

<b>AGENDA ITEM: 5</b>	
<b>Report Name:</b>	CommUNITY Barnet – Voluntary and community sector update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barnet Borough Watch 2017/18 Update</li> <li>- Hate Crime awareness project Update</li> <li>- Funding bids update</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting:</b>	Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	27 April 2018
<b>Report Author:</b>	Julie Pal CommUNITY Barnet
<b>Outcome Required:</b>	Information Only: X Decision Required: Feedback/comments required:

## Introduction

This report is a summary of activities undertaken by Barnet’s voluntary and community sector as part of our commitment to ensuring that Barnet remains a safe borough.

The report has been prepared by CommUNITY Barnet which is Barnet Council’s Voluntary and Community Sector Development partner responsible for supporting a thriving VCS by providing capacity building, organisational development and representing the local sector at key strategic events.

CommUNITY Barnet is a constituent member of Barnet’s Safer Communities Partnership Board, a participative member of the Violence Against Women’s Delivery Board and co-chairs the Communities Together Network with Barnet Council which reports to the Council’s Community Leadership Committee.

The report will focus on three areas:

- Firstly: an update from *Barnet Boroughwatch* on its commissioned activity between 2017-18 (including the progress made by London wide Community Watch which was launched in March 2018 and the implementation of the Online Watch Link);
- secondly: an update from Barnet Mencap on the MOPAC funded Hate Crime Awareness Project, which will be supported by a verbal presentation at the 27<sup>th</sup> April board meeting and
- thirdly: a briefing from CommUNITY Barnet on its process of developing and submitting a partnership application for funding from the Tampon Tax Fund.

## Barnet Boroughwatch update

2017/18 has been a very active and productive year for Neighbourhood Watch. Noteworthy 2017/18 Barnet Boroughwatch achievements include:

- The introduction of **OWL** (a secure crime prevention messaging system) which has seen an enormous increase in the number of new watches created across the borough - with a total of **2146**.
- We are also seeing an average of **20 people per day** registering for Online Watch Link (OWL) at the moment. This very dynamic and there is a high rate of applications from wards and areas where growth of the watches has been challenging in the past.
- We are very grateful for the support and encouragement from both *Barnet Council* and *Barnet Police*. It is no exaggeration to say that this is the most important development in London NHW in the past twenty years.

This growth, in itself, has created new challenges: particularly in the supply and distribution of street signs and door stickers. We have obtained 14500 new stickers and have applied for a MOPAC SNB grant for the purchase of street signs.

- Barnet Boroughwatch Facebook page has **1300 members** and again is growing daily and extremely active.
- We have attended **13 public crime prevention meetings** in East Barnet, Oakleigh, Golders Green, East Finchley, Hale, Edgware, Mill Hill, Colindale and Hendon wards. Over **200 timer switches** and alarms were distributed to the public at these meetings.
- Appeals for information through the OWL system have already lead to the arrest of a suspect involved in ATM theft. Naturally the administration demands of that the system has generated have been high - with over an average of 60 to 100 emails per day from members and OWL applications.

### London Community Watch:

April 2018 sees the first anniversary of London Community Watch (LCW), Barnet Borough Watch being one of the founding members. Twenty-eight out of thirty-two London Boroughs are now members. It is hoped that the LCW represents the voice of NHW within the Capital. National NHW are now in talks with LCW and MOPAC as funding has been identified and approved for London. It is too early to determine how this will be used.

LCW have been extremely helpful in the acquisition and implementation of OWL in Barnet as the Chair's borough (Redbridge) was the first in London to obtain the system, their advice and assistance was instrumental.

Through LCW's support Hillingdon, Hounslow and Ealing have now obtained MOPAC funding for Owl over an initial three-year period and are due to launch in May 2018. Hackney has now also approved the system for use.

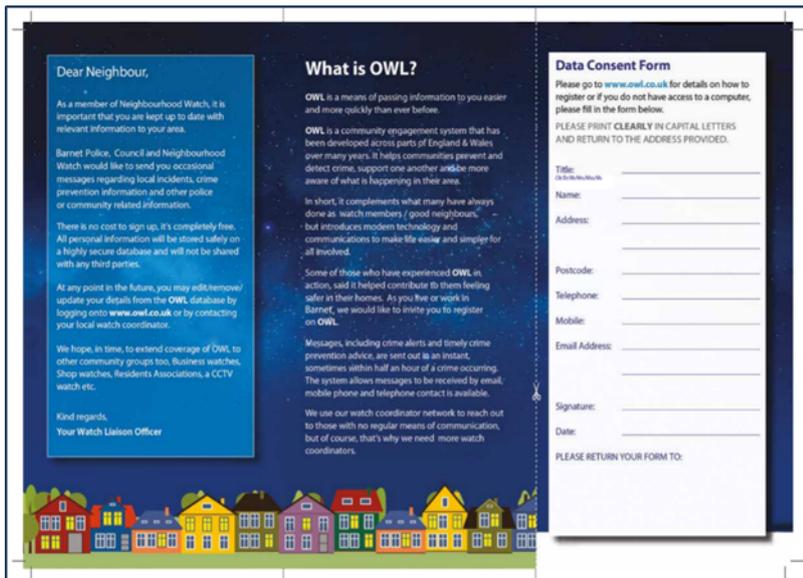


Diagram 1

OWL was originally conceived and prototyped in early 2004. It was redeveloped as a scalable application and launched in June 2006 as a pilot in Welwyn Hatfield. By 2007 it was rolled out across all districts in Hertfordshire. It was recognised by the Government in January 2009 by awarding it an e-Government National Award for innovation and in June 2013 was given a Big Society Award by Prime Minister David Cameron for crime reduction and empowering communities. By mid-2016, 25% of all homes in Hertfordshire had individually registered on OWL.

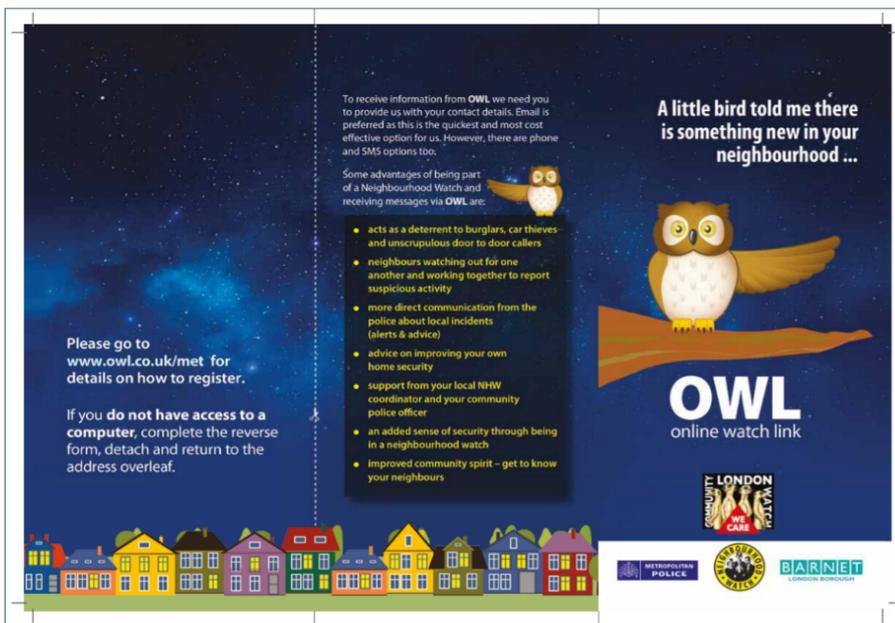


Diagram 2

Watch, Business Watch, CCTV Watch and dozens of other schemes. OWL sends the latest local crime alerts and provides management tools for maintaining and expanding watches.

Barnet Police in conjunction with Barnet Neighbour Watch believe that this system is more effective than the current platforms and will supplement Airspace, Tweets and newsletters. It is cost effective. The system will also assist NHW in being more effective, managing information and reaching out to other watches. It is also compliant with GDPR legislation. The promotion of OWL has taken place on-line using, Facebook and SNT officer's delivering leaflets. 50,000 of which are in the process of being printed, with a delivery date in mid-April - see diagrams 1 and 2.

There are currently have around 972 Watch Co-ordinators on the database, most with an email address. They have been transferred into OWL on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018, with the option to opt out to cover off any Data Protection Act issues. All residents who were issued with Met Trace SmartWater, who agreed to be

**Online Watch Link (OWL)** is a commercial web application to manage watch schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch (United Kingdom) and Business Watch and to act as a communications platform to allow watch coordinators and the police to send out messages and high priority alerts to members. Other watch schemes are supported such as Pub Watch, School Watch, Farm Watch and Shop Watch for example.

OWL is used by Hertfordshire Constabulary, Staffordshire Police, West Yorkshire Police, the Metropolitan Police Service and North Wales.

