

MEETING

SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD

DATE AND TIME

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH, 2024

AT 10.00 AM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ

TO: MEMBERS OF SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor Sara Conway

Vice Chairman: Representative of the Metropolitan Police

Partners:

Community Safety Manager London Borough of Barnet (LBB)

Barnet Homes

Barnet Reducing Offending Partnership Coordinator

Chair, Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board

Assistant Director, Counter Fraud

Head of Community Safety, Enforcement, CCTV & Intelligence

Director of Children's Social Care LBB

Director of Public Health LBB

Executive Director of Assurance Inclusion Barnet

Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Board

London Fire Brigade

Metropolitan Police

National Probation Service

North Central London CCG

North West London Magistrates Court

Victim Support

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is Monday 26th February 2024 at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Scarlett Ryan Scarlett.ryan@barnet.gov.uk

Governance Services contact: Scarlett.ryan@barnet.gov.uk

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454 Tristan.Garrick@Barnet.gov.uk

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

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Services contact: Scarlett Ryan

Media Relations Contact: Gareth Greene 020 8359 7039

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
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2.	Apologies for Absence	
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5.	Public Questions and Comments (if any)	
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19.	Date of Next Meeting: 7th June 2024	

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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Safer Communities Partnership Board

Minutes of meeting held on 24 November 2023
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

AGENDA ITEM 3

Councillor Sara Conway - Chair
Lorraine Busby McVey - Metropolitan Police
Rob Gibbs - Metropolitan Police
Clair Green - Executive Director of Assurance
Tina McElligott - Director of Children's Social Care
Declan Khan - Assistant Director, Counter Fraud, Community Safety & Protection
David Lingard - Head of CCTV & Community Safety
Dee Malone - Integrated Care Board
Nicholas Licardo - Community Safety, CCTV & Intelligence Manager
Perryn Jasper - Prevent Coordinator, Barnet Council
Reshma Hirani - Hate Crime reporting Coordinator, Barnet Mencap
Christopher Kelly - Strategic Lead for Tackling Violence and Exploitation, Safeguarding Division – Childrens Services
Jalpa Patel - Improvement Lead, Family Services
Koreen Logie - Head of Service, National Probation Service
Greg Terefenko - Head of Housing, Barnet Homes
Luke Kwamya – Head of Public Health Commissioning
Peter Johnson – London Fire Brigade
Fiona Bateman – Adult Safeguarding Board
Latoya Ridge – Victim Support

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and all members of the Board introduced themselves.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

4. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

In response to the public question asked, the chair outlined that 'it is not within the remit of the Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) to comment on regeneration plans. The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) will inform the development of a local partnership strategy to tackle violence in the community, including town centres, neighbourhoods, and parks. Police 'Design Out Crime' teams continue to engage and support our regeneration colleagues.

6. MATTERS ARISING

None.

7. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE UPDATES

The Metropolitan Police gave an overview on performance from June until September 2023 which included the below highlights:

- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 480 cases of Residential Burglary in Barnet
- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 165 cases of Non-Residential Burglary in Barnet
- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 180 cases of Robbery of Personal Property in Barnet
- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 587 cases of Violence with Injury in Barnet
- There were 2310 cases of Violence with Injury in Barnet in the 12 months up to May 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 2302. This is an increase of 0.3%
- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 23 cases of Knife Crime with Injury in Barnet
- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 3 cases of Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged in Barnet
- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 199 cases of Domestic Abuse VWI in Barnet
- In the 4 months of June 2023 to September 2023 (incl.) there were 191 incidents captured by CCTV in Barnet
- There were 15 Prevent referrals in Barnet over Q4. In the same quarter in the previous year, there were 25. This is a decrease of 32%.

It was noted to the Board that Robbery, Knife Crime with injury and Gun Crime were emerging issues which Operation Dakota had targeted so figures at the time of the meeting were very different.

The Chair thanked those for the report and the Board noted the contents of the report and presentation.

8. NORTH WEST BCU POLICE UPDATE TO THE SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Robb Gibbs and Lorraine Busby McVey gave a verbal update to the Board. It was raised that the police are currently experiencing a period of challenge due to an increase in Hate Crime offences. It was noted that Hate Crime incidents were 600 times higher this year, compared to last year, in the BCU due to the current conflict in the Middle East.

The Board were informed that Barnet has experienced a high volume of crime in recent periods, but the crimes committed are not serious crimes committed. It was noted that the Police have maintained and continued their strong presence within the community.

The Chair thanked them for the update.

9. FAMILY SERVICES 6 MONTHLY UPDATE

Tina McElligott, Director of Childrens Social Care introduced the report. An overview was provided to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on three key areas of Family Services delivery which cross over into the Community Safety Strategy, these are:

- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls
- Violence & Exploitation
- Reducing Offending

The report set out key progress made and highlighted national initiatives, local innovation, and current/future challenges to delivery.

Objective 1: Early Intervention and Prevention of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Early intervention and prevention helped reduce the amount of domestic abuse, domestic homicide, and suicides linked to domestic abuse and by stopped people becoming perpetrators and victims. An 'Ending Gender-Based Violence Teacher Toolkit' has been developed and will be rolled out to schools in the Borough.

The Director of Childrens Social Care noted to the Board that the IRIS programme progress has remained the same.

Objective 2: Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover.

The volume of referrals received by the Solace Advocacy and Support Services has increased by 18% compared to 2022.

Operation Encompass, led by the Metropolitan Police (MPS) in partnership with the local authority and schools. The joint-agency protocol enables the Police to share information with schools. The Director of Childrens Social Care reported that Encompass have struggled with school sign ups and encouraged safeguarding leads to advocate to schools.

Councillor Moore suggested that the service should reach out to Governors for support. Fiona Bateman - Independent Chair, Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board offered support to the service also.

Objective 3: Pursue Perpetrators and Engage them in behaviour change.

Perpetrators of domestic abuse need to change their behaviour and stop offending. The relentless pursuit of perpetrators has driven down and reduced the number of domestic violence incidents and homicides. Barnet has delivered a range of programmes aimed at addressing perpetrator behaviour and ensuring victim safety, this included the RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme, Culturally Integrated Family Approach, Safe and Together and the Drive Programme.

Barnet's rate of Domestic Abuse Incidents in the 12-month period to September 2023 is 13.6 per 1,000 population. This placed Barnet in as 5th from the lowest rate in London. There were 731 Domestic Abuse with Injury offences recorded in the 12-month period to September 2023; the sanction and detection rate is 7.3% in the reported period.

The Rise Perpetrator Programme commissioned by Family Services is aimed at reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation. Barnet have worked with 9 other Local Authorities and have held the initial implementation meeting.

Objective 4: Strengthen the partnership response to improve multi-agency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes.

The Director of Childrens Social Care highlighted to the Board that the VAWG Delivery Group meet quarterly to oversee delivery against the aims of the DA & VAWG Strategy.

Objective 5: Working together for safer streets, community, and public spaces.

It was reported to the Board that this aimed for all Barnet residents to feel safe out in the community by working together to reduce VAWG and raising awareness. A Safe Haven Network Pilot is being developed where females can seek temporary refuge in moments of vulnerability.

The Chair thanked the whole team for their work and noted the progress outlined in the report.

10. ASSURANCE COMMUNITY SAFETY 6 MONTHLY UPDATE

Declan Khan, Assistant Director, Counter Fraud, Community Safety & Protection, introduced the report which highlighted what the team has done in relation the different key priorities.

David Lingard, Head of Community Safety, CCTV & Intelligence contributed to progress on anti-social behaviour (ASB). Under priority 1: Tackling and reducing ASB, a borough wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has been implemented in Barnet for a year. The Community Safety Team have used several tools such as injunctions, Community Protection Orders (CPN), Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) and Premises Closure Orders (PCO) to combat ASB. In the 6 months to September 2023 a total of 358 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.

Nicholas Licardo, CCTV & Intel. Manager updated the Board on CCTV. It was reported that the new CCTV control room has launched within Barnet Council's Colindale office which provided a new state-of-the-art technology and capabilities with 24/7 365 days a year monitoring. The improvement has increased the number of images and coverage in the borough.

This allowed to Community Safety Team to:

- Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and environmental crime across the borough

- Increase wellbeing and perception of safety for residents
- Improved partnership working with MET police
- Identify economic development and inclusion opportunities
- Combine Public Space Surveillance cameras with those in Libraries.
-

Between April 2023 to September 2023 inclusive, there were 408 incidents recorded with many of these being to support the MET police.

Under priority 4: safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, it was reported that the risk and threat remain the same, but funding provided to the Local Authority (LA) will be withdrawn. The CEO of Barent Council has lobbied and also written to the Home Office in attempt to have the funding reinstated.

Perryn Jasper, Prevent Coordinator and Hate Crime Lead and Barnet MENCAP discussed Hate Crime. Under priority 5: Access to Justice for those affected by Hate Crime it was reported to the Board that the majority of Hate Crimes in Barent are Racist and Religious Hate Crimes. The amount of Hate Crimes in Barnet has been reported as in line with the rest of London and Nationally.

- Total Hate Crime allegations of all types in NWBCU = 531
- (289 of these were in Barnet = 54%)
- Total Middle East Conflict related hate crimes in the NWBCU = 282
- (201 of these were in Barnet = 71%)

These incidents are broken down as follows:

- Islamophobic = 45 (20 in Barnet)
- Antisemitic = 235 (181 in Barnet)
- Faith Hate = 2 (0 in Barnet)

Barnet had seen a substantial increase in Hate Crime as a direct result of the Middle East Conflict.

Barnet's Community Response to hate crime includes:

- Increased comms encouraging residents to stay safe and report hate crime and incidents to the Police.
- Reminding residents to use Barnet's Hate Crime Reporting Centres if they need support to report hate crime or signposting to local/community specialist support groups.

In February 2023 four Community Safety Hubs were introduced, an interactive approach with the public had produced active engagement and positive response within the community.

The Community Safety Ward Walk Programme was introduced in November 2022 which outlined all wards have at least one visit. The Ward Walk highlighted issues and progress will be reported on through the year.

The Chair thanked those for the report and the Board noted the contents of the report and presentation.

11. COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Councillor Moore thanked the Metropolitan Police and partners for the work on Clear Hold Build, noting that the step change it created within the local community has had a huge impact. Councillor Moore expressed passion for combatting drugs in the Borough and outlined importance of the program in the context of neighbourhood working in health and well being as well as community safety.

Luke Kwamya, Head of Public Health, introduced the report and provided an overview to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on the progress and delivery of Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership (BCDP) and substance misuse services and, these are:

- Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership (BCDP) / Key Achievements.
- Funding of Substance Misuse Services.
- Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Services.
- Number of People Accessing Treatment and Outcomes.
- Data on Structured Treatment – Adults and Young People.
- Continuity of Care.

The head of Public Health reported the key achievements outlined in the report.

Priority One – Break drug supply chains has been contributed to through Operation Dakota and displayed a visible reduction in offences related to substance misuse including the disruption of five county lines.

Priority Two – Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system. Within this, it was reported to the Board that task and finish group, from the subgroup has been created to increase drug and alcohol treatment orders.

Priority Three – Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs, has been further developed through joint working with Public Health and Children and Family Services applying learning on delivery plans.

The Chair thanked the head of Public Health for the report and the Board noted the contents.

12. SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY - STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Christopher Kelly, Strategic Lead for Tackling Violence and Exploitation, Safeguarding Division, Children's Service and Jalpa Patel, Improvement Lead, Family Services introduced the Serious Violence Duty – Strategic Needs Assessment produced on behalf of Barnet's Community Safety Partnership to support organisations and authorities exercising functions in relation to the Serious Violence Duty 2023, to formulate a Serious Violence Strategy.

The SNA provides a comprehensive evidence-based analysis of the local profile, causes and contributing factors of serious violence. It is informed by information and feedback collated from specified authorities, local communities and organisations providing support in Barnet and, provides the basis from which solutions to reduce serious violence can be built. It has outlined a range of key findings and 11 recommendations.

The SNA mapped out Barnet's Violence Profile. It highlighted that Barnet's firearm offences peaked at 11 offences in April 2023, the highest since July 2019. The Metropolitan police's adoption of the Clear Hold Build led to a successful rate of arrests following the increase of serious violence in relation to firearm possession and shootings. Gun Crime offences have now decreased by 64%.

The SNA highlighted that Knife Crime continued to pose as a concern for Barnet. Between April – July 2023 there was a 100% increase in Knife Offences. From January 2020 to July 2023 128 victims of knife offences resulting in injury where under 24.

Some key highlights from the SNA were reported to the Board.

- Males under the age of 25 are most affected by and involved in incidents of serious violence.
- Youth Justice Service (YJS) data shows a 63% increase in the number of 10 to 18-year-olds found in possession of a weapon in 2023 compared to reported data in 2022. The increase is relative to an increase in robbery offences.
- 873 individuals aged between 14 to 17 underwent stop and search procedures. Among them, 44.6% were related to drugs and 28.5% were associated with weapons, points, and blades. This aligns with the increasing trend observed in Barnet youth justice data, specifically concerning individuals aged between 10 to 18 carrying blades and knives. The prevalence of sharp weapons appears to be pronounced among young males.
- Over the past year, there were 3,325 stop and search incidents of which 67.2% were related to potential drug offences. 49% of the stop and search resulted in positive outcomes such as arrest, community resolution, penalty notice, postal charge requisition, or caution. The remaining 51% resulted in no further action.
- In 2023, there has been a 40% reduction in serious violence incidences in the community, against a rise of violent incidents at public transport hubs and restaurants in the borough.
- In 2023, there has been a 43% reduction in the number of young people residing in Barnet being identified as suspects in incidents of violence in the community.
- Sexual assaults have increased by 89% since 2021; there is a correlation between deprivation and rates of violent crime and sexual offences; Barnet's overall figure for economic activity is 64.57%.

The recommendations from there SNA were:

1. Strengthen partnership working for a coordinated whole system approach to preventing and tackling violent offending in the borough.
2. Learn from and build on the successes of existing local projects and services that are targeted at preventing and reducing crime, violence, and exploitation.
3. Build on the early success of the "Clear Hold Build" approach to improve community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviours in areas with higher levels of violent offending.
4. Support the development of universal and standardised support that is place-based in local schools and communities, with a focus on:
 - Empowering parents and carers

- Preventative education approaches
 - Pro-active and evidenced-informed support for 10 to 25-year-olds at the greatest risk of exploitation, offending and violence.
5. Development of targeted support aimed at reducing exploitation and offending in vulnerable groups including those aged 10-24 years with SEN and needs arising from neurodiverse conditions.
 6. Pro-actively monitor and tackle disproportionately of over-represented groups who are affected by violence and build data into key performance indicators and evaluation of all services.
 7. Effectively engage and coproduce solutions to local problems with local people
 8. Support the development of victim support services for males as a high-risk group.
 9. Monitor and proactively intervene to reduce the risk of exclusion from education (including children subject to 'managed moves'), employment and training.
 10. Develop a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing knife-enabled offending.
 11. Align strategic priorities of the Combatting Drugs Partnership, Community Safety Strategy, Reducing Offending Partnership, Youth Justice Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, Tackling Violence & Exploitation Strategy with the Serious Violence Strategy

The Chair thanked those for the report and the Board noted the contents of the report and presentation.

13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Board discussed the Forward Plan programme and were urged to notify the relevant officer of any items they wished to be included on the Forward Plan.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 11.50 am



*Performance Dashboard
3 months from October up to and including December 2023*



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Data Collection



The data from this report is collected from the following sources:

Crime Data:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/mps-monthly-crime-dahboard-data>

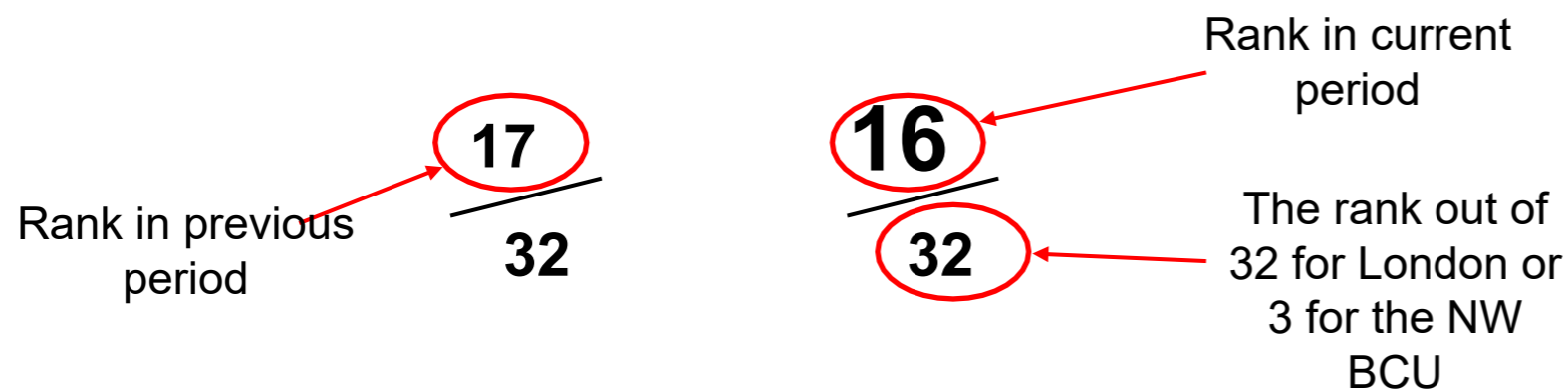
ASB, CCTV and Prevent Data: Barnet Community Safety Team

Slides 4-10 are formed from the above sources and will be presented by MPS NW BCU

Slides 11-18 are formed from LBB data (ECINS/CCTV) and will be presented by LBB

Notes Before We Start

- The lower the ranking the better Barnet is doing when compared with other boroughs across London on in the North West Borough Command Unit (NW BCU).



- Knife crime has previously been reported on as under 25s and non-DV only, this report will note all knife crime with injury which will give a higher number than previous.
- In the London comparison 1/32 is the best, 32/32 is the worst. Change is indicated by the Red Amber Green circle.
- In the NW BCS comparison 1/3 is the best, 3/3 is the worst. Change is indicated by the Red Amber Green arrow.

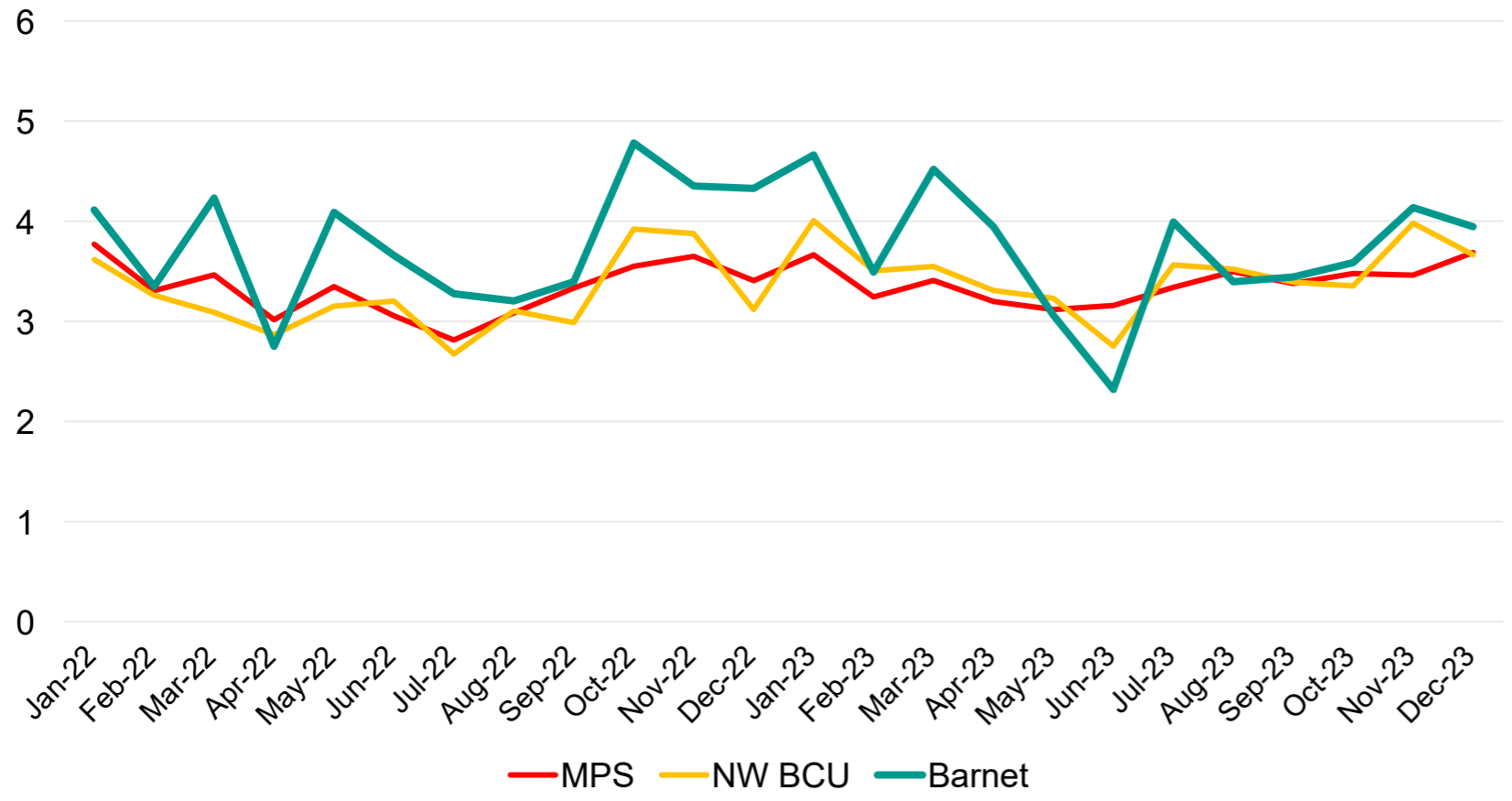
Domestic Burglary



In the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023 there were 488 cases of Residential Burglary in Barnet

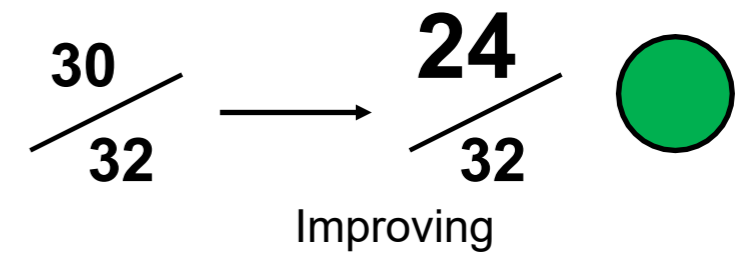
Trend

Residential Burglary per 10,000 Population

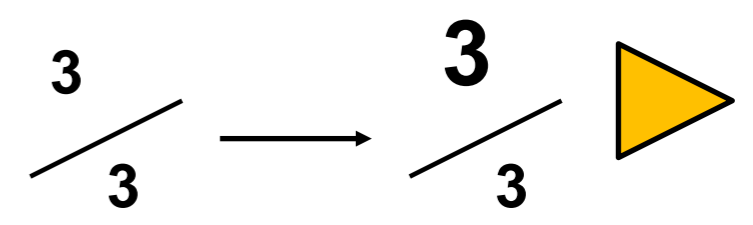


3 Month Performance

MPS Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



NW BCU Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



There were 488 cases of Residential Burglary in the 3 months of December 2023 to September 2023. In the same period 12 months prior there were 563. This is a decrease of 13.3%

There were 1861 cases of Residential Burglary in Barnet in the 12 months up to December 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 1904. This is a decrease of 2.3%

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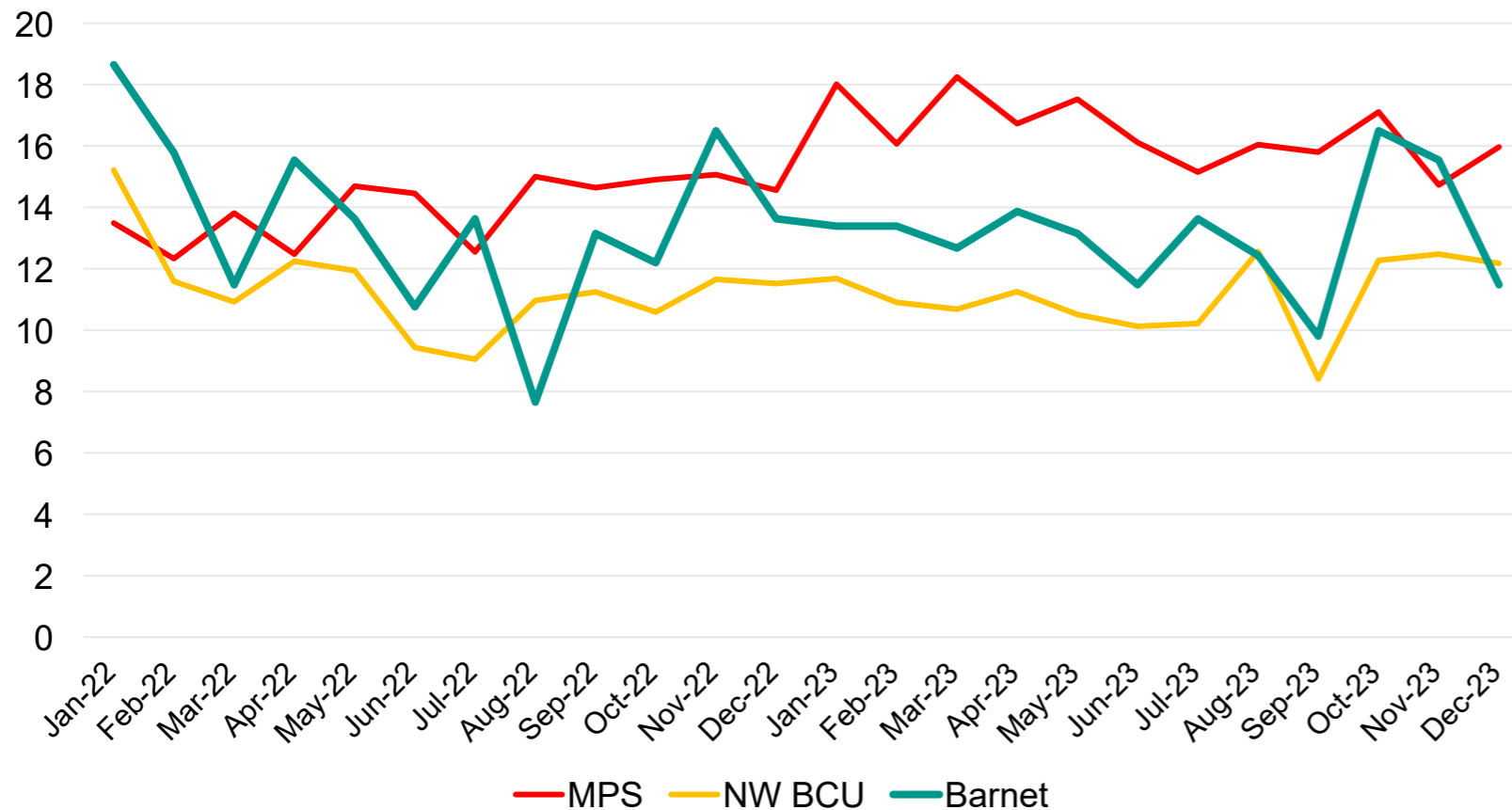
Burglary Business and Community



In the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023 there were 182 cases of Non-Residential Burglary in Barnet

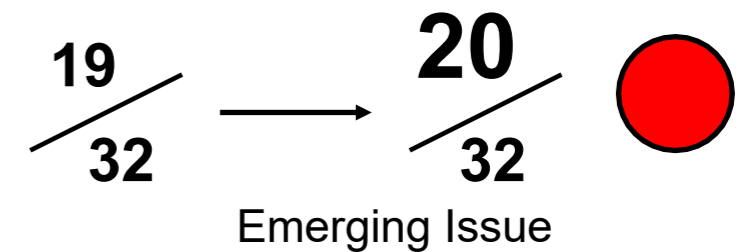
Trend

Non-Residential Burglary per 100,000 Population

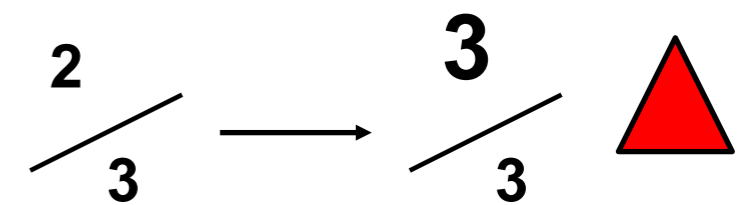


3 Month Performance

MPS Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



NW BCU Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



There were 182 cases of Non-Residential Burglary in the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023. In the same period 12 months prior there were 177. This is an increase of 2.8%

There were 658 cases of Non-Residential Burglary in Barnet in the 12 months up to December 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 680. This is a decrease of 3.2%

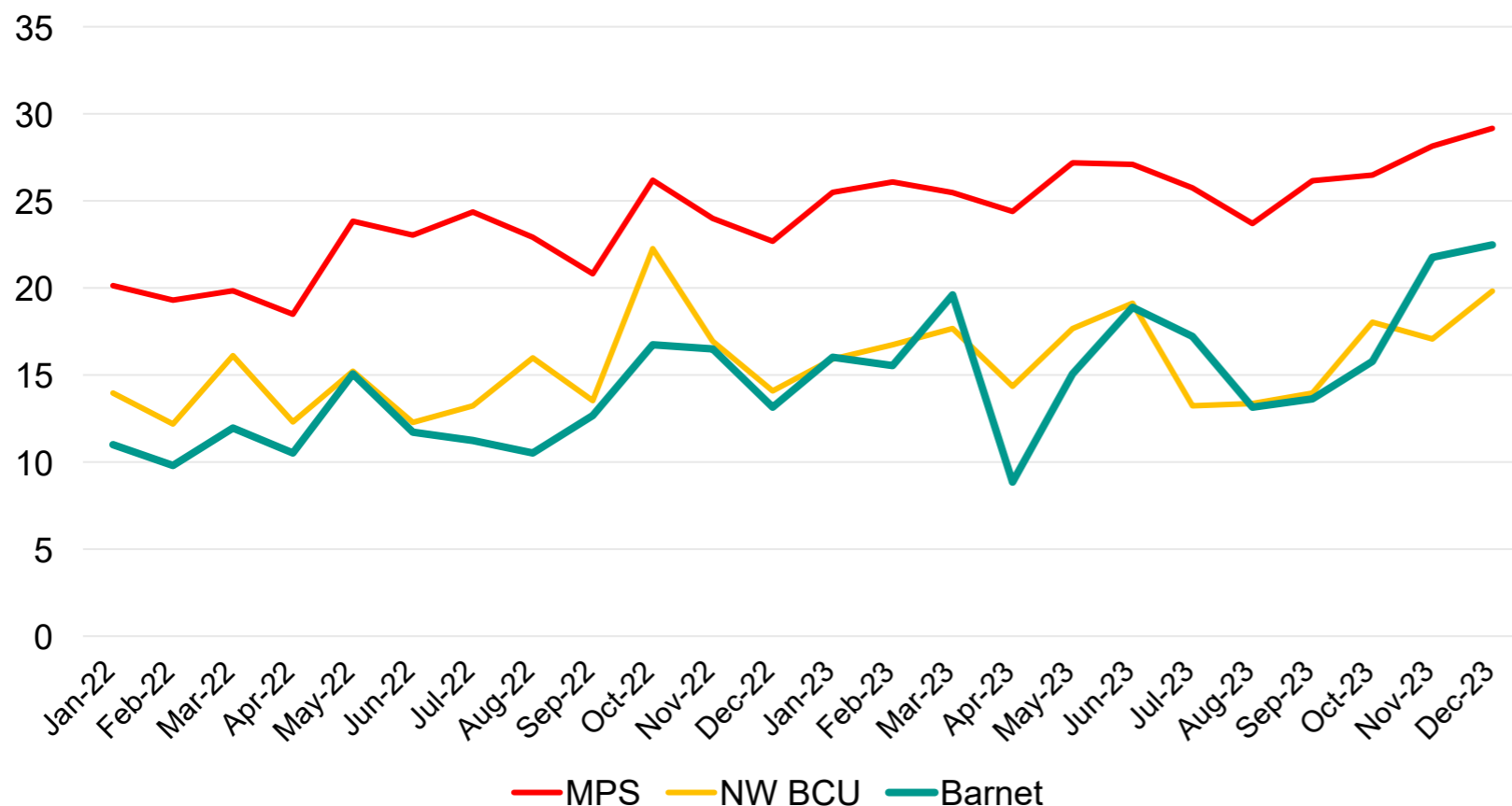
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Robbery of Personal Property

In the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023 there were 251 cases of Robbery of Personal Property in Barnet

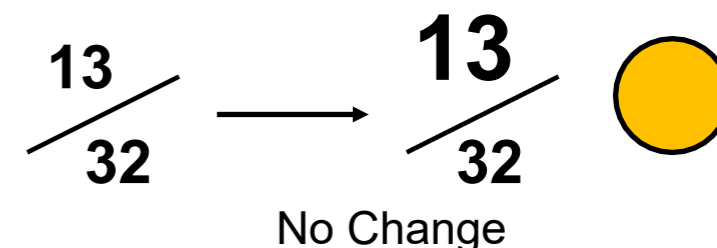
Trend

Robbery of Personal Property per 100,000 Population

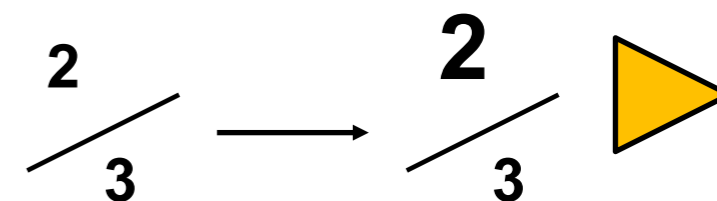


3 Month Performance

MPS Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



NW BCU Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



There were 251 cases of Robbery of Personal Property in the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023. In the same period 12 months prior there were 194. This is an increase of 29.4%

There were 828 cases of Robbery of Personal Property in Barnet in the 12 months up to December 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 631. This is an increase of 31.2%

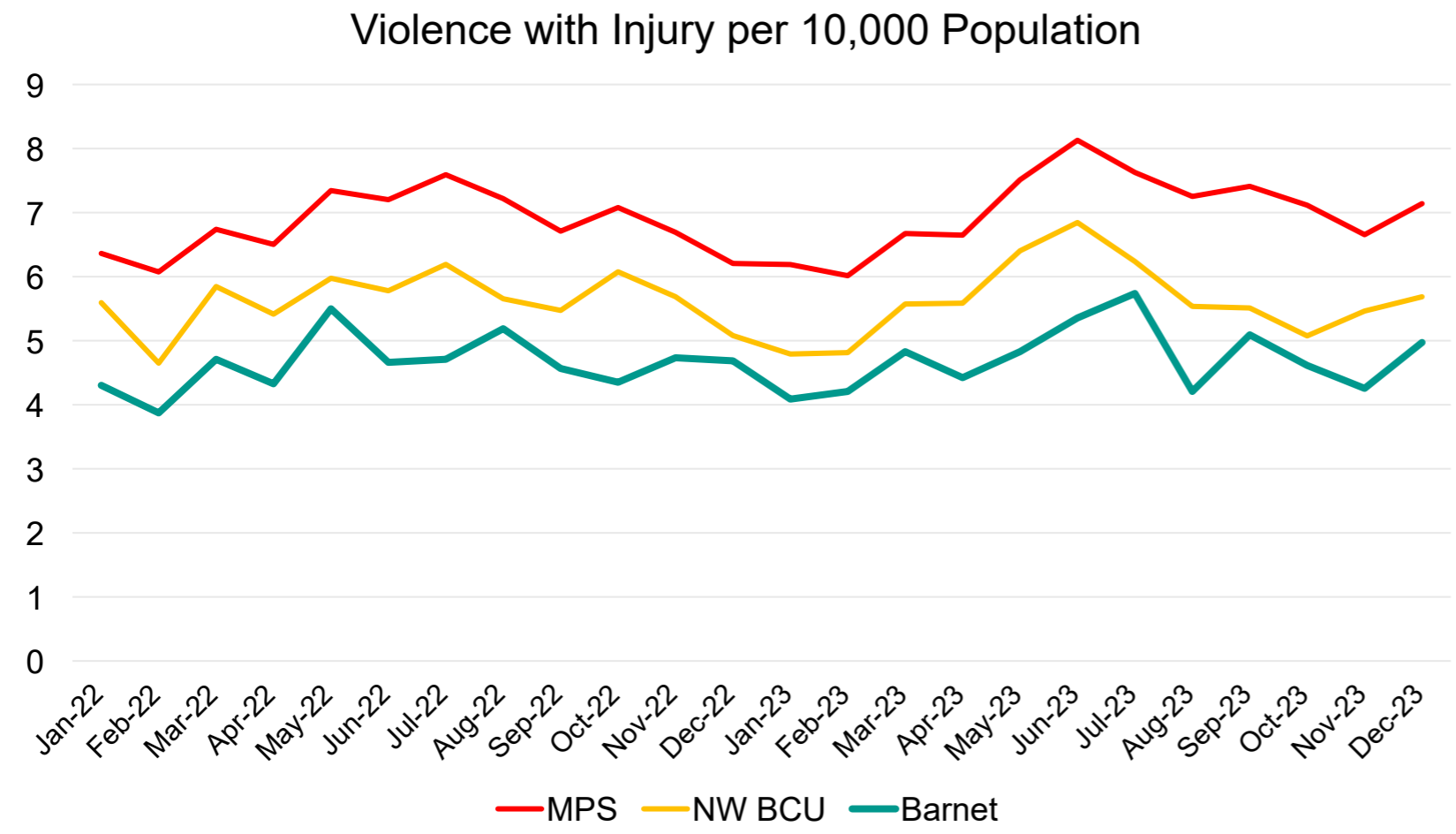
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Violence with Injury



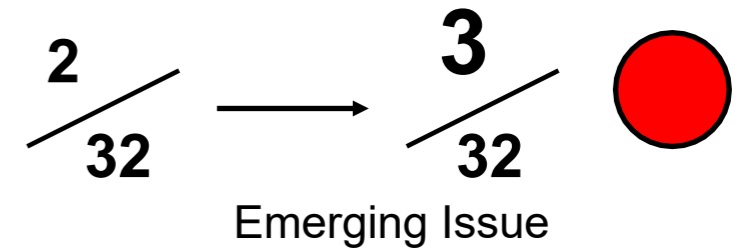
In the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023 there were 579 cases of Violence with Injury in Barnet

Trend

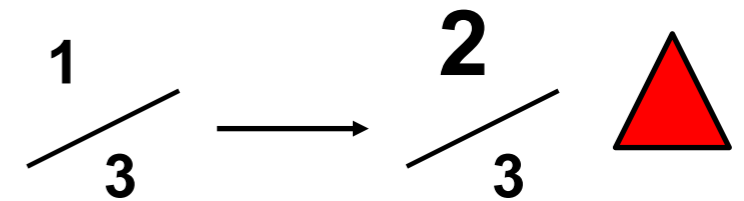


3 Month Performance

MPS Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



NW BCU Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



There were 579 cases of Violence with Injury in the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023. In the same period 12 months prior there were 576. This is an increase of 0.5%

There were 2368 cases of Violence with Injury in Barnet in the 12 months up to December 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 2326. This is an increase of 1.8%

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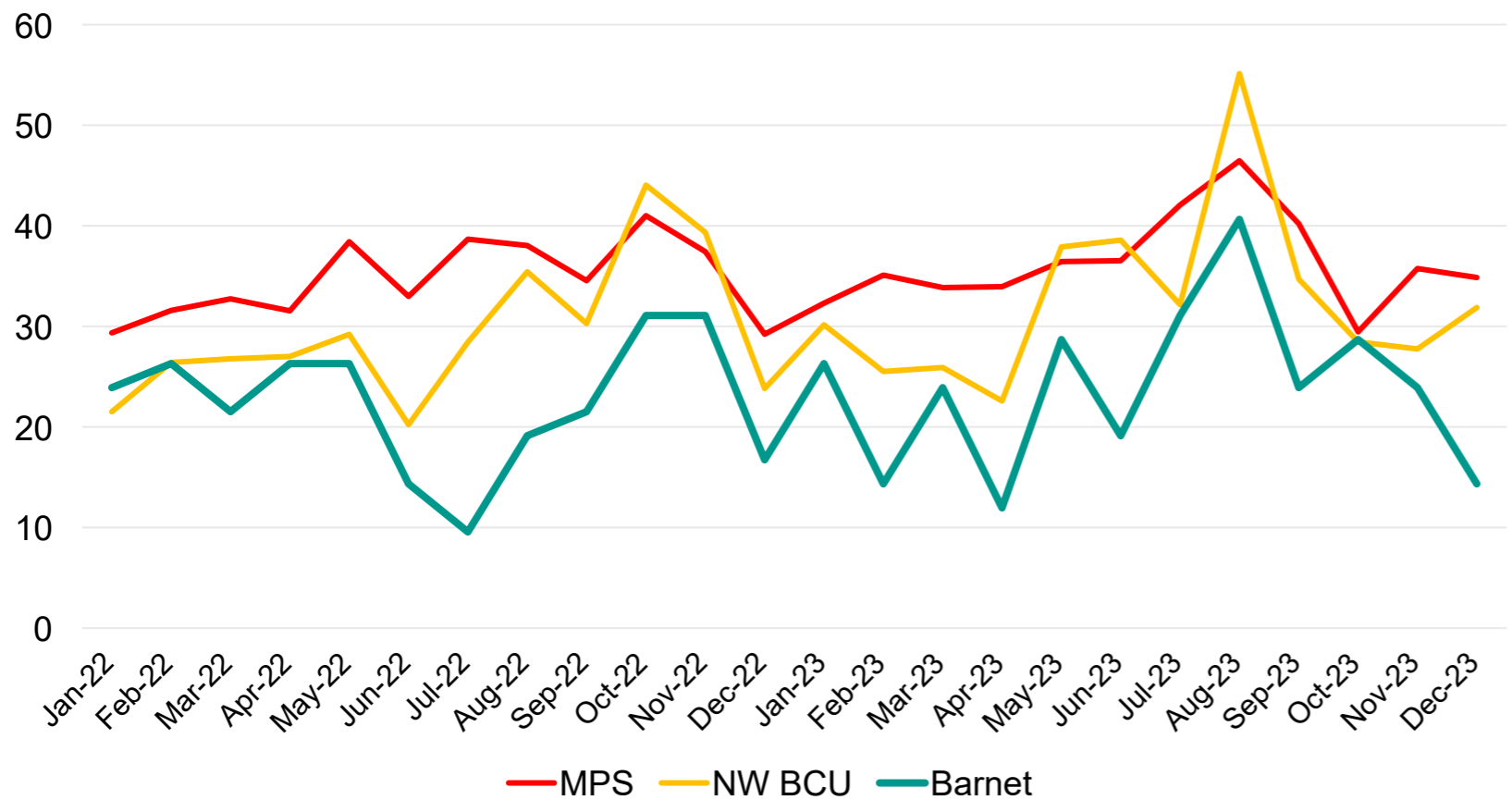
Knife Crime With Injury



In the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023 there were 25 cases of Knife Crime With Injury in Barnet

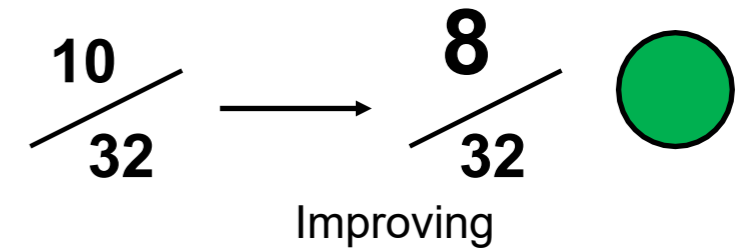
Trend

Knife Crime With Injury per 1,000,000 Population

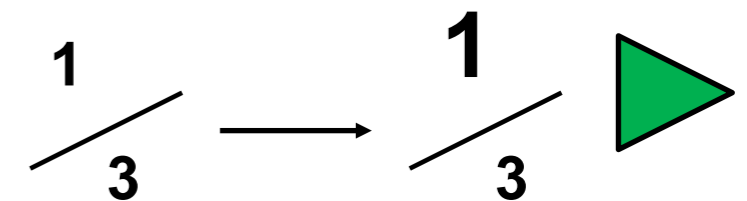


3 Month Performance

MPS Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



NW BCU Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



There were 25 cases of Knife Crime With Injury in the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023. In the same period 12 months prior there were 28. This is a decrease of 10.7%

There were 105 cases of Knife Crime With Injury in Barnet in the 12 months up to December 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 94. This is an increase of 11.7%

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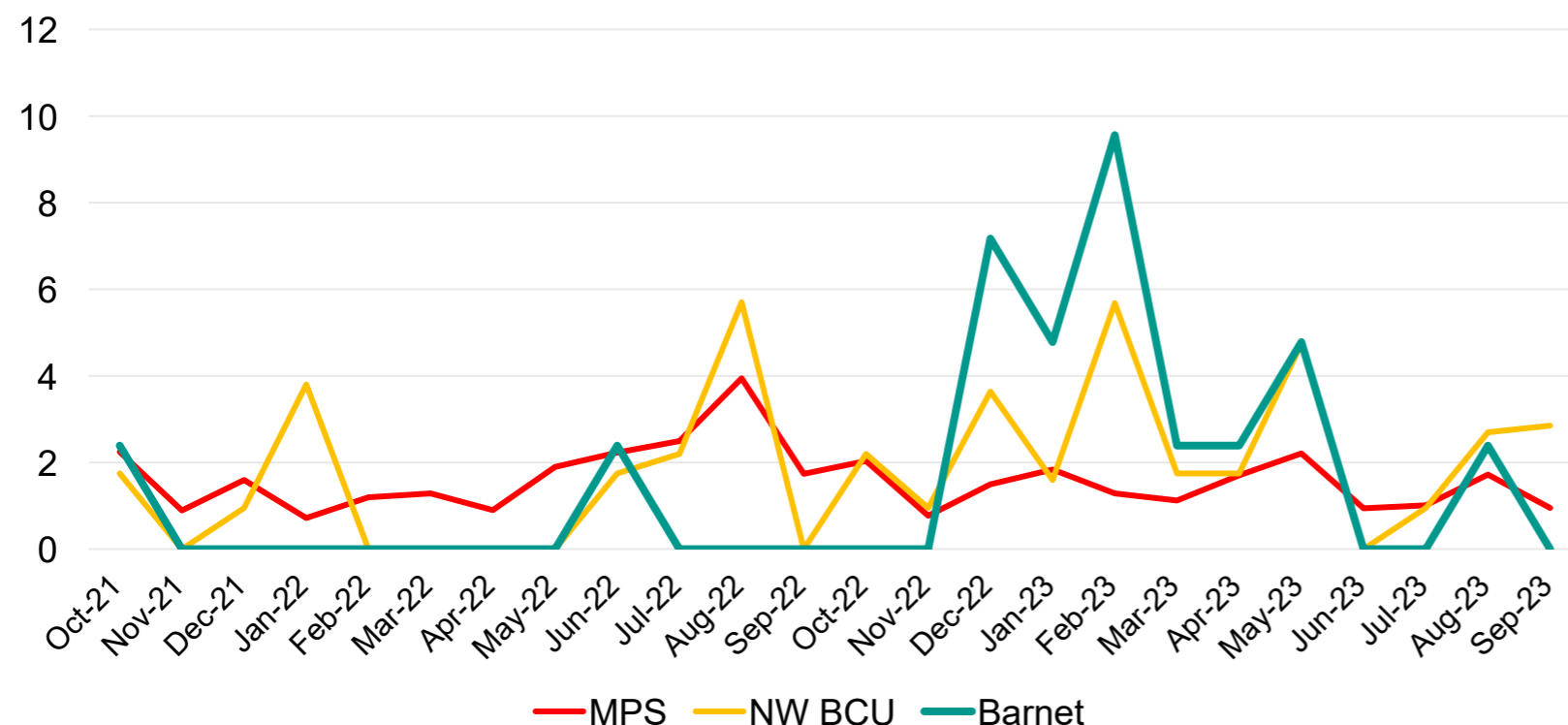
Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged



In the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023 there were 0 cases of Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged in Barnet

Trend

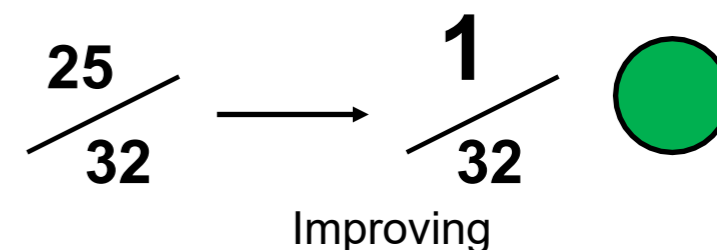
Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged per 1,000,000 Population



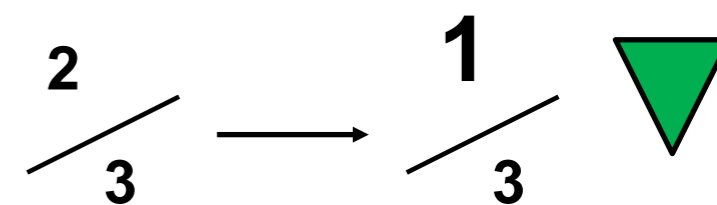
There were 12 cases of Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged in Barnet in the 12 months up to December 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 4. This is an increase of 200%

4 Month Performance

MPS Comparison (4 Month Period) change from same period last year.



NW BCU Comparison (4 Month Period) change from same period last year.



There were 0 cases of Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged in the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023. In the same period 12 months prior there were 3. This is a decrease of 100%

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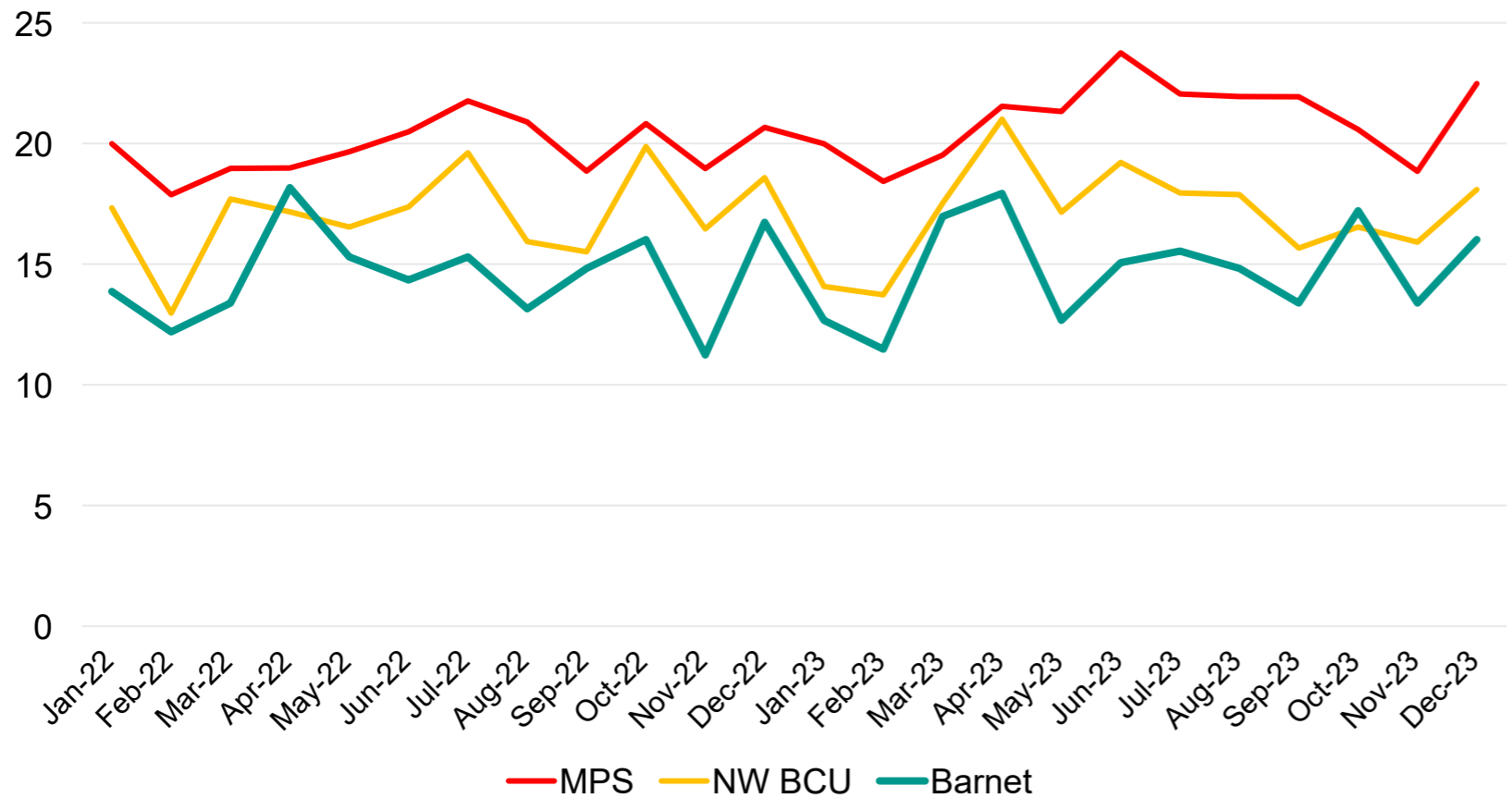
Domestic Abuse VWI



In the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023 there were 195 cases of Domestic Abuse VWI in Barnet

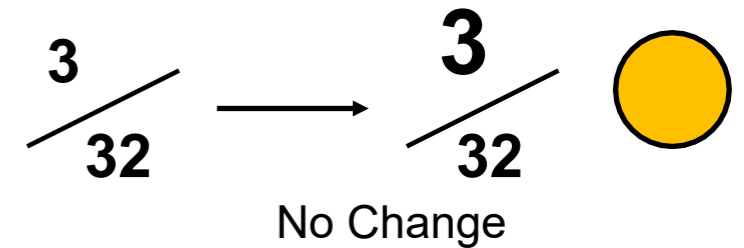
Trend

Domestic Abuse VWI per 100,000 Population

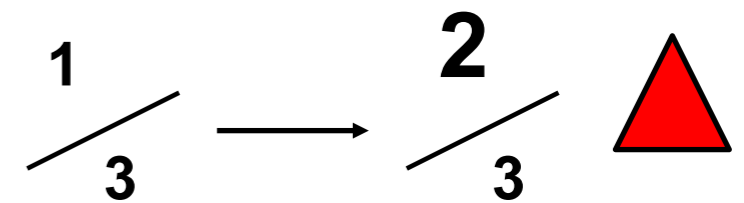


3 Month Performance

MPS Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



NW BCU Comparison (3 Month Period) change from same period last year.



There were 195 cases of Domestic Abuse VWI in the 3 months of October 2023 to December 2023. In the same period 12 months prior there were 184. This is an increase of 6%

There were 741 cases of Domestic Abuse VWI in Barnet in the 12 months up to December 2023. In the 12 months prior there were 730. This is an increase of 1.5%

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End of Slides

Barnet
Safer
Communities
Partnership

Performance Dashboard

3 months from October up to and including December 2023

Caring for people, our places and the planet

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



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Safer Communities Partnership Board**1 March 2024**

Title	Family Services Report on Victim Hub and Restorative Justice
Report of	Chair of the Safer Communities Partnership Board
Wards	All
Status	Non-Key
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Tina McElligott, Director Early Help & Children's Social Care Tina.McElligott@barnet.gov.uk
Summary	
This report provides an overview to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on the work being undertaken to support victims of crime and the development of restorative approaches.	

Officers Recommendations

For the Safer Communities Partnership to note the progress made against delivery of the Victim Care Hub and Restorative Justice projects and actions planned for Year 3 of programme delivery 2024/25.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 To provide the Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) with an overview of developments and progress of work being undertaken to support victims and develop restorative justice approaches.

2. BACKGROUND CONTEXT

2.1 The Victim and Prisoners Bill (2023) makes provision about victims of criminal conduct and other affected by criminal conduct, the appointment and function of advocates for victims of major incidents, the release of prisoners, the membership and functions of the Parole Board and the prohibition of certain prisoners forming a marriage or civil partnership; and for connected purposes. The Bill is at committee stage following a 2nd Reading in the House of Lords.

2.2 The Victim and Prisoners Bill sets out the meaning of “victim” in Part 1 as: -

- (1) A person who has suffered harm as a direct result of—
 - (a) being subjected to criminal conduct, or
 - (b) one or more of the circumstances mentioned below in (2).

- (2) The circumstances are—
 - (a) where the person has seen, heard, or otherwise directly experienced the effects of, criminal conduct at the time the conduct occurred;
 - (b) where the person’s birth was the direct result of criminal conduct;
 - (c) where the death of a close family member of the person was the direct result of criminal conduct;
 - (d) where the person is a child who is a victim of domestic abuse which constitutes criminal conduct (in accordance with Part 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021).

2.3 The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales (Victims' Code), updated 16 January 2024, provides statutory guidance the services and a minimum standard for these services that must be provided to victims of crime by organisations (service providers) in England and Wales.

2.4 Victims’ Rights are summarised below:

- **To be able to understand and to be understood:** The right to be given information in a way that is easy to understand and to be supported to help understanding i.e. interpreting and translation services.
- **To have the details of the crime recorded without unjustified delay:** The right to have the details of the crime recorded by police as soon as possible after the incident. The right to be provided with additional support to assist in providing a witness statement or interview as required.
- **To be provided with information when reporting the crime:** The right to receive written confirmation when reporting a crime and to be provided with information about the criminal justice process, local programmes, and services for victims, including Restorative Justice (where you can meet with the suspect or offender).
- **To be referred to services that support victims and have services and support tailored to your needs:** The right to be referred to services that support victims, which includes the right to contact them directly and have your needs assessed so services can be tailored to meet them, the right to be offered a referral to specialist support services and be told about additional support available in court i.e. special measures.
- **To be provided with information about compensation:** where eligible, the right to be told about how to claim compensation for any loss, damage, or injury cases as a result of crime.

- **To be provided with information about the investigation and prosecution:** The right to be provided with updates, to be told when important decisions are made and the right, at certain stages of the justice process, to ask for decisions to be looked at again by the relevant service provider.
- **To make a Victim Personal Statement:** The right to be given information and make a statement which tells the court how the crime has affected the victim which is considered when sentencing the offender.
- **To be given information about the trial, trial process and role as a witness:** The right to be told the time, date, location, and outcome any court hearing and the right to be offered appropriate help before the trial, and where possible/where the court allows, to meet with the prosecutor before giving evidence.
- **To be given information about the outcome of the case and any appeals:** The right to be told the outcome of the case and, if the defendant is convicted, to be given an explanation of the sentence. If the offender appeals against their conviction or sentence, you have the right to be told about the appeal and its outcome.
- **To be paid expenses and have property returned:** The right to claim certain expenses if required to attend court and give evidence and to have property taken as evidence returned to you as soon as possible.
- **To be given information about the offender following a conviction:** The right to be automatically referred to the Victim Contact Scheme, where eligible, which provides information about the offender and their progress in prison, and if/when they become eligible for parole or release. The right to make a new Victim Personal Statement on how the crime continues to affect the victim.
- **To make a complaint about these rights not being met:** The right to complain to the relevant service provider, and the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman where a complaint is not resolved.

2.5 The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership Delivery Group

- 2.5.1 The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership Delivery Group is a subgroup to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) which brings together partner organisations in the borough to work together with the aim of preventing Domestic Abuse and VAWG and reduce the harm it causes to victims, their families, and the wider community.
- 2.5.2 The Government's Supporting Male Victims Position Statement (updated August 2022) considers the challenges faced by male victims of domestic abuse in reporting abuse and accessing support. The position statement sits alongside the Government's Tackling VAWG Strategy (2021) and Domestic Abuse Action Plan (2022).
- 2.5.3 Barnet's Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2022-25 sets out the ambitions of the VAWG Partnership Delivery Group, as a sub-group to the Safer Communities Partnership, to prevent DA and VAWG and reduce the harm it causes to all victims, including children and male victims, their families, and the wider community.
- 2.5.4 Objective 2 of the DA and VAWG Strategy aims to 'support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls to access help and recover'. Support is crucial to help all victims and survivors who have escaped from domestic abuse, in particular support for their health, trauma recovery, economic, housing, and social needs. Barnet Family Services

commissions Solace Women's Aid to deliver Advocacy and Support Services and two women's refuges. The services are monitored quarterly through the provision of data, feedback, and case studies and progress against the aims of the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy is regularly reported to the Safer Communities Partnership Board and reported annually to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Crime and Disorder.

- 2.5.5 The Restorative Justice Council supports the right for victims of domestic abuse to have the option of Restorative Justice interventions. It is recognised that due to vulnerabilities of many survivors, there is a need for robust risk assessment to ensure the victim's safety is paramount; survivors must be in control of the process and, it must have no impact on the perpetrator's criminal sanctions (Restorative Justice Council, 2016). Calm Mediation have facilitators who are trained to deliver interventions, and restorative circle processes are in the very early stages of development. The engagement of individuals who are indirect victims i.e. adult family members, could be a useful first step in engaging with perpetrators and exploring opportunities to improve interaction with Police at the point of contact.
- 2.5.6 This report to the Safer Communities Partnership, details the work of Victim Care Hub and Restorative Justice Coordinator.

3. Victim Care Hub

- 3.1 Barnet Family Services developed a Victim Coordinator role with London Crime Prevention Funding (LCPF) to strengthen the support for direct and indirect victims of violent offending and to plug the gap created by the cessation of the Young Persons Victim Support Service in March 2022. The service supports the aims of the [Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales \(Victims' Code\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and is funded until March 2025.
- 3.2 The Barnet Victim Care Hub (BVCH) is established although turnover for the Victim Hub Coordinator role has been higher than expected over the past two years with the third Victim Hub Coordinator taking up post in January 2024. To ensure targets were met during periods of coordinator changes, priority has been given ensuring victims of crime needs are met through the creation of care plans.
- 3.3 Barnet's Victim Care Hub (BVCH) provides support for victims of reported and unreported crime, providing them with information on the rights and services available to them, based on their individual needs following an incident. The Victim Hub has three outcomes which it aims to achieve:
- To improve victim satisfaction and feelings of safety across the borough.
 - To ensure victims receive better support from the Police and CJS including in online interaction.
 - Increase of the use of the Victims Code of Practice which seeks to ensure that all victims: are treated with respect, dignity, sensitivity, compassion, and courtesy; make informed choices; have their privacy respected by service providers and have access to additional services to assist with understanding and engaging with the criminal justice process.

3.4 To achieve these outcomes, the BVCH:

- conduct assessments of referrals, including where necessary, further engagement with referring professionals or service-providers;
- formulate holistic and bespoke **Victim Hub Care Plan** for the victim (direct and indirect);
- provide information and local signposting options of support services available; and
- provide safety planning advice and resources, including personal safety alarms.

3.5 Local councillors have been provided with information about the BVCH so that residents can be supported from point of contact. The BVCH is accessible to all residents of Barnet who have experienced or witnessed a crime, even if that crime has taken place outside of the borough. Services are also available for non-Barnet residents, if the incident has taken place within the borough. Referrals can be made by professionals, partner organisations and community service providers by email to barnetvictimcarehub@barnet.gov.uk .

3.6 Individual **Victim Hub Care Plans** include information, advice, and guidance on:

- Trauma therapy, including online services and helplines.
- Housing support
- Restorative Justice
- Signposting to local support services, including:
 - mental health services in the community
 - learning disability and autism service providers
 - LGBTQ support services
 - racist and religious hate crime support.
- Guidance on personal/community/public safety.
- Peer mentoring
- Food Banks
- Financial Support Funds

3.7 The BVCH works in partnership with local voluntary and community services to provide victims with a bespoke support package which recognises and addresses their needs as a victim of crime.

3.8 The service has continued to be promoted through attendance of the Tackling Violence and Exploitation Team at multi-agency risk management panels and Serious Incident Response Meetings (SIRMS) in which awareness is raised of victim services. Whilst engagement with key stakeholders has been limited to the start of the quarter, this has not hindered the volume of referrals showing the positive impact of awareness raising.

3.9 The project has three performance outcomes which are reported to MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) quarterly.

Outcome	Target	Outputs
Outcome 1	To improve victim satisfaction and feelings of safety across the borough Baseline: 64% pan London (2020/21) Target: Increase of 10-15%	1. Access to multi agency services at Victim Hubs 2. Signposting referrals to the MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) Supporting Victims service.
Outcome 2	Victims receive better support from the police and criminal justice system, including online interaction: Baseline: The proportion of offence that were closed as a result of evidential difficulties and victims not supporting action increased from 35-40% (Crime Outcomes 2020/21) Target: Barnet will work to reduce cases spacing closed due to evidential difficulties by 10%	3. Access to Restorative Justice 4. Better Support recovery plan shared with Barnet Council (optional) 5. Engage 8 individuals per month
Outcome 3 (optional)	Increase of the use of the Victims Code of Practice revised 2021 Baseline: 20% of victims had heard of the Victims Code of Practice or received any rights (ONS) Target: An increase of 10-15%	

3.10 There have been 64 referrals to the Victim Care Hub since April 2023, which is 8 referrals below the intended target of 72 in the period Q1 to Q3 2023/24.

3.11 18 referrals were made in Q1 2023/24, of which 100% of referred victims were provided with further information about the Victims Code of Practice and were informed of their rights. In Q2, there were 21 referrals of which 71% (n=15) were provided with further information, in this cohort, 29% of referrals were for indirect victims i.e. a child of a victim. In Q3, there were 25 referrals, of which 32% (n=8) were direct victims and provided with further information; 17 referrals were for indirect victims who were referred to crime prevention support.

3.12 The largest volume of referrals was received in Q3, the volume of referrals can be directly linked to Victim Coordinator activity and notably dips during periods of change in post holders.

3.13 The sources and volume of referrals in Q1 – Q3 2023/24 is set out below in Table 1. Family Services (Early Help, Children’s Social Care, Youth Justice, Tackling Violence & Exploitation and Onwards & Upwards) account for 69% of all referrals in the reporting period.

3.14 Table 1 Referral Source & Volume Q1-Q3 2023/24

Table 2 Crime Type & Volume

Referral Source	No.	Type of crime	No.
Family Services – Children’s Social Care	9	Knife crime	2
Tackling Violence & Exploitation Team (including Community Capacity Coordinator)	17	Fraud	1
Community Safety Team	5	Exploitation	6
Department of Work & Pensions	4	Other non-crime	2
YJS (Youth Justice Service)	3	ASB	8
Probation	3	DA	5
Barnet Mencap	2	Robbery	5
Family Services – Child & Family Early Help Services	8	Common Assault	2
Residents’ association	1	Rape and forced underage marriage	2
Onwards & Upwards	7	Threats	2
Barnet Homes	4	Hate Crime	2
Age UK	1	Crime Prevention	17
		Harassment	3
		GBH	5
		Criminal Damage	2
Total	64	Total	64

3.15 In Q3, the Community Capacity Coordinator role has been instrumental in supporting referrals to the Victim Care Hub. The role provides opportunities to explore the wider impact of crime on indirect victims and supports community engagement in crime prevention approaches which grass roots organisations have requested, this is reflected in the crime type reporting above in Table 2.

3.16 A number of referrals received in Q3 were from public facing professionals seeking support for their work in the community, including home visits, the advice has provided information about how professionals can support safety planning with residents.

3.17 Anti-social behaviour, assaults (including domestic abuse) and robbery are the highest crime types in the reporting period. Services provided to victims are set out below which includes a triage and needs and risk assessment which is undertaken for all referrals; information is provided on Victim Code of Practice, signposted to appropriate services, engaged in safety planning, and provided with personal and home security items to help recovery and feelings of safety.

3.18 The Community Safety Team and Domestic Abuse MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) are the only two services to have utilised the mediation support available through the Victim Care Hub to date. Probation Services, Barnet Homes, Barnet Mencap and Age UK have contacted the Hub for information and guidance to support victims of crime, this had led to a small number of referrals in Q3.

3.19 Table 3. Type of support identified.

VCOP Rights	Personal safety advice & security	Home safety advice & security	Emotional /trauma support	Signposting/Information provision	Onward referral
41	38	16	24	28	9

3.20 Table 4 below indicates that 66% of referred victims of crime (excluding crime prevention types) in the reporting period had reported the crime to the police, indicating a sound level of confidence and understanding but also a need for some further improvement; half of those who had reported to the police were reported to be assisting with the investigation. Contact with victims to ascertain information beyond signposting is not always successful which prohibits full reporting in this area.

3.21 Table 4. Number of victim incidents reported to police Q1 – Q3

Location of crime	Reported to police	Not reported to police	Assisting in investigation	Not assisting in investigation / not known
Barnet	31	4 (excludes 17 Crime Prevention)	16	10

3.22 Whilst most referrals are made by Family Services, most victims referred are adults, with an even gender split; wider demographic information is being collected to support a stronger

understanding of access to victim support services and the communities most affected by crime. It is acknowledged that males are less likely to seek support as a victim following a crime. More females were referred as victims of exploitation than males in Q3, this may be reflective of gender bias given the higher prevalence of males who are victims of criminal exploitation.

3.23 Many victims wish to maintain anonymity which can impact on collection of data; the service does not wish to impose collections that create further obstacles for victims to overcome.

3.24 The case study below demonstrates that the Victim Care Hub is supporting the development of care plans that explore the direct impact of harm but also wider contextual picture which acknowledges the intersectionality of need.

Case Study:

Mark is a disabled adult who was a victim of fraud in 2020; the offence was still under police investigation and Mark made an attempt on his life due to the financial repercussions of the fraud incident.

To support Mark, the Victim Care Hub triaged his needs and developed an outline care plan to be led by a key trusted adult aimed at reducing an overwhelming volume of 'helping professionals'. A referral was made to Adult MASH and the Victim Care Hub facilitated information sharing in regard to local resources including Action Fraud, Food Banks, Residents Support Fund, Barnet Wellbeing Hub, Inclusion Barnet, Staying Alive App, The Listening Place, The Sanctuary (Mind in Barnet), Samaritans, Shout, and London Victim and Witness Service.

Focus for Year 3 Delivery 2024/25.

3.25 The Victim Care Hub is funded until March 2025. Further opportunities for funding continuation may become available via MOPAC's London Crime Prevention Fund or other funding opportunities that will allow for continuation and further evolution of the service.

3.26 In Year 3, focus will be to:

- Continue raise awareness of Victims code of Practice and Victim Rights
- Develop prevention materials aimed at improving knowledge of services that support home and personal safety.
- Ensure robust integration with wider support services for children and adults joining mental health support, adult services, domestic abuse, exploitation and ASB pathways.
- Explore peer mentoring opportunities.
- Build on the partnership with Youth Justice Services well established Restorative Justice approaches.
- Contribute to the Early Help offer to local schools and colleges to raise awareness of the Hub to young people.
- Develop responses for anti-Semitic and Islamophobic hate crimes through engagement with community and faith groups.
- Proactive community engagement

- Promote communications on national awareness raising days i.e. Hate Crime, Disability, Racism
- Engage with local with local youth provisions to increase awareness of rights of young victims, support services and restorative practices.
- Tackle the use of 'victim blaming' language.

4. Restorative Justice

4.1 A Restorative Justice Coordinator (RJCo) post was established in December 2022, it is funded with three-year London Crime Prevention Funding 2022 – 2025. The aim of the post is to provide training in conflict resolution skills to schools and community-based providers and build a network of Restorative Justice Champions that can support a sustained and embedded approach to early conflict resolution across the borough.

4.2 Restorative Justice (RJ) interventions have a compelling evidence base for achieving good outcomes, in a survey conducted by Remedi Restorative Solutions (2021), 94% of victims of crime reported an increase in their feelings of safety following a RJ intervention, while in the Why Me? Valuing Victims Report (2020), over half of victims reported being better able to cope with aspects of life such as health and wellbeing following an intervention.

4.3 RJ interventions can be offered to perpetrators of crime regardless of the complexity or gravity of the offence (All-Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry into Restorative Practices 2021/22). A research paper published by Remedi Restorative Services (2021) shows that 98% of offenders taking part in RJ interventions reported an increase in their personal understanding of the harm caused by their offending behaviour and furthermore, 96% of offenders stated that participation directly increased their motivation to not reoffend.

4.4 Restorative Justice Approaches, including RJ Conferences with victims of crime are recognised as a powerful way of empowering victims to explain the personal impact of offending. These approaches are well-embedded in Barnet's Youth Justice Service and support children and young people who have committed to offences to acknowledge the impact of their offending, take responsibility, and make amends through mediation, restorative meetings, and apology letters. An example of Youth Justice Restorative Conferencing can be found [Sheldon's Story — Why Me? Restorative Justice \(why-me.org\)](#).

4.5 The Youth Justice Plan 2023-2025 has a focus on supporting victims through Restorative Thinking training aimed at strengthening victim awareness and improve victim safety supported by use of a RJ screening tool. The programme can be delivered 1:1 or in groups. The Youth Justice has a RJ worker within the team who works closely with Barnet Victim Care Hub and Restorative Justice Coordinator role.

4.6 The outcomes and targets for the Restorative Justice Programme are set out in the table below:

Outcome	Target	Outputs
Outcome 1	<p>Victims receive better support from the police and CJS (Criminal Justice System), including online interaction.</p> <p>Measure: Improvement in victim satisfaction, feeling of safety and/or emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Baseline: Overall victim satisfaction currently at 61% for NW (Northwest) London (at commencement of project, Jan 2023).</p> <p>Target: An increase of 10-15% akin to Q1 2020/2021 data when it sat at 76%.</p>	<p>Q1 (2023) Data – MOPAC Dashboard <i>Victims are Better Supported</i></p> <p>Overall victim satisfaction for NW (Northwest) London Q1 recorded at: 66%. MPS Pan London: 64%</p>
Outcome 2	<p>Community safety partners respond to the crime and anti-social behaviour which most concerns Londoners. Better Criminal Justice response and outcomes for victims.</p> <p>Measure: Increase in victims being able to access Restorative Justice</p> <p>Baseline: Fewer than 10% of victims currently being offered RJ.</p> <p>Target: 25% of victims given the opportunity to access Restorative Justice</p>	<p>Q2 (2023) Data – MOPAC Dashboard <i>Victims are Better Supported</i></p> <p>Overall victim satisfaction for NW London Q2 recorded at: 63%. MPS Pan London: 64%</p>
Outcome 3 (optional)	<p>Increase of the use of the Code of Practice for Victims (revised 2021).</p> <p>Measure: Rights 3 and 4 of VCOP to be met through RJ</p> <p>Baseline: 20% of victims had heard of the Code of Practice for Victims or received any rights (ONS).</p> <p>Target: An increase of 10- 15%.</p>	

4.7 Satisfaction levels are recorded to monitor the satisfaction rate in the region when compared to London as a whole, rates of those with a disability and rates of ethnic groups. In Barnet satisfaction rates were recorded at 75% in Q2 2023/24 which is 11% higher than Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) pan London data. For those with a disability, the satisfaction rate is 8% lower than MPS rate and for those of a mixed or other ethnicity, the rate is 6% lower. Due to the way in which data is

captured and recorded (telephone/online) there is little opportunity for further analysis of the data. However, the Victim's Commissioner, Annual Survey, 2022, does highlight some of the challenges faced by victims in reporting crimes and their experience of the criminal justice system [2022 Victim Survey - Victims Commissioner](#).

4.8 In the 'follow-up' data there is a 6% increase in satisfaction to 48% from pre-project reporting. Since Q1 2023/24 there has been engagement with the RJ Coordinator and Barnet MPS to coordinate and deliver training, supporting strategic implementation and victim centred support.

4.9 The Metropolitan Police already use Restorative Justice approaches and locally this has been strengthened through partnership with Barnet Council which was formally established in the summer of 2023. The strategic collaboration has enabled officers to identify Restorative Justice opportunities for victims of crime, fulfilling the entitlements under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and meeting the aims of 'A New Met for London' by focusing on rebuilding trust with victims of crime and the communities of London. Barnet has been selected as the lead borough to explore the implementation of a robust Restorative Justice system that meets the needs of victims of crime by informing them of and supporting them through Restorative Justice referral processes. The RJ Coordinator has been training frontline officers, PCSOs and senior officers in RJ theory and practice approaches, supporting confidence, understanding of the process, referral pathways and benefits to victims.

4.10 **The Strategic Partnership with MPS has enabled:**

- The RJ Coordinator to host a meeting with Metropolitan Police RJ Lead (Inspector Coney) and senior officers from Barnet MPS.
- Discussions on identifying/flagging individuals/cases for RJ intervention using existing police reporting systems.
- Joint promotion of RJ via Barnet and MPS internal and external channels.
- RJ Week promotion on LB Barnet website used to promote partnership with MPS (November 2023).
- Further training requested for all Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Team and Police Community Support Officers (SNT/PCSO); **75** in total).
- Discussions on how to increase capacity for RJ interventions at Borough level to support anticipated higher volumes being referred to Calm Mediation (including the recruitment of volunteers with lived experience in the borough).
- Consultation with the RJ Coordinator to inform RJ approaches across the MPS, followed by a presentation to a meeting of 400+ of MPS senior officers.
- Meeting with British Transport Police to explore potential for shared working and improving access.
- Consultation on development of an RJ App which will be trialled with Barnet officers in Q4, allowing for prompt and efficient recording of RJ interventions at street level and expediate suitable, onward referrals to Pan London providers i.e. Calm Mediation.

4.11 Once embedded, greater consistency in the use of RJ approaches will be evident and support timely referrals of victims to Calm Mediation. The model adopted in Barnet will be used as a template for other London boroughs ensuring greater consistency in the fulfilment of victims' rights across the Capital.

- 4.12 Crimestoppers recognises that there are a number of barriers to reporting crime directly to the Police and the service seeks to provide residents with a safe and anonymous way of accessing Police intervention. A recent promotional campaign has been led by the Metropolitan Police to support reporting of crime anonymously and at any time via Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers is an independent charity working in collaboration with the Police to allow victims and witnesses of crime to report incidents confidentially by phone or online. After receiving a call or a completed anonymous online form, Crimestoppers creates a report that brings together all the information that has been provided and ensures that it does not contain any information that could identify the person reporting the offence. The report is sent to the relevant authority with the legal responsibility to investigate crimes, make arrests and charge people in order to bring them to justice.
- 4.13 Crimestoppers shares advice on how callers can protect themselves from crime and feel safer in the community. Residents can report online [Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)
- 4.14 Over 2023/24 the RJ coordinator is providing bespoke training in restorative approaches to a range of school and community-based services to establish a RJ Network, led by RJ Champions with the aim of increasing capacity for schools and community-based services to facilitate restorative interventions whilst also creating opportunities for learning, collaboration, and the sharing of good practice.
- 4.15 Barnet continues to operate a network of third-party Hate Crime Reporting Centres where victims and witnesses of hate crime (in particular, Barnet's more vulnerable residents and adults-at-risk) can access support to report offences to the Police and be referred or signposted to local specialist organisations for ongoing support.
- 4.16 Barnet's Hate Crime Reporting Centres are selected to represent a diverse cross-section of the community and are in accessible locations across the borough. The Hate Crime Reporting Centres recognise intersectionality and that victims might have experienced more than one strand of hate crime or a combination of different crimes.
- 4.17 The Hate Crime Reporting Centres will therefore work closely with the Barnet Victim Care Hub to provide a wraparound service for victims of hate related crime, including safeguarding interventions, mental health and emotional support via trauma therapies, advice on personal and public safety and application of rights under the Victims Code and will expand to a diverse range of groups to ensure all victims of Hate Crime have access to support.
- 4.18 RJ is an effective, if underutilised, resource in the prevention of discrimination and resolution of harm following a hate crime. Preventative work enables facilitated discussions between members of a community (such as a school) with the aim of dispelling myths, raising awareness of practices and beliefs associated with a particular community and promoting tolerance and kindness. When a hate crime occurs, many people value the opportunity to speak to the perpetrator to challenge prejudices, educate offenders and tackle discrimination. Acceptance of wrongdoing by perpetrators and the active participation in the resolution of this harm can help reduce the chance of reoffending and provide closure for victims. ([About Why me? - Why me? Victims for Restorative Justice Restorative Justice \(why-me.org\)](https://www.why-me.org)) This understanding of the impact of hate crime is helping shape the training provision and awareness raising work being delivered by the RJ Co-ordinator.
- 4.19 **Raising awareness through training and networking:**

- School-based training has continued with bespoke sessions designed and delivered to existing schools involved in the project. Feedback from schools indicates that restorative approaches are beginning to move the culture from punitive to restorative and early indications are that this is having a positive impact on relationships at all levels. Feedback has been **100% positive** across all schools.
- 1:1 and group training delivered at Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School – Exploring conflict and simple restorative conferencing (14).
- Action planning at Claremont and Childs Hill Primary Schools (3).
- Action planning and whole school training at Trent Church of England Primary School, implementing circles, affective language, and conflict de-escalation (15).
- Implementation Team training - Friern Barnet Secondary School – Circles, affective language, conflict de-escalation, scenario training (3).
- Implementation leaders across all restorative schools been designated '*Restorative Practice Lead*' (RPL) and as such will contribute to the wider training and development of staff in their own schools and across the borough in the next phase of delivery.
- Police training was revised and redesigned during Q3 and a further **22** officers were trained, split into **2** cohorts. This brings the total number of Barnet officers trained to **42**.
- The design and development of training materials has led to the production of 90 slides and approximately 4 000 words contained in supporting material, worksheets, and companion guides. Feedback has been **100% positive** across all sessions.
- Attendance at the Barnet Together Conference in October provided an opportunity for networking and sharing of resources around RJ and BVCH. Feeds into 'raising awareness' narrative.

4.20 Progress Towards Meeting Outcome

- Victims informed of their right to RJ via electronic and telephone communication.
- 32% of victims of crime contacted by the BVCH are now informed of their rights under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime. 68% of the referrals through to the BVCH were for crime prevention support and guidance and therefore did not require post -offence support via the Victims Code of Practice.
- 100% of victims of crime referred directly to RJ Co-ordinator are informed of Rights 3 and 4
- All electronic correspondence from RJ Co-ordinator contains a link to the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.
- Explicit reference to VCOP made at network and training events reaching **60** direct contacts and other indirect contacts at the Barnet Together Conference.

4.21 The RJCo will also work with partners in the criminal justice system to open referral routes and access to RJ for victims of crime, thereby meeting the requirements of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (2021) by explicitly informing victims of crime of their right to RJ and, where possible, delivering a suitable RJ intervention directly or by onward referral to the RJ Network.

4.22 Barnet Council has obtained Restorative Justice Council (RJC) membership which will support risk and safety planning, provide access to advice and training, good practice, and information to the wide network of restorative communities. In the long term (Year 3 of delivery) the aim is to achieve accreditation as a Registered Restorative Organisation (RRO). Organisations can review

membership criteria and/or apply at [Restorative Justice Council | Promoting quality restorative practice for everyone](#)

- 4.23 In Q1 2023/24, 66% (n=12/18) referrals into BVCH had a Restorative Justice (RJ) follow up informing victims of their right to access RJ; all were given information about their rights under VCOP. This increased to 71% in Q2.
- 4.24 Restorative Approaches Training for Schools has commenced with 6 schools alongside 7 non-school training events that were held in Q1 2023/24 with voluntary sector providers, Unitas and Early Help settings; the training has reached over 150 participants. Feedback has been incredibly positive/
- 4.25 Restorative training has been delivered to 20 staff working in Barnet's residential children's home settings and follow up training has been requested to explore conflict de-escalation and Restorative Justice conferencing.
- 4.26 Fifteen Metropolitan Police Officers participated in the Restorative Justice refresher training course in Q2 2023/24. The course consisted of a bespoke package of activities designed around tuning into restorative dispositions, victim and perpetrator preparation, risk assessment and formal conferencing.

Good Practice:

- Good communication between YJS and the RJ Co-ordinator led to a joint approach with MO10 Prosecutions (Met Police) which supported team attendance at a network and training event in April 2023
- This led to a request for RJ refresher training for up to 50 Met Police officers, including those from Barnet.
- Intended outcome: a rise in the number of victims being informed of their right to RJ under VCOP
- Identification of named officers responsible for raising the profile of and ensuring the effective administration of RJ interventions in their BCU's.
- Stronger mechanisms for delivery and recording RJ interventions.

- 4.27 RJ coordinator hosted a successful Network Meeting with **45** attendees including police, youth settings and schools. The next Network Meeting is scheduled for Q3 in which schools will be invited to reflect and celebrate the early successes and recognised as *Restorative Champions*; their work will support the ambition to becoming a RJC Registered Restorative Organisation.
- 4.28 The RJ coordinator has completed 4 days of training at Essex Restorative and Mediation Service which is used to benchmark resources designed by the RJ coordinator and assess their suitability for submission to the Restorative Justice Council for accreditation. Accreditation is beneficial as it will raise the status of the Borough as an approved and verified RJ training provider.

4.29 Feedback from training has been positive, with all respondents agreeing that the training has improved confidence to explain RJ to a victim or perpetrator of crime, and to identify opportunities for RJ Interventions. Feedback from school reports:

“Have gained an insight into how Restorative Practice works and how it can benefit a school environment. It can be used to improve students’ behaviour and support staff in building/maintaining positive relationships with students. We have been given suggestions that we can build on and implement in our school”.

“There has been development of a shared affective language used across the school which is helping to support children when they are struggling to regulate. The idea of ramping up pro-social contact is drip feeding through to more and more staff – catch them doing the right thing and magnify it, normalise it and where possible ignore the negative behaviour”.

4.30 The RJ coordinator has taken the lead for chairing an anti-bullying group which supports the wider restorative approaches in schools and the aim of Barnet council becoming a registered restorative organisation. In Q3 there are plans to develop restorative pathways for victims of VAWG and for roll out of further training on restorative approaches.

4.31 The Restorative Justice Project Plan is set out below in Table 5.

Table 5. Restorative Justice Project Plan 2022- 2025

Project Area	Phase	Additional Information	Progress
Raise the profile of Restorative Practice	Year 1	Delivering training, attendance at variety of risk panels, working groups and networking events. Production of articles for internal and external press	In progress
Membership of RJC	Year 1	Membership acquired and active until 2026.	Completed
RP/J Training (Design and delivery)	Year 1 & 2	25 bespoke training packages designed and delivered in between Q2 & Q4 2023/24. Further delivery linked to emerging strategic priorities.	In progress
Quarterly Network Meetings	Year 1-3	3 hosted to date	In progress
Provide greater access to RJ for victims of crime	Year1-3	Linked to Barnet Victim Care Hub greater access is increasing with awareness raising and development of pathways for referral. Developed strategic partnership with Met Police Q1 2023/24. RJ awareness training developed and delivered to 75 Barnet-based officers is underway. Creating blueprint for Met-wide RJ roll out based on the Barnet Model	In Progress

Co-ordinate RJ via <i>existing</i> referral routes	Year 2	Commenced in Q4 2022/23 with the modification of Barnet Victim Care Hub resources to explicitly offer RJ signposting and via direct contact when appropriate. Appointment of new Victim Hub Co-ordinator will support completion of this aim in Year 3. Developing partnership with MPS means that <i>reported</i> crime is most likely to progress via their RJ pathway. Victims of unreported crime referred into BVCH will be offered access to RJ services. Press and literature to be designed to support this (including RJ Week 23/24).	On track
Establish network of RJ community providers	Year 2/3	Volunteer recruitment and MPS RJ to commence in Q2 2023/34	On track
Volunteer recruitment and training. (Emerging need)	Year 2	Supporting the expected increase in police RJ referrals and building links with the community. Feeds directly into delivery aims of A New Met for London.	
Training of Detached Workers (Emerging need)	Year 2	Emerging opportunity to raise awareness of and access to RJ via the newly appointed detached workers. Training to commence Q4 2024	
Establishment of <i>new</i> RJ referral routes	Year 2	Commenced in Q4 2022/24 alongside development of Barnet Victim Care Hub and RJ Coordinator role, pathways are on track for development with key agencies to access BVCH and CALM mediation. On-going Met Police work will see the establishment of a referral system in Barnet to enable frontline officers to connect VOC with Calm or BVCH (neighbour disputes for mediation) to explore RJ intervention.	On track
Accreditation RJC RRO	Year 3	Can only be achieved once organisation is operating restoratively within the 6 RJC identified parameters.	On track

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To update the Safer Community Partnership Board regarding the progress made in relation to the London Crime Prevention 2022-25 Funded Projects 'Victim Care Hub' and 'Restorative Justice'.

8.2 For the SCPB (Safer Communities Partnership Board) to recognise progress made against the ambitions of Victim Care Hub and Restorative Justice projects and the commitment of the local authority to meet the needs of victims of crime in the borough.

9 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

9.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

10 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 To deliver Year 3 of the Victim Care Hub and Restorative Justice Projects with the aim of building sustainability by widening the availability of victim focused and restorative approaches across the borough partnership.

11 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

Corporate Priorities and Performance

Corporate Plan

11.1 The Barnet corporate plan puts Caring for People, our Places, and the Planet at the heart of everything we do, with a commitment to create places that are clean, safe, and welcoming.

11.2 Family Friendly is a key driver of our corporate planning with the vision of “Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best.”

12 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

12.1 There are no current financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

13 Legal and Constitutional References

13.1 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 re-offending.

13.2 The BSCP (Barnet's Safeguarding Children's Partnership) 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.

13.3 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on local authorities in England to assess the need for accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse, prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support and monitor and evaluate its effectiveness. Prior to publishing a strategy, the local authority must consult the domestic abuse local partnership board and such other persons as the local authority considers appropriate.

13.4 The Victim's Bill 2023 makes provision for victims and others affected by criminal conduct; the Bill makes e appointment and functions of individuals to act as independent public advocates for victims of major incidents; about the release of prisoners; about the membership and functions of the Parole Board; to prohibit certain prisoners from forming a marriage or civil partnership; and for connected purposes.

13.5 Section 10 of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 amended the Offender Management Act 2007, placing a duty on the Secretary of State for Justice to ensure that arrangements for supervision or rehabilitation identify specific need and so make appropriate provision for women and vulnerable groups.

14 Insight

n/a

15 Social Value

15.1 The cost of offending and reoffending is set out in the 2018 Home Office report on the Economic and Social Cost of Crime (2nd edition). The report followed a cohort of offenders identified in 2016 who subsequently went on to reoffend during the 12-month follow up. The total estimated economic and social cost of reoffending was £18.1 billion. In addition, there is a further personal, familial and community cost which impacts on the lives of individuals, children and families and the communities that they live in.

15.2 Crime harm refers to the negative impacts of crime on individuals and society. While crime is often seen as a harm in its own right, the negative impacts related to any one incident will differ by the type of crime experienced as well as the perspective of the victim. These harms include a wide range of outcomes for both individuals, such as financial loss and physical harm, and for communities and wider society, such as fear of crime and increased use of health and victim services. (The impact of crime on victims and society, National Office Statistics, March 2022)

16 Risk Management

16.1 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.

17 Equalities and Diversity

17.1 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.

17.2 Elected Members are to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-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.

17.3 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.

17.4 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, the need to:

- Tackle prejudice, and
- Promote understanding.

17.5 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

17.6 The commitment to the Public Sector Equality Duty is set out in the council's Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy 2021-2025 which aims to actively tackle inequalities, foster good relationships

across our communities and recognise the contributions that people from different backgrounds make to life in our borough. Violence and offending affect all communities and there well documented racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system for children and adults that must be addressed. The Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy and action plans to reduce violence, recognises the intersectionality of protected characteristics, disadvantage, and discrimination. It is our aim for the borough to be a fair, inclusive and a safe place for all our communities. Where discrimination is tackled, hate crime is reported and dealt with promptly, and everyone feels safe to live their life.

18 Corporate Parenting

18.1 Many children who are cared for by the local authority have been exposed to domestic abuse prior to entry into care, as such are often young victims of the harms caused by domestic abuse in their parental relationships. Adverse childhood experiences can make children more vulnerable to domestic abuse, coercion, and control in relationships.

18.2 Children and young people in care and care experienced young people have a higher prevalence of adverse childhood experiences that may make them susceptible to grooming and coercion as such may be at an increased risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system. Children who are victims of crime have a higher prevalence of perpetrating a later crime. The importance of supporting victims early to prevent cyclical patterns of harm is a key strategic aim in tackling violence and exploitation which includes children and young people in care.

19 Consultation and Engagement

19.1 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.

19.2 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.

20 BACKGROUND PAPERS

21 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

21.1 To update the Safer Community Partnership Board regarding the progress made in relation to the Victim Care Hub and Restorative Justice projects.

21.2 For the SCPB to recognise progress made against the ambitions of the council in delivering support to victims of crime and in developing restorative justice approaches across the borough partnership.

22 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

22.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

23 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

23.1 To develop partnership-led and community informed local strategies to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and offending which will inform monitoring fora and governance arrangements for this comprehensive group of services.

23.2 Family Services will coordinate stakeholder meetings to explore key priorities and undertake public consultation and member engagement activities to agree local strategic priorities and plans for coordinated delivery.

Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-2027

London Borough of Barnet Safer Communities Partnership
Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022



Caring for people, our places and the planet



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Foreword

The Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027 has been developed by members of the Safer Communities Partnership Board together with young people, residents, and communities in Barnet.

Through consultation, focus groups and surveys, our strategy has been built around an understanding of the lived experiences, views, and suggestions of local people. This has supported the development of our priorities and objectives, providing the framework within which we will focus our efforts and build on our progress in combatting serious violence.

The Safer Communities Partnership Board would like to thank the vast array of services, community groups and volunteers that work to make Barnet a safer place for all its residents - it is through your care, commitment, and tenacity, that the ambitions of the Partnership are made possible.

The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Analysis conducted in 2023, has shown a positive reduction in incidences of serious violence over the past year, and has also highlighted the areas in which we need to focus our shared efforts, so we can continue to reduce prevalence together, through the framework of this 3-year strategy.

The devastating impact of Serious Violence on victims, their families, and the communities that they live within requires a whole system response from our Partnership. It requires a commitment to continuing to engage, listen and work with local communities, to learn about their experiences, strengths, and challenges so we can build solutions to preventing violence together.

It also requires a continued commitment to ensuring those in our community who are disadvantaged by racial, social, and economic inequalities are not disproportionately affected by Serious Violence - we make clear these commitments in our Serious Violence Strategy.

Through the development of a Violence Reduction Action Plan, the Partnership will drive effective and outcome-focused activities to prevent incidences of serious violence in the community with progress monitored through the Safer Communities Partnership Board.

On behalf of the Safer Communities Partnership Board, I am pleased to present Barnet's Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027.

Cllr Sara Conway

Chair of Safer Communities Partnership Board



2. Executive Summary

Under the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State within Chapter 1, Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (the PCSC Act). This Strategy has been produced on behalf of Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership to support organisations and authorities exercising functions in relation to the Serious Violence Duty 2023.

Community Safety Partnerships were introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities. Responsible authorities that make up Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership are the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, Barnet Council, Public Health, and Probation Services.

The strategy has been developed using information collated from a comprehensive strategic needs assessment (SNA) completed in October 2023 which provides an evidence-based analysis of the local profile, causes and contributing factors of serious violence. It has been informed by data and feedback collated from specified authorities, local communities and organisations providing support in Barnet, the guidance set out in the Serious Violence Duty 2023 and national research. The SNA sets out priorities for the Safer Communities Partnership ('the Partnership') to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Throughout this strategy a child is up to the age of 18 and a young person is between the ages of 18 to 25.

Support the development of universal and standardised support that is place-based in local schools and communities.

Key recommendations:

- Strengthen partnership working for a coordinated whole system approach to preventing and tackling violent offending in the borough.
- Learn from and build on the successes of existing local projects and services that are targeted at preventing and reducing crime, violence, and exploitation.
- Build on the early success of the “Clear Hold Build” approach to improve community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviours in areas with higher levels of violent offending.
- Support the development of universal and standardised support that is place-based in local schools and communities, with a focus on:
 - Empowering parents and carers
 - Preventative education approaches
 - Pro-active and evidenced-informed support for 10 to 25-year-olds at the greatest risk of exploitation, offending and violence.
- Ensure robust and early support is in place for those most vulnerable to serious violence including 10–24-year-olds with special educational needs (SEN) and/or additional needs arising from neurodiverse conditions.
- Proactively monitor and tackle disproportionate representation in communities affected by violence by building data into key performance indicators and evaluation of all services.
- Effectively engage and coproduce solutions to local problems with local people
- Promote the development of victim support services for males as a high-risk group.
- Monitor and proactively intervene to reduce the risk of exclusion from education (including children subject to ‘managed moves’), employment and training.
- Develop a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing knife-enabled offending.
- Align the strategic priorities wider partnership initiatives and workstreams including the Combatting Drugs Partnership, Community Safety Strategy, Reducing Offending Partnership, Youth Justice Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, Tackling Exploitation Strategy with the Serious Violence Strategy



3. Introduction

Following public consultation in July 2019¹, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty (“the Duty”) The Duty is a key part of the Government’s programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence².

The Government’s growing concerns with the rising incidence of serious violent crime in England and Wales is attributed to the surge in weapon-related offences, domestic abuse, and sexual offences.

These offences not only have a profound negative impact on those involved, on their families and the community but also impose a substantial financial burden on public services.

As a ‘duty holder’, the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) is required to work together to prevent and tackle violent offending. Using local knowledge, the partnership will maintain open and genuine dialogue that enables active listening and joint problem-solving with local communities to develop effective prevention, diversion and targeted approaches that improve the safety and wellbeing of all residents.

To achieve lasting change organised criminal groups must be disrupted, the normalisation of violent offending, weapon carrying and belief that violence is inevitable must be challenged and the fear of reprisals and distrust in reporting must be broken down so there are no barriers to change.

The Strategy will be underpinned by a Violence & Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan that will draw on relevant research³, best practice and local insights to deliver its aims.



1 Serious Violence New Legal Duty
2 Serious Violence Duty Guidance
3 The role of systems of support in serious youth violence: evidence and gaps (publishing.service.gov.uk)

3.1 Definition of Serious Violence

Serious Violence is defined by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) as:

Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences. Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The impact of the pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis has increased financial hardship for many. Social isolation and limited access to key services during the pandemic led to a reported increase in drug and alcohol use and mental health needs. Further, the disruption to organised criminal groups involved in the sale and supply of illicit drugs created new opportunities for territory and business.

Between October 2022 to October 2023 there were:

485 knife-related offences, a rate of 1.2 per 1000 population - a 31% increase in the rolling 12 months.

63 gun-related offences, a rate of 0.2 per 1000 population - a 94% increase in the rolling 12 months.

1,184 drug-related offences, a rate of 3 per 1000 population - an 8% increase in the rolling 12 months.

3,583 domestic abuse-related offences, a rate of 9 per 1000 population and - an 8.5% increase in the rolling 12 months.

753 sexual offences, a rate of 1.9 per 1000 population - a 3.3% decrease in the rolling 12 months.

3.2 Barnet Context | Summary of SNA Findings

Barnet's Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment sets out the local profile of violent offending. Between October 2022 and October 2023, there were 35,753 offences, resulting in an offence rate of 89.6 per 1000 population in the borough. In the rolling 12-month period to October 2023, offence rates in the borough increased by 5%. Barnet, alongside many other London boroughs saw an increase in violent offending following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions on movement in public spaces.

3.2.2 Violent Offending - Under 25s

Police data identifies under 25's to have a greater prevalence of violent offending.

This can be attributed to a higher prevalence of involvement in street gangs/group offending and/or the exploitation of children and young people by organised criminal groups.

Weapon - Related Offences

Knife crime in the borough poses a particular concern for the community and disproportionately affects young adults, particularly those from Black and other racially minoritised communities. There was a notable increase in the volume of knife crime offences between April and July 2023 and 46 individuals aged under 25 years were victims of knife-related crimes between October 2022 to October 2023.

Adverse life experiences such as exposure to domestic abuse, parental mental health, adult offending, social and educational exclusion are well-documented causal factors to youth offending. Barnet's Youth Justice Service (YJS) data shows an increase in robbery incidents within the 10-18-year-old group in addition to an increase in robbery, theft and burglary offences with bladed articles used for threat rather than causing actual injuries.

In the rolling 12 months to October 2023, stop and search was conducted on 3,515 occasions; 93% of individuals stopped and searched were males⁴. Young adults aged 18-25 years accounted for 31.4% of stop and search incidents, of which 65.3% were for searches for drugs, and 17.5% for weapons and bladed articles. 530 children aged 14 to 17 years were subject to stop and search, of which 43% were searches for drugs and 26.4% for weapons and bladed articles.

This strategy will align to the strategic priorities and action plans of Barnet's Community Safety Strategy 2022 - 2027⁵, Youth Justice Plan 2023 -25⁶ and Reducing Offending Partnership.

⁴ MPS Stop and Search Monthly Report | Tableau Public

⁵ Community Safety Strategy 2022-27

⁶ Youth Justice Plan 2023-25

London Ambulance Service data shows that responses to serious violence crimes in Barnet predominantly involve young males aged 16-25 years.

In 2022, those aged between 16-20 years had the highest prevalence; the age range increased to 16-25-year-olds in 2023. Similarly, hospital admissions in England increased for 18-24-year-olds, with knife injuries increasing by 62% from 2021.

The data provides evidence of increased risk and vulnerability for the 16-24-year-old age group as victims of violent crime.

The correlation between individuals carrying offensive weapons for protection and victims of serious violence is high, alongside an increased risk of violence escalation, injury, and fatality.



Drug-Related Offending

The Combatting Drugs Partnership has conducted a Strategic Needs Assessment which underpins the Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan⁷.

The SNA shows that the number of drug offences in Barnet is 2.4 per 1000 population is lower than the London rate of 4.8 in 2023.

There is a higher rate of drug related offending in the west of the borough (Fig.2), although recorded crime rates can be directly affected by proactive neighbourhood policing.

In the year February 2022 - January 2023; data reports 67% of drug-related offences pertain to possession, and 33% involve the supply of controlled drugs. 25% of drug trafficking offences led to sanction detentions and 56% of possession offences resulted in sanction detentions. The data shows a higher prevalence of drug users facing criminal charges than drug dealers/traffickers.

62% of stop and search incidents between October 2022 - October 2023 were searches for drugs; 47% were searches on individuals aged under 25 years, of which 94% were male. Positive outcomes were made in 49% of the stop and searches conducted with community resolution, penalty notice, postal charge requisition, or caution outcomes. Barnet's Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan has been developed to tackle the impact of drug use/dependency, drug dealing, including county lines, and wider impact of social harm caused by drug related offending in the borough.



Rate of drug offences

- less than 1 per 1,000
- 1 to 1.5 per 1,000
- 1.5 to 2 per 1,000
- 2 to 3 per 1,000
- 3 to 5 per 1,000
- over 5 per 1,000

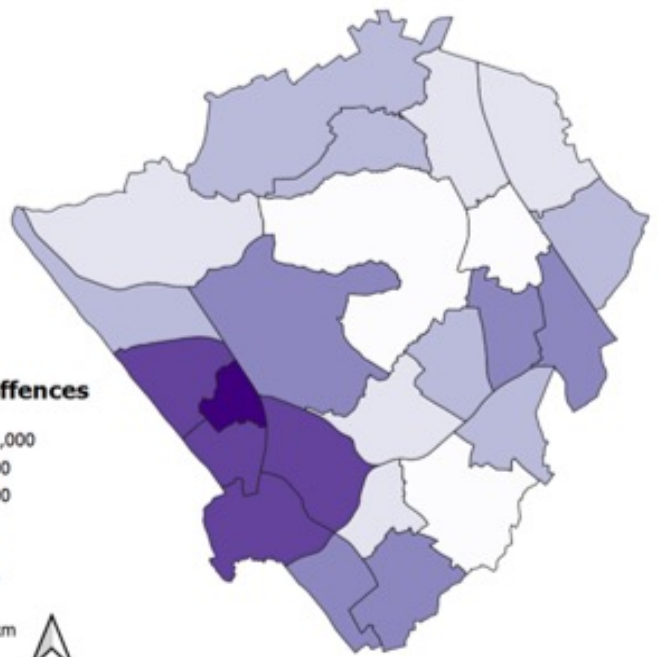


Figure 1. Heat map showing drug offences by ward.

Demographics



Figure 2. Summary of key demographic findings for under 25's

- 8 Academic Insights 2021/13: Serious youth violence and its relationship with adverse childhood experiences (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)
- 9 Young people's experiences of serious youth violence: Care not criminalisation - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)
- 10 National protocol on reducing criminalisation of looked-after children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Males commit more crime than females and young males are over-represented in both victim and offending data for incidences of serious violence. Over the two-year period between 2021 and 2023, there has been a 7% increase in females involved in serious violence incidents, rising from 8% to 15%. Many of these incidents are associated with various forms of criminal exploitation and it should be noted that females face similar risks of physical harm and violence as males as victims of exploitation.

Youth Justice data indicates that males accounted for 84% of violent offences in the period 2021 to March 2023, with half of all violent offending in the cohort being aged 10-14 years. Children from Black and racially minoritised communities are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and this is addressed in Barnet's Youth Justice Plan.

Children involved with YJS are also more likely to have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) including exposure to domestic abuse, parental offending/substance misuse and mental health needs and structural inequalities which are well evidenced as risk factors for offending⁸. Barnet Council has invested in the provision of Child and Family Early Help Services and children and young people's mental health provision with the aim of identifying early those at the greatest risk of entry statutory services including Children's Social Care, the youth justice system mental health services with the aim of intervening early to minimise the risk of problems escalating.

Children in care and care experienced young people can be criminalised by the care system⁹. A national protocol has been developed to reduce unnecessary criminalisation of children in care¹⁰ by recognising that children in care experiences can contribute to behaviours that make them particularly vulnerable to involvement in the Youth Justice System and sets out a need for preventative approaches, early intervention and appropriate responses when children and young people do offend.

Incident Involvement

Young people are more likely to be a victim, than perpetrator of a serious violence offence. Data shows a 43% reduction in the number of young people in Barnet being identified as suspects in the period 2021 to 2023.

Victims of violent offences are more likely to become perpetrators of violent crime and often starts with carrying a knife to protect themselves from further victimisation. The council developed a Victim Hub Coordinator role with London Crime Prevention Funding 2022 – 2025 which has enabled a sufficient response to the Victims Bill (2023) and aims to improve the experience of victims of serious violence.

The Victims Hub Coordinator project is underpinned by three key objectives:

- To improve victim satisfaction and feelings of safety across the borough
- Victims receive better support from the Police and Criminal Justice System, including in online interaction.
- Increase the use of the Victims Code of Practice, revised 2021.

Incident Locations

Incidents of serious violence has reduced by 40% in street locations, against a rise in incidents in parks and public open spaces.

The locations are isolated to areas where drug dealing activity and gang tensions are more prevalent. Some incidences of serious violence have taken place in areas where there is an active nighttime economy or high footfall i.e., public transport hubs.

The Victims Hub triaged 127 referrals in the period December 2022 to September 2023, with 95% receiving information about their rights in relation to the Victims Code of Practice, 89% being supported with safety personal and home safety measure and 67% being signposted to trauma services.

The Victims Hub commissioned Calm Mediation in 2023/24 to work with up to 10 cases that require and meet the threshold for community/ neighbour mediation and/or inter-familial conflict.

Since its development in December 2022, the Victim Hub has worked with 26 partner services to raise awareness, deliver training, improve referral pathways, and enable tailored victim care pathways.

School Exclusions and Serious Violence

In Barnet there are 132 schools, and as Barnet's Children and Young People's Plan 2023 -2027¹¹ sets out the strong attainment and educational provision for most children living in the borough.

In the 2022/23 academic year, 65 students were excluded from education, an increase from 24 in 2021/22. The increase reflects an increase in social, emotional and behavioural difficulties arising from the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exclusion reasons are primarily:

- **Physical assault/Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)**
- **Possession of a knife or sharp object**
- **Possession of illicit drugs and substances**

20% of those children and young people excluded from school have either Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). Children with SEN and/or social, emotional and behavioural needs are particularly vulnerable grooming and exploitation.

This strategy aims to ensure that children and young people with SEN and/or neurodiverse conditions are provided with the support they need early to prevent exclusion, exploitation and vulnerability to incidences of serious violence.

Barnet is the regional lead for SEND and the Youth Justice Service has Quality Lead Status for SEND. To strengthen this work further, this Strategy will align to ambitions of Barnet's Special Educational Needs Strategy 2021-2024¹².

11 CYP Plan 2024 (barnet.gov.uk)

12 SEND Strategy 2021 - 2024

3.3 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences

In the rolling 12 months to October 2023, there were 3,583 instances of domestic abuse-related offences equating to a rate of 9 per 1000 population and reflecting an 8.5% increase. Out of these, 805 cases (22.4%) led to injuries for the victims.

In the rolling 12 months to October 2023, there were 752 instances of sexual offences equating to a rate of 1.9 per 1000 population and reflecting an 18.8% decrease. Out of these, 286 cases (38%) were rape-related offences.

Barnet’s Domestic Abuse (DA) & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2022-25¹³ is underpinned by a multi-agency action plan to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), support victims and engage perpetrators in change behaviours.

The VAWG Delivery Group is a subgroup to Barnet’s Safer Community Partnership which drives and monitors progress against the five partnership priorities within Barnet’s DA & VAWG Strategy 2022-25, which are:

1. Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG.
2. Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover.
3. Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families.
4. Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes.
5. Working together for safer streets, community, and public spaces.



Figure 3. Barnet support services offered to victims and perpetrators of DA and VAWG

13 Barnet VAWG strategy.pdf



4. Consultation & Engagement

The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy have been developed through inter-agency data sharing and consultation with key stakeholders and residents.

This has included focus groups, online surveys and ward walkabouts that have promoted engagement with 50+ children and young people, 200 professionals, and input from residents, businesses, and members.

Feedback from local communities highlight the need for engagement and consultation to be ongoing rather than one off process, and for the engagement to be open to challenge and lived experience but to also celebrate the richness and diversity of the borough.

Barnet’s Community Participation Strategy¹⁴ and ‘My Say Matters’: Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy 2022-25¹⁵,” set out the council’s commitment to engagement with residents of all ages.

Engagement is an ongoing and not one-off process.

14 Community participation strategy | Barnet Council
15 Barnet Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy 2022 - 2025

Violence will never be a deemed “a normal or accepted” occurrence.

Through this strategy, this commitment will be met in the following ways:

- Leadership and participation by the Partnership in community engagement meetings, including resident ward meetings, community walkabouts and public facing events.
- Regular liaison with local ward councillors to listen and respond to local concerns about serious violence.
- Providing opportunities for community representation in partnership meetings focused on addressing serious violence.
- Supporting accessible reporting pathways for residents, young people, and businesses for rising community tensions, leading to proactive engagement to reduce incidences of serious violence.

The consultation highlighted a difference between the resident’s perception and fear of violence and the likelihood of incidents taking place, which are devastating but rare. The long-term impact on communities affected by serious violence can erode confidence in professional systems of help and support and feed into collective and harmful narratives that violence is inevitable and commonplace.

The Partnership will work to ensure there are ‘no go areas’ in the borough by supporting safer streets in which local communities are able to move freely without fear of violence.

The Partnership will achieve this by:

- Preventative and proactive presence in the community, not just when things go wrong, or an incident has taken place.
- Challenging narratives that serious violence is inevitable and a ‘normal’ occurrence in local communities.
- Partnership presence in community events, including those that celebrate the rich diversity of people living in the borough.
- Clear and accessible mechanisms to report concerns about resident safety, crime, and incidences of violence.
- Ensure incidences of violence recognise collective grief and respond to collective trauma when incidents of violence occur.



Prevention and Early Identification

Grassroot providers, faith groups and local voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations provide trusted and safe spaces for many young people and residents. Their place in the community provides insights into community strengths, concerns, and local tensions. Through this strategy the Partnership will:

- Work with and support local communities to develop localised plans to meet local need and address local concerns.
- Work in partnership with local communities to proactively deploy available resource aimed at providing outreach support to young people aged 18-25 years.
- Share information and intelligence aimed at coordinating and targeting resource to prevent and reduce risk of serious violence.
- Develop awareness raising and training materials aimed at reducing serious violence in partnership with parent champions, young people, key stakeholders, and local businesses.

Build capacity in services and communities to respond to violence and escalated.

The partnership will support sustainability of approaches to prevention, diversion, and disruption by building capacity in local communities, the Partnership will achieve this by:

- Building confidence and skills in restorative approaches and raising awareness of support and services available for victims of both reported and unreported incidents of serious violence.
- Facilitating clear escalation pathways for reporting concerns about serious violence leading to proactive partnership activity and deployment of resources aimed at promoting safer communities including CCTV, proactive patrols, community health programmes and special measures on properties.
- Communicating clearly on how it is keeping residents safe from serious violence, listen and respond to feedback on the progress it is making.
- Building capacity in existing partnership forums addressing serious violence to incorporate community voices that can influence local planning and delivery of services to prevent and tackle serious violence.
- Engaging with resident associations, parents, and local communities in the development of new services to prevent and/or tackle serious violence.
- Ensuring marginalised communities can access information, support and services and enabled to have a voice in how the partnership responds to issues of serious violence that affect them.



