

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

**MEMBERS:** Councillors Mahmut Aksanoglu, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Chris Dey (Vice-Chair), Adrian Grumi, Ahmet Oykenen and Reece Fox

**Officers:** Tony Theodoulou (Executive Director, People), Ivana Price (Head of Service, Young People & Community Safety), Darren Woods (CCTV Manager, Community Safety), Stacey Gilmour (Governance Officer).

**Also Attending:** Councillor Gina Needs (Cabinet Member Community Safety & Cohesion), DCS Caroline Haines (BCU Borough Commander), Superintendent Rhona Hunt (Neighbourhood Policing, BCU North Area), 1 member of the public.

### 1. MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Chair noted the sadness of all at the loss of our late Sovereign, the Queen Elizabeth II, who was held in such great affection by the people of this borough. There would be an opportunity to pay tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth and to send good wishes to our new King, King Charles III, at the forthcoming Council meeting on 21 September. It was therefore proposed to simply hold a minute's silence before commencing the business of this evening's meeting.

Cllr Needs, Cabinet Member, Community Safety & Cohesion, also paid tribute to a very dear colleague within the Community Safety Team who had very sadly passed away. A further minute's silence was held in her memory.

### 2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Chair, Cllr Mike Rye OBE (substituted by Cllr Reece Fox) and Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety. As Vice-Chair, Cllr Chris Dey chaired the meeting.

An apology for lateness was also received from Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu.

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Adrian Grumi declared a non-pecuniary interest as he runs the Enfield Crime Watch Facebook page.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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**AGREED** the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2022.

### 5. HRA FUNDED POLICE OFFICERS/SAFER ESTATES TEAMS

Received the report of Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety and Superintendent Rhona Hunt, Supt Partnerships North Area, highlighting the following:

- (i) Enfield Safer Estates Team were formed to increase safety for residents in council housing areas in the borough. The Council has contracted with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime previously and the current contract was signed in 2019 and extended to the end of March 2023.
- (ii) Five estates (Ayley Croft, Joyce & Snells, Lytchet, Klinger and Shires) are designated as 'priority estates' where the team are expected to focus most of their attention.
- (iii) The contract covers 1 Police Sergeant post and 15 Police Constable posts. This meets the MPS supervision ratio of 1 PS:8 PC. The council are invoiced based on actual resourcing levels. Any vacant posts or any abstractions from Safer Estate Team duties are not charged. The estates team currently consists of 1 Police Sergeant and 11 Police Constables.
- (iv) Neighbourhood officer abstraction rates are high. The Safer Estates Team are protected from abstractions, except in extreme circumstances, in which case the Council is not charged.
- (v) Crime across the priority estates increased by 20%. This represents a total increase of 99 offences (20/21-21/22). This increase is higher than the overall 5.1% increase in crime across the borough.
- (vi) However, these areas disproportionately contribute to the overall borough average. The five priority estates are located in the East of the borough where there is a greater density of population and higher levels of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) are reported.
- (vii) An increase in drug offences should be interpreted as an indicator of the proactivity of the team as these offences are discovered by officers. Drug crime has been identified as a major driver for violent crime and ASB, not just on the estates but in the wider community.
- (viii) Four out of the five priority estates recorded a reduction in the number of ASB calls in the past 12 months when compared to the previous year. A reduction of 27.9% equates to 94 less reports of ASB across the estates.
- (ix) Rape is a priority crime type for the MPS. A review of the offences within this geographical location in the period reported revealed that this significant increase included historic offences which have been reported in the period shown, offences which have taken place inside private premises between parties known to each other and offences on sex workers working in the vicinity of priority estates. Safer Estate Team officers, Operation Boxster officers and Public Protection specialist investigators are working tirelessly to ensure women and girls are safe in Enfield.

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- (x) The team work in close partnership with council officers. The flow of intelligence between the Safer Estates Team and the ASB Co-ordinators allows the council to re-direct police resources to target crime and ASB issues impacting residents without delay. The team also attend events such as resident association meetings to provide an accessible service for local residents.
- (xi) Further information was provided on the benefits of the funded team and recent examples of the good work that had taken place were shared.
- (xii) Overall the report demonstrates that the team have contributed a significant number of patrols and proactive interventions in the reporting period. Their work is directly linked to SSCB priority crime types and is of benefit to local residents and council ASB officers, who they work closely with.

