



METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY

Enfield Independent Custody Visitors Panel

ANNUAL REPORT
2009

CONTENTS PAGE

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.	ACHIEVEMENTS.....	4
3.	CHAIR’S REPORT.....	5
4.	RECRUITMENT AND MEMBERSHIP	6
5.	VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS.....	7
6.	DATA FROM PANEL VISITS	7
7.	PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.....	12

INTRODUCTION

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

This report covers the period from 01/01/09 to 31/12/09.

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 2010.

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 schedules two 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 90%.

During 2009 Enfield Panel met every two months at Enfield Civic Centre, but this will alter to a three monthly basis beginning in 2010. The meetings throughout 2009 were well attended by panel members and the police, and the venue continues to be most satisfactory.

Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Dave Tucker was appointed back in the summer of 2009 and met with panel soon after to discuss his vision for policing in Enfield.

The panel's police liaison officer, Inspector Catherine Smith-Milne (who took over in the summer from Inspector Gary Dutton after his retirement), continued to assist the panel in its work, and the panel wishes to thank Inspectors Dutton and Smith-Milne for their 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 achieve and maintain its membership level of 11 in 2009, but membership now stands at 10. This is due to a recent resignation from the panel, of an experienced visitor, who has joined the MPS as a Designated Detention Officer. Therefore it is hoped that the panel will add to this number by one or two new members being brought on board in 2010.

In regards to the diversity of 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 as well Caroline, Lorna and Leo who all received long term service awards in 2009.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Our 2010 report reflects the continuing and commendable contributions made by the volunteers of the Enfield ICV panel. Within the panel there is a wealth of experience and this assists greatly in bringing in and inducting new panel members. The stability of our visiting numbers over the year has meant that we have still achieved high levels of visits to police stations in our area.

The achievements noted in this year's report, I hope will continue to reassure our local community about the standard of care being given in police custody suites in Enfield and that as an independent group we are still continuing to check on the welfare of detainees who are being held.

As Chair I have continued to attend and represent the panel at a local level at Gold Groups (critical/emergency incident teams within the Met), as well as being invited to observe operations such as knife arches being used at Edmonton railway station as part of Operation Blunt. At a pan-London level I am continuing to attend meetings at the MPA along with the Vice-Chair, Peter Waterhouse.

As both a community member and as the ICV panel Chair, I am also a panel member of the following panels in the borough; Enfield Community Independent Advisory Group and the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel. This helps in building a positive profile of the ICV panel in Enfield and improves the relationship with local police.

The Enfield Independent Custody Visitors Panel has achieved a lot this year and this would not be the case without the selfless support and commitment of the panel volunteers who give so generously of their time. I would also like to thank all the custody officers who have assisted us without prejudice when our panel members carry-out visits. I also thank Inspector Catherine Smith-Milne of Enfield MPS for the contributions and feedback she has provided in order to maintain good relations between the panel and the police, and wish her all the best in her new role within the MPS. Replacing her we welcome back Inspector Wayne Morris who I am sure will continue to support our panel.

Last and not least I would also like to acknowledge our outgoing panel Coordinator, Emma Foxcroft, for executing her role so efficiently, and for being such an asset to our Panel. We wish her all the best in her new role within the MPA and welcome our new Coordinator, Annette Dhillon, in 2010.

From myself, Peter Waterhouse (Vice Chair) and other panel members, thank you.

Caroline B Berry (BA Hons)
Chair of Enfield ICV Panel
January 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 2008 the Enfield panel had 11 accredited members. This dropped to ten during 2009, with one ICV leaving to become a DDO within the MPS.

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

The following members resigned/de-accredited

Elizabeth Akinlade	2005
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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.

During the year the Vice Chair of Enfield also assisted with visits in Kensington and Chelsea borough, which has been a great help whilst they have been inducting new members.

DATA FROM PANEL VISITS

Visit figures for 2009

1. Number of visits

Station	Annual no. of visits	% of Annual Target*
Edmonton	98	188%
Enfield	2	N/A
Total	100	N/A

