

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
& CRIME SCRUTINY STANDING WORKSTREAM
HELD ON TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2017**

COUNCILLORS

O&SC	Derek Levy, Abdul Abdullahi, Guney Dogan, Nneka Keazor, Michael Rye OBE and Edward Smith
CRIME SCRUTINY	Chris Bond, Sarah Doyle, Doris Jiagge, Bernadette Lappage and Joanne Laban
STATUTORY CO-OPTES:	<i>1 vacancy (Church of England diocese representative), Mr Simon Goulden (other faiths/denominations representative), Mr Tony Murphy (Catholic diocese representative), Alicia Meniru & 1 vacancy (Parent Governor representative) - Italics Denotes absence</i>
OFFICERS:	Paul Sutton, Assistant Director Service Development & Youth Services Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety Susan O'Connell, Scrutiny Officer Stacey Gilmour, Governance & Scrutiny Secretary
Also Attending:	Councillor Krystle Fonyonga (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health) Iain Raphael, Borough Commander 5 other Councillors 3 members of the public

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WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Tony Murphy, Simon Goulden and Alicia Meniru.

The Chair explained that this joint meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Crime Scrutiny Standing Workstream had been arranged as a result of the upsurge in knife crime in the borough that had taken place in early spring. This had then gained further impetus under Opposition Priority Business raised at Full Council in June 2017. The purpose of this meeting was to gather evidence, probe, look at what is and isn't working and what, if anything needs to be done differently. Tonight's meeting should not be about political debate, therefore for simplicity the Chair asked all members to be in 'receive' and not 'send' mode and to steer clear of political agendas. This meeting would give Members the opportunity to discuss this matter in more detail and seek clarification on any concerns from the Officers, Cabinet Member and Borough Commander in attendance.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were put forward.

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KNIFE CRIME AND POLICE NUMBERS IN THE BOROUGH

RECEIVED a report from Paul Sutton, Assistant Director, Service Development & Youth Services. The report described the work being undertaken by the Youth and Family Support Service around serious youth violence and knife crime. The following was highlighted:

- The underlying message was that prevention is better than cure and this was demonstrated throughout the report.
- Information was provided on the actions being taken with the parents and families of offenders. This included details on the work of the Youth Development Unit (YDU), Parenting Support and Change and Challenge Units (PSU and CCU) and the Youth Offending Unit (YOU).
- Paul spoke about various programmes in place including the Knife Crime Programme (KCPP), Street Doctors, the Youth Culture and Conflict Resolution (YCCR) 1 and 2, Self Defence programme, LEAP (confronting conflict), Victim Awareness and the ISS programme (Intensive Supervision and Surveillance).
- The Youth Offending Unit (YOU) have worked with the police regarding having knife arches at the YOU and this has meant that some people attending appointments at the YOU have been arrested for carrying knives. Work is ongoing with the Police to do more of this work.
- Paul emphasised that all of the above are in addition to the statutory Children and family Support Services and the Looked After Children's Services.
- Some Youth Offending Unit client case examples were provided demonstrating how the processes worked and the success of the various programmes.
- Paul went on to speak about what more could be done by all those working with children and young people to deter them from this type of lifestyle. He stressed that it would require 'everyone' (community members, voluntary sector, private sector, health services, education and training providers, council, Police etc.) working together.
- There was a real need to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime, meaning: Awareness raising (e.g. in schools, primary and secondary and with parents); community engagement; prevention; education; information sharing; use of intelligence; (targeted) Stop and Search; tougher sentencing for certain crimes; more and better targeted policing; support and rehabilitation; restorative justice and knife arches.
- Early awareness raising with parents and children was key as was education and advice to children in primary school and information and advice to parents regarding knives, violence, gangs, drugs etc.

