

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2020**

**MEMBERS:** Councillors Lee David-Sanders (Chair), Kate Anolue, Sinan Boztas, , Ayfer Orhan, Yasemin Brett, Joanne Laban (Vice Chair) and Derek Levy

**Officers:** Tony Theodoulou (Executive Director People), Ivana Price (Head of Service for Young People and Community Safety, Andrea Clemons (Head of Community Safety), Superintendent Chris Jones (Met Police), Acting Superintendent Dayle Speed (Met Police), Acting Police Sergeant Eren Emin (Met Police), Andy Ellis (Governance & Scrutiny), Susan O'Connell (Governance & Scrutiny)

**Also Attending:** 4 members of the public

## **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillor Pite.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2 SEPTEMBER 2020**

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020.

## **4. PROSTITUTION IN ENFIELD**

Superintendent Chris Jones and Acting Police Sergeant Eren Emin introduced this report.

Noted:

- The presentation in the agenda pack is on Operation Boxster, this is a dedicated operation in the Fore Street area covering both Enfield and Haringey and has been a full-time operation for four to five months.
- This was an extremely difficult long-standing problem.
- This is a partnership led approach.
- The presentation covers; background and history, operation objectives, command structure, complaints, engagement, designing out crime with Enfield Council, enforcement action, days of action results and the future vision.
- Fore street has been known as Enfield's "Red Light District" for the last 10 years.

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- In 2015 a sex worker was stabbed to death whilst stood on Fore street N18 and between 2017-18 there were two stranger rapes of sex workers.
- Although there has been engagement with sex workers for many years, through charities and support agencies this has not reduced either the number of sex workers or the high levels of ASB and other related crimes.
- In November 2019 Operation Boxster was launched as a multi-agency and partnership operation. In June 2020 this became a permanent team made up of 1 Police Sergeant and 6 Police Constables.
- The operational objectives and the command structure are detailed on pages 9 and 10 of the agenda pack.
- The police receive complaints through 101, Met website and through Twitter. All of which are regularly monitored. Common complaints are; condoms left everywhere; they are doing business in front of my house; Fore street is covered with sex workers and the area is filled with gang members using sex workers.
- There is a balance of engagement against enforcement, many partnership meetings take place and guidance is taken from multiple outreach projects.
- Unfortunately, services offered by these outreach projects are often refused due to the amount of money they are making.
- Examples were provided within the presentation of work undertaken with Enfield Council to design out crime.
- Operation Boxster officers work majority late shifts and night shifts to target high levels of ASB, sex work and crime in the N18 area.
- Sex worker and kerb crawler enforcement is taking place with multiple arrests achieving a 96% conviction rate.
- At the start of the operation 36 persistent sex workers were identified, through engagement and enforcement there has been an overall reduction of 76%., although some has slowly started to return
- In excess of 27 vehicles in the last three months have been seized following proactive stops.
- This operation also targets those supplying drugs following intelligence led warrants multiple drugs and weapons have been seized: 11 knives, 2 firearms and 63 separate drug seizures since June 2020.
- Moving forward the vision is to radically reduce the number of sex workers operating on the streets of Enfield, mitigate the risks associated with sex work and increase the sense of safety with the local community and local residents. The robust zero tolerance approach will continue.

Questions, queries and comments made:

1. In response to a query on where the clientele comes from in Fore Street members were advised that this is a roughly a 50/50 split between those living locally or within the area and those who are passing through.

