

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 2024

MEMBERS: Councillors Michael Rye OBE (Chair), Chris Dey (Vice-Chair), Sinan Boztas, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Ahmet Oykener and Mahmut Aksanoglu

Officers: Doug Wilkinson (Director, Environment & Street Scene), Martin Rattigan (Head of Regulatory Services), Ivana Price (Head of Service, Young People & Community Safety), Alva Bailey (Interim Strategic Lead for Community Safety), Darren Woods (EPSC Manager, Community Safety) and Stacey Gilmour (Governance & Scrutiny Officer)

Also Attending: DCI Greg Coates, DCI Andrew Brien, Inspector Richard Lee, John Prior (Parent Engagement Network) and Leyla Riley (Enfield Youth Council member)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Eylem Yuruk who was substituted by Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu, Cllr Gina Needs (Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion) who was substituted by Cllr Ergin Erbil (Deputy Leader of the Council), Cllr Destiny Karakus and Cllr Adrian Grumi. Apologies were also received from Tony Theodoulou, (Executive Director, People) and Perry Scott (Executive Director, Environment & Communities).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received regarding any item on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023.

DCI Greg Coates and Inspector Richard Lee provided responses to the Police actions from the previous meeting which included an update on the number of Domestic Violence incidents in Enfield, which had been relatively stable for the past five years and clarification was also provided on the number of Enfield Police Officers currently on suspension or restricted duties. (4 suspended, 47 on restricted duties). Members were advised of the measures in place to support sexual offenders when released from prison which included a separate multi-agency meeting which looked at tiers of risk and managing the individual's release. Intervention work that takes place in prison is also extended when the prisoner is released.

CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.2.2024

In response to previous concerns raised by Members regarding the sharing of information from Police colleagues when there had been a major incident in the borough/individual Wards, Inspector Lee agreed that there was a degree of inconsistency regarding partnership messaging and there was a need to re-visit the distribution list to address any gaps, especially around Councillors receiving information. He agreed to take this back to the Ops Room to ensure that all Councillors are included on the Partnership Messaging list.

Action: Inspector Richard Lee

4. UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM AND REPORT ON THE WORK OF ENFIELD'S PUBLIC SAFETY CENTRES (CCTV), IMPACT ON CRIME PREVENTION & DETECTION

Martin Rattigan, Head of Regulatory Services introduced the report which provided an overview on the Enfield Public Safety Centre (EPSC) and the work of the CCTV centre, what it does and its impact on crime prevention and detection. Since the opening of the EPSC, it has helped the police in their investigations, enabling many arrests and supplying vital evidence for trials and prosecutions. It's continuing success is due to close working with the Metropolitan Police, Council services and external organisations to reduce crime and disorder and improve public safety and well-being. The EPSC continues to offer an essential operational tasking and incident assistance resource to the police and other users which has shown considerable performance growth since it was opened.

With regards to the Community Law Enforcement Team, Members were advised that due to the budget position there were no substantive further updates on this, however options were still being considered.

Questions were invited from Members.

In response to a question regarding the number of cameras in the borough it was advised that since its initial start with just three CCTV cameras in Enfield Town for the monitoring of parking enforcement the system has grown into a multi-functional control centre with 1200 cameras covering Council housing, corporate buildings and main highways, parks, shopping areas and industrial estates. The EPSC centre runs a 24/7 service by utilising technology and equipment to cover various operations including but not limited to: Public Space Cameras, Lone Worker Alarm Service, Intruder Alarm Monitoring and HRA (housing).

With regards to the monitoring of cameras, Officers advised that the CCTV operators are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round. Staff are regularly briefed with current information to ensure that the system is used as effectively as possible and if an incident occurs, the control room can send images to the police control room in real time to assist officers in attending the scene. Details were provided on a couple of examples of good proactive work that had been carried out by some of the team at the EPSC in which one

CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.2.2024

arrest was made and another helped save a life. The operators involved in both incidents were presented with a police award/certificate.

Information was provided on future technologies and upgrade opportunities which included the management and building upon the use of new equipment, technologies, and existing equipment/hardware to ensure the centre is future proofed. The EPSC also has a borough wide radio network that is resilient and connected into the fibre network. This allows a more flexible re-deployable solution of CCTV cameras by use of point-to-point radio connections, as well as use of 4G deployable camera units that can be operated live in the same way as on street fixed installations.

