

## Safer Communities Partnership Board

28 April 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>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Tina McElligott, Director Early Help & Children's Social Care <a href="mailto:Tina.McElligott@barnet.gov.uk">Tina.McElligott@barnet.gov.uk</a>

### 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

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**

- 2.1 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)**

- 3.1.1 The London Borough of Barnet's Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2022-25 sets out how Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership (SCP) 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.
- 3.1.2 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.
- 3.1.3 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).
- 3.1.4 The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership Delivery Group is a subgroup to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB) 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

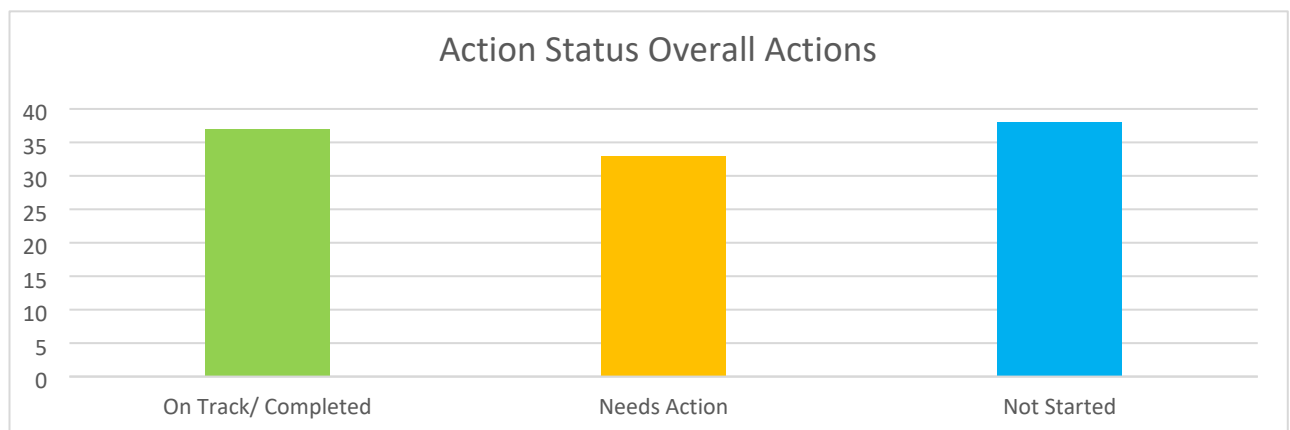
community. The VAWG Delivery Group agrees the VAWG Delivery Plan and monitors progress against the five partnership priorities within Barnet's DA & VAWG Strategy 2022-25, which are:

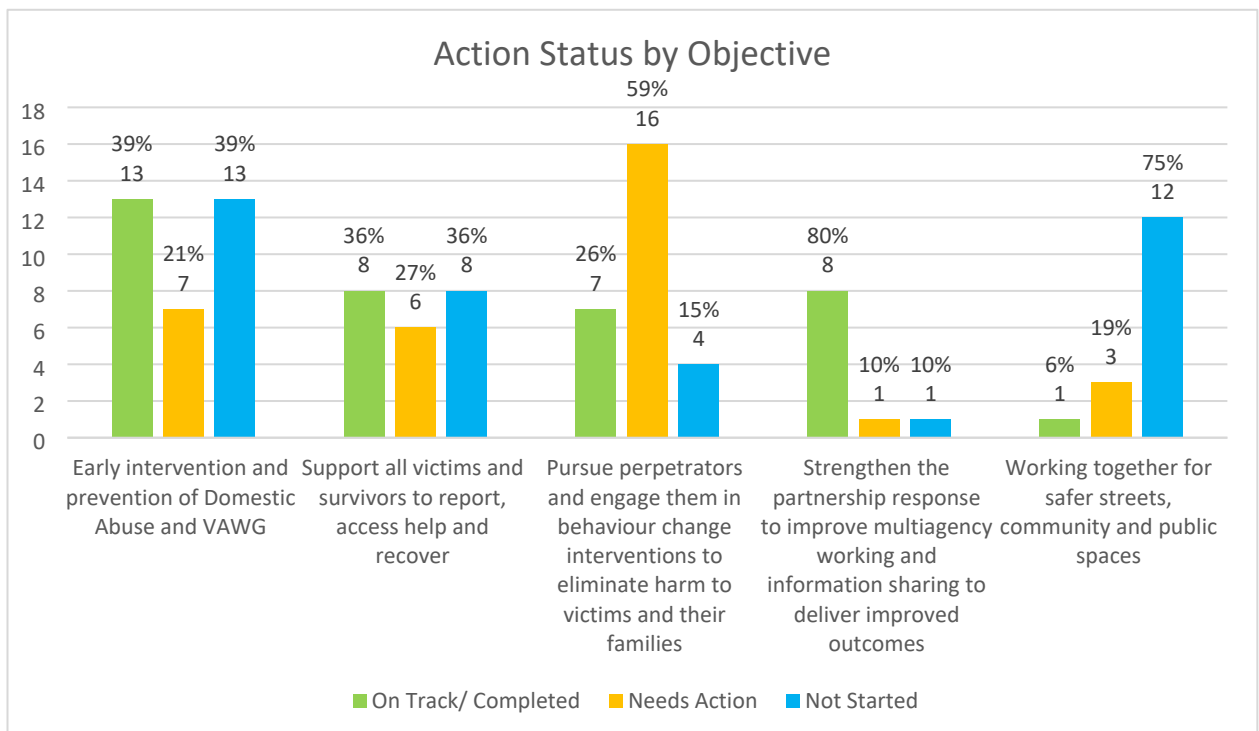
- 1) Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
- 2) Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
- 3) Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
- 4) Strengthen the partnership response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

3.1.5 “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.”

### 3.2 Performance and Partnership Activity Q4 2022/23

3.2.1 Progress against the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls (DA & VAWG) Strategy is underpinned by an Action Plan that is monitored and reported to the VAWG Delivery Group. Progress against the 108 partnership commitments within the Action Plan is RAG rated, the chart below set out the progress against meeting the aims of the DA & VAWG Strategy and demonstrates purposeful progress for year one of delivery. The DA & VAWG annual report will be provided to Community Leadership & Libraries Committee on 11 May 2023.





### 3.3 Delivering the DA and VAWG Strategy Q4 2022/2023

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

3.3.1 Early intervention and prevention are key to reducing the amount of domestic abuse, domestic homicide, and suicides linked to domestic abuse and by stopping people from becoming perpetrators and victims to begin with. Domestic abuse devastates the lives of millions. In Barnet in the 12 months to Feb 2023, we had 5044 DA incidents, 3121 DA offences and 722 DA violence with injury cases were reported to Police. The interventions set out below aim to address the problem by driving down domestic abuse and domestic homicide by preventing them from ever happening in the first place.

#### ❖ IRIS Programme in Barnet

- 3.3.2 Existing funding arrangements for the IRIS programme ended in Q4; the continuation into 2023/24 has been jointly funded by Barnet Public Health and North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB); with a total of £90k having been committed; this is a £10k shortfall on the previous year which will reduce capacity for refresher training.
- 3.3.3 The IRIS steering committee request for investment for two advocate educators to work in primary care for two years has been agreed for one year at a cost of £101k and will be reviewed ahead of any future commitment to funding a second year. NCL ICB have undertaken to complete a common procurement for IRIS delivery across NCL.
- 3.3.4 To complete the IRIS programme, clinical and administrative staff within the GP practice must complete training. There are 50 GP surgeries in Barnet, of which 28 are fully trained practices and a further 15 are partially trained, 7 GP Practices have not engaged. To improve

take-up, Solace has been linked with the Barnet Primary & Community Care Training Hub as the lead for training GP surgeries.

3.3.5 Referrals into Solace Services from GPs in Barnet have improved with take-up of training as highlighted in the data below.

Year	Date Range	Referrals to Solace Services from local GPs
Baseline	Feb 17 – Jan 18	4
1	Feb 18 – Jan 19	53
2	Jan 19 – Dec 19	92
3	Jan 20 – Dec 20	79
4	Jan 21 – Dec 21	133
5	Jan 22 – Dec 22	113
6	Jan 23 – March 23	38

#### ❖ Prevention in schools

3.3.6 Public Health is mapping support, resources and training available to schools in the prevention of domestic and sexual abuse. Training for all Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in schools has been requested to support recognition of domestic abuse/sexual abuse and the provision of information and support services for children and non-abusive parents.

#### ❖ Operation Encompass

3.3.7 Operation Encompass is led by the Metropolitan Police (MPS) in partnership with the local authority and schools. The joint-agency protocol enables the Police to share information with schools following a reported domestic abuse incident where the police have been called out and a child has been present the following day.

