



Supporting Residents

Since learning of the arrests on Thursday 10th August, Waltham Forest Council has been taking a range of measures to support the community. We have also sought to open up clear lines of communication with the residents who may be most affected by the results of the current investigation, and to ensure that the whole community is informed, reassured and feels safe.

Some of our activities to inform and listen to residents have included:

- Convening a meeting of key community leaders in the hours following the Police action to put in place targeted support measures. The Borough Commander also attended this meeting.
- Writing to community leaders and all places of worship to inform them of the support available through the Council and other partners, particularly the Police, and to give them key contact numbers.

We have sought to provide reassurance and security to the whole of our community, but particularly those most affected by recent events. We have worked in partnership with a range of agencies, particularly the police, by:

- Increasing patrols by street wardens and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
- Ensuring that key contacts to report hate crime or harassment, including non-Police reporting sites, are known throughout the borough, and publicising the Police's commitment to prioritise any reports.
- Senior politicians have visited all Mosques in the borough with the Borough Commander on two occasions within the past fortnight to ensure open lines of communication and to review support measures.

Our work to ensure that our response to events is as planned and co-ordinated as possible has included:

- Establishing a Core Group which includes the Leader, Deputy Leader, the Chief Executive, the Head of Community Safety and the Head of Communications. This group initially met every morning to share intelligence and co-ordinate work streams until 25th August, and now meets twice a week. The Borough Commander also attends these meetings when possible.
- Established a Community Cohesion Response Team to take forward both reactive and proactive community cohesion work.

Some of our short to medium term planning already includes:

- Working with schools to ensure that they have a curriculum support prior to the return of students, and researching peer communications methods to support young people across the borough.
- Ensuring all front line staff are briefed, supported and able to deal with residents' concerns through emails but also through lunchtime briefings