5. Funding and Resources

5.1 Prevention and Reduction Activities

Capacity and Development and Delivery

The SNA sets out the risk to delivery of short-term funded projects, without which, the challenges to meeting the aims of this strategy are increased.

Through this strategy the Partnership will:

- Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to review the effectiveness of services and localised projects to assess their impact and value.
- As far as possible we will ensure that services and projects with time-limited funding are sustainable through local capacity building.

Development of Services

Several local projects have been developed by the council to tackle offending, anti-social behaviour, perpetrator behaviour and serious violence. Currently, external funding provides c.£1m per annum for short term and ring-fenced projects that supplement delivery of core council services.

The Community, Voluntary, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector rely upon bids and charitable donations to deliver the excellent range of place-based support available to communities and young people throughout the borough.

The externally funded projects delivered by the council are outlined below, most are funded to 2025. Monitoring and KPI information against the projects is shared with funders through quarterly returns:



Project Delivery 2022-2025

Name and source of fund	Amount per annum	Description of funded activity	Funding breakdown (if possible)	
London Crime Prevention Fund (MOPAC)	£40,750	Restorative Approaches/Justice Capacity and Network Coordinator – Support the development of Restorative approaches through training to key stakeholders	2022/23 2023-25	£42,050 £81,500 Total £123,550
	£45,000	Victims' Rights Capacity and Network Coordinator – Support the development and capacity of key stakeholders to understand Victims' Rights and victims' access to services.	2022-25	Total £135,000
	£65,000	Transitional Safeguarding Youth2Adult Offenders – Supportive & Preventative Pathways provided by a Barnet-based Ex-Offender Mentoring Academy. Focused on the most persistent, prolific, and violent offenders open to Integrated Offender Management Services providing outreach support 7 days per week and out of hours. Mentoring is provided by ex-offenders with lived experience of the CJS. Building trust, empowerment, offering training qualifications and hands on support to complete & work with Housing, MH, Drugs/Alcohol, benefits, demystifying application processes and assisting with CV writing and eventually employment. Supporting individuals to make positive life choices.	2022/23 2023-25	£67,000 £131,000 Total £198,000
	£30,000	Hate Crime Reporting Project – Recruiting, training, and supporting community and voluntary organisations as 3rd party reporting centres for Hate Crime – expanding reporting to support all forms of hate crime including ASB/VAWG. The centres will also receive a package of training including Hate Crime reporting, safeguarding, and WRAP training.	2022 –25	Total £90,000
	£158,000	ASB Project – Responding to repeat, persistent ASB locations and supporting repeat victims. Putting victims at the heart of the Council's response to ASB and delivering enhanced multi-agency interventions to bring relief to neighbourhoods suffering from persistent and complex ASB.	2022 –25	Total £475,00

Name and source of fund	Amount per annum	Description of funded activity	Funding breakdown (if possible)
Violence Reduction Unit (MOPAC)	£85,435	Community Capacity Network Coordinator – Supporting the development of capacity in community organisations to respond to localised tensions and incidents of violence.	2023/24 - £85,435 One year funding
	Variable	Detached Engagement Youth Workers – Detached engagement work in our key areas of emerging violence and crime to engage with young people an adults’ up to the age of 25. To signpost to advice information and positive activities.	2023/24 £6,456 2024/25 £19,496 2025/26 £9,888 Total £35,840
	£145,000	MOPAC – Risk of Exclusions – Youth work support in partnership with schools to identify children and young people most at risk or vulnerable to exclusion from education and/or anti-social behaviour, criminal, or sexual exploitation.	2022 –25 Total £435,000
	£82,000	Engage Mentoring - Mentoring Project at the critical moment of a young person being arrested, mentoring is provided to establish a relationship and understand wider needs and vulnerabilities that possibly lead to causal factors of the arrest. Mentoring supports diversion and engagement in positive activities.	2023/24 £194,000 One year funding
	£100,00	Turnaround – Youth Workers based in NW BCU police custody suites, providing early intervention for children and young people who have been arrested, diverting them towards positive activities	2023 -25 Total £200,000
	£31,250	Parent Champions – In partnership with Active Successful Engagement (ASÉ)to engage parent champions from local communities in training to become mentors and peer support networks for other parents	2022-25 Total £62,500
	Variable	Your Choice – Providing Clinical Supervision and Training to practitioners in the REACH (adolescents at risk Social Work Team) and Youth Justice Team to deliver CBT interventions and tailored packages of support to young people at risk of violence and offending	2022/23 £116,000 2023/24 £97,777 2024/25 £30,000 Total £187,777
	Variable	Serious Violence Duty – Expand Detached Targeted Violence Reduction Youth Workers to reach young adults. Deliver SNA on behalf of CPSB and produce a Serious Violence Strategy with a multi-agency delivery plan	2022/23 £10,767 2023/24 £39,728 2024/25 £29,148 Total £79,643

Name and source of fund	Amount per annum	Description of funded activity	Funding breakdown (if possible)
Health Education England	£101,000	Liaison & Diversion/Clinical Practitioner Barnet Youth Justice Team – providing mental health screening and signposting to mental health services for children who in police detention and/or open to the Youth Justice Service	£101,000 annually
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	£81,000	Turnaround Programme - Providing support to all children at risk of entry into the Youth Justice System, to prevent them from offending and offer a needs-assessment and the earliest opportunity for support.	2023/24 £81,000 One year funding
Home Office	Pan-London - £895,466	Drive is an intensive, coordinated multi agency response to domestic abuse (DA) perpetrators to change their behaviour with a focus on increasing victim safety, working alongside and complimenting existing interventions. Drive has secured £1,790,932 funding from the Home Office DA Perpetrator Fund to support delivery of services pan-London	2023-25 (Pan-London - £1,790,932.20)
MOPAC plus match funding from 10 partner boroughs	£697,385 across 10 boroughs	CIFA (Culturally Integrated Family Approach) provides targeted, multi-faceted domestic abuse services for racialised, marginalised communities, through a coordinated family and community approach. Individuals' risks and needs are identified through a specialist suitability assessment, and considered for culturally grounded interventions, delivered by Rise Mutual CiC, and led by Barnet Council The current funding ends March 2025.	2023-25 - £1,394,770 (across 10 boroughs)
Youth Justice Board	£342,887	Annual Youth Justice Grant – to support crime prevention and desistance activities provided by the Youth Justice Service	2023/24 -£342,887 (variable annual grant)

Externally funded services are monitored and evaluated by the There are more than 200 community groups and charity organisations working with children and young people in Barnet and who are members of Young Barnet Foundation; these include a number of community-based organisations working with youth, and those affected by violence including, but not exclusive to Art Against Knives, Centre of Excellence CiC, Colindale Community Trust, FUSE, Khulisa, Lift CiC, MAC-UK, Mencap, The 4Front Project, The Flowerbank Project, Unitas Youth Zone, Volunteer-it-Yourself, and Youth Realities.

Many of these organisations have operational links to Child & Family Early Help Services and Youth Justice Services, there are some strategic links to the Partnership, but these should be strengthened through this strategy to support whole system working for communities.

6. Delivering the Strategy

6.1 Local Partnership Arrangements

Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership works to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and offending, and promote social cohesion. It acts as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and is required to:

- Formulate a Community Safety Strategy for agreement by the Council; and
- Ensure that resources are effectively deployed across the Police, Council, criminal justice agencies and other public services in support of the strategy to make the maximum impact.

More information on Barnet's Safety Community Partnership Board and the membership can be found here: [Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board](#).

The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership will lead on the implementation of the strategy and ensure compliance with the Serious Violence Duty 2023.

The Community Safety Partnership reports to the Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. As the Serious Violence Strategy is focused on young people under the age of 25 years, it is intersectional with the Children's Education and Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee and several local strategies and plans, including:

- Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2027¹⁶
- Children and Young People's Plan 2023 – 2027¹⁷
- Youth Justice Plan 2023 – 2025¹⁸
- Child & Family Early Help Strategy 2023 – 2027¹⁹
- Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022 - 2025²⁰
- SEND Strategy 2021 -2025²¹
- Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan²²
- Tackling Exploitation Strategy 2024 – 2027 (in development for publication in 2024)



16 Community Safety Strategy 2022 - 2027

17 Children and Young People's Plan 2023 - 2027

18 Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2025

19 Child & Family Early Help Strategy 2023 - 2027

20 Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022 - 2025

21 SEND Strategy 2021 - 2024

22 Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan



Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership works to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and offending, and promote social cohesion.

Governance & Board Interface Framework

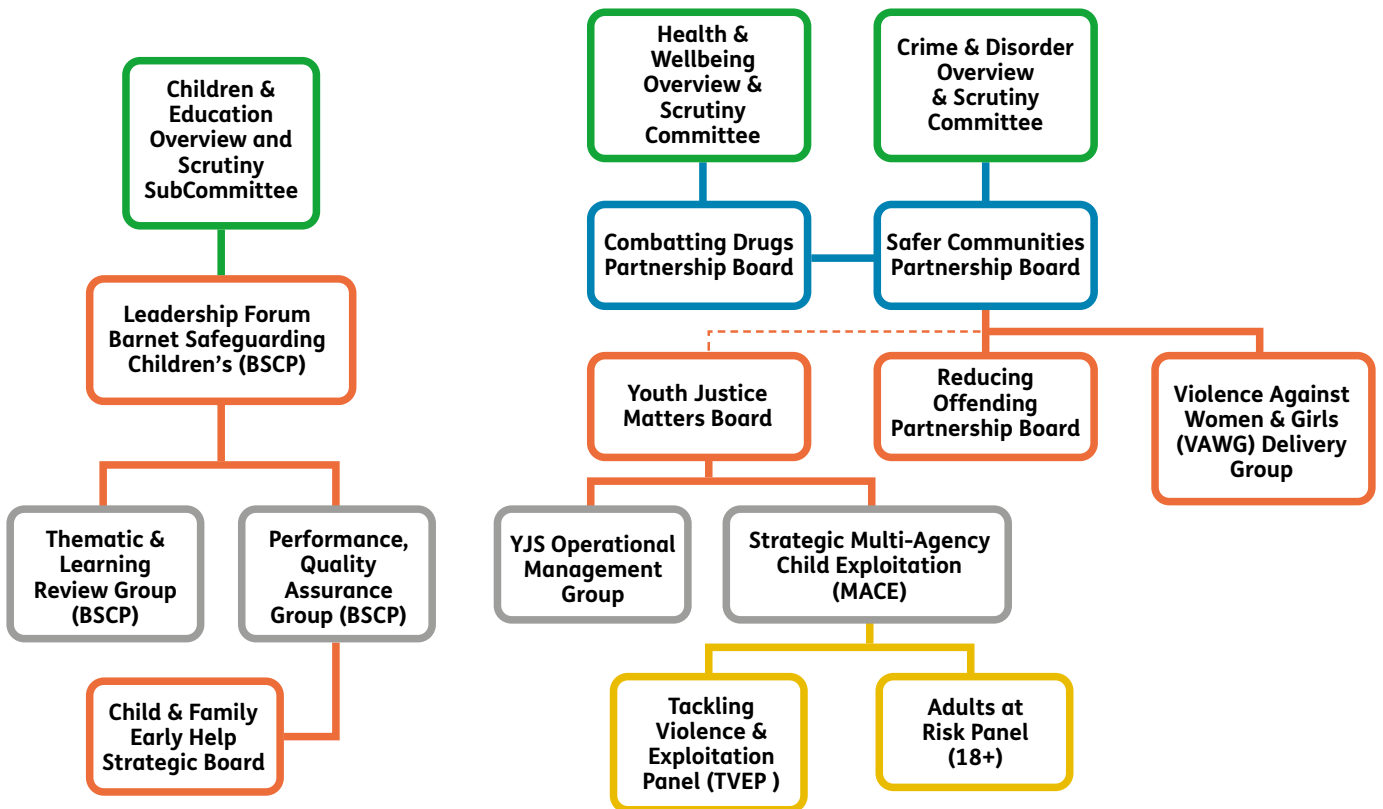


Figure 4. Governance & Board Interface Framework

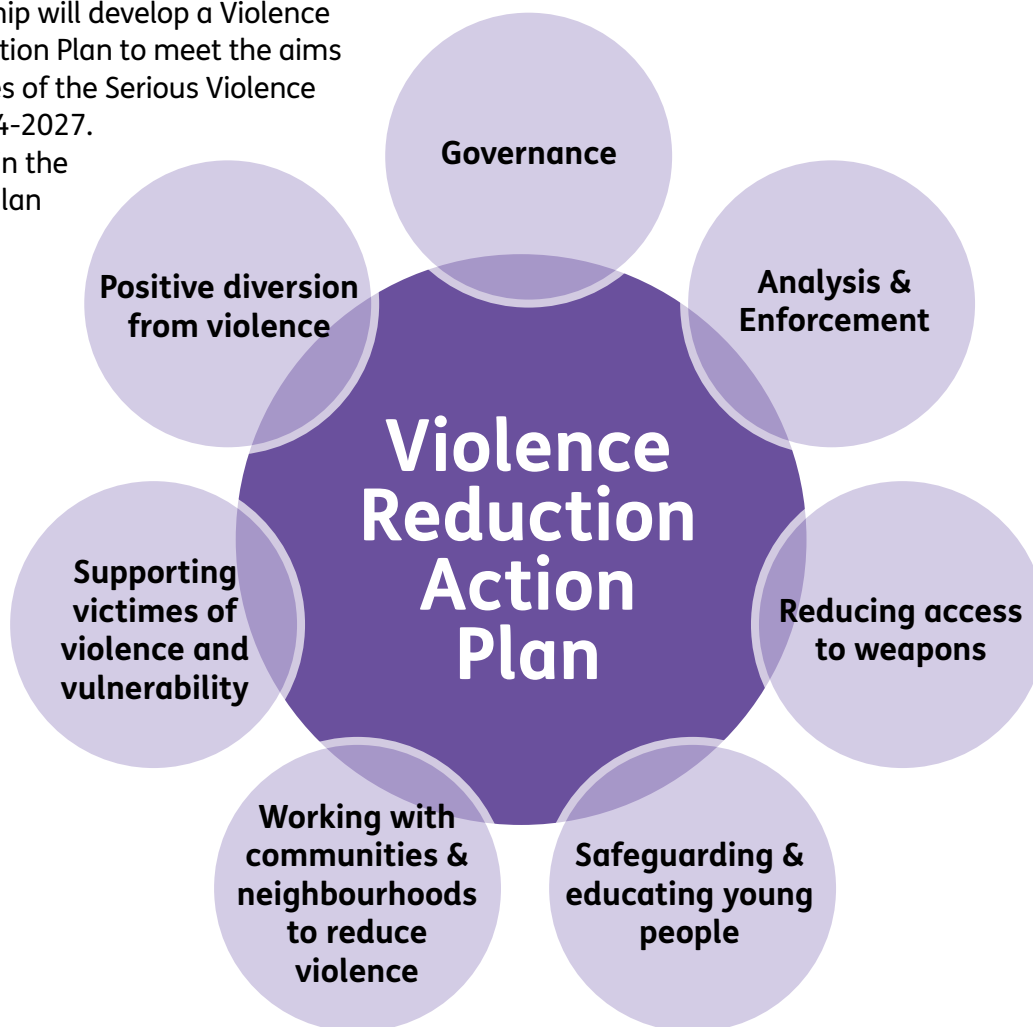
7. Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

The Strategic Needs Assessment has informed the following strategic objectives for the Safer Communities Partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence:

Objective 1	Build upon and strengthen existing partnership initiatives through a coordinated and whole system approach, aligning local strategic ambitions for combatting drugs, tackling, modern slavery, violence against women & girls, reducing offending, tackling exploitation and serious violence.
Objective 2	Build upon local community, child and parent participation approaches to engage local communities in coproduced problem-solving activities.
Objective 3	Raise public awareness of the individual, community and social harm caused by violence through targeted campaigns
Objective 4	Engage perpetrators of all forms of violence in behaviour change programmes and ensure justice is served.
Objective 5	Support the development of a place-based approach in local schools and communities, with a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering parents and carers • Preventative education approaches • Meeting the emerging needs of children and young people with special educational needs • Pro-active and evidenced-informed support for 10 to 25-year-olds at the greatest risk of exploitation, offending and violence.
Objective 6	Strengthen victim support, ensuring accessible and trauma-informed support is available to all victims of serious violence
Objective 7	Share and use data across the partnership to inform and monitor the development and effectiveness of services aimed at preventing and tackling serious violence.

The Partnership will develop a Violence Reduction Action Plan to meet the aims and objectives of the Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027.

Themes within the local action plan will focus on:



The responsible authorities ('duty holders') of the Serious Violence Duty are:

- Metropolitan Police (NW BCU).
- London Fire Brigade
- London Ambulance Services.
- London Borough of Barnet Adult Services, Community Safety, Family Services (including Youth Justice, Domestic Abuse & VAWG and Reducing Offending)
- London Probation Services
- Health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- Housing
- Public Health
- Education

Date for review/annual review mechanism:

This Strategy document will be reviewed annually; with the next review due by 31st March 2025.

Progress of this strategy, the objectives set out within it and the local action plan, will be reviewed at quarterly Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board meetings.

Summary of annual assessment of progress:

This section will be populated 12 months after the Strategy is produced and will provide a summary of the annual assessment of the partnership's performance against the previous years' strategy.

8. Appendix

8.1 Common Acronyms

ACE	Adverse Childhood Experiences
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BSCP	Barnet Safer Communities Partnership
BSCP B	Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board
CHB	Clear Hold Build
DA	Domestic Abuse
EHCP	Education, Health, and Care Plan
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm
IRIS	Identification & Referral to Improve Safety
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MOPAC	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
MPS	Metropolitan Police Service
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability
SNA	Strategic Needs Assessment
SVD	Serious Violence Duty
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VCOP	Victims Code of Practice
YJS	Youth Justice Service

9. Acknowledgments

The London Borough of Barnet would like to thank the individuals, organisations and partner agencies who contributed to the development of this strategy, including:

- Barnet children and young people
- Residents
- Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb
- Met Police (NW BCU)
- London of Barnet – Community Safety Team, Violence and Exploitation Team, Early Help, Youth Justice Service, DA MARAC, DA and VAWG team, Strategy and Engagement team
- Barnet Education & Learning Services (BELS)
- London Probation Service
- The many voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations involved in the consultation.
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.
- Public Health Team
- Barnet Combatting Drugs Partnership Board
- The Chair and Members of the London Borough of Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board



Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-2027

London Borough of Barnet Safer Communities Partnership

Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022



www.barnet.gov.uk

Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

November 2023

Barnet Safer Communities Partnership

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DRAFT

1 Introduction and Summary

Under the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State within Chapter 1, Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (the PCSC Act). This Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) has been produced on behalf of Barnet's Community Safety Partnership to support organisations and authorities exercising functions in relation to the Serious Violence Duty 2023, to formulate a Serious Violence Strategy.

The SNA provides a comprehensive evidence-based analysis of the local profile, causes and contributing factors of serious violence. It is informed by information and feedback collated from specified authorities, local communities and organisations providing support in Barnet and, provides the basis from which solutions to reduce serious violence can built.

Serious Violence is defined by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) as: *'Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences. Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021'*.

1.1 Key findings

- Males under the age of 25 are most affected by and involved in incidents of serious violence.
- Barnet's crime profile reports violence against the person, burglary, theft and robbery as the highest crime types in the borough; a similar profile is reported for under 25's in the borough.
- Youth Justice Service (YJS) data shows a 63% increase in the number of 10 to 18-year-olds found in possession of a weapon in 2023 compared to reported data in 2022. The increase is relative to an increase in robbery offences.
- 873 individuals aged between 14 to 17 years were subject to stop and search. Among them, 44.6% were related to drugs and 28.5% were associated with weapons, points, and blades. This aligns with the increasing trend observed in Barnet youth justice data, specifically concerning individuals aged between 10 to 18 carrying blades and knives. The prevalence of sharp weapons appears to be pronounced among young males.
- While YJS data indicates that drug-related offending among 10 to 18-year-olds is relatively low, the offending data from the Metropolitan Police reveals an 18% increase in drug-related offences.
- Over the past year, there were 3,325 stop and search incidents of which 67.2% were related to potential drug offences. 49% of the stop and search resulted in positive outcomes such as arrest, community resolution, penalty notice, postal charge requisition, or caution. The remaining 51% resulted in no further action.
- The majority of stop and search incidents, amounting to 31.9%, carried out from January 2022 to October 2023 targeted young male adults aged 18-25.

- In 2023, there has been a 40% reduction in serious violence incidences in the community, against a rise of violent incidents at public transport hubs and restaurants in the borough.
- In 2023, there has been a 43% reduction in the number of young people residing in Barnet being identified as suspects in incidents of violence in the community.
- Sexual assaults have increased by 89% since 2021; there is a correlation between deprivation and rates of violent crime and sexual offences; Barnet's overall figure for economic activity is 64.57%.
- There are very low rates of children and adults of Asian ethnicity in serious violence, child exploitation and missing data. A recent 9% increase in reported crime from those identifying as Asian may indicate an increase in awareness and trust.
- The number of young people excluded from school due to involvement in a serious violent crime has risen from 24 to 65, of which 69% were male and 12% have Special Education Needs (SEN) and/or have an Education, Health, Care Plan (EHCP).
- Feedback from community engagement underscores the necessity for enhanced multi-agency collaboration, aiming to fortify the process of understanding, identifying, and tackling exploitation.

1.2 Key recommendations

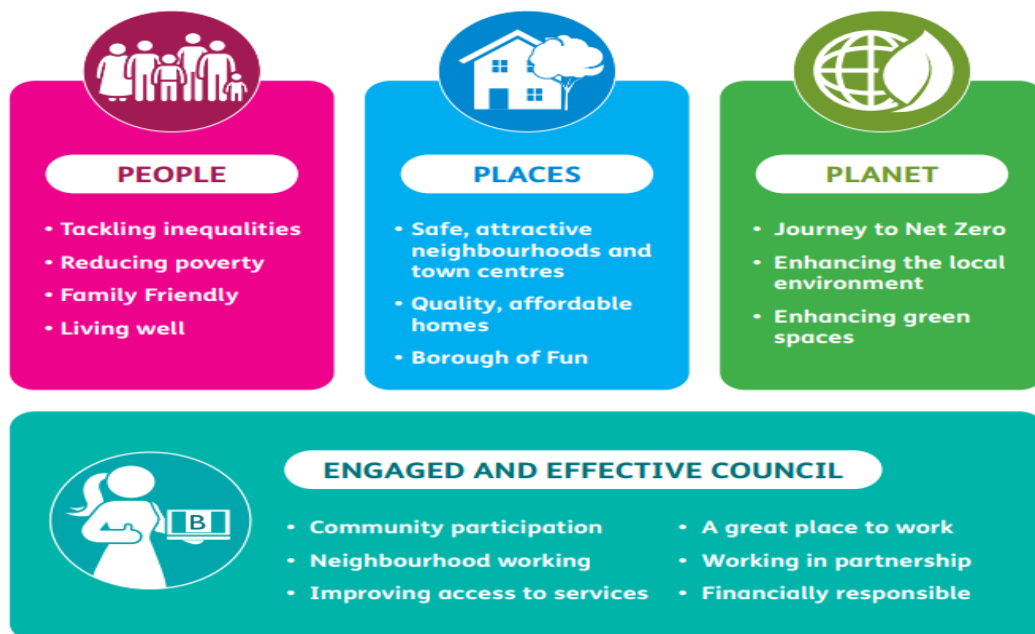
1. Strengthen partnership working for a coordinated whole system approach to preventing and tackling violent offending in the borough.
2. Learn from and build on the successes of existing local projects and services that are targeted at preventing and reducing crime, violence, and exploitation.
3. Learn from the early success of the "Clear Hold Build" approach to improve community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviours in areas with higher levels of violent offending.
4. Support the development of universal and standardised support that is place-based in local schools and communities, with a focus on:
 - Empowering parents and carers
 - Preventative education approaches
 - Pro-active and evidenced-informed support for 10 to 25-year-olds at the greatest risk of exploitation, offending and violence.
5. Development of targeted support aimed at reducing exploitation and offending in vulnerable groups including those aged 10-24 years with SEN and needs arising from neurodiverse conditions.
6. Pro-actively monitor and tackle disproportionately of over-represented groups who are affected by violence and build data into key performance indicators and evaluation of all services.

7. Effectively engage and coproduce solutions to local problems with local people
8. Support the development of victim support services for males as a high-risk group.
9. Work with schools to monitor and proactively intervene to reduce the need for 'managed moves' and risk of permanent exclusion from education, employment and training.
10. Develop a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing knife-enabled offending.
11. Align strategic priorities of the Combatting Drugs Partnership, Community Safety Strategy, Reducing Offending Partnership, Youth Justice Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, Tackling Violence & Exploitation Strategy with the Serious Violence Strategy

2 Governance, Description of Place & Population

2.1 Governance

In 2023 Barnet developed a new corporate plan, the Corporate Plan 2023 commits the Council to be an organisation that “Cares for People, Our Places, and the Planet”¹

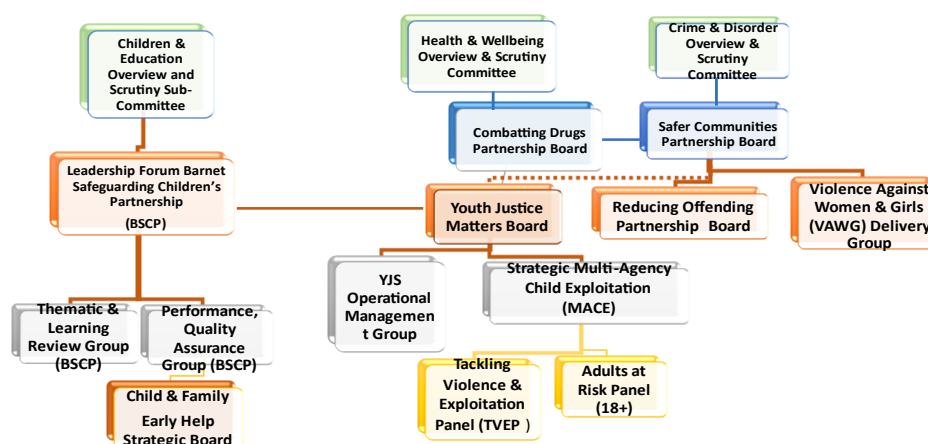


The Administration introduced a cabinet system with overview and scrutiny committees, these include Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

¹ [Barnet Corporate Plan 2023-26.pdf](#)

Figure 1. Governance & Board Interface Framework

Governance & Board Interface Framework



The serious violence strategy will straddle both committees and is intersectional with several other local strategies and plans, including Barnet's:

- Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2027²
- Children and Young People's Plan 2023 – 2027³
- Youth Justice Plan 2023 – 2025⁴
- Child & Family Early Help Strategy 2023 – 2027⁵
- Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022 - 2025⁶
- SEND Strategy 2021 -2025⁷
- Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan⁸

2.2 Barnet's Population

Barnet is the second largest borough by population in London, home to over 389,000 people, 26,000 businesses, and 1,000 charities. Demographic data presented in Table 1 shows that 122,680 residents are aged under 25 years, accounting for 31% of the total population and this is expected to grow further into the next decade. Over 90 languages are spoken with 44% of residents born in another country. Barnet is home to London's largest Jewish community with 14.5% of residents self-identifying as Jewish, and 88% of residents say their local area is

² [Powerpoint Template \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

³ <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/node/760>

⁴ [023750 BC3900 Youth Justice Plan 2023 Interactive HG5 -Final versionn for Web.pdf \(barnet.gov.uk\)https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/022345_youth_justice_plan_2021_web.pdf](https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/022345_youth_justice_plan_2021_web.pdf)

⁵ [023478 - BC3611 - BARNET - New Child and Family Early Help Strategy - WEB 12.4.2023_0.pdfhttps://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75132/Barnet 0-19 Early Help Strategy 2023-2026 Draft For Consultation.pdf](https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/023478_BC3611_BARNET-NewChildandFamilyEarlyHelpStrategy-WEB12.4.2023_0.pdfhttps://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75132/Barnet0-19EarlyHelpStrategy2023-2026DraftForConsultation.pdf)

⁶ <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-and-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy>

⁷ https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/send_strategy_2021-2024_.pdf

⁸ [Appendix 3 Barnet CDPB Delivery Plan 2023.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Currently, 43% of the population is not White and this diversity is also expected to continue to grow. Whilst seen as a relatively prosperous borough, there are pockets of deprivation, particularly concentrated in the west and south of the borough. Open-source data is available here [JSNA – Borough Summary | Barnet Open Data](#)

2.2.1 Demographics

Indicator	2011	2021	% Change
Total Population	356,386	389,300	+9.2%
Gender			
Female	183,710 (51.5%)	183,710 (51.5%)	
Male	172,676 (48.5%)	188,400 (48.4%)	
Age			
0-19	90,464 (25.4%)	96,600 (24.8%)	+6.8%
20-24	20,670 (5.8%)	26,080 (6.7%)	+26.2%
25-74	221,542 (62.2%)	240,320 (61.7%)	
75+	23,709 (6.7%)	26,300 (6.8%)	
Ethnicity			
White	228,553 (64.1%)	224,762 (57.7%)	
Asian	65,918 (18.5%)	74,972 (19.3%)	
Black	27,431 (7.7%)	30,651 (7.9%)	
Multi	17,169 (4.8%)	20,889 (5.4%)	
Other	17,315 (4.9%)	38,070 (9.8%)	

Table 1. Barnet Demographic Data Census 2011 and 2021

2.2.2 Education

All secondary schools; and all but 5 primary schools in Barnet are good or outstanding. Progress of pupils between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (KS2) in all subjects is significantly better than the national average (top 10% in Reading and Maths in 2022), and attainment and progress of children on a Child Protection Plan at KS2 was strong comparatively and in the top 20% of Local Authorities, 10% in some areas. Barnet's Progress 8 ranked Barnet the 2nd best Local Authority in the country in 2 (out of 152 Local Authorities), and Barnet was in the top 10% nationally in both Progress 8 (3rd) and Attainment 8 (9th) for disadvantaged pupils. The progression rate gap between Free School Meals (FSM) and non-FSM in Barnet is smaller than national. 98.5% of 16–17-year-olds in Barnet are in learning, and the progression rate of FSM students in Barnet post-16 is higher than non-FSM students nationally. Table 2 summarises the overall level of qualifications of residents of Barnet, with increases in take-up of apprenticeships and level 3 and level 4+ between 2011 and 2021.

Indicator	2011	2021	Change
No qualifications	43,883 (15.5%)	47,762 (15.4%)	-
Level 1	27,240 (9.7%)	21,302 (6.9%)	-
Level 2	34,028 (12.1%)	30,687 (9.9%)	-
Apprenticeship	3,778 (1.3%)	9,630 (3.1%)	+154.9%
Level 3	28,742 (10.2%)	38,541 (12.5%)	+34.1%
Level 4+	113,815 (40.3%)	151,642 (49%)	+33.2%
Other	30,716 (10.9%)	9,790 (3.2%)	-
Total	282,152 (100%)	309,354 (100%)	9.6%

Table 2. Barnet residents' education levels Census 2011 and 2021

Attendance in Barnet schools is 1% above national with the persistent absence rate below national and the severe persistent absence rate 0.7% below national. Children with a Child Protection Plan had good attendance and were ranked 6th nationally for overall attendance, 16th for unauthorised absence, 7th for authorised absence, and 6th for persistent absence. The fixed term exclusion rate in Barnet schools is 2.3% below national, and no Looked After Children, Children on Child Protection plans or Children in Need were permanently excluded in 2021/22. The suspension rate is comparatively low for Looked After Children (ranked 10th) and children on Child Protection Plans (ranked 15th).

2.2.3 Employment

Economic activity data shows an increase in economic inactivity overall due to an increase in the proportion of retirees in the overall population. Chart 1 shows the employment rates for residents compared to London and national averages and shows there are slightly higher rates of unemployment in Barnet (5.7%) than for the average across London (4.6%) and Great Britain (3.8%) and lower rates of economic activity and employment. A greater proportion of males than females are economically active, with males more likely than females to be self-employed and females with higher rates of employment (70.8%) than males (67.6%).

Employment and unemployment (Jul 2022-Jun 2023)

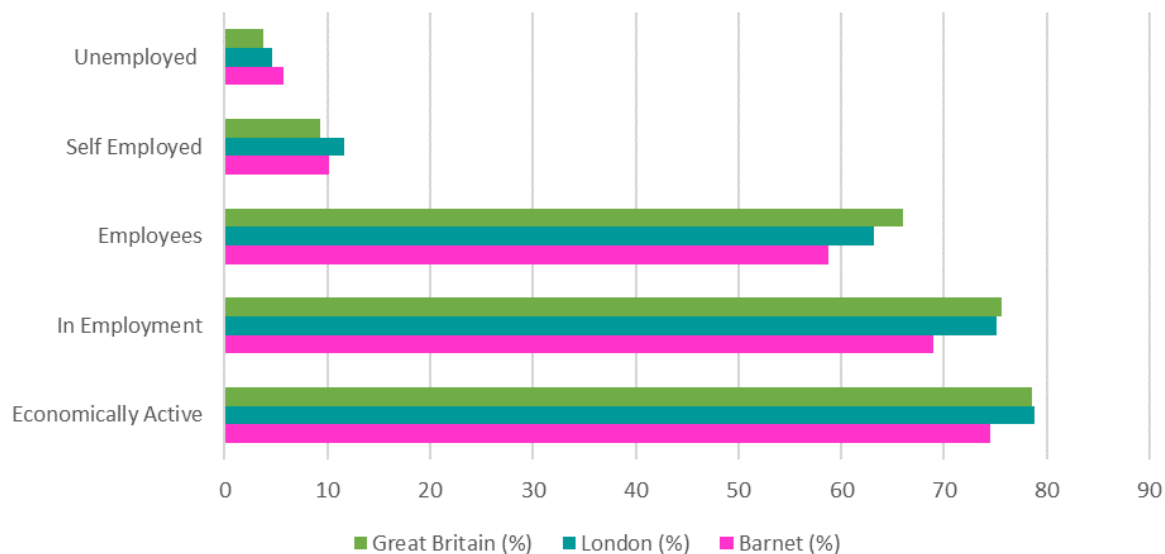


Chart 1. Barnet residents' employment comparative data ONS

2.2.4 Deprivation

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) figures show that in Barnet, 11.1% of the population was income-deprived in 2019. Of the 316 local authorities in England (excluding the Isles of Scilly), Barnet is ranked 149th most income deprived. In the least deprived neighbourhood in Barnet, 1.3% of people are estimated to be income deprived. In the most deprived neighbourhood, 33.2% of people are estimated to be income deprived. The gap between these two is 31.9 percentage points in Barnet. Data in Table 3 shows that almost 14% of children aged 0-15 in Barnet are living in poverty, with 10.76% and 10.3% living in low-income families. Data from the 2021 census shows there is no link between economic inactivity and deprivation, with the Barnet overall figure for economic activity at 64.57%, 63.78% of the most deprived are economically active and 63.72% of the least deprived are economically active.

	Children aged 0-15 in absolute low-income families	Children aged 0-15 in relative low-income families	Children aged 0-15 in poverty	Households in Fuel Poverty	Overcrowded housing (Census 2021)
Barnet	10.76	10.30	13.95	10.37	14.29
Most Deprived	18.86	18.67	24.12	14.68	21.68
Above Average	11.27	10.40	15.38	12.01	18.75
Average	9.48	8.88	12.47	9.10	13.74
Below Average	7.66	7.46	7.95	8.21	9.47

Least Deprived	5.29	4.78	4.95	7.68	5.46
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Table 3. Barnet residents' deprivation comparative data ONS

Chart 2 shows that there may, however, be a correlation between deprivation and rates of violent crime and sexual offences in the Borough.

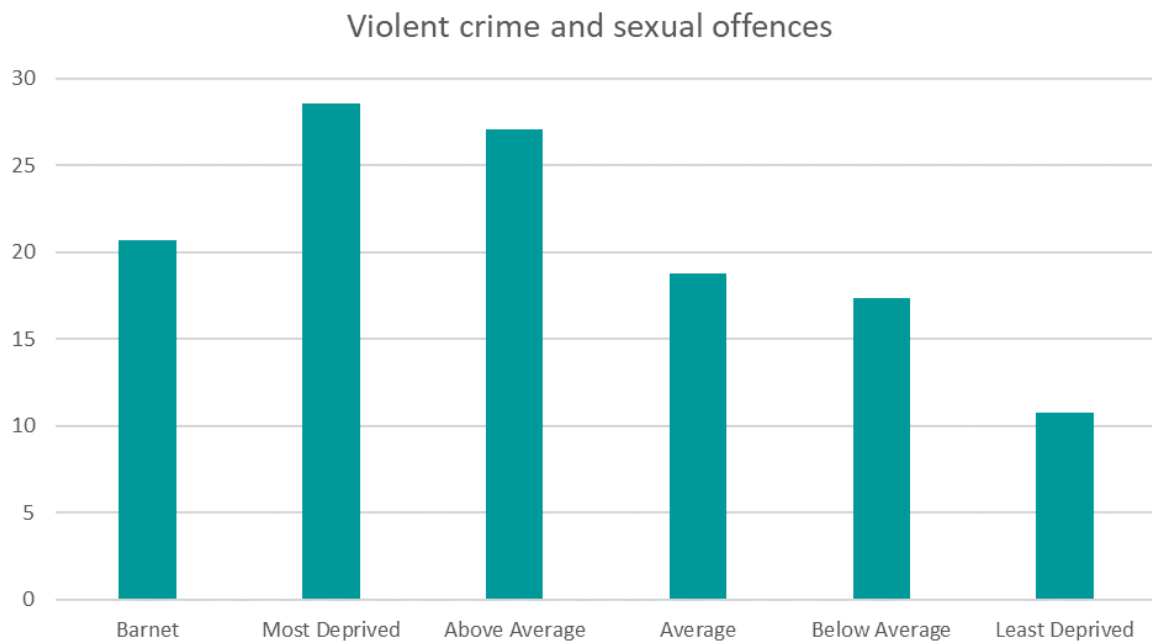


Chart 2. Barnet rates of violent crime and sexual offences by level of deprivation data ONS

3 Barnet's Violence Profile

Barnet's crime profile provides insights into violent offending including frequency, perpetrators and victims. This allows for the development of targeted strategies to create an even safer borough and environment for residents.

Whilst the monthly offence numbers stay relatively consistent, the data indicates a rising trend, with a 9% rise in the number of offences from the preceding 12 months (ending June 2022) to January through June 2023.

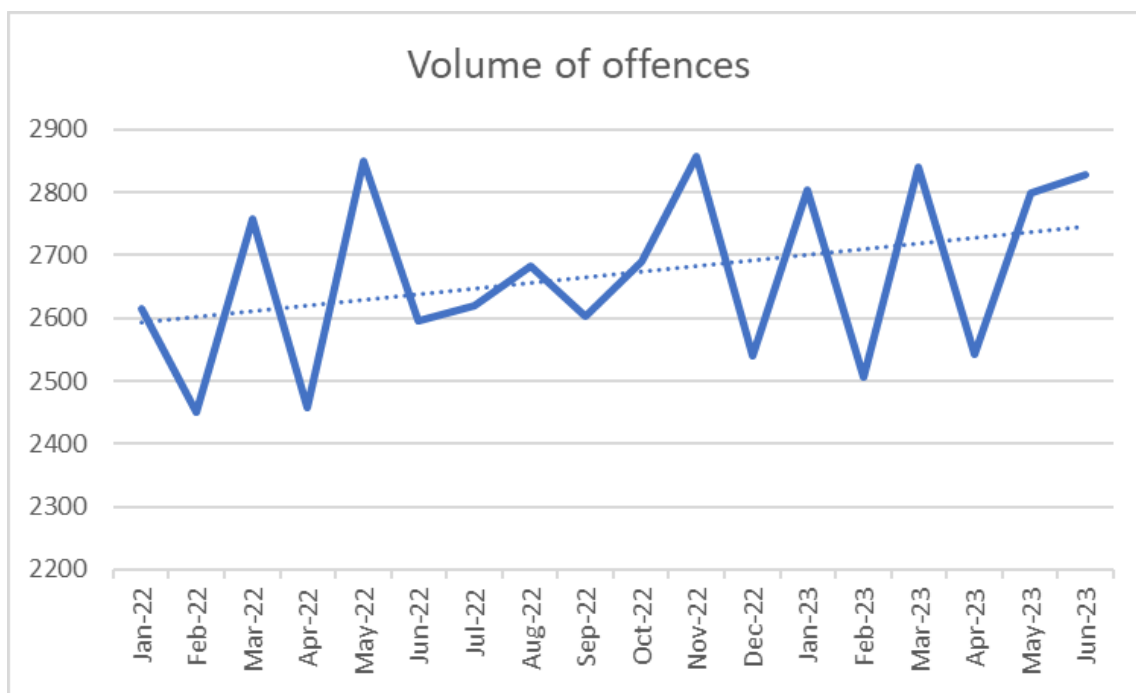


Chart 3. Volume of offences in Barnet from January 2022 to June 2023, London Metropolitan Police data.

3.1 Serious Violence Crimes Overview

Offence Group	Barnet (Obtained via Met Data)	London	England
Homicide	6	114	573
Violence with injury	3495	78,384	540,855
Violence without injury	8416	104,833	778,233
Sexual offences	1085	24,853	181,252
Robbery	1185	31,157	74,702
Theft offences*	8920	425,095	1,647,207
Burglary *	3830	54,946	262,541
Vehicle offences	7357	107,445	388,055
Criminal damage & and arson	2810	54,679	485,340
Drug offences	1597	41,429	168,839
Possession of weapon offences	235	6,183	55,772
Total	38,936	929,118	4,583,369

*Theft and burglary offences are inclusive of bicycle/other theft, shoplifting, burglary, and residential and non-residential burglary.

Table 4. Number of recorded offences between January 2022 and year end June 2023, ONS.

Table 5 shows an overall increase (8%) in the number of incidents. Barnet, like several other boroughs witnessed an increase in violent crimes as the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic were lifted, which are likely contributed to by an increase in financial hardship, lack of access to key services during the pandemic, an increase in drug and alcohol use and mental health needs. Further, some disruption to organised criminal groups activities creating new opportunities for territorial and business (sale and supply of illicit drugs) conflict.

Offence Group	Year-end October 2022	Year-end October 2023	% change
Homicide	4	6	↑50%
Violence with injury	1,938	1,981	↑2.2%
Violence without injury	4,548	5,014	↑10.2%
Sexual offences	620	577	↓6.9%
Robbery	587	757	↑28.9%
Theft offences	4,739	5,345	↑12.8%
Burglary	2,097	2,066	↓1.5%
Criminal damage & arson	1,534	1,617	↑5.4%
Drug offences	862	929	↑7.8%
Possession of weapon offences	145	125	↓13.8%
Total	17,074	18,417	↑7.9%

Table 5. Overview of recorded serious violent crime offences, London Metropolitan Police data, Public Tableau.

3.1.1 Firearm Offences

Figure 2 illustrates fluctuations in firearm offences, notably peaking at 11 offences in April 2023, the highest since July 2019. The Metropolitan Police and Council partnership in delivering the Clear Hold Build (CHB) framework has resulted in substantial success rates of arrests following an increase in serious violence relating to firearm possession and shootings. Additional details about the CHB model can be found on page 22 of this SNA. Building on this achievement, there has been a 64% decrease in the incidence of gun crime offences.

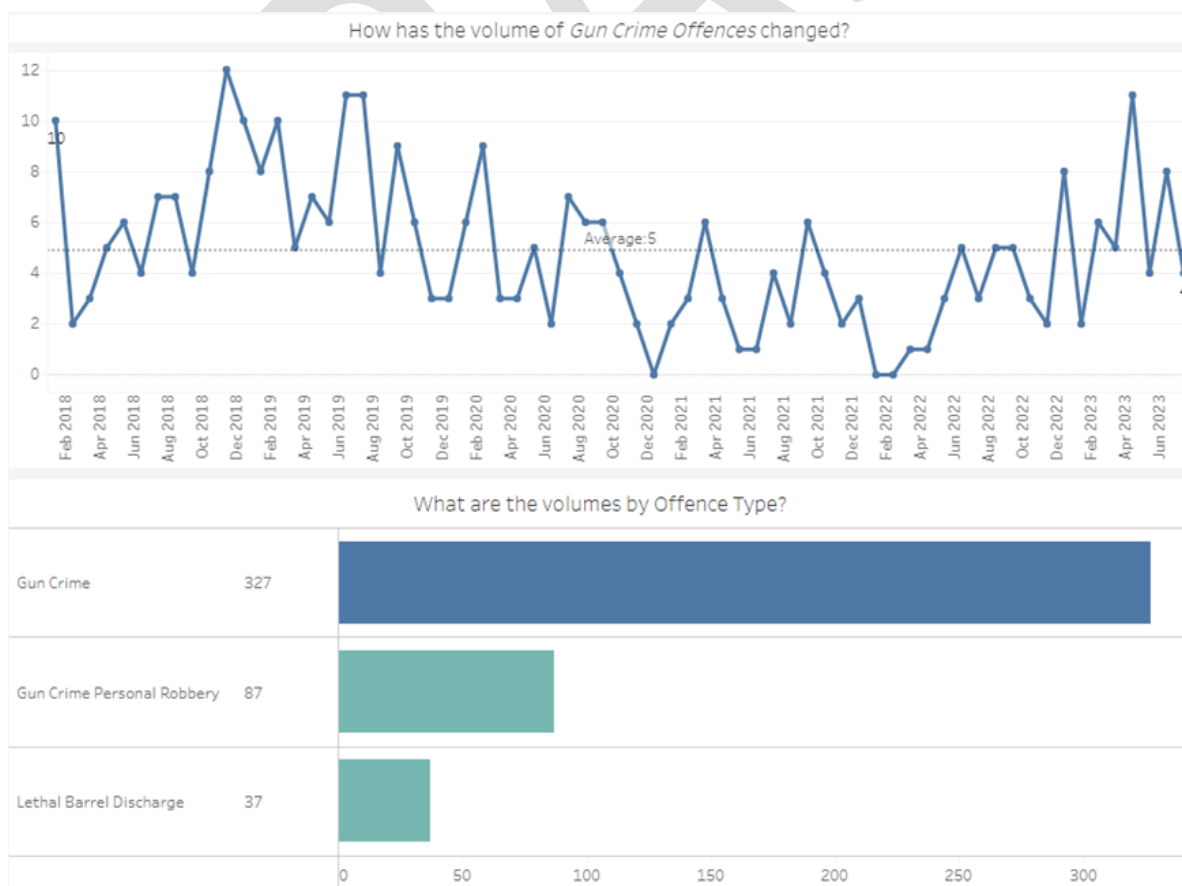


Figure 2. Volume of gun crime offences in Barnet from January 2020 to July 2023, London Metropolitan Police data, Public Tableau.

3.1.2 Knife Offences

Knife crime in the borough has varied over time but continues to pose a concern for the community and particularly young people. Figure 3 illustrates a spike in offences, indicating a 100% increase between April – July 2023. Within the period from January 2020 to July 2023, 128 victims of knife offences resulting in injury were under the age of 24.

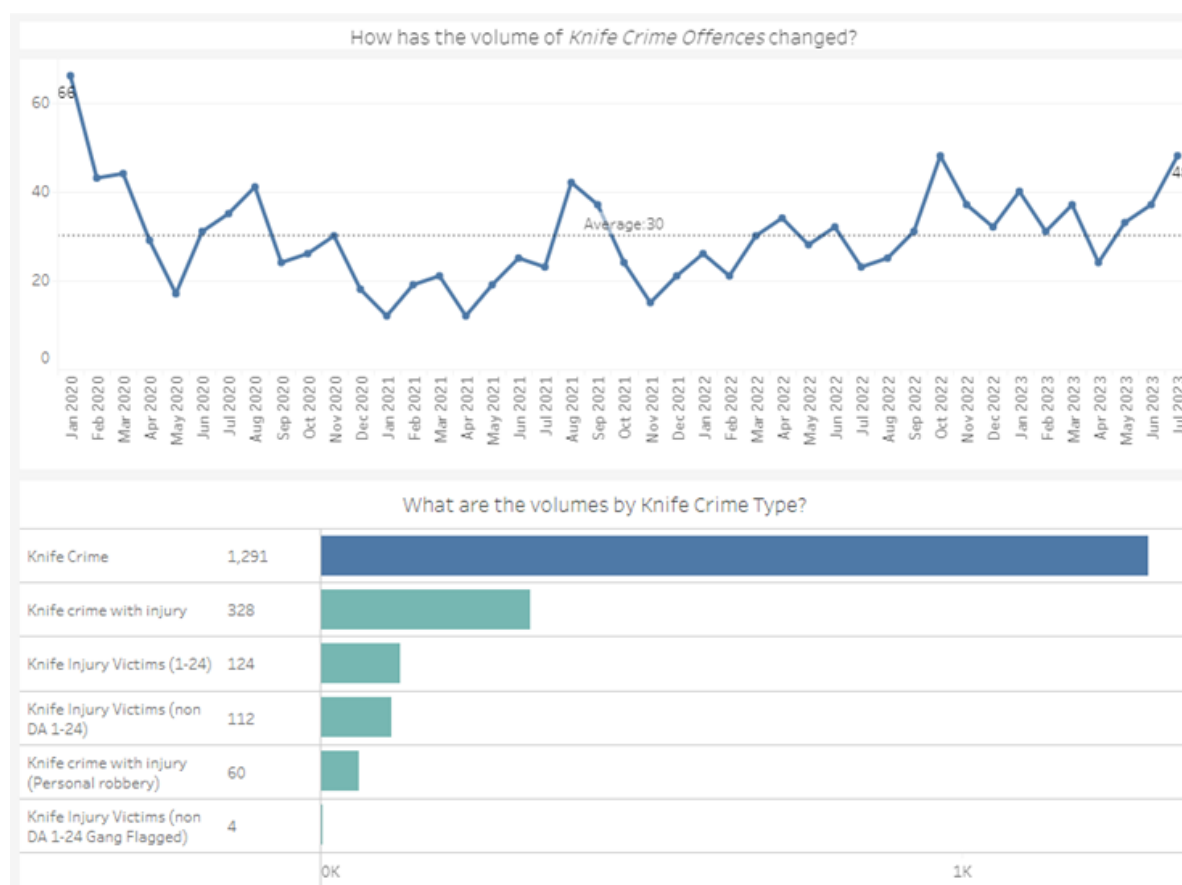


Figure 3. Volume of knife crime offences in Barnet from January 2020 to July 2023, London Metropolitan Police data, Public Tableau.

Table 6 shows a rise in hospital admissions with age, peaking at 18-24 years, followed by a decline from 25-29 years, emphasising a vulnerability among young males aged 16-24 years. This information corresponds with the knife related incidents observed in Barnet, especially among the youth, particularly young males (refer to page 23).

Cause of attendance	No. of admissions	Male	Female	Age				
				0 to 9	10 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 29	30+
Physical assault	30,129	23,037	7,036	1,741	3,537	5,792	3,811	15,248
Assault by sharp object	4,382	4,005	450	19	515	1,157	656	2,035

Firearms related	510	470	54	13	81	117	63	236
Other assault*	400	239	209	12	30	64	29	265
Sexual assault	268	68	200	4	26	49	31	158

Table 6. Causes of attendance in hospitals across England,, 2021-2022, NHS digital data store.

The table below shows the local admissions to hospitals in Barnet due to assault and violence related injuries for all young people under 18-year-olds. It is important to note that these figures will include residents from neighbouring boroughs who attend hospitals in Barnet.

Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	% of overall A&E attendances
2021/22	17	13	29	25	84	0.1
2022/23	32	21	22	25	100	0.1

Assault and Violence related injuries remains low at 0.1- 0.2% of the overall attendances at Accident and Emergency, however in congruence to the local picture of violence across Barnet and London attendances have increase in 2022-23 in comparison to the previous year.

3.1.3 Drug Offences

Figure 4 illustrates a rising trend in the number of drug-related offences since January 2020.

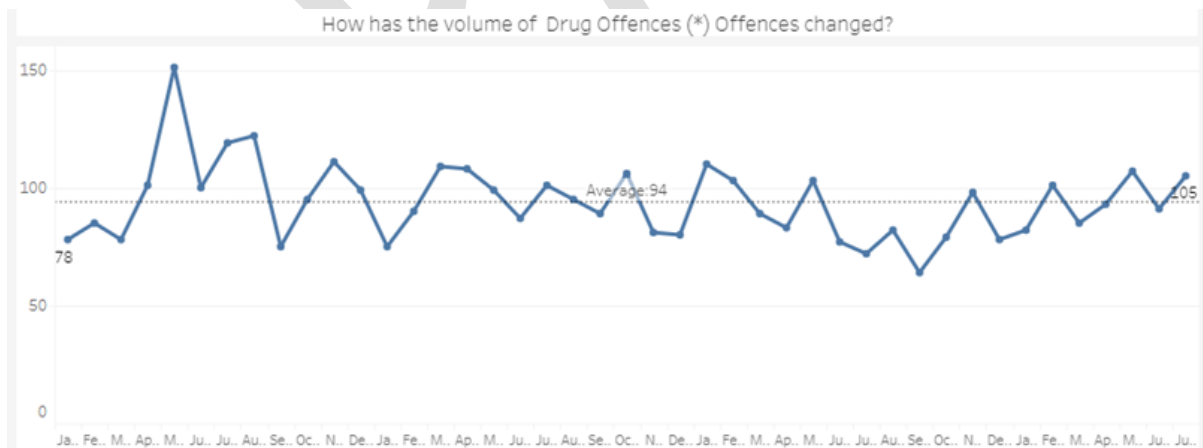


Figure 4. Volume of drug-related recorded offences from January 2020 to July 2023, London Metropolitan Police data, Public Tableau.

Table 7 shows the number of drug offences in Barnet is generally lower than the London rate of offences per 1000 population in January 2023 the London rate is 4.8, in Barnet it is 2.4. As illustrated in the map below, the incidence varies across wards, with the west of the borough showing a higher volume of drug offences. The disproportionate crime rate can be directly affected by pro-active policing in high crime areas.

	Barnet	London
Drug offences per 1000 pop Feb 2022 – Jan 2023	2.4 1000 pop	4.8 per 1000 pop
Number of offences 12 months to Jan 2023 compared to previous 12 months to Jan 2022	Down 14.8%	Down 8.3%
January 2023 compared to December 2022	Down 2.7%	Up 26.8%

Table 7. Drug offences in London and Barnet, London Borough of Barnet Combatting Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment, 2023.

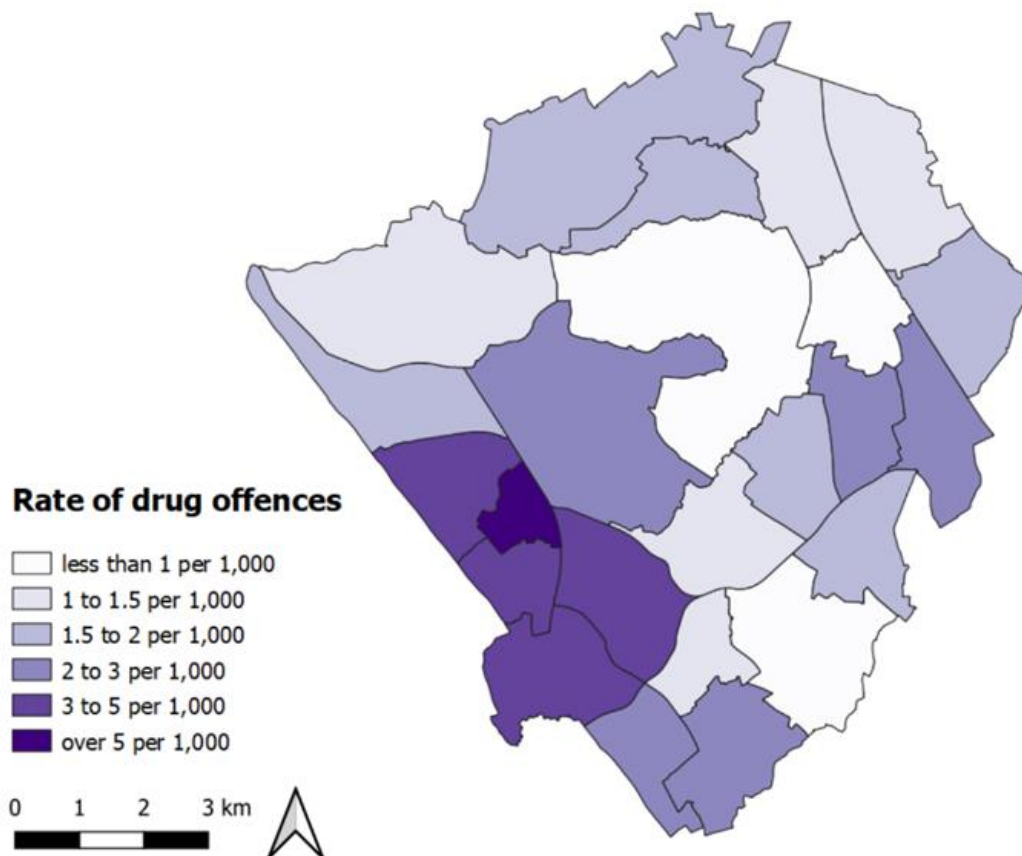


Figure 5. Heat map showing drug offences by ward, Combatting Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment 2023.

