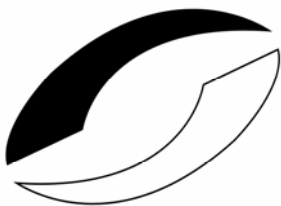


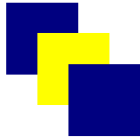
**RESETTLEMENT
THE VITAL LINK**

VICTIMS, FAITH & CRIME REDUCTION SEMINAR REPORT

NOVEMBER 2006

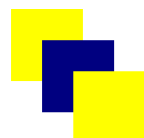


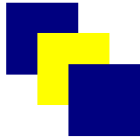
**Brent
Community
Safety
Partnership**



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WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Victims, Faith and Crime Reduction Seminar took place on Thursday 23rd November 2006 and held at the Bridge Park Complex, a central venue in the London borough of Brent. The seminar was hosted by PLIAS Resettlement delivered in collaboration with the Brent Community Safety Partnership.

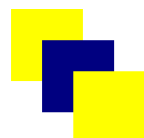
Tom Chandler, the Director of Operations at PLIAS Resettlement opened the event by welcoming the attendees to the seminar. Tom outlined the three aims of the seminar:

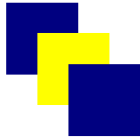
- 1) To examine and identify how faith based organisations can contribute to reducing the fear of crime**
- 2) To identify the role faith based organisations can play in supporting victims of crime**
- 3) To identify how faith based organisations can support offenders.**

The seminar was chaired by Sergeant Greg Wakefield, a prominent police officer working as part of the Kensal Green Safer Neighbourhood Team in Kensal Green and Harlesden. Sergeant Greg Wakefield also represents the Metropolitan Police as part of the Brent Community Safety Partnership.

Sergeant Greg Wakefield introduced the speakers for the seminar, which included the following:

Mark Toland.....Brent Borough Commander (Metropolitan Police)
Rupert Bailie.....Government Office for London (GOL)
Lynne Laidlaw.....CLINKS
Verinder Mander.....Brent Victim Support
Reverend Les Isaacs.....Street Pastors Initiative
Reverend Phil Stone.....Brent Area Dean
PC Richard Waterhouse.... British Transport Police





THE HOSTS AND FUNDERS

The Victims, Faith and Crime Reduction Seminar was hosted by PLIAS Resettlement delivered in Partnership with the Brent Community Safety Partnership who funded the event

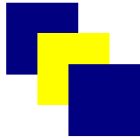
PLIAS Resettlement

PLIAS Resettlement is a community-based organisation based in the London borough of Brent, which provides a number of support services, primarily to ex-prisoners and ex-offenders. A number of the services are also extended to other groups of people identified as at risk of social and or economic exclusion including those at risk of offending. The services, which PLIAS Resettlement provides, include Education and Training, Mentoring, Counselling Support, Housing Support and Advice, Employment Preparation Training and Employment Brokerage. As part of its community involvement, PLIAS Resettlement also runs a number of crime awareness/prevention workshops as well as community seminars and conferences.

Brent Community Safety Partnership

The Brent community safety partnership comprises of a number of local statutory and non-statutory organisations and agencies. The Mission Statement of the partnership is to tackle crime using a partnership approach with agencies such as the police, local authority, probation, health and drug treatment agencies, courts, local communities to make Brent a safer community for all. This event was funded by the Brent Community Safety Partnership.





REDUCING THE FEAR OF CRIME

KEY SPEAKER: PC RICHARD WATERHOUSE – BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

PC Richard Waterhouse joined British Transport Police in 1990 and has worked on a variety of projects ranging from Public Order Offences to managing major football matches where disorder is anticipated. Richard spoke about the impact of crime and fear of crime at the train stations and highlighted a number of key facts about fear of crime and the role the community can play in addressing these factors.

What it is

- A person's perception of personal vulnerability to becoming a victim of crime
- Influenced not by the effect of an action that is criminal towards them but by fears attributed to numerous issues which increase that person's belief they will be a victim in certain circumstances

Why does it happen

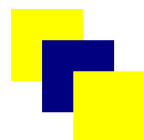
- Individuals identifying to victims.
- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Religion
- Image
- Sexuality

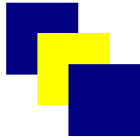
Intimidation

- Groups of people
- Prejudice
- Environment
- Lighting
- Damage
- Cleanliness
- Historical knowledge

Who is responsible

- Everyone has an impact
- Train operators
- Network rail
- Police
- Media
- Public
- Victim





Where does it occur?