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- It was crucial to continue to ensure excellent well-resourced youth offending services (If we cannot work well and intensively with the young people in the system we will see more violence and more young people in custody).
- Councillors can continue to assist by enabling environment e.g. ensuring partnerships are working and people are cooperating; ensuring children's services continue to have the funding required; continue to engage and mobilise residents regarding the problems and solutions; keep ensuring a consistent message is given e.g. as to the necessity and benefit of tactics such as stop and search and having the difficult and challenging conversations regarding these etc.
- In conclusion Paul stressed that the emphasis must be on: Communication, Co-operation and Coordination

The following issues and questions were then raised:

- Q. How many young people have taken part in the Knife Crime Prevention Programme and what have the outcomes been?
- A. I do not have with me the exact figures to answer the above. However I can advise that Enfield's reoffending figures are lower than the national average.
- Q. How do young people overcome a criminal record when seeking employment?
- A. The first issue to address is that the skills are in place for employment. Certainly a criminal record can be a problem for certain jobs so it is very much dependent on the type of job being applied for. We try to engage the young people in employment and training programmes and some employers have signed up to schemes where-by they employ ex-offenders.
- Q. The big issue with the report is that, although very informative, there are no figures or statistics detailed throughout. It is therefore impossible to determine how many young people are falling through the system and not getting the right support. Can you give us an idea of any figures?
- A. I deliberately did not put figures and statistics in the report as these are reported on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis to various boards and bodies. (at this point however Paul provided some rough figures of the numbers working with the YDU, PSU, CCU and YOU). The paper was written to show the work that is being undertaken and the numerous interventions in place. Councillors are more than welcome to visit the Youth Offending Unit to be introduced to staff, see the work being carried out and look at figures and statistics in more detail.
- Q. The report does not include any analysis on what is driving the problems and is it getting better or worse? Also a lot of intervention is described in the report but we as a panel need to know how effective these interventions are.

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- A. We only intend to use interventions that are effective and produce positive outcomes. We do know reoffending rates as a reoffending tracker is now used which looks at the young people in real time. We do a lot of analysis around the drivers of crime. For example, drugs are a driver for knife crime. County lines are also a major driver (where young people are recruited to go into other places around in Britain, e.g. Northampton and told to sell drugs for two weeks then come back). A lot of work is currently taking place around the County lines issue. Admittedly it is very difficult to get a proper picture of the issues as it is a 'moveable feast' and a 'wicked issue'. If however members do require more statistics I am more than happy to bring these back to the committee at a future meeting.

Action: Paul Sutton

The Chair added at this point that a lot of the issues that arise from this meeting will be driven forward by the Crime Scrutiny Panel. Councillor Smith, Chair of the Crime Scrutiny Panel echoed this and advised that one of the Scrutiny Panel's work streams would indeed be on Knife Crime.

- Q. Is there a real contrast in terms of the funding for children and adults when young people move from Children's Services to Adult's Services
- A. We will often transfer our young people if deemed a higher risk to the probation service, where they will get the same level of intervention.
- Q. Are the ages the same for the different service offers?
- A. No, they vary. Some services have different ages and there is some flexibility in terms of the individual.
- Q. Children as young as primary level have been known to carry knives. How are we targeting these young people?
- A. Awareness raising programmes take place in schools and youth centres about the dangers of carrying a knife. However there are different paths into crime for different people; there is no consistent path. The main objective is to engage and get parents on board as well as raising young peoples' awareness and get them to start the thought process in their heads around why not to carry a knife etc.
- Q. Do we do as much work with the Academy schools as we do the Local Authority schools?
- A. It doesn't matter if it's an Academy or a Local Authority school; it just depends very much on the Headteacher's engagement.
- Q. If a young person gets stabbed and reports to their GP or A&E are these cases reported.
- A. If aged under 18 both GPs and A&E have a duty to report these cases as a safeguarding issue. Cases are also reported back via the Youth Workers based at North Middlesex Hospital A&E Department.

