



**MPA**

**Metropolitan Police Authority**

**ENFIELD  
INDEPENDENT  
CUSTODY VISITORS  
PANEL**

**INTERIM  
ANNUAL REPORT  
APRIL-DECEMBER 2007**



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# **INTRODUCTION**

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

This (interim) report covers the period from 01/04/07 to 31/12/07.

The purpose of this (interim) 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 MPA with information about the visits made including the treatment of those held including the treatment of those held in custody
- Set out issues and concerns that have arisen
- Set out the objectives for 2008.

The Metropolitan Police Authority (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.

Prospective 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.

# **AIMS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Enfield panel currently schedules 2 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 by around 60%.

Enfield Panel meetings continue to be held every six weeks at Enfield Civic Centre, and are well attended by members and the police. The venue continues to be most satisfactory.

The new Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Adrian Hanstock has taken a personal interest in the Panel, and has met with the Chair. He hopes to join the panel at one of its meetings in the near future.

The panel's police liaison officer, Inspector Gary Dutton, continues to assist the panel in its work, and thanks go to Insp Dutton for his cooperation and help in investigating any concerns and observations, and in answering questions at panel meetings.

The Chair and Vice-Chair have continued to represent the panel at meetings of the London ICV Chairs and at Cluster meetings.

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.

# **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.

In 2007 the Enfield panel had 11 accredited members.

Name	Appointed
Elizabeth Akinlade	2005
Caroline Berry (Chair)	1994
Janet Brown	2005
Leo Duberry	1999
Alice Evans	1999
Lorna Logan	1999
Gladys Maimbolwa	2003
Waleke Munthali	2005
Peter Waterhouse (Vice-Chair)	2000

## **The Following Member(s) Joined**

Sandra Baah	2007
Norma Leon	2007

## **The Following Members Resigned/De-accredited**

Sevil Kurdoglu	2006
Ruka Shenje	2005

The panel comprises of 2 men and 9 women with varying diversity in age and ethnicity.

## **Recruitment**

There are currently 5 applicants who were recently successful at interview and are now going through the vetting and accreditation process.

Should all applicants be successful and accredited there will be a slightly improved gender balance for the panel. However, the panel operates well with the number of visitors it has and so further recruitment beyond what is already ongoing will be limited to filling any vacancies made by resignations.

# VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS

As well as Edmonton police station, the panel have also made some visits to Enfield custody suite, as this has been used in recent months for Operation Safeguard<sup>1</sup> and good standards of care have been noted.

There have been few major concerns this year. The relationship with the custody staff 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 cleaning standards (by contractors), and heating and ventilation in cells and custody suites.

It has been rare for there to be a delay in entering the custody suite, even though visits are often at busy times. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Operation Safeguard is the way the Home Office are currently addressing the shortage of prison spaces, by housing prisoners in spare police cells. The Met currently provides up to 50 cells per night to the Home Office on a full cost recovery basis.

