



# **Barnet Community Safety Strategy**

## **2022-2027**

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# Foreword



**by Councillor Sara  
Conway  
Chair of the Safer  
Communities  
Partnership Board**

Barnet Council's new administration has made community safety a priority. Although Barnet is one of London's safest boroughs this is not always how people feel. This Community Safety Strategy outlines how we will work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour to make Barnet a safer place, now and in the future.

Our manifesto pledges lie at the heart of this, and we are already starting to deliver them. We are:

- Investing in a major upgrade of the borough's CCTV system
- Creating neighbourhood community safety hubs so residents can raise concerns about crime directly with police and council enforcement officers
- Developing a programme of 'Street Safe' audits for each ward, working with residents, the police, and a named community safety officer on action plans based on local priorities
- Building a pro-active approach to improve safety for women and girls, including scoping a network of safe spaces across the borough
- Participating in National Hate Crime Awareness Week and other initiatives to challenge all identity and faith-based crime and highlight support services and spaces

We are also changing how the Council engages with residents to help people feel less isolated, more connected and safer. We will do an annual community safety assessment and consultation to keep track of crime and ASB trends, and how people are feeling, and update our strategy every year.

Reporting crime helps direct limited resources to where they are needed most:

999 for emergencies,

101 online or by phone for non-emergencies,

Crimestoppers for total independence and anonymity,

The Council's community safety team for non-police issues, and

Victim Support for free and confidential support after a crime.

***Together we will work to make Barnet a place where everyone feels safer.***

## Introduction

The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership brings together agencies and organisations involved in crime prevention and community safety within the Borough of Barnet. It includes Barnet Council, the Metropolitan Police, Fire Service, the Probation Service and Public Health; as well as other statutory and non-statutory organisations that play an essential role in tackling and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Barnet. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on Safer Community Partnerships to develop a Community Safety Strategy that sets out how they will tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in their area. Our aim is that everyone who lives, works in, or visits Barnet will feel safe and be safe.

## Barnet Community Safety Strategy 2022-2027

This document outlines how Barnet Safer Communities Partnership will work together to reduce crime, the fear of crime and help ensure Barnet remains one of London's safest boroughs. The strategy outlines the priorities and outcomes that the Safer Communities Partnership Board will focus on over the next five years. The priorities have been identified through considering the findings of a detailed assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour trends and a consultation with the residents of Barnet conducted from January to March 2022. The consultation included an online survey that focused on the perceptions and experiences of Barnet residents around crime and anti-social behaviour, and what their key concerns are. Our strategy will focus on supporting victims of crime and directing partnership resources to the areas of high crime and ASB in the borough; whilst our overarching priority will be to safeguard victims and protect the public.

## The Safer Communities Partnership Mission:

Barnet is one of London's safest boroughs in which to live and work, with overall crime continuing to reduce since 2005. Our shared aim is to ensure Barnet continues to record significant reductions in crime and ASB to remain one of the safest boroughs in London. We will accomplish this by working with our residents, communities, local businesses and our partners to keep the people of Barnet safe. By identifying and supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour in its many forms and safeguarding children and adults in providing early intervention to divert people away from being drawn into anti-social behaviour and crime.

# A Profile of our Borough

Barnet  
2024

## ABOUT THE BOROUGH



**394,400 residents**

Largest population in London

**37.3 average age**

Older than the London average (35.8)

**Over 180 languages**

spoken by primary school children



**85.2** Female life expectancy

**82** Male life expectancy

Above London averages of 84.2 and 80.4

**23.9% under 16**

Higher than the London average (22.6%)

Higher percentage of **over 85 year olds** compared to the rest of London on average

**70.5** crimes per **1,000** people

Below London average (92.9 per 1,000)



**Fewest number of police officers per resident**

compared to the rest of London.

**38.7% BME\*** population

Below London average (42.5%)

\*Black and minority ethnic



**£50k average income**

Higher than outer London average (£44k)

Progress 8 scores\* **ranked 2nd highest in the country**

\*based on pupils' attainment across eight subjects



**94.7%**

of pupils in **good** or **outstanding** schools

**71.4% employed**

Below London average (74.2%)

**4.6% Unemployed**

Below London average (5.1%)