From February 2022 to January 2023, statistics show that 67% of drug-related offences pertain to possession, while 33% involve the supply of illicit substances. 25% of drug trafficking offences led to sanction detentions, whereas 56% of possession offences resulted in sanction detentions. This suggests that individuals using illicit substances are more likely to face

prosecution than those involved in their supply, underscoring the intricate nature of the relationship between drug possession and supply, Combating Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment⁸.

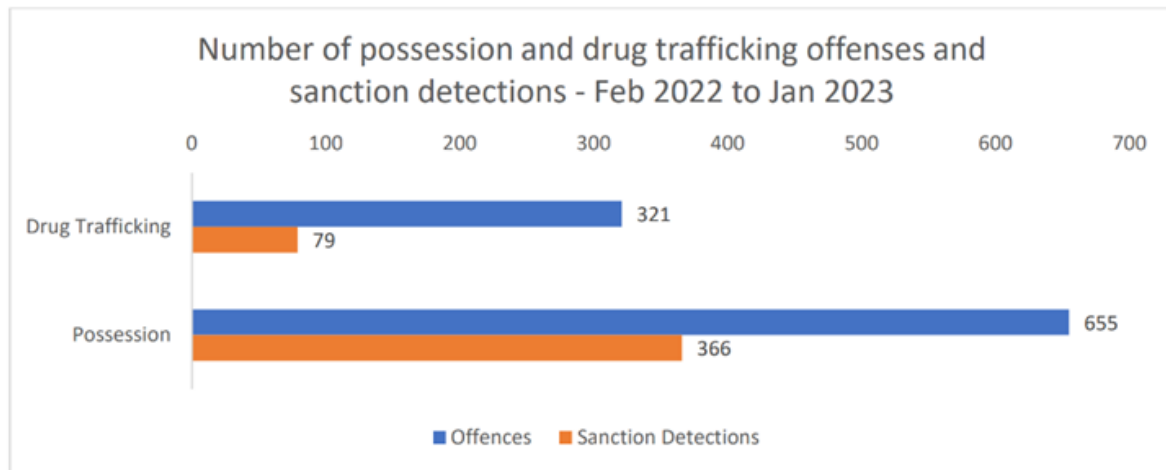


Chart 4. Number of possession and drug trafficking offences and sanction detections

3.1.4 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences

Domestic Abuse (DA) and serious violence are interconnected, as domestic abuse can escalate to serious violence. Perpetrators may use escalating levels of force within intimate relationships, leading to severe harm or even domestic homicides. Addressing domestic abuse is crucial to preventing the progression to serious violence, emphasising early intervention and support for victims and perpetrators to break the cycle of abuse. Refer to the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls strategy for insights into Barnet Council’s actions to assist both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and violence⁶.

DA Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) helps to ensure that victims at high risk of harm are supported and better protected from further abuse by a coordinated effort from all agencies and organisations. Local multi-agency partners will meet to discuss the victims at highest risk of domestic abuse in the borough. Agencies will agree and undertake actions that form part of an effective safety plan for the victim and the children.

From January 2020 to October 2023, Barnet has recorded 2,897 incidents of domestic abuse with injury, resulting in an offence rate of 7.3 per 1,000 population. The number of offences in October 2023 rose by 28.6% compared to the previous month.

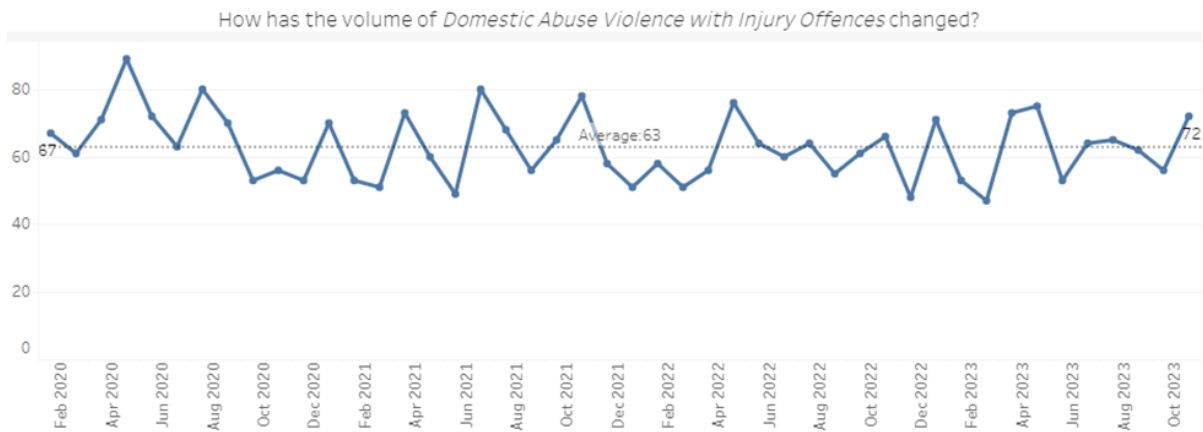


Figure 6. Volume of domestic abuse violence with injury offences in Barnet from January 2020 to October 2023, Metropolitan Police data, Public Tableau.

Chart 5 shows that from 2019 onward, there have been 13 homicides in Barnet, with two of them being domestic abuse related.



Chart 5, Number of homicides in Barnet from 2019 to June 2023, London Metropolitan Police data.

Figure 7 shows, from January 2020 to October 2023, Barnet has recorded 2,603 incidents of sexual offences, of which 37% were classed as rape cases, resulting in an offence rate of 6.5 per 1,000 population. The number of sexual offences as reduced by 3.3% compared to the previous 12 months. The lower offence rates at the beginning of 2020 may be attributed to the initiation of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and stringent movement restrictions. As the measure evolved over time, we observe fluctuations in the data.

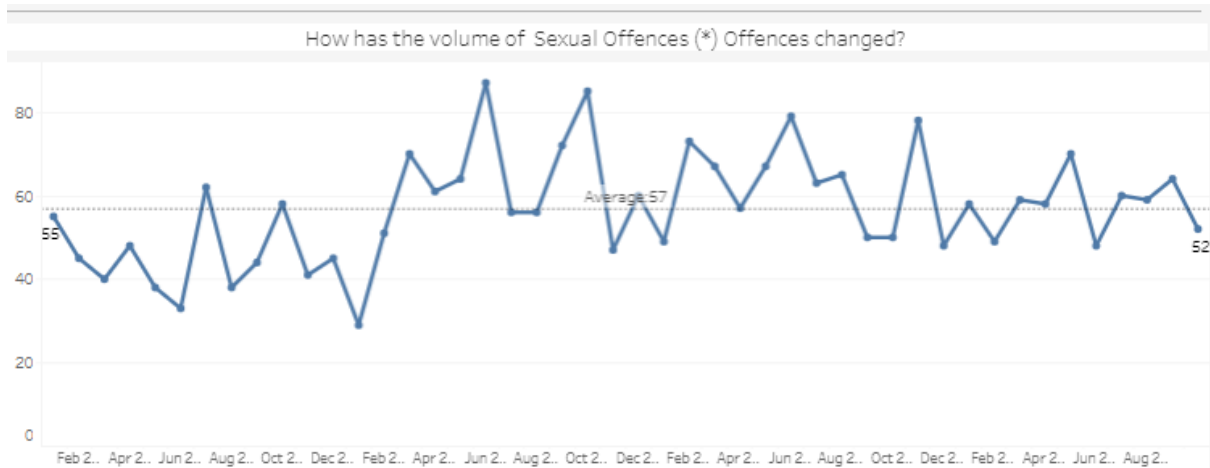


Figure 7. Volume of domestic abuse violence with injury offences in Barnet from January 2020 to October 2023, Metropolitan Police data, Public Tableu.

Chart 6 illustrates the number of hospital admissions for sexual assault across England, categorised by age groups. It highlights that 18–24-year-olds are particularly vulnerable to this crime, with 75% of the victims being female. This can also be seen in the data sets for the previous years.

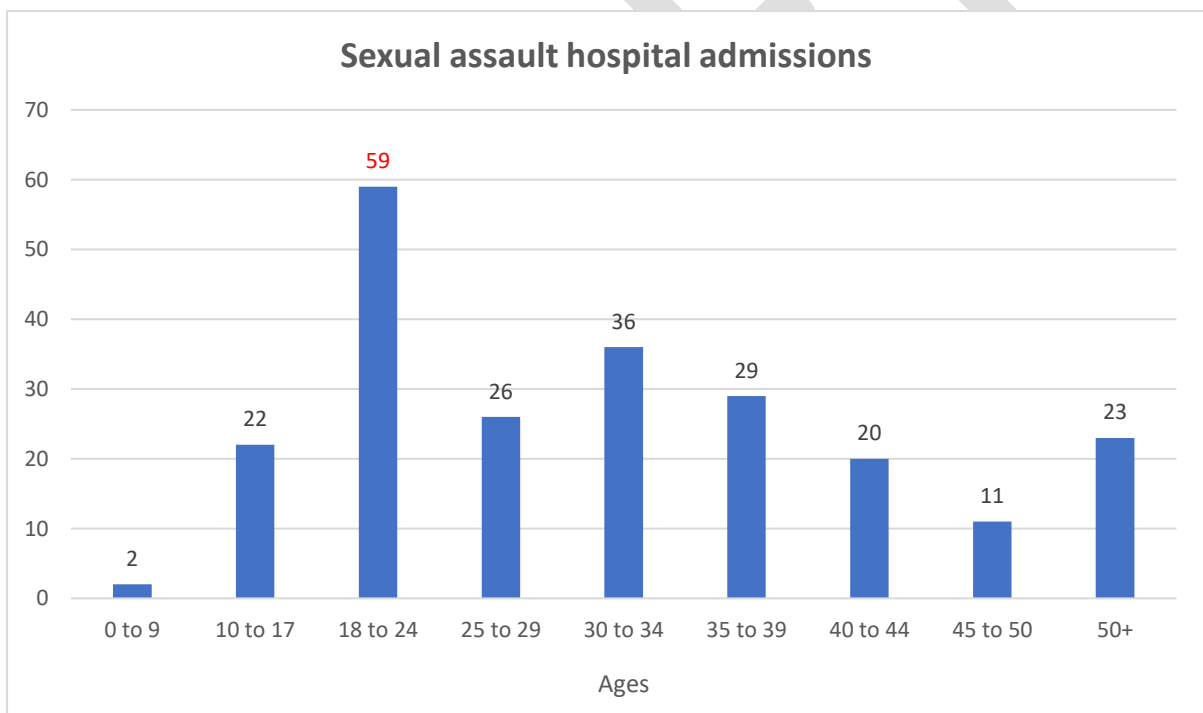


Chart 6. Number of sexual assault hospital admissions from 2022 to 2023 across England, NHS Hospital Data.

3.2 Serious Violence Under 25s

3.2.1 Offending Data

Table 8 indicates a greater occurrence of serious violence crimes among individuals under 25; nevertheless, it is important to note the presence of undisclosed data that cannot be accounted for.

Crime Group	YEAR									
	2022					2023				
	1-17 yrs	18-24 yrs	25-29 yrs	30-34 yrs	N/A	1-17 yrs	18-24 yrs	25-29 yrs	30-34 yrs	N/A
Arson and Criminal Damage	107	57	50	45	180	112	73	40	67	210
Burglary, Theft & Robbery Related	322	395	235	341	1826	406	437	318	420	2150
Violence Related	419	420	327	241	696	438	523	359	461	811
Possession of weapon	9	15	8	6	15	18	21	3	4	22
Drugs Related	30	139	60	50	120	38	162	88	56	235
TOTAL	887	1026	680	683	2837	1012	1216	808	1008	3428

Table 8. Breakdown of 0–34-year-olds serious violent crime offences occurring in Barnet from January 2022 and July 2023 London Metropolitan Police recorded suspect data, Safestats

There is a higher rate of serious violence offences amongst those under 25 years which can be attributed to a combination of factors i.e. higher prevalence of involvement in street gangs/group offending and/or exploitation/organised criminal groups.

Other contributing factors to offending are exposure to domestic abuse, adverse life experiences, mental health, socioeconomic disparities and access to education and employment.

3.2.2 Youth Justice Services

Youth Justice Services (YJS) works with children and young people who have committed an offence for which they have been charged. The service works with children aged between 10 and 17 years. YJS support children to make changes in their lives, so they do not reoffend or cause further harm to the community. This includes promoting restorative justice and working with victims.

Prevention, Diversion and Out-of-Court Disposals

When a child or young person commits an offence in some cases, it may be most appropriate to divert or triage them away from the criminal justice system and work with the individual, their family and victim through more informal ways to address their needs and prevent further offending.

In Barnet there are a range of preventative, diversionary and Out of Court Disposal interventions. The Engage programme provides a youth work intervention to children whilst in police detention enabling early diversion to positive activities. The Turnaround Programme, also offers a diversionary route from the criminal justice system through targeted youth support.

Out-of-court disposals (OCD) can be used for children and young people who have admitted to an offence, but it is not in the public interest to prosecute as it is not always appropriate for children/young people who commit a crime to be sent to court. It may be appropriate for the Police and Youth Justice Service to consider an Out of Court disposal (OCD).

OCD options include:

- No further action
- Triage or Community Resolution: (Triage or Community Resolution is an informal process that means a child or young person will not be prosecuted, given a community resolution or Triage. The child can be asked to go to Youth Justice Team appointments. Children or young people who get in trouble for the first time or less serious offences can be dealt with informally by the police. If a child or young person is interviewed and admits to doing something wrong, the police should always consider out-of-court disposals)
- Youth Caution: (Youth Cautions aim to provide a proportionate and effective resolution to offending and support the principle statutory aim of the youth justice system of preventing offending by children and young people)
- Youth Conditional Caution: (Youth Conditional Cautions are cautions conditions attached. If a child or young person does not keep to the conditions they could be prosecuted for the original offence)

In Barnet, OCDs are proven to be effective in providing holistic intervention and diversion for children in preventing entry into the criminal justice system. In 2022/23, 78 children received an OCD. A breakdown of intervention provided is outlined in the table below. This cohort is predominantly male 82%, which reflects a similar gender breakdown to probation. The peak age group of these individuals is 17 years old, with 16 years old being the next most represented group.

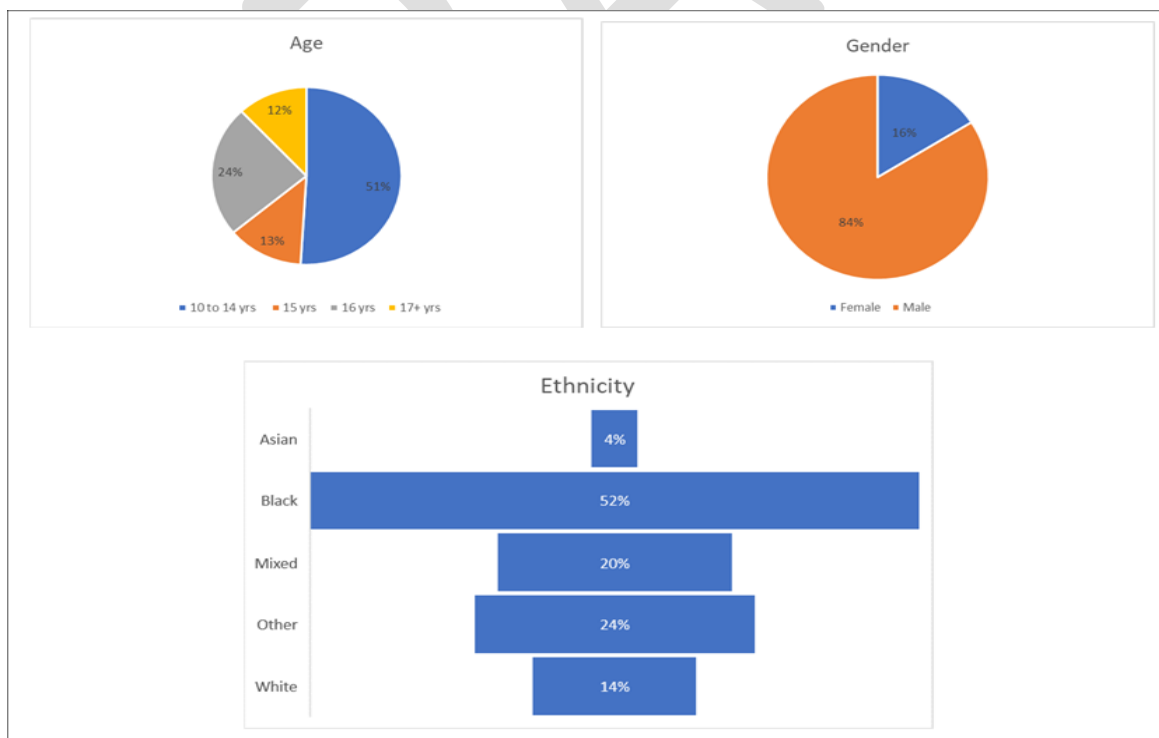
OOCD	Total
Triage	2
Youth Caution	4
Youth Conditional Caution	8
Turnaround	20
Criminal Behaviour Order	4
Total	38
Community	Total
Referral Order	24
Community Resolution Police Facilitated	1
Community Resolution - other agencies facilitated	2
Community Resolution with YOT Intervention	13
Total	40

Table 9. Breakdown of out-of-court disposals, 2022/23.

Young people engaged in an OOCD receive a holistic approach that supports a wide range of needs and includes underlying causal factors to the incident taking place, as well as educative approaches that promote pro-social behaviour and positive activities.

YJS Offenders Demographics:

The data from YJS indicates that from 2021 to 2023 (ending in March), most serious violence crimes were perpetrated by males (84%) with 51% aged 10-14; a detailed breakdown of the ethnicity data is also provided below.



In Barnet, young people from Black and Global Majority ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in the Youth Justice Service. Our Disproportionality Action Plan strives to address and rectify this inequality.

Table 10 indicates an elevated percentage of robbery incidents within the 10–18-year group, aligning with the substantial burglary, theft and robbery offences presented in Table 7.

Serious Violence Offence	2020-2021				2021-2022				2022-2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Drugs	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%
Robbery	100	92	90	100	88	100	95	93	100	9	100	100
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	6%	%	%
Violence against the person	0%	8%	10%	0%	0%	0%	5%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Table 10. The proportional make-up of serious violence offences by offence group for 10–18-year-olds. London Borough of Barnet, Youth Justice Services, 2023.

The Metropolitan Police Safestats data, shows an increased prevalence of blades and knives used during serious violent crimes such as burglary, theft, and robberies. A higher rate of offenders employ blades/knives for threats rather than causing actual injuries. Understanding the perspective of young people regarding knife crimes indicates that, in many instances, the intent behind carrying a knife is not for usage but rather for protection. Nevertheless, in certain situations, incidents can unexpectedly escalate, leading to injuries and in some cases, fatalities.

Chart 7 illustrates a rising trend in the number of blades or knives carried by 10–18-year-olds in Barnet.

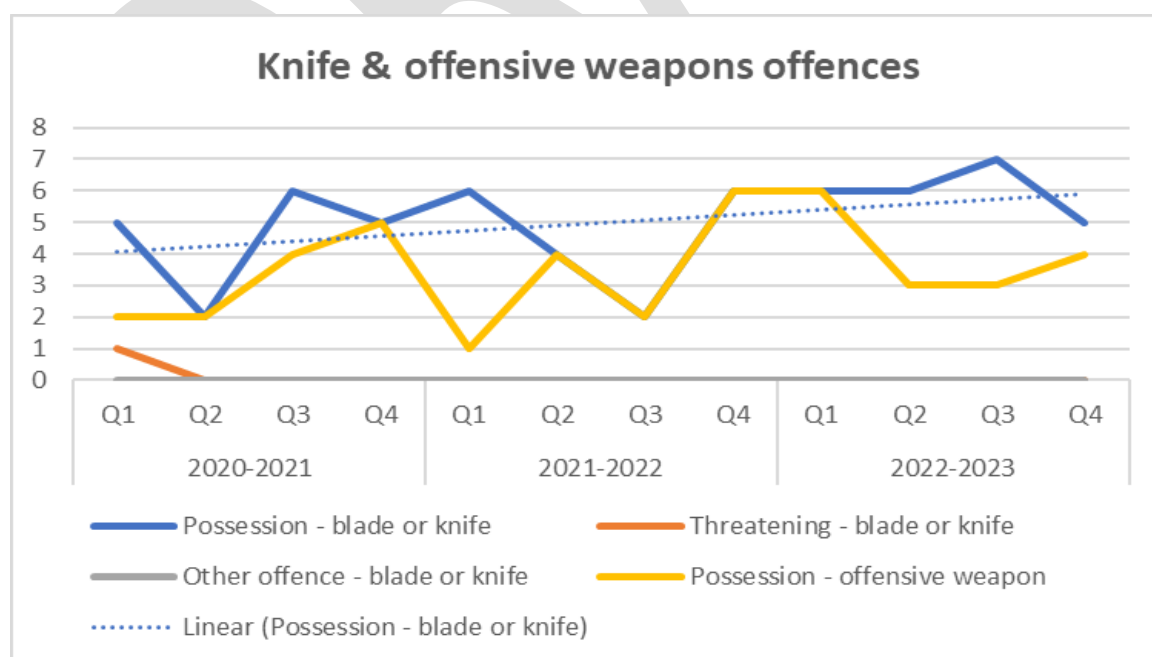


Chart 7. The number of knife and offensive weapon offences for 10–18-year-olds. London Borough of Barnet, Youth Justice Services, 2023.

Children involved with YJS are also more likely to have adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) including exposure to domestic abuse, parental offending/substance misuse and mental health needs and structural inequalities which are well evidenced as risk factors to offending. Barnet Family Services has invested in Early Help services, including mental health provision and domestic abuse. The aligned multi-agency workstreams across Early Help, violence, vulnerability, exploitation, and offending aim to identify and intervene early with those at the greatest risk of entry into the Youth Justice system to minimise the risk of problems escalating. Barnet's multi-disciplinary approach seeks to ensure an effective, holistic wraparound of support and intervention.

3.2.3 Serious Incident Response Meetings

In Barnet we have made significant steps in understanding that to effectively safeguard and support young people we must consider the young person in context to their environment, surroundings, and local community. When serious incidents occur it not only impacts directly on the young person and their family but also on the local community and grassroots, youth provisions and community groups that the family are part of. A Serious Incident Response Meeting (SIRM) is arranged within 24 hours for all incidents of serious violence where the victim or suspect is under 25 years and is.

- A resident in Barnet
- Notification that the young person or adult has received an OSMAN notice from the police, even if violence has not occurred.
- The incident is linked to wider criminal or gang activity.
- The victim or suspect is known to Children's Social Care Services including Onwards & Upwards), Child & Family Early Help Services or Youth Justice Services

A SIRM will be held for all incidents of serious violence where children are living in the victim or suspect household regardless of age.

If the victim and/or suspect is aged 19+ and does not meet any of the above criteria a SIRM will not be held, and the MASH will notify the chair of the Adults at Risk Panel

- SIRMs will be undertaken for all children who reside in Barnet up to the ages of 19 and up to 25 if they have care leaver status, open to the 0-25 service or if there are children under the age of 18 residing in the household.
- If the young person subject to the SIRM is open to children's social care the respective assistant head of service will be responsible for chairing the SIRM.
- Key contact list and invitees have been updated.

The SIRM data in Chart 8 shows spikes of violence occurring during May and August 2023, we believe that these incidents are more related to localised tensions rivals and disagreements between individuals and groups. Other factors which are more connected to incidents of violence include the nighttime economy and high-footfall areas including transport hubs.

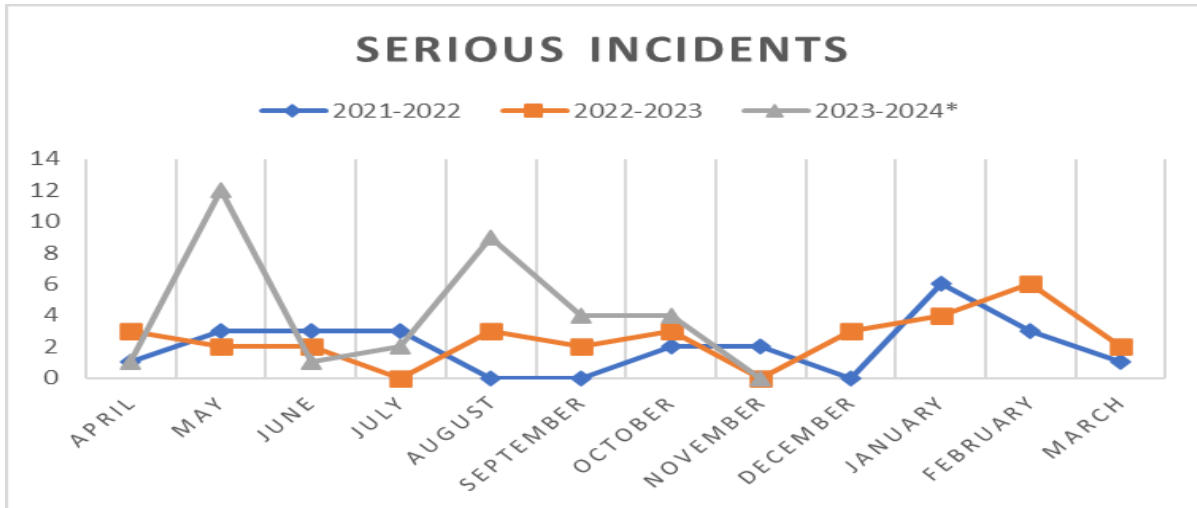


Chart 8. Number of serious incidents involving under 25s, London Borough of Barnet Serious Incident Reporting Meeting (SIRM) data, 2023.

Clear Hold Build:

“Clear Hold Build” is a localised targeted response to reduce crime and violence. The staged approach initially seeks to provide intense Policing in a specific area and to use a mixture of intelligence and high-visibility Police to “Clear” or arrest suspects of crime and violence.

The “Hold” phase seeks to develop partnership and community resources to maintain the local areas following the period of Policing and the Build Phase” is to ensure that all partners and the community have plans and are sustaining their local area.

The initial stage of this operation was undertaken from July to September 2023 and resulted in over 200 arrests, with just 20 of these being young people. Most arrests were not Barnet residents but adults and young people who reside in other London boroughs and counties. This has resulted in anecdotal information suggesting residents feel safer, and in addition, localised crime across various types has decreased.

This staged approach is leading to the development of localised partnership and community plan to maintain positive changes. These plans which include the local community, drug and alcohol services, Health, Social Care and Community Safety are currently being developed.

Table 11 shows in the past 2.5 years, stabbings consistently emerged as the predominant form of violence, with knife crime statistics surging by 62% since 2021. The results align with the increasing pattern of knife and weapon offences documents by YJS, as indicated in chart 5.

Serious Violence Crimes	Number of Incidents		
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024 (Apr-Oct 23)
Shooting	3	2	2
Firearm Discharge	0	4	2
Attempted Stabbing	0	1	0
Stabbing	13	16	21

Assault	8	5	6
Assault with Vehicle	1	1	0
Kidnapping	1	2	2
Aggravated Burglary	2	1	0
Torture	0	1	0
Murder	3	1	2
Threats to Life	0	1	3

Table 11. Breakdown of the types of serious incidents involving under 25s, London Borough of Barnet's Serious Incident Reporting Meeting (SIRM) data, 2023.

Since 2021, chart 9 shows a 40% reduction in serious incidents on public streets, contrasting with an increase in incidents occurring in parks and public open spaces during the same period.

These parks are situated in areas where authorities are already aware of drug dealing tensions and gang activity. Figure 8 displays the parks and greenspaces in Barnet where there has been an increase in the occurrences of these incidents. This year has seen a greater diversity in the types of locations where incidents are happening such as public transport hubs and parks within Barnet.

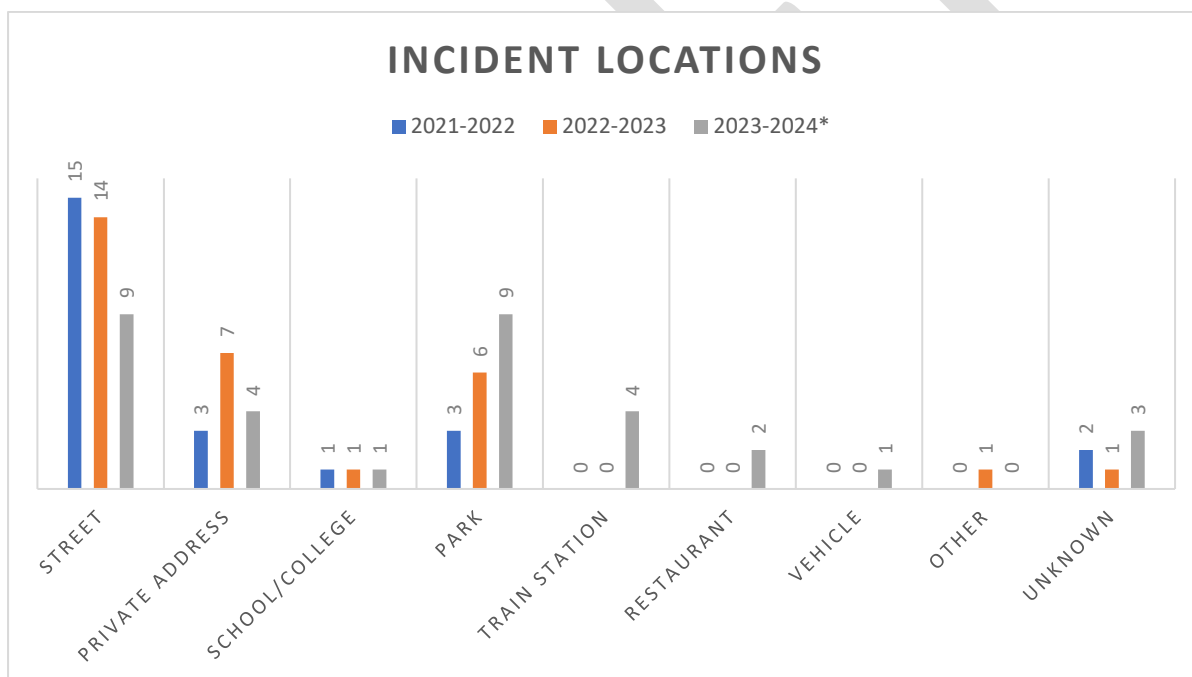


Chart 9. Serious violent crime locations. London Borough of Barnet Serious Incident Reporting Meeting (SIRMS) data.

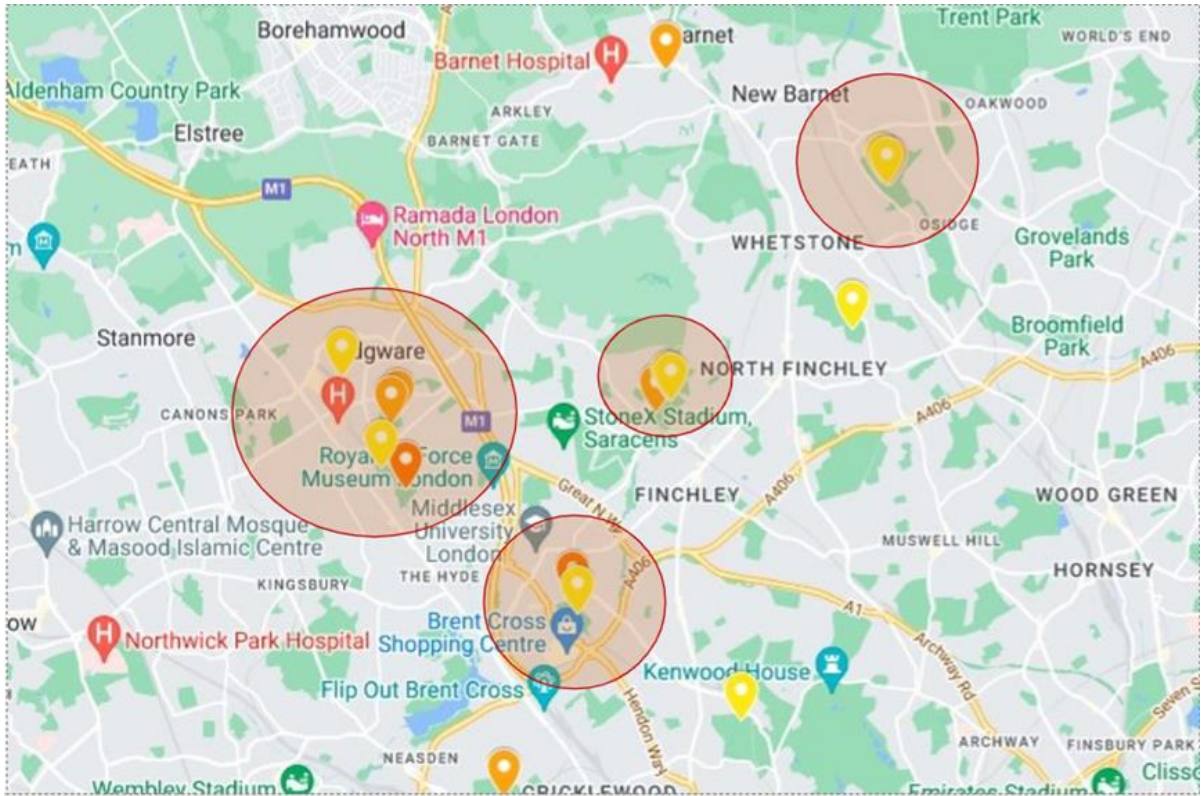


Figure 8. Barnet parks and greenspaces were identified as hotspots for serious violent crimes.

Young people are more likely to be a victim of serious violence offence than a suspect or perpetrator. Chart 10 shows a 36% reduction in the number of young people in Barnet being identified as suspects from financial years 2021 to 2023.

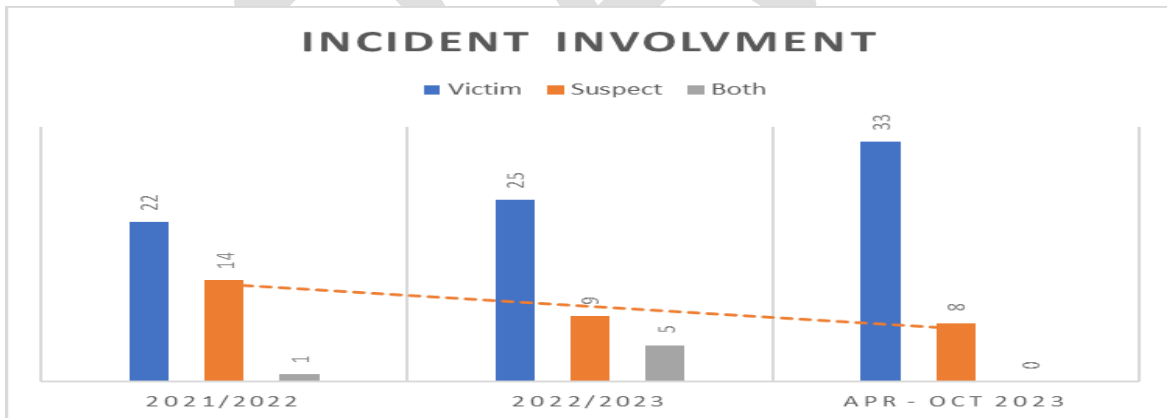


Chart 10. Breakdown of the number of young people by involvement in serious violent crimes. London Borough of Barnet Serious Incident Reporting Meeting (SIRMS) data.

Figure 9 illustrates significant findings regarding serious violent crimes, considering gender, age, and ethnicity among under 25s.

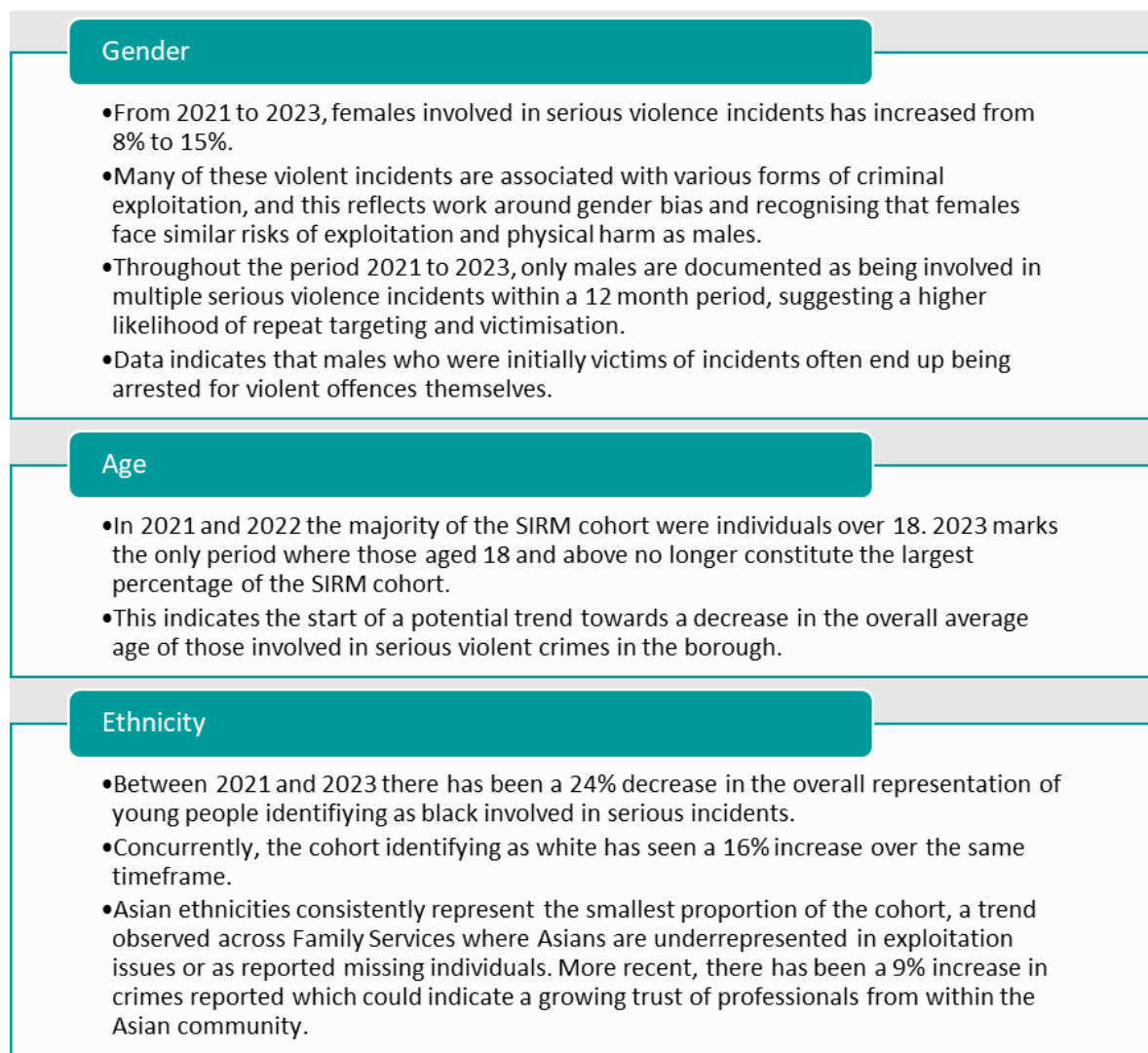


Figure 9. Summary of key demographic findings between 2021 to 2023, London Borough of Barnet, Serious Incident Reporting Meeting (SIRMS) data.

3.2.4 Stop and Search

When an officer stops a member of the public and searches them when certain conditions have been met. Search powers all under different areas of legislation which include searching for stolen property, prohibited articles namely offensive weapons or anything used for burglary, theft, deception or criminal damage, drugs.

The chart below shows a reduction in the volume of stop and search in Barnet over the past 12 months compared to the previous year. To date this year, there have been a total of 3,325 stop and search in the borough, 92% of individuals stopped were males.

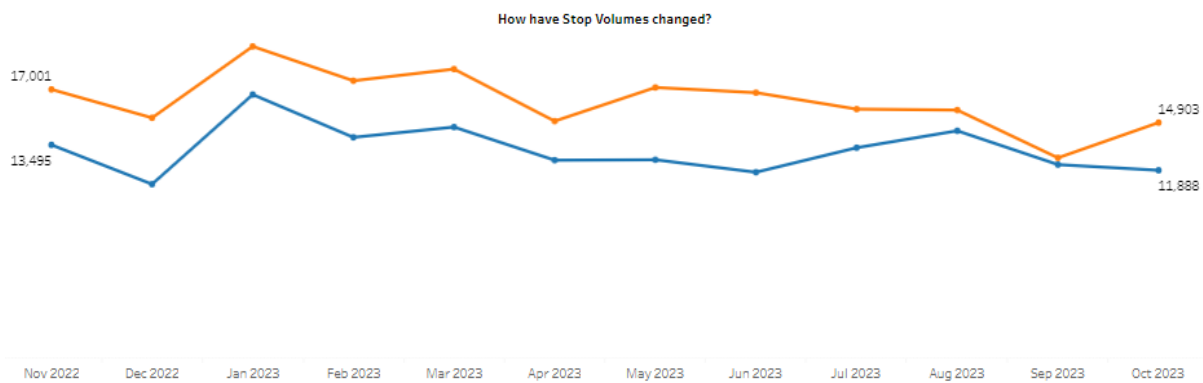
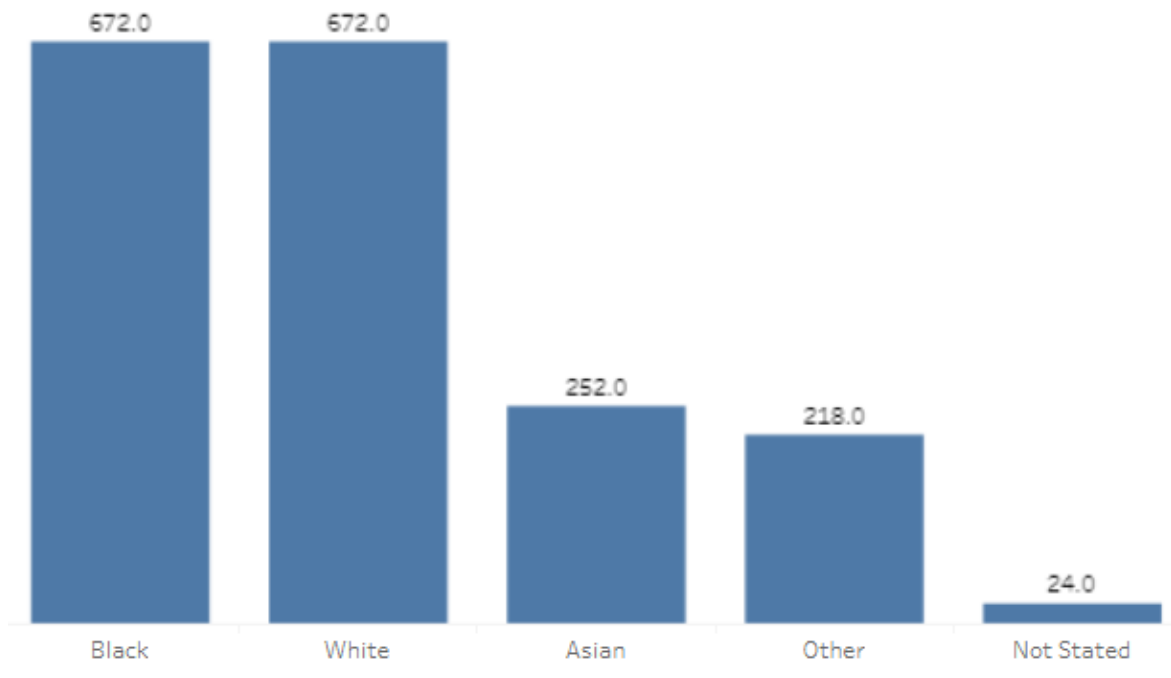


Figure 10. Volume of stops in Barnet from November 2022 to October 2023, London Metropolitan Police data.

The majority of stop and search incidents, amounting to 31.9%, carried out from January 2022 to October 2023 targeted young adults aged 18-25. Among these, 67.2% were related to drugs, and 16.6% for weapons, point and blades. There was an overall 33% success rate in achieving positive outcomes, while the remaining 67% resulted in no further action. A positive outcome can be defined as any outcome other than no further action. The data indicates 873 individuals aged 14 to 17 underwent stop and search procedures. Among them, 44.6% were related to drugs and 28.5% were associated with weapons, points, and blades. This aligns with the increasing trend observed in Barnet youth justice data, specifically concerning individuals aged 10-18 carrying blades and knives. The prevalence of sharp weapons appears to be pronounced among young males.

What are the number of Stops by Ethnic Appearance by Volume?



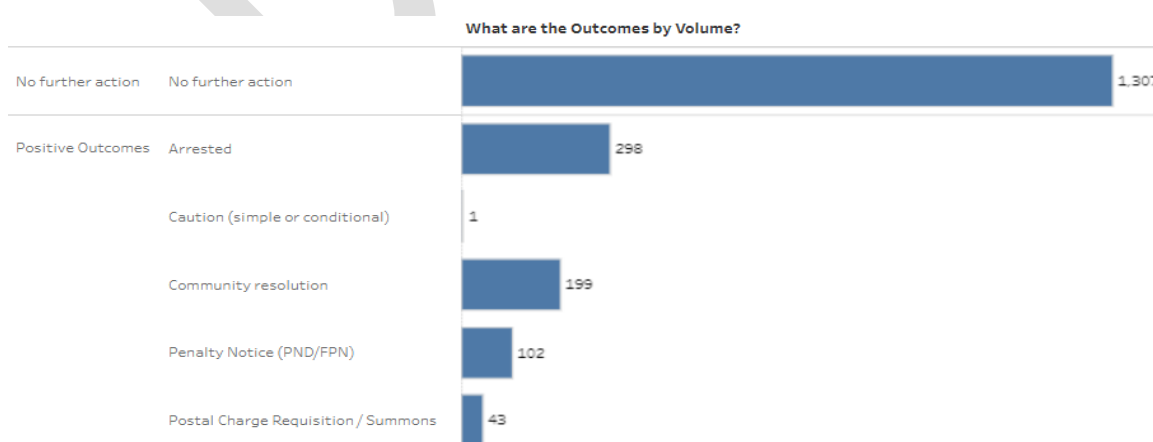
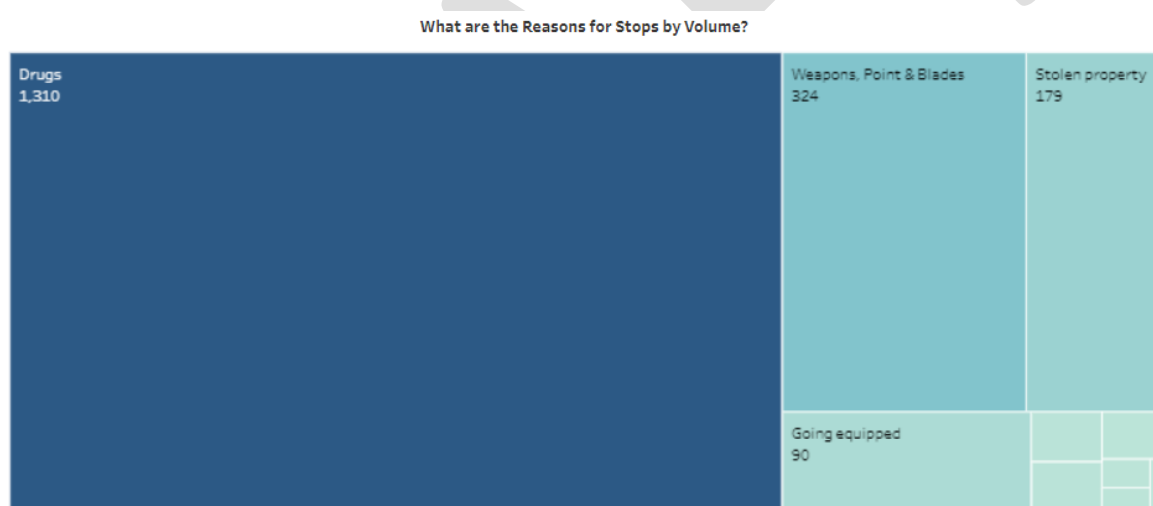
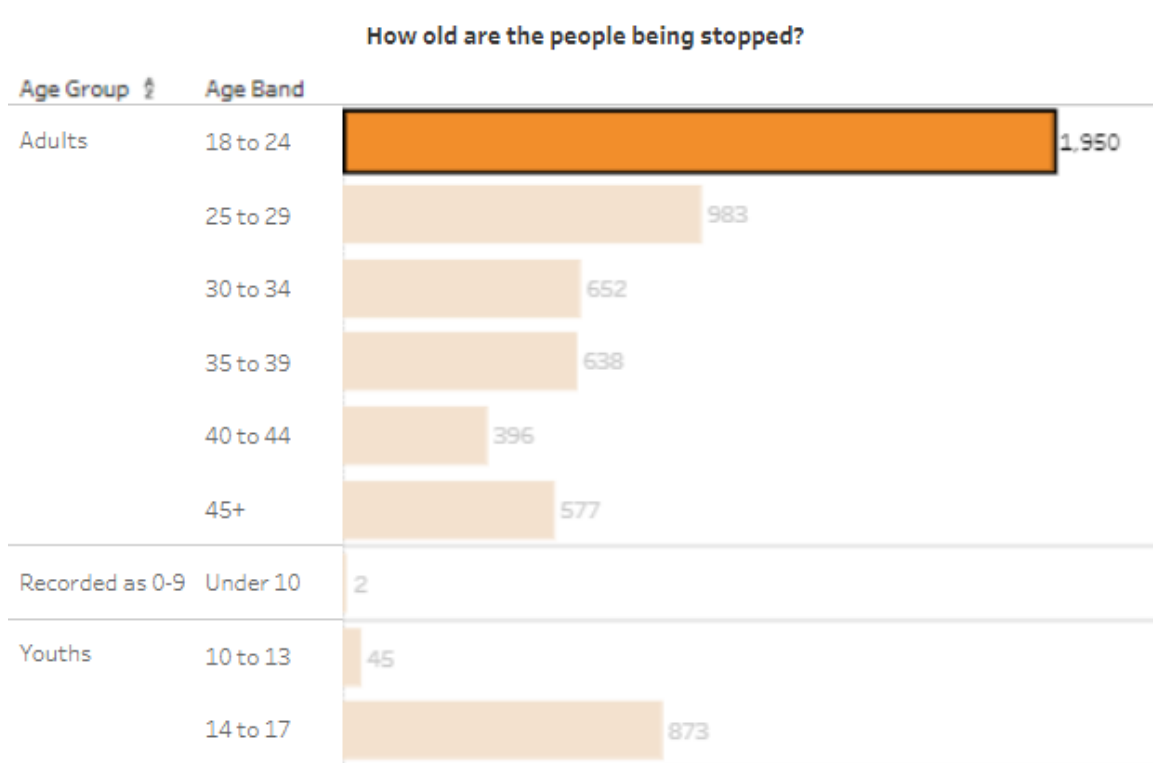


Figure 12. Stop and search outcome data on 18–25-year-olds in Barnet January 2022 – October 2023, London Metropolitan Police data

3.3 London Ambulance Service and Hospital Admissions

The data reveals that ambulance responses to serious violence crimes predominantly involve young males aged 16-25. The peak figures occur among 16- to 20-year-olds in 2022, and a year later, we observe a peak among 21 to 25 years old. This might indicate a continued involvement of those individuals, whether as suspect, victims or witnesses, from 2022 to 2023.

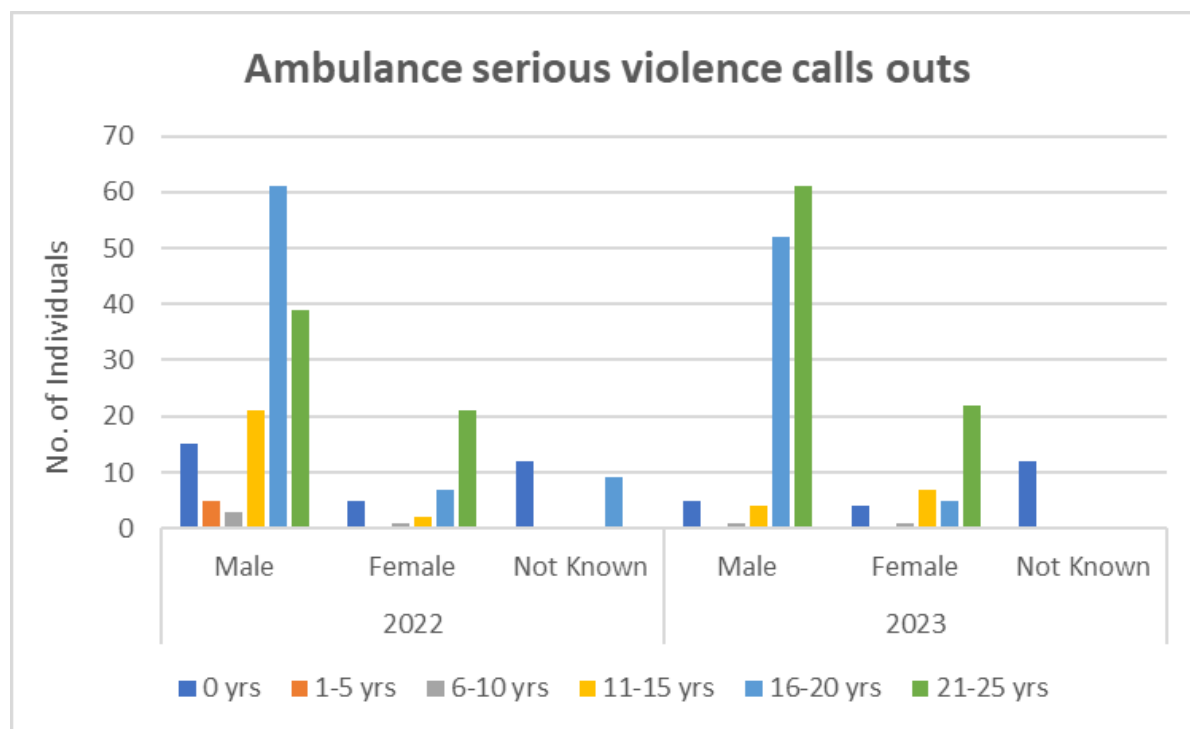


Chart 11. Number of serious violent crimes London Ambulance Services recorded callouts based on gender in Barnet, January 2022 to July 2023, Safestats

3.4 Education

In Barnet there are 130 schools, these are comprised the following, which also include faith, fee-paying, and independent schools.

Type of school	Number of schools
Nursery schools	4
Primary schools	90
Secondary schools	25
All-through schools	3
Special schools	6
Pupil Referral Unit	2

Each school provides their educative approaches and programmes to support pupils; pro-social behaviour and decision-making, healthy relationships and awareness of exploitation and violence. If a school is particularly concerned about a young person they will refer them to Child and Family Early Help Services.

3.4.1 School Exclusions

The school exclusions data over the past two years shows that in the 2022-2023 academic year, **65** young individuals faced school exclusions, compared to **24** in 2021-2022. This rise is believed to be linked to the disruptions caused by the preceding COVID-19 pandemic, impacting the education of young people significantly and changes in reporting accuracy.

