

Safer Communities Partnership Board

23 July 2021

Title	Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project Update
Report for	Councillor Grocock
Meeting	Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board Friday 23 July 2021
Enclosures	Appendix A: Barnet Hate Crime Strategy 2020- 2024
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Outcome required	Safer Communities Partnership Board to note the contents of the report and confirm the approval of the attached proposed Barnet Hate Crime Strategy 2020-2024.
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Summary

This report provides an overview and update of the Barnet Hate Crime Strategy 2020-24 and the actions and outcomes achieved in relation to delivering the strategy to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board. The Board is asked to confirm approval of the Hate Crime Strategy 2020-2024.

1. Why This Report Is Needed

- 1.1 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 seek to address under reporting.

1.2 The Barnet Hate Crime Strategy 2020-2024 has been adopted by the Access to Justice Group (a subgroup of the Safer Communities Partnership Board and the Adults Safeguarding Committee). The report will provide an overview of the strategy which is attached as Appendix A. The Safer Communities Partnership Board are invited to review and comment on the strategy document.

1.3 This report also provides an update on the work being undertaken 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.

2. Update on the Development of Barnet's Hate Crime Strategy 2020-24

2.1 In early 2020, the Barnet Hate Crime Lead developed a Hate Crime Strategy document in consultation with the Barnet Access to Justice Group, the Barnet Community Safety Team and the Barnet Hate Crime Reporting Coordinator.

2.2 The Strategy was reviewed by the Access to Justice Group members and was approved following a partnership consultation in September 2020. It was agreed that the Hate Crime Strategy and Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project would be overseen by the Access to Justice Group and performance will be monitored on a quarterly basis. It was also agreed that the strategy will be presented to the Safer Communities Partnership Board for sign off in July 2021.

2.3 The Hate Crime Strategy has the overriding objective to *"To keep the people of Barnet safe by reducing hate crime in the borough. This will be achieved by increasing 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 while safeguarding the most vulnerable in the community who are impacted"*. There are seven key action areas attached to the strategy listed below:

- Delivering evidence based multi-agency response to Hate Crime through Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board.
- Utilising the Metropolitan Police Hate Crime Dashboard and through engaging the local partnership, to maintain ongoing assessment of risk locally including specific details re: hot spot areas in the borough that may require proactive intervention and additional resource to tackle hate crime.
- Implementing the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project to increase awareness of the impact of hate crime. This action includes delivering training to professionals, community groups and volunteers.
- To expand the cohort of Hate Crime Reporting Centres to include sections of the community that may be vulnerable to hate crime and may lack the confidence to report crimes or seek support due to cultural, language or other issues.
- Through ongoing risk assessment, respond speedily where evidence emerges that a specific section of the community is vulnerable to increased hate crime utilising the local Partnership and Safer Neighbourhood Police colleagues to provide assurance and information to encourage hate crime reporting.
- Ensuring that all agencies in Barnet are mindful of the impact of hate crime upon vulnerable children and adults who may be victims of other forms of abuse and may require a tailored support package.

- Through engagement with community partners including Inclusion Barnet, Barnet Mencap and the Barnet Multi-Faith Forum, to identify and respond to all forms of hate crime that emerge within Barnet.

The Hate Crime Coordinator and Hate Crime Lead will report on progress in relation to delivery and implementation of the strategy through quarterly updates to the Access to Justice Community Group and annual updates will be delivered to the Community Safety Partnership board.

- 2.4 The Hate Crime strategy reflects the fact that hate crime can impact upon vulnerable individuals with additional safeguarding needs such as disabilities and poor mental health. It is therefore appropriate that the Adults Safeguarding Committee maintains oversight of the strategy alongside the Safer Communities Partnership Board.

3. Update on delivery of the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project

National Hate Crime Data and Trends During the Pandemic

- 3.1 In 2019/20 the Metropolitan Police recorded 105,090 hate crime offences across England and Wales. Almost three-quarters of those were racially motivated. Over 76,000 reported hate crimes linked to race and religion. In incidents where the victims' religion was recorded:

- 50% were targeted against Muslim people; and
- 19% were Anti-Semitic.

