

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

MEMBERS: Councillors Daniel Anderson, Ergun Eren, Hass Yusuf and Chris Dey and Glynis Vince.

Absent: Councillors Lee David-Sanders, Anne Brown, Katherine Chibah and Dino Lemonides

Officers:

Andrea Clemons (Head of Community Support), Susan O'Connell (Governance & Scrutiny Officer), Stacey Gilmour (Governance & Scrutiny Secretary)

Also Attending:

A/Chief Inspector Chris Byrne (Partnership & Prevention), Sergeant Aaron King, Carl Cooper, (London Fire Brigade), 8 members of the public

227. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from the Chair Councillor Lee David-Sanders. In his absence the Vice-Chair, Councillor Daniel Anderson chaired the meeting.

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were also received from Councillors Anne Brown, Katherine Chiba and Dino Lemonides. Councillor Glynis Vince was substituting for Councillor Lee David-Sanders.

Further apologies were also received from A/Superintendent Alex Kay, (Safer Neighbourhoods), North Area BCU, Superintendent Farooq Sheikh, Borough Commander Steve West, (London Fire Brigade) and Askin Erozkal, (Parent Engagement Panel Member).

228. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

229. PARKS

RECEIVED an update from Acting Chief Inspector Chris Byrne.

NOTED:

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- i) The report details the breakdown of crimes recorded within parks and green spaces in the Borough of Enfield from 01 January – 31 August 2019.
- ii) The national crime recording standards are used in order to ensure accurate recording of offences whereby a victim has confirmed that a crime has occurred.
- iii) Research has identified a variety of offences committed which include: Offences against the persons (assaults), thefts including robbery, possession of drugs, weapons, dangerous dogs, sexual offences and criminal damage.
- iv) The data is broken down by park location and the number of crimes committed within the review period. These offences have been identified through investigations that have taken place in order to establish any opportunities to identify the suspects involved.
- v) There have been 168 recorded crimes that have taken place within parks and the data has established that the majority of the offenders in the crimes committed are male.
- vi) There was an increase in crime within the month of July whereby 43 crimes were recorded within parks in the Borough. This is believed to be linked to the increase in warm weather and in some cases, events taking place.
- vii) Further details were provided on the parks within the Borough where the most offences had been recorded, namely; Broomfield Park, Ponders End Park, Pymmes Park and Trent Park.
- viii) The majority of offences in Pymmes Park revolve around drug possession and dealing and within Ponders Park the offences vary from ABH, drugs, ASB and drugs stop and searches. Offences at Broomfield Park often involved youths coming into the area from across the borough.
- ix) The offences in Trent Park are all attributed to private music events which occur annually; the 51st State Festival which occurred on the 3/8/19 and the Elrow Town Festival which occurred on the 17/8/19. These events are privately organised and involve the organisers renting out the park from Enfield Council and attract significantly large numbers of crowds in excess of 20,000 per event. Due to the significant large numbers of attendees it is believed that crime occurring is mainly opportunist.

Following Acting Chief Inspector Chris Byrne's update, the following questions/comments were made:

- Councillor Anderson questioned the data and the different spelling of the same individual parks throughout the report. It was acknowledged that this was an error and apologies were given. He also drew attention the fact that in Broomfield Park three of the incidents appeared to have taken place on the same day and so suggest that the same culprit was responsible.
- The influx of youths coming into certain areas can be from across the Borough as well as out of Borough, with an increase in activity from 4pm-8pm. The Police work closely with their Safer School colleagues

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who, through their work with schools and Headteachers, can often provide the intel that the police are not able to obtain.

- Although most of the crimes in Trent Park are attributed to the festivals, some offences have also been reported in the surrounding roads.
- With regards to what is being done to alleviate residents' fears regarding crime in our local parks and open spaces, Acting Chief Inspector Chris Byrne advised that as well as fighting crime, a lot of Police work is also spent addressing residents' fear of crime. Regular CAPE meetings are held to engage with the public and listen to their questions and concerns around crime. 'Boots on the ground' are important as visible police presence provides reassurance for residents. Safer Neighbourhood Teams work closely with their wards to gain personal relationships in an attempt to find out what is happening in order to put patrols into the appropriate areas.
- In relation to the 51st State and Elrow Festivals held at Trent Park it was recognised that the crime rates recorded at these events were statistically extremely low (in comparison to the high numbers attending the events). However, it was acknowledged that Anti-Social Behaviour such as urinating in public roads would not be recorded and it is this sort of ASB in the surrounding roads that impacts on local residents, hence objections from residents' associations to these events.
- Members noted that crime rates for open spaces (such as Forty Hall) and recreational areas in the Borough were not included in the report and therefore asked where these statistics were recorded? It was also felt that a more detailed report to accompany the figures would be useful, showing not just the recorded crimes but what is also happening in the surrounding areas as this is all part of a wider ward problem.
- Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety said that the report presented could be cross referenced with the Council's list of parks and open spaces.
AGREED to cross reference any future reports on parks with the Council's parks team to ensure that all crime recorded in the Borough's 130 (approximately) parks and open spaces is incorporated in future reports, as well as including details on the surrounding areas/wider ward issues.

