

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

Contents

1. Foreword
 2. Introduction
 3. Looking Forward: Future Challenges
 4. Improving Local Services: Key Achievements for Scrutiny 2011-12
 5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 6. Older People & Vulnerable Adults Scrutiny Panel
 7. Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
 8. Crime & Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel
 9. Sustainability and Living Environment Scrutiny Panel
 10. Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel
 11. Housing Growth & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
 12. The Public: Getting Involved
- Appendix A Scrutiny some key statistics
- Appendix B Engagement of the Community/ Stakeholders giving evidence in 2011/12

Foreword by Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report for 2011/12 on the work of Enfield's Scrutiny function.

As last years' slimmed down Annual Report was well received, we have continued with the same layout for 2011/12. The aim is to highlight the work undertaken by scrutiny in Enfield over the last year and - more importantly - the outcomes being achieved as a result.

As you will see we have continued to look at a wide range of services provided not only by the Council, but also by a range of partner agencies.

I would like to thank all councillors and officers who have contributed to the scrutiny function over the last year along with the wide range of participants from the local community and other stakeholder groups, without whom we would not have been able to carry out our work.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and look forward to your continued involvement with the scrutiny function over the next and future years.

Councillor Toby Simon
Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

What is Scrutiny?

The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to scrutinise, in order to make local government and its decision-making process as open and transparent as possible, with greater public accountability. These powers have been extended by the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 along with the Local Democracy Act 2009 to cover a wide range of partners.

Scrutiny Panels in Enfield have a key role to play in:

- providing a 'critical friend' challenge to the executive policy makers and decision takers;
- providing a mechanism for the voice and concerns of the public and other local stakeholders to be heard;
- contributing towards the development of policy & strategy;
- driving improvement in public services;
- conducting robust evidence based reviews carried out by independent minded councillors who lead and own the process.

Scrutiny in Enfield

In Enfield the support to scrutiny is provided through the Corporate Governance Division, which includes the specialist scrutiny support unit.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) manages the overall scrutiny function, with 6 Panels which from May 2011 covered the following areas:

- Children & Young People
- Crime and Safety & Stronger Communities*
- Health & Wellbeing
- Housing, Growth & Regeneration*
- Older People & Vulnerable Adults
- Sustainability & Environment

*These two Panels are chaired by members of the Opposition Group on the Council.

The work undertaken by scrutiny is based on work programmes set at the start of each year. Each Panel operates with the councillors and other co-opted Members, aiming to gather as much evidence as they can before proposing improvements and changes for the Council, NHS bodies, the local Community Safety Partnership or other partners to consider.

The Panels also seek to encourage public participation and the involvement of residents, customers, partner agencies and staff in the scrutiny process.

Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)

Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) is a service that provides ward councillors with the ability to raise local issues of concern formally through scrutiny. These are issues which members have tried to resolve without success. Scrutiny's role in the CCfA process is a "means of last resort", with issues only being raised through scrutiny once all other resolution avenues have been exhausted. The process for dealing with CCfAs has been designed to focus on outcomes and resolutions for councillors and the local community rather than on processes. It sits alongside existing mechanisms for councillors to resolve issues, whilst still meeting the statutory duty placed on scrutiny to consider issues raised and respond in a timely manner.

Key successes have been achieved this year through CCfA. These include:

- £800k of agreed funding for installation of disabled lifts at a main transport hub. The issue of the lack of disabled lifts had been part as an unsuccessful funding bid. Raising this as a CCfA enabled a fresh successful funding bid under the 'Access for All' scheme.
- Removing a source of noise nuisance which had blighted residents' lives for many years. Two large dogs had been barking regularly throughout the night. This affected a warden controlled building and the surrounding area.
- Working with NHS North Central London agreement has been reached to redevelop a local library to accommodate a 'Joint Service Centre' that will provide a new GP practice, dentist practice, library and community space. A CCfA was raised following identification of the unsuitability of local GP premises following problems with primary care infrastructure both in terms of capacity and delivery. There was an urgent need to deliver improved primary care facilities in the locality to address the current limitations. This was evidenced by the investigation carried out for the CCfA. This work also highlighted the need for a new dental practice and improved community and library facilities.

Petitions

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility, under the Council's petitions scheme, for receiving petitions with 1,375 or more signatures and for dealing with any appeals on the steps the Council has taken in response to the submission of a petition. The petitions dealt with are reported below.

Officer Support

The Scrutiny function now also supports the Council's outreach work, including in particular the Area Forums, thus bringing together all our citizen involvement work. This is particularly important in relation to major issues such as the budget where the Annual Budget Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee enables all the comments on budget proposals to be brought together for review.

Looking Forward: Future Challenges

A number of key challenges as well as opportunities for improvement have been identified for the following and future years:

- Consolidation of the revised remits of Scrutiny Panels (agreed by Council on 4 May 2011) along with the proposal to integrate a single theme running through the scrutiny work programme each year;
- Continuing to work with and scrutinise a wide range of local partners;
- To continue working to set realistic, focussed and well-balanced work programmes with fewer items allowing more detailed review and capacity for any issues raised under CCfA and call-in;
- To increase engagement of the public and other interested stakeholders in the work being undertaken by scrutiny;
- To continue the very effective collaborative (cross-party) working between Scrutiny Chairs & members;
- To continue focussing on member development based on the scrutiny member development programme;
- To continue working to raise the national and regional profile of Enfield's scrutiny function as an example of good practice;

Improving local services - Key Achievements for Scrutiny in 2011/12

Following a Councillor Call for Action, which raised difficulties with lack of space at a GP premises in Enfield Lock, negotiations for a new purpose built centre being constructed on council-owned land are progressing, which will replace the existing facility currently operating from a terraced house.