**23,000 businesses**

3rd highest in London

**14 libraries**



**5 leisure centres**

**8,675 hectares**

4th largest in London by size



**£544,597 average house price**

15 times median income

**157,000 houses,**

with a target to build

**31,340** over the next 10 years

**Housing tenure**

**61%** owned, **13%** rented from local authority/housing association

**26%** private rented sector

**1,064 charities**

Over **750km** of roads to maintain

**28%** of the borough is **greenbelt** with over **200 parks** and **greenspaces**

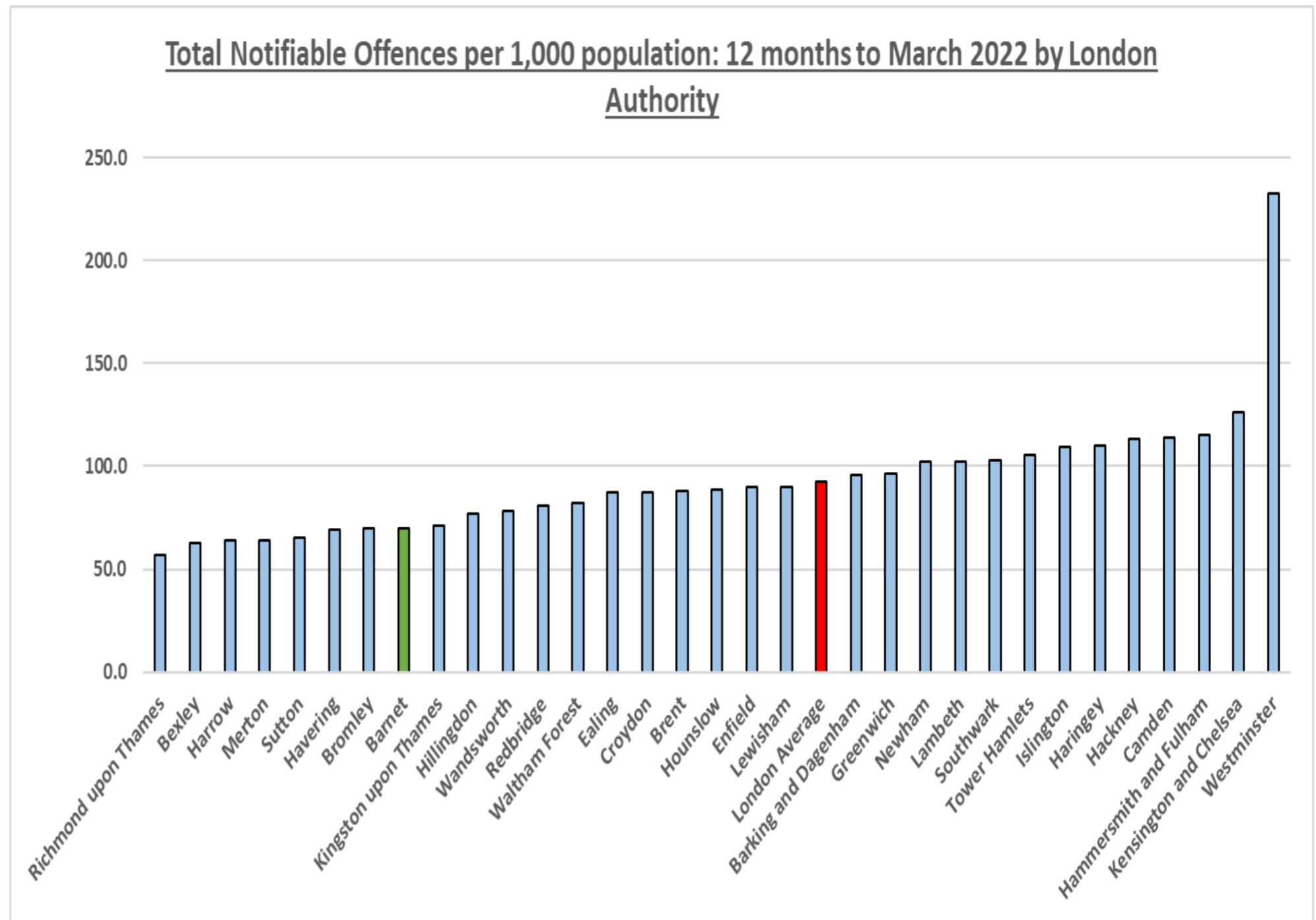
# Borough Headlines

In the 12 months to March 2022 overall crime in Barnet increased by 6.5% compared to 2021 (London also saw an increase with overall crime rising 12% compared to the same period). During the period of April 2021 - March 2022 Barnet recorded the following crime levels:

