

Susan Hall AM
PCC Chair
London Assembly
City Hall

Our ref: MOPAC2500222- D4012

Your ref:

Date: 23rd March 2022

Dear Susan,

Thank you for writing to me with the Police and Crime Committee's response to the Mayor's draft Police and Crime Plan. We welcome this feedback and the engagement of Committee Members during the consultation process for the Plan. This is an important element of the broader consultation, through which we surveyed 2,726 Londoners, received 213 written submissions and undertook a series of 36 online workshops, events and meetings with a total of 820 participants. I am grateful to the Committee and to all who took the time to have their say on the draft Plan – we are now reflecting on the findings of the consultation and preparing the final document for publication in March.

I address your recommendations in turn, as they are set out in the Committee's response.

Recommendation 1

The final Plan should include commitments to:

- ***review the Met's ability to tackle the online drivers of crime and violence, in particular amongst young people***
- ***work closely with social media companies to prevent and reduce violent crime.***

Londoners' and partners' concerns about online harms and cyber-enabled crime came through strongly in our consultations and is reflected in the final Police and Crime Plan. We commit to working with partners – including the MPS and tech companies – to ensure that Londoners who use online platforms are safe, that they are empowered to report harmful content, and where offences are committed online that victims are supported, and offenders brought to justice. In addition, we will convene an Online Harms Working Group to bring together all parts of City Hall and partners to co-ordinate our efforts to protect Londoners of all ages online.

Recommendation 2

The final Plan should make specific commitments to address domestic abuse, including:

- ***rolling out domestic abuse perpetrator programmes across London so that there is a high and consistent level of intervention in every London borough***
- ***introducing LGBT+ domestic abuse perpetrator programmes***
- ***rolling out Domestic Abuse Matters training to all Met Police staff***

• adopting a whole-school approach to tackle domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The Mayor's refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is due to be published shortly. This Strategy will sit alongside the Police and Crime Plan, setting out our agenda for keeping women and girls in London safe. I can assure the Committee that within the Strategy will be significant investment in perpetrator programmes, DA training for MPS staff and work at early years to promote healthy relationships and prevent VAWG.

Recommendation 3

The final Plan should identify the specific action needed to tackle drug harm, use and supply in London, incorporating the key findings and lessons from the government's drugs strategy.

The harms caused by drugs in London came through strongly in the consultation on the draft Plan, and we have considered this carefully during the production of the final document. We also welcomed the publication of the Government's 10-year drugs strategy during the Police and Crime Plan consultation and we have examined this carefully.

The final Plan reflects this, with commitments around tackling drugs. At the heart of our response will be a new London Drugs Forum, bringing together the wide variety of partner organisations with a role to play in reducing the harm caused by drugs – including the MPS, justice agencies, the NHS and local authorities.

Recommendation 4

The final Plan should include specific commitments to increase Londoners' awareness of, and opportunities to contribute to, counterterrorism efforts.

We absolutely agree on the vital role of the community in the fight against terrorism and extremism. In the Plan we recommit to the work being led through the Mayor's Shared Endeavour Fund to work with communities to tackle hatred and extremism, and also to work with partners to deliver the recommendations made by Lord Harris in his refreshed review of London's Preparedness for a Major Terror Incident – a number of which relate to communications and community engagement.

Recommendation 5

MOPAC should publish two versions of the final Plan: a high-level summary that is written for Londoners, and a more detailed Plan that is aimed at those practitioners working in the policing and criminal justice sectors.

Our focus over the last few months has been working at pace to finalise the consultation, analyse the findings and produce the final Plan for London within the statutory timeline. Having now completed this work, we are actively looking at how we will communicate the Plan priorities and their delivery in the most accessible way for Londoners, particularly how we can use the website and other digital content to help bring the priorities to life.

Recommendation 6

The final Plan should commit to working with Londoners, through community representatives and groups, to set the targets for its measures to increase trust and confidence in policing by 30 September 2022.

Working with communities is at the heart of our agenda for policing and crime in London. We have reflected very carefully about all of the outcomes and measurements in the Police and Crime Plan, including those around confidence and trust – and we believe these are the correct ones. The potential downsides of numerical targets in policing are well understood and we will not be setting any such targets in the Police and Crime Plan, instead seeking improvements from a baseline.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the final Plan includes:

- a specific date in 2022 when the new Community Monitoring Groups model will be implemented***
- a commitment to set a target for the time in which communities and organisations should expect to receive their funding from MOPAC.***

The Police and Crime Plan is a strategic document and does not go into this level of detail. However, the Mayor's Action Plan commits to overhauling our community monitoring structures. That review is well underway, and we will pilot a new approach in 2022 before committing to full implementation.