The Housing, Growth & Regeneration Panel referred a report on worklessness to Cabinet which resulted in a Commission being established. The Panel will receive regular updates before the Commission's findings are published in January 2013.

The Sustainability and the Living Environment Panel have been actively involved with Thames21, a charity looking at water quality in the rivers and tributaries in Enfield. A report to Cabinet was produced, highlighting the work to date and encouraging support and publicity for further collaboration. Energy for London gave a presentation on Local Authority involvement in energy efficiency and as a result, LBE will work in liaison with Energy for London in future.

The Crime and Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel organised events for the Asian community, the Parent Engagement Panel and Enfield Disability Action's Deaf Project to ascertain their concerns on crime and safety in the Borough.

The Older People and Vulnerable Adults Scrutiny Panel has continued to review Personalisation of Care and the many work streams involved, such as information advice and guidance, resource allocation, direct payments and workforce planning. The Panel values the contributions from voluntary sector co-optees, representing vulnerable groups within Enfield.

The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel has been reviewing Primary Pupil Places, and has made a number of recommendations in a report that went to Cabinet; these included evaluation of the strategy for partner schools to ensure the strategy is having a positive impact on school attainment results, and to identify and engage with schools early in the expansion process and discuss solutions to potential difficulties such as concerns over traffic and parking.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Committee Members:

Cllr Toby Simon (Chairman)
Cllr Alan Sitkin (Vice - Chairman)
Cllr George Savva MBE
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Cllr Rohini Simbodyal
Cllr Michael Rye OBE
Cllr Edward Smith

Education Statutory Co-optees:

Alicia Meniru & 1 vacancy (Parent Governor)
Simon Goulden (other faiths/denomination)
Mr Tony Murphy (Catholic Diocese rep)
Vacancy (CofE rep)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for the leadership, management and co-ordination of the Council's scrutiny function. The Committee approves an annual scrutiny work programme, so as to ensure that each Panel's time is effectively and efficiently utilised and also manages the scrutiny of the Council's annual budget consultation.

The Committee is also responsible for dealing with the call-in procedure. This allows Members of the Council to require that the implementation of decisions taken by Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or Directors be suspended to enable further review.

During 2011/12 the Committee dealt with twelve call-ins, all of which have resulted in the original decisions being confirmed. Following one such review a reference was made to the Council's Corporate Management Board (CMB), seeking assurances about the provision of information to members and about compliance with the Council's Constitution so that any decision called-in for review remained suspended from implementation, pending consideration. Assurances were provided by CMB.

The Committee also has responsibility for initial consideration of any Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) referred to scrutiny. CCfA provides members with an opportunity to formally raise issues of local concern with scrutiny where other methods of resolution have been exhausted. Whilst no issues have been referred onto the Committee for consideration this year, this reflects the successful role played by the Corporate Scrutiny officer team as "gatekeeper" in seeking to resolve issues, without the need for referral onto scrutiny. The success achieved under Enfield's CCfA continues to be recognised nationally, particularly in terms of the support to members in their representational roles.

ENFIELD SCRUTINY

Serving the people

The Committee has responsibility, under the Council's petitions scheme, for receiving petitions with 1,375 or more signatures and for dealing with any appeals on the steps the Council has taken in response to the submission of a petition. A petition was received, calling for a ban on spitting in public places. The Committee invited the relevant Cabinet member to apply to DCLG for approval in principle of a bye-law to deal with the issue and invited the petitioners to submit the petition to the full council in view of the number of signatories. No procedural appeals were received.

The Committee held its Annual Budget Meeting in January to review the outcome of the budget consultation. Detailed analysis of the substantial savings proposed focussed on the robustness of the estimates and their consistency; and on the risks they posed in implementation.

The general work programme of the Committee has included monitoring performance of the Council's Revenues & Benefits Service, including the progress being made against their Service Inspection Action Plan. The Committee has also kept a "watching brief" on the outcome of the Council's review into the use of consultants, interim and agency staff, linked to its wider interest in development of the Council's budget and consultation process. Regular updates also continue to be provided monitoring use of the Council's urgency procedures.

Another significant area of review over the last year has involved consideration of the aspects of the Council's objective of 'fairness for all' and the Scrutiny Panels were also asked to consider this as it affected their areas of responsibility.

The Committee received a presentation in November 2011 on the Draft Child Poverty Strategy – the drive towards prosperity. This was well received and due to the implications for all areas of the Council in working towards the strategy it was agreed that all Panels should consider this within their work programmes for the next municipal year.

As part of its management and co-ordination role, the Committee has undertaken an annual evaluation of the scrutiny function as well as monitoring the progress being made with the implementation of recommendations from scrutiny reviews. These recommendations are tracked through a monitoring system and a further update will be provided in the next municipal year. 2011/12 saw the introduction of revised Panel remits and a restructure within the Governance Division resulted in revised support arrangements within the Corporate Scrutiny and Community Outreach Team.

