

Safer Communities Partnership Board

Minutes of meeting held on 25 October 2019
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

Board Members Present:

Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz
(Chairman)

Also Present:

Kiran Vagarwal, Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services, LB Barnet
Peter Clifton, Community Safety Manager, LB Barnet
Reshma Hirani, Hate Crime Awareness Coordinator, Barnet Mencap
Ben Norfolk, Data Analyst Community Safety, LB Barnet
Chris Kelly, Strategic Lead Partnerships & Engagement, Family Services, LB Barnet
Detective Inspector James Rawlinson, Metropolitan Police
Steve Leader, London Fire Brigade
Adam Breyer, Senior Probation Officer, National Probation Service
Kausar Mukhar, Contracts & Partnerships Lead, North Area, London Community Rehabilitation Company
Richard Norfolk, Reducing Offending Officer, LB Barnet
Stuart Coleman, Barnet Homes
Luke Kwamya, Head of Public Health Commissioning, LB Barnet
Elena Barrasso, Dept for Work and Pensions
Emma Phasey, Group Manager, Public Protection, LB Barnet

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed all. He introduced himself and noted that he is Lead for Policing and Community Safety at the London Borough of Barnet (LBB).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Amlan Ghoshal, Fiona Bateman, Tina McElligot, Claire Ansdell and Dr Tamara Djuretic.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2019 were approved as an accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. REPORT ON THE BARNET ZERO TOLERANCE TO HATE CRIME PROJECT

The Community Safety Manager spoke to the report and introduced the Hate Crime Awareness Coordinator.

The Community Safety Manager reported that the nine Hate Crime reporting centres in Barnet were working smoothly with staff fully trained. The project was funded by the MOPAC Crime Prevention Fund and provided an alternative way for victims to report Hate Crime. Victims were supported and referred to appropriate groups via the Hate Crime Awareness Coordinator.

Communications campaigns included Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2019, which had taken place at Burnt Oak Library, BOOST in Childs Hill, Colindale (Barnet offices), Broadwalk Shopping Centre and Golders Green bus station. Also in 2018 150 residents and staff in Barnet had signed up to become Hate Crime Reporting Champions and the number of these continued to grow. National Hate Crime Awareness Week would take place again in October 2020.

Frontline staff from 14 organisations including Barnet Homes, Middlesex University and Barnet Council had been trained in Hate Crime awareness. Also 14 Hate Crime Awareness workshops had been delivered to 14 organisations including Brent Cross Shopping Centre, Homeless Action Barnet and BOOST (Barnet Homes).

Hate Crime Forums were held quarterly with representatives from the reporting centres discussing levels and types of reporting. Information from the reporting centres was shared with other hate crime prevention networks.

The Hate Crime Awareness Coordinator reported that factors such as disputes between neighbours, or vulnerable adult victims and safeguarding issues, contributed to the reluctance to report hate crime.

The short terms goals of the project were to continue to further awareness and staff training into organisations such as the NHS, public venues and libraries.

The Chairman asked why the locations used for the Hate Crime Awareness week stalls had been chosen. The Hate Crime Awareness Coordinator stated that the team tried to move these around the Borough. A lot of hate crime was reported on public transport so they had focused near bus stations. The libraries and other locations had been chosen due to their high footfall. She noted that the team would be happy to carry out events at any time in other parts of the Borough.

The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services noted that hate crime reporting was expected to increase due to this project and this would be a positive sign. Over the next 12 months the team would be looking to implement the same approach (Third Party Reporting Programme) in relation to domestic violence (DV) with a series of networks around the Borough. This would be another example of bringing together the voluntary and community sector to help to deliver community safety in Barnet.

6. LONDON COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY (CRC) - INSPECTION RESULTS UPDATE/PROBATION REFORM

The Contracts and Partnerships Lead – North Area, London CRC spoke to her slides. The full Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) report published in August 2019 was circulated with the agenda.

London CRC was the first Community Rehabilitation Company in the country to achieve a 'good' or 'requires improvement' in all ten areas inspected. Some of the actions

required had already been taken. The new case management system, Omnia, meant that case reviews and audits were carried out more regularly.

The Head of Housing Management, Barnet Homes asked about the impact of liaising with other agencies on criminogenics. The Reducing Offending Officer, LBB stated that BOOST (Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team) had reduced reoffending and currently some work was being undertaken with black and minority ethnic (BME) service users. The scheme was also looking at a programme to support the gypsy and travellers' community and service users who had had gang involvement. He would share further information with the Board.

Action: Reducing Offending Officer

The Reducing Offending Officer reported that Amanda Lunness, Partnership Network Coordinator, had been seconded to the Troubled Families Programme to make sure that vulnerable adult service users were engaging with it. She would also be appointing a Lead for Adult MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub).

