



## Lewisham Safer Neighbourhood Board (LSNB) Public Meeting Minutes

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 7pm – 9pm , Civic Suite, Lewisham

	Agenda	Actions																																				
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Attendance:</b></p> <p>Apologies - Due to a significant Policing operation, The Police have sent their apologies. Tayo stated she managed to get some of the slides for the recruitment drive. Good to flag issues as we want people of Lewisham to benefit from the recruitment drive. Any questions will be collated and passed on but it is more to make people aware of how they can join the MPS</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="323 1055 1190 2007"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="323 1055 759 1126">Attendees</th> <th data-bbox="759 1055 1190 1126"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1126 759 1162">Tayo Prince</td> <td data-bbox="759 1126 1190 1162">SNB Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1162 759 1234">James Mitchell</td> <td data-bbox="759 1162 1190 1234">SNB member (then Vice Chair)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1234 759 1270">Mervyn Kaye</td> <td data-bbox="759 1234 1190 1270">SNB Vice Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1270 759 1305">Joe Burchell</td> <td data-bbox="759 1270 1190 1305">SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1305 759 1341">Royston John</td> <td data-bbox="759 1305 1190 1341">SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1341 759 1377">Abimbola Oyebade-Balogun</td> <td data-bbox="759 1341 1190 1377">SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1377 759 1413">Funmi Ademilua</td> <td data-bbox="759 1377 1190 1413">SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1413 759 1449">Jamila Astwood</td> <td data-bbox="759 1413 1190 1449">SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1449 759 1485">Alessandra Valencic</td> <td data-bbox="759 1449 1190 1485">SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1485 759 1520">Collet Hunter</td> <td data-bbox="759 1485 1190 1520">Newly elected SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1520 759 1556">Chris Brown</td> <td data-bbox="759 1520 1190 1556">Newly elected SNB member</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1556 759 1592">Stevanna Francis</td> <td data-bbox="759 1556 1190 1592">Hawkeye</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1592 759 1628">Chris Benson</td> <td data-bbox="759 1592 1190 1628">MOPAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1628 759 1709">Bhavna Tejpal</td> <td data-bbox="759 1628 1190 1709">Safer Communities Community Engagement Lead</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1709 759 1816">Desmond Zephyr</td> <td data-bbox="759 1709 1190 1816">Safer Communities Crime and Violence Reduction Service Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1816 759 1924">James Lee</td> <td data-bbox="759 1816 1190 1924">Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure, Lewisham Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1924 759 2007">Chanel Rowe</td> <td data-bbox="759 1924 1190 2007">Safer Communities Service Violence Reduction team</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Attendees		Tayo Prince	SNB Chair	James Mitchell	SNB member (then Vice Chair)	Mervyn Kaye	SNB Vice Chair	Joe Burchell	SNB member	Royston John	SNB member	Abimbola Oyebade-Balogun	SNB member	Funmi Ademilua	SNB member	Jamila Astwood	SNB member	Alessandra Valencic	SNB member	Collet Hunter	Newly elected SNB member	Chris Brown	Newly elected SNB member	Stevanna Francis	Hawkeye	Chris Benson	MOPAC	Bhavna Tejpal	Safer Communities Community Engagement Lead	Desmond Zephyr	Safer Communities Crime and Violence Reduction Service Manager	James Lee	Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure, Lewisham Council	Chanel Rowe	Safer Communities Service Violence Reduction team	
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<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of last Meeting</b></p> <p>Tayo stated there were no minutes available from the AGM that took place last year</p>																																			
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Elections:</b></p> <p>Tayo explained how the Board works. Group of affiliated organisations come together where members can represent their organisation to report on safety issues and to take information back to groups. Different organisations within all strands of the community can join. The panel are members of the affiliated groups as they deal with community safety issues. 2 groups have applied to join the affiliated group. Asked first applicant (Hawkeye Empire) for a 2 minute presentation explaining why they would like to join the board.</p> <p>Stevanna listed names of people who have died or been harmed at the hands of Police. This is a concern to Hawkeye Empire as they are committed to community safety which has led to wanting to explore cohesive working arrangements. She</p>																																			

stated that Lewisham communities are calling for better Policing and Mopac has cited better Police training is to come. Hawkeye has listened to Lewisham community's needs and as community Guardians they are experienced in community safety provision that reverse trends of offending and inform better Policing methods.

