

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2018**

**MEMBERS:** Councillors Chris Bond, Lee David-Sanders, Bernadette Lappage and Edward Smith (Chair)

**Officers:** Andrea Clemons (Head of Community Safety), Susan O'Connell (Scrutiny Officer), Stacey Gilmour (Governance & Scrutiny Secretary)

**Also Attending:** Detective Superintendent Tony Kelly, Karen Duncan (Parent Engagement Panel), Chrisstevie Ngoma (Enfield Youth Parliament), 8 members of the public

### **538. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah Doyle and Doris Jiagge and from the Parent Engagement Panel Representative Askin Erozkal.

The Chair, Councillor Smith advised that he would have to leave the meeting slightly early to attend the Council Cabinet Meeting. The Vice-Chair Councillor Lappage would take over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

### **539. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **540. SSCB PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Andrea Clemons Head of Community Safety presented an update and highlighted the following:

- i) The Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC) has now published the new Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021 for London which sets out the priorities for the safety of London.
- ii) The Priorities in Enfield's own Partnership Plan closely reflect those of MOPAC. These are:
  - Reducing burglary and keeping people safe at home;
  - Tackling violent crime – in all its forms
  - Keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime;
  - Promoting cohesion and tackling hate crime;
  - Dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- iii) Having been reviewed by the Safe & Stronger Community Board it has been agreed that Enfield will retain these same priorities going

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forward. This has been reported to MOPAC and it has been indicated that we will be achieving full spend against our projects. Any small underspend will be re-profiled.

- iv) Enfield currently received just over £500k per year in funding from the Mayor of London's Office. This money has been used on various projects including:
  - Purchased the services of a Gangs & Sexual Violence Worker.
  - Purchased the services of a Mentoring Officer working for St Giles Trust. This person works closely with young people through the Gangs Partnership Group route. (They have so far worked on 39 difficult cases achieving good outcomes).
  - A small fraction of the funding has also gone towards a programme for tackling young people with drugs and substances misuse. Again this has resulted in some very positive and encouraging outcomes.
  - A Youth Outreach Project has also been delivered by a third sector organisation called Oasis. This project is based in the A&E Department at North Middlesex Hospital and they deal with young people presenting at A&E who have been the victim of a violent crime.
  - Oasis also work with getting young people into employment.
  - We have also purchased two independent Domestic Violence Advocates who have received over 750 referrals over the past year. Some of the more serious cases have been taken all the way through the criminal justice system. There are also a number of the same posts but these are funded differently.
- v) We have also asked for an additional £20k to support some activity particularly around Fore Street, Edmonton, regarding prostitution and kerb crawling. The Police are already undertaking a lot of work in this area around this issue but Enfield Council is keen to target it from both angles. We have however asked for this enforcement action to be profiled in a slightly different way.
- vi) The £500k from MOPAC was a two year funding pot and was proposed as a two year parcel for 2017/18 and 2018/19. This is based on a successful delivery of the projects/priorities which were agreed to. MOPAC scrutinise to check that the priorities have been met and this will be looked at again in 2018/19.

The following questions were raised:

- Q. Where have the 750 Domestic Violence referrals originated from?
  - A. These can be self-referrals but the majority have come via the Police.
- Q. Are there Youth Workers in other hospital A&E Departments such as Barnet?

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- A. Other local hospitals are looking to fund something similar. For us with limited resources, there was more demand to have this Youth Worker Project in North Middlesex Hospital at the time of introducing it.

### **541. SSCB PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT- MONITORING UPDATE**

Andrea Clemons Head of Community Safety presented this report and highlighted the following:

- i) The report analyses the five priorities identified in the borough of Enfield and discusses the performance compared to other London boroughs, over a two year period dated between 01/03/2016 to 28/02/2018.
- ii) The measures reflect the priorities in our own Partnership Plan which are:
  - Reducing burglary and keeping people safe at home;
  - Tackling violent crime – in all its forms
  - Keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime;
  - Promoting cohesion and tackling hate crime;
  - Dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- iii) The report demonstrates progress in crime figures against the five bulleted priorities above.
- iv) Of the 32 London boroughs, Enfield is currently 5<sup>th</sup> for Serious Youth Violence in the year ending February 2018, compared to 7<sup>th</sup> the previous year. Enfield has seen an increase in the last year of 94 offences.
- v) Knife Crime in Enfield has increased by 41.3% in the year to February 2018 compared to the previous year. London has experienced a smaller increase in Knife Crime of 25.4%. It was noted that this could be as a result of less challenge, e.g. reducing Stop and Searches may well have impacted on this increase in Knife Crime.
- vi) Information was provided on the Youth Outcomes data between 25/01/2017 to 24/01/2018.
- vii) A table was also included in the report detailing the main outcome of the offence including various referral rehabilitation orders and different intervention programmes.
- viii) During the year analysed there were 1409 offences which equated to 542 young people known to Enfield Youth Offending Unit, of which 88% were male and 12% female.
- ix) The top three offence types were Violence against the Person, Drug Offences and Theft and Handling Stolen Goods.
- x) Andrea then went through each of the further priorities in detail and provided figures, data and the proposed measures for each one.

