

Safer Communities Partnership Board

4 November 2022

Title	Family Services Report on Reducing Offending and Tackling Violence
Report of	Chair of the Safer Communities Partnership Board
Wards	All
Status	Non-Key
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
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Summary

This report provides an overview to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on three key areas of Family Services delivery that cross-over into the Community Safety Strategy, these are:

- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls
- Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation
- Reducing Re-Offending

The report sets out key progress, highlighting national initiatives, local innovation, and current/future challenges to delivery.

Officers Recommendations

1. **The Safer Communities Partnership Board to consider the progress being made to reduce offending and tackle exploitation and violence, including violence against women & girls**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1.1 To provide the Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) with an overview of performance, service developments and progress of work being undertaken to reduce offending and tackle violence.

2. BACKGROUND CONTEXT

- 2.1.1 Officers are working with the administration to update the Council's priorities which include:

- Leading a community safety assessment of public spaces informed by safety audit walks with local residents, the police and council officers which will commence on 2 November 2022.
- Piloting a network of safe spaces on high streets for women to seek help if they are in danger or experiencing abuse or harassment; the Community Safety Hubs pathfinder programme which will launch on 27 October
- Reviewing services with case study learning across the Council and Barnet Homes to further improve support
- Changing attitudes and behaviour - challenging harassment and hostility being tolerated, excused and repeated through co-production of resources with communities, schools and colleges.

2.2 Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

- 2.2.1 The London Borough of Barnet's Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2022-25 sets out how the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) works to prevent and respond to Domestic Abuse and underlines the partnership's commitment to working together to prevent and tackle all forms of violence against women and girls.

- 2.2.2 Barnet's strategy is aligned with the aims set out within the Government's 'Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy published in July 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and Statutory Guidance issued under section 84 of the 2021 Act for supporting victims (September 2022), the London Mayor's refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022- 2025, the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls refreshed National Statement of Expectations (a Guidance on commissioning services to support victims and survivors of violence against women and girls) published in March 2022.

- 2.2.3 The Government's Supporting Male Victims Position Statement (updated August 2022) considers the challenges faced by male victims of domestic abuse in reporting abuse and accessing support. The position statement sits alongside the Government's Tackling VAWG Strategy (2021) and Domestic Abuse Action Plan (2022).

- 2.2.4 The Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership Delivery Group is a subgroup to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board which brings together partner

organisations in the borough to work together with the aim of preventing Domestic Abuse and VAWG and reduce the harm it causes to victims, their families and the wider community. The Delivery Group agrees the VAWG Delivery Plan and monitors progress against the five partnership priorities within Barnet's DA & VAWG Strategy 2022-25, which are:

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

2.2.5 “Our vision is for all residents of Barnet, especially women and girls, to live free of domestic abuse and all forms of VAWG. Working with our partners, we will raise awareness and work to prevent violence and abuse in the home, places of learning and employment, and in the community. The Partnership has zero tolerance for abuse and violence, perpetrators will be held to account and victims and survivors will be able to access the support and help they need.”

2.3 Performance and Partnership Activity Q1 & Q2 2022/23

2.3.1 The Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Report presented to CLLC in June 2022 set out the annual data for 2021/22. This report provides an overview of 2022/23 Q1 & Q2 activity and data.

2.3.2 Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that 2.3 million adults aged 16 - 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2020; 73% of domestic abuse crime victims, are women and girls (ONS Data 2020/21).

2.3.3 Barnet's rate of DA incidents is 12.5 per 1000 population (12 months up to the end of August 2022). Barnet has the 3rd lowest rate of reported DA incidents in London and is almost half the rate of the highest borough (23.8 per 1000).

2.3.4 There were **737** Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences recorded by the police in Barnet in 12 months up to the end of August 2022 (an increase of 2.1% compared to the previous year). 70 suspects were identified and charged by police; this equates to a Sanction Detection Rate of 9.5%.

2.3.5 There were **469** referrals to the Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DA-MARAC) in the 12-month period October 2021/22, which is a 4% decrease from the previous year. Of these, **44%** were adults caring for children (n=207) with a combined total of **282 children** in the household. The repeat rate for Barnet DA MARAC in the reporting period is **14%** which is lower than the 20.0% rate reported in the previous year and is 19% lower than the national repeat referral rate of 33%.

2.3.6 An assessment of the DA MARAC referrals over last 2 quarters from April 2022 to September 2022 showed that:

- **36.2 %** of victims in the cohort had a mental health need.
- **10.5 %** victims had an alcohol misuse need.
- **7.1%** had a drugs misuse need.

2021/22 Data

- 11 (**5.2%**) referrals were for child to parent violence in 2021/22
- 22 requests (**10.5%** of DA MARAC cases) for Clare's Law (Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme) in 2021/22

2.4 Delivering the DA and VAWG Strategy Q1 & Q2 2022/2023

❖ Objective 1: Early Intervention and Prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG

- 2.4.1 A total of 69 multi-agency practitioners and managers attended DA & VAWG Training over the reporting period. Courses included Domestic Abuse Awareness Level 1 and Domestic Abuse Recognising and Responding Level 2, understanding coercive control and economic abuse, MARAC – Identifying high risk victims and preventing repeat victimisation.
- 2.4.2 On 5 September, 40 professionals attended a presentation delivered by Galop on LGBT+ Domestic Abuse experiences with the aim of raising awareness on LGBT+ and experiences of domestic abuse, the support available and barriers. Barnet Council has commissioned services for both men and women, plus LGBT+ victims.
- 2.4.3 Level 3 Certificate in Domestic Abuse training was completed with 23 learners from the voluntary sector, youth services, Early Help, Children's Social Care, Barnet Homes, Drug & Alcohol Services, Adult MASH, domestic abuse providers and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust undertook 4-month accredited Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) training. The training was funded by Barnet Council and delivered by Safelives, completing in June 2022.
- 2.4.4 Following the training, a Domestic Abuse Champion Network was set up with the newly trained IDVAs and the first meeting was held in September 2022. The aim is to maintain the inter-agency relationships built during the training and support the group as they implement the training into their own role. The terms of reference of this network will include sharing the multi-agency knowledge and expertise between Champions within the network and onwards into their area of work. It will also include support on a rota basis to the DA One Stop Shop.
- 2.4.5 Family Services, 0-19 Early Help Services deliver multi-agency Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) training which shares tools and interventions for direct work with children and families. The training explicitly identifies the escalation of parental conflict to domestic abuse and the need for safeguarding and support to be put in place. Barnet Family Services is rolling-out a further three years of training with additional funding that has been received.
- 2.4.6 Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) are delivering Children Overcoming Domestic Abuse (CODA) Community group programmes in partnership with 0-19 Early Help Services, with the aim of enabling children to share experiences and develop coping strategies and women to network and explore the impact of domestic abuse on

children and ways to support their child to recover. There are 12 women accessing the CODA groups in the reporting period, 1:1 sessions are also offered. A Teen CODA is currently in development.

2.4.7 The Council VAWG team in partnership with Middlesex University's Changing the Culture Initiative (CCI) is working on a student-led project to deliver #HearMyVoice aimed at raising awareness of domestic abuse and VAWG. The campaign is focused on empowering individual and community narratives, understanding experiences and root causes and providing education to the local community on preventing DA and VAWG. The narratives will be amplified through the delivery of a hub of resources on the CCI webpage, a showcasing/community networking event at the end of the academic year and further dissemination through various online and social media channels.

2.4.8 Barnet Council has committed to working to end men's violence against women by becoming White Ribbon (WR) Accredited on 11 April 2022. The WR steering group has met on a monthly basis to develop a comprehensive 3-year action plan to change attitudes and behaviours that lead to abuse and violence and promote gender equality. The action plan was submitted to White Ribbon on 10 October 2022. The actions include the development of a Domestic and Sexual Abuse Policy which will make clear what will happen if an employee tells someone at work about domestic abuse, and the steps that are available to ensure they stay safe and supported in the workplace. The Council will further ensure all White Ribbon Ambassadors working for and with the council uphold their promise to 'never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women' and act as positive role models for other men in the community. The VAWG team is reviewing all Council policies in order to mainstream a zero tolerance to sexist, harassing and abusive behaviours with clear reporting systems and access to support.

