

Barnet Hate Crime Strategy

2020-2024

London Borough of Barnet

Celebrating our diverse and strong communities and taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime.

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this strategy is to reduce hate crime in the borough, 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 – in line with the Barnet 2024 corporate objective of celebrating our diverse and strong communities and taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime.

The Safer Communities Partnership will continue working together with partners and the community to tackle Hate Crime and address underreporting. The Partnership Board will maintain oversight of the delivery of the strategy.

2. Hate Crime in Barnet

The population in Barnet as of mid-2018 is 392000. 44.5% of the population identify as White British. This highlights the diversity of the population of Barnet.

Using data from the Met Police Hate Crime Dashboard, the Barnet Community Safety Team Data Analyst completed a comparison of hate crime in relation to local borough population across all 32 London Boroughs. The following information about hate crime within the 2019 calendar year is evident:

- Barnet has the eleventh highest level of racist and religious hate crime in London. 822 offences recorded in 2019.
- Barnet has the highest level of anti-Semitic hate crime in London and the UK (2019).
- The levels of both homophobic and Islamophobic hate crime increased in Barnet between 2018 and 2019.

This information indicated that hate crime features significantly in the borough. The Community Safety Team is aware that hate crime is often under-reported and that a strategy is required to protect residents from perpetrators of hate crime, to raise awareness of hate crime reporting mechanisms in order to encourage hate crime reporting across all communities and to safeguard vulnerable children and adults from the impact of hate crime.

3. Barnet's Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project

In 2016/17 the Safer Communities Partnership Board and Safeguarding Adults Board launched a joint initiative 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.

To build on this work, the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership secured funding from the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund for 2020-2021. This resource is being used to fund the Hate Crime Awareness coordinator post, based within, Barnet MENCAP. 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.

Project Aims

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 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) affecting their communities and are enabled to work with us to protect the most vulnerable in their communities.
- To support victims of 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.
- To increasing awareness of hate crime and increasing reporting to the Police by delivering staff training on identifying and reporting hate crime and organising community events and specialist workshops.

4. Barnet Council – Hate Crime Strategy Objective

Barnet Council's over-riding objective in implementing the Hate Crime Strategy is:

'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.'

This will be achieved through implementation of the following priority actions:

Action 1 - Partnerships

Delivering evidence based multi-agency response to Hate Crime through Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board. Operational delivery will be monitored quarterly via the Adult Safeguarding 'Access to Justice' subgroup of the Safeguarding Adults Board, ensuring partners fully own and play a part in reducing hate crime locally, increasing reporting of hate crime and ensuring a robust response to protect victims. (Governance structure is provided in Appendix 2)

Action 2 - Risk Assessment

Utilising the Met 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.

Action 3 – Raise Awareness and train frontline staff and volunteers to recognise and respond to hate crime.

Implementing the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project to increase awareness of the impact of hate crime. This includes

- a) Awareness raising sessions for community groups and volunteers and
- b) Training for frontline professionals

This will increase knowledge around hate crime reporting mechanisms and the support available for victims in the borough who may require support in reporting crimes.

Action 4 – Utilising and Increasing Hate Crime Reporting Centres

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.

Action 5 – Providing additional support to emerging vulnerable communities

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.

Action 6 – Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults from the impact of hate crime.

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. Agencies will utilise safeguarding and hate crime reporting mechanisms to provide effective support for children and adults at risk.

Action 7 – Engage with the local community to monitor risk

Through engagement with the Communities Together Network and other partners including Inclusion Barnet and the Barnet Multi-Faith Forum, we will identify and respond to all forms of hate crime that emerge within Barnet.

Appendix 1

Useful Contacts

Reporting Hate Crime

If you have been a victim of hate crime please report to the Metropolitan Police via Tel: 101 or

Online: <https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

If you are concerned that someone presents an immediate threat, contact the Police on 999.

True Vision Online Reporting:

<https://www.met.police.uk/true-vision-report-hate-crime/>

Barnet Hate Crime Reporting Centres:

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/directories/hate-crime-reporting-centres>

Safeguarding concerns

If you have concerns that a young person is vulnerable as a result of hate crime, please contact the Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in order to make a referral.

Telephone - 0208 359 4066
Email: mash@barnet.gov.uk

If you have any concerns in relation to an adult who you believe may be vulnerable to due to the impact of hate crime please contact the Adults Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub:-

Tel: 020 8359 5000 (9am- 5pm, Mon to Fri), or 020 8359 2000
Email: socialcaredirect@barnet.gov.uk

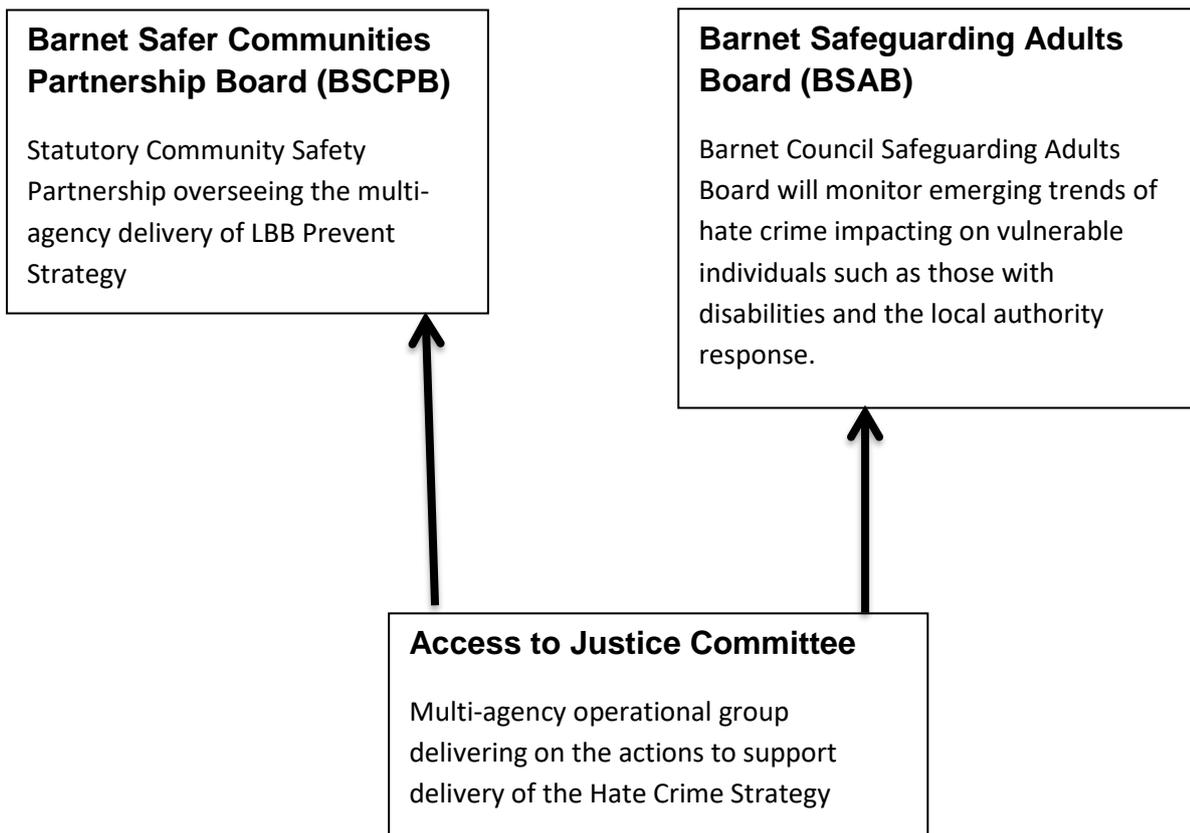
Finding out more about the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project

If you would like advice, support or further information in relation to hate crime or reporting, please contact the Barnet Hate Crime Reporting Coordinator on:

Tel: **020 8349 3842**

Or email: Reshma.Hirani@BarnetMencap.org.uk

Appendix 2 – Governance Reporting Structure for Barnet’s Hate Crime Strategy



In order to ensure clear governance across safeguarding and other statutory and non-statutory partnership boards, the following partnership boards are updated annually:

- Barnet Safer Community Partnership Board
- Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board
- Barnet Council Management Team (Assurance)
- Members will be updated annually through the Barnet Community Leadership and Libraries Committee.