



Metropolitan Police Authority

MPA DIRECT

February 2009

2009 Safer London Problem Solving and Safer Travel Awards: winners announced

The winners of the 2009 Safer London Problem Solving and Safer Travel Awards, celebrating innovative projects to promote safer communities across London and on the transport system, were announced on Monday 23 February.

The awards are a collaboration between the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Transport for London (TfL) and the Safer London Foundation, the MPS Charity that contributes to the reduction of crime in London through the promotion of community cohesion, and the development of safer neighbourhoods with innovative community led crime reduction projects.

In total twelve projects to promote community safety across the capital were short listed for the top prizes.

2009 Problem Solving Award winners:

1st place:

Kingswood revisited - young people, gangs and knives:
Southwark

2nd place:

Redbridge community partnership against doorstep crime:
Redbridge

3rd place:

Reduction of assaults and anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol in Fulham Broadway:
Hammersmith and Fulham

Safer Travel Problem Solving Award winner:
Bromley safer public transport routes:



The winner of the Problem Solving Award, 'Kingswood revisited', was presented with a cheque for £10,000 and return flights to the Goldstein Problem Solving Awards to be held this November in California, USA, where they will both share and learn good practice and also be entered into the awards.

The winner of the Safer Travel Award, 'Bromley safer public transport routes', received a cheque for £5,000.

Kit Malthouse said:

"The Metropolitan Police Authority is once again delighted to see so many innovative and effective projects that have had such positive results for local communities. The Authority offers its thanks to all those teams who worked so hard to make their projects a success, and sends congratulations to the overall winners.

"The MPA firmly believes the problem oriented approach to policing makes a significant contribution to reducing criminality and anti-social behaviour at the local level and on London's transport system, helping to achieve our aims of reducing the fear of crime and making our communities safer environments to live and work in."

Stephen Lawrence: 10 years on from the Macpherson Inquiry

Stephen Lawrence was murdered in a racist attack in Eltham, south-east London, on 22 April 1993.

The murder, its investigation, and the subsequent public inquiry, resulting in publication of the Macpherson report on 24 February 1999, comprise the most important series of events in the recent history of British race relations.

Stephen Lawrence dreamed of becoming an architect, so he could influence the design of inner cities "from within": unusually, he wanted to be an architect in his own community.

Stephen's dreams live on because his family, and the friends who helped them launch the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, believed they could inspire other young people, especially those who may have lost faith in their own dreams.

(www.stephenlawrence.org.uk),

The Trust is helping make Stephen's dreams a reality for others by opening up architectural and related professions to Britain's most disadvantaged young people.

A Ministry of Justice/Home Office/National Police Improvement Agency conference, 'Stephen Lawrence 10 Years On', was

held on the tenth anniversary and explored the significance of the inquiry, whether institutional racism still exists in the MPS, recruitment, retention and progression of BME officers, and stop and search practices and the ongoing issue of disproportionality.

The Authority published the following statement:

The Macpherson Inquiry report had a massive impact on both policing and communities in London.

In the ten years since, the Met has come a long way and achieved many goals. It should be congratulated for the diversity and equalities policies which have been implemented and for gaining the confidence of London's communities.

Working alongside our communities is the only way to tackle crime successfully – particularly the two major challenges facing London today: combating terrorism and gun and knife crime murders.

But despite the Met's many successes, problems within the service still exist. The MPA has set up the Race and Faith Inquiry to focus on recruitment, retention and particularly progression of BME staff.

The Inquiry will not repeat previous investigations around race and diversity issues but establish what is still required in order to achieve real cultural change in the organisation.

We now have an opportunity to identify the successes and praise the service for its efforts and achievements. But we also have a responsibility to reflect upon the barriers and problems that still remain and ultimately arrive at workable solutions and seek support and 'buy in' from the MPA and the Met.

The MPA has also worked with the Met to improve the way that stop and search is carried out, as this continues to be a major cause of concern for London's BME communities, in particular young black and Asian males.

The MPA stop and search scrutiny (2004) made recommendations to improve how officers are trained and how they communicate with the people they stop.

This training has been integral to the roll out of Operation Blunt 2, the current anti-knife campaign, which has introduced 'knife arches' to London's streets and the widespread use of stop and search tactics to protect young people.

