

Report for Safer Communities Partnership Board

Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project

January 2022

Update on Barnet's Hate Crime Strategy 2020-24

1. In early 2020, the Barnet Hate Crime Lead developed a Hate Crime Strategy document in consultation with the Barnet Access to Justice Group (a subgroup of the Adult Safeguarding Board), the Safer Communities Partnership Board, the Barnet Community Safety Manager and the Barnet Hate Crime Reporting Coordinator.
2. The Strategy was reviewed by the Access to Justice Group members and was approved following 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. The strategy was presented to the Safer Communities Partnership Board and was approved and adopted in July 2021.
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”*.
4. 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.
5. The Hate Crime Reporting 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 Group and annual updates will be delivered to the Safer Communities Partnership Board.
 6. 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.

The Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project

7. The **Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project** is led by Barnet Mencap's Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator and supported by Barnet Council, the Metropolitan Police and other local voluntary and community organisations.
8. The key objectives of the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project are to implement parts of the Council's Hate Crime Strategy and focus on:
 - Increasing reporting of: Disability Hate Crime; Racist and Religious Hate Crime; and Anti LGBT Hate Crime.
 - Providing ongoing support victims of hate crime.
 - Increasing community confidence in reporting hate crime to the Police.
 - Improving cross-agency working to tackle hate.
 - Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children from the impact of hate crime.
9. The Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator will deliver Quarterly Reports on the progress of these key objectives together with the data on national and local hate crime.

National Hate Crime Figures

10. In October 2021 the Home Office published its data for hate crime in England and Wales from October 2020 to October 2021. Some of the key data was as follows.
11. In the year ending March 2021 there were **124,091** hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales; of which there were:
 - 92,052 race hate crimes;
 - 6,377 religious hate crimes;
 - 18,596 sexual orientation hate crimes;
 - 9,943 disability hate crimes; and
 - 2,799 transgender hate crimes.
12. In 2020/21 there was an overall **9% increase in hate crime** from the previous year. In the year ending March 2020 there were 105,362 offences recorded by the Police in England and Wales.
13. The Home Office Report states that the increase in police recorded hate crime in recent years has been driven by improvements in crime recording and a better identification of what constitutes a hate crime.
14. The majority of hate crimes were racially motivated, accounting for around three-quarters of such offences (74%; 85,268 offences). **Racially motivated hate crimes increased by 12%** between year ending March 2020 and year ending March 2021.
15. Religious hate crimes fell by 18%, down from 6,856 in the previous year; this was the second successive fall in religious hate crimes since a peak of 7,202 offences in year ending March 2019.
16. Sexual orientation hate crimes increased 7% (to 17,135), disability hate crimes increased by 9% and transgender identity hate crimes increased by 3%. These percentage increases were smaller than seen in recent years.
17. Over half (52%) of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences; 40% were for violence against the person offences; and 5% were recorded as criminal damage and arson offences.

Barnet Hate Crime Figures

18. This table shows the hate crime incidents recorded by the Metropolitan Police in **Barnet** in the five years.

Category of Hate Crime	2021 Jan-Nov	2020	2019	2018	2017
Race and Religion	762	794	824	738	702
- Anti-Semitism	142	129	180	193	127
- Anti-Muslim	23	20	35	26	67
Disability	29	15	18	14	23
Homophobic	70	66	70	35	48
Transgender	10	3	6	5	3

Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project - Key Achievements in 2021

19. The Project has met the following objectives:

- Delivered **8 Staff Training Workshops** for **215 staff** at Barnet organisations.
- Delivered **6** Hate Crime Awareness Raising Workshops/Webinars for **105 residents**.
- Signed up **60** Hate Crime Reporting Champions.
- Barnet Mencap recorded **16 hate crime incidents** and supported clients to report these incidents to the Police.

20. Further details of these key objective are set out below.

Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project - Staff Training in 2021

21. The Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator has delivered 8 Staff Training Workshops for 215 staff in 2021. Workshops include information on identifying and reporting hate crime so that frontline staff can support victims to report hate crime to the Police.

22. In 2021 Staff Training Workshops have been delivered to teams at the following Barnet organisations:

- 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
- Citizens Advice Barnet
- North Central London CCG – NHS Staff

Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project - Community Engagement

23. During 2021 the Project has delivered the following community engagement and awareness raising work.

24. The Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator has delivered 6 **Hate Crime Awareness Raising Workshops/Webinars** for 105 residents in 2021. Webinars focused on: Online Hate Crime and Cyber Bullying; Impact of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia on Adults at Risk; Restorative Justice for Victims of Hate Crime; and Staying Safe in the Community (Safe Places Scheme).

25. The Project also continues to promote the **Barnet Hate Crime Reporting Champion Scheme**. In 2021 **60** volunteers signed up to become Hate Crime Reporting Champions, pledging to report hate crime to the Police if they encounter it in the community. Registration to become a Hate Crime Reporting Champion can be accessed online any time via the Barnet Mencap website. Hate Crime Reporting Champions continue to receive the Hate Crime Reporting Bulletins and opportunities to attend workshops.

26. **Hate Crime Awareness Week** took place in October 2021. This year the Project was able to host in-person event again (in 2020 all events took place online due to the pandemic and Covid restrictions).

27. During the course of the week, **Hate Crime Reporting Stands** were set-up in Finchley Central (Albert Place), Edgware Bus Station, Middlesex University and Golders Green Bus Station. Staff and volunteers from Barnet Mencap, Barnet Council and the Metropolitan Police engaged with over **200** residents and signed up **50** Hate Crime Reporting Champions.

28. The Hate Crime Reporting Bulletin was circulated to over 30 local organisations and Barnet residents. Information on Hate Crime Reporting Centres was also included in the Barnet Stay Safe Leaflet.

Hate Crime Reporting Centres

29. Barnet continues to operate a network of third-party Hate Crime Reporting Centres where victims and witnesses of hate crime, in particular our more vulnerable members, can access support to report offences to the Police and be referred or signposted to local community organisations for ongoing support. Barnet's Hate Crime Reporting Centres are selected to represent a diverse cross-section of the community and are in accessible locations across the borough.
30. In October 2021, Middlesex University officially launched as a community Hate Crime Reporting Centre. The University has developed an online reporting platform, **Report.It.To.Stop.It** to facilitate students and visitors to report any incident of discrimination, bullying, harassment, intimidation, violence or any other form of hate.
31. The Project continues to monitor and provide support to all Hate Crime Reporting Centres to ensure partnership in identifying and responding to all forms of hate crime that emerge in Barnet.

Hate Crime and Restorative Justice

32. The Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project has worked with Why-me? a voluntary organisation which offers victims of crime the opportunity to take part in a restorative justice process. Over the course of the partnership, the Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator has offered the opportunity to participate in the restorative justice process to all victims of hate crime who have reported via Barnet Mencap.
33. The partnership with Why-me? also involved a collaboration with Middlesex University to produce four Disability Hate Crime Short Films. The films were produced by Middlesex University Media Students and featured Barnet Mencap Clients. The films were launched by Why me? and Middlesex University in December 2021. They are an excellent learning resource which will be made available for viewing via the Barnet Mencap website and will be shown during future Hate Crime Training Workshops.

Safe Places Scheme

34. In September 2021 the Barnet Safe Places Scheme was relaunched. A Safe Place helps people (particularly those with learning disabilities, autism, or other care needs) if they feel scared, anxious or at risk when they are out in the community. The Safe place could be, for example, a café, a shop or supermarket, a library or a community centre. Trained staff can help vulnerable adults to phone a family member or carer and/or

offer them somewhere safe to wait. Safe Place sites are identified via an official window sticker.

35. The Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator together with Community Support Officers from the Metropolitan Police carried out focus groups with Barnet Mencap clients to identify suitable Safe Place venues across Barnet. Site-visits were then carried out to these venues, where staff/management were offered the opportunity to join the scheme.
36. There has to date, been an overwhelming response from the community with over 20 businesses/venues in Finchley, Edgware and Burnt Oak joining the scheme. The Scheme will be extended to cover all parts of Barnet in early 2022.
37. Details of each of the registered Safe Places will be provided via the Barnet Council and Barnet Mencap websites.

Law Commission Review on Reform of Hate Crime Laws

38. In December 2021 the Law Commission published its Report on its recommendations for reform of hate crime laws. The reforms aim to make hate crime laws fairer and also to protect women for the first time. The recommendations include:
 - a. Levelling up the protection for disability and LGBT+ victims;
 - b. Tackling sex and gender abuse; and
 - c. Protecting freedom of expression.
39. The recommendations are being reviewed by the Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator so that any relevant developments can be implemented locally. These developments will be reported on in the next Quarterly Report.

Report by:

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