

## SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARDS SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE

In their ongoing discussions with borough partners setting up Safer Neighbourhood Boards officers at the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) have faced a number of recurring questions. Some of the answers lie in the existing Safer Neighbourhood Boards Guidance issued in October 2013, others are supplementary questions. We have set out below some further guidance based on the questions received. This document is not exhaustive and should be used in conjunction with all previous guidance. Any further questions can be directed at the MOPAC Single Point Of Contact for your borough (see attached list).

All SNB guidance documents, including guidance on submitting a proposed SNB model, funding application guidance and SNB training can be found on the MOPAC website at:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/mission-priorities/community-engagement>

### Funding and administration

£1million in total is available for all SNBs, which represents a 25% uplift on 2013/14 funds. A maximum amount will be available to each borough, and no borough will have less money available to them than the previous year's community engagement fund.

The total funding pot will be made available to boroughs, but MOPAC will only award grants when applications have adequately met the assessment criteria stated in the 'SNB Funding Application Guidance'.

Every SNB will receive an allocation of £5200 from the SNB Fund for the purposes of administration and management of the board, and associated costs. These funds may be released immediately (from April 2014) upon request, provided the SNB has been agreed and has identified an appropriate responsible body for the receipt of SNB funds.

There may be specific needs within the SNB's main functions and/or key community engagement activities that attract additional costs that cannot be delivered out of the ring-

fenced funding for SNB administration. Such overheads may be included in project funding applications (separate to the administration funds). These should be clearly identified and a clear rationale provided, enabling MOPAC to understand local need and to consider these in line with the key SNB aim that funds are targeted at supporting:

- Projects focused on issues and concerns identified by the local community, and which support delivery against MOPAC's 7 key neighbourhood crimes and/or quality of life crimes such as antisocial behaviour;
- Projects focused on the engagement and inclusion of those local communities that are not involved with the crime and policing agenda, and support them in helping to make their communities safer.

The SNB Funding Application Guidance, and a copy of the Application Form, was issued by MOPAC in February. The amount of funds available to each borough is included in that guidance.

### **Complaints from victims and complaints about borough police officers**

The intention of these functions is to bring greater transparency to the complaints processes to improve public confidence, **not for SNBs to handle individual complaints** – there are other processes for this. SNBs will monitor and review complaints data to identify trends and issues. Information to deliver this is included in the data package supplied to SNBs (see SNB data pack and Data guidance documents).

MOPAC has secured an agreement in principle with Victim Support over the provision of data, and discussions are ongoing on how this will be delivered. None of this data will be about individual complaints.

The board will be able to use the data provided to seek information from the Borough Commander on plans to address identified trends and issues and escalate concerns to MOPAC where appropriate.

MOPAC has been, and will continue to, engage with relevant organisations such as the MPS and Victim Support to develop and refine how these aspects are delivered and we will work with the SNBs to review how the data enables them to deliver their functions.

## **The role of Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)**

The provision of an ICV Scheme is a statutory responsibility for MOPAC, which directly employs volunteers to ensure it is effectively delivered. The SNB will not carry out custody visits, manage ICVs or directly take up detainee concerns. The board will however, be expected to take an interest in how police custody, and the system of custody visiting, is being delivered in its borough. How the board expresses this interest will be for the SNB to decide. The board may wish to have the ICV Panel represented on its membership, or may simply wish to receive regular reports. These will be provided as part of the data package.

Many small custody suites are closing and being replaced with larger ones. This will leave some boroughs with no designated 24/7 custody suite, and therefore no ICV panel. This doesn't mean that the SNBs in those (few) boroughs can't seek information from MOPAC on general custody issues or the London ICV Scheme. As the primary objective of custody visiting is to provide community assurance with regard to those detained by the police *in their communities*, the explicit function to provide assurance that a system of custody visiting is delivered can be fulfilled by receiving information about custody at a pan-London level rather than borough level.

## **Community Payback projects in your borough**

The mechanism already exists for members of the public to nominate projects for Community Payback and it is this mechanism that boards will use. The status of the SNB in representing a broad section of the community will add weight to any projects it nominates. Boards can also, if they wish, monitor the delivery of Community Payback projects in their boroughs.

In many areas local Payback Managers are already engaged in discussions about how best to put this into practice. A number of SNB proposals have included local Payback Managers in their board membership. We must be mindful, however, of the potential changes in how payback works as the 'Transforming Rehabilitation' agenda is implemented. MOPAC will keep SNBs appraised of developments and how they impact on this function.

## **Feeding back and escalating issues to MOPAC/MPS**

There is a local escalation process built into the SNB structure via the ward panel, neighbourhood panel and SNB engagement pyramid laid out in the 2013 SNB guidance document.

A pro forma report will enable SNBs to inform MOPAC of the outcomes from each SNB meeting. This will include issues that, in the board's judgement, require escalation to MOPAC. MOPAC will provide a response by the time of the following meeting.

Pro forma reports submitted by each borough SNB, and twice yearly forums of all SNBs\*, will enable MOPAC to identify themes which can be addressed through its own governance and accountability structures, such as MOPAC Challenge or the regular bi-lateral meetings between the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Commissioner.

\* See the 'Safer Neighbourhood Boards Training' for more details.