- **Robbery of personal property** increased by 2.3%
- **Theft offences** increased by 17.2%
- **Public Order offences** increased by 13.7%
- **Sexual Offences** increased by 40%
- **Vehicle Offences** increased by 3.9%
- **Burglary (Business and Community)** increased by 7.1%
- **Violence Against the Person offences** increased by 6.8%
- **Burglary** overall reduction of 8.6%, in particular, a 12.4% reduction in **residential burglary**
- **Drugs offences** overall reduction of 11%, including a 17% reduction in **possession of drugs offences**
- **Possession of weapons offences** overall reduction of 1.9%, including a 58.3% reduction in **possession of firearms offences**

# Borough Headlines: Crime Levels

- During the 12 months to March 2022, crime in Barnet rose by 1685 incidents compared to the previous year, an overall increase of 6.5%
- At the end of March 2022, Barnet had the 8th lowest crimes per 1000 population of all 32 London boroughs, and its overall crime rate was below the London average. (69.7 per 1000 population in Barnet, the London average is 92.4 per 1,000 population)



# Borough Headlines

**Residential burglary** - In the 12 months to March 2022, Barnet had the 11th highest rate of residential burglary out of the 32 London boroughs (per 1000 households). The rate of residential burglary in Barnet equates to approx. 13 offences per 1000 households, falling from approx. 16 offences per 1,000 households in the 12 months up to March 2021. Although Barnet continues to be a safe place to work and visit, burglary is still a prominent issue of community concern.

**Apprehending offenders** - A sanctioned detection occurs when a suspect has been identified and charged, reported for summons, cautioned, issued with a penalty notice or the offence has been taken into consideration when the offender is sentenced. In the 12 months to March 2022 Barnet's overall sanction detection rate for all crimes was 7.4%, which is 1.4 percentage points lower than the previous year and 0.9 percentage points below the London average. The sanction detection rate for residential burglary was 3.4% which is a 0.1 percentage point decrease on the previous 12 months and 0.4 percentage points lower than the London average (3.8%).

## MOPAC Priorities

- Between April 2017 - March 2022 there has been a 32.8% reduction of burglaries in Barnet (3582 in 2017/18 and 2406 in 2021/22).
- In the 12 months to March 2022 there were 2406 burglary offences, an 8.6% decrease compared to the previous year.
- There has been a 12.4% reduction in residential burglaries in Barnet; from 2113 in the 12 months to March 2021, to 1851 in the 12 months to March 2022.
- Sanction detection rates for overall burglary have increased by 0.3 percentage points compared to the previous year (3.4% vs 3.5% for residential burglary and 10.8% vs 10.2% for business and community respectively).
- Between April 2017 - March 2022 Robbery of personal property offences decreased by 10.3% however, there has been a 2.3% increase in the 12 months to March 2022 compared to the previous year.
- Robbery of personal property sanction detection rate over the last 12 months compared to the previous year decreased by 2.9 percentage points; 12.5% in 2022 compared to 15.4% in 2021. Across London, there has been a 1.9 percentage point decrease during the same period. (7.5% in 2022 compared to 9.4% in 2021).



# Borough Headlines

## Environmental Crime

Environmental crime is generally used to describe any illegal activity that harms the environment. Barnet's Community Safety Team is committed to working with its partners to tackle environmental crime and anti social behaviour.

- According to the Autumn/Spring 2021/22 Adult Resident's Perception Survey results, residents top 3 concerns were 1) "Condition of roads/pavements" (38%) a decrease of 4 percentage points compared to Autumn 2020 results; 2) "Crime" (36%), a decrease of 2 percentage points; and 3) "Dirt/Litter in the streets" an increase of 3 percentage points compared to the Autumn 2020 results.
- In the 12 months to Feb 2022 a total of 1,578 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued for environmental crimes.
- The most common reason for an FPN being issued was 'Cigarette litter' (82%). This in line with the 'Keep Britain Tidy' website which recognises that cigarette litter affects more than 70% of Britain streets, and have launched a #binthebutt campaign to help address this.

## Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that can blight the lives of people daily. ASB is defined as; behaviour by a person which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people. It often leaves victims feeling helpless, desperate and with a seriously reduced quality of life.

**During the 12 months preceding March 2022 there were:**

- 10,746 ASB calls made to the police in Barnet.
- A decrease in total ASB calls by 41.6% compared to the same period the previous year (decreased from 18,388 in 2021). The London average for the same period saw a decrease of 79% (516,070 in 2021 to 288,532 in 2022).

Unlike some crime types, the volume of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls to police did not reduce during the COVID-19 lockdown. While the calls included matters such as neighbour disputes, a substantial proportion of the ASB calls received during this period were related to allegations of breaches of the Covid-19 social distancing regulations.

# Borough Headlines

## Young Peoples Perception Survey 2021/22

Between 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 500 Barnet young people between the ages of 11-18 were interviewed (in person), to bring out the voice of young people in Barnet. The main findings of the Young Peoples Survey (YPS) have been compared to the findings from the 2019 YPS and the Adult Resident Perception Survey 2021/22 (APS) where available:

Majority of young people (94%) are happy with their local area as a place to live, a significant increase on the 2019 YPS (90%) and significantly higher than the results from the APS (85%)

Young people are significantly more likely to feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live (89% an increase from 84% in 2019), compared to adults (83%)

Concerns over drug taking in the parks/streets has seen a significant decrease; 34% 2022 and 37% 2019

Significant increase in feelings of safety when in local parks, playgrounds, open spaces (79% in 2019 to 87% in 2022), and when travelling to and from School; 84% in 2019 to 90% in 2022

Knife crime (51%) remains young people's top personal safety concern, significantly lower than in 2019 (71%). Similarly, the level of concern over gangs (35%) is also significantly lower than in 2019 (52%)

Young Peoples top three concerns are: Crime 41% (56% 2019) in comparison to adults 36%, litter/dirt in the streets 29% (37% 2019) adults 26%, traffic jams/congestion 26% (18% 2019), adults 23%

Concerns over safety on public transport (20%) and bullying – both online (14%) and in-person (15%) – have seen significant increases compared to 2019 of 13%, 8% and 11% respectively

### Young people's views on the main priorities for the council and its partners are broadly similar to 2019

Young people's top priority remains protecting people from crime and ASB (41% - a decrease of 4 percentage points), followed by protecting young people from harm (38% - a decrease of 5 percentage points) and supporting young people with mental health problems (29% - the same as in 2019). A number of areas have also reduced in priority, for example parks and open spaces which dropped 6 percentage points\* and sports and leisure facilities fell 4 percentage points\*.

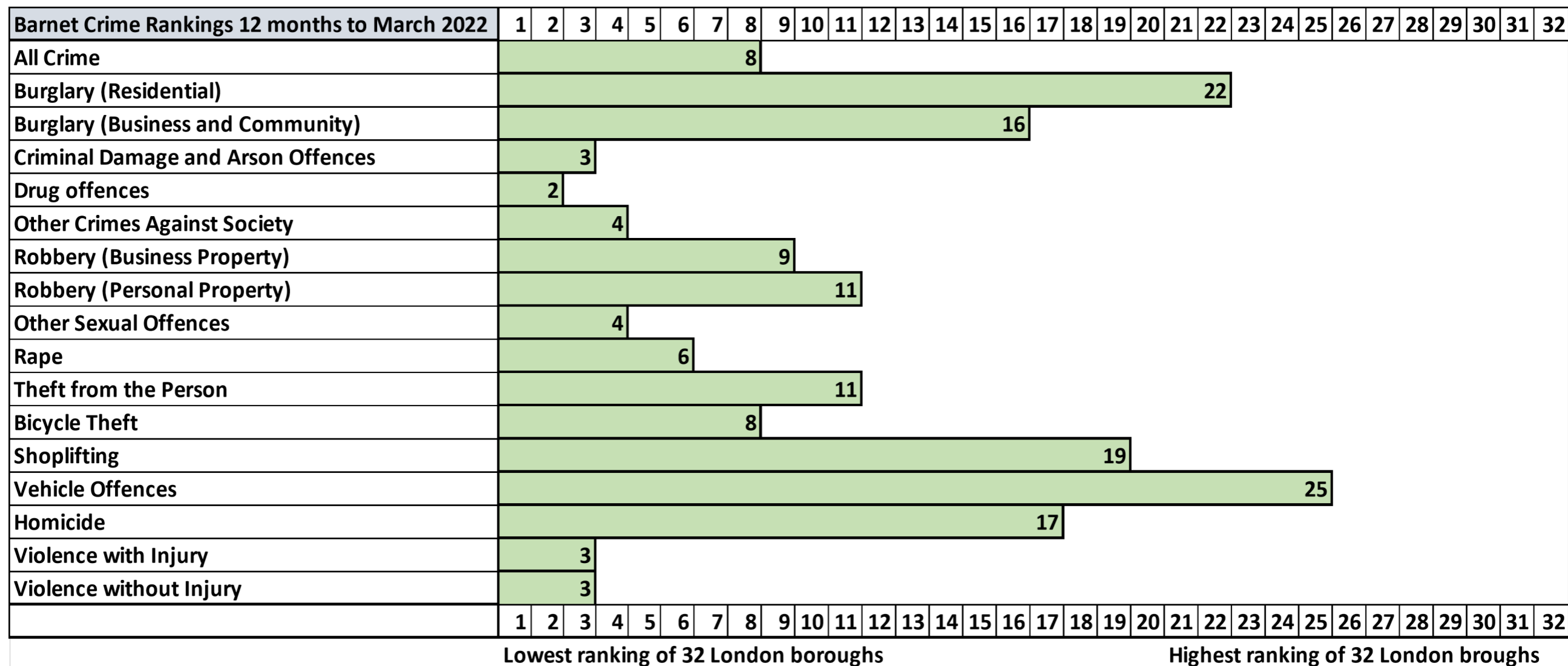
The largest increases in priority were improving town centre (increased by 3 percentage points\*) and promoting reading and learning (increased by 3 percentage points\*) but these remain at the bottom of young people's list of priorities.

\* Change is statistically significant with a p-value lower than, or equal to, 0.05

# Barnet Crime Rankings

April 2021- March 2022

The chart below shows for each offence, how Barnet ranks against the other 32 London Boroughs per capita. A ranking of 1 means the lowest out of the 32 London Boroughs, whereas a ranking of 32 means the highest out of the 32 London Boroughs. The rankings are for the 12 months preceding March 2022.



# MOPAC – Mayor’s Plan

On the 24th March 2022 The Mayor of London published his plan for policing and keeping Londoners safe during this Mayoral term. Following consultation with nearly 4,000 Londoners, victims of crime, agencies, community groups and businesses, the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan sets out his vision for a city in which Londoners are safer – and feel safer. Our priorities for Barnet align with the key themes of the Mayor’s Plan;

- Reducing and preventing violence – preventing and reducing violence affecting young people; making London a city in which women and girls are safer and feel safer; tackling the harm caused by drugs; reducing reoffending by the most violent and high-risk groups; preventing hate crime; and working together to prevent terrorism and violent extremism;
- Increasing trust and confidence – increasing public trust in the MPS and reducing gaps in confidence between different groups; ensuring that the MPS engages with Londoners and treats them fairly; and ensuring that the MPS, borough councils and all community safety partners respond to neighbourhood crimes such as burglary and anti-social behaviour;
- Better supporting victims – improving the service and support that victims receive from the MPS and the criminal justice service; working to ensure victims receive a better criminal justice response and outcome; and reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- Protecting people from being exploited or harmed – reducing the number of young people and adults who are criminally exploited or harmed; keeping young people in the justice system supported and safe; and keeping people safe online.

# Barnet Priorities 2022 - 2027

When developing our priorities, we carried out different forms of analysis; including a detailed assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour trends and a public consultation that focused on the perceptions and experiences of Barnet residents around crime and anti-social behaviour. Following this analysis we have a clear set of five priorities that reflect the views and concerns of the people that live, work in and visit our Borough:

## **Priority 1:**

Tackling and Reducing Anti-social Behaviour

## **Priority 2:**

Early Intervention and Prevention of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

## **Priority 3:**

Reducing offending including Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE), with a focus on acquisitive crime

## **Priority 4:**

Safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation

## **Priority 5:**

Access to justice for those affected by Hate Crime

# Priority 1:

## Tackling and Reducing Anti-social Behaviour

### Outcomes:

- Ensure victims understand how to report the different types of ASB to the right service to get the best possible response to their complaint
- Ensure victims are aware of the Community Trigger and how to initiate it
- Provide a more visible police and council officer 'on street' presence
- Maintain the multi-agency response to ASB using the CS MARAC process
- Increase the use of the ASB tools and powers related to the partnership activity to tackle ASB
- Tackle environmental crime in all its forms
- Address the Public Health drivers of ASB, including inequalities in health and wellbeing

# Priority 2:

## Early Intervention and Prevention of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

### Outcomes:

- Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
- Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
- Pursue perpetrators and improve their engagement with behaviour change interventions to reduce harm to victims and their families
- Strengthen the partnership response to improve multi-agency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes
- Work together for safer streets, community and public spaces