I recognise that funding to organisations has suffered some delays – and for a variety of reasons. However, provided the necessary documentation has been correctly submitted to, and signed off by, MOPAC, funding will normally be released within 21 days.

Recommendation 8

The final Plan should include commitments to promote and support the strategic oversight of training needs for practitioners supporting survivors of VAWG, including awareness of cultural sensitivities. As a minimum, this should include the development of a live training needs strategy for all practitioners funded by the Mayor.

As per my response to recommendation 2, the refreshed VAWG Strategy for London will be published shortly – which includes a significant focus on support for victims and survivors of these offences and improving the training provided to front line workers and other practitioners who could come into contact with them in the course of their work.

Recommendation 9

The final Plan should include commitments to work with the National Crime Agency (NCA) to improve reporting and support services to fraud victims in London. This should include specific references to efforts to tackle cybercrime, and increase Londoners' awareness of this type of crime.

Recommendation 10

The final Plan should include an action plan with new interventions to prevent and reduce fraud in London and improve outcomes for fraud victims.

We have reflected carefully on our approach to fraud in the final Plan – respondents to our consultations spoke of the volume and impact of fraud, particularly online, but recognised the challenges for the MPS as a local police service in tackling crimes that are often perpetrated by individuals or groups outside of London and also in different countries. Alongside the commitment mentioned earlier on the Online Harms Working Group, we will

continue to lobby the Government for a national fraud strategy – which is urgently needed if we are to step up the fight against fraud and those who target our citizens.

Recommendation 11

The final Plan should identify the specific devolved criminal justice powers the Mayor will lobby for.

We have considered this element of the Strategy carefully and stopped short of identifying specific devolution asks, given that the Strategy runs for multiple years and that the Government is continuing to engage with PCCs and forces around the country on this – including through the recently published PCC Review.

Lobbying is an important and ongoing process for us, and we will continue to be transparent with Londoners on how we are making the case for London to the Government in all aspects of our policy.

Recommendation 12

MOPAC should identify specific targets for growth in rape detection rates in London for each of the years during the final Plan.

Rape detection rates in London must improve – and through Operation Soteria we are working with the MPS to transform their response to these appalling crimes so that more victims receive justice and that more perpetrators are convicted and punished. As per our response to Recommendation 6, we will not be setting specific numerical targets through the Police and Crime Plan.

Recommendation 13

The final Plan should include a specific commitment for MOPAC to establish a working group to identify what measures can be taken to improve the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process in London and how it will work with national partners on the issue.

We agree that the National Referral Mechanism process requires further improvement, and in the final Plan we commit to continue engaging in lobbying the Home Office to make the much needed changes to the NRM to ensure it is as effective and efficient as possible. NRM is only one element of the journey of modern slavery survivors, we will continue to work with our partners on a number of issues to tackle modern slavery. For example, Claire Waxman OBE, the Victims' Commissioner for London, will work with the National Victims' Commissioner and Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to better understand victims' experience of the police response to modern slavery and identify how it can be improved.

Recommendation 14

MOPAC should publish accessible data on the local crime prevention priorities for each area. The updates should form part of MOPAC's overall quarterly performance updates.

Recommendation 16

The final Plan should include a commitment for MOPAC to publish a comprehensive and easily accessible data dashboard, detailing all performance information that pertains to the Plan.

I group these two recommendations together. MOPAC has led the way in using interactive dashboards to provide transparency around policing and crime data. We are committed to building on that work and will be bringing forward new dashboards structured around the new Plan priorities and outcomes.

Recommendation 15

The final Plan should include a commitment to commission an independent review of the additional qualitative indicators developed to measure progress against the Plan's Young people in the justice system are safe and supported theme by June 2022. MOPAC should use the findings of such a review to inform further qualitative measures for other areas of the final Plan.

We keep performance management under review on a constant basis to ensure that we are using all of the appropriate and available data, but we recognise that in the case of qualitative inputs – such as HMICFRS reports or other national reviews that are not in our gift – we cannot know what they will cover over the life of this Plan. For this reason we opted against specific indicators in the Plan.

I am grateful to the Committee for their time and insights as part of the development of the Police and Crime Plan and look forward to working with Members as we move forward to deliver its commitments for Londoners.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Linden,
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime