

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 2020

MEMBERS: Councillors Lee David-Sanders (Chair), Daniel Anderson, Anne Brown, Hass Yusuf and Chris Dey

ABSENT: Councillors Katherine Chibah, Ergun Eren and Dino Lemonides

Officers: Andrea Clemons (Head of Community Support), Susan O'Connell (Governance & Scrutiny Officer), Stacey Gilmour (Governance & Scrutiny Secretary)

Also Attending: Superintendent Chris Jones (Neighbourhoods & Schools), Enfield Youth Parliament Representative, Cllr Rick Jewell (observing), Cllr George Savva (Observing), 6 members of the public

463. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dino Lemonides. An apology for lateness was also received from Councillor Anne Brown.

Superintendent Chris Jones introduced himself and advised that he had been in post for the last couple of months and was responsible for Neighbourhoods and Schools.

464. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair, Councillor Lee David-Sanders declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is the Enfield and Haringey Greater London Authority Conservative candidate.

465. NORTH AREA AND ENFIELD RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY REPORT

RECEIVED an update from Superintendent Chris Jones.

NOTED:

- i) Chris began by acknowledging that the report being presented could be better in that some of the information provided was somewhat vague or lacking altogether. He apologised for this but gave his assurances that future reports to the committee would include more detail and better data. He had asked for a 'deep drive' review to include a 9 to 12-month analysis (rather than a four-week analysis as was included in the current report) and this would be provided moving forward.

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- ii) In 2019 there were 2471 burglaries reported in Enfield, an increase of 12% compared with 2018.
- iii) Enfield is the second highest out of 32 boroughs with only Barnet reporting more burglaries.
- iv) Enfield Lock ward had the highest number of burglaries with 210 reported and Bowes ward has the lowest with 81 reported (this was incorrectly detailed in the report as Highlands having the lowest reported).
- v) The majority of suspects remain unidentified, but of those seen or identified 91% are reported as male, 55% as IC1 and 26% between the ages of 20-29.
- vi) The peak times were shown as early evening (1600 to 2000 hours) though late morning and afternoon are close in volume, and the peak day was Friday although there was little difference between the weekdays which as a whole were much higher than the weekends.
- vii) Information was provided on the North Area BCU Burglary Reduction Strategy which included Officer development, Intelligence development and Prevention.
- viii) Prevention tactics include:
 - Cocooning at all burglaries.
 - Temporary cocoon watches- patrols in areas with recent burglaries conducted at peak times.
 - Installation of prevention devices for repeat victims – covert alarms, smart water, ring cameras.
 - Target hardening in hot spot areas/top streets.
 - Target hardening for artifice burglaries: conduct welfare visits to vulnerable residents assessing risk and offering advice and guidance, liaise with Age UK, local support services, carers and utility companies to identify what support/protection can be offered to vulnerable people. Liaise with Social Services to communicate with vulnerable residents they are already in contact with.
 - Awareness campaigns: leaflet drops offering simple advice to avoid becoming a victim.
 - Social media campaigns covering current trends and the use of Crimestoppers.
 - Neighbourhood watch schemes.
 - Offices to attend any burglary committed in a hotspot area.

Following Superintendent Jones' update the following comments and questions were raised.

- Councillor Anderson asked for clarification regarding the acronyms used throughout the report and clarification was provided.
- With reference to the table on Page 3 of the report Members asked that a 'total' column for each ward be included in future reports.

Action: Superintendent Chris Jones

- Following the restructure of the North Area BCU, it was recognised that there was still great deal of work to do to tackle burglaries and this

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required a holistic, co-ordinated approach from the Police and other partners.

- Superintendent Jones advised that more traffic operations/days of action would be implemented around high crime hotspots. A brief plan was coming forward around neighbourhoods and all crime types and it was agreed to bring this plan to a future meeting of the committee.