- 3.2 Hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation increased by 19% to 15,800. Hate crimes linked to transgender identity rose by 16% to 2,500. Disability hate crime rose by 9% to 8,500.

- 3.3 The Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner reported to the London Assembly in October 2020:

“The rise in hate crime is being driven in part by general frustration among the public during the pandemic and also possibly as a result of people with mental health conditions not being able to access support services during the pandemic.”

“Arguments over the use of coverings were leading to people hurling racist abuse. It seems that the vast majority of race crimes that we are seeing now, relate to what might be described as localised neighbourhood disputes, or strangers abusing people in the street... Someone will challenge someone about the use or not of a face mask, and then in the course of that interaction will then use racist language.”

- 3.4 The Home Office report on trends during the pandemic showed that racial hate crime jumped significantly during the Black Lives Matter protests. During the lockdown in March, April and early May 2020 offences dropped, but in June and July the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences increased. Victim Support also reported it had seen “significant spikes” in hate crime victims seeking support in June and July.

- 3.5 The Home Office publishes Hate Crime figures for England and Wales in October each year. Data for 2020/2021 will be reported in October 2021.

- 3.6 During the pandemic, Police and monitoring groups also reported a rise nationally of hate crime towards people that appear of Chinese or South-East Asian origin following the outbreak of COVID-19. From January to March 2020, Police recorded 267 incidents including racially aggravated assaults, harassment, malicious communications and criminal damage. This was three times higher than that period in the previous two years.
- 3.7 Hate Crime monitoring groups including Community Security Trust also reported a reduction in face-to-face assault, but an increase in **Online Hate Crime**. This included for example, hijacking of Zoom calls and other video-conferences, e.g. live streamed Synagogue services.
- 3.8 GALOP (the anti-LGBT hate crime and domestic violence group) reported an increase in online anti-LGBT hate crime; hijacking of drag queen performances and targeting of LGBT+ support organisations.
- 3.9 Agencies reported an increase in hate crime where the victim knows the perpetrator, known as **Interpersonal Hate Crime**, for example “Neighbour Disputes”. CST reported that out of the 86 anti-Semitic incidents reported to them in April 2020, ten (12%) were classed as interpersonal: the victim and offender have some kind of relationship to each other. Nine of these involved neighbours or housemates and the other, a landlord/tenant:

“with people having to spend more time at home and frustrations building at life in lockdown, pre-existing localised tensions are potentially heightened. With fewer external outlets, these can spill into hate speech directed at those close by.”

Hate Crime Data for Barnet

- 3.10 Table 1 below shows the updated number of hate crime offences in Barnet as recorded on the Metropolitan Police Dashboard. The figures for Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia offences are included within the total figure for Race and Religion but have also been documented separately for information.

Table 1.

Category of Hate Crime	2021 May	2021 (Jan-Apr)	2020 Full Year	2019 Full Year	2018 Full Year	2017 Full Year
Race and Religion	137	233	794	824	738	702
- Anti-Semitism	48	44	128	180	193	127
- Islamophobia	4	4	20	35	26	67
Disability	4	8	15	18	14	23
Homophobic	6	25	66	70	35	48
Transgender	0	2	3	6	5	3

- 3.11 The table shows an increase in Racist and Religious hate crime offences in May 2021. In particular there were 48 Anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the borough of Barnet in May 2021 (as compared to 44 from January to April). It is thought that this rise in incidents was in connection with the escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine. The incidents are being investigated by the Police.
- 3.12 The reported incidents include an attack on a Rabbi Rafi Goodwin near his synagogue in North London. Two men have been charged for this offence. Four men have also been arrested and bailed after passengers in a convoy of cars covered with Palestinian flags were reported to use Anti-Semitic offensive language at Jewish people on Sunday 16th May. The convoy started in St. John's Wood and drove through Golder's Green in Barnet, which is the borough with the largest Jewish population.
- 3.13 Nationally, Community Security Trust (CST) reported a 500% increase in Anti-Semitic incidents since the conflicts at the Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem. This has included the spreading online of hateful posts and conspiracy theories about Israelis and Palestinians. CST recorded 116 incidents in the 11-day period from 8th May, compared to 19 incidents in the 11 days before. The total national figure for reported incidents for the month of May is still being processed and verified. Of the 116 reports in early May, 34 were online abuse, 82 were offline and mainly verbal abuse, although four were violent.
- 3.14 Tell Mama, the Anti-Muslim hate crime monitoring group recorded a 430% rise in reports of anti-Muslim hate incidents between 8 and 17 May, compared to 13 in the week of 1 to 7 May.
- 3.15 CST and Tell Mama have released statements in response to the rise in reported incidents. In Barnet, the Barnet Multifaith Forum together with local faith leaders issued a statement supporting a call for peace. Further community engagement initiatives are being arranged (see below).
- 3.16 In March 2021 (prior to the escalation of violence in the Middle East), there were 116 antisemitic incidents reported to CST nationally, an increase from the 105 recorded in February. The gradual rise in reported antisemitism, from 85 incidents in January to 105 in February, and 116 in March, is reflective of a trend that CST has observed since the outset of the pandemic: words and actions of anti-Jewish hate have climbed in correlation with the loosening of lockdown restrictions.
- 3.17 CST reported that this surge was largely due to two spates of graffiti recorded in the capital, one across North and Northwest London and the other in East London. The perpetrator placed far-right posters in Barnet and Haringey that included depictions of the 'Happy Merchant': a heavily stereotyped cartoon of a Jewish man greedily rubbing his hands together. The other incidents involved an offender active in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, spraying various accusations of "Zionist" power on public property. This is a version of the antisemitic conspiracy theory that Jews control the world. CST has been liaising with Police to identify both serial offenders.
- 3.18 A Lunch and Learn Session is to be held in July with members of the Safeguarding Adults Board. The online workshop will focus on the *Impact of Antisemitism and Islamophobia on Adults at Risk* and will include discussion of external events including the recent conflict in the Middle East. The session will be delivered by the Prevent/Hate Crime Lead and the Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator, and a full presentation will be given by Stop Hate UK, a national

organisation working to challenge all forms of Hate Crime and discrimination, based on any aspect of an individual's identity.

3.19 The **Barnet Safer Transport Team** has recorded the following incidents on buses, trains and at stations and bus stops this year:

- January to March 2021 – No incidents; this was possibly due to the national lockdown and colder weather.
- April 2021 – 2 racially aggravated incidents; 1 passenger to passenger verbal abuse on a bus and 1 passenger to bus driver verbal abuse at a bus stop.
- May 2021 – 4 incidents; 1 incident of racially aggravated spitting at driver on a bus; 2 incidents of racist verbal abuse at drivers; and 1 anti-Semitic incident between students on a bus.
- June 2021 – 5 incidents; 1 passenger to bus driver racial abuse at a bus stop; 1 passenger to passenger verbal racial abuse on a bus; 1 passenger to bus driver racial abuse on a bus; 1 racially aggravated spitting at driver on a bus; and 1 anti-Semitic incident between students on a bus.

3.20 The Safer Transport Team is part of the Metropolitan Police, Barnet Road and Transport Command which works in collaboration with the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project. The Safer Transport Team continues to deliver the following initiatives in response to hate crime incidents across the borough:

- Arrange increased patrols on identified bus routes and at bus stations at peak times.
- Independent Travel and Safety Training for Vulnerable Adults: This takes place at a bus station and on a local bus and focuses on training for vulnerable adults on how to travel safely and what to do if an incident takes place, including reporting of disability hate crime and hate crime against vulnerable or elderly adults. Travel Safety Training has been arranged for July/August 2021.
- Hate Crime Awareness and Reporting: This takes place each month under Operation Rachat. Police Community Safety Officers coordinate Hate Crime Reporting Information Stands at identified bus stops and stations across Barnet. The outreach events are aimed at allowing residents to speak to Police Community Support Officers and raise any concerns about hate crime issues in the community. Officers speak to residents, offer hate crime reporting information and register Hate Crime Reporting Champions under the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project. In 2021 the team engaged with 65 residents. This included attendance at Edgware Mosque in June 2021 where Police Community Support Officers engaged with 35 members, offering information on the support available to report racist and religious hate crime.

4. Update on delivery of Hate Crime Reporting Training Workshops for Staff

4..1 From January to May 2021 Staff Training workshops continued to take place online via Microsoft Teams due to Covid 19 restrictions. The Hate Crime Reporting Co-ordinator has delivered the following staff training workshops:

- Barnet Carers Centre
- Barnet Council MASH Team
- Barnet Council Planning Team
- The Barnet Group - Outreach Barnet and Sheltered Housing
- Middlesex Association for the Blind
- Good Neighbours Scheme
- Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau
- Middlesex University Media Department Faculty and Film Students

4.2 The figures for previous years can be seen in the attached Schedule.

4.3 Training frontline staff and volunteers within the borough has been identified as a key outcome of this project. Staff including carers and key workers can support vulnerable adults to speak-out, report hate crime and access appropriate support. Feedback and data has shown that workshop attendees feel more confident in identifying and reporting hate crime following workshops. Reporting Centres have also recorded more incidents following staff training and refresher workshops.

4.4 The Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project will offer staff training to the following organisations in 2021:

- Solace
- Age UK
- MIND in Barnet
- New Citizens Gateway
- GP Federated Social Prescribers Network
- Barnet Council Teams: Family Services; Community Safety Team and Anti-Fraud Officers and Barnet Homeless Outreach Teams.

5. Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project - Community Engagement and Awareness Raising activity.

5.1 Hate Crime Awareness Week will take place in October 2021 and the project will be arranging a number of community events including Hate Crime Awareness Raising Stands across the borough, as done in previous years. The project will collaborate with its usual partners including Barnet Mencap, Inclusion Barnet, CST, Community Barnet, Middlesex University and the Metropolitan Police. Details of events will be circulated later this year and the project would welcome support from our Councillors and Community Safety representatives.

5.2 In October 2020, Hate Crime Awareness Week events were taken online due to the pandemic. Two Webinars were held for Barnet staff and residents.

5.3 The first Webinar focused on Safeguarding and Hate Crime and asked, "*Are we Recognising and Reporting Hate Crime against the Vulnerable?*" The Webinar included presentations on Safeguarding and Disability Hate Crime and covered issues such as Financial Abuse,

Targeting Homes, Grooming and Online Bullying against Vulnerable Adults. The Webinar was attended by **36 people** via Microsoft Teams.

