



## London Borough of Enfield

<b>Report Title</b>	Safer Stronger Communities Performance Report and deep dive on Knife Crime with Injury under 24 years old including an update on the Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024/25 and next steps
<b>Report to</b>	Healthy and Safe Communities Scrutiny Panel
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	27th January 2025
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Gina Needs
<b>Executive Director / Director</b>	Tony Theodoulou-Executive Director of People Anne Stoker – Director of Children & Family Services
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<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All
<b>Classification</b>	Part 1 Public
<b>Reason for exemption</b>	N/A

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report sets out the key highlights from crime data for Enfield up to end November 2024.
- 1.2. The report also provides a deep dive into the reported incidents of Knife Crime with Injury under 24- year- olds.

### 2. Main Considerations for the Panel

#### 2.1. Safer Stronger Communities Board Performance Report

- 2.2. The Safer Stronger Communities Board Performance Report is a quarterly report on the crime trends across crime types affecting the borough. (Appendix 1)
- 2.3. The current report is for the period ending in November 2024. It compares performance over the last 12-month period December 2023 to the end of November 2024, compared to the previous 12 months.

2.4. The key highlights from the report are as follows: -

- Total Notifiable Offences in Enfield have decreased by 2.6% in the year ending November 2024 when compared to the previous 12 months. London saw a 3.2% increase over the same period.
- The volume of Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences in Enfield has decreased by 4.0% with Violence with Injury (VWI) (Non-Domestic Abuse) offences also decreasing by 18% over the most recent 12-month period. London saw a decrease in VAP offences (0.4% decrease in VAP, 12% decrease in VWI (Non-Domestic Abuse) offences).
- Compared to other London Boroughs by population, Enfield is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> for Violence with Injury (Non- Domestic Abuse).
- Robbery offences in Enfield have increased by 9% in the 12 months ending November 2024. Enfield ranks the 12th highest for volume of Robbery of personal property offences recorded compared to other Boroughs.
- There were 3,540 Domestic Abuse offences in Enfield in 2023/24 (December 2023 – November 2024), compared to 3,978 in the previous year. This is an 11% decrease on the previous 12-month period.
- There was a significant increase in the number of recorded drug offences between August and November 2024. This is due to the increase in drug offence arrests which has formed part of the Operation Pisces in the Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green area.

## 2.5. Deep Dive – Knife Crime with Injury Under 24-year-olds

2.6. One of the three priorities as set out in the Safer Stronger Communities Board Community Safety Plan 2022-25 is: -

- **Crimes that cause direct harm to people** – this includes violence, domestic abuse, hate crime, illegal supply and misuse of drugs and exploiting young people.

2.7. Based on 2024 data, there was a total of 8,187 Violence Against the Person offences recorded to the Police 29% as Violence with Injury and 71% recorded as Violence without Injury.

2.8. Further analysis of the 2,389 Violence with Injury incidents, highlights that 33% (802 offences) related to Domestic Abuse, 5.8% as Knife Injury (139 offences), 2.5% as Knife Threatened offences (59 offences).

2.9. Knife Crime and Knife Crime with Injury Victims under 24 years old are priority areas and a key focus for both the Safer Stronger Communities Board and the Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024/5. (Appendix 1).

2.10. The number of recorded incidents is relatively low, compared to other forms of Violence with Injury. Small variations in the number of offences can impact on any short-term trends. The data analysis set out in the Enfield vs London violence data comparison report December 2024, includes comparison data over a 2-year period (December 2022 to November 2024). (See Appendix 2).

2.11. The key headlines are as follows: -

- Compared to other London Boroughs, Enfield is ranked jointly 5<sup>th</sup> by volume and 7<sup>th</sup> by youth population for Knife Crime with injury Victims under 24.
- There was an increase in offences in the months of December 2023 and January 2024. This was due to increasing tensions between existing and newly formed groups from a number of high-profile incidents during this period.
- The overall trend since April 2024 has been downward and Enfield has improved its position compared to other London Boroughs over recent months.
- Enfield are the 6<sup>th</sup> highest by volume and 11<sup>th</sup> highest by rate per 1,000 youth population compared to other London Boroughs.
- The volume of recorded Knife Crime with Injury, increased by 3% compared to the previous 12 months.
- Youth Violence Victim profile highlights that the age range of 15-17 records the highest number, closely followed by 18–24year-olds.
- 91% of victims are male with 41% were recorded as white and 27% black.
- The suspect data is less reliable since the information was recorded as “not available”, or “not known”, in the majority of cases for age, gender and ethnicity.
- The data highlights that offences are more likely to occur on Tuesdays and Thursday and between the time period of 15:00 and 19:00 hours.