- Isolated Areas
- Quiet places
- Limited chance of discovery
- Darkness

Penalties

- Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- Dispersal orders
- Conditional Cautioning
- Fixed Penalty Notices
- Bail conditions
- Fines
- Imprisonment

When does it occur

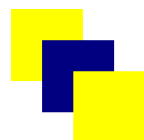
- Age/Pension Day
- Travelling home from school
- Evening after rush hour
- Late night after drinks
- When travelling alone in carriages
- Darkness

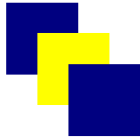
Operation Shield

- Metal detector search arches
- High profile exercises
- Local forces
- Military Police
- Revenue Inspectors
- Immigration
- Mini Cab regulators

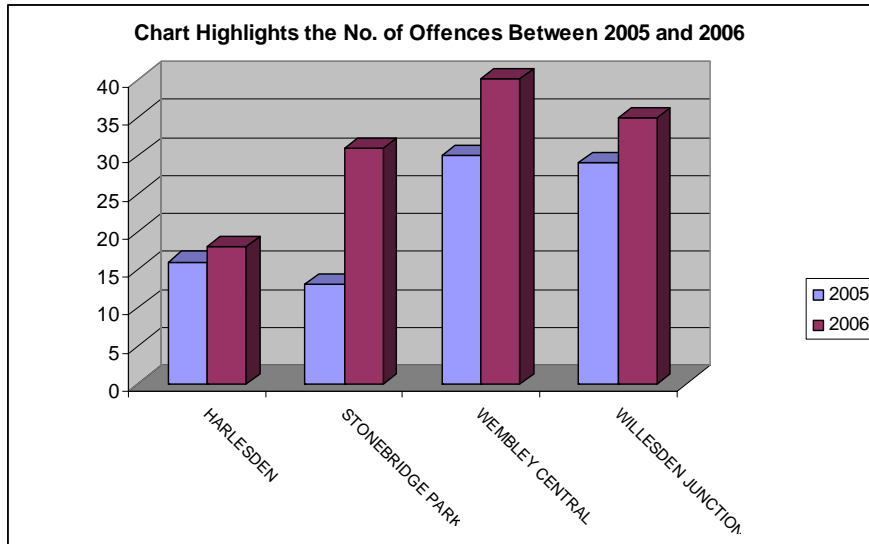
Reaction to increased policing

- More Uniform Officers
- Increased opportunity to detect crime as it occurs
- Increased numbers of arrests
- Easier access for public to report issues they would not normally
- Increased public confidence
- Increased reported incidents





This Chart highlights the number of offences between 2005 and 2006



In 2006:

- **Harlesden** - 8 out of the 18 offences were detections
- **Stonebridge Park** – 15 out of the 31 offences were detections
- **Wembley** - 15 out of the 40 offences were detections
- **Willesden** - 13 out of the 35 offences were detections.
- Serious crime is on the decrease.
- Environmental impacts are being reduced.
- Anti social behaviour is being targeted.
- Closed Circuit Television is deterring offenders from trains and stations
- Suspects are being arrested for offences committed on the railway.
- Offenders are being prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

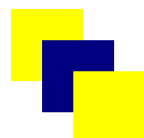
Richard in closing highlighted a number of challenging questions to the participants:

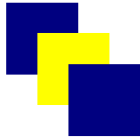
- Let fear of criminals control your actions

Or

- Control your actions and let the criminals fear

?





REDUCING THE FEAR OF CRIME

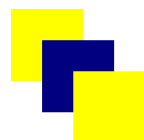
KEY SPEAKER: MARK TOLAND – BRENT BOROUGH COMMANDER MET POLICE

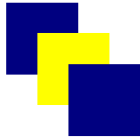
Mark Toland, the new Borough Commander has been in post for 3 months. Mark spent nine years working as a Constable on various squads including vice, robbery and burglary before moving up the ranks. He previously worked as the Head of the Police Training School at Hendon and was Borough Commander for Hillingdon.

Mark joins a borough that has the highest crime detection rate in London and has already set his 900 strong work force the ambitious target of cutting crime by a striking 20 per cent by 2008. Mark spoke about a number of offences that took place in the Borough and the work being undertaken by the local police in reducing these offences. He highlighted some of the key factors that contributed to the community fear of crime and why it was important for the police to get the message across in reducing this fear and the police ambitious aims in reducing crime by 2008.

Brent Borough – Spotlight on Crime in Brent

- Burglary down 300 offences since last year
- Robbery down on last year
- Assaults down by 600 on last year
- Violent crime down by 1200 offences
- Car Crime is up – Satellite Navigation Systems a favourite for thieves
- Gun crime – recent shootings
- Catching people the best for the last 2 years. Race, Domestic Violence and Homophobic crime
- Offences brought to justice – we are ahead of target



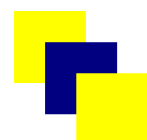


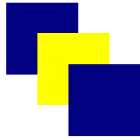
Fear of crime and Anti Social Behaviour

- Emotion people fear
- Huge challenge is tackling the fear of crime where this is often greater than the reality
- Particularly in groups such as more senior members of our community, who in fact are less likely to be victims
- Our young people in schools – mobile phones I pods
- People from different ethnic communities
- Our Muslim communities following statements about terrorists and Muslims
- Golders Green Jewish community – fear of young people kidnapped
- Public Attitude Survey results 2005/6 - teenagers hanging around deemed the most serious problem. 34% people felt crime had gone up in Brent and only 12% thought it had gone down. 41% thought anti social behaviour had got worse. 35% felt less safe. 46% people feared car being broken into, 33% feared being a victim of crime. 49% were worried about terrorism, although across London that figure was 59%
- 94% residents thought the police were doing a reasonable job
- 79% felt reasonably well informed
- Groups of youngsters hanging about

Why is the fear of crime a major concern?

