### **MEETING**

### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**

### DATE AND TIME

### **WEDNESDAY 26TH JANUARY, 2022**

### **AT 7.00 PM**

### **VENUE**

### HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BG

## TO: MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone
Vice Chairman: Councillor Lachhya Bahadur Gurung

Jennifer Grocock Sara Conway Roberto Weeden-Sanz

Helene Richman Charlie O-Macauley Zakia Zubairi

Nizza Fluss Danny Rich

### **Substitute Members**

Wendy Prentice John Marshall Felix Byers Nagus Narenthira Alan Schneiderman Alison Moore

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Corinna Demetriou

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

### Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Service contact: Corinna Demetriou corinna.demetriou@barnet.gov.uk

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454

**ASSURANCE GROUP** 



### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Minutes of last meeting	5 - 14
2.	Absence of Members (If any)	
3.	Declaration of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests (If any)	
4.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (If any)	
5.	Public Comments and Questions (If any)	
6.	Members' Items (If any)	
7.	Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy Annual Update	15 - 42
8.	Community Participation Strategy Delivery Plan	43 - 70
9.	Forward Plan	71 - 76
10.	Any item(s) the Chairman decides are urgent	

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### **Decisions of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee**

6 October 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 1** 

### Members Present:-

Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman)
Councillor Roberto Weeden-Sanz (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Helene Richman Councillor Nizza Fluss Councillor Sara Conway Councillor Danny Rich
Councillor Felix Byers
(Substitute for Councillor
Jennifer Grocock)
Councillor Nagus Narenthira
(Substitute for Councillor Zakia
Zubairi)

### Apologies for Absence

Councillor Jennifer Grocock Councillor Lachhya Gurung Councillor Charlie O-Macauley Councillor Zakia Zubairi

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Following up on item 8 of the minutes (CLLC, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021), a Member enquired what the appropriate channel would be for the Opposition Spokesperson on Community Safety to become a member of the Safer Communities Partnership Board. Ms Green responded that an approach should be made to the Constitution and General Purposes Committee.

A Member enquired whether the names of Members could be cited in the minutes, rather than 'a Member'. Ms Green would discuss this with the Head of Governance.

**Action: Ms Green** 

### 2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (IF ANY)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Zubairi, Gurung, Grocock and O-Macauley. Cllr Grocock was substituted by Cllr Byers and Cllr Zubairi was substituted by Cllr Narenthira.

## 3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NC PECUNIARY INTERESTS (IF ANY)

Cllr Conway declared a non-pecuniary interest – that she is a Trustee of the Jewish Volunteering Network.

### 4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

### 6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

### 6.1 Cllr Danny Rich

Cllr Danny Rich presented his Member's Item, noting that it would be helpful if Ward Members could be informed as soon as possible of incidents in their Ward so that they could offer a proactive response when needed. He also requested clear guidance on how Ward Members can be involved following serious incidents, to help them to reassure the community.

Ms Green responded that the police notify the Community Safety Team and the MASH when a serious incident has occurred, and Barnet's internal protocol is to inform relevant Members. Less serious crimes are not reported to Barnet by the police but details are available on their website. In addition the Safer Communities Partnership Board receives quarterly reports on agreed crime statistics in the Borough also publicly available. Ms Green reported that part of the new Barnet Corporate Plan, which was presented at Policy and Resources Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, states that reports relating to some community safety priorities will be added to the CLLC agenda biannually from 2022-23. This would be added to the Forward Plan.

### **Action: Governance Officer**

Ms Green added that communication with Members has been strengthened. Also officer availability has been increased, to include on-call at evenings and weekends due to many incidents occurring out-of-hours.

Cllr Conway noted that it would be useful to have conversations with resident groups via the Ward Panels on crime hotspots, and to provide feedback to them on the work being carried out. Ms Green responded that she would investigate whether the data can be more granular as it is not gathered on a ward basis. She reminded the committee that fly tipping, littering and graffiti fall under the remit of Environment Committee. The Chairman noted that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams provide another forum for discussion.

### 6.2 Cllr Sara Conway

Cllr Sara Conway presented her item on the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy.

The Chairman rejected the comments in Cllr Conway's item, of the administration failing to address this issue, but welcomed Cllr Conway's suggestions ahead of the full consultation, to be carried out from 20 October to 20 December 2021. He added that the VAWG Delivery Group has already approached Barnet inviting the council to be a 'White Ribbon' Council and some of the criteria have been implemented.

The Governance Officer would circulate details of training on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which is being offered to Members and Officers. dayawgconsultations@barnet.gov.uk.

**Action: Governance Officer** 

### 2. Cllr Zakia Zubairi

Cllr Zubairi did not attend the meeting. Her Member's Item was noted.

Mr Will Cooper, Deputy Head of Strategy, reported that the Winter Faith Festival had been launched in 2019 and would go ahead again this year. Events would be highlighted, starting with Diwali Lights in Burnt Oak and West Hendon. There would also be faith events throughout the year.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the Members' items.

## 7. COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 (INCLUDING CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY)

Mr Matt Leng, Community Safety Manager reported that the transfer of community safety services to the Executive Director of Assurance took place on a permanent basis in May 2021. Responsibilities for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Environmental Crime (excluding littering, fly tipping and graffiti) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Prevent (including Hate Crime), CCTV and Covid-19 Enforcement sit within the Assurance Group. Domestic Violence, VAWG, Reducing Offending, Integrated Offender Management, Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation are under the remit of Family Services.

Mr Leng noted that the annual report is the first to be produced since the governance review which had been completed earlier in the year. This report recognises the change of Chair to Councillor Jennifer Grocock and acknowledges the work of the BSCPB in the prior reporting period of April 2019 – March 2021. Mr Leng reported that being the Crime and Disorder Annual Scrutiny review, the report provides a summary of the outcomes of all Community Safety work undertaken during the period of 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021, including the Community Safety Team's (CST) progress and outcomes, set against the objectives as in the CST's Annual Strategy and Work Plan.

Mr Leng stated that the purpose of presenting the data is for Members' oversight and scrutiny of crime in the Borough and to enable joint working on crime and disorder reduction. Questions are encouraged on how to reduce crime and disorder in given parts of the Borough and how the police are interacting with the community.

Cllr Conway recommended including residents' voices as anonymised case studies to get a clear picture of the impact that crime has.

Cllr Conway noted that previously a representative from the Borough Command Unit, and members from relevant local groups, attended CLLC meetings. This would be helpful to give a sense of crime in the local area.

Cllr Conway asked for feedback on the implementation of the London Action Plan on community policing.

Cllr Conway would email her questions to Mr Leng for a response after the meeting. **Action: Cllr Conway** 

**RESOLVED** that the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee noted the content of the Community Safety Annual Report for 2020/21 and the Crime and Disorder scrutiny review.

### 8. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Mr Leng introduced the report, providing a summary of the findings of the annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment for 2020.

Mr Leng reported that the Strategic Crime Needs Assessment is a legal requirement, to enable an understanding of the crime trends during January-December 2020 and how these fit in with Barnet's strategic priorities. It provides an update to CLLC on the Community Safety Strategy and intended future actions.

Mr Leng reported that the usual public consultation did not go ahead during 2020 due to lockdown. There had been a directive from MOPAC to continue with current priorities during this period. The London Mayor's Consultation for a Police and Crime Strategy 2021 would be launched later in October. Barnet had paused its consultation as the Mayor's office's document had been embargoed and Barnet wanted to be in line with this. Barnet would run its consultation until mid-December 2021 and would then produce a 2022-27 Strategy for the Committee to agree, to commence on 1st April 2022.

Cllr Rich and Cllr Narenthira enquired about the crime levels in their wards according to the data. Mr Leng added that there can be numerous reasons for crime, including insufficient lighting, or an estate not being supported in the correct way. As well as holding perpetrators to account the Community Safety Team and police will examine the data and react to it.

Cllr Fluss asked about the source of the data. Mr Leng responded that all the data are available online at police.co.uk.

Cllr Conway asked what could be done to address issues such as knife and gun crime. Also she expressed concern about domestic violence during lockdown as this was more difficult to report during this period. She asked how the consultation on the Community Safety Strategy would engage different communities within Barnet including those harder to reach.

Mr Leng responded that some offences had increased during lockdown, due to few people being out in the streets. The ASB numbers for this period did not appear to represent the typical number over the last five years and many were repeat calls. The Community Safety Team had been encouraging people to continue to report crime during lockdown.

Cllr Conway noted that mental health was not mentioned in the report but certain incidents include an element of this. Mr Leng responded that Barnet has a successful Community Safety MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) which is one of the best in operation. Also vulnerable people were often identified through local officers via the MASH process and the team ensures referrals are made to a mental health expert. The CCG and Barnet Network for Mental Health are also represented on the MARAC.

**RESOLVED** that the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee note the key findings of the Community Safety Strategic Crime Needs Assessment and the next steps, and codependency for the revision of Barnet's Community Safety Strategy for 2022- 2027 with the Mayors' Policing and Crime Plan (2017-2021) refresh.

### 9. CCTV STRATEGIC REVIEW AND PROCUREMENT OF NEW SERVICE CONTRACT

The report was presented by Clair Green, Executive Director, Assurance, and Declan Khan, Assistant Director, Counter Fraud, Community Safety & Protection.

Ms Green noted that the report presented CCTV options including a feasibility study of current CCTV assets that had been undertaken. The report includes procurement details and plans to move Barnet's CCTV control room to Colindale.

Ms Green added that the new technology is being piloted. This includes WIFI-enabled CCTV which would support better connection with the control room than the older CCTV infrastructure. Project management capacity and specialist expertise have been made available within CST.

Ms Green highlighted the outline business case for increasing the CCTV infrastructure, together with a set of principles for deployment of CCTV. She added that feedback from Members would be welcomed as part of the consultation and also when the full business case is presented in 2022.

The CST would work with the police's and its own data to decide where additional assets should be placed. Ms Green added that she was aware of requests for CCTV that had been submitted via Area Committees and the team would be contacting Members about those as part of the review. There would be additional capacity to add mobile CCTV at later stages as required. If requests outside the funding available are made, there is the opportunity to discuss this at Policy and Resources Committee or to apply under Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding at Area Committees. The transparent process for CCTV applications is set out on page 87 of the report.

Cllr Weeden-Sanz noted that the capital cost of £400,000, plus £300,000 on the review and consultant, appeared high. He asked how long the entire process would take.

Ms Green responded that the cost also includes the upgraded monitoring equipment and its move to Colindale. This would mean that both MASH and CST would have access to the control room. Timelines had not been included at this stage as this depended on how complex the final arrangement would be.

Cllr Fluss enquired about access to the CCTV images and who would be authorised to do this. Ms Green responded that access to the control room would be restricted to trained and accredited CCTV operators who undergo a high level of checks. The police would also have access in accordance with legislation.

Cllr Fluss asked about the procurement process. Ms Green reported that the specialist consultant had provided an estimate; a detailed review would follow. The funding that had been secured was as stated above.

Hannah Richens, Head of Library Service noted that the library service CCTV monitoring and maintenance are part of the corporate contract and cost circa £130,000 per year. There are around 250 CCTV cameras across the core libraries.

Mr Khan added some areas require different types of cameras to others, which made costings difficult at this stage so an estimate was provided. The final figure would be clearer when the sites for the cameras is known.