## 2.12. Casual factors of Serious Violence

2.13. Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board are committed to the Public Health approach to violence prevention. This approach is based on the below 3 tiers: -

- **Primary** – Preventing violence before it occurs.
- **Secondary** – Respond to the immediate risk of violence.
- **Tertiary** – Long term support for those impacted or affected by violence.

2.14. The Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024/25 sets out a number of underlying casual factors for Serious Violence. These can be summarised in the following categories: -

- **Childhood experiences of adversity and trauma** – There is a considerable body of evidence and academic research, in relation to the impact of early years experiences, which can increase the risk of a person becoming involved in violence and conflict in adolescence into adulthood. These experiences include, neglect, family conflict, breakdown or domestic abuse, family members with chronic ill-health, substance misuse, incarceration, homelessness, being a victim of violence or bullying, bereavement, exclusion from education and the lack of a stable income into the family home.
- **Socio economic factors** – These include living in an area with high levels of deprivation, poor quality or overcrowded housing accommodation, high levels of unemployment combined with limited employment opportunities. It also includes health related determinants such as poor air quality, lack of accessible or well-maintained open green spaces, anti-social behaviour.
- **Organised criminality, exploitation, and group conflict** – Organised crime groups exploit the above casual factors and can appear to offer an accessible, viable and lucrative alternative. This provides a sense of belonging which entices and then holds young people and young adults, through intimidation and threats of violent retribution, if they step away, or from other rival groups.

- **Identity, Status and Respect** – Status and respect within and across peer groups is a key casual factor for young people. The loss of status and respect can be perceived as a weakness and as a result retaining status through any means possible, increases the risk of violent conflict. Identity, through the cultural, emotional and social experiences in childhood and adolescence, is a key factor in understanding status and respect for both individuals within peer groups. Young people and young adults involved in serious violence regularly reference their relationships within their family, their peer group and their interaction with agencies in terms of how they shape their own Identity, positively and negatively.

## 2.15. Progress to date

2.16. Since the adoption of the current Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024/5 by the SSCB, there has been some good progress in the delivery of early intervention and prevention programmes to reduce weapon enabled violence. These include:-

- Continued investment into Trauma Informed Practice through dedicated clinical resources within the Youth Justice Services and support for Schools with on line advice
- Continued investment in two **Youth and Family Hubs** in areas with high deprivation and high levels of youth violence (Craig Park and Ponders End) to provide support and early help to children and families from pre-birth to the age of 18 and up to 24 years old with SEND needs. This is alongside of youth provision within the following three Youth Centres: Bell Lane, Croyland and Allan Pullinger.
- Establishment of the **Engage Project**, providing outreach youth workers and Liaison and Diversion clinician in the Wood Green Custody Suite to provide support in the ‘reachable and teachable moment’ and a follow through support into the community to prevent further offending and engagement in risky behaviour. In the first two quarters of the financial year 2024/5, of the 163 Enfield children and young people arrested, 80% consenting to the initial custody session. 58% of those who consented successfully completed their intervention.
- Strengthening the **Enfield Youth Offer** through the use of external grant funding to expand detached and outreach youth work and mentoring support through Enfield’s Youth Service and key community and voluntary sector providers such as Northside Youth and Community Connections.
- **Summer University** delivering learning diversionary activities by Youth Service in areas with high levels of deprivation and youth violence. A total of 1,574 young people registered in Summer University. This represents a 34.2% increase from 2023. The programme offered 68 diverse courses such as spanning sports, arts, life skills, and digital media.
- **Youth Justice Service Youth Xtra programme**, providing an enhanced personalised support and supervision to children assessed at high risk of re-offending. The programme is currently supporting 20 young people assessed at medium risk of reoffending.
- **Mentoring in A&E** – Oasis Hadley providing mentoring support to victims of SYV. The service has supported 52 young people since April 2024, through mentoring. A further 58 young people/their parents/carers access one off or short-term support and signposting.
- **Project Dove** – social prescribing to divert young people at risk of becoming involved in serious violence. In 2023/4 the dedicated social

worker, leading on the project worked with 37 children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk of violence, with only 4 have required longer term social care support.

