

REPORT TO: CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE: 28 March 2019

REPORT TITLE: North Area Basic Command Unit update

REPORT AUTHOR/S:

T/Superintendent Neil Billany

North Area BCU (Enfield and Haringey) – Neighbourhoods

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide the committee with an update on the North Area Basic Command Unit

1. BACKGROUND

As previously briefed Enfield and Haringey police merged on the 9th January to form the 'North Area Basic Command Unit'. This is part of a wider efficiency driven project across London that has seen the 32 traditional borough command units come together to create 12 BCU's.

Since the 9th January we have now assumed officers and staff from two additional commands, with Child Abuse Investigations and Serious Sexual Offences now being managed and investigated locally.

The North Area BCU is led by DCS Helen Millichap, with a wider SLT of 5 Superintendents and 6 Chief Inspectors.

A short update on each strand is detailed below;

Headquarters – Superintendent Nusrit Mehtab

Responsible for oversight and delivery of support services including Professional Standards, the 24/7 Operations Room (based at Edmonton), Training and Event Planning

Emergency Response Teams (ERT) – Superintendent Farooq Sheikh

Still based at Lincoln Road and Quicksilver Patrol Base meaning we retain 24/7 response policing in both Enfield and Haringey.

Since the 9th January response times are closely monitored as a key indication of how the merge is progressing. Response times have improved slightly since the point of 'go live' and are better than this time last year for both Enfield and Haringey.

ERT's are now responsible for the investigation of 'low level, high volume' crimes.

Neighbourhoods – T/Superintendent Neil Billany

Each of the 40 wards making up the NA have the MOPAC required allocation of 2 PC's and 1 PCSO. Continuity in this strand was a key consideration throughout the merge and 90% of Neighbourhoods staff remained in the strand.

Inspector Erica Crawshaw remains the Neighbourhoods Inspector for Enfield, with all 7 Sergeants working across the wards at the point of going live remaining in post (with Debbie Kneebone coming back to Bowes, Upper Edmonton and Haslebury from an attachment elsewhere within Enfield).

Work is ongoing to find suitable accommodation for the losses of Southgate and Enfield Police Stations, with ward teams needing to remain based on, or close to, their allocated area.

While no firm date is known for the sale of these stations we do expect this to happen by the end of 2020.

Local Investigations – D/Superintendent Luke Marks

Responsible for both Proactive and Reactive Investigations. This includes what was known as the Gangs Unit, Offender Management and Main Office work.

This team are based across the BCU, with teams based at Edmonton, Lincoln Road, Quicksilver and Wood Green.

Safeguarding – D/Supt Tony Kelly

Largely based at Edmonton Police Station with pan-BCU responsibility. Amalgamation of officers from the Child Abuse Command and Sapphire (Serious Sexual Offences) has seen new officers join the BCU, however the remit on Safeguarding is now larger than before, so comparisons around total officer numbers would be misleading at this stage.

It is understood that how we document and talk to officer numbers as a larger piece of work is underway within the Met centrally in consultation with MOPAC.

It is also fair to say that Enfield has benefited greatly of late from additional resources posted to the borough on a long-term basis, from the Territorial Support Group, the Violent Crime Taskforce, armed officers and also mounted branch and dog patrols.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee is asked to note this report.