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- Q. Do you think we as a borough are creative, innovative and flexible enough when it comes to looking at enterprises for positive affect? What more would you like to do.
- A. There are always things that you can buy in but realistically we are living in very constrained times. We are however always looking at new and creative initiatives, for example, we are always looking to engage young people in arts and sports and we promote this as much as possible. We currently have Chelsea's Choice going in to schools (a play raising awareness on Child Sexual Exploitation). We have also worked closely with the Ghetto Youth Theatre as well as the Cadets and Scouts, and work is continually taking place to look at new and innovative initiatives and programmes.

The Chair thanked Paul for his interesting and informative update.

Iain Raphael, Borough Commander introduced himself and presented his report on Knife Crime and Police Numbers in the Borough, highlighting the following:

- The target number of Officers in Enfield is 554. We currently sit at 536.75. We would always like more Officers as we will always be able to do more with additional resources.
- Enfield has seen a rise in incidents of knife crime since April this year. However, knife crime is also on the rise nationally. In 2016 knife crime across England and Wales rose by 14% and 11% in London. In the rolling year (to June 2017) Enfield has seen an 11.3% increase from 423 to 471 offences. The majority of offences are related to street violence and robbery. Analysis of London data for 2016/17 is that 75% of victims of knife crime are male and most often under 25. Half of victims come from BAME (Black African Minority Ethnic) backgrounds. For offenders about 90% are male and 62% are from BAME backgrounds
- Locally we see drugs and gang memberships as a driver of the crime. It is possible that local success in arresting and disrupting gang members could in a small part be leading to increased tensions.
- Locally there is not an obvious feudal battle between gangs. It is important to remember across London that gang flagged crime accounts for about 5% of all knife crimes.
- Information was provided on the current tactics/actions being taken to combat this, and how this message is getting out to the community to try and reassure and encourage closer working with the police.
- Iain spoke about Operation Bremont and advised that this is the Borough's plan for addressing the problem under four strands, namely Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue. He then provided details of the tactics incorporated within this plan.
- Information was provided on the possibility of Enfield and Haringey joining together in terms of policing and what this would mean for Enfield.

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- Discussions took place regarding Stop and Searches and how effective these were. Iain acknowledges that this was a very a delicate area. He did not think this was the solution to all the problems but did feel that more should be carried out as it is a key Police tactic. He emphasised however that all Stop and Searches should be ethical and lawful and he would under no circumstances tolerate his Officers marginalising certain communities. He added that each individual Officer has to have the evidence, intelligence and ground to carry out a Stop and Search. The introduction of Body Worn Video Cameras on the Borough will legitimise what goes on.
- Information was provided on the action taking place with the parents and families of offenders, and again details were provided on the various initiatives taking place.
- It was important that more work be done by all those working with children and young people to deter young people from a life of crime. This included: Early intervention in schools, parenting workshops, expansion of Police Cadets and Youth Outreach activities, joint agency visits on those at risk of offending, improved debrief with young runaways.

The following issues and questions were raised:

- Q. Both papers refer to the level of school engagement. Do we have a map of schools that are engaged with the Police and other partners.
- A. The Police regularly attend the Headteacher's meetings at both Primary and Secondary Schools. The plan is to create a single schools package targeted at individual age groups. Iain said he is hearing an open door on schools wanting to engage and do more and there is certainly the appetite and drive to move forward with this.
- Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety said she will provide the Crime Scrutiny Panel with figures/map of what schools are engaging.

Action: Andrea Clemons

- Q. Are the figures higher for the BAME community because this is where the Stop and Searches are targeted?
- A. The Crimes and Victims data show this is where the crimes are arising from. However Iain again stressed that he would not tolerate any of his Officers marginalising certain communities when carrying out Stop and Searches.

- Q. Of the 536 Officers on the Borough how many are actually working.
- A. Iain did not have this figure to hand but would be happy to provide Members with this information.