3.3.8 Sharing information about incidents of domestic abuse to which children have been exposed ensure school staff have immediate awareness so they can practice silent observation, assess needs and/or provide appropriate support to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse.

3.3.9 The protocol does not replace or supersede existing protocols for child safeguarding or welfare and is used in conjunction with current safeguarding procedures and practice guidelines. Schools will receive information when

- Police have been called out to a domestic incident
  - AND the child is present at the time of the incident
  - AND the child is Under 18
- 3.3.10 Further information about Operation Encompass can be found [Home : Operation Encompass](#); the local authority is exploring ways in which to capture and report impact on children in the borough.

### ❖ **DA/VAWG Partnership Training**

- 3.3.11 Four multi-agency DA training sessions were held in Q4 2022/23 and attended by 37 practitioners. Domestic Abuse Level 1 was attended by 7 practitioners and Level 2 Responding and Recognising Domestic Abuse was attended by 9 practitioners. DA MARAC training was attended by 11 practitioners and 10 practitioners attended the 'Understanding Coercive Control and Economic Abuse' training.
- 3.3.12 DA/VAWG training has been paused for Q1 2023/24 with the exception of MARAC training to allow for the completion and analysis of a training needs assessment to inform training requirements across the partnership for 2023/24.
- 3.3.13 The VAWG team and the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership manager co-delivered an on-line briefing to the multi-agency partnership on 2 March 2023 to share learning from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel [Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse paper - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- 3.3.14 Noted within the CSPR paper is the Safe & Together Model which provides training aimed at changing the culture of the safeguarding system so that it responds to domestic abuse through an emphasis on keeping children and non-abusing parents 'safe and together'. The approach focuses professionals on the behaviours of the abusive parent and the impact this has on children and the non-abusive parent's relationship with the children. Barnet was unsuccessful in a bid for Home Office funding to roll out the model in the borough; Family Services are working with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership to explore joint funding options to adopt the approach.

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

- 3.4.1 Support is crucial to help all victims and survivors who have escaped from domestic abuse, in particular support for their health, trauma recovery, economic, housing and social needs. In Barnet, a range of support is available aimed at ensuring that every victim and survivor can get the support they need; the DA & VAWG team monitors delivery of services and identified needs to ensure these are reflected in in planning and delivery aims.

### ❖ **Commissioned Services**

- 3.4.2 Barnet Council commissions Solace Women's Aid to deliver Advocacy and Support Services and two women's refuges. The services are monitored quarterly through the provision of data, feedback and case studies.
- 3.4.3 Solace Advocacy and Support Service received 374 referrals in Q4, 2022/23 bringing the total referrals for the year to 1251; this exceeds their annual target of 1200.

3.4.4 The Q4 referral volume represents a 51% increase from Q3. Of the Q4 referrals, 6 (1.6%) declined support, 3 service-users identified as LBGT+ and 4 male victims accessed the service. 11 (2.9%) service-users reported as having no recourse to public funds and 66 (17.6%) service-users reported a mental health need.

#### ❖ Women’s Refuges

3.4.5 Solace Women’s Aid are commissioned by Barnet Council to provide support and manage two women’s refuges in Barnet.

3.4.6 A third women’s refuge (Minerva House) is run by Barnet Homes who have been successful in securing £100,000 of funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to support the continuation of the Minerva House provision in 2023/24

3.4.7 28 women caring for 19 children were supported across the 3 Barnet refuges in Q4 2022/23

#### ❖ Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARAC	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Apr 2022-Mar 2023 Total
Number of MARAC referrals	87	123	122	145	477
Number of children in the household	51	64	68	111	294
Number of families with children	38	48	37	64	187
Number of repeat MARAC referrals	9	22	19	35	85
Percentage of repeat MARAC referrals	10%	18%	16%	24%	17%

3.4.8 MARAC referrals have increased each quarter during 2022/23 with Q4 reporting the highest volume. The number of children exposed to domestic abuse has also increased; in Q4; the

increase represents 23 individual victims caring for a total of 43 children. Repeat referrals to MARAC also increased by 8% in Q4; the VAWG Delivery Group will explore increase in volume to better understand the drivers.

- 3.4.9 There has been a 12% increase in victims reporting mental health needs, rising to 80% of all victims referred to MARAC in Q4. The VAWG team are in discussion with mental health commissioners, providers and specialist DA services to improve mental health pathways and support for DA survivors; this work will link with development towards a General Mental Health Charter.
- 3.4.10 Victims who identify as female represented 87.6% of referrals to MARAC in Q4, and 87.3% of alleged perpetrators in the same reporting period identified as male. The victim's partner was the identified perpetrator in 36% of referrals, matching the reported percentage for ex-partners. Male children accounted for 5% of referrals to DA MARAC.
- 3.4.11 Barnet's DA consultant is leading a review of the DA MARAC based on the Safe Lives review tool. 7 of the 10 Safe Lives principles will be reviewed focusing on identification of risk, multi-agency engagement/information sharing, safeguarding high-risk victims and their children/vulnerable adults, representation for victims and access to IDVA support, and the quality of multi-agency action plans to address risk, manage perpetrator behaviour and safeguard victims and their children and/or vulnerable adults.
- 3.4.12 Alongside the review of MARAC, Family Services are leading a multi-agency audit of a sample of MARAC victims with caring responsibility for children to identify good practice and areas for learning and improvement. This is due for reporting to the VAWG Delivery Group in July 2023.

#### ❖ **Housing support for victims**

- 3.4.13 There were 147 homelessness approaches due to domestic abuse in Q4 2022/23. 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 number of moves whilst awaiting alternative housing.
- 3.4.14 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 Q4, 34 referrals for sanctuary installations were received and 20 sanctuary installations were completed.
- 3.4.15 Barnet Homes dedicated DA Team within the Housing Options Service manages the most complex and high-risk housing cases for DA survivors, from the initial assessment of survivors' and their children's needs and their placement in safe accommodation, to their move-on and resettlement in long-term accommodation. At each point, floating support is available to hand-hold individuals through their recovery and resettlement pathway. The team support survivors to access DA services, and are a consistent, supportive presence to



aid the recovery of those who face complex issues and additional barriers. In Q4, the DA Team supported 23 victims with multiple needs and assessed as high and medium risk.

### ❖ **Child & Family Early Help Services: AVA CODA (Children overcoming domestic abuse), Mother and Children's groups and 1:1**

- 3.4.16 In Q4, 5 women attended the CODA/AVA Women's Group and 7 children attended the CODA Children's Group. The initial referrals for both groups were in double figures prior to start of the group, but some families withdrew or had a change of circumstances ahead of the group start date. In the Women's Group, the children were aged between 3-11yrs and in the Children's Group, the children were aged between 9-11yrs
- 3.4.17 The AVA/CODA Group programme is not suitable for all families; some children may have special needs or be outside of the age-group for the particular programme, and some women may not be group-ready, or need an interpreter. In these instances, CODA trained practitioners offer support on a 1:1 basis.
- 3.4.18 There have been no repeat referrals to Family Services for any of the women or children who have participated in the groups in Q4. Women attending the group have shared that having the opportunity to connect with other women who have similar lived experience through the group has a positive impact.
- 3.4.19 In the west locality Children and Family Early Help Hub, practitioners have adapted the AVA/CODA materials to be more culturally appropriate to women from a Muslim background following consultation with community leaders and the women using services.
- 3.4.20 In the summer term, the Hub is also planning to pilot a AVA/CODA group aimed at teenagers who are currently offered 1:1 support or are referred to Safer Spaces Plus.

### ❖ **Child & Family Early Help Reducing Parental Conflict programme.**

- 3.4.21 Since April 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has funded the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Programme in Barnet. The RPC Programme has now been extended for a further 3 years with the provision of £45k year 1 funding being made available to develop the workforce, raise awareness of the impact of parental conflict and develop interventions to support families
- 3.4.22 In Q4, ten 2-hour virtual awareness-raising sessions on 'How and why to be curious about parental conflict' were delivered to a range of practitioners across Family Services and partner agencies, including VAWG providers. 2 workshops were delivered specifically to school-based staff, 1 for health professionals and 1 for Police; the other six were open to all agencies.
- 3.4.23 56 practitioners attended the workshops from both statutory and non-statutory agencies and a virtual abridged version is being developed for the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership website.
- 3.4.24 In February, face-to-face refresher training was provided to 19 RPC champions and Early Help Practitioners in the use of structured interventions, produced by Amity Relationships for parents together and parents apart.

