

Appendix 1

Community Safety

Annual Report:

1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

1. Executive Summary

This annual report is the first of its kind following the governance review undertaken of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (BSCPb) and Community Safety Team in May 2021.

This report recognises the change of Chair to Councillor Jennifer Grocock and acknowledges the work of the BSCPb in the prior reporting period of April 2019 – March 2021.

As part of this review several areas of the Community Safety Team's operational and governance were transferred into the Family Services Directorate namely the Domestic Abuse-Violence against Women and Girls; the Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation and Reducing Offending workstreams.

As part of the governance review it was agreed that routine reporting and scrutiny in relation to Environmental Crime waste enforcement should be through the Environment Committee and that the annual update for performance overall within the Community Safety functions would be as part of the overview and scrutiny function of the Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee.

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 Community Safety. Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 sets out that 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.

2. The purpose of this report:

The purpose of this annual report is to provide a summary on the outcomes of all Community Safety work undertaken during the period of 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 and represents a picture of the work undertaken, including the Community Safety Team's progress and outcomes set against the objectives as set out in our annual strategy and work plan.

Going forward this report will be produced and presented annually to the Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee.

3. Impact of the COVID19 Pandemic:

As with many other services the impact of the Covid19 pandemic resulted in the Community Safety workstreams transforming their working arrangement to online meetings for all the workstream themes and the use of the Community Safety Team's web based case management system, ECINS, to sustain the case management and partnership working arrangements and MS Teams as the conferencing software.

During the lockdowns; and exit from those lockdowns; the Investigation and Enforcement officers in the Community Safety Team were redeployed onto Covid19 duties in addition to their core duties.

The last 18 months has been subject to the working conditions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw Community Safety officers continue to provide a service during the lockdowns and in addition take on extra roles to support the council implement central government guidelines and legislation around Covid-19.

4. Barnet Community Safety Partnership's priority outcomes:

The Barnet Community Safety Strategy sets out how Barnet Safer Communities Partnership will work together to reduce crime, the fear of crime and help ensure Barnet remains one of London's safest boroughs.

The strategy focuses on working in partnership with our local community, businesses and partners; supporting victims of crime, managing offenders to reduce their reoffending and directing partnership resources to tackle high demand and high impact areas.

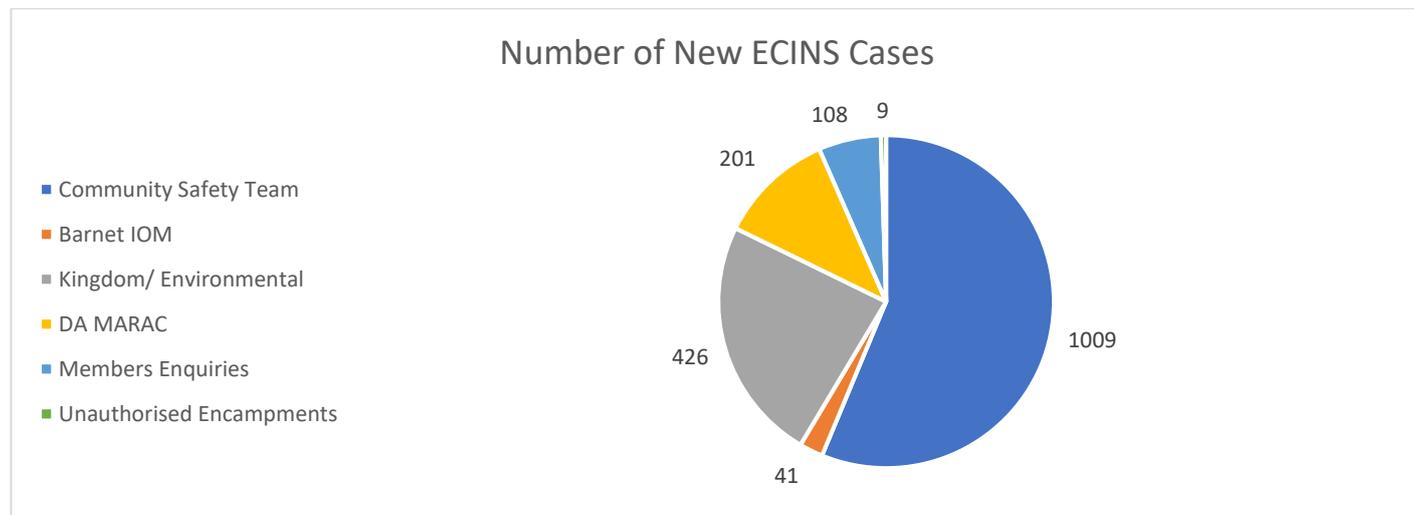
In the reporting period for this report, and throughout the Covid19 pandemic, the Community Safety Team and the partnership have maintained their delivery of services towards the priority outcomes of the strategy namely:

1. Residents and businesses feel confident that the police and council respond to crime and ASB in their area.
2. Residents and businesses are engaged and informed about community safety and the action we have taken in their area.
3. Victims of Domestic Violence and Hate Crime are confident in reporting incidents and the Partnership intervenes to prevent repeat victimisation.
4. The Partnership will work to reduce Serious Youth Violence with a focus on young people as victims and offenders.
5. Sustained reductions in re-offending.
6. Sustained reductions in Burglary and other high-volume crime types, such as: Violence with Injury, Robbery, Theft of Motor Vehicle, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft from Person, Criminal Damage
7. Effective and wide-ranging partnerships are in place between the local authority, statutory and non-statutory partners, community groups and faith institutions, to help mitigate risks from terrorism and extremism and to support the boroughs diverse communities.

5. Community Safety Team case volumes for 2020/2021

The ECINS secure web based case management system is used by the Community Safety Team for all the Community Safety Team's case management functions in Barnet. The ECINS system is also used in Barnet by the partnership officers such as our police and housing linked practitioners enabling a fully integrated partnership case management IT platform.

The team received and logged 1794 cases in the period April 2020 – March 2021 and these cases cover the team’s multiple multi agency workstreams such as the Community Safety Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CS MARAC); Unauthorised Encampments; Members Enquiries for the Community Safety Team; Environmental Crime Investigations (Fly tipping); Integrated Offender Management & the Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DA MARAC).



6. Anti-social behaviour

The term Anti-social behaviour can cover a wide range of unacceptable behaviours or activities that have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of residents, visitors and businesses in an area. These acts in themselves although may be considered as low-level nuisance can vary to being serious and classified as a high risk of harm depending upon the nature of the conduct and the impact upon the victims and/or witnesses.

The Community Safety Team utilises a multi-agency problem solving approach to managing complex or entrenched anti-social behaviour cases. Most of these cases are identified by either a key partner, such as the Barnet Homes, by elected member referrals to the team or in the most part by complaint by a witness or victim to the police and/or Council.

The Community Safety MARAC (CS MARAC) panel delivers our coordinated multi-agency response for victims of repeat and/or high risk anti-social behaviour. The panel convenes every 6 weeks and routinely has 5-10 referrals per meeting and an average of approx. 20 cases per meeting, implementing a bespoke partnership action plan for each case.

Between January 2020 to December 2020¹, there was a total of **16,696** ASB calls made to Barnet police. This was a rise of **74%** compared to the previous year, which is in line with the London average which saw an increase of **76%** during the same period. Many of the calls were related to Covid-19 breaches and a similar trend was seen across London.

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 coordinated multi-agency response for victims of repeat and high risk ASB.

¹ Barnet Strategic Crime Needs Assessment (SCNA) 2020 reporting period – Metropolitan Police confirmed data.

