

## Safer Communities Partnership Board

20 January 2023

<b>Title</b>	Family Services Report on Reducing Offending and Tackling Violence
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of the Safer Communities Partnership Board
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Non-Key
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1 Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Strategic Needs Assessment Guidance Appendix 2 SVD Needs Assessment Template
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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 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

Officers are working with the administration to implement the Council's priorities which include:

- Leading a community safety assessment of public spaces informed, in part, by safety audit walks with local residents, the police and council officers which commenced on 2 November 2022.
- A Community Safety Hubs pathfinder programme which was launched on 27 October 2022
- Developing a communications plan to promote a network of safe spaces on high streets for women to seek help if they are in danger or experiencing abuse or harassment with a plan to pilot a safe spaces scheme in one area of the borough in 2023

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.

## 3. Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

- 3.1 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 Board (SCPB) 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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).
- 3.4 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

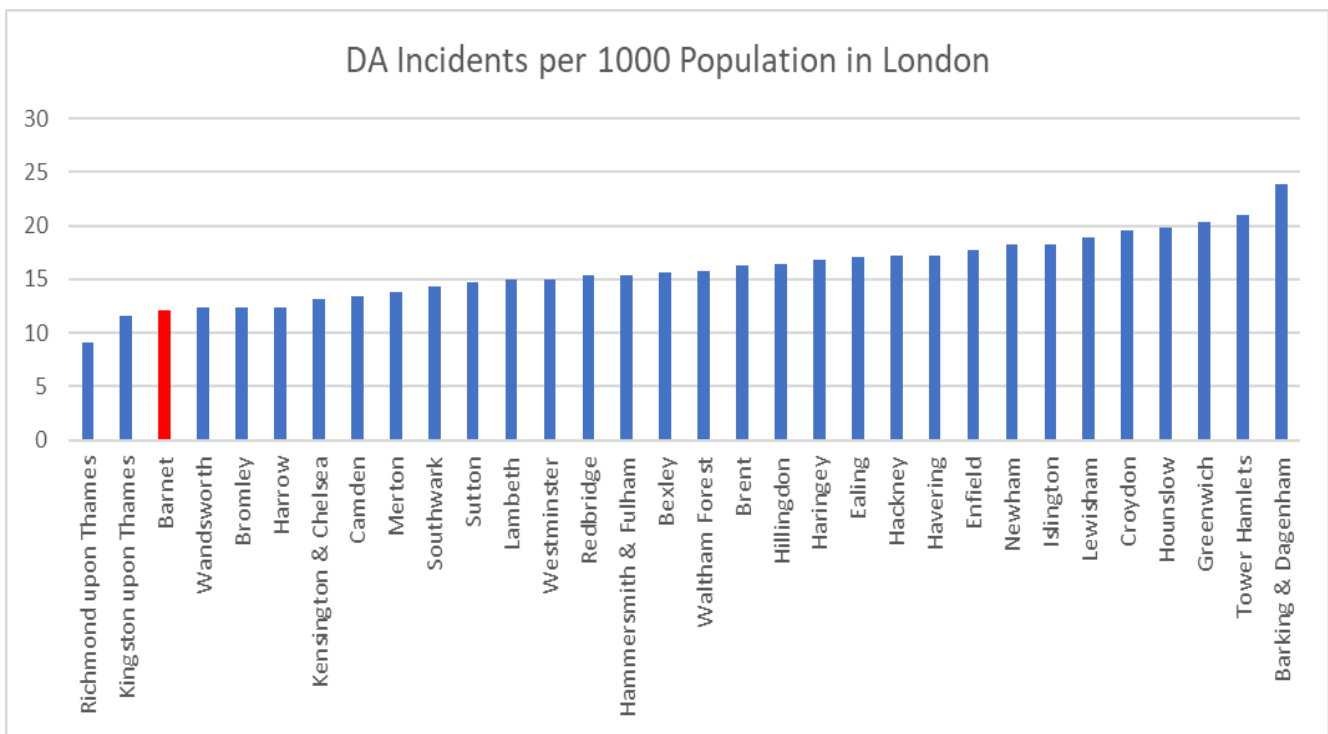
causes to victims, their families and the wider community. The VAWG Delivery Group agrees the VAWG Delivery Plan and monitors progress against the five partnership priorities within Barnet's DA & VAWG Strategy 2022-25, which are:

- 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

3.5 “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.”

### 3.6 **Performance and Partnership Activity Q3 2022/23**

- 3.6.1 The Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Report presented to SCPB in November 2022 set out an overview of 2022/23 Q1 & Q2 activity and data.
- 3.6.2 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).
- 3.6.3 Barnet's rate of DA incidents is 12.1 per 1000 population (12 months up to the end of August 2022). Barnet has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate of reported DA incidents in London.



3.6.4 There were **728** Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences recorded by the police in Barnet in 12 months up to the end of December 2022 (a decrease of 1.9 % compared to the previous year). 69 suspects were identified and charged by police; this equates to a Sanction Detection Rate of 9.5%.

