring together young people and the police to discuss issues around Stop and Search. Not surprisingly, for many of these young people these were the first non-confrontational encounters that they had had with police officers.

And just in case we are accused of never leaving the Borough, the CCPCG organised a trip to the Met's public order training centre at Gravesend in July 2009. While terribly exciting to see how the police prepare against petrol bombs, some of our more strategic questions about handling public order events were left to be taken up at a more senior level later.

Scrutiny

The CCPCG has an important role in scrutinising the work of the police by looking closely at performance. Our work concerning Stop and Search data is detailed elsewhere in this report but I would like to thank Miles Seaman for chairing the performance subgroup and for putting together an independent report on Crime Trends for each of our Group meetings which we used to hold the police to account.

Another way of holding the police to account is by observing performance.



Police officers pictured under fire from petrol bombs during training

Our group of independent observers was established initially to monitor a certain kind of stop and search authorisation (a "Section 60" permits blanket stop and searches, authorised only when there is a threat of serious violence, often youth violence). But we are working with Camden police to extend this programme to other operations as well in an effort to expand transparency and provide reassurance that these operations are being conducted in a way that the community would approve.

Consultation at work in Camden

London wide

The London Community and Police Partnership (LCP2), for which I serve as vice chair, brings together all of the community engagement groups from London's 32 boroughs and represents our interests with the Metropolitan Police Authority and the MPS.

A representative from our board attended the quarterly meetings at Scotland Yard and was able to raise issues of concern directly with the Commissioner and other senior Met officers.



CCPCG Board members: Pamela Mansi, Simon Horvat-Marcovic and Roy Walker

Information

We recognise that not everyone has the time to be actively involved in community safety, but they can be kept informed with little effort on their part. Peter Ward has made enormous strides this past year in expanding our email contact list, improving our website, notifying Councilors and panel chairs of critical incidences and passing along important information from the police and Council. He even has started Twittering and has 46 followers.

On a personal note, after seven years as Chair of the CCPCG, I am stepping down to give someone else the opportunity, and challenge, of taking on this role. It

has been a rewarding experience and I owe thanks to many, many people for their support, including the board members for their guidance and the police, MPA and our Council partners for their professionalism. I must give special thanks to our treasurer, Leon Ellenport, who has been looking after our financial health for the

last seven years, and to our administrator, Peter Ward, whose experience and hard work underpins everything we do.

And finally, on behalf of the Group, I extend our best wishes to Borough Commander Dominic Clout as he moves on to new challenges outside the Met. Camden has benefited enormously from his leadership, commitment to high standards and good old-fashioned common sense.

While we wait for the approaching budget cuts to take their bite, I think we can feel fairly confident that in Camden, at least, we have a solid community engagement structure in place to help cope with the difficult times ahead.

Consultation at work in Camden

Treasurer's Report



Leon Ellenport

This has been another financially challenging year. The reduction of our grant from the MPA four years ago from £57,000 to £50,000 and their maintaining this arbitrary cap ever since has meant a real terms a cut 34.5% to the CCPCG budget. We sincerely hope the MPA will bear in mind the cuts they have already made to the CCPCG budget over the past four years when making future funding decisions.

Our expenditure forecast for 2009/10 was accurate. We received a total income of £80,695 which is £30,695 in excess of the MPA grant to the CCPCG. Our total expenditure was £84,147 leaving a small deficit of £3,452, which we met from our reserves.

Fayth Rowe, our Outreach Officer, left the CCPCG in February after 13 years loyal service to take up a new role with the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Because of financial constraints the Board took the decision not to replace Fayth. This decision may have an impact on our work program and capacity to take on additional initiatives.

The CCPCG remains adamant that it will continue to be one of the leading Consultative Groups in London. This will not be easy and it will only be achieved by having an active membership and the Board taking a greater role in the day to day activities of the Group.

Consultation at work in Camden

Group's activities

Last year, the Government became concerned that the public perceived that crime was rising despite the fact that crime actually had fallen year on year. Government ministers recognised that people had little faith in specific targets and so slashed the number of individual targets, setting instead fewer and more overarching national indicators. The Community Safety Partnership's main target was National Indicator 21 that focused on how well residents felt the police and local authority dealt with their concerns of antisocial behaviour and crime.

This switch from hard crime targets to measuring people's perceptions was an enormous challenge for the Partnership. Camden has a reputation for its performance culture, driving down crime by using the whole arsenal of legislation open to them. Those involved with the CCPCG know how hard the Council and the police work together with the community to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. However, these national indicators suggested that there were areas, particularly concerning communications and customer service, which could be improved.

Communications

People of all ages now have access to email and the CCPCG email distribution list contains over 400 individuals and groups. Many of those who receive our emails in turn cascade them on. A message sent can be received by several thousand people within minutes. We try not to overburden people and aim to limit our communications to once or twice a week at most. We also endeavour to place all the community safety publications we receive on the CCPCG website.