The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services noted that it would be helpful if CRC could provide an update at the meeting of SCPB on 3 April. She was interested in the service users in transition from juvenile to adult services and was keen to know what kind of service would be provided by the NPS for offenders in Barnet when the service is renationalised. Some borough-based data would be helpful including the number of offenders managed by NPS, repeat victimisation rates and substance misuse orders. Also the issue of transitional safeguarding had been raised at the Adults Safeguarding Board and it had been suggested that the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team use the IOM scheme to bridge the gap - the risk of exploitation did not disappear at age 18. In Barnet 100 individuals had moved from the youth to adult services in the past year and some of the statutory responsibilities for the council no longer applied at this point. The Contracts and Partnerships Lead CRC stated that she is reviewing interventions with young adults. She could provide a presentation to the Board if required.

Action: Contracts and Partnerships Lead, CRC

The Reducing Offending Officer noted that local substance misuse providers were about to be recommissioned and he would look into any gaps in services before the Quarter 2 meeting. The Contracts and Partnerships Lead CRC noted the above request and would also ask the CRC Substance Misuse Lead to attend the meeting.

Action: Contracts and Partnerships Lead, CRC

Probation reform

The Community Safety Manager presented slides from the HM Prison & Probation Service. Case management of all service users on Community Orders, license release from custody and serving prisoners would be delivered by the NPS from Spring 2021. Programmes, unpaid work and other interventions will be put out for tender to both the private and public sectors.

There would be 12 probation areas across England and Wales; this would include the introduction of 11 new probation areas in England with existing arrangements remaining unchanged in Wales.

The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services asked how the current community payback work in Barnet would feed into any new commissioning

plans. She added that the current system worked well. The Contracts Lead, CRC stated that lessons had been learnt from the previous restructure where many local links had been lost. CRC had worked to ensure the engagement would continue. She added that Barnet had acted as a pilot - this model was being replicated in Hackney and other boroughs.

The Reducing Offending Officer noted that a policy document had been written and best practice was being rolled out across London.

The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services asked how much engagement on the changes there had been with the Met Police given the different mix of boroughs.

The Senior Probation Officer responded that the Director of the NPS had set up transition wards to look at the practicalities of putting services together and there was awareness that the NPS structures did not directly align with those of the Metropolitan Police. The NPS linked Barnet, Brent and Enfield but the Police BCU is Barnet Brent and Harrow. This was being reviewed at a senior level in the NPS.

The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services noted that when the previous restructure happened the IOM Scheme and its position (in Barnet it is a partnership scheme running locally) had been missed. She asked who owns the IOM Scheme in the new transition. She was also concerned about how a new outsourced service would engage with the Barnet Partnership. The Contracts Lead noted that it is her role to ensure services commissioned are linked into the statutory partners.

7. FAMILY SERVICES

The Strategic Lead, Partnerships and Engagement, Family Services LBB spoke to the slides on the Troubled Families Programme and youth offending.

The Phase 2 Troubled Families Programme would come to an end on 31st March 2020. The Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities has indicated that there would be developments to and a continuation of the Programme beyond March 2020.

The Strategic Lead, Partnerships, Family Services reported that there had been a slight increase in open cases brought to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) in Barnet, likely due to the summer holiday period. The primary age of offenders was 17 with a disproportionate number of these being black British. The offences were mainly violence against the person, drug offenses and robberies.

The Troubled Families Programme focused on the influence of adverse childhood experiences; one fifth of the offenders had witnessed domestic violence. Physical abuse, housing problems and neglect were also issues for this cohort. Drug misuse (mainly cannabis and alcohol) was present in close to half the offenders.

51% of acts of violence against the person had involved a knife. Some of these were committed outside Barnet by offenders from Barnet.

15% of the youth offender cohort were currently identified as being at risk of exploitation.

The Strategic Lead added that with the YOT now co-located with family services, coordination was better and the team had a clearer view of the impact of earlier life

experiences on this group. Home Office funding had been provided in 2018 for Barnet to work with MAC-UK, Art Against Knives, (AAK) and Growing Against Violence Education (GAV-Ed) to deliver a preventative school-based programme for Year 6 as well as Creative Safe Spaces within the community. MAC-UK was providing therapeutic minded conversations with young people and the partnership working was increasing opportunities and diversion for the young people. Currently 290 young people were engaged in AAK in Barnet, which could be attended by drop-in or referral. The projects were largely nail bars, combat academies and music labs. The team continued to work keep the cohort in mind to ensure the services were appropriate.

