

CROYDON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 6.30 pm
in the Council Chamber, Katharine Street, Croydon**

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2017**
- 4. Request for priorities and bids for 2018-19**
- 5. Focus on anti-social behaviour and environmental crime**
- 6. Any Other Business**
- 7. Date of next SNB meeting:**

Wednesday 14 June 2018 (Annual General Meeting)



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Agenda Item 2

CROYDON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD (SNB)

MINUTES OF 6 DECEMBER 2017 MEETING

Marion Burchell	Chair (IAG)
David Palmer	Vice-Chair (Aurora LGBT)
Cllr Steve O'Connell	Shadow Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
Cllr Hamida Ali	Majority Party representative
Brian Udell	Neighbourhood Watch
Andrew Brown	BME Forum
Marzia Nicodemi	Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group
Rebecca Molloy	Croydon BID
Jean Pikett	Volunteer with British Transport Police
Aitor Martinez	Victim Support
Richard McDonagh	Met Police
Claire Robbins	Met Police
Emily Collinsbeare	Youth Engagement Team Manager
Anthony Lewis	Safer Croydon Partnership
Ilona Kytomaa	SNB administrator

Also present and registered on the attendance list:

Angela Ben-Arie (Croydon Drop-In), Revd Alison Johnson and Shaquill Proud (Torchlight ministries), Lloyd Greene and Neil Goveia (Thornton Heath Ward Panel), Magdalene Adenaike (Music Relief Foundation), Duncan Bew (GAV and King's College Hospital), PC Alex Adams and Police Cadets

1	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The Chair welcomed all present.
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from the Borough Commander, Jay Patel (Asian Resource Centre) and Soye Briggs (Palace for Life).
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2017 Marzia Nicodemi stated the following: - She is the Chair of the Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group, not the Community Stop and Search Monitoring Group. - She stated that the 4 October AGM should be invalidated as it was inquorate. (<i>The minutes of the meeting show that it was attended by 13 SNB members – over the quorum of 10</i>) - She stated that she received no communications regarding meetings between June and September 2017 (<i>This was checked after the meeting and it is confirmed that Marzia Nicodemi was sent e-mails regarding the June AGM, two e-mails on the 4 October meeting and its agenda item on consultation on the Police's Public Access and Engagement Strategy, as well as the agenda and the AGM papers for the reconvened AGM. Marzia Nicodemi is on the SNB distribution list</i>).

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Young people's contribution to SNB meetings

The Chair put forward a proposal for increased and more proactive youth participation in the SNB:

In January 2018, the council will launch the Croydon Young Mayor scheme, with elections for the first young mayor to be held in March. The Young Mayor will lead the Youth Cabinet and have an annual calendar of events including representing the voice of young people at meetings such as the Safer Neighbourhood Board. The Young Mayor and some young people from the Youth Cabinet or other youth forums will be given the opportunity to attend SNB once a year with their campaign and any other relevant information that should inform the SNB and attendees.

This proposal was supported by the SNB.

A number of questions prepared by young people were read aloud and answered by Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh. The questions and answers are set out below. The young people had decided not to attend this meeting in view of its evening time.

An undertaking was given to share the answers with the young people who had contributed the questions. Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh also offered to meet with the young people if they wished to discuss policing issues with him.

JJ. 18yrs.

How do you get into the police force, and what made you want to join?

I joined aged 21 because I was inspired by TV police programmes, "good versus bad", and did great work experience aged 16 with the police which involved going with patrols in a police car.

DN. 12yrs.

How old do you have to be to be a police officer?

You need to be 18 to join the police. You start with a 12 week training course.

DB. 12yrs.

What does it take to be a police officer?

There is no hard and fast rule. There are lots of different officers in the police force with different strengths and qualities. I enjoy thinking, planning, problem-solving and negotiating. You also have to be physically fit, and able to show empathy and respect.

LB. 12yrs. Why did you want to be a police officer?

Older friends inspired me to join the police force. They were role models to me.

F. 20yrs

Why do police always take long to attend to youth problems but are always fast to see a youth as a problem?

Police don't always consider young people to be a problem. But they don't always understand young people's problems. More intelligence is needed so that police officers can make good assessments of the situation. The police

need a better flow of information so that they react appropriately to young people.

AS. 19yrs

Why haven't the Police secured more safety for young people?

Safety is not only a police responsibility. Officers work with key partners such as the council to tackle serious violence. The good news is that offending has levelled off over the course of the year. Police need to understand why young people offend by carrying knives and all partners need to make carrying knives culturally less acceptable.

AS. 19yrs

The law that are in place; do they 100% agree with them?

It's not the job of the police to agree or disagree with the law, although I can't think of a law I disagree with. Dealing with a situation is also down to context, to an understanding of the circumstances at the time.

JB. 15yrs

If we haven't done anything wrong why do the police bother us?

We need to use intelligence we receive to identify the young people involved in offending. This can be difficult. We review all major crimes in Croydon on a regular basis to get a better understanding.

GK. 15yrs

Why are there not more police around after school?

Unfortunately, the police can't be at all schools all the time, but do deploy resources where necessary.

GN. 14yrs

What communication should I expect from the police if I have been a victim of crime?