Expanding further, the CCPCG has opened a 'Twitter' account and now has 46 followers who between them have thousands of followers.

A positive move forward over the past year has been Camden Police sending the CCPCG their press releases. When a press release has been received, it is uploaded onto the 'News' page of the CCPCG website and is also forwarded to Safer Neighbourhoods chairs and councillors in the ward mentioned. An alert is also placed on Twitter pointing people to the full press release.

Over the course of the last twelve months, the Partnership has improved its communications with communities. Every Safer Neighbourhoods Team has distributed local newsletters and Camden Police have started publishing a monthly newsletter about operational policing, highlighting some of their frontline activities. The Partnership as well has started to produce a bi-monthly newsletter featuring specific achievements from across the Borough.

Unfortunately, only one edition of the quarterly '*1829 Partnership Report*' has been published in the past 18 months.

An area of ongoing concern over the years has been police call handling. All

Consultation at work in Camden

emergency and non emergency calls are answered at the Met control centre in Bow. Bow is one of three control centres across the Met. Two of our Board members, Leon Ellenport and Pamela Mansi, are members of the Bow User Group. They meet regularly with Chief Superintendent BJ Harrington who is responsible for all three centres and raise issues with him.

During our many discussions with local communities we were alerted to concerns people had about contacting their local Safer Neighbourhoods teams. People were frustrated that calls to the teams went unanswered or no one would get back to them when they left voice-mails. To alleviate these problems, Camden has been the first borough to introduce a 'pledge line'. Now, if a team are unavailable to answer their telephone, it is automatically diverted to Kentish Town and answered.

Partnership Strategic Assessment Focus Groups

During September and October 2009, the CCPCG ran 12 separate focus groups with different sections of the community to identify their crime and antisocial behaviour concerns. This information was analysed by the Partnership Information Unit, combined with data from all the other agencies and used to identify the Partnership's priorities for 2010/11. Arranging so many focus groups over such a short period while maintaining our normal work programme is challenging, but the Board believe it provides an insight that statistics alone could never provide.

Safer Neighbourhoods

The CCPCG is a strong advocate of Safer Neighbourhoods. Out of the nine community representatives on the CCPCG Board, six of them are Panel representatives. Every Safer Neighbourhoods Panel (SNP) can nominate a representative to the CCPCG giving them the single biggest voice.

The CCPCG runs the Safer Neighbourhood Working Party (SNWP), a sub group of the Partnership. The SNWP brings together the police, Council and Panels to provide a forum to develop initiatives.

CCPCG BOARD MEMBERS 2009/10

Leon Ellenport	BAMM NW
Chris Fagg	Gospel Oak SNP
Janine Griffis	The H & H Society
Simon Horvat-Marcovic	Haverstock SNP
Cllr James King	Camden Council
Pamela Mansi	Kings Cross SNP
Miles Seaman	Fortune Green SNP
Joseph Spalter	Holborn SNP
Jamie Taylor	Bloomsbury Partnership
Roy Walker	Camden Town SNP

Having asked Panels members what training they needed, the CCPCG organised two separate training events on behalf of the SNWP, the first in June and the second in November. The training was designed to bring together Panel sergeants and members to look at various problem solving methods and how they could work together to set ward priorities. Out of Camden's 18 wards 12 participated in the training.

The SNWP pursued the establishment of a borough-wide meeting for SNPs and police senior management. For the first time SNPs have regular private meetings where they can discuss in confidence any issues they have about Safer Neighbourhoods.

Consultation at work in Camden

Stop and Search Monitoring Group

Cllr James King chaired the Stop and Search Monitoring Group. He used his influence to extend and involve both education and community safety at assistant director level. Through these new links, in June 2009, the CCPCG organised a meeting between the police and year 10 and 11 pupils at William Ellis School. This gave the young people not only the opportunity to discuss stop and search but also their views on how the police use their powers.

The CCPCG also held a meeting on Stop and Search at Camden Youth Access Point in Cromer Street and took part in a Stop and Search event at Kingsway College.

When Camden Police receive intelligence of serious violence they can issue a Section 60 notice that lasts for a specific time period and covers a defined area. This provides the police with the power to lawfully stop and search anyone in that area. Every time the police issue a Section 60 a text message is sent to the CCPCG. When a text is received we contact the police for further details, and if necessary, send out one of our Independent Observers to join the police on patrol and note any stops that take place.

The busiest time for the Independent Observers tends to be the period from Halloween through to Christmas. Over November and December 2009 there was an unusually high number of Section 60s issued because of youth violence incidents.

Miles Seaman has represented the monitoring group at meetings with the MPA.

