

Agenda Item 3

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair),
Councillor Stan Anderson, Councillor Henry, Councillor
Akyigyina

Rev Mrs Neale, Mr Islam, Mr Sheikh, Dr Arumugarraasah,
Insp Milton, Ms Razak, Mr Merrifield

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

None.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Councillors Abdul Latif and David Simpson, Mr A Savage.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising.

4 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 4)

None.

5 NHS HEALTH CHECKS PROGRAMME - MR PETER MERRIFIELD, MERTON HEALTH GP FEDERATION (Agenda Item 5)

Peter Merrifield, Project Manager for Merton GP Federation (a group of GPs across Merton) gave an overview of the Health Check programme. The health checks contract started on 1 September 2017.

NHS Health Check is a free check-up of overall health carried out by a Nurse or healthcare assistant. In Merton the following are priorities to receive a health check:

- 40 -74 years old
- South Asian community

- Male
- Family history of cardiovascular disease
- Smokers
- Living in an area of high social deprivation

The take-up target is 40%-45% with the aim of increasing this to 60%.

An outreach model is being used to go to communities, in particular mosques and temples. Most checks are done at GP surgeries but the service is mobile and may also be taken out to community organisations.

Questions/Comments

How has the age range been chosen, why are residents aged over 74 not included? Peter replied that the age range is chosen by NHS England and Public Health England. Also for those aged over 74 their health conditions tend to have settled down more.

Why start at 40 and not earlier? Public Health set the age range and probably start at 40 based on evidence that the 40+ are more at risk.

Is the programme only aimed at the South Asian community as these conditions also affect other communities? The South Asian community has been considered because there have been challenges engaging this group, however the health checks is also open to other communities.

Representatives also suggested that:

- Drug and alcohol users should be priority
- Younger people should be considered

Concern was expressed that BAME communities health needs were not always properly considered in the planning and commissioning of services.

There was general consensus that those who can influence the commissioning process should make that representation.

How can local charities help to meet the target? Mr Merrifield replied that he wants to engage with as many organisations as possible. He is happy to meet organisations to develop a partnership.

Will the cost of hiring a hall to enable the community outreach be met by Merton GP Federation? Mr Merrifield replied that there is no funding available to support this.

Why does the programme target men? There is a health scrutiny report that should be looked at.

Do the GPs advertise the health checks? Mr Merrifield confirmed that leaflets are being designed that will be available at GP surgeries and other health organisations.

Mr Merrifield was asked to take back the concerns of the JCC membership to the commissioners, which he undertook to do.

6 ONE YOU MERTON - MS SIERAN RAZAK (Agenda Item 6)

Sieran Razak presented an overview of the One You service, which was previously known as Livewell. It is a service for all residents. The service is available on a personal (self management) or community level and various leaflets and Apps are available.

A Health Adviser works with individuals to do an initial assessment. The priorities are:

- Stop Smoking Services
- Screening for:
- Being with Mental Health Conditions or on antidepressants
- Pregnant women.
- Having COPD – or under investigation for lung disease.
- Under 19yrs of age

One You Merton is keen to attend community events and provide mini health checks (height, weight and BMI checks). Healthy living presentations are done.

Also the service provides the Royal Society of Public Health training to Health Champions. The participants receive training on behaviour and habits of individuals and receive a certificate in health improvement.

Questions

Why doesn't One You Merton organise workshops and invite participants? Ms Razak replied that there is no budget to organise events but One You Merton will attend events organised by others.

Why has the name of the organisation changed?

Ms Razak replied that nationally the name had changed and so locally it needed to change from Livewell too.

A JCC representative congratulated the organisation on the good work done as Livewell with local groups that has resulted in some residents make important life style changes.

Concern was expressed about the name change and budget cuts that have affected Public Health.

Ms Razak assured the JCC that One You Merton will continue to provide a good service and encouraged the members to help to promote the service more widely.

7 POLICE UPDATE - CHIEF INSPECTOR PHILIP PALMER, MERTON POLICE (Agenda Item 7)

Inspector Nick Milton presented the crime update. Burglary has decreased by 7.5 %. The Met Trace service has been running for a few months in Merton Park and Wimbledon Village and Hillside wards.

Robbery has increased; however, proactive work is being done through the Autumn Nights campaign. Leafleting is being done and advertising using Facebook to inform residents about protective measures.

To tackle anti-social related offences officers will be out on patrol for Halloween and fireworks.

There has also been a sharp rise in theft of motor vehicles. High value cars are being targeted by organised thieves. Mopeds theft is included in this crime time and is a London wide issue.

Numerous measures have been taken to tackle moped thefts. A lot of work has been done identifying the criminals in other boroughs involved in moped thefts. An Achilles Heel operation was done and the criminals were written to. Also certain addresses were targeted.

Theft from the person has gone down – Mitcham and Wimbledon town centres has dedicated officers this may have contributed to the improved performance.

Violence with injury – work has been done mainly drink related in the town centres. Licensing Officer has been meeting with the venue managers and if necessary oppose licenses.

With regard to acid attacks, Inspector Milton informed the meeting that Merton Police have gone ahead of the Met and drawn up a voluntary agreement of all store selling acid. They have all signed up to agree that acid will only be sold to over 21s and

payment has to be by debit or credit card. Large stores need to get head office clearance.

Inspector Milton also informed the meeting that knife crime is on the increase. The Met is liaising with schools and Ward Officers are going to places where young people store knives and remove them. The Met want the public to work with the Police to look out for hidden weapons.

Inspector Milton also informed the meeting about the public consultation meeting regarding the closure of Wimbledon police station taking place on 26 September from 6.30 to 8.00 at Chase Primary school, Merton Road. Inspector Milton undertook to send the leaflet to Evereth Willis for distribution.

Questions

Concern was expressed about the proposed closure of police stations. The general consensus was that the stations were needed for local people to feel safe and get a faster response. It was noted that in Pollards Hill the engagement with the police is particularly good.

Inspector Milton commented that society is changing and people don't want to come into the front desk like they used to. People are now more likely to use digital methods. He stressed that the police's response rate will remain the same. It is expensive to have so many staff at the station and resources now need to be used differently.

JCC members stressed that they don't agree with the proposed closures because the stations act as a deterrent especially in Wimbledon where crime is associated with the night time economy.

It was felt that less people are using the stations because they don't think that they will get help and frustration was expressed with the 101 service because the calls do not always get answered.

The JCC members asked the Councillors to make representation against the proposed closure of the station.

8 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD UPDATE - MR ABAYEH SAVAGE (Agenda Item 8)

The report was noted.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 9)

It was suggested that there be less items on the JCC agenda to enable good discussion.

Concern was expressed about the low numbers of people attending the meeting.

Resolved: It was agreed that Evereth Willis should write to those members who have not been attending the meeting and consider taking them off the membership list.