

## Appendix 1

### Tackling Knife Crime – Places and Our Approach to Managing Them

Analysis<sup>1</sup> by the Safer Communities Analysis and Research Team (SCART) identified that knife crime in Ealing increased by 13.1% during 2017-18 in comparison with 2016-17. This compares to London as a whole, where the increase has been more significant at 21.9%. During this same period knife crime with injuries in Ealing *reduced* slightly (-6%), compared to an overall *increase* in knife crime with injury in London of 4.8%.

As part of the Safer Ealing Partnership's commitment to investigate the drivers of emerging community safety concerns in the borough, the safer communities team work closely with Police and other partners to build problem profiles that consider people, premises and places affected.

It is the *places* element of that approach which this report focuses on, specifically in relation to the area based work undertaken by the council's safer communities team, Police and Parkguard around effective information sharing and targeting of key areas associated with knife crime.

#### **Police Powers and Tactics**

In Ealing the Police's response to knife crime is encompassed under the West Area's *Operation Honey Badger*. As well as targeting individuals known to carry knives and using enforcement action targeting people and premises of concern, the approach includes activities targeting specific geographical areas, including:

- Prevention messages delivered through schools
- Test purchase activity with Police Cadets
- Weapons sweeps
- Hotspot patrols and targeted use of Stop and Search
- Use of Section 35 Dispersal Orders where intelligence justifies authorisation
- Use of Section 60

#### ***Stop and Search***

Police officers have powers to stop and search a person if they have 'reasonable grounds' to suspect that person carrying:

- Drugs
- Stolen property
- Something which could be used to commit a crime
- A weapon

Before a person is searched, the police officer conducting the search must tell them:

- Their name and the police station they are attached to

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<sup>1</sup> A Review of Knife Crime in Ealing (SCART, September 2018)

- What they expect to find as a result of their search
- The reason for their search
- Why they are legally allowed to search the person
- The process for how the person can obtain a copy of the details of the search

The use of stop and search in Ealing is scrutinised by the Community Monitoring Group (CMG). This independently chaired group is made up of local residents, meets quarterly and is attended by a senior officer from the Police, who presents the data on stop and search in the borough in the context of the use of stop and search in other parts of London and England and Wales. A representative from Ealing Council also attends the group.

The main use of stop and search in Ealing continues to be for drugs, which is consistent with the use of stop and search in other parts of London.

During the most recent monitoring period of July – September 2018 there were 102 uses of stop and search by Police in Ealing that were for the purpose of finding a weapon, resulting in 32 arrests.

	Jul-18				Aug-18				Sep-18						
	1 No further action	11 Penalty Notice (PND/FNH)	12 Postal Charge Requisition / Summons	13 Community resolution	4 Arrested	1 No further action	11 Penalty Notice (PND/FNH)	12 Postal Charge Requisition / Summons	13 Community resolution	4 Arrested	1 No further action	11 Penalty Notice (PND/FNH)	12 Postal Charge Requisition / Summons	13 Community resolution	4 Arrested
A Stolen property (s.1 PACE)	28			2	10	15					10				4
B Drugs (s.23 Misuse of Drugs Act)	91	4	4	24	30	134	8	4	20	22	142	11	4	31	20
C Firearms (s.47 Firearms Act)	5				3				1	2					2
D Weapons, Point & Blades (s.1 PACE, s.139 CJ Act)	22				7	47			1	7	33	1		1	16
F Going equipped (s.1 PACE)	18			1	4	5				2	7		2	1	2
K s.60 CJPO Weapons						27		1	1	1	1				
O Other Object (see Annex A if code A PACE)	2													1	
Y Psychoactive Substances	2				1				1						
Z Fireworks (s.1 PACE)					1	1									

	JUL-18 D Weapons, Point & Blades	AUG-18 D Weapons, Point & Blades	SEP-18 D Weapons, Point & Blades	Total
Searches	22	47	33	102
Arrests	7	8	17	32
Arrest Rate	32%	17%	52%	31%
% Total S&S	9%	15%	11%	12%

All data on Stop and Search is publicly available and updated monthly on the Metropolitan Police's online dashboard: <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/stop-and-search-dashboard/>

## Section 60

Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act allows senior police officers to authorise constables to stop and search persons in a specific area, either where a

serious public order problem is likely to arise or has taken place, or for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments. Failing to submit to a search is an offence.