Explained that SNB needs to work cohesively with Hawkeye Empire to work as community guardians to ensure that the community feels confident that steps are taken to enhance policing, enhance community safety and create change to restore trust and remove corruption and prejudice in policing.

Tayo thanked Stevanna and asked the board if there were any objections. No objections were received. Welcomed Hawkeye Empire as an affiliated group.

Asked second applicant (James Ross Hunter Youth Group) for a 2 minute presentation explaining why they would like to join the board.

Collet stated the organisation was founded in 2014 when she lost her son who died saving a boy who was being attacked by a gang carrying knives. A lot of young people have died on the streets but there isn't enough visual awareness in the community and instead it feels normalised. She did not know it would take the death of her son for her to start creating visual awareness. She stated she works in schools with Lewisham Council's Violence Reduction team as well as the Police and Safer London. Visual presence is needed in London. This can be done by working together and sensitising the public. Collet stated that her son also wanted to do what she is doing now as he had spoken about it and had also drawn art work.

Tayo thanked Collet and asked the board if there were any objections. No objections were received. Welcomed James Ross Hunter Youth Group as an affiliated group.

Bhavna confirmed 3 candidates would like to join the board. Chris, Stevanna and Collet.

Tayo stated there are 3 applicants for 2 available positions. She stated there are other routes into the Board through some of our sub groups. Explained that the 2 elected people will join for a 3 year term and 2 people will retire each year for others to join.

Mervyn advised that as Stevanna and Collet had presented to join the list of affiliated groups, it was not necessary for them to present again.

	<p>Tayo sked Chris for a 2 minute presentation explaining why they would like to join the board.</p> <p>Chris stated he has worked with several groups signposting, counselling and mentoring through schools. Worked with Aspire which was a subgroup of the Metropolitan Police mentoring ex-offenders. This has led to working with other groups including "Walk With Me" which deal with aspects of county lines. This led to working with other groups including Croydon Voluntary Groups and Addington where problems with county lines can be seen and problems with the dynamics. They worked with MOPAC and the police and had monthly meetings. They found funding for community projects and groups. There is a lot of work to be done. We need to start small and drill down on big problems.</p> <p>Bhavna advised that Voting can be done on MS Teams, Slido or paper and that Board members and affiliated members are eligible to vote. Votes placed on all 3 platforms. Chris &amp; Collet received the majority of votes on all platforms.</p> <p>Tayo advised that 10 applications were received to join the board but some applications were made as individuals so they could not be processed as they did not meet the criteria. She intends to contact them as there are other ways to join or work with the board. They can join the Safer Neighbourhood ward panels. All the panels are registered as affiliated groups so therefore they can become members. There are vacancies on the board; a Chair for Stop and Search, a rep for Met CC, someone for neighbourhood watch. These representations are needed and she will be in touch with the applicants. This election is strictly for community representation</p>	<p>Tayo to contact Stevanna re other roles</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Chairs Report</b></p> <p>Tayo ran through the report. She stated that she would like to pay her condolences to the late HM Queen Elizabeth II. Tayo stated we need to change the narrative in Lewisham and that she believes in the spirit of new beginnings. She has spoken to a number of people in Lewisham who claim the reasons are not just historic and that certain communities continue to feel disrespected and this we will need to problem solve collectively. SNB meetings have taken place as scheduled SNB's</p>	

