

Safer Communities Partnership Board

28 November 2023

Title	Family Services Report on Reducing Offending and Tackling Violence Q1 & Q2 2023/24
Report of	Chair of the Safer Communities Partnership Board
Wards	All
Status	Non-Key
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
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Summary

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

- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls
- Violence & Exploitation
- Reducing 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 This report sets out the work of the multi-agency partnership in meeting the aims of Barnet's Corporate Plan 2023-2026 in caring for our people, places, and planet, including:

- We have an inclusive culture, based on an empathic understanding of people's life situations, and lived experiences.
- Raising awareness and increasing signposting of services or community support for our residents
- Creating a network of safe spaces for women and girls.
- Diverting people away from being drawn into anti-social behaviour and crime, including through safeguarding young people.
- Ensuring the most vulnerable are protected, safe and supported to make the best choices and to build trusted relationships.
- Working with residents, communities, and our partners to support residents to stay well and free from abuse.

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

- 3.1 The London Borough of Barnet's Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2022-25 sets out how 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.

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

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

3.4 The Violence Against Women and Girls (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

3.5 "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."

❖ **Delivering the DA and VAWG Strategy Q1 & Q2 2023/24**

3.6 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 and updated annually. This report provides an overview of progress made during Q1 & Q2 2023/24.

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

- 3.6.1 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.
- 3.6.2 Child & Family Early Help Services continue to deliver the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme through the locality-based Child & Family Early Help Hubs, an 'Ending Gender-Based Violence Teacher Toolkit' that has been developed by the charity Tender is due to be rolled out as free CPD accredited training to secondary teachers

and school governors in the borough. MOPAC has commissioned Tender to work across London as part of the VAWG Strategy to challenge attitudes and open conversations in schools with children about gender-based violence. The project coordinator is being linked to the Designated Safeguarding Leads for schools.

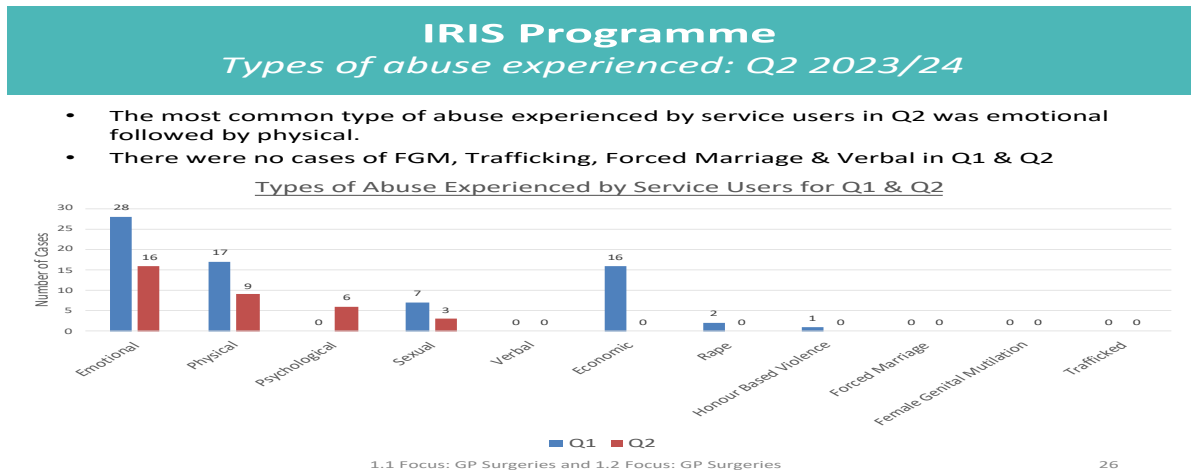
❖ **DA/VAWG Partnership Training**

- 3.6.3 Ensuring the multi-agency partnership has access to a range of good quality training that promotes prevention and enables safe and effective responses to incidents of domestic abuse is a key priority. DA/VAWG training was paused in Q1 2023/24 except for MARAC training to allow for the completion and analysis of a training needs assessment to inform training requirements across the partnership for 2023/24.
- 3.6.4 The training needs assessment identified Probation Services, Housing Needs and Family Services provide some in-house training for the workforce. There are resource implications for police, health and education professionals that require coordination of multi-agency training calendars and consideration of agency availability.

❖ **IRIS Programme in Barnet**

- 3.6.5 The IRIS programme is jointly funded by Barnet Public Health and North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) and provides for two advocate educators to work in primary care until March 2024.
- 3.6.6 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.
- 3.6.7 There were 53 referrals made in Q1 & Q2. 43% of referrals received advice and information (housing, welfare) with emotional support being provided to 37% of referred patients. In Q2, 44% of patients were identified as having a mental health need, which is a reduction from 62% in Q1. Fig 1 below sets out the types of abuse reported to GP surgeries.
- 3.6.8 There were four honour-based violence and one forced marriage referral during Q1 & Q2, no other harmful practices were reported in the period, the Domestic Abuse and VAWG training programme for 2023/24 will include harmful practices developed in partnership with the Asian Women's Resource Centre.

Fig 1. IRIS Programme Q1 & Q2 2023/24



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

3.7 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**

- 3.7.1 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.
- 3.7.2 The table below (Fig 2) sets out the volume of referrals received by Solace Advocacy & Support Service (SASS) during the period Q2 2022 to Q2 2023. The data shows the volume in Q1 & Q2 2023 (n=743) is 18% higher than the same period in 2022 (n=629).
- 3.7.3 In Q1 & Q2 MARAC accounted for 203 referrals to SASS, 195 referrals were received from the One Stop Shop

Fig 2. Solace Advocacy & Support Service (SASS) Q2 2022 – Q2 2023

Solace Advocacy & Support Service (SASS)

Referrals & DA Support Programmes

Solace Referrals	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24
Total Referrals Received	310	248	373	339	404
New Service Users	124	135	141	102	91
DASH Risk assessments & Safety advice given	121	118	139	106	245
High risk cases receiving IDVA service	18	24	13	15	16
Total Service Users Leaving the Service	120	110	162	98	99

2.1 Focus: VAWG Performance Monitoring

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- 3.7.4 62% of service users in Q1 2023/24 completed an exit survey, 38% reported an increase in self-esteem, 33% reported increased physical and emotional well-being, 25% reported feeling safer and 32% reported improved mental health.
- 3.7.5 An IDVA review is currently underway to explore insights and impact of collocated IDVA roles across the partnership with the aim of identifying good practice and challenges in delivering the Solace Advocacy and Support Service. The outcome of the review will be reported in Q4.

❖ Women's Refuges

- 3.7.6 Solace Women's Aid are commissioned by Barnet Council to provide support and manage two women's refuges in Barnet.
- 3.7.7 A third women's refuge (Minerva House) is run by Barnet Homes which has £100,000 funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to support Minerva House provision until March 2024
- 3.7.8 In Q1 & Q2 2023/24, there were 29 new referrals to Barnet's three refuge accommodations, within this cohort were adults caring for a total of 21 children.

❖ Operation Encompass

- 3.7.9 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.
- 3.7.10 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.
- 3.7.11 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:
- 1. Police have been called out to a domestic incident
 - 2. AND the child is present at the time of the incident
 - AND the child is Under 18
- 3.7.12 Currently 18 out of 132 schools have taken up Operation Encompass, and communications have been sent to primary and secondary schools with 20 Primary Schools responding with an interest in joining. Further engagement with Designated Safeguarding Leads is underway to improve this figure further.
- 3.7.13 Since January 2023, there have been 109 reports shared with engaged schools.

4. Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

- 4.1.1 In the financial year 2022/23, there were 477 cases heard at Barnet DA MARAC which is 0.4% of the 118,140 cases heard nationally. In the year:
- 1.7% Victims identified as LGBT+, just above the national rate of 1.5% (SafeLives expected rate is 2.5-5.8%)
 - 22 6.7% Victims identified as having a disability, significantly above the national average of 9.1% (SafeLives expected rate is 19%+)
 - 9.2% Victims identified male, above the national average of 6.3% (SafeLives expected rate is 5-10%)
- 4.1.2 Fig 3 below details MARAC referrals in Q1 & Q2 2023/24 which totalled 229; this is 6% lower than the same period in 2022 (n=245). In the reporting period, there were 104 families caring for 153 children. Repeat referrals have remained at 20% throughout the reporting period.

