

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Community Leadership Committee</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">11 September 2014</h3>
Title	Strategic crime needs assessment and the development of the 2015-18 Safer Communities Strategy
Report of	Community & Wellbeing, Assistant Director Family & Community Well-being Lead Commissioner
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	Appendix A - Strategic Crime Needs Assessment
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Summary

This report summarises the findings of the 2014 Strategic Crime Needs Assessment and sets out the process for the development of the 2015-2018 Safer Communities Strategy.

Barnet Council has an important role in improving community safety through:

- Service delivery (e.g. safeguarding, youth offending, trading standards).
- Promoting early intervention (e.g. joint work in response to the Troubled Families programme).
- Strengthening partnership working and holding partners to account.

It is proposed that the new strategy focuses on the strategic themes of supporting victims, working with offenders and potential offenders, and high crime areas. Specific priorities identified for the first year of the new strategy are domestic violence and violence against women and girls and reducing re-offending.

Recommendations

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| 1. That the Community Leadership Committee note the findings of the strategic crime needs assessment. |
| 2. That the Community Leadership Committee provide comments about the priorities for the forthcoming community safety strategy in light of the findings of the strategic crime needs assessment |
| 3. That the Community Leadership Committee note the progress made on the Community Safety Consultation and encourage colleagues and constituents to complete the survey and attend the planned public meetings. |
| 4. That the Community Leadership Committee note that following the consultation referred to in recommendation 3 (which will assist in how the strategy is developed) the strategy will come to CLC in November 2014 before it goes to full council for approval |

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 Community safety is an issue for local authorities along with the police, fire and rescue authorities and other partners in the criminal justice system. Barnet Council's specific roles include:

- **Emergency Planning** - ensuring that plans are in place to deal with emergency situations such as flooding, heavy snow and ice, civil unrest or terrorist incidents.
- **Regulation, licensing and trading standards**- such as alcohol and entertainment licenses to help maintain public order.
- **Safe guarding** of vulnerable adults and young people.
- **Youth offending.**
- Contributing to **anti-social behavior strategies** through a range of council services including lighting, street cleansing, planning and leisure.
- Undertaking an **annual analysis of crime** and anti-social behavior (Strategic Crime Needs Assessment).
- **Performance management** and tracking progress of the Safer Communities Strategy.
- **Promoting the work of the SCP** and advertise activity through various media on behalf of the partnership specifically the council to keep residents and visitors informed thus increasing community confidence in the council, police and its partners.

- **Coordinating actions** across the partnership and the council to tackle complex crime and ASB, keeping elected members and residents informed on progress.
- Working across the partnership providing strategy, policy and operational advice and direction on matters including:
 - Residential Burglary and tackling high volume crime
 - Safeguarding vulnerable victims of crime and ASB
 - Enforcement and use of legal powers to respond to ASB, unlawful encampments, Squatters, Environmental Crime
 - Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Reducing re-offending
 - Preventing serious youth violence
 - Counter Terrorism

Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPb)

- 1.2 The Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPb) is a statutory partnership and enables the council to both work with and hold to account crime and criminal justice agencies operating in the borough. Membership includes senior officers from the Council, Police, Fire Service, Probation, Public Health, Probation (referred to as the responsible authorities in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) and Victim Support, Middlesex University, and the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Developing a new Safer Communities Strategy 2014-2018

- 1.3 The strategic crime needs assessment, the findings from the community safety consultation and the recent resident's perception survey will shape Barnet's new Safer Communities Strategy.
- 1.4 When developing the Safer Communities Strategy, the partnership will also need to consider the priorities set out in Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's (MOPAC) Police and Crime Plan 2013-2016 and subsequent strategies.
- 1.5 The SCPb statutorily needs to sign off the new Safer Communities Strategy but a draft will be presented to the Community Leadership Committee in November 2014 to provide the committee an opportunity to endorse, comment and consider the council's input and commitment within the strategy. Under the Constitution, the Strategy must be approved by Full Council.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Strategic Crime Needs Assessment – key findings

- 2.1.1 Barnet – one of London's safest boroughs and getting safer

- Crime has been falling in Barnet – in 2005 the crime rate was around 35,000 crimes per year, last year there were fewer than 25,000 crimes in Barnet¹
- Overall Barnet has experienced **11% fewer crimes** in the 12 months between March 2013 and February 2014² compared to one year ago.
- In the 12 months up to January 2014 Barnet had the 8th lowest crimes per 1000 population of all 32 London Boroughs.
- Barnet has the 2nd lowest rate of violence out of all 32 in London boroughs

