

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY STANDING WORKSTREAM HELD ON THURSDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 2015

Members: Councillors Joanne Laban, Elaine Hayward, Mary Maguire
Councillors Sarah Doyle and Ahmet Hasan attended for part of the meeting,

Officers: Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety, Rod Bennett, Community Safety Information Manager, Susan Payne, Corporate Scrutiny Officer, Elaine Huckell, Scrutiny Secretary.

Also Attending: Councillor Yasemin Brett, interested member, for part of the meeting, Superintendent Carl Robinson, Acting Police Sergeant Steve Hicks,
Co-Optees – Natalie Sherman and Katerina Stoyanova and approximately 10 members of the public.

174. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Hayward and Councillor Hasan.

The Chair welcomed all attendees and in particular the Co-optees to the meeting - Natalie Sherman and Katerina Stoyanova, who have been involved with the PEP (Parent Engagement Panel) and Enfield Youth Parliament.

175. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

176. CONFIRMATION OF CO-OPTEES

The appointment of non-voting co-opted members of the Standing Crime Workstream were approved for the 2015-16 Municipal Year.

177. SSCB PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Received a report from Rod Bennett on the SSCB Performance Monitoring and Partnership Plan.

NOTED:

1. Performance for a large number of offences were generally showing a reduction – Total Notifiable Offences (-0.6%). ASB calls (-21.7%), Burglary (-10.3%), Theft from Motor vehicles (-22%). The MOPAC 7 crime categories are showing a -7.5% decrease in the last 12 months.
2. There has however been an increase in knife crime in the borough and three of the MOPAC indicators are showing increases in the last 12 months including Criminal Damage (+3.1%, Robbery (+12.4%) and Violence with Injury (+10.9%) an increase in Violence against the person of (+11%).

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3. The London borough performance tables show the percentage change for the MOPAC 7 Crime figures for the last year to August 2015 at (-6.5%), which puts Enfield in the first 5 of the 32 boroughs. For Total Notifiable Offences at (-0.4%) - Enfield is in the first 6.
4. For vehicle crime, the majority of incidents are thefts from motor vehicles which include a high number of number plate thefts. Whilst the figures for burglary show a 10.3% decrease from the last 12 months, the winter seasonal peak is to come and therefore current initiatives are targeting this crime— SmartWater is currently being deployed through the Neighbourhood Watch schemes and through Metrace.
5. Violence against women and girls show a slight rise this year with approximately 50 additional reports to police of reported domestic abuse violence with injury. There has been improved reporting and a small number of people account for a large proportion of cases. There has been a significant increase in the number of MARAC referrals.
6. Serious Youth Violence – shows a 19.1% rise in the last 12 months although compared to 2011/12 there is a 1.7% decrease. London overall has had a 13.6% increase. The north and east London areas are seeing a higher increase in this crime.

The following issues were raised

1. Although statistics show we have a +12.4% increase in robbery in the last 12 months, there is actually a -20.3% reduction compared to 2011/12. It was pointed out that the baseline figure is given from 2011/12. Superintendent Carl Robinson pointed out that more work was being carried out with gang members which has led to more information being reported to the police and more incidents recorded. Where a robbery has occurred when a knife is also evident, this will now be recorded under two crime categories.
2. Reference was made to a stabbing in Turkey Street and the need for neighbourhood policing. It was stated that Operation Teal has been used to target gang members.
3. When asked how many incidents of gun crime there had been, it was answered that there had been 10 gun discharges over the previous year. The Commissioner is particularly concerned about this issue and is looking at whether there should be more 'stop and searches' carried out.
4. The changing demographics/ diversity of the borough was raised. It was thought the north and east London areas, which are seeing a higher increase in crime, may be as a result of the changing demographics of the area. This occurs as high numbers of people move out of the more affluent areas of London to other boroughs. It was stated that there was approximately an additional 50,000 people living in Enfield since 2008 and many of those often move from one area to another, and therefore they may not feel an attachment/ affinity with their neighbourhood. The youth offending team carry out work with youngsters in the area and reference was also made to Youth Community Action. It was suggested that further details/ statistics could be included in future.
5. Some members of the public were concerned that although statistics appear to show that the number of crimes, are going down in the area, there appear to be a number of crimes that are going unreported, especially in relation to car crime. It was asked that if there are particular areas that are of concern to

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residents that they inform the police in order that they can target resources in these areas. This is especially relevant as we are approaching the winter when more burglaries occur, as they are undertaken under the cover of darkness.

