

**REPORT TO: CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL****DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019**REPORT TITLE:** Street Prostitution and Brothels in Enfield**REPORT AUTHOR/S:** Daniel Hunt - ASB Co-Ordinator, Community Safety Unit.

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT: THIS IS A LOCAL ISSUE****SUMMARY:**

Report of council and partnership activity to address on and off-street prostitution.

**1. BACKGROUND**

Enfield has historically had an issue with street sex work, which is mainly being reported in the Fore Street area (Upper Edmonton Ward). In contrast our knowledge of the locations of brothels suggests that they are located more widely across the borough.

Over the past few years the profile of the sex workers has changed from being local females, known to be Class A drug dependent users to largely being eastern European females. Although there are still a high number of class A drug dependent users still actively working in the area.

The eastern European sex workers have previously stated to police and others that they are here as economic migrants with the purpose of earning as much money as possible to send back home to their families. However, we believe there may be the possibility that this activity is being controlled and there may be instances of human trafficking taking place.

As part of our response to these issues Enfield Council has previously commissioned outreach work delivered by Terrance Higgins Trust to work with sex workers around their sexual health. Joint operations have also been carried out with police and immigration to the Fore Street area and to other known brothel locations. The Salvation Army also conducts outreach work in the Fore Street area to offer assistance to the sex workers who may have been trafficked.

MOPAC (Mayors Office Policing and Crime) provided resources to deliver the Change program in Enfield. This is a program which is run independently and is ultimately self-funding. It is a conditional cautioning option offered to people arrested for and pleading guilty to kerb crawling. Individuals attend a one-day program which highlights the personal, social and legal issues with using sex This program has been used in several other areas with a high degree of success in stopping re-offending.

The MOPAC funding is also being used for a Display Vehicle which has been used in the fore street area making people aware of the issues and warning people not to use sex workers. This is part of a targeted communications campaign which also includes posters, which are currently placed in bus stops reminding kerb crawlers of penalties for kerb crawling activity.



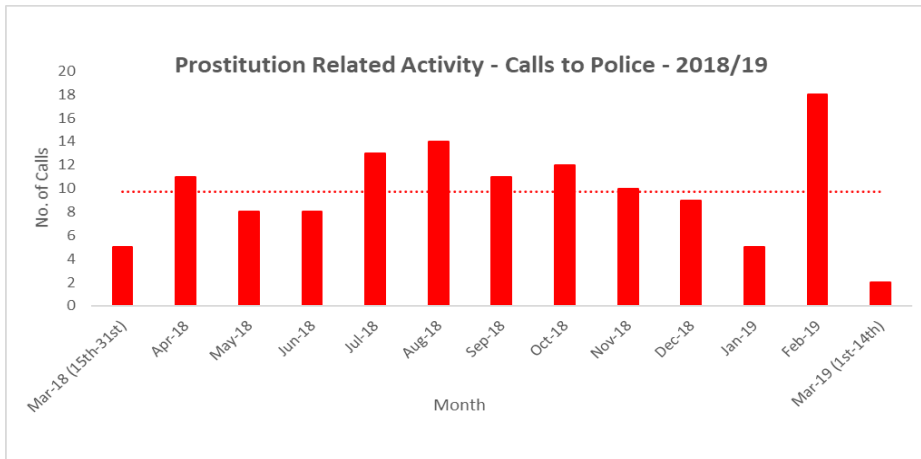
Enfield Council has also implemented a Public Spaces Protection Order which applies to the whole of the Borough and prohibits prostitution related activity namely that "Person(s) shall not loiter, solicit or engage in the provision of sexual services, or engage, loiter or solicit with a view to engaging in or obtaining sexual services" order gives the police and council officers the powers to issue a fixed penalty notice to people engaging in these activities. This new power has allowed for the Police and Council to carry out more targeted operations from which a fixed penalty notices have been issued on individuals

Enfield Council also work with landlords where brothels have been reported to ensure they are taking action to stop the activity which has an impact on the community. Landlords are told that failure to take action is likely to result

in authorities taking closure action to shut the property resulting in no persons being allowed access to them for an initial period of 3 months.

**Local Data**

In the year 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 there have been 126 calls to the Police about “Prostitution Related Activity”, compared with 118 calls recorded in the same period for 2017/18.