Action: Andrea Clemons/Police

The Chair thanked Acting Chief Inspector Chris Byrne for his interesting and informative update and, although there are obviously concerns, he looked forward to seeing progress in this area.

230. SSCB PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Andrea Clemons Head of Community Safety presented this report.

The Chair, Councillor Anderson began by saying how shocked and dismayed he was by some of what he had seen in the report. The figures are very concerning with the increases in crime significantly more than across the

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whole of London (the decreases are significantly less too). He had serious concerns regarding these figures and was most interested to hear what is being done to address this situation.

- i) Andrea acknowledged Councillor Anderson's comments and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to provide the performance update. She reminded Members that it is framed to support Enfield's Partnership Plan (4 years – 2017-2021).
- ii) The report analyses the five priorities identified in the Borough of Enfield and discusses the performance compared to other London boroughs.
- iii) 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.
- iv) The report demonstrates progress in crime figures against the five bulleted priorities above.
- v) In the year ending July 2019, there were 414 Serious Youth Violence (SYV) victims in Enfield compared to 390 the previous year ending July 2018. This equates to a 6.2% increase in the Borough. London experienced a minimal 0.05% decrease in the same period.
- vi) Enfield is currently the 2nd highest borough in London for Serious Youth Violence victims out of all the 32 London boroughs, marginally ahead of our bordering borough Haringey recording 413 victims.
- vii) Enfield has the 4th largest youth population aged 1-19 in London accounting for just over a quarter of the total population. When considering the rate of SYV per 1000 population aged 1-19, Enfield recorded a rate of 5 over the last year.
- viii) Residential burglaries in Enfield have increased by 9.1% in the year ending July 2019.
- ix) Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury has increased in Enfield by 5.4% in the year to July 2019.
- x) ASB calls have increased in Enfield by 4.2% in the year ending July 2019, compared to the same period in the previous year.
- xi) Knife Crime in Enfield has increased by 10.4% in the year ending 2019 compared to the previous year. London has experienced a small decrease in Knife Crime of 0.9%.
- xii) Knife Crime offences have continued to rise month on month since April 2019, with June recording 81 offences the highest number of offences this year, falling to the 2nd highest level of 68 offences in July 2019.
- xiii) Non-Domestic Knife Crime victims under 24 make up 49% (n=78) of all knife crime injury victims in Enfield and overall there has been a reduction of 14.3%, with 78 victims in the last year, compared to 91 the previous year.

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- xiv) There were 2,622 Residential Burglaries in Enfield in the year ending July 2019, compared to 2403 in the previous year, an increase of 9.1%. Enfield is significantly above London which recorded an increase of 2.1% in the same period.
- xv) Enfield is a large borough with an estimated 131,707 households (GLA Estimates 2017) which equates to a rate of 20 residential burglaries in the last year per 1000 households in Enfield, compared to 22 residential burglaries in our neighbouring borough Haringey.
- xvi) In the year ending July 2019 there were a total of 7614 Violence Against the Person offences (VAP) recorded in Enfield, compared to 6802 offences the previous year, equating to an increase of 11.9%. In London there was a smaller increase of 4.7% in the same period.
- xvii) There were 5680 Domestic Abuse Incidents recorded in the year ending July 2019 in Enfield, compared to 5,754 incidents in the previous year, equating to a decrease of 1.3% (this is incorrectly detailed in the report as an increase)
- xviii) In the year ending May 2019 there was a total of 9,218 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls compared to 8,850 calls the previous year, an increase of 4.2%. In London there has been an increase of 8.2% in the same period.
- xix) June 2019 recorded the highest number of Prostitution Related Activity calls across the whole year, recording 21 calls in Upper Edmonton ward.
- xx) 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:

- The number one priority in Enfield is keeping young people safe. Bids are currently being made to fund 22 projects to tackle Serious Youth Violence. Enfield has also recently been granted some money from the Home Office to tackle Serious Crime. The demand and need for Enfield to receive additional resource is high, but unfortunately Enfield is often seen as it was historically, as part of Middlesex by funders as opposed to one of the 32 London boroughs. However, this is now being reconsidered by some funders which hopefully will lead to a re-evaluation.
It has been a challenging time since the merger of Enfield and Haringey Police that took place in January 2019 to form the North Area Basic Command Unit. There have also been ongoing Police demands around public order events in Central London, where some of our Enfield officers have been abstracted to attend these events. This is less than helpful when there is a lack of resource in the Borough to deal with the ongoing issues.
- Data was not readily available for this meeting on the establishment of the new structure set up at the North Area Basic Unit or the actual officer vacancies in Enfield. However, this information would be provided for a future meeting.