3.6.5 There were **122** referrals to the Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DA-MARAC) in Q3 2022/23, which is a 1% decrease from the previous year. Of these, **30%** were adults caring for children (n=37) with a combined total of **68 children** living in households of referred victims. The repeat rate for Barnet DA MARAC in the reporting period is **16%** which is lower than the 17.9% rate reported in the previous year and is 15% lower than the national repeat referral rate of 33%.

3.6.6 An assessment of the DA MARAC referrals over last quarter from October 2022 to December 2022 shows that:

- **31.1 %** of victims in the cohort had a reported mental health need.
- **5.7 %** victims had a reported alcohol misuse need.
- **5.7%** had a reported illicit substance misuse need.
- **6.6% (n=8)** referrals were for child-to-parent violence
- **6.6%** of DA MARAC cases included a request for a Clare’s Law (Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme)

MARAC	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Jan 2022-Dec 2022 Total
Number of MARAC referrals	132	87	123	122	<b>464</b>
Number of children in the household	71	51	64	68	<b>254</b>

Number of families with children	66	38	48	37	<b>189</b>
Number of repeat MARAC referrals	20	9	22	19	<b>70</b>
Percentage of repeat MARAC referrals	17%	10%	18%	16%	<b>15%</b>

- 3.6.7 The DA MARAC referral form is now available online [Barnet DA MARAC Referral Form](#) providing easier access to referrers. The chair of DA MARAC is a NW BCU Police Detective Inspector, through their leadership, there has been an improvement in multi-agency partnership practice to safeguard survivors, children and other vulnerable members of the household of high-risk domestic abuse in the borough. Partners are encouraged to attend MARAC training which is run quarterly to improve awareness of high-risk DA indicators.
- 3.6.8 Six monthly Quality Assurance exercises are undertaken in respect of Barnet's DA MARAC which enables evaluation of the effectiveness of the MARAC through a quality assurance panel (QAP) which is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding, Access and Occupational Therapy, Adult Social Care. Relevant agency representatives, involved with audited cases are invited to the QAP with the last QAP having been held on 31<sup>st</sup> October, good practice was identified and 8 recommendations to improve practice were made. Overall, the audit has demonstrated there was good multi-agency efforts across the partnership to support the victim as part of safety planning before and after MARAC, in particular the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) was recognised as a strength. Partner agencies are committed to learning and improving practice, the improvement plan will support the partnership to overcome the internal and external communication challenges identified which can impede best practice. Emerging issues in practice can further be discussed at the MARAC Steering Group and/or shared for discussion at the Violence Against Women and Girls Forum.

### 3.7 Delivering the DA and VAWG Strategy Q3 2022/2023

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

- 3.7.1 In Q3 a total of 33 multi-agency practitioners and managers attended DA & VAWG Training. Courses included Domestic Abuse Awareness Level 1, Domestic Abuse Recognising and Responding Level 2, Understanding Coercive Control and Economic Abuse, MARAC – Identifying high risk victims and preventing repeat victimisation.

Feedback from practitioners:

*"I found all aspects of the course really useful- learning different types of coercive behaviours"*

*"The MARAC forms. How to fill it and the deadline. I was not aware of the forms till today.*

*IDVA and the other groups that were mentioned"*

*"Karen was a very engaging trainer and the group really participated well"*

3.7.2 Funding to deliver against the Part 4 statutory duty of the Domestic Act 2021 was confirmed for continuation until March 2025 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in December 2022. This enables the continued provision of a DA consultant role which has been a valuable resource in delivering Domestic Abuse Act and wider DA training and allows this resource to support fully, the implementation of the aims of the DA & VAWG Strategy 2022-2025.

3.7.3 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 now rolling-out a further three years of training with additional funding that has been received for continuation of the programme.

- In the reporting period, Tavistock Relationships delivered two Specialist Group Supervision Sessions on 3 November 2022 for social workers and Early Help (EH) Practitioners working with parents, where there are high levels of parental conflict. These were attended by 10 practitioners and an evaluation report from the Tavistock on the effectiveness of the sessions regarding practitioner confidence is awaited.
- Amity Relationships are further commissioned to deliver ten 3 hour awareness sessions for the multi-agency partnership which will provide information about the RPC programme and recognising/responding to Parental Conflict between January and March 2023. Some of the training will be bespoke for Police, school-based staff, and Health professionals, and other sessions aimed at professionals working across all sectors in the community. The remaining funding is being used to create additional capacity in the team to assist with communications, planning and administration of the programme.
- There is also a plan to deliver refresher training on the structured interventions used by the practitioners working in the 0-19 Early Help Hubs on 1 February 2023 and some further sessions on mentalisation-based approaches to be delivered by Tavistock in March 2023.

#### **Mothers and children attending the Against Violence & Abuse/Children Overcoming Domestic Abuse programme (AVA/CODA)**

3.7.4 Family Services 0-19 Early Help Services delivered one Women's AVA CODA Group in Q3. In total 15 parent victims (mothers) were invited to the sessions and 8 completed the full suite of sessions. Positive feedback was received from all the parents that attended the sessions and the parents have requested a monthly 'Coffee Morning' as a follow up each term so they can continue to connect and support one another. The first Coffee Morning will be held on 10 January 2023 and will continue to be facilitated termly as requested. A WhatsApp group has also been established for the AVA CODA group which is supporting continued networking among the parent group.

