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Report Name:	Community Safety Strategic Assessment	
Meeting:	Safer Communities Partnership Board	
Meeting Date:	27 th October 2017	
Enclosures:	-----	
Report Author:	Peter Clifton 16 th October 2017	
Outcome Required:	Information Only: Decision Required: Feedback/comments required: X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restricted	No	

Summary

This report provides the Safer Communities Partnership Board with a summary of the findings of the annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment.

The Strategic Assessment is an annual review of the patterns of crime and anti-social behaviour. The strategic assessment fulfils the partnership responsibility under sections 5,6, and 7 Of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to conduct an annual review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder. The findings of the Strategic Assessment (together with results from consultation exercises) will help inform the 2017/18 refresh of Barnet's 2015-2020 Community Safety Strategy.

The 2015-2020 Community Safety Strategy is produced and delivered in line with the statutory duty under S6 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership ('BSCP' or 'the Partnership') produces and implements a partnership strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. The Strategy focuses on working in partnership with our local community, businesses and partners; supporting victims of crime, managing offenders to reduce their reoffending and directing partnership resources to the high crime.

Recommendations

1. That the Safer Communities Partnership Board note and comment on the findings of the Community Safety Strategic Crime Needs Assessment.
2. That the Safer Communities Partnership Board note the progress made by the Safer Communities Partnership on delivering the 2016/17 objectives of the Community Safety Strategy.

Introduction

- 1.1.1 In line with the statutory duty under S6 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership ('BSCP' or 'the Partnership') produces and implements a partnership strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.1.2 The 2015-2020 Barnet Community Safety Strategy focuses on working in partnership with our local community, businesses and partners; supporting victims of crime, managing offenders to reduce their reoffending and directing partnership resources to the high crime and ASB areas in the borough.
- 1.1.3 The statutory duty also includes the production of an annual strategic crime needs assessment which analyses performance of the strategy and seeks to understand any changing or emerging crime and trends.
- 1.1.4 This report provides a summary of the initial findings of the annual strategic crime needs assessment, the emerging issues and the annual update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on the progress made in delivering Barnet's Community Safety Strategy.

Background context

- 1.1.5 The BSCP is a statutory Community Safety Partnership set up under Section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Partners are required to work together to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safer, work out how to deal with local issues like anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and reoffending and annually assess local crime priorities, consulting with partners and the local community about how to deal with them.
- 1.1.6 Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the act stipulates that the responsible authorities for a local government area must formulate a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area and must carry out an annual review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder.
- 1.1.7 The Community Safety Strategic Assessment is the annual review of crime levels and patterns and will inform the 2017/18 refresh of the 2015-2020 Community Safety Strategy and supporting action plan. As well as considering patterns of crime and disorder the assessment also considers the implementation of the 2015-2020 strategy against the 2016/17 priority objectives within that strategy.

Strategic Priorities

1.2.1 The 2015-2020 Community Safety Strategy has three overarching objectives:

- To provide a victim centred approach to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To maintain reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To improve the perception of Barnet as a safe place to live, work and visit.

1.2.2 In order to work towards these objectives the Partnership committed that in 2015/16 it will work towards the following outcomes:

1. Residents and businesses feel confident that the police and council respond to crime and ASB in their area.
2. Residents and businesses are engaged and informed about community safety and the action we have taken in their area.
3. Victims of Domestic Violence and Hate Crime are confident in reporting incidents and the Partnership intervenes to prevent repeat victimisation.
4. The Partnership will work to reduce Serious Youth Violence with a focus on young people as victims and offenders.
5. Sustained reductions in re-offending.
6. Sustained reductions in Burglary and other high volume crime types, such as: Violence with Injury, Robbery, Theft of Motor Vehicle, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft from Person, Criminal Damage
7. Effective and wide-ranging partnerships are in place between the local authority, statutory and non-statutory partners, community groups and faith institutions, to help mitigate risks from terrorism and extremism and to support the boroughs diverse communities.

Summary findings of the Strategic Crime Needs Assessment

1.3.1 The following areas are covered in this summary:

- Barnet's overall crime rate and long term trends
- Crime levels in the last 12 months
- Performance, trends and key partnership activity for each of the 7 priority objectives of the Safer Communities partnership strategy

Overall crime rate and long term trends

1.3.2 Barnet is one of London's safest boroughs with a low crime rate. In the last 12 months¹ there were 68 crimes per 1000 residents in Barnet, which was 8th lowest rate of total crime per person out of all 32 London boroughs. The rate of violent crime is even lower: Barnet had the 3rd lowest rate of violent crime with 5.9 Violence with Injury offences per 1000 population. The overall rate of crime in Barnet per 1000 population is 23% lower than the London average.