OWL assists communities feel safer, helps reduce crime and keeps people informed of what's going on locally. It's a shared, secure platform for the public and local authorities to maximise the potential of Neighbourhood Watch, Rural

Watch, Business Watch, CCTV Watch and dozens of other schemes. OWL sends the latest local crime alerts and provides management tools for maintaining and expanding watches.

contacted by police/NHW people have already been added to OWL. This is a further 11000 people. This includes an opt out option.

Current data collected through OWL is summarised in Table 1:

Ward	Watches	Addresses	Members	Unique Messages	Total Messages
<b>Total Count</b>	<b>2146</b>	<b>19313</b>	<b>19774</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>167000</b>
Brunswick Park	164	2255	2311	18	15256
Burnt Oak	53	603	612	15	3354
Childs Hill	143	1336	1376	21	11276
Colindale	63	310	315	18	2294
Coppetts	70	541	557	22	3563
East Barnet	119	1000	1014	27	11975
East Finchley	75	519	531	17	3043
Edgware	47	120	128	22	898
Finchley Church End	90	774	790	24	7198
Garden Suburb	132	1015	1034	19	12232
Golders Green	109	1011	1045	20	8763
Hale	101	485	495	33	8375
Hendon	108	914	942	21	8161
High Barnet	73	91	95	21	928
Mill Hill	165	1461	1495	30	14291
Oakleigh	307	4536	4619	17	35660
Totteridge	82	467	475	21	4529
Underhill	36	64	67	17	544
West Finchley	52	331	347	21	3215
West Hendon	77	720	737	18	5816
Woodhouse	80	760	789	17	5629

## Barnet Mencap – Hate Crime Awareness project update

Barnet Mencap was established in 1965 and for fifty years has provided advice, information and support for people with learning disabilities and people with autism or Aspergers and their family carers. Barnet Mencap provides a range of services and campaigns with people with learning disabilities and people with autism or Aspergers and their families to secure good services and support in the borough.

Barnet Mencap's services include:

- Advice and Information for adults
- Children's Services
- Leisure/Learning activities
- Supported Accommodations and Outreach Support
- Short Breaks
- Volunteering
- General advice

Barnet Mencap is the leading voluntary organisation for children and adults with learning disabilities and their families in the London Borough of Barnet.

Barnet Mencap has been commissioned by the *Barnet Safer Communities Partnership* to deliver the 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime' project funded by MOPAC. The project is supported by a *Hate Crime Awareness Coordinator* and aims to:

- Increase people's confidence to report hate crimes in Barnet
- Improve the procedures for support for victims of hate crime
- Raise awareness of how to report hate crime in Barnet

Barnet's 2017 Hate crime figures were categorised as follows:

Hate Crime Category	Reported Figures
Race and Religion	702
Disability	23
Homophobic	48

There are currently nine reporting centres in the borough: These are: Barnet Mencap, Barnet Homes, Your Choice Barnet, CommUNITY Barnet, HfT, Homeless Action Barnet, GALOP, Community Security Trust and Inclusion Barnet.

The aim of the reporting centres is to raises awareness about Hate Crime and support people who have been a victim of Hate Crime to come forward and report it, through:

- Providing a facility to help people report Hate Crime
- Displaying posters to raise awareness about Hate Crime Reporting
- Connecting with surrounding community centres
- Distributing flyers and pocket cards to service users
- Putting information on their Websites

# CommUNITY Barnet – Funding bids update

## Taking a partnership approach to developing funding

CommUNITY Barnet is an award-winning national charity based in London. Currently delivering services at a regional level we have an aspiration to grow bigger by leading innovative partnerships, harnessing the creativity of residents and supporting community organisations building on our 40 years of success, experience and track record of delivery.

We are the umbrella organisation for the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Barnet, established in 1979, we have been supporting and building capacity to voluntary and community groups, charities and faith groups across the borough. Promoting partnership and consortium working to ensure Barnet has a thriving and sustainable sector.

We believe that no one organisation can solve society's challenges but collectively the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector is powerful when it comes together with other sector organisations. We strongly believe volunteering is the heart of civil society and nurturing social action through different partnerships is vital for sustaining society in times of challenge and change. The third sector can provide community cohesion by bringing together residents, communities and organisations to form creative solutions to improve the wellbeing of local communities and help sustain society in times of continued austerity.

The following section provides an update of CommUNITY Barnet's involvement in a recent bid for funds under the *Tampon Tax Fund* scheme.

