

**SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 2 – 2018/2019: KNIFE CRIME AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT  
MEETING 3 – 14 NOVEMBER 2018**

**PANEL MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SITE VISITS**

**Visit 1**

**Ealing Magistrates Court**

The Court House, Green Man Lane, Ealing W13 0SD

Thursday 11 October 2018 (09:30-13:00)

To learn about the workings of the Ealing Magistrates Court and observe the proceedings in the Adult Court.

Attendees: Cllr Aysha Raza (Chair), Cllr Seema Kumar (Vice Chair), Cllr Praveen Anand and Cllr Jon Ball

Panel Member	Observations/Findings	Conclusions and Recommendations
Cllr Seema Kumar (Vice Chair)	<p>Thank you to Ian Jenkins for organising the court visit and Heather Sharland (Magistrate, Youth Bench) for facilitating.</p> <p>After entry procedures, we met Heather who is Chairman of the Panels she sits on with two other magistrates. They are duly assisted by the Court Legal Advisor (it was Jane Thompson on the day) who outlines each court case listed. Prosecutor and defendants' solicitor/barrister were required to follow the procedures in presenting their cases.</p> <p>Ealing Magistrates Court works with Hillingdon as well. They also interact with Other West London courts including Feltham and Uxbridge.</p> <p>We sat in court to watch and listen to proceedings helping us understand the process which was an interesting experience overall. Individuals having their cases heard are normally seated behind a glass screen and accompanied by Security if they are in holding cells.</p> <p>Prior to this we were given an introduction to how Youth Courts are conducted which are procedurally not open to the public.</p> <p>Heather introduced us to District Judge Richard Kwame Inyundo who sits in the Ealing Youth Court for two weeks a month. His personal response and views are what best related to me.</p>	<p>Heather Sharland finds the work that the Council's Youth Offending team undertakes on cases referred to them works very well. This is pleasing to hear.</p> <p>She would also like to see more interaction with Schools. It was felt that reports on the young people from Schools would assist in identifying underlying issues e.g. home environment and parental involvement. I agree with this.</p>

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	<p>I felt condemnation in the first instance was not foremost in his mind but a humane and sensitive thinking. He shared his thoughts with us saying not all young people who were brought in front of him were bad or had intended to use the knife/knives found on their person.</p> <p>One of the reasons given by some very young people when asked was self-protection. I was impressed and felt he not only understands the issues but tries to get the reason behind the young people's actions and ensuring they understand the consequences of carrying knives – 'Get hurt or killed by the same weapon'.</p> <p>We were further informed about parental involvement, interpreter services, and video link hearings.</p> <p>The District Judge was due to sit on a serious knife crime case involving repeat offenders engaged in criminal activity. He explained the process to us.</p> <p>The main Court Clerk on the day (Suzanne Germaine, Deputy Justices Clerk) works with several courts including Central London to ensure that these run smoothly. Courts are trying to go paperless and this was evident when we sat in Court One. Use of tablets was obvious and efficiently relaying information to court cases.</p> <p>She felt that they had a reasonable workload and this may be considered when Courts and the volume they deliver is restructured in the future.</p> <p>Well spent few hours adding value to the work of the Scrutiny Panel.</p>	
Cllr Praveen Anand	<p>It was a very busy court room.</p> <p>The Clerk was working hard to observe that all legal rules were complied with.</p> <p>A prolonged sentencing routine with lots of procedure which needs to be followed e.g. probation reports, etc.</p>	<p>It was sad also to see such petty crime of £60 stealing ghee being brought to court. Perhaps should have been given a police caution.</p>

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	<p>It was also sad to see a vulnerable person sitting in jail for criminal damage and unable to be bailed because there was no hospital/care home to send him and no medical report available.</p>	<p>It is important that the court recruits a medical doctor to cover patients to avoid a vulnerable person who has been arrested and charged for petty offences having to sit in jail rather than a care home.</p>

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**Visit 2****Your Life You Choose Schools Anti-crime Project 2018-2019**

*(Schools Educational Project for 11-12 Year Olds in the Borough's High Schools)*

**St Augustine's Priory, Durston House and Clifton Lodge Schools**

St Augustine's Priory, Hillcrest Road, Ealing, W5 2JL

Thursday 18 October 2018 (08:15-15:00)

To observe how the Your Life You Choose interactive schools project to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime is conducted by the team of different partner agencies.