2012/13 Overview & Scrutiny Committee Contact Details

Chairman: **Councillor Toby Simon**

Vice Chairman: **Councillor Alan Sitkin**

Head of Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach: Mike Ahuja

Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach Officer: Stacey Gilmour

Full details of the panels full work programme are available on the website
www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

Older People and Vulnerable Adults Scrutiny Panel

Panel Members:

Cllr George Savva MBE (Chairman)
Cllr Chris Joannides (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Patricia Ekechi
Cllr Ahmet Hasan
Cllr Elaine Hayward
Cllr Eric Jukes
Cllr Nneka Keazor
Cllr Geoffrey Robinson
Cllr Lionel Zetter

Co-Opted Members:

John Lynch (Chairman Enfield LINK)
Chris Rash (Over 50s Forum)

The remit of the Panel is to consider adult social care provided by the Council and partners (such as the NHS), implementation of national policy and local issues which might affect service users, older people and vulnerable adults in the Borough.

Two co-opted members have contributed this year to Panel meetings and working groups.

An update report was received on recruitment and retention of qualified social workers. The Panel commended the continuation of the “grow your own” initiative that has had a positive effect on the recruitment and retention of our social workers and managers and a reduction in agency staff.

An update report was received in respect of Social Services income collection and debt write-offs. Money Collection On Line (MCOL), the new online collection system, has been successful in recovering debts. The emphasis is on recovery rather than write-off although some debts are challenging.

Budget consultation proposals for 2012-13 were presented to the Panel in January 2012 prior to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Budget Meeting. Members raised concerns about the potential impact of budget reductions on elderly and vulnerable people and were keen to stress that HASC services may not always be prioritised by many residents in the budget consultation since they have no experience of these services which make a difference to the lives of the disabled, elderly and vulnerable.

Home Care Contract Performance has continued to be an important element of the Panel’s work. Monitoring reports have been received as well as updates on the development of the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS). This will continue to be a focus of the Panel’s work.

ENFIELD SCRUTINY

Serving the people

A key aspect of the Panel's work is adult safeguarding. Implementation of the Adult Safeguarding Strategy was discussed in September and the Panel was consulted in April 2012 on the Safeguarding Adults Board's next three year action plan.

Within the 2011/12 municipal year items included in the work programme included the Stroke Strategy action plan and the End of Life Care strategy.

The Panel received a briefing on the Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Review conducted jointly by HASC and the NHS after this was highlighted by Enfield LINK. A further briefing on the outcome was also received.

The Panel requested briefings on the latest developments in assistive technology, HASC's emergency planning arrangements and HASC's local quality account consultation.

A working group continues to monitor the new Dual Registration Care Home proposals, although the re-provision plans have been delayed. The working group were pleased to be invited to visit Azalea Court, a Twinglobes Care Home, and were impressed by its facilities and good practices.

The Personalisation of Care Working Group has continued to monitor development of the systems in place to deliver the new personalisation agenda such as E cards, direct payments, brokerage, the resource allocation system and staff training. The working group were assisted by representatives from Age UK Enfield, One-to-One Enfield, Enfield Disability Action, Enfield Mental Health User Group and the Over 50s Forum.

In April the National Pensioners' Dignity Code was brought to the Panel for their endorsement. The purpose of the Dignity Code (attached for ease of reference), launched on 22nd February, is to uphold the rights and maintain the personal dignity of older people ensuring the health, safety and well-being of those who are less able to care for themselves.

2012/13 Older People & Vulnerable Adults Panel Contact Details

Chairman: **Councillor George Savva**

Vice Chairman: **Councillor Chris Joannides**

Scrutiny & Outreach Officers: Linda Leith & Koulla Panaretou

Full details of the panels full work programmes are available on the website
www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

Dignity Code

The purpose of this Dignity Code is to uphold the rights and maintain the personal dignity of older people, within the context of ensuring the health, safety and well being of those who are increasingly less able to care for themselves or to properly conduct their affairs.

This Code recognises that certain practices and actions are unacceptable to older people, such as:

- Being abusive or disrespectful in any way, ignoring people or assuming they cannot do things for themselves
- Treating older people as objects or speaking about them in their presence as if they were not there
- Not respecting the need for privacy
- Not informing older people of what is happening in a way that they can understand
- Changing the older person's environment without their permission
- Intervening or performing care without consent
- Using unnecessary medication or restraints
- Failing to take care of an older person's personal appearance
- Not allowing older people to speak for themselves, either directly or through the use of a friend, relative or advocate
- Refusing treatment on the grounds of age

This Code therefore calls for:

- Respect for individuals to make up their own minds, and for their personal wishes as expressed in 'living wills', for implementation when they can no longer express themselves clearly
- Respect for an individual's habits, values, particular cultural background and any needs, linguistic or otherwise
- The use of formal spoken terms of address, unless invited to do otherwise
- Comfort, consideration, inclusion, participation, stimulation and a sense of purpose in all aspects of care
- Care to be adapted to the needs of the individual
- Support for the individual to maintain their hygiene and personal appearance
- Respect for people's homes, living space and privacy
- Concerns to be dealt with thoroughly and the right to complain without fear of retribution
- The provision of advocacy services where appropriate

Written by: NPC, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EJ
www.npcuk.org

Serving the people
Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel

Panel Members

Councillor Rohini Simbodyal (Chairman)
Councillor Jon Kaye (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Glynis Vince
Councillor Chris Deacon
Councillor Daniel Pearce
Councillor Nneka Keazor
Councillor Chaudhury Anwar
Councillor Simon Maynard
Councillor Ali Bakir (replaced Ingrid Cranfield from the 6th Dec 2011)

Statutory Co-optees: Alicia Meniru (Parent Governor Representative), Vacancy (Church of England Diocese), Vacancy (Catholic Diocese), Simon Goulden (representing other faiths /denominations)

Non Voting Co-optees: Sally Moore (Primary Headteachers' Conference), Pamela Rutherford (Secondary Headteachers' Conference), David Byrne (Enfield Colleges Principals Group), Youth Parliament representatives x 2.

