

Joint OSC & Crime Scrutiny Meeting

Q. Police numbers are regularly raised by the public, what are the current and proposed police numbers in the borough and is there any link between the numbers of police in the borough and the level of crime being seen.

Target number of officers in Enfield is 554. We currently sit at 536.75. We would always like more officers, as we will always be able to do more with additional resources. A number of factors contribute to levels of crime in any area, which will include provision of services across the public sector and social demographics. Between 2011/12 to July 2016 MOPAC 7 crime reduced by about 17% on Enfield Borough.

Q. Is the joining of Haringey and Enfield together in terms of policing being considered and what would this mean for Enfield?

To deliver a service to local communities which is efficient, flexible and fit for the future, the MPS are testing a change to the way local policing is managed across London. The new BCU model brings together the management of neighbourhoods, response, investigation and safeguarding, including child protection, victims of sexual abuse and domestic abuse.

There are currently two pilot sites in the North and East areas of London. When testing is complete, the MPS and Partners can assess how it works and if the predicted benefits will become a practical reality. The Met have now provisionally nominated 12 Chief Superintendents as potential future BCU commanders. Until then current borough commanders will carry on with business as usual and there will be no change.

Final decisions will be made by the Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime upon test completion in autumn.

Q. Enfield has seen a rise in the incidents of knife crime since April. - Do we understand why the increase is being seen?

Knife crime is on the rise nationally. In 2016 knife crime across England and Wales rose by 14% and 11% in London. In the rolling year (to June 17) Enfield has seen an 11.3% increase from 423 to 471 offences. The majority of offences are related to street violence and robbery. Analysis of London data for 2016/17 is that 75% of victims of knife crime are male and most often under 25. Half of victims come from BAME backgrounds. For offenders about 90% are male and 62% are from BAME backgrounds. A review of Operation Bremont relevant offences for the period 01/04 - 31/05/17 reflected a slightly higher percentage of males (84%) and BAME (87%) victims and of male (81%) and BAME (82%) suspects. Locally we see drugs and gang membership as a driver of the crime. It is possible that local success in arresting and disrupting gang members could in a small part be leading to increased tensions. Locally though there is not an obvious feudal battle between gangs. It is important to remember across London gang flagged crime accounts for about 5% of all knife crime.

Q. What are the current tactics/actions being taken to combat this, and how is this message getting out to the community to try to reassure and encourage closer working with the police?

Operation Bremont is the Borough's plan that is addressing the problem under four strands:

Prevent - early identification of people engaging in knife crime

Protect - increasing protection against knife crime

Prepare - Reducing the impact of knife crime

Pursue - Disrupting and prosecuting knife carrying criminal

This incorporates a range of tactics such as;

- Utilisation of local and central resources to conduct high visible pulse patrols.
- Weapons Sweeps
- The targeting of habitual knife carriers
- The increased ethical and lawful use of stop and search and section 60 powers.
- The Estates Team working on 5 identified estates highlighted in conjunction with the police and local council and weapons search dogs. – these are Ayleycroft, Shires, Moree Way, Joyce Ave and the Lytchett estates.
- Schools engagement and presentations in secondary and primary schools. (These include – Junior Citizen's gangs Unit and Operation Crest)
- Test purchase OP's testing to see if retailers only sell knives to buyers 18 or over.
- Joint overt and covert operational activity with Trident & Viper Teams
- Long term prevention engagement projects - e.g. One Life, St Giles mentoring, Oasis outreach and engagement projects

Communication has been carried out including through the following means:

- Messages to key leads
- Briefings to Council from the lead member for Community Safety
- Twitter/Facebook messages including BOCU Cdr briefings.
- Community meetings x 2 following fatal incidents
- Meeting with both secondary and primary school head teachers
- Police briefing to councillors
- Ward meetings
- Digital campaign under development (advice to parents)
- Dates to present to Parent Engagement Panel

Q. What action is taking place with the parents and families of offenders?

- The Gangs unit conduct home visits on high risk matrix nominals. This includes where possible, engagement with parents.
- 'Change and Challenge' (The Troubled Families programme) are linking in with the Parenting Support Programme to develop a strategy.
- Schools engagement programmes encourages discussion with parents.
- PEP presentations
- Digital campaign with advice

Q. What more could be done by all of those working with children and young people to deter young people from this lifestyle?

- Earlier intervention in schools.
- Parenting workshops offered to more parents with incentives for attendance (child care whilst they attend etc.)
- Expansion of Police Cadets and Youth Outreach activities.
- Joint agency visits on those at risk of offending.
- Improved debrief with young runaways.

Q. How can the council and councillors assist in this?

- Continue to engender a full community response. This involves everybody from parents, young people and schools, to the police, local authority, health, third sector, prison, courts and businesses.
- An external statement of support to OP Bremont/OP Sceptre and what we are doing. Supporting the overt policing presence and the proportionate, lawful, increased use of Stop and Search/Section 60. This has already happened with flyers explaining the reasons for stop and search.
- Encourage people to get involved through CAPEs, Ward Forums and Stop and Search Monitoring Group. We are also developing a recruitment process for Special Constables in Enfield, for Enfield- a first for the MPS.
- Look at how we resource units that can help families and support offenders or those on the periphery to take a different path. There is some expansion in the youth diversion offer, how can we best continue to expand this given pressure on all public and third sector budgets?
- Longer term encourage investment in diversionary programmes. Encourage investment in activities such as the volunteer police cadets to divert young people away from gangs etc.
- Encouraging people to give us information – 999, 101 or anonymously Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111. We need to make it socially unacceptable to carry a knife especially amongst peers.

Q. Given the extensive interventions of varying kinds already in place, are some considered to be more effective than others? If there are any projects that are disappointing in outcomes, what could be done to enhance the schemes?

- The issue here is not felt to be within existing projects but rather the need to increase and invest more in further diversionary projects/activity. MOPAC funded projects are monitored through ECRIT a sub group of the SSCB and satisfactory performance is a requisite of receiving payment

- We welcome MOPAC's publishing of 'The London Knife Crime Strategy'. Its ambition to co-ordinate delivery across agencies and with partners should help delivery.
- The new Mayor of London has published a prospectus for additional funding for cross borough work and we have drafted an Expression of Interest for the first tranche of funding, based around extra protection for young people who are vulnerable to gangs and County Lines.

Q. What different mechanisms might need to be employed? Are there any lessons learned from other London Boroughs where crime stats have seen occasional spikes

- Every month representatives from all London Boroughs attend a central meeting to examine performance and explore learning on knife crime. In this way 'best practise' is cascaded across London. This meeting looks at individual Borough performance and by doing so encourages both the use of evidenced based approaches but also organisational continuous improvement. This same broad approach is mimicked locally by the BOCU Cdr in his local crime fighters meeting.
- Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board ultimately holds to account borough partnership community safety approaches. This is chaired by the Borough Commander and the Chief Executive. Performance is regularly assessed and leads held to account. The structure of this meeting has just been altered to encourage a more themed and problem solving approach across the partnership with a view to improve further partnership working.
- Additionally, there is a Crime and Safety Scrutiny Panel for which the latest areas of focus are being discussed. Knife Crime is one of those areas proposed.