Cllr Narenthira asked whether Area Committees would receive additional funding or would CCTV be funded via the current CiL budgets. Ms Green responded that there would be a consultation with Members and then this item would return to CLLC in June 2022. It was not being proposed currently that further requests should be met with CiL funding as there is an opportunity to request this at Policy and Resources Committee. However ad hoc requests may be made through Area Committees in the future.

Cllr Richman asked about requests that had already been made, such as nine hotspots identified a year ago, and whether those would be prioritised. Mr Khan noted that this would be investigated after the meeting; many requests were received and the aim of the review is to agree the principles. Sometimes CCTV is not the best solution but he would ensure the list is reviewed. With the older technology it was impossible to install in some areas without electrical feeds.

**Action: Mr Khan** 

Cllr Rich asked whether officers would be discussing the review with him as he would be keen to meet to discuss where CCTV should be placed. Ms Green confirmed all members will be offered a briefing.

Action: Ms Green, Cllr Rich

Cllr Conway congratulated the team on a comprehensive piece of work which was long overdue. She commented:

- Consideration needed to be given to what could be done about people wearing hoods, making CCTV less useful
- How urgent CCTV requests might be dealt with in between Area Committee meetings
- With changes happening at some libraries how is CCTV provided in the interim?
- She hoped the review could dovetail with the VAWG Strategy refresh
- Lighting in streets, parks and estates is repeatedly brought up at meetings as an issue. CCTV is most useful when there is sufficient lighting.
- She hoped that all Wards would be treated equally in terms of allocation of mobile units. There needed to be a safety-specific need, including in the Area Committee process of adding CCTV.

Ms Richens noted that new CCTV would be put in Hendon and Burnt Oak libraries after the construction of the new buildings rather than for example replacing CCTV cameras in the current Hendon Library and then having to repeat this a year later.

### **RESOLVED** that the Committee:

- 1. Approved the CCTV Outline Business Case (OBC) and start the procurement process for a CCTV monitoring and maintenance services contract for the Community Safety Team and Library Service, and new CCTV technology procurement for the Community Safety Team, as per the Procurement Forward Plan.
- 2. Noted that a strategic review of Barnet's Community Safety CCTV requirements will be undertaken and reported to CLLC for review as part of a Full Business Case (FBC).

- 3. Approved delegated authority to the Executive Director, Assurance and the Executive Director, Children and Young People in consultation with the Committee Chairman to approve a revised OBC prior to an FBC. This will include outcomes from the strategic review which require initiating in advance of the FBC.
- **4.** Approved the proposed Member consultation and engagement model set out in section 5.9 (and OBC) which details the principles and processes to consult with Members on both the Community Safety strategic review and the decision-making process for future Community Safety CCTV deployment.

## 10. MOPAC BLUEPRINT FOR WOMEN IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Tina McElligott, Director Early Help & Children's Social Care presented her report, an update to a report presented to CLLC on 20 November 2019 which set out the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime ambition for all London boroughs to sign up to London's Blueprint for a Whole System Approach for Women in Contact with the Criminal Justice System 2019-22. The Blueprint aims to develop and implement an evidence based, sustainable, whole-system approach aimed at improving outcomes for women and reducing women's imprisonment.

Ms McElligot noted that her team is working with the new probation structure and youth offending service to improve integration and provide enhanced support for women and girls.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the pan-London progress against the Blueprint and the local actions to strengthen this workstream in Barnet.

### 11. ARMED FORCES COVENANT ACTION PLAN

Angela Richardson, Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager, and Armed Forces Champion presented her report and action plan for renewing the Covenant.

Ms Richardson reported that the Armed Forces Covenant was approved by Full Council on 29 October 2019 and it was agreed that the Council should also work towards achieving the silver and gold Defence Employer Recognition Scheme accreditation.

In November 2019 the Committee reviewed and approved the Barnet Council Action Plan aimed at delivering the requirements of the Covenant and achieving accreditation. An update was reported to the Committee in September 2020. Barnet Council has met all the requirements to be recognised as Silver Standards employer.

The re-signing of the Covenant would take place at Hendon Town Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 as part of the Armed Forces Reception. There was limited capacity at the event but Cllr Thompstone and Cllr Gurung (a veteran) would attend.

The Council's eLearning on the Covenant has been made mandatory for all Members and some officers and had been transferred to the Council's new e-learning portal.

### **RESOLVED** that the Committee noted that:

1. The Armed Forces Covenant signing ceremony is scheduled to take place on 2 November 2021.

- 2. The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver accreditation will be achieved after the signing ceremony.
- 3. Officers are instructed to continue to implement the Barnet Council Action Plan.

### 12. MAYORALTY UPDATE

Ms Richardson, Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager, and Armed Forces Champion presented her report to update the Committee on mayoral engagements and civic events which took place between May 2019 to May 2021.

This included the Armed Forces Day, twin town photography competition, Remembrance Sunday parade, civic awards and community engagement during lockdown.

### **RESOLVED** that the Committee noted:

- 1. The report and appendix with details of civic events and an update on the mayoralty.
- 2. That Barnet's Mayor's Office won the 2020 National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) Civic Office of the Year awards in both categories:
  - a) How the Civic Office responded to work during the national crisis of 2020
  - b) How the Civic Office is moving forward after the national crisis of 2020.

### 13. BUSINESS PLANNING 2022 - 2026

Ms Green, Executive Director, Assurance presented a report and appendices containing the Committee's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Savings Proposals, and details of Fees & Charges, April 2021.

Ms Green reported that an update on the recent changes to the strategic and operational expansion of the Assurance Group roles and responsibilities had been approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. A Business Planning report outlining the MTFS to 2025/26 and the future financial challenges facing the council was presented to P&R at the same meeting. Theme Committees are asked to consider savings proposals as part of the usual annual process.

#### **RESOLVED** that the Committee:

- 1. Agreed the revenue savings programme listed in Appendix A and that it would be recommended to Policy and Resources Committee in December.
- 2. Noted the risks associated with the savings proposals, relating to both the impact on services and residents and deliverability of savings.
- 3. Noted the equalities impact assessments associated with these savings proposals.
- 4. Agreed to delegate authority to chief officers to changes in fees and charges ahead of approval at P&R in February 2022.

### 14. FORWARD PLAN

**RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the forward plan.

### 15. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm



### **Summary**



## Community Leadership and Libraries Committee

### 26 January 2022

UNITA	
Title	Family Services Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Annual Report
Report of	Chairman of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Tina McElligott, Director Early Help & Children's Social Care <a href="mailto:Tina.McElligott@barnet.gov.uk">Tina.McElligott@barnet.gov.uk</a>

This report provides the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee with an update on the delivery and implementation of the Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls 2017-2020 Strategy and its refresh Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2021-24.

The draft Barnet Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021-24 sets out how the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) works to prevent and respond Domestic Abuse and underlines the partnership's commitment to working together to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The report provides an overview of Domestic Abuse (DA) & VAWG as it relates to the national, London and local context and the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The report is produced ahead of the availability of annual data, as such reports on delivery across the period Q4 2020/21 - Q3 2021/22 (January – December), although some data extends beyond this period where available, including matters relating to service delivery and continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic

### Officers Recommendations

- 1. The Community Leadership and Libraries Committee note and comment on the progress made by the Safer Communities Partnership on delivering the four priority objectives of the Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2017 2020).
- 2. The Community Leadership and Libraries Committee note and comment on Safer Communities Partnership priorities as set out within Barnet's Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (2021 2024)

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 To provide an update to the annual report of March 2021 to the Community Leadership Committee (CLLC) on the work of the Safer Communities Partnership in meeting the aims of the Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2017 2020.
- 1.2 The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership ('BSCP' or 'the Partnership') are responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of an overall strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour; this includes Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG). This report sets out the priorities and aims of BSCP's Domestic Abuse & VAWG Strategy for 2021-2024 and the partnership's commitment to working together to prevent all forms of VAWG.
- 1.3 The draft DA and VAWG Strategy 2021-24 and Action Plan were presented to the Safer Communities Partnership board on the 22 October 2021 where approval was given to formally consult on the draft documents.
- 1.4 The Barnet Corporate Plan 2021-25, under the Healthy priority has an objective for Barnet to be the healthiest borough in London with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy & healthy lives by tackling domestic abuse and gender-based violence.
- 1.5 The Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership Delivery Group (a subgroup to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board) brings together partner organisations in the borough to work together to respond to DA & VAWG with the aim of preventing it and reducing the harm it causes to victims, their families and the wider community. The Delivery Group agrees the annual VAWG Delivery Plan setting out the key partnership activities required, in order to deliver against the five new partnership priorities within Barnet's DA & VAWG Strategy.

- 1.6 The five partnership priorities within the draft Barnet DA & VAWG Strategy 2021-24 are:
  - Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
  - Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
  - Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
  - Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes
  - Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces

### 2. Background context

- 2.1 In the Annual VAWG Report presented to CLLC in March 2021, it is set out that Barnet's Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy 2021 2024 would be launched in September 2021. Responsibility for Domestic Abuse & VAWG Service Delivery transferred from Community Safety to Family Services in May 2021. The timeline for the launch of the Domestic Abuse & VAWG Strategy was purposefully delayed allowing it to be shaped by the publication of the government VAWG Strategy in July 2021, by well-informed key stakeholder input following training on the implementation of the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and by a series of consultation events which closed on 20 December 2021.
- 2.2 The governments 'Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy' 2021, has been shaped by a call for evidence from 180,000 respondents. It sets out four strategic aims which are reflected within our local strategic plan; these include prioritising prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and strengthening the system.
- 2.3 Domestic abuse data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2021. Domestic abuse disproportionally affects women and girls, accounting for 73% of the total victims of domestic abuse-related crimes in 2020/21. Up to one in seven men and one in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, and it is preventable.
- 2.4 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal assent on 29 April 2021, the Act provides a statutory definition of domestic abuse-related crimes which include: any incidence of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 16 years and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Repeated patterns of abusive behaviour to

maintain power and control in a relationship even when a relationship has ended are also now a crime.

- 2.5 A Domestic Abuse Commissioner has been established in law to provide accountability to the public and Ministers on failure within statutory service provision and poor practice in services. The Act places a duty on places a duty on local authorities to give support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and safe accommodation and requires local authorities to grant new secure tenancies to social tenants leaving existing secure tenancies for reasons connected with domestic abuse. Children who witness domestic abuse in parental relationships are considered domestic abuse victims.
- 2.6 The Act also provides a statutory basis for the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's law) guidance and creates a domestic abuse protection notice (DAPN) and domestic abuse protection order (DAPO) which are two new civil protection injunctions for immediate and longer-term protection for victims
- 2.7 The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on national and local data; there was a 22% increase in demand against the National Domestic Abuse Helpline during the year 2020/21 with notable increases during periods of national lockdown. There was also a 6% increase in the number of police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes in 2020/21 (n=845,734) with domestic abuse-related crime accounting for 18% (3% increase) of all crimes recorded in the year. (ONS, November 2021).

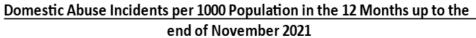
### 3. Performance

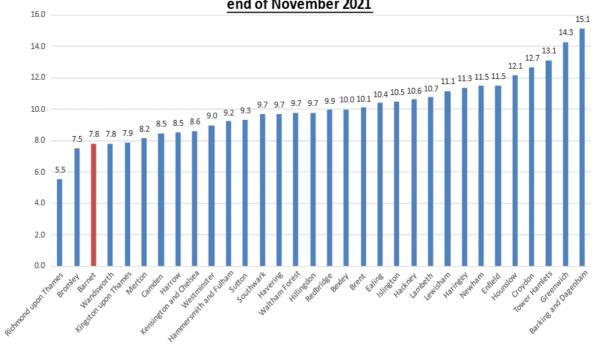
- 3.1 In Barnet, the rate of DA incidents is 7.8 per 1000 population (12 months to November 2021).