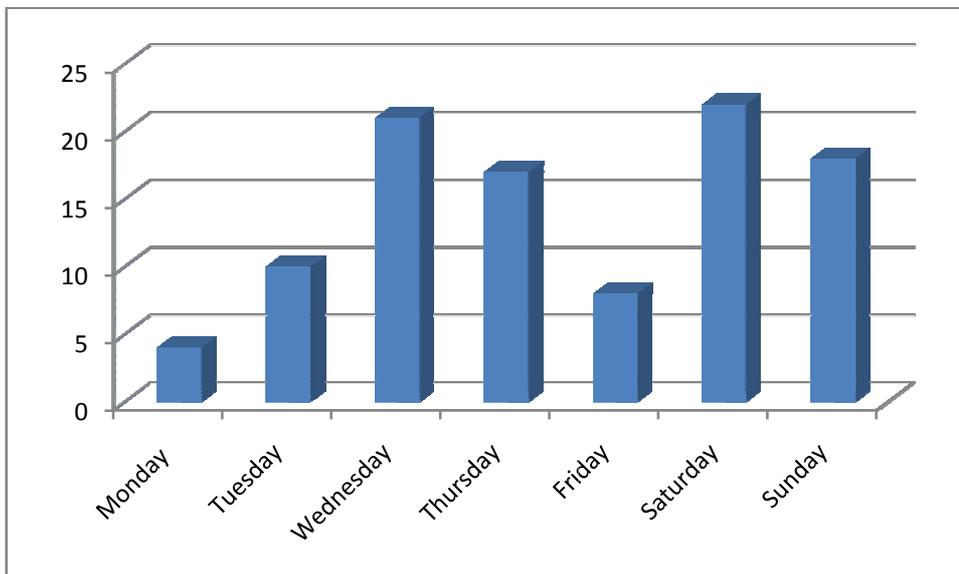
*MPA Annual Target is 52 visits per 24/7-custody suite and as required to overflow sites.

2. Time and day of visits

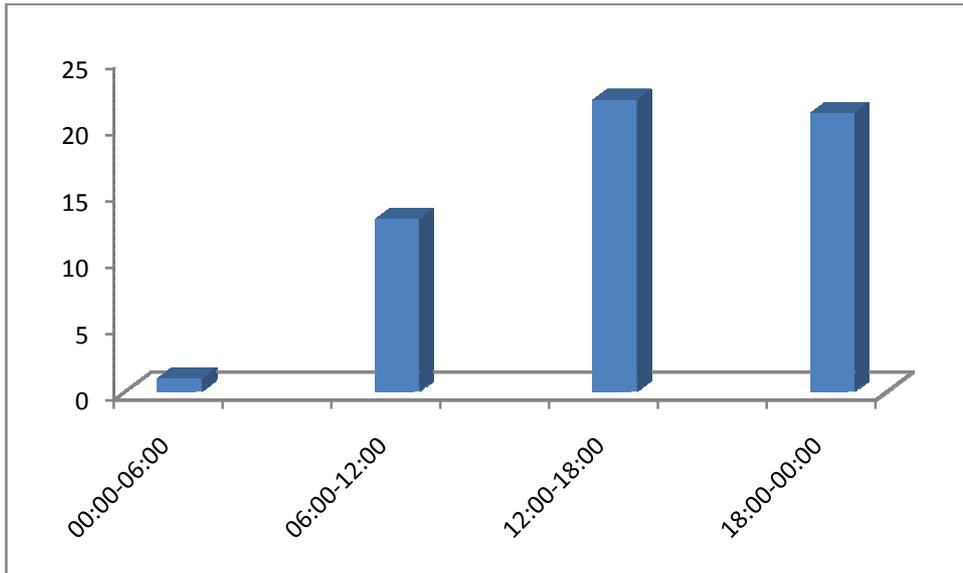
Independent Custody Visits are unannounced and the panel's intention is to avoid visiting in a predictable pattern.

The charts below display the number of visits carried out in the Borough of Enfield in 2009, by day of the week and time period.

Visit by day of the week



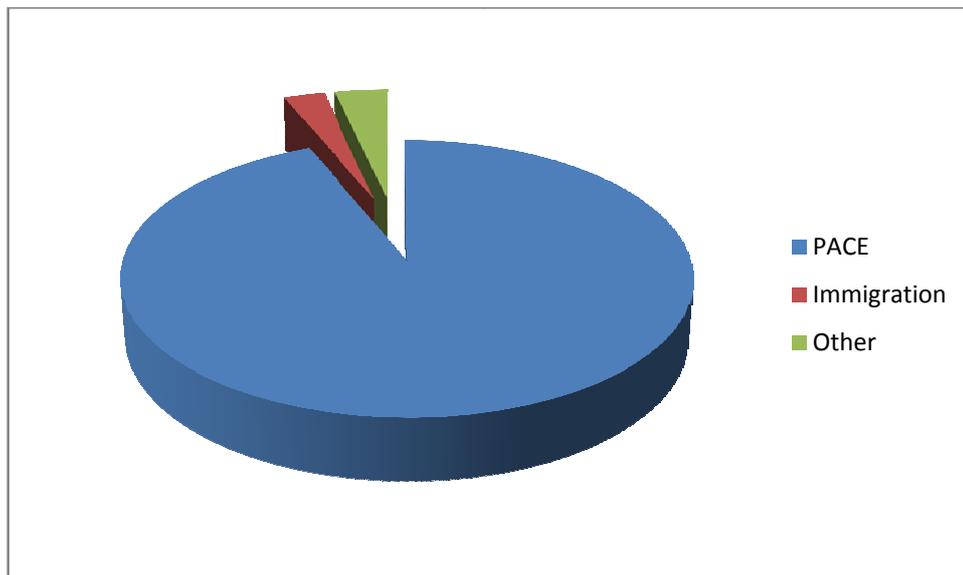
Visits – by time (6 hour periods)