New Referrals received



20 Cases on average per month are processed during each at the CS MARAC

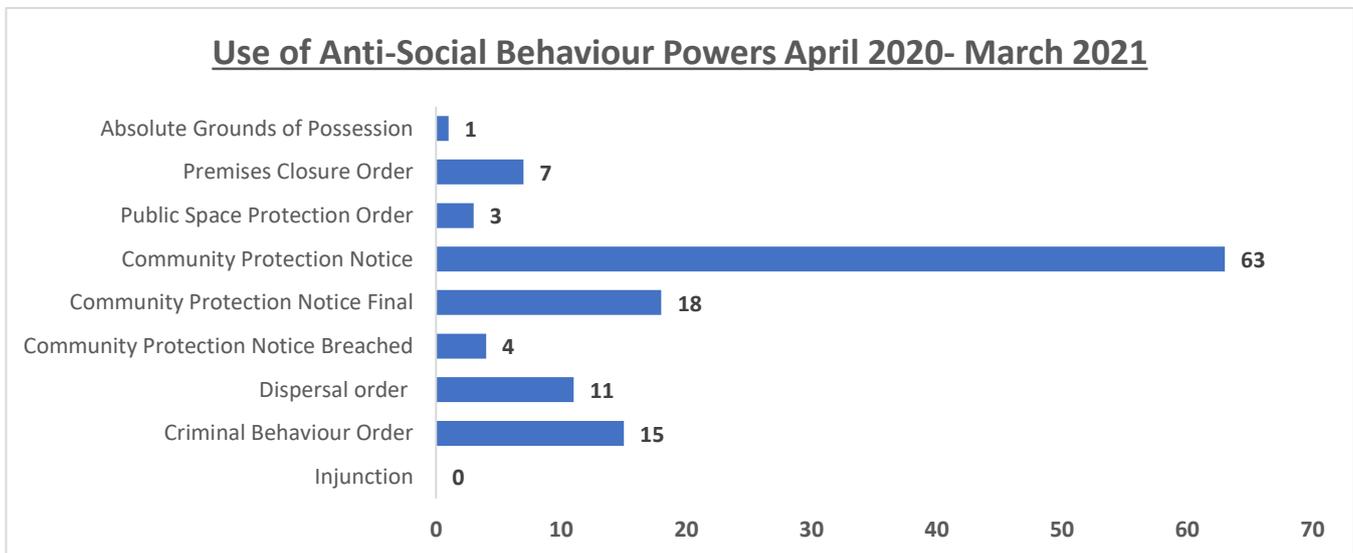
5-10 new referrals are received into the CS MARAC per month

Community Safety ASB Enforcement activity

The data below shows the use of the anti-social behaviour tools and powers during the period April 2020 – March 2021. An explanation of the anti-social behaviour tools and powers at Appendix 3 of the CLLC covering report. It is worthy to note that most of the exercising of the powers in the act are shared between the police and the Council (Police only powers is the Dispersal power; and Housing are the sole applicant for absolute grounds for possession power).

The table below shows that during the reporting period there was a high use of the early intervention Community Protection Notice Written Warning power. The use of this particular tool in this period was mainly linked to neighbour disputes and the associated ASB, the clearing of waste from private land and managing the behaviours of the occupants of unauthorised encampments in the borough and unlicensed events.

Breach rates for these written warnings during the period was relatively low and in some cases contributed to the case management progression in applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders or Closure Orders.



Noteworthy ASB Case – Barnet Council’s first premises closure order

This case involved a persistent long-term problem household and had been reported on multiple occasions to the police and council for anti-social behaviour. The issues were exacerbated in that the property was a private letting and the managing agents of the property were unwilling to affect any meaningful interventions to protect the neighbours from the persistent ASB at the address.

The case was referred to the Community Safety Team for investigation and after conducting an initial investigation it was established that there were a range of issues including noise nuisance, drug-taking, handling of stolen goods, intimidation and aggression by the occupants towards other residents and their children.

After securing evidence by way of impact witness statements from the affected residents the Community Safety Team issued Community Protection Notices written warnings upon the perpetrators. When these were reported as being breached statement were again taken and full Community Protection Notices were served on the household and their guests identified as being involved in the ASB.

These Community Protection Notices were breached so the Council applied to the courts for a premises closure order. During the closure order the landlord received no payment for rent and this resulted in the tenant surrendering their tenancy.

