

Crime Prevention Meeting 24th May 2018

British Legion, Nursery Road N14

Background. Organised by Dionne John, a local resident and parent who was extremely concerned about violent crime in Southgate and surrounding areas. With fellow parents and neighbours she organised the entire event. Which was stressed to be subject focused and non-political.

Stated aims from the chair

In 6 months to:

- Build and strengthen links between the police, and the existing local groups and organisations
- Tackle the issues underpinning the fear of crime
- Reduce drugs and knife crime in Southgate

Speakers: 2 panels of speakers giving short address.

Then followed by questions to them from the floor.

Panel 1:

- Southgate Safer Neighbourhoods Police Officer – Jason Pite
- E Gangs (Eliminate) Amanda Ruth and Daniel Marczewski
- Local Business Owner – Mohammed Ishaq
- Enfield Youth Support Service Manager – Graham Jimpson
- Family Matters – Anne Fennell

Panel 2

- Southgate MP – Bambos Charalambus
- Enfield Neighbourhoods Chief Inspector – Neil Billany
- Assistant Director for Education – James Carrick (former head of Enfield Schools Exclusion Unit)
- London Assembly Member – Joanne McCartney
- Former Enfield North MP. Currently cross-party member reviewing series violence – Nick de Bois

Some observations

- Extremely well attended and supported.
- One member of the floor had actually had a son stabbed to death,
- Fear of crime was really that fear held by school children/youth and their parents for them
- Though have been serious incidents, Southgate is not an unsafe area in the bigger scheme of things.
- Key element associated with Victims and perpetrators is Drugs.
- Widely held view that Southgate does not have a Gang problem. This may exist elsewhere but not in Southgate
- Many perpetrators come from outside the borough into Southgate
- Need to address root causes. Not instant solutions.
- Need to work with schools.
- But schools cannot do everything. Parents are key.

- Youths need strong role models.
- Police are working to forge closer links with schools. Need quality personnel to do this work
- Police and schools promoting the safe location – e.g. shops where anyone fearing a situation can seek and take safe harbour
- Excluded children often become criminalised. But schools often under pressure to exclude. Ofsted does not recognise efforts made by schools in avoiding exclusion. Only the better results for that school which may result from exclusion
- Event must not be a one off. Ongoing activity must be supported and get linkages between different activities.
- Long discussion on children being on streets late at night. Should parents not exert more control. Though of course many have good reason to be out – for social activities etc.
- Impact of violent video games etc is normalising perceptions of violence.