2.1.2 Fewer victims of Crime in Barnet

Reducing offending is translating in to less crime and fewer residents of Barnet becoming victims of crime. The following comparisons are based on the Rolling 12 months to 25 Feb 2014 compared to the 2011/12 baseline³:

- 2499 fewer victims of MOPAC7 crimes
- 865 fewer victims of Burglary
- 603 fewer victims of Theft from motor vehicle
- 462 fewer victims of Criminal damage
- 452 fewer victims of Robbery
- 191 fewer victims of theft of motor vehicle
- 74 More victims of Theft person

2.1.3 Rate of Residential Burglary is higher than average – but falling sharply

Barnet has the 5th highest rate of Residential burglary out of the 32 London boroughs (per 1000 households)⁴. The rate of residential burglary climbed substantially between 2008 and 2012; despite a sharp fall since April 2013 burglary remains above the London average and is still a prominent issue of community concern.

2.1.4 More offenders are being caught

A sanctioned detection occurs when a suspect has been identified and charged, reported for summons, cautioned, issued with a penalty notice or the offence has been taken into consideration when the offender is sentenced. (Prior to 2005/06 the term 'cleared up' was used to refer to detected crimes). Barnet's current sanction detection rate for residential burglary (19.7%) is the highest of all 32 London boroughs⁵

¹ In the 12 months up to February 2014

² Source Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Crime Statistics

³ Source MPS Crime Statistics

⁴ 12 months to 31 January 2014

⁵ Financial year to date April 2013 to 16 Feb 2014

- 2.1.5 At the time of writing this report the full needs assessment and the executive summary is in the process of being finalised and published.

2.2 Priorities for the Community Safety Strategy 2015-2018

- 2.2.1 The key themes that have emerged from the strategic assessment suggest structuring the new Strategy by focusing on supporting victims, working with offenders and potential offenders, and high crime areas. This section outlines the emerging focus for each theme:

Supporting victims: domestic violence and violence against women and girls

- 2.2.2 There has been an upward trend in the volumes of reported domestic violence offences in Barnet. This increase is likely to be due to an increase in willingness to report and record appropriately, rather than an underlying increase in the actual prevalence rate of domestic violence.
- 2.2.3 This is a positive development and reflects some years of concerted effort at the national, London and borough level to raise awareness and reporting of domestic violence. Efforts to raise awareness amongst practitioners about the importance of making referrals to domestic violence multi-agency risk assessment case conference (MARAC) has also yielded positive results with the number of cases being risk managed by MARAC increasing significantly in 2013/14.

Offenders and those at risk: reducing re-offending

- 2.2.4 A reduction in offending translates into less crime, fewer victims of crime, and a reduction in the cost of crime. Because a small proportion of the most prolific offenders are responsible for a disproportionately large amount of crime, focussing on reducing the offending of this prolific cohort will enable Barnet to drive down overall crime.

High Crime and ASB locations

- 2.2.5 The assessment includes mapping Barnet's crime and ASB and identifying areas (such as buildings, streets, parks, drug venues, night time economy, problem licensed premises, crime and ASB hotspots) that had a high crime intensity – these areas are referred to as 'hotspots'. We also considered the underlying causes and the crime generators to enable us to focus our resources and interventions in the areas identified.

2.2.6 By improving our ability to identify and respond to each of these repeat locations/hotspots, the partnership will improve its effectiveness in reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, and risk of harm and increase community confidence.

2.3 Community Consultation

2.3.1 SCPB is currently running a public consultation to find out what the views of people living in Barnet are around crime and anti-social behaviour. The feedback will be used to develop Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership Strategy for 2015 – 2018.

2.3.2 An online survey is available for people to complete in their own time, which can be found at <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk> - hard copies of the survey are also available.

