

Serious Violence Duty Strategy

Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)

Safety Community Partnership Board

Friday 24th November 2023

Christopher Kelly – Strategic Lead for Tackling Violence and Exploitation

Jalpa Patel – Family Services Improvement Lead



SNA Key Findings – Barnet Violence Profile:

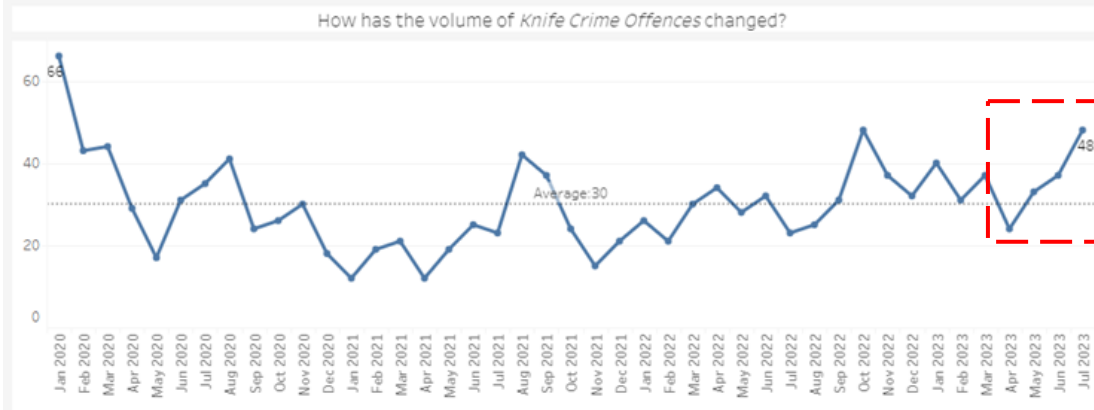
London Boroughs	Offence Count
Westminster	160,402
Newham	77,391
Tower Hamlets	73,858
Southwark	73,845
Camden	73,556
Croydon	73,300
Lambeth	70,760
Ealing	65,612
Hackney	65,290
Brent	63,989
Enfield	63,034
Haringey	61,004
Lewisham	60,667
Greenwich	59,913
Barnet	59,385
Islington	57,925
Hounslow	55,412
Hillingdon	53,001
Wandsworth	52,719
Redbridge	51,402
Bromley	48,836
Waltham Forest	48,402
Barking & Dagenham	45,953
Hammersmith & Fulham	45,172
Kensington & Chelsea	43,749
Havering	43,040
Bexley	35,011
Harrow	34,147
Merton	29,579
Sutton	28,656
Kingston upon Thames	26,286
Richmond upon Thames	24,675

Offence Group	Year-end October 2022	Year-end October 2023	% change
Homicide	4	6	+ 50%
Violence with injury	1,938	1,981	+ 2.2%
Violence without injury	4,548	5,014	+ 10.2%
Sexual offences	620	577	- 6.9%
Robbery	587	757	+ 28.9%
Theft offences	4,739	5,345	+ 12.8%
Burglary	2,097	2,066	- 1.5%
Criminal damage & arson	1,534	1,617	+ 5.4%
Drug offences	862	929	+ 7.8%
Possession of weapon offences	145	125	- 13.8%
Total	17,074	18,417	+ 7.9%

Insights:

- ❑ In the ranking of London boroughs, Barnet holds the 15th position for the number of offences reported from January 2022 to October 2023.
- ❑ Violence with & without injury and theft & burglary were the highest offences in the borough – this is consistent with the highest offence crimes amongst under 25s.
- ❑ MPS suspect data suggests a greater occurrence of serious violence crimes among individuals under 25; (however, it is important to note the presence of undisclosed data that cannot be accounted for)
- ❑ There is a higher rate of serious violence offences amongst those under 25 years which can be attributed to a combination of factors i.e. higher prevalence of involvement in street gangs/group offending and/or exploitation/organised criminal groups.
- ❑ Other contributing factors to offending are exposure to domestic abuse, adverse life experiences, mental health, socioeconomic disparities and access to education and employment.