One person involved has subsequently been subject to a custodial sentence and a 5-year Criminal Behaviour Order has been imposed upon them.

This was the first time the Council (rather than the police) had exercised this ASB power on a residential property and moreover upon a privately owned residential premises.

7. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour - Environmental crime

The tri-borough contractor for environmental waste enforcement is Kingdom Services Group (Now Kingdom Local Authority Support) commenced in February 2019. Barnet, Ealing and Harrow are the tri-borough partners in this contract and Ealing is the contract lead authority.

In Barnet this contract was suspended for environment crime on 23rd March 2020 due to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on the authority of the Director of Assurance. Duty of Care audits continued an as and when needed only basis - commonly referred to as Section 34 Environmental Protection Act 1990 audits. However, the contractor was retained to assist with new responsibilities placed upon Local Authority in relation to the monitoring and enforcement of the Covid regulations. In Barnet this contract was reinitiated on the 5th July 2021 on the authority of the Director of Assurance. The contract has resumed on the pre-existing terms and conditions for Barnet's FPN sums.

18 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued over the reporting period. These FPNs were issued for commercial duty of care offences of failing to provide the legally required waste transfer records.

No FPNs were issued for fly tipping offences in the reporting period². Instead the evidence was collated and since the final stages of unlock in July 2021 applied the Community Safety Team have commenced the interview under caution process for the alleged offenders.

8. Cctv

A report has been submitted to the Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee on the 6th October 2021 setting out the strategic review of Barnet's Community Safety Cctv requirements and the procurement for new Cctv contracts for the Community Safety Team and the Libraries Service.

At the present time Barnet has 127 fixed and 33 mobile Cctv units deployed across the borough to assist in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. This figure does not include the 20 Police ANPR cameras in the borough.

The current Community Safety CCTV technology is approaching end-of-life (over 7 years old) and requires replacement through this procurement process.

² There were 98 fly tipping offences reported to the Community Safety Team during the Covid19 lockdowns.

The current contract with OCS Group UK Ltd has expired and been extended beyond the approved extension period. A new procurement is therefore required to ensure that the Council has a robust CCTV system that meets current and future requirements and is compliant with the Contract Procedure Rules.

Therefore, a strategic review of Barnet's Community Safety Cctv requirements needs to be undertaken to inform the procurement process; a decision to extend the current Cctv monitoring & maintenance service contract beyond 31st May 2022 to align with the start of the new contract awarded and a decision to build the new Cctv control room in the Colindale Office on Bristol Avenue.

9. Domestic Violence and VAWG

(This workstream transferred into the Families Service Directorate in May 2021)

Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime that is not reported to the police. Therefore, data held by the police can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of domestic abuse experienced. Many cases will not enter the criminal justice process as they are not reported to the police. Barnet's Domestic Abuse MARAC is a multi-agency panel that work together to respond to VAWG with the aim of preventing it and reducing the harm it causes to victims, their families, and the wider community.

The impact of Covid-19 saw a rise in the volume of Domestic Abuse (DA) reports. Tackling domestic abuse presents demands on other services, e.g. children's and adult's social services, housing and homelessness services for example.

In response to this increase in DA reporting we implemented a four-fold increase in the frequency of our Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Panel Meetings. These were hosted via MS Teams and the ECINS case management platform. Because of this revised approach there is now a faster turnaround between referral of complex domestic abuse cases and multi-agency risk review and actions at the MARAC.

There were **3,008** domestic abuse cases reported to Barnet police in the 12 months to March 2021.