Action: Superintendent Chris Jones

- Discussions took place regarding the use of CCTV and Superintendent Jones said that the Claverings CCTV Monitoring Centre was a fantastic site which in his opinion, however, was not being fully utilised. He also acknowledged that there were sometimes missed opportunities when it came to the Police viewing households' CCTV in relation to reported crimes and he apologised if this has been the case. He said that Enfield is in a prime position around its preventative CCTV and this should be used more. Improvements are however being made but this is a work in progress.
- Councillor Dey said that that his ward had a Neighbourhood Awareness What's App Group that was used to share CCTV footage with the Police where appropriate. This was a real success story to be shared.
- Superintendent Jones reiterated that burglary remains a priority in Enfield. He said there are still things to be learnt following the North Area BCU restructure and conversations are still ongoing regarding the prospect of introducing a dedicated unit for burglary. There are also a number of other initiatives being considered that unfortunately could not be discussed in an open forum.
- The Chair asked for some context as to what is being done to address the issues and some flavour of the direction going forward. Superintendent Jones provided information on the various work/initiatives that were currently taking place. Crime prevention work included:
 - Project Fortify – working with the private sector around security locks and bolts. Discussions are taking place with local business Wickes, looking at the possibility of providing locks etc.
 - Conversations taking place with 'Ring Your Doorbell' company.
 - MetTrace - campaign in partnership with SmartWater to reduce burglary in London. This will be rolled out to several wards in Enfield in the next phase of the programme. There are currently five dedicated PCO's trained to roll out this programme, but Superintendent Jones said he has asked for all his staff to be trained to deliver this.
 - Communications work- social media clips put together by SOCOs (Scene of Crime Officers) offer advice and guidance on how to properly secure multi-locking door/window systems.
 - Attending the Over 50s Forum to offer burglary advice and information as well as using this platform to pitch for Metropolitan Police volunteers.
 - Dedicated neighbourhood car, looking for Tag breaches, recalls etc.

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- All the above are part of a multi-pronged approach to reduce burglaries.

466. STRUCTURE OF NORTH AREA BCU AND OFFICER VACANCIES

RECEIVED an update from Superintendent Jones on the Structure of North Area BCU and Officer Vacancies.

NOTED:

- i) Information was provided on the North Area BCU. The structure is made up of the following units: Response, Neighbourhoods, Safeguarding, CID and HQ (Headquarters).
- ii) Vacancy figures were detailed for each of the above units which equated to a total of 51 vacancies across the North Area BCU.
- iii) This coming year 174 new Officers will be employed across both Enfield and Haringey in the North Area BCU. This increase in resource is hugely encouraging as numbers to play a part in the Met's ability to function properly.
- iv) Superintendent Jones spoke about the HQ Unit and how this functioned. He explained that the operations room was based at Edmonton Police Station but straddled both Enfield and Haringey boroughs for command and control. An Inspector oversees the operations room whose responsibility is to drive borough business and sieve through the high-level crime which is taking place and prioritise accordingly.
- v) Further information was provided on the Safer Neighbourhood and Schools Teams and the plans for these going forward.
- vi) Discussions took place regarding the turn-over and recruitment rates across the BCU and clarification was sought as to whether these rates were improving? Superintendent Jones provided information on the various successful, recruitment drives and schemes that were currently taking place. He was not aware that the BCU turn-over rate was particularly high and said with the right leadership, skills and resources in place, this would reduce the turn-over rate going forward.
- vii) Councillor Anderson asked if the 174 Officers coming in was a net gain after retirement, leavers etc? He felt that it would be useful to see some comparison data for police numbers over the past five years as this would prove useful.
- viii) Superintendent Jones responded by saying that in his twenty-two years of Police service he had never experienced a full capacity of Officers. He said that the proposed 174 new Officers would plug some of the vacancies. He also confirmed that promotional figures were not included in the 174.
- ix) Superintendent Jones said that he could not emphasise enough how the recruitment is boosting morale. He also said that he feels very positive with the numbers coming through. There is no magic wand, but it is a much better position than when he took up post in November

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2019 when he was faced with a sea of vacancies, now there are hardly any.

- x) Superintendent Jones said that his team will deliver the best possible services with the resources available. He said at a future meeting he would go through what he's told his Officers regarding what is expected of them and what they will be held to account for.
- xi) Residents raised concerns that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) keep getting pulled off to cover other ward duties. Crime then goes up and residents lose confidence. Superintendent Jones replied that sometimes there is a misconception that because Police presence cannot be seen on the streets it's not there. But this is often not the case. There are a lot of ongoing operations in the borough where you won't necessarily see Officers, but important work is still taking place.
- xii) He did accept however that SNT Officers are often pulled off for other ward issues. This is due to a number of serious crimes in the borough, for example shootings and stabbings and the decision then has to be made by the person at the top of the tree where to best direct the resources. Life and death decisions are being made all the time and it was felt that this is not always communicated to the public.
- xiii) Superintendent Jones went on to say that he absolutely believes in Community Policing and being visible. There's a finite number of Officers however dealing with other serious issues. He advised that he has made sure that the Neighbourhood Officers are recording when they are pulled off their wards, using a recording method called CALM. This is also used by MOPAC.
- xiv) He added that his promise is that he will always champion Safer Neighbourhood Policing with local Officers on wards. He was however mindful that he was not in charge and there are so many other crimes happening; gangs, sexual exploitation of children, county lines etc. what therefore is the priority and where do you put the police resource?
- xv) Councillor Yusuf felt there was a need for more CCTV. He also asked about the possibility of more police vehicles as he was aware that Safer Neighbourhood Officers were having to use public transport to travel around the wards/borough. Superintendent Jones confirmed that he had recently had a lengthy conversation around vehicle allocations and transport with a view to addressing this issue going forward.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Jones for his interesting and informative updates and looked forward to him attending future meetings to provide further reports.