	<p>are the most significant way the community can engage with the MPS on crime reduction issues. At the meeting in June we listened to the vision shared by the Cabinet Member Chris Barnham on how to work together to address safety and trust issues in Lewisham, she looks forward on listening to Officers on how this vision will be implemented to achieve positive outcomes. Tayo stated that she acknowledges there is no MPS representation today as they are doing other meaningful work outside of the borough. She stated that today we can vision amongst ourselves how we can better support them in keeping us safe, how we can better bring to their attention facts and evidence of things not going right and appropriately holding them to account. She stated she would like to add categorically that the Police do exceptional and courageous work most of the time. It is our job to ensure their special powers aren't abused nor targeted unfairly on some communities. Safeguarding is everyone's business and we must all play a part. The Police is having a recruitment drive and we should encourage people in our communities to join. The SNB relies on volunteers to make the Board effective. Crime and violence in the borough results in trauma on our communities.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Election:</b></p> <p>Of Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer</p> <p>Tayo introduced Chris Benson from the Mayor's Office for Policing &amp; Crime who was going to Chair this part of the election.</p> <p>James M advised that he was standing down as Vice Chair but will remain on the board. Would like to give others the opportunity to be Vice Chair.</p> <p>Chris congratulated the new members to the board. Asked for list of candidates for Chair, vice chair and treasurer. Advised Chris this was not available. Confirmed that Tayo would remain Chair, congratulated Mervyn on becoming Vice chair, Joe on remaining Treasurer.</p> <p>Tayo thanked the board. There is room for improvement. Need to work hard and deal with issues and this can be done collectively. Thanked James for his service and hard work over the years</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Lewisham Council</b></p>	

	<p>Safer Communities Crime and Violence Reduction Service Manager introduction</p> <p>Tayo sked what the Council are doing to support the vision that the cabinet member shared with us at the last meeting. What is happening in the crime reduction centre?</p> <p>Desmond stated his involvement, commitment and presence in meetings is to work with the SNB, community members and partners to seek ways to improve relationship with the police on the borough for a better response for residents and constituents. Keen and eager to work with colleagues around the table.</p> <p>Tayo asked whether Desmond is here on an administrative capacity therefore the advisory and professional crime reduction role of the council is absent today like the police?</p> <p>Desmond advised that our Director is presence via Teams and that there is representation and presence here. Introduced James Lee</p> <p>James stated he wasn't aware that the SNB wanted an update from the council as to the work carried out so nothing had been prepared. Advised that we have a significant role to play in holding the police to account for reducing serious violence and a whole range of violence across our societies whether it be Violence Against Women &amp; Girls, Serious Youth Violence, violence related to ASB and antisocial behaviour related to licensed premises. This is carried out as part of roles as a statutory authority through the Safer Lewisham Partnership in order to reduce the impact of crime and working with SNB and the community. Happy to give a full update at next meeting.</p> <p>Tayo advised that SNB would like to know how the council are implementing the vision of the council with regards to crime reduction. It was discussed at the strategy meeting but maybe the information wasn't properly conveyed. Happy to wait.</p>	<p>James/Desmond to provide an update at the next public meeting</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Any Other Business/Q &amp; A</b></p> <p>Sharon – In terms of community tensions, she would've liked to have heard what we are doing around young people and engagement. Especially with Chris Kaba murder which happened in a borough close to Lewisham which does impact young people. How are we monitoring it and ensuring that we are engaging with young people as there are a lot of questions. Could we get the IOPC to take action sooner rather than later.</p>	