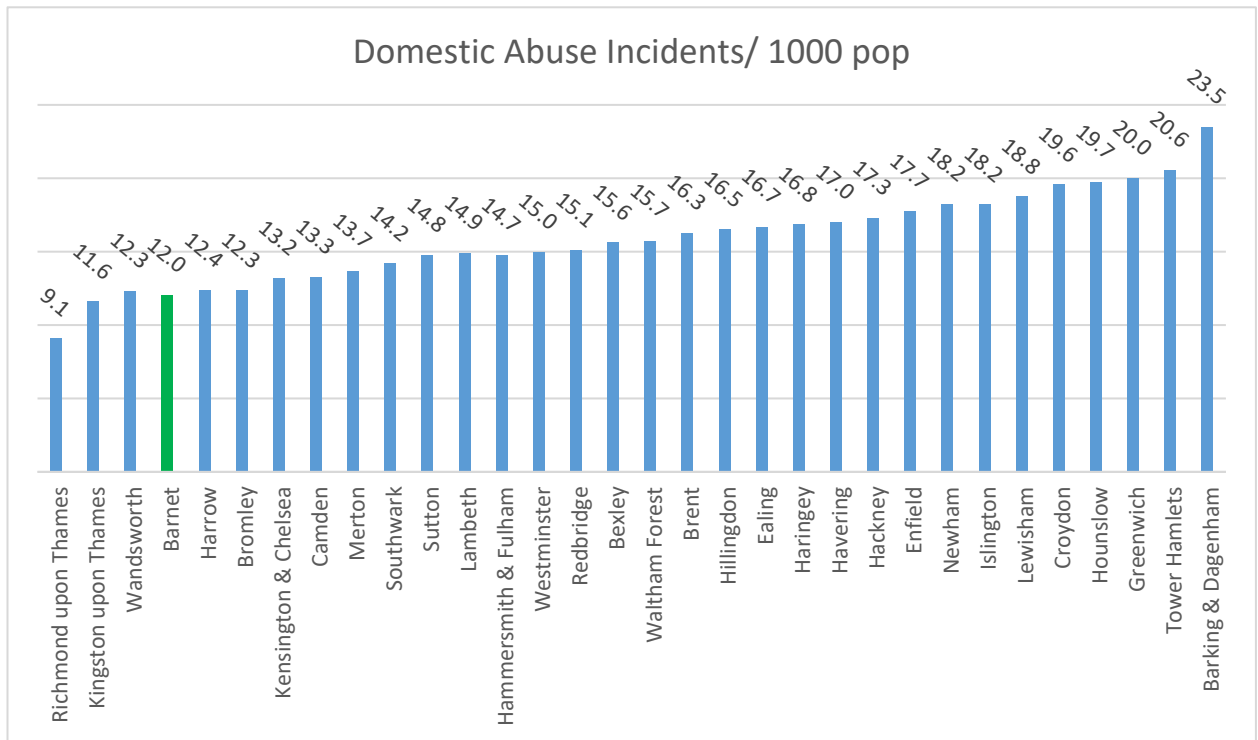
- 3.4.25 In Q4 Amity Relationships were commissioned to deliver 2 half-day training courses aimed at multi-agency practitioners on 'Understanding the Difference Between Domestic Abuse and Parental Conflict'. The sessions were attended by 16 professionals from Children's Social Care, Early Help, Health, Education, Probation, Voluntary Sector and VAWG agencies.
- 3.4.26 In March, Tavistock Relationships delivered 2 virtual training courses on the Mentalization approach when working with parents where there is a higher level of conflict. The course was attended by 20 practitioners from across Family Services and Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- 3.4.27 The Early Help IDVA is supporting identification of appropriate referrals to the Parental Conflict Programme and a newly developed webpage for Child & Family Early Help Services with a hyperlink to the Barnet VAWG webpage for parents alongside a range of useful weblinks, self-help manuals and access to animations is aimed at helping parents consider the experience of children and makes clear the difference between Domestic Abuse and Parental Conflict [Reducing parental conflict | Barnet Council](#).

### ❖ Objective 3: Pursue Perpetrators and Engage them in behaviour change

- 3.5.1 Perpetrators of domestic abuse need to change their behaviour and stop offending. The relentless pursuit of perpetrators will drive down and reduce the number of domestic violence incidents and homicides. This requires better understanding and measures to address the low number of charges, prosecutions, and convictions against perpetrators and also continued investment in interventions and programmes that change behaviour in the long-term.
- 3.5.2 In Barnet, the police have issued 26 Domestic Violence Prevention Notices (DVPN) and 22 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) in the 12 month period to March 2023.
- 3.5.3 In Q4 2022/23, there were:
- 23 reports of threats to disclose intimate images or DA offences.
  - 15 requests for Clare's Law disclosures at DA MARAC an increase from 8 requests in Q3.
  - A reduction in body-worn cameras used in DA calls to 65% from 75% reported in September 2022.
- 3.5.4 The table below highlights the volume of DA incidents and offences reported in Barnet:

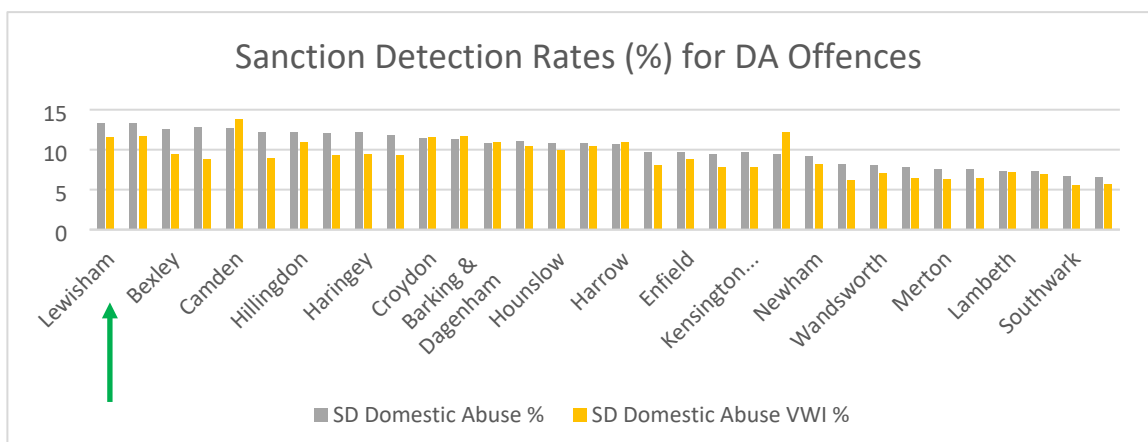
Barnet	DA Incidents	DA Offences	DA Violence with Injury
12 months to Feb 2022	5185	3262	747
12 months to Feb 2023	5044	3121	722

Change	Decrease (2.7%)	Decrease (4.3%)	Decrease (3.3%)
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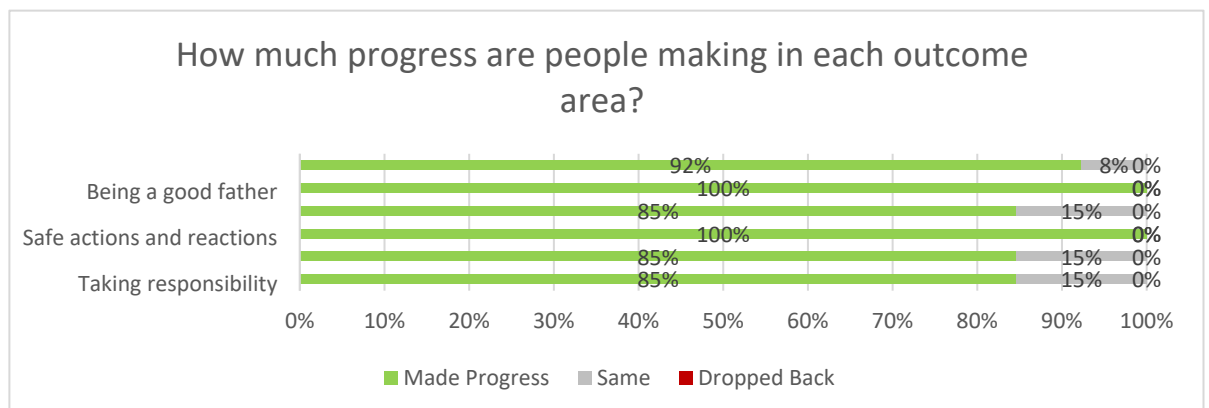
3.5.5 In the 12-month period to February 2023, Barnet is ranked third lowest against all London boroughs with a rate of 12.0 DA Incidents per 1000 population.

