



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Women's Night-time Safety Charter (WNSC)
Report to	Healthy & Safe Communities Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting	25th September 2024
Cabinet Member	Cllr Gina Needs
Executive Director / Director	Director – Anne Stoker and Executive Director – Tony Theodoulou
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Ward(s) affected	All
Classification	Part 1 Public

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report sets out the background to the Mayor's Women's Night-time Safety Charter.
- 1.2. It sets out the steps that businesses need to take to adopt the Charter as well as other key elements that form core elements of support women and girls if they feel unsafe in an area.
- 1.3. The report also provides the outline of how and where officers intend to pilot the charter as part of a long-term plan to expand it across the borough.

2. Main Considerations for the Panel

2.1. Background to the Mayors Night-time Women's Safety Charter

- 2.2. The Mayors Women's Night-time Safety Charter came into effect in 2018, following two successful projects in Lambeth and Southwark.
- 2.3. The purpose of the Mayors Night-time safety Charter is work with businesses to create safe environments and is part of the Mayor's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and London's commitment to the UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces global initiative.

- 2.4. The Mayor has appointed a Night Czar, Amy Lamé, who has been in post since the initiative commenced.
- 2.5. The Safer Business Network has been appointed by the Mayor's Office to lead on London wide Charter. The Network co-ordinates and administers **Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs)** across London's.
- 2.6. All London Council's have signed up to the Mayor's Women's Night-time Safety Charter.
- 2.7. The charter sets out 7 Pledges that each business is required to work towards. The Charter Pledges are:-
 - Nominate a Champion in your organisation who actively promotes women's night safety.
 - Demonstrate to staff and customers that your organisation takes women's safety at night seriously, for example through a communications campaign.
 - Remind customers and staff that London is safe but tell them what to do if they experience harassment when working, going out or travelling.
 - Encourage reporting by victims and bystanders as part of your communications campaign.
 - Train staff to ensure that all women who report are believed.
 - Train staff to ensure that all reports are recorded and responded to.
 - Design your public spaces and workplaces to make them safer for women at night.
- 2.8. Enfield Council Women's Night time Safety Charter**
- 2.9. Enfield Council signed up to the Women's Night time Safety Charter in 2022. Progress to date includes:-
 - The Council produced a Domestic Violence and Abuse Workplace Policy
 - The Council has taken a lead role in White Ribbon Day and the 16 days of action to promote women's safety through a series of events and seminars. The lead for the Safer Business Network is a keynote speaker at this year's White Ribbon Conference on the 25th November.
 - Where the police identify specific hotspots related to nighttime safety the council seek opportunities to utilise their redeployable CCTV.
- 2.10. The Council has taken the opportunity to refresh its overall approach towards this programme. To support this the Director of Public Health has recently taken on the role of Champion for women's safety.
- 2.11. The council is working on an action plan to ensure the 7 Pledges are being actively progressed, aligning with the pan London approach.
- 2.12. Women's Night-time Safety Charter for Enfield Businesses**
- 2.13. The intention is to develop a Women's Night-time Safety Charter for businesses across Enfield.
- 2.14. The approach is to include a number of elements within the Charter to maximise the engagement. These elements are:-
 - The Charter and the 7 Pledges

