

Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group Chairs Conference Call Wednesday 25th March

Present (Names of those chairs who registered before the call)

Borough	CMG
Barnet	Ifran Hussain
Brent	Roy Croasdaile
Bromley	Ian Smith
Croydon	Marzia Nicodemi
Ealing	Vlod Barchuk
Greenwich	Karen Hughes, Steve Bone
Hackney	Nicola Baboneau
Hammersmith & Fulham	Sarah Chambers Jane Davis
Haringey	Herval Almenoar- Webster, Ken Hinds
Havering	Ian Weatherley
Hounslow	Meenu Dhili
Lewisham	Tayo Prince
Merton	
Newham	Chris Roffey
Redbridge	Julie Fallon
Southwark	Avril Jones
Tower Hamlets	Jon Shapiro
Waltham Forest	Aimee Farquhar
MPS	Insp Fiona Partridge & Srgt Chris Williams
MOPAC	Natasha Plummer, Jamie Keddy

1) NP welcomed the group and provided the following updates;

- City Hall is now closed to the public. MOPAC staff are still on hand to assist as all now working from home. These are unprecedented times so we will need to explore new ways of working such as conference calls.

2) FP provided an MPS update and went over the following points;

- All in person-meetings have ceased, which means that the reviewing of redacted data cannot continue at this time. Other arrangements for notifications of the implementation of section 60 authorisations will continue, and CMGs and officers have been tasked to make local arrangements for remote monitoring processes to be put in place. These processes will include reviewing the stop/search and complaints data that will continue to be published by the MPS (usually by 8th of the month) and broader updates on any issues arising from local use of the powers.
- MPS stop and search leads have received central guidance that they should maintain monthly contact with their CMG chair (and the full Group where this is possible) on a monthly basis either by email or a phone call. Where this isn't possible due to resourcing/capacity, then the MPS central team will be available to support CMGs. However, contact with local leads may be challenging and operational pressures will change day-to-day.
- Due to social distancing, there should be fewer people out in public, which should reduce the volume of stop and search, and in addition potential reductions in workforce capacity due to extraction & sickness may also reduce stop/search volume.
- Legislation regarding Covid-19 is still going through parliament, but it will provide new powers that will be additional to existing stop/search powers.
- The police still have the same powers to stop and search members of the public including Section 1 PACE, Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 etc.

NP updated the group about the new Covid-19 legislation to confirm that police and immigration officers will have additional powers to detain people who they suspect have the corona virus, they will be able to issue fines and ensure those breaching self-isolating rules are detained.

The Mayor, Police Chiefs Council and Commissioner have all said that this legislation will not be the "go to" power officers use.

3) Question and Answer Session

MPS Resources	
Question	Are the MPS managing their resources by ensuring non-frontline officers are working from home so they can support the service should sickness result in lowered numbers of staff?
Answer	Yes, all officers who are not required operationally to be in the public space are working from home including the Central Stop and Search Team.
Question	Are the police conducting risk assessments for interacting with members of the public and are they being supplied with personal protection equipment?
Answer	Officers will continue with business as usual duties coupled with wearing face masks, gloves and information on what do with uniform after contact. They are receiving regular advice and risk assessments.
Question	Will officers have priority access to Covid-19 testing?
Answer	MOPAC will take an action to find out.
Scrutiny	
Question	Figures from April 18 -April 19 show that black and Asian people still getting stopped more.
Answer	This relates more to S60 data and is generally coming down. However, it is still an issue that the MPS are working on. FP encouraged chairs to get in touch with central team to enquire about stats so they can understand the data in greater detail.
Question	Where will traffic stops be recorded since more people will not be driving rather than walking?
Answer	Traffic stops are not currently recorded, this is a national piece of work that is ongoing.
Question	How will groups begin to get access to redacted 5090s since its likely social distancing will be a long-term issue?
Answer	MOPAC and the MPS will need to speak about how to make this work. However, this will depend on what is available to local leads. Currently there isn't an easy answer to this, this will need to be explored in the future. Local leads are continuing to share local solutions and chairs are encouraged to share any of these updates.
Young People & Social Distancing	
Question	How are the police monitoring the potential for youth disorder as a lot of them will not stay indoors over the coming weeks?
Answer	If there are issues with young people committing ASB officers will use the same powers they would usually use to disperse them. City Hall is monitoring domestic violence and all community tensions to look at what we can do to support young people through things like the Young Londoners Fund. London situational awareness team in City Hall and MPS will monitor social media to get ahead of any issues before they get out of hand.

Communications	
Question	The Croydon Borough Cmdr has been sharing daily updates to communities which assists with reassurance and keeps people informed. Will the Mayor be providing anything to ensure young people stay at home?
Answer	All borough commanders are doing the same. City Hall is also working to develop and disseminate communications to different communities. London Citizens charity are also conducting a listening exercise across London to understand what the government/ Mayor/ local authorities can do to support young people. MOPAC will receive a summary report w/c 30 th March.
Question	Are the MPS and MOPAC looking at alternate ways to share information with those who are not abiding to the social distancing rules? eg: messaging in different languages and reaching communities through different routes.
Answer	Yes, the City Hall Communications Team are exploring alternate ways to get the information out in different languages, through social media influences and drill artists to ensure it reaches as many Londoners as possible.
Question	Partnership messages going out from the MPS, could a central summary be sent out so the same messages are going out between boroughs?
Answer	MOPAC will take this as an action and put some bullet points together to share with chairs.

4) Key points raised during Q&A

Croydon Borough Commander has been sharing daily updates to communities to provide reassurance and general information.
Hackney has seen decreased levels of crime since the social distancing measures were put in place.
Stop and search monitoring in Greenwich is going well, telephone brief took place on Sunday which was successful.
There is a concern that groups do not want to put pressure on the police to remove front line officers from operational duties during this time to provide redacted data.
Body Worn Video legal challenge: The MPS and MOPAC have their legal advice, the next step was to get solicitors into the same room to discuss how to work the issues through however because of the new measures put in place this isn't possible. The DMPC is still keen the resolve the situation.
New ways of working in the future will need to be explored with video conferencing/ voice calls etc.
Provisional predictions are that stop and search should decrease in the coming weeks and months as the social distancing measures are embedded.

5) Actions

Share Fiona Partridge & Chris Williams contact details	
FP to check if front line officers are being briefed about telling members of the public to social distance themselves	MPS
NP to feed back to Mayor's office about delivery drivers congregating to ensure they get the message and that this applies to all professional delivery workers	MOPAC - completed
MOPAC to circulate information on the new legal powers - The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020	MOPAC - completed and attached. Further communications are being developed to help communities and officers understand the requirements
All chairs encouraged to get in touch with their stop and search leads to explore ways of working.	All Chairs
MOPAC to organise survey in coming weeks to see how chairs are working with their local leads so we can provide support where needed.	MOPAC
MOPAC to find out if MPS will have priority access to Covid-19 testing	MOPAC
FP to pick up issues with Haringey including access section 60 and 5090.	MPS – completed FP has been in touch with Haringey SPOC.