This panel deals with the scrutiny of the full range of children services including education, schools, early years, youth services and social care services for children and young people.

This year the panel continued work on the Primary Pupil Places working group, and set up new working groups on Getting Young People into Employment Education & Training, and Pupil Attainment working Group.

Primary Pupil Places

The demand for primary pupil places in Enfield, as in other London Borough's has been increasing and surpassing planned for figures year on year since 2008.

Due to this increasing pressure on the Authority and schools to find places for children, the Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel decided to set-up a working group to look at the strategy for dealing with the increase in demand.

Due to the lack of school space for expansions the Schools and Children's Services department have introduced a partner school strategy that transforms suitable venues in to class room space, and links it with an excellent school leadership team to ensure the children receive the same standards of Education.

As this is a new strategy the Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel have recommended in a report that went to Cabinet that:

At the request of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, a Working Group of Members was created in order to review and monitor the work in relation to the planning of pupil places in Enfield. The Working Group has met regularly and

Serving the people

considered the contents of this report at their meeting on the 23rd November 2011. The group were supportive of the strategy, but have also recommended that the following further actions be taken:

- 1.To evaluate the strategy of the partner school initiative/satellite sites by measuring pupil attainment and standards.
- 2.That in future revised strategies present data which shows whether the objective to reduce mobility has been successful,
- 3.That in future early discussions should take place when schools are identified for potential expansion around best practice for traffic management.

Getting Young People into Employment Education & Training. Not in Education Employment and Training (NEETS)

In 2010/11 the number of 16-18 year olds classed as Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) in Enfield was 361 (5.8%). As 21% of Enfield's residents are under 15 years of age finding suitable routes to training and employment is essential. The aim of the working group is to look at the barriers, options and solutions for getting young people into Education, Employment & Training. We have been gathering evidence over the year, and there are several strands to this piece of work which will need to be continued over the next municipal year.

This year so far, the working group has recommended, and training was undertaken to ensure Governors were made aware of the changes to the Careers Advice Service to schools.

We have looked into the possibility and the benefits and drawbacks of publishing NEET data in a Schools league table.

After some discussion around NEETS and the effectiveness of early intervention, and identifying young people in years 5 and 6 who may struggle with the transition to secondary school, or who have low attainment etc. Therefore the group recommended that NEETS was included in the risk assessment checklist that had been developed from a recommendation from the Under 18 conception working group. This was completed, and the form was taken to the SENco conference in early November where it was agreed to be used. The form means that teachers or SENco's can identify a child who may be vulnerable or struggling at school and work through the checklist and depending on the outcome of the assessment refer to appropriate services, or implement additional support in school.

Pupil Attainment Working Group

Work has only just begun on this working group and will need to continue into the next municipal year, however the main aim of the group is to understand the different factors that create inconsistencies with the schools in the Borough. To look at different cohorts of pupils to see what factors affect attainment. The working group will explore the factors that contribute/stop pupils gaining good outcomes and high levels

ENFIELD SCRUTINY

Serving the people

of attainment and how the best performing schools enable pupils to reach their full potential.

In the full Panel meetings, the panel received detailed reports and presentations examining issues such as, academies and free schools, Gifted & Talented, and Infant Mortality, Outcomes for looked after children, and children in receipt of child protection plans. The Panel considered the benefits of Youth Achievements Foundations, and how they might fit into the current Enfield services.

Budget reductions were a major concern. Proposals were put forward by the Panel as part of the budget consultation rounds on ways in which the Council could save money but preserve valued services in the Children's services area. These views were fed into the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Budget Consultation.

An important role of the Panel is to ensure that recommendations from previous Scrutiny Reviews are implemented and not forgotten. Therefore monitoring of progress on implementation was undertaken on the Review of Health Visitors and Under 18 conceptions. The Panel were happy that in both reviews all the recommendations had been implemented, and they can now be signed off the tracking system.

Finally, regular updates were received on the work of the Children's Trust Board as well as monitoring reports on adoption, fostering, children's social care complaints, recruitment and retention of social workers, and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan.

2012/13 Children & Young People Panel Contact Details

Chairman: **Cllr Rohini Simbodyal**

Vice Chairman: **Cllr Jon Kaye**

Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach Officers: Claire Johnson – Scrutiny & Community Outreach Manager & Stacey Gilmour – Scrutiny & Community Outreach Secretary Tel: 020 8379 4187

Full details of the Panel's full work programmes are available on the website www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

Crime & Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel

Panel Members:

Councillor Michael Rye, OBE (Chairman)
Councillor Ingrid Cranfield (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Kate Anolue
Councillor Ali Bakir
Councillor Yasemin Brett
Councillor Jonas Hall
Councillor Derek Levy
Councillor Simon Maynard
Councillor Glynis Vince

Non-Voting Co-optees: Mr Brian Waters (Enfield Police Partnership Group – Management Committee), Rasheed Sadegh-Zadeh, Caroline Wilmer

The Crime and Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel covers all aspects of crime and safety issues including fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and emergency planning. This year the Panel has continued to work in partnership with the Metropolitan Police and a range of other stakeholders. The Panel has had a further two community members as co-optees in addition to the Enfield Police Partnership Group – Management Committee member.

