

1) Name, Job Title and quick summary of role:

Samantha Cunningham, Director Criminal Justice and Commissioning Directorate, MOPAC.



I lead the Criminal Justice and Commissioning Directorate in MOPAC, which has responsibility for developing policies, programmes of work and commissioning services that deliver on the Mayoral commitments as set out in London's Police and Crime Plan. The essence of my role is to form strategic partnerships and alliances, to use evidence and to listen to Londoners and to invest resources and funding to put in place new ways of working and improved services offers to reduce crime. I am currently responsible for a £68 million commissioning budget, which has enabled me to lead an exciting and innovative programme of work providing much needed services for victims of crime in London, alongside interventions which are focused on reducing offending behaviour with a specific focus on all forms of violence. I am lucky to have such a broad array of policy areas under my watch and enjoy the ability to look for alignment and relationships between policy areas such as specialist victim's services and violence crime offending and gang affiliation. Finally, I manage overall a team of 40 individuals who have a vast array of skills and experience, together it is a thriving directorate, full of passion and enthusiasm as well as highly capable individuals which form a high performing team in a very fast paced political environment.

2) What is your background and what brought you to City Hall?

I have 20 years experience now in crime reduction, prior to joining MOPAC five years ago I worked as the Head of Commissioning for Community Safety across Westminster Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith Local Authorities putting in an improved approach to collaborative yet local commissioned services as part of their wider community safety plans. Prior that I have had operational and policy experience regarding criminal justice, running bespoke IOM programmes and integrated gangs unit and spent some time working for the voluntary sector at the frontline supporting charities to deliver much needed services to offenders and victims of crime. I came to City Hall as I saw an opportunity to put all that practical and localised experience into practice at a regional level and to develop better ways of reducing crime and commissioning services across government and regional criminal justice agencies.

3) What keeps you here?

There is so much more to do! It is a challenging time in terms of crime reduction, with austerity having created a perfect storm for increase in crime and sadly for London that has manifested itself in an increase in all forms of violence. I want to ensure that I play my part in addressing this increase and in providing gold standard specialist services to victims of crime but also in terms of interventions to prevent individuals from reoffending. MOPAC is also a fast paced and interesting place to work, no day is ever the same. The staff that work in MOPAC welcome the variation, challenge and change and all come to work to do the best they can do for London. All in all I feel privileged to have a senior role which is improving services which Londoners can receive.

4) Why should people come and work at City Hall?

The walk into work never gets tired, the view of City Hall next to Tower Bridge is always uplifting even on a damp and dull day. The services near City Hall are excellent and the transport links are fabulous. Staff that work in City Hall are friendly and sociable, and there are events running all year

round, with opportunities for staff engagement and support. There are worse places to spend Monday to Friday!