

	<p align="center"><b>Community Leadership and Libraries Committee</b></p> <p align="center"><b>12 June 2018</b></p>
<p align="right"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Hate Crime Awareness Project Update</b></p>
<p align="right"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Councillor Thompstone, Chairman of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee</p>
<p align="right"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="right"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="right"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="right"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="right"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p align="right"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Peter Clifton,  <i>Community Safety Manager</i>  <a href="mailto:Peter.clifton@barnet.gov.uk">Peter.clifton@barnet.gov.uk</a>                  Tel: 0208 359 3120</p> <p>Kiran Vagarwal,  <i>Strategic Lead - Safer Communities Environment Commissioning Group</i>  <a href="mailto:Kiran.vagarwal@barnet.gov.uk">Kiran.vagarwal@barnet.gov.uk</a>                  Tel 0208 359 2953</p>

## Summary

This report provides the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC) with an update on the work of the Safer Communities Partnership Board to tackle Hate Crime in Barnet, and, the progress of the Barnet '*Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime*' Project which aims to: increase people's confidence to report Hate Crimes in Barnet; improve the support for victims of Hate Crime; and raise awareness of how to report Hate Crime in Barnet.

Barnet Council and Police are committed to working together with residents and communities in Barnet to tackle Hate Crime. Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership Strategy includes tackling Hate Crime as one of its priorities. The Safer Communities Partnership will continue working together with partners and the community to tackle Hate Crime and address under-reporting.

## Recommendations

- 1. That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC) note the progress made by the Barnet Hate Crime Awareness project.**
- 2. That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC) note the future actions (next steps).**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1.1 After passing a motion by full council in July 2016 condemning Hate Crime, Barnet Council has been working with its partners to make it easier for incidences to be reported. Reflecting the importance of this theme, the Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership Strategy includes tackling Hate Crime as one of its priorities. In particular, the strategy prioritises working to ensure that people in Barnet are confident to report Hate Crime if they are a victim or witness it.
- 1.1.2 Hate Crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's: disability; race or ethnicity; religion or belief; sexual orientation or transgender identity.
- 1.1.3 In 2015/16 the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board carried out an assessment of Hate Crime reporting in Barnet. The aims of the review were to get a clearer picture of Hate Crime in the borough and to explore what would increase people's confidence to report Hate Crime. As well as assessing the data on reported Hate Crimes, a key part of the review was consultation and engagement with residents in Barnet to understand people's views and perspectives, including through discussions at the Partnership Boards, the Safeguarding Adults User Group and the Learning Disability Network.
- 1.1.4 The review found that, as is the case nationally, Hate Crime appeared to be significantly underreported in Barnet. There was a clear disparity between the volume of reported Hate Crime and the accounts of the everyday experiences of some of the residents who took part in the consultation.
- 1.1.5 Considering the findings of this review, the Safer Communities Partnership Board and Safeguarding Adults Board launched a joint initiative in 2016/17 aimed at encouraging more victims and witnesses of Hate Crime to report incidents. Under this initiative, in partnership with local voluntary and community organisations Hate Crime reporting centres were set up across the borough. The centres provide an alternative way for victims to report Hate Crime to trained staff, and for victims to receive information and advice about the support available to them.
- 1.1.6 To build on this work, the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership secured funding from the MOPAC<sup>1</sup> London Crime Prevention Fund for 2017/18 and 2018/19. This resource has been used to fund the Hate Crime Awareness coordinator post, based within, Barnet MENCAP<sup>2</sup>. The role of the coordinator is to lead on driving forward the Barnet 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project' which aims to strengthen the partnership approach to tackling Hate Crime by supporting the joint work of the Safer Communities Partnership Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Barnet MENCAP to raise awareness, encourage reporting and improving access to justice for victims.

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<sup>1</sup> The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

<sup>2</sup> Mencap is a UK charity for people with a learning disability

1.1.7 This following section of this report provides an overview of the Barnet 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime' project, a summary of the project's progress to date and details the next steps for the year ahead.

## **Update on the 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime' project**

### *Aims of the Barnet 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime' project:*

1.2.1 The main aims of the 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime' project are:

- To increase the engagement with community based groups at a neighbourhood level, building a resilient network of voluntary and community organisations that have increased awareness of crime and ASB<sup>3</sup> affecting their communities and are enabled to work with us to protect the most vulnerable in their communities.
- To support victims of Anti-social behaviour, Domestic Violence, VAWG<sup>4</sup>, and Hate Crime, who may not have the confidence or know how to report incidents to the police or statutory services, so that they can report to a trusted organisation and receive the appropriate advice and support aimed at increasing their confidence in reporting and accessing support services.
- To contribute towards addressing the issue of under-reporting of Hate Crime by increasing the confidence of victims.
- To improve access to justice for disabled people by addressing the links between adult safeguarding and Hate Crime and contributing towards the prevention of repeat Hate Crime against vulnerable adults by improving identification and intervening early.

### *Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project – key activity update:*

1.2.2 During the last 12 months the project has focused on the following areas:

- *Hate Crime Reporting Centres:* The project is providing on-going support and acting as a point of contact to the community organisations operating as Hate Crime Reporting centres. At present the following organisations provide a Hate Crime reporting function in Barnet:
  - Barnet Mencap
  - Barnet Homes
  - Your Choice Barnet
  - Inclusion Barnet
  - Community Barnet
  - GALOP
  - Community Security Trust
  - Hft

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<sup>3</sup> Anti-social behaviour

<sup>4</sup> Violence Against Women and Girls

- Homeless Action Barnet
- *Training:* The project is delivering a training programme to all community organisations recruited as reporting centres and voluntary and community organisations supporting the most vulnerable in our community so that they are able to identify Hate Crimes, provide support and advice and sign post clients to services offering additional support. In the last three months, the following training has been delivered:
  - March 2018 - Community Barnet
  - April 2018 – Your Choice Barnet at Rosa Morison Centre
  - April 2018 - Barnet Homes
  - May 2018 – Homeless Action Barnet
- *Communication and Engagement:*
  - Two Barnet Community Hate Crime Forum events held (November 2017 and April 2018)
  - Programme of Hate Crime Awareness workshops for residents of Barnet is being delivered. The first workshop was held in May 2018 with the “Have Your Say” Group at Barnet Mencap. The group is attended by adults with learning disabilities.

*Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project – next steps*

1.2.3 The focus of the project for the year ahead will be on:

- Expanding the communication campaign to raise the profile of the Hate Crime reporting centres, including through working with the centres to increase their online profile.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the communication campaign (August 2018).
- Expanding the projects engagement with community groups – including different faith groups, GRT<sup>5</sup> groups and LBGT<sup>6</sup> groups.
- Delivering workshops with groups affected by Hate Crime, focused on issues connected to reporting Hate Crime. Workshops are being scheduled for, July, September, December 2018 and February 2019.
- Conducting a victim support survey to assess the victim’s satisfaction with the experience of reporting a Hate Crime and their confidence to report further Hate Crimes. The feedback from the survey will inform improvement of future practice.
- Identifying new partners to join the Barnet Hate Crime Reporting centre programme, including partners across different Faith groups and

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<sup>5</sup> Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities

<sup>6</sup> lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender

communities, as well as addressing any apparent gaps in the geographical coverage of the reporting sites across the borough.

- Reviewing the Reporting Centres (September 2018).

## **Levels of Reported Racist and Religious Crime in Barnet**

1.3.1 The table below shows the trend in the annual number of reported Racist and Religious Hate Crimes in Barnet over the last 5 years. Overall there has been an upward trend, this is reflective of a similar trend seen across London overall.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Racist and Religious Hate Crimes</b>
2013/14	306
2014/15	404
2015/16	552
2016/17	727
2017/18	707

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC) note the progress made by the Barnet Hate Crime Awareness project.

2. That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC) note the future actions (next steps).

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

3.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 There are no decisions that are required to be made in relation to this update.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-20 sets out the following strategic objectives:

5.1.2 That Barnet Council, working with local, regional and national partners, will strive to make sure that Barnet is the place:

- Of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- Where responsibility is shared, fairly
- Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

5.1.3 The effective implementation of the Community Safety Strategy supports Barnet in achieving the commitment set out in the corporate plan: that Barnet will be amongst the safest places in London, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe.

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

5.2.1 The MOPAC funding streams for local authority community safety work constitutes what MOPAC has designated the 'London Crime Prevention Fund.' (LCPF). For the financial year 2018/19 the Barnet Community Safety Team has secured £30,000 LCPF funding to support the delivery of the Hate Crime Awareness Project. This funding has been used to commission Barnet MENCAP to provide a Barnet Hate Crime Awareness Coordinator.

5.2.2 The coordinators role is to strengthen the partnership approach to tackling Hate Crime in Barnet by supporting the joint work of the Safer Communities Partnership Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Barnet MENCAP to raise awareness, encourage reporting and improving access to justice for victims

5.2.3 The table below outlines the status of the Hate Crime Awareness Project funding.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
2018/19 MOPAC funding	<b>£30,000</b>
Projected 2018/19 Spend	£30,000

### 5.3 Social Value

Not relevant in relation to this report.

### 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 S6 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ('the 1998 Act') places a statutory duty on responsible authorities (including local authorities, the Police, Probation Trusts, and Fire and Rescue Authorities) to formulate and implement strategies for the reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and for the reduction of reoffending.

5.4.2 The BSCP is a Community Safety Partnership set up in accordance with the requirement of the section 5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

5.4.3 Under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, 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.

5.4.4 Under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 every local authority shall ensure that it has a crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or its executive with respect to the discharge of those functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 complement these provisions and are supported by Home Office guidance. Barnet operates a committee system form of governance and consequently does not have a system of overview and scrutiny committees save for the statutory Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, the duty to perform crime and disorder scrutiny remains a requirement in committee system authorities. As such, Barnet have elected that the Community

Leadership and Libraries Committee to be the committee responsible for discharging responsibilities relating to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.

5.4.5 Article 7 section 7.5 in the Council's constitution sets out the responsibility for functions of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee which include, responsibility for civic events, community safety, emergency planning, registration and nationality service, grants to the voluntary sector.

## 5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 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.

## 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public-sector equality duty to which the authority must have due regard. The Council's public-sector equality duty is set out in s149 of the Equality Act 2010:

5.6.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to —

a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this 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.

5.6.3 The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

## 5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The Barnet Residents' Perception Survey shows that residents consider crime to be one of the top three issues that they are most concerned about. This council run survey

includes questions on resident's views on the council's performance and engagement as well as having questions focused on specific service areas.

5.7.2 In addition, the Community Safety team coordinates consultations on specific elements of the Community Safety Strategy: For example, the Hate Crime awareness consultation conducted in partnership with Barnet MENCAP and a number of community and voluntary sector organisations working in Barnet. The consultation identified evidence that Hate Crime is underreported in Barnet<sup>7</sup> and its findings were used to inform the Hate Crime Awareness action plan.

## 5.8 **Insight**

Not relevant in relation to this report.

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **Community Leadership Committee 6th September 2017**

Agenda Item 10 "*Update on the annual strategic crime needs Assessment*"

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s41920/Update%20on%20the%20annual%20strategic%20crime%20needs%20Assessment.pdf>

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<sup>7</sup> The underreporting of Hate Crime is not limited to Barnet – research indicates that nationally less than 1 in 4 Hate Crimes is reported.