6. A member of the public spoke of the connection between crimes. She thought the increasing level/ supply of drugs would have an adverse effect on a number of other crimes. It was agreed that the use of drugs and alcohol has a significant impact on crimes committed. Superintendent Robinson said the police do target those people who are 'dealing' drugs. However he pointed out that when a 'dealer' is removed another one will often emerge to take their place.
7. A concern was raised that gang members who currently carry knives may move on to having guns, even though there is a higher penalty to be paid for carrying guns and a greater risk of fatality.
8. A member of the public raised concerns that gang members are often hiding knives in resident's gardens. She also said she saw people dealing/ using drugs openly on streets.
9. It was asked if the cases of domestic abuse being recorded are those reported by the victims and if there are dedicated officers to deal with these cases. It was answered that cases are reported by the victims involved, and also by others, including doctors. Doctors are being asked to make routine enquiries to ask people how they have received their injury. When a report is made there are dedicated officers to deal with the case, although initially it may be the emergency response team who are first involved. It was stated that all officers are trained in dealing with these situations.
10. Serious Youth violence has shown a 19.1% increase in Enfield in the last year and it was asked how schools were dealing with this matter. Police Sergeant Steve Hicks covered this matter under item 7.
11. A member of the public asked about the training undertaken by the police when working with the community on domestic incidents, she was concerned that in the past victims of domestic/ emotional abuse had sometimes not been taken seriously. It was confirmed that all police officers are trained in this field.

178. UPDATE ON POLICE NUMBERS

An update on Police numbers in the Borough was provided by Superintendent Carl Robinson. He stated that the target for Enfield Police is 561 police officers. There are currently 554.2 police officers in post which comprises both full time and part time officers. Officers work in three main areas namely - Emergency response, Neighbourhoods, and CID.

The vacancy rate for Enfield is shown as 1.9% (August figure). He spoke of the need for the service to be flexible as officers progress in the force and move to other boroughs. Also officers have to provide support for other areas when necessary such as for the Notting Hill Carnival.

The following issues were raised

1. Reference was made to 'Restricted Officer Strength' shown in the Boroughs comparison table. This represents officers who are not fully fit.

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2. When asked how young people can be encouraged to join the Police force, Police Sergeant Steve Hicks spoke of the junior police cadets where children from 10 years of age can attend and take part in activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and where there will be visits from police dog handlers and firearms officers.
3. When asked how the target strength for Enfield is determined it was noted that this was based on a resource allocation formula, that relates to crime rate, calls and other data. However targets were still based on 2008 figures.
4. There are 41 PCSO's in Enfield at present and many felt that their presence was very welcome as they have a good knowledge of the local area. However decisions regarding the use of PCSO's will need to be considered for the future. Andrea Clemons spoke of this further under item 6.
5. It is anticipated that the Enfield police target number of 561 posts should be reached prior to Christmas and hoped that these positions would include some Sergeant posts. It was noted that Police Officers have to move to another borough when promoted.
6. It was requested that details of the diversity make- up of the borough's Police force be included with the minutes. *(These are attached, details are also included for Specials and Police Staff).*

179. UPDATE ON POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

Andrea Clemons spoke of Police Community Support Officers and said discussion on this issue would understandably need to be deferred, possibly until a decision is made by the MPS.

The following points were raised

- There are currently 24 PCSO's in the borough.
- The Metropolitan Police will need to make savings of between, approximately 24% to 40% for future years. There has been a promise to maintain 32,000 police officers for the London region. More details will be known by the end of the year. Public consultation will be undertaken on future arrangements and this will be brought back to the Scrutiny workstream.
- Councillor Laban suggested that a meeting be arranged to look at parks contracts with PCSO's.
- Carl Robinson spoke of the positive impact of PCSO's. He said they provide a visible presence in the neighbourhood and are able to engage with local community and gather intelligence/ information. Although they do not have the same powers as police officers, they can bring in police officers to detain people where necessary.
- Tim Fellows, Chair of SNB (Safer Neighbourhood Board) spoke of the SNB's concern at the possible demise of PCSO's. Some reports said it was thought unlikely that there would be a termination of their use altogether and more likely that their numbers may be reduced.
- A member of the public said the PCSO's provided a useful conduit between the public and police force, that they had gathered a great deal of local information from his area regarding a brothel and drug houses.
- Andrea said the council funded PCSO's teams should always be considered as an additional resource to the warranted officers allocated to the borough.

180. KNIFE CARRYING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF SCHOOLS

A report was received from Police Sergeant Steve Hicks on the work of the Enfield Safer Schools Team and the work and education carried out by them to deter the carrying of weapons by young people.

He highlighted the following

- The Enfield Safer Schools Team consists of 14 officers. Some officers have one dedicated secondary school and others have 2. They also link with the local Primary School concentrating on years 5 and 6.
- The enforcement duty is seen as a last option, the main focus for officers is in gaining the trust of pupils and looking out for their general safety. This may involve patrols undertaken after school time. Advice is given to youngsters on how to reduce crime by looking after their property and recent initiative to immobilise their phone.
- Operation Crest is a project that has been undertaken in secondary schools and aimed at youth violence, knife crime and gang awareness. Presentations are given by police officers, a London Paramedic, an ex- offender and a bereaved mother also gives a speech. The presentation is hard- hitting and has been showed at 5 secondary schools. The aim is for all schools to receive the presentation by the end of the school year.
- Weapon sweeps have taken place to detect and deter the hiding of weapons. Every school has had 2 sweeps to date. Knife arches have also been used although there is a reticence by some head teachers in their use.