  Barnet has moved down from having the second, to the third lowest rate of DA incidents across London in the last quarter.
- 3.2 There were 757 Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences recorded by Police in Barnet in the 12 months up to the end of November 2021; representing a 5.3% decrease when compared to the previous year.
- 3.3 In the 12 months to November 2021, for Violence with Injury Domestic Abuse Offences, 66 suspects were identified and proceeded against by the Police. This equates to a Sanction Detection Rate of 8.7% down from 15.4% on the previous year.

3.4 The changes in data may have been impacted by capacity and confidence to report domestic abuse, particularly over lockdown periods as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

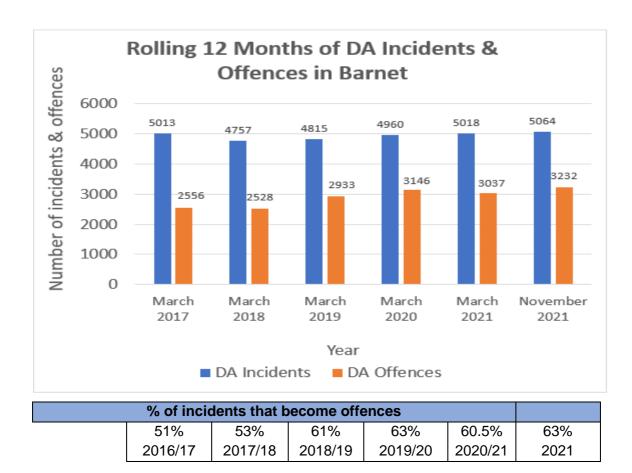
### **Understanding Prevalence**





Data source: Met Police Open Stats and Data

3.5 The chart below shows the 5-year trend data for DA incidents and offences in Barnet. The data shows that the volume of DA incidents has continually increased over the COVID-19 pandemic exceeding levels reported in 2017/18. The data also shows an upward trend in the proportion of reported DA incidents being classified as DA offences, with November reporting a 12% increase from 2017/18.



3.6 The table below highlights the volume of <u>Domestic Abuse MARAC</u> referrals received between January 2021 – December 2021. There were **511** referrals of high-risk cases of domestic abuse. There were **223** families with a total of **446** children referred to MARAC

MARAC (no of service users (12 months to December 2021)	Q4, 2020/21	Q1, 2021/22	Q2, 2021/22	Q3, 2021/22	Jan-Dec 2021 Total
Number of MARAC referrals	142	121	121	127	511
Number of children in referred families	166	77	107	96	446
Number of families with children	72	45	51	55	223
Number of repeat MARAC referrals	26	26	26	27	105
Percentage of repeat MARAC referrals	18%	21%	21%	21%	21%

- 3.7 The percentage of repeat MARAC referrals in 2021 is 21 % compared to 13.2% in 2019/20, although Barnet is 10% below the national figure (31%) of repeat referrals to DA MARAC's. The main sources of referrals to the DA MARAC are Met Police, Barnet Solace Advocacy and Support Service (SASS) and Victim Support.
- 3.8 An assessment of the DA MARAC referrals over a 12-month period from January 2021 to December 2021 showed that:
  - 35.8% of victims in the cohort had a mental health need (down from 41% on the previous year)
  - 4.7% had an alcohol misuse issue (down from 6%) the previous year and,
  - 5.3% had a drugs misuse issue (up from 5% the previous year)
  - 43 (8.4%) referrals for child to parent violence (compared to11% a year ago)
  - 55 requests (10.8% of DA MARAC cases) for Clare's Law at the DA MARAC in 2021 compared to 5% in 2019/20

### 4. Partnership activity highlights 2021

- 4.1 Partnership work delivered under the Barnet VAWG Strategy has included:
  - Barnet Council continued to fund specialist services for victims of DA and VAWG; this includes Refuge provision, IDVA Services, Domestic Abuse MARAC and a Perpetrator Programme
  - The Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DA-MARAC) for high risk domestic abuse victims was brought in-house to the Council from Hestia Charity in April 2021.
  - Transferred management of Domestic Abuse and VAWG services from Community Safety to Family Services delivery, ensuring whole family consideration of the impact of violence and abuse
  - Successfully bid for Home Office/MOPAC one-year funding amounting to £305,832. RISE is
    delivering a Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) to Domestic Abuse Perpetrator
    Programmes to minoritised and/or marginalised communities. The programme is led by LB
    Barnet in collaboration with Brent and Enfield. The delivery of the programme started on 1st
    October 2021
  - Extended child to adult/parent Domestic Abuse work to include children who are aged 18+ (adult child to adult parent abuse)

- Rolling out an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) and Young Peoples IDVA
  (YIDVA) Training to statutory and VCS providers working in front line roles Training a core group
  of professionals (25-30) in an accredited IDVA/YIDVA course starting in February 2022. The
  course comprises 12 days (online) training, delivered in four blocks.
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) development of a new role in Children's Services to respond to incidents of sexual harassment and violence.
- Development of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) role to Children's Services
- Delivered multi-agency Domestic Abuse Act 2021 training via the appointment of a Domestic Abuse consultant to support agencies and professionals understand and implement the changes made within the provisions set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which gives police, local authorities, and the courts wider powers and greater accountability concerning protection of domestic abuse victims
- Increased social media content using #AllMenCan #WhiteRibbon #MakeThePromise to promote White Ribbon Day (International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women) and throughout the 16 days of activism and enlisted White Ribbon champions and/or ambassadors in the Council to support Barnet Council becoming White Ribbon accredited as part of our commitment to meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010
- Held a webinar on Engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls' on Human Rights Day in December to mark the end of the 2021 White Ribbon Campaign with speakers from leading organisations working with perpetrators of abuse and violence, including RISE CIC, Respect and the DRIVE programme in addition to Simon Kerss, Associate Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.
- Developed a DA and VAWG strategy 2021-24:

Consultation *Phase 1*:

- Developed a draft strategy and action plan in collaboration with key stakeholders survivors, partners, practitioners, LBB staff, Members
- Consulted with 27 survivors 12 in focus groups, 1 by phone and the rest provided written answers
- Involved over 110 practitioners, staff, council Members and partners in the consultation process, including:

- Barnet Partnership board
- LBB Women's Network
- LBB LGBTQ+ Network
- o Healthy Workstream
- Health and Wellbeing board
- Council Members focus group
- Practitioner and Partner workshop
- Approval for full public consultation given by SCPB on 22nd October 2021 Phase 2:
  - 8 weeks online public consultation, focus groups with young people and individual stakeholder meetings
  - Engaged with 11 members of the Youth Forum to seek their feedback on the 5 partnership objectives
  - Individual meetings with key stakeholders, including voluntary and community groups; public health colleagues; mental health commissioners and community safety
  - Online questionnaire gained insightful and in-depth feedback from residents, and people who work in Barnet – 28 respondents, 74% are Barnet residents.
- ❖ The refreshed strategy will be launched on 8 March 2022.

### 4.2 COVID-19 and Business Continuity

- ❖ Implemented a fourfold increase in the frequency of the Domestic Abuse MARAC meetings by increasing to weekly from monthly. This has resulted in a faster turnaround between referral of complex DA cases and multi-agency risk review and actions at the MARAC. The MARAC has assessed risk and put in place risk reduction plans for complex/high risk DV cases, there are approx. 10 -12 cases being referred to DA MARAC each week.
- DA services commissioned by the local authority (including the IDVA service, Refuge services, Perpetrator Programme) have made adjustments to their operating models in order to effectively operate under the COVID-19 Government restrictions. All have accepted referrals and delivered interventions and support services. Details of how to access these services as well as other DA related services delivered by the Council and the VAWG partnership have been published on-line: <a href="https://www.barnet.gov.uk/community/community-safety/help-and-support-domestic-or-sexual-abuse">https://www.barnet.gov.uk/community/community-safety/help-and-support-domestic-or-sexual-abuse</a>

### 5. Delivering the VAWG Strategy in 2021

### Priority: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

- 5.1 This priority aims to prevent violence against women and girls by focusing on changing attitudes and behaviour that foster violence against women and girls. Some of the key partnership activities that have been delivered during 2021 are:
  - VAWG Training
  - Awareness raising campaigns
  - Women's refuge provision
  - Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service provision
  - Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
  - Barnet Sanctuary Scheme

### VAWG Training

5.2 A landmark Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal assent on 29 April 2021. This legislation steps up the response to domestic abuse at every level, giving victims more support while ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice. A DA Consultant was appointed to raise awareness to practitioners and front-line workers on the new legislation. The following training has been delivered.

### Training participation (DA Act 2021)

Course Name	Date	Attended
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Barnet Homes Housing Options	19/08/2021	29
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Barnet Homes Housing Options	26/08/2021	25
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Mental Health Safeguarding Champions	06/09/2021	64
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Housing Management - Neighbourhood	13/09/2021	25
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Multi-agency	27/09/2021	27
Domestic Abuse Act 2021-Barnet Health providers	18/10/2021	15
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Adults & Health Services	03/11/2021	20
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Housing Management - Neighbourhood	04/11/2021	25
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Multi-agency	11/11/2021	18
Domestic Abuse Act 2021- MARAC Reps and deputies	18/11/2021	27
Domestic Abuse Act 2021-Barnet Health providers	25/11/2021	19
Domestic Abuse Act 2021-Barnet Health Providers	02/12/2021	14
Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Multi-agency	09/12/2021	23
	Total	331

5.3 The 331 attendees at the DA Act training awareness programme included partners from Family Services, Adult Social Care and Barnet Homes as well as other statutory and non-statutory partnership agencies. Further, as the table below sets out, MARAC training has been provided; feedback has been very positive on the content and delivery.

MARAC Training participation (12 months to December 2021)

Training C	ourse	Attendance numbers
MARAC	07/10/2021	12
MARAC	08/07/2021	7
Total		19

- 5.4 Barnet Homes housing options staff have requested further interviewing and investigating skills training as Section 78 DA Act 2021 which came into force 5 July 2021, means that a person who is homeless as a result of DA is in Priority Need for the purposes of Part VII of the Housing Act 1996. Local Authorities are no longer permitted to carry out an evaluative assessment of whether or not a person has become vulnerable as a consequence of their experiences and instead will be required to conduct a factual assessment as to whether or not the person has in fact experienced DA, and if they are homeless as a result
- 5.5 MOPAC have commissioned Victim Support to provide an uplift in IDVAs across London, the 'Integrated Victims and Witnesses Service'. MOPAC has allocated a Senior Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) at Barnet Hospital and a part time Victim Support IDVA at Colindale Police Station to align the provision with the Police Basic Command Units.