**60(1)** *If a police officer of or above the rank of Inspector reasonably believes -*  
*(a) that incidents involving serious violence may take place in any locality in his police area, and that it is expedient to give an authorisation under this section to prevent their occurrence,*  
*(aa) that -*  
*(i) an incident involving serious violence has taken place in England and Wales in his police area;*  
*(ii) a dangerous instrument or offensive weapon used in the incident is being carried in any locality in his police area by a person; and*  
*(iii) it is expedient to give an authorisation under this section to find the instrument or weapon; or*  
*(b) that persons are carrying dangerous instruments or offensive weapons in any locality in his police area without good reason,*  
*he may give an authorisation that the powers conferred by this section are to be exercisable at any place within that locality for a specified period not exceeding 24 hours.*

**60(4)** *This section confers on any constable in uniform power -*  
*(a) to stop any pedestrian and search him or anything carried by him for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments;*  
*(b) to stop any vehicle and search the vehicle, its driver and any passenger for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*

**60(8)** *A person who fails -*  
*(a) to stop, or to stop a vehicle;*  
*(b) repealed*  
*when required to do so by a constable in the exercise of his powers under this section commits an offence.*

In London, a Superintendent must apply to their National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Officer to authorise a Section 60 for up to 15 hours (the time frame usually set by NPCC Officer is a lot less than 15 hours). One of the following grounds must apply, along with the information/intelligence that supports the application:

- Incidents involving serious violence will take place in a specific locality and it is necessary to use these powers to prevent their occurrence.
- An incident involving serious violence has taken place, a dangerous instrument or offensive weapon used in the incident is being carried by a person in a specific locality, and it is necessary to use these powers to find that instrument or weapon.
- Persons are carrying dangerous instruments or offensive weapons without good reason in a specific locality.

The Superintendent has to detail if the authorisation of Section 60 is a proportionate

and necessary response. As standard, Police will communicate any use of Section 60 to the Community Monitoring Group, Safer Neighbourhoods Board and council officers and members to ensure all key stakeholders are aware of the use and purpose of the Section 60 operation.

### ***Section 35 Dispersal Powers***

Sections 34 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 allow a senior police officer to authorise the use of Section 35 dispersal orders in a specified locality, during a specified period of not more than 48 hours.

The officer can give this authorisation only if satisfied on reasonable grounds that the use of those powers in the locality during that period may be necessary for the purpose of removing or reducing the likelihood of:

- (a) members of the public in the locality being harassed, alarmed or distressed,  
or
- (b) the occurrence in the locality of crime or disorder.

If the conditions are met and an authorisation is in force under section 34, a police officer in uniform may direct a person who is in a public place in the locality specified in the authorisation:

- (a) to leave the locality (or part of the locality), and
- (b) not to return to the locality for the period specified

In making this decision, officer must have reasonable grounds to suspect that the behaviour of the person in the locality has contributed or is likely to contribute to:

- (a) members of the public in the locality being harassed, alarmed or distressed,  
or
- (b) the occurrence in the locality of crime or disorder.

### **Ealing Council's Safer Communities Partnership Hub**

The safer communities team lead the council's partnership commitment to making Ealing a safer place to live, work and visit. At Perceval House's partnership hub, Council safer communities officers and noise response officers work alongside Police colleagues in teams that reflect the Police cluster model. The duty desk provides a Monday-Friday 9am-5pm direct reporting service for residents in addition to the out of hours' service offered by the Noise Response team.

The service coordinates a partnership response to reports of anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns, taking reports from residents and working proactively with other agencies to identify emerging concerns. The co-location of these services allows for faster and more effective information sharing in relation to

people, premises and places of concern.

### ***Information Sharing and Identifying and Targeting Places***

Safer Communities Tasking meetings take place fortnightly. At this forum officers from Safer Communities, CCTV, Parkguard and the Police Proactive ASB Team review intelligence on emerging areas of concern and agree taskings targeted at intelligence gathering and enforcement, identifying whether Parkguard or Police will lead on the patrols and agreeing the key activities each service will undertake ahead of the next review. This approach ensures information about emerging hotspot areas is shared and allows areas to be tasked with maximum impact and efficiency.

Information shared by partners at other forums, including *Milvus* and *MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation)* meetings is considered when agreeing taskings. Changes to those forums have included taking a broader view of the drivers of exploitation of children and young people, including those at risk of *County Lines* exploitation and knife crime. *MACE* meetings now include a standing agenda item of locations that are coming to attention, providing a valuable forum for more intangible intelligence (for example information that may come from informal conversations between social workers and families) to be funnelled into tangible taskings.

The safer communities team use CCTV operator tasking and deployable cameras to target areas coming to attention, in some cases deploying cameras to an area within a matter of days to respond to serious localised concerns. At any one time there are at least 15 live tasking operations with CCTV operators on a daily basis.

Ealing safer communities are also represented at the monthly West Area Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group, where cross border existing and emerging areas of concern across are discussed with police and Hounslow and Hillingdon colleagues.

### ***Weapons Sweeps***

Based on what is known about weapons being stored in hidden areas by individuals in an effort to reduce the risk of being identified as carrying a weapon, police use data and intelligence from local police teams and council services about known hotspot areas to conduct regular weapons sweeps. These are often undertaken by police and Parkguard officers and include searches of parks, public spaces and housing estates, where weapons may have been stored by individuals for potential use at a later time. During 2017-18 a total of 663 searches were completed by Parkguard alone in Ealing's parks and housing estates, primarily focussed on locating hidden weapons and drugs.

