Request received 5 February 2017:

Does your force have a Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer and/or a special point of contact (SPOC) for engaging Gypsies and Travellers?

If so, could you please send a copy of their role/job description and/or describe their programme of work

Response

Kent Police employs a Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer who acts as a single point of contact within the Gypsy Liaison Team (GLT).

The responsibilities of this role include:

- Act as the single point of contact within the GLT ensuring effective liaison with SCD for the policing of organised criminal gangs, receiving, assessing and researching intelligence from within Force, other UK Forces, National Crime Agency, UK Border Authority, HM Revenue and Customs and other relevant policing agencies, categorising relevant offences, undertaking research into offenders using all available systems, collating data, keeping packages up to date and building intelligence profiles on individuals until dissemination as required, in order to support the SCD in building central records on gang criminality and establish the requirements for intelligence packages to support investigators and the progress of investigations and operations.

- Build GLT intelligence files on organised criminal gang targets, developing co-operative working practices and relationships with internal intelligence units across the force and external partner agencies, maintaining an auditable process of interaction ensuring that updates are validated and comply with force policy, in order to ensure that accurate and current information is available to the appropriate officers at all times.

- Develop collaborative working arrangements with key stakeholders and strategic partners within the Gypsy and Traveller communities, identifying opportunities for joint initiatives and developing interventions, including securing resources such as funding, disseminating information and supporting communication networks and working groups, in order to enhance mutual understanding, share information and communicate organisational values. This will include site visits to engage with community leaders on a face to face basis within the community.

- Provide expert tactical advice and support to operational managers and police officers in relation to Gypsy and Traveller community relations issues, disseminating information, developing best practice protocols and assist with the review and development of local procedures, to ensure the implementation of best practice is achieved and facilitate effective responses to issues that may have sensitivities in terms of community tensions.

- Identify and monitor current and emerging Gypsy and Traveller community demographics, identify and evaluate community tensions, conduct threat assessments to determine levels of community tension, produce strategies and initiatives to manage those risks on a proactive basis to enable interventions and ensure an appropriate and proportionate response that will maintain positive community relations whilst retaining operational effectiveness.

- Undertake community liaison related projects as directed, conducting research, engaging with relevant police managers and staff, consulting with community groups and external organisations, preparing reports and producing plans and proposals, to support the development of the force's Gypsy and Traveller community engagement strategies, policies and working practices. This will include the provision of cultural training for police officers and relevant staff.
- Deliver briefings and provide an advisory service in respect of the Gypsy and Traveller communities in respect of spontaneous and pre-planned policing activities affecting these communities, including the delivery of briefings to Silver Command, police officers and staff involved in such activities, attending and assisting with policing operations in situ as required, in order to assist with the effective delivery and completion of all such activities across the county.