- We are not good enough at getting the message across about crime falling.
- People may have been a victim and that feeling stays a long time
- High impact crimes – gun and knife crime
- High profile incidents
- High profile trials
- High profile police operations – Anti social behaviour initiative
- Media

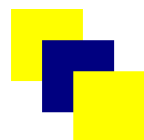


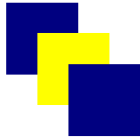


- World events
- What people see – broken window noisy neighbours, abandoned cars, litter, graffiti

How to reduce crime/fear of crime

- Safer Neighbourhoods Teams – Reassurance
- Focusing on Victim – support, repeat victims
- Asking people where they don't feel safe
- Location – making homes and places safer, brighter
- Offender – Bring them to justice, use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders and Dispersal areas
- Diversion offenders – resettlement, treatment, jobs
- Work with young offenders and those potentially at risk
- Lots of work in schools: Comedy school project, Life Project
- Community and voluntary groups – There are lots of organisations out there who can work with the statutory agencies
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Volunteers
- Travel routes, schools and high streets
- Communication strategy
- Messages at right time e.g. lock windows in Winter and leave lights on
- Positive reporting in press
- Local Safer Brent magazine
- Better support for victims and Victim Support Scheme, helping through a prosecution, advice to stop further crimes
- More Police Community Support Officers
- Safer Neighbourhoods Teams up to strength by end of December
- Review of internal resources to put more people on front line policing



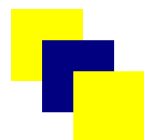


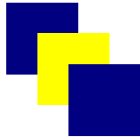
Brent Borough Commander's Aims

- Reduce crime by 20% by March 2008
- Where a crime takes place to arrest that person more quickly and bring them to justice
- I want to support victims and witnesses well so that they help the police in the future

By working with partners to make Brent a safer place and by communicating our successes effectively, we can reduce the fear of crime.

Map of the London Borough of Brent





SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME

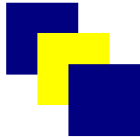
KEY SPEAKER: VERINDER MANDER – BRENT VICTIM SUPPORT

I am here with a different perspective, my focus will be on the Victim's needs. Brent Victim Support has been working for the benefit of victims in the Borough of Brent for the last 25 years. It is based in Stonebridge and deals with all victims of crime whether or not they have reported the matter to the Police. Victim Support provides its services to all victims of crime this ranges from muggings through to rapes and the families of murder victims.

What Brent Victim Support epitomises to me can only be summarised by trying to put into words my feelings the first time that I met a victim. Those memories will always be at the forefront of my mind and serve as a constant reminder as to why Victim Support is so vital in today's society. A colleague had taken me to see a victim that had been supported for the last year. It was a young man who had been attacked by a group of youths because he had chosen to wear his traditional dress. Whilst my colleague had done her level best to prepare me for this meeting and I had read various articles written about this young man nothing could have prepared me for that visit. The shock was his physical injuries! I was outraged, disgusted and horrified by the extent of his injuries. A young man who had just finished his masters and was looking forward to starting his PhD had all this potential destroyed by meaningless violence. His survival was a miracle, for many months he was in a coma and his family were told that he would not survive. His recovery can in a large part be attributed to his mother's belief in the power of prayer and that her son would survive!

When I left that room I left with a warm glow inside of me. The father of this young man had said to me it could have been so much worse we could have lost him! His and the victim's acceptance and desire to move on with their lives had a



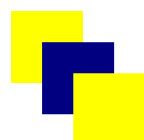


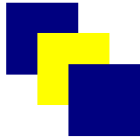
profound effect on me. They showed me the power of forgiveness and that faith and belief can overcome all obstacles.

All faith organisations have a vital role to play in helping victims of crime. Their role is fundamental because whilst governments will change, they and their institutions, churches, gurduwaras, mosques, temples, and synagogues, remain stable and the principles of religions do not change over time. Our young must be educated to understand that all religions are equal and that they all preach humanity and respect for human life. That we must reach out and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

In addition, we must also closely examine what causes crime, as number of offenders will have been a victim themselves. It is about showing compassion and understanding in trying times and circumstances.

I would end by saying that no-one can change the system in isolation but that working together we can reduce the fear of crime and the rate of recidivism. That we can aim for a crime free society.