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2. Has Covid 19 reduced clientele numbers in the area. Members were advised that it is believed this is not due to Covid, numbers went up during the major part of lockdown. This meant that it was easier to identify and target those who have not previously been targeted.
3. Given that this is such a long-standing problem what is different about the current objectives and operation? Does the success that has been seen mean that the problem has been eliminated or displaced. As it is stated that engagement is often refused is this the biggest inhibition to previous initiatives. Superintendent Jones advised that previously the police were dedicating 1 or 2 days roughly every 6 weeks to try and tackle the problem. This is not robust or consistent enough approach. This would also be effected by operational demands and other competing priorities. There are significant issues with violence within the North Area BCU. This meant that the problem was not getting a consistent fulltime approach. Having a dedicated team with single points of contact within the police whose job is to concentrate in that area.
4. Displacement, anecdotal evidence that some has moved to other parts of London. Sex workers in the Fore Street area are generally speaking there is a large proportion Eastern European females, around 20% British class A drug users that are supporting a habit. Arrest and sentencing of those addicted does not act as deterrent, they need help and diversion instead. The police are working with the modern day slavery teams and other specialist units on the Eastern European element. Ladies who are stopped from an Eastern European background claim that they are not being coerced or controlled in any way. However, there is concern that this is not true. There is also a cohort operating for financial gain. Help from central government with extra policing filling in gaps in neighbourhood and schools policing has enabled a dedicated team to be put together to work on a specific problem.
5. Is education still being used for the clientele to try to steer them away from this activity. This was previously used and was successful and was part of lots of different tactics to tackle this issue. A dedicated team has allowed a more consistent holistic approach to be taken with all activities coordinated. There is also an operation that maps out brothels and sex worker activity inside properties. This allows oversight and knowledge to map out where the issues are.
6. Brexit will this increase there are a number of things ongoing but cannot be discussed at present
7. Work with communities on cultural element. The police have recruited to their Independent Advisory Group a lawyer who works directly for Roma communities. There is a meeting with an Eastern European group around links and cultures. The police have also been able to recruit eastern European officers who have been utilised on patrol, understand cultural elements and can speak to some of the workers in their own language
8. Other issues identified as part of this work how is this feeding in and how are you working with other stakeholders to see the impact. The Fore Street corridor has always been a hotspot for criminal activity;

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having a dedicated team in a geographical area has had an impact. This helps build trust with shopkeepers, residents and business owners. Officers work late shifts and night shifts and Safer Neighbourhood teams operate during the day and pick up the stakeholder engagement.

9. Drug supply which drives violence during lockdown for Covid the price of drugs has gone up the availability and access for supplies and dealers has diminished. This has increased violence around this. Covid has a limited effect on the Boxster approach the initial success is down to a coordinated approach with permanent dedicated team with named police officers opens channels of communications for community members the local authority and business and assists partnership working

The Chair thanked officers for the overview and their presentation on this major long standing issue and the wider impact of this work, pleased to see the focus on the future. This item will come back to the committee's final meeting for an update on the continuation of this work and the wider impact within the community.

### **5. BURGLARY IN ENFIELD**

Superintendent Chris Jones and temporary Superintendent Dayle Speed introduced this report.

#### **NOTED:**

- The burglary performance is detailed in full on the first page of the presentation. It was highlighted that Enfield has seen a month on month reduction since April 2020. October has seen the highest level of detections in the past 12 months and that 14 wards are showing a reduction and 7 are showing an increase in burglary with Turkey Street the most challenging ward.
- Early on this year a review of the approach to burglary in North Area, The NA burglary strategy is detailed on page 25 of the agenda, the first 2 points are corporate targets. To achieve these targets, it is necessary to upskill staff to deliver improved performance and improve public confidence through promoting good work of police and partners
- From a response end and leading on burglary have looked to identify key people that it was felt could deliver around the challenges of burglary in a dedicated team. It took around 3 months to identify the team of a detective sergeant, and 10 uniformed Police constables from a pool of approximately 450 response officers for people aspiring to be future detectives. By the end of June this year the dedicated burglary focus unit was up and running.
- Burglary is tackled through reducing victimisation, targeting offenders and making the location hostile to offending. All three must be targeted together. Challenges for North Area is to bring together roughly 1200 police staff, two local authorities and all the various supporting partners. It can be challenging to ensure that everyone is working as one team particularly during lockdown.

