

5 November 2020

Attn: Kristen Aspinall

Re: Feedback on the draft Lambeth Made Safer Strategy

These are the further thoughts from Norwood Forum, using information and expertise gathered through our Norwood Community Safety Partnership (NCSP) project, which is led by our committee member, Philip Virgo:

1. The **goals** and **priorities** look very good, but it goes without saying that getting communities to believe that the Council is serious about the **principles** given the legacy of mistrust from past consultations and promises is critical, and we were encouraged by your comments that the current pilot projects will not be rolled out across Lambeth until they have been given time to bed-in effectively, as well as be evaluated.
2. Success in delivering the many commitments will depend on genuine engagement and continuity of contact with all concerned, particularly at the local level. We would hope you will engage with those in the community with long memories (such as many of those involved in the LFN, but equally grass roots charities, etc.) to understand the context on the ground, as well as what has, and has not, been successful in the past. Of course, the passage of time and changes in communities should not preclude re-examining earlier unsuccessful initiatives.
3. Norwood Forum works with an extensive range of local groups and communicates directly and indirectly with around 10,000 individuals. This includes local residents, community organisations, and businesses. We would like to discuss how to help.
4. The participants in the Norwood Forum project: [Norwood Community Safety Partnership](#) have come up with many specific ideas on how to help deliver on specific commitments.

The most important relate to the need to improve communications and join up initiatives at the local level, so that those looking for help are quickly put in touch with those best able to help them.

**Implementation must be joined up at Ward level with exercises which bring together the relevant plans of Health, Welfare, Education, Police, Charities and Community Groups (faith, cultural and social as well as street and estate), recognising that few of the latter follow Ward boundaries.**

The area covered by the Tulse Hill Pilot crosses at least three Ward boundaries and their Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Partnerships, although most of it is covered by one Primary Care Network which we understand has just appointed a Youth engagement worker for the 11-18 age group, and now hosts much of the relocated outreach operations of the The Well Centre. We suggest there is also a need to engage with the relevant school nurses, police liaison officers and PHSE teachers (City Heights, St Martins, Elm Green, Elm Court), as well as the relevant community and faith groups and local businesses. We understand that most of the relevant schools are part of the **Southwark** Schools Learning Partnership.

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**From the knowledge gained through our NCSP project, we believe the main omission from the Strategy is the need to address the symbiotic relationship between violence and on-line abuse:**

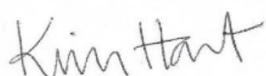
- Youth violence commonly has an on-line dimension (command and control, rivalry, enforcement, victimisation etc.)
- Reports advise there has been a considerable rise in on-line abuse (all ages) since lock down
- Suicides in London are 50% up on this time last year
- The only reference to on-line issues in the Strategy is in the context of deep web intelligence concerning weapons imports
- There is a need for an overlapping exercise to look at the symbiotic relationship between online and physical violence
- The London Grid for Learning (LGfL): "[Hopes and Streams](#)" exercise provides one possible starting point
- Police experience of on-line monitoring to track/predict outbreaks of violence and identify those leading/organising them, provides another.

Specific ideas include:

- Joined-up and authoritative guidance for those seeking to organise socially isolated safe spaces and/or youth engagement activities akin to that produced by others for multi-use community facilities (e.g. by [ACRE for rural village halls and community centres](#))
- Support for use of automated/gamified SEND tools so that neuro-diverse BAME children get appropriate education instead of excluded, including participation in national trials of such materials
- The recruitment of special constables, police service volunteers and cadets from the many diverse communities, including from among youth workers and medical professionals using processes approved in 2011 but not yet implemented by the Metropolitan Police
- Education material on Stop and Search covering the perspectives of all involved - victims of crime, police, those stopped and searched etc. - so that they know where each other is coming from, why things happen as they do, and what each other is thinking
- Processes for the anonymous notification of "suspicions" (e.g. of domestic violence) to facilitate early intervention by hairdressers, beauticians, pharmacies, faith/youth group members, and well as by medical professionals
- Joined up and authoritative guidance regarding on-line abuse for victims (all ages) and for parents, joining and building on that produced/published by reputable organisations from NSPCC, through LGfL, to Elder Abuse.

We would really appreciate a chance to meet with you (virtually) to discuss how Norwood Forum and our Community Safety Partnership project might work more closely on this project. In the meantime, we would appreciate an understanding of the Strategy timeline prior to its final version publication.

Many thanks



Kim Hart  
Vice Chair  
Norwood Forum

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