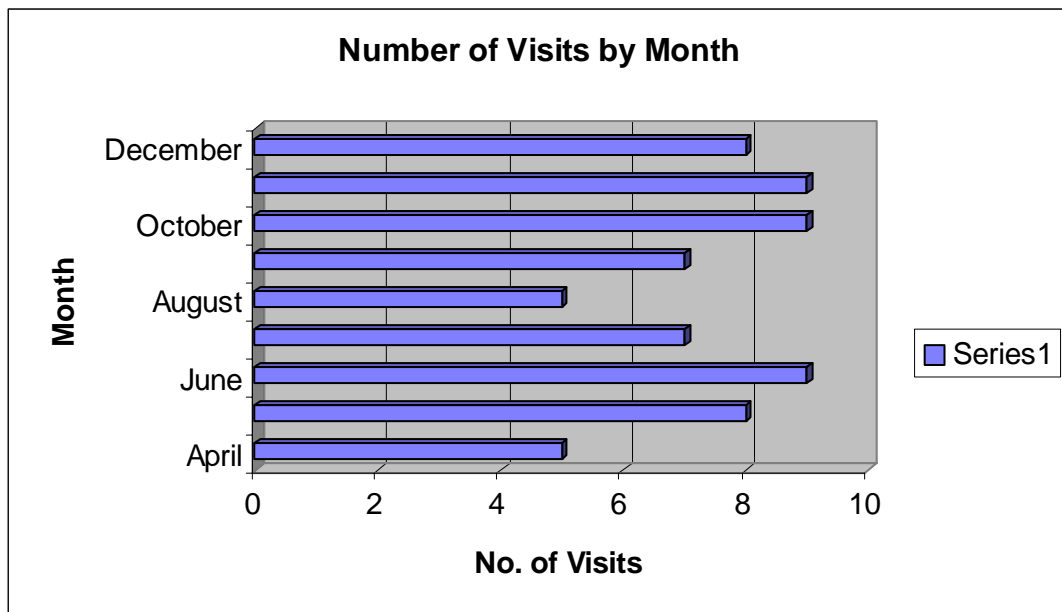
# DATA FROM PANEL VISITS

Visit Figures from 1 April to 31 December 2007

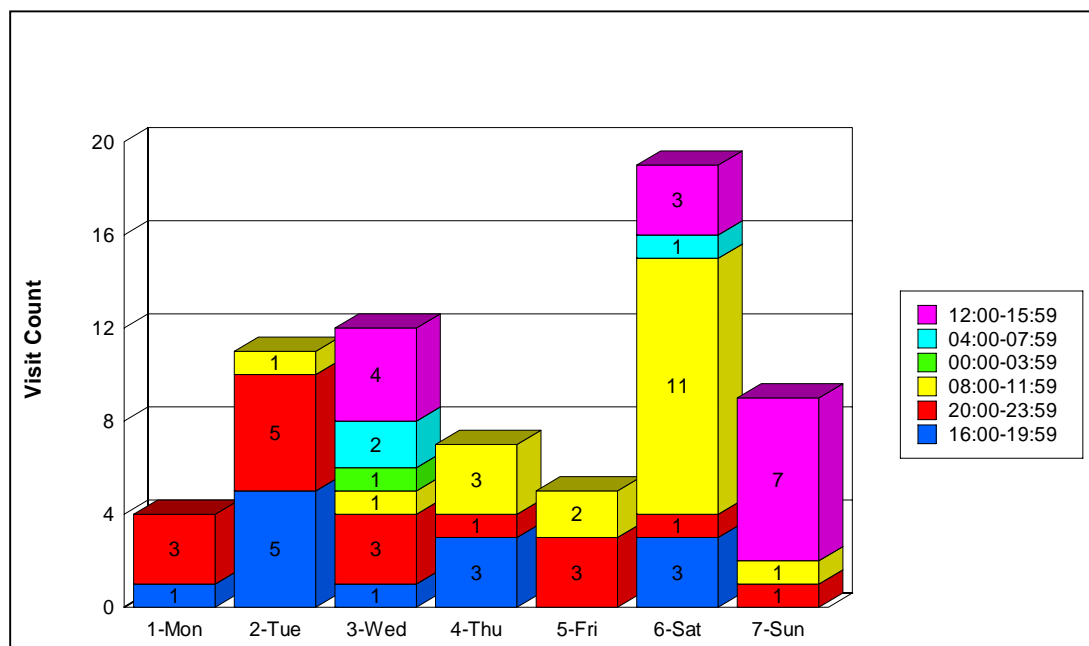
## 1. Number of Visits

Station	Annual no. of visits	% of Annual Target*
Edmonton	60	150%
Enfield	7	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-</b>

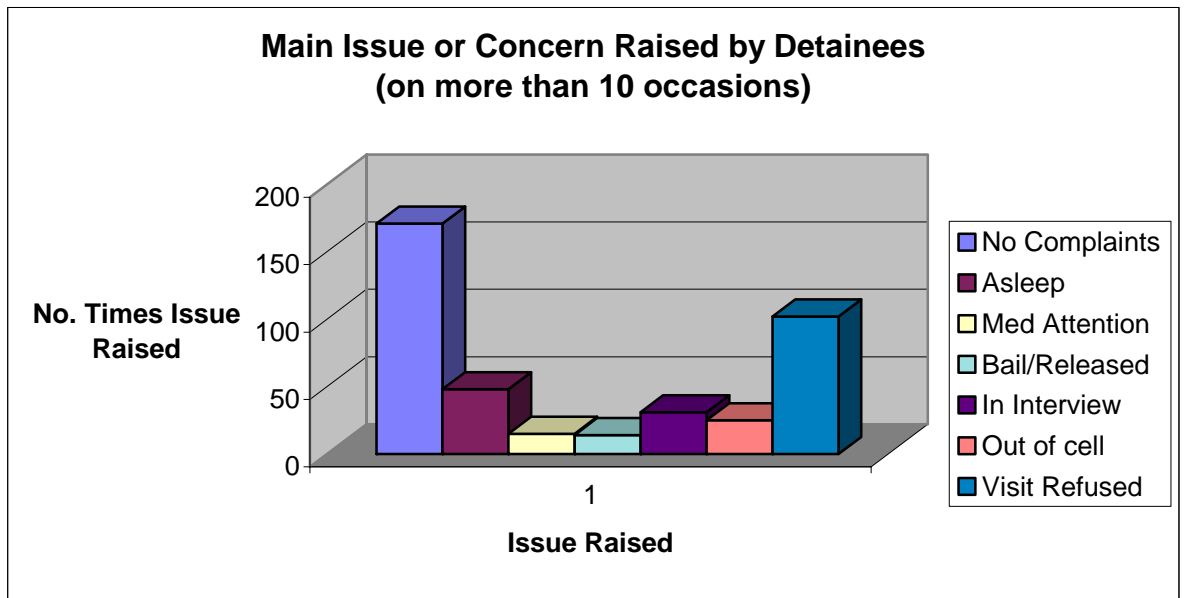
\*MPA Annual Target is 52 visits per 24/7-custody suite.



## 2. Time and Day of Visits



### 3. Details of Visits





# Plans for Forthcoming Year 2008

## Targets:

- A minimum of 1 visit per week to Edmonton Police Station.
- A visit to Enfield Station when it is in use for Operation Safeguard, or other operations.
- To record the diversity of Enfield's panel membership in comparison with the make-up of the borough, and how the panel reflects or not the community it represents.
- To maintain panel membership at a minimum of 12 volunteers.