### Awareness raising campaigns

- 5.6 The VAWG partnership has overseen the delivery of a publicity campaign focused on raising awareness about Domestic Abuse, the unacceptability of abusive behaviour, and encouraging people to report domestic abuse.
- 5.7 On the occasion of International Women's Day 2021, a panel discussion was organised on 18 March 2021, "BAMER women experiencing gender based violence" where representatives from Southall Black sisters, IKWRO, Asian Women Resource Centre, Barnet New Citizen gateway (formerly Barnet refugee Service), Solace Women's Aid, London Black Women project and Galop discussed the issues of women with no recourse to public funds and their challenges especially during COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on Middle Eastern and Afghan women, migrant and refugee women in Barnet, the experiences of sexual harassment on women from racially minoritised backgrounds including, migrant women and experiences of trans women,

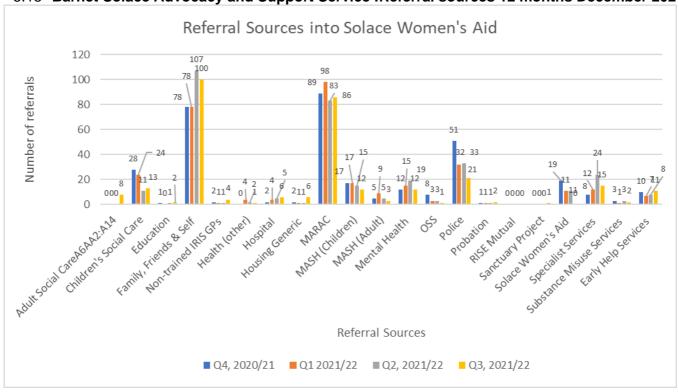
- lesbian and bi women experiencing domestic abuse in the UK; c.125 participants attended the panel discussion
- 5.8 From 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 10 December, Human Rights Day there are 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. It is a campaign to galvanise action to end violence against women and girls. In the context of White Ribbon Day 2021 and 16 days of activism, the VAWG partnership organised a Webinar on 'Engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls' on 10 December 2021. Speakers included representatives from Rise Mutual, Drive project and a visiting Research Fellow with PIER (Policing Institute for the Eastern Region). They outlined the local picture in respect of work with perpetrators, the Drive approach to perpetrators and explored the indicators, impacts and responses to adult family violence as a type of domestic abuse; c. 98 participants attended the webinar.
- 5.9 Barnet council is committed to becoming White Ribbon accredited and awareness has been raised with a call to action for attendees at events and Barnet staff to show their support by signing up as a White Ribbon ambassador or champion. Barnet Council engaged in daily social media awareness raising using the #WhiteRibbon and #AllMenCan and several male officers within the council have signed up to support accreditation.
- 5.10 Following the tragic murders of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman in 2020 and Sarah Everard in 2021, the London Borough of Barnet Family Services team produced a special edition of the Barnet First magazine 'VAWG: Help women stay safe' that was delivered in March 2021 to every household in the borough to raise awareness and signpost women to support and services.
- 5.11 The Government has taken action to make Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools, Relationships and Sex Education mandatory in all secondary schools, and Health education compulsory in all state funded schools.

### Priority: Improving outcomes for victims & their children

5.12 Between January 2021 to December 2021 **Solace Women's Aid** received **1313** referrals to Barnet's IDVA service, up from **1169** (**12.3% increase**) in the previous year;

	Q4 2020/21	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Year 2021(Jan-Dec)
Number of Solace referrals	336	318	333	326	1313
New Service users	243	121	117	126	607
DASH Risk assessment & safety advice given	236	115	114	126	591
High risk cases receiving IDVA service	45	22	25	23	115
Number of service users leaving the service	138	140	135	112	525

5.13 Barnet Solace Advocacy and Support Service : Referral sources 12 months December 2021



- 5.14 The top five sources of referrals into the Advocacy service during this period (by volume) were:
  - the Domestic Abuse MARAC (30%)
  - Self-referrals, Family and Friends (13%),
  - Solace Helpline and internal referrals (13%)
  - Children Social Care (12%)
  - and the Police (10%),
- 5.15 The profile of **Barnet Solace DA Support Service** service-users is set out in Table 4 below:

Table 4.

Organisation	Female	Age range	Other factors
Solace	98% female	38.5% of service users	52.5% of SUs with mental health
Advocacy	victims	between 31-40	disability
and Support			4 FOX OLLS with small languages and administration
Service			<b>4.5%</b> SUs with problematic drug
	<b>2%</b> male	<b>24%</b> between 41-50	use
	victims	2470 SOLWOON 11 00	<b>4.7%</b> SUs with problematic alcohol use
		15% service users between 26-30	14.7% SUs with physical health

### Women's refuge provision

- 5.16 Solace Women's Aid are commissioned by the Barnet Council to provide two women's refuges for Barnet. A third women's refuge (Minerva House) is run by Barnet homes. Barnet Homes was successful in securing £100,000 of funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (formerly MHCLG) to support the continuation the Minerva House provision in 2020/21.
- 5.17 Minerva House supports women who approach Barnet Homes fleeing domestic abuse. It provides victims with supported refuge accommodation and thereby can sometimes help avoid victims being isolated in temporary accommodation far away from their support networks. 104 women and children were supported in the Barnet refuges service

### Refuge provision in Barnet for January to December 2021

Refuge	Bed space	Support provided in 2021(Jan-Dec)
Minerva House	6 bed spaces	Supported 16 women residents and 14 children fleeing domestic abuse
Hannah House and Arlene House	18 bed spaces	Supported 41 women residents and 33 children fleeing domestic abuse

- 5.18 Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS) is a drop-in service for early intervention and advice for victims of Domestic Abuse. The OSS which is delivered by Barnet Homes (with partners including Barnet council, Solace Women's Aid, Asian Women's Resource Centre, private solicitor firms, Barnet Magistrate and Cyber Care) has provided advice and support to 338 victims of Domestic Abuse in the 12 months to December 2021
- 5.19 The <u>Barnet Homes Sanctuary Scheme</u> helps victims of domestic abuse, who live in Barnet, to remain in their own home, if it is safe to do so, by increasing the security at their home. In the last year, **86** homes received extra security measures under the Barnet Homes Sanctuary scheme to make the victims homes safer.
- 5.20 From January to December 2021, the number of homelessness approaches to Barnet Homes due to domestic abuse is 284 while the number victims in Temporary Accommodation (TA) due to DA is 83. The possible explanation for the number variation is that some victims may have fled to refuge accommodation or be renting in the private sector.

### Priority: Holding perpetrators to account

- 5.21 This priority aims to hold perpetrators to account through enforcement and placing the onus on perpetrators to change their behaviour. Key partnership activities that have been delivered during 2021 are:
  - Perpetrator programme for Behaviour change
  - Young Person Perpetrators programme

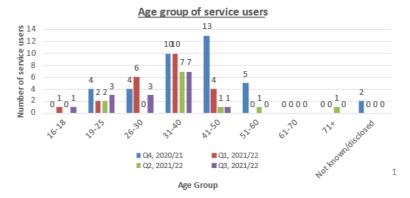
### Perpetrator programme for Behaviour change

5.22 Barnet Council commissions Rise Mutual to deliver a domestic abuse perpetrator programme aimed at reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation. The programme uses proven evidence-based models for behaviour change. The service helps perpetrators to take positive and tangible steps to prevent re-offending. Between January and December 2021, 108 adult perpetrators received interventions under the Perpetrator Behaviour Change programs.

# RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme Adults Service: Q4 2020/21– Q1-Q3 2021/2022 (Jan December 2021)

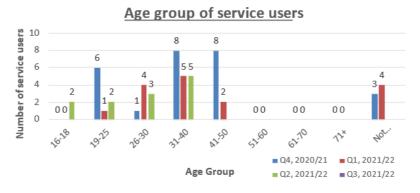
Adults Service	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
New referrals	39	23	12	15
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the Quarter	17	34	30	27
New service users entering the programme	10	7	7	8
Number of service users leaving the service	20	18	14	10
Number of service users departing in an agreed and planned way	16	9	2	8

- All 15 new referrals came from Social Care
- 13 male, 2 female.



# RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme Partner ServiceQ4 2020/21— Q1-Q3 2021/2022 (Jan December 2021)

Partner Service	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
New referrals	25	16	10	9
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the quarter	35	32	23	37
New service users entering the programme	10	9	4	13
Number of service users leaving the service	13	11	2	2
Number of service users departing in an agreed and planned way	13	11	2	2



- 5.23 In 2021, RISE Mutual received a total of 186 new referrals. Of these, 89 were for the adult male and female perpetrator interventions, 60 were for the partner service for the victims and 37 for the young person service
- 5.24 Family Services: Children's Social Care and Early Help Services make the largest volume of referrals. The service is being promoted via MARAC and other professional services
- 5.25 RISE Mutual is a support service and therefore relies on service users consenting to engage and attend appointments and sessions; given it is a voluntary attendance service, engagement rates are very positive.
- 5.26 New CIFA (Culturally Integrated Family Approach) to domestic abuse perpetrator programme launched in September 2021. In August 2021, the London Borough of Barnet led a tri-borough bid with Brent and Enfield boroughs, along with RISE as the provider, and was successfully awarded Home Office perpetrator funding, overseen by MOPAC to work with 65 families/residents. The project applies an intersectional approach, which takes into account the inter-familial conflicts that feed into the victim's abuse and distress and the perpetrator's sense of power. The intervention includes optional family sessions to incorporate a wider cultural approach working with multi-oppressors. The CIFA practitioners will work predominantly with the main perpetrator but also other family or friends/members of the community facilitating abuse.
- 5.27 RISE seeks feedback from pre/post questionnaires and there are useful case studies returned on the impact of the programme which demonstrate positive impact.

### 5.28 Young Person Perpetrators programme

## RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme Young People Service :Q4 2020/21 — Q1-Q3 2021/2022 (Jan -December 2021)

Young People Service	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
New referrals	8	7	10	12
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the Quarter	20	15	15	16
New service users entering the programme	8	5	4	3
Total service users leaving the service	2	2	0	3
Total service users departing in an agreed and planned way	1	0	0	3

- 5.29 Rise Mutual delivers a Young Person Perpetrator programme in Barnet for 11-18 year olds. This programme provides one-to-one and group interventions for young people who are engaged in violence towards a parent(s).
- 5.30 The Respect and Principles (RAP) Programme is for 13 to 18-year-old males who have been involved in adolescent intimate relationship abuse.

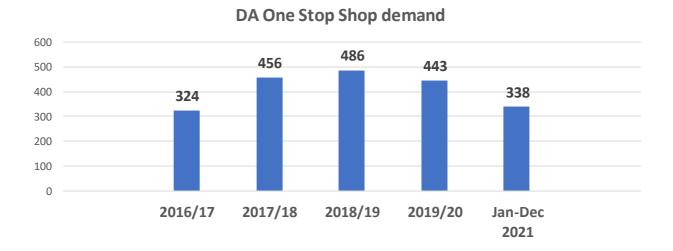
### Priority: Enhancing joint working practices between agencies

- 5.31 This priority aims to prevent violence against women and girls by developing joint working practices to provide a consistent, co-ordinated response to victims and their children. Some of the key partnership activities that have been delivered during 2019/20 are:
  - The Barnet Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop
  - Delivery of the Barnet IRIS project
  - Safeguarding Children in Barnet through Operation Encompass
  - Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
  - Governance arrangements for the delivery of the VAWG Strategy

### The Barnet Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop

5.32 Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS) is a drop-in service for early intervention and advice for victims of DA and VAWG. The OSS which is delivered by Barnet Homes (with partners including Barnet council, Solace Women's Aid, private solicitor firms, Barnet Magistrate, Asian Women Resource Centre and Cyber Care) has provided advice and support to 338 victims of Domestic Abuse in the 12 months to December 2021; this does not include Q4 2021/22. The demand has been constant from 443 in 2019/20, 486 in 2018/19, 456 in 2017/18 and 324 in 2016/17.

