

HEA Chair Vicki Wallas welcomed London Borough of Harrow Local Policing Lead, Superintendent Zubin Writer, to the 97th AGM.

In his address, Superintendent Writer drew a clear distinction between public perception of crime and the actual crime levels in Harrow, particularly Hatch End. While acknowledging concerns raised, he emphasised that the data presents a consistently reassuring position, with Harrow remaining one of the safest boroughs in London. Since taking office Harrow has become the highest performing unit of its kind for arrests. Through Harrow's proactive policing model, Superintendent Writer's officers are consistently making 25% more arrests per officer than the next best performing borough. At the time of speaking, this had risen to 33%.

This strong borough-wide performance is reflected in Hatch End, which remains a safe and well-managed area. Between October 2025 and March 2026, zero robberies were recorded. Anti-social behaviour reduced by 34%, violence with injury by 50%, and shoplifting by 81%, falling from 136 to 25 offences. Following local concerns, Superintendent Writer commissioned a dedicated burglary operation, codenamed Operation Thalorin, which achieved a 72% reduction in burglary offences within a single month.

While burglary statistics had showed a slight increase before Operation Thalorin, it now remains firmly contained. Superintendent Writer outlined how he is using a network of proactive vehicles, including interceptors, to target known offenders in ways not previously undertaken, although the specific tactics remain operationally sensitive. He highlighted the use of both overt and covert capabilities, including Live Facial Recognition across Harrow, to identify offenders, disrupt criminality and bring wanted individuals to justice. He set out a clear direction for policing in Harrow: intelligence-led, technologically enabled and responsive to emerging threats, with a continued focus on evidence and sustained crime reduction.

Hatch End residents welcomed the update that, since Superintendent Writer took office, the number of community engagements undertaken by police in Harrow has increased from 22 per month to over 500. These include: street briefings, where local officers provide updates on current priorities and issues affecting specific areas; "Walk, Talk & Do" activity, focused on violence against women and girls through high-visibility patrols and direct engagement; school visits, involving regular interaction with pupils, staff and parents to build trust and deliver crime prevention advice; faith engagement, with visits to places of worship to strengthen relationships and understand community concerns; weapons sweeps to reduce harm and prevent serious violence; licensing visits to promote responsible management and address crime and disorder; and crime prevention stands, providing public advice and raising awareness on issues such as fraud and personal safety.

Community engagement remains a key strength. Harrow has the highest Met Engage membership in London, with over 17,000 residents signed up. This supports

strong two-way communication, enabling communities to help shape policing priorities.

Superintendent Writer strongly encouraged all residents to sign up to Met Engage, highlighting it as a valuable tool for receiving accurate and localised information about what is happening in their area, often down to street level. He explained that residents can register quickly and easily by visiting www.metengage.com. He outlined several key benefits, including timely alerts regarding suspicious activity and emerging crime trends, as well as targeted warnings about fraud and scams. The platform also supports residents in sharing information with their local policing team promptly and securely, helping to build a clearer intelligence picture. Superintendent Writer further emphasised that Met Engage has enabled him to hear directly from residents, providing vital feedback on how local policing can improve visibility, respond to concerns and better meet the needs of the community.

In Hatch End, local officers have secured nine Criminal Behaviour Orders against the most persistent offenders in the past six months, reflecting a firm and targeted approach to tackling repeat offending and protecting residents.

Concerns were raised regarding offender tactics and the impact of the night-time economy, including noise and late-night disorder. These were acknowledged with reassurance that police are working in partnership with Harrow Council to deliver a coordinated approach that supports local business while maintaining public order.

The overall message was clear: Harrow is a safe borough, Hatch End continues to perform strongly, and emerging challenges are being addressed through decisive, intelligence-led action.

Vicki Wallas closed the session by thanking Superintendent Writer for his clear, authoritative and reassuring update.