



Safer Communities Partnership Board

22 July 2022

Title	Family Services Q1 2022/23 Report
Report of	Tina McElligott, Director Early Help & Children's Social Care Services
Wards	All
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Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A - Barnet Violence & Vulnerability Action Plan Review Sheet Appendix B – Barnet Violence & Vulnerability Action Plan
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Summary

This report provides the Safer Communities Partnership Board with an update on Q1 2022/23 activity against the Action Plan for Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls and the Violence & Vulnerability Action Plan.

Officers Recommendations

1. The Safer Communities Partnership Board to note and comment on the progress being made to reduce offending, violence, and exploitation, including Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls

1. Why this report is needed

1.1 This report provides the Safer Communities Partnership Board with Q1 2022/23 update on the activity that falls within Family Services delivery which includes progress against the Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2022-2025 Action Plan and progress against the Violence & Vulnerability Action Plan

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Action Plan Progress

- 1.1.1 The Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Delivery Group met on 14 June 2022 to finalise with the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Action Plan. Priorities against each of the five Action Plan objectives have been agreed for year 1 and an internal action plan monitoring document has been developed for the VAWG Delivery Group to track and measure progress against this.
- 1.2 **Objective 1:** Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
- 1.2.1 The final session of the 4-month accredited Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) training, funded by London Borough of Barnet has been delivered to 23 learners from Youth Support Services in the Voluntary Sector, Early Help, Children's Social Care, Adult MASH, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, Barnet Homes, Change, Grow, Live (substance misuse and alcohol services) and specialist Domestic Abuse service providers. Assessments are now underway for the Level 3 Certificate in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Intervention.
- 1.2.2 The first London Borough of Barnet Coercive Control and Economic Abuse training session has been delivered to a multi-agency group of learners and there has been positive uptake of Level 1 Domestic Abuse Awareness training which is fully booked for July delivery.
- 1.2.3 The London Borough of Barnet White Ribbon Steering Group met in June to commence development of a 3-year Action Plan which will support employees and create lasting change through development across four key areas of work; Strategic Leadership, Changing Culture, Raising Awareness and Engaging with Men and Boys. A Domestic Abuse Policy is currently being developed for staff and Barnet will continue working with White Ribbon to promote accountability for White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions.
- 1.2.4 Further and alongside White Ribbon accreditation, Barnet Council is a signatory to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Women's Night Safety Charter, against which £108,000 of funding for dedicated training and resources is available to enable signatories to meet the Charter's seven pledges. MOPAC is working with the Safer Business Network and through sign up to the Charter asks for all organisations that operate at night to:
- Nominate a champion in your organisation who actively promotes women's night safety
 - Demonstrate to staff and customers that your organisation takes women's safety at night seriously, for example through a communications campaign
 - Remind customers and staff that London is safe, but tell them what to do if they experience harassment when working, going out or travelling

- Encourage reporting by victims and bystanders as part of your communications campaign
- Train staff to ensure that all women who report are believed
- Train staff to ensure that all reports are recorded and responded to
- Design your public spaces and workplaces to make them safer for women at night

1.2.5 The Night Charter aims have links to White Ribbon accreditation as such will be tabled for that group to discuss local implementation and will also be monitored by the VAWG Delivery Group. The Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust Hospital has also committed to seeking White Ribbon accreditation following discussion at the VAWG Delivery Group.

1.2.6 Public Health and the VAWG Delivery Team have started conversations about the challenges and opportunities for VAWG prevention in Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in schools. Public Health will present to the VAWG Delivery Group to promote understanding across the partnership and strengthen the ways in which organisations can work together.

1.2.7 The VAWG Delivery Team have met with Middlesex University staff to develop a student project over the next academic year. A representative will join the VAWG Delivery Group to work towards the prevention aims of the Strategy. A partnership event to share learning from the project will be held at the conclusion of this strand of work.