Fig 3. DA MARAC

DA MARAC Service Users

MARAC	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24
Number of MARAC referrals	123	122	145	113	116
Number of children in the household	64	68	111	77	76
Number of families with children	48	37	64	52	52
Number of repeat MARAC referrals	22	19	35	23	23
Percentage of repeat MARAC referrals	18%	16%	24%	20%	20%

2.1 Focus: VAWG Performance Monitoring and 4.4 Focus: Trigger Trio needs

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- 4.1.3 In the reporting period there were 11 requests for Claire’s Law Disclosure. More than 90% of victims referred to MARAC are female. The number of male victims has fallen from 17 in Q4 2022/23 to 9 in Q2 2023/24.
- 4.1.4 The number of service users with mental health issues is 49% (n=57) in Q2 2023/24 which is a 10% increase from Q1. The number of victims referred to MARAC with substance misuse needs has also increased by 7% from Q1 to 12% (n=14) in Q2 2023/24.
- 4.1.5 A Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a non-statutory process that brings together statutory and voluntary agencies to jointly support adult and child victims of domestic abuse who are at high risk of serious harm or homicide, and to disrupt and divert the behaviour of the perpetrator(s). The MARAC’s working assumption is that no single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of a victim, but all may have insights that are crucial to their safety. The core MARAC agencies are police, Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) services, housing, children’s services, the probation, primary health, mental health, substance misuse and adult social care. Agencies work together to safeguard victims, manage perpetrator behaviour, safeguard professionals and link to wider safeguarding processes through weekly meetings chaired by the Police.
- 4.1.6 A full-time DA MARAC coordinator is employed by LB Barnet and meetings are overseen by a quarterly MARAC Steering Group that coordinates bi-annual Quality Assurance Process (QAP).
- 4.1.7 Barnet MARAC discusses an average 8-10 cases each week, at times increasing to 15; this is within the SafeLives recommended limit of 15-20 per meeting.
- 4.1.8 A review, led by Domestic Abuse Consultant, Karen Lingwood, has been undertaken of local MARAC arrangements to look at how the MARAC process works and how it contributes to reducing the risks for domestic abuse victims assessed as being at high

risk of being seriously harmed or killed; and to provide recommendations for development.

- 4.1.9 The review included consultation with key stakeholders, surveys (24 responses) and dip sample of cases referred to MARAC.
- 4.1.10 A training needs analysis was undertaken in May 2023, more than 80% of respondents reported some to in-depth knowledge of harmful practices and adult familial abuse, reducing to 70% on the MARAC, risk indicator checklist, threshold for Barnet MARAC and referral pathways.
- 4.1.11 The review considered seven of the SafeLives ten principles which underpin an effective MARAC and support everyone involved to deliver the aims. At the core of each principle is the safety of the victim, which needs to be considered at all stages of the process. Ensuring that the victim is supported throughout, and their voice represented at the MARAC is crucial to managing risk, improving, and maintaining safety, and reducing repeat victimisation. A summary is provided below:

Principle 1 - Identification

- Most respondents have good knowledge of the four recommended criteria for referral, but this could be improved with case study based training and clear written standards and information on MARAC.
- Traditional harmful practices were not always referred due to those conducting risk assessments not having sufficient expertise or tools to assess risk in this area.
- There is good confidence overall in using the DASH risk indicator checklist to assess the level of visible risk to adult victims although non-specialist agencies would benefit from training on using the DASH risk assessment tool.
- Training and more detailed guidance on what constitutes professional judgment referral has been requested.
- Most risk reviews were completed within the SafeLives recommended 6-8 weeks, some services had different timescales or reviewed risk only when circumstances change.

Principle 2 - Referral to MARAC

- Most respondents felt strongly that referrals should not be screened or rejected by the MARAC coordinator especially if these cases are referred by a specialist IDVA/DA service.
- Numerous respondents raised concern about some cases being referred to MARAC when the risk level didn't appear high enough and that cases were brought for risk management that could be managed in professional meetings.
- Information in referrals is generally good but some have missing information about perpetrators, the relationship to the victim, children's details and/or context i.e., sexual orientation, whether it is safe to call/text the victim.
- SafeLives¹ defines a 'repeat' as ANY instance of abuse between the same victim and perpetrator(s), within 12 months of the last referral to MARAC. The individual act of abuse does not need to be 'criminal', violent or threatening but should be viewed

¹ <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Repeat%20Definition%20-%20A%20Briefing%20for%20Maracs%202018.pdf>

within the context of a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Knowledge about when to refer as a repeat appears to be good from the survey responses.

- For the financial year 2022/23, the national repeat cases were 33%, the Barnet rate was 18% in the same period.
- Repeats are usually when the IDVA cannot contact the victim or when the safety plan is not followed. SafeLives' best practice says that all agencies should review the previous actions ahead of the referral being heard again.

Principle 3 - Multi-Agency Engagement

- The DA Act 2021 statutory guidance states that 'Agencies should ensure that they are regularly communicating with each other between MARAC meetings – this is a crucial part of the MARAC process and ensures there is a coordinated response to domestic abuse. Communication around cases should not wait for MARAC meetings to take place'.
- There is mostly good attendance from the core agencies, although representation from mental health and adult social care was sometimes dependent on agency involvement. Probation routinely provides detailed research for meetings and attend where individuals are open to services. There is no education representative, some authorities use schools designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as MARAC leads. Health representation does not cover all agencies i.e., midwifery, GP. There is a representative for Children's Services; attendance of allocated social workers is less consistent although improving.
- RISE perpetrator and victim services are routinely present as are the Asian Women's Resource Centre.

Principle 4 - Independent Representation and Support for the Victim

- All victims who are identified as being at high risk of harm are offered the support of an IDVA; their views and needs are represented at MARAC when it is possible to gain these ahead of the meeting.
- It is not always possible to establish contact with victims ahead of MARAC meetings which means their voice can be absent from discussion, although Solace has a robust process in place for contacting victims ahead of MARAC.
- A clearer process is needed when a victim has an IDVA from an organisation other than Solace, so victims are not contacted by a new IDVA.
- Referrers need to explain to victims the MARAC process and that they will be contacted by an IDVA, explaining the role, and seeking the best way and time to do this.

Principle 5 - Information Sharing

- Most agencies share proportionate and relevant information although sometimes more clarity is needed about individual agency roles.
- Information is sometimes insufficient when an offence is committed outside of London.

Principle 6 - Action Planning

- Partner agencies are accountable and responsible and take the necessary steps to safeguard the victim.
- There were fewer actions observed aimed at disrupting the perpetrator.
- Clear owners for actions are identified.

- Monitoring of follow-up on actions has been identified as an area for development and is in progress.

Principle 9 - Operational Support

- Respondents mostly agree there was sufficient support and resources to support effective functioning of the MARAC.
- The MARAC coordinator ensures minutes and actions are timely.
- The chair has sufficient skill and experience.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Consistent representation by core agencies, including all key areas of health and education, and encourage attendance of individual case workers.
- Detailed information in research about agency involvement to be completed routinely and quality assured by the MARAC Coordinator.
- Prioritise identified training needs in an annual training plan.
- Referrers to explain to victims the MARAC process and that an IDVA will make contact, clarifying the best time and method to communicate.
- MARAC actions to be linked to identified risk and have relevant timescales for completion which are reviewed through a professionals meeting where appropriate, agencies to review their 'flag & tag' processes and QAP to monitor completion and impact of actions.
- Agencies to routinely consider actions to disrupt perpetrator behaviours.
- Vice-chair to be identified.
- Steering group to oversee implemented and then regularly review each quarter.
- MARAC training to include 'professional judgment' referrals and interactive case studies.

❖ The Leader Listens Survivor Forum.

