

OPERATION ESTEE

A Violence Against Women and Girls Initiative

September 2026 Newsletter

In this edition of the newsletter, we will be covering Operation Estee and Operation Amicus. Two operations that have been set up to improve the Met's response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Operation Estee

Operation Estee was launched in April 2026 to strengthen Enfield's response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), for targeted patrols and prevention activity. Since June 2026, officers have used crime data, intelligence and community concerns to focus resources in locations where women and girls are most at risk. In August, Enfield recorded **60 fewer offences against women and girls**.

Safer Transport Hubs

Officers have carried out high visibility and plain-clothes patrols in:

- Edmonton Green
- Enfield Town
- Brimsdown
- Ponders End
- Silver Street

Patrols have focused on preventing harm, identifying offenders and increasing public confidence. As a result, four of the five locations have seen a **100% reduction in reported incidents**, with two offenders

arrested for offences against women and girls.

Safer Parks Initiatives

Following increased reports of VAWG-related offences, targeted activity has been introduced in:

- Pymmes Park
- Ponders End Recreation Ground
- Jubilee Park
- Grovelands Park

Working alongside Enfield Council, improvements include enhanced CCTV, additional lighting and environmental changes designed to improve safety and support faster police response

Operation Amicus

Operation Amicus was established in December 2025 to support vulnerable women and tackle exploitation through safeguarding, outreach and partnership working.

A dedicated team of female officers works directly with women at risk, helping them

access support services and improving intelligence around offenders.

The name Amicus, meaning "friend", reflects the team's objective of building trust and providing support to women who may be vulnerable to exploitation, harm or involvement in street-based sex work.

Following months of targeted safeguarding and partnership activity, the area was no longer identified as a sexual offences' hotspot by January 2026.

New Legislation – Section 4B Public Order Act 1986

Section 4B Public Order Act 1986 - Protection from sex-based harassment in Public 2023, is new legislation relating to the protection against sexual harassment in a public place. This legislation provides further powers to address and prosecute inappropriate behaviour occurring in public settings.

Examples relevant to VAWG patrols

Potential examples may include:

- Making sexually degrading comments towards women in a public place (including woof whistling)
- Following and repeatedly shouting gender-based abuse at a woman.
- Making threatening comments towards a woman because she is female.
- Groups of men directing intimidating, abusive or misogynistic remarks at women passing by.

The maximum sentence is increased to **up to 2 years' imprisonment**.

Recent Good News

- A man was arrested and charged after approaching schoolgirls and engaging them in sexualised conversation at a bus stop.
- A suspect was arrested after following a woman from a bus and exposing himself.
- A male carrying a hunting knife in Pymmes Park was arrested for possession of an offensive weapon

How You Can Help

Reporting helps us identify hotspots, safeguard victims and target offenders.

- **Call 999** if an incident is happening now.
- **Call 101** to report incidents that have already occurred.
- Stay informed about local policing activity by signing up to **Met Engage**: www.metengage.co.uk

We look forward to inviting you back to read the December 2026 edition, where we will be reporting back the success of our Autumn initiatives and what we have planned for the New Year.