



METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY

Enfield Independent Custody Visitors Panel

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the annual report of the Enfield Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) Panel.

This report covers the period from 01/01/10 to 31/12/10.

The purpose of this report is to give a general overview of the work of the Enfield ICV Panel and:

- Evaluate the panel's performance
- Provide the local community and the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) with information about the visits made including the treatment of those held in custody
- Set out issues and concerns that have arisen
- Set out the objectives for 2011.

The MPA is an independent statutory body, which exists to make sure that London's police are accountable for the services they provide to people in the capital. The MPA has 23 Members who scrutinise and support the work of the police. The MPA promotes equality and diversity within the police service and is working in partnership to ensure all those who live and work in the capital are treated fairly and with respect.

The MPA has a legal obligation under the Police Reform Act 2002 for a custody visiting scheme to operate in its area. In April 2007 the MPA brought together the custody visiting arrangements managed by the boroughs into one London scheme. The scheme has the full support and cooperation of the Commissioner and the Borough Commander for Enfield, but is independent of the police. The MPA holds overall responsibility for the scheme's management and administration; a member of MPA staff is responsible for supporting the panel.

Custody visitors are volunteers from within the community. The MPA is responsible for recruiting, selecting and appointing all custody visitors and tries to ensure a balance of age, gender and ethnicity. Successful applicants to the scheme are given training in all aspects of a custody visitor's role and responsibilities. Custody visiting is governed by a range of legislation and guidance including the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 as well as Home Office Codes of Practice and National Standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Enfield panel currently makes two unannounced visits per week to Edmonton Police Station, which is above the minimum requirement of one visit per week per 24/7 custody suite, that the MPA sets panels as a target. Therefore, visiting targets for the borough have been exceeded, however, as the requirement of the MPA is one visit per week, for the purposes of this report visit level achieved shall be recorded as 100%. The panel have also made visits to Enfield Police Station when it has been opened and used as an overflow station for special operations. The panel also made visits on anti-social days such as Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

During 2010 the Enfield Panel met every quarter at Enfield Civic Centre, this is at a lower frequency then in 2009 where they met every 2 months. The meetings throughout 2010 were well attended by panel members and the police, and the venue continues to be most satisfactory and there has not appeared to be any adverse affects of the reduction in meetings.

The panel's police liaison officer, Inspector Wayne Morris took over at the beginning of the year and assisted the panel in its work, and the panel wishes to thank him for his cooperation and help in investigating any concerns and observations, and in answering questions at panel meetings in a comprehensive and timely manner.

The panel set out to maintain its membership level of 10 in 2010, which is above the number stipulated by the MPA and this was achieved with no members of the panel resigning or taking a sabbatical.

In regards to the diversity of the Enfield panel, future recruitment could focus on age groups under 40 to improve the diversity of the panel's age make up.

Many panel members have busy home and professional lives, and some also maintain other community roles as well as that as an ICV. Nevertheless, attendance at meetings and visit performance has been consistently good.

Special mention must go to Alice Evans and Peter Waterhouse who received long term service awards in 2010 from the MPA.

CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the Enfield Independent Custody Visitors Panel's (ICV) 2010 Annual Report and my last as Chair.

The Enfield ICV Panel has continued to execute two visits on a weekly basis as well as maintaining good practice. This was paramount as this ensured that our Panel continued to carryout high levels of visits to police stations in our area and provided reassurance to our local community especially young and vulnerable people whilst they were being detained. As an independent group we were required to check on the standard of care given in custody suites in Enfield as well as also monitoring the welfare of detainees who are being held.

Throughout 2010 both myself and The Vice Chair Peter Waterhouse attended and represented the panel at a local level as well as being invited to observe local and national operations which benefited the panel immensely, especially in relation to Gang, Gang Crimes and Stop and Search. At a pan-London level both myself and the Vice-Chair, continued to attend meetings at the MPA.

In regards to achievements two panel members received awards from the MPA for their service as Independent Custody Visitors in 2010. Thank you to the other panel members who give so generously of their time.

Our thanks go to the Police Officers and Dedicated Detention Officers from Enfield and Edmonton Police Stations who assisted us without prejudice when panel members were carrying out their visits. Our thanks also go to Inspector Wayne Morris for his help and support to the panel.

As outgoing Chair and in closing I would like to give my thanks to the entire panel. Thank you all for your commitment and service. This continues to bring reassurance to the people who live and work in The London Borough of Enfield, that through our visits people who are detained in police stations are treated fairly and equally.

Personal thanks to my (then) Vice Chair Peter Waterhouse for being so accommodating and giving so much extra time (sometimes at short notice) in order to serve and represent our panel. As the new Chair Peter thank you for your support during my time as Chair and I wish you luck in 2011.

