

## **A Joint Living in Hackney and Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission June Meeting**

### **MPS Update**

#### **Introduction**

The following written submission aims to provide the Scrutiny Chairs with enough information that they are able to execute their duties and facilitate discussion around the three topic areas, namely;

- a) Timeline of events and key findings from Serious Case Review Report for Child Q
- b) Strategic Response to Child Q Serious Case Review
- c) Accountability & monitoring arrangements.

This written submission will follow the scrutiny commission's proposed agenda and is headlined below.

#### **1. Child Q's Serious Case Review recommendations**

- 1.1. The Met accepts the recommendations within the safeguarding review and have developed a comprehensive action plan to respond to them. We are committed to learning from this incident and working with partners to ensure that the action the Met takes responds to the criticisms and concerns that have been raised.
- 1.2. In order to respond cohesively, the Met has divided the 14 recommendations into three groups. They are; Local - Central East BCU, MPS – Organisation-wide, and National implications or legislative change required. Each has a lead to drive the change. Each lead reports to DAC Taylor through direct reporting channels or through DAC Taylor's gold group.
- 1.3. CE recommendations lead – Detective Superintendent Adam Ghaboos
- 1.4. MPS recommendations lead – Deputy Assistant Commissioner Jane Connors
- 1.5. Legal and national lead – T/Assistant Commissioner Amanda Pearson.

#### **2. Action plans developed in response to the recommendations**

##### **2.1. CE Recommendations**

2.1.1. *Recommendation 5: Raising awareness of Child Q.* Locally, the learning from Child Q is raised with all new officers arriving on the BCU and student officers. Work is also underway across the MPS to embed the learning within targeted and relevant training packages. A number of internal briefing documents and communications have been sent across the MPS from DAC Taylor.

2.1.2. *Recommendation 7: Central East BCU should engage with Account and other bodies to review effectiveness and overseen through respective activities.* Account have

declined to engage with CE police despite numerous requests. Account have stated they await the outcome of the IOPC report before reconsidering. Engagement continues with other stop and search monitoring groups.

2.1.3. *Recommendation 8: Where any suspicion of harm arises from substance misuse a safeguarding response is paramount.* A working group is being created between the police and local authority to understand impact and resourcing for any process changes. One proposed plan was to pass details of all instances to the MASH for support service allocation. There has been pushback from the LA for this due to likely demand increase.

*NOTE: Over and above the recommendation, CE BCU have trialled the sending of a letter to the child's parents to raise awareness of an incident. This has been done twenty three times since implementation. Contact from one parent was positive and thankful for the letter.*

2.1.4. *Recommendation 12: Raise stop and search awareness across schools and colleges.* As previously, mentioned Account have declined to work with the police at this time. Schools officers have previously delivered S&S awareness in schools and this will continue. The primary schools and college input will be reviewed. There is ongoing planning with CHSCP. Schools and neighbourhoods officers are tasked with improving knowledge of those they encounter around stop and search. Further work with the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership is underway to deliver this recommendation.

*NOTE: Over and above the recommendation, and to support this, a leaflet has been approved which will be provided to all those who are stop and searched to deliver an understanding of the legislation, policies and processes. This will include a QR code that can be scanned with links to local monitoring groups, support groups and services.*

2.1.5. *Recommendation 13: Adulthood training.* A three-stage approach has been adopted. Stage 1; Acceptance of the offer of training from the local authority. All safer schools officers will be trained on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. The LA have 120 additional places available for CE officers over the next calendar year (multi-agency training). This has been agreed and funding secured (£4k). Stage 2; The remaining 1300 officers at CE will need a training package securing and a procurement will be undertaken to identify the right product to deliver. Stage 3; Learning from CE, a procurement process will identify package to be delivered across the MPS.

2.1.6. *Recommendation 14: Anti-racist Charter.* The charter is being constructed by the Local Authority, supported by Central East BCU. DSU Ghaboos is working with the Strategy and Policy department and Community Resilience Partnership at the Local Authority on tackling racism in Hackney. Community insight sessions have been held involving police. Co-production training has also been undertaken between the

police and Local Authority. The NPCC Race Action Plan “Improving Policing for Black People” was launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and adopted by the MPS. The MPS have also stated a clear ambition to be an active anti-racist organisation. CE BCU was the first to sign up to an Anti-Racist charter with Tower Hamlets.

## 2.2. Organisation Wide Recommendations

2.2.1. *Recommendation 2: The Met should review its recording system for stop and search.* Data on the Met’s use of MTIP searches, including with breakdowns by borough, age, gender and ethnicity is available on the Met’s public stop and search dashboard. Work is underway to improve the external dashboard. Whilst awaiting update to the external dashboard, BCU commanders have been briefed on sharing data with partners.