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Action: Police/Susan O'Connell

- With regards to Serious Youth Crime, members also requested a ward by ward breakdown of this data. Again, this would be provided for the next meeting.

Action: Andrea Clemons/Susan O'Connell.

- Some excellent work has taken place between the Police, local schools and the Love Your Doorstep Community Patrol initiative in Enfield Town to address the number of incidents in which school children had been attacked during their lunchbreaks and after school. The Chair had himself attended one of the patrols to see it in action. The new CCTV in Holly Walk (which had been a hotspot for these crimes) should be up and running in approximately two weeks. Problematic areas where robberies had taken place have been targeted and arrests made.
- Members discussed the perception that crime is far worse in the Eastern as opposed to the Western sides of the Borough in that there were clearly various hotspots across the whole of Enfield. It was agreed that Police resources should best be targeted in addressing the hotspots regardless of which wards they fall in the Borough. The proper question needs to be what level of policing is needed to get crime in Enfield under control.
- Residents raised concerns regarding the continued levels of prostitution, particularly along the Fore Street corridor. Although an increase in police presence had been noted the problem was still ongoing. Andrea advised that considerable targeted work is taking place to address this situation. The Council's Estate's Team are carrying out work including gating of areas, improved lighting and looking at out buildings (e.g. pram shelters etc.) to ascertain if these are needed. This work is resource intensive, but this was not a reason to give up on it.
- Questions were raised regarding 'County Lines' and explanations were provided by the Police. It was said that a lot of young people being put into County Lines are being exploited therefore it is imperative to address the root cause and this is usually further up the drug line. Reference was made to a production being shown in schools called Chelsea's Choice. This play was created to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and the devastating impact it can have on a young person's life, while educating young people about how they can keep themselves safe. Members and residents in attendance agreed that it would be most useful to invite parents into schools to see this play. Andrea agreed that this was something that could be re-visited in an attempt to engage further with parents.

Action: Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety in conjunction with the Head of Education.

- A resident felt that it was important to educate parents in spotting the signs of their children becoming involved in criminal activity. Children and young people are often being offered a more attractive way of life through crime than what their parents can offer them. She felt that different ways of parenting should be looked at and it was therefore important for the Police, Council, schools and other partnerships to engage with parents at the earliest opportunity.

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- A huge amount of analysis has taken place around SYV. We know when, where and who but the problem is knowing why young people become involved in youth violence. Further work is taking place with Public Health consultants by treating violence in the same way as a contagious disease. The focus of this work is with people involved in or affected by youth violence in an attempt to drill down and address this situation.
- Further concerns were raised by residents regarding ongoing issues on Green Lanes (at the boundary between the A406 and Haringey) whereby young school girls are continually harassed by individuals sitting outside the local cafes. This issue has been reported on numerous occasions to the CAPE meetings, Police and the Safer Neighbourhood Team but to no avail. Acting Chief Inspector Chris Byrne agreed to follow up on this matter outside of the meeting.
- Discussions took place regarding the Beryl Dockless Bike Hire scheme in Enfield and the problems surrounding this. It was reported that a high proportion of the bikes have been vandalised or stolen and questions were raised as to what is being done to address this. Andrea advised that the reporting of vandalised/stolen bikes should be directed to the Police. In terms of crime prevention there is CCTV in place at points where the bikes are stored. The Chair, Councillor Anderson, said this is a huge problem that needs to be resolved as it is putting at risk the viability of the scheme and that it seems to an organised approach that needs to be dealt with swiftly.
- With regards to burglaries in the Borough Andrea advised that the next round of the MetTrace Project would soon be implemented. The Community Safety Unit would also be commissioning a service for vulnerable victims of burglary which will include lock changes. A camera scheme was soon to be installed in Grange Ward.
- In response to a question regarding conviction rates, it was advised that this was very specific data which could be circulated.
- In reference to the report the Chair, Councillor Anderson made reference to the way that the figures were presented i.e. via number of crimes committed in each Borough rather than the percentage of crimes per head of population and felt that presenting the figures in isolation did not always allow for proper interpretation and suggested that future reports to the Panel should include this sort of comparative data.

The Chair thanked Andrea for her informative report and looked forward to receiving future updates.

