

**Safer Communities Partnership Board**  
Minutes of meeting held on 16 October 2012  
Committee Room 2, Hendon Town Hall

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Cllr David Longstaff	Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement (Chairman)
Neil Seabridge	Deputy Borough Commander, Met Police
Jackie Alexander	North West London Magistrates
Douglas Charlton	London Probation
Denise Murphy	Community Barnet

**Also present:**

Simon Causer	Chief Inspector, Met Police
Pam Wharfe	Interim Director for Environment, Planning & Regeneration, LBB
Rick Mason	Assistant Director (Regulation and Community Safety), LBB
Tim Beach	Chair, Barnet Children's Safeguarding Board
Michael Taylor	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
Julia Mlambo	Community Safety Engagement Group Co-Ordinator
Michael Kelly	IoM Project Lead, LBB
Steve Murrant	Community Protection, LBB
Richard Bell	Community Protection, LBB
Julie Pal	Chief Executive's Service, LBB
Stuart Collins	Barnet Children's Service, LBB
Manju Likhman	Barnet Children's Service, LBB
Ruth Murphy	Commercial Services, LBB
Sue Smith	Adult Social Care and Health, LBB
Dov Gerber	Chair, Community Safety Engagement Group
Andrew Nathan	Strategic Policy Adviser, LBB
Jay Mercer	Deputy Director Children's Services, LBB
Liz Ostrowski	Domestic Violence Intervention project (DVIP) (item 5)

**1 Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed the Board and officials present as well as members of the public who were in attendance.

**2 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Adrian Usher (Barnet Borough Police Commander), Steve Leader (London Fire Brigade Barnet Commander), Julie Taylor (Assistant Chief Executive, LBB), Ceri Jacob and Maria O'Dwyer (NHS North Central London) and Phillip Fernandez (Crown Prosecution Service).

It was noted with regret that a restructuring of the CPS into three teams across London meant that there would no longer be a dedicated Barnet post that could sit on the Board. Neil Seabridge as a member of the Local Criminal Justice Board offered to be a point of contact for any matters where CPS input might be required.

### **3 Minutes of 24 July 2012 meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

### **4 Matters arising**

None

### **5 Safer Communities Strategy- review of progress against objectives**

Each of the leads for the priorities identified in the strategy updated on current activity and performance. The action plans in support of each objective, together with performance information on crime priorities had been circulated with the papers to ensure an informed discussion. Supt Neil Seabridge reported that there had been a significant reduction in all crime types and that Barnet had improved its position relative to other Boroughs in the league table of crimes per head of population.

#### **5.1 Acquisitive crime with special focus on burglary**

Supt Neil Seabridge reported that there had been a significant reduction in burglary which was currently down 5% compared to the same period last year. He outlined some of the operations and target hardening activity that would be used to tackle the traditional peak in burglaries during the winter season.

Cllr Longstaff suggested it would be useful for the charts to show three years worth of data. Neil Seabridge reported that the charts were centrally produced by Scotland Yard but he would request this.

**ACTION; Supt Neil Seabridge**

#### **5.2 Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)**

Steve Murrant updated the meeting on proposals to establish a new ASB Action Group (elsewhere on the agenda) and on the sealing of the Designated Public Places order (controlled drinking zone), which would come into effect from 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Tim Beach queried the extent to which the large reductions highlighted by the data reflected successful resolution, or under reporting of incidents. Supt Seabridge reported that the Police were confident that their problem solving model, based around addressing repeat locations and solving problems had made a positive impact, and Barnet's partnership model had been more widely adopted by the Met Police.

#### **5.3 Violent Crime with Special Focus on Domestic Violence (DV)**

Supt Neil Seabridge reported that as the strategy was to tackle the underreporting of hate crime, targets were not set for number of incidents but an increased Sanction Detection rate. While the current rate was below target, Barnet was still a comparatively strong performer, and was working on swifter response times to calls.

Liz Ostrovsky, Head of Service Delivery for the Domestic Violence Intervention Project, outlined the services they had been commissioned to provide, which focused on providing sustained support both to victims of Domestic Violence, but also perpetrators, and their families. She outlined how users could refer themselves or be referred by an organisation including Probation, Children Social Care and voluntary groups. She was keen to work with the widest range of partners and supplied her contact details. It was also noted that leaflets

were available and that coverage was being included in the Council's newspaper Barnet First.

#### **5.4 Improving Integrated Offender Management (IOM)**

Douglas Charlton updated the Board and a paper was circulated with the agenda papers. The co-located service was growing including an enhanced presence from agencies doing drugs and alcohol work including brief interventions. In this connection it was noted that from 2013 Drug Testing on arrest would become mandatory in Barnet for selected trigger offences.

There was capacity to increase the cohort, possibly to include people released on licence. It was felt that the work of the team with offenders may have directly contributed to recent burglary reductions.

Michael Kelly further highlighted key issues from the paper he had prepared including details of the risk assessment of all offenders, the visit from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and work to implement the Information System Hub.

#### **5.5 Broader, Cost Effective Early Intervention (Troubled Families Programme)**

Stuart Collins presented the update circulated with the agenda and reported that 305 families had been supported since January 2012, 190 of whom met the criteria to be supported through Department for Communities and Local Government Troubled Families programme. He reported that progress had already been made against the measurable outcomes and that work was taking place with schools to address attendance issues for families who met the criteria.

The Board welcomed progress to date, but were keen to have more specific information on crime and anti social behaviour outcomes, not least for reporting back to the GLA, as their community safety funding was used to help support the expansion of the programme.

Stuart Collins agreed to circulate the report produced in June 2012 on the outcomes of a sample of families that have already been supported through the programme; and to include more detailed outcomes on crime and ASB in future reports.

**ACTION: Stuart Collins**

#### **5.6 Focus on places where offences take place**

#### **5.7 Tackle repeat victimisation**

CI Simon Causer reported that these were in effect a golden thread running through other priorities, in which the police and partners were focusing on repeat victims, perpetrators and locations, and on offenders and families that caused concern.

The Police were developing a list of the sites that were the major crime generators in Barnet, many of them petrol station forecourts, and would bring further information to the next meeting, but Supt Seabridge counselled that there was a need to move beyond raw data on number of offences, and assess the harm and impact associated with them.

It was agreed that these priorities be unpicked in more detail at the January meeting when the strategic priorities would be reviewed, and that they must also cover such issues as town planning and designing out crime.

Cllr Longstaff requested that a Council lead be identified to report on this item alongside the Police and it was agreed Pam Wharfe should be the lead contact short term, pending the new Commissioning Group of the Council being fully established.

**ACTION: Pam Wharfe**

## **2.8 Building Reassurance and Confidence**

Chris Palmer was not present and the item requested on the media and community engagement strategy was therefore held over until January 2013 when he would be required to be present. Tim Beach highlighted that the agenda had revealed a number of positive stories which needed to be communicated.

**ACTION; Chris Palmer**

The Board noted that the Action plan included a winter burglary campaign and a programme of campaigns including around Domestic Burglary and Anti Social Behaviour.

There was a discussion on the measurement of public confidence and the Police suggested that their own survey was only based on small numbers and that the Council's Resident Perception Survey might be more useful. Andrew Nathan reported that the current survey was scheduled to commence shortly and agreed to supply CI Causer with more details. The results would be reported to the January 2013 meeting.

**ACTION: Andrew Nathan**

## **6 Safer Communities Strategic Review: Developing the Outline Business Case- a new approach to the offender journey**

Ruth Murphy delivered a presentation on the development of a new model to support the offender journey, which would take forward the Outline Business Case for Safer Communities Strategy Partnership enhancements. Five key initiatives had been identified, namely Neighbourhood Justice panels, Community Coaches, Conditional Cautioning, Intensive Alternatives to Custodial Sentences, and Personalisation for targeted prisoners on release, and her presentation highlighted the rationale and financial case for each.

She clarified that Restorative Justice was principally applied to Anti Social Behaviour and lower level offences rather than Domestic Violence. The Board were supportive of the restorative justice proposals.

There were some concerns that the initiatives only applied to offenders who were willing to engage, although conditional cautions could act as an incentive for people to engage. Supt Seabridge reported that conditional cautioning was already used in some circumstances but there was a danger it merely moved costs from Magistrates to the Police.

Douglas Charlton reported that Probation already provided alternatives to short-term custody. He also expressed concern at how the suggested enhancements might be delivered at a time when Probation's budgets were shrinking and their role was being reviewed by the Secretary of State for Justice.

Jackie Alexander requested that more detailed discussions take place with the Magistrates Court and also the Youth Offending Service to map how much of this was already in place, as well as ensuring that options were coherent with the sentencing guidelines. She also cautioned that cost savings might not be realisable unless volumes decreased to the extent that a Court could be closed and overheads reduced as a result.

Ruth would refer these comments back to the Project Board for this stream of work for further consideration, and to further refine and test costs and assumptions.

**ACTION: Ruth Murphy.**

### **7 Safer Communities Strategy: Governance review (Outline/Scope)**

Ruth Murphy presented an update on the proposed methodology and next steps for reviewing current governance and delivery mechanisms for the Safer Communities Strategy. It was suggested that for priorities the word 'own' be replaced by 'lead', as the Board collectively owned the priorities. Andrew Nathan highlighted that this review would also dovetail with the annual review of priorities also scheduled for the January 2013 meeting.

It was agreed that:

- this approach be supported and the project return to the January meeting of the Board with a recommendation report:
- the review approach be trialled for integrated Offender Management before being rolled out across the remaining strategy priorities.

**ACTION: Ruth Murphy/Andrew Nathan**

### **8 Barnet Anti Social Behaviour Action Group (BASBAG)**

Simon Causer reported that the Multi Agency Operations Group, which had now become less relevant as key priorities were being delivered through other structures, should be replaced by a Barnet Anti Social Behaviour group (BASBAG). This would plug a gap in driving forward the ASB theme of the Strategy, and meet monthly to map locations, hotspots, victims and perpetrators, solve problems and deal with the major generators of anti social behaviour. It would be chaired by the Police Chief Inspector for Neighbourhood Policing.

The Board endorsed these proposals.

### **9 Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Statement of Mission and Priorities**

Michael Taylor introduced the Statement of Mission and Priorities issued by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, which had been circulated with the papers. He highlighted that the MOPAC mission was for London to be considered the safest global city on the planet; for the Metropolitan Police Service to become the UK's most effective, efficient, respected and even most loved police force; and a capital city where all public services work together and with communities to prevent crime, seek justice for victims and reduce reoffending.

He reported in response to a question from CI Simon Causer that funding allocated to Borough Commands was still under discussion. He further reported proposals in development for Safer Neighbourhood Boards which would bring Community Safety Engagement Groups and other local groups under a single banner. This had been included in the manifesto, but had no implementation date and he would report back when further information was received.

**ACTION: Michael Taylor**

Dov Gerber reported that the Community Safety Engagement Group Chairs Forum had been meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to discuss how the proposals might work and Julia Mlambo outlined that issues such as supporting victims and police complaint handling might be included within their remit.

Supt Seabridge reported that the new Borough Commander had been sharing his proposals for community crime fighters meetings where the community were equipped with information on Police performance which they could use to challenge the Police. The Police were looking at how to work together with existing meetings to avoid duplication.

### **10 Barnet Safeguarding Children Annual Report**

Tim Beach, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board, presented the Annual Report for 2011/12. He reported the findings of OFSTED's inspection of safeguarding and praised the contribution made by Barnet Youth Shield, who had twice been shortlisted in the London Safeguarding Awards.

He emphasised the close links to Domestic Violence work, and that the report listed outcomes in detail and that partners on the Board had in general implemented what they had undertaken to do.

The Board thanked Tim for an excellent report and commended its findings.

### **11 Other Business**

Andrew Nathan reported that the Children's Trust Board (CTB) was currently engaging partners in the development of a new three year Children and Young People plan. A workshop had already taken place, but the CTB was keen to ensure that all partners had the opportunity to identify what they thought the priorities should be. He would circulate brief information separately to Board members.

### **12 Date of Next Meeting**

*15 January 2013 -Hendon Town Hall at 2.30pm.*

Andrew Nathan Chief Executive's Service, LBB      18 October 2012