

Appendix 1

Community Safety Annual Report: 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022



1. Executive Summary

This annual report is the second of its kind following the governance review undertaken of the Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC) and Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (BSCPb) in May 2021.

The previous annual report highlighted to the Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC) that several areas of the Community Safety Team's operational and governance were transferred in 2021 into the Family Services Directorate namely those services for Domestic Abuse-Violence against Women and Girls: Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation and Reducing Offending workstreams. These areas of work will bring their own reports to the CLLC and BSCPb as scheduled by those meeting forward plans.

Therefore, this report covers the work of the Community Safety Team within the Assurance Service which includes Responsibilities as outlined the Community Safety Accreditation scheme of Powers including:

- o Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
- o Environmental Crime
- o Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- o Prevent Agenda (including Hate Crime)
- o CCTV
- o Covid -19 Enforcement

The governance review set out that routine reporting and scrutiny in relation to Environmental Crime waste enforcement should be through the Environment Committee (from May 2022 the Environment and Climate Change Committee) and that the annual update for performance overall within the Community Safety functions would be considered as part of the overview and scrutiny function of the Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee.

Article 7 section 7.5 in the Council's constitution sets out the responsibility for functions of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee which include Community Safety. Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 sets out that every local authority shall ensure that it has a crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or its executive with respect to the discharge of those functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 complement these provisions and are supported by Home Office guidance. Barnet operates a committee system form of governance and consequently does not have a system of overview and scrutiny committees save for the statutory Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, the duty to perform crime and disorder scrutiny remains a requirement in committee system authorities. As such, Barnet have elected that the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee to be the committee responsible for discharging responsibilities relating to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.

2. The purpose of this report:

Therefore, this report is to provide a summary on the outcome of all Community Safety work undertaken during the 2021/22 financial reporting year (1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021) and represents a picture of that work undertaken, including the Community Safety Team's restructure, performance and progress

Following the end of Covid-19 restrictions and subsequent enforcement responsibilities, officers from the Community Safety Team resumed normal duties in September 2021 and the changes approved by

the General Purposes Committee in January 2022 have resulted in the Community Safety Team’s restructure to reflect a named Community Safety Team Investigation and Enforcement officer per ward.

The new ward area map (following the ward boundary changes effective May 2022) showing the 24 wards and the officer coverage is at Annex A of this report.

3. Impact of the COVID19 Pandemic:

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

During the covid lockdowns in 2021; the Community Safety Team were redeployed onto Covid19 duties in addition to their core duties. This involved street-based patrols to monitor, report and enforce against non-compliance. The table below Fig3.1 reflects the total number of Covid compliance checks undertaken by those officers in the reporting period as **23,836** Fig 3.2 below reflects the enforcement activity data work of the team.

Fig3.1: Covid compliance checks undertaken by CST officers - 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022

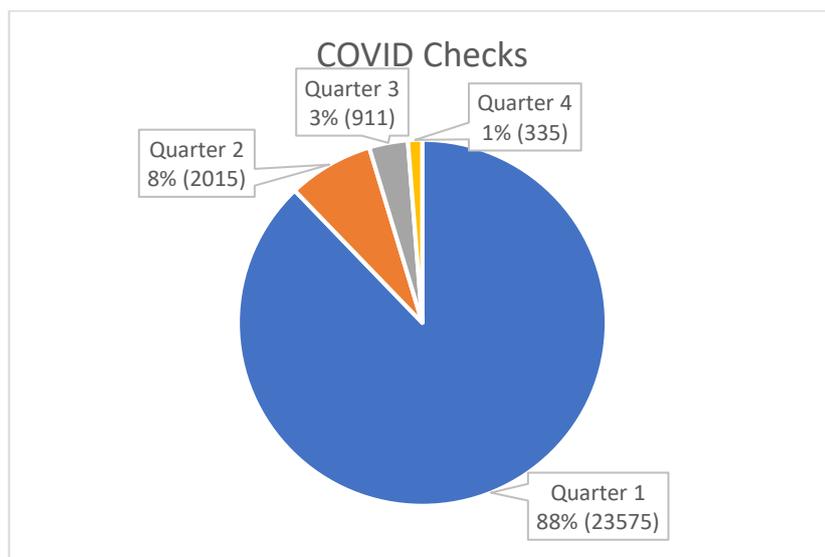


Fig3.2: Covid19 Enforcement Data 2021/22

COVID19 Enforcement Data 2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Prohibition Notice	1	4	0	0	5
FPN	0	1	0	0	1
Improvement Notice	16	3	0	0	19
Coronavirus Improvement Notice	16	1	0	0	17
Advice Given	13	0	0	0	13
Total	46	9	0	0	55