Finally, thank you to our ICV Coordinator for executing her role so efficiently, and for being such an asset to our Panel in her first year.

Caroline B Berry (BA Hons)
Chair of Enfield ICV Panel
2010

RECRUITMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

Since April 2007, panels have been asked to adhere to recruitment and interviewing guidance provided by the MPA. The MPA expects all panels to adhere to the MPA's equal opportunities policy, recruit new panel members from all sections of the community and actively foster good relations between people of different races, genders, sexualities, abilities and age on the panel.

At the end of 2010 the Enfield panel had 10 accredited members.

Name	Appointed
Caroline Berry (Chair)	1994
Leo Duberry	1999
Alice Evans	1999
Lorna Logan	1999
Peter Waterhouse (Vice-Chair)	2000
Janet Brown	2005
Henry Cohen	2005
Dennis Johnson	2008
Orla Roberts	2008
Juliette Johnson	2008

There were no resignations from the Enfield panel in 2010.

The panel now comprises of four men and six women with varying diversity in age and ethnicity. There is a 40% make up of male volunteers but this does not reflect the borough's own population make up of 48% males¹. In terms of ethnicity the panel draws around 60% of its members from non-white communities, this is a massive difference from the borough's projected ethnicity breakdown for 2007 of a 70% white population.

Recruitment

The panel has been full all year and operates a waiting list will for any applications received.

¹ From the projected figures for 2007 from Data Management and Analysis Group based in the Greater London Authority. They in turn originate from Office of National Statistics data. These projections have been drawn because the original 2001 census data are so out of date.

VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS

There have been few major concerns this year. The relationship with the custody staff on the whole has continued to be positive and the panel are happy with the way in which staff have explained the ICV role to detainees. Issues that have arisen and have been addressed, include the response to ICVs by new staff to custody and those staff working elsewhere within the station.

Enfield police station has opened its custody suite on a number of occasions over the year for special operations, and the panel have tried to visit during each period of its use.

It has been rare for there to be a delay in entering the custody suites, even though visits are often at busy times, and it is a source of satisfaction to the panel that there have been few complaints, if any, from detainees on how they are treated in Enfield and Edmonton stations.

DATA FROM PANEL VISITS

Visit statistics covering 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2010.

1. Number of visits

Station	Annual no. of visits	% of Annual Target*
Edmonton	94	100%
Enfield	4	n/a
Total	98	100%

*MPA Annual Target is 52 visits per 24/7-custody suite and as required to overflow sites. For the purpose of this report, even though the panel exceeded their target, the percentage is being kept at 100%.

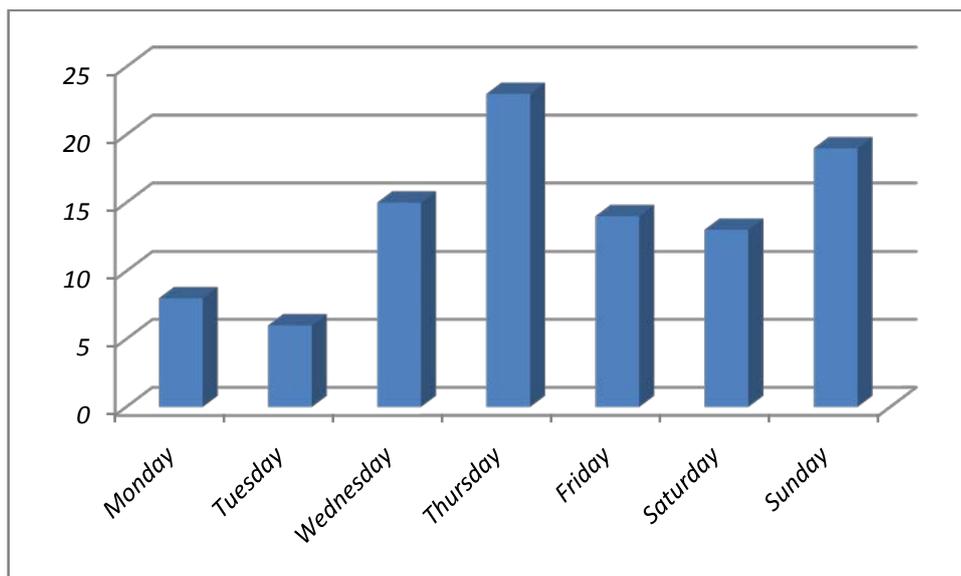
2. Time and day of visits

Independent custody visits are unannounced and the panel's intention is to avoid visiting in a predictable pattern.

The charts below display the number of visits carried out in the Borough of Enfield in 2010, by day of the week and time period.