The following comments and questions were raised:

1. With regards to recruitment to the four vacant posts on the Estate Teams Supt Rhona Hunt said that they would very much like to fill these but realistically are not in a position to do so over the next couple of months.
2. There is a real challenge if Ward Officers are abstracted as this impacts greatly on residents as visibility to the public is vitally important in terms of intelligence gathering and pro-active work.
3. Estate Team Officers are not abstracted except for in exceptional circumstances. Their abstraction rate is significantly lower than other Neighbourhood Policing Teams on the BCU. The terms of the contract ensure consistency and resilience in resourcing to estates.
4. The Estate Team Officers remain consistent and are fixed in their posts resulting in a solid team of officers which increases public confidence. Members agreed that this was very reassuring to hear.
5. Intelligence gathering is a key focus for the team. The team includes experienced officers with significant knowledge of the local area. This is invaluable to operational impact and has led to them identifying a number of individuals who frequent the estates as being wanted by police, some of whom had been outstanding for a significant period of time.
6. The Estate Teams often work with their corresponding Neighbourhood Ward Teams and have been able to draw in additional teams to assist with focussed work on the estates. They have also worked with new recruits to train them in street-based policing skills bringing additional resources to the areas, in addition to the commissioned service.

### **6. CRIME PREVENTION & DETECTION**

RECEIVED the report of Supt. Rhona Hunt, highlighting the following:

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- (i) The report provides an update on MPS work locally to prevent serious crime (violence, domestic abuse and rape) and increase sanction detections.
- (ii) Close partnership working takes place on prevention and detection of crime to keep Enfield residents safe. However, the report request was specific to police activity but it should be noted that there is also significant partnership activity undertaken, which has not been detailed in the report.
- (iii) Detailed information was provided on the various work taking place around prevention activity as well as improving detections for violent crime, domestic abuse and rape.
- (iv) North Area BCU Critical Incident (CI) Team was launched in June 2022 to improve detections. Since the inception there have been some fantastic results achieved. This includes several charges of serious assaults, investigating high profile cases across the BCU.
- (v) Enfield MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a bi-monthly multi-agency meeting chaired by a Detective Inspector from the Domestic Abuse Unit and discusses cases of domestic abuse. The BCU works closely with third sector agencies such as IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates) in order to support the victims of this crime type.
- (vi) The BCU has an effective process around panic alarms and makes regular use of these for high-risk victims of domestic abuse.
- (vii) The MPS aspiration is to detect 30% of all Domestic Abuse (DA) offences. This is recognised as being a particular challenge. In the last performance year 12.7% of all domestic abuse offences resulted in a charge or a police caution.
- (viii) The BCU has a dedicated team of investigators (the Community Safety) that investigates all offences of Domestic Abuse in Enfield and Haringey. This is led by 2 Detective Inspectors and 8 Detective Sergeants and an establishment of 55 investigators. The team has regular training days from subject matter experts and CPS lawyers in order to enhance their level of skill and investigative capacity.
- (ix) North Area has one of the lowest incidence rates for rape in London (9 out of 12 BCUs). That said there have been 689 reports of rape in North Area in the last 12 months. Of these, 349 took place in Enfield, an increase of 19.4% in Enfield compared to the previous rolling year.
- (x) The BCU has a local VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) plan which feeds into the MPS VAWG Action Plan. The themes of this plan are detailed in the report.
- (xi) Local prevention activity forms part of the 'Summer Nights' plan and again, details of the activity taking place are detailed in the report.
- (xii) North Area BCU has a prevention strategy which links in with the joint CPS-Police Rape Action Plan. A significant focus of this plan is to increase the number of offences brought to justice. The team has one of the lowest numbers of outstanding offenders for rape in the MPS, with most believed to be out of the UK and efforts in hand to trace and extradite them.

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- (xiii) In conclusion the report demonstrates that there is significant work ongoing in relation to prevention and detection of serious crime. However, it is clear that there is a need to sustain and improve on existing work given the increases in specific crime types.