Attendees: Cllr Seema Kumar (Vice Chair) and Cllr Praveen Anand

<b>Panel Member</b>	<b>Observations/Findings</b>	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>
Cllr Seema Kumar (Vice Chair)	<p>After formalities at the School reception I joined the group and Cllr Praveen Anand who had just finished with the Prison presentation, which I understand was informative and enjoyed by the children.</p> <p>Diana Dishley addressed the children aged 10-11 years from Clifton Lodge, Durston House and St Augustine's Priory. My Rough count estimate was over 75 participating including teachers split into groups.</p> <p>The POLICE session was interesting, effective, sensitivity considered and kept the children very engaged.</p> <p>Examples of incidents and a video presentation on how knife can affect families was shown. This included a young person who had been targeted by a gang and eventually stabbed.</p> <p>The children were made aware of consequences and given advice on how to protect themselves from situations including a mock dummy demonstration on the area where stabbing can cause death.</p> <p>I found the Street Safety and useful guidance on crime prevention leaflet handed out very useful.</p>	<p>I would like to see the evaluation statistics/feedback followed up so that areas identified for better understanding can be addressed/assessed.</p> <p>As these were all private schools, a visit to a state school is essential for comparison and ultimately producing an even better programme.</p>

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	<p>A detailed and serious Q&amp;A session followed which was adequately responded. At the end of the session another useful leaflet MET Track was handed out for those interested in FREE athletics training once a week. (you could include the photo I sent).</p> <p>My memories of school days were revived during lunch in the canteen.</p> <p>The Court Session presented by Pam Ullstein JP was the liveliest. Three groups participated and teachers/Councillors were invited to join in. Cllr Anand and I chose to circulate with all the three groups. The procedure was thoroughly explained and the young lawyers got to work. The Prosecution and Defence evidence was produced. The Jury got working.</p> <p>This took some earnest consideration as a sure decision was expected having balanced all the prosecution and defence evidence that we had heard. We all engaged in this. The verdict was split. Anyone wishing to know more should either go on a visit or have a chat with visiting Councillors.</p> <p>Victim Support: this was another interesting presentation with a video clip. Many were made aware that help and support exists. I think the children left fairly content.</p> <p>The Pupil evaluation was useful in determining how useful the pupils found the different sessions by circling one of four answers e.g. how much did you know about the following agencies:</p> <p>Nothing A little Quite a bit A lot</p> <p>The answers given indicated that the programme helped these young children understand the issues better with help and support at hand.</p>	

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Cllr Praveen Anand	<p>It was good to see children from different schools to make mixed groups of girls and boys.</p> <p>There was a video about a little boy and how he was groomed to be a gang member and a drug dealer.</p> <p>Presentation by Tony Boden prison officer explaining to children that you lose your dignity, liberty and freedom when in jail. You can't spend unlimited money and it all depends on your behaviour. Toby also explained about the size of a prison cell and sharing of underwear and socks. The children were shocked to hear of these realities.</p> <p>Victim support also were good at explaining that support was available if you needed it, and if you were unable to speak to someone at home that you could speak to your teachers.</p> <p>The Police were extremely good at explaining to children the consequences of carrying a knife and even sharp objects such as scissors could be a weapon and that any child who knew that another child had these in their bag should report it to the teacher for everyone's safety.</p> <p>Drugs awareness and the Q&amp;A session was good to see. The children were trying to learn about the effects of drugs and gangs and how to avoid them.</p> <p>The Magistrates with real life case work was very good and the children interacted very well. The accompanying teachers, Cllr Kumar and I found this very interesting and fun. To understand how the process of finding someone guilty or not guilty and the procedures/principles which are used to come to this decision.</p>	<p>A very well-run program and no further recommendation.</p> <p>However, I would like to see the comparison of children's attitudes in an academy or comprehensive schools.</p>