1.2.8 A further 3 years of funding for Reducing Parental Conflict has been allocated by the Department of Work & Pensions. Barnet 0-19 Early Help Services are recruiting a dedicated officer to assist with the 3-year delivery programme

1.3 Other priorities against this objective agreed by the VAWG Delivery Group for Year 1 delivery are for the roll out a multi-agency training workshop on the new offence of non-fatal strangulation and/or non-fatal suffocation and development of a Communications Strategy. **Objective 2:** Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover

1.3.1 To meet the aim of increasing awareness and access to domestic abuse victims from under-represented groups. The toolkits for commissioned domestic abuse services are being reviewed as a priority in Year 1 to ensure that impact is captured, and under-represented groups are identified to enable the partnership to work towards increased reach and access.

1.3.2 The Against Violence & Abuse delivery of Children Overcoming Domestic Abuse (AVA CODA) groups is a recovery programme for mothers and children that has been adapted by the 0-19 Early Help Service to meet the needs of Muslim women living in the borough

1.3.3 A Survivor Forum is currently in scoping phase with the aim of having this and improved

access to mental health support for victim/survivors and perpetrators progressed within year 1 delivery as a priority.

1.4 Objective 3: Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families

- 1.4.1 The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime visited the London Borough of Barnet on 23 June 2022 to learn more about the implementation and outcomes of the tailored CIFA (Culturally Integrated Family Approach) programme delivered by Rise Mutual. The programme is for perpetrators and delivers in consideration of cultural context and family values and traditions. The service is funded to work in Brent and Enfield and has secured MOPAC funding for a further year.
- 1.4.2 The VAWG Delivery Group will scrutinise data from Met Police North West Basic Command Unit (NW BCU) including the impact on sanction and detection rates from use of body worn cameras. Further, the volume of domestic violence prevention notices issued and the number of successful domestic violence prevention orders obtained in court will be tracked so a clear picture can be developed as to the impact and effectiveness of these interventions.
- 1.4.3 Operation Soteria has been developed from an approach trialled in within Avon & Somerset in 2021; it aims to build a new national operating model for the investigation of rape and serious sexual assault. Through the VAWG Delivery Group updates on the implementation of the 96 recommendations for police and CPS to improve the response to rape will be monitored.
- 1.4.4 The One Stop Shop will share information about non-molestation orders with NW BCU to close this information gap on perpetrator interventions.

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

- 1.5.1 The VAWG Delivery Group have agreed the need to strengthen analysis of data as a priority for Year 1 to ensure that data sourced is meaningful and useful for driving system learning and change. London Borough of Barnet Family Services are currently out to recruitment for a VAWG Data Analyst.
- 1.5.2 The VAWG Delivery Group has agreed that tackling the multiple disadvantages of women who experience VAWG will be a priority for the multi-agency partnership and will be focused on building partnership working for holistic wraparound of support. The VAWG Delivery Group membership have agreed to take a proactive approach to seeking funding opportunities that strengthen partnership working in Year 1 of delivery to support the aims of this strategic priority across all delivery years.

1.5.3 Project Starlight is new research, commissioned by Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) which has revealed a 'striking prevalence' of domestic abuse in the lives of those referred to Prevent as being vulnerable to radicalization. In response, Domestic Abuse awareness training has been delivered to Channel Panel and the Prevent Delivery Group and Prevent training is being coordinated for Domestic Abuse services.

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

- 1.6.1 Barnet's Community Safety Strategy 2022-2027 sets out a joined-up approach to ensure people who live, work or visit the borough, especially women and girls feel safe.
- 1.6.2 Priorities agreed for Year 1 delivery include a scoping exercise to explore implementation of a Safe Spaces scheme in Barnet. The national scheme 'UK Says No More' [Safe Spaces Locations - UK SAYS NO MORE](#) is operating in partnership with pharmacies and banks to promote and provide safe spaces to report domestic abuse. The scoping exercise in Barnet will consider local business and community spaces where victims and survivors can go to access support or contact support services through use of the internet or telephone.
- 1.6.3 A task and finish group is developing a public awareness raising campaign to ensure all members of the public are aware of ways in which they can stay safe and seek help.
- 1.6.4 Extending the hate crime reporting model to include violence against women and girls is another priority agreed for Year 1 delivery against the Domestic Abuse & VAWG Strategy 2022 -2025.