The Panel has continued to engage with and support the Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB, Enfield's Community Safety Partnership) with consultation around its Partnership Plan and priorities. This has involved specific consultation events being arranged for harder-to-reach sections of the community including parents, through the Parent Engagement Panel and those members who wish to become Parent Crime Champions, the Asian community (in partnership with Enfield Racial Equality Council) and Enfield Disability Action's Deaf Project. The priorities identified in the SSCB Partnership Plan for 2012/13 will be used to inform the Panel's work next year.

The Panel has commented on the development of the SSCB's new Performance Management Framework and provided a monitoring overview on the performance of the SSCB.

Specific reviews undertaken by the Panel include:

1. Public confidence in open spaces

The Panel has examined crime statistics in parks, on estates and in retail areas. From this information it was decided to focus on the retail areas, taking into account the transport hubs in these areas. The retail areas identified were Enfield Town, Palmers Green and Angel Edmonton and Edmonton Green.

The review has involved close working with Enfield Business Retail Association (EBRA) and meeting with many traders both large and small in the identified areas to hear concerns and observe at first hand the issues under consideration.

The final report took into account the views of the traders; EBRA and the assessment made by the Members. Two of the key agreed recommendations were:

- The two shopping centre managers are invited to the Crime and Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel to discuss a joint approach to rules and regulations in the two shopping centres in Enfield Town.
- The Council request that the Police review all the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) bases in the Borough to see if they are a good use of resources. This issue is referred to London Councils Scrutiny Network meeting for consideration as a recommendation across London.

2. Gangs, young people and weapon-enabled crime

This followed on from the work started in 2010/11, reflecting what was at the time and remains a top priority for the Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB). The Scrutiny Panel also noted that young people are over-represented as both victims and offenders in crime statistics.

This review involved working with members of the Youth Parliament, who undertook to consult young people in youth centres. In addition, an event was held with the Parent Engagement Panel to allow parents in the community to provide their views. The working group has also spent time with parents of young offenders and staff from the Youth Offending Service. In addition, the Vice-Chairman attended a meeting of the multi-agency Gangs Action Group, which reviews the cases of known gang members.

The final report identifies all evidence collected and provides a number of recommendations. Two of the key agreed recommendations were:

- Increase the publicity of the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities course and the number of parents attending across the Borough.
- Explore youth emotional resilience training for young people and their parents.

The Panel reviewed the findings of the Council Commission to examine the August 2011 disturbances in Enfield. The Panel has also kept a watching brief on the review of partnership arrangements to tackle domestic violence across the borough.

Other issues considered over the year have included arrangements for Safer Neighbourhood Team reductions, tackling sex crime and associated anti-social behaviour, Victim Support's delivery structure, activities in place to tackle hate crime, and an Olympics update.

The Panel has looked to maintain its strong links with the SSCB, as its role continues to develop, and provides regular updates on its scrutiny activity for the Board. The Panel remains committed to retaining and building on these links over the coming year.

**Crime & Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel Contact
Details 2012/13:**

Chairman: Councillor Michael Rye OBE

Vice Chairman: Councillor Ingrid Cranfield

Corporate Scrutiny Officers: Mike Ahuja & Sue Payne

Democratic Services Secretary: Jane Juby Tel: 020 8379 4073

Full details of the Panel's full work programmes are available on the website
www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

Sustainability and Living Environment Scrutiny Panel

Panel Members:

Councillor Alan Sitkin (Chairman)
Councillor Joanne Laban (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Yasemin Brett
Councillor Jayne Buckland
Councillor Yusef Cicek
Councillor Robert Hayward
Councillor Derek Levy
Councillor Paul McCannah
Councillor Ann Zinkin

The panel scrutinises environmental policy as well as ancillary areas of concern including parks/open spaces, leisure and recreation.

Following the successful format of the previous year, input to the panel was divided between input from Council services and regular invitations to external speakers giving presentations in relevant topic areas. As for the work programme itself, this was divided into three thematic sections.

The first section considered specific internal operations undertaken by the two Council Departments (Environment / Regeneration, Leisure and Culture) for which the Panel has direct scrutiny responsibility. During this past year, for instance, LBE's Licensing Team was heard with a view towards ascertaining the effectiveness of the various tasks it discharges, including the administration of a wide range of licences ranging from alcohol and entertainment to betting shops and zoos. Note was taken of Enfield's joint Licensing and Police teams, one of the first such arrangements in London, as well as the 'out of hours' service provided. Cold calling prohibition modalities were discussed and a decision taken to communicate these to residents via leafleting.

Another internal service to be scrutinised was Trading Standards, whose effectiveness in a time of severe budget cuts was noted. The details of Trading Standards' intelligence-led organisation were debated, with Members also querying the unit's responsibilities in relation to the regulation of excess packaging, a recurring topic for the panel this year.

