

# **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

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## **Foreword by Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report for 2013/14 on the work of Enfield's Scrutiny function.

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.

Councillor Toby Simon  
Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2013/14

## **Introduction**

### **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) managed the overall scrutiny function, with 6 Panels which from May 2013 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 operated 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 sought 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.

## **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.

## **Officer Support**

The Scrutiny function also supported the Council's outreach work, including in particular the Area Forums, bringing together all our citizen involvement work.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### **Committee Members:**

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

### **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 approved an annual scrutiny work programme, so as to ensure that each Panel's time was effectively and efficiently utilised and also managed 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 2013/14 the Committee dealt with 14 call-ins.

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.

The Committee has responsibility, under the Council's petitions scheme, for receiving petitions with 1,562 or more signatures and for dealing with any appeals on the steps the Council has taken in response to the submission of a petition. *Outcomes from Petition Report to be included.*

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 around the Welfare Reforms. 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.

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.

## **Older People & Vulnerable Adults Scrutiny Panel**

### **Panel Members:**

George Savva MBE, (Chair)  
Denise Headley, (Vice Chair)  
Ali Bakir  
Patricia Ekechi  
Elaine Hayward  
Eric Jukes  
Derek Levy  
Chris Murphy  
Geoffrey Robinson

### **Non-Voting Co-optees:**

William McKay Over 50s Forum representative  
Rasheed Sadegh-Zadeh

The remit of the Panel was 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.

Panel Members began the year with a visit to the Formont Centre where staff and patients welcomed the Members on their tour of the centre. Members were highly impressed and felt that it was a great achievement by all those involved.

Following presentations on hospital discharge delays the Panel agreed to set up a working group jointly with the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel to look at the actions being taken to reduce delayed discharges from local hospitals. Members of both Panels visited in January the newly opened discharge ward at Chase Farm Hospital and the Older Peoples Assessment Unit.

A key aspect of the Panel's work was holding to account adult safeguarding. The Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Board attended to present their 2012/13 Annual Report. The number of referrals received by adult social care increased this year, though largely as an increase in awareness following on from high profile national cases. Where published Care Quality Commission inspection reports on local providers show cause for concern these are incorporated into the work programme, particularly the performance of care homes or home care providers used by the Council.

The annual 'Local Account' consultation covering performance of the Council's adult social services over the preceding year was discussed. Analysis of the data shows that Enfield is on the same level with others in some areas, but for a large number we are above average. Additionally the Panel were briefed on the Adult Social Care Peer Challenge Review which took place in Enfield July 2013 and the subsequent Action Plan. Their findings for Enfield were very positive.

Budget consultation proposals for 2013-14 were presented to the Panel in December 2013 where the Panel endeavours to ensure the best possible services are delivered



in the light of the financial challenges and that vulnerable people continue to have a voice, independence and are kept safe. Progress updates on the implementation of the joint LBE/NHS strategies including Intermediate Care and Enablement, End of Life, Stroke, Carers and Dementia were received. The Scrutiny Panel requested further information about the cost-benefits of the Intermediate Care and Enablement service.

The Panel received a briefing on progress of the new Voluntary and Community Sector Adult Social Care Strategic Commissioning Framework and the first phase of a review of adult social care grants that is ensuring they are appropriate and provide value for money.

An annual briefing was received in respect of Social Services income collection and debt write-offs that confirmed continued improvements are being made. Since the last report there has been an overall 4% increase in income collection in 2012/13.

The Panel was disappointed in delays to the re-provision of the Elizabeth House residential/nursing home but was pleased with the decision to build the home and separately procure a care service contract. The Panel wished to continue its involvement in the project's ongoing engagement with residents, their families and other stakeholders.

The Panel continued to support the wider promotion of Assistive Technology to improve independence and safety. The latest developments in assistive technology were demonstrated and proposals to promote the service were outlined.

Due to the interest from all Members the full Panel, rather than the previous Working Group, was updated on progress in the Personalisation of Care agenda and on the Direct Payments in Residential Care Homes Pilot for the Department of Health, E-marketplace developments, the Resource Allocation System and other IT issues.