### 5.33 One Stop Shop demand January to December 2021



5.34 In addition to bringing together a breadth of partnership expertise to support victims of Domestic Abuse the OSS receives referrals from a wide range of agencies across the partnership as well as self-referrals.

### Delivery of the IRIS1 project- Overview of January-December 2021

5.35 The IRIS project started in February 2018; 39 GP Surgeries have received training as part of the programme.

IRIS referrals	Q4, 2020/21	Q1, 2021/22	Q2, 2021/22	Q3, 2021/22	Jan-Dec 2021 Total
Number referrals from GP surgeries	25	45	30	33	133

- The total number of fully trained GP surgeries is 25
- The total number of partially trained GP surgeries is 14
  - 5.36 Feedback about the impact of the IRIS project, from the GP practices has been positive and this has been reflected in a marked increase in the rate of Domestic Abuse referrals from those surgeries. Of the GP surgeries to have received training the number of Domestic Abuse referrals has increased from 4 per year prior to the IRIS training to 133 referrals in the year 2021.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> IRIS stands for: 'Identification and Referral to Improve Safety'. Its aim is to improve awareness among GP practices around domestic abuse and thereby to increase the early identification (and appropriate referral) of victims of domestic abuse by primary care practitioners.

### **Operation Encompass in Barnet**

- 5.37 Domestic abuse is a safeguarding children issue; statistics show that in 90% of cases children are present in a household during a domestic abuse incident. Domestic Abuse causes anxiety and emotional harm to children, leaving them traumatised, this can affect their education and peer relationships and is also is a primary causal factor in young people who go on to engage in violence in the community.
- 5.38 Operation Encompass is a partnership between the Metropolitan Police (MPS), the local authority (LA) and designated safeguarding leads (DSL) in schools. This protocol sets out a joint-agency procedure to provide, by next day notification, appropriate support for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse in their household.
- 5.39 This protocol does not replace or supersede existing protocols, or singularly address child welfare, it is used in conjunction with the current safeguarding procedures and practitioners' guidelines. It is designed to reinforce safeguarding and ensure children's wellbeing through the provision of support after a domestic incident. Schools will receive information when:
  - 1. Police have been called out to a domestic incident
  - 2. AND the child is present at the time of the incident
  - 3. AND the child is Under 18
- 5.40 The knowledge, given to schools/educational establishments through Operation Encompass allows the provision of next day notification to provide immediate silent observation and awareness. Any further needs identified will be processed via the school's standard pastoral care process.
- 5.41 Barnet schools have been signing up to Operation Encompass Since February 2021 to September 2021; there are **59 schools** signed up with ongoing work to encourage all schools to do so. Operation Encompass benefits have been presented to Designated Safeguarding Leads by the Police.

### **Domestic Homicide Review**

5.42 Sadly, death as a result of domestic abuse is an all too frequent and tragic reality. When this happens, the law says that professionals involved in the case must conduct a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) to identify what changes can be made to reduce the risk of similar incidents happening in the future. The purpose of Domestic Homicide Reviews is not to assign blame or responsibility but to understand what lessons there are to be learned and make

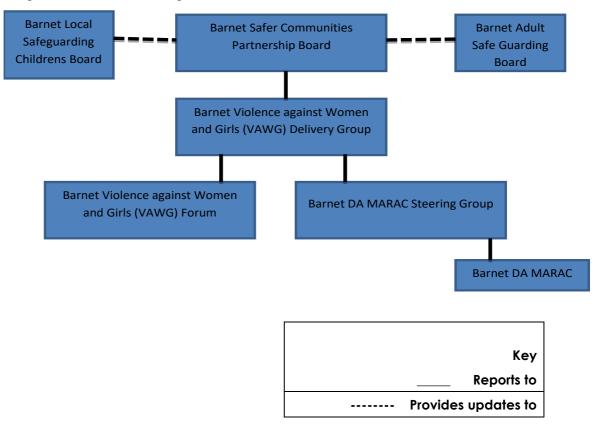
recommendations based on those lessons as to how we can better work together to prevent future homicides.

5.43 A Statutory Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) was conducted by Barnet Safer Communities
Partnership (BSCP) for the case of 'Zoltan' (pseudonym and a male victim), who was, in April
2018, killed by his partner. The BSCP agreed and approved the content and signed off the
Overview Report, Executive Summary, and Action Plan on 22 October 2021. The full Overview
DHR report draws overall conclusions and recommendations from the information provided to
the DHR panel by the participating agencies, including any IMRs (Individual Management
Review) that were conducted. Based on these conclusions and the lessons learned, the report
makes 10 recommendations for action arising from this review and from Panel discussions and
these are followed by 36 recommendations from participating agency's Individual Management
Reviews. Once signed off by the Home Office training and webinars on the learning lessons will
be organised.

### Governance arrangements for the delivery of the VAWG Strategy

- 5.44 The delivery of the Barnet VAWG strategy is overseen by Barnet's VAWG Delivery Group (a subgroup of Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership Board). The VAWG Delivery Group meets on a quarterly basis.
- 5.45 The VAWG Forum is comprised of agencies from the statutory and voluntary sector that work or have an interest in supporting the delivery of the VAWG strategy in Barnet. The Forum seeks to monitor performance of multi-agency delivery of the VAWG action plan, share good practice, identify gaps, recognise emerging needs and issues; the group report into the VAWG Delivery Group
- 5.46 Updates on progress against the VAWG strategy are provided quarterly to the VAWG Delivery Group and annually to the Safer Communities Partnership Board.

Diagram 1: Barnet VAWG governance chart



### 6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To update the Community Leadership and Library Committee (CLLC) regarding the progress made in relation to the delivery of the Barnet Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

### 7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

7.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

### 8. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

### 9. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

- 9.1 The report supports the council's corporate priorities as expressed through the Corporate Plan for 2021-25 which sets out our vision and strategy for the next 5 years. This includes the outcomes for the borough, the priorities to focus limited resources on, and the approach for delivery
- 9.2 Our 4 priorities for the borough focus on:
  - Clean, safe and well run: A place where our streets are clean and anti-social behaviour is dealt with, so residents feel safe. Providing good quality, customer friendly services in all that we do.
  - Family Friendly: Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best
  - Healthy: A place with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy and healthy lives.
  - Thriving: A place fit for the future, where all residents, businesses and visitors benefit from improved sustainable infrastructure & opportunity
- 9.3 Under the Healthy priority, the aim to tackle domestic abuse and gender-based violence through investment in intervening earlier to ensure people are prevented from becoming victims of domestic abuse and are protected when it does occur.
- 9.4 Barnet will work with partners to create improved access to mental health support for anyone impacted by domestic abuse by developing outreach to older people, LGBTQ+ residents and refugee communities and ensure that partnership communications are inclusive. We will raise awareness and provide training for frontline staff
- 9.5 The effective implementation of the Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021-24 supports Barnet in achieving the outcomes and priorities set out in the corporate plan by helping to keep residents of Barnet safe and protecting the most vulnerable.

### 10. Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 10.1 The council has an annual budget of £696,400 to commission services. These have been procured in line with the Councils procurement procedures, and a contract performance monitoring regime is in place to ensure the services deliver and demonstrate value for money. The cost for the delivery of the above services will remain within the existing budget allocations.
  - The Advocacy services
  - Refuge Services
  - Perpetrator programme Services

DA MARAC has been brought in-house

10.2 Where suitable opportunities exist, we work local partners, including health, police, education, housing, and the wider third sector to secure additional external sources of funding to fund initiatives to support the delivery of the VAWG strategy in response to our local needs assessment and the best available evidence of what works. Given the above, there are no significant resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### 11. Legal and Constitutional References

- 11.1 Under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, it is a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including Police, Fire & Rescue, Greater London Authority, Transport for London) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and reoffending.
- 11.2 The BSCP is a Community Safety Partnership set up in accordance with the requirement of the section 5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
- 11.3 The Terms of Reference of CLLC in Barnet's Constitution states that the Committee acts 'as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 (Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny Regulations) 2009'.
- 11.4 The DA Act 2021 which received Royal assent in April 2021 creates for the first time a statutory definition of domestic abuse, establishes in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers, places a duty on local authorities in England to provide, among others, accommodation based support to victims of domestic abuse and their

children in refuges and other safe accommodation, clarifies the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims.

### 12. Insight

N/A

### 13. Social Value

13.1 None applicable to this report, however the council must take into account the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to try to maximise the social and local economic value it derives from its procurement spend.

### 14. Risk Management

14.1 Risk management varies according to the different initiatives. The partnership or appropriate agencies are made aware of risks and actions to mitigate the risk are agreed and put in place. There is always risk that the partnership may not achieve the targets set due to factors outside its direct control – however there is strong partnership working in place enabling agencies to identify and highlight risk and be open to addressing the risk collectively.

### 15. Equalities and Diversity

- 15.1 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public-sector equality duty to which the authority must have due regard.
- 15.2 . Elected Members are to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into dayto-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome.
- 15.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
  - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 15.4 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
  - Tackle prejudice, and
  - Promote understanding.
- 15.5 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender reassignment
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Race.
  - Religion or belief
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation
  - Marriage and Civil partnership
- 15.6 It is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with the strategic Equalities Objective of the Corporate Plan that citizen's will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

### 16. Corporate Parenting

16.1 Many children who are cared for by the local authority have been exposed to domestic abuse prior to entry into care and young women in care and leaving care may have adverse childhood experiences that may make them more vulnerable to domestic abuse, coercion and control in relationships. The DA and VAWG Strategy 2021 – 2024 aims to ensure that domestic abuse services are accessible to all that need them, including children. The strategy will overlap with Corporate Parenting Services and arrangements for transitional safeguarding.

### 17. Consultation and Engagement

- 17.1 As a matter of public law, the duty to consult with regards to proposals to vary, reduce or withdraw services will arise in four circumstances:
  - where there is a statutory requirement in the relevant legislative framework
  - where the practice has been to consult, or, where a policy document states the council will consult, then the council must comply with its own practice or policy
  - exceptionally, where the matter is so important that there is a legitimate expectation of consultation
  - Where consultation is required to complete an equalities impact assessment.
- 17.2 Regardless of whether the council has a duty to consult, if it chooses to consult, such consultation must be carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:
  - comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage
  - the consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response
  - there is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals
  - there is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are considered by the decision-maker / decision-making body when making a final decision
  - the degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting
  - where relevant and appropriate, the consultation is clear on the reasons why and extent to which alternatives and discarded options have been discarded. The more intrusive the decision, the more likely it is to attract a higher level of procedural fairness.
- 17.3 The refresh of the Domestic Abuse and VAWG strategy 2021-24 has been informed by consultations including with partnership organisations through the VAWG delivery Board and VAWG Forum. In addition, an extensive consultation exercise has been undertaken with service users.