2.2.2. *Recommendation 4: The Met should update its guidance on the requirement to engage an appropriate adult.* The Met are reviewing all corporate policy and training concerning all types of stop and search. Clearer direction on appropriate adult’s role in stop and search has been present on the intranet home page since 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Policy change signed off for increased level of supervision from sergeant to inspector and new MTIP policy and process launched on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

*NOTE: Over and above this recommendation, changes to force policy have been implemented on the 25<sup>th</sup> May because of the work pioneered at CE BCU. These changes are a raising of the authority level for an MTIP search to an Inspector based in the area the search is taking place, and that all MTIP searches for under 18’s require a MERLIN report be created to inform partners of the search and possible need for support.*

2.2.3. *Recommendation 9: The Met should engage the College of Policing to explore improvements in guidance concerning reasonable grounds and safeguarding children.* DAC Connors, MPS lead for stop and search, is engaging the college. This is a longer-term piece of work and falls within the remit of the NPCC Stop and Search lead.

## 2.3. National Recommendations

2.3.1. *Recommendation 6: Relevant police guidance (both local and national) governing the policy on strip searching children should clearly focus on safeguarding children and follow up actions.* T/AC Pearson has raised this at NPCC level. The Met policy follows College of Policing accepted professional practice (APP). The MPS policy is being reviewed as above. In addition, there is a pilot underway at NA BCU that focusses on a safeguarding approach. NB. It should be noted that all communications coming out across the MPS in relation to MTIP or strip search emphasise the importance of putting the child first and taking a safeguarding approach.

2.3.2. *Recommendation 11: Code C of PACE should be strengthened to emphasise the role of the parent / guardian.* There is well-defined guidance within the Codes of Practice governing the involvement of Appropriate Adults in cases when strip searches that involve the exposure of intimate parts of the body are undertaken on children. There is to be engagement with the College of Policing to ensure that this guidance is better articulated to frontline police officers.

2.4. Recommendations 1, 3, and 10 are not within the 'gift' of the MPS but are intended for other organisations.

2.5. When addressing the recommendations, CE BCU have identified extra work that could enhance the performance and desired response. The work and approaches pioneered at Central East BCU have resulted in changes to force policy and are being discussed and monitored by the National Police Chiefs Council.

### **3. Accountability structures**

3.1. At the local level, within CE BCU, the following command structure is in place to ensure improvements and recommendations are delivered:

3.1.1. Gold – BCU Commander Marcus Barnett

3.1.2. Silver – Detective Superintendent Adam Ghaboos

3.1.3. Bronze Engagement – Superintendent Andy Port

3.1.4. Bronze Safeguarding – T/Detective Superintendent Az Odabashian

3.2. A local meeting structure is in place that holds individuals to account for progress of the recommendations. This meeting is chaired by the CE Silver fortnightly.

3.3. A local weekly Gold Group is chaired by BCU Commander Barnett that reviews progress of the recommendations and engagement activity. Actions and timeframes are reviewed and set at this gold group. The outcomes of the Gold Group are then reported up to Commander Brogden.

- 3.4. At the organisational level, DAC Taylor chairs a gold group that meets on a regular basis to discuss progress made and any issues that have arisen in relation to the actions. The ToR of this group include the review of previous incidents, organisational learning and management of issues likely to impact communities across London.
- 3.5. In addition, at the organisational level, accountability is held by the SCRG (Serious Case Review Group). The SCRG are responsible for collating and ensuring delivery against all recommendations following Safeguarding Children's and Adults reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews. These are led by a Met Commander.
- 3.6. Above the organisational level MOPAC hold the Met to account on its response to the CHCSP safeguarding report. Heads of profession across the organisation are in regular contact with MOPAC for their areas of responsibility, and child Q has been raised in a number of spheres. In addition, MOPAC have requested specific responses from the Met, responses have been provided to all requests.
- 3.7. The MPS are also held to account for following Accepted Professional Practice by the College of Policing and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS).

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements, public accountability and Engagement with Monitoring**

- 4.1. Locally, monitoring of the recommendations is done within the CHSCP Child Q Review Core Group.
- 4.2. The first meeting of the Child Q Review Core Group was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May and chaired by Jim Gamble. A tracker is being used to monitor progress and the meeting is attended by a range of partners. The next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. CE Silver and Bronze's attend this group meeting.
- 4.3. A public meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 and was attended by over 200 members of the public, with question and answer session.
- 4.4. Engagement has continued with individual community groups since the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Feedback from these groups has recommended not holding another public meeting. Two main reasons are provided for this; to allow the community time to heal and that there are too many questions police are unable to answer until the IOPC findings are published.
- 4.5. Public Accountability continues with the Community Monitoring Group, Independent Advisory Group, Meetings with the Local Authority at all levels and public forums such as ward panels, schools, and this Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.6. Public accountability continues in the form of the strategic partnership between police, Local Authority and health. BCU Commander Barnett is the executive statutory member for police and was part of the partnership addressing the concerns of Child Q. The Independent chair of the CHSCP holds all strategic partners to account on behalf of the public.

- 4.7. The CE Silver is engaged with the Community Resilience Partnership (Local Authority). This is particularly focussed on linking the recommendations with anti-racism work in Hackney for the medium and long term.
  
- 4.8. A community insight session was held with CE Silver and Bronze's on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Community groups present included: African Community School, Coffee Afrique, Hackney Community Monitoring Group, Hackney Empire, Hackney Marsh Partnership, Hackney Quest, HCVS, Morningside and Gascoyne Youth Group, National Parents Forum, Skyway, Wickers, and Young Hackney. Accountability and moving forward was a large part of this session.