467. CUCKOOING REPORT

RECEIVED a report from Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety.

NOTED:

- i) This was a new piece of work for the Community Safety Unit as it had come to light when attending addresses to investigate claims of anti-social behaviour that in fact Cuckooing was taking place at the

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property. This is where the resident is often confined to one or two rooms with the rest of the dwelling having been taken over by criminal exploiters (often drug dealers). They may also be victim to physical and other abuse by the exploiter.

- ii) Because we know that one of the unintended consequences of on street enforcement can be to drive criminal activity out of sight, there needs to be an alertness to the risk that vulnerable people might be exploited for use of their properties by criminals. The risk to the criminal exploiter is minimised as they are able to implicate the legitimate resident in any criminal or anti-social behaviour.
- iii) The Community Safety Unit work with a number of partners and Council officers to identify and protect vulnerable people at their addresses.
- iv) The Council's Environmental Protection Team (EPT) have undertaken work on properties which have untidy front gardens, and which may pose a risk to occupants who might be vulnerable to cuckooing.
- v) The EPT is made up of 5 officers and a team leader and are a council resource which has been augmented with external funding to allow for a more proactive response.
- vi) Referrals for this element are generally related to properties that have front gardens/yards that might be overgrown with vegetation or rubbish dumped or littering in them, giving an outward signal of potential vulnerability of the residents.
- vii) The Safer and Stronger Communities Board receive funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and allocate an element of this to the new project which allows for additional focused work to be carried out by the EPT at high risk addresses without recharge.
- viii) The aim of the project is to deter burglars and cuckooing of vulnerable people's addresses – providing a speedy service to reduce vulnerability through improving the appearance of vulnerability at at least 20 high risk addresses in order to reduce crime and abuse of the resident by exploiting criminals.
- ix) The project is proceeding well. In quarter three visits have been carried out at addresses that were identified as potentially vulnerable as they had a build-up of rubbish and poorly maintained front gardens.
- x) So far eight addresses have been found to have issues with rubbish and accumulations outside (and sometimes inside) the properties and have vulnerable occupants. The vulnerabilities relate to mental health conditions (some are hoarding) and vulnerable due to age also.
- xi) Four of the addresses were jointly visited with colleagues from social services due to the vulnerability of the occupants in order to support and follow up, and also referred for colleagues to follow up on security measures.
- xii) In addition to this project the Council's Community Safety Unit may be alerted to or come across addresses where there is a potential or evidence of cuckooing. The team are currently dealing with four such cases.
- xiii) There are similarities in many of these cases. The tenants are likely to have drug, alcohol and/or mental health issues and some of them owe

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money to the criminals for a drug debt or have been 'befriended' by drug dealers who have then effectively taken over the addresses to use to deal drugs from.

- xiv) The team have been able to secure or are seeking tenancy moves, provide additional support and improve security at addresses.
- xv) The Community Safety Unit are looking at developing a further piece of work around Council housing as well as looking at increasing the number of housing audits so that there are more points of contact.
- xvi) The Unit welcome people contacting them with any concerns regarding properties, tenants, a vulnerable person etc. Public engagement and sharing concerns and information was strongly encouraged.
- xvii) In conclusion Andrea said that she would be more than happy to report back to Crime Scrutiny at a later date on how the project is progressing.

Action: Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Support.

Following Andrea's update, the following comments and questions were raised.

- Q. How long has this issue been going on?
A. It is a relatively new issue. The Community Safety Unit has been involved in the work to address cuckooing for approximately six months, following conversations with the Council's Housing and Environmental Protection Team.
- Q. Are you concentrating specifically on council housing?
A. No, any address that raises concerns will be investigated.
- Q. Are the reported incidences in certain areas of the borough? Are there any trends when looking at locations?
A. The properties and where they are located in the borough have not come as a shock.
- Q. Have you compared the number of Cuckooing cases in Enfield with any other boroughs across London?
A. Yes, we have looked at examples of cuckooing in other areas however, these have not necessarily been in other London Boroughs.
- Q. Have Housing Association properties been included in the ongoing project?
A. Yes, we have touched on this and will look at working more closely with them, with more collaboration taking place.
- Q. How many people involved in Cuckooing are on the Gang Matrix?
A. There are lots of issues around this however, it is not possible to provide exact figures.

Councillor Dey said this feels like a very pro-active project and a great thing to be doing. It feels like the Community Safety Unit and its partners are on the front foot with this issue and it is clear that something positive is being done.

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Councillor Brown re-iterated this comment and said that this was a really important initiative. Her concern however was whether the project was in danger of being 'swamped'?

Andrea acknowledged this concern and explained that part of the thinking behind for instance the housing audits was to spread the load across different council teams so that there was varied and extra involvement in the project, which would ultimately mean more people looking at the issues that may arise. There was also work planned with charities and third-party sectors for mapping as more work was required around this issue.

Councillor Brown also felt that there was so much out there that could potentially be an issue, and this was very worrying when it came to an issue such as Cuckooing.

Andrea said it is often about having that professional curiosity, whereby if something doesn't feel right make a judgement and probe further if necessary.

The Chair thanked Andrea for her informative and interesting overview and looked forward to receiving an update at a future meeting once the project had been up and running for a few more months.

Action: Andrea Clemons/ Susan O'Connell, Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

468. SSCB PARTNERSHIP PLAN & STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Andrea Clemons Head of Community Safety presented this report.

NOTED:

- i) Andrea thanked the Committee for the opportunity to provide the performance update. She reminded Members that it is framed to support Enfield's Partnership Plan (4 years – 2017-2021). She said that tonight's update would focus on the challenges faced.
- ii) The report analyses the five priorities identified in the Borough of Enfield and discusses the performance compared to other London boroughs.
- iii) The measures reflect the priorities in our own Partnership Plan which are:
 - Reducing burglary and keeping people safe at home;
 - Tackling violent crime – in all its forms
 - Keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime;
 - Promoting cohesion and tackling hate crime;
 - Dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- iv) The report demonstrates progress in crime figures against the five bulleted priorities above.

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- v) Total Notifiable Offences in Enfield have increased by 8.2% in the year ending December 2019. In London, there has been a larger increase of 8.5% in the same period.
- vi) Residential burglaries in Enfield have increased by 11.7% in the year ending December 2019. Enfield is significantly above London levels, where there was a 0.6% decrease in the same period.
- vii) Enfield is a large borough with an estimated 131,707 households (GLA Estimates 2017) which equates to a rate of 21 residential burglaries in the last year per 1000 households in Enfield, compared to 18 residential burglaries in our neighbouring borough Haringey.
- viii) Over the last year, Enfield has followed a similar pattern in residential burglaries as recorded in the capital. From September 2019 there was a sharp increase in offences in Enfield following the seasonal trend, however, in Enfield and London this trend decreases in December 2019.
- ix) Enfield remains the 2nd highest borough in London for Serious Youth Violence (SYV) victims and has increased by 29.8% in the year ending December 2019, compared to the last year. Enfield remains above London recording a smaller increase of 9.5% in the same period.
- x) The borough of Enfield recorded the second highest number of Serious Youth Violence victims out of all 32 London boroughs, notably ahead of our bordering borough Haringey recording 398 victims (Enfield recorded 501 victims). Enfield is marginally behind the borough of Westminster, the highest borough in the capital, recording 560 victims in the same period.
- xi) On average, Enfield recorded 42 serious youth violence victims a month in the last year, equating to just over one victim per day.
- xii) Enfield has the 4th largest youth population aged 1-19 in London accounting for just over a quarter of the total population. When considering the rate of SYV per 1000 population aged 1-19, Enfield recorded a rate of 6 victims over the last year, the same rate as boroughs with smaller populations such as Haringey, Islington and Hammersmith and Fulham.
- xiii) A thematic map was discussed detailing the distribution of Serious Youth Violence victims by ward in Enfield in the year January 2019 to December 2019. Over the year, the three highest wards had been Town, Edmonton Green and Enfield Highway.
- xiv) Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury has increased in Enfield by 4% in the year to December 2019. Offences have remained steady over the last three months between October and December 2019.
- xv) ASB calls have increased in Enfield by 5.6% in the year ending December 2019, compared to the same period in the previous year. In London there has been a larger increase of 13.8% in the same period.
- xvi) Andrea then went through each of the further priorities in detail and provided figures, data and the proposed measures for each one.

The following questions and comments were raised:

- The number one priority in Enfield is keeping young people safe. Many are already vulnerable to being groomed in drug and gang crime,

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including County Lines because of childhood issues and adverse childhood experiences.

- Work is taking place with the GLA's Violent Reduction Unit to put together some additional tactics and preventative strands with a view to identifying the criminals at the top of the drug/gang trees, who then use their positions to exploit young people.
- A Strategic Assessment is currently being developed to obtain a picture and understanding of what the problems are, when they are occurring and who's involved. Information is being obtained from various sources such as the Police, London Ambulance Service (LAS) as well as the Council.
- Once this Strategic Assessment is in place recommendations will then be made to refresh the Community Plan. It was felt that Enfield's priorities will remain the same with the possible addition of something more around drugs as there is currently insufficient information regarding this issue in relation to things such as cost, where the drugs can be bought etc. We need to get back to the basics around this issue as it is just not acceptable to fuel a drug market which encourages child exploitation.
- Discussions took place around transport links and how this impacted on the levels of crime in certain wards in the borough. For instance, Southgate ward is an attraction as is Enfield Town centre due to the good transport links into these areas. Southgate ward is certainly an area of growing interest however, there is a lot of work going on there for example Business Watch and conversations have also taken place regarding a community patrol in the area.
- Councillor Anderson felt that the tables included in the report did not provide sufficient data to enable an honest picture of what is actually occurring in the borough. He suggested that reports needed to include more context (for example comparisons/population data) to support and demonstrate the exact picture and situation as the way the data is currently recorded could be misread and misleading. He felt that it would be useful to include data on police heads per numbers of population as this would allow for a better understanding of police allocations. He also felt that it was imperative that reports are produced in a clear and concise manner, especially avoiding the use of acronyms to ensure that all reports are easy for everyone to read and understand.

Andrea agreed to add population and comparative data to the charts in future reports.

Action: Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety

- Councillor Chris Dey responded to Councillor Anderson's comments and, although he agreed with the points raised he felt that the real question should be what is being done to address the increase in crime in the borough as regardless of how the data is recorded, looking at the figures as a whole, the numbers are unacceptable. There is therefore an urgent need to do something to tackle this situation and reduce these figures in 2020.

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Andrea responded by advising that there is lots of work taking place including putting extra resources into Youth Services (£500k) as well as an additional £1m investment in CCTV in the borough. Bids have also been made to fund 22 projects to tackle Serious Youth Violence and further bids have been made to the Home Office and the GLA to bolster resources.

- The Chair said it was concerning to see Enfield in the top quarter for its SSCB priorities for another year and it was crucial to break this cycle. He welcomed the light touch Strategic Assessment that Andrea had referred to and said that it would be interesting to see the outcome of this.

Andrea advised that the Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) will meet on 2nd April 2020 and it was hoped that a close draft of the Strategic Assessment would then be available. It would be at this point that we would then look at whether we are going to set reduction targets. Any targets set however would need to align with those set by the Metropolitan police.

Superintendent Chris Jones added that he is taking a fresh look at working collaboratively with Andrea and the Community Safety Team. He said that he will have personally failed if he comes back before this committee in twelve months' time and the figures are the same or higher. He was confident however that there will be a reduction in the crime figures across Enfield.

- The Enfield Youth Parliament Representative said that there was not enough advertising of the youth services that are already available, and he felt that better advertising would encourage use amongst young people in the borough.

Andrea said that Enfield Council are now more pro-active in advertising council youth service provisions. Following recent conversations with the Youth Services Department Andrea had been advised that details of summer clubs and youth clubs had been updated on Enfield Council's website. She would ensure that this link was included in the minutes of this meeting.

Action: Andrea Clemons/Stacey Gilmour, Governance & Scrutiny Secretary

- Councillor Dey had recently attended a public meeting set up by the local community group, Love Your Doorstep Enfield. This had been a great meeting and he had been most impressed to see many people in the audience who wanted to get involved in proactive community work. A member of the audience had also offered to carry out some 'social mapping' work and Cllr Dey said he would forward these details to Andrea as they may be useful.

Action: Councillor Dey/Andrea Clemons

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Andrea concluded her update by saying that the increase in Serious Youth Violence is a persistent and tragic problem and collaborative working needed to continue in order to bring these numbers down. Community input and engagement is key to achieving this.

The Chair thanked Andrea for her informative report and looked forward to receiving future updates.

469. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2019.

470. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

NOTED the Work Programme 2019/2020.

471. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED the date of the next meeting as follows:

17th March 2020.

The meeting will commence at 7:00pm