

To all Chief Executives of the London Boroughs,
Borough Commanders,
Community Police Engagement Groups,
Independent Custody Visitors,
Heads of Community Safety,
Stop & Search Community Monitoring Groups,
and Chairs of Community Safety Partnerships (for circulation)

24 September 2012

Dear Colleague,

Safer Neighbourhood Boards

In his election manifesto the Mayor pledged to establish Safer Neighbourhood Boards in every London borough.

Safer Neighbourhood Boards will be a new community engagement mechanism with a broad community safety agenda. I am aware that partners and volunteers are beginning to ask what the implications are for the existing Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) funded community engagement groups which already make a contribution to police and community engagement in the wider context of partnership working. Therefore I thought it would be helpful to clearly outline the purpose of the new Boards and what work is currently being undertaken by MOPAC staff to deliver the Mayoral vision.

As defined by the Mayoral manifesto, each Board will have a number of specific responsibilities that include:

- A duty to hear and monitor complaints from victims of crime
- Monitoring public complaints against borough based police officers
- Establishing policing priorities in the borough
- Monitoring crime performance and community confidence
- Ensuring the system of custody visiting is delivered
- Playing a significant role in Community Payback
- A duty to ensure all wards have a ward panel of residents

The Mayor would also like the boards to oversee the borough MPS Independent Advisory Groups, support Neighbourhood Watch, and deliver the stop and search community monitoring function.

The MOPAC will be establishing a £1m crime prevention fund from which the new boards can bid for crime prevention projects in their area.

The Safer Neighbourhood Boards will replace the existing Community Police Engagement Groups (also known as Community Police Consultative Groups or Community Safety Boards) as MOPAC's primary engagement mechanism and will align some of the other MOPAC and MPS engagement mechanisms.

MOPAC staff are currently devising a draft implementation plan for the Safer Neighbourhood Boards which will form the basis of consultation with all stakeholders, including MOPAC volunteers. I should clarify at this point that the manifesto described some clearly defined parameters around the composition of the boards and their functions and this will therefore place some limits on the scope of stakeholders to inform the model.

In addition, we are in the process of appointing a number of non-executive advisers to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, one of whom will have a key responsibility for advising on neighbourhood matters. The Non-executive Adviser for Neighbourhoods, acting as the Deputy Mayor's representative, will engage in communication and dialogue with stakeholders to ensure that the Mayor's commitment to Safer Neighbourhood Boards is implemented.

Each borough has a MOPAC Borough Engagement Officer and ICV Coordinator and they should remain your first point of contact for any queries or suggestions ahead of the consultation exercise.

I look forward to working with you to establish a new model of engagement that ensures a continued focus on the priorities of local communities.



Natasha Plummer
Head of Borough Information & Engagement