2.4.9 For the White Ribbon (16 days of activism 25 November-10 December 2022); the VAWG team is planning to organise a partnership training/webinar around the new offence of non-fatal strangulation or non-fatal suffocation (Domestic Abuse Act 2021). The Council will engage in internal and external communications during the 16 days seeking to appoint more volunteer ambassadors and champions to carry the message out to more men and raise awareness within the community. The FIFA men's World Cup commences in the same week as White Ribbon 2022, as such the message is #TheGoal – to end all violence against women and girls. This will run alongside an awareness raising campaign on how victims and survivors can get help in Barnet.

❖ **Objective 2: Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover**

2.4.10 Barnet Solace DA Advocacy and Support Service (SASS) received 310 referrals across Q1 & Q2 2022/23, representing an 18% decrease from Q4 2021/22; of these 91 (29%) declined support. The majority of service-users are aged 31 – 40 years. In this reporting period, 6 service-users identified as LBGT+ and 10 male victims accessed the service. 24 service-users had no recourse to public funds and 13% of service-users have mental health needs.

Solace Referrals	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23
Total Referrals Received	347	380	319	310
New Service Users	147	140	112	124
DASH Risk assessments & Safety advice given	141	131	115	121
High risk cases receiving IDVA service	23	21	25	18
Total Service Users Leaving the Service	131	124	103	120

- 2.4.11 MOPAC have funded an uplift in Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA's) across London. Co-location of IDVA's improves referral pathways and access to support. Currently there are IDVA's co-located at:
- Barnet Hospital (MOPAC funded Senior IDVA)
 - Springwell, Mental Health department, Barnet Hospital (Solace Mental Health IDVA)
 - Children's and Adult's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) (Solace IDVA)
 - Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (Solace IDVA) working jointly with the One Stop Shop Coordinator one day per week at Barnet Homes
 - Colindale Police Station (Solace IDVA) 3 days per week and a Victim Support IDVA 2 days per week
 - Jewish Women's Aid (IDVA) 3 days per week
 - Children's Social Care (IDVA) and part-time IDVA starting October 2022
 - Edgware Community Hospital and Vale Drive Sexual Health Clinic (Public health Funded Solace Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (IDSVA) for male and female victims aged 16+
 - Solace further has a young person's lead and a Snr LGBT+ and male victim IDVA

Housing Support & Refuge Provision

- 2.4.12 There were 147 homelessness approaches due to domestic abuse in the reporting period. Of these, 29 were provided temporary accommodation (TA). Housing options include refuge accommodation, sanctuary installations to make victims homes safer, move to private sector properties, move through the North London DA reciprocal scheme and for single applicants housing in the private rented sector. Some victims also prefer to remain with friends or family until they secure suitable accommodation and refuse TA as they want to minimise the numbers of moves whilst awaiting alternative housing.
- 2.4.13 Solace Women's Aid are commissioned by the Barnet Council to provide two women's refuges for Barnet. A third women's refuge (Minerva House) is run by Barnet homes.

Barnet Homes was successful in securing £100,000 of funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to support the continuation the Minerva House provision in 2022/23

2.4.14 43 women and 36 children were supported in the 3 Barnet refuges services in Barnet in Q1 and Q2 of 2022/23.

Refuge	Bed space	Support provided in Q1 & Q2 2022/23
Minerva House	6 bed spaces	Supported 9 women residents and 7 children fleeing domestic abuse
Hannah House and Arlene House	18 bed spaces	Supported 34 women residents and 29 children fleeing domestic abuse

2.4.15 The Barnet Homes Sanctuary Scheme helps victims of domestic abuse who live in Barnet, to remain in their own home, if it is safe to do so, by increasing the security at their home. In Q1, 28 referrals for sanctuary installations were received and 24 sanctuary installations were completed. In Q2, 38 sanctuary referrals were received and 19 have been completed with 13 due to be completed.

2.4.16 Barnet Homes secured funding from MOPAC to create a dedicated DA Team within the Housing Options Service which is scheduled to start in November 2022. The DA Team will manage the most complex and high-risk housing cases for DA survivors, from the initial assessment of survivors' and their children's needs to their placement in safe-accommodation, to their move-on and resettlement in long-term accommodation. At each point, floating support will be available to hand-hold individuals through their recovery and resettlement pathway. The team will support survivors to access DA services, and will be a consistent, supportive presence to aid the recovery of those who face complex issues and additional barriers. Any movement between accommodation types will be overseen and supported to minimise trauma.

2.4.17 Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS) resumes face to face drop-in services in November 2022. The OSS is led by Barnet Homes in partnership with Barnet council, Solace Women's Aid, Asian Women's Resource Centre, private solicitor firms, Barnet Magistrate and Cyber Care. The OSS received 209 referrals in the reporting period.

❖ **Objective 3: Pursue Perpetrators and Engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families**

2.5.1 The council commissions three areas of work to address perpetrators behaviour; these are:

- RISE Perpetrator Programme
- Young Person Perpetrator Programme (Child to Adult)
- Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) Programme

2.5.2 The Rise Perpetrator Programme is commissioned by Family Services and is aimed at reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation. The service successfully bid for a further 3-year contract starting in January 2023. The programme uses proven evidence-based models for behaviour change. The service helps perpetrators to take positive and tangible steps to prevent re-offending and works with partners to aid recovery. The 12-month referral data for the perpetrator and partner service is set out in the charts below.

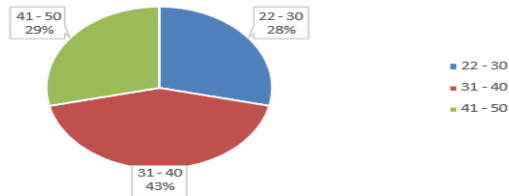
RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme Adults Service: Q3 21/22 – Q2 22/23

Adults Service	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23
New referrals	15	8	9	7
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the Quarter	13	16	4	8
New service users entering the programme	7	6	4	10
Number of service users leaving the service	11	13	3	14
Number of service users departing in an agreed and planned way	8	10	2	10

Ages of Service users in Q2 22/23

- Majority of service users are aged between 31-40 years old. For Q1 it was the same.

Objective 3



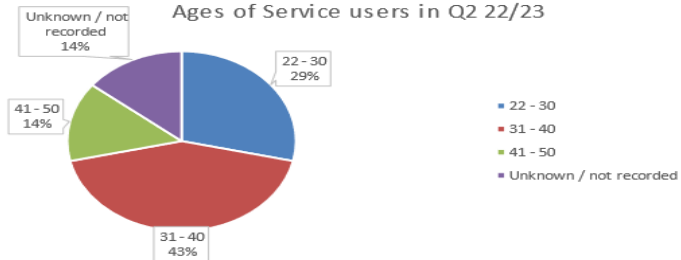
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RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme Partner Service: Q3 21/22 – Q2 22/23

Partner Service	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23
New referrals	9	11	4	7
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the quarter	14	24	0	4
New service users entering the programme	1	13	0	4
Number of service users leaving the service (as this is a voluntary, all departures are considered planned)	8	7	1	10

