

Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Board

Terms of Reference

In his election manifesto '*Fighting Crime in London*' the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson proposed to reform borough-based community engagement by establishing a Safer Neighbourhood Board in every borough giving local Londoners and victims a greater voice.

Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board will be expected to advise the Borough Commander to establish local policing and crime priorities which align to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) priorities; monitor police performance and confidence and fulfil a range of specific functions.

The Board will be made up of a range of individuals representing Barnet's diverse communities alongside the statutory positions defined in the MOPAC Guidance¹.

Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) will be the primary borough-level mechanism for local engagement which will aim to:

- Ensure communities are more closely involved in problem solving and crime prevention
- Have a broad remit to reflect MOPAC's broader responsibilities whilst at the same time respecting local people's knowledge and expertise of the locality
- Have a greater reach with frequent refreshes of ideas and views
- Achieve greater coherence between different engagement mechanisms to improve public scrutiny of police performance and crime reduction
- Deliver value for money by targeting funds on issues of local concern which prevent crime

Functions of Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Board

Table 1 below sets out the functions of Barnet Safer Neighbourhood along with the data sets we will need to support delivery

Code of Conduct

A code has been drawn up to set standards of conduct for the members of Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Board to establish and sustain the highest reputation in the community and be effective, open and accountable.

This is available as a separate document.

¹ Safer Neighbourhood Boards Guidance (2013) MOPAC

Function	Role of the Board - Explanation	Data set required
Establish policing priorities in the borough	Our board will sit at the apex of MOPAC's defined engagement structure and supported by the local police	Data sets to be used include (but not exclusively): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Assessment • Public stakeholder surveys
Monitor crime performance and community confidence	Align crime performance monitor against the MOPAC 7 neighbourhood crimes. These are: Violence with injury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery • Burglary • Theft of a motor vehicle • Theft from a motor vehicle • Theft from the person • Vandalism (criminal damage) 	Police supplied data will be aligned to the MOPAC 7 neighbourhood crimes and confidence targets. The Board can request a wider supply of data if required. Community confidence will be measured through the British Crime Survey and the Public Attitude Survey
Monitor complaints against borough officers	Information to be included will include trends, types of complaints. Responses will be sought from the borough commander	Data provided centrally from MOPAC. Data may also be collated through local reporting. FOI requests submitted to the Metropolitan Police Service
Hear and monitor complaints from victims of crime	Victim complaints seen as an important indicator of the quality of service delivered to members of the public. Aim of SNB is to improve victim access to the complaints system and treatment within the local justice process. A victim representative will be a member of the Board.	Data sets to be monitored include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. monitoring data which identifies frequency and types of complaints received, discharge processes and the time to reach resolution; 2. promoting and publicising access to the system
Provide assurance that a system of independent custody is being delivered	MOPAC needs to exert its statutory responsibility for providing assurance of this system. Barnet SNB will reserve a position for a member of the local Independent Visiting Custody (IVC) Panel to the Board,	The IVC will bring regular reports to the Board for consideration and noting. These will detail: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of custody visits undertaken during a reporting period 2. Any matters arising
Play a significant role in designing Barnet's Community	Develop a community payback programme in Barnet which will be delivered by SERCO – MOPAC's approved provider	Local intelligence gathering scheme needs to be designed which can support the board in its decision making.

Payback programme		SERCO will be required to present centrally collated statistics and information on work placements undertaken
Ascertaining all wards have a ward panel of residents	Responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Service to identify and nominate representatives from the ward cluster panels	Data to be collated will include: 1. Summary of meetings held (including number and frequency) 2. Numbers in attendance 3. Principle matters discussed
Support the Independent Advisory Group (IAG)	IAG's provide a valuable role in providing expert advice to the Metropolitan Police Service.	IAG chair to regularly update the Board of any matters arising
Supporting Barnet Boroughwatch	Barnet Boroughwatch will have a reserved position on the Board	Barnet Boroughwatch will link to the ward panels and expand the number of watches in the borough.
Bidding for activity projects from the Crime Prevention Fund	Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board required to bid from the MOPAC fund to pay for its activities.	

