

## **Safer Communities Partnership Board**

Minutes of virtual meeting held on 23 October 2020

### **Board Members Present:**

Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz (Chairman)

### **Also Present:**

Chief Inspector Ed Baildon – Acting Chief Inspector for Partnership, Metropolitan Police  
Caroline Collier, Inclusion Barnet  
Peter Clifton, Community Safety Manager, LBB  
Tamara Djuretic, Director of Public Health, LBB  
Clair Green, Director of Assurance, LBB  
Kathryn Hunt, Head of Service, National Probation Service, Barnet, Brent and Enfield  
Matt Leng, Community Safety Manager, LBB  
Tina McElligot, Director for Early Health and Children’s Social Care, LBB  
Ben Norfolk, Community Safety Team Data Analyst, LBB  
Amanda Quinn, Neighbourhood Manager, Barnet Homes  
Superintendent James Rawlinson, Head of Neighbourhood Policing, North West Borough  
Command Unit, Metropolitan Police  
Reshma Hirani, Hate Crime Reporting Project, Barnet Mencap  
Diane Russell, Senior Probation Officer  
Tracy Scollin, Governance Officer, LBB  
Inspector Tony Toporowski, Acting Inspector, Barnet Safer Neighbourhoods  
Ray Booth, Chief Executive, Barnet Mencap and Chair of Access to Justice Sub Group  
Kausar Mukhtar, Contracts and Partnerships Manager, London Community Rehabilitation  
Company (deputising for Matthew Bergeal, Area Manager)  
Fiona Bateman, Independent Chair, Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board.

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed all those present. He thanked all partners for their work to keep services running during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Emma Phasey, Group Manager, Community Protection, LBB and Kevin McKenzie, Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2020 were received. Ms Bateman noted that she had sent her apologies.

The Chairman clarified that his request for a report from the Metropolitan Police referred to ‘designing out crime’ (page 8).

**RESOLVED** that the minutes were approved as an accurate record subject to the above amendments.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**5. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

Mr Clifton presented his report on community safety in Barnet over the last nine months during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Coordination of the various subgroups had been maintained throughout the pandemic including the Domestic Violence MARAC, Integrated Offender Management Panel, Serious Adult Violence Panel, Reducing Offending Strategic Group, Channel Panel, Prevent Strategy Steering Group, Community Safety MARAC and Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Working Group.

Crime had reduced overall during this period, driven largely by restrictions implemented due to the pandemic. The year to the end of August 2020 showed 2,000 fewer offences than the previous year, but violent crime had stayed around the same level. There had been an increase in robbery of 10-20% which was much lower than the increase seen prior to the pandemic.

Mr Clifton reported that there had been no reduction in antisocial behaviour (ASB) during the 12 months to the end of August. There had been 13,000 calls to the police compared to 8000 in 2019. Many of these related to reports of Covid restriction breaches, particularly in residential areas. The Community Safety MARAC which tackles ASB meets regularly to review the most complex and persistent cases and to put in place risk assessments and action plans. This process had performed strongly during the pandemic.

Five Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) had been implemented, and the four that related to street drinking had resulted in a 40% reduction in calls to the London Ambulance Service.

Mr Clifton reported that domestic violence (DV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) have been a major focus of the Council throughout the last nine months, as the Covid restrictions presented the potential for an increase in cases and for possible difficulties in reporting. The Community Safety Team has worked closely across a range of VAWG partnerships to reconfigure a range of services to support victims and work with perpetrators on behaviour change. The DV MARAC meetings have been increased from monthly to weekly which resulted in a faster turnaround of risk assessments and action plans, and it is hoped that this change can be maintained. The DV Strategy for Barnet is currently being refreshed, and details would be circulated after the meeting. Mr Clifton noted that he would be grateful if Board Members could provide feedback on this.

**Action: All**

Mr Clifton reported that last year the Council's Senior Management Team discussed the need to identify and have interventions for adults at risk of serious violence, and had increased provision for this group. The Serious Adult Violence Panel was introduced on a pilot basis to review individuals who are at risk of being involved in violence and to put a plan in place. Individuals who are managed under the Youth Offending Team (YOT)

transitioning to adult services at 18 years of age had been identified as at risk due to a potential reduction in their oversight. Mr Clifton noted that the Panel has reviewed over 30 cases since May 2020 and put supportive interventions in place. Also, the Integrated Offender Management Programme continues to run and has achieved a reduction of 20-40% in offending.

Mr Clifton reported that burglary in Barnet remains higher than average for London. A successful bid was made for the Home Office Safer Streets Fund of £300,000, which would be focused on designing out crime in Hendon.

The Prevent Strategy continues to be delivered in Barnet with the Channel Panel meeting regularly and training being rolled out to Barnet staff.

Mr Clifton reported that over 500 staff and residents had signed up as Hate Crime Reporting Champions as part of the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project. Work is ongoing to enable voluntary and community sector partners in Barnet to act as Hate Crime Reporting Centres.

Ms Hirani reported that in 2019/20 across England and Wales, 105,090 hate crimes had been reported to the police, over three quarters of these being racially motivated. Hate crime in relation to sexual orientation had increased by 19% to 15,800; relating to transgender identity, increased by 16% to 2,500 and disability hate crime had risen by 9% to 8,500. In incidents where victims' religion was recorded, half were targeted against Muslims and 19% were anti-Semitic.

In London between January and September 2020, hate crime had risen by 17%, and nationally by 25%. The Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner had stated that this was likely to have been driven by the rise in frustration during the pandemic and people with mental health conditions not being able to access support services during the pandemic. Arguments over the use of face coverings had led to abusive language, particularly racist language. Most of the reporting related to localised neighbour disputes or abuse directed at strangers in the street, largely comments over the use or non-use of face masks. A recent Home Office report showed that racial hate crime had increased during the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests.

Ms Hirani reported that in Barnet so far during 2020, 603 racist or religious hate crime offences had been recorded by the Metropolitan Police; 93 were anti-Semitic and 14 Islamophobic; 10 were related to disability; 54 homophobic and 3 transgender hate offences. Barnet held its Hate Crime Awareness Week during October, with much of it being online due to the pandemic. Two webinars, on safeguarding - recognising and reporting hate crime against vulnerable people, and online hate, harassment and extremism, including how it can be communicated via chat rooms and video games, had been held and are available to view online. The Hate Crime Bulletin had also been circulated to all Hate Crime Champions and all Hate Crime Reporting Centres.

Ms Hirani added that the Metropolitan Police hosted stands in the community in Barnet, Brent and Harrow on hate crime reporting, to allow the public to speak to Community Support Officers about issues. These would continue throughout the year.

Mr Ben Norfolk presented the Performance Dashboard slides.

- Burglary had reduced significantly over the past year but had been on an upward trend prior to lockdown

- There had been very little change in violent crime, Barnet having the third lowest level in all London Boroughs.
- There had been an increase in knife crime in Barnet since the previous year
- There had been a decrease in gun crime incidents
- Domestic abuse sanction and detection rates had fallen from 13% to 12% but the volume of DV had not increased significantly
- The total number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) calls had increased during lockdown.

The Chairman asked what is being done to prepare for the potential increase in robberies when footfall returns after lockdown measures are relaxed. Mr Clifton reported that the Community Safety Team is working closely with neighbourhood policing teams, focusing on the hotspot areas. Police updates are being used to brief the Council's CCTV control room.

The Chairman requested an update on the progress made by the introduction of regular briefings to CCTV control rooms. Mr Clifton noted that there are now daily updates on the locations of robberies, with the time of the incident and description of suspects. He added that it is too early to know what the impact of this has been but as footfalls increase he will update the Board.

**Action: Mr Clifton**

The Chairman enquired how quickly a response to incidents could be implemented, given the increase in robberies, such as deployment of the mobile CCTV units. Mr Clifton responded that this depends on the location and technical requirements. Over the past two years a more dynamic response had been achieved with rapid deployment cameras that can be situated at a site within a week, though it can take longer than this, but the work is ongoing.

Ms Bateman asked whether the data show whether victims of ASB include any adults at risk. Mr Clifton responded that the Community Safety MARAC deals with a range of victims, including some with vulnerabilities. Mr Leng offered to review the Community Safety MARAC data with Ms Hirani, to ensure that no vulnerable victims are being missed. Every victim of crime seen through the Community Safety MARAC is considered in relation to vulnerability. There is both a mental health and an adult safeguarding representative and if any concerns arise, enquiries are made to ensure that the individual is offered the appropriate services.

**Action: Mr Leng**

Ms Bateman noted that Mr Ray Booth is Chairman of the Access to Justice Group and asked whether a report could be presented to this group. Superintendent Rawlinson noted that all ASB incidents are risk assessed for vulnerability in victims. Victims are recorded on the police Merlin system and shared with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Any high-risk or persistent incidents are referred to the Community Safety MARAC. Currently the reports on ASB have largely been regarding Covid rule breaking with no signs of an increase in crime related to vulnerability.

The Chairman asked whether stands had been organised for specific wards, with Member involvement as was the case the previous year. Ms Hirani noted that due to the pandemic the stands had only had police presence for 2020. Mr Clifton offered to share the virtual workshops schedule with all Members so that they could attend.

**Action: Mr Clifton**

Dr Djuretic commented that she would like to understand, and try to work with communities to prevent, the issue of racial abuse in relation to face coverings. Mr Clifton offered to meet with Dr Djuretic, Mr Booth, Ms Hirani and the Chairman to discuss this further.

**Action: Mr Clifton**

**The Board resolved to note the report.**

## **6. COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY REPORT**

Ms Mukhtar reported that there had been an update to the unification process for probation services since her slides had been published with the agenda pack. Interventions only would be put out to tender, with every other service reverting to the National Probation Service (NPS). CRC and NPS would provide a unified service for all offenders.

As part of the reorganisation there will be 12 probation areas across England and Wales with a Lead in each. There is also a Transition Working Group to help to implement the reform.

Ms Mukhtar reported that a Dynamic Framework. Agreement was launched in June 2020 for seven years, extendable up to three years. Authorities can procure from 14 service categories.

The Chairman asked whether the reform would impact on Barnet. Ms Mukhtar responded that inspection outcomes had been very good for Barnet and recommendations had been worked on. Unification is not a hindrance, and is viewed as a positive, meaning that CRC and NPS could work more closely together. She added that CRC is committed to its work on any Safeguarding Boards, the MARAC and all meetings until June 2021.

**The Board resolved to note the report.**

## **7. FAMILY SERVICES UPDATE**

Ms McElligot presented her slides about the team's activities over the past six months:

- There is still a high prevalence of children in need, and health and DV are the other two largest categories of need in relation to attaching families in Barnet.
- The secondee had been appointed from CRC to the Troubled Families Programme enables professionals to be co-located from other agencies into Family Services as required. Two additional Welfare Advisors had been recruited due to the increase in furloughed and unemployed residents. A decision was awaited on funding for the Troubled Families Programme beyond March 2021.
- Current data on young offenders is skewed, appearing much smaller than true figures, due to Covid. Offending overall has reduced, but a lot of young people had had hearings adjourned which would affect national data for several months.
- Barnet's custody rate remains one of England's lowest and shows the Court's confidence in the Youth Offending Service's community interventions.

- There appears to be a decrease in those at risk of reoffending and at high risk of serious harm, probably due to lockdown, but data delays make this difficult to confirm.
- Youth Offending Officers saw people face-to-face during this period and the local Criminal Justice Magistrates had commended Barnet Youth Offending Services for providing this support during a difficult time.
- Breaches have remained consistent during the past six months and Barnet officers had seen most individuals virtually, and in cases of non-compliance with the Order have ensured the individuals are returned to Court and had their sentences reviewed.
- First time entrants to the criminal justice system had been low during the pandemic. Barnet remained lower than London and national averages.
- Data revealed an increase in caseload for the YOT; however, 20% of this cohort are aged 18 and above and remained in this group due to deliberate delays in transfers to probation services during the pandemic so that they continued to receive support. The transfers had now begun.
- Barnet's prevention efforts in the aged 14 plus group of offenders, which disproportionately affects individuals from BAME backgrounds had been discussed with magistrates to try to ascertain whether those from BAME backgrounds had been sentenced more harshly than white people for the same crimes. The magistrates continue with his piece of work.
- Barnet had signed up to Operation Harbinger which focuses on the 'golden hour' to ensure that children arriving into custody are promptly safeguarded.
- Barnet is working with the NPS to pilot a Resettlement in Transition Programme with the Youth Custody Replacement and Resettlement Service, to ensure that there is better preparation for when young people leave custody. There had been issues regarding housing due to Covid-19 so virtual meetings would be held to plan for their accommodation.
- New community volunteers are being recruited to the Referral Order Panel; both virtual and face-to-face meetings would be held during the pandemic.
- Fresh Start in Education Ltd has been appointed to support children at risk of exclusion from school, since this cohort is at high risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system.
- The Vulnerable Adolescents Partnership has published its Strategy to 2022, available in hard copy via the Governance Officer, [tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk) if required and available on the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership website.
- The Trusted Relationships Programme, set up for vulnerable adolescents in the community, has one year's funding remaining. Its Prevention Programme has been disrupted over the Covid period and the voluntary sector is looking at ways to restart them with a mix of online and face-to-face activities.
- MOPAC Rescue and Response is funded until March 2021 to support under-18-year-olds who have been picked up for County Lines activity.
- NHS England and Troubled Families funding has been used to provide speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, a forensic psychologist and a Liaison and Diversion worker until March 2022 to assess the needs of young people coming into the service.
- Funding for the Sibling Mentoring Programme has been extended to October 2021 due to disruption from the pandemic.