The following questions/comments were made:

1. Information was provided on Operation Nightingale, the Home Office funded project to tackle violent crime in the highest harm hotspots and Supt Rhona Hunt explained how the priority areas for this project were chosen from police, ambulance and NHS data. North Area BCU has six 'treatment' areas, which will receive an investment in extra high visibility patrols and benefit from a 'problem orientated policing' long-term problem-solving approach. Six other unknown areas have been selected as 'control' areas, against which the treatment areas will be compared as part of this Randomised Control Trial to evaluate impact. One of the six treatment areas is in Enfield Borough – Edmonton Green. The remaining five are in Haringey Borough. The areas were selected by the Metropolitan Police Service Strategic Insights Unit, in collaboration with the Home Office, based on the data outlined above. Supt Rhona Hunt outlined that a request was made to spread the treatment areas more equally across both boroughs, but this was declined given the scientific nature of the project and the methodology used to select criteria for treatment areas. Edmonton Green will benefit from a significant investment in police resources and problem solving.
2. With regards to the term 'Golden Hour' Members were advised that this is a term for the period immediately following the commission of an incident or an offence when material is abundant and readily available in high volumes to the police. This involves really focused work by the Critical Incident Team (CIT) to push the investigation 'over the line' and officers working within this team are all specialists in their subject matter.
3. The Chair thanked Supt. Rhona Hunt for her informative and interesting update but did request that acronyms be avoided in future reports where possible.

## 7. ENFIELD CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PERFORMANCE

RECEIVED the report of the Community Safety Analyst, highlighting the following:

- (i) A summary of the data was provided. Total Notifiable Offences in Enfield increased by 5.8% in the year ending July 2022. In London, there was a higher increase of 10.1% in the same period.
- (ii) An increasing number of London Boroughs have recorded increases in Serious Youth Violence (SYV) victims in the last year. There was an average 7.7% rise in London equating to 459 more victims than last year across the capital.

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- (iii) Enfield recorded 11.2% reduction in the number of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) victims in year ending July 2022, or 38 less victims when compared to the same period last year. Enfield is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 32 boroughs for the number of SYV victims in the past 12 months.
- (iv) Further information was tabled detailing pre and post-pandemic levels of crime in Enfield- (2 years after the first lockdown), showing comparisons in performance data. This showed a reduction in SYV to pre-pandemic levels. This figure has tracked down and down and it was agreed that this was really encouraging to see.
- (v) The number of ASB calls has reduced considerably this year, and the number of Gun Crime offences also reduced by 74 offences in 12 months to March 2022 when compared to pre-pandemic year
- (vi) Some crime categories in the borough have maintained a decline or lower levels than those recorded prior to July 2021, such as Child Sexual Exploitation Offences.

The following comments/questions were raised:

1. Officers and the Police provided further information on the various crime figures detailed in the report and gave an overview of the work taking place within their teams.
2. In response to Members' queries, officers provided more details on key issues, challenges and comparative data.
3. Ivana Price, Head of Young People & Community Safety provided an update on the 'No Knives Better Lives' initiative which provided education around the risk of carrying knives and the ramifications and some really great feedback had already been received.
4. Ivana also spoke about Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs), which is a new civic order intended to help direct those who may be carrying knives or who are at greatest risk of being drawn into serious violence, away from being involved in knife crime. They will also help to prevent others who have been involved in knife crime from further offending when used following a conviction. Trials would be taking place to see how these orders can be used more for the prevention of knife crime around young people.
5. Concerns were raised in relation to the Theft or Taking of a Motor Vehicle. Superintendent Rhona Hunt acknowledged the significant impact of this crime from a victims perspective and provided a comprehensive update on the initiatives and work taking place in an attempt to combat this crime type which included proactively reviewing the figures every month and continually reviewing the intelligence around this issue. She did highlight however how incredibly challenging this type of crime is to tackle as it is organised, sophisticated, very technical, quick moving, high level crime. There are plans in place for a communications push that will be very targeted, involving specific areas, dealerships and leafleting in hot spot areas. The Chair added that the PCSO in Grange Ward had done lots of preventative work with residents and this had proved very useful.

## 8. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

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**NOTED** the Crime Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2022/23.

### **9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**NOTED** the dates of future meetings as follows:

- Wednesday 7 December 2022
- Wednesday 1 March 2023.

These meetings will commence at 7:00pm and will be held in the Conference Room at the Civic Centre.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

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