Key highlights from this cohort include:

2021-22 Academic Year	2022 – 23 Academic Year
N/A	22 exclusions for Assault, ABH, GBH or threats
7 Young People caught with a weapon (knife)	7 Young People caught with a weapon (knife)
N/A	10 young people were excluded for persistent disruptive behaviour
2 young people were excluded for dealing drugs/or drinking alcohol	1 young person was excluded for dealing drugs
15 were male 8 were Female	45 were Male 20 were Female
11 has a recorded EHCP or SEN	7 had a recorded EHCP, or SEN
Peak numbers of exclusions are in year 9 followed by year 8	Peak numbers of Exclusions are in Year 10 followed by Year 9
12 excluded young people received pupil premium	24 excluded young people received pupil premium

Exclusion of a child from school is often deemed as a last option. Schools in Barnet will have a range of approaches and pastoral support to avoid exclusion. However, there is often a 'zero tolerance' approach to both violence and weapons/drug possession. Although a child found involved in violence or weapons carrying will be reported to the Police, the exclusion process will fall outside of the Out of Court Disposal or Youth Justice Services, which seeks to provide a holistic approach to reducing the risk of further offending and to also support the child's additional needs.

For some children, exclusion represents a significant and critical moment, in which they can be exposed to increased extra-familial risk and harm that can lead to involvement in further violence. Young individuals excluded from school are disproportionately represented among young offenders and also face a higher likelihood of being victims of serious violence. The susceptibility of excluded young individuals is linked to exploitation, with gangs and other criminals frequently targeting them, coercing involvement in serious violent offences.

For many young people who are at risk of exclusion, schools can arrange “managed moves” to other schools to break cycles of disruptive behaviour, currently, these are arrangements which are outside of the local authority and between individuals' schools and the young person's parents/carers.

Although there have been recent changes made to ensure that Barnet Education and Learning Services (BELS) are notified of young people who are at risk of exclusion, there are currently no universal or standardised approaches to support young people and schools at this stage to prevent exclusions.

Across both Barnet and London, knife crime and knife-related violence continue to be a leading issue reflected in both localised and national data from the Police.

Government statistics from 2020 indicate there has been a steady increase of young people with identified learning needs or disabilities. Locally in Barnet, the number of children in primary school education who receive special educational needs support has significantly increased, which will continue to place additional pressure on both primary and secondary schools over the coming years. Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and learning needs are a particularly vulnerable group who can be disproportionately involved in exploitation and violence. Over the next few years, secondary schools and the wider partnership in Barnet will face a greater number of children with SEN. This may present an increased challenge and complexity for all partners to provide preventative, protective, and impactful services to this vulnerable group.

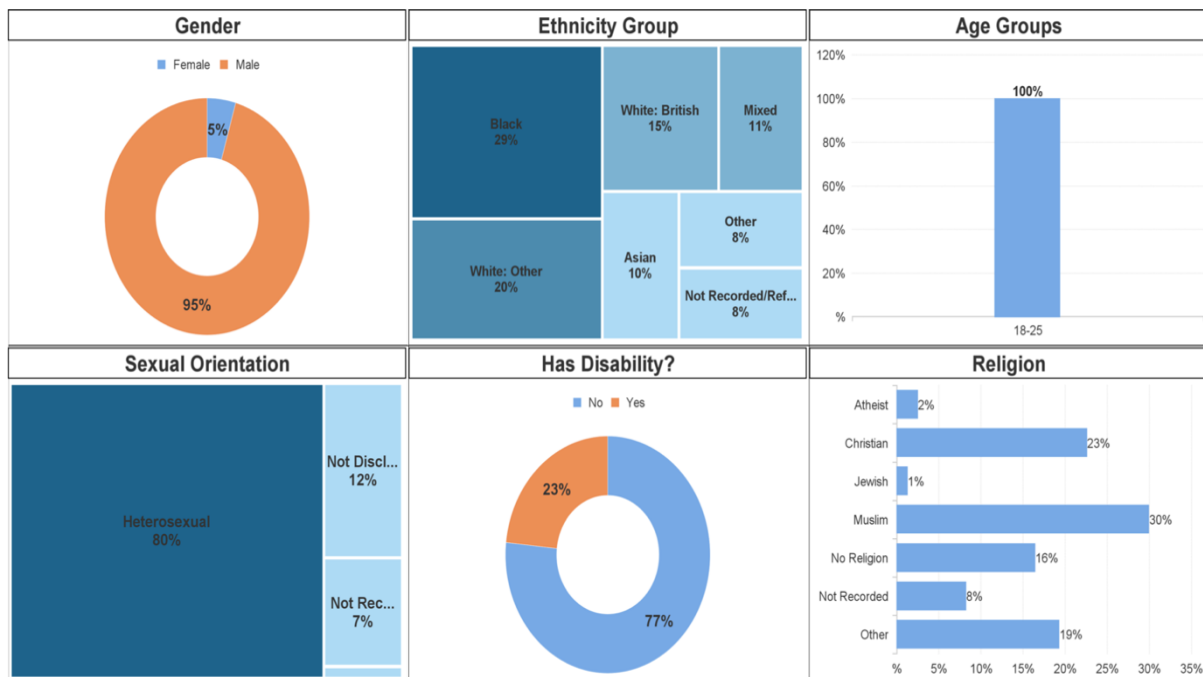
3.5 Probation

Probation services target convicted offenders who are no longer in prison and/or are doing a community sentence to reduce reoffending.

Crime Related to Serious Violence	Percentage of People on Probation
Sexual (adult)	2.46%
Robbery	6.56%
Drug import/export/production	11.07%
Drug Possession/Supply	20.90%
Violence	29.92%

At present in Barnet probation, 187 individuals are 18-25 years of age, of which 95% are male.

3.5.1 Probation Demographics



Services for serious violent offenders have seen a noticeable increase in the number of non-compliant individuals, with most incidents being gang-related. This includes an increase in knife and firearm offences and exploitation. Anecdotal evidence suggests that as older gang members are incarcerated, younger individuals, who can be more reckless, are stepping into leadership roles, with conflicts becoming more relationship-based, unpredictable, and counterintuitive – internal, fluid, leading to frequent infighting and rapidly changing allegiances and no spatial trends.

Many of the cohorts have been exploited in the past and their serious violence journey has been a build-up from arrests for serious violence that do not lead to a conviction (they are convicted on lesser offences). There is also a distorted perception of violence among young people. This cohort appears to have a diminished understanding of the gravity of their actions, which may stem from desensitisation brought about by previous or frequent exposure to violence in lived experience or social media platforms. This normalisation of violence, combined with issues of emotional regulation and an inability to effectively communicate, often results in situations escalating rapidly.

A significant portion of these individuals are care experienced. They often carry a range of complex issues, including trauma from adverse childhood experiences. Transitioning from youth to adult services poses a considerable challenge. The care package that they have become accustomed to in youth provision is no longer. Adult services have fewer provisions and are not suited for guiding 18–25-year-olds. For example, mental health services only deal with acute cases. To navigate successfully, one must be driven and proactive towards their rehabilitation. Especially considering the amount of multifaceted mental and emotional struggles this cohort faces, many are unprepared and/or daunted. This challenge is exacerbated when considering the rise in neurodiversity and learning disabilities, with many youth exhibiting disorders like autism spectrum disorders and attention deficit and hyperactive disorders.

Research has shown that criminogenic needs that are directly related to recidivism are: slow self-control, anti-social personality, anti-social values, criminal peers, substance abuse, and dysfunctional family. These fall under attitude, drug (use), relationship(s), and thinking and behaviour. When people on probation for violent, sexual, robbery, and/or drug-related crimes are examined for their criminogenic needs, attitude, education, training, employment, and lifestyle stand out as needs that, if met, may reduce recidivism.

Criminogenic Need	Violence	Sexual (adult)	Robbery	Drug import export production	Drug possession supply
Attitude	63%	67%	56%	59%	69%
Accommodation	14%	33%	19%	26%	20%
Drug	32%	17%	44%	11%	35%
<i>ETE</i>	41%	-	56%	56%	63%
Finance	21%	-	50%	52%	47%
<i>Lifestyle</i>	49%	50%	56%	56%	51%
Relationship	23%	50%	25%	15%	20%
Thinking & Behaviour	23%	50%	25%	15%	20%

Services and support that are offered to young adults on probation are determined by the presenting criminogenic needs and assessments that are undertaken by their probation workers. Many of the programs that are focused on supporting the reduction of youth/adult, domestic, or sexual violence are regionally provided and will form part of the order and expected engagement and compliance.

An area that has been identified that requires strengthening in terms of service delivery is to widen the breadth, offer, approaches and programmes to 18–25-year-olds, including a range of mentoring, educative and pro-social approaches. In the last two years, No1 Fitness Academy has provided mentoring and fitness qualifications to young adults who are under the Integrated Offender Management cohort. The building of trusted supportive relationships that contribute to building meaningful skills, and qualifications has proven successful and could be extended further, to focus on other presenting needs.

4 Community Voice

Members of the local community including young people, partners and professionals, and residents and local businesses were asked about their views on:

- Perceptions of violence and exploitation.
- Factors that contribute towards feelings of safety and risk.
- Priorities for the partnership and the council to deliver as a response to violence and exploitation.

Over 170 professionals working in Barnet participated in feedback sessions, and residents were invited to complete an online survey following ward walkarounds, resident ward meetings and an open day at the RAF. The results of the consultations show that the community feels that the top three factors that cause violence are the sale of illicit drugs, lack of youth provisions and the cost-of-living crisis and associated outcomes of deprivation. The most identified influences for young people becoming involved in exploitation and serious violence were adverse childhood experiences, coming from disadvantaged households and neighbourhoods including high crime areas, and experiencing educational difficulties.

Approximately 50 young people participated in focus groups which were facilitated by trusted professionals across the partnership including statutory services and the voluntary sector. Young people agreed that the drug trade is the biggest contributing factor influencing violence alongside a lack of support services and social media. Coming from disadvantaged households and living in high-crime areas were the two main factors that young people saw influencing participation in serious violence, alongside adverse childhood experiences and educational difficulties. Differently from the adults, young people felt that having a positive perception of violence was also a significant contributing factor. Occupying spaces with people, being in a group and carrying a mobile phone were things that young people do to make themselves feel safe, and they reported that park patrols and CCTV added to their feelings of safety.

The consultation provided the opportunity for participants to suggest what they think should be done locally to tackle violence:

Policing & Security

- Increased police presence and patrols.
- More CCTV in key areas.
- Harsher sentencing for those who commit crime and carry weapons.
- Stop and search practices.
- Responding to reports of incidents promptly.
- Tackling crime hotspots.

Planning & Infrastructure

- Better lighting in areas to increase safety.
- Minimizing areas treated as assembly points by gangs and drug dealers.
- Planning hostels, children's homes, etc., evenly across areas and ensuring they are monitored.

Education

- Promote and adhere learning to evidence-based education practices.
- Adopt trauma-informed approach to discipline.
- Offer support within schools for struggling students.

Community Engagement

- Supporting residents and listening to their reports.
- Inclusion of community in decision-making.
- Education for community to spot signs of exploitation.
- Council sharing implemented actions and their outcomes.

Youth Support Services

- More activities for young people, including training, employment, education, and vocational opportunities.
- Addressing root causes like adverse or deprived settings.
- Mental health and SEN support for struggling kids and families.
- Youth workforce development.
- Empowerment and education for families to understand youth activities and risks.

There are some key challenges when it comes to delivering and managing services to reduce and prevent child exploitation and serious violence. Feedback suggested that we need to improve multi-agency collaboration so that the process of understanding, identifying, and tackling exploitation is strengthened. Respondents felt there needed to be a broader awareness in schools about exploitation risks and a more proactive rather than reactive approach, and noted that limited capacity and delayed responses across the professional partnership inhibit timely interventions on mental health and socio-emotional support needs. In addition, accommodation for victims remains scarce. Finally, trust with young people can be built more effectively by professionals by thinking about the language that they use to communicate with young people and how this can improve their engagement with services.

5 Mapping Existing Services

In Barnet, there is a range of targeted and universal services that families and young people can access. These services provide both preventative and reactive approaches to violence. These are delivered by both Statutory and the Voluntary sector. At the time of analysis, we had identified 53 services, programmes, or projects that either worked within the field of youth or adult violence, domestic abuse or were services that target causal factors that could lead to incidents of violence occurring. The VCS sector is more transient in terms of provided interventions, due to inherent challenges with funding and capacity. Therefore, this service mapping must be understood to be time-sensitive in nature. The Service Mapping/directory can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1 Summary of Findings

Public Health and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outline that an effective system to tackle localised violence and exploitation should contain a proportionate mixture of both preventative and reactive services, the balance of which should be agile and can change dependent on the presenting needs of its child and adult population. In Barnet, 66% of all services or programmes represent a preventative focus, and 64% of all services provide a focus on reactive response at the point of an incident or threshold being met. 36% of services, programmes or projects that operate in Barnet provide both a range of preventative and reactive services.

The Combatting Drugs Partnership is intrinsically interlinked by its focus on both drug addiction and drug-related offending, including 'County Lines' which is a key driver for serious violence. The Combatting Drugs Action Plan will need to overlay with the Serious Violence Strategy to ensure victims of cuckooing, exploitation and violent offending are protected whilst organised criminal groups and those perpetrating intimidation, violence and harm in communities are brought to justice.

Barnet's Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2027, has three key priorities that underpin the development of a Serious Violence Strategy, these are:

- Priority 1: Tackling and Reducing Anti-social Behaviour
- Priority 2: Early Intervention and Prevention of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Priority 3: Reducing Offending, including Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE), with a focus on acquisitive crime.

Barnet's Youth Justice Plan 2023-25 has seven strategic priorities that will cross into the Serious Violence Strategy, these are:

- Priority 1. Strategic & Operational Multi-Agency Leadership
- Priority 2. Education
- Priority 3. Over-representation of Black and Global Majority Ethnic background children
- Priority 4. Prevention & Diversion
- Priority 5. Serious violence and exploitation

Priority 6. Resettlement & Transitional Safeguarding
Priority 7. Restorative Justice (RJ) and Victims

Barnet's Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy has five strategic partnership objectives that will cross into the Serious Violence Strategy, these are:

- Partnership Objective 1: Early Intervention and Prevention of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Partnership Objective 2: Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
- Partnership Objective 3: Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
- Partnership Objective 4: Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes
- Partnership Objective 5: Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces

The existing strategies, plans and workstreams will need to cohesively join with the partnership plan for tackling serious violence. Local delivery is rich with a mix of internally funded and externally grant-funded programmes and wide range of community based and single agency provision. There are currently 30 statutory funded (including project-funded) or delivered services operating in the borough, 83% of these are focused on a reactive response, 50% of services and projects contain a preventative focus, and 36% of the total projects deliver both preventative and reactive focus.

It was found through the mapping the mechanism and model of intervention for many organisations will contain a mixed approach of mentoring, educative programmes, and psychologically informed conversations as a catalyst for reflection and behavioural change. Of the 53 identified services and programmes, 56% offer youth or young adult mentoring, 43% offer mental or emotional health support, and 43% provide a focus on information and educative approaches for either young persons, professionals, parents, or carers.

A Public Health approach suggests that incidents of violence can be avoided, and individuals can be diverted by adopting approaches that support changes in four domains:

- Individual** Building skills that support social nonviolent safe behaviours
- Relationships support** Parents and carers with skills to talk with young people, set boundaries, solve problems, and monitor their activities and relationships.
- Community**
 - To use data to select, evaluate and commission effective approaches for prevention.
 - Partner with groups, organisations, and services in prevention efforts.
 - Improve and sustain safe environments and create spaces that strengthen social connections within communities.

Societal

To challenge and change norms about the acceptance of violence, and to ensure effective intervention when it does occur.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), outlines the importance that although risk factors are characteristics linked with violence, they are not direct causes of youth violence, and it is the combination of individual, relationship, community, and societal factors that contribute to the overall risk of youth violence occurring.

Further to this, The CDC highlights that there are a range of strategic and operational approaches that if utilised collectively can be effective in supporting the reduction of violence.

5.2 CDC Approaches that Support Preventing Youth Violence (CDC)

- Promoting Family Environments that support healthy development.
- Statutory Social Care and Early Help Services provide a range of group-based and individually tailored approaches that support parenting skills, and family relationships. Much of this work is underpinned by our Barnet Integrated Clinical Service (BICS) and programme of systemic family therapy training that all operational staff can attend.

5.2.1 Parent champions

Funded by the Violence Reduction Unit, the Parent Champions seeks to build a network of parents who can raise awareness and provide peer education to other parents experiencing a range of challenges, such as accessing services, play, parenting skills, supporting positive relationships, and dealing with adolescents and the range of challenges that they may experience. The Project is very much supporting areas that the CDC suggests can reduce violence by ensuring varied parenting skills and family relationship programs. The Parenting Champions currently have 29 Parents who building their capacity to provide peer support and training to other parents. The current cohort is 40% located in the West of the borough and 60% in the East/Central locality.

5.2.2 Provide quality education in early life

Early Years services are well established in the Borough of Barnet and occupy easily accessible spaces throughout the borough, which are close to areas of increased local need and in easy reach of key transport links. Offering a varied range of universal support for young children and families, each Early Year hub works to engage and understand local needs and to provide a range of tailored support, groups, and positive activities.

In Barnet, there are 442 childcare providers which have a combined capacity of being able to provide care and early education to 11,296 children through a range of childminder, private, voluntary, and independent nurseries, with the majority receiving a good or outstanding Ofsted Grading for quality of care and education.

Early Years provision continues to focus on work that supports some of our most vulnerable children in their early years. The recognition of early intervention provided through children's centres, engagement of those on a Child in Need (CIN) or Child Protection (CP) plan and those accessing the free early years entitlement for two-year-olds (FEE2) and wider Early Years funding. The impact is measured utilising EHM Data, local Children's Centre Data, uptake of the Free Early Years Education for 2-year-olds, feedback from service users and case studies.

5.2.3 Connect youth to caring adults and activities

Service mapping identified seven universally accessible spaces that operate in Barnet as “youth drop-ins” which offer positive activities. In many of these spaces, professionals and volunteers can support young people with; pro-social behaviour, psychologically informed discussions, support around emotional and mental health needs, relationships and lived experiences, and internal resources to manage conflict. These are generally run by VCS organisations, although children and young people accessing these services can also be known to statutory services.

Many youth drop-ins are open to access by all young people despite where they may live, anecdotally we are aware that for some young people, crossing across wards and areas affects their sense of personal safety and can present a barrier to accessing the provision. Many of these provisions are primarily concentrated in the West of the borough and occupy spaces, where there is higher crime, deprivation, and localised need. This can present a challenge to accessibility.

REACH & Your Choice Programme REACH was established in 2017 as a wrap-around social work team that integrates Social Workers with Family Support Practitioners, Speech & Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists and Family Therapists. The team works with children at a high risk of gangs and exploitation using whole family approaches to reduce risk.

Since, 2021, Barnet has been participating in the Your Choice programme, a pan-London £10m 3-year pro-social Violence Reduction Programme. The phase 1 programme was launched and funded by the Home Office in December 2021, followed by a Youth Endowment Fund Pilot phase, ‘The Young People Study’ between April 2022 and January 2023. The programme has entered its third phase starting in February 2023 ‘Youth Endowment Fund Efficacy Trial’ which will end in July 2024. The Programme is subject to a randomised control trial evaluation developed by the Anna Freud Centre and the Institute of Fiscal Studies. Barnet has participated in all three phases of the Your Choice Programme which has been delivered through the REACH (Adolescents at Risk) Social Work Team and the Youth Justice Services. Practitioners have been trained in CBT approaches to engage young people, the training is overseen and delivered by the Youth Justice Clinical Manager, a clinical psychologist. In the pilot phase, 5 young people were selected for the programme; in the efficacy phase Barnet will identify up to 70 young people to participate in the study until 2024.

The Your Choice-trained practitioners work with young Londoners aged between 11 & 17 years at a medium/high risk of contextual harm, using psychologically informed, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) tools and techniques. The programme aims to empower young people by taking a public health approach to help break the cycle of violence and harm by providing tools and techniques which practitioners can employ to help a child keep themselves safe. The programme is testing whether making CBT techniques available to children most

affected by violence, through enhancing the skills of practitioners who build therapeutic relationships with them, can lead to increased safety for these children.

5.2.4 MOPAC Project

In 2019 MOPAC started funding a diversionary intervention project in Barnet that operates from Canada Villa in East Central of the Borough. The project offers young people from the ages of 10-17 a 12-week programme of positive activities, to; engage, divert, and through developing trusted relationships model pro-social behaviours and healthy relationships. The project supports groups of young people whose situations and vulnerabilities could escalate into trajectories of youth violence.

Young people eligible for the program are required to meet any of the following criteria:

- Risk of school exclusion
- Risk of criminal exploitation
- Risk of child sexual exploitation

In the last year, **66** young people were referred to the scheme, with 75% of referrals being male.

5.2.5 Positive Activities Programmes

During both school holiday periods and during term time, the Council coordinated the Positive Activities Program, which seeks to provide safe spaces where young people can engage in a range of structured activities across the borough. The program coordinates a range of VCS, and community organisations as well as in-house staff and freelancers to deliver the programmes. During 2022, 2,471 young people accessed positive activities, of which 62.6% were males, and 37.4% were females. We saw an age breakdown of the following that accessed the service:

Part of the success around positive activities is the number of locations that deliver the program across the borough. 21 locations delivered sessions last year of those, 10 were in the west of the borough, eight in east central, and three in the south. We can see from violence incidents, School exclusions and needs mapping show that this is geographically proportionate to localised needs.

5.2.6 Targeted Services

Barnet benefits from a wealth of experience, expertise and community-led providers who are working closely with children, young people and adults affected by violence and crime in the community. These organisations are place-based and have strong connections with local communities, as such are well placed to represent their views and needs. Young Barnet Foundation, Inclusion Barnet and a host of independent and faith providers are key to developing a local network of provision to underpin the strategic aims of the Safer Communities Partnership.

Of the 53 current services provided, five are targeted towards either a particular cohort or demographic characteristics such as gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or religion. All the targeted services are VCS run, and set out to support the following:

- LGBTQ+ preventative sexual health services that provide mentoring and emotional and mental support.
- LGBTQ+ youth centre: providing holistic support focusing on experiences of domestic violence.
- Learning and physical disability preventative and reactive support for young people with learning difficulties around physical abuse, modern-day slavery and supporting living skills.
- Jewish girls providing holistic counselling and emotional and therapeutic support.
- Somali young people and parents holistic support but also focused on school exclusions, advocacy and interpreting services and young people and families affected by serious youth violence.

5.2.7 Females and Criminal Exploitation

Across the UK and within London, there is an increasing trend of young females being criminally exploited, carrying, and dealing drugs, and weapons and becoming involved in incidents of violence. The percentage and number of young females involved in Serious Incidents of Violence rose from 8% (2021) to 15% of the total cohort in 2023. Females represent a growing concern due to increases in offending, including violent offending. There are a small number of organisations in the borough, mainly VCFSE providers, working with girls in relation to relationships, exploitation but this requires development to include support to exit from criminal exploitation and violent offending.

5.3 Create Protective Community Environments

The Detached Engagement Project

Based on “out of office hours” Workers have been mobilised to meet young people and adults in their community spaces and to offer support to children and young people up to the age of 25 years who are ‘hard to reach’, vulnerable, or at risk in targeted areas. The aim is to identify risk factors relating to serious violence at an earlier stage to prevent and ensure appropriate and targeted responses via local interventions and provisions. Visible youth workers work in locations at peak times during the evenings including the weekends to encourage children and young people to access positive diversionary activities and to feedback on the lived experiences and general needs of young people to the council, which helps shape future services. Through this engagement, young people will be offered information and guidance in a range of subjects including employment skills, drugs and alcohol awareness, sexual health, healthy relationships, emotional wellbeing, and mental health.

Supporting Community Capacity

Through VRU Funding our Community Capacity Project was introduced and focuses on;

- Building stronger trust and collaboration between the local communities and agencies.
- Increased sustainability of community networks,
- Stronger community networks that have shared commitment to, understanding of, and vision for reducing violence,

- More inclusive decision-making between local stakeholders, statutory agencies, and communities, who are connected and are collectively leading programmes that are reducing violence,
- Greater capacity within community-led networks.

The Community Capacity Coordinator has delivered 12 interactive awareness-raising workshops and training sessions on exploitation, incidents of serious violence and understanding the challenges and barriers to CYP, parents/carers and professionals from both stat and non-statutory organisations reaching a total of 310 individuals. Community and partnership engagement has been conducted through several activities such as Ward Walks, Ward Panel meetings, Problem-solving Groups (with particular focus on high locations of concern Burnt Oak and Grahame Park Estate), Urban Gamez, Cuppa with a Copper, The Network, Inspiration ALL awards, A New MET for London, Early Help Advisory Board, Graham Park Children and Families Group, Barnet Together Conference, Charing Community Impact meetings, Pop Up Hub support for Victims and facilitated conversations about Community Conferencing.

The Community Capacity Coordinator has established strong relationships with local faith-based organisations which have opened opportunities for restorative sessions to take place between young people at a local school to address low-level ASB concerns. There has been positive engagement with young people which has opened discussions for future co-production and collaboration activities. The residents' associations are receptive to restorative conversations between local policing teams and residents to discuss criminal activities that are causing concerns.

Raising awareness and improving communication with local communities and agencies. Community Capacity Coordinator has attended over 15 community meetings, panels and advisory boards to raise the profile of the new role, aims and objectives. Providing resources and signposting to the Restorative Practice Co-Ordinator, Victims Hub, Early Help, Housing, and Community Safety Team and introducing the offer of Community conferences.

Joining three ward walks within the key areas highlighted within the proposal - Burnt Oak, Colindale, Hendon, Friern Barnet, and Edgware, connecting with residents, local business, SNT, CST, Councillors, building on the trusted relationships. The Tackling Violence Exploitation Strategy Engagement this quarter is evidence of the positive impact connecting with local communities has made. Our data on outputs has proved building community relationships has resulted in successful engagement. In addition, the Police support awareness raising through 'Operation Makesafe' which is targeted in key areas in Barnet to support businesses that could have exposure to exploitation and violence, which often remains hidden.

Victims Right Coordinator

The decommissioning of the Youth Victim Support Service in March 2022 led to a significant gap in victim services for children and young people. The development of a Victim Hub Coordinator role with London Crime Prevention Funding 2022 – 2025, ensures Barnet is ready to respond to the Victims Bill (2023) and will improve the experience of children who are victims of crime. through the (College of Policing 2016, indicates that children who are victims of violent offences often go on to become perpetrators of violent crime, this often starts with

carrying a knife to protect themselves from further victimisation. The Victims Hub Coordinator project is underpinned by three key objectives.

- To improve victim satisfaction and feelings of safety across the borough
- Victims receive better support from the Police and CJS including in online interaction.
- Increase the use of the Victims Code of Practice revised 2021

Since the Victims Hub commenced delivery in December 2022, it has triaged 127 referrals to Sep 2023. Leading to supporting the CDC-recommended approach of ‘treatment to lessen the harms of violence.’

Of the 127 referrals, 95% have been informed about their rights around the Victims Code of Practice and 89% have been supported with safety items for themselves or their homes. 65% of the victims that were referred to the hub were assisting with investigations, ensuring victims have support through the Criminal Justice Service; 67% of victims have been signposted to trauma services.

The Victims Hub has commissioned Calm Mediation for 1-year to work with up to 10 cases that require and meet the threshold for community/neighbour mediation and/or inter-familial conflict.

In the last year, the Victim Hub has established communication with 26 partner services, improving and increasing routes to referral routes and enabling tailored victim care pathways, Briefings and presentations have been delivered to a range of partner agencies on the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) and to raise awareness of the service.

5.3.1 Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

The London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-2025 has enabled a Restorative Justice Coordinator role to be created to support the development of restorative approaches. The role is delivering training to schools, partner agencies and community groups to build local capacity for restorative practice and restorative conferencing. Restorative approaches are evidenced to support the reduction of serious violence, UNICEF.

The project has the following key outcomes.

- Raise awareness of restorative approaches through training and networking.
- Establish referral routes for victims of crime.
- Collaborate with police and internal/external partners to improve awareness of victim rights (VCOP), facilitation of RJ Conferences and recording of interventions.

The RJ Coordinator has met with a range of key stakeholders and groups delivering services in Barnet. In the last year, there have been seventeen internal/external training events which is increasing awareness and interest in restorative approaches. Stakeholders have included police, Early Help, Primary and Secondary schools, Preventing Exclusion Mentors; Residential Care Homes; Youth and VCFSE organisations. The sessions have focused on raising awareness of Restorative Justice Conference Facilitation, conflict de-escalation and community building. Over 150 individuals attended in the reporting period.

Six schools have benefitted from training which has been individually tailored around their phase, context, and levels of prior experience with restorative approaches.

A restorative culture builds, nurtures and strengthens relationships so that they become resilient and resistant to challenge. In an education context, the investment in creating a culture where pro-social behaviour is explicitly recognised and rewarded, helps children and young people develop appropriate habits and virtues that enable them to make a positive contribution to society.

The development of the Community Impact focus of SIRM meetings has led to the first Restorative Community Engagement Meeting taking place in which approximately 40 residents, schools, ward councillors, police and community partners came together to share their experience following an incident of serious violence. The process allows for the impact of violence to be understood and actions to be congruent with expressed needs. The project has taken 32 referrals since starting in January 2023 which has led to residents receiving direct support through the Restorative Approaches coordinator and/or being informed of their rights under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

5.4 Transitional and services 18-25

The rising trend in serious offences among the youth underscores the importance of this intervention, and timely action is imperative as when they enter adulthood, the availability of social support care needs, independent living skills, and behavioural and mental health services to aid their ability to cope, especially if they have been in care.

Over the last 18 months, there has been a significant move to strengthen transitional arrangements and support for young adults in the age groups 18-25. This is in congruence with best practice and research that highlights that vulnerability to both exploitation and incidents of violence does not stop at 18. Over half 56% of the total programs and projects which are provided or funded by statutory organisations work with young people up to the age of 25 and or adults (focused on Domestic Violence and Abuse, Victims' Rights).

To ensure that this work is coordinated Barnet Family Services assumed responsibility in 2021 for serious violence and integrated offender management which had previously been held by the Community Safety Team; this included the operational responsibility for the Adults at Risk Panel (ARP).

The community safety partnership's Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Reduction Plan 2022-24 and the Youth Justice Plan has developed some early planning to strengthen Transitional Safeguarding arrangements although this requires further whole system partnership working to achieve an effective and cohesive model of delivery. Coercion and control of exploited young people does not stop when they reach 18 years of age, and most victims of serious violence are in the 16-25 age range.

Referral	Referrals				Identify as		Age				Vulnerabilities				
	Volume	NPS	Leaving care	RAAP	TOM	Male	Female	18-25	26+	Youngest	Elderly	Gang flagged	Form of vulnerability	Experiencing DA	NRM

16	25%	38%	6%	6%	94%	6%	94%	6%	18	28	81%	94%	10%	19%
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The Tackling Adult Violence and Exploitation Coordinator regularly leads partnership awareness-raising events and workshops to share learning arising from themes discussed at ARP.

5.5 Integrated Offender Management

Statistics highlight the need for interventions that lessen reoffending, especially when the social support systems are inadequate, which is frequent for this demographic. To support the tailored, structured approach to helping these youths navigate their trauma and mental health issues into adulthood. The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) framework stands out as a localised, holistic intervention. Embracing the principle of local solutions to local problems, IOM’s approach ensures that local partners collaboratively decide on offender groups to target and prioritise.

Intensive mentoring support has proven to be effective in supporting the IOM cohort. This model needs to be considered for a wider cohort of 18-25 year olds who are not subject to IOM interventions.

6 Risk & Protective Factors for Serious Violence

In developing interventions for young people, it is crucial to consider the diverse influences and exposure to risk factors that contribute to shaping their behaviour. The impact of each risk factor varies based on the developmental stage and diverse social conditions of the young person. Offending rates show a strong correlation with various indicators of deprivation and poverty, particularly in areas where accessing food is challenging. Additionally, high absence rates from schools and low employment rates emerge as significant predictors of serious violent crimes. Social and economic disparities heighten frustration among disadvantaged youth, fostering an environment where violence becomes a common outlet. Implementing effective prevention measures requires addressing the fundamental social and economic inequalities contributing to serious youth violence.

6.1 Risk Factors

SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

Factors associated with rates of victimisation and offending in London boroughs



Figure 3. Analytics on risk factors conducted by GLA City Intelligence and MOPAC. Understanding serious violence among young people in London 2021, London Datastore.

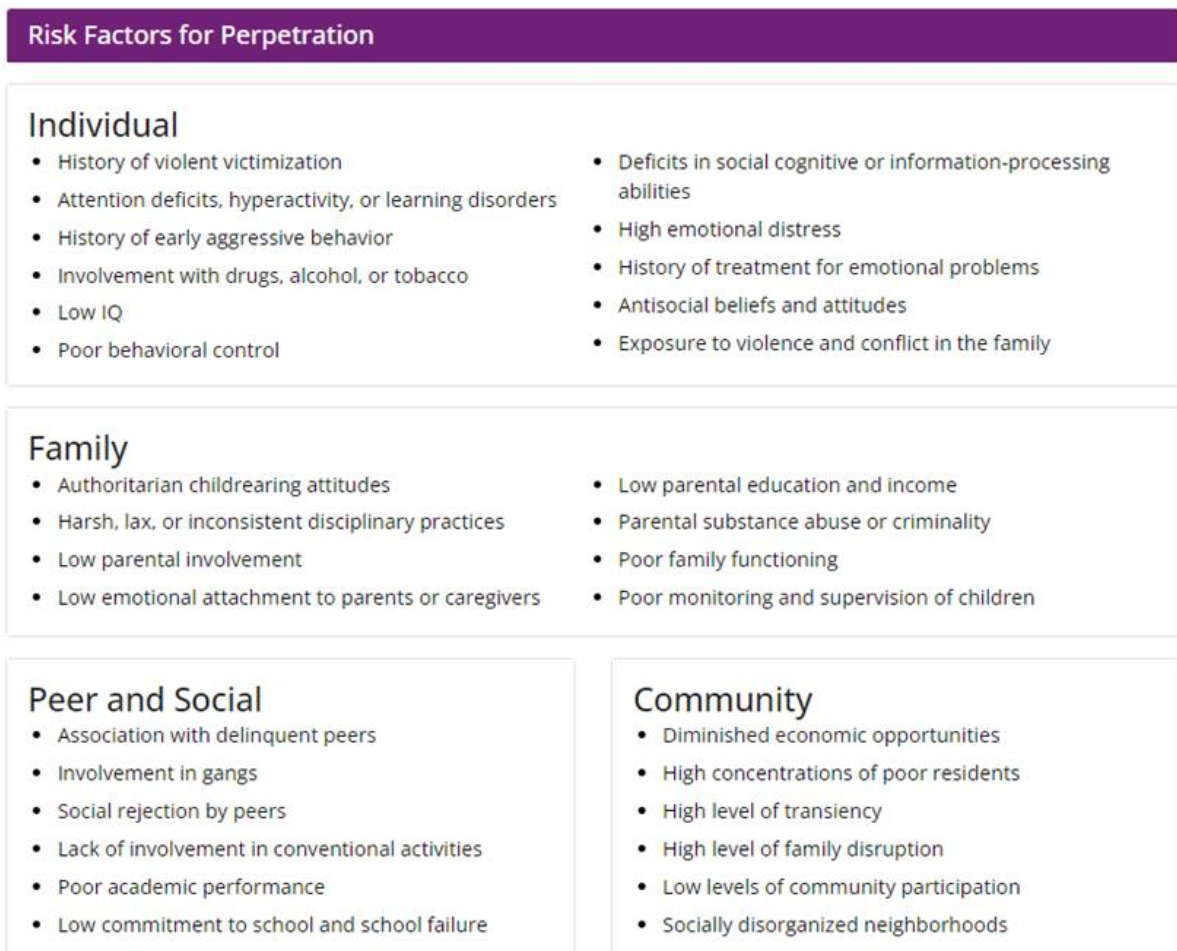


Figure 4. Risk factors associated with serious violence crimes, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.2020.

6.2 Protective Factors

Protective Factors for Perpetration

Protective factors may lessen the likelihood of youth violence victimization or perpetration. Identifying and understanding protective factors are equally as important as researching risk factors.

Individual

- Intolerant attitude toward deviance
- High IQ
- High grade point average (as an indicator of high academic achievement)
- High educational aspirations
- Positive social orientation
- Popularity acknowledged by peers
- Highly developed social skills/competencies
- Highly developed skills for realistic planning
- Religious beliefs

Family

- Connectedness to family or adults outside the family
- Ability to discuss problems with parents
- Perceived parental expectations about school performance are high
- Frequent shared activities with parents
- Consistent presence of parent during at least one of the following: when awakening, when arriving home from school, at evening mealtime, or when going to bed
- Involvement in social activities
- Parental/family use of constructive strategies for coping with problems (provision of models of constructive coping)

Peer and Social

- Possession of affective relationships with those at school that are strong, close, and prosocially oriented
- Commitment to school (an investment in school and in doing well at school)
- Close relationships with non-deviant peers
- Membership in peer groups that do not condone antisocial behavior
- Involvement in prosocial activities
- Exposure to school climates with the following characteristics:
 - Intensive supervision
 - Clear behavior rules
 - Firm disciplinary methods
 - Engagement of parents and teachers

Figure 5. Protective factors associated with serious violence crimes, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.2020.

Summary of activity and potential areas for development

Areas	Factors
Individual	There is a range of universal drop-in and youth clubs which operate in Barnet. They are generally located in the West and East Central of the Borough, although these are located in areas of identified high need and vulnerability, this can present a challenge for those young people who are unable to access these areas through a range of reasons including familial economic inactivity, feelings of personal safety. Further, development around to ensure maximal accessibility may need to be considered.

	<p>The positive activities program is well engaged with throughout both term and school holidays. It is a strength that the program is accessed by many young people in a range of locations across the borough, these groups and programs can change year to year. It can be seen that the primary ages of PA, are generally younger cohorts than those receiving OOC.</p> <p>There are disproportionately higher numbers of males who are flagged for concerns around the risk of being involved in violence and exploitation. Young males also represent a higher group for school exclusions, YJS, OOC and Probation. This is disproportionate to the gender breakdown of Barnet demographics. There is work being undertaken strategically and operationally across the partnership around tackling disproportionality, this group needs to continue to be monitored to ensure that services are effective in reducing the representation of young males.</p> <p>We can see that a greater proportion of males are engaged in a range of positive activities. However, they represent a lower cohort for receiving Victims' Rights Services than that of females.</p> <p>Probation provides fixed programmes to those convicted of violent offences. However universal and preventative programs to divert young people at risk of becoming involved in violence, which include a range of mentoring and development of skills employment and qualification (Such as No1 Fitness academy) could be further developed.</p>
<p>Family</p>	<p>There are increasing numbers of children and young people identified with SEN this may further impact a variety of factors that will increase local needs including; economic inactivity of families, deprivation, and vulnerability of young people being involved in violence.</p> <p>We can see a general increase in economic inactivity of families in Barnet, (from 'fingertips' government statistics,) families eligible for free school meals have also increased in the last year. Deprivation is connected to increasing incidents of crime, exploitation, and violence.</p> <p>Although developing through the parent champions, universal and standardised education and support for parents around issues that adolescents can experience including violence and weapons are currently being developed.</p> <p>Many information sources as to how to access services are electronic, which presents a range of barriers such as language, and access to the internet, increasing economic activity may also increase the number of families not knowing how to access support.</p>
<p>School</p>	<p>According to local data, school exclusions were higher in the last academic year than in previous years, there appears to be a trend of increasing</p>

exclusion based on weapons, and incidents of violence occurring in schools. Exclusions represent a significant risk factor for a young person to become involved in Violence or Exploitation. There is a range of programs including “Turnaround”, Positive activities, and MOPAC, which are designed to support diversion.

Further analysis is required to ensure that young people at risk of exclusion are receiving the above intervention at the very earliest stages.

Restorative approaches and training in school are still developing and further work around a coordinated response to supporting young people who are at risk of exclusion needs to be further developed.

There is currently a lack of universal standardised support to schools around preventative education to raise awareness of violence among young people in both primary and secondary school.

The number of young people being identified with Special Educational Needs is increasing from previous years and the population in primary school is almost 1000 young people higher than currently in secondary school. This will present further complexity that may require not only a standardised educative response to all schools but also some increased targeted support for this vulnerable cohort.

According to 2021 census, in Barnet, the population of children and young people aged 0-17 is around 89,300. With the breakdown of age groups outlined below, it can be seen; that the 10-14 years age is currently larger in population than the current 15–19-year-olds. This means that local services will need to reflect the potential increase in demand for services to support adolescents for the next 10 years.

The engagement of community capacity building is still developing, and to be embedded. This year saw a significant increase in consultation with resident groups and local people on emerging strategy development.

Community

70% of statutory delivered services and projects tackling violence are funded through either internal or external, time-limited temporary funding streams, with most of the funding ending in 2025.

Police crime statistics indicate an increasing number of violent offences occurring in Barnet in all age groups in 2022-2023 to the previous year, with the biggest increase in the 18-24 age group. This places greater importance on coordinated preventative measures for young people under the age of 18.

Police crime data shows higher rates of weapon offences for 0-17 and 18-24 age groups in 22/23 than the previous year. Indicating feelings of lack of safety in the Borough. However, this may also support better detection rates, and it is suggested that this includes those found with a weapon.

	Drug offences over the last year have also increased in line with weapon offences, although it must be noted that drug offences are lower in Barnet compared to London.
Peer Group	Many services are working with individual young people and adults. Group work activity tends to be more focused in the VCS sector. However, we understand the contextual relationships that young people have with one another, and coordinated information from the partnership is effectively shared.

Figure 4. Protective factors associated with serious violence crimes, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.2020.

DRAFT

Serious Violence Duty Strategy

Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)

Safety Community Partnership Board

Friday 24th November 2023

Christopher Kelly – Strategic Lead for Tackling Violence and Exploitation

Jalpa Patel – Family Services Improvement Lead



SNA Key Findings – Barnet Violence Profile:

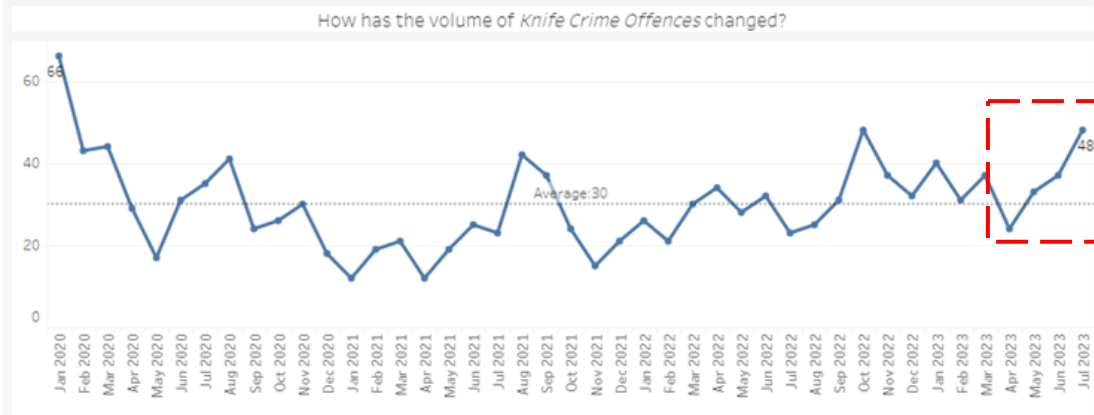
London Boroughs	Offence Count
Westminster	160,402
Newham	77,391
Tower Hamlets	73,858
Southwark	73,845
Camden	73,556
Croydon	73,300
Lambeth	70,760
Ealing	65,612
Hackney	65,290
Brent	63,989
Enfield	63,034
Haringey	61,004
Lewisham	60,667
Greenwich	59,913
Barnet	59,385
Islington	57,925
Hounslow	55,412
Hillingdon	53,001
Wandsworth	52,719
Redbridge	51,402
Bromley	48,836
Waltham Forest	48,402
Barking & Dagenham	45,953
Hammersmith & Fulham	45,172
Kensington & Chelsea	43,749
Havering	43,040
Bexley	35,011
Harrow	34,147
Merton	29,579
Sutton	28,656
Kingston upon Thames	26,286
Richmond upon Thames	24,675

Offence Group	Year-end October 2022	Year-end October 2023	% change
Homicide	4	6	+ 50%
Violence with injury	1,938	1,981	+ 2.2%
Violence without injury	4,548	5,014	+ 10.2%
Sexual offences	620	577	- 6.9%
Robbery	587	757	+ 28.9%
Theft offences	4,739	5,345	+ 12.8%
Burglary	2,097	2,066	- 1.5%
Criminal damage & arson	1,534	1,617	+ 5.4%
Drug offences	862	929	+ 7.8%
Possession of weapon offences	145	125	- 13.8%
Total	17,074	18,417	+ 7.9%

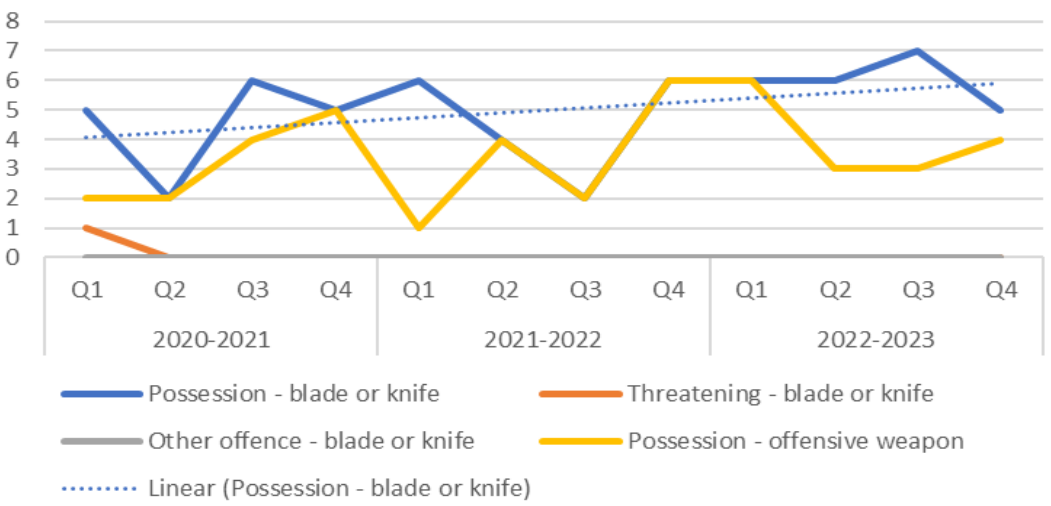
Insights:

- ❑ In the ranking of London boroughs, Barnet holds the 15th position for the number of offences reported from January 2022 to October 2023.
- ❑ Violence with & without injury and theft & burglary were the highest offences in the borough – this is consistent with the highest offence crimes amongst under 25s.
- ❑ MPS suspect data suggests a greater occurrence of serious violence crimes among individuals under 25; (however, it is important to note the presence of undisclosed data that cannot be accounted for)
- ❑ There is a higher rate of serious violence offences amongst those under 25 years which can be attributed to a combination of factors i.e. higher prevalence of involvement in street gangs/group offending and/or exploitation/organised criminal groups.
- ❑ Other contributing factors to offending are exposure to domestic abuse, adverse life experiences, mental health, socioeconomic disparities and access to education and employment.

SNA Key Findings – Knife Offences:



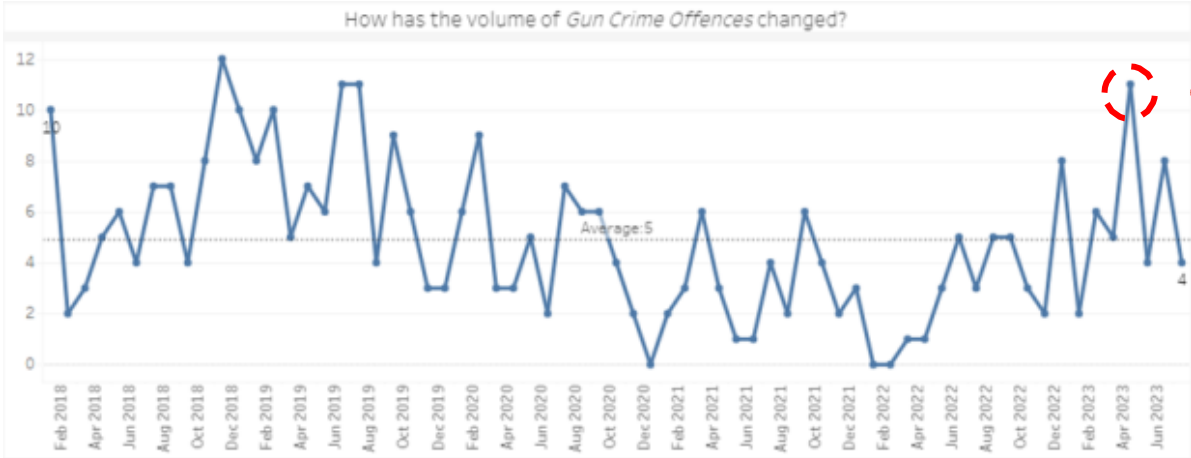
Knife & offensive weapons offences



Insights:

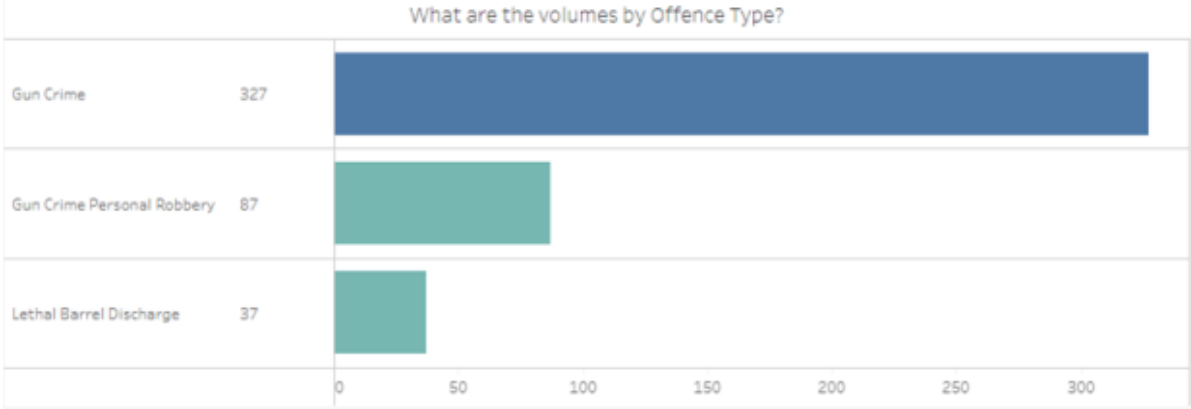
- ❑ Knife crime in the borough has varied over time but continues to pose a concern for the community and particularly youths.
- ❑ The figure to the left illustrates a spike in offences, indicating a 100% increase between April – July 2023.
- ❑ Within the period from January 2020 to July 2023, **128** victims of knife offences resulting in injury were under the age of 24.
- ❑ MPS data, shows an increased prevalence of blades and knives used during serious violent crimes such as burglary, theft, and robberies.
- ❑ Taken from our Youth Justice Service data, the chart to the left illustrates a rising trend in the number of blades or knives carried by 10–18-year-olds in Barnet.
- ❑ 873 individuals aged between 14 to 17 underwent stop and search procedures. Among them, 44.6% were related to drugs and 28.5% were associated with weapons, points, and blades. This aligns with the increasing trend observed in Barnet youth justice data, specifically concerning individuals aged between 10 to 18 carrying blades and knives. The prevalence of sharp weapons appears to be pronounced among young males.

SNA Key Findings – Firearm Offences:



Insights:

- ❑ Since 2019 there has been a steady increase in the number of firearm offences in the borough.
- ❑ April 2023 saw a notable spike of **120%** in the number possession of firearm and shooting offences which was linked to known local tensions in the Graham Park area.
- ❑ With the MPS adoption of the Clear Hold Build (CHB) model, there has been a substantial success rate of arrests following these incidents.
- ❑ Building on this achievement, there has been a **64%** decrease in the incidence of gun crime offences.



Young People

- Over 50 young people participated in focus sessions which were facilitated by trusted professionals in (YJS, UNITAS, REACH, Early Help, Youth Board)
- Questions were largely open ended and undertaken as a discussion rather than survey

Partners and Professionals

- Over 170 people working in Barnet participated in interactive 'Slido' Sessions.

Residents and Local Businesses

- Following three wards walkarounds, resident ward meetings and open day at the RAF. Residents were invited to complete an online survey via a QR code.

All three groups were asked about their views around:

- Perceptions of Violence and Exploitation
- Factors that support feeling safer or more at risk in the borough,
- Areas and priorities that the partnership and council to implement /drive to improve; safety, and response to violence and exploitation

Key challenges identified when managing child exploitation and serious violence

Lack of effective multi-agency collaboration, which hampers the process of understanding, identifying, and tackling exploitation

Language to communicate with young people and among professionals often misses the mark, causing mistrust among youth and reduces their engagement in support services

Need for broader awareness and education in schools about exploitation risks, coupled with desire for more proactive, rather than merely reactive approaches

Limited capacity and delayed responses inhibit timely intervention on mental health and socio-emotional support needs

Accommodation for victims remains scarce

Key priorities that should be implemented to combat child exploitation and serious violence

- **Early Intervention & Support:** combined services enforcement in pre-criminal spaces, recognising behavioural issues at early stages, and implementing trauma-informed practices across support systems
- **Education & Awareness:** Enhance education about risks both in schools and communities, educate parents about potential dangers, and foster open conversations
- **Community Engagement & Support:** Support marginalised communities; strengthen community cohesion; prioritise role of the community in early intervention; foster better police-community relationships
- **Professional Collaboration & Training:** Funding and training professionals to effectively identify risks; promote multi-agency collaborations with emphasis on safeguarding and disruption techniques
- **Youth Opportunities and Support:** Provide affordable after-school activities, supporting non-academic youth, and focusing on anti-poverty practices
- **Mental Health & Holistic Support:** Timely mental health support services vital; provide holistic support to families facing trauma; address substance misuse needs comprehensively
- **Policy Change:** Call for alternatives to harmful policing and school exclusions, ensuring justice system leans more towards rehabilitation, and addressing broader implications of drug laws *and demands*

Shared views on strategic focus to support those affected by child exploitation and serious violence



Young People and Resident Feedback: what needs to change

Policing & Security

- Increased police presence and patrols
- More CCTV in key areas
- Harsher sentencing for those who commit crime and carry weapons
- Stop and search practices
- Responding to reports of incidents promptly
- Tackling crime hotspots

Planning & Infrastructure

- Better lighting in areas to increase safety
- Minimizing areas treated as assembly points by gangs and drug dealers
- Planning hostels, children's homes, etc., evenly across areas and ensuring they are monitored

School / Education Reforms

- Promote and adhere learning to evidence-based education practices
- Adopt trauma-informed approach to discipline
- Offer support within schools for struggling students

Community Engagement

- Supporting residents and listening to their reports
- Inclusion of community in decision-making
- Education for community to spot signs of exploitation
- Council sharing implemented actions and their outcomes

Youth Support & Opportunities

- More activities for young people, including training, employment, education, and vocational opportunities
- Addressing root causes like adverse or deprived settings
- Mental health and SEN support for struggling kids and families
- Youth workforce development
- Empowerment and education for families to understand youth activities and risks

Key Findings: Summary

- Males under the age of 25 are most affected by and involved in incidents of serious violence.
- Barnet's overall crime profile reports violence against the person, burglary, theft and robbery as the highest crime types in the borough; a similar profile is reported for under 25's in the borough.
- Over the past 12 months, there have been 3,325 stop and search incidents of which 67.2% were related to potential drug offences. 49% of the stop and search resulted in positive outcomes such as arrest, community resolution, penalty notice, postal charge requisition, or caution. The remaining 51% resulted in no further action.
- The majority of stop and search incidents, amounting to 31.9%, carried out from January 2022 to October 2023 targeted young male adults aged 18-25.
- 875 individuals aged between 14 to 17 underwent stop and search procedures. Among them, 44.7% were related to drugs and 28.5% were associated with weapons, points, and blades – 96 were arrested. This aligns with the increasing trend observed in Barnet YJS data, concerning individuals aged between 10 to 18 carrying blades and knives. The prevalence of sharp weapons appears to be pronounced among young males.
- Youth Justice Service (YJS) data shows a 63% increase in the number of 10 to 18-year-olds found in possession of a weapon in 2023 compared to reported data in 2022. The increase is relative to an increase in robbery offences.