The Panel continued to be briefed on issues relating to the remit, such as the impact of Welfare Reform and the Government's Social Care Funding Proposals (Care Bill) for changes proposed for 2015 and 2016.

The Panel congratulated the HHASC team who brought their innovative new Keeping House Scheme to the Panel which gives an option to people going into residential care of leasing their property to the Council. The Panel were once again greatly impressed by the volunteer Quality Checkers who attended to outline their current programme of inspection visits to Enfield's provider services, private care homes and to people receiving care at home and their future plans.

The Panel gave its support to the Joint LBE/LBE Joint Dementia Strategy and Enfield's Dementia Action Alliance proposals to promote dementia awareness and improve the lives of those with dementia and their families. The year ended with the Panel assisting the Alzheimer's Society in holding an event in April to promote the newly launched London Dementia Manifesto and Dementia Friends.

The Panel welcomed and very much appreciate input from residents and are always very pleased when members of the public take the time to attend Scrutiny Panel meetings.

## **Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel**

### **Panel Members:**

Councillor Rohini Simbodyal (Chair)  
Councillor Jon Kaye (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Glynis Vince  
Councillor Chris Deacon  
Councillor Marcus East  
Councillor Nneka Keazor  
Councillor Caitriona Bearryman  
Councillor Kate Anolue  
Councillor Ann Zinkin

### **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 Headteacher' Conference),  
John Kerr (Secondary Headteacher' Conference),  
David Byrne (Enfield Colleges Principals Group),  
Enfield Youth Parliament representatives (EYP).

This panel scrutinised the full range of children's services including education, schools, early years, youth services and social care services for children and young people.

### **New Developments**

Engagement and the views of young people were particularly important to the Panel, therefore, at every Panel meeting the Youth Parliament had an item on the agenda to update the Panel members on their activities and priorities. The Panel have found this item very useful and it links into the work they were undertaking. Over the four years that the Enfield Youth Parliament have been invited onto the Panel the partnership has developed and strengthened, and will continue to develop over the next municipal term.

### **Working Groups**

#### **Primary Pupil Places**

A final meeting of the Primary Pupil Places working group took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The Panel were satisfied that the department's plans for the Primary Expansion Programme were now based on a robust set of data, using both the national GLA figures, but in addition to that, local data from housing, registrars and Health was now collated to give a more up to date indication of the numbers of places needed. A higher amount of flexibility has been built into the system which members on the working group had pressed for in the earlier stages of the review. Whilst there

will continue to be an increase in demand over the next few years, members felt assured that the department were more prepared for the numbers required.

### **Getting Young People into Employment Education & Training.**

The Children and Young People's scrutiny panel set up a working group to review how the Council and its partners can best achieve a long term reduction in the number of young people not in education, employment and training after leaving school.

Councillors wanted to investigate what was preventing young people accessing education employment or training by looking at the provision and support available, and barriers that they may face following their journey from school, through to college, or employment.

A number of recommendations have been discussed with Officers from the department and these will be formally agreed and developed in the next municipal year, through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Panel Meetings**

In the full Panel meetings, the panel received detailed reports and presentations examining issues such as, the mentoring strategy, the Change and Challenge programme, Infant mortality, school exclusions and attendance figures, the role of the Enfield Compact, the Pupil Premium, Raising of the Participation age, and the school improvement strategy.

Budget reductions were a major concern and a detailed discussion around the difficulties in putting forward the budget Proposals for the Schools and Children's Services department took place. The Panels views were fed into the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Budget Consultation.

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

## **Crime & Safety & Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel**

### **Panel Members:**

Councillor Michael Rye OBE (Chair)  
Councillor Ingrid Cranfield (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Caitriona Bearryman  
Councillor Lee Chamberlain  
Councillor Yusuf Cicek  
Councillor Ahmet Hasan  
Councillor Simon Maynard  
Councillor Glynis Vince  
Councillor Ozzie Uzoanya

### **Non-Voting Co-optee:**

Irene Wilson (Enfield Police Partnership Group –Management Committee)

The Crime and Safety and Strong Communities Scrutiny Panel covered 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, and has welcomed public attendees especially CAPE Chairs who have made a valuable contribution to the work of the panel.