3.5.6 In the same reporting period, the rate of DA incidents that become DA Offences is 62% and Barnet had the 2nd highest sanction detection rate of all London boroughs for Domestic Abuse Offences at 13.5%, up from 12.3% in Q3. For Domestic Abuse Violence with injury (VWI), Barnet has the 4th highest sanction detection rate at 11.7%, up from 10.7% in Q3.



## ❖ RISE Mutual CIC

- 3.5.7 Barnet Council commissions RISE Mutual CIC to provide perpetrator programmes aimed at achieving long term behaviour change.
- 3.5.8 The Rise Perpetrator Programme commissioned by Family Services is aimed at reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation, following a successful procurement exercise, RISE has been awarded a further 3-year contract that started January 2023. The programme uses proven evidence-based approaches for behaviour change, helps perpetrators to take positive and tangible steps to prevent re-offending and works with victim partners to aid recovery.
- 3.5.9 RISE received 22 new referrals in Q4 and 22 new Child on Parent Violence referrals, an increase of 12 on the previous quarter. 44 perpetrators were offered an initial appointment in Q4 of which 36 were assessed (22 adult perpetrators and 14 child on parent perpetrators). 30 were assessed as suitable for intervention. RISE currently has 35 active adult perpetrators and 33 active child on parent perpetrators engaged in direct work.
- 3.5.10 The graph below shows the overall progress made by the Adult/Young Perpetrator service users.



## ❖ RISE Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) Perpetrator Programme

- 3.5.11 The CIFA pilot was scheduled to end on 31/3/23 and a cut-off was agreed from mid-November for new referrals. RISE positively worked with referrers to secure men's engagement post-March and following a successful bid led by Barnet and in partnership with 9 other boroughs (Brent, Harrow, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Enfield, Hammersmith & Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster) a further 2 years of funding totalling £1.46m, has been awarded for 2023-25.
- 3.5.12 RISE practitioners report high levels of poverty, trauma, homelessness, and isolation as exhibited by CIFA men; many are reported to have more than one job and to be working long hours on low pay, some have responsibilities to send money home to family in their country of origin. These stressors can impact behaviour and responses towards partners and children.

3.5.13 CIFA findings demonstrate an increase in markers of progress, with 83% of service users having made progress with regard to taking responsibility (with 13% static at the point of the assessment and 3% dropping back.) In the previous quarter 80% were making progress in this area so the upward trend continues.

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

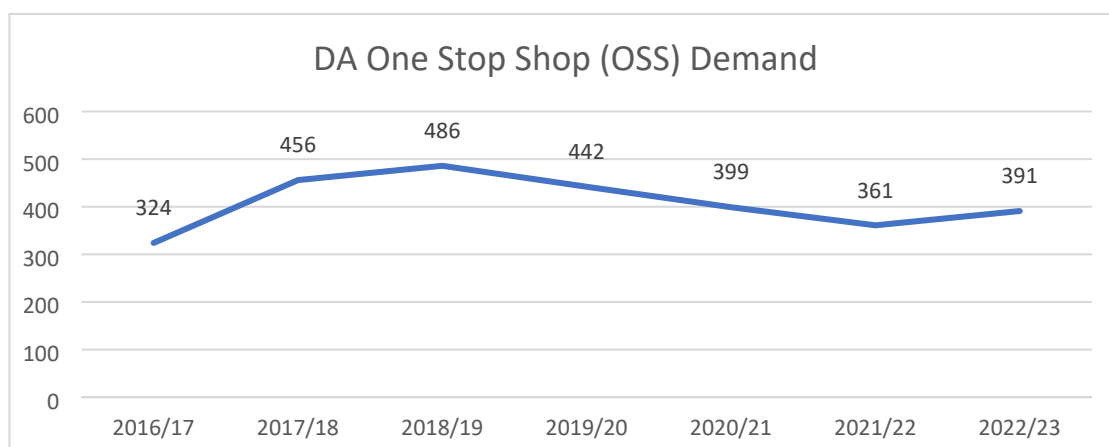
3.6.1 The whole of society needs to work together to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, domestic homicide, and suicides linked to domestic abuse, and deliver the best possible outcomes for victims and survivors. Domestic abuse cases must be identified quicker and in greater numbers. In Barnet, we are working to improve collaboration and coordination between and within organisations.

3.6.2 **#HearMyVoice** is a campaign initiative which addresses various aspects of VAWG and DA, a collaboration between the council, Middlesex University and DA & VAWG partners from across the borough. with a specific focus on capturing the local context of the borough and in particular the narratives of individuals, groups and organisations in the community which will be amplified through the delivery of a range of outputs.

3.6.3 On 24 May 2023, Middlesex University student's work will be showcased including projects where they have partnered with Barnet DA/VAWG community providers. The aim of the event is also to bring Barnet partners together to share knowledge and experience, build connections, and renew our shared commitment to working together to address DA and VAWG in the borough; planning is going well.

3.6.4 The VAWG Delivery Group meet quarterly to oversee delivery against the aims of the DA & VAWG Strategy, by measuring data, analyzing local performance and identifying best practice the partnership can drive the Action Plan towards completion and identify issues early for consideration of the multi-agency partnership.

3.6.5 Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS) resumed face to face drop-in services in February 2023; the impact of this on referrals and service take up will be monitored and reported. 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 many other agencies. The OSS had 85 referrals in Q4 bringing the total for the year to 391 The demand for service over time is set out in the chart below.



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

3.7.1 This objective aims for all Barnet residents to feel safe out in the community by working together to reduce Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and raising awareness

### ❖ **Safer Spaces**

3.7.2 The government published the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill 2022-23 on 22 March 2023 for a third and final reading on 24 March 2023. The Bill would introduce a new offence causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress to a person in public where the behaviour is done because of that person's sex. This will be considered for local education, action and awareness raising once the Bill has passed through Parliament.

3.7.3 A transformation project lead has been appointed to develop a Safer Spaces Network Pilot and will reach out to engage local businesses, town planners, housing providers, open spaces and a range of council services.

### ❖ **Mayor's Women's Night Safety Charter.**

3.7.4 Barnet Council has signed up to the Mayor's Women's Night Safety Charter. The resources and training through the charter will be linked to the Safer Spaces Network Pilot for business operating in the night-time in the borough.

### ❖ **Survivor forum and Survivors voices**

3.7.5 The scoping for setting up a survivor forum is in progress. The process of setting up is mindful of the need for co-production with survivors from across the borough and to give voice to survivors in through a range of platforms. It is intended that the approach will provide a space for the voices of survivors to be heard more consistently and acted upon, and for the commissioners to hear the survivors' voice across the commissioning cycle.

### ❖ **VAWG events led by Barnet Safer Transport Police across the borough**

3.7.6 Barnet Safer Transport Team run bi-monthly Violence Against Women and Girls events, providing advice and support on female personal and travel safety

3.7.7 In partnership with local resident's and women's groups, a series of intelligence-led locations across the borough have been identified in which the Barnet Safer Transport Team can engage with commuters and members of the public between March to August 2023 with the aim of encouraging members of the public to interact with the team on improving women's safety.

### ❖ **Domestic Homicide Review**

3.7.8 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.

- 3.7.9 Two Statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are being finalised by an Independent Chair following submission to the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) in January 2023. 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. The DHR Chair has amended the reports following partnership feedback to ensure recommendations are consistent with current practice; these reports will now be submitted to Home Office.

## 4. Tackling Violence

- 4.1.1 Barnet Family Services is currently leading a Strategic Needs Assessment of Serious Violence in the Borough in response to the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC Act 2022) which came into force in January 2023. Progress in completing the SNA will be reported to the Safer Community Partnership Board as a stand-alone item. The Strategic Needs Assessment will inform the development of a Serious Violence Strategy for the borough to be completed and published in 2024.
- 4.1.2 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a requirement on the police and local authorities in England and Wales and Integrated Care Boards in England and local health boards in Wales, to review the circumstances of certain homicides where the victim was aged 18 or over and where the events surrounding their death involved, or were likely to have involved, the use of an offensive weapon.
- 4.1.3 The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that when a qualifying homicide takes place, local partners identify the lessons to be learnt from the death, consider whether any action should be taken as a result and share the outcome. The intention is that these reviews will improve the national and local understanding of what causes homicide and serious violence, better equipping services to prevent weapons-enabled homicides.
- 4.1.4 Barnet is a participating borough in the Offensive Weapon Homicide Review pilot. The other pilot areas are the West Midlands, South Wales and in London (NW BCU (Barnet, Brent, Harrow) and Central South BCU (Lambeth and Southwark)). Guidance for undertaking Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews was published on 29 March 2023 [Offensive weapons homicide reviews - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offensive-weapon-homicide-reviews).
- 4.1.5 The Offensive Weapon Homicide Review process is for adult victims and largely mirrors the existing Domestic Homicide Review process; it will be led by the Community Safety Team. Child victims of Offensive Weapon Homicides will continue to be subject to Critical Learning Reviews (Youth Justice) or Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews where criteria is met.
- 4.1.6 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.

4.1.7 The SAV panel continues to undertake case consultations. In Q4 2022/23, 12 individuals were discussed. 4 of which were care experienced adults, 6 were referred by Probation, 1 was referred by Youth Justice Services and the other was referred by the BVCH. 11 of the referred individuals are aged between 18-25 years, with one aged 26 years. 50% of individuals were considered to be gang-involved based on information provided by attending agency representatives.

4.1.8 The Family Services Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation Team hold oversight for coordinated delivery of a range of services aimed at reducing youth and adult violence and supporting victims. A number of programmes are delivered across Early Help, Children's Social Care and Youth Justice Services, often in partnership with wider agencies that engage young people in both prevention, diversion and risk reduction interventions.

### ❖ **Serious Incident Response Meetings**

4.2.1 In Q4, there were 11 Serious Incidents Response Meetings (SIRM) held, only one was in relation to an out of borough incident which is a shift from Q3 where incidents predominately occurred out of the borough. This volume is an increase from Q2 and Q3 data where 8 SIRM's were recorded respectively.

4.2.2 In Q4, 75% of meetings held following a serious incident resulted in a SIRM being held, 8% were Child Protection Strategy Meetings and the remaining 17% were discussed at Serious Adult Violence Panel.

4.2.3 In Q4, knife crime was the most common type of incident accounting for almost half of all SIRM's held in which a Barnet young person was the victim or suspect. Gun-related incidents accounted for 28% of Q4 SIRM's; the increase is a concern, particularly as a number of firearm discharges occurred at residential addresses. The Safer Communities Partnership will consider actions to reduce gun crime in the borough in the statutory partnership working group.

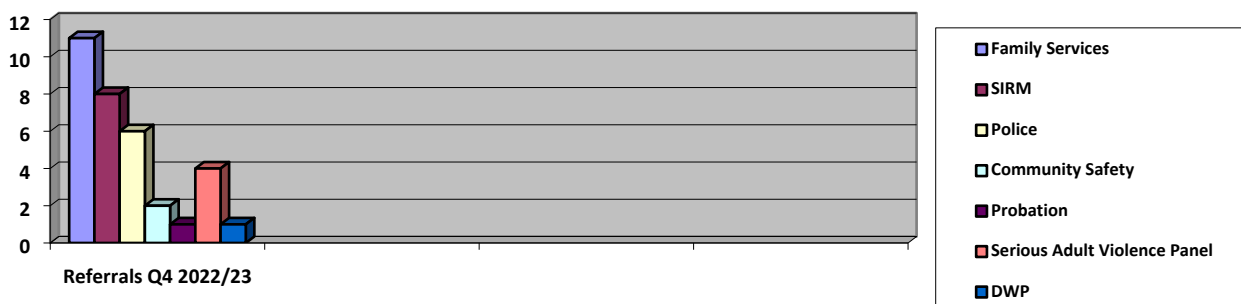
4.2.4 Aggravated burglary is a recorded offence type leading to a SIRM in Q4; this offence type has not previously been reported in SIRM data for 2022/23.

4.2.5 The 11 SIRM's held were relative to 17 young people and young adults who were either a victim or suspect in the incident, 61% of young people were considered suspects in the incident rather than victim. However, in Q4 a new category was introduced as 22% of young people involved in incidents during the reporting period have been identified as both a victim and suspect in the incident. The quarter data also reflects a higher rate of multiple individuals being involved in single incidents.



## ❖ Victim Care Hub

- 4.3.1 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 created by the cessation of the Young Persons Victim Support Service in March 2022. A Barnet Victim Care Hub (BVCH) is now established.
- 4.3.2 The Victim Coordinator started post in September 2022 and has been 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.
- 4.3.3 The Victim Coordinator was establishing a multi-agency network panel to support joined-up recovery plans and a community-based hub for drop-in support. The post holder has also been providing advice, guidance, onward referral, and support for personal safety and safety around the home.
- 4.3.4 Throughout Q4, BVCH has raised awareness of the services available and the referral pathway to access these. This has resulted in a steady flow of referrals from a range of sources.
- 4.3.5 A total of 34 referrals were made in Q4, exceeding the target of 24. Family Services (Early Help and Social Care) made the highest volume of referrals and Serious Incident Response Meetings triggered 8 referrals.



- 4.3.6 The referred victims were largely adults who accounted for 27 of the referrals made. 18 victims identified as male and 16 identified as female. Reporting is in development to capture wider victim demographics which will assist a better understanding of the communities that are most impacted by crime and inform the development of support.
- 4.3.7 Reported crimes against referred victims are largely relative to threats of violence, the use of offensive weapons and assault. A pro-active and rapid response triage service to identify victim needs following an incident of violent crime has enabled a multi-agency and contextual safeguarding approach to providing support, including the provision of emergency accommodation, safety planning, personal and home security equipment, emotional/trauma support and support for vulnerable adults in navigating the criminal justice system.
- 4.3.8 The referred victims had reported the crime to the Police and were assisting investigations, information was not available for 8 of the victims referred and one had not reported the

crime to Police. This is an encouraging and improving picture when compared to Q3 in which 27 victims were either not assisting the investigation or this information was not known.

4.3.9 The Victim Code of Practice and information about the support available was shared with 30 referred victims who were successfully triaged. The table below sets out the types of support identified. The BVCH provided support for non-crime related needs when identified i.e. provision of food vouchers through a partnership with the local branch of the Trussell Trust in Colindale.

4.3.10 Types of support provided to Victims Q4

VCOP	Personal safety advice & security	Home safety advice & security	Emotional support/trauma support	Signposting/Information provision	Food voucher	Onward referral
30	15	13	21	26	5	9

4.3.11 A series of training sessions were held by the BVCH in Q4 delivered to the Department of Work and Pensions, Probation Services, and Colindale Community Trust. In addition, two community and co-production events have been delivered with Age UK and the Parkhurst Residents Association to promote reporting, safety planning, increasing access to support and feelings of safety.

4.3.12 A Victim Response Panel is in development that will provide a coordinated and multi-agency response for supporting victims on the periphery of the Criminal Justice System. The terms of reference are currently in draft and will be finalized at the first multi-agency meeting planned for Q1 2023/24.

4.3.13 The BVCH has commissioned UK Advice Finder which provides a comprehensive database of advice & support giving organisations. The BVCH can access an online portal to seek and identify local, regional, and national support services that can be shared with victims and partners which meets Right 4 of the Victim Code of Practice ‘To be referred to services that support victims and have services and support tailored to their needs’

4.3.14 Calm Mediation has also been commissioned to deliver community mediation services for up to 10 cases in 2023/24 where on-going neighbour disputes have escalated to anti-social behaviour by both parties.

4.3.15 BVCH has three reportable performance outcomes which are set out below. The service is on track to achieve targets and progress will be reported to the SCPB quarterly in 2023/24

### ❖ Performance Outcome 1

Outcome: To Improve Victim Satisfaction and feelings of safety across the Borough

Measure: MOPAC Quarterly Performance update and report

Baseline: Currently at 64% pan London 2020-21

Target: An increase of 10-15%

### ❖ Performance Outcome 2

Outcome: Victims receive better support from the Police and CJS including in online interaction

Measure: Increase proportion of people supporting investigation

Baseline: The proportion of offences that were closed as a result of evidential difficulties and victims not supporting action increased from 35 - 40% from last year (Crime Outcomes 2020-21)

Target: That locally Barnet will work to a reduction of cases closed due to evidential difficulties by 10%

### ❖ Performance Outcome 3 (optional)

Outcome: Increase of the use of the Victims Code of Practice revised 2021

Measure: Right 1 and Right 4 of VCOP to be met through the Hub

Baseline: 20% of victims had heard of the Victims code of Practice or received any rights ONS

Target: An increase of 10- 15%

4.3.16 In May 2022, the Ministry of Justice published a draft Victim's Bill alongside a wider package of measures to improve victims' experiences of the criminal justice system. The [Victims and Prisoners Bill](#) was formally introduced to Parliament on 29 March 2023.

4.3.17 The Bill will place a duty on criminal justice bodies, including youth justice services to collect data and keep their compliance with the [Victims' Code](#) under review at a local level. The Bill will require Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to take a convening role in monitoring local compliance with the Victims' Code.