1.3.3 Over the last 5 years² Barnet has achieved an overall 21% reduction³ across the MOPAC7⁴ crime types. This includes over 1500 fewer burglaries per year (a reduction of over 30%), over 700 fewer robberies (reduction of 61%) and over 1200 fewer Theft from Motor Vehicle offences (34% reduction), over 150 fewer Theft Of Motor Vehicle offences (15% reduction).

Crime levels over the last 12 months⁵

1.3.4 In addition to having a low rate of crime, during the last performance year⁶ there were 590 fewer burglaries in Barnet than a year ago (equating to a reduction of 15% - the largest reduction in London) and a 159 fewer robberies (equating to a reduction of 26%, again the largest reduction out of all London boroughs).

1.3.5 During 2016/17 alone there was a 5% reduction in the MOPAC7 crime types in Barnet – a larger reduction than any other London borough.

¹ The 12 months to March 2017

² 2011/12 vs. 2016/17

³ As at March 2017

⁴ MOPAC7 Crime types: Burglary, Criminal Damage, Robbery, Theft from Motor Vehicles, Theft of Motor Vehicles, Theft from a Person, Violence with Injury

⁵ Figures based on the rolling 12 months to March 2018

⁶ 12 months to March 2017

1.3.6 The table below shows the volume of different crimes in Barnet during 2016/17 compared to 1 year ago and 5 years ago.

	2011/12	2015/16	2016/17	% change vs. one year ago	% change vs. 5 years ago
Robbery	1199	622	463	-25.6%	-61.4%
Theft From MV	3602	2372	2360	-0.5%	-34.5%
Burglary	4912	3878	3297	-15.0%	-32.9%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	956	701	809	15.4%	-15.4%
Criminal Damage	2361	2256	2190	-2.9%	-7.2%
Theft From Person	692	622	695	11.7%	0.4%
Violence with Injury	1539	2179	2229	2.3%	44.8%

Delivering the Community Safety Strategy

Priority: Residents and businesses feel confident that the police and council respond to crime and ASB in their area.

Performance and trends

- 1.4.1 In the last 12 months⁷ there were 9198 ASB reports made to the police, this is up from 8237 in the previous year (an approximate 10% increase). Of those calls 221 were in relation to repeat cases, an increase of 17% from the previous year. It should be noted that the increase during the last 12 months comes after a number of years of successive reductions in ASB reports.

Key partnership activity

- 1.4.2 The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership has continued to develop working across the police, council and other partner agencies in order to deliver a coordinated response to cases involving persistent anti-social behaviour. Barnet's model of delivering these co-ordinated services to victims and local communities experiencing anti-social behaviour has a strong focus on:
- Keeping victims informed
 - Identifying and addressing the behaviour of offenders
 - Implementing area based interventions to provide short, medium and long term solutions and deploying resources across the partnership at the right time – when the ASB is taking place
- 1.4.3 In order to facilitate and drive this work Barnet Community Safety Team runs a multi-agency problem solving panel which meets regularly to review the most persistent and complex ASB cases – This panel is known as The Community Safety Multi-agency Risk Assessment Case Conference (CS MARAC).
- 1.4.4 The panel is co-chaired by the Community Safety Team and the Police and is made up of a core group of officers from across the partnership which includes:
- Barnet Community Safety Team; Police; Family Services (Youth Offending Service, Social Care, Youth Service), Family First and a representative from schools, Housing (Council and other Social Landlords), Barnet Homes, National Probation Service (NPS), Victim support and Mental Health Services.
- 1.4.5 In addition to this, during 2017 the Safer Communities Partnership has commissioned and launched an inter-agency secure partnership ASB information sharing system called ECINS. This system has the advantages that the other Safer Communities Partnership organisations (i.e. police, Barnet Homes etc.) have access to the system for secure information sharing and inter-agency case management.

⁷ To June 2017

Priority: Residents and businesses are engaged and informed about community safety and the action we have taken in their area.

Performance and trends

- 1.5.1 Overall there is a high level of community cohesion in Barnet and 82% of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live⁸ (compared to a comparative figure of 80% in London on average). Most residents are confident that the police and council are working effectively to tackle crime and ASB: 67% of residents consulted in the *Autumn 2016 Residents Perception Survey* confirmed that they are confident that the police and council are working effectively to deal with Anti-social behaviour, up 1% from spring 2016, and up 3% from autumn 2015.
- 1.5.2 In relation to individuals victims of anti-social behaviour the Barnet Victim Support ASB project provides one to one support to victims of cases being managed through the Community Safety MARAC. During 2016/17 this project provided support to over 70 victims of anti-social behaviour, with over 95% saying that they would recommend the service to others. During Q4 of 2016/17 the satisfaction rate increased to 100% with all victims supported feeding back that they would recommend the service to others.
- 1.5.3 Improving the perception of Barnet as a safe place to live, work, study or visit in is one of the three strategic objectives set out in the 2015-2020 Community Safety Strategy. Despite falling crime rates over the last five years, crime continues to be one of the top three priorities for residents ('crime' being the second highest concern overall in the Spring 2017 residents perception survey.⁹

Key partnership activity

- 1.5.4 We recognise that given the new ASB powers, it is imperative that victims of anti-social behaviour and local residents and business are provided with information, support, guidance, and are kept informed about the actions being taken to address ASB issues affecting them.
- 1.5.5 The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership has commissioned Victim Support to deliver a local "ASB and Victim Support Project" with the aim of supporting victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and keeping them informed of the actions being taken.
- 1.5.6 The Victim Support Project Officer is a core member of the Barnet Community Safety MARAC. The direct referral of cases from CS MARAC to the Victim Support ASB project has helped to reduce the time taken for victims of anti-social behaviour to receive support.

⁸ Barnet Residents Perception Survey Spring 2017

⁹ With 32% of residents responding that they consider crime to be in their top 3 issues they are most concerned about

1.5.7 The project delivers more intensive work with individuals already identified as vulnerable victims as this is an invaluable additional tool to support those victims and help resolve cases more effectively. A project worker coordinates the activities of support work provided. Additionally Restorative Justice Panels are used as one of the interventions to support victims alongside mediation and casework support.

Priority: Victims of Domestic Violence and Hate Crime are confident in reporting incidents and the Partnership intervenes to prevent repeat victimisation.

Performance and trends

Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls

- 1.6.1 Between 2012 and 2016 the annual volume of reported Domestic Violence and Abuse incidents (calls to police about DVA) in Barnet rose from 3503 to 4990 per year. Of those calls, the number which resulted in crimes being recorded (DVA Offences) rose from 1125 to 2523 per year. This increase followed a similar trend to that seen in other areas of London and across the country. A possible reason for the increase in reports is the concerted effort at the national, London and borough level to raise awareness about and encourage reporting of DVA as well as ensuring reports are recorded and responded to appropriately.

Hate Crime

- 1.6.2 Instances of racist and religious hate crime have been increasing over the past year. In the last 12 months there were 717 reported Racist and Religious Hate Crimes, up from 552 a year ago (this increase reflects the overall London increase seen over the same period). Following the referendum there was an increase in reported racist and religious Hate Crime nationally and in London. Barnet also experienced an increase in the rate of reported racist and religious Hate Crime in the two week period following the referendum but by the third week levels had dropped back to pre-referendum levels.
- 1.6.3 Overall, Barnet's reported incidence of racist and religious Hate Crime remains considerably below the London average. However the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership recognises that Hate Crime is, both locally and nationally significantly underreported.

Key partnership activity

Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls

- 1.6.4 Partner organisations¹⁰ the borough work together to respond to VAWG with the aim of preventing it and reducing the harm it causes to victims, their families and the wider community. This work has included:
- Barnet Council continue to fund specialist services for victims of DVA and VAWG; this includes refuge provision, IDVA Service and the Domestic Violence MARAC.

¹⁰ Including Barnet Council, Police, Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Health providers, and voluntary and community groups.

- Between April 2016 and December 2016 Solace Women's Aid received 890 referrals to Barnet's IDVA service, 40 referrals for our refuge service and our DV MARAC, delivered by Hestia, received 226 referrals with 211 children within these households.
- During the same period 569 perpetrators were charged with 374 perpetrators cautioned (66% of total charged - in line with the rest of London overall).
- Barnet council commission RISE to deliver an adult and young people's perpetrator service to support perpetrators in changing their behaviour. In 2016/2017 the programme received 42 referrals.
- In September 2015 Barnet Homes worked with partners including Victim Support, Jewish Women's Aid, Solace Women's Aid, private solicitor firms, Barnet Magistrate and Cyber Care set up Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS), a drop in service for early intervention and advice for victims of DVA and VAWG. Since September 2015 to 30 March 2017, the OSS has responded to 433 cases.