Two other internal reports received by the Panel pertained to leisure centres' contractual position and the Borough's development of its Library Strategy, particularly with respect to the development of multi-purpose buildings, an efficiency and regeneration initiative that the current Administration is interested in driving and which is therefore likely to come to the Panel again.

The second thematic group considered sustainability topics with relevance to Enfield Council's commitments in this area. The first item followed a meeting at London Councils, with a DEFRA representative giving a presentation to the Panel on reducing packaging and advising on the advantage for Enfield of building closer links with

ENFIELD SCRUTINY

Serving the people

retailers and other local authorities. This may be a subject for further consideration by the Panel.

Energy for London gave a presentation on new energy opportunities for local authorities. This included working with developers to ensure that new buildings are constructed to low carbon emission standards. Consideration was also given to the energy-efficient retrofitting our existing housing stock, an altogether more difficult proposition and one that is likely to come back to the Panel in the future. Fuel poverty also received initial enquiries but will likely have to be scrutinised again, particularly in relation to benefit entitlements available to residents. Lastly, information was provided on certain significant changes this year, including the phasing out of Feed in Tariffs and the implementation of the Renewable Heat Incentive. There is concern at the Enfield level about the effectiveness of the new so-called “Green Deal”, a topic that is bound to require further scrutiny in the future.

In another sustainability area and following reports of poor water quality in the River Lea and its tributaries (notably Pymmes Brook), the environmental charity Thames21 gave a presentation highlighting visible and invisible water pollution problems and advising what steps might be taken to at least partially remedy this generations-old problem. A series of ‘clear-up’ events have already been held, for instance, encouraging volunteers to participate in the removal of debris from Pymmes Brook. As a result of the positive community engagement and the need to publicise the partnership work, a report to Cabinet was produced, advising of work undertaken to date and recommending a more formalised partnership with Thames21, to organise further clean-up sessions but also to advance sustainability education in Enfield’s schools (see below).

Otherwise, a report on the Council’s tree management policy led to the Panel expressing the opinion that future urban regeneration policies should include measures aimed at expanding the total stock of trees in the Borough.

Lastly and as part of its on-going consultation process, the Environment Agency gave a presentation on the flood alleviation scheme for Salmon’s Brook. Local residents and Enfield Golf Club representatives were given the opportunity to put forward their views at this initial consultation stage.

The Panel’s final thematic section considered the public/private interface of service provisions within the Borough. Members were interested to hear of the enforcement role of the Authority when dealing with ‘eyesores’ resulting from fly-tipping, graffiti and uncompleted building developments. The legalities of public intervention in the private domain were given an in-depth review.

A second subject within this theme was the commercial use of parks, with a strategy supporting this policy being developed to cover a five year period. Members were informed of the range of commercial events currently held, the income from which is re-invested in the parks service.

Finally, the Panel introduced a major innovation this year by organising a joint session with the Children and Young People Panel to explore topics of common interest. This

ENFIELD SCRUTINY

Serving the people

well attended event allowed discussion on the sustainability curriculum, food and gardening in schools, energy efficiency in school buildings and school travel plans. In keeping with the approach of inviting external experts to present to the Panel, a representative from Enfield Schools Sustainable Environment Network described the important work currently in progress. The joint panel agreed that a conference be established to discuss support for this work in future. In a similar vein, alongside work being done to help local Further Education Colleges to bolster their provision of environmental vocational skills, the Panel agreed to make a recommendation to Cabinet that Enfield Council should support relevant launch events.

Lastly, as part of the budget consultation process, members and public were asked to provide comments on the proposals for Environmental Services. The comments received were reported to the Annual Budget meeting.

2012/13 Sustainability & Environment Panel Contact Details:

Chairman: **Councillor Alan Sitkin**

Vice Chairman: **Councillor Joanne Laban**

Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach Officers: Andy Ellis & Elaine Huckell 0208-379-3530

Full details of the panel's work programme are available on the website
www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Panel

Panel Members:

Cllr Alev Cazimoglu (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Marie Pearce (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Chaudhury Anwar (MBE)
Cllr Alan Barker
Cllr Caitriona Bearryman
Cllr Patricia Ekechi
Cllr Denise Headley
Cllr Dino Lemonides
Cllr Tom Waterhouse

Co-Opted Members:

Kieran McGregor
Karen Green
Joyce Aslan

The Health and Wellbeing Panel continues to cover all NHS health services that are provided for the local population.

Health & Social Care Bill:

The panel was keen for members of the public, patients, clinicians and other stakeholders to contribute their views by 31st May 2011, to the Governments' Listening Exercise to its plans for the modernisation of the NHS.

The way the Bill has been implemented locally has been noted at every panel meeting as the Health and Social Care Bill proceeds through Parliament. Pathfinders for a Clinical Commissioning Group and Healthwatch have been established as well as the set up of a Health and Wellbeing Board in shadow form. These are all in their infancy but will continue to develop during 2012 as and when further guidance is received from the Department of Health.

Councillor Call for Action:

Within the remit of the Councillor Call for Action process the Panel was asked to monitor the future of Ordnance Road. Progress is slow, but we have been assured that the new premises have now been identified and scrutiny will continue to receive regular updates.

Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Clinical Review:

The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy continues to be a standard agenda item at each Panel meeting. This is also monitored at the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee which covers the London Boroughs of Barnet Enfield and Haringey.