- There are two new AVA/CODA Programmes starting in January 2023, one will be held in the South locality and the other in the East Central locality Early Help Hubs.
- There is now a waiting list for the AVA/CODA programme, all children on the waiting list are being offered 1:1 AVA/CODA intervention. If spaces are available in other localities transport costs will be covered for families that wish to attend groups being delivered outside their locality area.
- The 0-19 Early Help Services has also developed links with the SOLACE Group Lead which has supported delivery of 'coffee mornings' for women attending the East Central Hub groups in December 2022. Further coordination between the CODA/AVA Group programming with Solace's 'Arise and Picking up the Pieces' Groups is underway to ensure the groups complement and promote each of the programmes and ensure sessions do not clash in delivery.

3.7.5 The Council VAWG team in partnership with Middlesex University's Changing the Culture Initiative (CCI) which is a student-led project, have been working to deliver #HearMyVoice aimed

add raising awareness of DA and VAWG. The campaign is focused on empowering individual and community narratives, understanding experiences and root causes and providing education to the local community to prevent 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 to be held on 24 May 2023 from 5-7pm at Middlesex University. Approximately 200 participants from VAWG teams, Barnet Council and Middlesex University are expected to attend and there will be further dissemination of the work of the project through a range of web-based promotion and social media channels.

3.7.6 Barnet Council has committed to working to end male violence against women by becoming White Ribbon (WR) Accredited on 11 April 2022. The WR steering group continues to meet monthly and implement the 3-year action plan.

3.7.7 In the period of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November-10 December 2022), a series of communication and events with expert speakers including Rachel Williams, a survivor, was undertaken, activities included:

- A partnership webinar around the new offence of non-fatal strangulation or non-fatal suffocation (Domestic Abuse Act 2021) held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022. 80 participants from the multiagency partnership attended. The webinar was very well received

*Feedback:*

*"I thought it was an excellent webinar, thanks so much. It was a good mix I thought and the case studies very powerful."*

*"Thank you, Rachel. I love how spirited and determined you are in your mission to change the law and get the message out there! Powerful"*

- Participants that responded to the poll confirmed an increase in knowledge and confidence to support victims following the webinar, with most of them providing feedback that they felt 'extremely confident' that the webinar will help them in their work.
- A DA/VAWG awareness session was organised for members on 7 December which 20 members attended. A feedback questionnaire has been circulated.
- On 7 December 2022, three women's refuges that are commissioned by the Council and Barnet Homes were visited by the Council's VAWG Team, the lead member for Community Safety and victim support providers. The survivors' shared powerful messages about how their journey had been supported by the refuge provision and the positive impact this had on their road to safety and recovery.



Feedback from a survivor at the women's refuge:

*"I want to thank all who helped with my difficult time now I live in a women's refuge house. I suffer from domestic abuse by my husband and his family. I decided to talk to my doctor about my husband and she helped me, and she contacted solace women's aid. before I came to this refuge, I have been in hospital for 2 months. I have tuberculosis in my brain and spine. I still take medicine and go to the hospital for a monthly check-up. I came to refuge house last year and they helped with my visa which I got last October. Then they helped my English course which starts this month. It was a very difficult time to stay in one room by myself, but my support worker and my manager always help to do something and busy myself. They provided in the summer many different activities; I really enjoyed it with another resident. I did 'Arise' course in the refuge. I attended last year in December 16 days activism which was a big day for me because I shared my experience with others for the first time. I enjoyed their lovely food and drinks. I received a gift from them. I meet during a time with Barnet councillors. I was so happy to talk with them. I really appreciate my manager and support workers. "*

- The newly formed Domestic Abuse Champion Network held their first face to face meeting on 9 December 2022 which is a positive development on the multi-agency IDVA training delivered in 2022.
- A 4-page leaflet on where to get help and support for domestic or sexual abuse in Barnet was launched on 25 November 2022 and widely circulated to across professional networks and to residents, including via the Community Safety Hubs
- An article was circulated in Barnet first magazine [Barnet First magazine - Winter 2022.pdf](#)
- The Barnet Council Domestic abuse website: [www.barnet.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/domesticabuse) has been updated to include the new leaflet and videos produced by students from Middlesex University who have worked with us to create short films to promote awareness about local support services for people at risk of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls. Included are videos from Jewish Women's Aid, Youth Realities, Art Against Knives, Rise Mutual, Barnet Homes One Stop Shop and Middlesex University students.  
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/domestic-abuse/helpful-videos-barnet-residents>
- The council communications team produced a toolkit for the 16 days activism. Key messages were promoted (one post per day) throughout the 16-day period to signpost residents and victims to support and information about the range of services available in the borough. The webinar on the new offence of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation held on 6 December 2022 was also promoted. Communications also included:
  - A press release
  - Video of the lead member for community safety, Cllr Sara Conway
  - Films made by local support groups and voluntary organisations
  - Mayor of London #haveawordwithyourself campaign
  - Home office 'enough' campaign



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

3.8.1 Barnet Solace DA Advocacy and Support Service (SASS) received 248 referrals in Q3 2022/23 (Jewish Women’s Aid data not available at time of reporting).