The Panel 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 with harder-to-reach sections of the community, including young people, adults with physical disabilities, adults with mental health disabilities and the Somali and Congolese communities. The priorities identified in the SSCB Partnership Plan for 2014/15 will be used to inform the work of OSC next year.

The Panel has commented and provided a monitoring overview on the performance of the SSCB. The Panel also receives an update at each meeting on local police numbers.

Specific working groups were set up this year on the following:

### **Anti-social behaviour**

This has involved meeting with officers from Community Safety, Environmental Crime, Parks, Parks Police and the Metropolitan Police to collect evidence on the issue. The working group also observed a shift of the Council's Out of Hours noise nuisance team and visited local parks.

### **Risks to young women from violence in relation to gangs**

This has involved reviewing work currently undertaken on this issue and included briefings from officers from the Metropolitan Police, Community Safety and Safeguarding Children. The working group also considered the final report by the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups. However, Enfield specific research on this issue was not available, but is

anticipated shortly, so this work will be carried forward into OSC's work next year. Based on the review of national research in this area, the working group reiterated and reinforced its advice on identifying and intervening early with young women at risk of violence in relation to gangs.

The Panel received a report on Transforming Rehabilitation on the changes to probation and how these changes are being implemented in Enfield. They agreed to look at this again in the future to see what effect the changes have had once they have been implemented.

Other issues considered over the year have included updates on the Gang Strategy, Stop & Search in the borough, the Environment Consultation Charter, proposals for the new Safer Neighbourhood Board and the Gang Call-in process. They have also received briefings on the effectiveness of CCTV, property crime, and 'Protecting people, promoting health – a public health approach to violence prevention for England'.

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.

## **Sustainability and the Living Environment Scrutiny Panel**

### **Panel Members:**

Councillor Alan Sitkin (Chair)  
Councillor Joanne Laban (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Ali Bakir  
Councillor Yasemin Brett  
Councillor Jayne Buckland  
Councillor Robert Hayward  
Councillor Dino Lemonides  
Councillor Paul McCannah  
Councillor Daniel Pearce

The panel scrutinised environmental policy as well as ancillary areas of concern including parks/open spaces, leisure and recreation. The two internal council departments coming under the panel's remit were Environment and Regeneration, Leisure and Culture.

The planning session for the work programme attained cross-party input with a target of 20 items for discussion throughout the year. In order to allow for additional ad hoc items to be considered, a number of spare slots were held open. By year end, however, a total of 20 items had been duly scrutinised.

Following the successful format of previous years, the panel agenda split between input from Council services and external speakers presenting relevant topic areas. As for the work programme itself, this was divided into four thematic sections: Enfield 2020; transport; street scene; and other items.

The first panel meeting of the year welcomed a delegation of Councillors and Officers from South Africa visiting to see how democracy and governance operate in England.

The Enfield 2020 work strand included scrutiny of RE:FIT, the Salmon's Brook flood alleviation scheme, biodiversity in Enfield and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- Re: the RE:FIT programme, the Panel were told that the Council had approved a total of £1.7 m funding in this area on an 'Invest to Save' basis. The main aim is to reduce energy consumption (hence bills) in schools and corporate buildings.
- Re: the Salmon's Brook flood alleviation scheme, regular updates have been provided to the panel since the Environment Agency's original presentation. The latest item allowed Members to consider on-going customer engagement/communications plus site issues for local residents.
- Re: biodiversity, the Panel received an update on the Council Action Plan in this area. Among the many positive elements, Members were interested in the Corporate Tree Strategy; LBE's 'one for one' programme; and efforts to eradicate Japanese knotweed from the Borough in summer 2014. A biodiversity working group has been established to encourage council-wide commitment to achieving biodiversity targets.
- Re: SuDS, this approach to drainage is far more sustainable than other methods and designed to reduce the negative environmental impacts of urban

surface water run-off. During the period 2010-14, the Panel instigated and continued to expand the Council's working partnership with Thames21, a water quality NGO. The Salmon's Brook Healthy River Challenge is a community project that will benefit from the inclusion of SuDS.

The transport work strand included 20 mph zones, air quality and sustainable transport (smart cities).