Preventing Violent Extremism

The CCPCG is now a member of the Council's Prevent working group and our Administrator has attended Met Police training. The Group's view is that the best way to prevent radicalisation is to engage with people. We are particularly keen that the police and young people have an opportunity to talk. In January 2010 we started an ambitious programme of 24 tabletop sessions in partnership with the police. We ask the young people to consider two different scenarios and conclude the session with a real-life call for service made to the police and ask the young people what they would do if they were the first officer on the scene.

Interestingly, for the young people with whom we have spoken, radicalisation does not seem to be a pressing issue. Their main concerns are those of any young people growing up in an inner city area. We give the young people the opportunity to ask the police questions and raise any issues they might have before we close the session.

Borough Commander's Report

This is my last CPCG annual report and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank staff and partners for their support and reflect on some of our successes.

I retire from the MPS in December, after 30 years service. I will have served just under three years as Camden Borough Commander, which is the average posting length. When I came here from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, I did not really know what to expect; my hand over from Mark Heath was done fairly quickly, as we swapped boroughs.

As a newly appointed Borough Commander, many people were of course keen to find out how I would operate, both internally with staff and externally with partners. From my perspective, it was a nervous time; Camden is a big player in policing terms and I was very proud to take on the responsibility. Someone in my position will always need support, advice and guidance from those who know Camden better than I do. I would like to place on record again my thanks to Janine, Peter and the board members of the CCPCG, who provided such support through thick and thin. Partnership is about trust and I believe we have developed a sound working relationship, from which the Borough has benefited.

Together, we have promoted the ethos of partnership working across all sectors. Some of the strongest evidence of true partnership work is seen here in Camden and that was recognised by the Home Office last year with the CAA award of the 'green flag'. I believe Camden is an exceptional Borough: we work together to identify problems at source and do something about it, rather than just talk about it. Our work with young people is wide and varied and based around our strategy of engage, divert and, where necessary, enforce. I will leave knowing we have worked to the best of our abilities to do all we can to prevent young people

coming to serious harm.

If you work in the private sector, success is measured in profit and loss. For me, success was harder to evidence but none the less simple to define. Success was to prevent and detect crime and keep the Queen's peace and if we got that right, we would not go far wrong. As many of you know, I am a keen advocate of a performance culture; done ethically it means we 'up our game' and the public, our customers, receive a more professional service. It also means we spend the public's money where it makes most impact and more criminals get convicted. Over the last three years, Camden has seen dramatic reductions in residential burglary, vehicle crime and crimes of violence, while detections in those crime categories has increased. It has got harder and harder over the years to get those reductions, but by the time I leave in October, I am determined to be in reduction again for overall crime.

I inherited a very strong Safer Neighbourhoods ethos with 18 independent chairs and some really good sergeants in those wards. I hope I have built on that foundation; as I have said to the SNT chairs many times, I have not interfered with your panels' decisions and you have taken on the responsibility to solve local problems with your local officers. I thank you for your hard work and support over the years.

Janine will step down after the AGM and I have been fortunate to have been her Borough Commander. I wish the new Chair the best of luck and know that my successor, John Sutherland, will get the support he needs to fulfil this very privileged role.



**Chief Superintendent
Dominic Clout**

Consultation at work in Camden

Statistics from April 2009 to March 2010

Crime Performance	2008/9	2009/10	% Change
Rape	40	75	87.5%
Other Serious Sexual Offences	109	125	14.7%
Serious Acquisitive Crime - Total	6227	5681	- 8.8%
Personal Robbery	918	1015	10.6%
Commercial Robbery	82	90	9.8%
Total Robbery	1000	1105	10.5%
Residential Burglary	1795	1698	- 5.4%
Theft/Taking of Motor Vehicle	810	706	- 12.8%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2622	2172	- 17.2%
Gun Crime	64	127	98.4%
Knife Crime	318	349	9.7%
Youth Violence	450	501	11.3%
Domestic Violence	1047	924	- 11.7%
Domestic Offence Arrest Rate	71.4%	74.2%	70.0%
Racist Offences	370	421	13.8%
Homophobic Offences	70	100	42.9%
TOTAL NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES	34176	33730	- 1.3%

Sanctioned Detection Performance	2008/9	2009/10	Target
Most Serious Violence SD rate	29.8%	45.3%	32.0%
Rape SD rate	55.0%	17.3%	45.0%
Other Serious Sexual Offences SD rate	42.2%	16.0%	
Serious Acquisitive Crime SD rate	14.7%	14.3%	12.1%
Robbery SD rate	18.3%	17.7%	19.0%
Residential Burglary SD rate	25.0%	17.5%	16.0%
Vehicle Crime SD rate	8.3%	11.2%	8.0%
Gun Crime SD rate	20.3%	28.3%	
Knife Crime SD rate	27.4%	22.3%	
Domestic SD rate	52.2%	52.8%	50.0%
Racist SD rate	52.7%	55.6%	45.0%
Homophobic SD rate	50.0%	50.0%	44.0%
Tier 3 SD rate	33.6%	27.0%	30.0%

Consultation at work in Camden

Community Safety Partnership Report



Mark Benbow

Assistant Director - Community Safety

Partnership working is central to Camden's success, delivering more together than any single organisation could deliver on its own. Residents are vital to this partnership, informing what problems need tackling and shaping the solutions so that we can take effective action in response to residents' concerns.