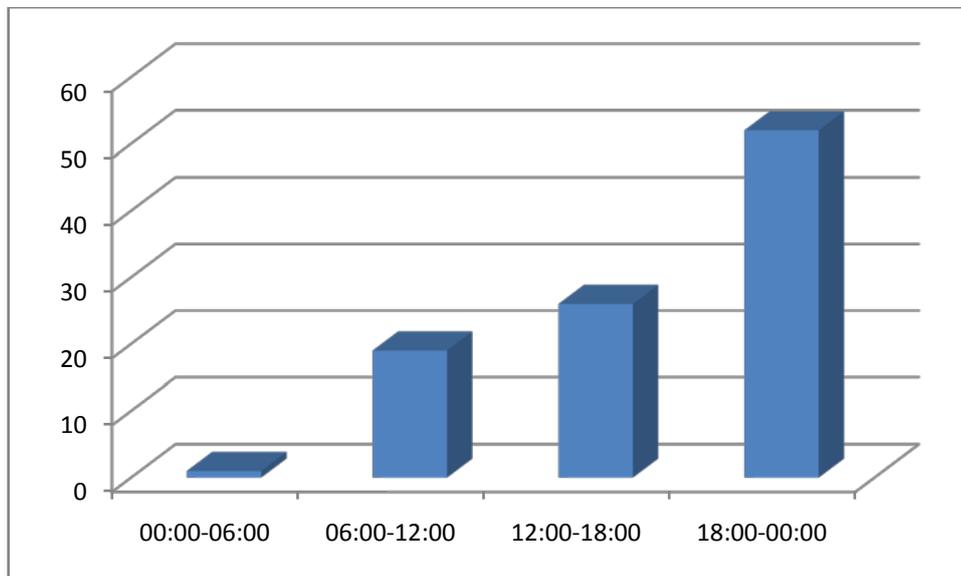
Visit - by day of the week

The graph below shows the days of the week in which visits were conducted by the Enfield panel to both Enfield and Edmonton Police Station. As can be seen, visits were carried out on all days of the week, with a greater emphasis on Thursdays.



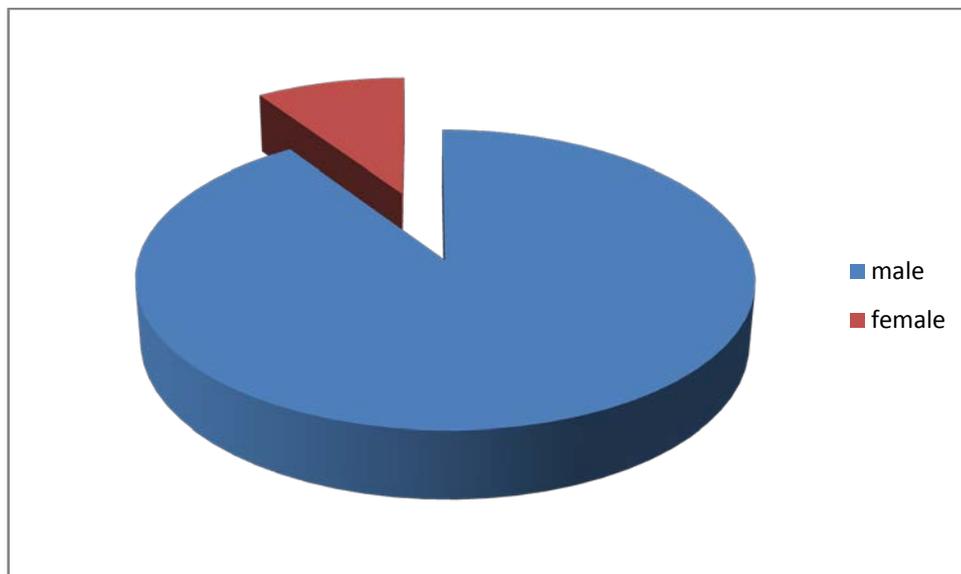
Visits – by time (6 hour periods)

The graph below shows the time frames in which visits took place to police stations in Enfield. As can be seen, the most popular time for visits was in the evening after 6pm.