Ages of Service users in Q2 22/23

- Majority of service users are aged between 31-40 years old



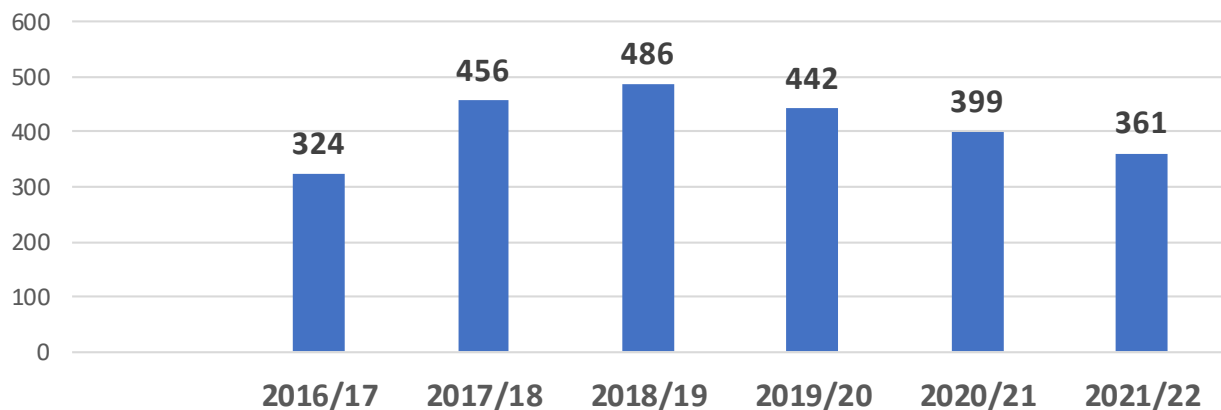
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- 2.5.3 The perpetrator programme monitors progress of those attending. RISE Mutual use the Change Star to measure outcomes at assessment, midway and at the completion of the intervention. The Change Star measures change across six areas: accountability, thinking and attitudes, safe reactions, communication style, being a child centred father and personal well-being. The evaluator also conducts interviews and surveys with victim/survivors to ascertain perceived levels of safety following wider family sessions.
- 2.5.4 100% of participants made progress against at least three areas, the most common of which are Safe Actions, Communication and Being a good father (developing insight into the impact of conflict and abuse on children, acknowledging role within this, developing child-centred attitudes and behaviours). The area that sees the slowest progress over time is in the area Taking Responsibility, this can be due to victim blaming and denial of abusive behaviours; the scores do change over time as awareness increases.
- 2.5.5 CIFA (Culturally Integrated Family Approach) is a perpetrator programme that was launched in September 2021 in a partnership, led by Barnet, with Brent and Enfield. The project is funded by MOPAC and applies an intersectional approach, which considers the inter-familial conflicts that feed into the victim's abuse and distress and the perpetrator's sense of power. The intervention includes optional family sessions to incorporate a wider cultural approach - working with multi-oppressors. The CIFA practitioners work predominantly with the main perpetrator but also other family or friends/members of the community facilitating abuse. The MOPAC Deputy Mayor, Sophie Linden visited the CIFA programme in Barnet on 23 June 2022 and supported funding continuation until March 2023 for an amount of £305,832 inclusive of £30k per borough match funding. An interim evaluation report on CIFA was commissioned to Professor Anthony Goodman, Dr Rima Saini and Dr David Porteous of Middlesex University. The interim report was submitted to MOPAC/Home Office on 21 September 2022.
- 2.5.6 Family Services commission RISE Mutual to deliver a Young Person Perpetrator programme in Barnet for 11–18-year-olds. This programme provides one-to-one and group interventions for young people who are engaged in violence towards a parent(s), 30 young people, mainly aged between 13 – 15 years, have been referred in the reporting period. The Respect and Principles (RAP) Programme is also available for 13 to 18-year-old males who have been involved in adolescent intimate relationship abuse.

❖ **Objective 4: Strengthen the partnership response to improve multi-agency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes 7**

- 2.6.1 Barnet's Homes Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS) had 209 referrals in the reporting period. The demand for service over time is set out in the chart below. More than half of referrals are from Solace. The service is resuming face to face delivery in November 2022, the impact of this on referrals and service take up will be monitored.

DA One Stop Shop demand

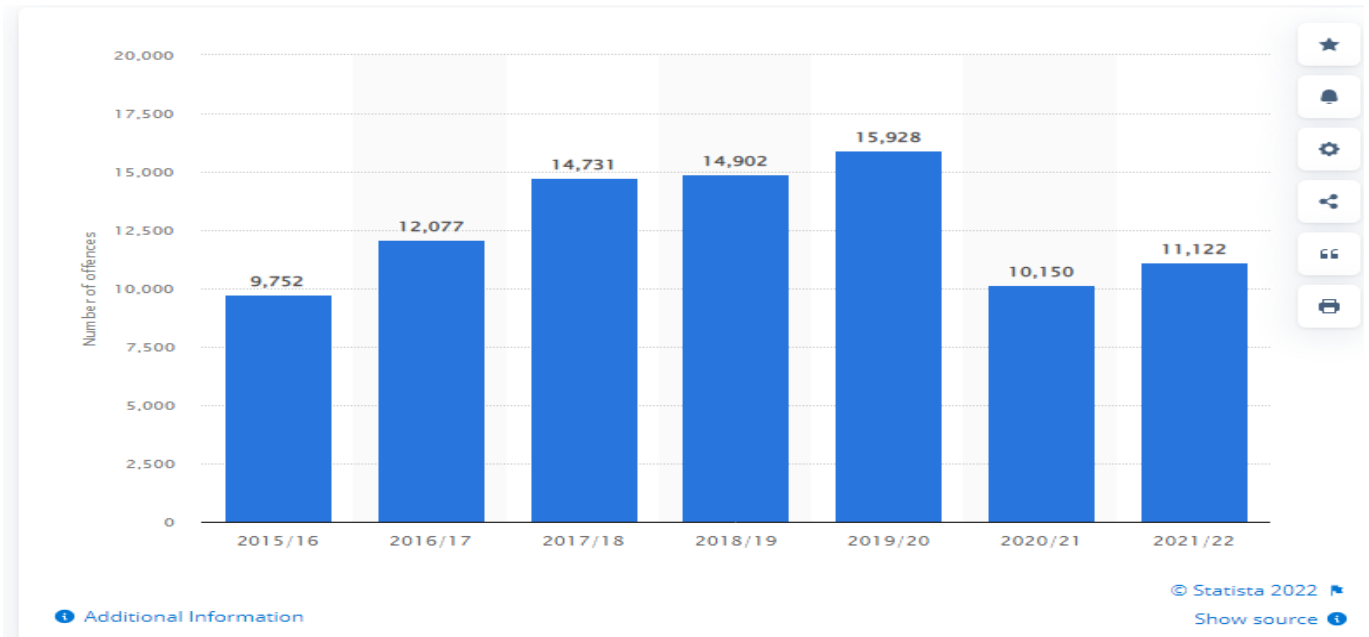


- 2.6.2 The Public Health funded IRIS programme has been commissioned to Solace since 2018; it is a partnership between health and the domestic abuse sector that provides specialist domestic abuse training, support and referral programme for general practices. There are currently 25 fully trained, 8 partially trained and 8 engaged GP surgeries out of a total of 51 GP surgeries in Barnet. 9 GP surgeries have not engaged with the IRIS program. IRIS provides specialist in-house training and provides a named Advocate Educator to whom patients can be referred for support and who works with victims affected by domestic and/or sexual abuse. The Advocate Educator sees patients at the GP surgeries to carry out risk assessment and safety planning with them. 51 referrals to advocacy services have been made from GP practices through the IRIS scheme so far in 2022/22.
- 2.6.3 When a death occurs as a result of domestic abuse, there is a statutory requirement to conduct a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) to identify what changes can be made to reduce the risk of similar incidents happening in the future. The purpose of Domestic Homicide Reviews is not to assign blame or responsibility but to understand what lessons there are to be learned and make recommendations based on those lessons as to how we can better work together to prevent future homicides.
- 2.6.4 Feedback has been received on the DHR 'Zoltan', a male victim. The QA Panel felt this is a well-written, honest review for a difficult and complex case, which has sufficiently explored the circumstances and identified some useful recommendations. There was evidence of best practice in how the family were involved, including offering a translated copy of the report and allowing the family sufficient time to read and comment on the draft report. There is good reference to research and the Chair made appropriate use of other information available for this review, such as police body-worn camera footage, psychiatric reports and contact with Men Reaching out. A learning document has been published internally <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/domestic-abuse/domestic-homicide-review>. The Home Office agreed that due to consideration for the perpetrator's children the full DHR report will not be available to the public.
- 2.6.5 Two Statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are being finalised by an Independent Chair and will be submitted to Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) in January 2023 for approval. These are the cases of 'Duncan' (pseudonym, a male victim), who was, in October 2018, killed by his partner and 'Alyssa' (pseudonym, a female victim) killed by her partner in March 2019.