- **Safe Havens** - Safe Havens are a practical way for businesses to let people know that a form of support is easily available if they need help. Safe Havens are identified by a clear logo and have facilities including charging point for mobile phones, WIFI, access to water, access to a toilet, CCTV and trained staff.
 - **Ask for Angela** - A customer facing campaign which helps prevent and reduce sexual violence and vulnerability. It's a codeword which can be given to staff when a customer feels unsafe or threatened and allows them to access discreet help.
 - **WAVE** – WAVE is designed for those in a customer facing role, aimed to help identify vulnerability and put interventions in place to support those visitors coming to a business. The training programme includes modules on spiking and the implementation of the “Ask for Angela” scheme.
- 2.15. The council has worked closely with lead officers in the Safer Business Network to develop a local Toolkit specifically for Enfield. A copy of the Toolkit is attached (Appendix 1).
- 2.16. The costs of the training for Ask for Angela, WAVE and Safe Havens varies between face to face and virtual.
- 2.17. Face to face training is £750+VAT for each session for as many businesses based on the capacity of the venue.
- 2.18. Virtual training is £350+VAT for a maximum of 40 people.
- 2.19. The area which currently records the highest level of street harassment and sexual abuse in Enfield is the combined Fore Street and Edmonton Green area.
- 2.20. This location is the key focus for the Operation Pisces footprint and provides the best opportunity to pilot the programme.

During the period of January to June 2024, crime analysis in the Operation Pisces area highlight the following incidents:-

- 419 violence against the person offences recording in this area. 54% of victims were female.
 - There were 73 recorded sexual offences. The peak recorded day was Saturday with 15 offences and peak time was midnight to the early hours of the morning.
 - 23 incidents involving offensive weapons. 4 of these took place on Fore Street.
- 2.21. The key locations for these offences are the High Street and Fore Street area. The maps provided in Appendix 2 illustrate the number of offences in the operation Pisces area, with the black square identifying those that took place in the Fore Street area.
- 2.22. In addition, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club has already signed up to the Charter and is a key anchor institution in the area. The Club has offered their support in rolling out the pilot and offered facilities for networking events.
- 2.23. Officers have also worked closely with Solace Women's Aid, a leading organisation who are already delivering key services in Enfield to prevent and protect women and girls from abuse. Using existing funding, we are working with

Solace Women's Aid to jointly appoint a co-ordinator to help in the delivery of the pilot.

- 2.24. The Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant has agreed to be a local Champion for the pilot.
- 2.25. A Women's Night-time Safety Charter Task and Finish Group has been established. Local businesses who are already engaged with the council have been identified and will be visited in the first instance to create an early momentum for the project, these include a mixture of Café's, licenced premises, takeaway premises, food retailers and bookmakers.
- 2.26. The aim is to run the pilot for 6 months, commencing September 2024 and use the learning to expand the programme across the borough.

3. Background and Options

- 3.1. Officers have consulted with lead representatives from the Safer Business Network in the development of the project and the above approach. The advice provided has shaped the above approach, in order to maximise the partnership resources available.
- 3.2. The intention is that the Council will fund the training programmes for interested businesses as part of the pilot. The aim is to offer a mixture of Face to Face and virtual training. A budget of £2,500 has been identified to fund the training.
- 3.3. Learning from other areas which have been successful in the implementation of the Charter has been that focusing on one area is the best approach, both in terms of maximising resources and encouraging businesses to sign up as neighbouring premises come on board.
- 3.4. The other option would be to roll out the Charter across the whole borough. The key risk with this approach is that would not provide a local network of businesses who can work together to improve safety within a local area.

3.5. Governance

- 3.6. A WNSC Task and Finish Group has been established to oversee the development and delivery of the programme.
- 3.7. The Task and Finish Group includes representation for the Police, Solace Women's Aid, Enfield Council Domestic Violence and Community safety leads, Regulatory Services, Safer Business Network, Tottenham Hotspur Football club and Enfield Council Communication leads.
- 3.8. The Task and Finish Group will report to the SSCB Violence Against Women and Girls Board, which reports directly to the Enfield SSCB Board.
- 3.9. The Task and Finish Group will also work alongside the Enfield Partnership Tasking and Enforcement group, which is overseeing the operational delivering of Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green Clear Hold Build Programme, Operation Pisces.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

1. Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) – Community Safety Plan 2022-5

2. SSCB Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy – 2022-25
3. Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-5

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Enfield WNSC Toolkit
Appendix 2 – SSCB WNSC supportive data

Background Papers

Not applicable