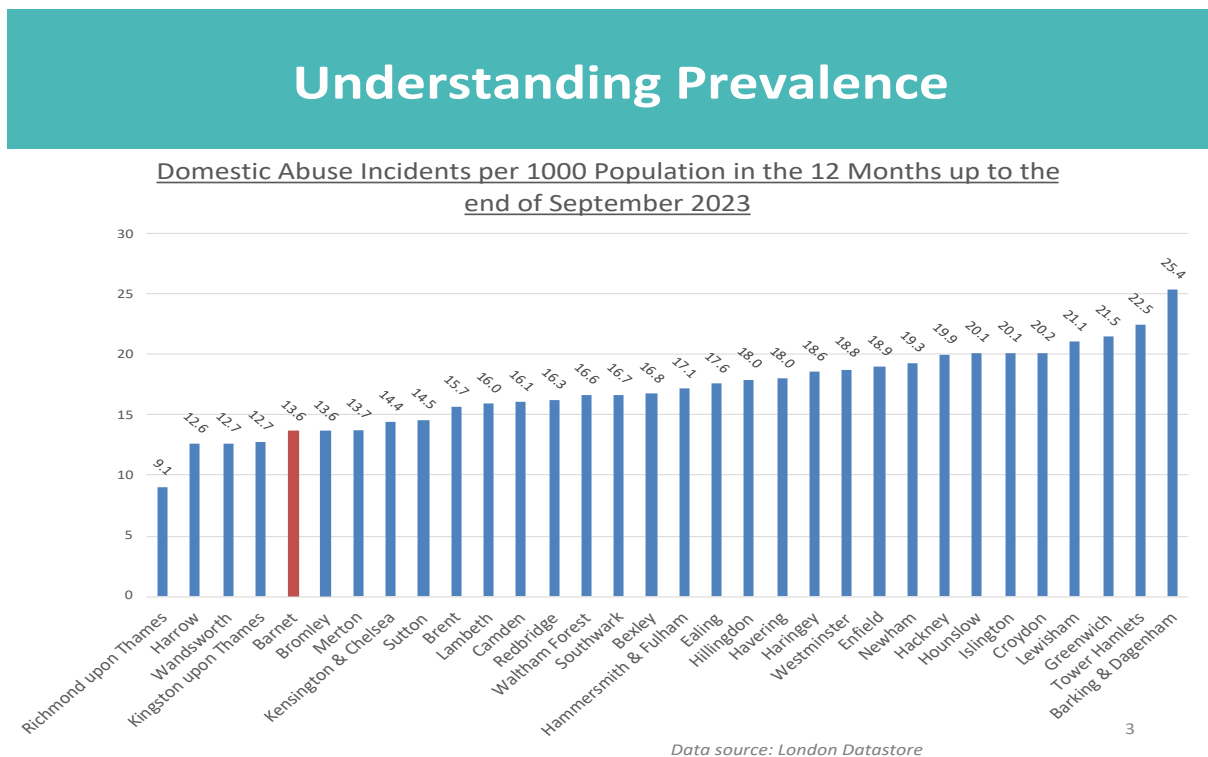
4.1.12 The Leader of the Council met with up to 25 survivors on 19 September 2023 at The Leader Listen's event held at Hendon Town Hall. The event was supported by Solace, Youth Realities, Refuges, Asian Women's Rights Centre, Romanian and the Eastern European Hub. The event provided an opportunity for survivors to share their experience about support and services delivered in the borough. The feedback included how helpful survivors have found some services and some of the challenges faced in dealing with housing, police, mental health, social care. Survivors made recommendations including, the need for trauma informed services, training for police, raising awareness of the One Stop Shop, training for designated safeguarding leads in schools and, support for young survivors of domestic abuse. The feedback is being incorporated into the VAWG Action Plan and will be reported in full in Q3 2023/24.

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

4.2.1 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 continued investment in interventions and programmes that change behaviour in the long-term.

- 4.2.2 Barnet is delivering a range of programme aimed at addressing perpetrator behaviour and ensuring victim safety, this includes the RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme, Culturally Integrated Family Approach, Safe and Together and the Drive Programme.
- 4.2.3 Barnet's rate of Domestic Abuse Incidents in the 12-month period to September 2023 is 13.6 per 1,000 population. This places Barnet in as 5th from the lowest rate in London (Fig 4.).
- 4.2.4 There were 731 Domestic Abuse with Injury offences recorded in the 12-month period to September 2023; the sanction and detection rate is 7.3% in the reporting period.

Fig 4 Understanding Prevalence



5 RISE Mutual CIC

- 5.2.1 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.
- 5.2.2 Fig 5 below shows there were 30 new referrals for RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme in Q1 & Q2 2023/24 and 197 perpetrators open to MARAC in the same reporting period. 89% of perpetrators are male and 30% are the current partner of the victim; ex-partners account for 38% of perpetrators in the reporting period. 18% of perpetrators report mental health needs and 25% report substance misuse needs in the reporting period.

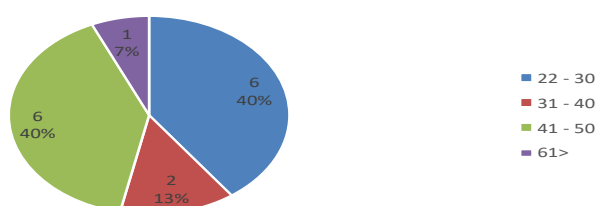
Fig 5. RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme Q1 & Q2 2023/24

RISE Mutual Perpetrator Programme Adults Service: Q2 2023/24

Adults Service	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24
New referrals	7	25	22	15	15
Number of engaged service users in the programme at the start of the Quarter	9	2	8	2	7
New service users entering the programme	13	6	27	14	9
Number of service users leaving the service	16	8	17	27	17
Number of service users departing in an agreed and planned way	12	2	8	10	9

Ages of Service Users in Q2 2023/24

- Majority of service users are aged between 22-30 & 41-50 years old.



Objective 3

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5.2.3 Barnet is the lead borough for the RISE Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) Programme which is being delivered in Barnet and 9 other London boroughs (Brent, Harrow, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Enfield, Hammersmith & Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, and Westminster). An implementation meeting was held in Barnet with engaged local authorities and the MOPAC Policy & Commissioning Manager on 21st September 2023.

❖ Safe & Together

5.2.4 The Safe & Together model is delivered by the Safe & Together Institute and aims to support children to remain safe and together with non-offending parent by ensuring safety and stability through partnering with the non-offending parent and intervening with perpetrators to reduce risk and harm to the child. [Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse paper - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115222/multi-agency-safeguarding-and-domestic-abuse-paper.pdf). 'Safe and Together' training is currently being delivered to practitioners in the children's workforce.

❖ Drive Programme

5.2.5 On 1 October 2023 Barnet will be delivering the Drive Programme which is funded by MOPAC DA Perpetrator Programme. The Drive Programme works with high harm perpetrators to reduce abuse and increase victim/survivor safety. High risk, high harm perpetrators are those who have been assessed as posing a risk of serious harm or murder to people they are in intimate or family relationships with. The programme was developed in 2015 by Respect, SafeLives, and SocialFinance – The Drive Partnership and employs a whole-system approach using an intensive case management system

alongside a coordinated multi-agency response. The intervention is individually tailored and challenges perpetrators to change, the programme works alongside partner agencies i.e., police and social care services to disrupt abuse and can be composed of support work, behaviour change, and disruption actions. The referral pathway in Barnet will be through the Domestic Abuse MARAC and the Drive Programme will work with a caseload of 30 perpetrators for up to 12-months in each BCU, which will be approximately 10 in each borough (Harrow, Brent, and Barnet).

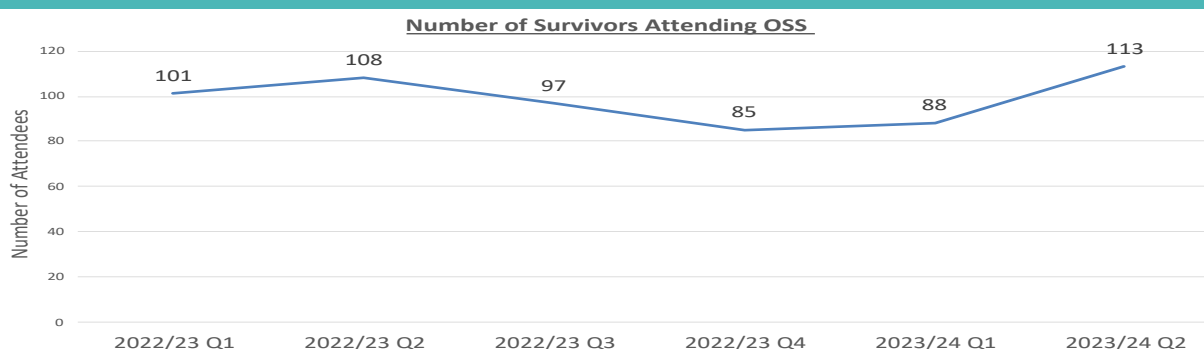
5.2.6 Reporting for the three workstreams above will be available in Q4 2023/24.

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

- 5.3.1 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.
- 5.3.2 The VAWG Delivery Group meet quarterly to oversee delivery against the aims of the DA & VAWG Strategy, by measuring data, analysing 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.
- 5.3.3 Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS) is led by Barnet Homes in partnership with Barnet council, Solace Women's Aid, Asian Women's Resource Centre, private solicitor firms, Barnet Magistrate, and many other agencies. As detailed in Fig 6 below, there has been a steady increase in use of the OSS since the service resumed face to face delivery in Q4 2022/23. A refreshed communication campaign will be launched during the 16 Days of Activism in Q3 2023/24 will include information about the OSS and support available in the borough.

Fig 6. One Stop Shop

One Stop Shop (OSS) Number of Survivors Attending



Compared to the same quarter last year, Q2 (2023/24) has seen an increase of 5 attendees (4.6%). Q2 2022/23 was the peak last financial year.

2.3: Focus: Increased confidence in reporting (Outcome) 5

❖ 16 Days of Activism

- 5.3.4 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence will commence on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and end on 10 December, Human Rights Day, indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. In 2023, the UNiTE campaign theme is 'Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls' and will focus on the importance of financing different prevention strategies to stop violence from occurring in the first place.
- 5.3.5 A calendar of multi-agency activity across the 16-day period is in development and will include on-line Bystander Training delivered by the Women's Night Safety Charter, a Domestic Abuse & VAWG Conference with a range of local, regional, and national experts and speakers to be held on 28 November 2023.
- 5.3.6 Refreshed communications to residents have been circulated in November, sharing the calendar of events open to the public and information on local services delivering support.

❖ Stop VAWG

- 5.3.7 Stop VAWG is the council's 'ending male violence against women' Steering Group which is comprised of male Ambassadors and male and female Champions who meet monthly to implement the council's 3-year Action Plan to Stop VAWG. The Stop VAWG action plan encourages men to become Stop VAWG Ambassadors and as part of this to call out other men's misogynistic attitudes and behaviours. The group have a strong link to Middlesex University which is working to support secondary schools within the borough through the development of a "Counter, Not Cancel Misogyny" toolkit.

❖ #HearMyVoice

- 5.3.8 Is a campaign initiative to address VAWG and Domestic Abuse, it is a collaboration between the council, Middlesex University and DA & VAWG partners from across the borough. Following the success of #HearMyVoice event in May 2023 the programme has continued throughout the year and both a focus on capturing the local context of the borough and in particular the narratives of individuals, groups, and organisations in the community but also on challenging misogyny.
- 5.3.9 The #HearMyVoice 2024 exhibition will showcase the work completed by students and supported by a social media campaign.

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

- 6.1.1 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

- 6.1.2 The Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023 (Chapter 47) makes it an offence to cause intentional harassment, alarm, or distress to a person in public where the behaviour is done because of that person's sex; and for connected purposes; the offence is punishable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine or both.
- 6.1.3 In recognition of the importance of the need for a proactive approach in working to ensure women and girls feel safer in the community, the council has appointed a transformation project lead to develop a Safe Haven Network Pilot. In consultation with Barnet's Women's Network the council is launching a Safe Haven network which will support our residents when they are out in public places during the evening and nighttime economy hours. A Safe Haven will act as a space for women, girls, and individuals that identify as female to seek temporary refuge in moments of vulnerability, or if support is required to safely continue their onward journey. The Safe Haven's will provide a safe space to wait for a taxi, seek assistance in charging a phone or accessing a phone to contact family/friends or emergency services.
- 6.1.4 Safe Haven's will be premises that are open after 6pm and have a minimum of two staff working on site, with a separate safe waiting area and CCTV on the premises. Safe Haven's will display branded signage on the windows and doors of the premises. The pilot will build on the existing initiatives across the borough including Mencap Safe Spaces, Ask for Ani, and Ask for Angela
- 6.1.5 Barnet Council is a signatory to the Mayor's Women's Night Safety Charter. The resources and training available through the charter will support the development of the Safe Haven Network pilot for business operating in the evening and night-time in the borough.
- 6.1.6 Businesses that sign up to participate in the Safe Haven Network will be provided with first aid kits, bottled water, phone chargers, window stickers and on-line training that provides an overview of the importance of Safe Haven's and expectations and support for

participating businesses. The Safe Haven pilot will be promoted during the 16 Days of Activism and go live in December 2023.

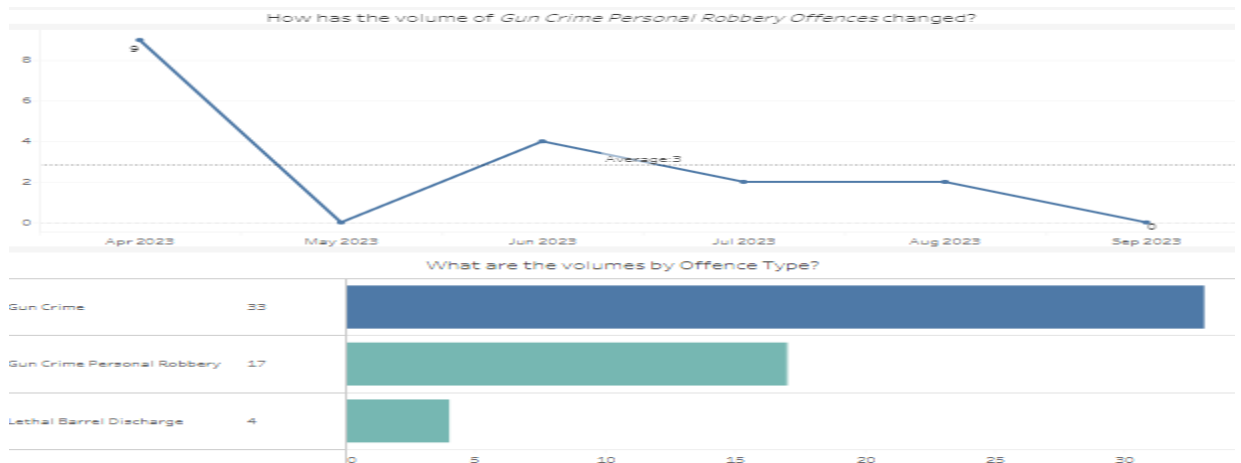
❖ Domestic Homicide Reviews

- 6.2.1 When a death occurs because 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.
- 6.2.2 Between 2017 - 2019, five domestic homicides took place in Barnet resulting in 4 Domestic Homicide Reviews. The Home Office has provided feedback on two of the DHR's and the other two are with the Home Office awaiting feedback. The VAWG Delivery Group oversees the DHR Action Plan and is collating feedback from partner agencies on progress made for reporting in Q3 2023/24.

7 Tackling Violence

- 7.2.1 Priority 3 of Barnet's Community Safety Plan has the following outcomes to reduce violence, vulnerability, and exploitation (VVE):
- Sustained reductions in offending and early intervention for those identified at risk of VVE.
 - Training for frontline staff to recognise vulnerability and exploitation in order to be able to refer to appropriate risk panels and intervention pathways.
 - Provide guidance to Barnet Schools
 - Recognise and respond to the dynamic affiliations between violence, drugs, and group/gang offending in Barnet.
- 7.2.2 The 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 has been completed, this will be presented to the Safer Communities Partnership in November 2023 and inform the development of a Serious Violence Strategy for the borough to be published in January 2024.
- 7.2.3 In Q1 & Q2 2023/24 there were 130,218 violence against the person offences committed across London, 4,261 offences were committed in Barnet accounting for 3.2% of all violence against the person offences. There were 214 knife crime offences in Barnet during Q1 & Q2 2023/24 in Barnet, a rate of 0.5 per 1,000 population, which is 5th lowest rate in London in the reporting period.
- 7.2.4 Barnet, alongside 3 other London Boroughs (Enfield, Southwark, and Hackney), had the 5th highest volume of gun crime offences in the reporting period. In Barnet there were 33 gun crime offences in Q1 & Q2 2023/24, 4 of these were categorised as lethal barrel discharges and 17 categorised as personal robbery offences. As the chart below (Fig 7) shows, there has been a significant decrease in gun crime over the reporting period.

Fig 7. Gun Crime Barnet Q1 – Q2 2023/24



❖ Adults at Risk Panel

7.2.5 Barnet Family Services coordinates a monthly panel to coordinate risk management approaches for young adults. The terms of reference were updated in Q1 2023/24, joining the High-Risk Panel for care leavers with the Serious Adult Violence Panel, forming a new Adults at Risk Panel. The multi-agency panel acts as a bridge between child and adult services enabling connections to be made in relation to adults and children who are at risk of involvement in violent offending. The Adults at Risk Panel (AARP) aims to provide a partnership approach to risk management of individuals involved in serious violence and exploitation to assist youth to adult transitions and support transitional safeguarding arrangements.

7.2.6 The AARP cohort is comprised of adults aged 18yrs+ and some young people who are transitioning from Youth Justice (resettlement and aftercare and Youth to Adult (Y2A) transitions); some are subject to statutory reporting with Probation or Police or are receiving statutory services as Care Leavers. The panel aims to support co-ordinated intelligence gathering and information sharing to support the formulation of contextual assessments and plans to reduce risk and create opportunities for positive change.