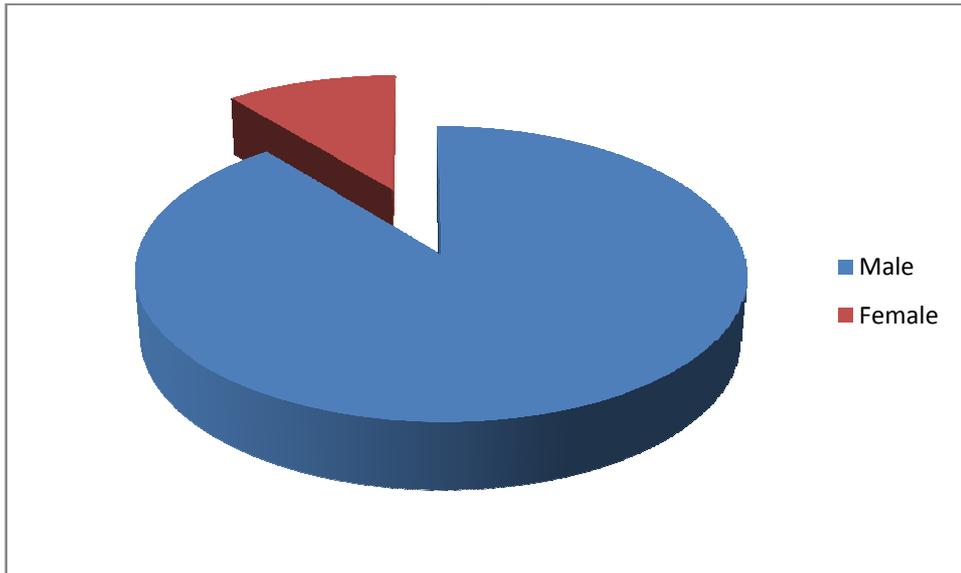
Detainees

On the whole, detainees held in Edmonton and Enfield Station's are held under PACE. Some immigration detainees are seen by ICV's but this is a comparatively small number. The detainees that fall under the category "other" are those who are WOW (wanted on a warrant), or on a police production from HM Prison.

Detainees by category

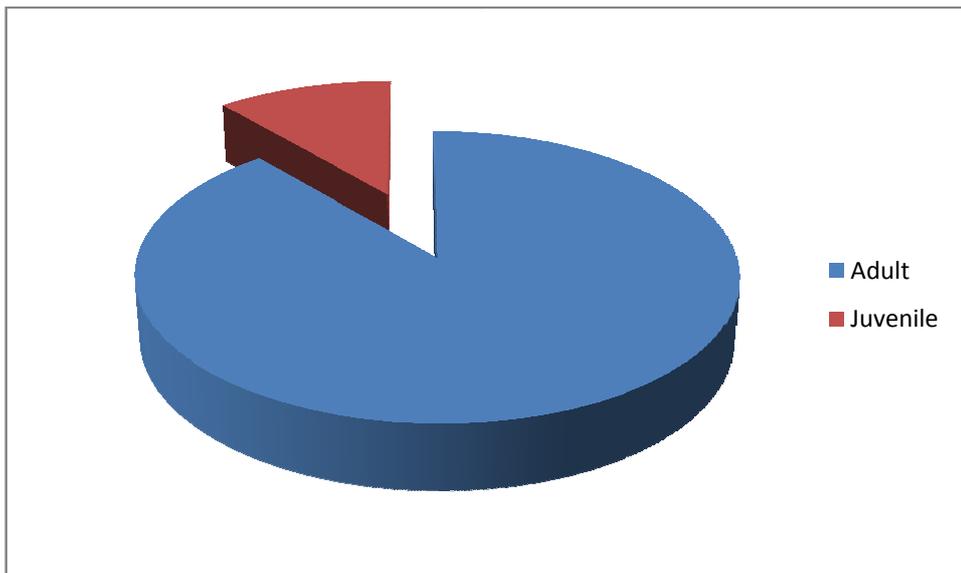


Detainees by gender



As well as the majority of detainees being held under PACE, a large proportion are also male's over the age of 18. This can be seen from the pie charts above and below.

Detainees by age



3. Total number of detainees in custody during visits

Total number held in custody in Enfield during 2009	7694
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As can be seen from the table above, there were 7694 detainees held in Enfield in 2009.

4. Issues Raised

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 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.

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.
- 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.