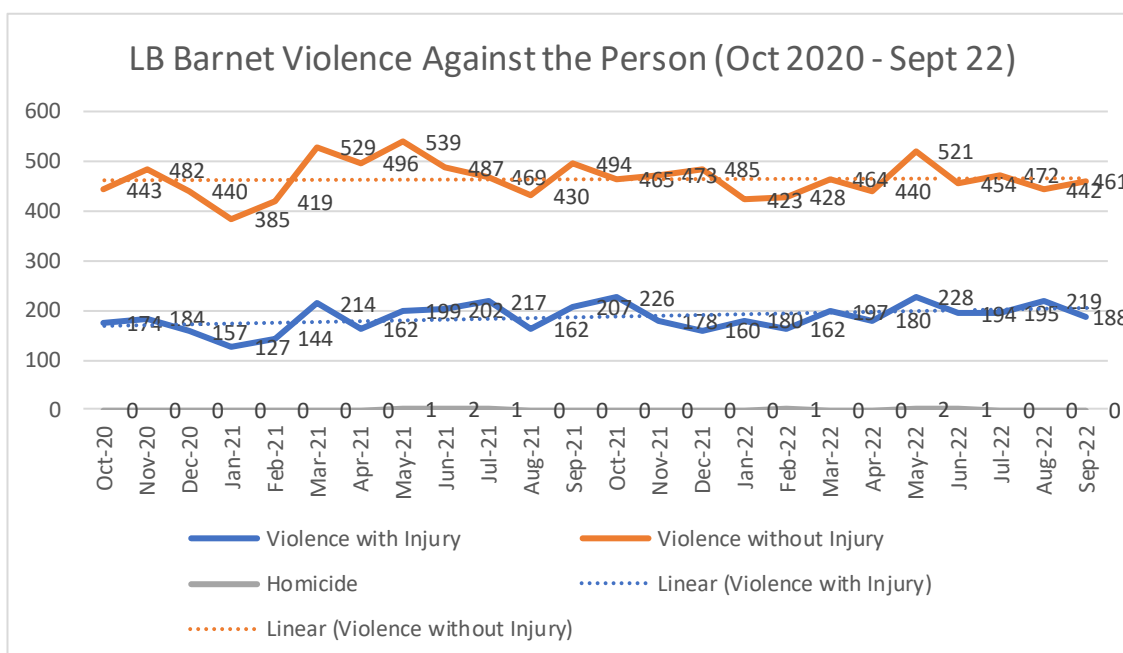
- 2.6.6 Barnet Council has signed up to the Mayor’s Women’s Night Safety Charter. The plan will include how we will work with local partners and businesses to create a network of safe spaces across the borough. This will include a communications campaign and training.
- 2.6.7 The 2022-2025 VAWG Delivery action includes expansion of the hate crime reporting model so that women and girls are able to safely report cases of harassment and abuse supported by clear referral pathways to services. The ‘Community Safety Hubs’ pathfinder programme launches on 27 October and community safety audit walks will commence the following week.
- 2.6.8 The scoping for setting up a survivor forum is in progress, careful consideration is being given to the terms of reference, aims, objectives and confidentiality. It is intended that the approach will provide a space for the voices of survivors to be heard more consistently and for victims to be empowered and supported through recovery.

2. Serious Youth & Adult Violence

- 3.1.1. The chart below depicts the overall rate of number of knife or sharp instrument offences in London between April 2015 and March 2022, Barnet is ranked 20th in London for knife crime offences.



- 3.1.2 Violence against the person offences in Barnet has remained relatively stable, with notable reductions during periods of national lockdown in 2020/21. The data includes all violence against the person offences and notes 8 homicides in the reporting period, all but one of which took place between the months of May – July. There were 93 knife enabled offences in Q2 2022/23; 24% of which resulted in an injury.



3.1.3 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC Act 2022), includes a requirement for the Safer Communities Partnership to complete a strategic needs assessment to understand how violence is affecting the community and to develop a multi-agency approach to reduce violence. The Serious Violence duty will come into effect in 2023.

3.1.4 Section 13 of the 2022 PCSC Act provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence but does not include terrorism. The Serious Violence Strategy is particularly concerned with homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and criminal activity where violence is inherent such as modern day slavery and county lines drug dealing.

3.1.5 The 'duty holders' or responsible authorities will include:

- Police
- Fire and Rescue authorities
- Youth Justice and Probation Services
- Integrated Care Boards (formerly Clinical Commissioning Groups)
- Local authorities

3.1.6 Education and the secure estate will have a separate duty but can collaborate with duty holders. The duty will require an evidence-informed analysis, which includes local community engagement, to develop a needs assessment of the cause of serious violence and a strategy aimed at preventing and reducing incidents. Data should include:

- Local and national crime data (Youth Justice, IOM, Police and ONS - victims and offenders)
- Hospital data on serious violence injuries
- Education data (e.g. attendance, suspension and exclusion)
- Anonymised prison data (e.g. types of offences)
- VAWG and MARAC

- Children’s Social Care Data

- 3.1.7 There is a requirement to draw on local learning (learning reviews) and to engage early the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise, plus children and young people in the development of the Strategy in consultation about development of the strategy.
- 3.1.8 The partnership will need to map existing services and share data to understand gaps, and the need for expansion or discontinuation of existing resources. The Safer Communities Partnership Board will consider the preparation for implementation of the duty at the meeting scheduled for November 2022. The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) may collaborate with local partnerships and take a convening role to support the development and implementation of the local strategy. VRUs are currently working to achieve the following three levels of information usage in order to support their work to prevent and reduce serious violence:
- Level 1 – Information used to inform the strategic needs assessment in order to understand local issues;
 - Level 2 – Information used to better identify hotspot locations and support a targeted approach;
 - Level 3 – Information used to better identify individuals at risk for high-intensity support programmes.
- 3.1.9 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places a duty on three of the specified authorities (police, health and local authority) as statutory ‘safeguarding partners’ for local areas in England. The duty provides an opportunity to strengthen safeguarding children’s partnership arrangements alongside those of wider multi-agency functions for violence against women and girls, health and well-being. The Strategy, once developed will be published and kept under review by the Safer Communities Partnership on at least an annual basis to consider how solutions have impacted on serious violence in the borough using relevant data and the need for any changes based on emerging trends. Partnerships can seek support from external evaluators to support them with the process.

4. Vulnerable Adolescent’s Annual Report 2021/22.

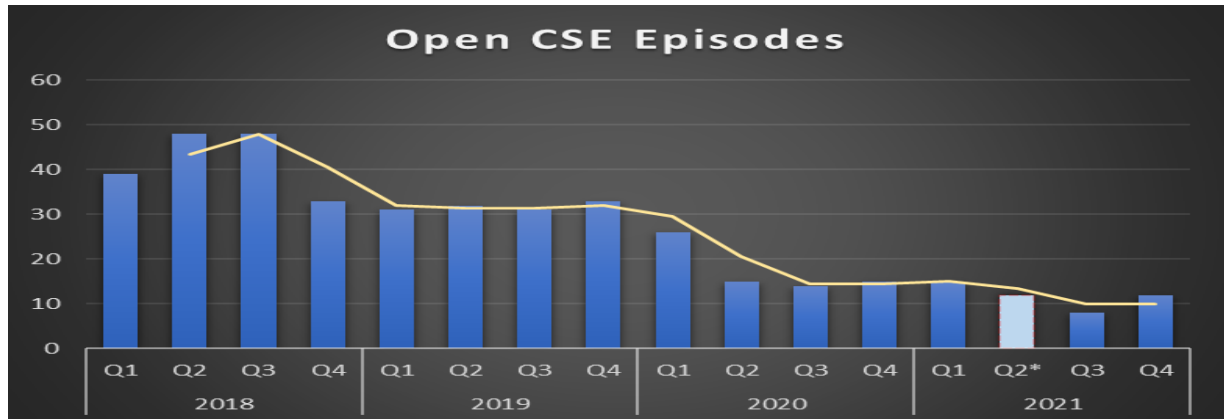
- 4.1.1. Since 2018, Barnet’s response to tackling child exploitation and serious youth violence has been underpinned by a multi-agency strategy which has been updated to reflect emerging trends in vulnerability and exploitation.
- 4.1.2 Modern slavery is an umbrella term for all forms of slavery, human trafficking and exploitation. As it is a ‘hidden’ crime, reporting is partial as victims often unable to come forward due to fear or shame, or because they are unable to leave their situation ¹. More 4,000 children and young people across the UK are thought to be victims of criminal exploitation through “county lines”, with London being the highest “exporter”. In all cases of exploitation, the person who is exploiting the child or young person is able to create an impression of authority over them, which may be relative to their age, gender, intellect,

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/childvictimsofmodernslaveryintheuk/march2022>

physical strength or economic situation. Individuals that ‘groom’ young people, build trust, then abuse and exploit this trust by using threats, coercion, intimidation and violence. Research demonstrates that criminals are more likely to groom children who live in poverty, face exclusion from mainstream school, or are in care².

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

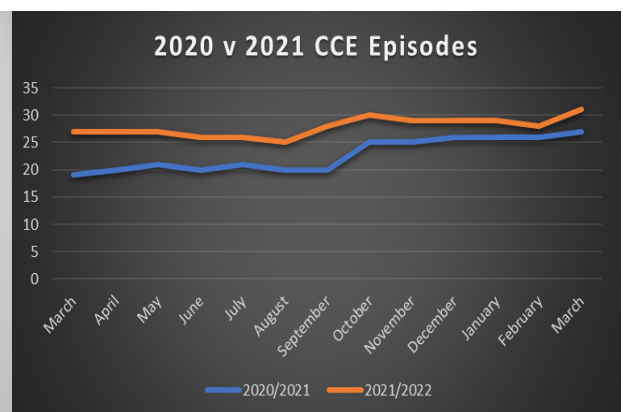
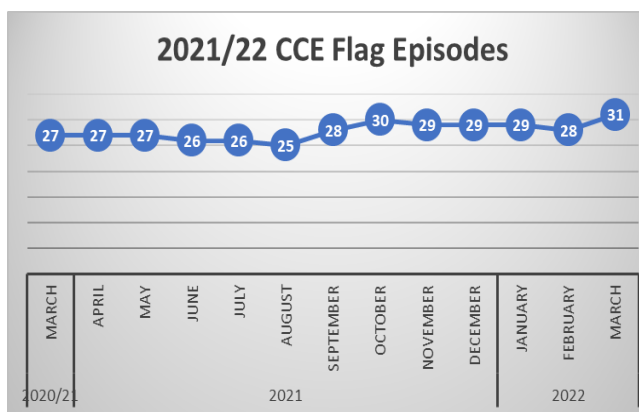
4.1.3 In 2021-22, 12 young people in children and families were identified to be at risk of CSE, the number has been declining steadily over the past three years as awareness has increased.



4.1.4 Young people aged 15 years are most likely to be identified to be at risk of CSE in 2021/22; the most common age was 17 years in 2020. All victims were female and 50% identified as being from a white ethnic background.

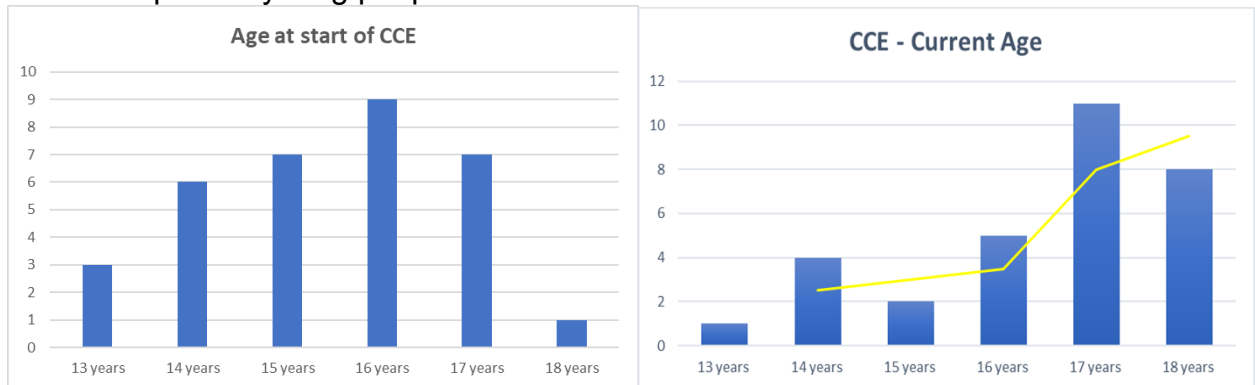
Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

4.1.5 In 2021/22, there were 31 young people who were receiving statutory social work interventions identified as at risk of criminal exploitation. The data is cumulative, all but six of this cohort were known in previous years. There is an increase reported in 2021/22 which must be considered against lower than usual reporting in 2020/21. Increased awareness of risk factors through the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy (2020-2022) has assisted identification of young people at risk.

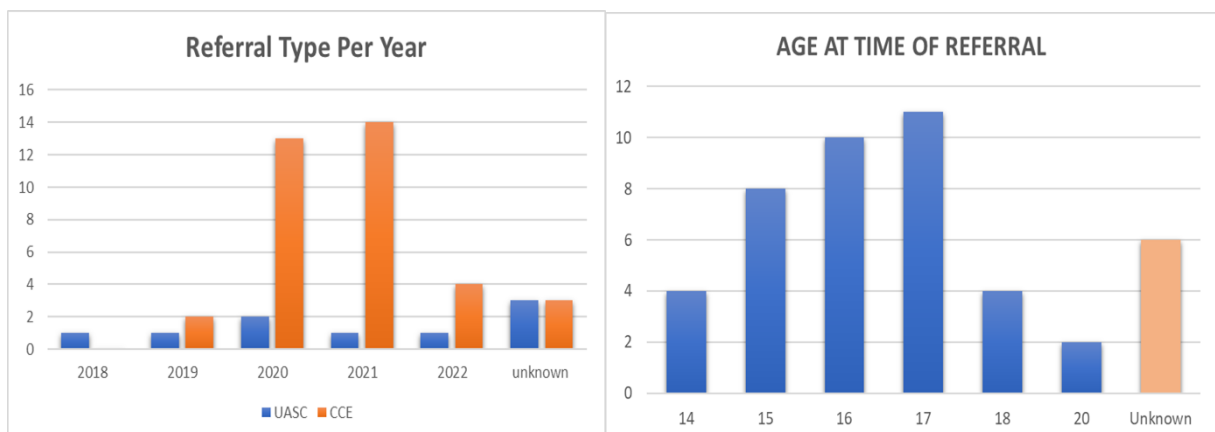


² <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/tackling-child-exploitation-resources-pack#:~:text=Exploitation%20can%20affect%20any%20child%20but%20there%20are,an%20easy%20target%20for%20perpetrators.%20...%20More%20items>

4.1.6 In the reporting year, there is a higher volume 17 and 18 year old's, this is reflective of the long-term nature of intervention which is only made possible through building trusted relationships with young people at risk of CCE.



Exploitation and Trafficking and Modern Slavery (National Referral Mechanism - NRM)



4.1.7 In 2020/21, 15 young people were referred to NRM. Overall, 45 young people have been referred to the NRM since 2018. Barnet's significant increase in referrals from 2020 was due an increase in awareness of modern-day slavery that recognizes young people involved in 'county lines' drug dealing as victims of exploitation and now account for 80% of referrals. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children account for the other 20%. All but one of the young people referred are male. Young people aged 17 years have the highest volume of referrals to NRM, which is also the age that young people are most commonly reported missing from home and care.

4.1.8 The government is planning to introduce a Modern Slavery Bill with the purpose of strengthening the protection and support for victims of modern slavery and to increase accountability of companies and other organisations to drive out modern slavery from their supply chains. The draft Bill has not yet been published.

Rescue and Response

4.1.9 Rescue and Response is a pan-London county lines support service for vulnerable young people up to the age of 25 who are caught up in county lines drug distribution networks and subject to criminal exploitation.

