

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2014

Attendance

Safer Neighbourhood Board Members

*Adrian Bishop-Laggett (SNB Chair)

Cape Chairs -

*Alok Agrawal (Southgate Green, Bowes, Palmers Green)

*Pat Jackson (Jubilee, Ponders End)

*Janet Marshall (Edmonton Green, Upper Edmonton)

*Eddie Fisher (Haselbury, Lower Edmonton)

*Carol Shuttle (Southbury, Turkey Street)

*Brian Waters (Town, Grange, Chase)

*Ruth Ward (Enfield Highway, Enfield Lock)

MEMBERS: Councillors *Bernie Lappage and Andy Milne

LGBT: *Tim Fellows

Enfield Racial Equality Council: *Vicky Dungate

MPS Disability Steering Group: *Jane Richards

Business Representative (EBRA): *Mark Rudling

PEP Member (Parent Champion): *Askin Erozkal

EYP representative: -

Independent Advisory Group (IAG): Rasheed Sadegh-Zadeh

Independent Custody Visitors Panel (ICV): Peter Waterhouse

Victim Support Representative: Andrew Francalanza

Also Attending:

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Healy

Sheila Stacey (Enfield Lock CAPE)

Irene Wilson (Willow Road residents)

David Cockle (Highlands CAPE)

Eddie Fisher (Haselbury CAPE)

(* - Parties with voting rights. Please note support officers and advisors do not hold voting rights)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Adrian Bishop-Laggett welcomed everyone to this private meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Board. He introduced Askin Erozkal as the Parent Champion representative from the Parent Engagement Panel (PEP) and Eddie Fisher as the new CAPE Chair representing Haselbury and

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Lower Edmonton. He also reminded the meeting that SNB officers will be elected at the AGM meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Board next year.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 29 JULY 2014

AGREED that the minutes of the 29 July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

3. EXAMINATION OF CRIME STATISTICS

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Healy presented the MOPAC and Police data on the following:

- a) Recorded Crime.
- b) Anti-Social Behaviour
- c) Public Confidence & Victim Satisfaction
- d) Complaints against Borough Officers /Staff
- e) Stop and Search
- f) Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Scheme.

He highlighted key issues and the group raised a number of points as follows
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a) Recorded Crime. The total notifiable offences, for Enfield has shown a year on year reduction in all but two crime types which are for Criminal damage and Violence with Injury. This may partly be as a result in changes in the way injuries are recorded. There has been a rise in the number of Domestic Abuse cases with an increase of 21.8% from last year this may be as a result of people being more confident in reporting incidents. He stated that it was important to measure the number of repeat victims and ensure that this is not rising. Where there are repeat incidents, referrals are made to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), the threshold has been lowered to ensure early intervention to prevent violence escalating. The Domestic Violence Strategic Group meets on a monthly basis, it was confirmed that there is now better reporting and infrastructure in place to provide support.

Operation Equinox is an ongoing police operation targeting gang related violence which includes patrolling areas and putting offenders rapidly into custody.

It was asked whether it was a good use of resources for officers to be used in this way, it was stated that if necessary officers would be redeployed but their presence was helping to keep offences down.

Enforcement of alcohol 'low drinking' zones is taking place, including those in Edmonton Green. This is done by breaking up groups and moving people on in these areas, however the group was reminded that 'Violence with injury' incidents are not necessarily alcohol related.

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Racist and Religious Hate Crime has shown an increase this year. People were now more willing to come forward to report this crime. It is hoped that the establishment of faith forums would also encourage more people to record incidents. The meeting was reminded that the '101' police non-emergency number helps to enable people to report issues of this nature.

Burglary offences show a reduction however there were concerns that this may increase in the lead up to Christmas, Operation Bumble Bee is underway and Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety is working with the police in this task.

b) Anti- Social Behaviour

The number of reported ASB calls are substantially down, it was thought this may be due to police operations and also a dedicated Ward Sergeant and a team of officers who are looking at reported calls who identify issues/ trends.

c) Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction

Figures given by MOPAC show PAS (Public Attitude Survey) for Enfield at 67%, however Paul Healy understands the current figure for Enfield is 72%. The sample figures are thought to be relatively small, a member of SNB suggested that it would be interesting to see the MORI poll statistics which comprise larger numbers.