(Table 1)

Membership of Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board

Community Representatives:

There will be a maximum of 9 community representatives reflecting the number of protected groups defined in the Equality Act 2010.

A role profile for the community representatives is set out in Annex 1.

Voice of the Victim/Managing Complaints

The Mayor proposes not only to monitor complaints but also to hear complaints made by victims. This could be very difficult: complaints can be an incredibly complex area, people making complaints might be criminals claiming the police have used their powers unlawfully; there are times when there could be ambiguity between victims and perpetrators. Complaints can be a legal minefield and this proposal may well require changes in legislation to enable this to happen.

Victim Support will have a reserved position on Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Independent Custody Visitors:

Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) is a statutory responsibility for MOPAC and there are national standards and guidelines that need to be followed. Barnet has a vibrant ICV programme with many trained volunteers visiting custody suites in the Borough. ICV visits must always be carried out in pairs and each custody suite should be visited once a week. This would make it impractical for Safer Neighbourhoods Board members as envisaged by the manifesto commitment to undertake these visits.

A position reserved for the Chair of the ICV Panel on Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board. This will need to be reviewed should the Metropolitan Police Service introduce custody suites covering more than one Borough.

Independent Advisory Group:

Independent Advisory Groups (IAG) were introduced by the police across the London area in response to the Macpherson Report on the murder of Stephen Lawrence. IAG Members are individuals from various communities to whom the Borough Commander can turn to for advice on specific policing operations. Whilst belonging to communities they do not act as community representatives and the Borough Commander understands the extent of this group. Locally the IAG is administered by Barnet Police.

A position is reserved for the Chair of the local IAG on Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Youth Participation:

Youth participation is a growing area in Barnet. At least one place will be reserved on Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board for a youth representative.

Barnet Children and Young People's Network will be invited to nominate representatives for selection.

Barnet Residents:

Barnet is a large borough with one of the most successful neighbourhood watch schemes in the country. At present there are over 700 neighbourhood watches staffed by active volunteers with an excess of 30,000 members. A position will be reserved on the board for the Chair of Barnet BoroughWatch.

Safer Neighbourhood Panels/Ward Panels:

Safer Neighbourhood Panels (SNPs) have not made the significant contribution to community safety in the borough as anticipated. However, the Community Action Panels (CAP) have enjoyed greater success. These have played a more prominent role in Barnet.

It is proposed that following advice from the Borough Commander a combination of the SNPs/CAPs representation needs to be reflected on the board.

Elected Member

The Safer Neighbourhood Board will invite the Leader of Barnet Council to nominate their portfolio lead for Community Safety and/or resident engagement to be a member of the Board.

Chair of the Board

This position will be elected from within the Board members. The process for the election of the Chair will be overseen by Barnet Council's Head of Community Safety to ensure that the elections are held fairly and without prejudice.

Procedure

Frequency of Meetings

The Board will meet quarterly at a time, date and venue of mutual convenience to the Board.

Administration

Administration will be provided by the Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Board paid Administrator who will be located in CommUNITY Barnet – Barnet's Local Infrastructure Organisation to ensure continuity of support. Funding for this post will be from MOPAC's Crime Prevention Fund.

Hosting of Administrator

CommUNITY Barnet is experienced at managing hosting arrangements with other organisations. Over the past 3 years it has been responsible for hosting the Community Safety Engagement Group Administrator, Barnet Boroughwatch's Administrator and the Community Organisers employed by Locality as part of the Cabinet Office Community Organisers Pathfinder programme.

Circulation of Papers

The Administrator will be responsible for setting the agenda with the Chair of Barnet's Safer Neighbourhood Board.

The Administrator will be responsible for collating papers and data sources from partner agencies.

All papers will be published on Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership Board website 5 working days before the meeting.

Tenure

The Mayor of London requires that there will be a three year maximum tenure for board members. However, to avoid all Board members ending their term at the same time it is proposed that initial appointments will be made as follows:

Position	Tenure
Chair	3 years
Community Representatives	3 years
Youth representative	2 years
Barnet Boroughwatch	2 years
Voice of the Victim	2 years
Ward Panel Member	2 years
IVC	2 years
IAG	2 years
Elected councillor	1 year
Former CSEG member	1 year