

Misha

**1. Name, Job Title and quick summary of role:**

Misha Upadhyaya, Stakeholder and Engagement Officer for the Mayor's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programme, MOPAC.

My role is based within the Mayor's CVE programme where my role has been to oversee the delivery of the Mayor's engagement consultation with London's diverse stakeholders; this includes Local Authorities, Policing, community groups, voluntary groups and relevant bodies related to countering violent extremism across the capital. I get involved in all stakeholder and community engagement, maintaining relationships on behalf of the Mayor.

**2. What is your background and what brought you to MOPAC?**

My background is in the public sector. When I left University, I joined a Police force outside of London as one of their civilian community engagement officers working in the counter terrorism preventative space. I worked with individuals vulnerable to terrorism and engaged with the community to build resilience to extremist narratives. From there I went on to work for NHS England working in the safeguarding space regionally across London and the South of England. I joined City Hall in April 2018 and did this because I wanted to work on a programme which had the potential to make real life change for Londoners. I'm a born and bred Londoner and passionate about making my city safer from those who are trying to divide us through their hate and intolerance.

**3. How does your work impact Londoners?**

My role works to understand what more we need to do to renew our efforts to tackle extremism and radicalisation in the city. My role has been to ensure that the voice of communities and authorities are at the heart of the findings and recommendations this programme will look to make.

**4. What keeps you here?**

I work here because things move quickly here at MOPAC. In such a short space of time I have cultivated a diverse portfolio of skills which I hope I can continue to use in the future to create better outcomes for communities.

**5. Why should people come and work at MOPAC?**

You should come and work here because you want to make a difference to the lives of Londoners and ensure all the work that this building does is for the benefit for Londoners. You should also work here if you want to build a diverse skillset and meet people with some of the most interesting backgrounds. You'll be part of a relatively small organisation that can make your ideas into reality quickly.