1.6.5 During 2016/17 the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership has developed a new 2017-2020 VAWG Strategy.

1.6.6 The Strategy, Barnet's Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy 2017- 2020, has been developed to take into account regional, national and international commitments, expected standards relating to the Violence against Women and Girls agenda, and the feedback received through a consultation and engagement exercise held locally between February and May 2017.

1.6.7 A partnership focus is a central element to the strategy and is underpinned by the following partnership objectives.

- 1.6.8 The four partnership objectives are:
- i. Preventing Violence against women and girls
 - ii. Improving outcomes for victims and their children
 - iii. Holding perpetrators to account
 - iv. Enhancing joint working practices between agencies

Hate Crime Awareness

1.6.9 The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership recognises that the underreporting of Hate Crime is a long standing issue. To encourage more victims and witnesses of Hate Crime to report incidents, during 2016/17 local Hate Crime reporting centres have been set up across the borough as part of a joint initiative lead by the Safer Communities Partnership Board and Safeguarding Adults Board working together with and local voluntary and community

organisations. The centres provide an alternative way for victims to report Hate Crime to trained staff and victims can receive information and advice about the support available to them.

- 1.6.10 In order to build on this work, the Safer Communities Partnership has secured funding from the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund for the next two years which will be used to strengthen the partnership approach to tackling hate crime by supporting the joint work of the Safer Communities Partnership Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Barnet MENCAP to raise awareness, encourage reporting and improving access to justice for victims

Priority: The Partnership will work to reduce Serious Youth Violence with a focus on young people as victims and offenders.

Performance and trends

Overall trends in reported levels of Violent Crime

- 1.7.1 Since 2014 onwards there has been a significant increase in reported violence with injury (VWI) in Barnet – this trend has been in line with the London wide trend, and it is believed changes in reporting and recording practices have contributed significantly to this – as a result VWI is around 45% higher¹¹ than the 2011/12 baseline.
- 1.7.2 Over the last 12 months the upward trend appears to be slowing down – with a 2% increase in Violence with Injury compared to a year ago. It is important to note that Barnet remains one of the safest boroughs in London with the 3rd lowest rate of violent crime with injury per 1000 population out of all 32 London boroughs.

Trends in Serious Youth Violence

- 1.7.3 Barnet is one of London's safest boroughs in which to live and work with the 3rd lowest rates of violent crime in London. However, although small in number there have been some significant issues in terms of gangs and serious youth violence. As at June 2017, 92 young people in Barnet were being supervised by the Youth Offending Team and of these 60% are believed to be gang-involved.
- 1.7.4 Over the last 12 months (to March 2017) there have been reductions in Serious Youth Violence, knife crime and gun crime:
- 12% reduction in Serious Youth Violence (from 218 offences to 191)
 - 8% reduction in knife crime (from 347 offences to 318)
 - 6% reduction in gun crime (from 79 to 74)

Key partnership activity

- 1.7.5 The Safer Communities Partnership has secured funding for partnership initiatives aimed at keeping young people safe (£150k per year for two years secured from the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund to support preventative school engagement work and Family Services REACH Programme which aims to prevent young people from becoming involved in gangs in family, school and community settings.

¹¹ In the 12 months to March 2017

1.7.6 The Community Safety Team has worked with partners including Family Services and the Police to produce a profile of CSE cases in Barnet. The findings of the analysis have been used to inform the prevention and enforcement strands of the CSE strategy.

Priority: Sustained reductions in re-offending.

Performance and trends

- 1.8.1 The proven adult reoffending rate is 19.6%¹², which represents a 3.5 percentage point reduction in reoffending compared to a year ago.

Key partnership activity

- 1.8.2 During 2016/17 the Barnet Integrated Offender Management program continued to demonstrate a reduction in the offending rate of its cohort members in comparison to period prior to joining cohort: Delivering reductions in offending rates of approximately 40%.¹³
- 1.8.3 Alongside the IOM, the Safer Communities Partnership has provided MOPAC funding for the Young Persons substance misuse intervention project and the Adults substance misuse intervention projects. These projects aim to reduce substance related offending through a combination of the provision of targeted education, advice, early intervention, one to one and group work programs, targeted psycho-educational support, family support interventions and intervention delivery.
- 1.8.4 In order to further develop the co-ordinated partnership approach to the management of offenders, the Safer Communities Partnership has secured funding from the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund for a Barnet Reducing Reoffending Partnership Coordinator (RRPC). The focus of the RRPC is on:
- Developing effective working relationships with internal and external partners, key stakeholders and the wider Criminal Justice System and related bodies.
 - Developing a model of best practice partnership work to reduce re-offending within the borough of Barnet.
 - Developing referral pathways between key partner agencies including mental health providers, physical health, housing, domestic abuse services, and substance misuse services and Education/Training/Employment providers.
- 1.8.5 Specific pieces of work already delivered by the Reducing Reoffending Partnership coordinator include:

¹² For the 12 month period to March 2015 (Ministry of Justice proven reoffending rates are reported with a time lag due to the methodology of the measure).