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- All key stakeholders come together every 6 weeks, the police have other performance meetings where burglary is discussed. This is very important.
- Page 26 provides details of Enfield Burglary Offence levels, residential burglary dropped significantly during lockdown, when more people were at home, lots of shops and businesses closed and less people were in the streets so could be more easily recognised by the police. Between 10am to 3pm is the most vulnerable period for residential burglary. During lockdown business and community offences went up as shops and business closed which made them vulnerable. Some quick time analysis has been done on where vulnerable locations ahead of the second lockdown so that patrol patterns can be adjusted accordingly.
- Page 27 of the agenda pack details Enfield Burglary Detection rate. These relates to the people that are arrested and in the majority of cases charged. The months of April and May 20 were highlighted, these must be seen in the context of low levels of offending. These are actually normal levels of arrests and charging of offenders. There were low detection rates for September but these are reversed for October as Enfield is expected to have the highest recorded detections in the past 12 months.
- Burglary is a crime where the majority of offences are committed by a minority of people. One of the challenges in Enfield is the large borough, with major routes going in and out and across Enfield. There are different demographics with expensive properties with lots of valuables through to drugs and properties where cannabis might be growing. Understanding the problems is key to finding solutions, investment has been made in understanding intelligence and allows the opportunity for sustained success if there is an understanding of why there is a problem.
- There will be another 6 officers in the Dedicated burglary Focus unit from the middle of November. These have been upskilled and are all future aspiring detectives.
- Central North (Camden and Islington) Basic Command Unit have undertaken a peer review on burglary and provided some learning on this.
- Challenges highlighted include; the reality that low sentences are given for business and community offence and Covid has created challenges to the criminal justice system with delays to trials and court
- Turkey Street and Enfield Lock wards remain challenging. There will be a deep drive as part of a problem profile into why this is the case.
- October has been an exceptionally good month in Enfield with high levels of detections. This has included significant arrests. October is the most vulnerable period and the impact of October's activity should be seen over the next couple of months.

Comments, queries and questions raised:

1. Burglary has been a historic problem and genuine worry for residents. Pleased to see that potentials detectives have been

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identified for the future, aware that previously this had been a role that it was challenging to recruit to.

2. Members expressed concern over potentially lack of courts due to Covid. In relation to burglary will the police be doing social distanced days where smart water, alarms etc are provided. Councillors receive tip off from residents on what is happening in their wards. Residents have advised that keep telling the police, but nothing seems to happen. Is there a more effective communication that could be used.

The police advised that can charge offenders and remand for court the next day. Their experience is that only the most serious and at-risk offenders for the most serious offences and considered to be remanded to prison. This is to do with space and backlog. The preventative measures are targeted. A crime prevention visit is undertaken after a burglary has occurred, officers will also visit officer opposite, adjacent and behind the address to provide advice. How to capture community intelligence is key for the police, must ensure that the police are accessible. All neighbourhood teams have surgeries and forums, lots of people know their local officers who are proactive in their wards is one form of communication. Crime stoppers can always be used. Aware one of the concerns is delays in picking up CCTV, which dents confidence in the police. This is a work in progress and concerns are acknowledged. However, this has to be judged against what is going on in Enfield, Haringey and London at that time. This means that sometimes resources are diverted due to other priorities. Could you use Love your doorstep for example could people post in this site. Will look at further. Working in partnership with the local authority there is the OWL online community messaging system. This links people in and shares live crime intelligence and data. The police also have an Enfield Facebook and Twitter site which is monitored up to 10pm. There are also other mechanisms the police do work with Emma Rigby from Love your doorstep around school robberies and preventing serious youth violence.

3. Members raised that the public perception can be that the police do not take burglary seriously. There appears to be a disconnect with the perception from the public and the work of the police. What can be done to convince/ persuade the public that there is value in them sharing intelligence and reporting crimes and that burglary is a priority for the police. Police advised the communication could be better, the OWL messaging system will assist, Councillor Ward Forums assist. It is important that good news messages get out to the public. An example was provided of an article for Enfield Over 50's forum of proactive policing operation helps to demonstrate that the police take this seriously. Sometimes volume and risk is a balancing act. Good news for neighbourhood policing is a proposal for a huge uplift in neighbourhood officers. The next tranche of increased policing will be focused on Safer Neighbourhood, meaning increased ward officers and dedicated town centre teams. Hopefully this will contribute in confidence to report crimes. It is very

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important that all crimes are reported. This feeds into intelligence and overlay of where crime is happening requests for resources directed into areas where intelligence is held. Without reporting resources will go to areas where crime has been reported.

Officers were thanked for their presentation.

### **6. SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety introduced this report.

#### **NOTED:**

- The refreshed Partnership Plan has been completed and is due to come to the next meeting. The same priorities have been agreed 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.