ENFIELD SCRUTINY

Serving the people

Primary Care Strategy

In March the Panel noted the revamped Primary Care Strategy which covers the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Camden and Islington. The NHS acknowledges that additional funding is required to develop primary and community. Managing the implementation of the Primary and Community Care strategy will fall to the Health and Wellbeing Board's sub committee and scrutiny will require regular reports. Panel members continued to review GP provision in the borough but have found it difficult to provide a baseline of services that a patient can expect regardless of which GP practice they belong. It is hoped that the strategy will help us to achieve this aim.

Implementation of the Stroke Services Strategy:

Following the provision of the new model of care for Stroke services, the panel has received updates on the implementation. Members are particularly keen to know how rehabilitation services are developing as provision in this area has been traditionally low.

Evergreen Walk-In Centre:

In January the Panel responded to NHS' proposal to reduce the opening hours of the Walk-in-Centre. A response was expected by the end of March but this has been delayed until the Clinical Commissioning Group has had a chance to consider NCL's recommendation. Scrutiny will monitor the situation.

Family Planning

The panel also received reports and commented on:

- Care Quality Commission – update on quality accounts 2011-2012
- Implementation of the Dementia Strategy
- Implementation of the Intermediate Care Strategy
- Fairness Commission
- Ambulance Service
- Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services
- NHS Enfield Review of Discretionary Payments to Voluntary Groups
- Budget Consultation & Budget Commission:

2012/13 Health & Wellbeing Panel Contact Details:

Chairman: **Cllr Alev Cazimoglu**

Vice-Chairman: **Cllr Anne Marie Pearce**

Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach Officers: Linda Leith & Koulla Panaretou

Full details of the panel's work programme are available on the website
www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

Housing, Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

Panel Members:

Cllr Edward Smith (Chairman)

Other Members of the Committee

Cllr Ozzie Uzoanya (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Catriona Bearryman

Cllr Christopher Cole

Cllr Ertan Hurer

Cllr Tahsin Ibrahim

Cllr Henry Lamprecht

Cllr Micheal Lavender

Cllr Toby Simon

Co-optees

Mark Bellas (FECA)

Mark Hayes (Christian Action Housing)

The Panel, Chaired by Cllr Smith is responsible for the scrutiny of housing strategy, operations, technical services, property services and Enfield Homes. For the first time this year, the remit of the panel has been extended to include regeneration, enterprise and employment issues.

A report on 'Worklessness' was presented by Cllr Derek Levy, representing the former Place Shaping Scrutiny Panel. With approximately 30,000 people unemployed in Enfield, a long-term, strategic approach was urgently required. A number of recommendations were included within the report, including:; looking to the Economic Development Team to increase inward investment; encourage enterprise and help create the jobs Enfield needs; the Council should increase its procurement of goods and services from local companies; the Council should monitor the Government Work Programme with particular reference to areas and estates with high rates of unemployment. Following a referral from the Panel, Cabinet agreed to establish a Commission to investigate the causes of and effects of economic inactivity in Enfield with particular reference to the impact of the forthcoming changes to the benefit system. Regular progress updates will be made to the Scrutiny Panel, with the Commission presenting its findings in January 2013.

Regarding the remit of Section 106 agreements, the Panel were asked to comment on the proposed introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Enfield plus the Mayor of London's levy paid for by developers. The two CILs would be charged against new developments to pay for local infrastructure such as new schools, roads and London's Crossrail project. The Panel expressed concern that the new charges would reduce the amount of social housing in areas like Enfield that had previously been developed under S.106 arrangements. Comments from the Panel would be included in the report to Cabinet.

ENFIELD SCRUTINY

Serving the people

The Panel sought information on how the impact of benefit changes from April 2012 would affect Enfield residents. It was feared that the proposed benefit caps would lead to an influx of homeless households from areas in Central London with high private rental levels. The introduction of universal credits in October 2013 where a range of differing benefits would be replaced by Universal Credit would lead to a simplification of the system but the Panel felt would require sophisticated Government IT systems to work properly.

More people will be assessed on their actual capability to work. Individuals would be re-assessed after 12 months on incapacity Benefit. The Panel agreed that it would monitor the re-assessment process locally to feed in to the Commission on Worklessness.

Another important legislative change discussed by the Panel was the Government proposal to allow Councils to take back responsibility for their Housing Revenue Accounts. The Panel was informed that Central Government had previously controlled rent levels and investment in the Council's housing stock through a subsidy system. Enfield currently pays £8m per annum back to the Treasury, but this system will cease at the end of the financial year. In future, Enfield Council will manage HRA business via a 30 year Business Plan, which would allow more freedom to make their own decision around borrowing levels, rent levels etc. The Scrutiny Panel welcomed these proposals, subject to agreement on the final buy back figure, and their views were fed back to Cabinet as part of the consultation process.

A regular subject for the Panel to consider was the delivery of the decent homes standard. With £32m of funding available for the next 2 years, the refurbishment programme was just over half way through. The Panel recognised the effort involved by the Board and staff of Enfield Homes in fully utilising this funding stream and the quality of the work undertaken.

Under the Localism Act, Central Government were introducing several fundamental changes in the field of planning and social rented housing. In particular, the Panel were informed that Enfield urgently required a revised Housing Allocations Policy, to replace the existing scheme, implemented 10 years ago. Throughout the process of developing the new policy, Members had been kept fully informed on national housing policy changes, national welfare reform and the local housing supply and demand picture.. The Panel noted their support for the strategic approach being taken and looked forward to further information on the detailed implementation of the new allocations policy.