SUPPORTING OFFENDERS

KEY SPEAKER: LYNNE LAIDLAW – CLINKS ALSO REPRESENTING PIRR

Lynne Laidlaw is the London project Manager of CLINKS, a national member body that supports the involvement of voluntary and community organisations in the criminal justice system. Lynne's presentation highlighted the role of faith organisations and how they can contribute to the offender agenda.

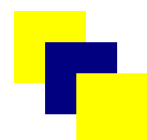
Lynne spoke about the future role CLINKS would play in taking over responsibility from Partners in Reducing Re-offending (PiRR) programme which was a ChangeUp funded project set up to help build the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations working with offenders and their families.

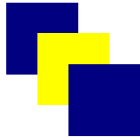
Clinks is a second tier or infrastructure organisation working with front line groups which provide various services and support to offenders, ex-offenders and their families. Clinks' vision is to see an independent, vibrant and well resourced Voluntary and Community Sector, working in partnership with stakeholders to promote the rehabilitation of offenders, respecting their responsibilities as well as their liberties.

National Offender Management Service and Regional Offender Management Service (NOMS & ROMS)

Clinks have been involved in producing work on commissioning Guidelines for Local Commissioning Strategy – produced for the Probation Boards Association and North West Region Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement Project – a study of engagements.

The Community Chaplaincy Project is a major part of CLINKS work and is headed by Nathan Dick, Community Chaplaincy Development Officer





The community chaplaincy project was born from a need to help reduce re-offending by reintegrating ex-offenders back in to their local communities using the established skills and expertise in the Faith Community Voluntary Sector.

Community Chaplaincies have been in existence for some time and the important role they play in contributing to a reduction in re-offending fits comfortably alongside the work supported by the Government to reduce re-offending and to successfully re-integrate ex-offenders back into their communities.

To do this, the project seeks to draw on the experienced and well-established faith community voluntary sector ideals and its established role in the community.

There are several different examples of how community chaplaincies work, however, it is safe to say that they aspire to be cross-cultural, multi-faith organisations that embrace inclusivity and awareness of local diversity just as a Prison Chaplaincy would.

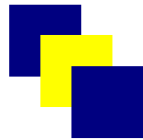
Community chaplaincies assist ex-offenders in all areas of resettlement from housing, employment, debt and substance dependency, to a more holistic view of integrating that individual back into his or her local community.

This goal is achieved in a number of different ways depending on the tradition of the particular community chaplaincy.

It normally includes a combination of mentoring and support, working on a one to one basis with the service user.

Other areas of CLINKS work in London, is considering seeking funds for a dedicated Development Worker/Capacity Building post for organisations serving the interests of Women in the Criminal Justice System and views are being sought from faith organisations. CLINKS are awaiting a decision from a major foundation which will allow the funding of a dedicated Black Minority Ethnic Community Development Worker.





CLINKS have also issued one position statement on relations between the National Offender Management Services and the Voluntary and Community Sector. The position statement outlines the principles which should guide relationship building, and; A response to the Consultation on restructuring Probation Services to Reduce Offending.

CLINKS key recommendations concerning relations between Voluntary and Community Sector and the National Offender Management Service are to ensure that the independence of the voluntary sector preserved - ensure accountability for service provision - introduce measures to manage the 'market' at a local level in order that small Voluntary and Community Organisations are not overwhelmed by private or large Voluntary and Community Sector organisations -support, (including provision of funding) the creation of consortia of smaller Voluntary and Community Organisations in order to facilitate their participation in service delivery to offenders - develop mechanisms to accurately capture information about the needs of offenders in relation to the supply of services at a local level - ensure that the training needs and the infrastructure to support a skilled workforce in relation to both offender management and intervention services are properly identified and resourced.

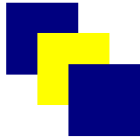
Lynne outlined components of a good commissioning strategy – in brief, it is a commonsense plan:

Vision – clarity about objectives and what is to be achieved for clients (outcomes not outputs – how the lives of our service users have been changed)

Audit or mapping of current provision -- conducted by the service providers and their partners (if there any)

Audit or mapping of the needs of clients – in this case women in prison who have experienced violence and abuse – I think we can agree that many of their





needs are related in some way to **social exclusion** (jobs, education, health, substance abuse, housing, cultural and/or gender discrimination, etc)

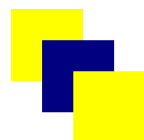
Gap analysis – the difference between what is provided and what is needed

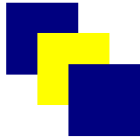
This leads to exploring ways to address this gap in service provision:

- Is it quality or quantity of services – or both
- Are innovative approaches called for?
- Are there projects and services, which can and have produced evidence of ‘what works’? (National Offender Management Service stated preference in selecting services for commissioning)
- Does a ‘market’ of quality service deliverers need to be developed or expanded?
- Is seed money and start up costs needed?
- How and in what ways can the Voluntary and Community Sector be invested in to be sustainable?