- Re: 20 mph zones, the Panel discussed regulations governing 20mph zones, design features and the associated benefits and drawbacks.
- Re: air quality, this item was first scrutinised in 2010 and constitutes on-going concern for the Panel. A cross-party campaign group called 'Clean Air in London' was invited to present to the Panel and outline how Enfield compares to other parts of London in air quality terms. The LBE Air Quality Action Plan was praised for its proactive efforts.
- Re: sustainable transport. INTEL gave a presentation detailing their collaborative approach to smart data projects and how this might work to Enfield Council's benefit in the future. Sustainability, education programmes and air quality were discussed, with one outcome being that INTEL has agreed to fund 100 air quality monitors in the Borough.

The street scene work strand included street cleansing, public houses, highway maintenance and street lighting.

- Re: street cleansing. Additional resources have been identified to achieve environmental enhancements by targeting areas with high levels of detritus. New equipment and additional staffing is leading to greater customer satisfaction.
- Re: public houses. The Panel heard that since 2008, approximately 10% of public houses have closed in the Borough. The Localism Bill would allow members of the community to investigate the possibility of co-ownership of public houses threatened with closure.
- Re: highway maintenance. The Panel considered the Highway Maintenance Plan, analysing the current processes and procedures used to maintain carriageways and footways.
- Re: street lighting. The Council's trimming and dimming work should save Enfield over £500,000 per annum. In addition, it was noted that the policy had had no impact on crime levels.

In addition to these thematic topics, the Panel scrutinised several other items.

- Planning, new legislation and Enfield's performance in processing planning applications.
- The Olympic Legacy, with both Panel Members and the public commending the Council's Olympic legacy work to date and listening to proposals including health improvements, festival events, park opportunities and sport and physical activity opportunities.
- Environment Consultation Charter. The Panel was given an opportunity to influence the development of the charter, which will set out what customers can expect from different types of consultation.
- Forty Hall grounds maintenance. Heritage Lottery Fund grants finance the restoration of the grounds and associated schemes.



- E-waste, with the Panel being informed of the process for the disposal of electronic waste in the Borough
- London Orchard Project. The Panel welcomed this outside body, which highlighted how orchards are restored to act as a community focus in urban areas. Jubilee Park has recently benefitted from the development of an orchard.
- Review of the Environment Department's Action Plan. The Panel noted that the plan's three sections reflected the remit of the Department's three Assistant Directors and was devised in consideration of resident surveys, key risks, fairness and community cohesion.
- Allotment Security. The Panel heard the concerns of local plot holders and a site visit was arranged to look at specific issues.

Lastly, as part of the Panel's annual business, it scrutinised the implications for related service areas of this year's Council budget, while passing comments on to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

## **Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel**

### **Panel Members:**

Alev Cazimoglu (Chair)  
Anne-Marie Pearce (Vice Chair)  
Kate Anolue  
Alan Barker  
Christiana During  
Patricia Eketchi  
Ahmet Hasan  
Tom Waterhouse  
Lionel Zetter

### **Non-Voting Co-optee:**

Tim Fellows

The Council has a statutory duty to review and scrutinise the planning and provision of health services within its area which was delegated, through the OSC, to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel. Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012) and associated regulations these powers have been widened to cover independent healthcare providers commissioned by the NHS.

Work programme themes this year have continued to focus on the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey (BEH) Clinical Strategy, the London Ambulance Service and planned primary care improvements.

A special meeting was held in June 2013 to look at the BEH Clinical Strategy. The findings of the Council-commissioned, independent report was discussed with Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who were jointly, with Barnet and Haringey CCGs, to decide when to proceed with the implementation of the Strategy. The Panel voiced its concerns over data availability from the NHS, the population estimates used and the lack of progress in primary care in relation to the timetable for clinical changes. The London Ambulance capacity review was also discussed where Members had concerns following increased demand in Enfield and the need for additional paramedic staff. A number of monitoring updates were given on capacity issues raised by the Panel and the public.