The following questions and comments were raised:

- Q. Councillor Smith felt that the actions shown in the Main Outcome of Offence table were unclear. In particular it seemed that where an

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alleged crime had taken place the majority of these had resulted in 'No Further Action' being taken. Why was this?

- A. There could be many reasons for this but one example would be where there had been insufficient evidence available in order to take the case to court. It must be remembered that sometimes the figures presented do not tell the whole story.
- Q. Referring to the table detailed on page 5 of the report, clarification was sought as to what a Section 91 Order was?
- A. It was unclear as to what this was, but Andrea agreed to find out and clarify this at the next meeting. It was also felt that it would be useful to invite a member of the Youth Offending Team to a future meeting, as they would be better placed to explain some of the Youth Offending Data in more detail.

**Action: Andrea Clemons/Susan O'Connell**

- Q. Since the beginning of the MetTrace project in Enfield, there has been a burglary reduction of 33.2% (563 less burglaries) in the MetTrace areas. Why do you think the MetTrace project has had such a positive impact?
- A. The MetTrace project has proved to be a great deterrent as simply the burglar does not want to get trace liquid on them. Burglaries in Enfield are much more targeted, focused and organised therefore the introduction of the MetTrace Project has made these areas much harder to go and burgle. Advertising and promoting of the MetTrace project has also contributed to its success.
- Q. The figures showing an increase in Knife Crime are shockingly high in such a small space of time. Are the reasons for this known?
- A. There are several factors driving this increase, by and large the main one of which is the selling of drugs. There is now very much a culture of protection of criminal enterprise. Four months ago most suspects and victims were 23/24 years old. Sadly in Enfield this age is decreasing. Younger children are increasingly becoming involved in county line activity and the majority of the stabbings are 'tit for tat' around the gang tensions between Enfield and Haringey.  
Another common place factor is that victims refuse to co-operate with the Police as they are usually somehow involved (sometimes but very rarely it can be because they are too scared to talk to the Police due to the possible repercussions)  
To give some reassurance Enfield Police are working very closely with Haringey to address these issues. However it must be recognised that the Police alone are not going to solve this; it is a social problem that needs the support and engagement of the community as a whole including parents and schools.

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- Q. Given that more and more young people are becoming involved in crime, has there been an increase in truanting from school or is it happening out of school time?
- A. Most of the crime related activity is taking place out of school time.
- Q. How are the Police engaging with young people who are becoming involved in these types of crimes?
- A. Gang Unit Officers visit families to speak to the young people in an attempt to get them into some sort of engagement programme. They talk to them about the consequences of gang/crime involvement which often results in arrest/prosecution and even death. The Gang Unit Officers also go into schools to engage with young people. So all in all there is a lot of engagement working taking place which includes engaging with the families of young people who are on the peripheral of gang/crime activity. However despite this ongoing work it is still often extremely hard to encourage young people to engage with and talk to the Police.
- Q. The Parent Engagement Panel (PEP) representative said that they used to have a lot of engagement with the Police but not nearly as much now. We are a major part of the community who work closely with our young people therefore it is crucial to have engagement with the Police.
- A. Detective Superintendent Tony Kelly said that he was very disappointed to learn that engagement between the Police and the PEP had reduced over the years. This was something he was keen to see happen and would therefore follow this up with his Partnership Team and discuss this matter further with the PEP representatives.

**Action: Detective Superintendent Tony Kelly**

- Q. The Enfield Youth Parliament representative asked if it was felt that the Police speak to young people in the appropriate way to encourage engagement.
- A. The Gangs Unit engage and work very well with young people as they do not look like your average Police Officer as they are in plain clothes etc. However the Police will always welcome ideas of the best ways to engage with young people.
- Q. The Parent Engagement Panel used to have ex-gang members coming in and engaging with projects such as the Youth Engagement Panel. Is this initiative something that could be re-visited in the future?
- A. As part of the Schools Projects, e.g. Assure and Operation Crest, the Police go into schools and talk about gangs and the risks involved etc. and this is something that ex-gang members are involved in. The Police also have monthly meetings around gangs and crime and what is becoming apparent from the information shared at these

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meetings is that former gang members are now out of fashion as they no longer have the credibility that they once did. Gang crime has moved on and it is now very much a business enterprise.

- Q. It was felt that the current strategy for dealing with gang/knife crime is clearly not working. What is the plan going forward to address this very concerning situation?
- A. There does need to be a wider dialogue around what is currently happening, what is falling through the gaps and what is needed going forward. There is work to be done for sure but plans are in place moving forward which will hopefully result in a marked improvement.

The Chair thanked Andrea for her informative update and Superintendent Kelly for his valuable contributions.