4.3.18 It is envisaged that PCCs will collate Victims' Code compliance data and chair regular discussions with the relevant criminal justice bodies to analyse compliance at a local level, i.e. in each PCC's police area.

4.3.19 The MoJ is developing metrics to set out the minimum dataset criminal justice bodies must collect, which will be set out in regulations which sit alongside the Bill. This has been

coordinated with the new key performance indicator on victims, to try and minimise the burden on youth justice services and ensure only one set of data needs to be collected.

- 4.3.20 The Bill also places a legislative duty on specified criminal justice bodies "To take reasonable steps to promote awareness of the Victims' Code amongst (a) Victims using services; (b) General public". Supporting guidance is awaited.

## ❖ Restorative Justice

- 4.4.1 A Restorative Justice Coordinator (RJC) started in post in December 2022, alongside the Victim Coordinator, the role was created with three-year London Crime Prevention Funding 2022 – 2025. The creation of the post aims to provide training in conflict resolution skills to schools and community-based providers and build a network of Restorative Justice Champions that can support a sustained and embedded approach to conflict resolution across the borough.
- 4.4.2 Restorative Justice (RJ) interventions have a strong evidence base for achieving good outcomes, in a survey conducted by Remedi Restorative Solutions (2021), 94% of victims of crime reported an increase in their feelings of safety following a RJ intervention, while in the Why Me? Valuing Victims Report (2020), over half of victims reported being better able to cope with aspects of life such as health and wellbeing following an intervention.
- 4.4.3 RJ interventions can be offered to perpetrators of crime regardless of the complexity or gravity of the offence (All-Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry into Restorative Practices 2021/22). A research paper published by Remedi Restorative Services (2021) shows that 98% of offenders taking part in RJ interventions reported an increase in their personal understanding of the harm caused by their offending behaviour and furthermore, 96% of offenders stated that participation directly increased their motivation to not reoffend.
- 4.4.4 The RJC role complements the restorative practice of 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.
- 4.4.5 Over 2023/24 the RJC will provide bespoke training in restorative approaches to a range of school and community-based services and establish a RJ Network, led by RJ Champions with the aim of increasing capacity for schools and community-based services to facilitate restorative interventions whilst also creating opportunities for learning, collaboration and the sharing of good practice.
- 4.4.6 The RJC will also work with partners in the criminal justice system to open referral routes and access to RJ for victims of crime, thereby meeting the requirements of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (2021) by explicitly informing victims of crime of their right to RJ and, where possible, delivering a suitable RJ intervention directly or by onward referral to the RJ Network.
- 4.4.7 Barnet Council is currently seeking Restorative Justice Council (RJC) membership which will support risk and safety planning, provide access to advice and training, good practice and information to the wide network of restorative communities. In the long term (Year 3 of delivery) the aim is to achieve accreditation as a Registered Restorative Organisation

(RRO). Organisations can review membership criteria and/or apply at [Restorative Justice Council | Promoting quality restorative practice for everyone](#)

4.4.8 The discovery phase of the RJ Project has identified areas for consideration which include:

- clarity on how victims are informed of their right to RJ under the Code of Practice for Victims,
- ascertaining the level of training required and/or capacity of agencies to facilitate RJ conferences,
- creating a sustainable model beyond the life of the project and;
- Measuring impact of RJ interventions across the Network

4.4.9 These areas for consideration will be explored with key stakeholders as the service develops and embeds.

4.4.10 In Q4, 5 referrals were made by the Barnet Victim Care Hub with 100% of victims advised of their right to RJ and given an opportunity to access RJ.

4.4.11 Large scale training has been offered via the Barnet Head Teacher Forum and Barnet Education and Learning Service which is being designed and delivered by the RJ Co-ordinator. To date, 10 schools have requested training which includes a Parent/Carer session aimed at engaging the school community in the use of restorative tools to de-escalate conflict.

4.4.12 Recent restorative-led events in the community have been positively received and the team will continue to build on this success.

4.4.13 Whilst training is being prepared and delivered, Calm Mediation, who facilitate RJ Conferences across London and who are commissioned to support the BVCH, are supporting demand.

4.4.14 Awareness of the RJ project continues to be raised by attendance at Risk Panels and internal/external forums and meetings; this will continue into 2023/24 alongside delivery of training. Quarterly RJ Champion network meetings are due to commence at the end of April 2023 and the BVCH resources are being modified to explicitly reference RJ and signpost.

4.4.15 The project reports performance against three outcomes detailed below, outcomes will be reported quarterly to the SCPB throughout 2023/24

#### ❖ Performance Outcome 1

Outcomes: Victims receive better support from the police and CJS, including online interaction

Measure: Improvement in victim satisfaction, feeling of safety and/or emotional wellbeing.

Target: An increase of 10-15% akin to Q1 2020/2021 data when it was 76%.

## Q4 Data – MOPAC Dashboard

Victim satisfaction for NW London is 65%, an increase of 4%. Pan London, the figure has increased from 63% to 66%.

### ❖ Performance Outcome 2

Outcome : Community safety partners respond to the crime and anti-social behaviour which most concerns Londoners. Better Criminal Justice response and outcomes for victims.

Measure: Increase in victims being able to access Restorative Justice.

Baseline: Fewer than 10% of victims currently being offered RJ.

Target: 25% of victims given the opportunity to access Restorative Justice.

### ❖ Performance Outcome 3 (optional)

Outcome: Increase of the use of the Code of Practice for Victims (revised 2021).

Measure: Right 1, 3 and 4 of Victim Code of Practice is met through RJ

Baseline: 20% of victims have heard of the Code of Practice for Victims or received any rights (ONS).

Target: An increase of 10- 15%.

## 5. Reducing Offending

### 5.1 Barnet Integrated Offender Management

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 In response MOPAC, Police, Probation, Ministry of Justice and the Home Office reviewed existing IOM practices and launched an 'Updated Operating Framework - London Integrated

Offender Management, Managing Persistent, Violent Offenders' published in January 2021. 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.

- 5.1.4 London Integrated Offender Management (IOM): Managing Persistent, Violent Offenders – Framework (2021) summarises arrangements for IOM delivery and supports consistent approaches across London to measure multi-agency interventions and provide the basis for future innovation and developments in shared offender management.
- 5.1.5 The 2021 Framework has integration embodied in three principles – police and probation working together; ensuring local priorities are met through local leadership and partnerships; and a holistic offender supervision approach.
- 5.1.6 In addition to Police and probation working together, there is an emphasis on working in partnership at both a strategic and operational level with wider partners including housing, drug and alcohol services and employment agencies in addition to supporting transitions from prison to the community and youth justice transitions to Probation/IOM Services
- 5.1.7 Barnet's Strategic Reducing Offending Delivery Group provides the basis through which these principals are met. The Strategic Partnership meet quarterly to share local data and monitor the effectiveness of the partnership in reducing offending and reports to the Safer Community Partnership quarterly.
- 5.1.8 The Police are leading a Robbery/Burglary Strategy Event on 26 April 2023 for the Reducing Offending Partnership.
- 5.1.9 The Terms of Reference are currently in draft to ensure that the Strategic Reducing Offending Delivery Group aims are appropriately aligned to existing local multi-agency and statutory partnership workstreams for Safeguarding Children, Early Help, Youth Justice, Tackling Violence & Exploitation and Combatting Drugs, with which there is some overlap.

#### ❖ Youth to Adult Transitions

- 5.1.10 Analysis of offending data shows that both locally & nationally in both adult and child cohorts there is a very small but complex group, who despite the best efforts of multiple interventions over many years, do not achieve behaviour change and continue to offend; these individuals are often at a high risk of harm.
- 5.1.11 The top 5- 10% of Red RAG rated adult offenders invariably have been known to multiple services during their minority, both before, during and after youth justice interventions. Unfortunately, the youth justice system has very little influence on the causes of childhood offending, as such both upstream and downstream collaborative approaches to preventing and reducing reoffending are recommended (Capricorn, Public Health England, 2019).

