

WALTHAM FOREST SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

A MOPAC Funded Meeting

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday 17th November, 2014 at 7pm

Attendance:

Philip Herlihy (Chair), Philip Dundon (Vice Chair), Molly Samuel LePort (Secretary), Julie Gilson (Treasurer), Jane Brueseke, Rickisha Dalson, Michael Verrier, Sheridan Mangal, Kirti Sisodia, Victoria Roberts, Jaine Lemom, Hayley Mulhall, Shawn Wiltshire and Debra Marlow.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sandra DaCosta, Rashid Aktar, Cllr Shabana Dhedhi, Cllr Saima Mahmud, Maheswarran Marisamy, Neil Thurlow and Maddy Reiner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests were declared in relation to agenda item 5. Application for MOPAC Funding in that Jane Brueseke, Sheridan Mangal and Rickisha Dalston declared a non-pecuniary interest in the YIAG Organisation who given the application to MOPAC for funding. All three members were allowed to participate in the presentation on the YIAG bid but withdrew from the meeting by leaving the room during discussions and the decision making process.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the same.

It was pointed out by Sheridan Mangal that the minutes need to be clear in future as to what actions needed to be taken away from the meeting and who would be responsible for those actions. This was agreed.

4. MOPAC DATA PACK

It was agreed that this item would be deferred and discussed at the next meeting as a great deal of time was taken in the consideration of the funding bids at agenda item 5. A new updated data pack would be available at the next meeting.

5. APPLICATION FOR MOPAC FUNDING

A total of four applications had been made to the SNB for MOPAC funding and these had been circulated in advance of the meeting. These were made up of:

- The Schools Burglary Project
- Schools Submission

- Application on behalf of the YIAG, and
- Growing Against Gangs and Violence (GAGV).

Each application was submitted in writing and apologies had been received from Neil Thurlow and Maddy Reiner. Mr Thurlow had sent in a written submission which was read to the Board. Ms Reiner had not submitted anything other than the MPOAC application form. All documentation submitted had been included with the agenda pack.

Jane Brueseke (JB) addressed the Board giving details of the bid and outlining the work of the YIAG. In this she was supported by three members of the YIAG who each outlined their own experiences to the Board.

The Board were given the opportunity to place questions and noted the following:

- The YIAG was set up in 2009 as a sub division of the now disbanded Community Safety Board.
- JB has managed the group for three years and members sit on many advisory bodies.
- YIAG members are trained as Peer Trainers and go into the Youth Offending Teams and Pupil Referral units to deliver training to other young people.
- There has been particular focus on violence against women and girls and child sexual exploitation. There have been a number of successful events run in relation to Stop and Search. At a recent event a total of 110 young people attended.
- Members of the YIAG go out with the police on Friday night patrol and this included going out with new police recruits.
- Many of the young people involved come from an offending background.
- Two of the group are Gangs Ambassadors.
- One member was very proud to tell the Board that she had worked very hard to win two awards and had started with the group at the age of 13. Other members have been involved in a film project that had been aired on national television. Another member had won a Golden Key in a national competition.
- Some members had been involved in mediation training and were now actively engaged in work to resolve local conflicts.
- It was noted that members of the YIAG all had a different story to tell and that new projects were developing all of the time. The focus was on young people helping other young people with considerable success, getting involved with real events and issues. One young person addressed the Board detailing how he had been able to overcome offending behaviour, being in prison and being homeless to turn his life around to become a role model for other young people facing similar issues.

- 25 members of the YIAG have been trained and work for a wage.

The Board, through the Chair, thanked JB and the 3 members of the YIAG in attendance for their input.

The Board was then addressed by Shaun Wiltshire in relation to the bid put forward by GAVG.

The Board were given the opportunity to place questions and noted the following:

- The Growing against Gangs and Violence organisation has been running for about 5 years and focuses on role models and peer fields to get a message across.
- GAGV has made bids across all of the SNB's.
- Youth workers are used who are often retired police officers. The group works closely with the courts and speak to schools to ascertain individual school priorities and issues.
- GAGV have a Borough strategic approach across London which has revealed that children are recruited into gangs at a very early stage often in years 5 and 6.
- Sibling gang affiliation is tackled and families at risk are highlighted and work is directed to be the most effective.
- A documentary "Top boy" has been used to demonstrate how easily children can be recruited into gangs without even realising.
- The group is active in Waltham Forest and want to become more involved. Local leaders are involved to bring a local knowledge to the work. Currently there are 3 GAGV facilitators living in the Borough. Shaun Wiltshire, presenting the information to the Board is a retired police officer who worked in Leyton from 1996 to 1998.
- The programme is pan London and starts as a generic programme developing to specific and focused work as appropriate.

The Board thanked Shawn Wiltshire for his representations.

All applicants were asked to leave the room to allow for consideration of the bids to take place.

The Board used a uniform scoring sheet for each application and these were given to each Board Member.

The applicants were informed by the Chair that they would be notified as to the results of the discussions as soon as possible and would then be advised as the future procedure.

The Board considered each application in turn assessing the merits using the scoring sheet.

The discussions continued and the Board AGREED that the bid applications from YIAG, GAHV and the Schools Burglary Project would be taken further.

The meeting concluded at 10.43pm

Signed:

Chair

Date: