

Creating a safer Barnet for all

**HAVE YOUR SAY** on our  
draft Domestic Abuse and Violence Against  
Women and Girls Strategy 2021-24



# Draft Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021 - 2024

## Consultation report

April 2021 – December 2021

**LBB Family Services**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The draft Barnet Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021-24 sets out how the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) works to prevent and respond to Domestic Abuse and all forms of VAWG. Consultation on the draft Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021-2024 was carried out between April 2021 and December 2021.

Between April and October 2021, the first phase of consultation took place across the borough. The feedback from this phase of extensive consultation informed the

development of the draft strategy and action plan. The draft documents then went to full public consultation from October 29th to December 20th, 2021.

This report details the recommendations for the final version of the new strategy and action plan which are based on analysis of the full consultation findings across both phases.

**1.1 Methodology for the consultation**

The consultation consisted of qualitative and quantitative elements. The table below gives an overview to the number of people engaged for each of the different elements of the consultation.

| Consultation method | Element  | Number of responses/ participants |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Qualitative         | Survivors  | 28                                |
|                     | Young people                                       | 11                                |
|                     | Practitioners, partners, staff and Council members | 110                               |
| Quantitative        | Online questionnaire                               | 28                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        |  | <b>177</b>                        |

**1.2 Key findings**

Detailed below is the summary of the key findings across all elements of the consultation.

**1. Title and vision**

- a. Majority of respondents agreed with the title and vision
- b. Strong feeling that we must ensure the VAWG focus is maintained in the title to highlight Women and Girl’s experiences
- c. Good support for the inclusive wording throughout the strategy to ensure all victims and survivors feel included, particularly men and boys
- d. Some comments about including what we will do to tackle perpetrators in the vision
- e. Some people felt the vision is too vague

**2. Everyone’s business**

- a. Across all methods of consultation there was overwhelming comment and support for a borough wide public awareness campaign to include:
  - i. How to spot the signs
  - ii. What to do if you are worried about yourself or someone else
  - iii. Encourage people, particularly men to call out behaviours or attitudes when they see them
  - iv. What constitutes abuse
  - v. Consequences when these crimes are committed

- b. Training for professionals, not just specialist VAWG services, was highlighted as necessary by survivors, young people and partners
- c. Partners were hugely in favour of Barnet workplaces improving their response for staff who are victims and survivors through awareness, training and creating DA/VAWG policies

### **3. Education in schools**

- a. The theme of education as a way of preventing DA and VAWG came up across all consultation groups
- b. Young people told us they prefer workshop style sessions with opportunity for discussion rather than a talk. Ideally, they would like it delivered by outside experts, or even involving young people in delivering sessions, rather than their teachers.
- c. Should be ongoing not one-off sessions, we were told by young people

### **4. Zero tolerance response to perpetrators**

- a. All methods of consultation raised a robust police response as essential
- b. Many people commented on the importance of supporting victims through the process
- c. Increasing confidence in the police response was mentioned in all consultation methods

### **5. Ensure everyone gets the help they need regardless of gender, race, language**

- a. Some respondents felt the strategy document doesn't clearly demonstrate enough that men and boys are included
- b. Recognise and address the additional barriers some people face in reporting and accessing help

### **6. Measuring success**

- a. There was some comment about lack of clarity of the resources that are available to achieve the objectives
- b. There should be more detail about accountability and how the partners will be held to account for the actions
- c. More clarity of what success looks like
- d. The public consultation highlighted it isn't clear who all the partners involved in the partnership are

### **7. Addressing the root cause**

- a. All groups highlighted the need to get men and boys involved in the campaign to call out abuse
- b. Addressing gender inequality was raised by some respondents

### **8. Safety in the community**

- a. Suggestions were made about how to make people feel safer from VAWG in Barnet, with most people stating:
  - i. Streetlights
  - ii. CCTV
  - iii. Increased police presence.
- b. There was recognition that we need to gain a better understanding of how safe or unsafe people feel in Barnet
- c. Awareness about what to do if you experience or witness abuse in Barnet was raised as very important across the groups including 40% of

questionnaire respondents saying they didn't feel confident to take action – most of them feeling too afraid to do so and some saying they didn't know what action to take if they witnessed VAWG in the community

- d. Many people stated that we need to raise awareness about what constitutes abuse.

## **9. Attitudes – believing and sensitive**

- a. Suggestions made that we should include more detail in the strategy of how we will tackle the blame culture of victims
- b. Survivors told us there should be a particular focus on attitude change with Housing and Police

## **10. Reporting**

- a. Recognition of barriers to reporting and how to address them
- b. Reporting routes should be made more public, including routes other than Police. 80% of questionnaire respondents hadn't accessed support with the most common reasons being:
  - i. I didn't know where to get help
  - ii. I didn't feel ready to get help
  - iii. I didn't know I was experiencing DA or VAWG
- c. Training for professionals in key positions was identified such as GP and Schools to help more people spot the signs and ask the right questions

## **11. Children**

- a. Better access to mental health support was identified as key
- b. Schools should be trained to spot the signs
- c. Training for Social Care and replicate best practice identified by some survivors
- d. Particular risk of online grooming for young people to be addressed

## **12. Migrant victims**

- a. Closer work with services who support refugees in Barnet has been identified as an action to help support workers identify VAWG and signpost victims to support
- b. Information should be translated into different languages
- c. Working closely with specialist services and survivors who understand the issues faced was raised by partners

## **13. Support**

- a. Clear pathways of support – what happens if I report or ask for help
- b. Information about who to call – not just online and not just in English
- c. Crisis support is essential, and we heard from survivors about the great support in Barnet that they had received
- d. Survivors also told us it is harder to find longer term support, particularly mental health support for them and their children
- e. Ideally survivors want the support to be tailored to their needs, and available at different points of their journey
- f. There were many mentions of the value of group work by survivors. They told us it helped them to realise they were not alone and particularly helpful when they moved to a new area and wanted to meet people
- g. It was suggested by survivors and partners that support works best when there is one key point of contact for victims

**14. Housing**

- a. Quality of housing that is expected is not always available for victims and their children
- b. The need for training for housing professionals was raised by housing staff themselves, survivors and partners

**15. Understand our communities**

- a. We should prioritise working with community and faith organisations in Barnet
- b. Translation of literature into different languages e.g. Farsi, Kurdish, Arabic, and Albanian

**16. Economic abuse**

- a. How to recognise and understand economic abuse should be included in training and awareness raising
- b. DWP to be a key partner in the partnership response to help more victims receive the financial support they are entitled to

**17. Multiple disadvantage**

- a. The need for more joined up working between DA/VAWG services and substance use services was identified
- b. Support for the mental health of victims was highlighted as a priority in all consultation groups
- c. Support for the mental health of, and substance use by perpetrators was highlighted as a need by partners
- d. Recognition that there is a lack of intel about sex work/prostitution in Barnet
- e. There should be a focus on how the partnership responds to women in the criminal justice system

**1.3 Summary of key findings from Practitioners, Partners, Staff and Council Members****1.3.1 Views on our title and vision**

Partners have mostly given a positive response to the title of the strategy. We received some comments about the inclusion of VAWG in the title, with a small number of participants feeling it shouldn't be included, and a similar number thinking it should only focus on VAWG. Overall, the support and comments we received were predominantly for keeping the title as proposed. The feedback showed that people felt the title keeps the focus on VAWG, and women and girl's experiences, whilst the detail in the strategy itself highlights victims and survivors as everyone regardless of gender or any other protected characteristics.

**1.3.2 Views on our partnership objectives**

Consultation with partners was essential in the development of the five partnership objectives, as we will work towards these together as a partnership across Barnet. The objectives were developed in collaboration with survivors as well as partners.

➤ **Partnership Objective 1: Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG**

- **Partnership Objective 2: Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover**
- **Partnership Objective 3: Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families**
- **Partnership Objective 4: Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes**
- **Partnership Objective 5: Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces**

### **1.3.3 Key Themes from Partners**

- We should make sure DA and VAWG becomes 'Everyone's business'
- Awareness raising widely across the borough
- Training for professionals, not just those in specialist DA and VAWG services
- We need to understand the issues faced by our local communities and value the organisations who work within the communities as key partners
- Partnership working and accountability is key
- Quality of support for all victims and survivors
- The attitudes of some professionals prevent people coming forward for help
- Multiple Disadvantage and addressing barriers faced by victims and survivors
- Education in schools
- Safety in the community

## **1.4 Summary of key findings from Survivors**

### **1.4.1 Views on our vision**

- There was agreement with our participants that it was a good vision.

### **1.4.2 Views on our partnership objectives**

Participants were in support of all the objectives, however their comments showed greatest support for Partnership Objective 2 - Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover. Key themes from their feedback are summarised below:

- Understand and address barriers to reporting abuse and what they want from us when they do report
- Training professionals to ensure they receive a response which is believing and understanding every time they tell someone
- Support for migrant victims is crucial

- Support for their children is hard to access
- Accessing help is even harder when you don't have any children
- Long term recovery support is vital, particularly mental health support
- Tailored/specialist support that meets their individual needs
- Support to settle in new area is very important, group work is particularly important
- The response from Social Care, Housing and Police is particularly important to them and their children

### 1.4.3 Key Messages from survivors

- “You won't get an increase in reporting if we don't get help and feel safe”
- “Not everyone is able to speak to police as it causes a ripple effect”
- They want clear information about what support is available, not just online but available more widely e.g. posters in libraries
- Professionals should believe and not minimise their experience
- “Please listen to our needs”
- Support needs to be more specific to what survivors need throughout their experience
- To Children's Social Care
  - What works well - Social workers who are really easy to talk to, who have taken the time to hear the voice of the child, who were knowledgeable and understand the dynamics of coercive controlling behaviour.
  - What should change - The times when parents haven't felt heard, where the abusive parent has been able to manipulate the social worker and how the involvement of Social Care made a victim feel more scared rather than safe and supported.
- To Housing
  - What works well – When Housing use their powers to intervene; when it is good quality and meets my needs; when staff understand coercive control and believe me.
  - What should change – Needing to prove I am a victim, training for housing staff.
- To Police
  - What works well – when officers recognise coercive control; when I know what will happen after I report and I am kept informed; when police removed him, I felt safer.
  - What should change – when nothing is done; restore confidence and trust in Police.

## 1.5 Summary of key findings from Young People

### 1.5.1 Views on our partnership objectives

Participants were asked questions using Slido, which enables them to type their views anonymously during an online Microsoft Teams meeting. They were asked to rate the five objectives from most to least important and then asked for ideas about actions that could help us to achieve the objectives in Barnet. They rated objective 3 as the most important to



them – Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families.

Key themes for each objective are summarised below, with the objectives in the order of importance as rated by them:

- Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
  - Helping survivors through the criminal justice process
  - Bringing perpetrators to justice, including a faster process
- Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
  - Making it less scary for victims to come forward
  - Specific ideas for adults and children
- Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces
  - Street lighting and CCTV
  - Increased police presence to create sense of safety but also to consider impact on people who don't have positive relationship with police e.g. migrant women, BIPOC individuals or Trans people
  - Self-defence and confidence building classes
  - Public awareness campaigns
- Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
  - Education in schools to be workshop style and include consent, offences, and consequences
  - Education for all on how to spot the signs, including public awareness campaign
- Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes
  - Shared partner database to share information quickly
  - Frequency and methods of review for the action plan with transparency

### 1.5.2 Key Messages from Young People

- “People need to be educated that wolf whistling and shouting out windows is not a compliment. Police need to be aware how scary this can be especially when this starts happening to girls as young as 11 and needs to be taken much more seriously.”
- Education in schools should be workshop style and discussion based, ideally not delivered by teachers
- Public awareness campaign to address root causes – we can help create posters
- Consider the pros and cons of increased police presence
- We need to support victims through the criminal justice process and expedite proceedings to make it less traumatic for them, including not criminalising women who commit crime as a result of DA/VAWG
- We must hold the people responsible to account.
- Education about what abuse is and what the consequences are for perpetrators.
- Partners should hold each other to account with this strategy and the action plan.
- To help young people feel safer from VAWG in Barnet, they suggested some good ideas. The ideas with more than one comment are summarised here:
  - Men and boys as allies (three comments)
  - Greater police presence, particularly at night (two comments)

- CCTV (two comments)
- Well-lit streets (two comments)

## **1.6 Summary of key findings from the online questionnaire**

### **1.6.1 Views on our vision**

Respondents were asked what they thought of the vision and whether anything was missing. This question received 25 responses and some key themes are summarised below:

- Three quarters of respondents (76%) agree with the council's overarching vision included in the draft DA and VAWG Strategy (36% strongly agree and 40% tend to agree)
- The vision is too vague (four comments)
- The vision should be inclusive of boys and men who are victims (three comments)
- The vision should explicitly address what the strategy will do to tackle perpetrators (three comments)
- The strategy should only focus on women and girls as victims (two comments)

### **1.6.2 Views on our partnership objectives**

Respondents were asked for their views on the five partnership objectives and whether they thought anything was missing. This question received 24 responses, only one person disagreed with the objectives; some key themes are summarised below:

- Just over four fifths of respondents (82%) agree with the partnership objectives (74% strongly agree and 8% tend to agree)
- Support for robust response to perpetrators (two comments)
- How the strategy will tackle the blame culture which victims experience
- How the objectives will be achieved e.g. what resources are available

### **1.6.3 Action Plan**

Respondents were asked what actions they would like to see included in the DA and VAWG Action Plan. This question received 14 responses and the ideas fell into the following themes:

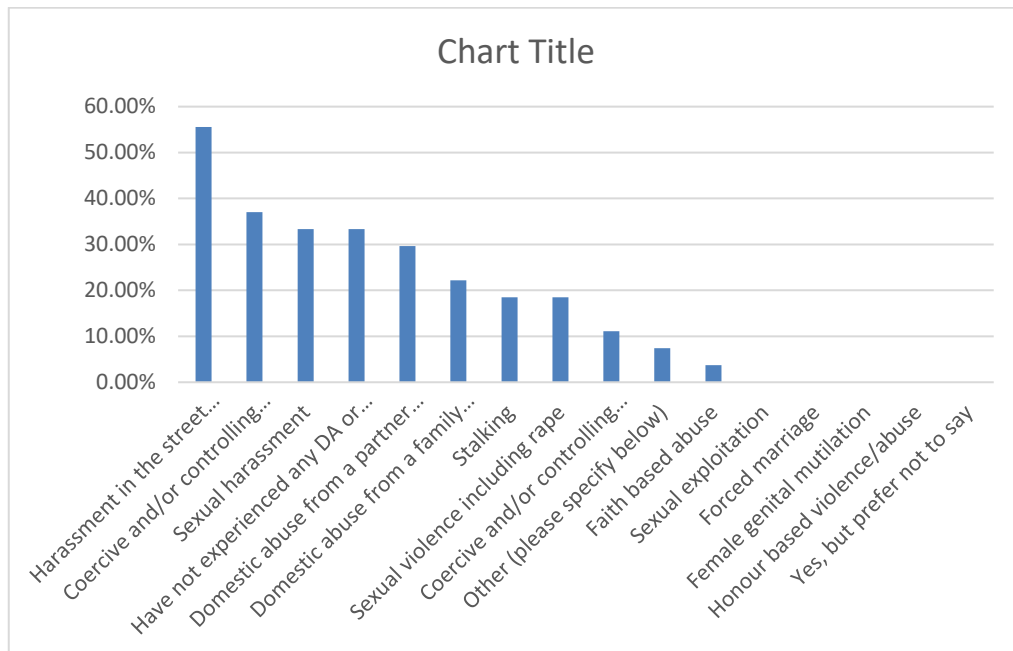
- Tackling and engaging with perpetrators (three comments)
- Impact on victims (two comments)
- Measurement of the action plan
- Gender equality
- Access to information and support – not just online
- Funding of services

**1.6.4 Respondent’s Personal Experiences of DA and/or VAWG**

Respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced DA and/or VAWG. 27 of the 28 respondents answered this question. Only 9 of them hadn’t experienced any DA or VAWG personally. Respondents were able to tick more than one answer and Chart 1 shows their responses. The types of abuse most commonly experienced were:

- Harassment in the street including exposure and cat calling
- Coercive and/or controlling behaviour from a partner or ex-partner
- Sexual harassment
- Domestic abuse from a partner or ex-partner
- Domestic abuse from a family member

**Chart 1: Personal experiences of DA and VAWG of those that completed the questionnaire**



We asked respondents if they had accessed support for the abuse they have experienced, and 80% of them said they hadn’t. Most of the respondents said they didn’t access help because:

- I didn’t know where to get help
- I didn’t feel ready to get help
- I didn’t know I was experiencing DA or VAWG

**1.6.5 Respondent’s feelings of safety from VAWG in Barnet**

Respondents were asked how safe they feel from VAWG in Barnet during the day and at night. 78% (14 respondents - 4 very safe, 10 fairly safe) said they feel safe during the daytime. This compares to 39% (7 respondents – 1 very safe, 6 fairly safe) who said they feel safe at night.

They made suggestions of what would help them feel safer during the night. The most common responses were physical actions such as better lighting, CCTV and cutting back shrubs (six comments) and more visible police (five comments).

We also asked whether they had witnessed a woman being harassed by a man or group of males in Barnet in public in the last two years. 54% (14 respondents) said they had witnessed this happening with varied frequency. 35% (9 respondents) said they had never seen this. The other respondents either skipped this question or preferred not to say.

They were then asked if they took any action. 3 respondents said they did take action. 6 respondents answered the question about why they didn't take any action, with 5 of them feeling too afraid and 3 not knowing what action to take.

They were also asked if they felt confident in reporting abuse experienced by themselves, someone they know or witnessing it in the streets. 40% said they felt confident. 40% didn't feel confident. The rest answered neutral. There were some key themes in the responses about why respondents didn't feel confident in reporting abuse:

- Lack of confidence that the police will respond effectively
- Worries about not being believed
- Not recognising it as abuse
- Being too afraid to report
- Worry about making it worse
- Don't know where or how to report, or the system is too hard to navigate

### **1.6.6 Respondent's feelings about support in Barnet**

Respondents were also asked if they felt confident in accessing support for themselves or someone they know if they were experiencing DA and/or VAWG. 40% said they felt confident. 40% didn't feel confident. The rest answered neutral or didn't know. There were some key themes in the responses about why respondents didn't feel confident in accessing support:

- Previous experience of reporting was not positive
- Difficult to accept they are a victim
- Not confident the right support is available

When asked in a free text question, what the partnership can do better for victims and survivors in Barnet, respondent's answers fell into these main themes:

- Residents need clear information about where to get help
- Training for professionals to make sure they understand the impact on victims, particularly about coercive control and the impact of trauma
- Mental health support is essential
- Address barriers to support particularly for victims experiencing multiple disadvantage
- Challenge behaviour of abusers
- Robust response by police
- Stiff penalties for perpetrators

- Good communication between agencies is important
- Workshops to explain what we are doing in regard to VAWG
- Police and courts are key partners
- Violence against anyone should be called out, not only women and girls

## 2 Recommendations

The overall findings are very positive and supportive of the draft strategy and action plan; however, the consultation has highlighted some key areas of the documents for reviewing and amending before seeking final approval.

A summary of the key recommendations is outlined below:

### ➤ **Vision:**

Review the vision to make it more inclusive and specific, and to include focus on perpetrators:

- Draft Vision: “Our vision is for Barnet to be a borough where everyone can live free of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. Working with all our partners we will seek to ensure those impacted are able to get the help and support they need and want.”
- Proposed new vision: “Our vision is for all residents of Barnet, especially women and girls, to live free of domestic abuse and all forms of VAWG. Working with our partners, we will raise awareness and work to prevent violence in the home, places of learning and employment, and in the community. The Partnership has zero tolerance for abuse and violence, perpetrators will be held to account and victims and survivors will be able to access the support and help they need.”

### ➤ **Action plan:**

Review the action plan to consider prioritisation of the following actions:

- Public awareness campaign
- Workplace policies and awareness
- Translation of materials into different languages through consultation with community organisations
- White ribbon accreditation
- Working groups on modern slavery and sex work/prostitution
- Review education in schools
- Increasing confidence and trust in Police
- Training needs identified across the borough

Ensure the actions are specific, measurable and achievable.

➤ **Partners:**

Ensure the partners who will be held accountable for delivery of the strategy are clearly identified in the documents. Make it clearer that this is a strategy and action plan that we deliver together in partnership with other agencies and how we will hold each other to account via the VAWG delivery group, and the Safer Communities Partnership Board.

➤ **Strategy document:**

- Review strategy to ensure Multiple Disadvantage and addressing barriers faced by some victims is identified as a priority
- Review documents to ensure all victims and survivors are included
- Ensure online abuse is explained and identify any actions linked to prevention and reporting
- Review strategy and action plan to check it covers in enough depth how we will address the victim blame culture

➤ **Partners:**

- Share findings with Community Safety and Police – feedback about unsafe locations and what people told us would help them feel safer
- Share findings with Housing about training and quality of accommodation
- Involve mental health commissioning as well as safeguarding in VAWG forum and delivery group to address victim's challenges in accessing appropriate mental health support
- Improve links with faith and community organisations
- Improve links with DWP to improve access to benefits for victims and survivors
- Work with Public Health to improve links between VAWG services and substance use services
- Use feedback from survivors to inform future commissioning of services

### **3 Introduction**

The draft Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy and Action Plan 2021-24 has been subject to a formal public consultation.

This report sets out the full findings from the formal consultation. The findings and recommendations will be considered by the Safer Communities Partnership Board on 21 January 2022 before the final strategy and action plan are approved. The intended launch date of the final strategy and action plan is 8 March 2022.

#### **3.1 Background**

The VAWG strategy was last updated in 2017. The new policy and action plan have been updated to reflect the progress that has been made since 2017.

The delay to the new strategy being developed has meant this strategy is able to acknowledge the DA Act 2021 which received Royal Assent on 5th April 2021 and takes into account the Government's VAWG strategy published in July 2021. Thank you to all services working across the borough, there has been no gap in provision throughout the pandemic and all have met the changing demands and responded flexibly.

#### **3.2 First phase of consultation on the draft Domestic Abuse and VAWG strategy**

Prior to the online public consultation, the draft strategy was developed in collaboration and consultation with key stakeholders, including survivors, LBB staff and members, a wide range of partners, including statutory, voluntary and community-based organisations.

The findings and recommendations from this first phase were used to develop the draft strategy and action plan.

#### **3.3 Approval to consult**

The draft strategy and action plan were presented to Safer Communities Partnership Board on the 22 October 2021 where approval was given to formally consult on the draft documents.

### **4 Consultation approach**

The DA and VAWG Strategy consultation began in April 2021 and concluded in December 2021.

#### **4.1 Summary of the consultation methods**

**In summary, the consultation consisted of these elements:**

- Quantitative: an online questionnaire published on <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk> together with the draft DA and VAWG Strategy and Action Plan
  - paper copies and an easy-read version of the questionnaire were also made available on request.
- Qualitative: Virtual workshops were held with survivors on 14 and 30 September 2021
- Qualitative: Virtual workshop with VAWG forum and VAWG Delivery Group Members on 20 September 2021
- Qualitative: Paper questions with survivors in October 2021

- Qualitative: Virtual focus groups were held with Youth Forum on 2 and 16 December 2021
- Qualitative: Virtual 1:1 meetings were held with key stakeholders during November and December 2021
- Qualitative: Virtual focus group with Barnet Council members on 13 October 2021
- Qualitative: Presentation to Barnet Partnership Board on 1 October 2021
- Qualitative: Presentation to the LBB Healthy workstream on 3 November 2021
- Qualitative: Presentation to Health and Wellbeing Board on 9 December 2021
- Qualitative: Presentation to LBB LGBTQ+ network on 18 November 2021
- Qualitative: Presentation to LBB Women's network on 13 October 2021

## **4.2 Promotion of the consultation**

A comprehensive communications plan was rolled out to ensure the consultation reached our different communities. The plan consisted of the following elements and was extensively promoted via these mechanisms throughout the consultation period:

- news item included in the council's residents' magazine, Barnet First, available online and delivered to all residents' homes in October 2021
- social media posts via Twitter and targeted Facebook ads
- e mails sent to partners inviting them to take part in the consultation and encourage them to invite residents to take part
- news items placed in the School Circular and other service user mailing lists
- widely promoted via staff communications mechanisms: First Team, the Chief Executives weekly message

## **4.3 Reporting of the different elements of the consultation**

The following sections of this report consider the feedback received through each of the different consultation elements and provides a comprehensive evidence base to help inform the final strategy and action plan.

# **5 Practitioner, Partner, Staff and Council Members Consultation: Detailed Findings**

## **5.1 Overview**

Across both phases of the consultation, extensive collaboration and consultation with professionals took place. We engaged with at least 110 people who work or volunteer in Barnet. They were asked for their views on the detail of the strategy, the partnership objectives, and actions they feel are needed to achieve these, with a focus on identifying key partners and organisations to take ownership of actions.



### 5.1.1 Aims

- To gain an in depth understanding of professional's perceptions on the updated DA and VAWG Strategy and Action plan
- To seek contributions to the Partnership Action Plan from the partners who are critical to the delivery of the strategy

### 5.1.2 Sample

Some participants took part in a dedicated strategy workshop during the first phase of the consultation and were key in shaping the five partnership objectives. Further individual meetings were held with key stakeholders during the second phase. Many participants contributed during board meetings where a presentation about the strategy and action plan was delivered. They were also encouraged to share their views by email after being sent the draft strategy and action plan for review.

There was a good mix of participants from across the borough from both statutory and voluntary sector.

### 5.1.3 Methodology

In the partner focus group, participants were split across 6 Teams breakout rooms. Council staff captured feedback when the groups returned and shared their feedback to the main group. The draft strategy and action plan were sent out to all participants ahead of the workshop; the questions asked in the workshop were semi structured to elicit their views about the strategy and action plan.

We attended a number of board meetings and network groups to present, sharing the strategy and action plan for participants to review ahead of the meeting. We arranged a dedicated strategy workshop with Barnet Council members.

Across all methods, participants were encouraged to share their views during the session. and invited to do so via email if that was their preferred method.

## 5.2 Findings

### 5.2.1 Question 1: Strategy title and vision - What do you think?

Partners have mostly given a positive response to the title of the strategy and have not made many suggestions to change this. The majority felt the strategy should be clear that it is inclusive and includes everyone whilst also keeping a focus on VAWG and women and girls' experiences. For those who did comment, their views were mixed. There were a small number of people who said the title should focus more strongly on VAWG. A similar number of people felt it shouldn't include VAWG in the title as it doesn't feel inclusive enough. Comments included:

- Men and boys should be highlighted
- There are complications around removing the "women and girls" part of the title, how it would be replaced and how it would be made inclusive to everyone.

- I think it is really important that the strategy does not become too watered down and so that Violence against women and girls remains the focus

The vision received little comment from participants as generally they were in agreement with it. One comment is noted below:

- Survivor identity in the strategy where it says, “those who are impacted” this sounds impersonal and does not really recognise the person and this should be re-worded.

## **5.2.2 Question 2: Partnership Objectives - What do you think? Is there anything missing?**

At the time of the partner workshop, we consulted on four partnership objectives.

- Partnership Objective 1: Prevent Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Partnership Objective 2: Reduce the underreporting of domestic abuse cases
- Partnership Objective 3: Pursue perpetrators and change behaviours to prevent domestic abuse and reduce offending
- Partnership Objective 4: Tackle new evolving and emerging issues in the borough

The feedback we received was used to amend them as below:

- **Partnership Objective 1: Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG**
  - It was felt that early intervention needed to be key for young people who use harmful behaviours, but also to make
  - Strong support for making DA and VAWG ‘Everyone’s Business’ to help survivors get the right help at the earliest opportunity.
- **Partnership Objective 2: Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover**
  - The word “underreporting” is almost blaming the victim for not reporting the abuse, it was suggested we consider changing this word. We should also look at what we are trying to achieve with the underreporting of abuse: is it that we want more reporting to the police so they can be actioned or is it that we want people to come forward to whichever services i.e. Solace.
  - It was noted by a number of participants that the objective should have a focus on the support for survivors not just on enabling them to tell someone. It was suggested that raising awareness in the community through family, friends and neighbours to help them recognise signs of harm and know what to do if they are worried about someone is key.
  - It was suggested that a section about economic abuse should be included in the strategy
- **Partnership Objective 3: Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families**

- There was great discussion about the wording of this objective – it was agreed that a robust response to perpetrators is important and many want a zero-tolerance stance in Barnet
- It was agreed that our aim should be to eliminate abuse not only to prevent it and stop reoffending.
- A focus on behaviour change was felt by many to also be important. We received a lot of feedback about the importance of tackling the beliefs that underpin the abuse and links closely with objective 1.

➤ **Partnership Objective 4: Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes**

- It was felt that the issues being ‘new and emerging’ to organisations doesn’t mean they are new to the victims
- By changing this objective, it now encompasses information and data sharing as well as referral pathways and working in partnership. This will help us to address comments like these below:

“There is a lot of work being done within the borough via voluntary sectors but in terms of improving the links, it would be good to reach the grassroots groups and upscale them. Voluntary sectors are good at reaching into areas that statutory sectors may not necessarily reach, more training should be done around this to reach as many people as possible.”

“Thinking with family services (MASH) in terms of when referrals are being made and what the responses are and how the referrals are being responded to and to come up with new and better ways to respond to referrals when partners are referring in.”

The VAWG delivery board proposed a fifth objective to address women and girl’s safety in the community, which was added ahead of the full public consultation.

➤ **Partnership Objective 5: Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces**

**5.2.3 Key themes**

Table 1 details the comments from respondents grouped together under 9 key themes. This includes feedback from across all consultation activity with partners, including focus groups, presentations and 1:1 meetings.

**Table 1: Key themes – Responses from partners across all consultation activity**

| Key themes                   | Comments  |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>‘Everyone’s business’</b> | Awareness and training for everyone including:<br>Frontline professionals<br>Mental health practitioners<br>Housing |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Awareness raising            | Health<br>Local businesses   |
| Training                     | We should work more closely with schools and GPs and other professionals in a more joined up way   |
|                              | Schools and GPs spotting signs more early on   |
|                              | Do local organisations have robust processes for reporting concerns?<br>Policy for DA and VAWG – scrutiny of these by the partnership  |
|                              | There is a lot of work being done within the borough via voluntary sectors but in terms of improving the links, it would be good to reach the grassroots groups and upscale them.                  |
|                              | Raising awareness in the community though family, friends and neighbours being able to recognise signs of harm or if they are worried about people and also priority around support for survivors. |
|                              | Promote what is an offense e.g. exposure   |
|                              | How to deal with ‘low level’ concerns and reports  |
|                              | Everyone’s invited   |
|                              | Focus on harmful practice and interfamilial abuse  |
|                              | Campaign – Saracens etc... - Men to challenge their mates in conversation  |
|                              | Key staff who don’t have access to emails – Street Scene – to be informed in other ways  |
|                              | Routine enquiry – sexual health, health services   |
|                              | Training for night-time economy venues   |
|                              | Responding to DA training – housing and GPs  |
|                              | We should look to be educating people on other types of abuse such as coercive and controlling behaviour as many people may not know what it is.   |
| <b>Our local communities</b> | Reach communities and make reporting available to all  |
|                              | Information in different languages   |
| Accessibility                | Understand groups who are less likely to come forward for help   |
| <b>Partnership working</b>   | Voluntary sectors are good at reaching into areas that statutory sectors may not necessarily reach, more training should be done around this to reach as many people as possible                   |
|                              | Mobilise support quickly   |
|                              | Clearer pathways to support  |
|                              | All services need to be improved in terms of integration across referrals  |
|                              | Partnership sharing info<br>Flagging of systems  |
| <b>Quality of support</b>    | Quality of housing is not good enough  |
|                              | Housing not always suitable for health conditions  |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Inclusive</b>               | There was mention of non-binary/trans individuals at the beginning of the strategy however no mention of support for these individuals throughout the main body or in the education section  |
| <b>Attitudes</b>               | Dismissive attitude from police authorities in terms of the language they use with survivor and hinders people from wanting to report to the police especially when they feel the police are not listening or the issues are not being prioritised.                                |
|                                | Training is needed for housing officers when victims are telling the stories as there can sometimes be a lack of empathy.  |
| <b>Multiple Disadvantage</b>   | The work and links to substance misuse needs to be continued throughout the strategy to ensure the understanding of what is going to help people who perpetrate violence and to note that it isn't always about the abuse but also the substance misuse issues that they may have. |
|                                | It is also important to note different groups of people/genders and how they are viewed in terms of who may perpetrate harmful behaviours, who is experiencing it and how we work with these specific groups.  |
| <b>Education</b>               | Education – schools, colleges, universities<br>Young people's voices – education early intervention and prevention   |
| <b>Safety in the community</b> | We need to understand how safe or unsafe people feel in Barnet   |

## 6 Survivor Consultation: Detailed Findings

### 6.1 Overview

Two workshops were held online. With the support of local support services, 12 survivors were able to join and share their views and stories with us. For those who felt unable to attend an online event, they were offered a phone call or paper questions. 2 opted for a phone call and 14 opted to share their views in a written format with their support worker who emailed their responses to us. A total of 28 survivors shared their views.

#### 6.1.1 Aims

- To gain an understanding of residents' own experiences of DA and VAWG within the borough
- To discover survivor's views on what works well in Barnet for them, and what could be improved
- To gain the views of local survivors on the vision and partnership objectives
- To explore local survivor's views on the actions within the DA and VAWG Action Plan.

#### 6.1.2 Sample

Participants were invited to take part by local specialist services. One survivor gave their feedback by phone after asking to do so instead of completing the questionnaire online.

In total, 28 were able to share their views. There was a mix of participants including those who were moved into Barnet from other areas, and Barnet residents who are currently living elsewhere due to risk of abuse in Barnet, and with different protected characteristics.

### **6.1.3 Methodology**

For the online workshops, participants joined a Teams meeting along with representatives from local support services who were available to provide support should they need it. The session was hosted by Barnet Council's DA consultant, who also gave the option of emailing her directly if they preferred to share anything confidentially after the session.

The workshop consisted of semi-structured questions about their experiences and were designed to elicit qualitative feedback on the strategy and action plan, and to give survivors the opportunity to tell us their stories.

## **6.2 Findings**

During the workshops we asked a set of prompt questions. The participants were able to talk openly about their experiences. For the paper replies, they were given the questions in a written format and wrote their answers on paper. These were then emailed to us by their support service.

### **6.2.1 Question 1: Who did you first tell about the abuse?**

- Friends, family., community member, GP, hospital
- Police were called by bystanders; survivor would not have called the police on her own.
- Not everyone is able to speak to police as it causes a ripple effect (cultural reasons)

### **6.2.2 Question 2: What do you think would have helped you tell someone sooner?**

- "What is the point in reporting when nothing is done"
- "You won't get an increase in reporting if we don't get help and feel safe"
- I need to know where to ask for help
- Clear information about what will happen if I report
- If we want people to report they need to feel confident in the response

### **6.2.3 Question 3: Which people/services helped or are helping you?**

- They highlighted the good support they received from our local services, this included Solace Women's Aid, the One Stop Shop, Cyber Care, and Victim Support.

### **6.2.4 Question 4: What would have improved the help you received?**

Their responses are detailed in Table 2, grouped under 6 key themes.

**Table 2: Key themes – What would have improved the help you received?**

| <b>Key themes</b>  | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Services need to ask and know how to respond</b>  | <b>Schools</b> did not pick up on the fact that the we needed help from support services.  |
|  | Being made to feel as though emotional abuse is not as impactful as physical abuse. ‘at least it wasn’t physical’.   |
|  | “Believe I am in need of help; not think I am lying”   |
|  | <b>Housing</b> – training and using their powers effectively   |
|  | Didn’t take into account health/disability needs when being housed   |
|  | The <b>GP</b> did not know how to respond, and she felt as though she could not fully express what was going on.   |
|  | We should be providing more knowledge, training and awareness around these issues across the board and not just to specialists who are working around domestic abuse.  |
|  | The experience with the social worker was not positive and she feels that social services need to listen to the voice of both children and victims.  |
|  | <b>Social services and social workers</b> should try their best to put a client’s mind at ease because many people are afraid their child will be taken away when they hear that social services will be involved. |
| “Social care encouraged me to be honest and then used it against me. I feel they aren’t listening to me and believe the wrong people”  |  |
| Felt my parenting was questioned   |  |
| Seen as ‘difficult parent’   |  |
| The way social worker talked, I felt more scared   |  |
| Good practice- do things at your pace, you don’t have to see your dad until you are ready; knowledgeable social worker who understands the dynamics of coercive controlling behaviour. |  |
| “She took the time to listen to my daughter”   |  |
| <b>Migrant victims</b>   | The authority should provide more help and support for people without access to public funds   |
|  | “Hearing how it feels for a national, imagine how it was for me not having any rights in England.”   |
| <b>Children</b>  | Being alone is very difficult and even more difficult when children are involved   |
|  | Survivors need stability for their children  |
|  | CAMHs practitioner didn’t understand DA  |

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
|                           | <p>Feels as though services are not doing enough to support young people with mental health issues and although there is help and support around mental health, majority of the time, therapists and counsellors do not understand domestic abuse and coercive control.</p> <p>“What about me mummy, whose going to help me?”</p> <p>“All I want is someone to listen to me”</p> |
| <b>Long term recovery</b> | <p>Run recovery programme in helping people settle again as its difficult to stay in a refuge it is hard to go back to “normal” life</p>   |
|                           | <p>Group work or speaking to a specialist/psychologist could help to talk about things that have happened in the past and to be used as a distraction for those that have to stay in a refuge all day because they do not work etc</p>   |
|                           | <p>Support groups would be very helpful to meet women for emotional support as being in refuges could be lonely and being taken away from their own support networks</p>   |
|                           | <p>Group support to talk toother women and meet people in the area</p>   |
|                           | <p>Nice to know that services are still available for support rather than closing their cases. Down the line, victims realise more support they need.</p>  |
|                           | <p>Terminology that services use can be quite confusing to service users i.e. cases being closed – “I was told my case was closed after 14 days. I was too shocked to know what I needed and didn’t feel I could go back to them.”</p>   |
|                           | <p>Support shouldn’t end when I leave the borough</p>  |
| <b>Tailored support</b>   | <p>Support being more specific to what survivors need i.e. individual support plans to be set</p>  |
|                           | <p>Treat us an individual</p>  |
|                           | <p>One key point of contact</p>  |
|                           | <p>IAPT should do individual support plans and identify what help the person or family needs - one keyworker</p>   |
|                           | <p>It is so hard to get help when you don’t have any children</p>  |
| <b>Specific support</b>   | <p>Needed legal advice earlier.</p>  |
|                           | <p>Counselling with someone who understands DA</p>   |
|                           | <p>Appropriate mental health support when I want it</p>  |
|                           | <p>Wanted practical support first and then emotional support</p>   |
|                           | <p>Clear information about what support is available</p>   |
|                           | <p>It is hard for older people. I am told to ask my children or grandchildren to help me online. I don’t have any children and feel I am being excluded.</p>   |

## 7 Young People’s Consultation: Detailed Findings

### 7.1 Overview

Two focus groups with members of Barnet Youth Forum were held. A total of 11 young people aged between 13 and 18 attended. They were asked for their views on the



partnership objectives, and actions they feel would help to achieve these, and about what would make them feel safer in Barnet.

### 7.1.1 Aims

- To gain young people's views about the partnership objectives
- To gain an in depth understanding of young people's recommendations for the Action Plan
- To discover young people's views on what will make them feel safer in Barnet.

### 7.1.2 Sample

Participants were invited through the Youth Forum. In total, 11 members of the youth forum attended the events.

### 7.1.3 Methodology

Participants joined an online Microsoft Teams meeting along with Rebecca Morris, Voice of the Child Participation Officer, LBB, who was available to provide support should they need it. The session was hosted by Barnet Council's DA consultant. The workshop consisted of a Slido presentation which asked them semi-structured questions about their experiences and was designed to elicit qualitative feedback on the strategy and action plan, and to give them the opportunity to ask questions and share their views. They were able to type their views anonymously during the session, some participants also shared verbally.

## 7.2 Findings

### 7.2.1 Question 1: Rate the Partnership Objectives from most to least important

Participants were asked to rate the five objectives from most to least important to them. They rated them in this order:

1. Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
2. Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
3. Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces
4. Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
5. Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes

### 7.2.2 Question 2: What actions do you think will help us achieve the objectives in Barnet?

**Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families**

The participants rated this objective as their most important. They shared some good ideas for holding those responsible for the abuse to account as well as how to help survivors through the process. The key themes are summarised below:

- Bringing perpetrators to justice (six comments)
  - Expedite and prioritise criminal proceedings
  - Targeted interventions for the specific types of VAWG
  - Accountability - following through on prosecutions for justice for survivors
  - Mandatory behaviour change programmes
  - Have less steps in the process and a more streamline (faster process)
- Help survivors through the criminal justice process (five comments)
  - Survivors should not be prosecuted (particularly in cases of exploitation)
  - Transparency of legal proceedings so survivors know the process.
  - Protecting the wellbeing of survivors when testifying
  - Believe survivors
  - Decrease the number of cases that are being dropped by encouraging and comforting survivors
- Address the root causes of why the perpetrator engaged in the crime

**Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover**

Participants had some good ideas for support to help adult, and children and young people survivors:

- Somehow make it less intimidating/ scary for victims to come forward and having reassurance that they will be taken seriously
- Legal support (i.e. for migrant women and girls). Housing, shelter, basic necessities i.e. food, sanitary /menstrual products etc
- Sexual and reproductive health support
- Sustained mental health support
- Language support (translation)
- Educational support for children
- Having online private chat forums but more personalised to the council e.g. a Barnet Childline

**Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces**

The participants expressed their views on how we can work together to help people feel safer. The key themes are summarised below:

- Street lighting and CCTV (five comments)
- Increased police presence to create sense of safety but also to consider impact on people who don't have positive relationship with police e.g. migrant women, BIPOC individuals or Trans people (four comments)
- Self-defence and confidence building classes (two comments)

- Public awareness campaigns, including UN Women UK Safe Spaces Now Campaign (two comments)
- Focus should remain on addressing the root causes
- “People need to be educated that wolf whistling and shouting out windows is not a compliment. Police need to be aware how scary this can be especially when this starts happening to girls as young as 11 and needs to be taken much more seriously.”

### **Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG**

The participants expressed a range of ideas of how we can address the root cause of DA and VAWG. Key themes are summarised below:

- Education in schools (four comments)
  - By someone external suggestions young people, specialist
  - Workshop style rather than a talk
  - Learn from each other – value in discussing with peers
  - Train teachers and others in authority to spot the signs
  - Include consent, the law,
- Public awareness campaign (four comments)
  - Influential people e.g faith leaders
  - YP social media
  - Posters designed by young people
  - Engage with national campaigns such as 16 days of activism
  - Translated into wide variety of languages
- Self-defence classes
- Clear and concise communication about the consequences of perpetrating domestic abuse
- Reach out to UN Women UK to see how Barnet can support their Safe Spaces Now Campaign
- Creating a scheme for Barnet Gender Champions
- Fund raising events for organisations who are working to prevent DA and VAWG

### **Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes**

This objective was rated the least important of the 5 to the participants. They shared some excellent ideas of how agencies can work together. The key themes are summarised below:

- Shared partner database to share information quickly (four comments)
- Frequency and methods of review for the action plan with transparency (three comments)
- Internal accountability mechanism - how can partners hold each other to account?
- Onboarding youth as co-leaders of implementation.

### 7.2.3 Question 3: What would help you to feel safer in Barnet?

Slido gives the option of creating a word cloud. The word cloud below is generated from the responses from all 11 participants and highlights the key themes from their responses. Whilst a number said greater police presence, it was also highlighted that some residents don't have a positive relationship with police. Adult survivors have told us about the 'ripple effect' that reporting to the police can cause within the community and family as a barrier; one young person specifically mentioned this too as well as highlighting how some residents can feel unfairly treated by police which prevents them trusting police. A young person raised the particular issue of trans people's experiences of police not always being positive and the need for police to be sensitive to this.



## 8 Public Consultation: Detailed Findings

### 8.1 Overview

This section outlines the detailed findings from the questionnaire responses.

This element of the consultation consisted of an online questionnaire published on <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk> together with the draft DA and VAWG Strategy and Action Plan and a summary consultation report.

### 8.1.1 Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was developed to ascertain respondents’ views on the updated Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, and about their personal experiences. In particular, the consultation invited views on:

- overall vision
- proposed partnership objectives
- further actions to be included in the action plan
- their experiences of DA and VAWG
- how safe they feel from VAWG in Barnet.

The full documents were available online, alongside a summary consultation document.

In order to enable in-depth analysis of the results the following types of question were included:

- questions that asked whether respondents agreed or disagreed with key areas of the strategy
- free text questions that asked respondents for their views

### 8.1.2 Response to the questionnaire

A total of 28 questionnaires have been completed.

Table 3 shows that:

- the majority of those who responded to the questionnaire element of the consultation were residents, some of whom were also an employee of LBB, 74% in total: 65% a Barnet resident, and 9% a Barnet resident and an employee of Barnet Council.
- this was followed by those representing a voluntary or community organisation or those who said ‘other’.
- there were no responses from Barnet businesses
- 8.70% identified themselves as ‘other’ and where specified stated the below:
  - GP
  - Barnet resident who is a financial adviser who speaks to many male victims of abuse

However, it should also be noted that 18% (5 respondents) did not answer this question.

**Table 3: Profile of those who responded to the DA and VAWG Strategy online questionnaire**

| Stakeholder       | %      | Base |
|-------------------|--------|------|
| A Barnet resident | 65.22% | 15   |

|   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
| A Barnet business   | 0.00% | 0         |
| A Barnet resident and a Barnet business   | 0.00% | 0         |
| A Barnet resident and an employee of Barnet Council and its partner organisations   | 8.70% | 2         |
| An employee of Barnet Council and its partner organisations (not a Barnet resident) | 4.35% | 1         |
| Representing a voluntary/community organisation                                     | 8.70% | 2         |
| Representing a public sector organisation   | 4.35% | 1         |
| Other   | 8.70% | 2         |
| If other (please specify)   |       | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>  |       | <b>23</b> |

### 8.1.3 Profile of protected characteristics

The council is required by law (the Equality Act 2010) to pay due regard to equalities in eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, and fostering good relations between people from different groups.

The protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

To assist us in complying with the duty under the Equality Act 2010 we asked respondents to provide equalities monitoring data and explained that collecting this information will help us understand the needs of our different communities and that all the information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be stored securely in accordance with our responsibilities under data protection legislation (such as the General Data Protection Regulation or the Data Protection Act 2018).

Table 4 shows the profile of those who answered these questions. Due to the low completion of these questions, it has not been possible to do any demographic analysis on the consultation findings.

**Table 4: Protected Characteristics, profile of those that completed the questionnaire**

| Protected Characteristic |        |     |
|--------------------------|--------|-----|
|                          | Number | %   |
| Gender                   |        |     |
| Female                   | 14     | 50% |
| Male                     | 5      | 18% |
| Prefer not to say        | 1      | 4%  |
| Not answered             | 8      | 28% |

| Protected Characteristic  |           |             |
|---|-----------|-------------|
|   | Number    | %           |
| Answered  | 20        | 72%         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Age   |           |             |
| 16-17   | 1         | 4%          |
| 18-24   | 0         | 0%          |
| 25-34   | 5         | 18%         |
| 35-44   | 7         | 24%         |
| 45-54   | 5         | 18%         |
| 55-64   | 0         | 0%          |
| 65-74   | 1         | 4%          |
| 75+   | 0         | 0%          |
| Prefer not to say   | 1         | 4%          |
| Not answered  | 8         | 28%         |
| Answered  | 20        | 72%         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? |           |             |
| Yes, it's the same  | 15        | 53%         |
| No, it's different  | 0         | 0%          |
| Prefer not to say   | 3         | 11%         |
| Not answered  | 10        | 36%         |
| Answered  | 18        | 64%         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |

|                   |           |             |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Disability        |           |             |
| Yes               | 3         | 11%         |
| No                | 15        | 53%         |
| Prefer not to say | 2         | 8%          |
| Not answered      | 8         | 28%         |
| Answered          | 20        | 72%         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Ethnicity         |           |             |
| Black             | 2         | 8%          |
| Asian             | 1         | 4%          |
| Mixed             | 0         | 0%          |
| White             | 11        | 40%         |
| Other             | 2         | 8%          |
| Prefer not to say | 3         | 12%         |
| Not answered      | 8         | 28%         |
| Answered          | 20        | 72%         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |

| Protected Characteristic        |           |             |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
|                                 | Number    | %           |
| <b>Faith</b>                    |           |             |
| Baha'i                          | 0         | 0%          |
| Buddhist                        | 1         | 4%          |
| Christian                       | 3         | 11%         |
| Hindu                           | 1         | 4%          |
| Humanist                        | 0         | 0%          |
| Jain                            | 0         | 0%          |
| Jewish                          | 1         | 4%          |
| Muslim                          | 0         | 0%          |
| Sikh                            | 0         | 0%          |
| No religion                     | 10        | 34%         |
| Prefer not to say/not stated    | 3         | 11%         |
| Other Faith                     | 1         | 4%          |
| Not answered                    | 8         | 28%         |
| Answered                        | 20        | 72%         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Sexuality</b>                |           |             |
| Bisexual                        | 1         | 4%          |
| Gay or Lesbian                  | 1         | 4%          |
| Straight or heterosexual        | 13        | 46%         |
| Prefer not to say               | 4         | 14%         |
| Other sexual orientation        | 1         | 4%          |
| Not answered                    | 8         | 28%         |
| Answered                        | 20        | 72%         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Marital Status</b>           |           |             |
| Single                          | 6         | 22%         |
| Co-habiting                     | 3         | 11%         |
| Married                         | 7         | 25%         |
| Divorced                        | 0         | 0%          |
| Widowed                         | 0         | 0%          |
| In a same sex civil partnership | 0         | 0%          |
| Prefer not to say               | 4         | 14%         |
| Not answered                    | 8         | 28%         |
| Answered                        | 20        | 72%         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>28</b> | <b>100%</b> |

#### 8.1.4 Calculating and reporting on results

- The results for each question are based on “valid responses”, i.e. all those providing an answer (this may or may not be the same as the total sample) unless otherwise specified. The base size may therefore vary from question to question.



- Where percentages do not add up to 100, this may be due to rounding, or the question is multi-coded - i.e. respondents could give more than one answer.
- The open-ended questions are multi-coded, as respondents could write in more than one comment and therefore the tables on verbatim comments the number of comments may be different the number who answered the question.
- All open-ended responses have been classified based on the main themes arising from the comments, so that they can be summarised. It should also be noted that the responses were very varied, however there were some common themes that were evident, and the most common themes have been summarised in this report.

## **8.2 Findings**

### **8.2.1 Views on the vision for the DA and VAWG Strategy**

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the new vision.

- Three quarters of respondents (76%) agree with the council's overarching vision included in the draft DA and VAWG Strategy (36% strongly agree and 40% tend to agree)
- Only one respondent disagreed with the vision.
- The remainder neither agreed nor disagreed or didn't respond to this question.

### **8.2.2 Respondents comments about the vision**

Respondents were asked whether they felt that we had missed anything within the vision. This question received 14 responses. The most common themes (with two comments or more) are summarised below, and further details are provided in Table 5:

- Too vague (four comments)
- The vision should explicitly address what the strategy will do to tackle perpetrators (three comments)
- The vision should be inclusive of boys and men who are victims (three comments)
- The strategy should only focus on women and girls as victims. (two comments)

**Table 5: Respondents views on the vision**

| <b>Do you think we have missed anything in the vision?</b>   |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Number of respondents who completed this question</b>   | <b>14</b>                 |
| <b>Description</b>   | <b>Number of comments</b> |
| <p><b>Too vague</b><br/>Should be mentioned that the help and support needed will be given in timely manners and confidentiality maintained at all time.</p> <p>Too vague. It should include something like "get the support to make the unwanted situation change" and "to feel safe throughout the process" and the victim does not have to end up losing her home, etc</p> <p>The vision should include prevention measures. 'We will implement measures to prevent DA and violence against women. The vision should be more decision. 'Ensure' rather than 'seek' for example.</p> <p>More info on who the partners are and what 'working with all our partners' really means. It needs to be more explicit.</p> | 4                         |
| <p><b>Tackling perpetrators</b><br/>Address in the vision what will happen to perpetrators, as well as what will be happening to ensure this behaviour is prevented at the root cause, and how you are going to change beliefs about vawg and da, especially in education and the workplace.</p> <p>There should be more of an emphasis on accountability, challenge and consequence for people who use violence and abuse towards women. It is not enough to just support victims; they are not responsible for the harm caused and supporting them does not protect others from harm</p> <p>Nothing to do with seeking action to deter and punish perpetrators.</p>  | 3                         |
| <p><b>Men and boys not included explicitly enough</b></p> <p>You missed men and boys</p> <p>Yes, you should oppose ALL violence, not with blinkers on.</p> <p>Dv affects men as well. Do you have a separate strategy for that, or will it be included?</p>  | 3                         |
| <p><b>Strategy should focus only on women and girls as victims</b></p> <p>I am concerned that you feel the need to make a strategy for the prevention of violence against women and girls 'inclusive'.</p> <p>Domestic abuse and violence against men and boys and those who identify as transgender and non-binary need discrete strategies that acknowledge and recognise their unique experiences and needs.</p>  | 2                         |
| <p>However your strategy works on paper, in practice you are facing unacceptable funding cuts making it impossible to deliver the services mentioned.</p>  | 1                         |
| <p>I'm concerned by the lack of publicity for the strategy. I've shared it widely but haven't really seen Barnet proactively seek feedback - especially from women who don't speak English as a first language or who have other barriers.</p>   | 1                         |

### 8.2.3 Views on the partnership objectives

- Just over four fifths of respondents (82%) agree with the partnership objectives (74% strongly agree and 8% tend to agree)
- Only one respondent disagreed
- 4 respondents didn't answer this question.

### 8.2.4 Comments on why respondents disagree with the objectives

Respondents were asked to comment if they disagreed with the objectives. Whilst only one respondent disagreed, some respondents commented. Some key points are summarised below:

- Agree with objectives but I'm not clear on whether the tactics and resources will be available to deliver them.
- Third objective - Some people don't and won't change and should not be allowed back in situations where they may cause harm.
- I do not believe the abusers can recover. they have to be punished

### 8.2.5 Comments on what respondents' feel is missing from the partnership objectives

Respondents were asked whether they felt that we had missed anything in the objectives. This question received 9 responses. The key themes are summarised below:

- I think you need to work to change the cultural climate of neighbourhoods
- Reduction in day-to-day use of porn by young people, particularly on public transport
- Nothing relating to removing blame culture or taking action within the Council
- Yes, men and boys.
- In which way safer streets, community spaces and public spaces will be kept secure. Should be explained in detail.

### 8.2.6 Views on our Action Plan

Respondents were asked what actions they would like to see included in the DA and VAWG Action Plan. This question received 14 responses and the most common themes are summarised whilst Table 6 shows their detailed responses.

- Specific locations in the borough that feel unsafe were highlighted (two comments)
- How we will address the issue of female victims being criminalised or having their children taken into care (two comments)

**Table 6: Respondents views on actions needed to achieve the aims of the strategy**

| Are there any actions you would particularly like to see included in our detailed action plan? |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| Number of respondents who completed this question  |  | 14 |
| Theme  | Description  |    |
| Tacking and engaging with perpetrators   | <p>Perpetrator identification and support. Better access to specific anger management therapies in prevention. More integrated support services.</p> <p>Yes, proactively engage men and boys in social change rather than simply punishing offenders.</p> <p>Attain white ribbon accreditation by the end of 2022</p>  | 3  |
| Impact on victims  | <p>Women often do not seek mental health advice out of fear they will lose the kids. Our main goal needs to be to stop abuse not ruin lives with criminal proceedings.</p> <p>I would like the Women's prison in Holloway to be transformed into a women's community centre which would be a one stop shop for women victims who would be supported in the community and not punished.</p> | 2  |
| Measurement of the action plan   | <p>The Action Plan feels very ambitious - would be interested to know what success would look like</p>   | 1  |

| Are there any actions you would particularly like to see included in our detailed action plan? |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| Number of respondents who completed this question  |  | 14 |
| Theme  | Description  |    |
| Gender equality  | Promote a whole school approach to gender equality and demand all schools in Barnet work towards attaining the Gender Action Award and create an action plan   | 1  |
| Not Council business   | Just forget it. This is not a Barnet Council topic.  | 1  |
| Access to information and support  | My biggest bug bear with the council at present is the digitally inclusive strategy. Not everyone including the elderly and those who may for domestic abuse reasons will have access to the internet! Support should be made available in all formats including advertisement on notice boards, bus stops etc | 1  |

| Are there any actions you would particularly like to see included in our detailed action plan? |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| Number of respondents who completed this question  |  | 14 |
| Theme  | Description  |    |
| Funding of services  | Increase funding available to women seeking refuge | 1  |

**8.2.7 Any other feedback**

- Respondents were asked if they wanted to tell us anything else. These points will be taken into consideration for the final versions of the Strategy and Action Plan. We received some useful feedback about the points below:
  - Zero tolerance awareness campaign
  - Statistics
  - Funding
  - Safe accommodation
  - Local groups to engage with

**8.3 Respondent’s personal experiences**

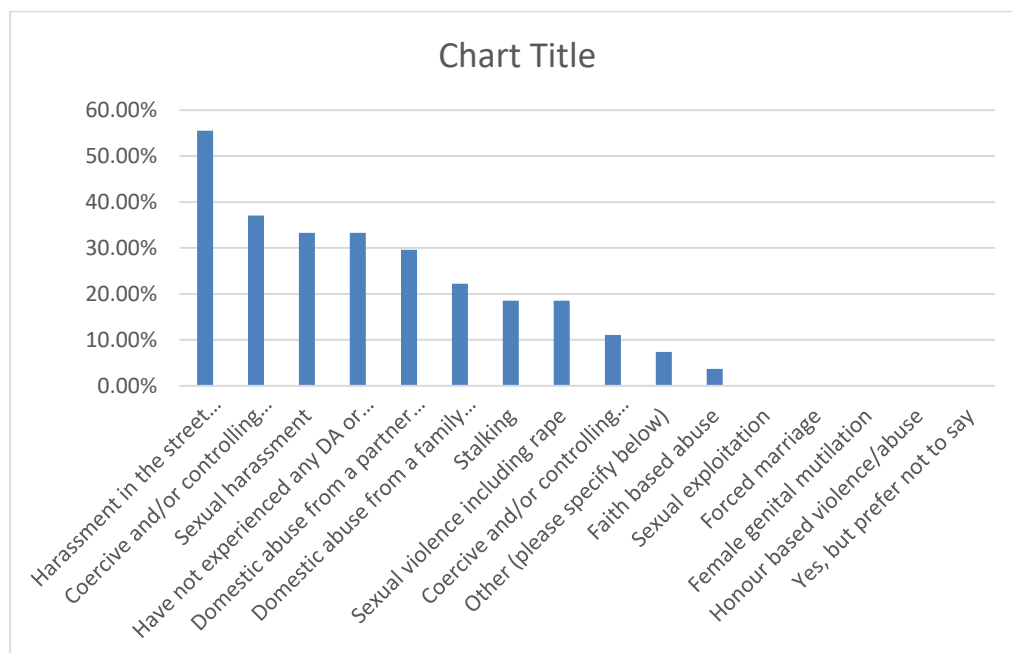
**8.3.1 Respondent’s personal experiences of DA and VAWG**

Respondents were asked whether they had personally experienced DA and/or VAWG from this list:

- Sexual harassment
- Harassment in the street including exposure and cat calling
- Stalking
- Sexual violence including rape
- Coercive and/or controlling behaviour from a partner or ex-partner
- Coercive and/or controlling behaviour from a family member
- Domestic abuse from a partner or ex-partner
- Domestic abuse from a family member
- Sexual exploitation
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Honour based violence/abuse
- Faith based abuse

27 of the 28 respondents answered this question. Only 9 of them hadn't experienced any DA or VAWG personally. Chart 2 below shows the most common responses by respondents.

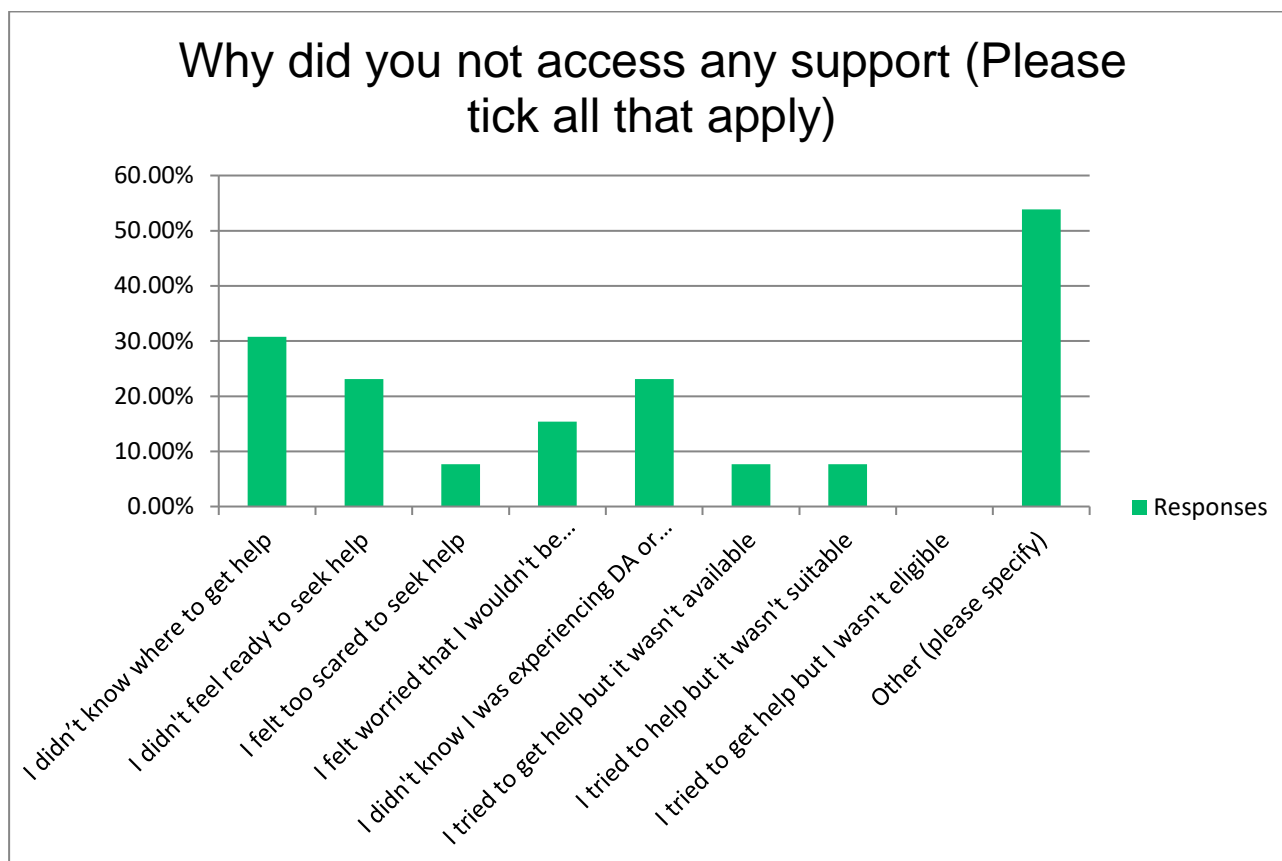
**Chart 2: Respondent's personal experiences of DA and/or VAWG**



The vast majority of respondents (80%) hadn't accessed any support. Chart 3 shows the reasons they gave for not accessing support. For those who said 'other', they specified these reasons:

- I wasn't the target
- I knew that if I tried to get help nothing would be done
- No help is available for men, we just lose our kids
- Being yelled at makes me feel uncomfortable but it's so common it's not worth reporting and there's never any evidence anyway
- Shame
- I didn't think anyone or anything could help

**Chart 3: Respondent's reasons for not accessing support**



For those respondents who did access support they were asked how satisfied they were with it. As the number of people who accessed support was so small, the results are reported based on their reasons that 3 people gave for being dissatisfied, there were no respondents' comments on the reasons they were satisfied with support. The reasons they were dissatisfied are detailed below:

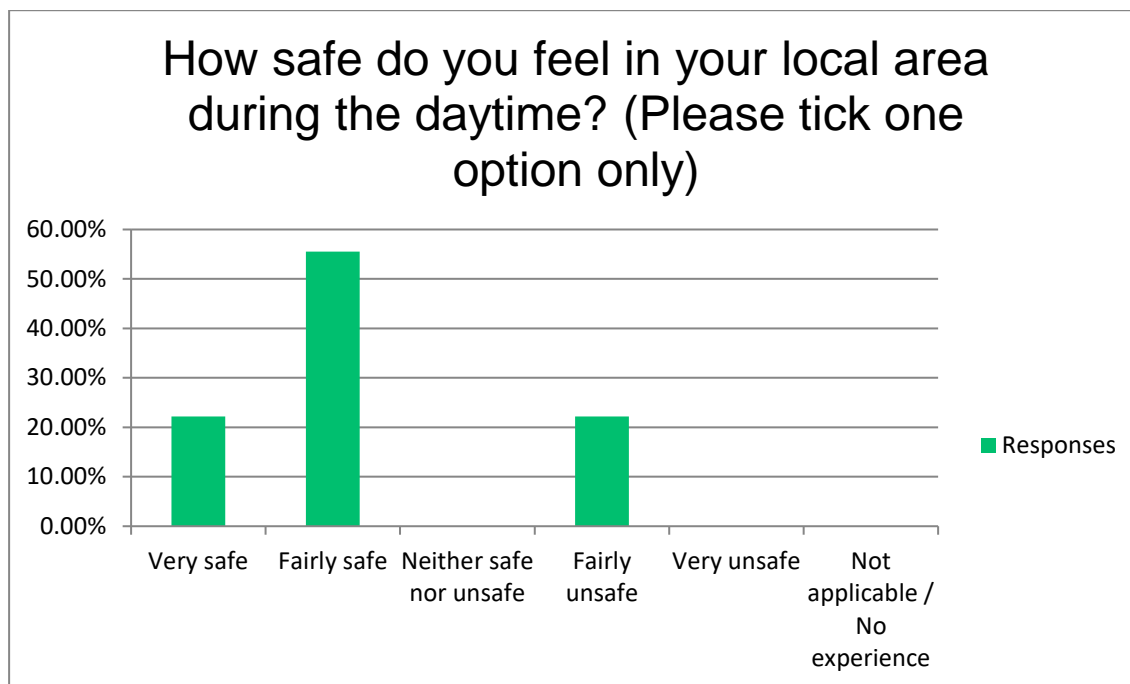
- Nothing had been done since reporting to police and the council
- Lack of recognition by police of non-physical abuse
- It was a long time ago when mindset towards it was different. No real support on the long-lasting effects.

### 8.3.2 How safe do respondents feel in Barnet during the daytime?

We asked all respondents about how safe from VAWG they feel in Barnet at daytime. 18 respondents answered this question. Chart 4 details their responses.

**Chart 4: Respondent's feelings of safety from VAWG during the day**





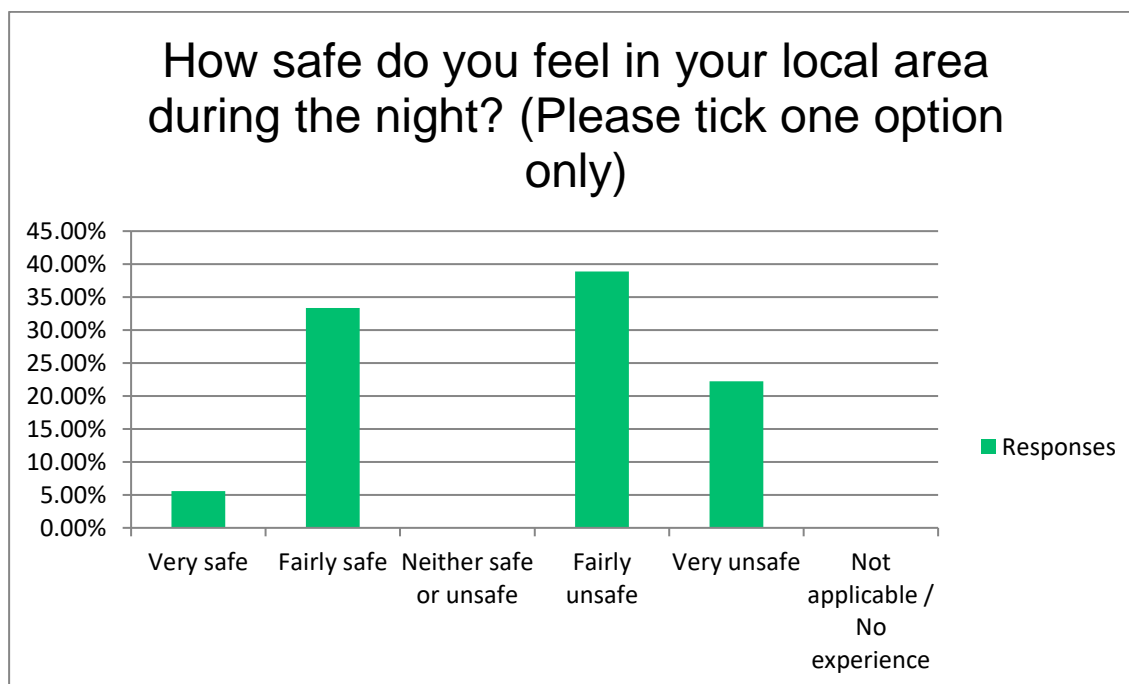
Respondents were then asked what would help them feel safer. This is what they said about feeling safer during the daytime:

- Better street lighting on side streets
- Visible police officers on patrol
- CCTV
- Particular focus on Vivian Avenue restaurants and cafes (two comments) “More policing and disrupting of the many cafes populated exclusively by young men“

### 8.3.3 How safe do respondents feel in Barnet during the night?

We asked all respondents about how safe from VAWG they feel in Barnet at night. 18 respondents answered this question. Chart 5 shows their responses.

**Chart 5: Respondent’s feelings of safety from VAWG during the night**



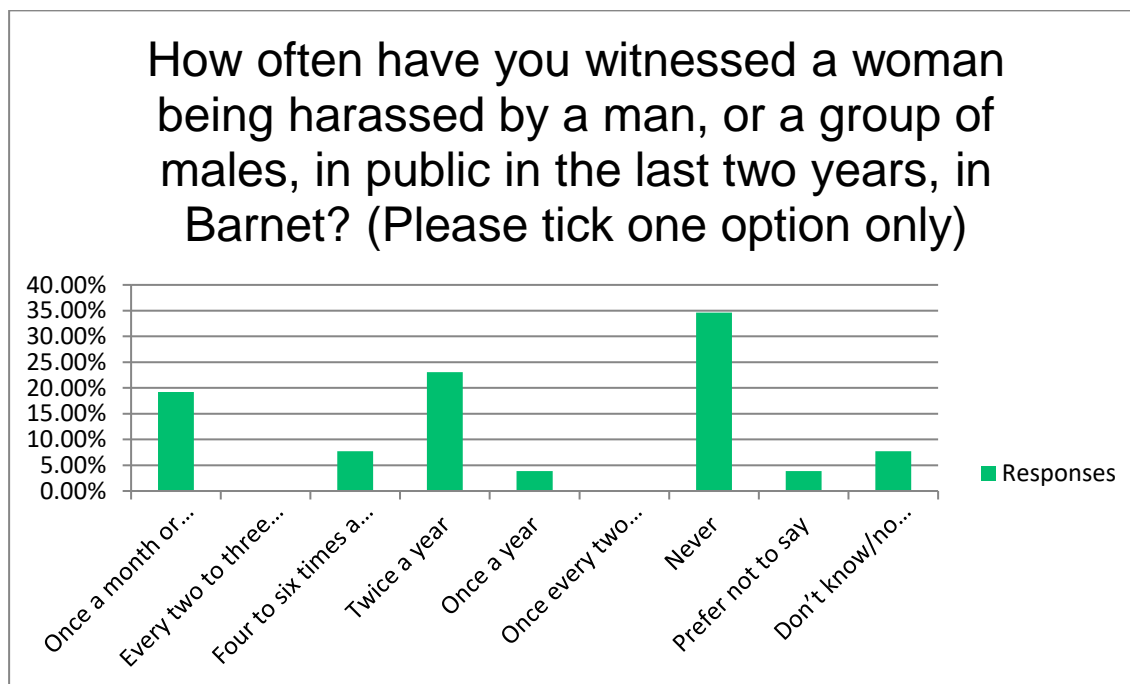
Respondents were then asked what would help them feel safer from VAWG at night. The key themes from their responses are summarised below:

- Better lighting, CCTV, cutting back shrubs (six comments)
- More visible police (five comments)
- Police/other's having the power to do something
- People helping if they see it happening
- Justice system to not victim blame
- Feel very exposed - installation of panic buttons along streets which can be activated similar to tube stations
- One respondent was concerned about the vicinity of the Welsh Harp

**8.3.4 Respondent’s experience of witnessing a woman being harassed in Barnet**

We asked respondents how often they have witnessed a woman being harassed by a man, or a group of males, in public in the last two years, in Barnet? Chart 6 below shows the responses from the 26 respondent who answered this question.

**Chart 6: Respondent’s frequency of witnessing harassment of a woman in Barnet**



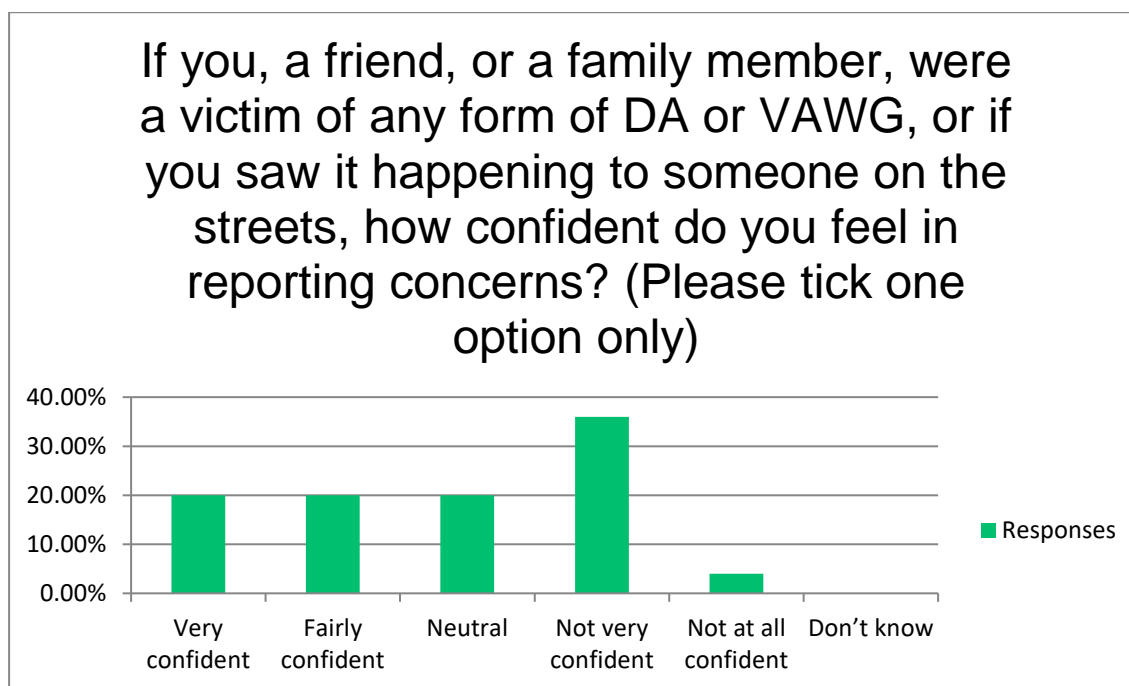
They were then asked whether they had taken any action. 15 respondents answered this question. Just under half (7 respondents) said they didn't take any action, 3 said they did take action and the others preferred not to say. All 3 who took action intervened at the time. Of these 3 people, 1 person reported to the police at the time, and 1 checked in with the person at a later time.

6 people answered the question about why they didn't take any action. 5 of them felt too afraid to take action, and 3 people said they didn't know what action to take.

### 8.3.5 Confidence in reporting or seeking help

We asked respondents if they, or a friend, or family member, were a victim of any form of DA or VAWG, or if they saw it happening to someone on the streets, how confident do they feel in reporting concerns. Chart 7 below shows the responses from 25 respondents.

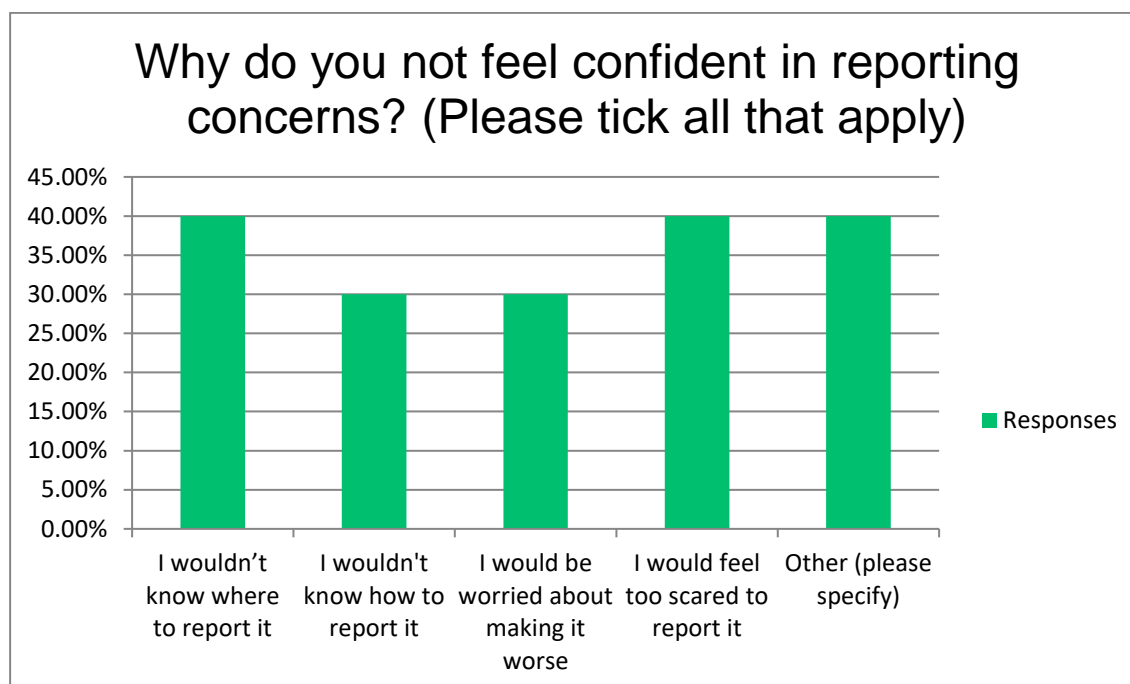
Chart 7: Respondent’s confidence in reporting concerns



Ten people then answered with reasons why they don't feel confident as seen in chart 8. For those who stated 'other', their comments are detailed below:

- Women feel that the reporting system is hard to navigate and have no faith that complaints are taken seriously enough.
- Not confident that police would respond even though reporting agency would take report seriously
- Concerned about not being believed or taken seriously, the majority of men have partaken in or allowed some form of harassment and a lot of law enforcers are men.
- In my own personal experience, reporting it has never amounted in the offender being penalised for their offences. I've also known cases where a friend/other has reported it and the reality for the victim has worsened due to no action being taken.

Chart 8: Respondent’s reasons for not feeling confident to report concerns



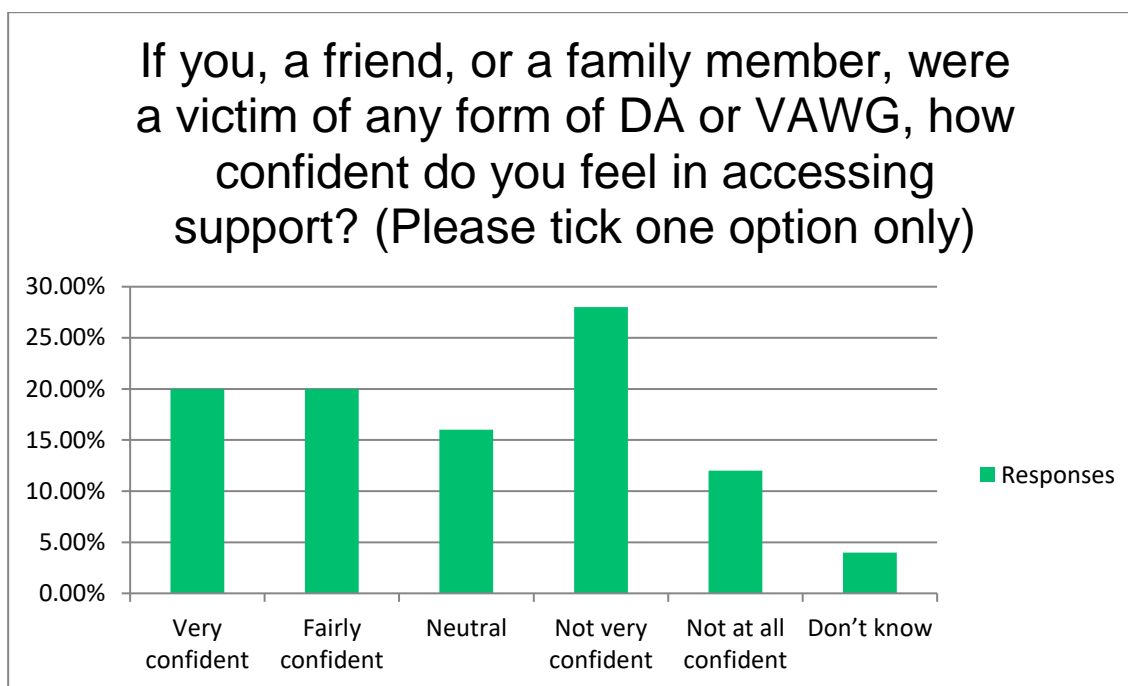
We asked respondents if they, or a friend, or family member, were a victim of any form of DA or VAWG, how confident would they feel in accessing support. 25 people answered this question. Their responses are detailed in Chart 9.

When asked why they don't feel confident, 10 people gave responses.

For those who stated 'other' their responses are below:

- It was/is difficult to accept that I am/was a victim
- Nothing has been done in the past
- Women don't feel the support is very rigorous or focused
- I asked for help but no one help me
- Previous support not always helpful
- the support is not available, especially mental health support is not enough for the amount of people it needs to provide for and often the victims concerns are played down or ignored, or they may be blamed
- I wouldn't have confidence that the system and the resources would be there. So many charities, Sure Start centres etc have been closed down and resources are stretched.

**Chart 9: Respondent’s confidence in accessing support**



**8.3.6 Respondents views on what we can do better in Barnet for victims and survivors**

We asked respondents what they think we could do in Barnet to help all victims and survivors of DA and VAWG. Table 7 groups their comments under key themes linked to the partnership objectives.

**Table 7: Respondent’s views on what can be improved in Barnet**

| Themes  | Description  |
|---|--|
| Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes | Better joined up services working together   |
|   | Communication between services and updates on responses between partner agencies e.g. Marac and GP. Perpetrator services for support and recovery accessed via clear safeguarding routes eg police and DV services   |
|   | Hold workshops across the borough, explaining what the council is actively doing in regards VAWG   |
|   | Work with the police and courts on these types of cases.   |
| Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover  | I believe from previous experience the police and hospitals should be the ones to provide the information to access support  |
|   | Police need to be better trained and have better understanding about all forms of abuse. Coercive behaviour goes on 24/7 and still they wouldn't treat it the way they treat physical. I also reported abuse online once and told the police in the form, "do not come to the house, you will make it worse", and they turned up 30 min later. other times, when I reported, they didn't turn up |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | Who does a victim call? It's a minefield of misinformation, I'd have absolutely no idea of where to get this kind of support from.  |
|   | Is there a talking group? Maybe better promote support services.  |
|   | Women will be safer in the domestic environment when men are given equal protection and a way to escape the abuse. For as long as men cannot leave a woman who is perpetrating domestic abuse out of fear of not being protected and losing their kids you are always putting the perpetrators of abuse at risk of self defence. Stop discrimination against men! |
|   | Teach professionals about trauma informed care, make sure victims are believed, taken seriously, and not penalised for other minor offences that are intersectional with the abuse they are facing. reduce the amount of victim shaming by professionals in law enforcement and medical care, as well as teachers.  |
|   | Fund more refuge spaces and counselling; get more funding for refuges in the borough  |
|   | Fund mental health services more<br>Give more mental support to the victims of violence.  |
|   | Offer private and public support groups. Allow for anonymity  |
|   | Listen and help now not after years   |
|   | More support for young women and girls, especially pre-16 that experience abuse in their relationships but do not meet the threshold for DA support as under 16.  |
|   | Make a wide campaign throughout the borough, outlining the supports available for the victims of domestic abuse.<br>Open people's eyes to what is happening, continue to show people what support is available and how to access it.  |
|   | Ensure that women with disabilities can access refuges<br>Ensure that women with dependents can access refuges<br>Ensure that migrant women with NRPF can access refuges locally  |
| Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families | More support in place to challenge the behaviour of men and boys, especially regarding street harassment and normalisation of sexual assault.   |
|   | Make sure the perpetrators are arrested immediately and get an appropriate punishment.  |
|   | I called the police one time who came to my house. I suppose a follow up by them or an independent body would have been good.   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | Need to highlight when women are attacked and more importantly inform the public when men are reprimanded, arrested, and then sentenced  |
|   | Be aggressive in pursuing prosecutions and restitution, fund more specialist police resources.   |
|   | Impose stiff penalties on those who offend   |
| Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces | Make the street safer for them so they aren't surrounded by the same kind of men who abused them in the first place. Make business owners take responsibility for their clientele. |
| Title, vision, aims   | Violence against anyone should be called out, not only women and girls   |

## 9 Appendix 1 Public consultation - Survey Monkey Questionnaire

# Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy

## Questionnaire



## Introduction:

We are currently consulting on our draft Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. The strategy sets out the partnership approach to tackling DA and VAWG across the borough and it is really important to us to hear your views. It sets out a vision for safety and support in Barnet and the objectives that will help to achieve this.

Further information on the strategy is provided within this questionnaire, which is structured in three parts:

1. Your personal experiences of feeling safe in the borough, and DA and VAWG
2. Your views on our strategy: the vision, objectives and action plan
3. Questions about you, so we ensure that we consider feedback from all stakeholders and communities.

You can view the summary consultation document [here](#) and the full draft DA and VAWG Strategy by clicking [here](#).

The questionnaire will take up to 10 minutes to complete the multiple-choice questions. In addition, we've included some open-ended comment boxes should you wish to provide more specific or detailed feedback.

Thank you for your time – your participation in this consultation is greatly appreciated.

Please select 'Next' to continue to the next page.

## SurveyMonkey and data protection

Barnet Council uses SurveyMonkey to host questionnaires, and to store and analyse the data collected through these questionnaires. The council has investigated SurveyMonkey and is satisfied with its data assurance and legal framework.

The council does not collect personal information in this questionnaire, which means the information you provide is anonymous. We do not ask for your name, address, email address, telephone number, full post code or any other information that would allow us to identify you. The information you choose to give us in the equalities questions is also anonymous so we cannot identify you from it.

Since the data we collect is anonymous, it is not considered to be personal data under data protection legislation (such as the General Data Protection Regulation or the Data Protection Act 2018).

If you have any questions about this statement, please email [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk).

## **Instructions for completing this questionnaire**

We have tried to make the questionnaire as easy as possible to complete.

Many of the questions have a range of options for you to choose from. Please choose the option closest to your opinion and tick the relevant option or options. In addition, we've included open-ended comment boxes with some questions should you wish to provide more specific or detailed feedback.

Thank you for your time – your participation in this consultation is greatly appreciated.

Please select 'Next' to continue to the next page.

**a) Background: Definition of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls**

**Domestic abuse** includes physical and sexual abuse, economic abuse, coercion and control, violence and threats, psychological and emotional abuse. When this behaviour is from a partner, ex-partner or family member, and you are 16 or over, the DA Act 2021 defines this as domestic abuse.

**Violence against women and girls** includes domestic abuse as well a number of other types of abuse and violence, and some forms of VAWG can be committed by anyone, including people you don't know. Our strategy covers the following forms of VAWG:

- sexual violence, abuse and exploitation
- sexual harassment and bullying
- stalking
- trafficking and forced prostitution
- domestic abuse
- coercive and controlling behaviour
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- forced marriage
- abuse and violence committed in the name of 'Honour'

**b) Section 1: Personal experiences**

To help us make sure our strategy and action plan are focused on local issues, we would first like to ask you about your own experience of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, and about how safe you feel in the borough. You don't have to answer the question if you don't want to and can just tick prefer not to say.

Experience of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

1. **Have you personally experienced any of the following? (Excluding seeing it happen to someone else or supporting people who are victims and survivors)**  
(Please tick all that apply)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Sexual harassment  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Harassment in the street including exposure and cat calling        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stalking   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sexual violence including rape                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coercive and/or controlling behaviour from a partner or ex-partner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coercive and/or controlling behaviour from a family member         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Domestic abuse from a partner or ex-partner                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Domestic abuse from a family member                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Sexual exploitation
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Honour based violence/abuse
- Faith based abuse
- Have not experienced any DA or VAWG  Go to Q 7
- Yes, but prefer not to say  Go to Q 7
- Other, please specify below

**c) Section 1: Personal experiences**

**2. Have you accessed support to help you with this? (Please tick one option only)**

- Yes, in Barnet .....  Go to Q3
- Yes, in another area outside Barnet  Go to Q3
- No, have not accessed any support  Go to Q6
- Prefer not to answer  Go to QQ7

**3. How satisfied were you with the support you received? (Please tick one option only)**

- Very satisfied .....  Go to Q3
- Fairly satisfied.....  Go to Q3
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  Go to Q7
- Fairly dissatisfied  Go to Q5
- .....
- .....
- Very dissatisfied .....  Go to Q5

---

- Don't know / Not sure  Go to Q7

**4. Please tell us why you were satisfied with the support you received: (Please type in your answer)**

**5. Please tell us why you were dissatisfied with the support you received:(Please type in your answer)**

**d) Section 1: Personal experiences, reasons for not seeking support**

**6. Why did you not access any support (Please tick all that apply)**

- I didn't know where to get help
- I didn't feel ready to seek help
- I felt too scared to seek help
- I felt worried that I wouldn't be believed
- I didn't know I was experiencing DA or VAWG at the time

---

- I tried to get help but it wasn't available
- I tried to help but it wasn't suitable
- I tried to get help but I wasn't eligible
- Other (please write in.....
- .....

**e) Section 1: Personal experiences, feeling safe in the local area**

We would like to understand how safe residents or visitors feel in terms of sexual harassment, abuse and violence in the streets, and public spaces in Barnet. This includes exposure and street harassment. We will first ask about feeling safe during the daytime and then feeling safe in the night.

**Exposure - A person commits an offence if—  
 (a)he intentionally exposes his genitals, and  
 (b)he intends that someone will see them and be caused alarm or distress  
 (Sexual Offences Act 2003)**

**Street harassment, sometimes called cat calling is when men target women with sexually graphic or lewd comments and includes wolf whistling. The Government is considering making this a specific crime under the national VAWG strategy.**

**7. How safe do you feel in your local area during the daytime? (Please tick one option only)**

- Very safe  Go to Q9
- Fairly safe  Go to Q9
- Neither safe nor unsafe  Go to Q9
- Fairly unsafe  Go to Q8
- Very unsafe  Go to Q8
- Not applicable/ No experience  Go to Q8

**8. What would help you to feel safer during the daytime? (Please type in your answer)**

**9. How safe do you feel in terms of violence against women and girls in your local area during the night? (Please tick one option only)**

- Very safe  Go to Q11
- Fairly safe  Go to Q 11
- Neither safe nor unsafe  Go to Q11
- Fairly unsafe  Go to Q10
- Very unsafe  Go to Q10
- Not applicable/ No experience  Go toQ11

**10. What would help you to feel safer during the night? (Please type in your answer)**



**f) Section 1: Personal experiences, witnessing VAWG**

**We would now like to ask you if you have ever witnessed violence against women. Firstly, in Barnet and then in other areas outside Barnet**

**11. How often have you witnessed a woman being harassed by a man, or a group of males, in public in the last two years, in Barnet? (Please tick one option only)**

- Once a month or more
- Every two to three months
- Four to six months a year
- Twice a year
- Once a year
- Once every two years
- Never  Go to Q15
- Prefer not to say  Go to Q15
- Don't know/no opinion  Go to Q15

**12. Did you take any action? (Please tick one option only)**

- Yes .....  Go to Q13
- No.....  Go to Q14
- Prefer not to answer  Go to Q15

**13. What action did you take? (Please tick all that apply)**

- I reported to the Police at the time
- I reported to the Police at a later time
- I intervened at the time
- I checked in with the person at a later time
- Other (please write in.....
- .....

Please now go to Q

15

**14. What stopped you taking action? (Please type in your answer)**

- I didn't feel it was my business
- I felt too afraid to take any action

- I didn't know what action to take
- The person asked me not to take any action
- Other (please write in.....
- .....

**15. How often have you witnessed**

**a woman being harassed by a man, or a group of males, in public in the last two years, outside the London borough of Barnet? (Please tick one option only)**

- Once a month or more
- Every two to three months
- Four to six months a year
- Twice a year
- Once a year
- Once every two years
- Never
- Don't know/no opinion

**16. Did you take any action? (Please tick one option only)**

- Yes .....  Go to Q13
- No.....  Go to Q14
- Prefer not to answer  Go to Q15

**17. What action did you take? (Please tick all that apply)**

- I reported to the Police at the time
- I reported to the Police at a later time
- I intervened at the time
- I checked in with the person at a later time
- Other (please write in.....
- .....

Please now go to Q

15

**18. What stopped you taking action? (Please type in your answer)**

- I didn't feel it was my business

- I felt too afraid to take any action
- I didn't know what action to take
- The person asked me not to take any action
- Other (please write in.....)
- ...


**g) Section 1:  
Personal  
experiences**

**Reporting concerns**

**and accessing support**

**19. If you, a friend, or a family member, were a victim of any form of DA or VAWG, or if you saw it happening to someone on the streets, how confident do you feel in reporting concerns? (Please tick one option only)**

- Very confident  go to Q18
- Fairly confident  go to Q18
- Neutral  go to Q18
- Not very confident  go to Q17
- Not at all confident  go to Q17
- Don't know  go to Q18

**20. Please can you tell us why you feel this way: (Please type in your answer)**

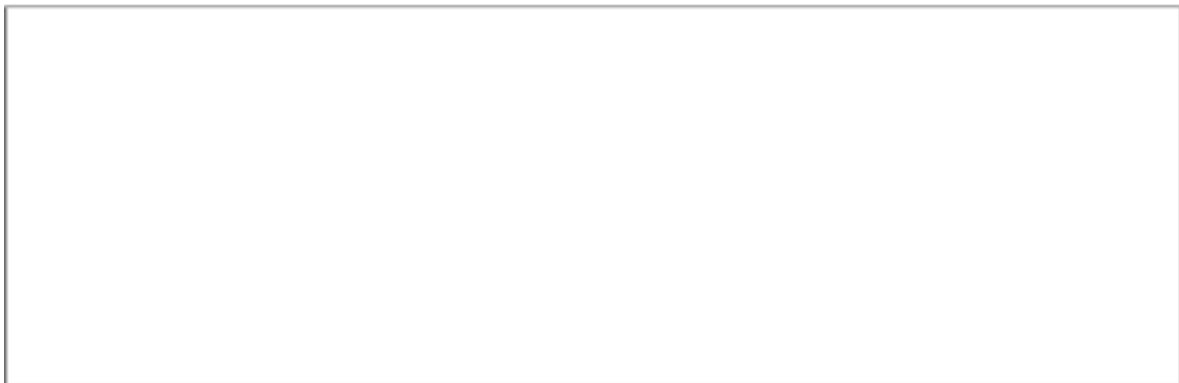
**21. If you, a friend, or a family member, were a victim of any form of DA or VAWG, how confident do you feel in accessing support? (Please tick one option only)**

- Very confident  Go to Q20
- Fairly confident  Go to Q20
- Neutral  Go to Q20
- Not very confident  Go to Q19
- Not at all confident  Go to Q19
- Don't know  Go to Q20

**22. Please can you tell us why you feel this way: (Please type in your answer)**



**23. We would like to know what we can do better in Barnet for victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse and VAWG. Please share your thoughts: (Please type in your answer)**



**h) Section 2: Your views on our draft strategy**

The voices of residents who have experienced Domestic Abuse and VAWG should be at the heart of the work we do. The priority areas for this strategy have been developed through our consultation work so far and represent their priorities for services and professionals who support them.

We want this strategy and its action plan to reflect the strength of the partnership response to DA and VAWG in Barnet and to ensure it is everyone’s business.

That’s why we would like to hear everyone’s views on these.

**i) Section 2.1 Vision**

We have developed a proposed new vision for Barnet:

*We want Barnet to be a borough where everyone can live free of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. Working with all our partners we will seek to ensure those impacted are able to get the help and support they need and want.*

**24. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision for Barnet? (Please tick one option only)**

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don’t know

**25. If you disagree with the vision, please say why: (Please type in your answer)**

**26. Do you think we have missed anything? (Please type in your answer)**

**j) Section 2.2: Objectives**

We have developed five shared partnership objectives that we will all work towards to achieve the aims of the strategy, these are:

- 1. Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
- 2. Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
- 3. Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
- 4. Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes
- 5. Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces

27. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the five objectives that will help us deliver the strategy? (Please tick one option only)

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

28. If you disagree with the objectives, please say why: (Please type in your answer)

29. Do you think we have missed anything? (Please type in your answer)

**k) Section 2.3: Action Plan**

A partnership action plan will detail the steps we will take across the borough to ensure we achieve the agreed objectives. You can see some proposed actions in the summary consultation document or the full document [here](#).

**30. Are there any actions you would particularly like to see included in our detailed action plan? (Please type in your answer)**

The VAWG Delivery Group will agree a set of partnership indicators that will measure success and outcomes against the objectives set out in the strategy. These will be reported to the VAWG Delivery Group Quarterly and the Safer Communities Partnership Board. We also want to continue consulting with victims and survivors to monitor the progress of the strategy.

**31. Is there anything else you would like to tell us? (Please type in your answer)**





**I) Section 3.1: About you**

To help us understand the feedback you give us, please tell us in what capacity you are responding.

**32. Are you responding as: (Please tick one option only)**

|   |                          |            |
|---|--------------------------|------------|
| A Barnet resident   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 34 |
| Barnet business   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 34 |
| A Barnet resident and a Barnet business   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 34 |
| A Barnet resident and an employee of Barnet Council and its partner organisations   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q32  |
| An employee of Barnet Council and its partner organisations (not a Barnet resident) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q32  |
| Representing a voluntary/community organisation                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 30 |
| Representing a public-sector organisation   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |
| Other (please specify)<br>.....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 34 |

**33. Please specify the type of stakeholders or residents your community group or voluntary organisation represents: (Please type in your answer)**

**34. Please specify the type of public sector organisation you are representing: (Please type in your answer)**

Community Group, voluntary or public sector organisation– route to end

**Staff questions**

**35. Which directorate or partner organisation do you work for? (Please tick one option only)**

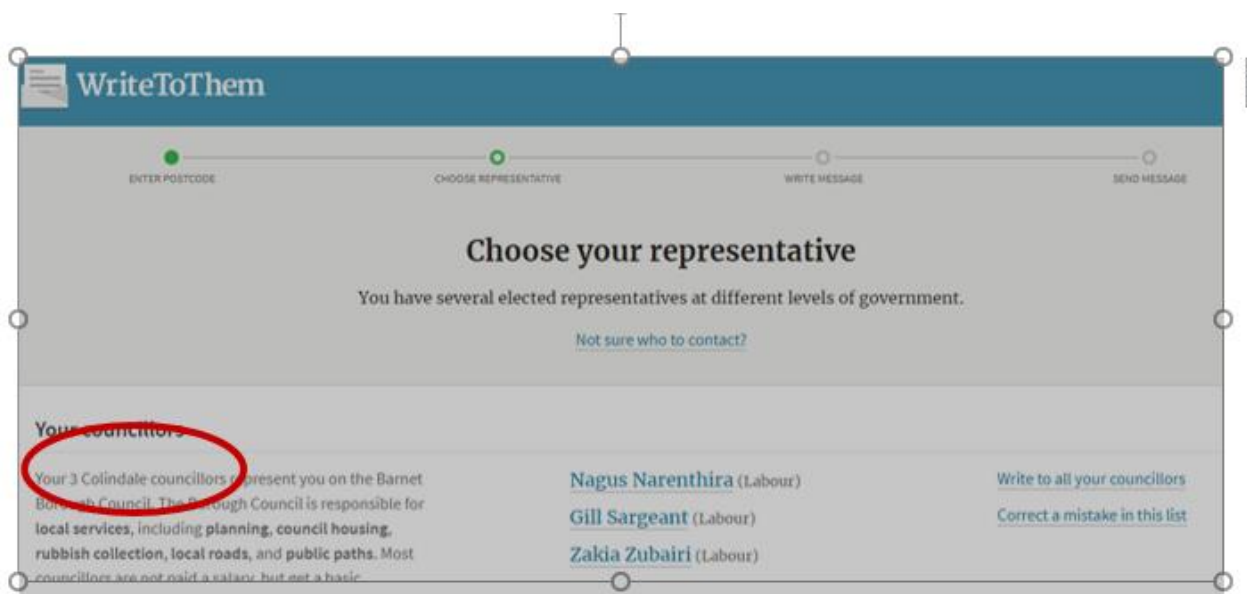
- Barnet Council - Adults and Health
- Barnet Council - Assurance
- Barnet Council - Children and Families Service (this includes Libraries)
- Barnet Council - Environment
- Barnet Council - Growth and Corporate Services
- Barnet Council - Public Health
- Barnet Council - Resources (this includes HR and Finance)
- Barnet Council - Street Scene
- Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS)
- CSG
- HB Public Law
- Re
- The Barnet Group
- Other (please specify)

**Residents**

When consulting with our residents and service users Barnet Council needs to understand the views of our different communities.

So that we can analyse the findings by different locations in the borough, please can you provide the Barnet ward that you live in.

If you do not know the Barnet ward that you live in you can find it by clicking [here](#) and entering your postcode. You should then see a page like the image below - you will find the name of your ward on the left-hand side of the page under the heading "Your councillors". In this example, the name of the ward is Colindale.



36. Which ward do you live in? If you live outside Barnet please select other and specify ....(Please select one option only)

|                     |
|---------------------|
| Brunswick Park      |
| Burnt Oak           |
| Childs Hill         |
| Colindale           |
| Coppetts            |
| East Barnet         |
| East Finchley       |
| Edgware             |
| Finchley Church End |
| Garden Suburb       |
| Golders Green       |
| Hale                |
| Hendon              |
| High Barnet         |
| Mill Hill           |
| Oakleigh            |
| Totteridge          |
| Underhill           |
| West Finchley       |
| West Hendon         |
| Woodhouse           |
| Other               |

**m) Section 3.4: Diversity monitoring**

The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, and requires the council to pay due regard to equalities in eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people from different groups. We ask questions about the groups so that we can assess any impact of our services and practices on different groups. The information we collect helps the council to check that our policies and services are fair and accessible.

Collecting this information will help us understand the needs of our different communities and we encourage you to complete the following questions.

All your answers will be treated in confidence and will be stored securely in an anonymous format. All information will be stored in accordance with our responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 2018.

**37. In which age group do you fall? (Please tick one option only)**

|       |                          |                   |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55-64             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65- 74            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 75+               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> |                   |                          |

**38. Are you: (Please tick one option only)**

|      |                                    |        |                          |                   |                                     |
|------|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Q37 | Female | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Q 37 |
|------|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|

**39. If you prefer to use your own term please provide it here: (Please type in your answer)**

**Pregnant and on maternity leave**

**40. Are you pregnant and/or on maternity leave? (Please tick one option on each row)**

|                                   | Yes                      | No                       | Prefer not to say        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I am pregnant                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am currently on maternity leave | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**41. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? (Please tick one option only)**

|                                    |                          |                                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Yes, it's the same                 | No, it's different       | Prefer not to say                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Q39 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Q39 |

**42. If you answered no, please enter your gender identity: (Please type in your answer)**

**43. What is your ethnic group? (Please tick one option only)**

| i. Asian / Asian British  |                          | Other ethnic group                            |                          |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Bangladeshi   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other ethnic group (✓ AND TYPE BELOW)     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chinese   |                          | <b>White</b>                                  |                          |
| Indian  | <input type="checkbox"/> | British                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pakistani   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Greek / Greek Cypriot                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other Asian background (✓ AND TYPE BELOW)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gypsy or Irish Traveller                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Black / African / Caribbean / Black British</b>                  |                          | Irish   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Turkish / Turkish Cypriot                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| British   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other White background (✓ AND TYPE BELOW) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Caribbean   | <input type="checkbox"/> | ii. <b>Prefer not to say</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other Black / African / Caribbean background (✓ AND TYPE BELOW) | <input type="checkbox"/> | iii. ....<br>.....                            |                          |
| <b>Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups</b>                               |                          | iv.   |                          |
| White & Asian   | <input type="checkbox"/> | v.  |                          |
| White & Black African   | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |                          |
| White & Black Caribbean   | <input type="checkbox"/> | vi.   |                          |
| Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background (✓ AND TYPE BELOW)     | <input type="checkbox"/> | vii.  |                          |
|   |                          | viii.   |                          |

**Disability**

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as ‘a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’.

In this definition, long- term means more than 12 months and would cover long-term illness such as cancer and HIV or mental health problems.

**44. Do you consider that you have a disability as outlined above? (Please tick one option only)**

Yes  No  (Please go to Q42)

**45. If you have answered ‘yes’, please select the definition(s) from the list below that best describes your disability/disabilities:**

|   |                          |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Hearing</b> (such as deaf, partially deaf or hard of hearing)  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Reduced Physical Capacity</b> (such as inability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, debilitating pain and lack of strength, breath energy or stamina, asthma, angina or diabetes) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Vision</b> (such as blind or fractional/partial sight. Does not include people whose visual problems can be corrected by glasses/contact lenses) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Severe Disfigurement</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                          | <b>Learning Difficulties</b> (such as dyslexia)  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Speech</b> (such as impairments that can cause communication problems)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Mental Illness</b> (substantial and lasting more than a year, such as severe depression or psychoses)   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Mobility</b> (such as wheelchair user, artificial lower limb(s), walking aids, rheumatism or arthritis)  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Physical Co-ordination</b> (such as manual dexterity, muscular control, cerebral palsy)   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Other disability, please specify</b><br>.....  |                          |  |                          |
| <b>Prefer not to say</b> <input type="checkbox"/>   |                          |  |                          |

**46. What is your religion or belief? (Please tick one option only)**

|           |                          |        |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Baha’i    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jain   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buddhist  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Muslim | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hindu     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sikh   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|                   |                          |  |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Humanist          | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Religion  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other religion/belief<br>(Please specify)<br>..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**47. What is your sexual orientation? (Please tick one option only)**

|                          |                          |   |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Bisexual                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gay or Lesbian           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other sexual orientation<br>(please specify)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Straight or heterosexual | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |                          |

**48. What is your marital status? (Please tick one option only)**

|             |                          |                                    |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Single      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Widowed                            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Co-habiting | <input type="checkbox"/> | In a same sex civil<br>partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Married     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Divorced    | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                    |                          |

Thank you for taking part in our questionnaire. We value your contributions which will help us tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in Barnet.

Once you press 'submit' your responses will automatically be submitted to Barnet Council.