Solace Referrals	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23
Number of Referrals Received	380	319	310	248 – (Excludes JWA data)
New Service Users (accepted cases)	140	112	124	135
DASH Risk assessments	131	115	121	118
High risk cases receiving IDVA service	21	25	18	24
Total Service Users Leaving the Service	124	103	120	110

### Housing Support & Refuge Provision

3.8.2 There were 97 homelessness approaches to Barnet Homes due to domestic abuse in Q3, 2022/3. Of these, 31 were provided with 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.

3.8.3 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 of refuge provision at Minerva House for 2023/24.

3.8.4 29 women and 22 children were supported in the 3 Barnet refuges services in Barnet in Q3 2022/23.

Refuge	Bed space	Support provided in Q1 & Q2 2022/23
<b>Minerva House</b>	6 bed spaces	Supported 8 women residents caring for 8 children fleeing domestic abuse
<b>Hannah House and Arlene House</b>	18 bed spaces	Supported <b>21</b> women residents caring for <b>14</b> children fleeing domestic abuse

- 3.8.5 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 Q3, 33 referrals for sanctuary installations were received and 17 sanctuary installations were completed. 16 either did not engage, were declined or are not yet completed
- 3.8.6 Barnet Homes secured funding from MOPAC to create a dedicated Domestic Abuse Team within the Housing Options Service which launched in November 2022. The DA Team is managing 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. The team has now recruited one Housing Needs Officer and one Floating Support officer. Recruitment has been a challenge due to the short-term nature of the funding, however, since starting in November 2022, the DA team has worked with 10 complex needs clients who have approached Barnet Homes. The Floating Support service will commence in January 2023.
- 3.8.7 The One Stop Shop (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 105 referrals in Q3, 202/23 and 72 individuals engaged with the OSS. New partners are joining the OSS including a No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) advisor from the Asian Women's Resource Centre, a Welfare Benefit Advisor from Boost and the Barnet Wellbeing Hub.
- 3.8.8 Barnet has been selected to partner with AVA for a new project funded by Trust for London. AVA is partnering with four London Boroughs to support their work to build safe housing pathways and tackle violence against women who are facing homelessness in London. Through the project funding, AVA will support women with lived experience and reach out to service partners and to work with Barnet borough to build on the commitment to improving the housing and homelessness offer for women survivors of gender-based violence. The project aims to ensure that women with lived experience of gender-based violence are central to informing and enacting change. This project will support the implementation of our aim to include survivors' voices in the work of partnership to tackle violence against women and girls.

### 3.9 Children as victims

- 3.9.1 On 5 December 2022, the Crown Prosecution Service announced that children affected by domestic abuse will be automatically treated as victims regardless of whether they were present during violent incidents. Updated legal guidance released specifically asks prosecutors to consider the impact domestic abuse has on children when making a charging decision. This includes speaking to schools or children's services to support evidence of long-standing abuse.
- 3.9.2 The national Child Practice Safeguarding Review panel published a briefing report 'Multi Agency Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse' in September 2022. The report identified four core practice principles that should underpin practice approaches when working with children and young people, their parents, wider families, and networks in relation to domestic abuse
- Domestic abuse-informed
  - Intersectional
  - Whole family
  - Trauma informed

Key messages will underpin future work across the partnership, with plans in progress to disseminate the learning and key messages

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

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

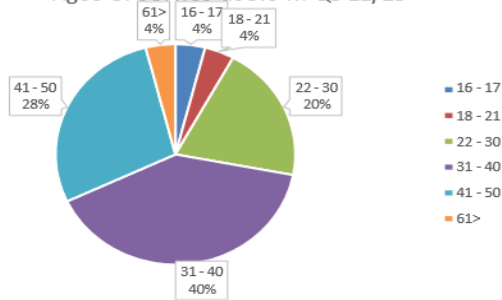
- RISE Perpetrator Programme
- Young Person Perpetrator Programme (Child to Adult)
- Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) Programme

3.9.2 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 evidence-informed models for behaviour change to help perpetrators take positive and tangible steps to prevent re-offending and works with victim 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: Q4 21/22 – Q3 22/23*

Adults Service	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23
New referrals	8	9	7	25
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the Quarter	16	4	9	2
New service users entering the programme	6	4	11	5
Number of service users leaving the service	13	3	15	8
Number of service users departing in an agreed and planned way	10	2	11	3

Ages of service users in Q3 22/23



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

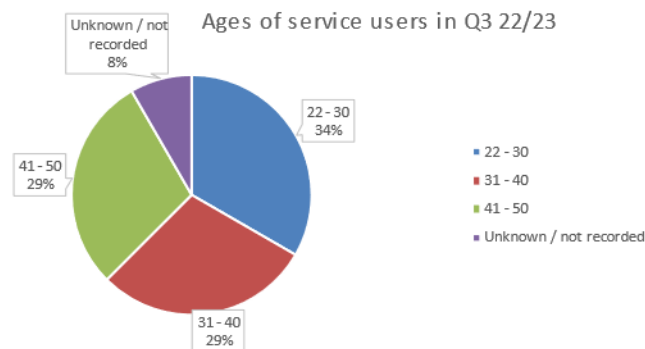
**Objective 3**

# RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme

## Partner Service: Q4 21/22 – Q3 22/23

Partner Service	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23
New referrals	11	4	7	24
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the quarter	24	0	4	4
New service users entering the programme	13	0	4	4
Number of service users leaving the service (as this is a voluntary, all departures are considered planned)	7	1	10	6

- Majority of service users are aged between 22-30 years old



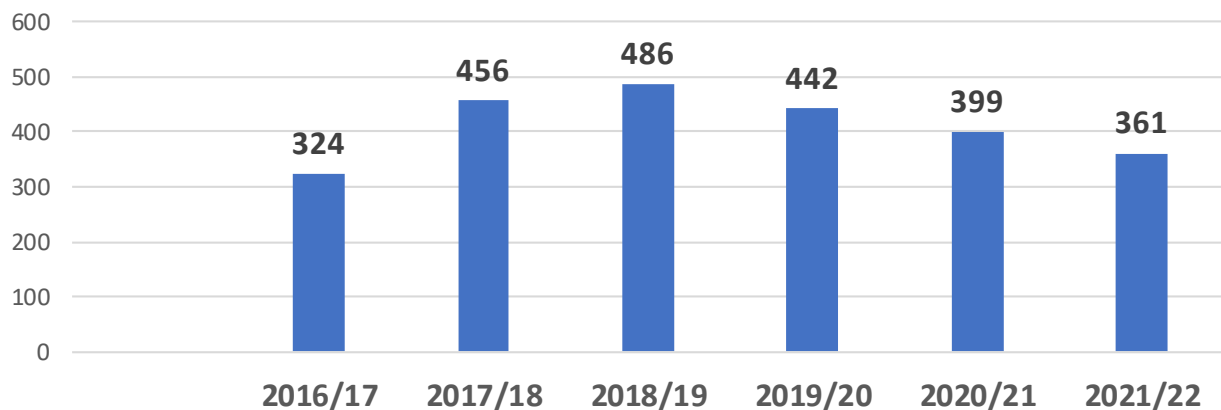
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3.9.3 CIFA (Culturally Integrated Family Approach) is a perpetrator programme that was launched in September 2021 in a partnership, led by Barnet, with Brent and Enfield. The project has been funded by MOPAC and applies an intersectional approach, which considers the inter-familial conflicts that feed into the victim's abuse and distress and the perpetrator's sense of power. The intervention has included optional family sessions to incorporate a wider cultural approach - working with multi-oppressors. The CIFA practitioners have worked predominantly with the main perpetrator but also with other family or friends/members of the community facilitating abuse. The project is winding down delivery as funding ceases in March 2023; a final evaluation report will be expected later in the year. There is an opportunity to bid for further perpetrator-focused funding following an announcement from Home Office in December 2022 and a bid is currently being prepared.

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

3.10.1 Barnet Homes Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS) had 105 referrals in Quarter 3, 2022/23. The demand for service over time is set out in the chart below. The service was due to resume face to face delivery in November 2022 but there were unexpected delays due building health and safety requirements. Barnet Homes is anticipating face face-to-face delivery will recommence in January 2023. Over Q3 Barnet Homes has delivered the service remotely every Thursday morning.

## DA One Stop Shop demand



- 3.10.2 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 27 fully trained, 8 partially trained and 7 engaged GP surgeries out of a total of 51 GP surgeries in Barnet. 10 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. 26 referrals to advocacy services have been made from GP practices through the IRIS scheme in Q3 2022/23.
- 3.10.3 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.
- 3.10.4 Two Statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) have been completed by an Independent Chair and are being reported to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) for approval; the reports are restricted for publication until approved by the Home Office. The DHR's are for 'Duncan' (pseudonym, a male victim), who was killed by his partner in October 2018 and 'Alyssa' (pseudonym, a female victim) killed by her partner in March 2019.
- 3.10.5 Scoping for 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. The AVA work with housing will support the development of this work.

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

- 3.11.1 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.
- 3.11.2 NW BCU Police invited local women to join them for Walk and Talk sessions. Walk & Talks are open to women aged 18 and above, living or working in London, who would like to go for a walk

with an officer in their local area and discuss their views on women's safety. When the next date is available, the details will be widely circulated. In Barnet, the Police PCSO Community Engagement Officer from BARNET Safer Transport Team, Road & Transport Poling Command promotes stalls and events to engage with residents at various locations including the community safety hubs handing over leaflets and raising awareness on the safety of women in the borough including promoting Clare's Law.

3.11.3 There are plans in progress for a communications plan promoting safe spaces and a pathfinder project across Barnet.

3.11.4 International Women's Day 2023 events will be taking place across the borough, the council and its partners will coordinate communications and information about the various celebrations and events taking place, some of these are detailed below:

- The UN theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 2023 (IWD 2023) is, "**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**". This theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".
- The UK International Women's Day 2023 campaign theme is: **#EmbraceEquity**
- In Barnet, a partnership event to be held on 8 March 2023 is being planned on the theme 'Embrace Equity'
- The Fit & Active Barnet Development Officer from Greenspaces & Leisure, communities, Adults and Health in partnership with GLL (a major leisure provider) is organising one event centred on being active and healthy. The event will take at Burnt Oak Leisure Centre on a date to be confirmed
- Events for International Women's Day are being planned to celebrate women, support the UN and UK themes of equity and innovation and technology gender inclusion.

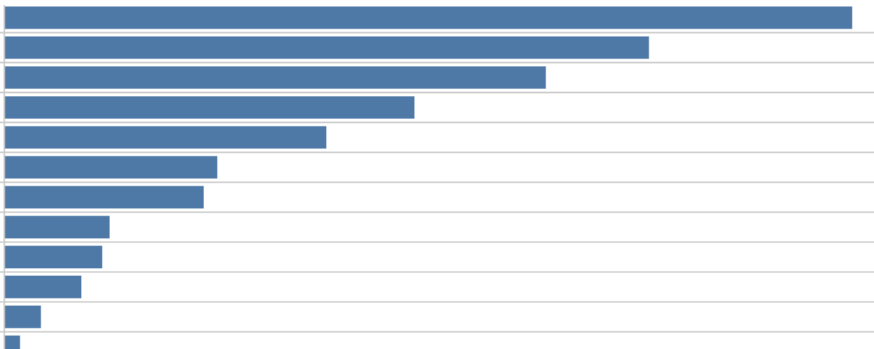
3.11.5 A DA & VAWG event will be held in May 2023, a task and finish group is being established comprised of representatives from key agencies and partners to :

- ❖ Increase understanding across Barnet of the breadth of behaviours that are identified as DA & VAWG
- ❖ Agree and promote consistent, coordinated partnership messages about DA & VAWG
- ❖ Increase confidence in people, especially boys and men, to call it out when they see and hear it
- ❖ Help victims and survivors to recognise their own experience as DA and/or VAWG
- ❖ Increase awareness so that family, friends, neighbours, managers, bystanders will know how to respond when they see or hear something that worries them.
- ❖ Share information about where and how to get help in Barnet including posters, social media content and leaflets in community languages
- ❖ Involvement of residents, survivors, schools and young people in designing the campaign messaging and materials.
- ❖ Develop a scheme in Barnet to train and support local businesses to become places where people can go if they feel unsafe.
- ❖ The campaign is intended to be a multi-agency partnership effort to include partners from community safety and neighbourhood officers who work in each ward; hate crime team;

family services; Police; Barnet Homes; Voluntary, Community and Faith partners; schools; local businesses such as pharmacies, shops, supermarkets, banks; licensed premises.

#### 4. Serious Youth & Adult Violence

- 4.1.1 Met Police Crime Data for the period October 2022 – December 2022 is set out in the chart below. Overall, the rate of violence against the person rate in Barnet in the reporting period is 4.9 per 1,000 population. This is a decrease of 6.6% since November 2022.
- 4.1.2 There were 574 violence with injury offences reported in the period resulting in a rate of 1.4 violence with injury offences per 1000 population; this is a 3% reduction from November 2022.
- 4.1.3 There were 1367 violence without injury offences in the reporting period resulting in a rate of 3.4 per 1,000 population; this is a reduction of 8.1% from November 2022. Positively, there have been no homicides in Barnet during Q3.

Violence Against the Person	1,941	
Theft	1,476	
Vehicle Offences	1,241	
Other Accepted Crime	939	
Burglary	738	
Public Order Offences	487	
Arson and Criminal Damage	456	
Drug Offences	242	
Robbery	224	
Sexual Offences	176	
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	84	
Possession of Weapons	37	

- 4.1.4 In London between since June 2022, Barnet is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in London for knife crime offences. Violence against the person accounts for quarter of all crime committed in the borough.
- 4.1.5 In Q3 there were 78 knife crime offences reported compared to 93 in Q2 which is a positive reduction.
- 4.1.6 Met Police conducted 641 stop and searches in Barnet during Q3 which is a reduction by 40% from Q2. Of the searches conducted, 61.8% were drug-related and 15.4% were for weapons; none were undertaken under Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPO). Overall drug offences fell by 20% in Q3, 66% of drug offences are for possession and the remaining third for 'drug trafficking' offences.
- 4.1.7 Barnet Family Services coordinates a monthly Serious Adult Violence (SAV) Panel which has been established since May 2020. It is a multi-agency panel that acts as a bridge between children and adult services enabling connections to be made in relation to adults and children who are at risk of involvement in violent offending. The SAV panel aims to provide a partnership approach to risk management of individuals involved in serious violence and assist youth to adult transitions. The SAV forum discusses approximately 10 individuals per month.
- 4.1.8 At present, the SAV panel is undertaking case consultations which places pressure on administrative functions in the gathering of information and preparation, Police risk assessment information has not been available since Q1 2022/23 which has reduced the effectiveness of risk management planning. However, the consultation approach does enable a faster turnaround and



is more responsive to need. The SAV Terms of Reference are being revised alongside an exploration of alternative ways in which SAV can provide helpful advice and oversight.