Following the NHS decision in September 2013 to agree the timetable for closure of Chase Farm Hospital A&E and the transfer of maternity and other services, Enfield Council were granted a Judicial Review to challenge the timing of the decision. Previous evidence gathered by Scrutiny contributed to the judicial proceedings. Following this unsuccessful challenge, the Leader of the Council asked the Health & Wellbeing Panel to continue to monitor the Clinical Strategy, particularly A&E and Maternity services. Panel Members visited both North Middlesex University Hospital and Barnet Hospitals Maternity departments during the year and met patients and staff although the new maternity facilities had not been completed. Whilst at Barnet Hospital Members toured the newly extended A&E facilities.

Local incidents between December and February involving patients waiting on trolleys, long A&E waits and queuing ambulances outside A&E departments led the Panel to

seek assurance from Enfield CCG, as commissioners, to ensure the improved delivery of services to Enfield residents.

A joint Health and Wellbeing/Older People and Vulnerable Adults Scrutiny Panels working group was established to look at the actions being taken to reduce delayed discharges from the local hospitals. Members of both Panels visited the newly opened discharge ward at Chase Farm and the Older Peoples Assessment Unit.

The Panel were briefed on the recommendations of the Francis Inquiry to inform the future work of the Panel. In this regard, Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust were called to account regarding the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report on their visit to Canterbury Ward. The Trust also informed the Panel of significant problems identified with their non-urgent referrals pathway. Progress with the latter action plan to resolve the significant backlog was reported back at the final meeting.

Following the development of a joint Enfield Council and Enfield CCG Mental Health commissioning strategy it was agreed that the Panel look at Mental Health Services during the year. Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEH-MHT) described planned changes to access arrangements for their services and the increased local demand for services despite reduced funding. The Panel also received BEH-MHT's new 2013-18 Clinical Strategy.

The Chair and Vice Chair attended several meetings of the North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NCL JHOSC) which covered mental health items such as the CQC inspection reports on the Oaks Unit and Older People's wards at the MHT's Chase Farm site, St Ann's Hospital admission wards and mental health funding variations over the north central London area. A meeting in late March 2014 discussed initial findings of a joint CCG/BEH-MHT commissioned independent mental health service needs and resources report.

Key achievements in 2013 of the Council's Public Health team and their roles and responsibilities were outlined to the Panel in November. Members were keen to monitor the Council's contribution to improving health in the Borough.

The Panel welcomed in January the Chair and Chief Executive of Healthwatch Enfield to explain the development of the organisation and discuss the potential for working with Scrutiny in promoting greater involvement of local people in health and social care services.

The Panel welcomed the interested members of the public and representatives of local organisations who attended and made valuable contributions to the meetings.

## **Housing, Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel**

### **Panel Members:**

Cllr Edward Smith (Chair)  
Cllr Ozzie Uzoanya (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Caitriona Bearryman  
Cllr Yasemin Brett  
Cllr Christopher Cole  
Cllr Ertan Hurer  
Cllr Tahsin Ibrahim  
Cllr Henry Lamprecht  
Cllr Michael Lavender

### **Co-optees**

Suhas Khale, Chair of the BME Housing Steering Group

The Panel scrutinised housing operations, technical services and property services provided in-house and via Enfield Homes. In addition, the Panel covers regeneration, enterprise and employment issues. The two internal council departments coming under the panel's remit were Housing, Health and Adult Social Care and Regeneration, Leisure and Culture.

The Panel welcomed Suhas Khale as a co-optee, bringing a wealth of experience as Chair of the Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Steering Group.

Major changes to housing and welfare policy over the past municipal year have been introduced by the Coalition Government. The Panel and officers spent considerable time and effort trying to assess the implications of these changes for Enfield and 3 separate briefings were presented to the Panel during the year, covering benefit caps and the under-occupancy subsidy.

The housing element of the Work Programme focused on the HRA business plan, estate regeneration, homelessness strategy, transfer of Enfield Homes, the garage strategy and the mutual exchange scheme.

The panel were told that a balanced HRA business plan had been achieved with no capital shortfall. In addition, the Panel were interested to hear of the 80% increase in the 'Right to Buy' applications compared to the previous year.

Throughout the life of this current Panel, Members have maintained a watching-brief on estate regeneration. Over the last year, there have been two presentations to the Panel on the subject, detailing progress at Alma Road, Highmead, Ladderswood and the small sites around the Borough. Members were pleased to note that following a recommendation from the Panel, a communal satellite dish will be installed on the new Highmead development for the benefit of residents.