Best value

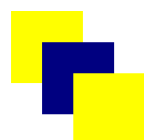
Lynne stressed the point that the Voluntary and Community Sector is not a cheap option and therefore full cost recovery is essential in developing services in order to meet identified gaps may require a more generous investment (start-up and management costs). A capacity built Voluntary and Community Sector which is fairly and wisely invested in can be cost conscious in the delivery of quality services.

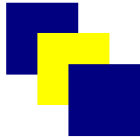




It is important that the sector be acknowledge for its tradition of innovation, strong community links, user focus and contribution to improving policy development **consultation** – with key stakeholders is essential as it **helps shape the services** and how they are delivered - It **informs the intelligence gathered** about the vision, the audits and mapping exercises – and the Voluntary and Community Sector should be involved in consultation right from the start - It also **helps advance understanding** and knowledge about each other and each others goals, aspirations, objectives and aims.

Lynne ended her presentation by highlighting the need to develop sustainable partnerships within the Voluntary and Community Sector and partners need to be conscientious and respectful of each others contribution, knowledge, skills, experience and performance in addressing problems and delivering outcomes for our clients





SUPPORTING OFFENDERS

KEY SPEAKER: RUPERT BAILIE – GOVERNMENT OFFICE LONDON

Reducing Re-offending in London - London Resettlement Strategy

Rupert Bailie since November 2005 has led the development and implementation of the London Resettlement Strategy on behalf of Steve Murphy, the London Regional Offender Manager. Rupert manages the London Resettlement Team, a partnership funded multi-agency team, which support the London Resettlement Board and its sub-group, and develops implementation project under the strategy.

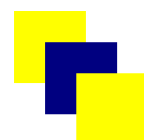
In his presentation, Rupert provided an overview of the London Resettlement Strategy, which covers the following areas and the context in which the London Resettlement was being developed.

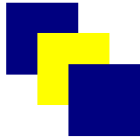
Overview

- Strategic Context
- Governance
- Pathways Data
- Consultation & Representation
- Implementation
- Faith Communities

Context

- Reducing Re-offending by ex-prisoners (Social Exclusion Unit 2002)
- National Reducing Re-offending Action & Delivery Plans (Home Office 2004 & 05)
- London Resettlement Strategy (Government Office London 2005)
- *Reducing Re-offending in London* (Government Office London /National Offender Management Service 2006)





- *Draft London Regional Commissioning Plan (National Offender Management Service 2006)*

What's a Regional Offender Manager?

- Commissioner of Correctional Services
- Service Level Agreements with Prison & Probation
- Developing Co-commissioning eg. Health, Education
- Lead on Reducing Re-offending

The London Picture - Scale

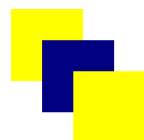
- 1 million recorded crimes a year in London
- 250,000 offenders known to the police
- 24,000 receptions into London prisons 2004/05
- 1200 prisoners discharged into London a month
- nearly 28,000 on community sentences (May 06)

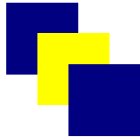
Governance

- London Resettlement Board (Oct 2004)
- Regional Pathway Groups
- Strategy Implementation Group
- Pilot Management Groups
- Borough Leads Forum

Reducing Re-offending: Pathways

- Accommodation
- Finance, Debt & Benefit
- Employment, Training & Education
- Health (inc Alcohol)
- Children & Families
- Drugs





- Programmes/Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour

Implementation

- Live in Scrubs & Holloway
- Further prisons under discussion
- Severe constraints
- Prison Population: Remand & Short Sentence
- Cases without statutory involvement

Implementation 1

Wormwood Scrubs February 06 -

*Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham,
Kensington & Chelsea, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow*

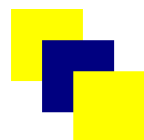
- Male 'local' prison
- 125 bed resettlement wing
- Local Authority / local partnership engagement

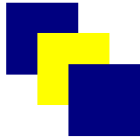
Implementation 2

Holloway September 06 -

*Camden, Islington, Haringey, Tower Hamlets,
Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Hackney*

- Women
- 34-Bed Resettlement Wing filling now
- Domestic Violence / Sex Industry
- Many women in custody < 1 month





Faith and Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance

- Government's commitment to work with the faith sector
- Valuable local knowledge & links
- Build bridges to support offenders

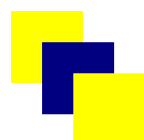
Faith Communities

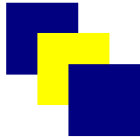
Can Regional Offender Management Service (ROMs) financially buy into the services already provided from faith community organisations?

- Communities & Faith Development Advisor
- Black Minority Ethnic Communities & Deprived areas
- Intermediary model
- Small faith Communities Grants Programme

Next Steps - faith

- Focus Christianity & Islam, but not exclusively
- Develop the intermediary model
- Establish the contribution faith can make
- Support and build on existing work
- Bring on new communities





STREET PASTORS INITIATIVE

KEY SPEAKER: REVEREND LES ISAAC – STREET PASTORS INITIATIVE

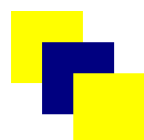
The Street Pastors initiative is a voluntary independent inter-denominational Christian organisation, which was launched in April 2003 by Reverend Les Isaac. The street pastor's initiative came about as a response to urban problems by engaging with people on the streets through a dialogue of listening and caring.