231. UPDATE FROM THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Carl Cooper from the London Fire Brigade provided a brief overview on the various initiatives currently being undertaken by the LFB in an attempt to reduce crime. He stated that they work closely with all their blue light partners and the Local Authority and detailed information was provided on the five schemes currently in place. These are:

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- **LIFE- Local Intervention Fire Education**

This is an intensive four-day course facilitated by Fire and Rescue staff and firefighters at fire stations for young people between the ages of 14 and 17. The course is based on the role of the firefighter and participants take part in a range of activities. The programme also offers the opportunity to develop a range of skills which include leadership, social skills, communication and team work. The aim of the course is to develop skills and experience to deter young people from anti-social behaviour, as well as learn skills to enable them to succeed and live safe and healthy lives.

Since 1st April 2019, 3 LIFE courses have been held at Tottenham Fire Station covering the boroughs of Enfield and Haringey.

- **Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Scheme (JFIS)**

This education-based programme works with the child and their family to address fire-setting behaviour through identifying its cause, looking at the consequences of such actions and providing one to one, tailored fire safety education and advice. This scheme is targeted to potential arsonists or those children showing that tendency. The team are currently working with four young children in Enfield.

- **Safe Drive, Stay Alive (SDSA)**

SDSA is an annual road safety theatre production education initiative. The main method for safety message delivery is through five speakers who share stories of personal experiences with road traffic collisions. It is aimed at young people (aged 17-25 inclusive) pre-learner, learner, newly qualified drivers and their passengers. This initiative seeks to influence young peoples' attitudes and behaviours toward five risk-relevant driving practices. The London Borough of Enfield have been a long-time deliverer of SDSA in partnership with LFB, LAS and the Met.

- **Visual Audits**

The Brigade has a continued focus on reducing the number of deliberate fires in London. In order to achieve even further reductions, staff will carry out regular visual audits to areas where communities have suffered a high number of deliberate fires. The aim of visual audits is to protect people (both the public and fire-fighters), property and the environment from harm by using statutory responsibility to prevent fires.

- **Junior Citizens Events (JC)**

These events are multi-agency run by the Police and/or Local Authority. The London Fire Brigade (LFB) has been participating at borough level in JC events for many years. The events target

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schoolchildren between 9-11 years and take them through interactive scenarios from which they learn important safety information.

Carl then went on to provide information on the upcoming work taking place. This included:

- The first Enfield Fire Cadet Unit for 14-17-year olds will open in early 2020 at a fire station to be confirmed. The year long course which will have inputs on crime prevention, impact of gangs, knife crime etc will be attended by 15 fire cadets and supporting volunteers.
- LFB, Met Police and LAS are also launching a joint project in 2020 (date TBC) called 'Safety First' which will offer a free one day visit to secondary schools (year 8s) in Enfield on consequences covering topics such as arson, PREVENT, gangs, knives and gun crime etc.

In conclusion Carl said that most of these schemes are run by firefighters who give up their own time to deliver these various projects.

Andrea said that the Community Safety Team work closely with the LFB and witness first-hand the great work they do. She was therefore very pleased that the work of the LFB was now being recognised by the Crime Scrutiny Panel.

Members were most encouraged by the information Carl had provided and were hopefully that these ongoing schemes would result in some positive outcomes. It was suggested that it would be good practice and most useful for this briefing to go to all Councillors.

Following Carl's update, the following comments/Questions were raised:

Q. Are high-rise inspections up to date?

A. This is on-going work which is always evolving. A risk data base is in place to grade the priorities and the LFB are working closely with all partners to resolve the high-rise situation.

Q. What can be done about fire safety concerns in houses of multiple occupancy (HMO)?

A. Houses of Multiple Occupancy are appearing all over the Borough but unfortunately the LFB are not always aware of these. Where the LFB are informed of an HMO they respond immediately as it is a priority. It should also be remembered that fire risks do not only apply to HMO's and newbuilds but are also an issue where renovations/change of structure have taken place at a property.

The Chair thanked Carl for his update and expressed his thanks to all the professionals for attending the meeting and for the work they do to keep our Borough safe. Although the Crime Scrutiny committee are here to challenge, question and scrutinise services, the work taking place is recognised and fully appreciated.

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AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2019.

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2019 subject to the following amendments:

Minute No: 18: Welcome and Apologies

- Councillor Mustafa Cetinkaya was listed as a member of the Panel even though he was in the event, not in attendance.
- The Chair (Cllr Lee David-Sanders) had declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is the Enfield and Haringey Greater London Assembly Conservative Candidate for the 2020 Mayoral Elections.

233. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

NOTED the Work Programme 2019/20.

Members agreed that the Work Programme priorities should align well with the SSCB priorities.

Councillor Daniel Anderson suggested in reference to the comments raised above about the presentation of the crime figures that a broader analysis of the statistics may be useful in order for the Panel to obtain a clearer understanding of the current situation in the Borough. He would welcome a conversation with Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety outside of the meeting.

234. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED the dates of future meetings as follows:

28th January 2020
17th March 2020

Meetings will commence at 7:30pm