### Background to the Tampon Tax Fund

A 'tampon tax' is a term used to call attention when tampons—and other feminine hygiene products used to absorb menstrual flow—are subject to value-added tax, at odds with the tax exemption status granted to other products considered basic necessities. Proponents of tax exemption argue that tampons, sanitary napkins, and comparable products constitute basic, unavoidable necessities for women and thus should be made tax exempt.

The UK currently applies the lowest rate of VAT permissible within EU law to sanitary products (5%). The '*Tampon Tax Fund*' allocates funds generated from the VAT on sanitary products to projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls. It is administered by the *Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports*.<sup>1</sup>

The government has stated<sup>2</sup> that it is "*committed to continuing the fund until EU rules allow a zero rate of VAT to be applied to women's sanitary products*".<sup>3</sup> *A decision will be made on the future of the Fund once this has been achieved.*"

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tampon-tax-fund-application-form-2018-2019-funding-round>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-and-girls-set-to-benefit-from-15-million-tampon-tax-fund>

<sup>3</sup> Current EU laws prohibits any Member State from applying a new zero rate of VAT. We therefore currently apply the lowest rate we can to these products (5%).

## About the fund

The Tampon Tax Fund allocates funds generated from the VAT on sanitary products to projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls. It is administered by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports.

## Eligibility criteria

- The fund is open to charitable, benevolent and philanthropic organisations from across the United Kingdom
- Applications should be for £1 million or more
- The value of the grant requested must not represent more than 50% of the applicant's collective annual income
- Applications should focus on 1 of 3 categories: violence against women and girls, mental health and wellbeing, or the general programme
- Grants may be for 1 or 2 year projects
- All project activities must be concluded and funds must be spent by 31 March 2020
- Where applicable, bids must include details of arrangements for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults as part of their planned activities

## Taking a collaborative approach

- In December 2017, building on the excellent work of the VAWG partnership, CommUNITY Barnet initially brought to together 17 Barnet based organisations to identify how we can collaborate and develop a bid to the Tampon Tax Fund
- Our aim was to build on the excellent work of the VAWG Forum increasing funding for local projects, increase the joint delivery of projects, address the gaps in services and deliver innovative projects that cannot currently be financed through statutory funds.
- Through a series of four meetings with nine organisations who felt they could deliver a collaborative wellbeing support programme for women and their families who experience domestic violence and rape.
- The organisations agreed that CommUNITY Barnet would act as the lead contract holder. Participating partners included Solace Women's Aid, Iranian, Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation; Jewish Women's Aid; HomeStart Barnet and Harrow; CyberCare, Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust; Safe Lives and Rise Mutual.
- In the first meeting each organisation explained about the work they delivered both in Barnet and across London thereby establishing a clarity about the breadth of work and range of work that goes on in the VAWG partnership and to identify new ways of working together. For many of the partners, outside of their membership of the VAWG partnership had never worked together to deliver a shared outcome as funding dictated both project deliverables and localities. Working with Community Barnet's staff team, partnerships were formed, projects formulated and proposals developed.

- CommUNITY Barnet's Head of Community Services offered coaching on writing partnership applications which complimented organisational strengths - for example encouraging CyberCafe to liaise with Home-Start Barnet and Harrow's family support programme.
- One of the key successes from this process was the alliance forged between Jewish Women's Aid and IKWRO to establish a specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advice Service. Both organisations work with women who face significant challenges to access the main stream ISVA services
- All projects came to together to identify and create performance measures. They were able to agree who would lead on the differing elements and identify what success looked like. For example, the ISVA project worked with women who cannot access main stream health and wellbeing services but also carried out awareness workshops in community groups. Both groups amalgamated their plans and their outcomes and impact in could were able to share leadership for all elements of the project.
- We also capitalised on our strategic position in Brent, Enfield and Harrow to deliver VAWG wellbeing Initiatives as many of the partners have a regional presence.
- In our third meeting we finalised the performance schedules, delivery plans and asked organisations to input on the main heading like sustainability, the impact on redressing inequality and most importantly how each project will support the 'One Front Door' policy approach for VAWG services.
- We worked with Barnet Homes to calculate value for money and how the projects will enhance local VAWG strategy and initiatives. Barnet Homes also acted as a critical friend providing fierce but constructive challenge which was welcome given the tight deadlines.
- We are awaiting the outcome of the bid. We recognise that competition for the funding will be fierce, however, as part of our commitment to learning-by-doing we consider that all the projects could potentially be viewed as stand-alone ventures which could secure independent funding. CommUNITY Barnet is actively supporting Cybercar and IKWRO to develop other funding bids if the Tampon Tax Fund application proves unsuccessful.

For more information about these bids please contact:

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