With the agreement of the Community Safety Partnership a requirement has been added for some additional communication around vehicle crime and a strong partnership focus on tackling illegal drugs.

- The report provides an update on all crime types. Most crime for the year ending September 2020 are down with the notable exception of Domestic Abuse incidents, Anti-social behaviour, Hate Crime and some types of vehicle crime.
- Serious Youth Violence has reduced significantly, partly due to Covid and the closure of schools with less people out on the street and there has been some targeted work by the police assisted by partners. However, Enfield has the highest number of victims in London. Serious Youth Violence is a group of crimes that are violence and robbery committed by or on young people aged 19 or under. Knife crime with injury is down by 42.5% in this period. There has recently been a report into Stop and Search with 11 recommendations that are being adopted by the MPS with an action plan to report changes via the local community monitoring group.
- Violence against women and girls and domestic abuse with injury has remained static. However, incidents of domestic abuse have gone up by almost 9%. During lockdown, from 1 May the Director of Children's Services has worked in partnership to develop a Domestic Abuse Hub where members of the public can call directly to ask for help. The Hub has seen an increasing number of referrals.
- Hate Crime has risen by 46% over the year to September 2020 and this is predominately racist and religious motivated crime. An analyst

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has been tasked with looking into this which found that in the largest category these were vitriolic neighbourhood disputes.

- Anti-social behaviour reports rose by 65.5% increase during the last 12 months. This is already a high-volume crime. In the main these have been noncompliance with Covid restrictions, neighbourhood disputes and disorders including unlicensed music events.
- As bonfire night approaches working in partnership with the police to develop contact points for this and during the upcoming weekend for the local authority and the police to ensure that lines of communication are open to ensure the best response.
- Recently received verification of extension of funding from the GLA, this is used to fund a number of interventions to drive forward the partnership plan. Some examples of this are OWL scheme, mentoring for young people, some targeted outreach including A & E and domestic advocates.

### Questions, comments and queries:

1. Members suggested that it would be helpful for future reports in the summary points on the first page a headline level reason for the increases or decreases would be helpful. It would also be helpful if actual figures could be provided with percentages. Andrea Clemons confirmed that these changes could be made for the next report to the committee.
2. Following concerns raised by a member on animal cruelty. It was confirmed that the remit that is followed is to report back on the priority areas for the Safer & Stronger Communities Board and animal cruelty is not one of the limited priorities at present.
3. Members raised concern as to whether we are confident that we are capturing crimes reporting domestic abuse incidents effectively at present given lockdown. The domestic abuse hub was intended to augment the other services that were there as well. This is additional and has dedicated people taking calls with access to housing and social work experts to help ensure that when an enquiry comes in that it is dealt with robustly and efficiently. There are also funded domestic violence advocates that sit within council housing services. There has been publicity around the hub. There is another poster campaign due to go out prior to Christmas. The Christmas, new year holiday period is traditionally and historically a peak period. The end of November is White Ribbon Day where a conference would have been held for professionals around developments around tackling domestic abuse. The focus instead is on activities to support 16 days of action starting on the 25 November.
4. Serious Youth Violence in Enfield Highway appears to stand out what is happening to address this and why is this the case? This area has come up at tasking meetings as an area that is growing slightly. Through the North Area Violence reduction group (which is a multi-agency group spanning both boroughs) looking at some analysis for hotspots, will need to look at this ward in more detail to gain understanding and intelligence on the problem.

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5. Following recent newsletter from Southgate showing significant increases in incidents of catalytic converter theft. Is there any data to indicate whether this is random across the borough or ward specific or certain cars are targeted? Members were advised that recently a significant arrest has been made of somebody removing catalytic converters. The police advised that there are organised criminal networks that commit this crime on mass. This has been picked up by one of the Mets central teams. This is not unique to Enfield most London boroughs are having these waves of thefts. The vehicles targeted would need to be clarified. A catalytic converter can be removed within 15 seconds making this very tricky to deal with. There have also been other recent arrests which are believed to be linked to organised crime group. Offenders take 15-20 in a day and then remove to another London area.

Officers were thanked for their presentation.

### **7. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

The work programme was noted.

### **8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of future meetings were noted.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.