

Havana

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

Havana Wellings-Longmore, Community Engagement Officer, MOPAC

My role is a “Ronseal” role, it literally does what it says on the tin; I engage with communities across London on behalf of MOPAC - listening to individuals and going into communities across the capital. The essence of my role is to empower individual Londoners to become active citizens by working collaboratively with their local neighbourhood police team and local authority on local policing priorities as well as hold them to account on their operational practices.

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

I have always striven to use my skillset in roles or organisations who help others and work toward equality. Prior to joining MOPAC, I have been privileged to have worked in the International Development sector as well as London vibrant Theatre sector. During my time in the Theatre as an administrative producer I worked exclusively on projects which aimed to improve the representation of the diversity of London within the theatre sector both on and off stage. Working in International Development taught me first hand that best practice for sustainable change is to listen directly to individuals and grassroots organisations on the ground and empower and support them, rather than insisting that a model which works for a few will work for the many. Therefore, when I saw a role at MOPAC, I saw an opportunity to bring my experiences to an organisation which strives to improve the lives of all Londoners and improve the representation of the MPS to reflect the wonderfully diverse city it serves.

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

My work empowers Londoners to impact MOPAC and MPS policies and strategies by engaging with Safer Neighbourhood Boards. MOPAC provides funding to these Boards, which exist across London, to allow them to fund grassroots organisations or events in their local community which they feel will reduce specific crimes. My work is also about giving voice and power to Londoners who are impacted by the work of the MPS and providing an additional layer of accountability and transparency to the work of the Mayor, MOPAC and the MPS. I am proud to see individual Londoners being active in the political, and operational aspects of the MPS, it is this work which truly demonstrates the ideals and practical uses of Community-led Policing.

**4. What keeps you here?**

MOPAC is a really nice place to work, the people are friendly, supportive and engaged with each other's work. I have always enjoyed the challenge of working under tight deadlines, my colleagues in MOPAC are the most dedicated and make working under pressure enjoyable with a never-ending supply of cake, fruit and teas. As a working mother, I enjoy the flexible working environment which allows me to work from home and adjust my working hours to meet my evening or weekend work commitments. The reason I stay is because there is work to be done! Londoners are not aware of the many ways they can get involved in our work. The MPS is far from being representative of the City and too many Londoners do not see the MPS as a possible employer. The Deputy Mayor, Sophie Linden has said many times that the only solution to reducing the current levels of violent crime will be found by engaging and convening the public, the politicians and the Police. My role is to continue to motivate and support the public to join these conversations and have a seat at the table.