

# Barnet Council's Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment

## What is the Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment?

The Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment is a comprehensive evidence-based analysis conducted by Barnet Council to identify the root causes and contributing factors of serious violence. This assessment yields valuable insight to develop an evidence-based strategy to address these issues and effectively allocate resources to reduce and prevent serious violence in our community.

## Why are we conducting the Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment?

As part of the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022's Serious Violence Duty (Duty) requirements, Barnet is conducting a Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and producing a Serious Violence Duty Strategy. Barnet's Serious Violence Duty Strategy summarises key aspects of the Needs Assessment; local partnership arrangements to lead on delivery of the duty; areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence; and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities - including young people, as well as businesses.

The Duty places requirements upon London boroughs and designated public bodies to agree on: local partnership arrangement to lead on the Duty; definition of serious violence; consistent data sharing; analytical processes to produce the Strategic Needs Assessment; and Strategy on kinds of serious violence that occur in Barnet, causes of that violence, how the Duty will be implemented locally to prevent and reduce serious violence. The London Violence Reduction Unit developed the London Guidance, that builds on the national document. Barnet's Strategy follows a strategy template for a consistent London approach and alignment with the national document.

The main Duty holders in this process are:

- Police;
- Fire and rescue authorities;
- Justice organizations (youth offending teams and probation services);
- Health bodies (Integrated Care Boards); and
- Local authorities.

## Serious Violence Definition

Serious violence here is defined as: Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences. Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

## What is the link to the Combating Drug Partnership Board?

The Government's Serious Violence Strategy sets out specific types of crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or the threat of serious violence is inherent. An integral part of the National Combating Drugs Outcome Framework is to reduce drug related homicide and neighborhood crimes. Additionally, the Combating Drug Partnership Board (CDPB) recently completed a needs assessment exercise on Barnet Public Health - Substance Misuse with information on drug supply chains, offences, and interventions. Lastly, the

CDPB includes Duty holders such as police, health bodies, and justice organizations who should be informed of and partake in the Duty.

## Project Timeline

Steps	Completion
Data Collection and Analysis	May 2023
Needs Assessment (final draft for review)	July 2023
Stakeholder Consultations	September 2023
Strategy Template (Final draft for Review)	October 2023
Submission	January 2024

## Needs Assessment Components

### **Serious Violence**

What is serious violence?

What is the purpose of the serious violence duty needs assessment paper?

What does the Borough of Barnet look like today?

What is the context of serious violence incidents in the Borough of Barnet?

### **Methodology**

What data collection and analysis methods are employed?

### **Demographic and Socioeconomic Context**

What are the key demographic and socioeconomic indicators?

### **Serious Violence Data and Trends**

What are the serious violence incidents (types of offences)?

What are their spatial distributions?

What are their trends over time?

How do these numbers compare to like Boroughs, London, and the UK?

### **Risk Factors and Vulnerable Populations**

What are the risk factors associated with serious violence in the area?

### **Protective Factors and Assets**

What are community protective factors and assets that help prevent serious violence?

What are community protective factors and assets that mitigate the impact of serious violence?

### **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships**

What is the evidence benefit of engaging stakeholders and building partnerships to address serious violence?

Who are the key stakeholders and partners?

### **Current Interventions and Programs**

What are existing interventions, programs, and strategies for preventing or addressing serious violence?

What is the effectiveness of these interventions?  
Where are there gaps or areas for improvement?

### Recommendations

What are key recommendations for action to address serious violence?

### Implementation Plan

What is the proposed implementation plan to realize recommendations?

What are potential barriers to implementation and strategies for overcoming them?

### Monitoring and Evaluation

What is the framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of proposed strategies and intervention?

### Data Collection Status

Data collection centres around serious violence incidents as defined by the duty (see above) and related data (e.g., hospitalization violent injury or drug use, etc.) and factors associated with committing or being a victim of serious violence, per research and policy documents.

It may cover the following.

- Population density
- Population stability
- Age (distribution)
- Life expectancy
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Religion
- Family / housing composition
- Education (levels and truancy)
- (un)Employment rates and income levels
- Economic conditions of geographic area
- Poverty rates
- Health (including mental health) conditions
- **Drug use**
- Proximity (to resources like transportation, parks, schools, etc., and blight, etc.)
- Day to day amenities per 10,000 people
- Vulnerable population / groups (as defined by Barnet Council)
- Crime rates
- Number of law enforcement per capita
- How often areas are patrolled
- Citizens attitude to crime (serious violence)
- Citizens reporting of crime (serious violence)

The table below shows the status of our data collection process. It is an overview of our progress and highlights gaps that we can use your help to complete.

Description	Source	Open Data Set	Collected
Barnet Local Insight	Barnet Council	No	Yes
Census	NOMIS/ONS	Yes	Yes
<b>London Ambulance Service</b>	<b>LDS</b>	<b>Yes/No (limited data)</b>	<b>No</b>
British Transport	BT	Yes (maps)	Yes
Crime and safety statistics	Crimerate	Yes (maps)	Yes
<b>Metropolitan Police Service</b>	<b>MET</b>	<b>Yes/No (limited data)</b>	<b>No</b>

<b>Hospital A&amp;E, Episode Statistics</b>	<b>NHS</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Transport for London	TfL	Yes (maps)	Yes
MOPAC – Trust and Confidence Dashboard	LDS/MOPAC	Yes (dashboards)	Yes
Deprivation / Levelling Up	UK Gov	Yes	Yes
Local Health Profiles	OHID	Yes	Yes
Local Government Data	LG Inform	Yes	Yes
Education and Skills	DoE / UK Gov	Yes	Yes
Labour Market	NOMIS/ONS	Yes	Yes

Completion of this exercise requires effective data sharing from these sources and beyond. Should you have any information to accelerate the data collection process, questions, or require further information, please contact Diasmer Bloe at [diasmer.bloe@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:diasmer.bloe@barnet.gov.uk).