Reverend Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, pioneered the Street Pastors initiative in London. Due the remarkable results in supporting the reduction of crime and fear of crime the initiative has spread to different parts of the country including Birmingham, Leicester, Manchester, Southend, Weston-super-Mare, Wrexham and other locations.

A Street Pastor is a Church Leader, Minister or a church member with a concern for issues affecting society. The aim of the street pastor's initiative is to patrol the streets and connect with the community. Their role is also to engage with young people who feel excluded and marginalised and willing to speak to people where they hang out on the street or in pubs or clubs. The Street Pastor initiative is about changing things and reaching the root of recurrent social problems.

The initiative has created a unique relationship between the Church, Police, Local Authorities and the Community providing solutions to problems where the Street Pastors initiative has been operating.

The Street Pastor initiative is viewed as the Church in action on the streets serving those whose lives have been disrupted through a demonstration of love as shown in the parable of the Good Samaritan.





WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

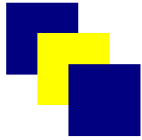
Workshop A

The role of faith organisations in supporting victims of crime

Facilitator: Verinder Mander – Brent Victim Support

The following diagram illustrates the complexities associated with the needs of victims of crime. It also identifies ways by which faith based organisations can proactively support victims of crime.





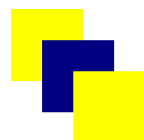
Workshop B

The role of faith organisations in supporting offenders

Facilitators: Reverend Les Isaac (Street pastors) & PLIAS Resettlement

1. Network – Friendship
2. Community Safety Team – Crime Reduction Team
3. Database
4. Trust – important in relationship building
5. Public Information
6. More active participation of the community to support offenders to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

The following diagram illustrates the complexities associated with the needs of offenders. It also identifies ways by which faith based organisations can proactively support offenders.





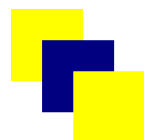
Workshop C

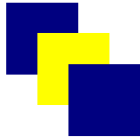
The role of faith based organisations in reducing the fear of crime

Facilitators: Maureen Flannery (Brent Community Safety Team) &
Richard Waterhouse (British Transport Police)

The following table described the physical and psychological features and contributory factors to the fear of crime

Physical	Psychological
Police	Big Male
Signs/ Road Rage	Attitude
Groups of Young People	Police Intimidation
Environment	Signs
Disrepair	Media
Darkness	Rage
Europeans	
Football Disorder	
Waiting areas (Buses)	
Footpaths	
Stations	





Workshop D

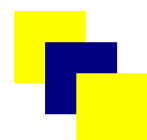
The role of the prison and the community chaplaincy

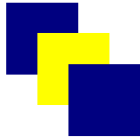
Facilitator: Mohammed El Sharkawy (Prison Chaplain HMP The Mount)

Faith organisations can help bridge the gap between offenders and the wider society by ensuring they are accepted back into their communities upon release.

Prison Chaplaincy and community links at HMP The Mount help to create a safer community by:

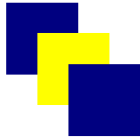
- The Mount is a training prison; it prepares men for release into the wider community. Most of the men are serving between 4 and 10 years.
- The Mount has 38 men serving life sentences and it is their responsibility to ensure they receive all the support that is required by other prisoners, due to the length of time they have to spend in the system and the additional pressure that comes on both prisoners and their families.
- 294 men (41%) are foreign nationals, who have the additional stress/pressure of being away from their families and unable to receive visits. The Chaplaincy has a bigger challenge in dealing with a number of requests of these types of prisoners due to the limitations of being away from their home countries.
- 61% of the men are Black and Minority Ethnic prisoners
- The Chaplaincy is a bridge between a constructive life inside and outside of prison (upon a prisoner's release) and strives to encourage living a moral and responsible lifestyles, free of crime
- A key part of the work is preparation for release into the local community – job skills (bricklaying, computer, job applications, literacy and numeracy skills etc)





- Chaplaincy covenant – working together and respecting one another's views and outlook. The Chaplaincy covenant is also about not discriminating against anyone because of their faith or beliefs.
- The Chaplaincy support spiritual journey of all prisoners who attend the Chapel and run study circles for prisoners.
- Chaplaincy offers pastoral support for men and families and provides support to prisoners who are faced with bereavement, living with loss and support to prevent self-harm.
- As part of the rehabilitation of prisoners, the Chaplaincy run victim awareness and Justice awareness courses which can have an impact and lead to the prevention of re-offending.
- Self harm support – often with men not coping during time in prison
- Much of prison work stopped at the prison gate. Men let out – they are on their own. Move to develop a strategy to give the men support on release.
- Development of links into the community through faith groups and other community links through faith and other communities.
- A home, a job, a friend/family will reduce by at least 30% the chances of re-offending
- Befriending scheme being developed whereby a man is linked to a volunteer who will come alongside a man for a minimum of 6 months and help him resettle into the community.