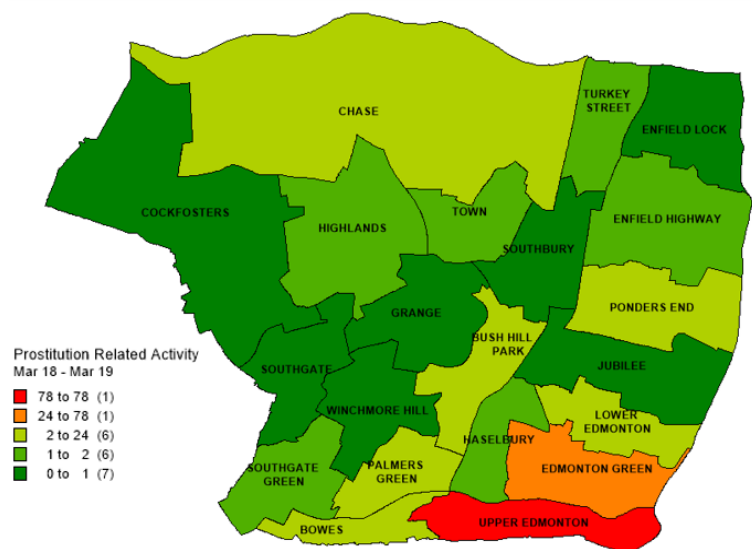


Month	Total
Mar-18 (15th-31st)	5
Apr-18	11
May-18	8
Jun-18	8
Jul-18	13
Aug-18	14
Sep-18	11
Oct-18	12
Nov-18	10
Dec-18	9
Jan-19	5
Feb-19	18
Mar-19 (1st-14th)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>

Geographically calls were received from 14 wards in the borough with the exception of Cockfosters, Enfield Lock, Grange, Jubilee, Southbury, Southgate and Winchmore Hill.

Over 80% of calls (n=92) were recorded for locations in Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green wards

Ward	No.	%
Upper Edmonton	78	62%
Edmonton Green	24	19%
Ponders End	5	4%
Lower Edmonton	3	2%
Chase	3	2%
Bowes	3	2%
Bush Hill Park	2	2%
Palmers Green	2	2%
Town	1	1%
Southgate Green	1	1%
Turkey Street	1	1%
Enfield Highway	1	1%
Haselbury	1	1%
Highlands	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100%</b>



Temporal analysis shows that the peak hours for these types of calls were from 19:00 to 01:59, with Monday and Wednesday being the most frequent day of the week.

Where the callers telephone number was recorded there were 15 callers who called more than once regarding prostitution related incidents.

3 callers contacted the Police 6 or more times with one caller making 8 calls mainly in April.

The other 2 callers made 6 reports each.

Time of Day	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	Total
01:00 - 01:59	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	6
02:00 - 02:59	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
04:00 - 04:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
05:00 - 05:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
06:00 - 06:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
07:00 - 07:59	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
08:00 - 08:59	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
09:00 - 09:59	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	5
10:00 - 10:59	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
11:00 - 11:59	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	5
12:00 - 12:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13:00 - 13:59	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
14:00 - 14:59	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	5
15:00 - 15:59	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
16:00 - 16:59	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
17:00 - 17:59	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	6
18:00 - 18:59	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
19:00 - 19:59	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	5
20:00 - 20:59	1	1	0	3	1	1	2	9
21:00 - 21:59	1	1	5	3	1	1	0	12
22:00 - 22:59	2	6	7	3	0	2	0	20
23:00 - 23:59	1	2	3	2	1	3	1	13
00:00 - 00:59	2	0	2	1	3	0	3	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>126</b>

## 2. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The issues we have been experiencing have been:

- A high turnover in sex workers, every few months or when they are known to services the existing sex workers will leave the area and a new group of new sex workers will take their place.
- The number of sex workers in the area, there can be up to 30 sex workers on Fore Street at any one time.
- A large number of kerb crawlers do not have English as their first language meaning we are unable to offer them the change program.
- High resource costs for coordinated council and police operations.
- Lack of funding to commission further out reach work on a more regular basis.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the report an receive further updates as required.

## 4. NEXT STEPS

- There will be further operations carried out to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to kerb crawlers.

- Promote the Salvation Army's 24hr number that will be issued to sex workers who may be trafficked or need other support.
- Physical changes to affected areas to reduce opportunities for crime. We are working with the police to identify illegal activity and use all legal options to address criminality.
- Monitor locations of reported brothels in the last year and identify landlords that have repeatedly allowed their properties to be used for prostitution related activity and take enforcement action.