The Chairman asked how Barnet compares to other London Boroughs regarding young people's involvement in County Lines activity. Ms McElligot responded that Barnet's

figures are lower than other London Boroughs though she does not receive full data from other Boroughs.

The Chairman enquired how activities for young people as Ms McElligot had described at the previous meeting could continue during the pandemic. Ms McElligot responded that this is a challenge as the campsite that was used is closed. The team is exploring the possibility of other outdoor activities.

**The Board resolved to note the report.**

## **8. NORTH WEST BCU POLICE UPDATE TO THE SCPB**

Superintendent Rawlinson presented his slides.

Crime has generally reduced across London during the past few months, largely due to Covid. The North West BCU has the third highest overall crime rate in London. Barnet stands in the middle of the table of London Boroughs.

Superintendent Rawlinson noted that violence against the person has increased slightly over this period, with the offences mainly in the south-east part of the Borough. There has also been a slight increase in violence with injury and without injury. Burglary had reduced in all but one Ward, and targets have been agreed for burglary hotspots.

There have been 38 fewer robberies than the previous year, a 3.4% decrease. Much of these offences were 'youth on youth' offences, such as mobile phone, ear pod and scooter thefts.

The Metropolitan Police has been resourcing and filling vacancies in its Youth Engagement Team over the past six months, which would be based in Colindale, aimed at tackling the youth on youth offences. The team would focus on engagement and diversion activity, as well as providing a visible presence. Unmarked robbery cars would be deployed to areas of high robbery, staffed by CID and Response Team officers, to respond to calls and gain knowledge on the identity of the robbers. In addition, CID colleagues have set up Burglary and Robbery Investigation Teams (BRIT) to specialise in tackling these offences.

Operation Autumn Nights would be led by Chief Inspector Ed Baildon over the next few weeks, with additional resources being used across the BCU, to focus on ASB which was typical around Halloween, and also to target burglary and robbery hotspots. The NW BCU is extending this to take into account the Diwali festival.

Superintendent Rawlinson expressed his thanks for the close partnership working and to Clair Green, Declan Khan, Peter Clifton, Matt Leng and Tamara Djuretic for their support and constructive meetings over the past few months. This had helped to enforce the rules around social distancing in the Borough. The approach had been largely 'engage, explain' and very little enforcement. Each of the three Boroughs in the BCU has a dedicated 'Covid car' to deal with calls, and the pandemic remains a challenge.

The Chairman asked about current staffing levels in the BCU. Superintendent Rawlinson responded that the vacancies in the Schools Team had been filled via secondments. The Ward Teams and Safer Neighbourhood Teams are fully staffed. The vacancy rate across all levels in the BCU is currently around 3%.

The Chairman enquired about the reduction in robberies in Barnet over recent months. Superintendent Rawlinson responded that in Barnet robberies have largely been youth on youth, and the offending pattern had changed with school closures. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Covid Response Teams had been redeployed to parks and open spaces which may have helped to reduce the incidence of robberies.

The Chairman asked for an update on the Barnet Police Station. Superintendent Rawlinson responded that this would be considered by the management team as part of the Estates Strategy. He would ensure that the Board is informed as soon as a decision has been made.

**Action: Metropolitan Police**

The Chairman enquired about the reduction in sanction and detection rates for domestic abuse in Barnet and whether this could be improved. Superintendent Rawlinson responded that this partly depends on which data were presented and the fact that many reported incidents are non-crime incidents but are still reported to help build up a picture of risk. The police are measured on, and prioritise, arriving promptly at domestic abuse incidents and a positive arrest policy is in place. Domestic abuse remains a focus and there has been no change in its management within the police, so further detail would be needed to ascertain why there had been a reduction.

The Chairman requested a report on 'designing out crime' including success stories in Barnet and the team's work with Barnet Council. Superintendent Rawlinson would request this from the Designing Out Crime Team for the next meeting.

**Action: Metropolitan Police**

**The Board resolved to note the report.**

## **9. FORWARD PLAN/PROPOSED ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING, 22 JANUARY 2021**

Ms Green reported that the Forward Plan is being developed with partners to provide a longer-term view, of up to 18 months, of the key issues and when they would be brought to the Board. This would be subject to change further to engagement with partners and services and any changes would be agreed with the Chairman outside the meeting.

**The Board resolved to note the Forward Plan and items for the next meeting.**

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting finished at 11.03 am