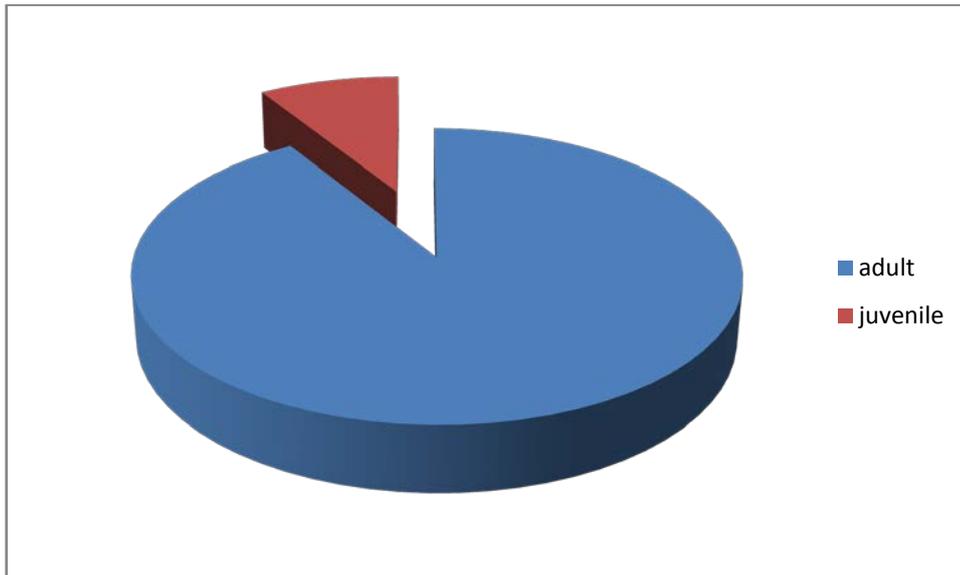


3. Demographics of Detainees

The pie chart below shows the percentages of those held who were male and female, as can be seen the majority held in Enfield were male.

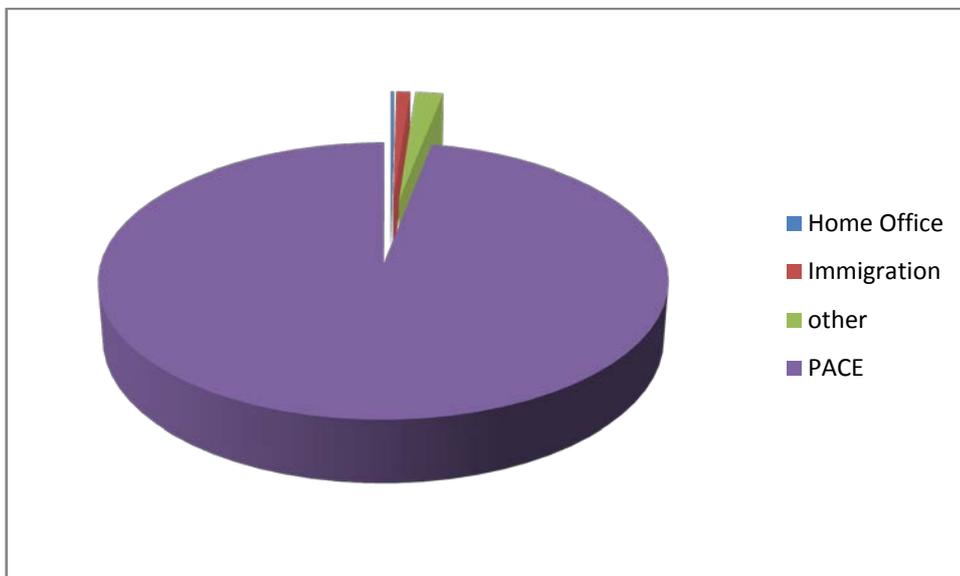


The pie chart below shows the percentages of those who were adult and those who were juvenile. As can be seen the majority of those held in Enfield police stations were adults (over 18).



4. Categories of Detainees

The pie chart below shows the categories detainees were held under in Enfield. As can be seen, the vast majority of those held in police detention in Enfield were held under PACE, with a minority being held under Other (such as Bail to Return), Home Office (such as Prison Production) and Immigration.



5. Issues Raised on Visits

When visitors speak to detainees they record any concerns that detainees raise with them.

Visitors do not wake detainees if they are asleep, however they will usually check through the wicket in the door to check that all looks well in the cell. Visitors check concerns raised by detainees against their custody record (where permission has been gained from the detainee to do so), and will bring matters to the attention of the police if they remain concerned about any aspect of the detainee's treatment or welfare. Most minor concerns can be resolved during the visit and only more major or more complicated concerns are discussed at a meeting of the whole panel.

Over the course of the year there have been very few concerns raised by detainees being held in stations in Enfield, those that have been raised on more than ten occasions over the year include requests for food, drink, blankets, clothing and telephone calls. These are often brought to the attention of staff by ICVs and dealt with whilst the visitors are still present at the station. The issue of blankets and clothing has been Met wide and is being addressed.

PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Targets:

- A minimum of one visit per week to Edmonton Police Station.
- A weekly visit to Enfield Station when it is in use.
- Visits to be carried out during all time frames throughout the day.
- To maintain panel membership at a minimum of nine (as stipulated by the MPA).
- To build on the improved links between the panel and the local Community and Police Consultative Group.
- To raise the profile of the panel and scheme across the borough through wider circulation of the annual report and publicity materials.
- To continue with refresher training during panel meetings and to have presentations from external agencies.