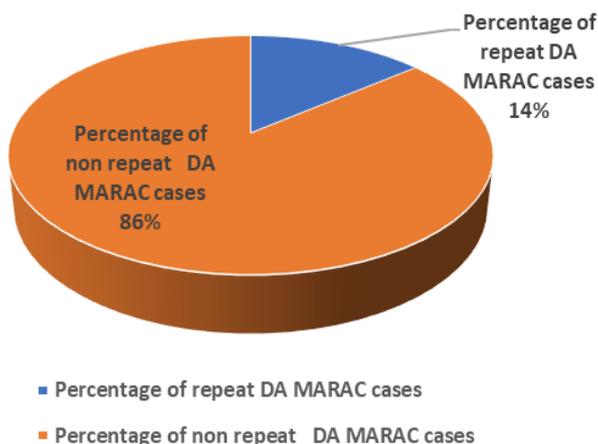
Sanction detection rates for domestic abuse was **12%**

Referrals in the DA MARAC received



477 referrals were made to the DA MARAC over the 12 months up to March 2021

Proportion of repeat/non repeat DA MARAC cases

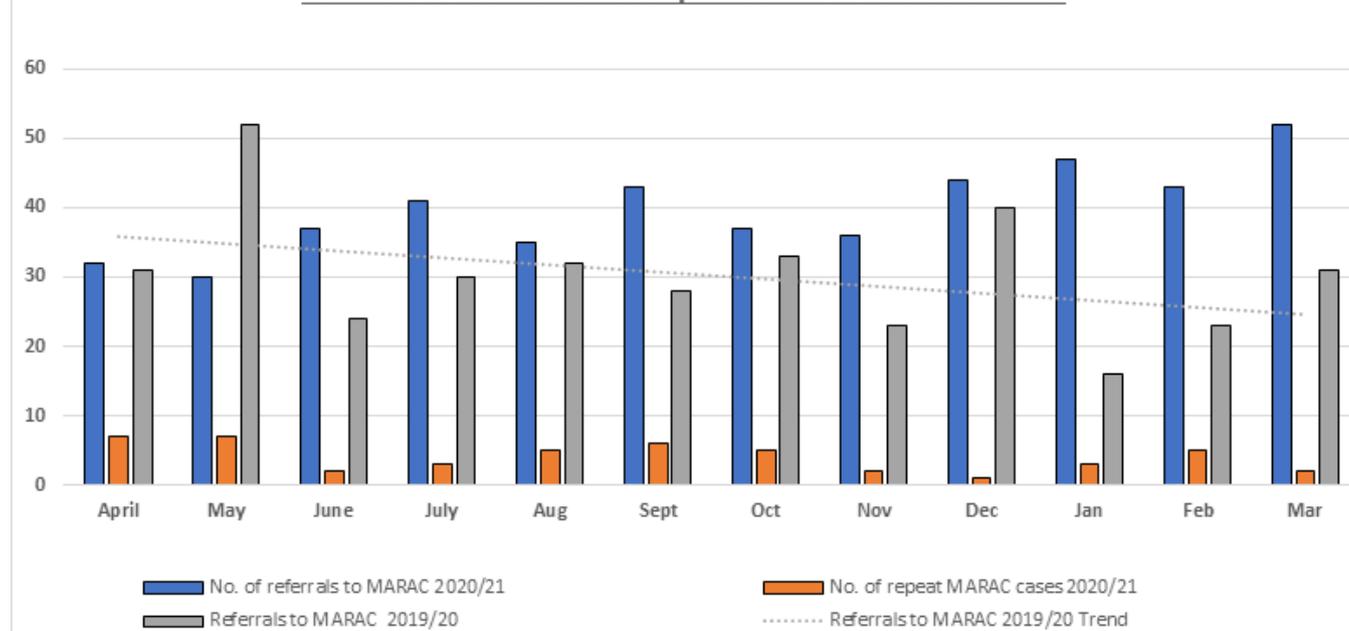


Repeat Victims

The overall percentage of repeat victims at the DA MARAC over the 12 months: **14%**

During December 2020 there was an increase in repeat referrals to the DA MARAC. As a result, and throughout the COVID19 lockdown period, the DA MARAC was held weekly virtual (instead of monthly) to facilitate the early detection and our response to these cases.