### ***Public Spaces Protection Orders***

Ealing has successfully used Public Spaces Protection Orders to address specific local concerns affecting residents and businesses. In Southall Broadway, which is highlighted in the SCART report as the most problematic ward for knife crime, the council has recently introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). This

covers Southall Town Centre and six of its open spaces (Southall Park, Spikes Bridge Park, Wolf Fields, Southall Recreation Ground, Manor House Grounds and Havelock Cemetery). The PSPO gives police and council enforcement officers enhanced powers to tackle some of the behaviours Southall residents and business have told us make them feel unsafe.

Moving into 2019 the safer communities team is working with key partners to build an intelligence picture for the borough as a whole, considering what behaviours drive specific crime and anti-social behaviour in different parts of the borough and what requirements and prohibitions may be effective in reducing instances of these crimes and improving public places for all.

### ***Injunctions and Other Powers***

A number of Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) and Community Protection Notices (CPNs) used in Ealing target specific areas and include exclusion zones to prohibit specific individuals from entering an area where we are able to demonstrate they may present a risk to others. These measures can reduce risk of knife crime not just to the public but to the targeted individuals themselves, preventing them from being in areas where they are likely to engage in behaviours that place them at risk. Ealing's use of these enforcement powers is higher than other London boroughs and they remain key assets for the local partnership in keeping public places safe.

### ***Reducing Availability of Knives***

Qualitative evidence indicates that knives recovered by Police and Parkguard officers during weapons sweeps are sometimes found to be within their original packaging, indicating that they have been purchased or stolen from a retailer. This demonstrates a potential issue with the security arrangements in those retailers.

Ealing are building a register of knife retailers with a view to developing a dialogue with all knife retailers across the borough that is consistent and focussed on reducing the risk of knives falling into the wrong hands. This includes identifying best practices in line with the Home Office's Responsible Retailer guidance, including appropriate ID checks for all people purchasing knives and ensuring knives are stored in an appropriately secure part of the premises and are appropriately tagged.

The project will focus on the supply of knives using key resources from the Safer Ealing Partnership, including the safer communities team, noise response team, local Police teams, Trading Standards officers and Police Cadets. Officers from the noise response team are developing a knife retailer register. Local police teams, along with Trading Standards officers and young people from the Police cadets are leading on test purchases of knives ensure those retailers are making appropriate ID checks of all people who appear under the age of 25.

The partnership will additionally focus on engaging with retailers where poor practices (such as the display of knives in unsecured or untagged packages) have been noted and engaging them in the responsible retailer process. Enforcement action will be considered against those retailers whose practices fall short; this could

variously include action under the terms of their licence or the use of a Community Protection Notice, requiring them to comply by specific behaviours or face prosecution.

Council officers have already held a number of meetings with senior management from a retailers in Ealing where concerns had been noted by council officers about the location of knives within stores and store security arrangements. This has variously led to knives being relocated to a more secure area of the store, improved CCTV and in one instance a retailer resolving to withdraw all knives from sale.

While it is recognised that this activity does not address the issue of knives already in the community, Ealing believe this approach in conjunction with the knife surrender will, in the long term, reduce the number of knives getting into the wrong hands.

### ***Knife surrender***

As part of Ealing's knife crime strategy, the Safer Ealing Partnership are committed to the implementation of a knife surrender in January 2019. Provision has already been made for the purchase and branding of ten secure knife bins to deliver this project

The bins are planned for installation across key sites in the borough, focusing on the areas most affected by knife crime and based in locations that have been identified by police and partners as appropriate. Residents will soon see branded secure knife bins installed in areas across the borough over the coming months, with the knife surrender being formerly launched in Spring 2019.

### **Parkguard**

Parkguard deliver the safer communities and parks patrol service across all of Ealing's housing estates, parks and open spaces. Parkguard patrol officers undertake proactive patrols, gathering intelligence on emerging concerns and tackling anyone involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour and are a key partnership resource for improving the safety of the borough's public spaces.

Parkguard officers share some powers with police, specifically in relation to requesting information from and detaining suspects. The service has a number of specially trained dog units, with dogs trained variously in locating drugs, weapons and money. The increased rapid access to these units allows Police and Parkguard to regularly conduct joint operations.

During 2017-18 Parkguard delivered over 4,000 taskings. The majority were completed in the borough's most challenging areas, where anti-social behaviour and criminal activity has been highlighted as a concern. The service has continued to address quality of life issues through high visibility uniformed proactive patrols and gathering informal and formal intelligence that has contributed towards long term outcomes, through criminal prosecutions, civil enforcement action and longer-term strategies such as the new Public Spaces Protection Orders.

Their focus on specified emerging areas of concern identified by the partnership supports the council and police in building a clearer intelligence picture of what is happening on our estates and parks, particularly during the evening and night times when council services are reduced and police priorities may be diverted to responding to emergencies.

During 2017-18 Parkguard undertook 1,635 partnership initiatives with safer communities and police, including proactive weapon sweeps.