There are three core elements to the project:

- Rescue and Response - a responsive and flexible 'rescue' service to young people referred for intervention.
- Intelligence Development – to inform casework, focus resources on those on the cusp of exploitation, and carry out strategic analysis on emerging county lines themes.
- Breaking the Cycle Training and Awareness Sessions – upskilling front-line professionals across London to better identify and divert young people away from county lines exploitation at the earliest possible stage.

4.1.10 In 2021/22 Barnet was the 9th highest referrer (across London) to the Rescue & Response project referring 22 young people, of which 14 young people have been linked to county lines exploitation. Gangs and organised crime groups are agile, flexible, and adept in evading detection. However, there continue to be trends with southeast and south of England coast 'lines' being the most common places for county lines drug distribution and exploitation.

2020-21 –	1 st Ipswich	2 nd Cambridge	3 rd Portsmouth
2019-20 –	1 st Brighton	2 nd Cambridge	3 rd Southampton
2018-19	1 st Norwich	2 nd Brighton	3 rd Portsmouth

Serious Youth Violence

4.1.11 In Q2 Barnet had 8 Serious Youth Violence Incidents, 3 of which occurred outside of the borough. In all incidents the young person involved was a victim rather than perpetrator; all of which were male. One young person was involved in half the victim incidents reported in the quarter which affects the overall data on age and ethnicity, for this period the average age was 17.5 years and mixed ethnic background (White/Caribbean) was representative in 63% of incidents. Knife crime is the most common incident, all were non-fatal, although in 62% of incidents in Q2 the victim suffered an injury. Burnt Oak, particularly in or around Watling Park remains the most common location for serious incidents in the borough.

4.1.12 The volume of serious youth violence incidents has fallen in London over the past four years (2017-2021), although the pandemic has impacted on this data. There has been no reduction in the number of homicides. Victims aged 15-19 years are higher for knife crime, victims are mostly Black males who are 3 times more likely to be victims of knife crime and 5 times more likely to be victims of homicide³.

4.1.13 Serious Incident Response Meetings (SIRMs) are coordinated in response to incidents of serious youth and adult violence that occur in the Borough. SIRMs take place for all

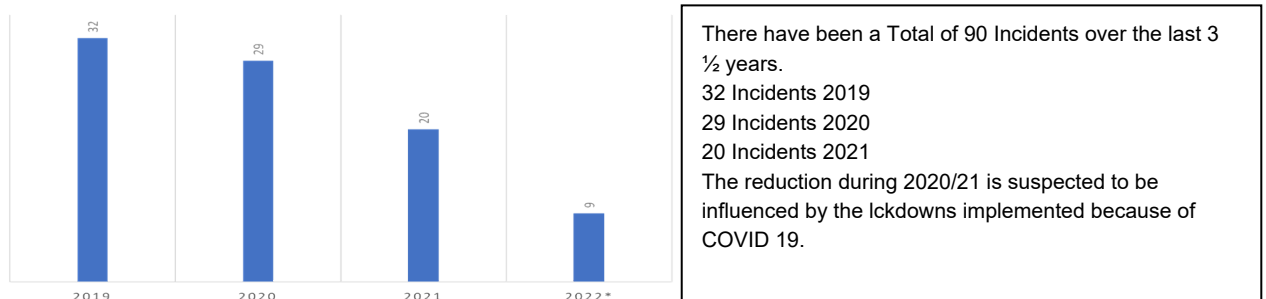
³ <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/serious-youth-violence>

incidents of serious violence involving; a weapon or firearm discharge, kidnapping or serious assault, with the incident being potentially linked to gangs or exploitation violence where the victim or suspect is aged under 19 years (25 years for young people who are care experienced), or if there is a child in the victim or suspects household.

4.1.14 SIRM meetings provide an immediate risk assessment of:

- The risk management of potential incidents of reprisal due to the incident,
- The risk to immediate families/siblings and friends of both the victim and suspect,
- Safety and discharge planning if the victim is in hospital due to the injury,
- Community response actions

4.1.15 There has been a reduction of incidents requiring a SIRM since 2019, the volume has been decreasing year on year.



4.1.16 The SIRM Protocol was updated in the reporting year in response to community leaders and local Councillors raising the need for a wider community impact and collective trauma response. A secondary aspect to SIRM was introduced in July 2021 to draw on the views of community organisations and schools that were in close proximity to incidents of violent incidents. These meetings have ensured:

- clearer immediate communication with school and community groups to acknowledge the incident and clearer information as to who may be directly/indirectly affected by the incident.
- Stronger communications network,
- Improving accessibility of information, reporting and communications of positive activities and support services.
- The need to improve and include multiple languages in communications and for these to be disseminated across communities and libraries.
- Identification of emerging “no go areas” where the community feel unable to access or occupy community spaces
- Improvement in working with parents especially for primary aged children (year 5 & 6) and year 7 students in awareness raising and supporting them to have informed conversations with their children about the risk of violence and extra-familial harm

5. Delivering Community Projects

- 5.1 In Q4, 2021-22, Family Services successfully bid for Violence Reduction Unit (MOPAC) funds to develop a community capacity-building project to respond to incidents of serious violence. The Community Responders Project is focused in the Colindale and Burnt Oak area and comprised of community representatives from Colindale Community Trust, 4Front, FUSE, Youth Realities and Saracens and The Orion Schools. Representatives build networks of young people, community leads and parents in developing a community plan, reflecting a public health approach, to reduce violence. The project is also delivering First Aid training to pupils in Saracens, and training representatives to deliver First Aid training to the community and young people
- 5.2 The Community Responders are responsible for chairing the community impact meeting when incidents of serious violence occur in the NW9 and HA8 area. A full evaluation of the project, will be available in Spring 2023.

Trusted Relationships Project

- 5.3 The Home Office funded 4-year Trusted Relationships Project ended in March 2022. The funding followed a Home Office commissioned review by the Early Intervention Foundation which found that a trusted relationship with an adult is an essential part of programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable children, and that the lack of trusted relationships was consistently cited in reviews of failures around child sexual abuse and exploitation. The review found that trusted relationships can help children avoid risky situations, overcome adverse circumstances in their lives, and enable the disclosure of abuse. The Barnet Trusted Relationships project delivered a school-based prevention programme (Growing Against Violence) and a community-based creative spaces programme (Art Against Knives/MAC-UK) that targeted 10 – 17-year-olds at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation.
- 5.4 The project delivered its intended outcome to positively engage socially isolated young people in services that will improve their quality of life in areas such as education, employment and housing TR - Preventative Education Delivery (Growing Against Violence). Preventative education sessions were targeted, by examining data for:
- Schools in areas with incidents of serious violence
 - Open spaces where ASB is most reported
- 5.5 The sessions delivered included 'Weapons, Choices and Consequences' 'Myths & Realities, Gangs, Choices and Consequences' 'Social Media' session along with 'It's Not just boys, Girls gangs and consequences'. The sessions aim to steer students towards healthier choices and to dispel the myths and realities of gang membership.
- 5.6 The table below sets out school-based sessions delivered over the project period.

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Schools 35	Schools 34	Schools 19	Schools 19

Sessions 404	Sessions 104	Sessions 56	Sessions 105
Students 6,270	Students 3,000	Students 1,650	Students 3,150

5.7 The Project was evaluated by The Home Office as a feasibility study' the final report is awaited. In addition, an internal evaluation was undertaken against key outcomes to be delivered through the project. The demonstrated impact included:

- Development of the 0-19 Early Help CEAM template, co-produced using a young person engagement tool which is now in use across Family Services.
- Supported and developed a good practice model of how VCFSE/grassroots organization can work with statutory organisations and highlighted the importance of integrated working around young people
- Supporting the voice of the child and their perspective of who they have a trusted relationship with, and the need for this to be considered in planning.
- The importance of place-based services that reach young people where they live and go to school
- Reshaping and challenging the partners of the Vulnerable Adolescents Risk Panel to adopt more child focused and psychologically informed discussions around risk.