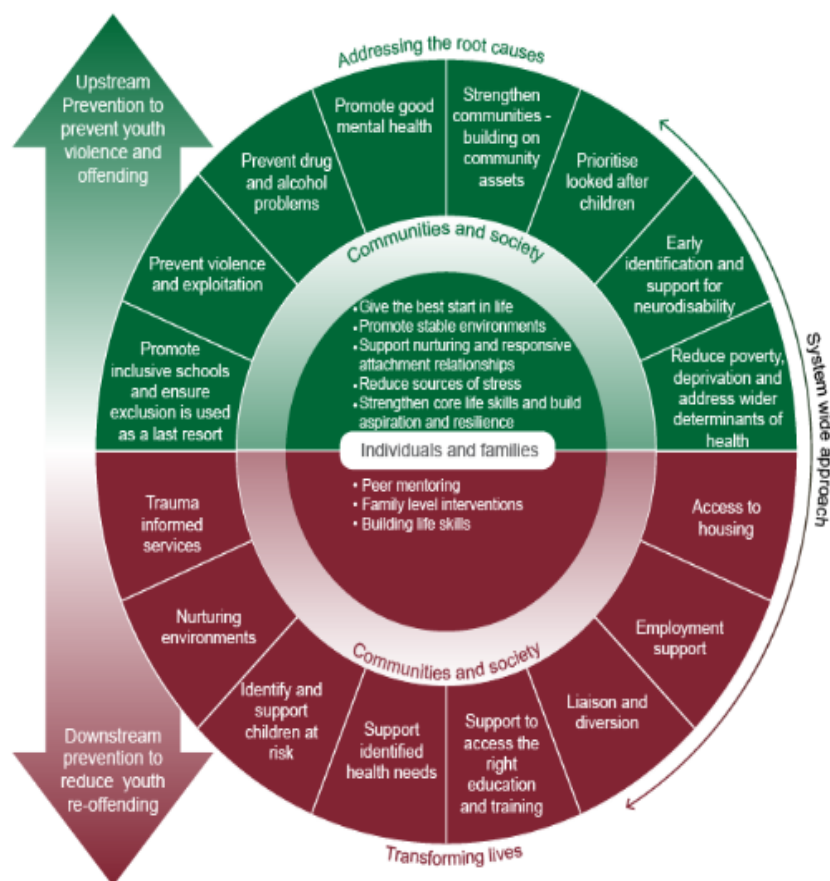


Figure 1: CAPRICORN framework

5.1.12 In Barnet, interventions upstream are led by the Child and Family Early Help Partnership and downstream by the Youth Justice Partnership which supports Barnet's lower than London averages of children in need, children at risk, children in care and lower than average youth re-offending rates.

5.1.13 However, there is a small minority of young people who go on to commit repeat offences into adulthood, these are often victims of criminal exploitation who are unable to exit the organised criminal networks who coerce and control them. 14 of 16 youth to adult transitions have resulted in arrest, breach or custody for robbery, violence and supply of Class A drugs which impacts negatively on IOM's reoffending rate.

5.1.14 IOM case practitioners report that typically these young people present with a reluctance to engage in supportive interventions and will undertake AMBIT (Adaptive Mentalization Based Integrative Treatment) training to improve engagement when available.

5.1.15 Transitional Safeguarding arrangements that provide an IOM approach to evaluating, monitoring and managing risk for this cohort need to be better developed and provided earlier in preparation for closure and/or resettlement. This has been highlighted in the pan-London peer review of Strategic MACE (multi-agency child exploitation) which is noted later in the Strategic Planning section of the report.

5.1.16 As there is no existing multi-agency provision that currently supports transitions to adulthood for young people at risk of exploitation and violence; the funding provided by



MOPAC for delivery against the Serious Violence Duty has been targeted at engaging older adolescents and young adults through detached assertive outreach.

#### ❖ Performance Data IOM Cohort Q4 2022/23

- 5.1.17 Data provided by the Home Office ID-IOM, London MOPAC IOM Data store & ECINS Performance system report;
- 5.1.18 Barnet IOM Cohort: 105 adults in the cohort (An increase of 4 from Q3) who are the highest risk, most prolific, persistent and violent offenders.
- Statutory Offenders: (Managed on license by Probation) = 88.
  - Non-Statutory: (Managed by IOM Police) =17.
  - Risk/Vulnerability RAG Scores: Red = 39, Amber = 23, Green 9,
  - Blue = 34 (In custody/remand)
  - Ethnicity: Asian – 16 Black – 33 Other – 3 White – 53.
  - Gender: Male - 101, Female - 4. (a reduction of 9 females from Q3)
  - Age: 17 ½ – 3 (Increase), 18-24yrs.-27, 25-34yrs.- 30, 35-44yrs.- 32, 45yrs.plus – 13.
- 5.1.19 Q4 'Clinical Outcomes' report on completed programs/positive outcomes as a % of all referrals made:
- Accommodation 75%-90% Housed.
  - DWP- Universal Credit Application/Training/Employment – 75%-85%
  - Drugs/Alcohol – 45%-60% (Referral levels to CGL by Probation appear low in relation to IOM offenders with known substance misuse)
  - Probation -Thinking & Behaviour – 80%
  - Probation Education/courses – 50%.
  - Number 1 Ex-Offender Mentoring Academy – 95%.
- 5.1.20 Offences Charged in highest numerical order (data from Q2 2022/23)
- Residential Burglary
  - Robbery/Violence (Data shows primarily committed by YP on YP)
  - Theft
  - Drug offences.

#### Offences per year per case

- Before being on IOM cohort – 6.1 < 0.1%
- During IOM cohort – 4.2 < 0.7%
- After leaving IOM cohort – 2.0 > 1.0%.

#### Estimated Cost of Crime per year per case

- Before being on IOM cohort - £20,659
- During IOM cohort – £15,131
- After leaving IOM cohort - £7065.
- Total cost saving to public purse £13,594.

5.1.21 Barnet's IOM program continues to contribute towards a significant reduction in crime which results in reduced costs totalling many millions to the partnership and criminal justice system, crime reduction has a positive impact on the community whilst also increasing trust and confidence of rehabilitation partners working to reduce crime within the community.

### ❖ Reoffending Rates

5.1.22 Q4 changes as comparison to Q2 2022/23

	London	Barnet	Brent	Harrow
Charged offences	2339 >9.6%	135 >26.2%	154 >35%	68 >9.7%
Offenders charged	654 >11.2%	30 >11.2%	45 >60%	17 <5.6%
Offenders in cohort	2,192 >4.9%	105 >15%	118 > 20%	73 < 1.4%
Offenders charged during cohort	593 >9.2%	27 >17%	35 > 29%	73 <1.4%
Reoffending rate	27.2%	24%	29.7%	22%

5.1.23 IOM Impact on Reducing Reoffending, Ministry of Justice Proven Reoffending metric;

- Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months have a proven reoffending rate of 58.4%.

- 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 Multiagency '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 24%.

5.1.24 MOPAC LCPF Commissioned Service – No1 Fitness First Educational Academy  
(Recently rebranded as Ex-Offender Mentoring/Life Experienced Educational Academy)

**Clinical Outcomes;**

- Fitness Course - 8 out of 13 clients successfully completed 61.5%
- Mentoring/Key Worker - 13 out of 13 clients successfully completed 100%
- Employability Skills - 11 out of 13 clients successfully completed 84.6%
- Digital Skills - 8 out of 13 clients successfully completed 61.5%.

**Clinical Output/Outcomes**

- 5.1.25 Engagement by MOPAC LCPF funded No1 Ex Offender Mentoring Educational Academy staff is primarily face to face, whether that be in their offices or at the Probation Offices at Denmark House. Conversations are taking place to explore whether or not other LBB properties (e.g. Canada Villa Youth Centre) could be used to reach out to clients that do not live close to current delivery locations or if there are geographical safeguarding risks.
- 5.1.26 The level of engagement is risk-matched, those in the IOM Red/Amber group have daily contact and those in the Green cohort have contact 2-3 times per week. The service provides cover 7 days a week and outside of office hours.
- 5.1.27 Of the 30 Prolific, Persistent & Violent Offenders engaged with and working in partnership across the IOM Rehabilitation Team only 2 have reoffended during engagement with staff.
- 5.1.28 Since commencing service in August 2022 the organization have been referred in excess of 30 individuals but due to breaches/recalls etc they are taking on new referrals to ensure the service is fully utilized. Unfortunately, 4 youth to adult transitions refused to engage and have subsequently been arrested, breached and sentenced to custody.

❖ **De-personalized brief case studies of summary of work/engagement completed to date:**

**Case Study A**

“A was referred to No1 Ex-Offender Mentoring Educational Academy on in September 2022, he initially refused to work with the service stating that he didn’t have to engage because nothing would happen to him regardless and that he thought that the service was staffed by police officers. His charity key worker was able to find out which professionals were working with A and I asked if he could arrange an introduction. A was reluctant and suspicious about working with the case worker from No1 Ex Offender Mentoring Educational Academy.

In January 2023, his personal advisor from the Onwards & Upwards Team was able to explain to A my role and the benefits of a Mentor. I was able to meet A and build his trust in me and the service. We now have a strong working relationship, building trust, and are helping him with his rent arrears, council tax arrears and electricity arrears. He invited me to go to his family home and meet his mother. On the day I visited and sat down with him and his mother, he explained to me how grateful they both were to have this kind of support. We now have daily calls about setting up payment plans for his arrears and are helping build a budget plan to support him with this. We are looking to extend the support with A, as we can see he needs further support around block building his self-confidence and our service, in conjunction with DWP/Job Coaches, are helping him get into education and construction.

