

<b>ITEM 5</b>	
<b>Report Name:</b>	<b>Community Safety update for the Safer Communities Partnership Board</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Safer Communities Partnership Board</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 – Crime and ASB Performance Dashboard
<b>Report Author:</b>	Peter Clifton
<b>Outcome Required:</b>	Information Only X Decision Required Feedback/comments required
<b>Restricted</b>	No

## Summary

This report provides the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (BSCPb) with an update on key areas of Community Safety work which have been delivered this year.

Over the last nine months the circumstances related to Covid-19 have necessitated the development and implementation of new ways of working across a number of the Community Safety workstreams. These adaptations have aimed at minimising disruption to services and enabling the Safer Communities Partnership to continue to work together with partners and the community to tackle Crime and anti-social behaviour.

This report will provide details in relation to each of the following key areas:

- Trends in levels of crime and ASB
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Serious Adult Violence
- Reducing Offending
- Reducing high volume crime
- Delivery of the Prevent Strategy

### ***Trends in levels of crime and ASB***

Overall, in the 12 months to August 2020 there were 28,637 crimes in Barnet. This is 2,059 crimes fewer than in the equivalent period a year ago, representing a reduction in crime in Barnet of around 7%.

Some of the notable contributing elements to that reduction include a 19% reduction in Burglary, a 45% reduction in Gun crime and a 20% reduction in theft. Robbery is one offence type which went against the overall downward trend, increasing by 18% during this period (with most of this increase occurring prior to March 2020).

For additional details please see *Appendix 1 – Crime and ASB Performance Dashboard*

### ***Antisocial Behaviour***

Unlike some crime types, the volume of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls to police did not reduce during the lockdown. While a substantial proportion of the ASB calls received during this period were related to allegations of breaches of the Covid-19 social distancing regulations, the calls also included matters such as neighbour disputes.

The Community Safety MARAC panel has been working to deliver a co-ordinated multi-agency response for victims of repeat and high risk ASB. The panel is implementing action plans for approximately 6 to 10 such cases per month.

### ***Domestic Abuse and VAWG***

Covid-19 has seen a rise in the volume of Domestic Abuse (DA) reports. Financial stress and unemployment are likely to have exacerbated this. Tackling DA presents demands on other services, e.g. children's social services and homelessness. In response we have implemented a four-fold increase in the frequency of our Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Panel Meetings.

As a result, there is now a faster turnaround between referral of complex DA cases and multi-agency risk review and actions at the MARAC. The DA MARAC carries out a multi-agency risk assessment and puts risk reduction plans in place. Over the last three months approximately 10 cases are being referred into the DA MARAC each week.

The Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) delivery board (a sub-group of the Safer Communities Partnership Board) is currently working to refresh the partnership's Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy.

The strategy is focused on: preventing violence against women and girls; improving outcomes for victims and their children; holding perpetrators to account; and developing joint working practices between agencies.

### ***Serious Adult Violence***

We have introduced a Serious Adult Violence Panel to help enhance the multi-agency response and set of interventions available for adults (18+) considered at risk of involvement in serious violence. Since commencing in May 2020, the panel has coordinated the delivery of enhanced interventions in over 30 cases.

### ***Reducing Offending***

Our Integrated Offender Management Programme is working to deliver bespoke interventions to reduce re-offending – the programme has worked with over 100 of Barnet's most prolific offenders in last 12 months.

### ***Reducing high volume crime***

The Home Office Safer Streets Fund is aimed at preventing high volume acquisitive crime such as burglary. The Council's Community Safety Team, together with the Met Police Designing Out Crime Team have been successful in bidding for and securing funding from the Home Office Safer Streets grant. As a result, a total of £301,162 has been secured to fund designing out crime prevention measures focused on reducing burglary in the vicinity of Hendon Park NW4 (including Park View Road NW4).

Over the short and long term, this location has suffered from a higher rate of residential burglary than average. The funding secured through this successful bid will provide an opportunity to push down the crime rate and help improve the safety and security of residents living in this area. The money will go towards measures (which will be informed by the recommendations of the Police Designing Out Crime specialists) proven to cut crime by enhancing the physical security of the built environment.

### ***Delivery of the Prevent Strategy***

The Barnet Prevent Strategy continues to provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from violent extremism. This includes coordinating the multi-agency Barnet Channel Panel.

Channel is a voluntary programme which focuses on providing support and early intervention to safeguard children and adults identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorism or extremism. This acts by identifying the individuals at risk, assessing the nature and extent of that risk, and developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

In addition, the Prevent Action Plan outlines the statutory duty to provide training to ensure that Barnet Safeguarding and Partnership staff can recognise signs that an individual may be vulnerable to being radicalised, and able to respond appropriately to reduce that risk.

### ***Delivery of the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project***

In partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector, the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project has continued engaging with communities and organizations across the borough to improve access to justice for victims of Hate Crime and to make it easier for people to report Hate Crime and get the support that they need. To date over **500** residents have signed up to become Hate Crime Reporting Champions.

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