THE WAY FORWARD – NEXT STEPS

Main Issues

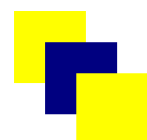
The following issues were identified from the seminar feedback forms.

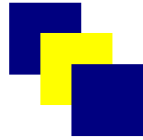
- The need for infrastructural support in order to support offenders and victims of crime including policies, procedures and systems.
- Mentor and befriending training for volunteers working with offenders
- Funding to support faith based organisation to support offenders and victims of crime. Where is funding available? How do faith based organisations access it (especially when it usually means completing a lengthy form) and how much is available?
- Risk assessment information. One comprehensive risk assessment for all faith-based organisations would be useful as a form of sharing good practice.
- Accredited training to support faith organisation to work with the criminal justice system to reduce re-offending in Brent.
- More organised sessions from the National Offender Management Service on training and funding.
- Develop a database of faith organisations to share knowledge and experience.

The Way Forward

A follow up event will be planned to provide training on community chaplaincy and how faith based organisations can support offenders on a practical basis. This will include accredited training for mentors with faith-based organisations.

PLIAS Resettlement will work in partnership with other relevant organisations to support faith-based organisations in setting up systems, policies and procedures





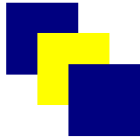
to deliver services to ex-offenders to contribute towards reducing re-offending and the fear of crime as outlined in the National Offender Management Service agenda. PLIAS Resettlement will target attendees from the seminar as well as contacting members from other faith-based organisations who were unable to attend but have expressed an interest to be involved. A database will be developed to communicate and build effective working relationships with faith-based organisations and to offer support where it can be met from PLIAS Resettlement or referred to an appropriate organisation.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made by seminar attendees and PLIAS Resettlement is proactively committed to developing and moving them forward in due course.

- 1) To provide training on community chaplaincy
- 2) To arrange and provide accredited training for mentors from faith based organisations
- 3) To work with relevant organisations to support faith organisations in developing systems, policies and procedures
- 4) To continue the dialogue with faith organisations to contribute towards reducing re-offending and the fear of crime
- 5) To develop a database of faith organisations to build effective working relationships, share good practice, improve communication and raise awareness of relevant funding opportunities.





EVALUATION & COMMENTS

Evaluation

A total of fifty-two seminar evaluation forms were completed as part of the evaluation process. These provided some very useful and constructive feedback which are highlighted in the 'The Way Forward and Recommendations' sections of this report. In addition, a number of the comments made on the evaluation forms have been included below.

Comments

'I had no idea what NOMS meant or the role of my church within it, this seminar has been both useful and enlightening'

'I look forward to being part of the drive forward, following on from this seminar'

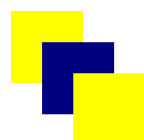
'The variety of speakers made this event very enjoyable as well as informative'

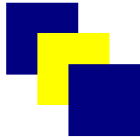
'More time for the workshops would have been great; the issues raised need a lot more time'

'Keep it up'

'It was the first time I heard about the Street Pastors Initiative, it would be good to have something like this in Brent!'

'TFHI is a young church with a passion for supporting our community – our church would very much need some training'





'Very good content and very well presented'

'The seminar provided a good overview of how we might get involved and possible avenues to follow up. Future opportunities for similar networking would be valuable'

'It was encouraging to hear about the work undertaken by CLINKS and the support they give to the voluntary sector'

'It was well organised. It has given me direction on what to do in the community'

'The venue for the seminar was good, I enjoyed it'

'Parking was a bit of a problem, apart from that, the seminar was great'

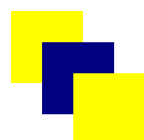
'We need more volunteers especially Christians and Muslims to train as community chaplains to mentor ex-offenders and reintegrate them back into the community'

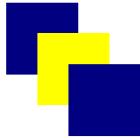
'Today was a good start, we need to go away and establish some systems and procedures so we can support both victims and offenders – some support in doing this would be very useful'

'We want to be more proactive in the community but need funding to be able to do that. This seminar has opened an avenue to possible sources of funding, through Rupert Bailie's presentation, which we will be looking into'

'The Victims support workshop was excellent, very informative and well presented'

'The chicken and fruit was great'





VOTE OF THANKS

Vote of Thanks by S. O Akingbade – Chief Executive PLIAS Resettlement

It was Edmund Burke who once wrote that “*all that is necessary for evil to prevail is that good men do nothing*” – Edmund Burke (1729 – 1797).