	<p>If action isn't taken soon then it could escalate and become an issue for London.</p> <p>Mohammed stated he would like to know what the council are doing to reduce crime and violence. Has been a targeted victim for quite some time and has been trying to get CCTV in his block. Police response was "If you want CCTV then every block would want it". Was a victim of racially motivated and played down by the police officer on the case.</p> <p>James Lee stated the correct response will depend on nature of the block, landlord and position with providers of CCTV but instant dismissal of request wasn't acceptable. Asked Bhavna to take Mohammed's details and James will look in to it if needed</p> <p>Joe stated he finds it unacceptable that the Police could not find a ranking officer to attend AGM today. Hopefully they will come to the next meeting so that we can tell them how disappointed we are that not one Officer has found the time to attend this meeting.</p> <p>Ken stated he has had to deal with the Police one way or the other for most of his life and it wasn't a nice experience. Explained how police carrying out stop &amp; search on men of colour often have an attitude as if they are superior. Spoke about negative experiences with the Police</p> <p>Tayo stated that a young black boy would feel more comfortable being stopped by someone like Ken than by someone who would not understand them. That is why the recruitment drive is necessary and for the black ethnic minority to engage with it. We should focus on what we can do to change the narrative. A lot of police officers are exemplary but there are a few that make things difficult for everybody. It is our responsibility to look out for these few which can be done by gathering facts and evidence.</p> <p>Paul introduced himself as a journalist of the National Union of Journalists. They talk about the police and all of the work that need to be done with groups like this. We are supposed to be critical friends and tell the police where they are going wrong. There is a lack of commitment and courage in groups like this to tell the police where they are wrong. This group needs to look at itself, what it is doing and what it doesn't do. (During this Tayo asked for Police recruitment slides to be shared on Teams)</p>	
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<p>Susan suggested police work with children aged 10-15 closely and to take the children out to show them what policing is like and what prisons are like, to give them a taste of what gang life could look like and the outcomes, to explain the consequences of having a criminal record.</p> <p>It is important to educate younger people and ourselves to recognise that the police are understaffed and underpaid.</p> <p>Stevanna asked what being an affiliated member of the board meant.</p> <p>Tayo stated she will get in touch with Stevanna after this meeting and explain.</p> <p>Sharon stated she works for Upskill U which is a community organisation who work across London tackling hate crime, serious youth violence and with young vulnerable people. If the Police are pushing for recruitment then they should do that themselves as they can provide input when speaking about the treatment. There's no point in the SNB doing that on their behalf.</p> <p>In order for the Police to engage with the community effectively, they need to be seen by the community. We need to increase the good stories about what the Police are doing and not always focus on the negative. Having community forums with the police and talk about the positive things that they are doing within the community will engage younger people as well as our community. Works with a number of organisations who work with youth advising them what will happen if they get arrested. Need to promote that with youth. Has seen an increase of black police but need to raise awareness as majority of officers don't patrol the streets. Need to work with RBCU to provide cultural competency training for police officers to learn how to engage with other communities as many of them have come from outside of London so they need to be culturally aware of how to engage with new communities that they aren't used to. Thinks that the police doing a recruitment drive and not present for the meeting isn't effective.</p> <p>Royston stated that the fundamental challenge with the Police is that they are not listening to the community. Has worked with the police for over 20 years. The Police don't understand Black communities and what it takes to support Black communities. Out of 520 hours training a new Police recruit, only 1 hour was spent on unconscious bias. This is inadequate training. There's isn't a problem with recruitment to Police, the problem is retention. Until the Police start to listen, things will not change.</p>	<p>Tayo to make contact with Stevanna</p>
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	<p>Royston stated that yesterday it was the funeral of the Queen and to most people she has been a good Servant but her passing has also stimulated a number of people who feel they have been gagged on speaking on the number of atrocities across the world under the name of Queen and country and feel less than satisfied.</p> <p>Abi stated that with regards to recruitment, it seems as though the application process blanks out certain groups of people. Previously worked with an organisation to help recruit to the police, visited schools to try to recruit young people, assisted them in applying but none of them were accepted (young black males and some girls). Suspects this could be due to their background. Abi herself applied and wasn't accepted. The application process needs to be reviewed to accept people of colour.</p> <p>Collet stated that with regards to the death of Chris Kaba she advised if any support is needed members of the community are welcome to come and speak about concerns at "Sip &amp; Talk" sessions held on the last Tuesday of each month at 6pm-8pm at TNG Youth First on Wells Park Road.</p> <p>Bhavna advised details of Sip and Talk is on the SNB website</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 7pm - 9pm at the Civic Suite. Hybrid joining option via MS Teams has been requested</b></p>	