A was also locked out of his Barnet Homes property due to an active Gas Warrant, due to his learning needs and mental health he was confused, agitated and did not understanding this process. We are now liaising with Barnet Homes and other professionals to get his new keys and get him back into his property. We are also working with Barnet Homes to clarify if he is using the property. We continue to support A who has not reoffended since our support started”. Mentor, No1 Fitness Ex Offender Mentoring Educational Academy

**Case Study 2:**

“Our key worker from No1 Ex Offender Mentoring Educational Academy met B on the same day of his prison release. The meeting took place at Barnet probation offices. I was able to assist in getting him housed by working with his probation officer and complementing her efforts to contact Barnet Home, who were difficult to get through to and explain the importance of housing B.

Barnet Homes offered a property to B close to 4pm and sent him a text with the instructions, but as his phone was only a simple Nokia phone, he was unable to read the full information. I stayed connected with him up to 10pm and made sure he was able to find a safe homeless hostel to sleep in. My organisation even offered to pay for him to stay in a Travelodge for the night.

The next day I was able to guide B to the property and he settled in a few days later. The feedback we got from B and the Senior Probation Officer, who was fantastic and very much appreciated, recognising our work” Mentor, No1 Fitness Ex Offender Mentoring Educational Academy

### Case Study 3

“C mentioned in our mentoring sessions that he would like to become a mechanic and that he wasn’t able to find a place that could offer this. I was able to locate a company in Enfield that offers apprenticeships. We have made a referral to the company, and they will be arranging to meet him next Friday to go over the enrolment process and we will be attending with him to support him with any documents. We have also discussed the options about reducing and stopping cannabis, he said he was willing for me to refer him to Change Grow Live for a referral meeting also supported by his Probation Officer.”

“The majority of our IOM nominals have not re-offended and have been attending weekly meetings with us. No1 Fitness Ex Offender Mentoring Educational Academy has adapted and varied its working practices to help meet the requirements of some of the IOM nominals. This includes attending the London Probation Office in Barnet twice a week to ensure we can meet their IOM clients as some of them can't attend their offices in New Southgate. They have also extended our service hours from Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm to now include Sat & Sun”. Mentor No1 Fitness Ex-Offender Mentoring Educational Academy

## 5.2 Reducing Offending Youth Offending

- 5.2.1 Barnet Youth Justice Services (YJS) work with young people aged 10 to 17 who have offended. The Child & Family Early Help Service delivers prevention and diversion activities, including Out of Court Disposals on behalf of the YJS. The approach ensures children are linked to wider Early Help Offer that can address some of the causal factors of childhood offending.
- 5.2.2 The Q4 2022/23 data set provided to Youth Justice Services across London has been found to contain anomalies, as such is being reviewed by the Youth Justice Board and Metropolitan Police in order to be re-circulated, as such the Q4 2022/23 data will not be presented to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on this occasion. There are no anticipated significant shifts in Barnet’s performance data from the previous quarter against the four Youth Justice KPI’s, which are First Time Entrants, Reoffending Binary Rate and Frequency Rate and Custody rates. These will be reported alongside Q1 2023/24 data at the next SCPB.
- 5.2.3 On 8 March 2023, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published new Key Performance Indicators for Youth Justice Services (YJS) which were implemented on 1 April 2023.
- 5.2.4 YJS’s will report on 10 new key performance indicators (KPIs) designed by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in consultation with the YJB, front line services, inspectorates and other government departments as part of improved monitoring by the YJB. The 10 new KPI’s are in addition to 4 current KPIs (first time entrants, reoffending binary rate and frequency rate, and the number of children in custody) as they provide a helpful overview of how the youth

justice system is delivering against its principle statutory aim of preventing offending by children.

5.2.5 The data will be used by the YJB to monitor performance of youth justice services (YJS) and by the MoJ to identify barriers to reducing reoffending.

5.2.6 In recognition of the important role of prevention and diversion activity, which in Barnet is delivered by the Child & Family Early Help Service on behalf of the YJS. The MoJ and the YJB have determined that the data collected will include all children with whom the YJS is working, not just those with a conviction. The YJB and MoJ aim to publish initial findings from national data on the key performance indicators in spring 2025.

5.2.7 The 10 KPIs are set out below:

KPI	Description
KPI 1 - Accommodation	The percentage of children in the community and being released from custody with suitable accommodation arrangements
KPI 2 - Education, training and employment (ETE)	The percentage of children in the community and being released from custody attending a suitable ETE arrangement
KPI 3 - Special educational needs or disability (SEND)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	The percentage of children who have an identified SEND need (or ALN in Wales), are in suitable ETE and have a formal learning plan in place for the current academic year
KPI 4 - Mental healthcare and emotional wellbeing	The percentage of children in the community and being released from custody with a screened, or, identified need for an intervention to improve mental health or emotional wellbeing; and of that the percentage of planned/offered interventions; of that percentage of children attending interventions
KPI 5 - Substance misuse	The percentage of children with a screened or identified need for specialist treatment intervention to address substance misuse; and of that the percentage of children with planned or offered intervention/treatment; and of that

KPI	Description
	the percentage number of children attending intervention/treatment
KPI 6 – Out-of-court disposals	The percentage of out-of-court disposal interventions that are completed/not completed
KPI 7 - Management Board attendance	Monitoring senior partner representation at management boards, and monitoring if partners contribute data from their individual services that identify areas of racial and ethnic disproportionality.
KPI 8 - Wider services	The percentage children who are currently on either an Early Help (EH) plan; on a child protection (CP) plan or classified as Child in need (CiN) or have looked-after status. For Wales only, children who are classified as Children in Need of Care and Support
KPI 9 - Serious violence	The rates of children convicted for a serious violent offence on the YJS caseload.
KPI 10 - Victims	The percentage of victims who consent to be contacted by the YJS, and of those, the percentage of victims who are engaged with about restorative justice opportunities, asked their view prior to out-of-court disposal decision-making and planning for statutory court orders, provided information about the progress of the child's case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate services that support victims (when requested).

## 6. Strategic Planning

6.1 Barnet's Child & Family Early Help Strategy 2023 – 2027 has been published following approval of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee held in March 2023.

6.2 Two strategic needs assessments (SNA) are underway to meet the duties arising from the 10-Year Drugs Plan to Reduce Crime and Save Lives: From Harm to Hope (2022) and the

Serious Violence Duty (SVD 2023). The two SNA's are interlinked as they both aim to counter the harm caused to young people through criminal exploitation and county lines drug dealing. The Serious Violence Duty SNA will inform the development of a multi-agency Strategy which will be published in 2024.

- 6.3 Strategic Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) arrangements are also currently under revision to align with recommendations and workflows arising from the findings of a peer evaluation of Strategic MACE arrangements in London. The work was commissioned by the London Adolescent Safeguarding Board (LASOB) and conducted between January and June 2022.
- 6.4 The findings of the peer review identified a number of variations and inconsistencies across Strategic MACE practices in London resulting in varied membership and seniority, a lack of shared understanding of purpose, under-representation of disruption and offender work, varied policing contributions across BCU's and between different types of exploitation, varied health and education contributions and inconsistent cross-border working.
- 6.5 The review also found that arrangements to safeguard young adults from exploitation are largely underdeveloped, not yet fully engaging agencies with adult responsibilities such as adult social care and the probation service.
- 6.6 The LASOB and the London Children's Safeguarding Partnership Executive have accepted the report findings and endorsed the 22 recommendations. A pan-London MACE-Chairs working group has been established to move the recommendations to action.
- 6.7 The strategy for vulnerable/at risk adolescents (Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation) is currently being co-produced with key stakeholders, community providers, children, young people and parents. The strategy will be informed by the SVD SNA, the Combatting Drugs SNA and work taking place pan-London to develop multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children at risk of extra-familial harm.
- 6.8 There is a need to ensure that local strategies for reducing offending, and tackling violence are aligned, in particular where there is cross over into child safeguarding practices so that they support the delivery aims of both the Children and Young People's Plan 2023 and the Corporate Plan 2023 - 2026.

## **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 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.

## **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 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.

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.

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.

12.6 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."

**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, 2023)

## **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 partnership organisations, members and service users. This will be further detailed as the strategies are developed.

## **19. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

19.1 None.

## **20. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

20.1 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

20.2 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.

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

21.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

## **22. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

22.1 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.

22.2 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.