Key Findings: Summary cont'd

- While YJS data indicates that drug-related offending among 10 to 18-year-olds is relatively low, search and stop data shows that drug related offences was the highest reason for a stop amongst this age group. Although, 78.3% resulted in no further action.
- There has been a 40% reduction in serious violence incidences in the community, against a rise of violent incidents at public transport hubs and restaurants in the borough.
- There has been a 43% reduction in the number of young people residing in Barnet being identified as suspects in incidents of violence in the community.
- There are very low rates of children and adults of Asian ethnicity in serious violence, child exploitation and missing data. A recent 9% increase in reported crime from those identifying as Asian may indicate an increase in awareness and trust.
- The number of young people excluded from school due to involvement in a serious violent crime has risen from 24 to 65, of which 69% were male and 12% have Special Education Needs (SEN) and/or have an Education, Health, Care Plan (EHCP).
- Feedback from community engagement underscores the necessity for enhanced multi-agency collaboration, aiming to fortify the process of understanding, identifying, and tackling exploitation.

Key Strategic Objectives:

Objective 1.	Strengthen partnership working and maintain community presence across the partnership to tackle violent youth offending in the borough.
Objective 2.	To enhance our engagement and coproduction practices to solve local problems with local people.
Objective 3.	Creating and implementing multi-agency work models to lead in the early intervention and prevention of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls and to support in the pursuit of perpetrators to engage them in behaviour change interventions.
Objective 4.	To tackle the 'normalisation' of youth violence for both the individual, families and within schools, colleges, and the wider community.

Objective 5.

Support the development of a place-based approach in local schools and communities, with a focus on:

- Empowering parents and carers
- Preventative education approaches
- Meeting the emerging needs of children and young people with special educational needs
- Pro-active and evidenced-informed support for 10 to 25-year-olds at the greatest risk of exploitation, offending and violence.

Objective 6.

To address the gender disparity and adultification in engagement with victim services through improving trust and confidence towards statutory services.

Objective 7.

To enhance our victim support offers through making them more accessible and increasing trust and confidence in these offers and encourage victims to sustain positive trajectories from points of crisis.

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Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plans:

VVR ACTION PLAN tab:

Local Outcomes (Column D) - This is for boroughs to update to record any local aims which this action aligns with.

VRU Outcomes (Column E) - Boroughs do not need to concern themselves with this column. This column aligns with the wider VRU outcomes framework, although as some actions could potentially fall under several of the VRU outcomes, this is not a definitive list. This column may be used at a later stage to drive an entry on the VRU dashboard on how activity across London relates to our outcomes.

Progress (Column K) - This column supplements a RAG rating by enabling the borough to record whether work has commenced, and if so at what stage (planning/delivery).

Comments (Column L) - This is where the updates on activity are logged.

Document Reference (Column M) - This can be used by boroughs internally to link to documents, or for any information they wish to link to in their return to the VRU. Documents could also be attached. In any external sharing, consider the sensitivity of what is being shared, and necessity.

RAG status (Column K) - For recording progress during the planning and implementation stages; (likely to be green once an action is completed). Status should be broadly: *green* - action is progressing well; *amber* - some minor barriers; *red* - serious barriers to progress.

MENU OF OPTIONAL ACTIONS tab:

The intention is that for any actions from this tab which boroughs wish to implement, they insert a new line on the VR ACTION PLAN tab and copy the detail of the action over.

EMERGING THEMES tab:

This tab allows text updates on these issues which the VRU are keen to understand more on.

EMERGING THEMES::

For 2023 the VRU is also asking boroughs to provide information on work that is being carried out under these areas, which are mentioned in the VRU's own strategy.

While we have not yet included any specific actions in relation to these, increasing our knowledge would help us assess how we could focus and co-ordinate work in the future.

This section asks boroughs to provide information on any work they are undertaking in these spaces.

Theme	BOROUGH UPDATES
REDUCING ONLINE HARMS	
UNIVERSAL YOUTH WORK to support the safety of children and young people	
PARENT/CARER NETWORKS and systems of support	
LEARNING AND SHARING from research, evidence and insight, and self-assessments	

NAME OF BOROUGH - Community Safety Partnership Local Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan							
2023/24	Name	Organisation	Role	Key Local Strategic Documents that support violence reduction			
ACTION PLAN		Local Authority	CSP Chair				
		Local Authority	Chief Executive				
		Local Authority	Local Authority Leader/Mayor				
		MPS	BCU Commander				
		MPS	Neighbourhoods Superintendent				
	SENIOR LEADERSHIP		Local Authority	Director of Children's Services			
			Local Authority	Director of Public Health			
			Local Authority	Director/Head of Community Safety			
			London Fire Brigade	Borough Commander London Fire Brigade			
			Probation Service	Area service lead officer			
			Local Authority	Local Authority Housing Director			
			Local Authority	Lead Member for Community Safety			
			Local Authority	Lead Member for Children's Services			
			Victims Support	Local Senior Operations Manager			
			Safer Neighbourhood Board	Chair			
	Integrated Care Board	Partnership lead					
	Early Help & Prevention	Head of Service					
	Community Voluntary Sector	Chief Executive/Partnership lead					

Ref	Theme	Action No	Actions	Local Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	Risk RAG status
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1. GOVERNANCE		1	Set out the local co-ordination arrangements between the Community Safety Partnership and sub groups, Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards+C28:M43, Local Drugs Partnership, and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reducing violence aligned to the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) strategy. (A structure chart would be useful to aid VRU understanding)	Barnet's new Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Strategy outlines our local governance and strategic alignments with; Combatting Drugs, Violence Against Women and Girls, child participation and youth justice, this is overseen by the Community Safety Partnership Board.	Improved systems-level thinking	Cllr Lead for Community Safety	CSPB	Jan-24	Mar-27	CYPS, CST				
		2	CSP Meeting agendas to include violence performance in line with the Serious Violence Duty and key priorities identified, domestic abuse and sexual offences, community tensions and stop and search as standing items.	Our Local Safer Communities Partnership Board will maintain an overview of a range of violent offences including, sexual offences, domestic violence, community tensions and hate crime, and stop and search To develop a scrutiny panel to look at public experiences of stop and search and to challenge and promote best practice. The Scrutiny Panel should be led by the community, and grass roots youth and adult groups. Barnet's Community Safety Partnership Board will develop a standardise set of Key Performance Indicators that will be monitored against the Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan to ensure effectiveness.	Improved systems-level thinking	Cllr Lead for Community Safety	CSPB	Jan-24	Mar-27	CYPS, CST, Police, Health				
						Tina McElligott	CYPS, VCS	Aug-24	Oct-24	Police, CST and VCS				
						Cllr Lead for Community Safety	CYPS, CST	Jul-24	Sep-24	Police, Health, Education				
		3	Implement a regular violence assessment meeting attended by Police BCU representative(s), relevant Local Authority colleagues, Probation and other suitable external partners. TOR's and details of attendees/roles to be provided with action plan returns	Current local arrangements is that local violence assessment meeting discussed as part of the Tactical Tasking Coordination Group, which includes statutory partners and takes place on a monthly basis.	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk	Supt Lorraine Busby-McVey	Police	Jan-24	Mar-27					
		4	Monthly Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group (or local equivalent) to include Violence Intelligence Briefing, tasking of partnership services to target offenders and hotspot locations; maintain and/or review a tracker to identify and manage events of risk, monitor and review community tensions and community feedback	NW BCU - Tactical Tasking Group maintains an overview of Violence across Barnet Brent and Harrow. Themes are analysed and presented in to a range of strategic and operational forums including Strategic MACE, Community Safety MARAC, which sets a range of activity to support local communities and reduce tension. Themes emerging from the TTCG, MACE, Partner feedback and local performance data, will continue to inform workforce development, project funding bids,	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk	Supt Lorraine Busby-McVey	Police	Jan-24	Mar-27	CST, CYPS, Probation				
						Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Mar-27	ALL				
		5	New Local action plans to be reviewed to ensure that plans to deliver the Serious Violence Duty complement Combatting Drugs Partnership work	Leads form across the partnership attend both Combatting Drugs Partnership Board and Safer Communities board to ensure effective alignment between Actions Plans.	Improved systems-level thinking	Cllr Lead for Community Safety	CSPB	Jan-24	Mar-27	ALL				
		6	New Work to tackle violence and exploitation should adopt the following principles: •A child first approach; with children at the heart, including through youth participation and co-design. •An evidence based approach; cognisant of YEF / EIF/ VRU research, and other sources •A trauma-informed and responsive approach.	Barnet Contextual Safeguarding Training to continue to be revised and developed to reflect, principles of child first, evidence based effective practice and approaches and trauma and psychologically informed practice. To develop increased cross agency and cofacilitated training to for all professionals that could have contact with young people and adults who have been affected or involved in incidents of violence. To develop further training for all partners including schools, to deliver improved awareness around diversionary plans to avoid exclusions and managed moves, and entry into the criminal justice system, especially in response to violence, weapons and drug related incidents	Increased analytical capacity and use of evidence in Violence Reduction planning within community-led networks and/or local authorities Improved trauma informed practice	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Mar-27	ALL				
							BELS,	Jan-24	Mar-25	CYPS	Police, Health Education and CST			

Ref	Theme	Action No	Actions	Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	Risk RAG status
		1	Analysis to support a public health approach to violence reduction in line with requirements of SVD including a Strategic Needs Assessment to understand patterns of violence and vulnerability, key local drivers, contexts where harm is occurring and communities/localities of greatest need, as well as a gap analysis against existing evidence of effective practice to inform the local action plan; sharing this with relevant local partners maximise effectiveness of the approach.	A yearly review of the Barnet's SNA, and delivery against the SV Strategy objectives and summary of themes that emerged, will take place to determine emerging and changing local needs and service delivery and service gaps, that require action.	Increased analytical capacity and use of evidence in Violence Reduction planning within community-led networks and/or local authorities	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan - 25	Jan-27	ALL				
		2	Use Safestats, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and wider public health data, social media intelligence, local drugs markets and local county lines analysis, plus any other relevant local authority data sources (i.e. Children's Social Care, housing information) to inform the strategic assessment analysis and partnership tactical delivery.	A yearly review of the Barnet's SNA, and delivery against the SV Strategy objectives will take place to determine emerging and changing local needs and service delivery and service gaps, that require action.	Increased analytical capacity and use of evidence in Violence Reduction planning within community-led networks and/or local authorities;	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan - 25	Jan-27	ALL				
		3	Police tactical plan to be maintained to record, monitor and review key police tactical interventions and activity in support of police teams tasked with tackling violence. •If using 4P's the different elements to read across into partnership plans. •MPS hotspot analysis to be shared with partners and subject of further analysis to support bespoke interventions •Problem Orientated Policing to be undertaken in key identified hotspots, collaborating with local authorities, housing providers, landowners, businesses and residents •Disruption of groups involved in violence and harm, and organised criminal networks, to have SRO/LRO for each BCU and have partnership input and analysis as required Operation Dauntless and similar operations arranged to tackle VAWG offenders	NW BCU, will continue to work with statutory partners in identifying areas that can be joined up and support to improve community safety and a holistic response to themes areas of increasingly tension concern. For The community Safety partnership to consider opportunities for additional critical incident funding to support with improving community safety and reducing local need.	Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood	Supt Lorraine Busby-McVey	Police	Jan-24	Jan-25	CST, CYPS, Housing, CGL				
						Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	CST, CYPS, Housing, CGL				
		4	Multi-Agency Panel response to those at risk of or involved in violence and vulnerable to exploitation (in line with SVD definition and local priorities), including planning responses to risk locations; including Police, Community Safety, Adult and Children's Services, YJS, and Probation Meeting minimum of monthly with TOR and menu of options to manage risk through enforcement prevention and diversion activities. in order to ensure that victims and	Tackling Violence and Exploitation Panel, Adult at Risk Panel, Community Safety MARAC, meet monthly and provides a multi agency oversight to supporting diversion, disruption and intervention for young people and adults at risk or being or involved in violence and exploitation.	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk Improved knowledge and understanding of the needs of vulnerable young people Increased ability for professionals to identify and support	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	ALL				

2. ANALYSIS & ENFORCEMENT		offenders benefit from preventative support. Good practice would see annual reviews of the process of meetings and recurring themes identified by panels, to shape future work.	The Disruption Toolkit continues to be disseminated and is embedded within workforce training across the partnership, which aids operational disruption planning.	children and young people who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	ALL				
	5	Ensure that analysis products capture violence impacting on children and young people in the borough, taking appropriate account of groups and organised criminal networks involved in harm to, and exploitation of children, young people, and those susceptible to crime and victimisation. To be reviewed in-depth every three years and refreshed annually (under CSP/SVD analysis)	Exploitation of young people is considered in NW-BCU Tactical Tasking Coordination Group, Tackling Violence and Exploitation Panel, and other operational forums in the context of other crime types.	Increased analytical capacity and use of evidence in Violence Reduction planning within community-led networks and/or local authorities	Supt Lorraine Busby-Mcvey	Police	Jan-24	Jan-25	CST, CYPS, Housing, CGL				
			I2 Intelligence package and ECINS are regularly used in Barnet, and will be completed during complex strategy discussions with partners. I2 maps and intelligence packages are routinely shared with Police and partners when needed.		Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	Police				
			Violence and its impact on both the individual and community, will continue to be included into Barnet yearly analysis and reporting.		Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	ALL				
	6	Analysis of the needs and risks of women impacted by violence including as witnesses or bystanders; to assist in development of appropriate interventions.	Community Impact of incidents are considered and embedded in our critical incident protocol. Strategic Lead for VAWG will be invited to community impact meetings and the agenda will include being amended to reflect impact to women.	Increased analytical capacity and use of evidence in Violence Reduction planning within community-led networks and/or local authorities; Increased ability for professionals to identify and support children and young people who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	ALL				
The Strategic Lead for VAWG in Partnership with Barnet's Community Capacity Coordinator will complete a review into the impact of violence within the community including the risks and impact of women.			Jul-24				Sep-24						
7	Training for front line staff, including partner agencies, on information sharing specific to violence and vulnerabilities so they are confident of what data can be shared and how.	Police and CYPS will arrange a joint workshop and training with Police on 87a and 310 processes and information sharing, this will be rolled out to all partners including Community Safety Team.	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk; Improved practitioners' response to safeguarding risks	Dave La Rivere	Police	Apr-24	Jul-24	CYPS					
8	New. Seek to understand where disproportionality exists in (1) the impact of violence; (2) the access/take up of intervention programmes; and (3) the outcomes for communities. Consider what actions need to be taken locally to address any aspect of this disproportionality.	Barnet's Strategic Needs Assessment and regular reporting; highlights disproportionality in males accessing victims services, being overly represented in incidents of violence, and being exposed to adultification. Tackling disproportionality is outlined through a range of strategies and work plans and is closely monitored in Barnet.	Improved accessibility and reach of services (particularly for minoritized or often marginalised groups) Improved ability to successfully maintain engagement with young people	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jul-24	CST, Education, Housing, CGL, Police					

Ref	Actions												Risk
Theme	Action No	Actions	Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	RAG status
3. REDUCING ACCESS TO WEAPONS	1	Develop an agreed joint programme of actions to remove weapons and provide reassurance. This could include Trading Standards initiatives (e.g. knife or corrosive substance test purchases)	Information from TTCG, and themed analysis will support targeting of areas for weapons sweeps, and operation Makesafe.	Reduced risk of harm to self and others Reduced weapon carrying Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood	Supt Lorraine Busby-Mcvey	Police	Jan-24	Jan-25	CST, CYPS				
			A Local calendar of events, activity and actions will be developed to ensure a coordinated programme of weapons removal and reassurance is built. And in place before the peak session of communities using public spaces.				Apr-24	Jul-24					
Development of improved ways that the public can report concerns around weapons.			Apr-24				Jul-24						
2	Ensure that any commissioned educational programmes covering knives also includes consequences of purchasing online.	In partnership with Your Life you Choose, a pilot of a joint awareness programme for young people in schools is being delivered, and be considered as part of a wider roll out dependent on impact and outcomes. To monitor exclusions, managed moves and risk of exclusion data to look at the incidents of violence and weapons in school and to provided targeted support including RJ, and Victims work, and weapons awareness.	Reduced risk of harm to self and others Reduced weapon carrying	Neil Marlow	BELS	Mar-24	Jun-24	CYPS					
						Jan-24	Jan-25						

Ref	Actions												Risk
Theme	Action No	Actions	Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	RAG status
4. SAFEGUARDING AND EDUCATING CHILDREN AND	1	Work to ensure that education settings are safe inclusive places to learn, which build young people's resilience and have a trauma informed and anti-racist approach; and that children and young people have safe spaces and ways for them to speak with teachers or other appropriate staff on any concerns related to violence and vulnerabilities. This should include violence at home, in private environments and in public spaces, online, and within the educational setting from peers.	NEIL MARLOW	Improved response and support for the social and emotional needs of all children, particularly those with SEND/SEMH needs Improved feelings of safety in school Improved student - teacher relationships in school Improved educational attendance Increased educational engagement	Neil Marlow	BELS			CYPS, Police, BICS				
	2	Schools to include violence impacting on young people within their safeguarding policies, as per Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) Ofsted guidance.	NEIL MARLOW	Improved response and support for the social and emotional needs of all children, particularly those with SEND/SEMH needs Increased transparency and more appropriate action on incidents	Neil Marlow	BELS			CYPS Police				
	3	Demonstrable partnership work to minimise school exclusions (and managed moves in place of exclusions), create inclusive settings and support young people back into education, employment and training, with schools and academies exclusions policy reflecting the practice set out in DfE statutory guidance	Young people who are at risk of exclusions are referred to a range of diversionary programmes such as: MOPAC, Positive Activities, BACE, Schools are linked with grassroots and youth group organisations who provide a range of support.	Improved early identification of risk of exclusion Reduction in number of permanent exclusions, temporary exclusions (suspensions) and incidents of pupil isolation	Neil Marlow	BELS	Jan-24	Jan-25	CYPS				
			Barnet is introducing a new project "Team Around the School" which seeks to provide a range of therapeutic, diversionary support around a school and young person to prevent exclusion and further escalation to statutory services.	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Mar-24	Jan-25	BELS, BICS, VCS, CGL, Police					
	4	Monitor exclusions data and persistent absence (including any patterns of high rates of disproportionality for those with protected characteristics, and history or experience of Domestic Abuse) through the local Education department; with clear processes and evidence of challenge where data or practice indicate that exclusions do not align with statutory guidance; and work to support those with persistent absence through inclusive practice such as reduced timetable and considerations of factors such as mental health.	Exclusion data continues to be monitored, on long with young people at risk of exclusions and managed moves;	Improved early identification of risk of exclusion Reduction in number of permanent exclusions, temporary exclusions (suspensions) and incidents of pupil isolation	Neil Marlow	BELS	Jan-24	Jan-25	BELS, BICS, VCS, CGL, Police				
	5	Due care and attention given to corporate parenting principles, and ensure trauma-informed support is provided to children in care and care leavers through diversion and preventative work that is bespoke to the risk of them becoming involved in serious violence or other unhealthy relationships, including intimate relations, friendships and familial relations; with clear pathways to mental health provisions and support	With Support of workforce development and Barnet Integrated Clinical service professionals and the team around a young person are supported to ensure continual trauma informed and psychologically informed practice	Improved trauma informed practice Improved knowledge and understanding of the needs of vulnerable young people	Brigitte Jordan	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	BICS				
6	Collaborate with parents and carers, especially those deemed to be vulnerable, to effectively engage young people in diversionary activities and education; preventing	Barnet will continue to develop its Parents Champions programme focusing on adolescents, extra familial harm through exploitation and serious violence. Parent champions will roll out support groups and awareness sessions to other parents throughout Barnet.	Improved parental ability to identify concerning behaviours Improved pathways to support (especially reaching marginalised groups) Improved partnership/multi-agency working to support	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	BICS					

YOUNG PEOPLE Recognising the importance of safeguarding and working alongside places of education		harm through a culturally competent and trauma informed approach with an awareness of all types of violence that may be encountered or experienced.	In collaboration with our Parent Champions and partners, we will develop a range of parent resources that practitioners and parent champions can use to support parents in developing their knowledge around extra familial harm, including exploitation and violence.	Improved capability for parents to talk/access to peer support Improved cultural competency / understanding of different cultures	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jul-24	Nov-24	BICS				
	7	Universal and targeted evidence-based programmes delivered across schools, including as part of PSHE offer. These should incorporate local safeguarding issues, healthy relationships, and self-esteem and misogynistic behaviour within educational settings - considering utilisation of the Mayor of London's VAWG toolkit - with mechanisms in place for partners within the borough and across London to support schools to assess quality and impact.	An area of development identified from our Strategic Needs assessment is to support and build a standardise resource and programme for schools to use to support PSHE. These will incorporate non victim blaming, pro social and rights based narratives to help children and young people awareness of unhealthy relationships that can become coercive and controlling.	Improved whole school approach to sexual abuse and healthy relationships Improved understanding, confidence, and transparency in school about harmful sexual behaviour and appropriate action taken on incidents Improved knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse and its impact	Neil Marlow	BELS	Jan-24	Jan-25	CYPS, Police, CST				
	8	Offer targeted support to tackle high-risk, high-harm criminality that affects young people, by involving police officers in schools with an emphasis on engaging and educating young people (and their families as appropriate), with enforcement being used only when necessary.	School officers and safer schools sergeant will continue to attend MACE and Tackling Violence and Exploitation panel to maintain an overview of which schools require additional police support.	CYP have improved understanding of issues related to harm & exploitation Improved decision making	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	BELS				
	9	Bespoke, accessible support for students in PRU's/AP, including mentoring and transition back into mainstream education or on to further education, training, employment (e.g. VRU PRU mentoring scheme); and therapeutic support for children witnessing abuse/violence, which proactively promotes healthy relationships.	NEIL AND LINDA WESTCLIFF	Improved attitudes to education/learning (specifically in school/PRU settings) Improved rates of successful reintegration into mainstream education Reduction in NEET rates (Not in Education, Employment or Training)	Neil Marlow	BELS			CYPS, Police, VCS				
	10	Work to ensure that public locations are safe from all abuse and exploitation for children and young people through embedding a contextual safeguarding approach with partners; considering use of toolkits at https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/toolkits/ when risks are identified	The Tackling Violence and Exploitation Team and Strategic MACE will continue to attend Community Safety MARAC, and Problem Solving groups and to drive and support wider partner activity to support safety in the borough and to tackle emerging areas of risk.	CYP have increased feelings of safety Increased feelings of safety in (wider) neighbourhood	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	ALL				
			Through our Detached and Community Capacity Projects we will continue to be present in our community in locations and time where we have identified themes of exploitation and violence.		Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Mar-25	ALL				
11	New: All schools across the borough to have Operation Encompass as standard practice, and ensure a pathway into local support services is in place for children identified as needing further support for domestic abuse they have experienced or witnessed, including where possible support for secondary trauma experienced through family members.	The majority of schools will remain signed up to operation Encompass, and that out faith and independent schools continue to be offered access to information sharing through the operation	Improved knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse and its impact Improved response and support for the social and emotional needs of all children, particularly those with SEND/SEMH needs	Supt Lorraine Busby-Mcvey	Police		Jan-25	BELS					
12	New: Supporting the transition from Primary to Secondary School, through programmes that introduce Year 6 pupils to their new school and the area and provide mentoring and pastoral support; also raising awareness for parents of risks which children may encounter.	NEIL AND LIAM!	Improved transitions support Improved capability for parents to talk/access to peer support	Neil Marlow	BELS			CYPS					

Ref Actions

Theme	Action No	Actions	Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	Risk RAG status
5. WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE	1	CSP to work with communities, young people, the VCS and businesses, to reduce violence, with appropriate programmes of community participation and consultation in both short-term responses including co-design and longer-term planning, bystander training, and regular engagement	Outlined by Serious Violence Strategy, consistent community presence and supporting the community to develop local solutions to local problem is a core objective. Through Our community Capacity project, why are strengthening relationships with community groups and organisation and developing community conferences which enables plans to be reached to reduced tension improve community cohesion,	Increase community empowerment Increased engagement in decision-making Improved equity in decision making Improved community buy-in for local approach to violence reduction Improved access and use of community resources and support	Cllr Lead for Community Safety	CSPB		Mar-25	ALL				
	2	Community Tensions Monitoring - Community Impact Assessment by MPS to be shared with and informed by CSP partners so it is based on multi-agency data, paying consideration to monitoring the trust and confidence of individuals and communities to report violence.	Community tensions are monitored, through a range of forums including Daily Grip meetings, MACE, and Safer Communities partnership Board. Tensions are responded through community conferencing model and the community capacity coordinator, restorative which seeks to support local problem solving with local people.	Improved community buy-in for local approach to violence reduction Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood Improved cultural competency / understanding of different cultures	Tina McElligott	CYPS		Mar-25	CST, Police, VCS				
	3	Facilitate community involvement in Stop & Search - including the monitoring of S60 by community representatives. This action should set out what the local arrangements are including where alternative arrangements are being piloted.	To develop a scrutiny panel to look at public experiences of stop and search and to challenge and promote best practice. The Scrutiny Panel should be lead by the community, and grass roots youth and adult groups.	Increase community empowerment Improved community engagement	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Sep-24	Jan-25	VCS, CST, Police				
	4	Develop a local partnership response to serious violence critical incidents (or concerns of impending violence), making use of the VRU CSP Serious Incident Toolkit where appropriate. Consider applying to the VRU critical incident fund, for a small one off funding grant to directly support communities in the aftermath of a serious incident of violence (or the Pre-emptive CIF where concerns exist)	In Barnet our critical incident response is well established and looks at supporting immediate reprisal risk of victims and suspects, we also have a developed community response to the wider impact of incidents which can include bid submission for critical incident funding.	Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood Reduction in worry/fear about violence Improved community engagement	Tina McElligott	CYPS		Mar-25	ALL				
	5	New: Develop links with housing providers, and encourage them to understand that their public-facing staff are likely to have interactions with those involved in or affected by violence; and therefore have a point of engagement, and that they can feed concerns into other violence-reduction partners.	Housing is represented at both strategic MACE and Complex Case panels, including Tackling Violence and Exploitation Panel and Adults at Risk	Increase in number of individuals/organisations engaged in local responses to violence	Greg Terefenko	Housing / Barnet Homes		Jan-25	CYPS				
			Targeted Contextual Safeguarding Training will be offered to housing staff, in addition distribution of the disruption Tool Kit	Greg Terefenko	Housing / Barnet Homes	Jul-24	Sep-24	CYPS					
6	Work with communities and other partners in hyper local areas experiencing repeated higher levels of violence to develop capacity building to support incident response in the community, through a robust partnership approach, and to increase trust and collaboration between local communities, stakeholders, key local institutions, and statutory partners. (e.g. VRU My Ends, VRU Community Capacity Building programme)	Through our Detached and Community Capacity Projects we will continue to be present in our community in locations and time where we have identified themes of exploitation and violence.	Improved capacity within community-led networks Increased community connectedness Increase community empowerment Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood	Tina McElligott	CYPS		Mar-25	Police, CST and VCS					
		Our Critical incident protocols have been revised to reflect community support to the impact of violence and capacity building to enable local communities to reach solutions to local problems.	Tina McElligott	CYPS		Jan-25	ALL						

Ref Actions

Theme	Action No	Actions	Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	Risk RAG status
6. SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND VULNERABILITY Ensuring coordinated referral	1	To have a multi-agency assessment and referral process through a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or similar, with full partner sign-off of terms of reference and operating model. Local Safeguarding partners to ensure robust and relevant social care oversight for young people at risk of harm. Specialists such as IDVA/ISVA/VAWG Caseworkers are located within safeguarding hub, or have a similarly expedient access to information and response to victims.	VAWG, and TVEP coordinators have allocated days in our Barnet MASH to enable the sharing of expertise to assist with contact and referral screening. MASH will receive regular updated briefings to the themes of violence and exploitation that occur in the borough to be able to apply the VOLT mnemonic to contacts and referrals that are received.	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk Victims are better supported Improved practitioners' response to safeguarding risks	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	ALL				
	2	Those aged u25 who are either victims of violence or vulnerable to exploitation, and all victims of Domestic Abuse, are provided appropriate referrals and packages of support across both statutory and voluntary provision. This could include to the London Victim and Witnesses Service which supports victims and witnesses of crime in London to cope and recover from their experiences, or the Courageous project who provides specialist advocacy and support to young women and girls in London.	Our Adult risk panel will continue to provide an oversight and coordinate partners response and support to adults up to the age of 25 and who have been identified to be at risk of violence or continued exploitation. Adults and young people will continue to be able to access Victims Rights support for both reported and unreported crime, through the LCPF funded Victims Hub Project.	Victims are better supported Improved trauma informed practice Improved mental wellbeing Improved self-esteem/self-confidence	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Mar-25	ALL				

and support to victims and those who are vulnerable			There will remain a focus to address disproportionality and access of victims rights services and support for males.										
	3	Those aged u.25 who are victims of violence, and all victims of Domestic Abuse, to have a trauma informed needs assessment, with referrals to therapeutic support. This could include Your Choice CBT programme or CAMHS (where the assessment determines that to be appropriate).	DA practitioners will have access to trauma informed domestic abuse training and work towards using embedding trauma informed approaches. All victims will have access to trauma informed group recovery programmes.	Victims are better supported Improved trauma informed practice Improved mental wellbeing Improved self-esteem/self-confidence									
	4	London Trauma and A&E centres to provide safeguarding information to local partnerships through an agreed referral mechanism and hence maximise opportunities for reachable moments and rapid service referral/support. (Details on Hospital-based services to be logged in plans so the VRU can understand the spread of these)	CAROLINE LOAKE	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk Improved practitioners' response to safeguarding risks Reduced risk of harm to self and others Reduction in hospital/A&E admissions/attendances for assault with a bladed article/weapon Reduced frequency and severity of child criminal exploitation	Caroline Loake	Health			ALL				

Ref	Actions												Risk
Theme	Action No	Actions	Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	RAG status
7. POSITIVE DIVERSION FROM VIOLENCE Recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them move away from criminality	1	Those in the CJS committing violent crime offences (both pre-court diversion where appropriate, and post conviction) to be provided with bespoke community sentence interventions, including access to behavioural change programmes relevant to their offending.	Grant funded partnership initiative will come online in Barnet to support with the 18-24 year old cohorts who are subject to probation orders: This will include mentoring for 18-25 year Wipers Youth (Focusing on ET and Leadership programmes for Black and global majority men). Action West London will be delivering mentoring support for males - 18-25. Appropriate referral will be made by probation to commissioned rehabilitative services (CRS) including support around accommodation, ETE, Finance benefit and debt and substance dependency, and emotional wellbeing and community integration. We will be expanding on our diversionary offers, to look at programme for 18-25	Improved socio-emotional learning skills Improved emotional capabilities Improved decision making	Koreen Logie	CYPS (YJS) - Probation	Apr-24	Jun-24	Police				
	2	Support the effective operation of IOM, in line with the London IOM framework - to focus partner agencies on persistent, violent offenders who pose at least a medium risk of violent reoffending, including domestic abuse offences, as the core/fixed IOM cohort - through co-ordination of resources to proactively manage local priority offenders with partners, and make effective use of referrals into pan-London IOM violence reduction services	IOM will continue to provide and regular overview and of offenders, and will support the ongoing development of innovative ways and programmes to support diversion	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jul-24	Dec-24	Police				
	3	Probation Service additional license conditions for violent offenders should include opportunities for training, employment, education and housing and to complete interventions specifically related to reducing the risk of violence, coercive and controlling behaviour, weapon offending and improved personal well-being.	Making Effective use of MOPAC GPS tagging conditions for knife crime and domestic abuse, A new HMPPS initiatives coming online for electronic monitoring for domestic abuse.	Improved ability to successfully maintain engagement with young people. Improved ability to successfully maintain engagement with young people Improved employability skills and training (including improved attitude to work / career management skills and increased qualifications) Increased engagement in decision making Improved appropriate relationships with practitioners (e.g., dependency and engagement)	Koreen Logie	Probation	Apr-24	Jan-25	ARP				
	4	New: Children arrested for violence, robbery, weapons, or drug offences, are referred to support services on being bailed or NFA'd, in an attempt to prevent involvement in violence.	Young people will continue to receive a range of local programmes to support diversionary and pro social behaviours, to prevent re entry into the YJS system	Reduced risk of harm to self and others Reduced frequency and severity of child criminal exploitation	Tina McElligott	CYPS (YJS)		Jan-25	Police				

Ref	Actions												Risk
Theme	Action No	Actions	Outcomes	VRU Outcomes	Named CSP Lead	Lead organisation	Start date	End date	Supporting organisation(s)	Progress	Comment	Document Reference(s)	RAG status
NEW SECTION: 8. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable and recognising the importance of safeguarding and working alongside key partners.	1	Maintain an up-to-date online list of local VAWG support services, including 'by and for' and specialist provision, and services for men and boys. This will include linking to the London Victim & Witness Service (LWVS) Service Directory https://londonvws.org.uk/directory/ , and information about out of hours services such as the 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/ .	Websites are regularly reviewed to include wider 'by and for' organisations, services for men and boys as well as linking to London Victim & Witness Service Directory.	Improved pathways to support (especially reaching marginalised groups) Increased support for children and young people that have been impacted by domestic abuse/ violence Victims are better supported	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25					
	2	Consider cross-borough reciprocal agreements and links to pan-London provision, to ensure victims and perpetrators can access the support they need- when and where they need it. This might include referrals to appropriate support services and to relevant safeguarding forums such as the MARAC.	Improved pathways between MARAC to MARAC cross borough referrals and DA support .. Services. Increased awareness of the Pan London MARAC Information Sharing Agreements .	Increased feelings of safety for the parent/carer Increased feelings of safety for the child or young person within the family home/ context of family Improved systems-level thinking	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jul-24	Sep-24	MARAC Partners				
	3	Collaborate with partners to co-ordinate a local training offer for identifying, preventing and tackling VAWG for key professionals coming into contact with survivors and/or perpetrators, to be reviewed annually. This will likely include health, education, social care, housing, community engagement, and justice amongst others.	DA/VAWG Training needs assessments reviewed annually; practitioners across the borough will have access to DA/VAWG training in identifying, preventing and tackling VAWG for survivors and perpetrators.	Improved identification of victim/survivors and their families in need of support Improved awareness of available support	Tina McElligott	CYPS		Mar-25	MARAC Partners				
	4	Children's Social Care to ensure policies are in place regarding working with and assessing perpetrators of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG when safeguarding children and the non-abusive parent. These should be developed in consultation with national and/or existing local services who are specialists in working with perpetrators of VAWG.	Perpetrators having access to a range of programmes such as core Perpetrator Programme, Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) and practitioners will be trained and working towards embedding the Safe & Together approach. High harm , high risk perpetrators benefit from DRIVE approach programme.	Improved practitioners' response to safeguarding risks Awareness of abusive/ neglectful parenting	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	RISE MUTUAL				
	5	Local Areas should refer to existing MOPAC-led Needs Assessments for victims/survivors of VAWG and collaborate with future Needs Assessment so that there is an accurate picture of local need, demand and provision.	Full participation of Barnet's VAWG team in MOPAC led needs assessments for victims. Survivors of VAWG as well as for Children survivors of Domestic Abuse on a regularly basis. Continued training around the impact on children and young people who experience DA reflecting MOPAC led needs assessment and DA Commissioner report. This will link to our local Barnet commissioning.	Increased ability for professionals to identify and support children and young people who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse Improved understanding of quality, support design and delivery of family support Improved systems-level thinking	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	MARAC Partners				
	6	Local Areas to commit to the prevention of the rise in harmful attitudes towards women and girls including VAWG in an on-line context; for example through Education and Campaigns.	Training and awareness programmes to deliver the prevention of online harmful attitudes and behaviours practices towards women and girls included in our yearly DA/VAWG Training plan.	Improved healthy relationship attitudes and behaviours Practitioners have increased understanding of online harm	Tina McElligott	CYPS			MARAC Partners VAWG				
	7	VAWG has recently been made a Strategic Policing Requirement, from which an annual Strategic Threat Risk Assessment (STRA) will be conducted. Local areas are therefore advised to reflect this in their local CSP priorities and ensure Safeguarding policies and procedures are joined up (for example, MARAC, MAPPA, MASH amongst others), reviewing annually following publication of the STRA.		Improved systems-level thinking	Supt Lorraine Busby-Mcvey	Police			CYPS				
	8	Within local VAWG and Safeguarding Strategic priorities, ensure that tackling VAWG in Public Spaces and the Night Time Economy is included.	Safety of women in Public spaces is a priority partnership objective of DA/VAWG Strategy 2022-25 and pilot Safe Haven Network implemented. Increased feelings of safety in public spaces.	Reduction in worry/fear about violence Innovative approaches to violence reduction	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25					

9	Local Areas to consider how disproportionality impacts different sections of their local community and ensure they take an intersectional approach to developing VAWG responses and commissioning the provision of local services. This will include taking account of the needs of people as both victims and perpetrators, black and minoritized people, people with disabilities, older people, those who are LGBTQ+ and those with insecure immigration status or no recourse to public funds (NRPF).	Strategy 2022-25 takes into account the gap needs and analysis of diverse groups of people and includes an intersectional approach to implementing its action plan. Prevention Fund for 23-24 targets reaching out to minoritized and marginalised community groups in the borough to create awareness on DA and Hate crime. Perpetrators and their families will continue to benefit from the Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) DA perpetrator programme which targets minoritized perpetrators of DA and their survivors.	Improved accessibility and reach of services (particularly for minoritized or often marginalised groups) Improved cultural competency / understanding of different cultures	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	MARAC Partners				
10	Work with organisations within the health economy, including Public Health Departments and NHS Trusts to take a Public Health Approach to VAWG.	General Practice based Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) training, support and referral programme for GPs and Primary Care health practitioners for IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) programme in place since 2018. Improved awareness among GP practices around domestic abuse and thereby increased the early identification (and appropriate referral) of victims of domestic abuse by primary care practitioners. Recommendation from local DHR, December 2023, states that already trained surgeries should be advanced to the next stage, namely IRIS+. This is an extension of the original in that it incorporates training about, and a referral pathway for: male victims/survivors and perpetrators, female perpetrators (as well as victims/survivors) and children exposed to domestic violence and abuse.	Increased ability for professionals to identify and support children and young people who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse Increased GP/Clinical awareness of Domestic Abuse referral pathways	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	MARAC Partners				
11	Ensure processes are in place to collect data on Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (as a specific form of domestic abuse), in order to gain a better understanding of prevalence.	RADLAMAH PLEASE HELP! Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Familial abuse delivered with core and CIFA DA perpetrator programme in Barnet and improved understanding, support and delivery of family support. VAWG team to report on prevalence from MASH data.	Increased understanding of violence within the family (e.g., Child & Adolescent to Parent Violence) Improved understanding of quality, support design and delivery of family support	Tina McElligott	CYPS	Jan-24	Jan-25	MARAC Partners				

Theme		MENU OF OPTIONAL ACTIONS TO ADD TO THE ACTION PLAN	VRU OUTCOMES
GOVERNANCE	1	Hold an annual Local Leadership event (Elected members, Statutory Officers, CVS and local Businesses) to look at 'wicked issues' to ensure multi-agency response, e.g. Building community trust in statutory services.	Improved systems-level thinking
ANALYSIS & ENFORCEMENT	1	Use of intelligence led Stop and Search including use of S60 in accordance with NPCC guidance. Intelligence can be fed into the Violence Suppression Units (or similar proactive resources) to action.	Reduced weapon carrying Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood
	2	Local Authority enforcement through use of all enforcement assets to target locations and offenders, for example CCTV, Enforcement Officers, Parking Enforcement, removal of abandoned vehicles	Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood Improved community buy-in for local approach to violence reduction
	4	Licensing - If a specific venue is identified as being associated with an incident(s) of violence, and it is Licensed (For example a Pub, Nightclub, Betting Shop, etc), seek to contact & utilise the expertise of Local Council & Police Licensing Teams in order to mitigate this risk. These teams can offer a range of partnership & enforcement options in order to improve safety at the venue and reduce said violence. (Potential Enforcement Options include – Review of Licence, Emergency Closure Powers and prosecutions under the Licensing or Gambling Act).	Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood Improved community buy-in for local approach to violence reduction
REDUCING ACCESS TO WEAPONS	1	Local process where weapons can be safely disposed of, without repercussions such as knife amnesties or knife bins, with a running log and Action Plans updated with locations	Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood Reduction in worry/fear about violence
	2	Conduct weapon sweeps such as Community Weapon Sweeps, or sweeps by staff or partners agencies e.g. LFB, housing providers/estate managers, refuse collectors; maintaining a log of activity.	Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood Reduction in worry/fear about violence Increase in number of individuals/organisations engaged in local responses to violence
	3	Responsible retailer agreements- https://nbcc.police.uk/guidance/knife-retailers-toolkit	Reduced weapon carrying Reduced risk of harm to self and others
	4	Physical improvements of localities to design out opportunities to store weapons	Reduced risk of harm to self and others
	5	Target Hardening of retailers to prevent shoplifting	Reduced risk of harm to self and others
	6	Work collaboratively with local authority trading standards teams and conduct U18 and Challenge25 Test Purchase operations.	Reduced weapon carrying Reduced risk of harm to self and others
SAFEGUARDING AND EDUCATING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	1	Intelligence sharing and tension monitoring between education establishments and local authority, involving schools-based officers	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk
	2	Promote the London Needs You Alive Campaign within local prevention awareness campaigns	Improved accessibility and reach of services (particularly for minoritised or often marginalised groups)
	3	Children at risk, harm, or vulnerable to exploitation, to be an agenda item at local DCS/Headteacher fora at least annually	Improved systems-level thinking
	4	Promotion of membership of youth organisations e.g. Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme, London Fire Brigade Cadet Scheme, Scouts local voluntary sector organisations	Improved life skills Improved aspiration/ personal ambition
	5	Support key transition stages in a young person life that can increase their vulnerability (changing schools, returning to education from young offenders institution; leaving care)	Improved transitions support
	6	Adoption of a restorative practice approach	Reduced frequency and/or severity of (re) offending Improved decision making
	7	Demonstrable consideration by safeguarding and the community safety partnership of parental engagement approach; active strategies for engagement, including socio-education offer, across key partners, especially within schools, PRUs and colleges.	Improved partnership/multi-agency working to support families Improved awareness of available support
	8	Recognising the key role of parents and carers, and the extensive evidence on benefits of parental support and education, clear socio-education offer on local risks and themes relating to violence impacting on young people (in particular, grooming, exploitation and healthy relationships) as part of an effective prevention offer for young people	Improved parental ability to identify concerning behaviours Increased confidence in parenting
	9	Support work to promote healthy relationships to help address gender based violence in schools (e.g. VRU Tender programme)	Improved whole school approach to sexual abuse and healthy relationships
	10	Equalities impact of programmes implemented are assessed and considered to ensure diverse needs of young people, families and communities are responded to contextually, with potential negative impact fully understood.	Improved accessibility and reach of services (particularly for minoritised or often marginalised groups) Improved response and support for the social and emotional needs of all children, particularly those with SEND/SEMH needs
	11	A clear partnership response to identifying, assessing and responding to extra-familial harm is documented within a safeguarding partnership strategy; tools to effectively deliver the strategy are available to practitioners and professionals as recommended by Ofsted.	Improved practitioners' response to safeguarding risks Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk
	12	Structural issues which contribute to disproportionalities within violence, service access and school exclusions are understood by the partnership, and clear action to address are outlined within key strategic departments and multi-agency plans, as well as public sector equality planning.	Improved accessibility and reach of services (particularly for minoritised or often marginalised groups) Improved knowledge and understanding of the needs of vulnerable young people
	13	Local safeguarding partnerships coordinate efforts to ensure local Early Help processes and referral pathways, and everyone's role within them, are clear and easily accessible to parents/carers, schools, PRUs and college staff.	Improved accessibility and reach of services (particularly for minoritised or often marginalised groups)
	14	Adoption/promotion of initiatives (such as a school watch) to promote safe journeys to/from school for children and young people.	Increased feelings of safety in neighbourhood
	15	Deliver a Blue Light Collaboration (MPS, LAS and LFB) to year 8 students in schools covering topics such as violence impacting on young people, CSE, online safety, basic first aid, and fire safety .	CYP have improved understanding of issues related to harm & exploitation CYP have increased feelings of safety
	16	Dedicated non-teaching staff to support students outside of the formal structure of a student-teacher relationship.	Increased feeling of having a trusted adult in young person's life
	17	Schools to consider use of knife-detecting wands, if appropriate to their risk profile and engagement approach; contacting their Safer Schools Team if a wand is needed.	Improved feelings of safety in school Reduced weapon carrying
WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE	1	Map key communities and leaders, review six monthly.	Improved community buy-in for local approach to
	2	Consider use of the Business Community Safety Toolkit, to support sharing of good practice between businesses in preparing for or responding to an incident of violence https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/business_community_safety_toolkit_b.pdf	Increase in number of individuals/organisations engaged in local responses to violence
	3	Promote Fearless as a crime information source and option for providing information about violence anonymously https://www.fearless.org/en	Improved community buy-in for local approach to violence reduction
	4	Develop a communications plan which engages communities in the programme, and supports a reduction in fear of crime through providing honest and positive messages about achievements and reduces risk of stigma and discrimination.	Improved community engagement Increase in adoption of community-led approaches
	5	Involve young people within local violence prevention work, through both established forums such as youth councils/parliaments, youth Independent Advisory Groups and informal grassroots pathways including through social media platforms.	Increased young person participation Improved community buy-in for local approach to violence reduction
	6	Collaborate with partners to initiate a parents network that communicates on a regular basis to disseminate information about problems/ issues in the borough, to consult with them about contemporary parenting challenges and possible solutions and to ensure no-one feels alone in confronting these challenges.	Improved partnership/multi-agency working to support families Improved capability for parents to talk/access to peer support
	7	Police to work with local communities at a ward level, governed by ward panels, with the introduction of a new mandatory ward panel priority that must focus on violence or drivers of violence.	Improved community engagement Improved community buy-in for local approach to violence reduction
SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND VULNERABILITY Ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable	1	Agree a common risk assessment and management framework for violence impacting on young people. Consult and agree on a best practice based, borough wide, youth violence risk assessment and management framework. Having established a framework disseminate and embed in council and partner practices and processes through training and briefing.	Improved knowledge and understanding of the needs of vulnerable young people
	2	Provide front line staff within partner agencies with trauma and attachment training, in order to support practitioners working with young people to understand the 'Trauma Informed Approach'. This approach informs staff of how trauma in early life may affect current behaviour.	Improved trauma informed practice
	3	Ensure there is a robust mechanism to identify and manage any risk when young people move to different areas by including effective handover between agencies.	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk Improved ability to successfully maintain engagement with young people
POSITIVE DIVERSION FROM VIOLENCE Recognising that young people should be offered interventions which help them move away from criminality	1	Children in the Youth Justice System to have conditions/requirements tailored to the nature of violence offences and the service provision available locally through the YOT.	Reduced frequency and/or severity of (re) offending Reduced risk of harm to self and others
	2	Work with the Voluntary Community Sector to develop and deliver a range of services that support young people and enhance the overall approach to tackling violence impacting on young people	Improved ability to successfully maintain engagement with young people Reduced risk of harm to self and others
	3	Partnership support for Police applications for post-conviction Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO's) for repeat knife offenders, in order to create better levers for change, by including positive requirements in sentences and orders to support the opportunity for change.	Improved ability to successfully maintain engagement with young people Reduced risk of harm to self and others
	4	Using the ASB early intervention scheme to deal with people involved in ASB, potentially preventing future criminal behaviour, responding to offending behaviour, increasing intelligence, highlighting safeguarding issues and providing opportunities prior to any enforcement .	Improved information sharing between agencies on CYP at risk Improved practitioners' response to safeguarding risks
	5	Co-ordination between Probation and other partners to ensure robust pre-release plans, in order to provide support for a positive transition from secure estate back into the community.	Improved ability to successfully maintain engagement with young people Reduced risk of harm to self and others
NEW SECTION: Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable and recognising the importance		Currently no optional suggestions	

Stage
Not started
Planning
Implementation
/delivery
Complete



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Title of Report:	Barnet Homes annual update		
Report Relevant To:	Safer Communities Partnership Board		
For:	Noting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>
Previous / Future Approvals:	Date	Meeting	Status
	Click or tap to enter a date.		
Confidentiality:	Confidential		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Confidential
Classification:	N/A		
Date of Previous Update:	20 January 2023		

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Purpose of the Report:
1. To provide the Barnet Homes annual update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board

Team Overview:
<p>1. Current Model:</p> <p>3 ASB officers managed by 3 Generic Housing Managers. The officers manage all high level ASB for Housing Officers in their team.</p> <p>2. Following a review of the service last year, Barnet Homes have recruited an ASB manager to directly oversee the ASB officers, in effect creating a standalone team supporting the Housing Management function.</p>

Year in review:												
<p>1. The ASB team currently have a caseload of 61 cases.</p> <p>2. Our case handlers have been managing a total of 94 cases throughout the year from 01 January 2023 to 01 January 2024. This number also includes cases for properties managed by Open Door Homes, of which there were 4. The case classifications are as follows:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Noise</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hate</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drugs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical Assault</td> <td style="text-align: right;">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gang</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harassment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">24</td> </tr> </table>	Noise	1	Hate	1	Drugs	24	Physical Assault	22	Gang	4	Harassment	24
Noise	1											
Hate	1											
Drugs	24											
Physical Assault	22											
Gang	4											
Harassment	24											

Domestic Abuse	2
Criminal	15
Confidential	1
	94

3. Tenant satisfaction measures:
 - ASB Cases per 1000 – Target 5 – current position 4.5
 - Race hate cases per 1000 – Target 1 – current position 0.
4. Domestic Violence and Abuse One Stop Shop
 - One stop shop held weekly.
 - 790 approaches in 22/23
5. Sanctuary Scheme
 - £40k budget for installing security cameras.
 - 36 referrals to the scheme in 2022/23
6. Pan-London / VAWG
 - London wide agreement – secure tenants able to move to other boroughs – 2 reciprocal moves were carried out last year.
7. The Barnet Vulnerable Adolescent at Risk Panel
 - Engagement with the VARP to reduce the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and Child Criminal Exploitation
8. 0-19 Localities
 - Provides help and support to families, children and young people up the age of 19.

Grahame Park Success Story

9. A Neighbourhood plan was drawn up titled the Graham Park Neighbourhood Plan 22/24. The plan was devised to give residents clarity around priorities for the estates that were identified via consultation with residents. The plan also gave timeframes for the regeneration project delivery.
10. There has been some other great work that's taken place on the Grahame Park Estate, which is being managed by the Regeneration Team. They have been working in very strong partnership with the Met Police and the Council as part of a strategy called '[Clear, Hold, Build](#)' but codenamed [Operation Dakota](#). This is a tactic devised by the Home Office to help areas affected by high crime levels.
11. As part of the strategy the Met Police obtained 21 block closure orders, which gave Police the powers to remove anyone who did not have a genuine reason to be there even if they were not committing any offences or ASB. 21 blocks are believed to be the first in England and Wales. Due to its success, the Police were granted a three-month extension from October 2023, which expired on 26 January 2024.
12. The Police have made roughly 300 arrests since the Closure Orders were obtained. Dozens of people on the Grahame Park Estate have been detained on suspicion of being involved in serious crimes from murder and GBH to firearms possession and drug dealing. Of the offenders dealt with by the Police, 24 of them were confirmed to be residents of The Barnet Group. A very high percentage of people arrested were non-Grahame Park residents.

13. With the assistance of the Police, Barnet Homes ASB Officers are gathering evidence to support potential tenancy enforcement action which may result in possession proceedings.
14. One of the tools being used to keep the estate safe is closed-circuit television (CCTV), which is being installed across the estate. Works to install cameras in ASB hot-spots identified by using police data, is almost complete and will become fully operational in February. Activity around the cameras will be monitored in real-time from Barnet Council's control centre. They will be able to immediately inform Barnet's Safer Neighbourhoods Team and the police of ASB taking place. The cameras are deployable, which means they can be moved to other areas where there are high levels of serious ASB taking place. In total 35 cameras are being installed.
15. In partnership with the Council and the community, we are working on improving the aesthetics of the estate by trying to bring the area to life with the reopening of shops, painting the shutters and improving the footway to The Concourse.
16. The Grahame Park Estate is currently within the 'Hold' phase but is working towards the 'Build' phase which is focused on community-driven action to address the causes of criminality and prevent recurrence.
17. The Regeneration Team Manager Michelle Davies has been recognised by the Met Police's Borough Commander and is soon to receive a commendation, due to the high levels of success in tackling asb and creating a safer community on the Grahame Park Estate.

High Road Success Story

1. In November 2023, Barnet Homes executed an eviction warrant to a flat in High Road, N20 after a long legal battle, which started before the pandemic lockdowns. The case involved a tenant's girlfriend assaulting a neighbour's child. The perpetrator was convicted and received a custodial sentence. Due to the conviction being for a serious offence and committed in the locality, the Absolute Ground for possession was able to be applied for. The eviction took place in November 2023.

Noise Nuisance

1. The Housing Ombudsman Service published a report entitled '[Spotlight on noise complaints](#)' in October 2022 to highlight the effect low level noise has on residents and the disparity in how they're dealt with by the different housing providers who responded and provided data.
2. The report gave recommendations to all housing providers to ensure that the approach is informed by the policies and legislative framework within which we operate. The report made 32 recommendations regarding all aspects of housing management that is relevant to reduce noise transference taking place.
3. On the back of the recommendations, Barnet Homes will be developing a Good Neighbourhood Management Policy and invite residents who have reported noise to comment. This policy will be distinct from the ASB Policy and give staff guidance on how to deal with low level noise complaints.

Regulatory change:

Tenant Satisfaction Measures

1. The Regulator of Social Housing published The Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) in April 2023. They require housing providers to start reporting satisfaction measures across key areas. The central aims of the TSMs are to provide tenants with greater transparency about their landlord's performance and inform the regulator about landlord compliance with consumer standards.
2. The measures range from overall satisfaction and time taken to complete repairs to landlord's approach to handling complaints and satisfaction with landlord's approach to handling ASB.

The Consumer Standards

1. The Government will be publishing new consumer standards early this year. The consultation closed autumn 2023. Although the standards have not been finalised, we believe the main headings to be:
 - a. The safety and quality standard
 - b. The transparency, influence and accountability standard
 - c. The neighbourhood and community standard
 - d. The tenancy standard.
2. The standards are expected to be published early 2024 in order to go live in April 2024. What we can expect is that they will be building upon and replacing the current standards.

Partnership Working

Urban Gamez

1. In 2023 the Urban Gamez were held for the children of the Grahame Park Estate. The event was held on Heybourne Park, next to the Grahame Park Estate, and was a celebration of sport and community for the whole Grahame Park area.

There was, of course, the traditional racetrack to find out who NW9's fastest children are. And this year, it was joined by an inflatable climbing wall, a rodeo bull, a bouncy castle and smoothie bike, as well as a visit from the London Fire Brigade who gave children the chance to test out their firefighting equipment.

Urban Gamez brought the whole Grahame Park community together and gave residents the opportunity to have an enjoyable day.

Residents also had access to Barnet's community organisations who provided information on work and training, substance abuse, the regeneration of the area and community safety.

We were honoured to be joined by the Deputy Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Tony Vourou who handed out the gold medals to the race winners in each age group. The Barnet Group would not have been able to host Urban Gamez without the generous support of its sponsors: Ad Hoc, Barnet Council, Bugler, Bumblebee, Lift Specialists, Masher Brothers, Morgan Sindall, Notting Hill Genesis, Purdy, Quinn London, WG Wigginton and WSP

Joint CST and BH ASB Work

1. Community Safety MARAC takes place regularly which enables the great partnership that we have with our colleagues in the Community Safety Team to be maintained. The MARAC takes place to discuss cases of ASB and develops strategies in a multi-agency manner to help to resolve these cases. Barnet Homes always attends the discussion to feed into the great work being undertaken collaboratively.
2. Barnet Homes are key partners in the convening of, and attendance at, Task and Finishing Groups (TAFG) which are an essential tool to bring together relevant teams and service in emerging cases of ASB. The use of TAFG ensure that if cases are then referred to MARAC, case notes and action plans are in place.

Barnet Homes also have access to the ECIN's database used by the Police and the Community Safety Team and update this system with information on our cases and actions we are taking.

Other partnership work

3. The underpass on the Grahame Park Estate was left unattended to for a long time. During that time, it became a haven for ASB including congregations of nominals causing the local community to avoid it. Through a collaborative approach work was undertaken to install additional lighting, cut back overgrown foliage, install CCTV to deter the area from being used by people intent on causing a nuisance. As a result, the local community can once again enjoy the convenience of the underpass.
4. There was a recent round of ASB Surveys carried out on the Grahame Park Estate to gauge the perception of ASB by the residents. The surveys were carried out by door knocking and speaking to the residents at their homes. A total of 58 surveys were carried out. The results are currently being collated.