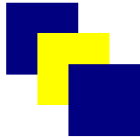
Crime or fear of crime wherever or whenever it occurs is a threat and potential threat to peace and safety of the community. The question that we have sought to highlight at this event is simply how best we can work together in our respective role within the community to support the victims of crime and to promote a positive agenda that demonstrates better understanding of what an individual or group of individuals can do to avoid becoming victim or victims of crime.

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to our co-host and sponsor of the seminar, the Brent Community Safety Partnership; in particular, Maureen Flannery who worked to support the event.

Special thanks and appreciation was given to Sergeant Greg Wakefield of the Metropolitan Police for his hard work and support in helping to organise the seminar.

Special thanks was extended to the speakers for their contributions – PC Richard Waterhouse of the British Transport Police; Verinder Mander of the Brent Victim Support; Reverend Phil Stone- Brent Area Dean; Reverend Les Isaacs Street Pastor Initiative; Rupert Bailie- Government Office for London, Lynne Laidlaw of CLINKS the convenor of PiRR (Partners in Reducing Re-offending) and Brent Police Borough Commander Mark Toland, The Chief Executive ending by thanking all the participants for coming and the staff, trustees and volunteers of PLIAS Resettlement who work tirelessly in making the seminar a success.





CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like further information or would like to discuss any point raised in this report, please contact either Norma Hoyte or Tom Chandler at PLIAS Resettlement. The contact details are as follows:

Write: PLIAS Resettlement
Unit 12 Bridge Park Complex, Harrow Road
Brentfield, London NW10 0RG

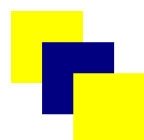
Tel: 0208 838 6800

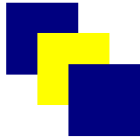
Fax: 0208 453 0022

Email: resettlement@plias.co.uk

Visit: www.pliasresettlement.co.uk

THANK YOU





APPENDIX 1

Believing we can conference 23rd November 2006

The purpose of the Believing we can conference was to share how faith communities and the National Offender Management Service can build on and develop the good practice that already exists.

In 2005 Baroness Scotland QC launched the 3 NOMS Alliances, these are: The civic society alliance, the corporate alliance and the Faith/Voluntary Community Sector Alliance.

Recognising the uniqueness of faith communities we focussed on the faith strand of the Faith and Voluntary Community Sector Alliance. Realising that there are many overlaps between the two sectors and equally some important differences.

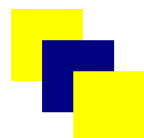
Developing the Faith aspect of the VCS/Faith Alliance

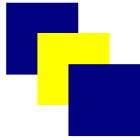
This was an opportunity to develop a strategy that would help NOMS, the Prison Service, the Probation Service understand and work more closely with their local faith communities. The conference was an initial consultation event to get feedback from delegates as to how we could do this.

In brief the following issues were raised:

What Faith based Organisations called for:

- Smaller organisations called for more information and better access to accredited training programmes (for example: evaluation, monitoring, risk management, volunteering in prisons, volunteering in the community, partnership building between faiths, and funding)
- Long-term funding for smaller local faith based organisations.
- A recognised need to strengthen the capacity of minority faiths to work with offenders
- Organisations wanted clarity on the structure of NOMS
- Clarity needed on NOMS will commission services in the future.
- A clear statement from NOMS in terms of what work they expect the Faith Community & Voluntary Sector will be asked to do and what has proved to be effective in the past.

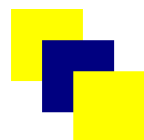


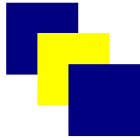


- A database of faith based organisations working throughout England and Wales – thereby avoiding the unnecessary duplication of work.
- Forums within which to share good practice – possibly regionally – more networking opportunities were called for.
- Sharing good rules of engagement with faith communities.

What the Statutory Bodies called for:

- The Probation service was keen to see that all measures had been taken by any organisation to manage risk effectively when working with ex-offenders in the local community.
- The Probation Services was also calling for more local engagement with faith communities, particularly in terms of 'Unpaid work'.
- There was an emphasis on multi-faith working and the need to be inclusive. NOMS is keen to see organisations reflect this ethos.
- NOMS also emphasized the need for organisations of any size to measure and evaluate it's effectiveness as a service provider.
- The Police Services called for more engagement, particularly on community orders and crime prevention.
- The Prison Service Chaplaincy was also keen to see the successful development of a multi-faith approach to the resettlement of ex-offenders that would reflect their multi-faith Prison Chaplaincy model.





APPENDIX 2



NOMS Faith Alliance Strategy

Consultation Process

First Draft Report – January/February 2007

The first draft report for consultation will be produced by the end of January / beginning of February 2007.

Consultation Arrangements

12 weeks will be allowed for open consultation. This will be done using:

- **Formalised face-to-face consultation events spread throughout the country.**
- **Informal face-to-face events**
- **Distribution of the draft electronically via websites and email distribution lists.**
- **Posting hard copies to interested parties**

Final Draft - Early spring 2007

Publication – Summer 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT





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