

An introduction to the

LOCAL POLICING MODEL

For the

Muswell Hill, Alexandra, Fortis Green and Highgate
Area Forum and Committee meeting 27th June 2012

By Inspector Adrian Ball.

After the Olympics the Met is committed to investing an extra 2,000 officers in neighbourhood policing. Uniformed officers will form new neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) supporting the existing safer neighbourhood teams (SNTs) in the Commissioner's total war on crime. Like the familiar SNTs, the new NPTs will police discreet geographical areas, supporting communities with local knowledge.

The NPT's shift pattern will also see more officers on duty at key times, such as late at night and at weekends. In Haringey this will be from 8am to midnight, everyday, seven days a week. They will be used in a more intelligence-led way in the areas where crime is taking or could take place.

Detectives, Forensic Officers and Crime Prevention Officers will join them, all under the local leadership of an Inspector. Together they form an integrated neighbourhood policing team (INPT). In Haringey this change has already started. The Borough's 19 wards have been grouped into 4 clusters and each cluster already has its own NPT. The West cluster is lead by Inspector Adrian Ball and encompasses Alexandra, Fortis Green, Muswell Hill, Crouch End and Highgate. Your NPT works from Hornsey police station and like the three other Haringey clusters, it comprise of 2 Sergeants (or acting Sergeants) and approximately 20 Constables.

Where are the extra staff coming from?

Across London the 2,000 officers will come from transferring officers in back-room and non-operational roles and from merging existing squads, whilst senior management costs are being reduced to ensure there are as many Constables in our community as possible. In Haringey we have had an investment of new staff to support the local policing model. 50 experienced officers from other Boroughs have been brought into Haringey along with approximately 50 new recruits. These new recruits were former PCSOs (some from Haringey). It is these officers along with a few existing Haringey officers that have been used to form your new NPT.

Why divide Haringey into four policing clusters?

I believe that as the area an officer has responsibility for reduces, so accountability increases. Officers stop policing a community and start becoming a part of it. Knowledge and familiarity grows, not just with the physical area but with the residents and businesses.

There's no denying Haringey is a busy and challenging Borough to police and I acknowledge we can't possibly do it on our own. We police by consent and consequently we need the communities support and trust. The local policing model will make a greater number of officers visible, accessible and accountable to you.

Our cluster comprises of the 5 westerly wards and so the new NPT officers will quickly integrate into the community. I expect to see increased trust and cooperation in the public/police relationship and ultimately greater public satisfaction and police productivity.

What tangible benefits can I expect to see?

We have made you 12 promises. There's no doubt they're challenging when you consider the unpredictable nature of our business and our occasional need to support other parts of the capital with large scale events - but we are committed to delivering them.

- The streets of highest need will receive a minimum of 3 hours a day uniformed patrols at key times.
- Each Secondary School will have a dedicated police officer.
- All secondary schools will have a visible police presence between the hours of 3.00pm – 4.30pm.
- Each Primary School will have a named contact with the police.
- We will agree and deliver on one school council promise in each Secondary School every term (focussing on safety and reassurance).
- If you are a victim of robbery, burglary or violent crime in Haringey you will receive personal contact from your Neighbourhood Policing Team within 24 hours.
- All appointments will be kept.
- Every Prolific Offender on the Borough will be visited weekly by an officer from Haringey police.
- There will be 5 street briefings on your cluster per month.
- There will be a public consultation once every 3 months per ward.
- There will be a public meeting once every three months at which the police Senior Management Team will be present to discuss community concerns.
- We will search high risk public spaces for items likely to cause harm twice a week.

How does this affect the existing Safer Neighbourhood teams?

Wards will retain dedicated police and community support officers who form an integral part of the INPT. For the first time SNTs will have a large resource of officers, dedicated to the same area as themselves, whom they can call upon to help tackle community problems and provide assistance in pre-planned operations to combat local issues. To ensure local priorities are supported by the new NPT and their work is complimentary to that of the existing neighbourhood teams, both are lead by the same dedicated Inspector. INPTs are a further commitment to local policing.

Will NPTs be responding to emergencies and providing a 24/7 response?

NPTs will not ordinarily respond to the emergency calls. Haringey currently has five 'response' teams who deal with emergency calls for assistance. These teams have existed for many years and have served the Borough well. They will remain as the Borough's primary response to crimes in progress or other emergencies. Prior to the implementation of the new local policing model, Inspector Ball lead one of these teams.

Are there other changes taking place locally?

The new model will also see the introduction of war room-style 'Grip and Pace' centres where senior officers will have daily conferences with key staff, armed with the latest intelligence and data to coordinate police activities and ensure all the right resources are being used in the right places at the right times. In Haringey this centre is already established and ensures the new NPTs are kept abreast of developing intelligence and hence well equipped to fight crime in your area.

Adrian Ball
Inspector.