Sibling Mentoring Project (St Christophers)

5.8 The Youth Endowment Fund provided 18-month funding for a Sibling Mentoring project to provide targeted mentoring to children aged 10-14 with an older sibling involved in the criminal justice system. The project, delivered by St Christopher's, provided for up to ten mentoring sessions with children and young people with the aim of diverting them from future involvement in the criminal justice system. The project ended in Q3 2021.

5.9 The Sibling Mentoring project received just over 70 referrals during the project and worked with 36 young people with 27 young people completing all sessions. Uptake of the programme was affected by the pandemic which restricted face-to-face engagement and capacity to identify young people who would benefit from additional support.

5.10 Some young people did go on to offend following the mentoring sessions; it was concluded that intervention was implemented too late for this cohort as they were already victims of exploitation and had developed criminal affiliations. Gang exit work was needed for this group of young people.

5.11 A positive unintended consequence of the project was that St Christopher's, the project delivery lead, developed an alternative on-line approach to mentoring due to the impact of the pandemic, which has now been disseminated across Family Services. One of the key recommendations from this project was that there needed to be a mix of approaches available to support engagement and mentoring activities.

5.12 Barnet Family Services coordinate a monthly Serious Adult Violence Panel (SAV) which provides a forum for the multi-agency partnership to manage individuals involved in serious violence and assist youth to adult transitions.

- 5.13 The SAV panel was established in May 2020 and discussing 10 individuals per month, although in Q2 the Police membership ceased due to staffing changes and capacity which has meant there have been no referrals into SAV from the Police in this quarter.
- 5.14 The SAV Panel oversaw 30 individuals in Q2, 11 of which were new referrals, 75% of which were referred by Probation Services. For the first time since its inception, a female was discussed at SAV in Q2. Individuals discussed at SAV are aged between 18 – 40 years, 58% of these are aged 18-25 years and 50% were gang affiliated/nominals
- 5.15 Barnet Family Services have developed a Victim Coordinator role with London Crime Prevention Funding (LCPF) to strengthen the support for direct and indirect victims of violent offending and to plug the gap of the Young Persons Victim Support Service when funding ended in March 2022. The coordinator started post in September and will be working with partner agencies to support victims of crime and assist identification and signposting to services including housing and trauma therapy in line with the Victims Code of Practice.
- 5.16 The Victim Coordinator will be establishing a multi-agency network panel to support joined-up recovery plans and a community-based hub for drop-in support. The Victim Coordinator has received 6 referrals from Family Services risk panels and one from Barnet Homes within 10 days of starting in post and has been providing advice, guidance, onward referral, and support for personal safety and safety around the home.
- 5.17 Family Services oversee delivery of a range of services aimed at reducing youth and adult violence. These include direct work with children and young people through violence prevention programmes, weapons awareness, positive activities, mentoring and diversionary activities, parenting programmes and intensive whole family interventions. These will be mapped and reviewed for effectiveness as part of the needs assessment under the Serious Violence duty in 2023.

6. Reducing Reoffending

- 6.1 Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a multi-agency non-statutory national framework for managing prolific, persistent & violent offenders, it features prominently in the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Police & Crime Plan 2021-2025, HM Government Neighbourhood Crime IOM Strategy (December 2020), HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) National Operational Guidance April 2021 and HMPPS Probation London Reducing Reoffending Plan 2022-2025.
- 6.2 The previous London IOM model did not take into account risk of violence and did not provide a reliable system for consistent decision making across London. As the number of individuals who were eligible for IOM grew >39% between 2013 and 2019; the number of individuals in IOM committing violent offences also grew >30% in the same period. This was a key driver for change in London.
- 6.3 The IOM model allows for focused management of persistent/violent offenders which means that individuals that do not engage are arrested or 'breached' (returned to court) more swiftly and the frequency and seriousness of offending is reduced.

- 6.4 Barnet's IOM delivers bespoke interventions to reduce re-offending, working with c.100 persistent/violent offenders with a proven reduction in reoffending of approximately 26%. The Criminogenic Needs of Barnet IOM cohort include support needs for:
- Accommodation
 - Drugs/Alcohol & Dual Diagnosis – Change, Grow & Live.
 - Mental Health
 - Department of Work & Pensions – Benefits/Employment/Training/Education/Finance.
 - Thinking & Behaviour
 - Lifestyle
 - Attitudes
 - Emotional Well being
 - Relationships
- 6.5 Performance data, both locally and nationally shows there is approximately 5-10% of adults who are considered the most 'hard to engage' and who often have complex needs. The best efforts of a range of rehabilitative interventions, sometimes over several years does not create the change intended through interventions.
- 6.6 An analysis of local data focused on the young people who had transitioned from youth offending into adult offending were mostly victims of exploitation by criminal gangs and with a number of additional vulnerabilities including educational needs, family dysfunction and suffering from significant trauma.
- 6.7 Barnet's IOM cohort is comprised of 102 individuals in Q2, of these 86 are statutory offenders who are managed on license by Probation Services. The other 16 are non-statutory and managed by IOM Police.
- 6.8 In the cohort, 88 are male and 74% are aged 25 years+. There is a link to Minerva Advance Project through Probation Services for those in the IOM cohort who are female. Individuals with a white ethnicity make up the largest single ethnic group (n=54), followed by individuals of a Black ethnicity (n=33). 68% have medium/high risk and vulnerability scores.
- 6.9 In the 12 months prior to the individuals being adopted on to the IOM cohort in Barnet, they collectively committed 2814 offences, reducing to 1491 following focused IOM intervention. Barnet IOM supports reductions in reoffending by providing holistic support in housing (75-90% housed), financial stability/access to employment (75-85%), access to drug and alcohol support (45-60%), Probation education (50%), Fitness First Academy (100%).
- 6.10 The Ministry of Justice reports that adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months have a proven reoffending rate of 58.4% and adults released from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months had a proven reoffending rate of 60.1%. Through a combination of collaborative/joined up Multi-agency 'One Plan' focused enforcement & supportive interventions Barnet IOM have been able to reduce the reoffending rate of this prolific/persistent & violent group of adult offenders to 26%.
- 6.11 MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) provides funding No1 Fitness First Educational Academy to provide mentoring and key worker support for 17–25 year olds.

The Fitness Academy staff are comprised of adults with lived experience of offending and qualified mentors. 13 of the IOM cohort have accessed Fitness First support with:

- 8 completing Fitness Course (61.5%)
- 2 obtained Fitness Coach qualification (15%)
- 13 completing Mentoring (100%)
- 11 completing Employability Skills (84.6%)
- 8 completing Digital Skills 61.5%)
- 1 re-offended

6.12 Fitness First Academy mainly engage face to face, alternative community spaces are being considered to support face to face engagement in a wider range of locations. IOM individuals assessed as high/medium risk are targeted for daily contact with those assessed as Green being contacted 2-3 times a week.

Case Study:

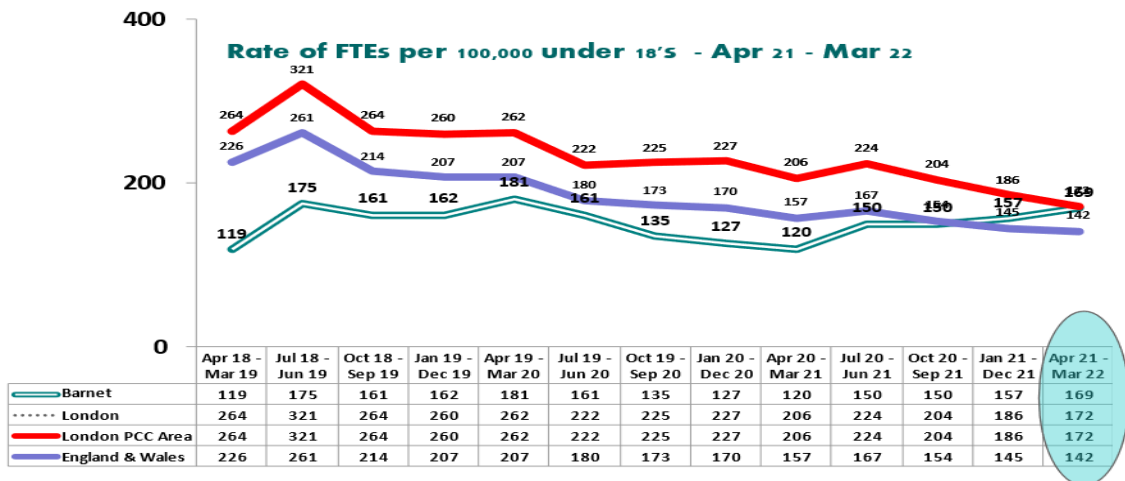
One IOM nominal who completed the programme was supported in applying for 2 warehouse jobs and prepared for a job interview with Pure Gym Palmers Green. Alongside education support, he has been supported to address housing needs, substance misuse and attend outstanding court hearings. Prior to IOM involvement, the individual was re-offending weekly; the high intensity engagement with education, job-seeking and mentoring has resulted in no new offending