Priorities for year ahead

Staffing

1. Barnet Homes will continue to work with residents and provide a data lead, service design approach, to help mitigate ASB and provide focus and clarity on areas requiring higher levels of intervention.
2. From the spotlight report, we have seen the need to have greater scrutiny of the way we work, to ensure that the lives and life chances of our residents are not hindered in any way. Having a dedicated ASB Team to deal with and respond to all reports of ASB will improve the level of service offered to our residents.
3. We will be purchasing the 'Noise App' to provide additional assurance to residents Barnet Homes takes all noise reports seriously.

Regulatory changes

4. The TSMs and the Community Standards are going to be key areas where there will be greater scrutiny upon the service, thus being well equipped and resourced will be more important than ever. Upskilling the team through training is going to be key. Ensuring our staff are kept informed of the changes and how to implement them in their day-to-day work will be closely monitored and managed by the ASB Manager.



OFFICIAL

AGENDA ITEM 12
LaToya Ridge
Victim Support
Safer Communities Partnership Board
Barnet 2023 Report

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Who We Are

Victim Support (VS) is an independent charity that provides free, independent and confidential support to anyone affected by crime and traumatic events in England and Wales.

We provide personalised support to help people manage after crime and feel safer. We also inform victims of their rights and the services that they may be entitled to and ensure their voices are heard throughout their support and beyond.

Victims, those close to them, and witnesses to the crime are our focus and over the years we have developed unrivalled expertise when it comes to their needs and their journey through the criminal justice system.

VS makes a profound impact on victims' throughout 2023, we directly contacted hundreds of thousands of victims, helping them to access their rights and recover after experiencing crime. By working with victims, often at crisis point, we have gained unique insight into their needs - and how these are being shaped by what is unfolding in wider society.

The cost of living crisis has made life harder for all of us. However, for victims, already facing enormous challenges, it has compounded impacts on their wellbeing, physical and emotional health, and their ability to move on after crime. Throughout the year, we heard how the cost of living crisis becoming a national emergency for domestic abuse victims who couldn't afford to leave perpetrators. The current state of our courts mean that victims also face appallingly long waits for justice. The true cost of crime has never been more apparent. This report outlines how we are striving to innovate within our support services and align with Barnet's Community Safety Strategy of '*working to make Barnet a place where everyone feels safer*'.

Our Work

Our core funding provides a multi-crime services and a range of crime-specific projects via local funding. Our services work closely with partner organisations to reach all communities and ensure those affected get the most appropriate support.

Awards and accreditations

Although awards and accreditations are not the reason we do our work, we are proud of these achievements as they demonstrate our commitment and determination to achieve the highest standards, both for our colleagues, and for victims and witnesses of crime.



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Our core services are national and provide support to victims and witnesses in multi-crime, Domestic Abuse, Terrorism, and Homicide.

We are locally funded in Merton, Ealing, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Haringey, Camden, Islington, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest to provide specialist projects in Hate Crime, Sexual Violence, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and support to Children and young people (known as CYP projects)

We design our services with academics, government, local authorities, other specialist organisations to provide support and enable victims and witnesses to cope and recover. Being able to adapt our services to people's changing needs is an area where VS can add real value has never been more vital.



London Victim & Witness Service

In London Victim Support delivers the London Victim and Witness Service (LVWS) which has been funded by MOPAC since 2019, delivering core services to London residents. The scale of our reach is vast, with multi-channel information and support provided to victims and witnesses. This includes in-person and virtual support from local staff, community events and partnership work, responding to live chats and calls to our national Supportline, visitors to the VS website and access to our online platform, [My Support Space](#).

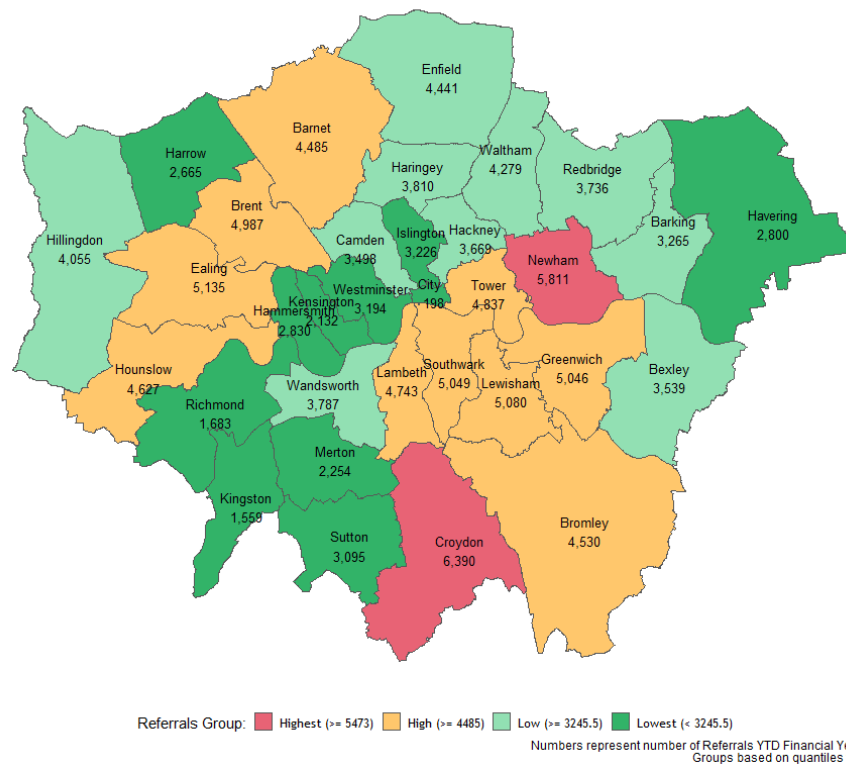
We firmly believe that all victims should be able to access support and safety advice in a way that is convenient for them, which is why we have continued to provide 24/7 access to our services through our Supportline and online live chat. Often, especially for victims who do not want to approach the police, these frontline services are a lifeline. They can be the first step in their journey to accessing more long term support, or to recognising what they're experiencing as abuse. We have seen demand for these crucial services

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increase by 12% (Supportline) and 54% (live chat) since 2020 and we remain committed to providing 24/7 access.

The LVWS is broken down to reflect the Metropolitan Police Service BCU areas. Within the LVWS, Barnet is considered as the North West BCU area. This financial year (April-December 2023) so far we've received almost 125,000 referrals from across London, of these 12,137 referrals are from the North West BCU, which is made up of Barnet, Brent, and Harrow.



As the cost of living crisis hit victims we increased the practical and financial support we offer - this rose by 20% compared to the year before. This included for example, providing food vouchers, as well as supporting victims to apply for funds to buy necessary items such as school uniforms for children.

VS has seen a 38% increase in the number of romance fraud victims we have supported. This particular crime can tear lives apart, with the grooming and abuse inflicted by perpetrators being akin to domestic abuse. Similarly ever growing demand in areas such as sexual violence where rising referral numbers, alongside cases that are taking years to reach Crown Court, are creating rising and unsustainable caseloads for support services. While VS prides itself on developing innovative solutions, such as our online platform, My Support Space, these cannot meet all needs and the sheer scale of referrals we are receiving. We are pleased that innovative new services, such as WeMatter - a digital service for 8-17-year-olds who have been affected by domestic abuse, and IMatter for women aged 16+ who have been, or are currently, victims of domestic abuse (not high risk), have extended the ways in which victims can access our support. These online group



support programmes provide support to some of the most vulnerable victims. In addition we continue to support victims directly in person, and we have continued to campaign tirelessly for systemic change throughout the criminal justice system. We have given evidence at three different Select Committees on fraud, police transparency and accountability and the once-in-a-generation Victims Bill.

Barnet Referrals April-December 2023

Here’s a breakdown of the 4,483 referrals the LVWS received for Barnet residents specifically.

Crime Category Group	Referrals
Acquisitive	1,284
Fraud & Forgery	968
DV	913
Violent Crime	666
Other Crime	224
Hate Crime	208
Arson/Criminal Damage	162
Sexual Offences	55
Non-Crime	3

We believe that every person affected by crime should have access to independent victim services. To prevent a postcode lottery for victims, all our core services delivered by the LVWS are available to anyone in need throughout London.

Barnet’s Community Safety Strategy and The LVWS

Priority 1: Tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour

Although we are not commissioned within Barnet to deliver an anti-social behaviour project, residents are able to access our [SilverCloud](#) online self-help app, with modules for victims experiencing Stress, Depression and Anxiety, issues with Sleep, and Resilience.

Priority 2: Early intervention and prevention of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls



The LVWS delivers specialist IDVA support co-located in Barnet Hospital and Northwick Park Hospital for victims and survivors of domestic abuse (16+), which includes the delivery of Pre-trial, Outreach support, and support at court. The IMatter programme delivers support sessions focusing on healthy relationships, coercive control and abuse, communication styles, and more.

Priority 3: Reducing offending including violence, vulnerability and exploitation, with a focus on acquisitive crime

The LVWS continue to support victims of violent crimes, exploitation, and acquisitive crimes. In addition VS introduced a new fraud awareness training course, established a monthly fraud supporter's forum (for complex cases), ran VS' first national virtual fraud conference, developed expert resources on money mules and cryptocurrency, ran a series of webinars with organisations such as Which? Money Advice Helpline, the Financial Ombudsman Service and the City of London Police. We developed specialist fraud materials for victims, and we have given evidence at three different Select Committees on fraud, police transparency and accountability and the once-in-a-generation Victims Bill.

Priority 4: Safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation

In November 2023, a series of activities took place across VS during National Adult Safeguarding Week, including a forum to share good practice, webinars, blogs, and open question sessions to support staff feel confident in recognising signs of abuse and neglect and the procedures to follow. All staff undertook PREVENT training, and we have also delivered safeguarding webinars focusing on subjects such as Modern Slavery and Exploitation.

Priority 5: Access to justice for those affected by hate crime

We have supported research by academics at Royal Holloway, University of London exploring the relationship between hate crime and domestic abuse, and have undertaken research about service needs of victims. As well as undertaking new research, we have published "[It's who I am](#)" - a report looking at the impact of hate crime and hate incidents, barriers to reporting, engagement with the support service and improving understanding of support needs.

The Support Barnet Victims Can Expect

Support Framework



We will always aim to make contact with a victim-survivor or witness within 48hrs of referral, in a way that works for them and is safe. Barnet victims and witnesses have free and confidential access to our 24/7 Support Line 0808 16 89 111, our 24/7 Live Chat victimsupport.org.uk and other agency referrals to dovetail support. When receiving support from our trauma informed caseworkers, clients can expect, a needs and risk assessment, safety planning, bolstering security provisions, and participate in a co-produced support plans which is measured and reviewed, to appropriately support them in coping with the effects of crime and trauma.

Contacts

The general number for victims is 0808 1689 111 or live chat via www.victimsupport.org.uk

LaToya Ridge - Deputy Head of Service for Victims and Witnesses
 0808 168 9291
latoya.ridge@victimsupport.org.uk
 Areas covered: London Multi-Crime

Ezinne Chukuka - Hub Manager
 07936940479
Ezinne.Chukuka@victimsupport.org.uk
 Area covered: Barnet, Brent, & Harrow

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Victim Support

LaToya Ridge - Deputy Head of Service - London Victims and Witnesses

victimsupport.org.uk



About VS



Victim Support is an independent charity. Providing support regardless of a report being made to the police.

We are dedicated to supporting people affected by crime and traumatic incidents in England and Wales, and we put them at the heart of our organisation.

Our support and campaigns are informed and shaped by them and their experiences.

We provide specialist services to help people cope and move forward, empowering them to ensure their voices are heard individually and collectively at a local and national level.

We are LOCAL

We are NATIONAL

We are independent of the police and local authorities but work with them to ensure a better responses to all victims of crime.

We are INDEPENDENT

What We Do: Nationally

Our core funding provides a multi-crime services and a range of crime-specific projects via local funding.

Our services work closely with partner organisations to reach all communities and ensure those affected get the most appropriate support



Barnet's Community Safety Strategy



Priority 1: Tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour

Although we are not commissioned within Barnet to deliver an anti-social behaviour project, residents are able to access our [SilverCloud](#) online self-help app, with modules for victims experiencing Stress, Depression and Anxiety, issues with Sleep, and Resilience.

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The LVWS delivers specialist IDVA support co-located in Barnet Hospital and Northwick Park Hospital for victims and survivors of domestic abuse (16+), which includes the delivery of Pre-trial, Outreach support, and support at court. The iMatter Programme is also available

Priority 3: Reducing offending including violence, vulnerability and exploitation, with a focus on acquisitive crime

The LVWS continue to support victims of violent crimes, exploitation, and acquisitive crimes. In addition VS ran a series of webinars with organisations such as Which? Money Advice Helpline, the Financial Ombudsman Service and the City of London Police. We gave evidence at three different Select Committees on fraud, police transparency and accountability and the once-in-a-generation Victims Bill.

Priority 4: Safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation

During National Adult Safeguarding Week, we ran a forum to share good practice, webinars, blogs, and open question sessions. All staff undertook PREVENT training, and we have also delivered safeguarding webinars focusing on subjects such as Modern Slavery and Exploitation.

Priority 5: Access to justice for those affected by hate crime

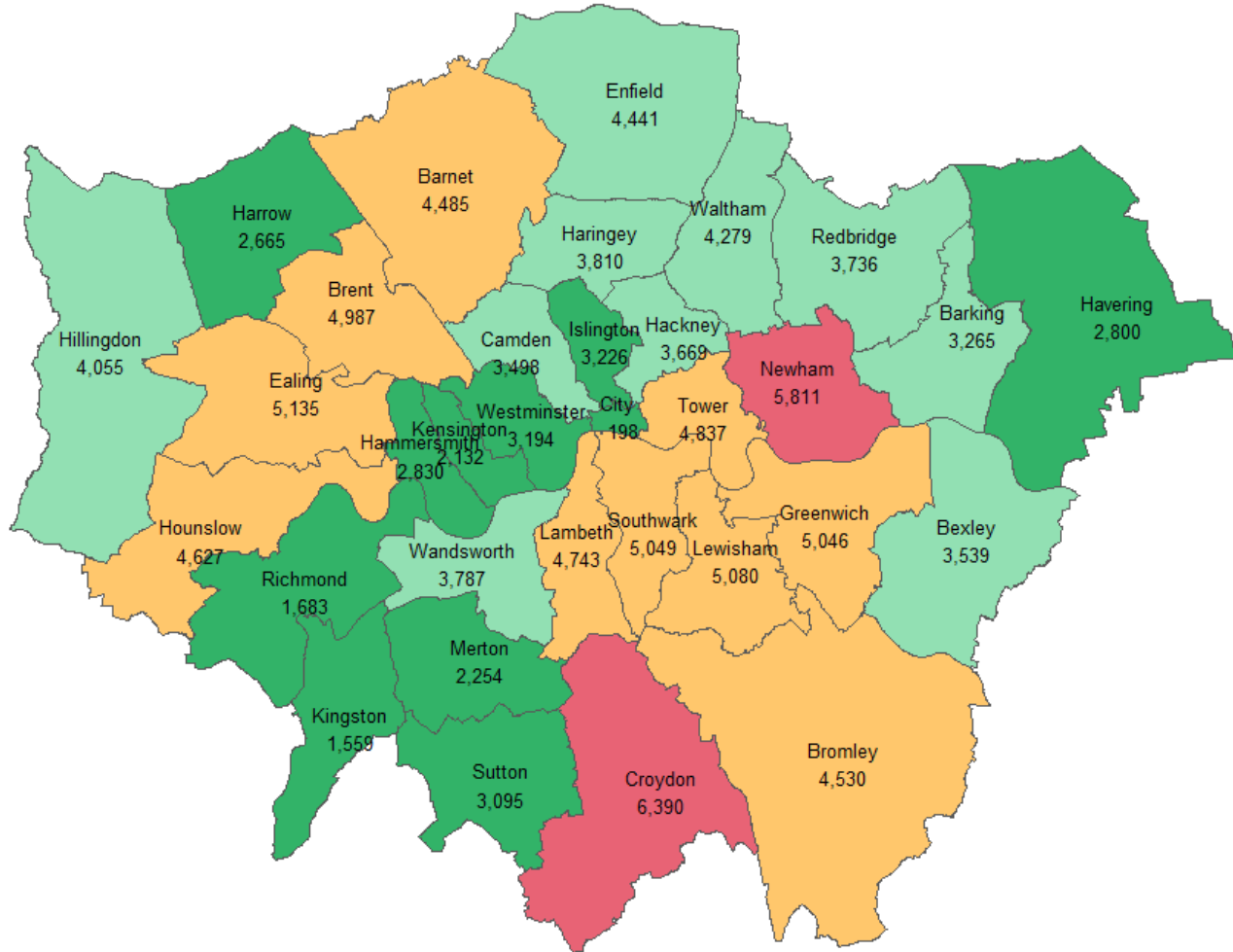
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London Victim Witness Service (LVWS)

- **Support to adult victims of crime (18+)(*SV)**
 - **Specialist support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse (16+)**
 - **Access to Restorative Justice**
 - **Delivery of Pre-trial and Outreach support for prosecution and defence witnesses**
 - **Support for victims and witnesses of major crime incidents**
- Right support from the outset
 - Integrated RJ Model
 - Improved accessibility and collaborative partnerships
 - Digital platform increasing reach and support options
 - Increasing self-referrals from under represented communities

LVWS

April - December 2023 referrals



Referrals Group: ■ Highest (≥ 5473) ■ High (≥ 4485) ■ Low (≥ 3245.5) ■ Lowest (< 3245.5)

Numbers represent number of Referrals YTD Financial Year 23/24

Barnet referrals April-December 2023

Crime Category Group	Referrals
Acquisitive	1,284
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DV	913
Violent Crime	666
Other Crime	224
Hate Crime	208
Arson/Criminal Damage	162
Sexual Offences	55
Non-Crime	3

Referrals

We will always aim to make contact with a victim-survivor or witness:

- Within 48hrs of referral
- In a way that works for them
- When it is safe

- ADT referrals (Police)
- Self Referrals
- 24/7 Support Line 0808 16 89 111
- 24/7 Live Chat victimsupport.org.uk
- Other Agency Referrals
- Direct Police Referrals

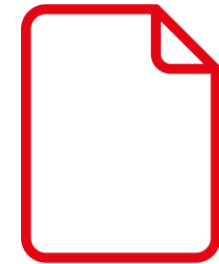


How we communicate with Victim-Survivors and Witnesses

Providing support in a way that works for victims:

- Victim led approach
- Trauma informed
- Flexible

Offering a range of options to access one-off or longer term support.



Supporting those accessing our services

We aim to complete a needs and risk assessment with all victim-survivors and witnesses who access our services to create a tailored safety and support plan to address all areas of their lives:



Health & well-being



Feelings of safety



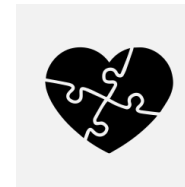
Ability to manage aspects of everyday life



Confidence



Housing situation



Relationships / social life



Work / education



Finances



Drugs / Alcohol

Our Service Model



iMatter

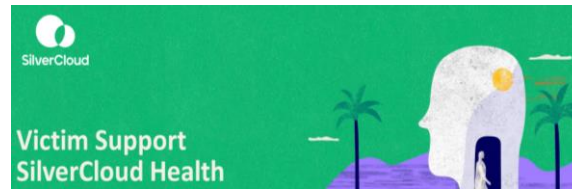
- ✓ for women aged 16+ who have been, or are currently, victims of domestic abuse (not high risk)
- ✓ delivered by specially trained facilitators across ten weeks via Zoom
- ✓ each session is 90 minutes, and the programme is offered on different days and times to suits our clients'
- ✓ delivered in English, Welsh, Bengali, Gujarati, Polish and Urdu.
- ✓ fully funded

Programme Sessions:

1. Introduction
2. Healthy relationships
3. Coercive control and abuse
4. The planets: men and women
5. A gift to me: looking after ourselves
- 6.
7. What's your communication style?
8. The umbrella of emotions
9. The relationship challenge
10. Moving forward.



Evidence Based Tools



Self-help app (cognitive behavioural therapy imbedded for anxiety & depression)

<https://vs.silvercloudhealth.com/signup/>



Self-help online tool for advice, tips, and information.

www.mysupportspace.org.uk/moj



The 5,4,3,2,1 grounding technique

www.mysupportspace.org/moj

Evidence Based Tools

The impact of writing a VPS

Focusing on the impact that the crime has had on you and your life can be really challenging. In particular, it can bring back emotions you felt immediately after the crime, which can be hard to deal with. It's a good idea to reflect on this and plan how you are going to manage those feelings if this does happen.

Before you start work on the statement, a simple tip is to think about how writing your VPS could make you feel and then planning what to do to help yourself. This can make the VPS less daunting to write and can also help you get it finished more quickly.

Start by asking yourself how you might feel when considering the impact of the crime on your life. For example, you may feel that you could get really upset and angry.

Then ask yourself how you are going to control that. For example, you may decide you are going to stop writing and go for a walk if you get too emotional.

When you've finished writing...

Writing a statement is a real achievement. It can be a good idea to plan an activity for after you have finished writing the statement that will help you to relax or distract you from your recent task. For example, you could make plans to meet up with friends, plan a gym visit or arrange a stroll around the local park. Whatever you decide to do, choose something you enjoy and that makes you feel good.

If you've decided you would like to write a VPS, note down here when you plan to do this by:

Date:

Where can I find out more?

You can access lots more information about Victim Personal Statements on the Victim Support website (victimsupport.org.uk) or on Victim Support's free and interactive online platform, My Support Space (mysupportspace.org.uk).

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

Countdown to a better night's sleep

Many of us have trouble getting to sleep or find it difficult to stay asleep. It can be frustrating when you can't sleep, and it can have a knock-on effect on your daily life. It can be the same after a crime.

We can feel like there's more to cope with and that everything's running through our minds, making it difficult to get to sleep and have a good night's sleep. We've put together these tips to help you get a better night's sleep.

There's lots of information in the workbook, so please feel free to take things at your own pace.

www.victimsupport.org.uk

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

RELATIONSHIPS AND PARENTING

For adult survivors of DV and sexual abuse

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

UNDERSTANDING SHAME AND GUILT

For adult survivors of DV and sexual abuse

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

COPING WITH TRAUMA

For adult survivors of DV and sexual abuse

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

MALE SURVIVORS

For adult survivors of DV and sexual abuse

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

TOOLKIT FOR CYP SUPPORTERS

Introductions and building relationships

TOOLKIT 1

www.victimsupport.org.uk/children-and-young-people

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

TOOLKIT FOR CYP SUPPORTERS

Understanding emotions

TOOLKIT 2

www.victimsupport.org.uk/children-and-young-people

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TOOLKIT FOR CYP SUPPORTERS

Safety planning

TOOLKIT 3

www.victimsupport.org.uk/children-and-young-people

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

TOOLKIT FOR CYP SUPPORTERS

Building confidence and self-esteem

TOOLKIT 4

www.victimsupport.org.uk/children-and-young-people

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

TOOLKIT FOR CYP SUPPORTERS

Healthy and unhealthy relationships

TOOLKIT 5

www.victimsupport.org.uk/children-and-young-people

Support through the CJS

Some of the support Local Victim Support teams can deliver if someone has reported the crime:

- Explain the process from report to court
- Managing expectations
- Regular liaison with criminal justice agencies
- Explore all special Measures available to them
- Arrange Pre-trial Visits
- Support with VPS (following charge)
- Victims Right to Review (VRR)
- Attend court
- Post trial support





Thank You: Any Questions?

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victimsupport.org.uk



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Report for SCPB

AGENDA ITEM 13

The Borough of Barnet has had a busy year, and the London Fire Brigade has been at the forefront of the change, both socially and with incidents attended we have had a change to help as much as possible the people of Barnet.

The 4 Stations attended over 3,000 incidents over the year, ranging from a small bin fire to large fires that had both huge social and economic impact on the local community.

Last year we reported that the Brigade had introduced new equipment, this year we have had limited new equipment, although we are due to introduce a new Breathing Apparatus set that will be an improvement for our Firefighters across London.

Public polling

Our latest opinion polling results reveal more members of the public feel positively about LFB than at any time since we began regular surveys in 2019.

The Brigade is full of people who care passionately about providing a first-class service and about protecting the public, and recent high-profile criticism of our services and culture has been difficult to hear.

The challenging, but necessary, conversations taking place following last year's Culture Review, have resulted in a lot of hard work from individuals and teams at all levels and ranks across the Brigade. This work has begun to address the issues it raised - both within LFB and about how we interact with the communities we serve.

The work needed to create and maintain the kind of culture that welcomes everyone at LFB and to build and keep the trust of London's communities will always be on-going.

Brigade roll out of Marauding Terrorist Attacks (MTA)



The Brigade London wide have rolled out new equipment to allow us to better respond to a marauding terrorist incident. Barnet Borough are being trained so that should we be called upon we can assist London Ambulance service and the Metropolitan Police Service during an operational incident.

2 sets of Ballistic PPE are provide per appliance, allowing our crews to support blue light colleagues during events.

Joint training with Hatzola



In October last year the LFB and Hatzola undertook a joint training exercise where we built upon our strengths and demonstrated how we can support each other at operational incidents.



We undertook a joint exercise that simulated a car accident with members of the casualty union taking part to add extra realism.

The event was a fantastic event to practice what is a stressful and intense situation but in a calm and thorough manner. Good contacts were made and planning is ongoing for our next training event.

Joint training with Borough Resilience colleagues.



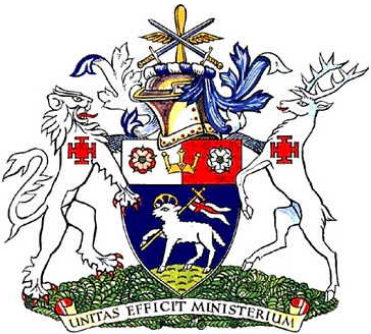
2 training exercises have been carried out at Finchley fire station with members of the local Resilience Forum. These have included the Mayor of Barnet, local councillors, the London Ambulance Service, Met Police, NHS partners, local council resilience officers. Both events were a good chance to test our response and allow us to build strong relationships.

We are always seeking new people to attend if anyone would be interested.

Fire Cadets



The borough have had a successful Cadet course programme during the last year. We have supported the youth of the Borough to take part in structured learning each week and taking part in drills. At the end of each course there is a pass out where the Cadets take part in drills in front of friends and family.

	Safer Communities Partnership Board Scrutiny Committee
Title	Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23
Date of meeting	24 th February 2024
Report of	Fiona Bateman, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Appendices	Appendix A - Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 22-23
Officer Contact Details	Joyce Mbeve, Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager, 0208-359 2519 joyce.mbeve@barnet.gov.uk
Summary	
<p>The Local Authority is required (by virtue of s.43 Care Act 2014) to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board ['SAB'] for their area. Each SAB must publish an annual report setting out details of what it has done to achieve objectives within its strategic plan and steps taken to implement the learning from and Safeguarding Adults Reviews undertaken during the period.</p>	
Recommendations	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Safer Communities Partnership Board and Scrutiny Sub-Committee note the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23. 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reasons for the Recommendations 	

- 1.1 For each financial year, the SAB must publish an annual report in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act. The annual report will be published on the Council’s website. The Care Act 2014 (the Act) requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Adult Board for area pursuant to Section 43(1).
- 1.2 The Barnet Safeguarding Board was established in 2002 and from 1 April 2015 was placed on a statutory footing. The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership of voluntary, statutory and community organisations. The BSAB’s purpose is to enable partner agencies to review practice across the entire ‘system’ and provide positive cross-agency challenge to encourage accountability and strengthen a culture of continuous improvement. It is a very active partnership with commitment from across the statutory, voluntary and community-based organisations.
- 1.3 The BSAB’s governance arrangements ensure that it reports work to the Council through the Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee and, due to the important multi-agency arrangements and the role of health, the Board’s Annual Report is also noted by the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as each partners’ Executive Board.

2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

- 2.1 Non-Applicable

3. Post Decision Implementation

- 3.1 The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan and annual report is a public document and following the Adults & Health Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, will be published on the Council’s website.

The Board’s Annual Report is reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board for noting as well as each partners’ Executive Board.

4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

Corporate Plan

- 4.1 The work of the Barnet SAB supports the council’s Our Plan for Barnet priorities under the Living Well theme, especially in the areas of delivering a multi-agency response to supporting residents to stay safe and independent, integrated care and tackling domestic abuse.

Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures

Sustainability

- 4.2 The BSAB works across statutory, third sector and providers to deliver improvements in safeguarding practice. We actively consider how to engage with the public and practitioners in a sustainable way to reduce abuse and neglect. Our actions seek to reduce prevent harm before it occurs and thereby reduce demand on vital services.

Corporate Parenting

4.3 The Adults Safeguarding Board works closely with the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership. It recognises the need for everyone to 'think family' when addressing their safeguarding functions. The two partnerships also have mechanisms in place to coordinate on work priorities arising from case reviews where they impact on respective safeguarding duties. The Board also continues to champion Transitional Safeguarding regionally and nationally.

Risk Management

4.4 A failure to keep adults at risk of abuse safe from avoidable harm represents not only a significant risk to residents but also to the reputation of the Council and partner agencies, including statutory safeguarding partners (namely the police and NHS). Although safeguarding must be the concern of all agencies working with vulnerable adults, the Local Authority is the lead agency. As such, both Members and senior officers carry a level of accountability for safeguarding practice in Barnet. Governance structures are in place to ensure that other lead stakeholders, including the NHS and the police, are represented to ensure that practice across the partnership meets safeguarding requirements.

Insight

4.5 This year the annual report has complimented our usual report with case studies to try to bring to life the everyday practice from across the partnership to identify possible abuse or neglect and work collectively with the adult so that responses are person-centred and effective in reduction risk.

4.6 Effective quality assurance drives continuous improvement and is recognised as a critical function of the BSAB. The Performance Quality Assurance (PQA) Subgroup of the BSAB provides assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place and work effectively, and risks and concerns are escalated to the Independent Chair and BSAB. The group meets quarterly to review safeguarding performance via an integrated monitoring report which reviews data and key performance indicators from across the partnership.

- a) As a result of their quality assurance activity, the PQA subgroup is well placed to identify gaps in workforce learning across the partnership or areas which requires increased public awareness. This information feeds directly into the Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board's workplan by assisting us to identify topics to cover within our monthly 'Lunch and Learn' sessions. These sessions are bitesize webinars for practitioners across our partnership workforce, held each month. We welcomed anyone working within voluntary, community, faith organisation and statutory bodies who support adults to stay safe to attend these free lunchtime sessions.
- b) Quality of data has been considered and during 2022-23 the BSAB continued to review the data collected with commitment from the performance team and from partner agencies. Our independent Chair was also actively involved. We were able to analyse data and identify trends and themes to guide the work of the BSAB and identify important changes in partnership representation.

- c) The Business Intelligence & Performance Insights produce quarterly data, and their Senior Business Intelligence & Performance Analyst participates in the meeting and discuss the data.

Social Value

- 4.7 The BSAB supports the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 by ensuring that robust safeguarding procedures are in place throughout the borough. The council ensures that care providers commissioned to work with adults accessing social care services have the required skills and training to support effective safeguarding throughout the borough and the Board aims to publicise the key issues surrounding safeguarding within the borough to strengthen the public’s awareness of safeguarding issues.

5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The activities listed will be managed within the appropriate organisation’s existing budgets.
- 5.2 Safeguarding training is currently provided by the Council’s Communities, Adults and Health Directorate and this training is mandatory for all Communities, Adults and Health staff. Safeguarding training is also offered to all care providers commissioned through Communities, Adults and Health and the provision is covered within the directorate’s budget.
- 5.3 The current annual budget for the BSAB is £95,000, which covers the post of Independent Chair and Safeguarding Adults Business Manager as well as the delivery of the Board priorities including training and communications. Each partner is asked to provide a contribution towards Board costs, for 2022-23 this was:

Table 1: BSAB Partner Financial Contributions 2022-23

Statutory Partner	Contribution
London Borough of Barnet	£60,000
NCL Integrated Care Board	£20,000
Barnet Enfield Haringey Mental Health Trust	£5,000
Metropolitan Police	£5,000
Central London Community Health	£5,000

6. Legal Implications and Constitution References

- 6.1 The Care Act 2014 (the Act)¹ places on a statutory footing some of the safeguarding obligations that were previously located in guidance. The Act requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) for their area pursuant to Section 43(1).

¹ The Care Act 2014 – www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents

- 6.2 For each financial year, the SAB must publish an annual report in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act. The plan will be published on the Council’s website.
- 6.3 The terms of reference for The Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee includes that it shall perform the overview and scrutiny role and function in relation to:
- All matters as they relate to Adults Social Care
 - Reviewing and scrutinising, matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Barnet including inviting the relevant Chief Executive(s) of NHS organisations to account for the work of their organisation (s) as set out and required by the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and related primary and secondary legislation

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The BSAB had agreed they needed to draw on the expertise and established network within our diverse communities to better understand how different types of risk affect diverse communities and what BSAB partners need to do differently to improve awareness, identification, reporting of safeguarding concerns and access to support within those communities.
- 7.2 The SAB has to report on its work to Elected Members via the Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee and then to partners and members at the Health and Wellbeing Board. Additionally, each agency represented on the Board will present the annual report to their agency executive Board.

8. Equalities and Diversity

- 8.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision making in the Council pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. This means the Council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must have due regard to the equality duties when exercising a public function. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality and good relations into day-to-day business requiring equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services and for these to be kept under review.
- 8.2 Section 149 of the Act imposes a duty on ‘public authorities’ and other bodies when exercising public functions to have due regard to the need to:
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 8.3 The annual report provides progress against the business plan 2022-23. Our key priorities are:

- Establish consistent practice across partnership agencies which reflect the ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ principles.
- Adults at risk’ are heard and understood and their experiences and views shape continuous improvement.
- Advance equality of opportunity, including access to justice for ‘Adults at Risk’.

8.4 The Care Act Guidance identifies discriminatory abuse as a specific form of abuse which includes harassment because of race, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

9. Background Papers

9.1 None



Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23

DRAFT



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Foreword from the Independent Chair, Fiona Bateman

It is always a pleasure to introduce our annual report. We really welcome interest from a wide cross section of our community across Barnet. I have no doubt that you will find much within this report of interest, as the report details the wide range of activity undertaken by the BSAB, our members and wider partners to tackle issues as they arose across the year.

I am privileged to work with partners who, despite very real challenges, never cease to inspire and impress me with their dedication, energy and sense of social justice. This year we have complimented our usual report with case studies to try to bring to life the everyday practice from across the partnership to identify possible abuse or neglect and work collectively with the adult so that responses are person-centred and effective in reduction risk.

We have also been able to show an impact of previous BSAB activity. We can see from the first section of the report (which details the profile of risk in Barnet) that safeguarding concerns have increased both in terms of the numbers of cases reported and in their complexity. Despite this, our data provides reassurance that people are identifying concerns and reporting these, that responses to those concerns are timely and are increasingly meeting the outcomes that matter to the adult.

You will also see that as a partnership we have 'lifted the lid' on topics often considered too difficult to really explore how we can work not just across our member agencies, but pro-actively with the voluntary, faith and community sector organisations, our carers and residents to understand what might be needed to ensure the system is better connected and focused on keeping adults with care needs safe.

Over the coming year we intend to publish a fresh new strategy to continue to build on these solid foundations, influenced by our engagement activities with frontline practitioners, carers, residents and experts by experience who have so generously given their time to support the work of the BSAB. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive partnership, where parity of esteem is a core value. We are particularly keen to hear from adults with care and support needs who have experienced abuse or neglect or cared about someone who has, understanding what works to keep people safe from lots of different perspectives really does help shape our system into a fairer, safer one.

Best wishes for a safer future,

Fiona Bateman
BSAB Independent Chair

Summary

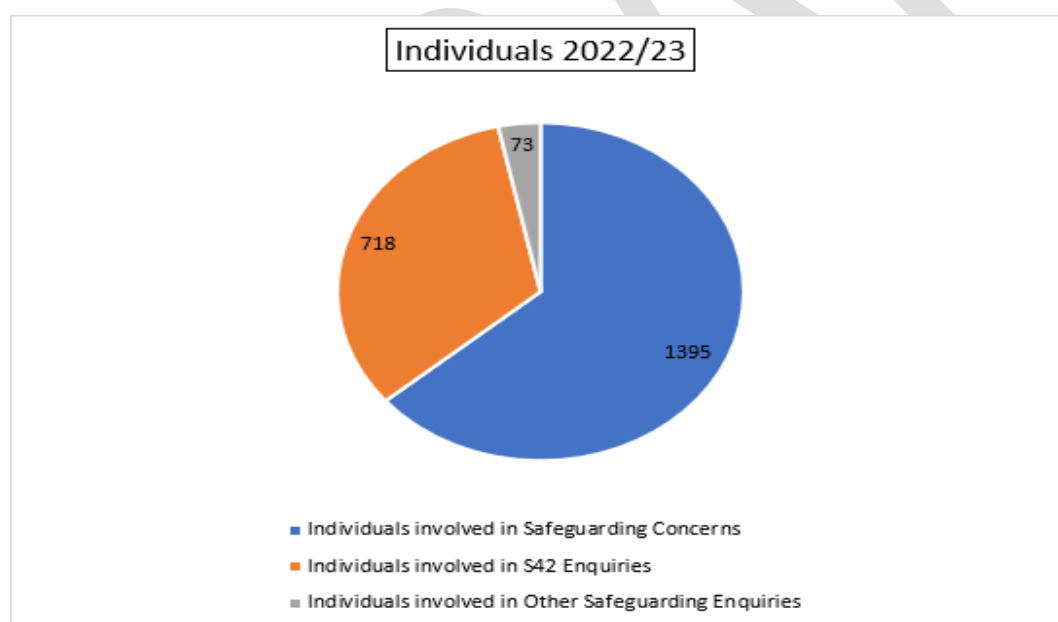
The following data comes from the Council's 2022-23 Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) which records details about safeguarding activity for adults aged 18 and over in England, reported to, or identified by, Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities.

This year increases were observed in both safeguarding concerns and enquiries. This was in part due to a change in ICT process in April 2022 to speed up the timeliness of recording safeguarding activity down to 3 days or less for concerns and 30 days or less for enquiries. Previously, staff were recording tasks that were aligned to an enquiry as part of the 'safeguarding concerns' process. This is in part linked to the principles of 'Making Safeguarding Personal', which require proportionality and prevention approaches. However, in line with guidance issued by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), this activity is now recorded under the enquiry process.

Although the location of abuse ranked order has not changed significantly, the proportions have, with the 'own home' location accounting for 57.4% this year compared to 46.2% in 2021-22. Care Homes for both residential and nursing equated to 25.6% of all enquiry locations compared to 36% in 2020-21. Adult safeguarding partners may not have high levels of access to people's own homes, but the data demonstrates the ingenuity of our frontline staff across partner agencies in seeking to keep adults with care and support needs safe.

For those with recorded desired outcomes, the proportion of people fully or partially achieving these outcomes increased to 89.8%, from 87.8% in 2021-22.

Individuals

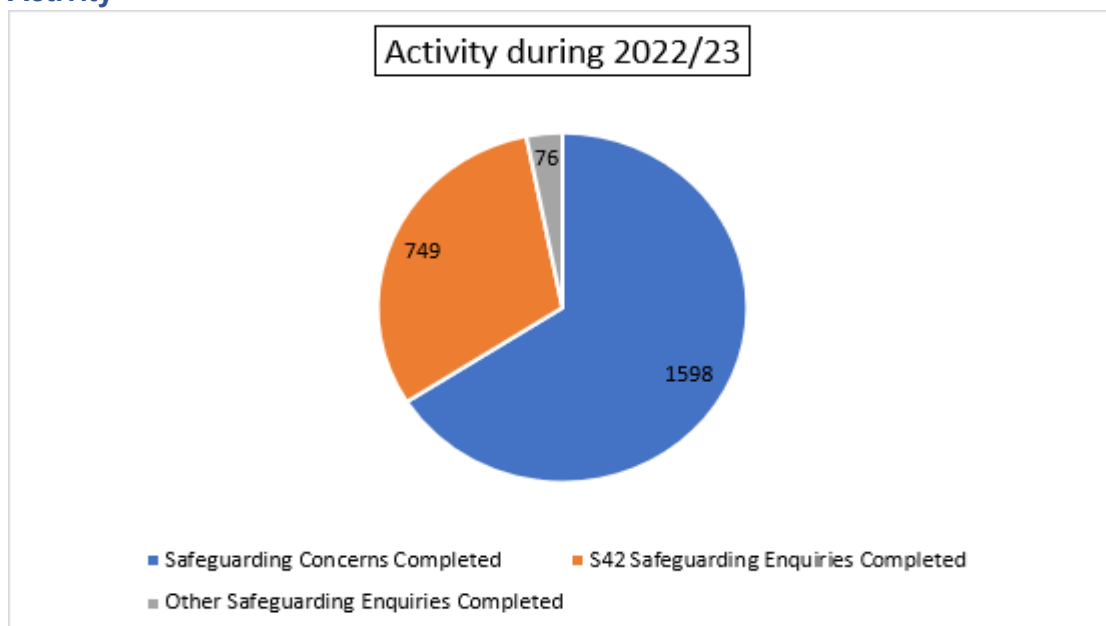


↑ A total of **1,395** individuals were involved in safeguarding concerns during 2022-23, an increase from **1,265** in 2021-22 (10.3% increase equivalent to 130 more individuals).

↑ A total of **718** individuals were involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries, an increase from **303** in 2021-22 (137% increase equivalent to 415 more individuals. This is as a result of the ICT recording change outlined in the introduction to this section above).

↑ A total of **73** individuals were involved in other Safeguarding Enquiries, an increase from **11** in 2021-22 (563.6% increase equivalent to 62 more individuals).

Activity



- **↑ 1,598** Safeguarding Concerns were completed during 2022-23, up from 1,464 in 2021-22 (9% increase equivalent to 134 more Safeguarding Concerns).
- **↑ 749** S42 Safeguarding Enquiries were completed during 2022-23, up from 318 in 2021-22 (135.5% increase equivalent to 431 more S42 Safeguarding Enquiries, but this is due to the change in process described above).
- **↑ 76** Other Safeguarding Enquiries were completed during 2022-23, up from 11 in 2021-22 (590.9% increase equivalent to 65 more non statutory enquiries completed).

Safeguarding Enquiries by Source of Risk

- **Neglect and Acts of Omission** continues to be the highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 32.7% (↓ down from 39% last year) of all the source of risk types.
- **Financial or Material Abuse** was the second highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 16.8% (↑ up from 14.6% last year) of all the source of risk types. This is likely due to the significant focus given to this form of abuse within NCL, following the changes in legislation under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- **Physical Abuse** was the third highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 15.1% (↓ down from 18.5% last year) of all the source of risk types.
- **Psychological Abuse** continues to be the fourth highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 13.0% (↓ down from 13.4% last year) of all the source of risk types.
- **Self-Neglect** continues to be the fifth highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 9.9% (↑ up from 5.6% last year) of all the source of risk types.
- **Domestic Abuse** continues to be the sixth highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 6.2% (↑ up from 4.5% last year) of all the source of risk types. Currently BSAB partners are working on a theory that a higher proportion of adults experience domestic abuse than is recorded within the SAC data. This is because data available from the Metropolitan Police would indicate that domestic abuse is far higher. It is likely that requirements in respect of the data collection means that often the form of abuse (physical, emotional, financial etc) will be the defining characteristic when choosing a categorisation, rather than the fact that the abuse occurs between people who are 'personally connected'. ¹ We are hoping to work, over the coming year, with NHS England to improve consistency in recording so that this can be better understood in the years ahead. Locally BSAB's board manager is also an active member of the VAWG strategic partnership to ensure that we

¹ This is the term used to define domestic abuse within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

continue to work collectively to support adults with care and support needs access the right support at the right time.

- **Sexual Abuse** continues to be the seventh highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 3.8% (↑ up from 2.6% last year) of all the source of risk types.
- **Organisational abuse** is the eighth highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 1.2% (→ same as last year) of all the source of risk types.
- There were 9 recorded Safeguarding Enquiries for Modern Slavery in 2022-23 after 2 years of 0 recorded safeguarding enquiries in both 2020-21 and 2021-22. Modern Slavery has the ninth highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 0.8% (↑ up from 0% last year).
- **Sexual Exploitation** was the tenth highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 0.4% (↓ down from 0.5% last year) of all the source of risk types.
- **Discriminatory Abuse** was the eleventh highest proportion of source of risk accounting for 0.1% (↓ down from 0.2% last year) of all the source of risk types.

Safeguarding Enquiries by Location

- ↑ **Own home** continues to be the highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (57.4% up from 46.2% in 2021-22).
- ↓ **Care Home** – Residential continues to be the second highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (17.3% down from 18.6% in 2021-22).
- ↓ **Care Home** – Nursing continues to be the third highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (8.3% down from 17.4% in 2021-22).
- ↓ **In the community** (excluding community services) was the fourth highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (6.3% up from 4.1% in 2021-22).
- ↓ **Other** accounted for the fifth highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries 22 (4.1% down from 6.4% in 2021-22).
- ↓ **In a community service** continues to be the sixth highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (2.9% down from 3.8% in 2021-22).
- ↓ **Hospital** – Acute continues to be the seventh highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (1.8% down from 2.3% in 2021-22).
- ↑ **Hospital** – Community continues to be the eighth highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (1.4% up from 1.2% in 2021-22).
- ↑ **Hospital** – Mental Health continues to be the ninth highest proportion of location of abuse in safeguarding enquiries (0.5% up from 0% in 2021-22).

Risk Assessment Outcomes

- ↓ Risk Identified and **action taken** continues to be the highest proportion of outcomes with 72.8% (down from 75.1% last year) of risk outcomes falling into this category.
- ↑ No risk identified and **no action taken** was the 2nd highest proportion of outcomes (was 3rd last year) with 7.7% (up from 6% last year) of risk outcomes falling into this category.

For the next two indicators, it may be helpful to explain that these outcomes describe cases where they have been referred as a safeguarding concern, but on closer enquiry there is no risk of abuse. However, it is accepted that the adult may require social care or health input and so are referred onwards for an assessment of their needs.

- ↑ No risk identified and **action taken** was the 3rd highest proportion of outcomes with 6.7% (up from 5.7% last year) of risk outcomes falling into this category.
- ↓ Risk – Assessment inconclusive and **action taken** was the 4th highest proportion of outcomes with 4.4% (down from 9% last year) of risk outcomes falling into this category.
- ↑ Risk identified and **no action taken** was the fifth highest proportion of outcomes with 4% (up from 2.7% last year) of risk outcomes falling into this category. A case audit has shown that these were either well justified or recorded incorrectly and action was taken.

- **↑ Risk** – Assessment inconclusive and **no action taken** was seventh highest proportion of outcomes with 2.4% (up from 0.6% last year) of risk outcomes falling into this category.
- **↑ Enquiry ceased at individual's request and no action taken** was the sixth highest proportion of outcomes with 2% (up from 0.9% last year) of risk outcomes falling into this category.

Risk Outcomes

Where risks were identified the outcome/ expected outcome when the case was concluded were as follows:

- **↓ Risk Reduced** in 58.3% of the time (down from 60.4% last year)
- **↑ Risk Removed** in 33.5% of the time (up from 32.7% last year)
- **↑ Risk Remained** in 8.1% of the time (up from 6.9% last year)

Mental Capacity for concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries

- **↓ 27.8%** of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries lacked capacity (down from 46.1% last year)
- **↑ 58.9%** of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries did not lack capacity (up from 41.3% last year)
- **↑ 9.3%** (70 recorded as 'Don't know') of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries it was not known what their mental capacity was (up from 5.8% last year)
- **↓ 4%** (30 not recorded) of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries their mental capacity was not recorded (down from 6.8% last year)
- **↑ 96.6%** of people who were identified as lacking capacity were provided support by an advocate, family, or friend (up from 95.8% in 2020-21).

A case audit of cases recorded as don't know or not recorded has shown a mixture of adults who had died or were at end of life. That audit concluded that the main area for practice improvement was a procedural one regarding better record keeping, but that usually a person's capacity was determined.

Making Safeguarding Personal

- **↑ 78.7%** of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries (587) the individual or individual's representative **were asked, and outcomes were expressed** (up from 74.2% last year).
- **↓ 10.6%** of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries (79) the individual or individual's representative **were asked, but no outcomes were expressed** (down from 20% last year).
- **↑ 8.4%** of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries (63) the individual or individual's representative **were not asked about desired outcomes** (up from 3.5% last year).
- **↑ 2.1%** of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries (16) the individual or individual's representative **did not know about desired outcomes** (up from 0.6% last year).
- **→ 0.1%** of concluded S42 Safeguarding Enquiries (1) it was **not recorded** that the individual or individual's representative were asked about desired outcomes (down from 1.6% last year).
- A case audit of cases recorded as 'were not asked' or 'not recorded' has shown a mixture of adults who had died, again, this was addressed by providing advice on recording issues.

Of those cases where desired outcomes were achieved the proportion of them that were recorded as:

- **↑ Fully achieved** – 59.6% up from to 47.8% last year.
- **↓ Partially achieved** – 30.2% down from 40% last year.
- **↓ Not achieved** - 10.2% down from 12.2% last year.
- **↑ 89.8%** of cases where desired outcomes were recorded were fully or partially achieved up from 87.8% last year.

SARS

2 SARS were recorded in 2022-23. In 2021-22 1 SAR was recorded. Detailed of the findings of these reviews and what steps the BSAB and our partner agencies have taken are detailed later in this report.

Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board: Our vision and purpose.

The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board ['BSAB'] is a partnership of voluntary, statutory and community organisations. The BSAB's purpose is to enable partner agencies to review practice across the entire

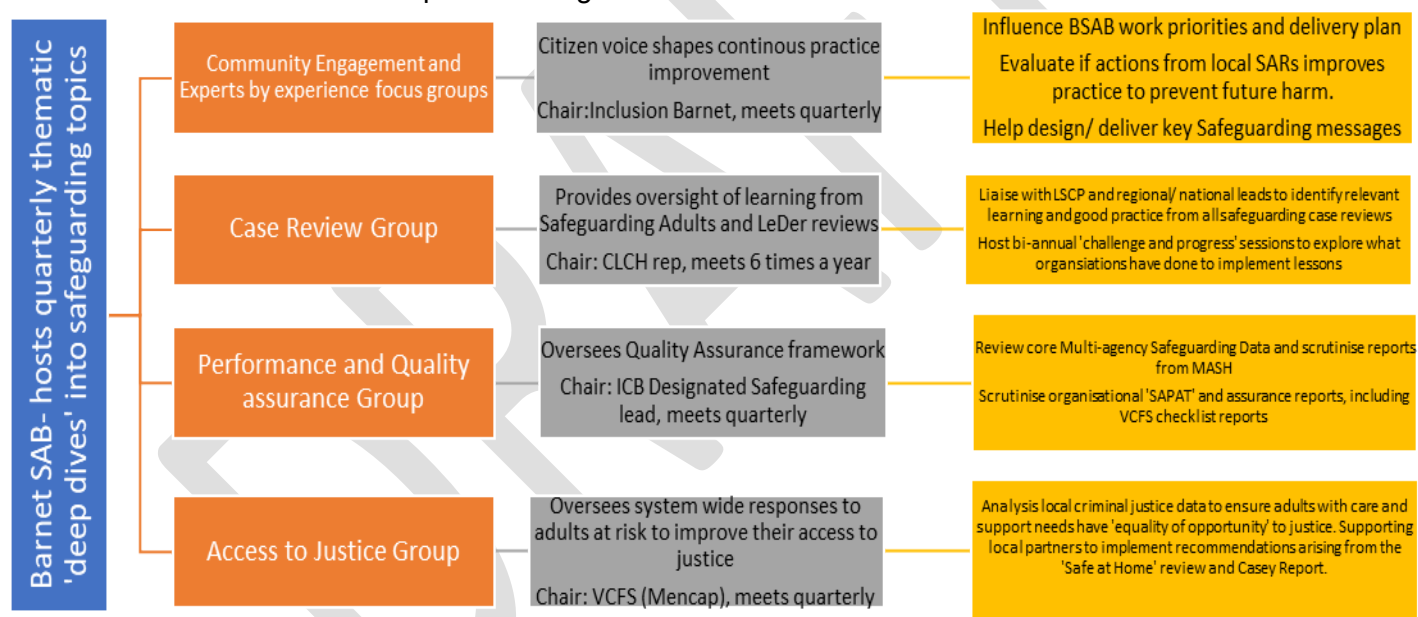
health, social care and criminal justice system to provide positive cross agency challenge, to encourage accountability and strengthen a culture of continuous improvement.

Our vision is for all ‘adults at risk’,² in Barnet to be safeguarded from abuse and neglect in a way that supports them to make choices and have control about how they want to live safely. We set out three key priority areas, namely:

- Establish consistent practice across partnership agencies which reflect the ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ principles³
- Ensure ‘adults at risk’ are heard and understood and their experiences and views shape continuous improvement.
- Advance equality of opportunity, including access to justice for ‘adults at risk’

In recognition of the wide-ranging impact of the Pandemic and the way in which services will be delivered, (e.g., migration over to Integrated Care Systems) the BSAB reviewed how sub-groups and the main meetings of the board will interact to complete key tasks to fulfil our joint statutory functions. That work continued to be complemented by community engagement activities and multi-agency sector- led workshops so that we could demonstrate effective, proportionate safeguarding practice across our partner agencies.

The Board retained the current structure of sub-groups to enable practitioners across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors come together to build on the innovation and strong partnership collaboration so evident in the response during the Pandemic.



A summary of the work completed, and the impact is given below.

BSAB meets as a whole group every three months.

The BSAB identified four safeguarding topics to provide a focus for the quarterly BSAB meetings, namely financial abuse, fire safety, multiple exclusion homelessness and modern day slavery. These themes were chosen because of national and local learning from safeguarding adults reviews or to take forward our local strategic plan. Theming meetings in this way afforded partners an opportunity to reflect on activities undertaken by their organisations to address systematic or persistent levels of harm experienced by adults at risk in Barnet. Agencies were asked to provide assurance on the steps taken to implement policies, disseminate practice guidance and monitor service delivery to ensure they were working collectively to safeguard adults at risk in Barnet.

² Defined by s42 Care Act 2014 as adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse or neglect and unable to protect themselves
³ Set out in more detail at: <https://local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal>

In June 2022 the BSAB discussed 'Intrafamilial' Financial Abuse, following on from our 2020 survey of adults with learning disabilities' experience of financial abuse, and a subsequent lunch and learn where participants had explained they find it hardest to respond effectively to financial abuse concerns if this had occurred within family or 'friendship' groups. On the 21.06.22 we hosted an on-line workshop for practitioners from across all 5 boroughs. There was representation from Mencap, DWP, Age UK, trading standards, Police officers, social workers, community and hospital-based health practitioners, local authority finance officers and deputyship teams. The workshop explored the prevalence of abuse by family members, those posing as friends or informal carers who exploit adults at risk for their own financial gain, including deception or coercion in respect of money or assets, including the misappropriation of property, possessions or welfare benefits.

The workshop started by hearing from one of our experts by experience about the impact that financial abuse by his family had on him. Following this there were plenary sessions exploring:

- Financial/ Economic coercion as a form of domestic abuse
- Prevention is the best cure- ways to stay safe from financial abuse.
- A system- wide approach to identifying and responding to financial abuse.

97 people registered interest in the workshop and 77 attended the session, with a satisfaction rating of 4.7 (out of 5). Practitioners at the workshop reported a lack of public and professional awareness of the risks and nature of economic/ financial concerns. The importance of diversity and difference in key messages was also considered, with practitioners recommending that SABs engage from the start of any 'product design' with our community or faith group leaders to take advice about the best formats and use of language to ensure this work has a wide and impactful reach. Attendees explained, taking such an approach will build trust and help us all to understand issues from different cultural perspectives.

- We identified good practice examples across social care, Department of Work and Pension [DWP] and VCFS colleagues.
- We agreed a way forward to raise public awareness.
- We presented our findings to BSAB, Community Safety Partnership, North Central London Integrated Care Board's [NCL ICB] safeguarding conference and London SAB's conference.

The full report with recommendation can be found [Report](#) The importance of this work was underlined by interest from the Home Office and Department for Health and Social Care within their 'Safe Care at Home'⁴ [Link](#) report into the obligations for public bodies to protect those in receipt of care within their own home. That national guidance drew on, amongst other sources, the case studies and the NCL findings. Our Access to Justice sub-group will explore over the coming year how we implement the recommendations of the Safe Care at Home report locally.

