

London Hate Crime Stakeholder Reference Group

Terms of Reference

Contents

1. Context
2. Purpose
3. Key Functions
4. Governance Framework overview
5. Governance of the Pan-London Hate Crime Stakeholder Group
6. Membership
7. Meeting Arrangements
8. Administration

1. Context

- Reports of hate crime in London have followed an upward trend in the past five years, with notable spikes seen during the pandemic and lockdown and following national and international events such as Black Lives Matter Activities, the EU Referendum and its aftermath, terror attacks at home and abroad, and hostilities in Israel/Palestine.
- Both the Mayor and the MPS view hate crime as a key priority. The Mayor has a statutory responsibility to ensure the provision of support for victims of crime in London and has invested in specialist services that support victims of hate crime. The MPS recognises hate crime as a 'high-harm' crime alongside other crimes, like domestic abuse, that can have a significant and long-term impact on victims and communities.
- As a result, both MOPAC and the MPS have reviewed how the response to hate crime is delivered. A new, Commander-led Hate Crime Strategic Partnership Board, comprising the MPS and other statutory and community-based partners, will support and monitor the police response at a strategic level and will sit at the top of a new governance structure. That structure includes a stakeholder partnership that will act as a community forum that can provide transparency and accountability of the MPS, MOPAC and other statutory partners' response to hate crime, as well as empower communities and the hate crime sector to escalate emerging issues to the appropriate authorities.

2. Purpose

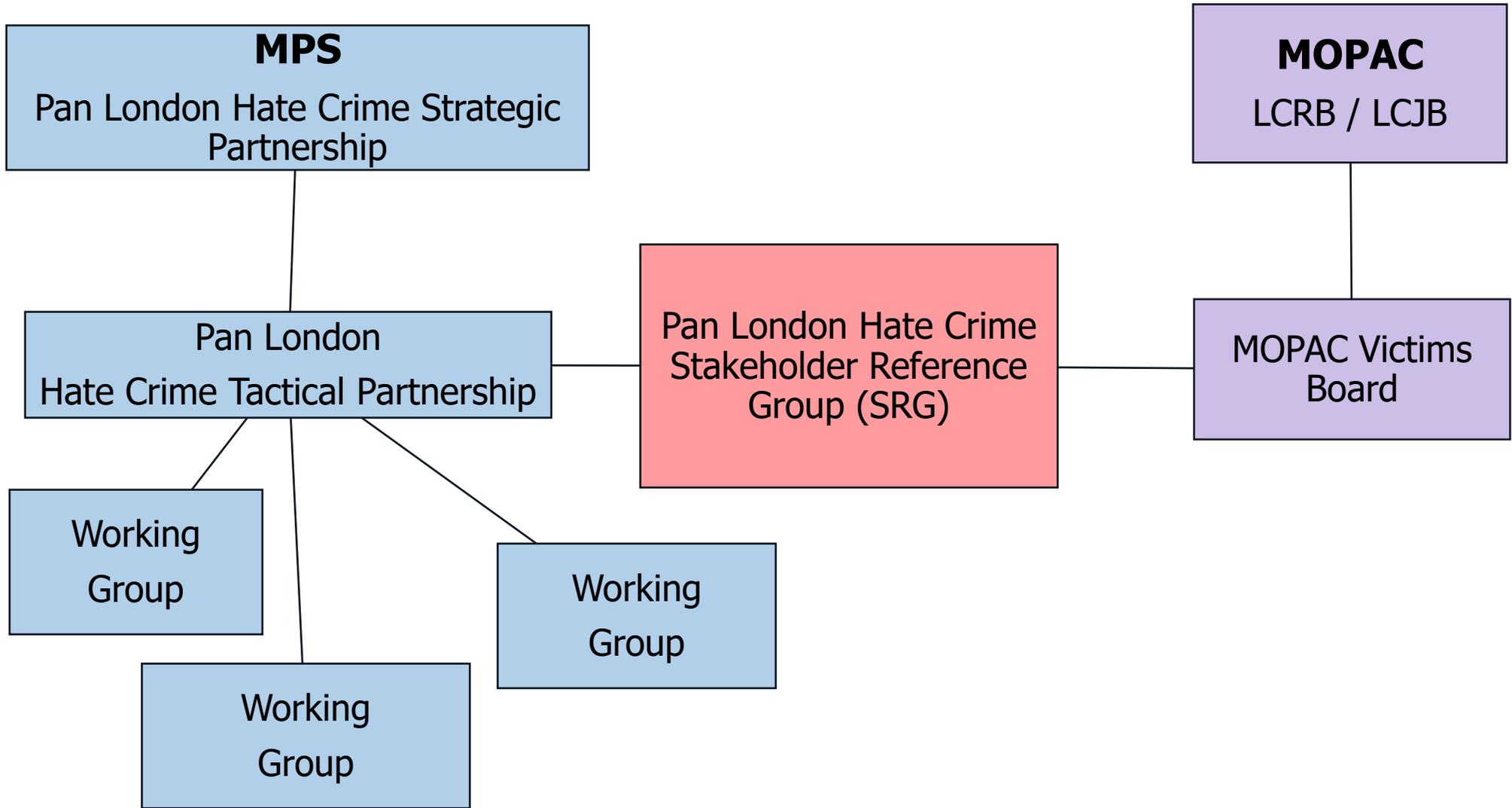
- It is essential that those most affected by hate crime have the opportunity to provide an input into the activities of the statutory partners acting on their behalf. The proposed Pan-London Stakeholder Group will meet three separate but interlinked aims;
 - Engagement with hate crime stakeholders indicates that communities affected would welcome a voice in how effectively statutory partners deliver their response to hate crime, and to provide a forum to address emerging issues
 - The MPS wants to ensure that stakeholders have the opportunity to input into, support and challenge the activities of the Hate Crime Strategic Partnership Board and the Hate Crime Tactical Partnership that sits underneath it. Members will also be asked to support (perhaps through membership or co-chairing) future thematic Working Groups and task and finish activity.
 - MOPAC participates in a number of regional governance and oversight mechanisms such as the London Crime Reduction Board, the London Criminal Justice Board, and their sub-groups such as the London Victims Board. This Pan-London Stakeholder Group will ensure the hate crime community and victim voice is heard across all of these forums.

