

Dr Suzanne Shale

Chair

London Policing Ethics Panel

EthicsPanel@mopac.london.gov.uk

Our ref: MOPAC130924-D5043

18 October 2024

Dear Suzanne

Re: Publication of the London Policing Ethics Panel Report into police in schools

I welcome the London Policing Ethics Panel (LPEP) Report and its ethical analysis of the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) deployment of police in schools.

As you know, the Mayor and I support the deployment of Safer Schools Officers (SSOs), viewing them as a vital means of access to policing for young people, whether that be for crime prevention, safety advice or addressing any concerns they may have about crime as well as building important trust and confidence in policing.

The Mayor and I, however, understand that there have been concerns about their deployment, as noted in the [Mayor's Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing](#). It is paramount that any police presence in schools does not further exacerbate the wider societal issues of disproportionality, over-policing of Black and global majority communities, and the unnecessary criminalisation and adultification of children.

It is with this position in mind, that the Mayor and I agree to the findings of the Panel's report, and the associated recommendations for the MPS.

Some of these recommendations are already being considered as part of the New Met for London Strategy, as the MPS seek to realign Safer Schools officers into wider community policing.

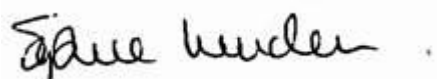
I would like to, however, draw particular focus to Recommendation 4, in which you articulate the need to improve the evidence base for the current model of policing in schools deployed by the MPS. I agree that it is essential to analyse the relative benefits and disbenefits for any such intervention and I am exploring this with both the MPS and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's Evidence and Insight (E&I) unit.

In addition, through the work of the Mayor's Action Plan, the Safer Schools Partnership Board was convened in April 2023, as called for by both the Mayor and the Commissioner, to act as a source of review and challenge on both the existing approach to police in schools and new emerging initiatives and thinking. Your report makes clear the importance of fully considering any ethical implications of the deployment in schools, for this reason as a first step, I will be recommending to Commander Clair Kelland that your report and its findings are taken to this Board for consideration.

Overall, the balanced and considered analysis will provide constructive focus for both myself and MOPAC as we continue to strategically oversee the MPS in their deployment of police in schools, and their endeavour to evolve and improve this particular model of policing, with a consideration of the findings of the Casey Review, and the New Met for London Plan.

As always, I am grateful for the continuous work of the LPEP, and I offer my thanks to both the Panel, and to you, in your capacity as Chair

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Linden', with a small dot at the end.

Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime