

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 2021

MEMBERS: Councillors Kate Anolue, Ayfer Orhan, Yasemin Brett, Joanne Laban (Vice Chair) and Derek Levy

Officers: Ivana Price (Head of Service for Young People and Community Safety, Andrea Clemons (Head of Community Safety), Superintendent Chris Jones (Met Police), Detective Superintendent David Kennett (Met Police), Andy Ellis (Governance & Scrutiny Officer), Susan O'Connell (Governance & Scrutiny Officer)

Also Attending: 3 members of the public

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lee David-Sanders. In his absence the Vice-Chair, Councillor Joanne Laban chaired the meeting.

Cllr Nneka Keazor joined the meeting but due to technical difficulties was only able to hear and was not able to contribute.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020.

4. UPDATE FROM THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Due to technical difficulties Station Commander Andy Lewington was unable to join the meeting. This item was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

5. SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

A presentation was received from Detective Superintendent David Kennett and Superintendent Chris Jones.

NOTED:

1. There have been significant reductions across Serious Youth Violence, Knife injury victims under 25, Total Knife Crime, Gun Crime and Personal Robbery when comparing 2019 to 2020. Covid 19 has had an impact on these figures. If Enfield's performance is compared to its peers in similar areas good progress has been made.

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2. North Area Violence Reduction Group (NAVRG) is a strategic panel chaired by DS Kennett that seeks to combat serious youth violence, and coordinates activity. A sub committee steering group supports the NAVRG. There is a funded crime analyst to provide data as to where crime is happening and an administrator to support the actions and the comprehensive action plan. This project is funded by £40k of Home Office (HO) funding on a yearly basis and a monthly report is provided to the HO. This unit is governed by the Violence Suppression Unit at MOPAC.
3. The aims and objectives of NAVRG are to tackle Serious Youth Violence across Enfield and Haringey; co-ordinate activity across Police, Local authority, criminal justice and charity sectors; and to focus activity on the most vulnerable parts of the community.
4. NAVRG meets every 6 weeks and reviews key information on crime hotspots, this group dictates what analysis is needed for each meeting. There is a tactical plan, which has various strands and actions, each active participant takes ownership of parts. This is complemented by a media and communications section which looks to actively publicise good work.
5. Some examples of success were highlighted such as; School Robbery Plan, research and creation of safe spaces for young people (Operation Sharda); support for vulnerable young people whilst in police custody (Operation Alliance) and the victim support focus on vulnerable young people.
6. The approach to young people is one of engagement, encouragement and education and where necessary prevention and enforcement. Engagement is critical with young people and it is important that the first experience with policing be a positive one.
7. There is a Youth Independent Advisory group (YIAG) which is co-chaired by Superintendent Jones and a youth worker from Bruce Grove Community Centre. This is very well attended and has gone from strength to strength with young people ranging from 13-18 years old from the police cadets, Enfield Youth Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the care system, the youth offending service and from colleges to express their views.
8. In Enfield, there is a fulltime police cadet coordinator, one dedicated youth engagement officer and 2 sergeants and 16 PC's in the Safer Schools team covering secondary schools, colleges and primary schools' single point of contact.
9. During lockdown engagement has moved to online lessons and 134 cadets have been retained.
10. Examples were given of activities undertaken prior to December demonstrating engagement and successful partnership working.
11. Whilst Covid has helped to reduce street activity, it has also reduced the supply of drugs which has led to drug dealers stealing from other drug dealers and drug disputes turning to violence. There is a vicious circle of drugs, gangs, cash, weapons and violence
12. Examples of proactive enforcement were given including the work of the successful Safer Estates team and examples of weapons that have been recovered.

Comments, queries and questions raised:

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- It was observed that schemes often have short term immediate successes, is there a long-term picture that demonstrates long term success? It was confirmed that Operation Alliance targets vulnerable young people being arrested with a long-term view, actively looking to get them into long term youth provision and away from crime. There are also a number of other schemes that are long term programmes including DIVERT scheme and Spurs Foundation scheme. Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety drew attention to the Oasis Trust work at A & E that has been in place for 6 years and long-term results can be seen from this and the work of the Youth Offending Service. There is work being undertaken on youth reoffending, this is an agenda item at the next meeting.
- In a response to a query as to whether crime has reduced in Upper Edmonton area it is confirmed that this area has seen a reduction although this remains a key area of focus for the police.
- Following concerns on prostitution and update was given there is a lot of work in this area. It was confirmed that an update on this item is due to come to the next meeting.
- What engagement is there with families and religious groups? The police confirmed that there is a dedicated faith officer and recently all faith leader contacts have been refreshed. Faith Leader meetings are attended by at least one member of the police senior management team. There are also faith leaders amongst the police Independent Advisory Group. The Schools Officers link in with parents, there are links with the Eastern European Forum as part of outreach work.
- It was confirmed that during Lockdown, schools' officers have continued to engage with young people. Key worker children and some vulnerable young people are still attending schools so there are still patrols around schools. Some vulnerable young people are not attending school, officers are working with the school safeguarding leads and will be going on joint visits to ensure the young person is ok. There are also online lessons on online safety and radicalisation that officers are delivering.