Out and about with the MPA

James Cleverly's guests at the full Authority last week were a group of young people from Bromley Parks youth advisory group and Croydon's Darwin ward Youth Safer Neighbourhood panels.

They spoke with the Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson before the meeting began and then watched him report to and be questioned by the Authority.

Their next appointment was with Inspector Paul Sloan from the MPS Safer Schools Team. He is carrying out a training needs analysis for Safer Schools officers and was pleased to have the opportunity to talk to young people about the functions they would like their schools officers to carry out.

After the meeting they met with James to discuss youth issues, including negative press about young people and how they could raise the positive side of youth in their local communities, generational differences, their responsibilities as members of their communities, youth engagement and youth diversion activities.

After lunch they met with the GLA peer outreach team, who run youth led projects

across London to engage with young people. They discussed the role of the team in the forthcoming Safer London Foundation 'Community Engagement Programme Master Class' which will advise Safer Neighbourhood panels and Community Police Engagement Groups about how they can connect with young people in their communities.

The groups agreed their visit was both informative and exciting and left the GLA buzzing with ideas.



February was LGBT history month

Several newspapers picked up on the story that a Rainbow flag, flying at Limehouse police station (pictured right) to mark the event, was quickly removed.

This was because the flying of any flag, other than the Union or the MPS flags, is against MPS policy.

The Gay Police Association (GPA) understood the stance taken, although disappointed, and has requested the current policy to be reviewed and that this proposal should be raised via Commissioner's LGBT Focus Group.

The MPS reiterated its commitment to LGBT equality matters to reassure both internal and external LGBT communities.

Bromley: Young people have their say on crime and safety

On Friday 27 February 2009 at the Churchill Theatre Bromley, more than 200 teenagers and adults gathered at a conference to express their opinions and exchange views on crime and safety issues, covering subjects from terrorism to fireworks safety.



Other panelists included Metropolitan Police Authority and London Assembly member James Cleverly, Tracey Pidgeons from London Ambulance and Alex Andrade, Bromley's youth advisor.

Throughout the day there were lots of other people for the teenagers to talk to, such as representatives from the Darwin Youth Panel, who advise the Darwin Safer Neighbourhoods Team.



The conference was organised by the Bromley Community Engagement Forum.

During the afternoon 'Question Time' young people quizzed senior staff and representatives from the ambulance, fire and police services, the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Assembly.

The 14 to 15 year-olds came from different schools across the borough and asked questions about police stop and searches, abuse from bus drivers, Oyster card problems and knife crime.

Elaine Beadle from Road Safety, Mick Titchener from the Fire Service, Bromley Councillor Colin Bloom and Bromley police's Superintendent Matt Bell were on hand to answer their questions.



Youth panel member Robyn Adams, 17, said: "We provided post-it notes so everyone could let us know how they were finding the day.

"They all said that they've really been enjoying it.

"Quite a few enjoyed the dance workshops- quite a few policemen had a little boogie."



For more information visit bcef.org.uk

MPA Committee Meetings
Full Authority meetings
are held at City Hall, all
other meetings at 10 Dean
Farrar St, London SW1H
0NY

**March committee
meetings**

4 March
Standards - City Hall

5 March
Finance and Resources

Joint meeting of the
Strategic and Operational
Policing and Finance and
Resources

Strategic and Operational
Policing

9 March
Professional Standards
Cases sub c'ttee

12 March
Communities Equalities and
People

16 March
Resources sub c'ttee

19 March
Finance and Resources

23 March
Race and Faith Inquiry panel
Corporate Governance

26 March
Full Authority City Hall

27 March
Equality and diversity sub c'ttee

30 & 31 March
Race and Faith Inquiry panel

**The following information is on
our website**

Details of MPA members
www.mpa.gov.uk/about/members

Committee and sub
committees membership
www.mpa.gov.uk/committees

Borough link members
[www.mpa.gov.uk/about/members/
link-members.htm](http://www.mpa.gov.uk/about/members/link-members.htm)

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And finally.....



New look MPA website

We hope you will have had a chance to view the revamped MPA website and agree with us that it is more customer focussed and enjoyable to use.

We would appreciate your feedback

**Please contact us by email at communications@mpa.gov.uk
or telephone 020 7202 0216**