- 5.4 The second Webinar focused on Online Hate, Harassment and Extremism and asked the question “*Are Hate Groups Still Active during the Pandemic?*”. With guest speakers from Facebook, ISD Global and Exit UK the discussion centred around how to detect online hate and extremism and protect our communities using new reporting technology. The Webinar was attended by **30 people on Zoom, 50 people via livestream** on Facebook and the recording had over 80 views.
- 5.5 During the pandemic, sign-up to the **Hate Crime Reporting Champion Scheme** was moved online so that Barnet residents and visitors could register safely and remotely. This is accessed via a dedicated Hate Crime Awareness Week webpage, which will be kept updated with news and information about workshops and awareness raising events. This online facility will continue, but following the easing of covid restrictions, public community awareness raising events will resume and residents will be encouraged to visit information stands and register in person to become Hate Crime Reporting Champions.
- 5.6 In 2021 **8 people** registered to become Hate Crime Reporting Champions. The figures for previous years can be seen in the attached Schedule.
- 5.7 In response to the increase nationally of **Anti-Chinese Hate Crime**, the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project arranged focused engagement work with Barnet residents. In March 2020, just prior to the first national lockdown a meeting was held at the Barnet Wellbeing Hub in Hendon for members of **Meridian Wellbeing**. This primarily included older members of the Chinese Mental Health Association, some of whom had concerns about Anti-Chinese Hate Crime at the start of the pandemic. Short presentations were given by the Hate Crime Reporting Co-ordinator, the Barnet Council Hate Crime Lead and the Metropolitan Police, Safer Neighbourhood Team. Members were encouraged to report incidents and a route for reporting was established so that elderly and vulnerable residents could have support in reporting Anti-Chinese hate crime to the Police.
- 5.8 In November 2020 the Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator delivered a follow-up awareness raising session via Zoom for members of **Meridian Wellbeing**. This again included older members of the Chinese Mental Health Association. The online session was attended by **34 people** and highlighted the importance of reporting all race hate crime to the Police, whether current or earlier in the year. The Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator reminded members that there was a line of communication between a representative of Meridian Wellbeing and the Barnet Council Community Safety Team so that members could report hate incidents via this route if they could not or did not want to speak with the Police in the first instance.

6. Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime – Hate Crime Reporting Centres

- 6.1 In 2020, four new organisations joined the network of Hate Crime Reporting Centres in Barnet. These are: Middlesex University; Barnet Hill Academy; Barnet Multifaith Forum; and Trinity Church/Christians Against Poverty. These organisations were selected based on the work that has been done in collaboration with them over the past two years. Each new centre will receive information resources (leaflets, posters and contact cards) to display at their sites

and information to put online on their websites. Staff will also be invited to attend a training workshop run by the Hate Crime Reporting Co-ordinator.

- 6.2 All existing Hate Crime Reporting Centres continue to operate effectively and continue to represent a diverse cross-section of the community.

7 Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime – Current Initiatives

Hate Crime and Restorative Justice

- 7.1 The Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project continues to collaborate with “**Why Me?**” – an organisation which provides **Restorative Justice Services** to victims of crime. Victims of disability hate crime who report incidents through Barnet Mencap are offered restorative justice as a resolution. This is hoped to be particularly helpful in Neighbour Disputes, where the victim of hate crime knows the perpetrator. In 2020 restorative justice was offered to 3 victims, in addition to support with reporting to the Police, but no referrals were made.
- 7.2 In 2021 the Project has continued to offer Restorative Justice to victims and this has been extended to victims referred via Barnet Council Adult Social Care and the Learning Disability Service.
- 7.3 The project is also working with Why Me? and Middlesex University Media and Film Department to produce a short film about disability hate crime and restorative justice as a possible resolution. The short film will be produced by Middlesex University Media and Film students and will feature interviews with some of Barnet Mencap’s clients who have encountered disability hate crime.

Safe Places Scheme

- 7.4 The project is also re-launching the **Safe Places Scheme** across Barnet. This was originally run by Inclusion Barnet, however, is now under the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project as part of the Community Safety focus. The re-launch ties in with the lessening of lockdown restrictions.
- 7.5 During the pandemic residents with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and other conditions were required to shield due to related complex medical health issues. Others, including many with mental health conditions chose to shield through fear and anxiety. This in turn led to increased isolation and loss of confidence at being able to visit public community areas of the borough. It also led to reduced access to health services, including mental health and wellbeing groups, recreational activities, educational/learning opportunities for people with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health conditions.
- 7.6 As Covid restrictions ease people with learning disabilities and autism will be encouraged to reintegrate into the community. The Safe Places Scheme will provide support for those who have been adversely affected by the lockdowns. Vulnerable adults can be encouraged to access health, wellbeing and recreational public sites and centres with the knowledge that there are designated Safe Places in the Community where they can seek assistance if they are feeling lost, confused, disorientated or anxious.