3. Key Functions

- The Pan-London Hate Crime Stakeholder Group will be an independent, non-statutory led body and will ensure that those with expertise in hate crime and hate crime victims have a strong voice and representation in the MPS and MOPAC governance structure for hate crime.
- The key functions and responsibilities of the group will include:
 - Providing a forum for transparency and accountability of the MPS, MOPAC and statutory partners' response to hate crime by seeking updates, challenging statutory partners, reviewing and reflecting on trends, progress and challenges
 - Supporting the work of the Strategic Partnership and the Tactical Partnership to ensure that there is external focus and energy given to that work
 - Supporting the MPS Hate Crime thematic Working Groups and task and finish activities. This may be by joining the groups or disseminating the opportunities to join via members' own networks

- Supporting MOPAC's policy and commissioning priorities relating to hate crime
- Ensuring that information and intelligence collated by members from colleagues, VCS partners and member organisations, is brought back to meetings and raised with the MPS, MOPAC and other statutory partners for consideration and/or action
- Helping to address the issue of under reporting, by identifying and eliminating barriers for all communities who suffer as victims of hate crime
- Helping to ensure that appropriate pathways exist to support victims of hate crime and that the services offered are of sufficient quality and reach
- Supporting the development of the Police and Crime Plan and any new London Hate Crime Strategy
- Cascading pre-agreed information out to other partners in the sector

4. Governance Framework Overview



5. Governance of the Pan-London Hate Crime Stakeholder Group

MOPAC will commission an independent VCSE organisation to facilitate the group and provide the secretariat support. The group, in conjunction with the facilitator, will agree its own governance structure. However, it may be helpful if we, as the statutory partners, provide some parameters, e.g. would the chair/vice chair sit on the Strategic Partnership Board? What would be the conduit for the group's views and outcomes to reach the relevant statutory forums? Are there tasks we insist the Group must undertake in order to meet the objectives?

6. Membership

It's essential for the credibility of the group that it has a reach into all affected communities, either by direct or representative membership. The Group, working in conjunction with the facilitator, will agree its own membership criteria. However, we (MPS and MOPAC) may insist on some core members.

7. Meeting Arrangements

The Group, working in conjunction with the facilitator, will agree its own meeting arrangements such as frequency, agenda and whether (going forward) meetings would be online, in-person or a mixture of both

8. Administration

MOPAC will commission an independent VCSE organisation to facilitate the group and provide the secretariat support.