

| AGENDA ITEM: 3 | |
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| Report Name: | Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Update |
| Meeting: | Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board |
| Meeting Date: | 29 January 2016 |
| Report Author: | Duncan Tessier, Assistant Director, Early Intervention & Prevention, Family Services Hannah Gordon, Strategy and Insight Officer, Family Services |
| Responsible Officer: | Duncan Tessier, Assistant Director, Early Intervention & Prevention, Family Services |
| Outcome Required: | Note the issues surrounding Gangs and Serious Youth Violence in Barnet; Agree the refreshed action plan, particularly noting actions of individual partners. |
| Restricted | No |

1. Paper Summary

- This paper provides an overview of Gangs and Serious Youth Violence (GSYV) activity in Barnet. The paper also outlines Barnet's response to these challenges and asks the partnership to agree and support the implementation of the refreshed Gangs and Serious Youth Violence action plan.
- Barnet is one of London's safest boroughs in which to live and work. However, there are some small but significant issues associated with gang activity. For example:
 - Reflecting a London wide trend, there have been increases in the rate of knife crime and number of serious youth violence victims
 - Several stabbing incidents over the past 6 months
 - Increases in youth offenders assessed as high or very high risk of serious harm to others
- These issues have emerged in the context of the movement of gang's activity around London changing. Activity is moving from inner to outer London boroughs: In 2011/12 outer London boroughs recorded 33% of all gang flagged offences; in 2013/14 this increased to 46%.
- To address these GSYV challenges Barnet has refreshed the GSYV action plan using a framework of Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement. The partnership and effective multiagency working is central to effectively implementing the action plan.

2. Decision(s) / Action Required

- Note the issues surrounding Serious Youth Violence and gangs in Barnet;
- Agree the refreshed action plan, particularly noting actions of individual partners.

Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Update

Safer Communities Partnership Board 29 January 2016

1. Introduction

Barnet is one of London's safest boroughs in which to live and work. Overall, crime in Barnet has fallen by 11% compared to one year ago. Barnet has the 8th lowest crime rates per 1,000 of population and the 2nd lowest rate of violence out of all 32 London boroughs. However, although small in number and not a consistent trend, there have been some significant issues in terms of gangs and serious youth violence (GSYV).

2. Current overall picture

GSYV indicators

MOPAC monitors gang crime and serious youth violence indicators across London. Barnet has the 10th lowest rates of Serious Youth Violence and Knife crime with injury per 10,000 of population out of all 32 London boroughs.

| MOPAC Indicators (January 2015 – December 2015) | RATE PER 10,000 | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| | Barnet (rank) | London average |
| Serious Youth Violence: <i>Count of youth victims of serious violence (excl. ABH)</i> | 5.5 (22 nd) | 7 |
| Knife crime with injury: <i>Victims of knife injury aged between 1-24 years not flagged as Domestic Abuse</i> | 1.3 (22 nd) | 2 |

However there have been some notable increases in Barnet in Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime with injury:

- Serious Youth Violence is up 6% in the last 12 months compared to the previous year and most of this increase has occurred in the last six months. This is similar to the London average which has increased by 5% over this period.
- The number and increase in Serious Youth Violence is linked to the increase in robberies (many knife enabled) as the number of robberies counts towards the Serious Youth Violence indicator.
- Knife crime with injury is also up in the last 12 months compared to the previous year. The London average has also increased over this period. However most of this increase in Barnet has been in the 20 – 29 age group.

There have also been other notable increases in the severity of GSYV demonstrated by several stabbing incidents over the past 6 months which includes 4 gang related stabbing incidents. Increasing severity has also been observed in youth offending data. In 2010 / 11 youth offenders assessed as high or very high risk of serious harm to others accounted for 16% of the YOT caseload, whilst in 2014 / 15 these cases accounted for nearly 1 in 3 (32%).

3. Context

The increases in number and severity of GSYV in Barnet are in the context of several linked trends:

- The movement of gangs around London is changing and activity is moving to outer London boroughs. In 2011/12 outer London boroughs recorded 33% of all gang flagged offences and in 2013/14 this increased to 46%.
- Micro drivers – the level of tension and disputes can cause GSYV to peak and trough over a relatively short period of time. Often generated as a result of drug dealing / supply activity, the reasons tend to be either the group fighting a rival group (e.g. defending drug dealing zones, or trying to move into another groups zone of control) or fighting within a group (e.g. for control, or a falling out over a dispute).
- Although challenging to evidence, there are a range of hypotheses about national trends which may have a role in gang prevalence including increasing pressure on housing, rates of family breakdown and the impacts of welfare reform.

4. Barnet's Strategy: Addressing the challenges

To address these GSYV challenges Barnet has refreshed the GSYV action plan using a framework of Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement. The partnership and effective multiagency working is central to effectively implementing the action plan and actions of partners are highlighted in the action plan (Appendix 1).

- **Prevention:** continue 'Keeping Young People Safe' youth project and associated parenting support; increase awareness of GSYV by sharing the gangs screening tool widely and rolling out more training, especially in partnership with educational establishments.
- **Intervention:** Successfully pilot MOPAC gang exit programme, tackle and reduce the exploitation of young people being used in the supply and movement of drugs and develop the menu of interventions available to support young people exit gangs
- **Enforcement:** Family Services, Police and Community Safety to work together to ensure the full range of judicial restrictions and powers are considered and used and undertake enforcement and disruption activities in areas with new GSYV activity.