### 18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Leadership and Libraries Committee11 June 2019

6826769 - VAWG Annual Report CLLC 11jun19 .pdf (moderngov.co.uk)

Community Leadership and Libraries Committee 11th June 2019

<u>Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy consultation | Engage Barnet</u> October 2021





# Community Leadership and Endraries Committee

# 26 January 2022

Title	Barnet Community Participation Strategy
	Delivery plan update: January 2022
Report of	Councillor Thompstone, Chairman of Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1. Barnet Community Participation Strategy delivery plan update January 2022
Officer Contact Details	William Cooper, Deputy Head of Strategy and Engagement.  william.cooper@barnet.gov.uk  020 8359 2236

## Summary

The fourth update to the <u>Community Participation Strategy</u> was approved by this committee in June 2021. It sets out new proposals for involving residents and community groups in the work of the council while developing meaningful, ongoing dialogue with communities.

The strategy is structured into four themed chapters:

- Enabling place-based working
- A stronger partnership with the voluntary community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector

- Enabling resident participation
- Unlocking resources for the community

As with previous updates, the Community Participation Strategy has a two-year lifespan and is accompanied by a delivery plan that sets out how its proposals will be met. While previously this plan was brought to committee annually, the delivery plan for the 2021 strategy will be updated six-monthly. This is in recognition of the scale and scope of the work proposed in the strategy – especially in its first year. This frequency of reporting is also in the spirit of the Community Participation Strategy, in that it fosters greater member involvement in the work and enables more public awareness.

A lot has already been achieved in the six months since the strategy was published. Much of this has been groundwork to create the capacity and mechanisms that are required to deliver it. Highlights include the development of a new enhanced Barnet Together Alliance and the continued success of the Food Hub in coordinating food bank support and waste reduction.

More is planned for the coming months, including a new Citizen's Panel and the launch of the Barnet Community Fund – administered by Barnet Together. Greater capacity in the Strategy and Engagement team will also be created to enable increased engagement with residents.

### **Officers Recommendations**

- **1.** That members note the update and the progress made so far in delivering the Community Participation Strategy
- **2.** That members note the planned activities to be completed in the forthcoming months.

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Previous updates to the Community Participation Strategy have usually been accompanied by two-year delivery plans. While it is still the intention to fully update the strategy in two years' time, the scale and scope of its content are such that shorter term planning and reporting to committee better fits the pace of delivery. Therefore, an update like this will be brought to Community Leadership and Libraries Committee at six-monthly intervals.
- 1.2 The 2021 strategy calls for some significant changes in approach in order to support the delivery of the Barnet Plan's commitments for place-based working and partnership. Therefore, a certain amount of groundwork is

- required to establish mechanisms for these new ways of working, and to build capacity where it is needed.
- 1.3 A key element of the strategy is the proposal to develop the council's relationship with the voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) by developing a new enhanced infrastructure alliance with the Barnet Together partnership. This has required increased investment from the council, which was approved at Policy and Resources Committee in July 2021. This funding commitment has enabled the partnership to design a new scope for their service and begin recruiting to new posts. The new Barnet Together Alliance will officially launch and mobilise in the first quarter of 2022.
- 1.4 Increased capacity with the council's Strategy and Engagement team is also required to deliver the Community Participation Strategy. Two new roles in the Consultation and Engagement team have been created to support this. The first of these will come into post in late February.
- 1.5 Some of the work proposed in the Community Participation Strategy is already underway. This includes existing place-based projects such as those taking place on the Grahame Park Estate and in town centres.

### 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is vital to the success of the Community Participation Strategy that members are kept informed of the progress of its delivery and have the opportunity to comment.
- 2.2 Much of the content of the strategy is concerned with community engagement and the relationship between the local authority and residents. Members play an important role in this and are key stakeholders in the work.

### 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 The alternative to this update would be to return to annual reporting. Officers feel that this would not give members sufficient oversight of all the various work being delivered.

### 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The next six monthly update will be brought to CLLC in the summer of 2022 (committee dates to be confirmed).

### 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

### 5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 A more comprehensive and detailed delivery plan is in development. This will be used internally to programme-manage the delivery of the Community Participation Strategy. Some of the indicators and KPIs in this plan will be used to support Barnet Plan outcomes reporting as well as corporate performance measurement where appropriate.

# 5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)]

5.2.1 As well as the budget allocation of £540,000 to Barnet Together, the Community Participation Strategy also includes proposals to make better use of all funding and resources that can be made available for community benefit. This includes grant funding, Community Infrastructure Levy and Social Value.

### 5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Community Participation Strategy sets out how the council can maximise the potential for social value contributions obtained from suppliers as a consequence of the council's new Social Value Policy, approved by Policy and Resources Committee in December 2021. It is the role of this strategy and its delivery plan to inform the application of social value contributions as listed in the Social Value TOMs (themes, outcomes and measures) document when this is launched in the spring of 2022.
- 5.3.2 In its broadest sense, social value runs through everything in this strategy. It proposes ways of working that unlock the assets in our communities, and harness these to create stronger, more cohesive communities whose needs are better served.

### 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The council's Constitution, Article 7.5 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, sets out the functions of Community Leadership and Libraries which include: Responsibility for libraries, culture, civic events, the mayoralty, voluntary, community and faith sector strategy and engagement, community safety, environmental crime (excluding littering, fly-tipping, fly-posting and graffiti), registration and nationality service, food security and Covid-19 enforcement.
- 5.4.1 The terms of reference for the committee include receipt of reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee, and maintenance of good community relations with Barnet's diverse communities ensuring all have the opportunity to participate fully in the borough's affairs. There are no other legal or constitutional implications to this report.

### 5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 Increasing community participation can carry some risks. These will be analysed and identified for every piece of work, with mitigation plans put in place where necessary.

### 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, the Council is under an obligation to have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share it; and fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and persons who do not share it. The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Council also has regard to the additional protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership even though this does not apply to certain parts of the public-sector equality duty.
- 5.6.2 The Community Participation Strategy actively advances equalities and diversity by helping ensure the council reaches and hears from a diverse cross-section of residents. Increasing resident engagement helps to ensure our services meets the needs of our communities.

### 5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 The council expects partner organisations in the VCFSE and private sectors to agree with our corporate parenting pledge and support our endeavours to raise outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.

### 5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 Consultation and engagement are fundamental to the Community Participation Strategy. It sets out how the council can have a closer and more productive dialogue with residents.
- 5.8.2 A deliverable of the strategy will be an updated new Consultation and Engagement Strategy that will set out in detail the work required to advance this. Two new posts have been created in the Consultation and Engagement team to create the necessary capacity.

### 5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 Insight is also a key element of the Community Participation Strategy, and a comprehensive understanding of the assets in our communities is

fundamental to its delivery. Collating and mapping this data will be an output of the strategy that will benefit the wider council as well as the community.

### 5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

### 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 <u>The Community Participation Strategy 2021</u> was approved at Community Leadership and Libraries Committee on 9 June 2021.
- 6.2 <u>The Social Value Policy 2021-2025</u> was approved at Policy and Resources Committee on 9 December 2021.

### **Barnet Community Participation Strategy**

# **Delivery Plan update. January 2022**

### Introduction

The fourth update to the Barnet Community Participation Strategy was approved by Community Leadership and Libraries committee in June 2021. It sets out a new vision for greater engagement with our residents and community groups in order to fulfil the commitments in the Barnet Plan to work in a more collaborative and place-based way.

It is an ambitious strategy that covers a broad range of services and activities. In order to keep members appraised of the progress in implementing it, a delivery plan will be presented to committee every six months, with a full update to the strategy in 2024.

The delivery plan is structured into the four themes of the Community Participation Strategy:

- Enabling place-based working
- A stronger partnership with the voluntary community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE)
   sector
- Enabling resident participation
- Unlocking resources for the community

### **Enabling place-based working**

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
A comprehensive database of VCFSE sector organisations in the borough	<ul> <li>Since the closure of the Barnet Community         Directory (BCD) in 2019,         no single database of all VCFSE groups in the borough has been maintained</li> <li>A comprehensive understanding of the sector in each locality is essential to effective place-based working.</li> <li>This needs to be a shared resource between council and VCFSE partners, as well as providing a publicly accessible directory format.</li> </ul>	Strategy and Engagement (SE) Team Barnet Together	31 March 2022	When it was decommissioned, the BCD contained just over 300 records. These have now been cleansed and deduplicated but we know the database is incomplete and likely to be out of date.  The data has now been passed to Barnet Together partner organisations so that they can cross reference with their own records and fill any gaps.  It will then be loaded onto the Local Insight tool which displays information on maps. This will allow users to search for groups and community assets in localities and enable other local data to be overlayed and analysed together.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Develop a process framework for place-based working	<ul> <li>The Barnet Plan makes a commitment to working in a 'place-based' way wherever possible. The Community Participation Strategy goes further in describing how community insight, assets and involvement can help achieve this.</li> <li>The council's Insight and Intelligence (I&amp;I) Hub are a central resource that enables the use of data insight in projects.</li> <li>Place-based projects are often scoped by analysing data about a place and combining resident insight and community asset mapping.</li> <li>The Local Insight tool managed by I&amp;I Hub, enables a wide variety of demographic indicators to be analysed by ward.</li> </ul>	SE Team I&I Hub	In progress, with deadline of June 2022	The SE and I&I teams have met in a series of workshops to begin formulating a process framework for place-based working.  There are a number of ways a place-based project can arise. Often, they are identified by a level of specific needs evidenced through indicators such as deprivation. They can also be linked to regeneration or renewal. The aim of this work - and the involvement of the SE Team and Barnet Together - will be to ensure that place-based projects involve the community.  The framework will be piloted on forthcoming projects. One example will be on the Grahame Park estate in Colindale where a Public Health needs assessment has been carried out. This provides a localised set of evidence of the various health and wellbeing challenges facing residents. This will inform the design of multiagency interventions to address these.  Ultimately, the agreed framework will form part of the strategy development guidance produced by the SE Team