The Chair and Panel Members thanked Officers for providing the update and answering Members' questions.

5. SSCB PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - MONITORING UPDATE

Alva Bailey, Interim Strategic Lead for Community introduced the report which sets out police crime and anti-social behaviour performance and highlights the main offences including those that contribute to the priorities of the community safety partnership, known locally as the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. Key areas of note include the increases in violent offences recorded by the police. This continues to be a challenge for the borough, despite the ongoing efforts among partners to address them.

Further key points in the report were highlighted and it was noted that overall police recorded crimes have decreased in the borough by 1.9% in the year ending January 2024 when compared to the previous 12 months. Lower recording of offences such as robbery, drugs and theft from motor vehicles have contributed to the overall reduction. However, violent offences, including sexual offences, domestic abuse and knife crime have seen increases. There was also an increase in theft of motor vehicle over the period.

Questions were invited from Members.

In response to Members' concerns regarding the increase in high-harm offences, Alva advised that this is of particular concern to the community safety partnership and partners continue to work together to bring about reductions, safeguard vulnerable residents, support, and divert young people away from crime, and take enforcement actions against those that continue to pose risk of harm in the community.

In relation to knife crime, Members again raised concerns that these figures continue to increase and asked what measures were in place to address this issue. Alva advised that the partnership coordinates a range of responses, including targeted youth outreach in specific locations to engage and divert young people, deliver outreach to North Middlesex Hospital to provide support to victims of youth violence, and work with schools to support victims of youth violent and prevent escalation. There is ongoing targeted policing tactics, supported by the Council's CCTV surveillance and joint planning with

CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.2.2024

partners. The North Area Violence Reduction Group lead on development, coordination, and delivery of agreed actions to reduce violent crime across the BCU, covering Enfield and Haringey Boroughs. The group works to identify risks of violence and develop strategies to counter the opportunity for violence.

Further discussions took place regarding the drivers behind knife crime, and it was recognised that this was a huge problem across the whole of London with many young people carrying knives. It was also acknowledged that this was often related to conflict between gangs where drugs are the driver and currency of nearly all criminality in London. Another issue is the accessibility to purchase dangerous knives online with some individuals buying large quantities and selling them on through social media. The Police are working hard to address this issue which includes all the usual operational tactics including education and engagement activity as well as engaging with online retailers to influence and disrupt the importation and supply of knives, particularly the growing accessibility of dangerous knives which can be purchased online.

In response to concerns raised regarding the increase in hate crime, police colleagues advised that the Middle East conflict had contributed to this, and as such, a specialised Hate Crime Unit had now been set up to deal specifically with this crime type. Victims of this crime get treated as a priority and Neighbourhood Police Officers also visit local churches, mosques, and synagogues daily to ensure a focused and visible police presence. Detection rates and community cohesion has been good in the borough and, although it was recognised that there had been an increase in reported Hate Crime in Enfield, it was not a significant increase and was less than other parts of London.

Further information was provided on the Serious Violence Duty strategy which has recently been developed by the community safety partnership and a set of actions have been agreed aimed at achieving reductions by way of support and enforcement. An action plan is currently being developed, setting out clear expected outcomes and measures by which the partnership will assess progress. It was agreed that the action plan, once developed, will come to this Panel to be viewed and scrutinised.

Action: Alva Bailey

Discussions took place regarding the sanction detections rates detailed in the report and it was acknowledged that these rates were down to intelligence and people coming forward. It was also recognised that Councillor feedback to police regarding intelligence from their wards does also result in successful outcomes and Ward Councillors work hard to encourage residents to report concerns and crime. Inspector Richard Lee explained that the Neighbourhood Teams had now been re-organised and will now sit under one Inspector and it was hoped that this would result in more capacity to deal with Neighbourhood problems, especially around estates.

CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.2.2024

The Chair thanked Officers and the Police for the report and their attendance at the meeting.

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

NOTED the Crime Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2023/24.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the dates of future meetings as set out in the agenda.

The Chair thanked Members and officers for their time and contributions and the meeting ended at 20:30.