Number of Referrals and Repeat Cases at the DA MARAC



10. Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE)

(This workstream transferred into the Families Service Directorate in May 2021)

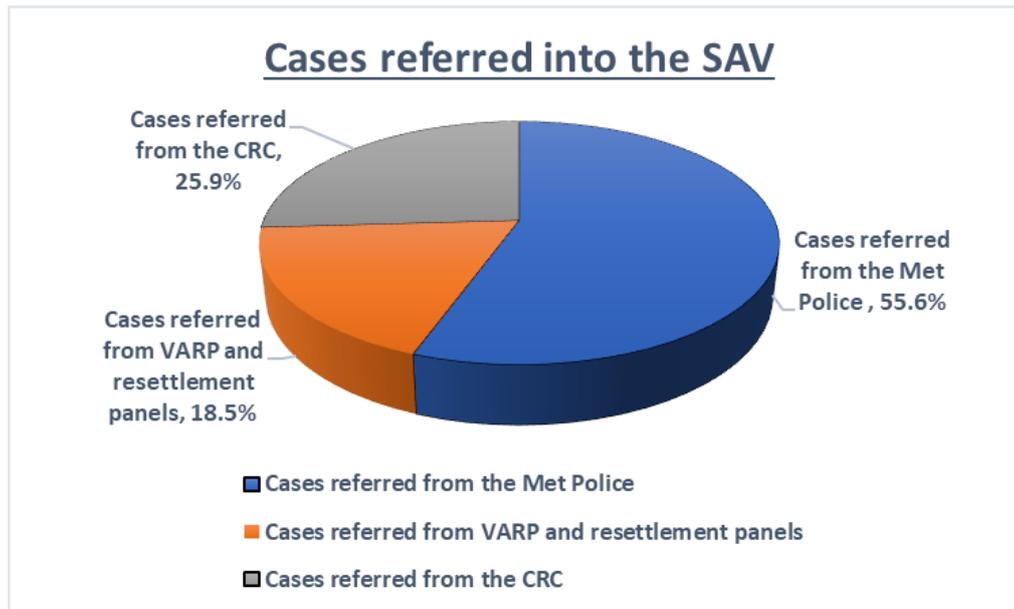
The Serious Adult Violence panel (SAV) was formed in Feb 2020 and provides a forum for a multi-agency response for managing those on the Serious Violence cohort consisting of transition cases and adults 18yrs and older. This panel has an overview of adults who have been convicted of serious violence offences but also those who are on the periphery and or at risk of committing serious violence. Outcome suggestions by the panel are long to medium term diversionary routes rather than reactive responses.

New Referrals received



At the end of March 2021, there were **27** referrals into the SAV Panel.

- **15** cases from have referred in from MPS.
- **5** cases have been referred in from the Vulnerable Adolescent Risk Pane (VARP) and resettlement panels.
- **7** cases have been referred in from the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).



11. Reducing Reoffending

(This workstream transferred into the Families Service Directorate in May 2021)

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) tackles the most prolific reoffenders and those who commit offences deemed to have the most significant impact on the local community. IOM is the strategic umbrella or overarching framework that brings together agencies across central and local government to prioritise interventions with offenders who cause crime in their locality.

It builds on, and incorporates, both the Prolific and other Priority Offender and Drug Interventions Programmes. It provides a structure for identifying agreed priorities across partnerships, including the offenders of most concern in the area. Accordingly, IOM must be built on effective information sharing.

In 2020 IOM reviewed by HMIP/HMICFRS who jointly found that IOM cohort in London needed refreshing, highlighting potential benefits of more collaborative working, using existing resources to reduce offending and make cost savings. The main changes being the addition of OASys Violence Predictor score (OVP) with those of 30%+ to be subjected to a monthly automated referrals from Probation and the use of ECINS to oversee management & to capture performance data.

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.

