

CCEN Seminar Thriving and Safe Part of London

Simone Hensby introduced Donna Turnbull to inform people why CCEN were holding this seminar

Donna explained that the reason behind this meeting and others planned was to allow VCS groups to contribute towards reporting to LSP every 2 months at the Business LSP meetings on how the Community Strategy was developing and each meeting would look at a different thread of the CS

CCEN will be taking on the role of monitoring what's happening with the CS – leading in the volunteers, self help, not just about outcomes but about the barriers and constraints opportunities for improvement and gaps in services.

Most important to not just profile VCS as service deliverers but going beyond that which is funded by Camden. Looking at what the VCS bring – added value – need to get ax in reports.

VCS is not just about service delivery but facilitates community identity that contributes to a thriving community.

CCEN will follow up from the meetings, go and see groups – for input into May report for LSP. This seminar is an experiment to try out ways of getting organisations ideas and comments for a better strategy(?)

Camden BME Alliance

3rd party Reporting on Race/Hate Crime

Works with community centres and youth centres across Camden using fully trained volunteer 3rd Party Reporters based in the organisations. These have access to community. Being based in the community means that they can xxxxx up on tension hotspots (violence within gangs as well as between gangs) At present there are 34 sites and 8 volunteer reporters.

The project manager also runs myth-busting workshops – talking about what is race hate crime and why it is important to report it. Support is also given to victims of race hate crime through the whole process including court proceedings.

CBEA also works with minority organisations to facilitate involvement in decision making and feeding the results into various forums.

Questions/Comments

SO,C – organisations funded through Youth and Connexions have to report on youth crime

Q RA asked if the project linked up with housing as this is where a lot of hate crime occurred.

A No the project does not link in with housing as yet but recognise that this is something they need to look into. The project does a lot of work with mini cab drivers and parking patrol people??.

Q BNA is one of the organisations where this project operates and was concerned that the reporting numbers were decreasing and asked if this was happening in other areas?

A People seem to take this as something to be endured as part of everyday life in UK.

A lot of work needs doing out in the communities to encourage them to use the service. Many communities fear of police so CBMEA is working with the police to build trust between communities and the police – in Camden this is already quite good.

PW mentioned that the CPCCG ran 12 focus groups across the borough on race hate crime. When 3rd party reporting was mentioned everyone said they thought it was a great idea. The venues used for the focus

groups were mainly community centres – many of which were reporting centres for the current 3rd party reporting project but these people did not know anything about it!

KEY ISSUES

- LBC say that the numbers of people using the service are not high enough against the other 3rd Party Reporting Projects: Domestic Violence, LGBT, and ????
- Gang violence both between gangs, by gangs and within gangs.

Camden Police and Community Consultancy Group

PW talked about CPCCG, which focuses on community safety and policing issues. Membership is made up of organisations (not individuals). The CPCCG hold 6 meetings a year around the borough – at the last meeting there was a presentation from Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable about the alcohol problem and street drinkers in Kings Cross, about what they did. Then the Licensing Sergeant talked about premises and the fact that there had been a 25% increase in licences to off licences. Tony Booth from Camden's Community Safety Team talked about the Community Safety Strategy.

Safer Neighbourhood Policing really started 2 years ago. Each ward has a team of 5 officers. SNP are made up of people from the local community that identifies 3 priorities in their ward and the SNteam undertake the work. In Kings Cross the main priority is street drinking – in most other areas Youth crime is the main priority.

- Street drinking has decreased since the focus by SNP but now prostitution and drugs are now on the radar.
British Transport Police have a whole team of SN police for ST Prancas with 12 – 14 Police Community Safety Officers.
- Other work of the CPCCG is Myth Busting funded by LBC. So far there have been three events with police community safety officers and police constables and young people – on an equal basis. The events give everyone an opportunity to discuss issues that concern them.
- Other meetings organised have been a meeting around Stop and Search for young people with some of them surprisingly saying they are all for it because it makes them feel safer.
- After the bombing attacks the CPCCG held an Anti Terrorism event in Queens Crescent CC and Bengalie Workers Association- Myths Labels and Lies.