7.2.7 Referrals to AARP have doubled since the merge with high-risk Care Leavers which reflects both the vulnerability of this cohort of young people and the cross into exploitation. Since the development of the refreshed panel 16 young adults have been discussed, of these:

- 38% are Care Leavers
- 25% were referred by Probation.
- 6% were referred by Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
- 6% were referred from the Resettlement & Aftercare Panel (RAAP)
- 25% were joint referrals.
- 6% were females.
- 94% are aged between 18-25 years (6% aged 25-28 years)
- 81% were identified as being gang involved or associated.
- 19% were referred to the National Referral Mechanism

7.2.8 AARP is supporting transitional safeguarding arrangements which recognise that vulnerabilities continue beyond the age of 18, this is creating stronger links across to other

multi-agency risk and case management forums including MAPPA, Resettlement & Aftercare, Integrated Offender Management, Tackling Exploitation & Violence Panel (under 18's), Adult Liaison Group (scoping access to therapeutic services for the Adults at Risk cohort). The Panel has developed pathway links to homelessness support and mentoring services creating a holistic wraparound of services.

AARP Case Study – Joe

Concerns: Gang/Serious violence/exploitation/Domestic Abuse/ Adult & Child safeguarding

- Consultation held with two boroughs as Joe was moving across borough boundaries.
- A multi-agency meeting was held with very good attendance from across the range of services involved and provided an opportunity for professionals to meet and discuss their individual agency involvement for the first time.
- MASH referrals made in relation to the children and adults recognising intergenerational vulnerabilities.
- Referred to DA MARAC and linked across both boroughs to reduce risk of falling through services during moves.
- Referral to CS MARAC referral was completed to handle ASB concerns.
- Coordinated support is on-going.

7.2.9 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. Several 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.

❖ Victim Care Hub

- 7.3.1 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. The service supports the aims of the [Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales \(Victims' Code\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106422/victims-code-2021.pdf)
- 7.3.2 The Barnet Victim Care Hub (BVCH) is now established, and a new Victim Hub Coordinator has been appointed which has supported re-engagement with key stakeholders and a continuation of raising awareness of the Victims Code of Practice.
- 7.3.3 During Q1 2023/24 100% (n=18) of referred victims into the BVCH were provided with further information about the Victims Code of Practice and were informed of their rights. This reduced to 71% (n=15/21) in Q2 2023/24 as 29% of the referred victims were indirect victims i.e., a child of a victim, although the needs of these victims were considered in care planning.

- 7.3.4 The Victims Response Panel has been established with the first meeting taking place in Q2 2023/24. The panel provides a co-ordinated and multi-agency response for supporting victims that sit on the periphery of the Criminal Justice System so may not be aware of services available to them or have confidence to report incidents to the police.
- 7.3.5 BVCH has continued to promote the service, offering consultations, signposting to services and the development of support plans for victims being supported by Family Services and delivering briefings to the Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership, Barnet Homes (including the Domestic Abuse Team), MASH, Onwards and Upwards. The Youth Justice Service Restorative Justice Coordinator has ensured all victims of youth crime have been informed of the BVCH.
- 7.3.6 In Q1 best practice forum was held on CALM Mediation which is a service commissioned to deliver up to 10 community/neighbour mediation sessions aimed at reducing the need for crisis interventions, the session was attended by 37 professionals from across the council, partner agencies and grassroots providers. The approach is voluntary and uses a third party to help resolve neighbour or community disputes by offering a safe environment to discuss the problem, improve communication and reduce tension. Further information can be found [Welcome to Calm Mediation - Calm Mediation](#)
- 7.3.7 Over the reporting period Q1 & Q2 there were 39 referrals, with 18 referrals in Q1 and 21 referrals in Q2; the volume is getting closer to the target 24 referrals per month as the service embeds. The sources of referrals are set out below (Table 1). Family Services, Youth Justice, Children’s Social Care, Early Help and Onwards & Upwards account for more than half of all referrals.

Table 1 Referral Source & Volume

Table 2 Crime Type & Volume

Referral Source	No.	Type of crime	No.
Family Services – Children’s Social Care	8	Knife crime	1
Community Safety Team	4	Exploitation	6
Department of Work & Pensions	4	Other non-crime	2
YJS	3	ASB	7
Probation	3	DA	3
Barnet Mencap	2	Robbery	5
Family Services – Child & Family Early Help Services	8	Common Assault	1
Residents’ association	1	Rape and forced underage marriage	1
Onwards & Upwards	4	Threats	2

Barnet Homes	2		Hate Crime	1
			Harassment	3
			GBH	5
			Criminal Damage	2
Total	39		Total	39

7.3.8 In Table 2, the crime type and volume are reported. The data around crime types shows a higher volume of referrals in anti-social behaviour, violent offending (GBH) and exploitation. The BVCH has focused on ensuring that victims have been referred into the appropriate services, are aware of local provision, carried out safety planning and provided personal and home security items to help victims cope and recover at home and feel safer.

Table 3. Number of victim incidents reported to police.

Location of crime	Reported to police	Not known	Not reported to police	Assisting in investigation	Not assisting in investigation / not known
Barnet	23	12	4	8	10

7.3.9 Table 3 above indicates that all crimes in the reporting period were committed in Barnet, 23 were reported to police and in 8 cases the victim was assisting the police with the investigation, where victim contact has not been established the information is not known. The data is demonstrating that most victims are aware of how to report crime and support.

Table 4. Type of support identified.

VCOP	Personal safety advice & security	Home safety advice & security	Emotional /trauma support	Signposting/Information provision	Onward referral
33	17	14	17	21	2

7.3.10 A needs and risk assessment ensures all referrals are triaged and information is provided on Victim Code of Practice, and that tailored support, safety, and information plans, which include the consideration of indirect victims (i.e., children residing at the home) are completed. Table 4 above highlights the varied support provided across Q1 and Q2 2023/24.

7.3.11 The victims referred to the BVCH are largely adults, the gender split is relatively even. There is on-going development of data collection to ensure wider victim demographics are reportable so that there is a clear understanding of the individuals and communities most affected by crime and the support they need to recover.

❖ Restorative Justice

- 7.4.1 A Restorative Justice Coordinator (RJC) post was established in December 2022, it is funded with three-year London Crime Prevention Funding 2022 – 2025. The aim of the post is 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.
- 7.4.2 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.
- 7.4.3 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.
- 7.4.4 Over 2023/24 the RJC is providing bespoke training in restorative approaches to a range of school and community-based services to 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.
- 7.4.5 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.
- 7.4.6 Barnet Council has obtained 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](#)
- 7.4.7 In Q1 2023/24, 66% (n=12/18) referrals into BVCH had a Restorative Justice (RJ) follow up informing victims of their right to access RJ; all were given information about their rights under VCOP. This increased to 71% in Q2.
- 7.4.8 Restorative Approaches Training for Schools has commenced with 6 schools alongside 7 non-school training events that were held in Q1 2023/24 with voluntary sector providers, Unitas and Early Help settings; the training has reached over 150 participants. Feedback has been very positive.

7.4.9 Restorative training has been delivered to 20 staff working in Barnet’s residential children’s home settings and follow up training has been requested to explore conflict de-escalation and Restorative Justice conferencing.

7.4.10 Fifteen Metropolitan Police Officers participated in the Restorative Justice refresher training course in Q2 2023/24. The course consisted of a bespoke package of activities designed around tuning into restorative dispositions, victim and perpetrator preparation, risk assessment and formal conferencing.

Good Practice:

- Good communication between YJS and the RJ Co-ordinator led to a joint approach with MO10 Prosecutions (Met Police) which supported team attendance at a network and training event in April 2023
- This led to a request for RJ refresher training for up to 50 Met Police officers, including those from Barnet.
- Intended outcome: a rise in the number of victims being informed of their right to RJ under VCOP
- Identification of named officers responsible for raising the profile of and ensuring the effective administration of RJ interventions in their BCU’s
- Stronger mechanisms for delivery and recording RJ interventions.

7.4.11 RJ coordinator hosted a successful Network Meeting with **45** attendees including police, youth settings and schools. The next Network Meeting is scheduled for Q3 in which schools will be invited to reflect and celebrate the early successes and recognised as *Restorative Champions*; their work will support the ambition to becoming a RJC Registered Restorative Organisation

7.4.12 The RJ coordinator has completed 4 days of training at Essex Restorative and Mediation Service which is used to benchmark resources designed by the RJ coordinator and assess their suitability for submission to the Restorative Justice Council for accreditation. Accreditation is beneficial as it will raise the status of the Borough as an approved and verified RJ training provider.

7.4.13 The RJ coordinator has taken the lead for chairing an anti-bullying group which supports the wider restorative approaches in schools and the aim of Barnet council becoming a registered restorative organisation. In Q3 there are plans to develop restorative pathways for victims of VAWG and for roll out of further training on restorative approaches.