Outcomes 2021/22	Total
Compliance	54
NFA and Compliance	1

4. Barnet Community Safety restructure:

The new Community Safety Team structure was agreed at following approval at Constitution and General Purposes Committee in January 2022 and implemented from 1st April 2022.

The redesign of the Community Safety Team;

- Provides a uniformed and highly visible, patrolling presence in our communities by seeking to reduce environmental crimes including fly tipping, littering and anti-social behaviour as well as combat the fear of general crime by providing reassurance and assistance with the aim to create safer streets across Barnet, with a strong focus on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Adopt a new 7-day shift based working pattern to ensure the streets of Barnet are patrolled by uniformed council officers between the hours of 8am-8pm.
- Increase resource to create a ward-based approach to deal with community issues
- Increase the visible officer presence on the street
- Improve productivity and outcomes by exploring opportunities for different enforcement operational models
- Enhance joint working/multi-tasking across the range of functions by creating a creating a specialist investigation and enforcement capability for the council.
- Work with partner organisations to address issues of anti-social behaviour such as frauds, fly-tipping, noise nuisance and illegal parking
- Obtain and collate intelligence on anti-social behaviour, suspicious conduct, and criminal activity in order to instigate remedial counter measures.
- Be a point of liaison for Police, Law Enforcement Agencies (Enviro Agency, DVLA etc), MOPAC, Home Office as well as Council Departments, Partners and Community Groups to enable an effective coordinated response
- Create dedicated CCTV qualified and specialist service

5. Community Safety Team case volumes for 2021/2022

The ECINS secure web-based case management system is used by the Community Safety Team for all the Community Safety Team's case management functions in Barnet. The ECINS system is also used in Barnet by the partnership officers such as our police and housing linked practitioners enabling a fully integrated partnership case management IT platform. In 2021 the Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team adopted the use of ECINS for their case management processes.

The Community Safety Team received and logged **2495** cases between **April 2021 – March 2022**. This compares to the previous reporting year of **1794** cases and represents a **39%** increase in cases. These cases cover the team's multiple multi agency workstreams such as the Community Safety Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CS MARAC); Unauthorised Encampments; Members Enquiries for the Community Safety Team; Environmental Crime Investigations (Fly tipping, ASB – Personal, ASB – Nuisance, ASB – Environmental), and COVID19 (Compliance).

Fig 5.1: New Community Safety Teams cases recorded on ECINS 2021/22 - volumes

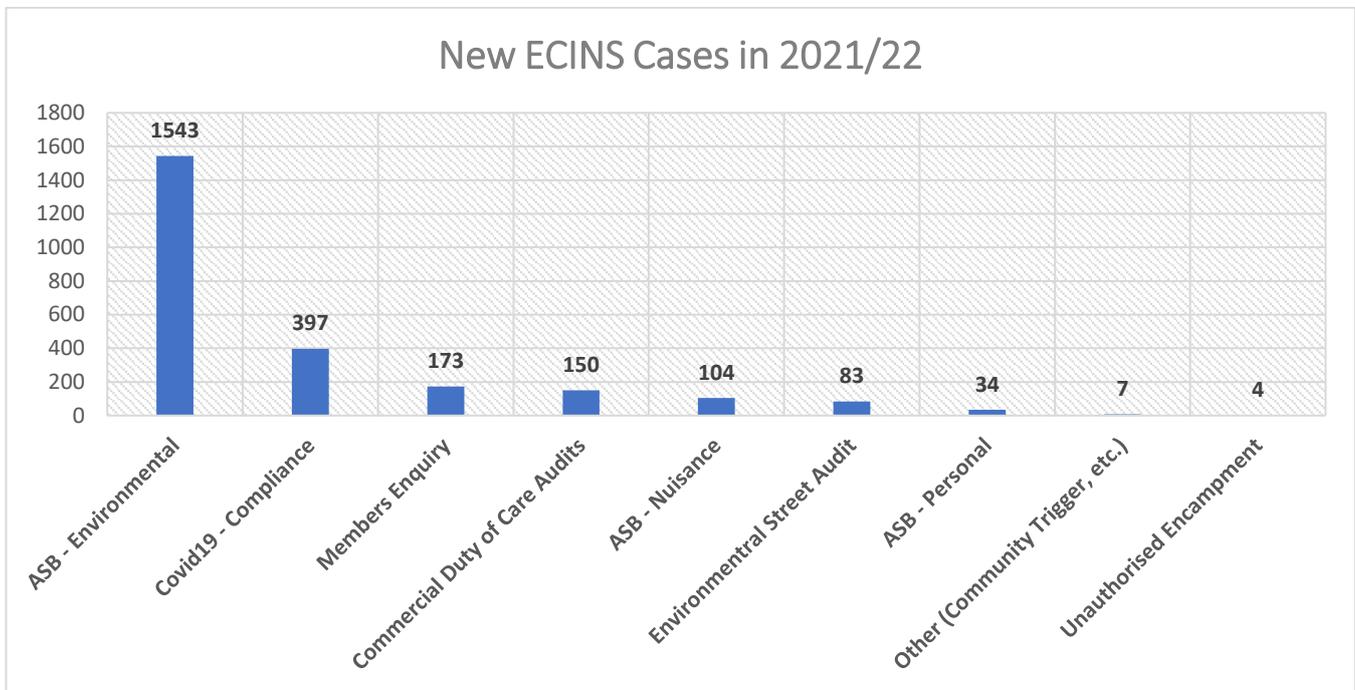
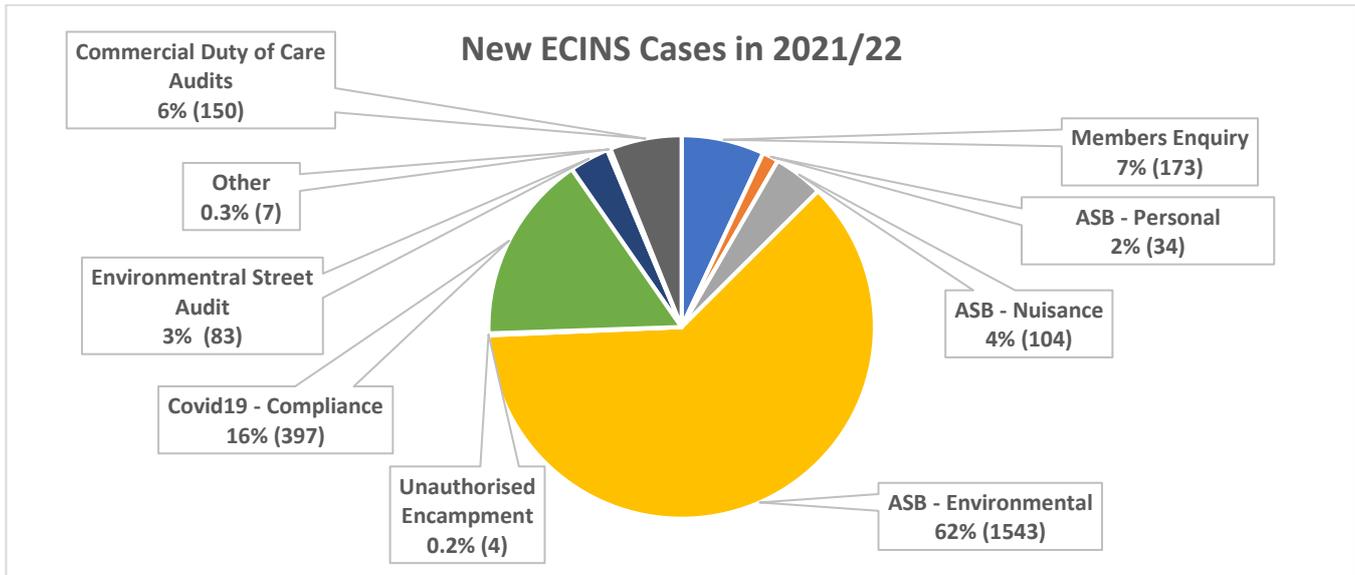


Fig 5.2: New Community Safety Teams cases recorded on ECINS 2021/22 – percentages



6. Anti-social behaviour

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

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

The Community Safety MARAC (CS MARAC) panel delivers our coordinated multi-agency response for victims of repeat and/or high risk anti-social behaviour. The panel convenes every 6 weeks and routinely has 5 new case referrals per meeting and had an average of approx. 20-27 cases per meeting, implementing a bespoke partnership action plan for each case.

Unlike some crime types, the volume of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls to police did not reduce during the lockdown. While a substantial proportion of the ASB calls received during this period were related to allegations of breaches of the Covid-19 social distancing regulations, the calls also included matters such as neighbour disputes. The Community Safety MARAC panel has been working to deliver a coordinated multi-agency response for victims of repeat and high risk ASB.

New Referrals received

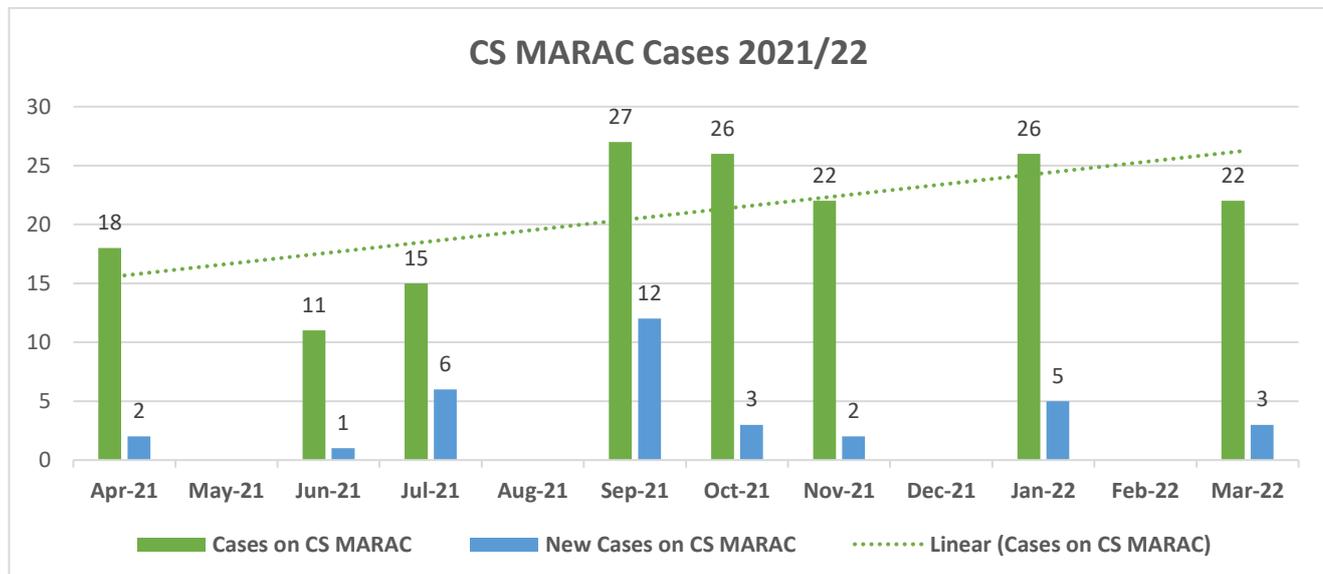


21 Cases on average per month are reviewed during each CS MARAC meeting

4 new referrals are received into the CS MARAC per month on average ¹

NB: Since the increase in the number of Community Safety Team officers in September 2021 there has been a notable increase in the number of cases referred to the CS MARAC (note the green dotted line in Fig6.1 below and in Fig6.3 below the pie chart yellow September 2021).

Fig6.1: CS MARAC case data 2021/22



¹ 4.25 per month to be exact

Fig6.2: Total cases on CS MARAC 2021/22

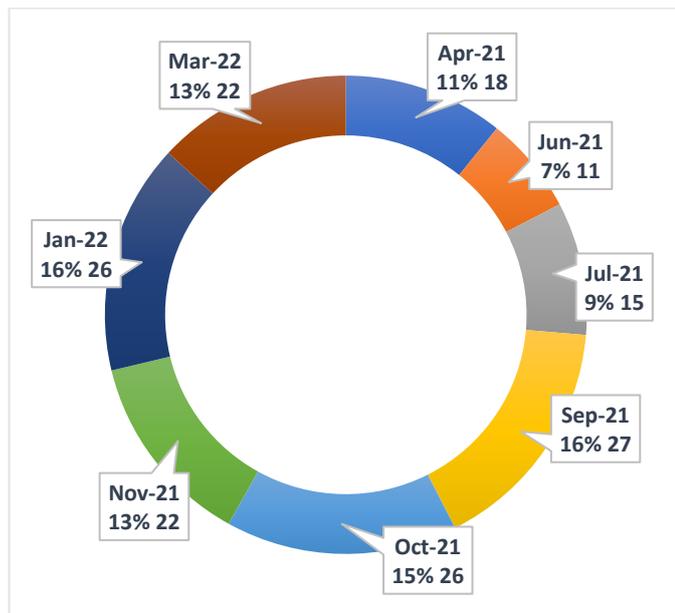
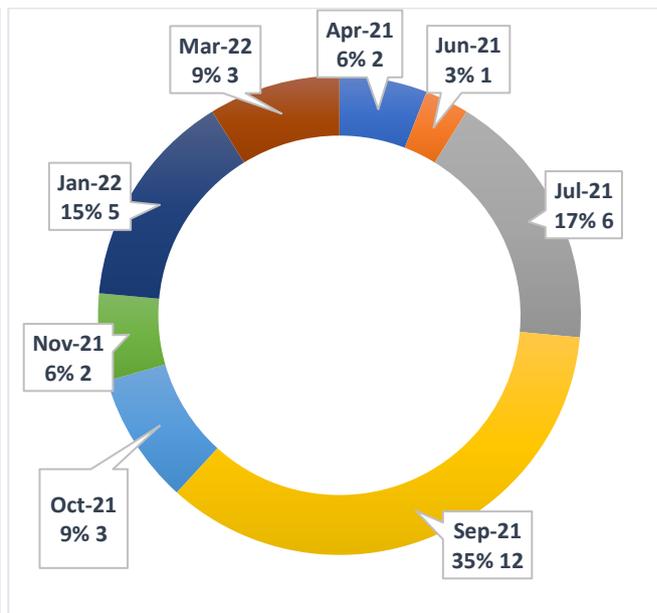


Fig6.3: New referrals to the CS MARAC 2021/22



Community Safety ASB Enforcement tools and powers activity

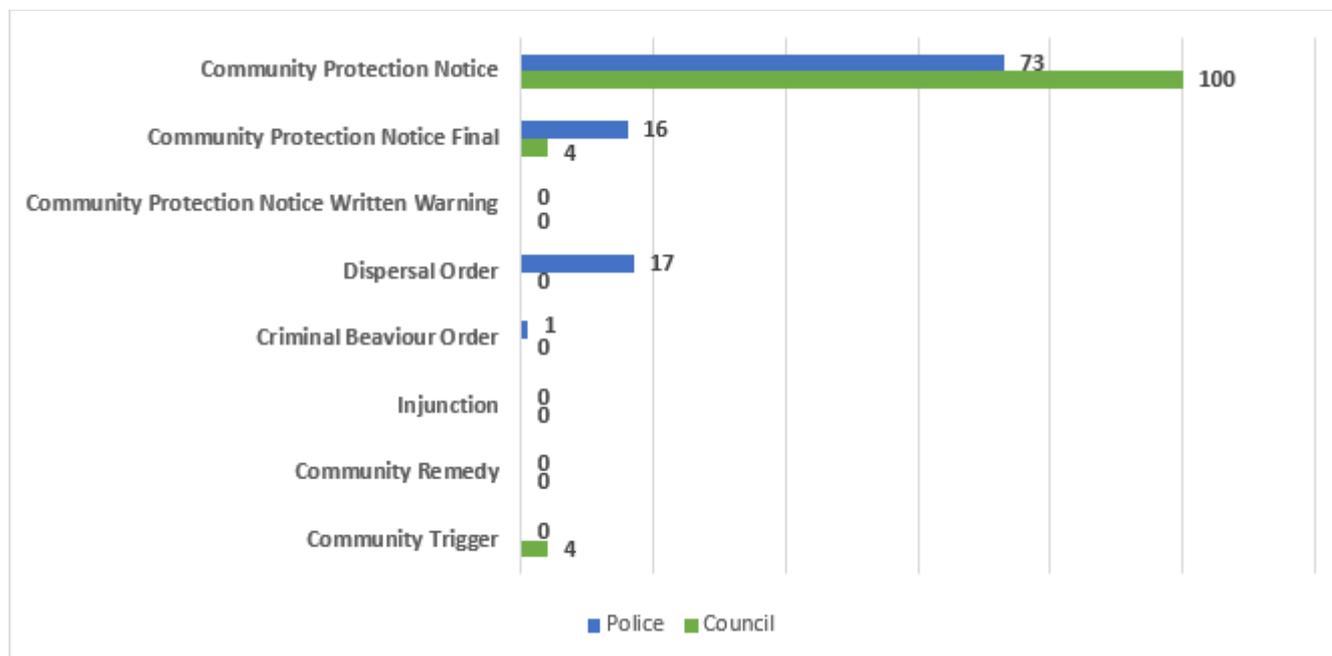
The data below shows the use of the anti-social behaviour tools and powers during the period April 2021 – March 2022. An explanation of the anti-social behaviour tools and powers can be found at the end of this report in the glossary section. It is worthy to note that most of the exercising of the powers in the act are shared between the police and the Council. Police only powers include the Dispersal power; and Social Housing providers are the sole applicant for absolute grounds for possession power.

The table in Fig 6.4 below shows that during the reporting period there was a high use of the early intervention Community Protection Notice Written Warning power. This reflects the previous year’s use of this power by the Community Safety Team and Police partners. The use of this power in this period was linked to various behaviours including Unauthorised Music Events, neighbour disputes and the associated ASB, the clearing of waste from private land and managing the behaviours of the occupants of unauthorised encampments in the borough.

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

Fig 6.4 below shows the combined Barnet Police and Community Safety Team use of the ASB tools and powers for the reporting period.

Fig 6.4: Barnet **Combined** ASB return for 2021/22



7. CCTV

A report submitted to the CLLC Committee on the 6th October 2021 set out the commencement of a strategic review of Barnet’s Community Safety CCTV requirements, including the procurement requirements for new CCTV contracts for the Community Safety Team and the Libraries Service. A further report: CCTV programme – Revised Outline Business Case & Update on the Strategic Review is being presented to the June 2022 CLLC which details work to date and update to the overall project. At the present time Barnet has 127 fixed and 33 mobile CCTV units deployed across the borough to assist in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. This figure does not include the 20 Police ANPR cameras in the borough.

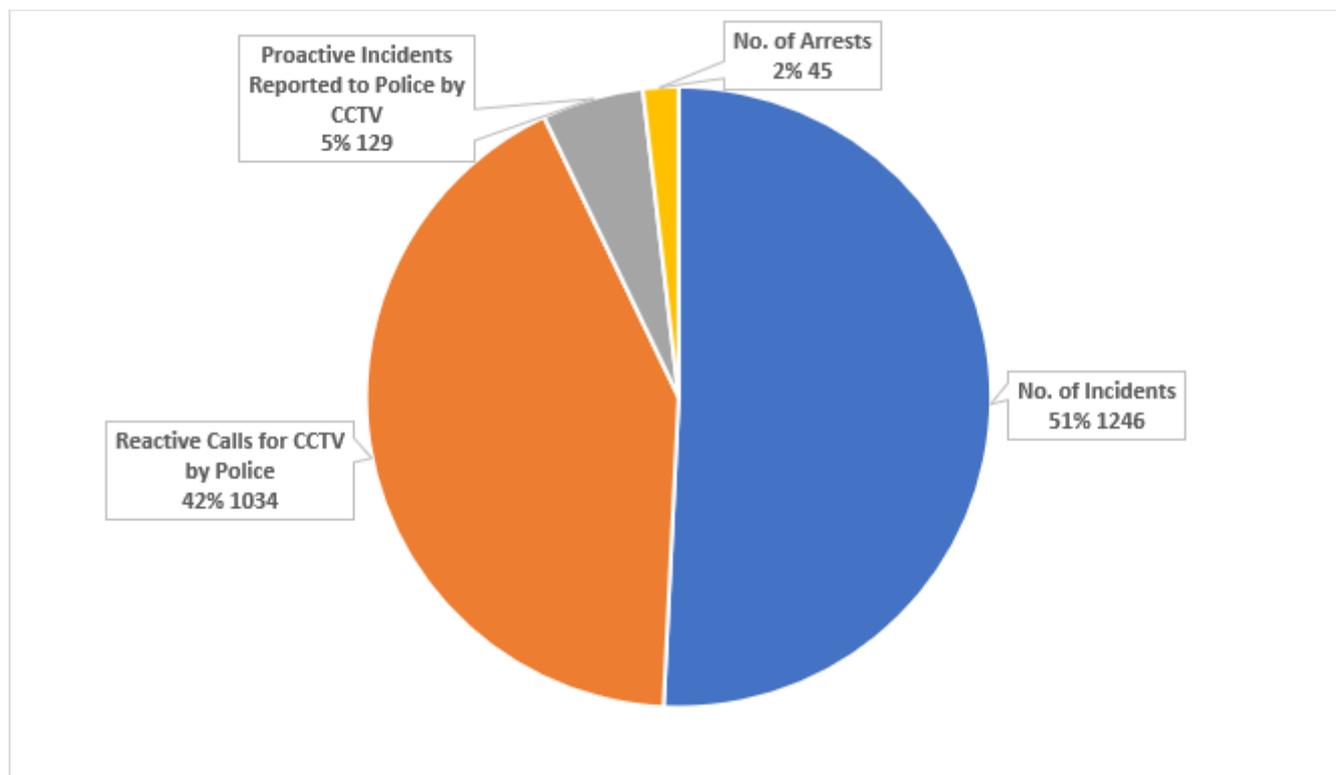
As part of this review and in line with the Community Safety Team’s restructure approved in January 2022 the Investigation and Enforcement officers are now issued with Body Worn Cameras (BWC) which are being worn whenever the officers deploy into their wards on duties. This is to assist with evidence gathering, crime prevention, officer, and public safety and to support our prosecutions.

The Community Safety Team has also procured a dedicated CCTV car which can be deployed to areas of interest to capture activity where required.

This report highlights the number of incidents captured by our CCTV control room which recently undertook a change in its operating hours from 1200 - 0400 hours to being manned 24hours/7 days a week.

The control room process police generated CCTV enquires (reactive) and also control room operator identified incidents (proactive); which are then relayed to the police control room for assistance and in some cases the apprehension of offenders. The data for the reporting period for these types of incidents is below in Figure 8.1. In the 2021/22 reporting period as a total number of **1,362 incidents**.

Fig 8.1 Barnet Cctv incident volumes (reactive/proactive and arrest data) 2021/22



9. Delivery of the Prevent Strategy

Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST².

Prevent is a statutory requirement for Barnet Council to safeguarding and support those vulnerable to radicalisation and influences towards extreme ideologies, this is referred to as the Prevent Duty.



The Prevent Duty, under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, requires all specified authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Barnet Local Authority, and our partners, have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to protect vulnerable individuals from those that may want them to harm others or themselves.

What does Prevent Do?

At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding adults and children by providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism but continues to ensure resources and effort are allocated based on threats to our national security.

Barnet’s Prevent Strategy is our response to the government’s national counter-terrorism strategic aims which are to stop people being drawn into or supporting terrorism. The strategy focuses on three key objectives which are:

- responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it
- preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>
(CONTEST 2018 - Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Overseas)

- working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

Prevent referrals received 2021/22

Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel is part of the Prevent strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and support individuals at risk of being drawn into extremism and terrorism.

During 2021/22 there were **21** referrals received and assessed for Channel suitability. 10 were considered suitable for a multi-agency safeguarding plan.

Of these 10 Channel cases:

90% were male, **10%** female

50% were adults, **50%** were under 18

PREVENT awareness training performance

It is imperative that the Local Authority have a robust training programme in place to ensure staff and volunteers possess the skills required to identify and refer vulnerable individuals for safeguarding.

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

During 2021/22 **48** training sessions were delivered, reaching 1297 education professionals and LA frontline staff.

Barnet coordinated three Homeland Security Group funded projects:

- **Solutions Not Sides** – delivery focused on Barnet schools and addresses Islamophobic and Anti-Semitic narratives linked to the Israel/Palestine conflict. 18 sessions were delivered to 567 secondary school pupils
- **Small Steps** – Eight sessions delivered to community groups and statutory professionals raising awareness and upskilling staff and volunteers to develop skills and confidence to identify people at risk of grooming and radicalisation by far right-wing extremists. A further project was commissioned to evaluate far and extreme right-wing sentiment among Barnet communities. A final report identified where community tensions were highest to enable a greater focus on delivering cohesion and resilience initiatives.
- **Connect Futures:** Delivered three projects focussing on Violent Extremism, Mixed and Unclear Ideologies and Fake News/Conspiracy Theories – Twelve sessions in total were delivered to Barnet professionals and community groups. 88 individuals attended the workshops.

10. Delivery of the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project

The Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project has the overarching aim to “To keep the people of Barnet safe by reducing hate crime in the borough. This continues to be achieved by increasing people’s confidence to report hate crimes in Barnet; improve the support for victims of Hate Crime; and raise awareness of how to report Hate Crime in Barnet while safeguarding the most vulnerable in the community who are impacted”. The attainment of the overarching aim is supported by several key objectives:

- Delivering evidence based multi-agency response to Hate Crime through Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board.
- Utilising the Met Police Hate Crime Dashboard and through engaging the local partnership, to maintain ongoing assessment of risk locally including specific details re: hot spot areas in the borough that may require proactive intervention and additional resource to tackle hate crime.
- Increase awareness of the impact of hate crime. This action includes delivering training to professionals, community groups and volunteers
- To expand the cohort of Hate Crime Reporting Centres to include sections of the community that may be vulnerable to hate crime and may lack the confidence to report crimes or seek support. Through ongoing risk assessment, respond speedily where evidence emerges that a specific section of the community is vulnerable to increased hate crime utilising the local Partnership and safer neighbourhood Police colleagues to provide assurance and information to encourage hate crime reporting.
- Ensuring that all agencies in Barnet are mindful of the impact of hate crime upon vulnerable children and adults who may be victims of other forms of abuse and may require a tailored support package.
- Through engagement with the Communities Together Network and other partners including Inclusion Barnet and the Barnet Multi-Faith Forum, we will identify and respond to all forms of hate crime that emerge within Barnet

In partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector, the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project continues to engage with communities and organizations across the borough to improve access to justice for victims of Hate Crime and to make it easier for people to report Hate Crime and get the support that they need. To date over **500** residents have signed up to become Hate Crime Reporting Champions.

During the reporting period Barnet Mencap has recorded 12 hate crime cases in 2021/22.

- 7 cases were reported to the Police via the True Vision Online Reporting Platform.
- 3 cases were reported to the Police via the phone on 101.
- 2 cases were not reported to the Police; one incident was considered not to be a crime; and one victim is still deciding whether he wishes to report to the Police. Both the victims continue to be provided with support by Barnet Mencap.

The Police responded in all 12 cases by either visiting the victim or calling the Hate Crime Reporting Co-ordinator who facilitated contact between the victim and Police.

8 out of 12 reports to the Police have been resolved satisfactorily, with the victim or the victim's family/carer being happy with the outcome. In 4 of those cases, the victim's families were particularly pleased with the communications and dispute resolution provided by Barnet Mencap and the Police.

4 incidents are ongoing and Barnet Mencap continues to monitor the cases and provide support to the victims. The Police are involved and Barnet Mencap continues to assist with communications between the victim (or victim's family) and the Police.

According to police open data (<https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/hate-crime-dashboard/>) there were the following in Barnet for the reporting period – please see Fig14.1 below:

Fig 14.1: Barnet (Metropolitan Police) hate crime data 1st April 2021-31st March 2022

Incident Type	Offences	Sanction Detections
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Hate Crime, Anti-Semitic	156	3
Hate Crime, Disability	23	1
Hate Crime, Faith	205	5
Hate Crime, Homophobic	67	6
Hate Crime, Islamophobic	33	2
Hate Crime, Racist & Religions	825	69
Hate Crime, Transgender	13	3