Action: Iain Raphael

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- Q. When the Estates Police are placed in one area does this result in crime moving to another Estate.
- A. The work carried out by the Estates Police is exceptional and is doing what we wanted it to do and having a positive effect on crime figures.
- Q. How many of our Police Officers are pulled into London and how often.
- A. Yes, Officers have been moved to Central London but this has been an exceptionally busy time. This does however work both ways and Enfield has received more than its fair share of officers from the TSG asset (Territorial Support Group). I am always going to do my best with the numbers of Officers I have. There is however always a flow and core policing at the moment is very demanding.
- Q. Is there any geographical trend and any schools where crime is more prevalent?
- A. Hot spot mapping and predictive mapping shows the main crime corridor in the East of the Borough. The schools however can vary.

After further discussions and debate took place the Chair thanked Iain for attending the meeting and for his informative update.

Councillor Krystle Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community, Safety and Public Health thanked Iain, Paul and Andrea and said how productive it had been to have them in attendance.

She then highlighted the following points:

- She emphasised again that seeing an increase in knife crime figures can be viewed as a good thing as this shows the offenders are being caught. Andrea added that often a pro-active police approach can have a detrimental effect on Youth Offending figures.
- Councillor Fonyonga spoke about the range of work carried out and explained that as a lot of it is preventative direct results cannot always automatically be seen. However we will continue to do as much as we can with what we have and hope for the very best.
- Information was provided on Operation Crest, which involved various people e.g. mothers of sons killed, gang members, ambulance workers etc. going into schools and engaging with and sharing their experiences with the young people. Although this initiative is shocking by the nature of what is discussed, it is wholly effective and has currently reached 3000 young people in Enfield and this work will continue.
- Over 500 people have engaged with the Youth Workers based in A&E at North Middlesex Hospital, and 15% of this number continues to engage with Youth Support Services.
- Excellent partnership work continues to take place. We work really closely with the Police, working together to drive forward the success of the range of projects we have.

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- Stop and Search is a really tough and difficult area. Evidence does suggest that the BAME communities are feeling marginalised by Stop and Searches and this of course is an issue. However despite this Councillor Fonyonga said that she did endorse the continuous use of Stop and Searches.
- How we communicate with parents is a really key issue and all the other work taking place doesn't really stack up unless we can encourage parents to take responsibility and spot the key signs and be more pro-active.
- A Digital Communications Campaign is due to kick off in the next couple of weeks specifically targeting knife crime and parents.

The following questions and issue were raised:

- Q. What is the ratio of Stop and Searches to positive outcomes?
A. This is recorded and 1 in 5 Stop and Searches has a positive outcome
- Q. Social Media shows a lot of videos of how young people are handled by the Police. How is this dealt with?
A. Iain said can we fully manage Social Media? The answer is No. However there is a team within the organisation who looks at Social Media and picks up on any major issues. The introduction of Body Worn Video Cameras will transform things as each encounter can be viewed.
- Q. Do the young people communicate on line themselves and if so how is this monitored?
A. We have tight Social Media monitoring especially around gangs.
- Q. How can we overcome the wall of silence amongst communities?
A. This very much calls for a community response and there is nothing more powerful than a parent or peer telling a young person not to carry a knife. Police Officers in schools are a key tactic in building relationships as is working closely with Youth Workers and Social Workers. We are looking also to rebuild relationships between communities and neighbourhood teams. Neighbourhood Officers are going to be a constant and their biggest job will be to build community relationships but we need to be more creative as to how we do this.
- Q. You know who and where the gangs are in Enfield. Why can't you go directly and infiltrate these gangs?
A. Please be assured that considerable work goes on day in day out around gangs with significant outcomes. We do focus on this area and this is done by not just the Police but in partnership.
- Q. Tim Fellows, Safer Neighbourhood Chair (SNB) said that the CAPE meetings are also an excellent forum in which to engage with the community and different partners. He also said that the

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issue of Stop and Search was very complex and it often proved very hard for SNB members to effectively scrutinise the S and S data. He said that it needed someone with the expertise and knowledge to come on board to assist in this area.

- A. Iain and Andrea agreed to have a think about this and see what they could suggest.

Action: Iain Raphael and Andrea Clemons

In conclusion the Chair thanked everyone for attending and Members agreed that it had been a very informative and productive meeting.