The following issues were raised

- a. A member of the public thought that some children may be too young to be exposed to this information. It was stated that a lot of young people thought the presentations and weapon searches were a good thing and felt protected as a result of them happening.
- b. It was asked how success from the Operation Crest project could be measured. Police Sergeant Steve Hicks said this was difficult to quantify but there is a questionnaire for young people to complete and sometimes this leads to follow up issues with young people involved.
- c. When asked what happens when a knife is found during a weapon sweep it was answered that a positive arrest policy is undertaken. It was noted that there were very few weapons actually found. School sanctions may also be appropriate for other items found such as for a school compass or craft scissors.
- d. Natalie Sherman said that together with some other parents from the Parent Engagement Panel she had seen the presentation as part of Operation Crest she thought it was an eye-opening and excellent project. She thought it would be useful for other parents to view this, especially as this subject was sometimes a difficult one to discuss with your child.
- e. It was discussed that the bereaved mother who has been working on Operation Crest was hoping to do more work with parents.
- f. Weapon sweeps are carried out at the beginning of school and it was asked if this would be better done at the end of the school day, as there was a concern that pupils may contact friends or hide something before going into school.

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Noted that PCSO's and plain clothes officers are present at this time and would be aware of any actions of this kind.

- g. When asked if parents are informed of future weapon searches, it was noted that at the beginning of term parents would be informed that as part of school policy weapon searches may be conducted. However a date for the search would not be given.
- h. Sergeant Hicks spoke of the schools where Operation Crest had taken place which included the PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) .
- i. It was asked if the project was similar to the 'Gangs Call- In'. The Gang- Call in was a targeted piece of work aimed at gang members, potential gang members, where people were invited to Wood Green Crown Court with paramedics, ex gang members and bereaved mothers spoke of the dangers involved. This was a joined up approach to encourage people to follow a more positive future with work options discussed.
- j. The Safer Schools officers are experienced people who work with Child Protection officers to help vulnerable children including 'Looked after Children'
- k. When asked about 6th form colleges, it was noted that although they do not come under the remit of Steve Hicks team, there are dedicated officers who go into colleges.
- l. It was confirmed that if youngsters are caught twice with a knife they should expect a custodial sentence. It was thought parents should be aware of this ruling.
- m. As large numbers of pupils at Enfield Schools come from outside the Borough it was thought that the formula for deciding Enfield police numbers should take this into account. It was mentioned that Councillors could lobby MOPAC for them to consider updating the formula used.
- n. If gang related issues are presented to the Safer Schools Team it was asked if these matters are passed on to the Gangs unit. It was noted that the Gangs unit would be informed as they would be able to look at an exit strategy.
- o. There are a large number of schools where knife arches are not able to be used due to head teachers reluctance to have them at their schools. Councillor Laban would discuss this issue with the Cabinet member in an effort to pursue this further.

Police Sergeant Steve Hicks was thanked for his report.

181. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

The Work Programme for 2015/16 was noted.

182. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 18 MARCH 2015

The Minutes of the 18 March 2015 were AGREED

183. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- A member of the public from Bowes ward spoke of his concern that the future 24/7 opening of the tube would lead to more incidents of burglaries and anti-social behaviour in this area

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- The legal aspects relating to the use of laughing gas canisters were discussed.

184. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Post Meeting Note that the date of the next Crime Scrutiny Standing Workstream has been moved from the 21 January 2016 to Tuesday 12 January 2016.

Information: This report provides diversity data of officers and staff by both Ethnicity and Gender											
Substantive Rank/Band	BME		BME Total	Ethnicity Unknown			Ethnicity Unknown Total	Non BME		Non BME Total	Gr To
	Female	Male		Female	Male	(blank)		Female	Male		
Band E	5	9	14	1			1	20	20	40	
Chief Inspector								1	1	2	
Chief Superintendent								1		1	
Detective Chief Inspector									1	1	
Detective Constable	4	11	15	1			1	12	20	32	
Detective Inspector								1	2	3	
Detective Sergeant								5	8	13	
Detective Superintendent					1		1				
Inspector								1	4	5	
Police Constable	19	56	75					120	254	374	
Police Sergeant	2	3	5					11	25	36	
Special Constable	12	24	36		1		1	23	47	70	
Special Inspector								1		1	
Special Sergeant		1	1						1	1	
Superintendent		1	1						1	1	
Unbanded	8	7	15	1	1		2	8	7	15	
(blank)				1	1		2				
	50	112	162	4	4		8	204	391	595	