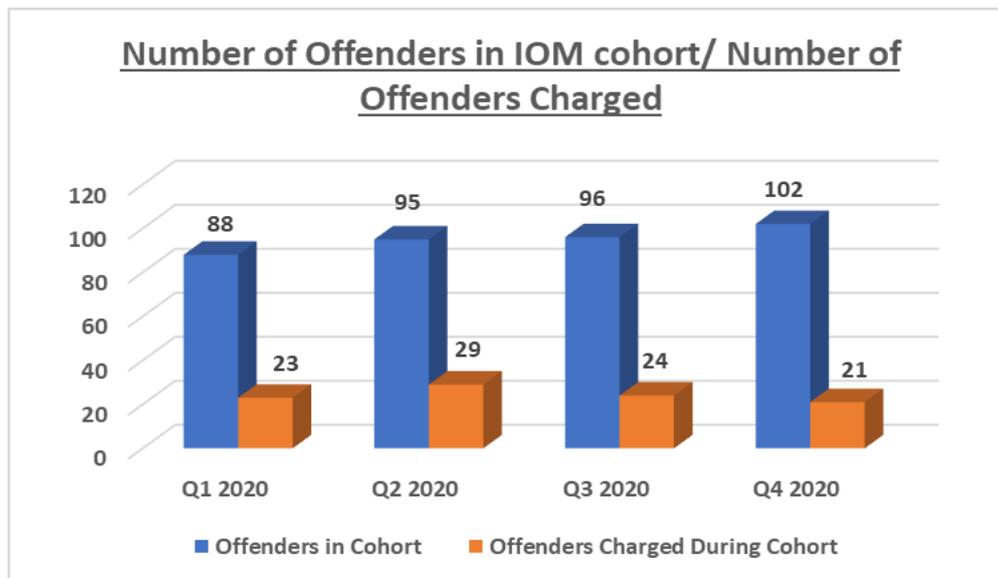
On average at any one time we are working with **100** persistent/violent offenders in Barnet. This has been proven to reduce reoffending by approximately **20-25%** by that engagement and intervention by partners.

New Referrals received



On average, the IOM panel receives **10-15** new referrals each month.

Reoffending rate of the IOM cohort in Barnet is **20-25%**.



12. Sustained reductions in high volume offences – Burglary

(This workstream transferred into the Families Service Directorate in May 2021)

Despite achieving reductions in burglary through 2020 it remains a priority concern for the residents and the borough.

In the last 12 months up to December 2020 Barnet ranked **4th** highest (out of the 32 boroughs) for residential burglary and **18th** out of 32 boroughs for commercial burglary.

In the 12 months up to December 2020 there was:

- A **reduction of 22%** in burglaries reported to the police compared to the previous 12 months.
- A **reduction of 24%** in residential burglary compared to the previous 12 months.
- A **15% reduction** on business and community burglaries compared to the previous 12 months
- The sanction detection rate for burglary offences have increased by **2.9%** over the previous 12 months

The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership continues to work together to reduce burglary considering key hotspots and temporal changes. One of the new initiatives is the formation of a new multi-agency

operational reducing offending group monthly. This group meets monthly and focusses on the most persistent offenders to prevent and deter their offending or catch and bring them to justice.

Safer Streets – Home Office funding



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 near 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 has provided an opportunity to implement measures including fencing and crime prevention and lock improvements for residents in the area.

13. Delivery of the Prevent Strategy

Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST³, the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Home Office works with local authorities and a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver 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.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>
(CONTEST 2018 - Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Overseas)

New Referrals received



During 2020 there were **19** referrals into Channel.

Of these 19 referrals:

100% were male

53% were adults

47% were under 18

83% had a mental health issue

53% were already known to mental health services.

Training to deliver PREVENT

Barnet's Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer deliver a continuous programme of training for frontline staff to enable staff to recognise, refer and respond to risks of radicalisation that emerge.

Since the roll out in 2018, **41** training sessions have been delivered.

Barnet has run three Home Office funded projects:

- **Solutions Not Sides** – delivery focused on Barnet schools and addresses Islamophobic and Anti-Semitic narratives linked to the Israel/Palestine conflict.
- **Small Steps** – four sessions delivered to community groups and statutory professionals raising awareness and upskilling staff and volunteers so they can identify people at risk of grooming and radicalisation by far right-wing extremists. The sessions have been extremely well received.
- **Connect Futures:** Fake News/Conspiracy Theories – two sessions were delivered to Barnet schools highlighting the impact of conspiracy theories promoted online.

14. 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.

Report ends