### A stronger partnership with the voluntary community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
A new alliance with Barnet Together	<ul> <li>An enhanced infrastructure partnership will increase the reach and impact that the existing Barnet Together partnership can bring to the sector.</li> <li>It will enable more effective strategic representation for the sector, with the council serving as a fourth partner in the alliance.</li> <li>Direct support to organisations and community groups will be increased. This includes capacity building, training, fundraising and business development advice.</li> <li>Increased use of shared data across the sector and the council will provide greater insight about community needs and the work of VCFSE organisations</li> </ul>	LBB Barnet Together	Launching January 2022	Following the approval of the Community Participation Strategy in June, Policy and Resources Committee approved a budget proposal of £400,000 at its 20 July meeting. Combined with the pre-existing budget, this makes a total of £540,000 available to Barnet Together each year.  Following this announcement, the partner organisations worked on developing a structure and service offer to fit the budget.  Much of this has been put towards new capacity in the partner organisations. This is a combination of new roles and additional hours being added to existing posts. In total this equates to an additional 5.3 full time equivalent posts.  Over the last few months, a detailed Memorandum of Understanding has been developed, defining the functions and governance of the new alliance. These are based on five objectives:  • Effective and inclusive support for the sector • Strong sector voice and representation • Better collaboration • Sustainable resourcing and support • Effective and inclusive community engagement  The Barnet Together Alliance will officially launch in early 2022, A live launch event is planned and will take place once Covid restrictions permit it.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
New Barnet Together website	<ul> <li>A dedicated web resource for the alliance that would provide VCFSE groups with online access to:         <ul> <li>Capacity building resources</li> <li>Local information and links to central resources, such as safeguarding contacts and referral pathways</li> <li>Funding opportunities (eg Barnet Community Fund)</li> <li>Council consultations</li> <li>Food bank information</li> <li>Links to Local Insight Tool</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	LBB Barnet Together	Scoped and designed throughout 2022 with a goal to launch in Autumn/Winter	A few practical questions have to be addressed initially: how the site will be resourced and where it will be hosted.  Once this is confirmed there will be a process of development work undertaken. The deadline here is generous and some content could well go live earlier.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Furthering use of data tools among Barnet Together members	<ul> <li>Young Barnet Foundation already use a VCFSE performance reporting tool called Upshot. This captures data on the types of people accessing services provided by community organisations. It also captures monitoring and evaluation data about their service delivery. All of this can be mapped across the borough.</li> <li>In combination with the Local Insight tool this data would provide very useful insight if rolled out across the whole sector (currently just young people's groups)</li> </ul>	Barnet Together	Decision on licence purchase by February 2022. Potential rollout over financial year 2022-23 BT Data Officer recruited by March 2022	The support available through Barnet Together is universally offered to any VCFSE organisation in the borough. However, there are benefits from it functioning as a membership scheme. One of these being the sharing of data. Understanding more about the work being delivered across the sector will enable Barnet Together and the council to better understand how to support it.  Barnet Council is considering the benefits of funding an alliance-wide licence for Upshot. Access could then be made available to any organisation joining Barnet Together. This would operate under a single data sharing agreement with the local authority, allowing the data to be used in council decision making.  Among the new roles being recruited to in the Barnet Together alliance is a Data Officer to oversee this work.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Barnet Community Fund	<ul> <li>Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Barnet Together has been running the Community Response Fund. Funded through donations it has so far provided £122,769 in 187 grants to VCFSE organisations over 12 funding waves.</li> <li>During the pandemic the Barnet Community Response Fund granted small amounts of funding to meet urgent needs presented by the pandemic While the impacts of the pandemic are still being felt across the sector, there is less need for emergency funding. There is therefore space for a more general grant pot for VCFSE administered by Barnet Together. New guidelines and criteria are being developed and will be by approved by the panel.</li> </ul>	Barnet Together	Launching January 2022	The proposed criteria for the Community Fund are set out below.  Main Grant Grants of up to £5,0000 to fund:  • Meeting emerging need • Re-starting a successful initiative that was halted due to Covid • Upscaling of an existing project with proven track record to aid recovery • Developing emotional wellbeing and resilience • Enhancing social inclusion • New projects that support residents' recovery from the impacts of the pandemic - eg a food cooperative  Small Grant  It is proposed that small grants of up to £500 will be made available smaller projects that meet emergency need and improve community resilience.

Barnet Food	The Food Hub is an	Barnet	Decision on	The concept of the Hub grew out of the work done
Hub	innovative partner project delivered by Barnet Together. It tackles food insecurity by ensuring a stable source of supplies to a network of 18 food banks as well as 13 community groups around the borough that provide cooked meals.  The Hub also contributes significantly to waste reduction - contributing a saving of 3,161 tonnes of CO2 to date.  Operational since November 2020 from the site of the former East Barnet library, it is currently funded by the council until end of Sept 2022  It operates with a minimum of paid staff and utilises volunteers to keep costs to a minimum.	Together	future Hub funding by April 2022	during the first lockdown of 2020 when the Covid Community Response programme set up a distribution centre, to deliver food parcels to shielding residents. Known as the Emergency Supplies Hub, it also delivered to food banks. And as shielding restrictions lifted this became its main function. The benefits of this service to both food security and foodbank sustainability were soon apparent. The council decided to hand over the running of the service to Barnet Together.  Since launching in November 2020 the Food Hub has distributed 671 tonnes of food. This is equivalent to 1,597,087 meals, or approximately £1,562,086 in value.  The Hub also supports sustainability and waste reduction. It reduces emissions by cutting delivery journeys and all the food it distributes is surplus that would otherwise end up in landfill. Any food it can't distribute is disposed of through an anaerobic digester facility in a neighbouring borough or sent to allotments for composting.  As part of the borough's Food Security Working Group led by Public Health, Barnet Together/the Hub contributes valuable take-up data from the food banks it serves. This enables the group to map food insecurity and the types of foodbank users around the borough.  Increasingly the Hub intends to work towards reducing demand for foodbanks through education and advice.  In 2021 the Hub has also supported the council's

and meal kits.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Implementing the Barnet Faith Covenant	<ul> <li>Barnet was the first London Brough to adopt the All Parliamentary Party         Covenant for Engagement between Faith Communities and Local Authorities in 2015.</li> <li>The Community Participation Strategy recognised that awareness of the covenant had waned in recent years and committed the council to refreshing it.</li> <li>The document is co-signed with Barnet Multi Faith Forum and includes pledges from both. The council's commitments include designing strategies to involve more faith groups in consultation and to ensure members of all religions and cultures are included equally.</li> </ul>	SE Team BMFF VCFSE	Covenant resigned November 2021 Implementation plan to be developed Jan- March 2022	that there is more coordinated and strategic support for

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
festivals and cultural awareness	<ul> <li>An agreed programme of mark notable dates will be marked by the council throughout the year.</li> <li>The emphasis will be on religious festivals and other key faith dates</li> </ul>	SE Team External Comms	Programme agreed January 2022	Consultation has already taken place with BMFF in order to identify the most significant dates in the faith calendar.  Many councils also mark other key cultural events such as International Women's Day. The draft programme will include some of these too.  The programme will be developed in line with External Communications' plans for how the council marks notable dates through its own social media posts and by amplifying those of partner organisations.

### **Enabling resident participation**

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Update the Consultation and Engagement Strategy	<ul> <li>The council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy (CES) was last published in 2014.</li> <li>While the Community Participation Strategy covers a lot of the same content, the CES is more focused and contains a greater level of operation detail.</li> <li>An update is required to bring it in line with the Community Participation Strategy and to set out new actions such as some of those below.</li> </ul>	SE Team	Underway.  Draft CE Strategy will be discussed at P&R Committee in February 2021	As with the recently updated Equalities Diversity and Inclusion Policy, such a substantial period of time had elapsed since the last update that the process of revising the CES began with a period of desk research. The team looked at similar strategies in other local authorities to gain awareness of any new thinking and methods we could learn from.  The strategy is now being drafted and will be presented to P&R Committee in February seeking approval to consult.
Increase capacity in the Consultation and Engagement team	<ul> <li>Consultation and Engagement is a sub team within the council's Strategy and Engagement team. It has corporate responsibility for consultation and any engagement activity that gathers resident insight.</li> <li>The aims of the Community Participation Strategy are dependent on engaging residents meaningfully and effectively. Greater capacity in the team will enable more of this work to be delivered and coordinated.</li> </ul>	SE Team	Engagement Officer appointed December 2021 and starting March 2022 Research Data Officer recruitment begins February 2022	Two new posts were designed to complement the existing team. The first of these is a Community Engagement Officer. This post will help to deliver inperson engagement where possible and work with seldom heard communities to ensure they have equal opportunities to voice their views. This officer will also work with engagement partners in the council and Barnet Together Alliance to ensure engagement activities are joined up and follow best practice.  The second role is a research data analyst. This post will help to process the increased volume of resident insight that is generated, and to report and visualise this data.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Citizens Panel and Resident Perception Survey	<ul> <li>A priority of the Community Participation Strategy is ensuring resident insight is robust and representative.</li> <li>Open surveys attract self-selecting respondents and this can bias the results towards certain viewpoints that are not necessarily reflective of the whole community.</li> <li>The strategy recommends the council conduct regular waves of the Residents Perception Survey (RPS) and reinstates the Citizens Panel This is a statistically representative database of residents that can be used to recruit consultation and engagement audiences.</li> </ul>	SE Team	Autumn 2021 RPS reporting in January 2022 Citizens Panel in place by March 2022	As proposed in the Community Participation Strategy, the RPS has now been reinstated on a biannual basis. It will be conducted every two years with an enlarged sample of 2000 residents. This will allow for a certain amount of ward level analysis and will give much richer insight into resident opinion across the borough.  Developing and maintaining the Citizens Panel was previously undertaken by a commissioned third party research company. The intention now is that this will be the responsibility of the Research Data Officer when appointed.
Increasing engagement with Resident Forums	<ul> <li>The councils three constituency Residents         Forums are often poorly attended and the proposals and questions from residents tend to be narrow in their range of topics.</li> <li>There is significant potential to use these forums to involve more of the public in the business of local government.</li> </ul>	SE Team Governance	Commencing Jan-March 2022 Implemented mid-late 2022	Conversations have already taken place between Governance and SE Team about the Residents Forums and how they could be improved.  This will be a responsibility of the new Community Engagement Officer when that person comes into post.  The changes to electoral ward boundaries and forthcoming local elections will probably mean that any changes to Resident Forums will not be implemented until the summer of 2022 at the earliest.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Volunteering Strategy	<ul> <li>A key part of Barnet         Together since its inception         in 2018 has been the         provision of the         Volunteering Barnet         service.</li> <li>The Covid-19 pandemic         has generated a         groundswell of resident         volunteers with numbers         registered to volunteer         currently standing at         around 6000.</li> <li>A strategy is required to         ensure we build on this,         and ensure we maximise         the benefits of volunteering         – both for volunteers and         the organisations that use         them.</li> </ul>	Volunteering Barnet SE Team	Work commences January 2002 Strategy launched in Volunteers' Week, June 2022	The strategy will be developed in partnership with Volunteering Barnet and will be an output of the Barnet Together alliance.  The process of developing the strategy will commence with a period of insight gathering over the first three months of 2022. This will involve surveys of resident volunteers, council staff (both those who have volunteered and those who have not) and VCFSE organisations.  This insight will inform the direction of the strategy and indicate where it should focus. The strategy will likely address the ongoing objectives of raising volunteer numbers and improving volunteer experience and accreditation. It will also look at corporate volunteering by council staff and other local organisations and ensuring that Volunteering Barnet is the recognised 'one-stop' resource for volunteering in the borough.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Health Champions	<ul> <li>Barnet Council Public         Health team commissioned         the Covid 19 Health         Champions programme in         September 2020 to support         the Covid response in         Barnet and to address         health inequalities.</li> <li>Around 200 residents are         signed up to be Health         Champions and work to         share vital public health         messages in their         communities and social         networks</li> <li>The programme is         delivered by Volunteering         Barnet under contract from         the council.</li> </ul>	Public Health Volunteering Barnet	Ongoing	In summer 2021 the Health Champions programme was reviewed. In consultation with the Champions themselves it was decided to broaden the focus of their work from Covid response to 'Covid resilience'.