1.7 **Violence & Vulnerability Action Plan**

- 1.7.1 The Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan (VVAP) has 32 objectives with 83 actions against them. Of these, 77 (92.77%) have been implemented and are subject to bi-monthly monitoring by the multi-agency partnership. The remaining actions within the VAAP are on target for delivery this year. This is the first report to the Safer Communities Partnership of progress against the Action Plan since it was submitted to MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit in January 2022 and signed off in April 2022.
- 1.7.2 MOPAC VRU feedback on Barnet's Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan is largely positive with five of the seven strands of the action plan being noted as good practice, these are detailed in Appendix A (Barnet VVAP review sheet) and are summarised below
- Community Safety Integrated Group (CSIG) as a mechanism to coordinate responses between key stakeholders and the Police to share intelligence of incidents and risk of incidents in the borough to ensure coordinated planning for public safety in community spaces

- public health as a key action owner
- Training of housing managers and other staff to support weapons sweeps in high-risk areas.
- The Early Help CEAM (Child Exploitation and Missing) tool to support the development of Early Help Assessments for young people at risk of extrafamilial harm is very promising practice, which the VRU would be keen to learn more about
- Serious Incident response meeting (SIRM)

. There are two areas that require further development to ensure actions are SMART:

- Actions in relation to Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability were considered a little generic and would benefit from greater detail once implemented.
- Positive diversion from violence requires specific end dates and progress updates.

1.7.3 The two areas requiring further development are being addressed; the London Crime Prevention Funding is providing for the development of a dedicated victim coordinator role to signpost and support victims of crime (including unreported crime) to support and services i.e. psychological therapies and housing support. The Victim Coordinator role is currently out to recruitment; the project aims to support information sharing and inter-agency coordination across victim support services and offender management services, identifying gaps, improving interface and reducing duplication in supporting victims to recovery. This work will strengthen this strand of the VVAP which is attached as Appendix 2

1.7.4 During 2022, the multi-agency strategies that drive the work of Youth Justice Services, Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation and 0-19 Early Help Services are being updated. Barnet has recently launched its Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (2022 – 2025), Corporate Parenting Strategy and the 'My Say Matters', Child Participation Strategy (2022 – 2025) and these will be linked to a new suite of ambitious strategic plans focused on prevention, reducing harm, violence, exploitation and offending. The Youth Justice Plan was submitted to the Youth Justice Board on 30 June 2022 and is awaiting feedback and approval.

1.7.5 Maintaining a strong focus on addressing need early and building resilience through strengths-based and evidence informed practice approaches, the strategic alignment of key workstreams will make clearer who the whole system how the most vulnerable individuals and groups in our borough are supported and how problems are shared and tackled to create lasting change.

- 1.7.6 The multi-agency partnership will together draft a strategic framework that creates a clear flow between prevention, early help, safeguarding, violence, abuse, exploitation and offending from the earliest point in the child's journey through to adulthood. Parents, carers, children and young people, key stakeholders, including members will be invited to contribute and shape the development of these key strategic documents. In the process of realigning strategic priorities, the governance and accountability frameworks will be subject to review to ensure key priorities are driven by the most effective fora and make good use of professional's time and resources.
- 1.7.7 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) undertook an inspection of Barnet Youth Offending Services in February 2022; the last inspection of Barnet's Youth Justice Services was in 2012. The Inspection Report was published on the [HM Inspectorate of Probation website](#) on 31 May 2022. Barnet received an overall rating of 'Good', the quality of resettlement policy and provision, was separately rated as 'Good'. Nationally, two-thirds of Youth Justice Services in England are graded Good or better.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 To update the Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) regarding the progress made in relation to the delivery of the various work strands in Family Services in relation to violence, vulnerability, exploitation and offending
- 2.2 For the Safer Communities Partnership Board to note the progress made against the ambitions of the council and key partners in delivering against key Action Plans to reduce domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, serious youth violence and reducing offending.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 3.1 Not relevant in relation to this report

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 Not relevant in relation to this report

5. Implications of decision

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Family Friendly is a key part of the Barnet Plan for 2021-2025 with the vision of "Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to

achieve their best". This will be reviewed by the new Administration.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 There are no current financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4 Under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, it is a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including Police, Fire & Rescue, Greater London Authority, Transport for London) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending.

5.5 The BSCP is a Community Safety Partnership set up in accordance with the requirement of the section 5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

5.6 The Terms of Reference of CLLC in Barnet's Constitution states that the Committee acts 'as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny Regulations) 2009'.

5.7 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on local authorities in England to provide, among others, accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation

5.8 Section 10 of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 amended the Offender Management Act 2007, placing a duty on the Secretary of State for Justice to ensure that arrangements for supervision or rehabilitation identify specific need and so make appropriate provision for women and vulnerable groups.

5.8.1 {Reference the relevant section of the Council **constitution** (see [here](#)) which provides authority for the action. Refer also to the appropriate Terms of Reference for the Committee receiving the report (see [here](#)).}

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 n/a

5.10 Social Value

- 5.10.1 The economic and social costs of domestic abuse is set out in the Research Report of Rhys Oliver, Barnaby Alexander, Stephen Roe and Miriam Wlasny, January 2019. The report highlights the significant cost of the physical and emotional harm suffered by victims (£47 billion), particularly the emotional harms (the fear, anxiety and depression experienced by victims as a result of domestic abuse). The next highest cost is for lost output relating to time taken off work and reduced productivity (£14 billion) followed by the cost to health services (£2.3 billion) and the police (£1.3 billion). Housing costs, including temporary housing, homelessness services and repairs and maintenance cost a total £550 million.
- 5.10.2 Tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls seeks to reduce the economic, familial, psychological and physical harm caused by through violence through education, prevention, support for victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- 5.10.3 Serious Youth Violence is a public health problem, when it is not fatal, it can have serious, lifelong impact on physical, psychological and social functioning; this greatly increases the cost to health, welfare and criminal justice services.
- 5.10.4 The cost of offending and reoffending is set out in the 2018 Home Office report on the Economic and Social Cost of Crime (2nd edition). The report followed a cohort of offenders identified in 2016 who subsequently went on to reoffend during the 12-month follow up. The total estimated economic and social cost of reoffending was £18.1 billion. In addition, there is a further personal, familial and community cost which impacts on the lives of individuals, children and families and the communities that they live in.
- 5.10.5 48% of adults that spend time in prison go on to reoffend within 12-months of release. Prison does not treat offending and does not prevent reoffending (Ministry of Justice, 2019 'Proven reoffending statistics': April – June 2017).
- 5.10.6 Reducing reoffending seeks to minimise the harm caused and create opportunities for social integration, family cohesion and community engagement. For women, particularly those who are primary carers for children, the value in supporting those women to escape cycles of abuse, victimisation and offending may also mean providing a child(ren) with improved opportunities to grow up in their own family and to enjoy healthy and reliable contact with a primary carer.

Note: The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.11 Risk Management

5.11.1 Risk management varies according to the different initiatives. The partnership or appropriate agencies are made aware of risks and actions to mitigate the risk are agreed and put in place. There is always risk that the partnership may not achieve the targets set due to factors outside its direct control – however there is strong partnership working in place enabling agencies to identify and highlight risk and be open to addressing the risk collectively.