The Panel were advised that as a result of increased rental charges and issues with supply and demand it is increasingly difficult to find accommodation for the homeless

in Enfield. Many private properties in the Borough had been occupied by tenants from Barnet and Haringey. The Youth and Family Support team have assisted approximately 100 young homeless young people by re-uniting them with their families.

Enfield Homes, the arms-length management company established in 2008, will transfer back to the Council in March 2015. The panel noted the process and governance arrangements to be implemented to bring Enfield Homes back under Council control.

The consultation arrangements for the Garage Strategy were discussed, in conjunction with a review by external consultants. The Panel were informed that the current void rate was approximately 60% and customers who had recently relinquished their garage would be contacted to discover the reasons why. A further report will be provided to the Panel, detailing the outcome of the review.

The Mutual Exchange Scheme is currently in place to support families who may wish to move to another area for a variety of reasons, including mitigating the impact of the under-occupancy charge. The Panel heard that almost 1,000 homes in Enfield are registered on 'Home Swapper' the internet site which is available to all tenants who are considering a change of location. In total, 57 households completed an exchange during the past year.

The Panel received a number of reports relating to regeneration and opportunities for growth in the Borough.

The draft 'Employment and Skills Strategy 2014-17' came before the Panel for consideration and input and at the following Scrutiny Meeting, the final document was presented. With Enfield above the London average for unemployment the Panel welcomed the opportunity to comment on the strategic direction.

Another item which came before the Panel on two occasions was the 'Town Centre Management Framework'. The Regeneration Team were keen to hear the views of Members and issues relating to rental fees, traffic congestion and the influence of social media in promoting shopping centres were discussed.

The Panel were told that public consultation was key to the development of the strategy and the public engagement officer had been establishing a network of local people to influence the work.

The final document detailed how it was planned to develop and formalise partnership working to produce Town Centre Management Plans throughout the Borough. Members emphasised the need to engage with local Ward Councillors as most had a town centre in their ward.

'Garden Enfield' is the Council's overarching vision to develop a vibrant and sustainable market gardening industry by creating a centre of excellence for locally grown food to feed London and the UK as well as developing new opportunities for training, skills and employment for Enfield residents.

Growing methods, infrastructure and sustainability were discussed and the Panel were informed that commercial growing would commence with a 10 acre site. The aim, going forward, is to produce a business model which will be presented to Scrutiny at a future meeting.

The regeneration proposals for Ponders End and the Leaside District have been a regular item for scrutiny over previous years. The Electric Quarter has seen a reduction in the area available following the DCLG acquisition of land for the Heron Hall Academy. The Panel were concerned that the reduction of new properties available would adversely affect the rate of decant from the Alma Road development. A revised scheme for the regeneration of the Electric Quarter would now be produced.

In hearing further of the plans for Meridian Water, the Panel agreed to refer two items to the respective Cabinet Member. In summary, the issues related to restricting buy to let arrangements, the associated tax implications and the need to ensure continuity of design to enhance a sense of community.

As part of the Panel's annual business, the Panel scrutinised the Budget implications for the housing and regeneration service areas. Comments relating to the impact of temporary accommodation on the budget position and the budget consultation process itself were passed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

## **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](http://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 us via the Scrutiny page on the Council's website:  
[www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/Scrutiny)

Or

Email: [scrutiny@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@enfield.gov.uk)

## **Appendix A Engagement of Community/Stakeholders Giving Evidence in 2013/14**

*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
- Carlene Firmin, MBE
- 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
- London Wildlife Trust
- Metal & Waste Recycling Limited
- 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
- Notting Hill Housing Association
- Oak Tree Care Services
- One-to-One
- Over 50's Forum
- Parent Engagement Panel



- Park Avenue Pre-School
- Parkinson's Disease Society
- Primary headteachers Forum
- Reservoir Residents Association
- Royal College of Nursing
- St Thomas Nursery
- Secondary headteachers Forum
- Starksfield Primary School
- Stroke Action
- Thames 21
- Total Healthcare Groups
- Transport for London
- Unison
- Victim Support
- Volunteers Centre
- Youth Engagement Panel
- West Lea School
- Zipcar