- 7.7 The project has identified that many of the original places are now not the most convenient locations, for example many Libraries need a membership card and there is not always a staff member present and Bus Stations do not always have TFL staff present.
- 7.8 The Hate Crime Reporting Coordinator is carrying out a review of new and more suitable locations for Safe Places across the borough. An Easy-Read Questionnaire has been designed and is being circulated to Learning Disability Providers and Mental Health Services including Inclusion Barnet, MIND, Larches, Dimensions, Community Focus, Hft and Barnet Mencap clients. A focus group will also be held with Barnet Mencap clients to identify cafes, community centres and other locations where clients visit and where they feel they would be comfortable in asking for help if they were lost, fearful or anxious whilst out in the community. Once suitable sites, venues and organisations have been identified and agreed, staff will be trained in Learning Disability Awareness and Hate Crime Reporting.
- 7.9 The Safe Places Scheme will be re-launched over the summer and promoted via community engagement, social media and by partner organisations. Sites will be regularly monitored by the Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator under the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project and updates will be provided in further reports.

8 National Developments in Relation to Hate Crime

Anti-LGBT+ Hate Crime in 2020

8.1 GALOP (the LGBT+ anti-violence organisation) has produced two reports on LGBT+ Hate Crime during 2020. The first document reports that LGBT+ people continue to face high levels of online abuse. From a survey drawn of 700 LGBT+ people in the UK, the results showed that:

- 8 in 10 LGBT+ people had experienced online abuse.
- Among those targeted, 5 in 10 had experienced online hate more than 20 times. 1 in 5 had experienced more than 100 incidents.
- in 10 were threatened with physical violence and 4 in 10 received death threats or threats of sexual violence.
- As a result, 4 in 10 people used their online accounts less, while 2 in 10 removed LGBT+ information from their profiles or left social media sites altogether.
- Less than half reported their experiences to social media platforms, and less than 1 in 10 reported to the police.

8.2 The GALOP Report set out recommendations including:

- Increased guidance on where and how victims can report online hate content.
- A review of existing legislation and its effectiveness in combatting online hate crime.
- Increase in specialist support services for people impacted by online anti-LGBT+ abuse.
- A faster and improved police response to investigating online anti-LGBT+ hate speech/crime.
- A proactive response from social media companies to combat online anti-LGBT+ hate speech/ crime.
- Regulation that values free speech while ensuring the removal of unacceptable hate speech.

8.3 The second report focuses on **Transphobic Hate Crime** and reports that in the UK. Key findings are listed below:

- 4 in 5 respondents had experienced a form of transphobic hate crime.
- 1 in 4 had experienced transphobic physical assault or threat of assault.
- Nearly 1 in 5 had experienced transphobic sexual assault or threat of sexual assault.
- in 10 said that their daily routine was affected by transphobia causing them to have fear of leaving the house.
- Only 1 in 7 respondents reported their experience to the Police, with 7 out of 10 feeling that the Police could not help them.

8.4 The Report goes on to state that: *“LGBT+ hate crime is disproportionately on the rise in the UK; Recorded transphobic hate crime has doubled in the last three years – and we know from this report that only 1 in 7 trans people are reporting their experiences. This is reflected in the escalating scale, severity and complexity of hate crime cases we are supporting at Galop. Whilst the need for support and practical assistance to people facing transphobia is clear, accessible service provision for trans people facing hate crime is patchy or non-existent in most areas. Faced with this huge level of unmet need, we need leadership within communities, councils, government and police to recognise transphobia, challenge it, and provide specialist services for those targeted, in order that trans people can lead safe, happy and fulfilled lives that are free from abuse and violence.”*

8.5 The Report sets out Recommendations including:

- Greater funding to develop specialist support and assistance for people recovering from transphobic violence and abuse. This includes community-based trans social and support services.
- Action to improve police response to reports of transphobic hate crime and increase confidence in the police within trans communities.
- Reduce the waiting time for trans people in need of health care and more training to NHS staff so they can provide appropriate care to trans people.
- Take action to challenge and reduce transphobic prejudice within the mainstream press and on social media.

The Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project will review the concerns set out in both reports and work towards reviewing and if necessary, addressing these concerns in Barnet. As the pandemic restrictions lessen, community engagement work will be planned and delivered where appropriate.

9 Law Commission Review

9.1 In December 2020 the Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator attended the Law Commission’s Q&A on Reforming Hate Crime Laws. The presentation included A brief overview of the way that hate crime laws currently operate in England and Wales, and a series of live presentations, relating to:

- The Law Commissions provisional proposal to extend the aggravated offences to cover all existing hate crime characteristics.

- The Law Commission's provisional proposal to add 'sex or gender' to the characteristics protected by hate crime laws.
- The question of whether the characteristic of 'age' should be protected by hate crime laws.
- The question(s) as to whether any of the following groups/characteristics should be protected by hate crime laws: sex workers, people experiencing homelessness, alternative subcultures, philosophical beliefs.
- The Law Commissions provisional proposals to reform the stirring up offences.

9.2 In February 2021, following the killing of Sarah Everard, discussions around making misogyny (prejudice against women) a hate crime were at the forefront of hate crime review. The Government also proposed that every police force could be instructed to record cases of harassment and stalking as hate crimes where it is believed to be motivated by sex.

9.3 The Hate Crime Review Project is now its Policy Development phase. The Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator will continue to monitor the Review and related events and will feedback any relevant developments for the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project and Barnet's Hate Crime Reporting Centres.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 This report is seeking the Safer Communities Partnership Board to confirm approval of the Barnet Hate Crime Strategy 2020-24 and to note the progress made in relation to the delivery of the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project.

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

11.1 None.

12. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

12.1 The Hate Crime Coordinator and Hate Crime Lead for Barnet will continue to provide regular updates on delivery of the strategy to the Access to Justice Group.

12.2 Annual updates on performance will be provided to the Adults Safeguarding Committee and Safer Communities Partnership Board.

12.3 Any immediate concerns regarding hate crime or community tensions will be escalated to the Community Safety Manager and Director of Assurance.

13. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

13.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

13.1.1 **The Council's corporate plan 2019-2024 highlights the following strategic objectives:**

One of the main outcomes within the corporate strategy is for Barnet to host safe and strong communities where people get along well together. This includes a commitment to ‘keep Barnet safe’ and ‘Celebrating our diverse and strong communities and taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime’

The effective implementation of the Barnet Prevent Strategy and the Zero-Tolerance to Hate Crime Project are essential in achieving these outcomes.

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

13.2.1 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 2021/22, 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.

13.2.2 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.

13.3 Social Value

13.3.1 Not relevant in this report.

13.4 Legal and Constitutional References

13.4.1 Section 6 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.

13.4.2 The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership 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.

13.4.3 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.

- 13.4.4 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.

13.5 Risk Management

- 13.5.1 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.

13.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 13.6.1 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:

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

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

The London Borough of Barnet Prevent Strategy 2017-2020 and the services delivered as part of this strategy take into account the protected characteristics to ensure services are accessible and fair to all sections of the community.

13.7 Corporate Parenting

- 13.7.1 The Zero-Tolerance to Hate Crime Project includes the offer of hate crime awareness raising sessions to be offered to Children's Social Care staff including those in roles related to

corporate parenting.

13.8 Consultation and Engagement

13.8.1 Consultation was undertaken with the stakeholder groups as follows:

- Local partners were engaged in the development of the Barnet Hate Crime Strategy via the Access to Justice Group which is a subgroup of the Safer Communities Partnership Board and Adults Safeguarding Committee.
- Partners have been engaged through quarterly updates in relation to the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project.
- The wider crime reduction partnership has received annual updates in relation to the Zero-Tolerance to Hate Crime Project.

13.9 Insight

13.9.1 Not relevant in this report.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1.1 None

Appendices attached to this Report:

Appendix A - Barnet Hate Crime Strategy 2020-2024

Appendices attached to this Report:

Appendix A - Barnet Hate Crime Strategy