7.4.14 The Restorative Justice Project Plan is set out below in Table 5.

Table 5. Restorative Justice Project Plan 2022- 2025

Project Area	Phase	Additional Information	Progress
Raise the profile of Restorative Practice	Year 1	Training has commenced and delivered to the first cohort of trainees – the trainee list is widening through networking, community engagement	In progress

Membership of RJC	Year 1	Membership acquired and active until 2026.	Completed
RP/J Training (Design and delivery)	Year 1 & 2	Delivered to first cohort of 5 schools and 1 follow up session delivered. Leadership and further follow up sessions are booked	In progress
Quarterly Network Meetings	Year 1-3	3 hosted to date	In progress
Provide greater access to RJ for victims of crime	Year1-3	Linked to Barnet Victim Care Hub greater access is increasing with awareness raising and development of pathways for referral	In Progress
Co-ordinate RJ via <i>existing</i> referral routes	Year 2	Commenced in Q4 2022/23 with the modification of Barnet Victim Care Hub resources to explicitly offer RJ signposting and via direct contact when appropriate.	On track
Establish network of RJ community providers	Year 2	In development alongside delivery of training which will create a network of trained RJ community providers	On track
Establishment of <i>new</i> RJ referral routes	Year 2	Commenced in Q4 2022/24 alongside development of Barnet Victim Care Hub and RJ Coordinator role, pathways are on track for development with key agencies to access BVCH and CALM mediation	On track
Accreditation RJC RRO	Year 3	Can only be achieved once organisation is operating restoratively within the 6 RJC identified parameters.	On track

8 Reducing Offending

8.1 Barnet Integrated Offender Management

- 8.1.1 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.
- 8.1.2 The previous London IOM model did not consider 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.
- 8.1.3 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.

8.1.4 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. 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.

8.1.5 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

8.1.6 Barnet's Safer Communities Strategy 2022-2027 sets out in Priority 3 several outcomes that are relative to IOM; these include:

- A reduction in the MOJ (Ministry of Justice) 'Proven adult reoffending rate' offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort
- An increase in the number of offenders supported by the IOM programme.
- A reduction in the numbers of offenders that are classed as High Risk/Vulnerable, that due to their complex needs and need support from other services e.g., NHS/Public Health and Mental Health Services
- Recognising and responding to the dynamic affiliations between violence, drugs, and group/gang offending in Barnet
- Maintaining a continued emphasis on transition cases and supporting statutory services to coordinate the continuation of services into adulthood.

8.1.7 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.

8.1.8 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 overlap.

❖ **IOM Performance Data Q1 & Q2 2023/24 (Data provided Home Office ID-IOM, London MOPAC IOM Data Store & ECINS Performance system)**

8.1.9 Data provided by the Home Office ID-IOM, London MOPAC IOM Data store & ECINS Performance system report.

8.1.10 Barnet IOM adult cohort in Q2 is 86 which is a reduction from 90 reported in Q1 and a decrease of 18% (n=105>86) from Q4 2022/23. The cohort are the highest risk, most prolific, persistent, and violent offenders.

- Statutory Offenders: (Managed on license by Probation) has reduced from 80 in Q1 2023/24 to 72 in Q2 2023/24
- Non-Statutory: (Managed by IOM Police) = *has increased from 10 in Q1 2023/24 to 14 in Q2 2023/24*

8.1.11 Risk /Vulnerability RAG Scores have seen little changes, there was an increase by 1 in Red (n=31>32), no change in Amber (n=19), no change in Green (n=??) and a decrease in Blue (in custody/remand (n=32>27)).

8.1.12 Pan London there are 1,847 IOM Offenders on the Cohort, 95% are male, 56.5% are white whilst 43.5% are from the black and other ethnic backgrounds. There is a comparative percentage of males in the Barnet IOM cohort (95%) although a slightly higher percentage of individuals who identify as white (61%)

8.1.13 76% of the cohort are aged over 25 years; this is broken down below:

- 18 - 24yrs 24.4% (n=21)
- 25 - 34yrs 25.5% (n=22)
- 35 - 44yrs 23.3% (n=20)
- 45+ yrs. 26.7% (n=23)

8.1.14 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 60.1%.
- Adults released from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months had a proven reoffending rate of 60.1%.

8.1.15 Through a combination of collaborative/joined up Multiagency 'One Plan' focused enforcement and supportive interventions Barnet IOM have been able to reduce the reoffending rate of this prolific/persistent & violent group of adult offenders to 24%.

❖ **Performance Management - 'Clinical Outcomes' data is for completed programs/positive outcomes as a % of all referrals made.**

- Q1 Accommodation 75%-90% Housed, increasing in Q2 to 85%-90% Housed.
- Q1 DWP- Universal Credit Application/Training/Employment – 75%-85%, no change in Q2 data.
- Q1 Drugs/Alcohol – 45%-60% (Referral levels to CGL by Probation appear low in relation to IOM offenders with known substance misuse), no change in Q2 data.
- Q1 Probation -Thinking & Behaviour – 80%, no change in Q2 data.
- Q1 Probation Education/courses – 50%, no change in Q2 data.
- Q1 Number 1 Ex Offender Mentoring Academy – 95%, no change in Q2 data.

8.1.16 Offences Charged in highest numerical order (data from Q2 2022/23)

- **Violence** 35.3% (n=24), an increase of 9% from Q1.
- **Burglary** 11.8% (n=8), a reduction of 10% from Q1.
- **Theft** 8.8% (n=6), a reduction of 4% from Q1.
- **Weapons** 7.4% (n=5), a reduction of 6% from Q1

8.1.17 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.

8.1.18 MOPAC LCPF Commissioned Service – Ex-Offender Mentoring/Life Experienced Educational Academy

Clinical Outcomes.

- Fitness Course in Q1 2023/24, a total of 8 out of 13 clients successfully completed 61.5%, in Q2 this reduced to *9 out of 36 clients successfully completed 25%*
- Mentoring/Key Worker – in Q1 2023/24, 100% of clients successfully completed, in Q2 this reduced to *29 out of 36 clients successfully completed 80.5%*
- Employability Skills – In Q1 2023/24, a total of 11 out of 13 clients successfully completed 84.6%, in Q2 this reduced to *26 out of 36 clients successfully completed 72.2.*
- Digital Skills – In Q1 2023/24, a total of 8 out of 13 clients successfully completed 61.5%, in Q2 this reduced to 15 out of 36 clients successfully completed 42%.

8.1.19 90-95% of individuals 'actively and 'positively engage' and successfully change and start to make positive life choices. Analysis of offending data shows that both locally and nationally in every cohort there are always a small number of individuals who are more challenging to engage with interventions for change. The cohort of under 25's, which account for just under a quarter of the total IOM cohort, are often those that services find it most difficult to 'reach'. The development of trusted relationships is key to active and positive engagement.

8.1.20 Engagement by MOPAC LCPF No1 Ex Offender Mentoring Educational Academy staff is primarily face to face, whether that be in their offices at NLBP or at the Probation Offices at Denmark House. The level of engagement is risk matched, those in the IOM Red/Amber have daily contact & those in the Green cohort have contact 2-3 times per week.

8.1.21 The service operates 7 days per week and outside of office hours, individuals working with the partnership of the IOM Rehabilitation Team only 5/36 have reoffended. There is a high level of engagement, on average 2-4 times a week either at the gym or at West Hendon probation service, the mentoring service is most used which is supporting the development of trusted relationships which supports attendance at meetings, functional activities such as shopping and help with benefit claims.

❖ Case study of engagement:

Case Study R

R initially refused to work with the IOM as he thought it was police officers who wanted to arrest him. By identifying the professionals that were working with him an introduction was arranged by his Personal Advisor in Onwards & Upwards who explained to R the benefits of having a mentor.

R was able to build some trust which has since developed into a strong working relationship, he is being supported to address his rent, council tax and electricity arrears. R was also locked out of his Barnet Homes property due to an active Gas warrant. His learning needs and mental health are factors that influence his understanding and capacity to manage.

R invited his mentor to go to his family home and meet his mother, they both expressed how glad they were to have the support. R now has daily calls about setting up payment plans and is being supported to build a budget plan. He has been supported to obtain new keys and is being supported to work with other professionals to return to his property.

R has had a mentor for 6 months now, he is seen three times a week, mostly face to face, he has not reoffended and been dropped from Red to Amber on IOM. An extension of support is being explored to continue building his confidence and help him get into education and construction.

8.2 Reducing Offending Youth Offending

8.2.1 Priority 3: Reducing offending including Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE), with a focus on acquisitive crime has the following outcomes for youth justice services:

- Sustained reductions in offending and early intervention for those identified as at risk of VVE.
- Recognising and responding to the dynamic affiliations between violence, drugs, and group/gang offending in Barnet.
- Maintaining a continued emphasis on transition cases and supporting statutory services to coordinate the continuation of services into adulthood.

8.2.2 Barnet Youth Justice Services (YJS) work with young people aged 10 to 17 who have offended. Child & Family Early Help Services deliver 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.