The USS (User Satisfaction Survey) overall results for Enfield are shown at 78% although, Paul Healy said this should be 79%. It was suggested that people may be influenced by any recent incidents in the local press, however it was stated that this may not be relevant as the survey involved only a small number of people.

d) Complaints against Borough Officers/ Staff Allegations

Enfield currently has 34 live cases, i.e. open complaints. This compares to Haringey – 71, Hackney – 51, Waltham Forest – 88.

In the past 12 months Enfield had 131 complaints, which is the 18th lowest of 32 London boroughs. In the past 12 months only 2% of appeals have been upheld.

A graph indicating 'Enfield outcome type' provides a breakdown by outcome type of all complaint allegations recorded and gives 'Case to answer' outcome of 1% of all allegations.

A query was made as to the number of complaints made and how many resulted in action such as disciplinary action being taken for those cases upheld. It was asked how many complaints equated to the 1% recorded as a 'case to answer'. Of this case/ cases upheld, more details were requested:

- What was the nature of the complaint/ complaints?
- Were more than one officer involved and
- How was the case/cases dealt with, e.g. was disciplinary action taken?
- What is the average time for a case to be considered.

It was requested that MOPAC be asked if they are able to provide these details.

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(Action Committee Secretary to inform Bradley Few MOPAC)

Concerns were raised that the figures provided by MOPAC appeared to be out of date and it was asked that our concerns about this be reported back to them.

(Action Committee Secretary to inform Bradley Few MOPAC)

A response to these points has been received from Bradley Few at MOPAC as follows:

“The 1% of cases to answer in the SNB pack refers to 5 cases. We understand that it is useful to have raw data behind these percentages and, following feedback from SNB members have added this to the data pack. Enfield will see this in their data pack for their next meeting.

Re the case/ cases upheld -

As far as I am aware, the document that our analyst pulls this information from (a full version of which is available on the MPS website at http://www.met.police.uk/foi/units/directorate_professional_standards.htm) does not include this information. SNB members may like to explore this data further with their local officers.

Re out of date figures –

The most recent data available at time of collating the SNB data pack is always used. Data is always slightly dated to allow time for production. For example, the most recent professional standards data currently available on the MPS website is to the end of November 2014” (this reply received 22.12.14)

It was confirmed that information was being circulated to CAPES giving details of crimes on an area basis, this is being circulated every fortnight. It was also confirmed that crime types for areas (hotspots) are collated yearly.

Concerns were raised that a Steering Group for people with disabilities should be reconvened. Councillors Milne and Lappage would support this request which should also include those with mental health issues.

e) Stop & Search

Paul Healy referred to the number of ‘Stop and Searches’ undertaken which were 375 at Sep 2014 compared to 739 for the previous year. The number of ‘Stop and Account’ instances were – 509 at Sep 2014 compared to 1453 for the same period last year. He stated that resulting from this there were 84 arrests made in 2014 and 102 arrests in 2013.

The use of body cameras for some officers, mainly frontline officers has proved very effective especially for domestic abuse cases, as information can be downloaded for evidence in Court cases. It also reduces the possibility of complaints being made against officers.

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f) Independent Custody Visitor Scheme

Peter Waterhouse, from the Independent Custody Visitors Panel spoke of the work of the Panel and highlighted the following

- Local members of the community carry out visits, in pairs, approximately 8 times a year. They meet people who have been taken into custody and carry out inspections, 52 visits are undertaken by the team each year.
- Visits are unannounced. The person in custody is informed that the ICV representative does not know their identity or any crime committed and that they are present to look into their welfare, to ensure that they have been dealt with correctly.
- The person in custody has a right to have someone informed of their whereabouts and they also have the right to legal advice. They will be asked if they have received food/ drinks and if there are any food requirements due to religious grounds.
- Some detainees/ foreign nationals have a right to have their embassy informed and juveniles have a right to the attendance of an appropriate adult. Visits can be made to a hospital if that is where the person in custody is being held. For those with mental health problems they need to be taken to an appropriate place of safety.
- The ICV representative can examine the kitchen area and they can ensure that there are showers, sufficient blankets and clothes available
- During riots in 2011 the ICV Visitors were asked to undertake visits every day.

