

REPORT TO: STANDING CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL

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REPORT TITLE: Enfield Policing Update Report

REPORT AUTHOR/S:

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PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide the committee with updates on the three following points:

SUMMARY:

- Update on Police Numbers – To include how many of our Officers are on sick leave, maternity leave or working out of the borough
- Changes to the Policing Model for London – To also include details on front line access to police and police buildings in the borough
- CAPE's/Ward Panels – To Include: are they operating in all wards; Attendance, how many times do they meet, are they working well?

1. Update Reports

1.1 Update on Police Numbers

- The establishment (BWT) of Enfield Police is 554 full time employees (FTE)
- The current actual number (AWT) is 523.52 which gives us 30.48 vacancies.
- Of this numbers, 13 are on maternity leave, 7 are on attachments, 21 are currently on sick leave making a total of 41 officers abstracted from Borough.
- This leaves a total of 482.52 operational officers which is 87% of our BWT strength.

BWT	AWT	Vacancies	Maternity Leave	Attachments	Sick Leave	Total
554	523.52	30.48	13	7	21	482.52

We are fully staffed at 21 PCSOs and 9 Police Staff.

1.2 Changes to the Policing Model for London

The MPS has made £600m of savings as a consequence of Government cuts to policing. This is now being compounded by a need to make a further £400m of savings.

We want to ensure that the front line is protected as much as possible, which means diverting resources from underused services and investing in police officers.

While change is taking place to improve the public's ability to access policing online, local policing, rooted in London's communities, remains at the heart of our offer to the public. The number of dedicated ward officers is being increased, and new technology will make them more efficient and effective as well as, crucially, more accessible.

It is because we know that Londoners value and prioritise local neighbourhood policing that we are diverting resources from poorly used facilities to support the front line. In the context of significantly reducing budgets choices like these are inevitable, but we are committed to maintaining a universal service for Londoners.

No change is entirely easy, or universally popular, but the totality of the offer to the public in this document represents a positive change for London. We are collectively committed to delivering policing where and when Londoners need it, engaging with Londoners in effective and convenient ways and giving people the opportunity to access policing services in the widest range of methods.

This means that we are transforming the online offer to enable Londoners to report crimes online, and we have already seen a shift in the number of people doing this.

General Information on Public Access

There are currently 73 front counters across London. 33 are open 24 hours a day (one per borough with two in Westminster) with 40 just open in the day time.

Across London in May 7,800 crimes were reported at front counters, an average of 260 a day, or 3.5 crimes per front counter per day. Of these crimes, just 7 per cent were reported by people over 60. This represents around 8% of all crime reports, which has reduced from 10% in 2013 when the last round of closures took place and over 20% in 2006.

In addition, the number of crime reports at specific police stations has also reduced showing that it is not the reduction in front counters that has led to the reduction in reports, but rather it is a choice being made by Londoners that they would rather use alternative methods to contact the police.

General Commentary

With the continuing delivery of channels of access to policing services for the public via technological solutions, the demand and need for the current level and distribution of services delivered through traditional front counters will diminish. This will allow for the reduction in physical front counter locations down to one 24/7 facility per borough and where demonstrated by footfall, a daytime service.

Current Position

On Enfield borough a 24/7 front counter operates from Edmonton Police Station and daytime front counters operate from Enfield Police Station.

Future Position

In future the 24/7 service will operate from Edmonton Police Station.

2 new Dedicated Ward Officer (DWO) hubs are required

Financial Position

Enfield Police Station is identified to be surplus to operational requirements resulting in a revenue saving of £187k pa (equivalent to 3.4 police officers) and generating a potential capital receipt of £2.25m.

One Safer Neighbourhood bases closing saving £44k pa (equivalent to 0.8 police officers)

All the Contact Points will be closed (and some already have, for operational reasons, with no adverse impact on communities). Data from 2015 showed that Contact Points across London had an average of just 1.3 visits per week (across the three hours they were open, three times a week – Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons). Many had no visits at all. Recent assessments indicate that attendance has reduced since this data was captured.

This means for 3 hours a week front line officers have been tied up manning counters with no, or virtually no, members of the public visiting, spending time when they could be out in communities.

DWOs will be running community contact sessions in conjunction with the local community to ensure that local people can meet officers face to face in their community. These will not be dictated from the centre. But will be up to DWOs to manage in discussions with Safer Neighbourhood Boards.

1.3 CAPE's/Ward Panels

There are Community Action Partnership in Enfield (CAPE) monthly meetings held in all 21 wards in Enfield.

This is in contrast to most other London boroughs, that have ward panels that meet on a less frequent basis.

This therefore is more effective and beneficial.

There are regular meetings with the CAPE Chair and the Safer Neighbourhoods Inspector.

Cape Chairs are on the community contact list for notification when there is a incidents of note/concern and are involved when a community impact assessment is conducted. They are also members of our scrutiny activities such as the Community Monitoring Group which monitors the use of stop and search.

Like most voluntary activities there can be variations in attendance and make up, but on the whole the feel is that Enfield has an effective set up. Those that are less well constituted (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) are working towards filling the gaps.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note this report