- **The Turnaround Project** – providing support to children at risk of offending, including those given Community Resolutions or, are No Further Actioned at Court to divert them from further offending. In 2023/24 there were 72 referrals to Turnaround with 36 Proceed to Early Help Assessments. Of these 27 Families completed a full Turnaround intervention. A successful outcome was reported for all children who successfully completed their Turnaround intervention, meaning that there have been no further contacts with the criminal justice system and outcomes had improved for these children in terms education, training and, employment and positive activities.
- The **Vanguard Project** –provides localised therapeutic support, creative interventions and casework to young people and families impacted by serious youth violence and exploitation. The service work directly with young people and families and offer consultation and support to their professional networks in addition to partnership working.
- **Street Doctors** – first aid training to enable children to help someone who may be stabbed in a real-life incident to save lives. This is provided to young people involved in offending and their learning which accredited. From Jan 24- Jan 25,47 children who completed the course and have commented that they now feel they can potentially save a life while awaiting emergency services.
- **No Knives Better Lives** - Based at the Old Bailey Crown Court this programme is delivered by a range of professionals such as Judge, Trauma Surgeon, ex-gang member and Police and also organisations to support those children to access education, training and employment. In the last 12 months 35 children attended the programme. Children mentioned from attending the event they learnt the devastating impact on families and professionals.
- **Everybody Loves Music Knife Crime Programme** – music therapy course to create lyrics to help young people to think about knife crime and consequences and how they can keep themselves safe using music as a tool of engagement.
- **Youth Guardian** – this is a dedicated worker in the Youth Justice Service who supports children associated or affiliated with harm groups to reduce risk to involvement in serious youth violence and provides safety planning for those children.
- **Dedicated re-settlement worker**, supporting children coming out of custody into community, ensuring a robust and personalised support is in place to reduce risks to further re-offending. This means that all children in Enfield are offered an additional monthly visit from the YJS and a 12 week voluntary resettlement offer when they finish their license period.
- **Secondary School Behaviour Support Services** providing mentoring and educational support for young people at risk of exclusion. The Service received two hundred one-to-one referrals in 2023-2024, up from one hundred and ninety-six the previous year. None of the students referred to the BSS Outreach team, or who were mentored by them, were permanently excluded. In 2022/3, Enfield's permanent exclusion rate was 0.03% in comparison to 0.22 % nationally.
- **Delivering the Enfield Night-time safety Charter** to provide a range of safe spaces for women and girls who are concerned about their safety.
- Establishment of an **Enfield Serious Violence Intervention Panel** to identify emerging tensions between known groups in order to prevent violence from escalating.

- Developing a specific **Advocacy Service** for young adults aged 18-24, seeking to exit group/gang lifestyles. Two cases have already been referred to the service and are being supported through NYCC.
- The establishment of **Operation Pisces** to address and prevent organised criminality in the Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green area. This multi-agency programme has had a significant impact on organised criminality and connected serious violence in the borough. A full briefing on the process will be presented to the Healthy and Safe Scrutiny Committee at a future date.

## 2.17. Next Steps

- 2.18. The current Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-5 requires further refreshing to ensure that it sets out a long-term Public Health approach to violence prevention and reduction.
- 2.19. The intention is to review the most recent data analysis, vision and priorities with the aim of developing a 10-year strategy aligning with national best practice. (Could look at starting with 'The objective is to review etc as the word aim is used twice. Just a suggestion)
- 2.20. The current delivery plan will be updated, setting out short, medium and long-term objectives.
- 2.21. An Enfield Serious Violence Strategic Group is being established to oversee this work and the delivery plan. The first meeting of the Strategy Group will take place in late January 2025.
- 2.22. The Safer Stronger Communities Board Serious Violence Strategy 2025-35 will be presented to the Board in late 2025 for adoption.

## 3. Background and Options

- 3.1. The current Serious Violence Duty Strategy was adopted in January 2024.
- 3.2. One option would be, to extend the current strategy. However, there has already been a number of changes in the profile of violence in the borough, which requires further reflection.
- 3.3. The current strategy does not set out a long-term approach to prevent violence, which is a vital part of a multi-dimensional approach to addressing the causes of violence. This includes socio economic, cultural and regeneration considerations that affect the borough.

### Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

1. Council Plan 2023-26 – Strong, healthy and safe communities and thriving children and young people.
2. Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-5

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024/5 (internet)

[Enfield Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-25](#)

Appendix 2 – Enfield vs London violence data comparison report  
December 2024

## **Background Papers**

Not applicable