Many of the Partnership's initiatives are nationally recognised, such as our strong, innovative use of powers and legislation to tackle antisocial behaviour or our Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences for domestic violence. Last December, Camden was awarded a Green Flag rating by the Audit Commission for tackling crime, one of only three awarded to London boroughs.

These are just some of the other ways we've been working together with the police to help achieve the reductions in crime and disorder seen in Camden in the last year:

- *Increased the number of problematic drug users treated through one of the highest achieving Drug Intervention Programmes in London*
- *Provided more than 1300 residents with crime prevention advice and more than 500 elderly and vulnerable residents with additional home security measures*
- *Supported special training for bars and pubs and commissioned a "Take-aways that care" scheme for late night eateries to prevent alcohol related antisocial or violent behaviour*
- *Targeted for closure 95 properties being used for drug dealing and taking*
- *Continued to reduce rough sleeping, begging, street drinking, sex working and drug related street activity,*

achieving the highest reduction in rough sleeping across England and Wales, helped by over 100 residents acting as 'community auditors'

- *Engaged more than 3000 young people in schools through our Junior Citizens and Prison Me No Way programmes and on the streets through regular after school patrols by the Youth Disorder Engagement team and Street Wardens*
- *Increased the community payback reparation undertaken by offenders to more than 21,000 hours, much of this work chosen by residents*

Drugs, burglary, youth disorder, antisocial behaviour, motor vehicle crime and alcohol related disorder continue to be the Partnership's priorities you've told us matter most. Our success at working together will help ensure we're in a strong position to tackle these priorities effectively and meet the significant new challenges and changes the next year will bring.

As they prepare to move on, the Partnership would like to thank both Dominic Clout as Borough Commander and Janine Griffis as Chair of CCPCG for the commitment, hard work and support they've put in to make such partnership working success possible. We wish them all the very best in their future plans.

Consultation at work in Camden

Metropolitan Police Authority Report



Kirsten Hearn
MPA Link Member

This has been an exciting and productive year for the Camden CPCG, and they are going from strength to strength. The commitment from the MPA to provide the community with an opportunity to influence the policing of their borough is taken seriously and one I am glad to say has been delivered this year.

The CCPCG has held a number of wonderful engagement events which have reached far and wide in Camden.

I am especially pleased with the lead that Camden has taken on engagement with young people and their awareness training sessions around counter terrorism and also Stop and Search. The group have made great progress in bringing young people's issues and priorities to the attention of the police and wider public.

The CCPCG is dedicated to ensuring that communities get their say about policing and have the opportunity to influence policing priorities and how the police go about their business. Through outreach to excluded groups and public meetings across the Borough discussing the issues which matter to residents we are making people feel safer and cutting crime in Camden.

I look forward to the year ahead for the Group after what I feel has been an extremely successful year.

Consultation at work in Camden

Group membership during 2009/10

Members of the Group come from all sections of the community. Listed below are the various organisations that make up our membership. Organisations wishing to join must have a constitution and nominate one representative to be the voting member of the Group.

- **The Heath & Hampstead Society**
- **Bloomsbury Partnership**
- **Bengali Workers' Association**
- **Camden Black and Ethnic Minority Alliance**
- **Camden Inner London Licensing Authority**
- **Somali Community Association**
- **Black and Minority Ethnic Elders**
- **The Caraf Centre**
- **Camden LGBT Forum**
- **Neighbourhood Watch Hampstead**
- **Buckingham Avenue & Marlborough Mansions Neighbourhood Watch**
- **South Hill Park Neighbourhood Watch**
- **Age Concern Camden**
- **Camden People First**
- **Disability in Camden**
- **Belsize Residents Association**
- **Camden Town District Management Committee**
- **Camden Town District Management Panel**
- **Gospel Oak District Management Committee**
- **Hampstead District Management Committee**
- **Holborn District Management Panel**
- **Camden Federation of Tenants and Residents Association**
- **Crown Estate Residents Association**
- **Kentish Town District Management Committee**
- **Independent Federation of Genesis Residents**
- **Camden Association of Street Properties**
- **Covert Garden Community Association**
- **Queens Crescent Community Association**
- **Tawfiq Somali Community Association**
- **Greater London Authority**
- **Camden Independent Advisory Group**
- **Metropolitan Police Authority**
- **16 Safer Neighbourhood Panels**

Consultation at work in Camden