The team has given briefings in 120 primary school assemblies in the borough. The schools had been chosen in relation to their proximity to offences. The aim was to strengthen partnerships with the schools and to enable staff to understand the experiences of young people in Barnet. Head teachers had expressed concerns about the future trajectories of pupils in some areas and were asking for help. The team ensured that school officers attended Growing Against Violence training sessions.

The Strategic Lead reported that data on county lines activity has been made available through the MOPAC-funded Rescue and Response Project. This provided four intelligence analysts in each London quadrant. St Giles Trust is providing support following referrals from police and social services. 83% of county lines victims referred to Rescue and Response across London were male. There had been 568 young people referred in Year 1, with 13 of these being from Barnet.

Mental health support, education and training opportunities were a key focus for 2019/20.

Barnet had submitted a bid to the Young Londoners Fund to facilitate transitional safeguarding arrangements for 16-21 year olds.

In partnership with St Christopher's, Barnet had successfully bid to the Youth Endowment Fund to set up an out-of-hours Sibling Mentoring Programme. The aim of this was to work preventatively with siblings of youth offenders.

The Chairman noted that there was an underlying theme of problems in familial relationships, lack of opportunities and links with grooming and asked how young people were supported to exit gangs and county lines activity. The Strategic Lead, Partnerships, Family Services noted that schools' resilience was a factor – sometimes they were quick to exclude pupils. The team was looking at multiple levels to offer opportunities for young people.

The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services noted that she and the Family Services team had presented to senior management about the out-of-borough offences, and more understanding was needed on the cause of these. This was part of the risk management process and intelligence would be stepped up to help to manage this risk.

DI James Rawlinson enquired whether any support from peer groups and the community, such as had been trialled in Scotland, had been considered. The Strategic Lead, Partnerships and Engagement Family Services responded that earlier in the year serious incident response meetings had been held in relation to incidents that had occurred with young victims in Grahame Park. Community and statutory partners had been invited to provide a coordinated response and to give a context to how the individuals were relating to their peers.

The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services noted that Barnet has a strong operational partnership in which the aim is to safeguard both victim and offender. This could be challenging for the police as they had to prosecute whilst being aware of safeguarding. Housing issues could be a problem as a move would be at the family's discretion, but the council was providing access as housing was a key element as it was for other boroughs. The Assistant Director Community Safety added that some victims of crime did not want a prosecution to go ahead and in the next 12-18 months the partnership needed to focus on community engagement to try to support people to report offences.

The Reducing Offending Officer reported that MOPAC is piloting GPS knife tags for adults released into the community, from January 2020. This was also open for youth offenders if proportionate and necessary. He asked whether the Community Safety Team had plans in relation to this. The Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services suggested an action: that the use of tagging be considered for hard to reach knife crime offenders, both adult and youth. She asked that the Reducing Offending Officer to send details on the knife tags to the Director of Family Services.

Action: Reducing Offending Officer

8. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Data Analyst, Community Safety provided an update together with slides.

Robbery had increased in Barnet in February and July 2019 but the number of incidents in Barnet remained below the London average for robbery. Barnet had the second lowest level of violent crime in London and knife and gun crime remained low.

There had been an increase in domestic violence reporting and an increase in anti-social behaviour but ASB remained below the London average.

The Chairman noted that the increase in robbery was alarming and asked for more information on this. The Assistant Director Community Safety would provide more information to the next meeting including the response needed. She would liaise with the Metropolitan Police to provide this information. DI Rawlinson noted that this was on the Met Police's radar and they had more officers available at present to deal with this issue in the relevant areas.

Action: Assistant Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services

The Reducing Offending Officer noted that he was also investigating the cause of this spike and noted that a broader partnership approach was being taken including looking at housing and probation.

The Data Analyst would provide data on offender management in Barnet at the next meeting.

Action: Data Analyst

9. PROPOSED ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

24 January 2020

Borough Command Unit – one year on – DI James Rawlinson/Met Police
London Fire Brigade update – Steve Leader
Partnership paper – Reducing Offending/Autumn nights/robbery/burglary – Kiran Vagarwal/Met Police
Family Services update – Tina McElligot
Environmental crime – Kiran Vagarwal

3 April 2020

The Board agreed to move the Prevent and ASB items to the April meeting.

An update on the London CRC merger would be added to the April meeting – Kauser Mukhtar.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman announced on behalf of Fiona Bateman that as part of Safeguarding Month (November) she would email details of activities to the Board the following week.

The Board agreed to continue with a 09:00 hrs start time for future meetings. Any problems with this should be fed back to tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk.

Action: Governance Officer

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2020, **09:00 HRS**

The meeting finished at 10.42 am