8.2.3 In Q2, September 2023, there were 72 children and young people receiving a total of 99 interventions in relation to offending, some children are subject to more than one Order/Intervention; these are detailed in Table 6 below:

Table 6. Youth Justice Interventions (Snapshot data September 2023)

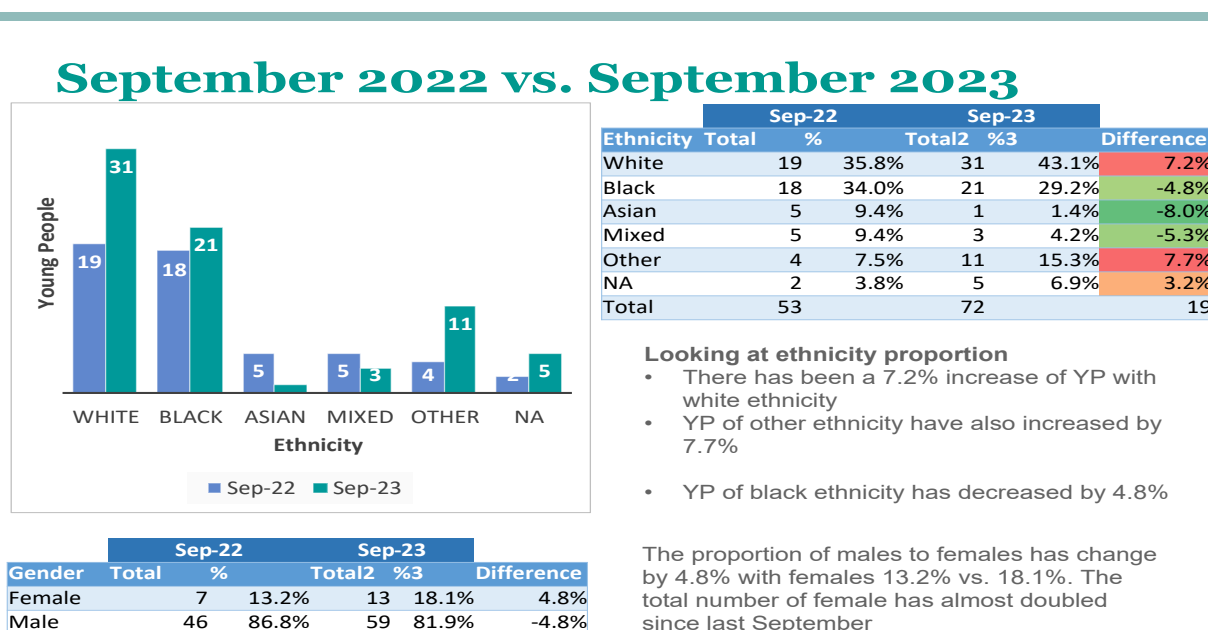
OOCD	No.
Triage	2
Youth Caution	4
Youth Conditional Caution	8
Turnaround	20
Criminal Behaviour Order	4
Total	38
Community	No.
Referral Order	24
Community Resolution Police Facilitated	1
Community Resolution - other agency facilitated	2
Community Resolution with YOT Intervention	13
Total	40
Community	No.
Referral Order	24
Community Resolution Police Facilitated	1
Community Resolution - other agency facilitated	2
Community Resolution with YOT Intervention	13
Total	40
YRO's	No.
Youth Rehabilitation Order	5
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement - Band 1	2
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement - Extended	1
Total	8

Bail and Remand		No.
Bail Support Programme		3
Remand in Custody (YDA) YOI		6
Remand to LAA Status/Programme		1
Total		10
Custody		No.
DTO Post Custody/Licence Programme		3
Total		3
Overall total		99

8.2.4 There is a higher proportion of children on remand in Q2 due to being in a group when a serious crime was committed which has impacted Barnet's usually lower than London and national average. The gravity of the original charge(s) meant that alternative to custody provision in the borough could not be used to accommodate any of the children at that time. The increase is expected to fall in Q3 as a number of these children have subsequently been released from custodial remand without charge.

8.2.5 There are 20 children open to the YJS are who are also children in care, 6 of these are in care due to their remand status in the reporting period. 8 children are subject to a Child in Need Plan and 3 children are subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Fig 9. Demographics YJS Case Load September 2022 – September 2023 Comparison



*Turnaround interventions removed. Data represents a snapshot in September 2022 and 2023

- 8.2.6 82% of the cohort of children open to Youth Justice Services are male; the number of females in the youth justice system has risen over the past two years and has been the catalyst for the development of a girls group delivered by the Child and Family Early Help Service.
- 8.2.7 Children from Black and global majority backgrounds account for 65% of the cohort, the number of Black children has reduced by 5% over the past 12-months, although there has been a 7% increase in children from a white ethnicity.
- 8.2.8 There are 45 children aged between 16 – 18 open to the Youth Justice Service in September 2023; this age range accounts for 62% of the Youth Justice cohort. 14- and 15-year-olds account for 34% of the Youth Justice cohort, there are 3 children aged between 12 and 13 years open to the service in the reporting period.
- 8.2.9 The Youth Justice Service completed its fourth Residential Programme for children aged 14-16 years and currently subject to Youth Justice Orders in Eastbourne. This programme was established in October 2019 to divert children from offending and provide them with pro-social experiences aimed at building on their resilience and strengths and boosting their self-esteem by offering them new opportunities for personal growth and learning.
- 8.2.10 The programme enables young people to meet the requirements of their Orders, build trusted relationship with safe adults and professionals and develops youth mentors who can work alongside other children in the youth justice system. 7 children attended the 2023 Residential Programme; none have reoffended and two have become mentors having successfully completed their Youth Justice Orders.
- 8.2.11 On this residential trip children in attendance were able to speak about their experience of violence in the community which highlighted the need for trauma-informed approaches in relation to loss and grief. The children shared that they did not feel unsafe in the areas they live but avoid certain postcodes where there are rival gangs and must plan their journeys to avoid crossing into rival territory. Children carry weapons to feel 'safer' they are worried about gang rivalry and reprisal violence; their feedback has been fed into the Tackling Violence & Exploitation Strategy and broader Serious Violence Strategy both of which will be published in 2024.
- 8.2.12 Barnet Youth Justice Service have achieved SEND Quality Mark Lead Status having provided evidence to the Association of Youth Justice Managers against the SEND Ten Key Statement Framework. The Quality Lead Status is the highest rating within the Youth Justice SEND Award, the AYM also awarded a Child First Commendation in recognition of Barnet's child-first approaches.
- 8.2.13 Barnet is delivering a range of preventative and diversionary interventions. Turnaround is a Ministry of Justice (MOJ) 3-year programme providing interventions to children aged 10-17 years who are at risk of entry into the Criminal Justice System (CJS). The programme aims to build positive and trusted relationships so that children's needs can be assessed, and they can receive the support they need to achieve meaningful outcomes, this includes mental health, emotional well-being, and access to community-based projects.

- 8.2.14 The programme targets children who have been recently arrested or who have come to notice of agencies with enforcement powers (within 3 months) for repeated involvement in anti-social behaviour, involved in anti-social behaviour and have received a Community Protection Warning/Notice, Acceptable Behaviour Contract or Civil Order for ASB, have been interviewed under caution following arrest or subject to a criminal investigation attending a voluntary interview, are subject to No Further Action decision, are subject to a Community Resolution or receiving a first-time youth caution, not including conditional caution, have been released under investigation or is subject to pre-charge bail (PCB), discharged by or acquitted or fined at court. Children are ineligible if they have previously received a YJS intervention. No admission of guilt is required, and the programme is voluntary, it can last up to 12 months. Children can only be supported through the programme once.
- 8.2.15 Turnaround Engagement Workers are embedded in the Youth Justice Team and support children to feel safe in the local community, engage in education, employment, and apprenticeships, or positive activities such as sports and music. They can also help them with worries about drugs or alcohol, health and wellbeing, relationship difficulties and knowing their rights.
- 8.2.16 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. Youth Justice Services have been submitting data. However, the YJB has not yet published data against the additional 10 indicators and have reported that this data will not be available until December 2023.
- 8.2.17 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.
- 8.2.18 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.
- 8.2.19 In recognition of the important role of prevention and diversion activity, 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.
- 8.2.20 The 10 additional 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	Description
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 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

KPI	Description
	the child's case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate services that support victims (when requested).

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To update the Safer Community Partnership Board regarding the progress made in relation to the delivery of the various work strands in Family Services in relation to Domestic Abuse, VAWG, Exploitation, Serious Youth Violence and Reducing Reoffending.