As part of the annual budget consultation process, The Scrutiny Panel noted that Enfield could be affected by migration into the borough from Inner London Boroughs and as a result this would have a detrimental effect on the Council's budget position. The changes related to HRA self financing are welcome in that Enfield would be able to generate income for re-investment in the Service. However, the Council would also be exposed to greater financial risk.

The Scrutiny Panel was generally satisfied with the Council's Capital expenditure plans for Housing. Comments from the Panel had gone forward to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of its scrutiny of the Budget for 2012/13..

At meetings during the year, the Panel discussed the Council's proposed large scale regeneration programme in specific areas such as Ponders End and Leaside. In addition, the Panel monitored progress at Ladderswood, Highmead, Coverack Close and Alma Road.

2012/13 Housing, Growth & Regeneration Panel Contact Details:

Chairman: **Cllr Edward Smith**

Vice Chairman: **Cllr Ozzie Uzoanya**

Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach Officers: Andy Ellis & Ann Redondo

Full details of the panel's work programme are available on the website

www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

The Public: Getting Involved

Scrutiny needs the support and involvement of local people, service partners and community groups to ensure it continues to function effectively and welcomes contributions in any of the following ways:

- Suggesting suitable topics for a future Scrutiny investigation; or
- Getting involved in reviews on particular subjects under Scrutiny
- Visit www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

It should be noted however that Scrutiny's role is not to deal with individual queries, concerns or complaints. Individual service issues or complaints need to be referred onto the relevant Department, ward councillors, dealt with through the Council's complaints or petitions procedures or raised at Area Forums or as Councillor Call for Actions.

We would welcome your views and comments on scrutiny and on the content of this report. If you would like to know more about the scrutiny function please refer to the contact information provided.

Contact:

Mike Ahuja: Head of Corporate Scrutiny & Community & Outreach

Tel no : 020 8379 5044

Mike.Ahuja@enfield.gov.uk

Alternatively you can contact us via the Scrutiny page on the Council's website:

www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny

Or

Email: scrutiny@enfield.gov.uk

Individual contacts are also listed on the individual Scrutiny Panel pages.

Appendix A: Scrutiny- Some Key Statistics

In 2011/12 Scrutiny has:

- Held over 70 meetings, including Public and working group meetings
- Over 40 different Councillors serve on the 7 Scrutiny Panels
- Dealt with 12 Call-In's compared to 10 during 2010/11.
- Received 4 requests for new Councillor Calls for Action.
- Dealt with a number of petitions one of which relating to the anti-spitting campaign, received in excess of 4,000 signatures and was subsequently referred to full Council for approval and is seeking a change in a bye-law.
- Examined the budget proposals for each Council Group and submitted comments to Cabinet
- Visited various community facilities and front line services including the Hanlon Centre, Enfield Disability Association.

Appendix B: Engagement of Community/Stakeholders Giving Evidence in 2011/12

Every care has been taken to ensure that all organisations that were involved with scrutiny have been listed. We apologise if anyone has been omitted your contributions are still very much appreciated.

- Age Concern
- Alzheimers Society
- Arc Theatre
- Avenue Residents Association
- Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital Trust
- Barnet Enfield Haringey Maternity Committee
- Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust
- Bishops Stopford
- Chesterfield and Bowes Federation Schools
- Carers and Parents of Enfield
- Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Christian Action Housing
- CIDA
- Circle Anglia HA
- Civic Society Forum
- Comedy School
- Craig Park Youth Club
- Deaf Project
- Ebony Peoples Association
- Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club
- Enfield Asian Carers Consortium
- Enfield Asian Welfare Association
- Enfield Business & Retail Association
- Enfield Children & Young Peoples Service
- Enfield College
- Enfield Community Empowerment Network
- Enfield Disability Action
- Enfield Homes
- Enfield Link
- Enfield Mental Health Users Group
- Enfield PCT
- Enfield Racial Equalities council
- Enfield Rotary Club
- Enfield Saheli
- Enfield Schools Sustainable Environment Network
- Enfield Voluntary Action
- Enfield Youth Parliament
- Eversley Primary School
- Faber Maunsell Consultants
- Facefront
- Faith Forum
- Fairtrade Steering Group
- Federation of Enfield Community Associations
- Federation of Enfield Residents' Allied Associations
- Flavasum Trust
- Friends of the Parks Groups
- Hanlon Centre
- Houndsfield and Churchfield Federation Schools
- JMP Consulting
- Kongolese Childrens Association
- Landlords Association
- London Ambulance Services Patient & Public Involvement Forum
- London Borough of Haringey
- London & Quadrant HA
- Metropolitan Housing Association
- Metropolitan Police Authority
- Millenium Performing Arts
- Mind in Enfield
- NHS Enfield
- Network Rail
- North Middlesex University Hospital Patient & Public Involvement Forum
- North Middlesex University Hospital Trust
- Oak Tree Care Services
- One-to-One
- Over 50's Forum
- Parent Engagement Panel
- Park avenue Pre-Scholl
- Parkinson's Disease Society
- Reservoir Residents Association
- Royal College of Nursing
- St Thomas Nursery
- Starksfield Primary School
- Stroke Action
- Thames 21
- Total Healthcare Groups
- Transport for London
- Unison
- Victim Support
- West Lea School