- 4.1.9 In Q3 2022/23, 11 individuals were discussed with all but one referred by Probation Services, the other individual was referred by the Community Safety Team. There were no referrals for females in this quarter. All Individuals were aged between 19 and 31 years with 66% of individuals discussed being aged between 18-25 years. 66% of individuals were considered to be gang-involved based on information provided by attending agency representatives.
- 4.1.10 Barnet Family Services 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 is 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.
- 4.1.11 The Victim Coordinator is 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 a high volume of referrals over the quarter, the data will be reported in Q4. The post holder is providing advice, guidance, onward referral, and support for personal safety and safety around the home.
- 4.1.12 A Restorative Justice Coordinator started in post in December, the role was created with LCPF and will support roll out of training in conflict resolution skills to schools and community providers. The role will complement the restorative justice work taking place in the Youth Justice Service which is supporting victims to meet with those that have perpetrated crime against them allowing space for reflection, apology, and reparation. An update on activity will be provided in Q4 2022/23.
- 4.1.13 The Violence and Vulnerability Team have held a series of practice forums across children's and adult services to provide space for reflection and encourage learning. Two sessions were held in Q3 including 'considering SEN in adults and adolescents' and 'addressing how all men and boys can work towards ending violence against women, changing culture, and understanding the White Ribbon movement.
- 4.1.14 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 under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC Act 2022).
- 4.1.15 MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit have developed guidance and a Strategic Needs Assessment template; this is attached as an appendix to this report.

## 5. Reducing Youth Offending

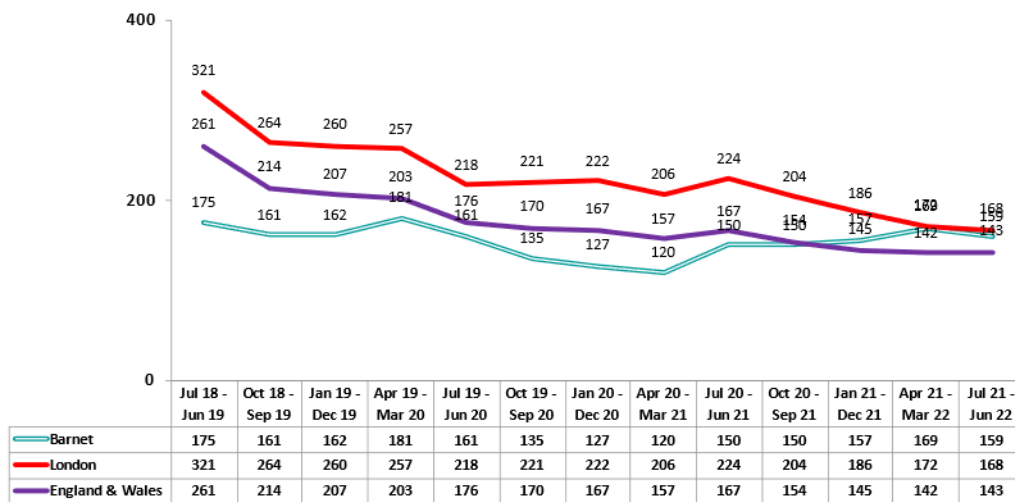
- 5.1.1 Barnet Youth Justice Services (YJS) work with young people aged 10 to 17 who have offended. The rate of First Time Entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice system is monitored nationally against 100,000 population. Barnet consistently maintained lower rates of FTE than London and England and Wales until Q3 2021/22 when the volume started to increase. In Q2 2022/23 the number of FTE had risen to 169 per 100,000, which although remained lower than the London

average (n=172), had risen above the national rate in England and Wales (n=142) for the first time.

5.1.2 In Q3 2022/23 this has reduced to 159 per 100,000 which is a positive indicator and attributed to the effective diversionary and preventative work undertaken by the multi-agency partnership over the summer period i.e. community engagement, positive activities and targeted support.

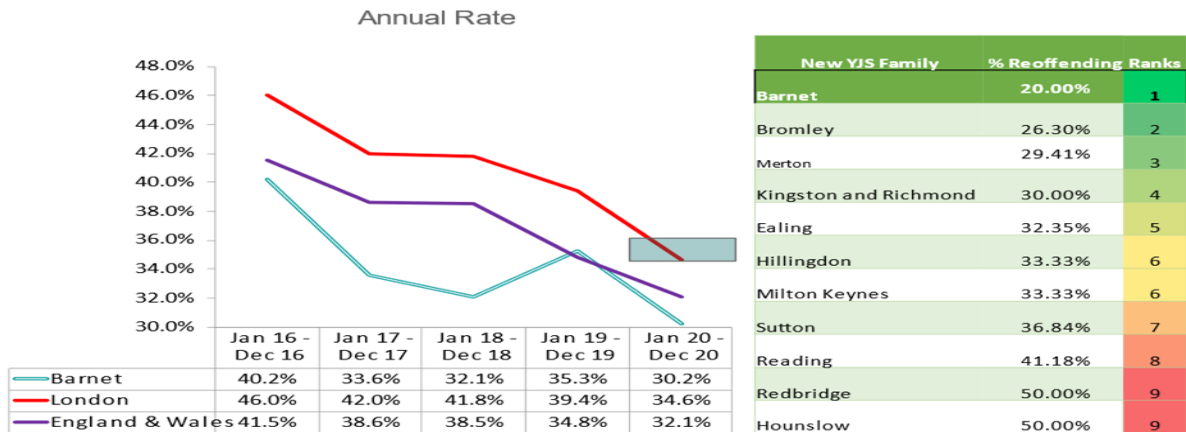
## First Time Entrants (FTEs)

Rate of FTEs per 100,000 10 -17 year olds - Jul 21 - Jun 22



5.1.3 The binary re-offending rate for Barnet YJS remains on a downward trajectory and is currently 30.2% which is lower than authorities within the NW BCU, London and National averages. (The binary rate is calculated as the percentage of offenders with a proven re-offense in the reporting period). Barnet's effective partnership working, desistance-focused interventions and positive child-centred activities support the low re-offending rates.

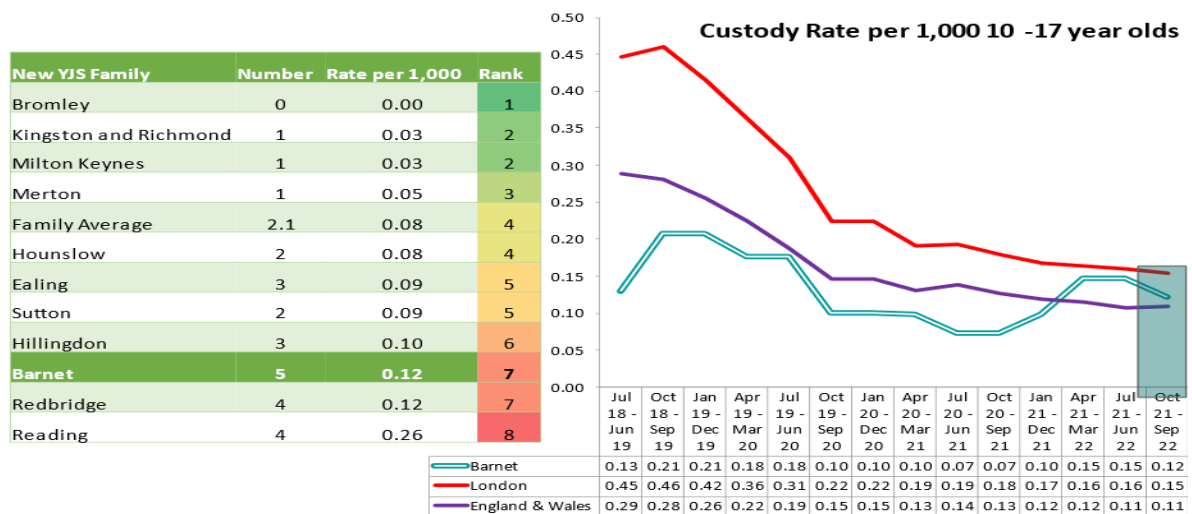
## Reduction in re-offending – Binary Reoffending Rate



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5.1.4 In Q2 2022/23 Barnet's custody rate is 0.12 per 1,000. This is a slight reduction of 0.03% from Q1 and is just above the national average of 0.11 per 1,000, although lower than the London rate of 0.15. In the Youth Justice Family, Barnet is ranked higher than the average of 0.09% and this is attributable to an increase in incidents of Serious Youth Violence in 2021/22. Barnet YJS are committed to reducing use of custody by ensuring robust community-based alternatives are available, including Intensive Supervision & Surveillance options and use of positive activities.

## Rate of Custody



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## 6. Strategic Planning

- 6.1.1 The 0-19 Early Help Strategy has been out to public consultation and is currently under revision to include feedback and is planned for sign off by the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in January 2023. 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.
- 6.1.2 With the creation of Combatting 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.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 8.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

## **9. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.

## **10 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 10.1 The activities are being aligned to the 'Family Friendly' priority in the corporate plan which is being updated to reflect the administration's priorities.

## **11 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

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

## **12 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 The SCPB 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.
- 12.3 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.

12.4 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.

12.5 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.

### **13 Insight**

n/a

### **14 Social Value**

14.1 The cost of offending and reoffending is set out in the 2018 Home Office report on the Economic and Social Cost of Crime (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

14.2 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)

14.3 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.

14.4 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)

### **15 Risk Management**

15.1 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.

### **16 Equalities and Diversity**

16.1 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.

16.2 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.

16.3 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.

16.4 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.

16.5 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

16.6 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.

## **17 Corporate Parenting**

17.1 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.

17.2 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.

## **18 Consultation and Engagement**

18.1 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.

18.2 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.

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

## **19 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

19.1 NONE.