5.12 Equalities and Diversity

5.12.1 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The equalities impact will be revisited on each of the proposals as they are developed. Consideration of the duties should precede the decision. It is important that Cabinet has regard to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material such as consultation responses. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

5.12.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.12.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

5.12.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

5.12.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a

relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Tackle prejudice, and
- b) Promote understanding.

5.12.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- a) Age
- b) Disability
- c) Gender reassignment
- d) Pregnancy and maternity
- e) Race
- f) Religion or belief
- g) Sex
- h) Sexual orientation
- i) Marriage and civil partnership

5.12.7 Advice on completing Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) can be found [here](#).

5.12.8 Domestic Abuse and Violence against women and girls activity is in direct response to fact that the majority of victims of gender-based violence are women and girls. The local authority and its partners will work together to achieve gender equality, improve understanding of consent and provide education that supports positive gender role models and healthy relationships.

5.12.9 Honour-based violence impacts on racially minoritised communities, as such is a priority for the partnership to tackle and eradicate, by enabling women to live free from violence and make positive choices about who they marry and what happens to their bodies reduces health, education and gender inequalities.

5.12.10 Our programme of work will ensure that the most vulnerable in society. Including children affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence or coercion and control are educated and empowered to access support to develop healthy relationships that are free from violence and abuse.

5.12.11 LGBTI+ communities are affected by violence in relationships and in the community, the programme of work will seek to improve information sharing to marginalised communities and improve access to help and support

5.12.12 Our partnership recognises the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by disabled people, especially women and girls, and those in or leaving care or of advanced age and we will work to ensure that all people, including vulnerable men, have access to the help and support that they need to live safely in the community.

5.13 Corporate Parenting

5.13.1 Many children who are cared for by the local authority have been exposed to domestic abuse prior to entry into care and young women in care and leaving care may have adverse childhood experiences that may make them more vulnerable to domestic abuse, coercion and control in relationships. The DA and VAWG Strategy 2022 – 2025 aims to ensure that domestic abuse services are accessible to all that need them, including children. The strategy will overlap with Corporate Parenting Services and arrangements for transitional safeguarding.

5.13.2 Children and young people in care and care experienced young people have a higher prevalence of adverse childhood experiences that may make them susceptible to grooming and coercion as such may be at an increased risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system. The strategic aims of working with children, young people and adults at risk of violence, exploitation and offending will ensure cohesive overlap with Corporate Parenting Services, transitional safeguarding and transitions and resettlement planning for young people involved with Youth Offending Services and transitioning to National Probation Services.

5.14 Consultation and Engagement

5.14.1 As a matter of public law, the duty to consult with regards to proposals to vary, reduce or withdraw services will arise in four circumstances:

- where there is a statutory requirement in the relevant legislative framework
- where the practice has been to consult, or, where a policy document states the council will consult, then the council must comply with its own practice or policy
- exceptionally, where the matter is so important that there is a legitimate expectation of consultation
- Where consultation is required to complete an equalities impact assessment.

5.14.2 Regardless of whether the council has a duty to consult, if it chooses to consult, such consultation must be carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:

- comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage
- the consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response
- there is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals
- there is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are considered by the decision-maker / decision-making body when making a final decision

- the degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting
- where relevant and appropriate, the consultation is clear on the reasons why and extent to which alternatives and discarded options have been discarded. The more intrusive the decision, the more likely it is to attract a higher level of procedural fairness.

5.14.3 The refresh of the 0-19 Early Help Strategy and Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy will be informed by public consultations - including with partnership organisations, members and service users. This will be further detailed as the strategies are developed.

5.15 **Environmental Impact**

5.15.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

6. **Background papers**

6.1 2021/22 Family Services Report (pg. 17 – 108) presented to Community Leadership & Libraries Committee 20 June 2022 ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Community Leadership and Libraries Committee, 20/06/2022 19:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)