

CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL
INFORMAL MEETING
TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2022, 7:00PM
MEETING NOTES

- 1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this was an informal meeting of the Crime Scrutiny Panel. This means that it is not a formal meeting of the authority and Councillors need to be aware that joining this meeting is not recorded as attendance for the purposes of Section 85 Local Government Act 1972. The meeting will be managed as if it were an in-person formal meeting. Officers will present reports and answer questions from Panel members in the usual way. A Committee Services Officer is in attendance to take notes. The notes will be presented to the next formal meeting of the Panel for formal ratification as the Board sees fit.

The Chair asked for it to be noted that he was disappointed that this meeting is being conducted informally and not held in person, especially given that other meetings such as the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been facilitated in person. Balancing up the fact that the choice was to hold the meeting informally or not at all, the Chair said that he felt it was prudent to move forward with the meeting but was disappointed that members of the public did not have access to papers given the fact that this is an informal meeting.

2. Ivana Price, Head of Young People and Community Safety introduced the report 'Reducing Serious Youth Violence in Enfield' providing information on the extent and diversity of the existing programme of work, led by Community Safety and the new public health approach to prevention of serious youth violence.

Enfield's number of serious youth violence victims is declining, which is positive. This is attributed to the work of the North Area BCU and the partnership work of the North Area Violence Reduction Action Group (NAVRAG). There has been a 18.2% decrease in the number of victims (297) in the year ending November 2021, compared to 2021 (363). The London average decline was 15.7% in the same period.

In response to Members' queries officers clarified the public health approach to the action plan and provided further information on the other areas of focus within the plan, detailing examples of the activity taking place for information of the Scrutiny Panel. Further discussion took place around prevention and early intervention and some examples were provided of new investment and new projects being developed by the Council, informed by the public health approach

In response to Members' concerns regarding the new wave of crime in Edmonton Green, Police Officers provided clarification on the measures being taken to tackle this.

Various discussions took place regarding Domestic Abuse and officers confirmed that, in line with the Crime Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22, a report on this item would be coming to the next meeting of the Panel, scheduled to take place on 15 March 2022.

3. Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety introduced the report 'Enfield Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Performance' providing an update on performance against the priorities agreed by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) within its current Partnership Plan 2020-2022

The data within the report is sourced from Police records, which can be subject to fluctuations due to record processing. It is optimally accessed at least 5 working days from the end of the required reporting month.

A summary of the data was provided. Total Notifiable Offences in Enfield increased by 0.7% in the year ending December 2021. In London, there was a minimal increase of 0.01%, equating to 88 more offences in 2021.

Simon Crick, BCU Commander introduced his Senior Team and they provided further information on the various crime figures detailed in the report and gave an overview of the work taking place within their teams.

In response to Members' queries, officers provided more details on key issues, challenges and comparative data.

4. Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety introduced the report 'Lower Traffic Neighbourhoods (From a Crime Point of View) providing information about the impact of the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) on crime levels. The report concluded that there had been very small changes in crime levels in both areas.

There was a small reduction in overall crime levels in Bowes LTN since its introduction (-2%) and a small increase in the Fox Lane LTN footprint (+3%). Enfield has a whole registers a small increase.

In response to Members' queries regarding the data provided, officers explained that public mappable Police data for the 2 years from 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2021 was used to provide the information detailed in the report. This was the most recent crime data available at the time of compiling the report.

Members said that they continued to receive concerns from residents, (women and others) stating that they did not feel safe walking in the borough, particularly at night, due to low levels of lighting. They had also stated that they did not feel safe walking in the LTN areas in what now seemed to be considered as deserted streets with no visible police presence. Members were sensing a real feeling of insecurity from residents. Officers responded

that they could not comment on residents' 'perception' of safety as the only figures available are those for reported crimes.

In response to members' concerns regarding this issue the Chair confirmed that Panel recommendations would be picked up at the next formal meeting of the Crime Scrutiny Panel in March 2022.

5. The next formal meeting of the Panel was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 15 March 2022.