¹³ Based on offending rate of cohort members compared to their average offending rate in 12 months prior to joining the programme

- Joint work with CRC and NPS to improve Mental Health referral pathway – training workshop session on referral options and processes delivered (April and June 2017).
- Integrated Offender Management Team Information Sharing Agreement revised and updated.
- Work with CRC to link the IOM team with the new ECINS partnership information sharing platform.
- Working with CRC, NPS and Public Health to develop the substance misuse pathways – in particular relating to prison releases as the post prison release engagement rate with substance misuse treatment in Barnet is lower than the national average.

Priority: Sustained reductions in Burglary and other high volume crime types.

Performance and trends

- 1.9.1 Reducing Burglary in Barnet is recognised as a top priority: there are now over 1500 fewer burglaries happening in Barnet every year than there were five years ago.
- 1.9.2 However burglary remains the only major volume crime which occurs in Barnet at a rate well above the London average (the burglary rate per 1000 population in Barnet is 22% higher than London's). Over the last 12 months¹⁴ Barnet has had the 8th highest rate of burglary¹⁵ with the burglary occurring at a rate 8% higher than the London average.
- 1.9.3 During 2015/16 Barnet had the highest rate of residential burglary of any London borough, by 2016/17 the reductions in burglary in Barnet had resulted in Barnet falling to the 5th highest rate out of the 32 boroughs and having a lower rate than 3 of the surrounding five boroughs. Despite the significant reduction achieved, reducing residential burglary further remains a key priority.

Key partnership activity

- 1.9.4 The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership, which includes the council and police, have been working together to prevent burglary and to catch and convict those involved in committing burglaries:
- The MetTrace Project: Under the MetTrace project the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership has deployed 'MetTrace' crime prevention technology in over 15,000 households. The SmartWater® technology to date has had a 100% conviction rate in court and has been proven to reduce burglaries by 85%.
 - Targeted crime prevention advice: This year Barnet Police have provided crime prevention advice to over 1000 homes which have previously targeted by burglars
 - Neighbourhood Watch: The Council and police work closely with Barnet Borough Watch, who have delivered crime prevention events and across the borough and has trained over 400 watch coordinators to deliver crime prevention training to their local neighbourhoods.

¹⁴ To March 2017

¹⁵ 8.66 per 1000 population vs. London average of 7.99

1.9.5 To build on the successes achieved and further reduce the number of burglaries in Barnet, Barnet council and police have implemented a joint project to expand the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera coverage across the borough. The cameras which are now live are monitoring the key routes in Barnet 24 hours a day. These cameras will help prevent crime involving vehicles and will provide information and evidence to catch and convict offenders.

Priority: Effective and wide-ranging partnerships are in place between the local authority, statutory and non-statutory partners, community groups and faith institutions, to help mitigate risks from terrorism and extremism and to support the boroughs diverse communities.

Update

- 1.10.1 The Community Safety Team has overseen the work of the Prevent Working Group and has, with the Prevent Coordinator, managed the delivery of the Prevent Partnership action plan.
- 1.10.2 Once adopted the new Barnet's Prevent Forward Strategy 2017- 2020 will replace the draft Prevent Forward Strategy 2015 – 2018. The new strategy has a focus on integrating the Prevent Framework across the council and partnership within our existing frameworks.

Organisational Change

- 1.11.1 The last 24 months have seen a number of organisational and structural changes across different Safer Communities Partnership organisations and against a backdrop of changing demand patterns and resources constraints.
- 1.11.2 This includes the on-going Met Change programme with which the Metropolitan Police have been assessing different options for change, including a model (currently being piloted in some parts of London) that would see a sharing of services and resources across policing boroughs.
- 1.11.3 Another area of significant change has been in Offender Management, with probation services now delivered in London by the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), National Probation Service (NPS). Further work is required to develop the joint working with the CRC, NPS, Police, and Barnet Council; and to establish clear support pathways for offenders especially in relation to mental health where there is an identified need.