9.2 For the SCPB to recognise progress made against the ambitions of the council in delivering reductions in exploitation, offending and comprehensive services to tackle all forms of violence and to note the commitment of the local authority to achieving a cohesive local model of delivery that improves outcomes for all residents.

10 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

10.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

11 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

11.1 To develop, implement and monitor 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.

12 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

Corporate Priorities and Performance

Corporate Plan

12.1 The Barnet corporate plan puts Caring for People, our Places, and the Planet at the heart of everything we do, with a commitment to create places that are clean, safe, and welcoming.

12.2 Family Friendly is a key driver of our corporate planning with the vision of "Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best".

Outcome Measures

12.3 The Youth Justice Board sets standards and publishes data against thirteen youth justice national performance indicators which are mandatory reporting requirements for youth justice

partnerships through their Youth Justice Management Boards:

- **First time entrants to the youth justice system**
Young people aged 10 to 17 years receiving a pre-court disposal or conviction. This data is published quarterly per local authority area, for a rolling 12 months and is taken from the Police National Computer (PNC). The FTE figure is compared with the same quarter of the previous rolling 12-month period.
- **The binary reoffending rate**
Frequency and binary re-offending data is published quarterly per local authority area, comparing rolling 12-month data from 2 years ago with data from 3 years ago. This is taken from PNC. The binary figure relates to the percentage of young people in the cohort who reoffend, and the frequency figure relates to the number of re-offences per young person.
- **The use of custody**
The number of young people per 1,000 of the 10 to 17 population receiving custodial sentences is compared with the number who received a custodial sentence in the same quarter of the previous year.
- **Suitable accommodation**
The type and suitability of accommodation at the start and end of the order by type of order. Additionally, for those leaving custody, it looks at how far in advance accommodation was secured. YJSs are required to record the number of children in the community and being released from custody into suitable or unsuitable accommodation arrangements.
- **Education, training, and employment (ETE)**
The number and proportion of children in ETE by suitability, ETE provision type and type of order for children of school age and children above school age and how many hours were offered and attended.
- **Special educational needs and disabilities/Additional learning needs**
The number of children with SEND for England or by type of order, whether they have a formal plan in place and whether they are in suitable ETE.
- **Mental health care and emotional wellbeing**
How many children are screened or assessed to understand their mental health and emotional wellbeing needs. For children who are already in an arrangement to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing, is the support is in place.
- **Substance misuse**
The number of children with a screened or identified need for an intervention or treatment to address substance misuse and of that, the number of planned/offered treatment and the number of children attending intervention/treatment.
- **Out of court disposals**
The number of children with interventions ending in the period, the number of children who completed the intervention programmes in the quarter and the number of children who did not complete intervention programmes in the quarter.

- **Links to wider services**

The number of children who are classified as a currently care experienced child (known in statute as a 'Looked After Child'), a 'Child in Need' or who are on a 'Child Protection Plan', an 'Early Intervention Plan' or who are referred to Early Help services.

- **Management board attendance**

The number of senior partners attending the quarterly meetings, and of those senior partners was data presented which identified areas of disproportionality.

- **Serious violence**

The number of children cautioned or convicted of Serious Violence on the YJS caseload.

- **Victims**

The number of victims resulting from offences committed by children on the YJS caseload, the number contacted, and the number engaged in restorative justice opportunities as well as those who requested and were given further information and support.

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

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

14 Legal and Constitutional References

14.1 Under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, it is a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including Police, Fire & Rescue, Greater London Authority, Transport for London) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending.

14.2 The BSCP is a Community Safety Partnership set up in accordance with the requirement of the section 5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

14.3 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on local authorities in England to assess the need for accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse, prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support and monitor and evaluate its effectiveness. Prior to publishing a strategy, the local authority must consult the domestic abuse local partnership board and such other persons as the local authority considers appropriate.

14.4 The Victim's Bill 2023 makes provision for victims and others affected by criminal conduct; the Bill makes e appointment and functions of individuals to act as independent public advocates for victims of major incidents; about the release of prisoners; about the membership and functions of the Parole Board; to prohibit certain prisoners from forming a marriage or civil partnership; and for connected purposes.

14.5 Section 10 of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 amended the Offender Management Act 2007, placing a duty on the Secretary of State for Justice to ensure that arrangements for

supervision or rehabilitation identify specific need and so make appropriate provision for women and vulnerable groups.

- 14.6 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.

15 Insight

n/a

16 Social Value

16.1 The cost of offending and reoffending is set out in the 2018 Home Office report on the Economic and Social Cost of Crime (2nd edition). The report followed a cohort of offenders identified in 2016 who subsequently went on to reoffend during the 12-month follow up. The total estimated economic and social cost of reoffending was £18.1 billion. In addition, there is a further personal, familial and community cost which impacts on the lives of individuals, children and families and the communities that they live in.

16.2 48% of adults that spend time in prison go on to reoffend within 12-months of release. Prison does not treat offending and does not prevent reoffending (Ministry of Justice, 2019 'Proven reoffending statistics': April – June 2017)

16.3 Reducing reoffending seeks to minimise the harm caused and create opportunities for social integration, family cohesion and community engagement. For women, particularly those who are primary carers for children, the value in supporting those women to escape cycles of abuse, victimisation and offending may also mean providing a child(ren) with improved opportunities to grow up in their own family and to enjoy healthy and reliable contact with a primary carer.

16.4 Violence preventative interventions, improve educational and health outcomes. Violence is a major cause of ill health negatively affects wellbeing; it is strongly related to inequalities. The poorest fifth of people in England have hospital admission rates for violence five times higher than those of the most affluent fifth. It affects individuals and communities and is a drain on health services, the criminal justice system and the wider economy. (Serious Violence Duty: Draft Guidance for responsible authorities, 2023)

17 Risk Management

17.1 Risk management varies according to the different initiatives. The partnership or appropriate agencies are made aware of risks and actions to mitigate the risk are agreed and put in place. There is always risk that the partnership may not achieve the targets set due to factors outside its direct control – however there is strong partnership working in place enabling agencies to identify and highlight risk and be open to addressing the risk collectively.

18 Equalities and Diversity

18.1 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public-sector equality duty to which the authority must have due regard.

18.2 Elected Members are to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome.

18.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

18.4 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Tackle prejudice, and
- Promote understanding.

18.5 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race,
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil partnership

18.6 The commitment to the Public Sector Equality Duty is set out in the council's Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy 2021-2025 which aims to actively tackle inequalities, foster good relationships across our communities and recognise the contributions that people from different backgrounds make to life in our borough. Violence and offending affect all communities and there well documented racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system for children and adults that must be addressed. The Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy and action plans to reduce violence, recognises the intersectionality of protected characteristics, disadvantage, and discrimination. It is our aim for the borough to be a fair, inclusive and a safe place for all our communities. Where discrimination is tackled, hate crime is reported and dealt with promptly, and everyone feels safe to live their life.

19 Corporate Parenting

19.1 Many children who are cared for by the local authority have been exposed to domestic abuse prior to entry into care and young women in care and leaving care may have adverse childhood experiences that may make them more vulnerable to domestic abuse, coercion, and control in relationships. The DA and VAWG Strategy 2022 – 2025 aims to ensure that domestic abuse services are accessible to all that need them, including children. The strategy will overlap with Corporate Parenting Services and arrangements for transitional safeguarding.

19.2 Children and young people in care and care experienced young people have a higher prevalence of adverse childhood experiences that may make them susceptible to grooming and coercion as such may be at an increased risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system. The strategic aims of working with children, young people, and adults at risk of violence, exploitation and offending will ensure cohesive overlap with Corporate Parenting Services, transitional

safeguarding and transitions and resettlement planning for young people involved with Youth Offending Services and transitioning to National Probation Services.

20 Consultation and Engagement

20.1 As a matter of public law, the duty to consult with regards to proposals to vary, reduce or withdraw services will arise in four circumstances:

- where there is a statutory requirement in the relevant legislative framework
- where the practice has been to consult, or, where a policy document states the council will consult, then the council must comply with its own practice or policy.
- exceptionally, where the matter is so important that there is a legitimate expectation of consultation.
- Where consultation is required to complete an equalities impact assessment.

20.2 Regardless of whether the council has a duty to consult, if it chooses to consult, such consultation must be carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:

- comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage.
- the consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response.
- there is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals.
- there is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are considered by the decision-maker / decision-making body when making a final decision.
- the degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting.
- where relevant and appropriate, the consultation is clear on the reasons why and extent to which alternatives and discarded options have been discarded. The more intrusive the decision, the more likely it is to attract a higher level of procedural fairness.

21 BACKGROUND PAPERS

22 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

22.1 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 Offending

22.2 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.

23 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

23.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

24 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

24.1 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.

24.2 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.