7 Reducing Youth Offending

7.1 Barnet Youth Justice Services (YJS) work with young people aged 10 to 17 who have offended. The rate of First Time Entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice system is monitored nationally against 100,000 population. Barnet has maintained lower rates of FTE than England and Wales until September 2021 when the volume started to increase. Barnet's rate has risen to 169 per 100,000, which although lower than the London average (n=172), is now above the national rate in England and Wales (n=142) for the first time.

7.2 The data below demonstrates lower than average numbers during the first year of Covid 2020/21 which has gradually increase over the year 2021/22; this is, in part, due to the impact of Covid-19 causing delays to young people being handed down Court and Out-of-Court Disposals. As anticipated, the clearance of a backlog of children and young people released under investigation during 2020/21 is now impacting on the volume of recorded First Time Entrants.

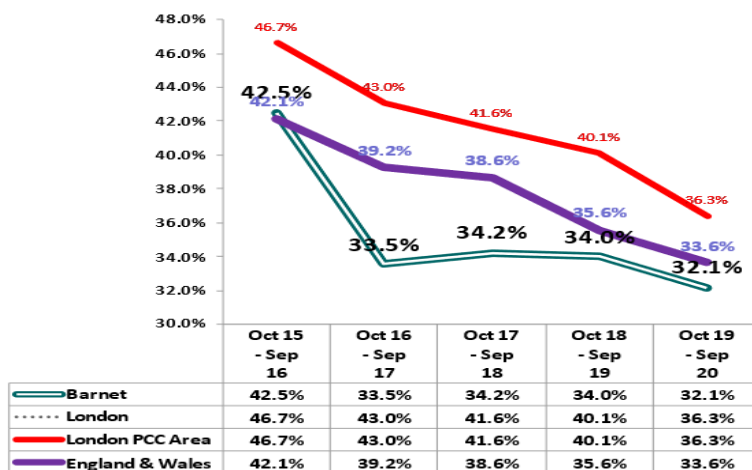
First Time Entrants (FTEs)



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- 7.3 The binary re-offending rate for Barnet YJS remains on a downward trajectory and is currently 32.1% which is lower than London and National averages. (The binary rate is calculated as the percentage of offenders with a proven re-offence in the reporting period). Brent is 37% and Harrow is 20% higher than Barnet. Barnet's reoffending rate is most similar to Kingston and Richmond within the Youth Justice Family. Barnet's effective partnership working, desistance-focused interventions and positive child-centred activities support the low re-offending rates.

Reduction in re-offending – Binary Reoffending Rate



Local Authority	% Reoffending
Barnet	32.1%
New YJS Family	
Reading	24.6%
Milton Keynes	22.3%
Bromley	27.3%
Kingston and Richmond	32.7%
Hounslow	35.5%
Sutton	36.7%
Ealing	36.9%
Hillingdon	38.6%
Merton	42.6%
Redbridge	46.6%

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- 7.4 There has been a focus on girls in the Youth Justice System following an increase in numbers over the past 24 months. The increase was largely relative to young people

coming out of 'Covid-19 lockdown' periods and engaging in alcohol misuse and anti-social behaviours. The Youth Justice Team have undertaken bespoke interventions with girls, including a new 'girls group' to ensure that the causes of offending and needs of girls in the Youth Justice system are understood and met. For girls transitioning into adulthood, the Minerva Advance Programme is utilized for step-down support.

8 Strategic Planning

- 8.1 The 0-19 Early Help Strategy is in final draft and will be shared with the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in November 2022, where agreement for public consultation on the strategy will be sought. This is the first stage of the multi-agency strategies that are being updated to support stronger strategic alignment which will sit under the new Children and Young People's Plan that is currently in development.
- 8.2 With the creation of Drug Partnership Boards and the Serious Violence Duty that will come into effect in 2023, the Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy and Reducing Reoffending Plan will be updated in congruence with these and the published Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (2022 – 2025), Corporate Parenting Strategy and the 'My Say Matters', Child Participation Strategy (2022 – 2025), ensuring coordinated and ambitious strategic plans focused on prevention, reducing harm, violence, exploitation and offending.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To update the Safer Community Partnership Board regarding the progress made in relation to the delivery of the various work strands in Family Services in relation to Domestic Abuse, VAWG, Exploitation, Serious Youth Violence and Reducing Reoffending.
- 9.2 For the SCPB to recognise progress made against the ambitions of the council in delivering reductions in exploitation, offending and comprehensive services to tackle all forms of violence and to note the commitment of the local authority to achieving a cohesive local model of delivery that improves outcomes for all residents.

10 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 10.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

11 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 11.1 To develop partnership-led and community informed local strategies to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and offending which will inform monitoring fora and governance arrangements for this comprehensive group of services.
- 11.2 Family Services will coordinate stakeholder meetings to explore key priorities and undertake public consultation and member engagement activities to agree local strategic priorities and plans for coordinated delivery.

12 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 12.1 The activities above align with the 'Family Friendly' priority in the current corporate plan (the Barnet Plan 2021-2025) however, we expect the new administration to develop a new corporate plan, consistent with the new administration's priorities.

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

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

14 Legal and Constitutional References

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on local authorities in England to assess the need for accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse, prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support and monitor and evaluate its effectiveness. Prior to publishing a strategy, the local authority must consult the domestic abuse local partnership board and such other persons as the local authority considers appropriate.
- 14.4 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.
- 14.5 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a "youth justice plan") setting out:
(a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
(b) how the youth offending team or teams established by them are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.
- 14.6 The Chair of the Youth Justice Board has responsibility for submitting the Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board established under section 41 and shall publish it as required by the Secretary of State."

15 Insight

n/a

16 Social Value

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 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).
- 16.3 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.
- 16.4 Violence preventative interventions, improve educational and health outcomes. Violence is a major cause of ill health negatively affects wellbeing; it is strongly related to inequalities. The poorest fifth of people in England have hospital admission rates for violence five times higher than those of the most affluent fifth. It affects individuals and communities and is a drain on health services, the criminal justice system and the wider economy. (Serious Violence Duty: Draft Guidance for responsible authorities, 202).

17 Risk Management

- 17.1 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.

18 Equalities and Diversity

- 18.1 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public-sector equality duty to which the authority must have due regard.
- 18.2 Elected Members are to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and

what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome.

- 18.3 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:
- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - 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;
 - 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.
- 18.4 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:
- Tackle prejudice, and
 - Promote understanding.
- 18.5 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:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race,
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
 - Marriage and Civil partnership
- 18.6 The commitment to the Public Sector Equality Duty is set out in the council's Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy 2021-2025 which aims to actively tackle inequalities, foster good relationships across our communities and recognise the contributions that people from different backgrounds make to life in our borough. Violence and offending affect all communities and there well documented racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system for children and adults that must be addressed. The Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy and action plans to reduce violence, recognises the intersectionality of protected characteristics, disadvantage and discrimination. It is our aim for the borough to be a fair, inclusive and a safe place for all our communities. Where discrimination is tackled, hate crime is reported and dealt with promptly, and everyone feels safe to live their life.

19 Corporate Parenting

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 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.

20 Consultation and Engagement

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 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.

20.3 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.

21. Environmental Impact

21.1 Not relevant for this report.

22. Background Papers

22.1 None.