Officers were thanked for their presentation.

6. SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety presented this item:

NOTED:

1. The refreshed Community Safety Plan is included within the agenda reports. This reflects on crime figures ending 2019. The priorities have also been reviewed against issues related to Covid.
2. How the priorities are selected are detailed in the report and remain unchanged with additional 2 priorities; tackling illegal drugs and raising awareness of how to deter vehicle crime.
3. The priorities were then gone through the report provides an overview of findings on the priority, what action will be taken and examples of communications.
4. Examples were provided under each priority of work in that area. One such example of communication on Domestic Abuse is included to

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promote the work of a coordinated Domestic Abuse hub bringing together a number of council services in order to ensure the best wraparound of support for victims of domestic abuse.

Comments, questions and queries raised:

- How does the plan take into account the current pandemic? Officers confirmed that the assessment was undertaken before the pandemic. Most of the work listed under the 'what will we do section' has continued or has been adapted so that it can continue despite the restrictions.
- How many of the bullet points broadly speaking are continuation and will they be prioritised if they cannot all be delivered with the timeframe of the plan? At least a third of the work has started and it is hoped that it can all be delivered. Regarding prioritisation those areas that cause the most significant levels of harm would be the areas that would be prioritised.
- Are the priorities in order in the plan? The priorities are not listed in order although violence is the top priority.
- Has the elderly been targeted by scams during Covid? There have been a number of scams as the pandemic has gone on. However, there is no evidence that older people have been particularly targeted. Work is being undertaken with Adult Social Care with things such as linking ring doorbell with their carer.

7. SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety presented the report.

NOTED:

1. The report shows crime figures for the whole of 2020. Overall crime is down by 6%; Residential burglary has reduced by 28% and Serious Youth Violence by 33%. However, Domestic Abuse Violence with injury has increased by 1.7% and ASB calls have increased significantly by 81%. Hate Crime although smaller number has increased in some categories by 44%.
2. Table 1 compares Enfield to London.
3. Under keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime all categories have reduced except Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged Offences which went up by one more offence. Attention was also drawn to the fact that Enfield has the 4th largest population of 0-19 in London with lots of young people coming in and out of the borough for school. Enfield currently has the highest level of serious youth violence in London. During lockdown Enfield has had significantly higher reductions.
4. There is a huge reduction in Robbery of Personal Property Offences this links heavily with serious youth violence. These offences are often young people on young people.
5. Domestic Abuse Incidents have increased by 11% this is slightly above London. This crime has been exasperated by lockdown.
6. There is a large increase in Racist and Religious Hate Crime offences, the lockdown has had a significant impact here.

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7. There has been a huge increase in ASB, for April and May 2020 alone there were over 5200 calls received by the Police. This has been largely driven by noncompliance with Covid restrictions and regulations.
8. There will be communications campaign on Vehicle crime reaching out to vehicle owners and how to avoid becoming a victim of vehicle crime. There have been reductions in vehicle crime during the year with the exception of theft from a motor vehicle.

Comments, queries and questions raised:

- Regarding Domestic Abuse how have we been dealing with extra cases during lockdown? The significant piece of work on this has been the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Hub that has been running since May. There have also been communications campaigns to encourage people to access help as soon as they can.
- Whilst there has been a reduction in Serious Youth Violence, Enfield is the highest in London do we know why this is? Enfield has a large youth population. If it was viewed at the rate per population Enfield would be 5th or 6th in London. It should be noted that Enfield's reduction one of the largest in London, a lot of work has been undertaken on schools and open spaces and the work undertaken to pre-empt the release of Covid restrictions. It is hoped that the reduction can be sustained.
- Looking at the summary on page 1 of the report whilst there are a lot of decreases. There are also some areas that have gone up and Enfield is not performing as well as London. Officers advised that ASB has gone up everywhere, Child Sexual Exploitation whilst it is a huge increase this relates to seven offences. There are links between deprivation and violent crime, and this is a factor alongside others. The strategies for dealing with this are detailed within the Partnership Plan.
- Race and Religious Hate Crime does Brexit have an impact on this crime and can hotspots be identified. It would be helpful if future performance reports contained more information on Child Sexual Exploitation such as what is driving this, and can hotspots be identified for. Officers advised that the Brexit element is not seen as a huge factor in hate crime. There is a Hate Crime Management Panel that looks at cases, further details being looked at to see what areas successfully intervened in. It was confirmed that both areas will be covered in more detail in future performance updates.
- How does the performance monitoring report relate to the actions in the Partnership Plan? Officers advised that statistics inform the Partnership Plan, using up to 5 years of data. If an investment is made it is monitored to see what impact this has had.
- It was suggested that in future performance reports it might be helpful to highlight an example from the Partnership Plan and show what has happened as a result of these actions.

8. CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The work programme was noted, and it was agreed that the London Fire Brigade item was deferred to the next meeting.

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9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.