### **542. KNIFE CRIME**

**RECEIVED** a report from Detective Superintendent Tony Kelly on Enfield Policing Response to Knife Crime and highlighted the following:

- i) Knife enabled crime and in particular knife crime injuries on victims under 25 has risen steeply across London, but perhaps none more so than in Enfield.
- ii) It should be recognised however that some of the increase in knife crime is because the Police are arresting more people with knives and taking knives off the street (when someone is arrested with a knife the Police create an offence which then impacts on the figures). Detective Superintendent felt it was important to make this observation as these arrests are positive and will result in a reduction in crime.
- iii) In order to address the knife issue Operation Bremont began running from 1 May 2017. Originally intended to be an 8 week plan it has now continued for 10 months in a number of developed iterations, as the intelligence picture has changed. It will also continue to do so until at least March 2018.
- iv) The plan seeks to address the problem under four strands; Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue.
- v) From 1 May 2017 until 2 July 2017 Operation Bremont 1 saw intense focus utilising borough resources. This was in response to the rapid growth of offences and it became apparent that the underlying cause of the majority of the offences was linked to the on and off street sales of drugs.
- vi) Tactics that were particularly successful were stop and search, weapons sweeps, and pulse patrols. There was also the conclusion of a series of school presentations.
- vii) This period saw a significant increase in injury to under 25's, whilst overall knife crime was below that of the NPS trend.

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- viii) Further information and figures were then presented in relation to Operation Bremont 2, 3 and 4 and comparisons in the data were made.
- ix) Discussions then took place regarding the Overview Partnerships Tactics. This included Enforcement, Prevention and Engagement work particularly around Schools, Licensing, ASB, Knife Wands and Knife Arches.

The following comments and questions were raised:

Councillor Lappage asked what was happening in the Police mind-set regarding publicity campaigns around stopping carrying knives etc. She felt that there needed to be a lot more work around this issue as something needed to be done urgently as the people of Enfield are beginning to feel very unsafe.

Detective Superintendent Kelly agreed that as a whole community engagement is not great at the moment and there definitely needs to be a lot more work and time invested in this area as it is imperative to get out and reach the people that can engage with the young people involved in crime.

Concerns were raised about young people often being excluded from school and sent out onto the streets where they then get into further trouble and often become involved in crime. Are there any initiatives in place to deal with this?

Detective Superintendent Kelly said this was a very good point and again are in which more work needed to be done. The Police Exploitation Team are currently looking into working much more closely with schools, social services etc.

Members agreed that the Police are only one aspect of a much larger authority when attempting to deal with this problem. There needs to be a co-ordinated approach between the Police, Local Authority, NHS, Schools, Social Services and other partnerships.

Further in-depth conversations then took place about the new Policing Model for London Plan and the proposed merger between Enfield and Haringey. Although the final details were not yet available, it was reported that the pilot merges that have already taken place have been considered successful, lessons have been learnt and it was hoped that as a result of this services across Enfield and Haringey would improve when both boroughs merged. Detective Superintendent Kelly agreed to come back once the plan has been finalised to brief the panel accordingly.

**Action: Detective Superintendent Kelly**

It was also felt that it would be useful to include Police Response Times in future statistics presented to the panel.

**Action: Detective Superintendent Kelly/Susan O'Connell**

**543. UPDATE ON POLICE NUMBERS**

An update on Police numbers in the Borough was provided by Detective Superintendent Tony Kelly.

**NOTED:**

- i) The establishment (BWT) of Enfield Police is 552 full time employees (FTE).
- ii) There are currently 502.46 police officers in post which leaves 49.40 vacancies.
- iii) Of these numbers 15 officers are on maternity leave, 6 are on attachments and 35 are currently on sick leave making a total of 56 officers abstracted from the Borough.
- iv) This leaves a total of 446.6 operational officers which is 80.7% of the BWT strength.
- v) The Borough is currently fully staffed at 21 PCSOs and 8.13 Police staff, with one vacancy.

The following questions and comments were raised:

- Q. Concerns were raised over the number of vacancies (which currently stood at 49.40) and further information on this was sought.
- A. The majority of vacancies across the MET are within CID which is therefore increasing the pressures and stresses of Officers within this department. There is a particular shortage of Detectives across London but plans are in place to 'home grow' more Detectives.

**544. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2018**

**AGREED** the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 January 2018.

**545. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

The Work Programme for 2017/18 was noted and agreed.

**546. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING**

**NOTED** that this had been the last meeting of the Panel for the 2017/18 Municipal Year. A new programme of dates for 2018/19 is currently being prepared for inclusion on the Council's calendar of meetings due to be approved at the Annual Council meeting in May 2018.

Councillor Lappage thanked Councillor Smith for chairing the Panel over the past year and felt that everyone had worked very well together in a healthy and cross party way.

She also thanked officers and the Police for their continued support and attendance at the meetings, and thanked the Youth Parliament

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Representative and members of the public for their regular attendance and engagement too.