A lot of things happen:

- The police investigate the situation
- You will receive a letter with the crime reference number and an invitation to talk to Victim Support
- You may have face to face contact with the police to discuss the event
- You may have contact with the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) to discuss next steps if appropriate

AC. 14yrs

Why is it that you have cameras everywhere, but you are unable to catch the people that do the stabbings?

CCTV does not cover the whole of the borough and the cameras can't cover all directions. The direction of the cameras is determined by intelligence received.

JP. 14yrs

Why are there no police patrolling the park in Fieldway (Walton Green)?

This question was answered by the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Board, Marion Burchell, who lives in New Addington and knows about policing there. She stated that the Fieldway team do patrol around the park and work closely with the New Addington police team. She said there are concerns about Walton Green because it is very dark at night, it is not well lit, people congregate there and there is a bike issue.

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Violent youth crime and knife-enabled offending

A presentation was given on this topic by Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh.

He stated that robbery was the main crime type where knives were used and that the main areas for knife crime were the town centre and the Thornton Heath area. Croydon is second in London for numbers of violent youth crime as it has a very large youth population (84,000 under the age of 15, the largest of any London borough).

The audience were informed that less than one third of violence crime is gang-related although it is difficult to make a precise judgement about this statistic.

He gave an outline of the MOPAC strategy for dealing with knife crime, which includes the following:

1. Targeting lawbreakers
2. Keeping deadly weapons off the streets
3. Protecting and educating young people
4. Standing with communities against knife crime
5. Supporting victims of knife crime
6. Offering ways out of crime

Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh presented various statistics regarding violent youth crime and knife-enabled crime and highlighted Broad Green, Fairfield and Selhurst as the wards with the highest number of knife crime incidents.

He explained that Afro-Caribbean males aged 14-23 made up the great number of victims and the greatest number of victims who received serious injury.

The audience were informed that innovative work was being carried out around weapon sweeps in hotspot areas. About 230 knives have been recovered this year. A raft of other measures are being taken to reduce the risk of knife crime, e.g. cutting back hedges to prevent the hiding of knives, CCTV and signage, working with neighbourhood wardens and community groups to recover knives, and taking steps to obtain better information on knife carriers.

Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh observed that the police needed to have better intelligence about what drives knife crime. He added that parents needed to manage their children's behaviour better and nip the risk of knife crime in the bud. He stated that knives seemed to be a status symbol as well as a tool for young people to attempt to protect themselves, although carrying a knife only increases the risk to young people.

The audience were advised that the police stance towards knife crime had changed, and was focusing on diverting children from crime and helping them to make good life choices.

Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh reported that there had been 109 offences in the last 12 months involving knives and other weapons such as bottles, and that many of the knife crime victims had been aged under 25. The situation with robberies is more positive: last year, Croydon was first or second in terms of robberies in London but is now 10th. Over half of knife crimes in Croydon are robbery-related.

A member of the audience, who works at King's College Hospital, stated that 50% of trauma cases there were penetrative injuries from a range of weapons, including improvised ones.

The audience heard that the police worked closely with Croydon university hospital to gain a better understanding of knife crime.

The audience were informed that gun crime was on the rise, with 26 more such offences than last year. There was a significant spike in June and July 2017, with 18 and 16 gun offences respectively.

Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh ended his presentation with a brief overview of gang activity in the borough.

A SNB member asked what was being done to reduce the troubles and violence in the town centre. It was highlighted that young people thronged the centre to catch transport home after school, and congregated around West Croydon bus station and outside MacDonald's, the latter because it offered free wifi.

The Safer Croydon Partnership representative announced that the situation in the area had improved significantly from last year. Police and outreach workers are working to keep the area trouble-free and good use is being made of CCTV. The visibility of community groups is also important to engage with young people. It was highlighted that this would also be important when the Westfield development got under way.

The Police acknowledged that using a knife arch in the town centre had been a controversial idea, but that the purpose of this measure was to highlight the intention to tackle the issue of knife crime. The audience heard that other businesses were keen to work with the police on tackling this type of offending.

Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh was told that young people were saying there was no engagement between the police and young people at West Croydon station. He answered that he would contact road traffic police command to encourage proactive engagement with the young people using the station. He reiterated his plans to involve community groups in reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour in the area.

The audience were informed that the police had been given funding by the Evening Standard to do multi-agency work in schools to deter young people from crime.

	<p>The Chair highlighted the valuable work of Crossfire in Croydon to discourage young people from engaging in crime.</p> <p>Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh was asked how effectively statistics were shared with voluntary groups and key partners. The questioner felt strongly that strategic agencies and community groups needed to work together much more closely to tackle violent crime in a range of different ways.</p> <p>The representative of Victim Support asked whether there was a link between knife crime and hate crime and was advised that the correlation was very low. There were very few cases of hate crime in the 109 knife crime offences committed in the last 12 months. Overall, knife crime is most commonly linked to robbery.</p> <p>Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh was thanked for his presentation.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>It was suggested that a future meeting of the SNB could take place in a school or college to capture the views of young people. The Chair stated that she was open to suggestions to increase the engagement of young people.</p> <p>Cllr Hamida Ali invited representatives of voluntary groups in attendance to a meeting to be held on 14 December regarding possible project opportunities available through the MOPAC community fund.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Dates of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 14 March 2018 in the Council Chamber, starting at 6.30pm.</p>