2.3.3 Presentations on the findings of the strategic assessment have already been delivered to the following boards and groups:

- Safer Communities Partnership Board
- Safer Communities Strategy Implementation Group
- Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls sub group
- Youth Crime Prevention Strategy Groups
- Reducing re-offending sub group
- Burglary subgroup
- Commissioning group

2.3.4 We have also consulted with the following partners

- Metropolitan Police
- London Probation Trust
- Children's Service
- London Fire Brigade
- Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group
- Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Board
- North West London Magistrates Court
- Community Barnet
- Victim Support
- Department for Work and Pension
- MOPAC

2.3.5 As part of the consultation process, there will be a number of ways for people to tell us what they think. Consultation with the community includes:

- Online Community Safety survey (found at the link noted in paragraph 2.3.2) now live, running until 3rd October 2014
- Two public meetings planned for 10th September and 27th September 2014
- Press release out in Barnet Press promoting the online survey and public meetings

- Barnet Community Safety webpages promoting the survey and consultation
- Barnet Council, Barnet Adults and Communities and Barnet police twitter accounts promoting the online survey
- Communication sent to all SCPB members requesting assistance to promote the survey and consultation
- Barnet Borough Watch will be promoting the consultation survey
- Barnet Partnership Boards promoting the consultation

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Feedback from the Community Leadership Committee and the findings of the public consultation will be used to inform the development of the 2015-2018 Safer Communities Strategy.

4.2 A draft of the 2015-2018 Safer Communities Strategy will be presented to the Community Leadership Committee at their November meeting. The final version of the Strategy will go as a recommendation to Full Council.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2013-16 outlines the Council's commitment to support families and individuals that need it, promoting wellbeing and improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study. This commitment will be delivered through focussing the council's efforts on a number of outcomes including promoting family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities.

5.1.2 The work of the Safer Communities Partnership delivers on the following corporate performance outcomes:

- Reducing the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17
- Increasing community confidence in police and the local authority dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour (target 78%)
- Achieve a reduction in adult re-offending for those under probation supervision or young offenders in education, training, or employment (to 7.5%)
- Reduce the level of domestic burglary to 24.80 per 1,000 household

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

5.2.1 There are no significant resource implications arising from the

recommendations of this report

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council with other partner authorities (chief of police, fire & rescue authority, probation service, CCG and Local Health Board) has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.
- 5.3.2 In formulating the strategy, the partner authorities must have regard to the police and crime plan for the area.
- 5.3.3 Under Regulations, the partner authorities must set up a strategy group who are collectively responsible for preparing strategic assessments and preparing and implementing the partnership plan. The partnership plan shall set out the following:
- (a) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending, crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in the area;
 - (b) the priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the previous year;
 - (c) the steps considered necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement the strategy and meet those priorities;
 - (d) how the strategy group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities;
 - (e) the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities;
 - (f) the steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its obligations in respect of community engagement, considering the extent that people in the area can assist in reducing re-offending, crime and disorder and substance misuse, and publicising that partnership plan.
- 5.3.4 Under s.17 of the above Act, it is also a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including police, fire & rescue, GLA, TfL) 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.
- 5.35 Under the Councils Constitution, approval of the Safer Communities Strategy forms part of the Policy Framework and therefore this strategy will need to be referred to full council for approval in due course.

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 There are no significant risks to highlight to the Committee at this point in relation to this paper.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.5.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public sector equality duty to which the authority must have regard. An equalities impact assessment will be conducted in relation to the 2015-2018 Safer Communities Strategy to consider any impacts on protected groups and to assist in development of the policy and mitigation of any adverse impacts.
- 5.5.2 The current strategy includes priorities which specifically have an equalities dimension such as domestic violence, violence against women and girls and hate crime.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.6.1 The Safer Communities Partnership has a statutory responsibility to consult with residents on their Crime and Anti-social behaviour priorities and share the findings of the annual strategic crime needs assessment. It also has a statutory responsibility to hold a minimum of one public meeting a year.
- 5.6.2 The 2014 Strategic Crime Needs Assessment has been drafted and the consultation referred to above is now live, details have been provided in this report.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Cabinet 14 September 2011- item 5- approved draft Safer Communities Strategy 2011-14 for recommendation to Council
- 6.2 Council 1 November 2011- item 4.1- Approved Safer Communities Strategy
- 6.3 Cabinet Resources Committee 24 June 2013- agenda item 5 -approved the Outline Business Case for partnership initiatives to enhance delivery of the Safer Communities Strategy and that the four proposed initiatives be implemented.