### Unlocking resources for the community

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Social Investment Strategy	<ul> <li>The council provides funding to the VCFSE sector in a number of different ways, and the overall investment has risen significantly in the last two years.</li> <li>Some of this is direct funding through grants and commissioning, but it can also be through processes that redirect resource, such as social value and CIL.</li> <li>An objective of the Community Innovations and Funding Manager post is to maintain oversight of all of the ways the council the sector</li> </ul>	SE Team	Social Investment Strategy drafted by Summer 2022	Much has changed in the way the council funds the VCFSE in the last two years. These include the establishment of the Community Innovation Fund, Barnet Community Fund (formally Barnet Community Response Fund) the increased investment into Barnet Together and the various new initiatives introduced in response to the Covid pandemic.  It is a complex picture that needs to be comprehensively mapped. This will enable the council to make the best use of the resources available and direct VCFSE organisations to the most appropriate source of support.  The Community Innovations and Funding Manager will undertake a mapping exercise and use the insight to produce a Social Investment Strategy. This will set out how we use the resources available to us to invest in our communities, enable projects that further social outcomes and ensure the health and sustainability of our VCFSE sector. This work will be supported by Barnet Together.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Community Innovation Fund	<ul> <li>Barnet Council and Barnet Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), supported by Barnet Together, launched the Community Innovation Fund (CIF) in February 2021.</li> <li>It is intended to support projects and initiatives in the community that meet health and wellbeing outcomes defined by the ICP.</li> <li>One funding round had already taken place when the Community Participation Strategy was published. This saw seven projects funded with a total award value of £126,460</li> </ul>	SE Team	Round 2 awards in January 2022 Round 3 priorities agreed by March 2021 in time for pre- election promotion. Round 3 launched in May/June 2021	There was considerable learning from the first round of the CIF, which the Community Innovations and Funding Manager was able to implement in planning for Round 2. This meant that the application process was easier and generally ran more smoothly. The fund had also become more well known by the time the second round launched in October 2021. Consequently, the response to this round was much bigger than the first.  A total of 92 applications were received, with a combined value of £1,904,000. Of these, 32 were successful, with a combined total award of £466,780.08.  A good mix of organisations and projects were funded, with many proposals emphasising mental health as a priority outcome.  While these new projects being to mobilise, evaluation of the initial round of funding will be taking place this year. A third round of the CIF will be launched after the local elections in May. This will be publicised - along with a new set of ICP funding priorities - before the preelection period commence.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Supporting the development of community centres	<ul> <li>Community Centres are an important mechanism for enabling community participation. They can host services and activities provided by VCFSE sector groups as well as social space for residents to come together</li> <li>Barnet has many community centres, but some of these need support. In some cases, this is capital investment to refurbish the infrastructure of the building.</li> <li>Often though, it is about ensuring the best use is being made of the resource – a service offer that meets local need provided through competent and robust management.</li> </ul>	SE Team VCFSE	Underway and ongoing	The Community Partnerships Officer in the SE Team leads on supporting the use of community assets ('spaces and places') by the VCFSE sector. She works closely with the Estates team to liaise with community groups that use council owned spaces. Often this about resolving issues and ensuring the best use is being made of the asset calling on Barnet Together as needed.  So far this year five council-owned community centres have been supported in a variety of ways, including:  • Establishing a new organisation and trustee board to take over the running of an underused centre  • Supporting the installation of broadband and digital inclusion support through the council's Community Fibre roll-out  • Securing corporate volunteers from a commercial company to help with refurbishment

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
CBAT review	<ul> <li>The Community Benefit Asset Tool (CBAT) was launched in 2016 and is used to determine rent subsidies for VCFSE organisations occupying council owned buildings.</li> <li>The social value benefits provided by the occupying organisation are given a financial value using the tool. This amount is then taken off the rent they are charged.</li> <li>Most community organisations operating from council owned premises are renting on terms negotiated using CBAT.</li> </ul>	Estates SE Team	Paper proposing CBAT review to be submitted to P&R Committee 9 February 2022	The CBAT tool is an innovative social value mechanism and has enabled many local VCFSE groups to afford premises where they can best support residents.  Many of the leases secured through CBAT are due for a five year rent review. This provides a good opportunity to review the CBAT tool overall and ensure that it is in line with corporate social value process and outcomes.  The SE Team and Barnet Together will support Estates with this work.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
CIL bids to Area Committees	<ul> <li>In May 2021 P&amp;R         Committee approved         changes to the use of         Neighbourhood         Community Infrastructure         Levy (CIL).</li> <li>An aim of the review was         to encourage more         community-led bidding to         this source of capital         funding.</li> <li>A new post in the Growth         team was created to         manage the bidding         process, while the SE         Team works with         community groups to help         identify bids.</li> </ul>	Growth SE Team	Ongoing	As part of her work to support the spatial and environmental needs of VCFSE sector organisations, the Community Partnerships Officer in SE Team has supported four community CIL applications in the October round of Area Committees. Three of these were successful, with a combined value of nearly £45,000.  The SE Team will continue to promote the use of CIL as part of the range of social investment resource available to the VCFSE. This will be promoted to the VCFSE by Barnet Together and the SE team.
Social Value	<ul> <li>The council's Social Value Policy was approved by P&amp;R Committee on 9 December 2021.</li> <li>It raises the minimum threshold for social value in the quality criteria of supplier contracts to 20%.</li> <li>A toolkit will advise suppliers of the outcomes and beneficiaries they can support with their social value contributions</li> </ul>	SE Team Finance	Toolkit finalised and implemented by April 2022	As the Social Value Policy was developed, a task group was assembled to work on the themes, measures and outcomes (TOMs) that the newly increased social value contributions can support. This is a multi-agency group with services areas around the council represented. It is led by The Community Innovations and Funding Manager.  Positioning social value in the SE Team and working closely with our partners in the Barnet Together alliance ensures that the TOMs are directly informed by the needs and capacity in our VCFSE and are considered as part of the wider framework of community resourcing. The contractual elements of social value are managed by the Procurement team in Finance, however.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Crowdfund	<ul> <li>CrowdFund Barnet is the council's civic crowdfunding platform. The online platform is provided an administered by an organisation called Spacehive.</li> <li>Crowdfunding can be an effective tool to facilitate hyper-local community-Oled projects.</li> <li>Proposals that meet certain criteria can receive a boost pledge of up to £5,000 from the council.</li> </ul>	SE Team	Supplier contract procurement in Summer 2022	Since the Community Participation Strategy was published there have been two rounds of crowdfunding and the council has support eight projects with pledges with a total investment of £16,601.  Priorities for 2022 are reprocuring a provider for the Crowdfund portal and ensuring a more sustainable method of funding both the contract fees and pledge pot. Currently these are bid for from two separate sources on an annual basis. This year-to-year funding makes it difficult to develop the service beyond its current scale.
Adopt a Place	<ul> <li>Adopt a Place agreements between the council and community groups allow the groups to maintain and tend areas of open space in the borough.</li> <li>Friends of Open Spaces are often the groups that choose to adopt. These are usually informally constituted community groups</li> </ul>	Parks and Open Spaces SE Team	Ongoing	The Community Partnerships Officer works with colleagues in Parks and Open Spaces to encourage participation in Barnet's many green assets.  Adopt a Place agreements are a valuable tool for regenerating underuse or derelict spaces.  Four Adopt a Place requests have been raised since the summer, with one already approved and the others pending at the time of writing.

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Environmental participation	<ul> <li>Barnet is a green and leafy brough, and activities to maintain and improve our open spaces are consistently popular with residents.</li> <li>This kind of volunteering can have excellent health and wellbeing outcomes, as well as the obvious environmental benefits.</li> </ul>	Estates SE Team	Ongoing	Litter picking has been a popular activity among residents since pre-pandemic.  Lockdowns led to increased us of parks which in turn brought an increased in litter. To tackle this, the council launched a campaign of community cleansing known as Pleasant Parks which took place over the summer of 2021. Free equipment was provided, benefitting our many existing litter-picking groups and inspiring new ones to form. Over the course of the programme 28 groups comprising 420 resident volunteers cleared litter from parks. 755 school children from 23 schools also got involved as did 126 members of council staff.  Other types of environmental participation are also increasingly popular in Barnet. These include community growing schemes, where vegetables and fruit are cultivated to support food banks.  In November 20210 the 500 trees that will form the borough's new Memorial Woodland were planted by resident volunteers, including school children and army cadets.  Barnet Together have formed an environmental network within the VCFSE to encourage groups to work together, share learning and opportunities.

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# Putting the Community First



Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
Work Programme
January-Dec 2022

Contact: Tracy Scollin Tel 020 8359 2315 tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of (officer)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
26 January 2022			
Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy Annual Update	To receive an annual update on progress made in implementing the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy	Director Early Help and Children's Social Care VAWG Strategy Manager	Non-key
Community Participation Strategy Delivery Plan	To receive an update on implementation of the Community Participation Strategy including all voluntary, community and faith sectors.	Community Engagement, Participation and Strategy Lead	Non-key
10 March 2022			
Registration and Nationality Service Update	To receive an update on Registration & Nationality performance, including pandemic response	Head of Customer Services & Digital	Non-key
Food Security	Updated Food Security Strategy to note	Public Health Strategist	Non-key
9 June 2022 (TBC)			
Q2 2021/22 Barnet Plan Outcomes Framework Report	Overview of budget, performance and risk information for Q2 2021/22	Head of Programmes, Performance and Risk	Non-key

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of (officer)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
Family Services Community Safety Annual Update	To receive an annual update on community safety functions within Family Services including: Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy; Reducing Offending Group Update; Serious Youth and Serious Adult Violence; and Knife Crime Strategy	Director of Children's Social Care Partnerships and Engagement Lead, Children's Services	Non-key
Community Safety Annual Report 2021/22 (including Crime and Disorder Scrutiny)	To consider an annual report on Community Safety including progress in delivering the Safer Communities Strategy (incorporating the statutory requirement to undertake crime and disorder scrutiny)	Community Safety Manager	Non-key
CCTV Project	Full Business Case for approval.	Executive Director of Assurance	Key

Title of Report Overview of decision	Report Of (officer)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
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October 2022 (TBC)					
Community Safety Annual Report 2021/22 (including Crime and Disorder Scrutiny)	To consider an annual report on Community Safety including progress in delivering the Safer Communities Strategy (incorporating the statutory requirement to undertake crime and	Assistant Director, Counter Fraud, Community Safety and Protection	Non-key		
	disorder scrutiny).	Community Safety Manager			
Update on the Community Safety Strategic Assessment	Progress of updating the Community Safety Strategic Assessment	Assistant Director, Counter Fraud, Community Safety and Protection	Non-key		
		Community Safety Manager			
Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan	Update report on progress in implementing the Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan reported to Committee on 6 October 2021	Mayoral Services, Civic Events Manager and Armed Forces Champion	Non-key		
Mayoralty Update	May 2021-May 2022 Report	Mayoral Services, Civic Events Manager and Armed Forces Champion	Non-key		
Business Planning 2022 – 2026	To consider and agree revenue savings proposals and fees and charges for referral to Policy & Resources Committee and approval by Council.	Executive Director of Assurance	Key		

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of (officer)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
To be allocated			
Q4 2021/22 Barnet Plan Outcomes Framework Report	Overview of budget, performance and risk information for Q4 2021/22	Head of Programmes, Performance and Risk	Non-key
Annual Report on Civic Events and the Mayoralty	To receive an Annual Report on Civic Events and the Mayoralty. Target date shortly after end of municipal year.	Mayoral Services, Civic Events Manager and Armed Forces Champion	Non-key
MOPAC Blueprint for Women in Contact with the Criminal Justice System	Update from the Working Group.	Director, Early Help and Children's Social Care	Non-key
Environmental Crime (excluding littering, fly- tipping, fly-posting and graffiti)	To receive an update report on Environmental Crime (excluding littering, fly-tipping, fly-posting and graffiti)	Community Safety Manager	Non-key
Covid-19 Enforcement	To provide an update on Covid-19 enforcement activity since the start of the pandemic	Head of Counter Fraud Operations	Non-key
Future of Hendon Library	Re-provision of Hendon Library and Local Studies Centre, and Relocation of School Libraries Resource Service	Head of Libraries Service	Non-key
Promoting arts and culture in Barnet	To follow	Community Participation, Strategy and Engagement Lead	Non-key

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