Comments/ Questions

Kings Cross is not in isolation and most of the crime has been displaced into neighbouring areas. SO'C mentioned that displacement of drugs in KX and Camden Town business areas has meant it has moved into the estates in surrounding areas Kentish Town, Somers Town, Chalk Farm etc

CL the push in Kings Cross has certainly meant an increase in Agars Grove – especially in drug takers and prostitution.

Q Are there any other VCS working to improve/increase community/police relations?

A Every ward has a Safer Neighbourhood Panel and the LGBT Forum is borough wide.

AB many community centres may not class the work they do as this but do a lot of this work. The problem is that they do not see their work as fitting into the CS themes. Also faith groups such as mosques and youth groups.

Worry about international railway station and fact that there is no customs or baggage checks so people can bring anything in.

Displacement has meant there is a problem of drug taking in Maiden Lane estates and a move to more Class A drugs from cannabis to crack cocaine.

SH mentioned that at a meeting the Youth Service (not all funded by Camden) not all funded by Camden – Knife crime and guns are a big issue for young people in London (both victims and perpetrators).

New Horizon Youth Centre

SO'C said that her organisation is doing some work to break down the barriers – College of Law workshops – beat officers to break down barriers.

- One member stabbed in Edmonton
- .Issue with centre 50+ every day in centre that say they are really scared about knife crime.
- Setting up a Big Brother Ipod video room,
- Focus groups involving local people and victims of crime talking about impact on them and their families.
- Producing DVD around Camden about young peoples point of view
- Other work of the centre is focusing on homeless people especially rough sleepers. Years ago there were lots of young people using the service but nowadays our clients are older.

50 people used the centre today – we provide advice, needs assessment, access to appropriate housing across London or hostels. Clients also access showers, laundry, food etc. NHYC got 700 people into short/long stay accommodation in the last year.

Alcohol and skunk are real issues with young people – recently around Chalton Street local shops selling very cheap very strong alcohol.

Fear of crime – vcs can work around – used to have outreach workers going out talking to street workers and homeless people etc about what the organisation does and how it can help.

Partnership priority for police is youth violence. Stop and search in Camden is very low because officers don't like doing it

CL homelessness – young people – meeting about 18+ year olds needing new base – employment – finding a real place home/job/friends (positive rather than negative)

Ruth Appleton spoke about the needs of refugees – destitution is rife for unaccompanied minors not eligible for services NHYC – can deal with them during the day

AB In writing the report we need to look at the impact on other themes

DT agreed and said that this was usually missing in LSP reports – also something else missing is development.

SH said that community centres are big in dealing with community tensions and anti social behaviour – work with real community across ages – intergenerational work.

KBNA Older Peoples Team and Young People Team work together to bring issues to each other – antisocial behaviour, fear of crime etc.

VCS to identify what issues are and get LSP to begin to address the issues identified.

Youth hotspots in relation to CS need funding – they had funding but then funding through Youth and Connexions but this was cut.

SO'C mentioned one youth centre set up by the local community and funded through various charitable trusts is now being taken over by the adjacent school and youth centre is being forced to move out.

LL – just because an area is quiet or performing well doesn't mean it doesn't need support.

AB talked about the problem of drugs and alcohol and older people.

RA said that mental health may seem NHS issue but it is not – 3 mental health groups are closing due o lack of funding but if you want to improve cohesion and antisocial behaviour there is a need to address the issue of mental illness.

Latin American Association

Problem with the Latin American community over the last 10 years especially is counterfeit Portuguese ID cards. 500,000 Brazilians are said to be in UK on these ID cards.

This has lead to ID theft and Brazilian prostitutes,

Youth criminality is great problem in Japan (migrated earlier) and may be coming to UK

Crime reduction can have impact on ?????? and this in VCS in partnership not just for police and council.

AB mentioned that in Harlesdon and Willisden lots of Brazilian and Portuguese church groups and springing up and have a role to play. Also black churches are working with youth.