In September 2022 the BSAB discussed the theme Safeguarding and the Cost of living. The Community Care survey reported rising cost-of-living is 'severely' affecting people accessing children's and adults' services fuelling a host of issues including poverty, debt, mental ill-health and domestic conflict. Locally partners have raised concerns that rising costs, particularly with respect to food and fuel costs, could have a significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of adults with care and support needs, including increasing the risks of financial abuse, fire safety (as people use more risky light and heat sources) and self-neglect as a result of poor heating or nutrition. The focus of discussions was on steps taken by partner organisations to respond to anticipated safeguarding risks. Partners gave assurance about what is being done for example,

- [The London Probation Service](#) recognised that people are having challenges and difficulties in getting to appointments for finances, leading to further or different criminal activity and exploitation of more vulnerable people.
- [The NHS through the ICB](#) were exploring personal health budgets and there's a discretion to use small personal health budgets to support discharge from hospital.
- [The Local Authority](#) confirmed they were working in partnership with Voluntary and Community sector and health partners to give extra support and signpost for support. Practitioners are encouraged not to

⁴ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-care-at-home-review>

signpost without introductions or support being given to ensure that access to information and advice is as smooth as it can be. Practical support with heating and keeping warm is also available.

- [The Barnet Group](#) confirmed it was also taking steps to ensure that tenants accessed available support through its own services and via partners.

In December 2022 the BSAB discussed the Reframing Safeguarding project following a successful bid to the Barnet Prevention Fund. The BSAB had agreed they needed to draw on the expertise and established networks within our diverse communities to better understand how different types of risk affect diverse communities and what BSAB partners need to do differently to improve awareness, identification, reporting of safeguarding concerns and access to support within those communities. The aim of the project is to:

- Increase understanding about safeguarding and knowledge about the BSAB.
- Reframe the local narrative on safeguarding to 'Keeping All Adults safe'.
- Encourage Barnet's diverse communities to confidently raise safeguarding concerns in respect of adults with care and support needs to the Barnet MASH.
- Establish a feedback process between the MASH and local residents when safeguarding concerns do not reach S42 thresholds.
- Create a culture of community understanding about safeguarding.
- To establish an 'Expert by Experience' Group of Barnet residents to support and guide the BSAB.

The project is being led by the BSAB's manager and [CommUnity Barnet](#), a partner on the Board using their experience of carrying out similar work in Newham. An Oversight group including Barnet Carers, Inclusion Barnet, Barnet Mencap and LBB's VAWG strategy manager is overseeing the project. An initial engagement programme consisting of focus groups, face-to-face conversations, social media campaigns, and a survey to scope understanding has been developed. It has been shared with people who draw on care & support and residents in Barnet. This will be used to capture residents' knowledge of safeguarding. Click here [BSAB - Community Engagement Survey November 2022](#) . The project is due to be completed December 2023.

In March 2023 partner agencies reported on activity within their organisation to address SAR recommendations and BSAB strategic priorities. The BSAB also discussed strategic planning for the next 3-5 years. Since SABs became statutory bodies in 2015, there has been significant pressures experienced by most (if not all) SAB member organisations because of austerity, the Covid-19 Pandemic and the present cost of living/ workforce capacity issues. As a partnership therefore, we explored whether our current structures, resources and ways of working remain effective in achieving shared aims as a board.

The new BSAB Strategic plan 2023-2026 can be found here [Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

THE CASE REVIEW GROUP ['CRG']:

This group provides oversight of learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Learning Disability Mortality Review [LeDeR] and is currently chaired by CLCH's (Director of Safeguarding & Childrens Public Health Nursing) representative. They liaise with LSCP and regional/ national leads to identify relevant learning and good practice from all safeguarding case reviews and host 'challenge and progress' sessions to explore what organisations have done to implement lessons from Safeguarding Adults Reviews completed by the BSAB.

Fire safety- Mr A and thematic review

In order to raise wider awareness of fire safety, the task and finish group designed a Fire Safety Practitioner Survey and Fire Safety Audit Tool to determine practitioners' knowledge of fire safety procedures and aid with organisational self-assessment. This was circulated to care providers across Barnet. Some of the answers to both the Practitioner Fire Safety Questionnaire and the Fire Safety Audit Tool were encouraging, but others provided a very mixed picture. There were, unfortunately, very few

responses received which suggests staff may have very little capacity to refresh themselves on issues like fire safety training, or that competing priorities mean that fire safety and prevention is not receiving the attention it needs.

It also highlighted too few people across our partner agencies knew how to access smoking cessation support or knew to refer cases to the BSAB Risk panel or considered raising safeguarding concerns. For many of our partner agencies, their fire safety training is focused on employer responsibilities and does not consider the personalised risk management that adults with care and support needs may benefit from. This will remain an area of focus for the BSAB.

Our case review group, through the regular 'challenge and progress' events will continue throughout 2023-24 to seek assurance that partner agencies are highlighting learning from the thematic review and that this is having a positive impact on practice within partner agencies' services. Knowledge of fire safety and fire prevention is crucial and numerous safeguarding adults reviews have shown the value in this being a partnership approach, not limited to adult social care or local fire services. We know that because of a high turnover of staff in the sector it is crucial training is refreshed on a regular basis. In addition, our lunch and learn [Fire safety session](#)

will continue to be available for agencies to use within team meetings as part of staff inductions.

Gabrielle- This review was completed following harm suffered by an adult with care needs after family members refused pressure ulcer care during the Covid-19 lock down. This highlighted the importance for professionals communicating effectively with each other, and of using a multi-disciplinary approach, including psychology services as appropriate to develop whole-family plans.

We have developed guidance for family carers and continue to work with the Carers Centre to ensure family carers are provided the right information to safely meet care needs. We also received assurances from partner agencies regarding changes they have made to their policies so that adults who are dependent on others to bring them to health appointments are not discharged from necessary services if they do not attend. CLCH have shared with other provider trusts and members of BSAB their 'was not bought' policy as a model of good practice. This case, and the thematic review detailed below, highlight the importance of practitioners taking time to ensure they hear the voice of the adult when looking at how (and if) their needs are being safely met and, if there are any concerns, considering the wider professional or social network around that adult so a holistic plan to reduce risk can be agreed.

Thematic learning disabilities review- this review explored how we could work more closely to prevent harm for adults with learning disabilities who are not receiving health and social care support. In one of the two cases explored, professionals recognised the risk of harm, but failures to correctly explain both the level of risk and previous attempts made to reduce this risk to legal advisors hindered escalation, leaving practitioners feeling powerless to intervene and support the adult at risk and their families.

In addition to the reviews detailed above, the CRG considered two new referrals in respect of two adults with care and support needs associated with multiple exclusion homelessness, who had died. The CRG were satisfied both cases met the mandatory review criteria (under s44 Care Act) as there were concerns regarding the ways relevant agencies worked together to safeguard both individuals. BSAB commissioned an independent reviewer to follow a 'learning together' approach. These cases are still in the process of being reviewed, so will be reported within next year's annual report but initial findings have already been used to inform strategic planning in respect of Barnet Council's public health approach to homelessness.

Challenge and progress report on SAR implementation: On 14th March 23, Barnet Mencap, Central London Community Healthcare [CLCH], Barnet Enfield Haringey Mental Health Trust [BEH MHT], Adult Social Care and Barnet Homes attended a challenge and progress meeting. They reported:

- BSAB's multi-agency risk panel is an effective mechanism for resolving very complex cases.
- The revised Escalation processes had a positive impact for VCFS staff and cases of concern.
- BEH MHT have new domestic abuse and sexual safety lead. Have improved their discharge process, developed a self-neglect toolkit.

- CLCH reported changes made to their 'no access' policy. Completed fire safety audit identifying areas from practice improvement.
- Barnet Mencap commended the SLIP review and safeguarding for carers work.
- ICB reported that the Mr A action plan resulted in assurance that all GPs and all Continuing Health Care staff had training by the Fire Brigade on how to refer patients for Fire Safety assessments. Emollient prescribing was reviewed by pharmacists and warning notices put on the GP system when writing prescriptions.
- LFB also highlighted local training they had delivered to increase fire safety awareness and that recent fire deaths demonstrated how important it was for this to remain on the BSAB workplan.

Organisations have also set out within the annual Safeguarding Adults Partnership Self-Assessment Audit ['SAPAT'] the steps they have taken to implement lessons from local reviews. Feedback from that tool has also been used to help BSAB partners work more collaboratively to implement improvements to practice, further refine relevant policy and shape our lunch and learn programme for workforce development.

What our partners say:

'The partnership in Barnet is strong with an energy and enthusiasm to make a difference to those in greatest need. There is also a focus on innovative working and use of themed approach to learning. The use of webinars has extended the reach and access to BSAB work and messages.'

CLCH SAPAT return

Professional and Quality Assurance 'PQA' Group

This Group oversees the BSAB's Quality Assurance framework and is chaired by the ICB Designated Safeguarding lead. They meet quarterly and review core Multi-agency Safeguarding Data and scrutinise reports from the MASH, organisational 'SAPAT' and assurance reports, including VCFS checklist reports.

To progress the BSAB 3 strategic aims for 2022-23, the PQA reported they:

- Secured regular reporting of key performance indicators so that we can better monitor how well services work together to recognise, report and respond to abuse and neglect.
- Monitored access to advocacy, seeking assurance from partners that adults at risk without friends and family to support them get the correct support in a timely manner.
- We have reviewed key partner agencies SAPAT (safeguarding audit tool) to gain insight into shared challenges and opportunities to work together.
- Held a Voluntary Community & Faith Sector [VCSF] Safeguarding Adults Assurance Event. This event took place on 15th March 2023 and the event was hosted by the BSAB with support from the MASH. This gave us an opportunity to have a face-to-face conversation with VCSF organisation representatives. The agenda covered Safeguarding Assurance for the Voluntary Community & Faith Sector with reference to the Safeguarding Adults checklist, Safeguarding Community Engagement and a discussion to help shape BSAB's Strategy for 2023-25. The event was attended by 19 people.

Next Steps: In the coming year, the PQA will work to broaden BSAB's dataset to include KPIs from partner agencies demonstrating their practice is MSP compliant. This will require commitment from partners to identify reportable indicators and then regularly provide the appropriate data sets.

Partner assurance on thematic safeguarding concerns:

CLCH: In Q4 a dip sample audit was completed with the aim of identifying actions taken to safeguard patients who are smokers and where health treatment or equipment may increase the risk of a fire related incident. There was limited evidence of referrals to Fire Services where there was an identified risk. Actions are being implemented including review of caseloads, new Safeguarding Fire Safety Hub page and posters and stickers being developed with direct links / QR codes to the LFB referral web page.

BEH MHT: A partnership wide workshop on 'Responding to Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse' was held and in total 203 colleagues attended, 117 of these were BEH staff. It was found that throughout the trust there

are minimal reports of men disclosing sexual abuse and therefore this session looked at the barriers that men face, how to have sensitive conversations, and what support can be offered to those who have experienced SA.

Royal Free Hospital: Overall safeguarding referrals have decreased for both Barnet and Royal Free Hospital sites. The staff process for notify the safeguarding team of safeguarding concerns changed in July 2022 from using an online incident reporting system to using Electronic Patient Records. The team used a variety of communication platforms to support the change to ensure staff understood how to refer to the safeguarding team.

Cross sector learning opportunities or community engagement events

The Board hosted monthly 'lunch and learn' webinars for all practitioners working across Barnet. The following topics were covered: safeguarding during rising costs of living, continuity of care & safeguarding, fire safety, compassion fatigue, continuity of care & safeguarding: learning from SARs, safeguarding duties to those with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' & safeguarding adults at risk of multiple exclusion homelessness. The sessions were attended by 160 people overall, mainly practitioners from the local authority and external staff and partners. The feedback from these sessions has been good and practitioners value the information shared by our independent chair who usually delivers the session.

Some feedback given is *"the sessions encourage us to look at safeguarding more broadly and from a different perspective, the Lunch & Learns encourage professional curiosity"*.

National Safeguarding week in 21st-27th November 2022 took place jointly across London, SABs came together to provide a range of free online learning events to raise awareness of key safeguarding issues, start conversations and share best practice throughout safeguarding week. We covered the following areas: transitional safeguarding, learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, Serious Care Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, safeguarding adults with mental health needs, learning from SARs: autism, suicide and safeguarding and self-neglect: applying s42 & risk assessment.

The local authority continue to provide external safeguarding training for organisations and provided 2 external Safeguarding courses 3 times last year. These covered policy and procedures for providers attended by 28 people and provider-led enquiries attended by 20 care providers.

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE GROUP

The Access to Justice sub-group meets every quarter and is chaired by the CEO of Barnet Mencap. Uniquely, this subgroup sits across both the BSAB and Barnet's Community Safety Partnership so as to directly inform the complementary work of both partnership boards. The group enjoys representation from some of the key stakeholders in Barnet. The group continues to be committed to identifying the barriers that adults with care and support needs face in accessing justice. The group also seeks to improve the collaboration of agencies across social care, health, and the criminal justice system, and reports its findings and proposals to the BSAB and community Safety Partnership.

To progress the BSAB 3 strategic aims for 2022-23, the Access to Justice group reported:

Hate Crime Report: April 2022 – March 2023

The Access to Justice group provided oversight of the Hate Crime Project, which focused on the interface between safeguarding, disability hate crime and, increasingly, violence against women and girls, and to increase the understanding of what this means when keeping people safe. The Hate Crime Reporting Coordinator has also developed the Safe Places scheme for adults with learning disabilities. Key Objectives of the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project include:

- Increasing reporting of Disability Hate Crime, Racist and Religious Hate Crime and Anti LGBT Hate Crime.
- Providing ongoing support to victims, in particular adults-at-risk.
- Increasing community confidence in reporting.

- Improving cross agency working to tackle hate, including working with the Metropolitan Police to improve communications with adults-at-risk and those more likely to be impacted by disability hate crime.
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children from the impact of hate crime.
- Co-ordinating and monitoring a network of Hate Crime Reporting Centres across Barnet, where vulnerable adults can access support to report hate crime to the Police. Victims are also offered ongoing support and are signposted to the appropriate community support organisation.

The table below sets out hate crime incidents recorded by the Metropolitan Police for the borough of Barnet.

Category of Hate Crime	April 2021- Mar 2022	April 2022- Mar 2023
Race and Religion	826	733
Anti-Semitism	154	142
Islamophobic	33	28
Disability	23	16
Transgender	67	81
Homophobic	13	11

The Project delivered:

- Staff Training Workshops for 65 staff at 6 organisations / service providers
- 7 Hate Crime Awareness Raising Workshops/Webinars for 75 residents, clients, carers and professionals.
- Engagement with over 300 residents at Hate Crime Awareness Week Information Stands
- 32 new Hate Crime Reporting Champions.
- Engagement with over 30 residents and bus drivers at the Vulnerable Bus Users Day at Edgware Bus Station.
- There are now 12 Hate Crime Reporting Centres operating across Barnet.
- Barnet Mencap recorded 12 hate crime incidents and supported clients to report these incidents to the Police.
- There are 40 registered sites to be designated Safe Places across Barnet.

During 2022/23 the Access to Justice group also sought assurance in the following priority areas.

Autism and the Criminal Justice System [CJS]: looking at the Autism alert card, the Youth Justice service regarding prevalence of young autistic people in contact with the CJS. They also heard from practitioners involved in the 'Why Me' and Restorative justice programmes. Click here [for more Information on these programmes and how they can support access to justice.](#)

Carers: working with the Carers Centre and Social Care to gain understanding of carers in the safeguarding process and how to ensure that they are offered appropriate support. This work will continue to be a priority with the Safe Care at Home review.

Financial Abuse - Following last year's report on the financial abuse of people with learning disabilities and work by mental health services and the NCL Financial Abuse workshop, a new project will focus on upskilling staff to recognise the risks and improve the quality of investigations of financial abuse across North Central London. Scams awareness and financial abuse workshops for people with learning disabilities are planned, to complement the programme carried out by Age UK Barnet..

BSAB partnership achievements

Adults at risk are heard and understood, their experiences and views shape continuous improvement

What did we do?

- Our constitution and operational plan considers how we can facilitate participation from carers, advocacy groups and experts by experience ['EbE'] for each activity. We worked with the London Safeguarding Voices and Barnet Council's Involvement Board (a group of people with lived experience & carers) to ensure we hear from citizens, but we know we need to do better, particularly to reach under-represented communities.
- In 2022-23 BSAB secured funding to establish a project with a VCSF partner (CommUNITY Barnet) to ascertain with BAME communities how we can work more closely to keep adults safe.
- SAPAT, audit tools and data reports actively review partners' activity to embed participation, as well as adherence to MSP principles and SAR recommendations coming from representations from EbE, family, carers for system change.
- Research shows the importance of positive case studies within regular workforce development opportunities. This features heavily in our monthly lunch and learn sessions. Important to provide context for policy development through people's stories of what worked well.
- BSAB and partners offer practical support to safeguarding champions to shape practice improvement, e.g. supervision standards, examples of safeguarding appraisal aspirations etc.

Providing support on legislative change or topics relevant to adults at risk

What did we do?

- Working with our Experts by experience, partners and national leaders, we responded to the government consultation highlighting significant risks re safeguarding practice of the proposed reforms to the Human Rights Act and Mental Health Act reforms.
- Liberty Protection Safeguards: Prior to the announcement of further delay to the implementation of the new reforms, BSAB continued to receive regular reports to ascertain how partners are preparing for the implementation of legislation and provide updates to partners, residents and family carers in monthly webinars.
- In 2022-23 BSAB's members contributed to new strategies to address health inequalities and needs assessments, carers, dementia, autism and suicide prevention among others. Presently, our input is heavily reliant on 'finding out' through our networks about new developments. This means we are too often reactive. The work we do (including SARs/ audits and engagement with communities and residents) should help shape strategies at the earliest opportunities.

Case studies

Every year, staff across the partnership work together to enable people to safeguard themselves and to provide support & intervention when a person may not be able to. The following are recent examples of practice in Barnet.

Case Study 1: Alice

The DWP internal alert system picked up that Alice had made 5 separate Universal Credit ['UC'] claims, each of which had a different male attached. Her DWP's Disability Employment Advisor ['DEA'] was aware that due to Alice's vulnerability these were likely indicators of exploitation. So, rather than process these applications as fraudulent activity, the DEA considered their duties under safeguarding and modern slavery guidance.

Her advisor put an immediate freeze on her account to prevent her fellow applicants having access to her money and made contact through her Job Centre 'journal' to ensure she was seen face-to-face. The advisor also made contact with professionals and Alice's family network to understand better the risk for Alice.

Throughout the interview Alice sought to provide assurances that she was not experiencing domestic abuse or financial exploitation by the men named on the applications. She was highly distressed, but consistently explained she had named the men as she had difficulties in managing her monies and they were supporting her. Staff interviewing her were concerned she had learning difficulties, poor mental health and given her past trauma of domestic abuse, felt she may have normalised the level of harm so wouldn't recognise her risk of exploitation. She had a history of homelessness and reported she relied on the support from each of the men of the claims. DWP staff were aware they could not prevent her returning to the relationships as this was beyond their legal powers. Equally, they were satisfied that she remained at high risk of financial exploitation. She reported reluctance to approach the local authority to secure support, despite DWP staff explaining that such help might reduce her dependency on the men she believed were friends. She refused consent for the DWP staff to refer for housing or social care support, however, aware of the wider safety duties, DWP staff raised a safeguarding concern with the local authority.

Her DEA was clear with Alice that her reliance on others to manage her finances put her at increased risk of exploitation and triggered their duties to investigate. They resolved with her to open a new bank account and UC claim so that no other person would be able to access her money. The DEA explained, if this were to happen again it would be immediately flagged and investigated and that the DWP would have to stop any payments. The DEA supported Alice to open new bank account and the bank agreed to flag if any individuals try to take money out of the account.

Practitioners from the DWP explained they are trained to identify patterns of behaviour. However, usually they are reliant on information from the claimant when they're applying for benefits and have developed systems to prompt enquiries/ professional curiosity though there is flexibility to allow for cases to be considered on the specific facts. Throughout the enquiry Alice's voice was heard, and care taken to explain the risks of exploitation to her. DWP staff commented they took a proportionate, pragmatic decision in this case to refer to the local authority against Alice's wishes, due to the long-term risks of exploitation.

Case Study 2: Anna

Anna is in her late 30s and has a history of mental health, drug use and rough sleeping. She has a history of absconding from both her accommodation and from hospitals during active treatment; and of not engaging with services. She lives in a supported accommodation in Barnet funded by another LA. In April she was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia and sepsis. The hospital medical team raised a safeguarding referral for self-neglect and deteriorating physical and mental health. The medical team which oversees Anna's treatment raised concerns over her erratic behaviour, non-compliance with medication and high risk of death if she continues not to engage with medical treatment.

MASH team coordinated initial professionals meeting including health, the funding LA and St. Mungo's rough sleepers' team. A joint risk management plan was developed which included undertaking a MHA assessment, a psychiatry review, a mental capacity assessment and a review of Anna's care and support needs. All professionals continue to work together to promote Anna's wellbeing.

Following the recent MCA assessment, Anna has been deemed to lack capacity around her accommodation and finances. Whilst a DoLs application is being progressed, the rough sleeper team continue to support Anna to return to her accommodation when she is seen on the streets. Anna now tends to remain at the accommodation overnight and leaves it during the day. The funding LA is also taking Anna's case to its risk panel for further consideration.

The MASH officers involved in this case received the following from colleagues in the NHS:

"I really want to thank you for your expertise, input and guidance, leadership and your understanding of this complex case. (And so much more!). Really the words don't do [it] justice"

Since MASH involvement, Anna's compliance with medical treatment has slightly improved although it is still at variable level due to her past experiences. Professionals involved continue to explore all possible

options to promote Anna's welfare and have engaged Anna's friend whom she trusts, in safeguarding plans hoping it will increase Anna's engagement too.

The case is ongoing, and the MASH team continues to coordinate a partnership response before this case can be handed over to the funding authority.

Attendance at the Safeguarding Adults Board meetings 2022-23

Organisation	June 2022	September 2022	December 2022	March 2023
London Borough of Barnet (LBB) – Communities, Adults & Health				
LBB – Community Safety				
LBB – Public Health				
Royal Free London NHS Trust				
North Central London ICB				
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust.				
Barnet Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust				
Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership				
London Fire Brigade				
The Barnet Group				
Barnet Mencap				
London Probation Service				
Inclusion Barnet				
CommUnity Barnet				
Barnet Carers Centre				
Metropolitan Police Barnet				
Department of Work & Pensions				

BSAB Partner financial contribution 2022-23

Statutory Partner	Contribution
London Borough of Barnet	£60,000
North Central London ICB	£20,000
Barnet Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust	£5,000
Metropolitan Police Barnet	£5,000
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust	£5,000
Non-statutory Partner	Contribution
London Fire Brigade	£500



Everybody can help adults with care and support needs to live free from harm and abuse. You play an important part in preventing and identifying neglect and abuse.

If you or someone you know is being harmed in any way by another person, please do not ignore it.

Any information you provide to us will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Contact the Barnet Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

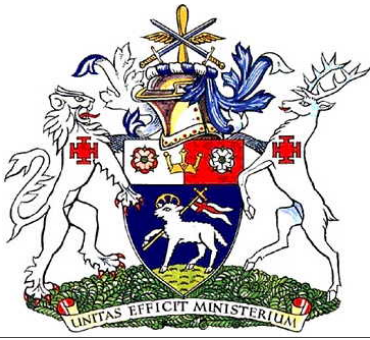
Tel: 020 8359 5000 (9am- 5pm, Mon to Fri),

Or 020 8359 2000 (out of hours – emergency duty service)

Email: socialcaresdirect@barnet.gov.uk

Or call the police on 101. In an emergency call 999.

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Safer Communities Partnership Board

AGENDA ITEM 15

1st March 2024

Title	Draft Modern Slavery Strategy
Date of meeting	1 st March 2024
Report of	Chair of the Safer Communities Partnership Board
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Draft Modern Slavery Strategy
Officer Contact Details	Ramisa Yazdani Biouki, Strategy Officer Ramisa.yazdanibiouki@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

This report provides an update on the development of our Modern Slavery strategy in response to a council motion that was passed in October 2023. This is a high-level breakdown of what our strategy will cover and our next steps.

Recommendations

1. **For the Safer Communities Partnership Board to consider and note the progress being made in the development of our Modern Slavery approach at LBB**
2. **For the Safer Communities Partnership Board to discuss and input on proposals within this report and attached appendix**

1. Reasons for the Recommendations

1.1 *What is modern slavery?*

Modern slavery encompasses 1) human trafficking and 2) slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Modern slavery is a complex crime but can be understood as **deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation**. This can take on many forms including labour exploitation, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation.

It can include the movement and/or recruitment of victims not only internationally but within local areas like Barnet. It can impact anybody of any age, gender or ethnicity but we are aware

that certain groups may be more disproportionately impacted i.e. asylum seekers, those financially vulnerable, children and young people and women and girls.

Looking at the Metropolitan Police dashboard, the data indicates that Barnet had 106 reported cases of modern slavery during periods of November 2021 to October 2022 and November 2022 to October 2023. All relevant national or neighbouring borough policies assume that the real-scale of cases is much higher and that this is due to poor case-logging and reporting, and a lack of awareness amongst emergency and front-line responders.

1.2 *Why now?*

In October 2023, a full council motion was unanimously passed to take steps to combat modern slavery in the borough. The motion highlighted key missing areas in our processes and service delivery, and it was agreed that a multi-agency approach was required and that this would sit under Safer Communities Partnership Board. Part of our approach entails the co-development of a modern slavery strategy and action plan with our partners. We hope that through this co-production, we will strengthen already existing processes and ensure better partnership working and join-up across the borough.

1.3 *Modern Slavery strategy*

This is a draft over-arching vision of how we combat modern slavery in Barnet. Most of the work outlined in this strategy is already existing but our aims are to create a better synergy between internal service areas and external partners focused on this work. We are proposing the following:

- Focus on three priorities: prevention, protection and prosecution
- Training to senior managers, front-line social workers, and partners
- Dedicated email address for reporting modern slavery
- Modern slavery referral mechanism pathway
- Annual statement to be published on the website

This is a draft strategy and whilst these additional interventions have been built on initial conversations with stakeholders, we are still in the process of engaging and co-producing the document and further activity.

2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

- 2.1** We could take a larger-scale approach in combatting modern slavery by resourcing a Modern Slavery lead or team, but as there does not appear to be a serious concerning problem in our borough and we are faced with financial controls, this is not currently a recommended option.

3. Post Decision Implementation

- 3.1** Not relevant to this report.

4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

4.1 *Corporate Plan*

Our Plan for Barnet 2023-26 touches on elements associated with modern slavery i.e. “Everyone should feel safe in their homes and communities” as well as within subsequent corporate workstreams such as Reducing Poverty and Tackling the Gaps.

As we are bidding to become a Borough of Sanctuary and national data does show that sanctuary-seekers are vulnerable to exploitation (or have been victims of exploitation in their home countries), we have considered this draft strategy alongside of our Borough of Sanctuary strategy.

This links into many other strategies and interventions at the council, including:

- [Borough of Sanctuary Strategy](#)
- [Reducing Poverty](#)
- Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy (in development)
- [Safer Communities Strategy](#)
- [Our Plan: Caring for our Places, People and Planet 2023-26](#)
- [VAWG \(Violence Against Women and Girls\) Strategy](#)
- [Serious Violence Strategy \(co-produced with our VCFS and young people\)](#)
- [Modern Slavery Statement - Brent Cross Town](#)
- [Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

4.2 Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures

Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, we are obliged to report modern slavery victims and refer them through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and those who do not consent under 'Duty to Notify' (DtN) to the Home Office. The proposals outlined in the report will ensure we continue best practice, notify where modern slavery is identified and provide support.

4.3 Sustainability

Not relevant to this report.

4.4 Corporate Parenting

As part of our corporate parenting strategy, we already support care leavers who may have been victim to exploitation.

4.5 Risk Management

Once we start delivering on the implementation of this strategy, we will ensure that we add it to the corporate risk register and update regularly on mitigations and risk score.

4.6 Insight

We currently do not have any internal data capturing that has informed this report but have made use of external reliable data sources.

4.7 Social Value

Modern slavery victims are considered within our updated TOMs in our Social Value policy, meaning that suppliers who recruit victims of modern slavery are taken higher into consideration.

5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)

5.1 There are currently no financial implications planned with the activity proposed in the draft strategy.

5.2 In developing a supply chain statement, our procurement team may need to provide more support to our suppliers to ensure they are aware of modern slavery and exploitation.

5.3	We already have an existing whistleblowing policy but should we reference this in our strategy, this may lead to an abundance of cases being brought forward and officers at over-capacity.
6.	Legal Implications and Constitution References
6.1	There are no current legal implications associated with the recommendations of the report.
7.	Consultation
7.1	Further consultation is planned to ensure this is a partnership approach and all stakeholders are invested in combatting modern slavery.
7.2	Survivor consultation has been explored as a potential, but we do not currently have a clear understanding of any groups willing to engage on this strategy.
8.	Equalities and Diversity
8.1	An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the development of the modern slavery strategy.
9.	Background Papers
9.1	Modern Slavery Act 2015

Modern Slavery Strategy
London Borough of Barnet
2024 – 27

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DRAFT

Foreword – Cllr Conway

DRAFT

Vision

Barnet’s Safer Community Partnership Board’s (SCPB) Strategy 2022-27 highlights our pledge to work together to make Barnet a place where everyone feels safer, taking a pro-active approach to improving safety, tackling crime and supporting victims.

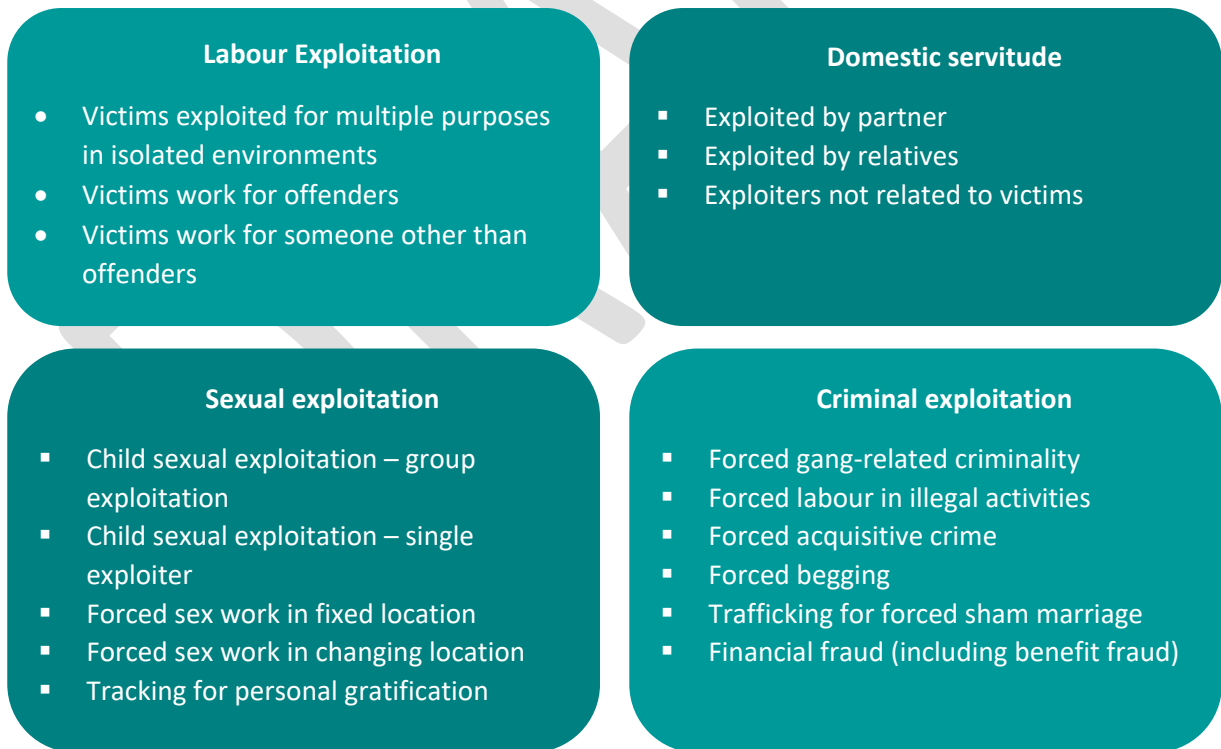
We recognise that modern slavery is happening in Barnet and this strategy outlines our commitment to combatting modern slavery. This document explains what modern slavery is, the range of issues we are working on, and how to report issues of concern to help stop modern slavery in our borough.

The SCPB has agreed the development and implementation of this modern slavery strategy and action plan, focused on prevention, protection, and prosecution. This board will also act as the monitoring and evaluation body for the strategy, and report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis as part of the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2009.

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery encompasses 1) human trafficking and 2) slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Modern slavery is a complex crime but can be understood as **deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation**.

Most common types of exploitation:



Modern slavery is a violation of people’s freedom and human rights. It is often hidden or undetected, meaning that identifying victims or perpetrators can be extremely difficult. Modern slavery can encompass the movement and/or recruitment of victims not only internationally but within local areas too. Modern slavery can impact anybody of any age, gender, or ethnicity but some

people may be more at risk due of money, social or health issues or similarly their age or immigration status.

We know that in Barnet, our most at-risk communities are those experiencing poverty, homeless people, sanctuary-seekers (people who are new to Barnet and seeking sanctuary), women and girls and young adolescents facing hardships.

This strategy has been built with these groups and all those who may be vulnerable to exploitation at the heart of it. We will build on our existing services and develop a new referral pathway to better identify and support modern slavery victims.

How does this link with other strategies?

This strategy must be considered and implemented alongside other strategies, policies and interventions.

- [Borough of Sanctuary Strategy](#)
- [Reducing Poverty](#)
- Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy (in development)
- [Safer Communities Strategy](#)
- [Our Plan: Caring for our Places, People and Planet 2023-26](#)
- [VAWG \(Violence Against Women and Girls\) Strategy](#)
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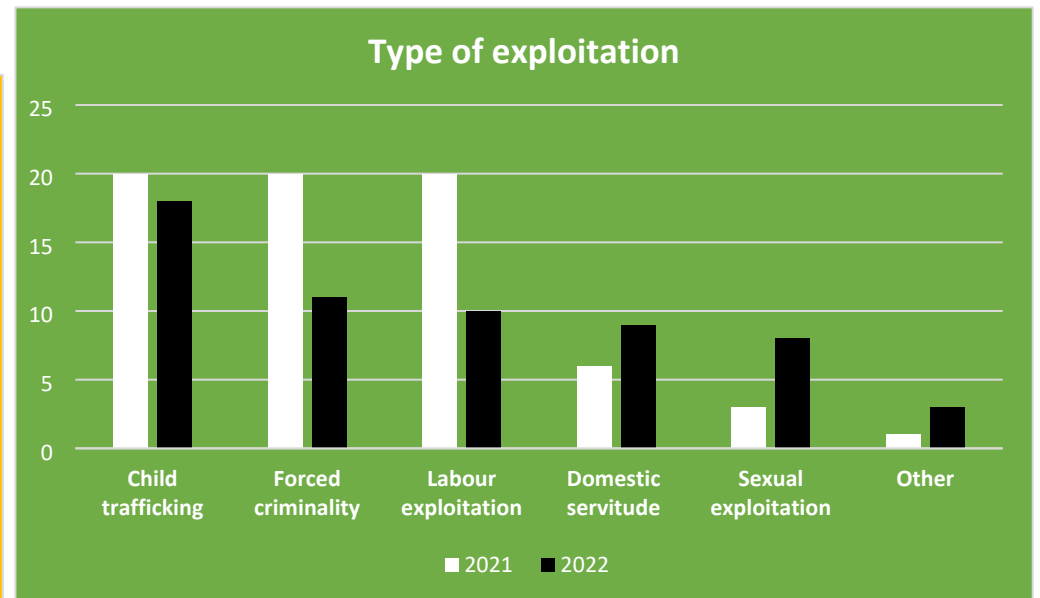
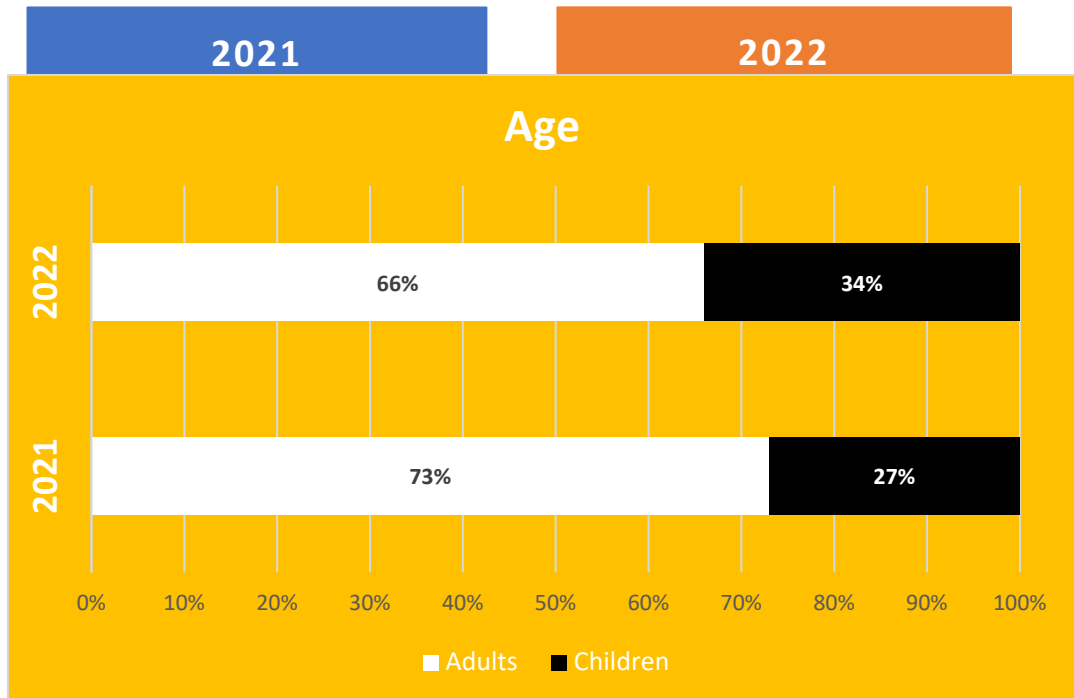
Much of the work surrounding modern slavery is already under-way through these interventions mentioned above, and other activity across the council and the borough. We will not be duplicating work but using this strategy as an overarching approach that fosters join-up, collaboration and working together to combat modern slavery.

Local picture – data and current provisions

We have been working with partners and VCFSE organisations to identify the level of exploitation in the borough.

The Metropolitan Police publish data on modern slavery offences that were submitted by first responder agencies in the borough. This data does not necessarily indicate that the exploitation took place in the borough, but that it had been recorded in Barnet. According to this data, there were 106 offences in both periods (November 2021 to October 2022 and November 2022 to October 2023). The data is broken down by local wards and indicate that the highest number of recorded offences happened in the West and East of the borough, where we border neighbouring local authorities.

Stop the Traffik had been previously funded to record data across London for years 2021 and 2022. This data only accounts for cases known to partners who shared the data so it is anticipated that the actual numbers would be higher. The data is broken down by type of exploitation, age, gender and ethnicity and it only corresponds to cases where victims were either recruited or exploited in Barnet. This gives us the best picture of modern slavery in Barnet.



Top nationalities	
2021	2022
Albanian	British
British	Albanian
Sudanese	Other

Data source: Stop the Traffik

Nationally, modern slavery is a significant problem with year on year increases in the number of victims identified.

There were 16,938 potential victims of modern slavery referred into the National Referral Mechanism and through the Duty to Notify process in 2022. This represents a 33% increase from the previous year, and is the highest number since NRM began in 2009. The national picture is representative of the picture in Barnet with Albanian nationals being the most referred nationality, followed closely by British nationals.

It is likely that the full scale of modern slavery in the UK and Barnet is higher than the numbers that are reported. According to crime data, many cases are not currently logged or reported as modern slavery. The modern slavery crime tag was only introduced in 2016 and there is still further awareness and training needed for police officers. There are many barriers in place that prevent victims from seeking help, from lack of awareness to feeling dependent on their exploiters. Working with victims to understand their concerns and address these is part of the ambition set out in our strategy. We hope that by working in partnership with key organisations, we can improve our reporting and develop a more accurate picture of Barnet.

Priorities

Our three priorities in addressing and combatting modern slavery are:

1. [Prevent](#) – we will increase awareness of modern slavery through training and sharing our new referral pathway
2. [Protect](#) – we will proactively protect and support victims through effective safeguarding and appropriate policies
3. [Prosecute](#) – we will pursue perpetrators of modern slavery

This will all be done through strong partnerships with Barnet Homes, the Metropolitan Police, and VCFSE organisations (e.g. Hestia).

1. Prevent

In our commitment to combatting modern slavery, we aim to amplify the awareness of modern slavery, exploitation and trafficking at the council and amongst our partners too. By providing training and establishing a multi-agency referral pathway, we aim to cultivate a collective understanding of what modern slavery is, how to spot and report it. Our referral pathway will establish a clear outlined process with relevant signposting.

We will raise greater awareness of modern slavery within the council, providing our senior managers and all front-line social workers with awareness training. We will extend this training to partners including our VCFSE organisations. Furthermore, to improve our understanding of the modern slavery landscape in Barnet, we will implement effective recording to enable a better flow of information across all services.

We are committed to reducing the risk of modern slavery within our supply chain, working with our suppliers to enhance awareness and provide necessary right support to identify and report instances

of trafficking and exploitation. We will tighten our own procurement processes and prioritise transparency.

2. Protect

In order to protect victims of modern slavery, we will ensure a proactive approach to safeguarding and supporting victims. We have a number of policies and framework in place that will enable us to protect those most at risk.

We will establish a dedicated email address to report concerns about modern slavery in which any member of the public can email in.

3. Prosecute

Pursuing justice for victims of modern slavery is key to our strategy, and through better partnership working and collaboration with the police, we will ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their decisions. This will be carried forward by the Metropolitan Police and we will support where we can.

Governance

Our Safer Communities Partnership Board is responsible for overseeing the delivery, monitoring and review of our Modern Slavery Strategy. Our statement will be reviewed annually, and this strategy will be updated in 2027 or in light of any local and national changes. We will be the lead agency across our partners responsible for co-ordinating our response.

We have published our Modern Slavery Annual Statement on our website, where further useful information is available.

Modern Slavery Referral Pathway

This referral pathway has been created to help LBB staff and other organisations know how to respond when a victim of modern slavery is identified.

What are the indicators of Modern Slavery?

- Fearful, anxious or distrustful of authorities
- Shows sign of trauma (physical/psychological)
- Suffers injuries that have been left untreated
- Do not know their home or work address
- Has a story that sounds rehearsed
- Someone else speaks on their behalf
- Believe they have debt to pay off
- Separated from their passport
- Do not have days off or unable to leave the workplace
- Has limited/no social interaction
- Reveals threats have been made against them or their family

Further indicators can be found at www.stopthetraffik.org

Do's and Don't's

DO – focus on the individual

DO – ensure the individual has understood the NRM process and who their details will be shared with

DO – treat the individual as a victim of modern slavery and not a criminal

DON'T – raise your concerns with anyone accompanying the potential victim

DON'T – use an accompanying person as an interpreter.

DON'T – re-traumatise the individual. Use sensitive language, find a safe place to talk and be led by need

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery is an umbrella term used when somebody is forced or coerced to do something they don't want to do, and another person gains from this exploitation. A key part is human trafficking which happens in 3 stages.

1. Act: recruitment, transportation, harbouring/restriction of movement
2. Means: threat, violence, coercion, deception, debt bondage
3. Purpose: sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, forced criminality, organ harvesting, forced/sham marriage

What is the National Referral Mechanism?

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate protection and support. It was introduced in 2009 to meet the UK's obligations under the Council of European Convention on Action against Trafficking in human beings.

Only first responders can make referrals to the NRM. Adult victims of modern slavery must give informed consent to enter the NRM. If they do not wish to enter, an anonymous Duty to Notify referral can be made. All children who are suspected of being a potential victim of modern slavery must be referred into the NRM.

For adult victims, the NRM provides support through the Victim Care Contract. The NRM does not safeguard a child so existing child safeguarding procedures should be followed first and foremost.

Resources

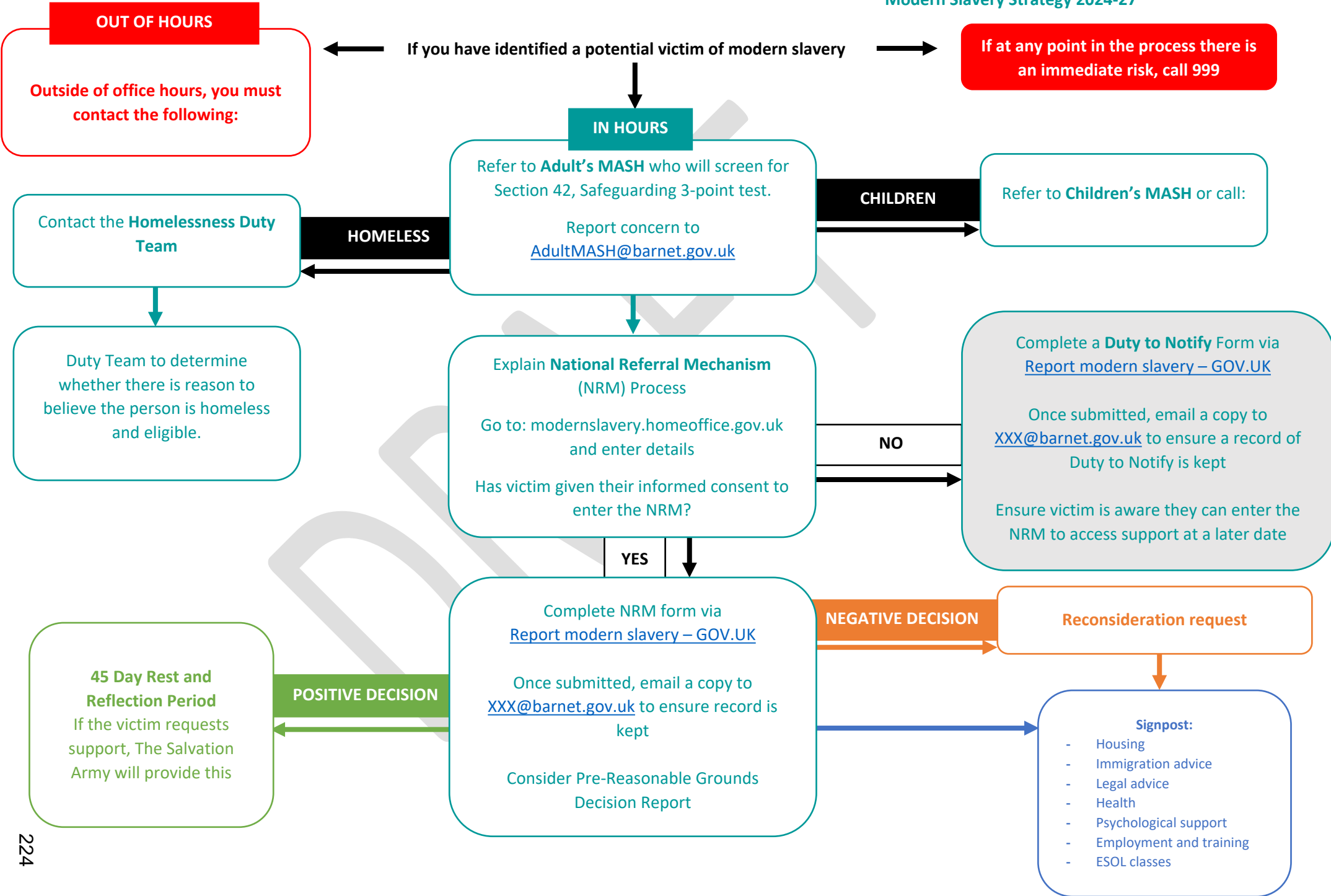
LBB Website

Modern slavery helpline: 0800 0121 700

The Salvation Army: 0300 303 8151

[Hestia](#)

[Stop the Traffik](#)



01/03/2024 Safer Communities Partnership Board Safety in Parks and Greenspaces	
Rationale / Context	<p>Barnet has a great collection of parks and open spaces, used by millions of visitors each year. Our parks vary in usage, size, scale and facilities.</p> <p>In 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified safety in parks and greenspaces as a topic for further exploration at the task and finish group. Safety in parks has also been identified as a key theme area following several community safety ward walks.</p> <p>A study on the safety in parks and greenspaces, under three principles of ‘Design, Management and Maintenance’, will enable us to explore what makes a park feel safe or unsafe. Typically, there are a range of factors that influence this e.g. park reputation, users, familiarity, security, personal experiences etc.</p> <p>The Serious Violence Strategy and needs assessment is a key legal duty for the Council and highlights the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnership working for a coordinated whole system approach to preventing and tackling violent offending in the borough. • Pro-actively monitor and tackle disproportionately of over-represented groups who are affected by violence and build data into key performance indicators and evaluation of all services. • Effectively engage and coproduce solutions to local problems with local people. <p>The study will explore the view of professionals compared with the views of others, in addition to gathering intelligence from a range of identified sources to support any recommendations. Evidence will be taken from a wide range of sources to provide a strategic analysis to identify immediate areas of concern and focus.</p>
Strategic Outcomes	<p>The study will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key manifesto commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will protect and enhance greenspaces ○ Ending violence against women and girls • Our Plan for Barnet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Safe, Attractive Neighbourhoods and Town Centres and our key outcome of Residents feel safe. ○ Community Participation and our key outcome of Residents feel informed about what the council does • Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment • Parks Strategy • Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-2025 • Community Safety Strategy 2022-2027 • Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan

<p>Service Areas/ Partners</p>	<p><u>LBB:</u> Street Scene (including lighting) Greenspaces Community Safety - Assurance (PSPO, enforcement, ASB) Community Safety – Family Services - (VAWG – Serious Violence SNA) Highways (including parking) Cabinet Members Ward Councillors</p> <p><u>External Partners:</u> Metropolitan Police Fire Service Partnership Boards/ External Groups/ Networks: Safer Communities Partnership (Board members) Combatting Drugs Partnership Barnet Greenspaces Network Resident Associations</p>
<p>Scope of Study</p>	<p>Examine a range of items which identify barriers and seek to address:</p> <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing out Crime • Involving stakeholders in park designs. • Considering equalities impact. • Assessment of connectivity to local area. • Design and placement of facilities. • Considering cctv/lighting for safety. • Accessibility and inclusion. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current method for reporting concerns. • Parks locking regime. • Review of Parks Patrol Service (LBB & Third Party) • Activation of spaces (level of use/ type of use) • Current training and management. • Bye laws and enforcement approach (eg PSPO) • Existing communication /Signage / Wayfinding. <p>Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing litter, graffiti, and maintenance issues.
<p>Evidence / Information</p>	<p>Information and intelligence to be gathered by a range of sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime statistics/ data (including breakdown of categories) • Serious Violence Needs Assessment • Parks data (usage) • Parks reporting (complaints / issues) • Budget information (maintenance, locking, patrols). • Park Patrol Summary Report (LBB and Third Party). • Community Safety Walks (Y1 Summary Information) • Interviews/meetings with identified stakeholders/ partners. • Case studies from other Local Authorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from work on Watling Park/Burnt Oak Parks with Light Follows Behaviour • Make Space for Women and Girls
Timescales	A report will be presented to the Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) in June which will provide an overview of the existing approach, any identified barriers and engagement with key stakeholders on options to address.
Risks / Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of engagement from stakeholders across the borough. • Data is not validated enough to support future decision making. • If the design phase is not inclusive of all individuals in our community, it could result in some barriers not being addressed. • Timescales for a report for June may be ambitious if engagement with stakeholders and data gathering is difficult. • Obtaining case studies from local authorities with similar demographics may not be feasible/provide sufficient evidence. • Resource available to carry out engagement and data gathering.

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**Safer Communities Partnership Board
Forward Plan
July 2023-July 2024**

Contact: Scarlett Ryan | Tel 020 8359 4173 | Scarlett.Ryan@Barnet.gov.uk

Safer Communities Partnership Board – Forward Plan

21 st July 2023			
Title of Report	Overview of theme/decision	Report of (officer)	Issue Type (Non-Key, Key, Urgent)
Performance Update (Q4 2021/22 & Q1 2022/23)	Relevant to all priority areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Matt Leng, Community Safety Team, LBB	Non-Key
Family Services Update (Q4)	Relevant to Priority 4 of the Community Safety Strategy	Tina McElligott Director Children's Social Care, LBB	Non-Key
North West BCU Police Update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board	Relevant to all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Metropolitan Police	Non-Key Non-key
London Fire Brigade Annual Update	Relevant to all priority areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Borough Commander, Barnet, London Fire Brigade	Non-Key
Safer Communities Partnership Board Annual Report	Relevant to all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Maggie Highton Brown, Head of Community Safety, Enforcement, CCTV & Intelligence	Non-Key
Serious Violence Duty - Strategic Needs Assessment		Diasmer Bloe, Strategy & Insight	

Safer Communities Partnership Board – Forward Plan

24th November 2023			
Title of Report	Overview of theme/decision	Report of (officer)	Issue Type (Non-Key, Key, Urgent)
Quarterly Performance Updates	Relevant to all priority areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Matt Leng, Community Safety Team, LBB	
North West BCU Police Update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board	Relevant to all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Metropolitan Police	
Family Services 6 Month Updates	Relevant to Priority 2 and 3 of the Community Safety Strategy	Tina McElligott Director Children's Social Care, LBB	
Assurance Community Safety 6 Monthly Update	Relevant to Priority 1, 4 and 5 of the Community Safety Strategy	Declan Khan, Assistant Director Counter Fraud, Community Safety and Protection	
Combating Drugs Partnership Update	Relevant to Priority 3 of the Community Safety Strategy	Tamara Djurectic Director of Public Health	
Serious Violence Duty - Strategic Needs Assessment	Relevant to Priority 3 of the Community Safety Strategy	Diasmer Bloe, Strategy & Insight	
1st March 2024			
Title of Report	Overview of theme/decision	Report of (officer)	Issue Type
Performance Update		Matt Leng, Community Safety Team, LBB	
North West BCU Police Update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board		Metropolitan Police	
Family Services Update		Tina McElligott Director Children's Social Care, LBB	

Safer Communities Partnership Board – Forward Plan

Barnet Homes Update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board	Supporting all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Greg Terefenko - Head of Housing, Barnet Homes	
Victim Support Annual Update	Supporting all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Latoya Ridge – Victim Support	
Serious Violence Strategy		Christopher Kelly, Strategic Lead for Tackling Violence and Exploitation. Safeguarding Division, Children's Service	
London Fire Brigade – Annual update	Supporting all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Borough Commander, Barnet, London Fire Brigade	
Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual update		Fiona Bateman Independent Chairman, Adults Safeguarding Board	
7th June 2024			
Title of Report	Overview of theme/decision	Report of (officer)	Issue Type
Annual (inc Q4) Performance Update			
North West BCU Police Update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board	Supporting all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Metropolitan Police	
Combined Community Safety Partnership Annual report - include Assurance and Family last 6 months update	Relevant to Priority 1, 4 and 5 of the Community Safety Strategy		
Family Services Annual Report	Relevant to Priority 2 and 3 of the Community Safety Strategy	Tina McEligott Director Children's Social Care, LBB	

Safer Communities Partnership Board – Forward Plan

Progress Update on Serious Violence Duty - Strategic Needs Assessment			
Probation Service – Annual Report –	Supporting all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Koreen Logie - Head of Service, National Probation Service	
Health Partners – Annual Update	Supporting all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Lucy Naden Integrated Care Board	
6th September 2024			
Title of Report	Overview of theme/decision	Report of (officer)	Issue Type
Performance Update	Relevant to all priority areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Matt Leng Community Safety Team, LBB	Non-Key
Q1 Family Services Update	Relevant to Priority 4 of the Community Safety Strategy	Tina McElligott Director Children’s Social Care, LBB	Non-Key
North West BCU Police Update to the Safer Communities Partnership Board	Relevant to all areas of the Community Safety Strategy	Metropolitan Police	Non-Key Non-key
Update on Antisocial Behaviour (including refresh to all members of the tools and powers)	Relevant to priorities 1 and 2 of the Community Safety Strategy	Matt Leng Community Safety Manager	Non-key
Serious Violence Duty - Strategic Needs Assessment			

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