# Priority 3:

## Reducing offending including Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE), with a focus on acquisitive crime\*

### Outcomes:

- Implementation of the MOPAC approved Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation Action Plan 2022 [Violence Vulnerability & Exploitation Action Plan Updated June 2022 .xlsx \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- Implementation of The Youth Justice Plan 2021 to 2023 [Youth Justice Service | Barnet Council](#)
- Sustained reductions in offending and early intervention for those identified at risk of VVE
- A reduction in the MOJ (Ministry of Justice) 'Proven adult reoffending rate' offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort
- An increase in the number of offenders supported by the IOM programme
- A reduction in the numbers of offenders that are classed as High Risk/Vulnerable, that due to their complex needs also need support from other services e.g. NHS/Public Health, Mental Health Service

\*Acquisitive crime involves taking someone else's possessions without permission e.g. theft, burglary, fraud, and robbery



# Priority 3 (cont.):

## Reducing offending including Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE), with a focus on acquisitive crime

### Outcomes:

- Training our frontline staff to recognise vulnerability and exploitation in order to be able to refer to appropriate risk panels and intervention pathways
- Providing VVE guidance to Barnet Schools
- Recognising and responding to the dynamic affiliations between violence, drugs and group/gang offending in Barnet, including adopting a public health approach to reducing violence
- Maintaining a continued emphasis on transition cases and supporting statutory services to coordinate the continuation of services into adulthood
- Working in partnership with the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) to reduce drug supply

# Priority 4:

## Safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation

### Outcomes:

- Prevent vulnerable individuals being radicalised by individuals and/or groups promoting extremist ideologies online or in the community
- Work with the community to raise awareness of Prevent, the risks of radicalisation and extreme right-wing groups
- Reduce the threat from Lone Actors with Mental Health (MH) considerations or no obvious fixed ideology becoming a risk to themselves and others
- Monitor returnees and travellers to Syria who could present a risk to the communities within Barnet
- Mitigate the risk of vulnerable people being radicalised in unregulated spaces, out of school education and during home schooling
- Safeguard vulnerable people being released from prison into the Barnet communities to ensure they receive the correct support once back in the community

# Priority 5:

## Access to justice for those affected by Hate Crime

### Outcomes:

- To increase the engagement with community-based groups at a neighbourhood level, building a resilient network of voluntary and community organisations that have increased awareness of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) affecting their communities, and are enabled to work with us to protect the most vulnerable in their communities
- To support victims of Hate Crime, who may not have the confidence or know how to report incidents to the police or statutory services, so that they can report to a trusted organisation and receive the appropriate advice and support aimed at increasing their confidence in reporting and accessing support services
- To contribute towards addressing the issue of under-reporting of Hate Crime by increasing the confidence of victims
- To improve access to justice for disabled people by addressing the links between adult safeguarding and Hate Crime; contributing towards the prevention of repeat Hate Crime against vulnerable adults by improving identification and intervening early
- Increase awareness of Hate Crime and increase reporting to the Police by delivering staff training on identifying and reporting Hate Crime and organising community events and specialist workshops

# How we will deliver

- By recognising and engaging with the wide age groups and ethnic backgrounds of our residents and communities in a more personal way
- By having more involvement in community groups and inclusion Barnet – not only when things have gone wrong
- By hosting listening events across the borough using face to face and digital engagement with our communities
- By undertaking place-based ward audits and ward walks with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and partners on days and times that allow a wider variety of residents to join in and be heard
- By conducting the strategic CCTV review to specifically address issues of anti-social behaviour and violent and environmental crime, to create a significant positive impact on residents' perception of safety
- The Partnership will conduct an annual strategic crime needs assessment and a community safety consultation to understand the crime and ASB trends in Barnet. The analysis and consultation findings will inform an annual refresh of this strategy

# How we will deliver

- By piloting 'Community Safety Hubs' and keeping the community better informed of the actions we are taking and the results we have achieved – 'You said, we did'
- By asking the community to rate us and then review your feedback applying the lessons learned so that we do better next time
- We will work in partnership with statutory agencies, community leaders and parents and young people affected by serious youth violence, crime, county lines and other forms of child exploitation through implementation of Barnet's Youth Justice Plan, 0-19 Early Help Strategy and Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy, which also recognise and seek to address the disproportionality of young people from racially minoritised backgrounds who are at risk
- By working in partnership with key internal and external partners to address community safety issues collaboratively

# Further information

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