Peter Waterhouse said visits provide a snapshot of what is happening and it is possible to see if there are any recurring problems.

The following responses were given to issues raised

- Confirmed that visits take place at any time of the day or night
- MOPAC administer the scheme, the Custody Sergeant would be informed of any issues and feedback would be given to the ICV.
- Peter Waterhouse confirmed that there had been few issues of concern. Any problems raised were addressed. The main matter of concern was that there were an inadequate number of places available for people with mental health problems.
- Peter thought there was an adequate number of people at present to carry out the visits needed however it may be appropriate to have more, should future issues arise.
- Issues of concern can be raised at the ICV Panel – attended by Inspector Steve George.
- A report form/ guidance note is used to ask questions during visits. The ICV representative is always escorted during a visit.
- The Edmonton custody suite may close and new facilities at Wood Green would be used in the future. Concerns were raised about this proposed move it was questioned whether this would impact on those people who had further to visit. It was stated that it was not usual

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practice for members of family to attend someone in custody. It was asked that SNB be kept informed of proposals.

- If someone has a disability it is necessary to determine their needs. If for example someone over 18 acts in a childlike manner – it may be deemed in their best interest for someone to be with them.
- Where there are language/ interpreter issues there is now a language line available. An ICV visitor is able to point at translated boards/ notes to determine whether the person in custody has been treated correctly.

Peter Waterhouse was praised for the good work being undertaken by the ICV scheme.

4. TARGET ESTABLISHMENT

Paul Healy gave an update on establishment figures for the borough, he confirmed that there were currently 582 officer posts with 600 projected officers in future. He confirmed that there is a reduction in the number of PCSOs and an increase in PCs, this is now the position for all London boroughs.

A Safer Neighbourhood Contact map was circulated with the agenda and an A3 copy of the map will be sent to Adrian Bishop-Laggett.

5. UPDATE ON CURRENT POLICE OPERATIONS

An update was given on Police Operations as follows:

- Safe as houses. This targets areas affected by burglary and motor vehicle crime offering crime prevention advice. Taking place throughout the year and will move from ward to ward targeting hot streets.
- Operation Spyder targeting those involved in theft from motor vehicles.
- Operation Equinox targeting gang related violence using overt and covert tactics and working with partners to dissuade young people from joining gangs and offering a way out to those that wish to leave
- Operation Bumble Bee, targeting burglars and target hardening properties.
- Operation Shine – improving engagement with local communities, refreshing ward profiles to understand the issues and identifying gaps.
- Operation Safer Places – tackling ASB on the wards. Each cluster has an ASB plan to reduce ASB and problem solve the issues identified.
- Each cluster has a MOPAC 7 crime plan to tackle the crime type as it affects ward/ cluster. There will be daily deployments to police predictive mapping crime areas
- Smart water deployment – aimed to protect homeowners and repel burglars.

The following issues were raised:

- That although there had been an increase in the number of violent crimes recorded, it was thought there was an adequate number of officers in post

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- Concerns expressed about cars racing on the A10. Stated that police were aiming to be more visible working with traffic unit.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rasheed Sadegh-Zadeh queried the directive from MOPAC that the SNB should oversee the Borough's Independent Advisory Groups since this Group was not within MOPAC's jurisdiction. This would be looked into and discussed at the next meeting. In answer to a further question, the Chairman explained that representatives of groups that the Board scrutinizes do not have voting rights.

In answer to a question the Chairman stated that an invitation had been given to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety who may be willing to attend a future meeting of SNB.

Chief Inspector Ian Kibblewhite will be taking over responsibility for Safer Neighbourhoods and would be replacing Detective Chief Inspector Paul Healy. Paul was thanked for his valuable contribution to the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Board starting at 7pm are

Thursday 5 February 2015

Thursday 21 May 2015 (**Please note the change of date**; the original date was 7 May but this clashes with the date of the general election.)

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.