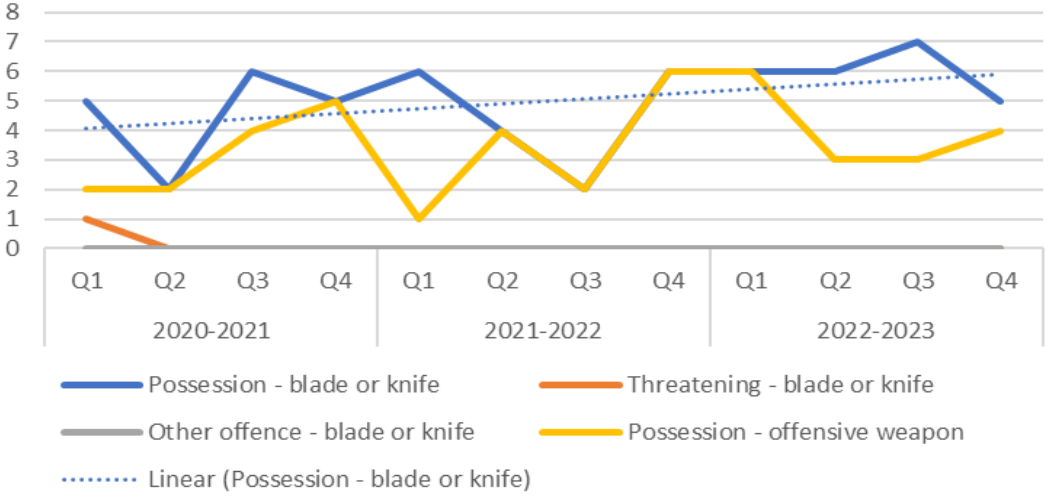
SNA Key Findings – Knife Offences:



Insights:

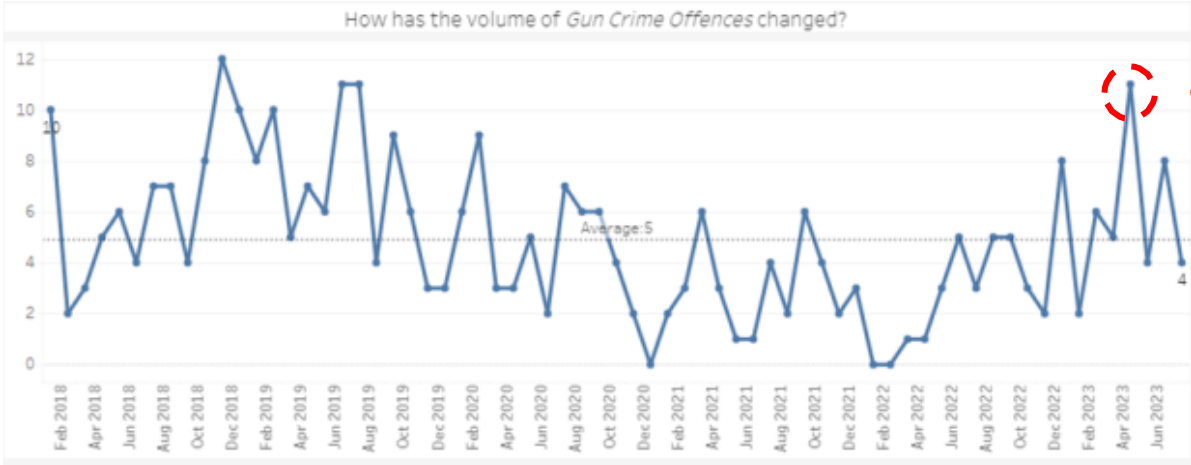
- ❑ Knife crime in the borough has varied over time but continues to pose a concern for the community and particularly youths.
- ❑ The figure to the left illustrates a spike in offences, indicating a 100% increase between April – July 2023.
- ❑ Within the period from January 2020 to July 2023, **128** victims of knife offences resulting in injury were under the age of 24.
- ❑ MPS data, shows an increased prevalence of blades and knives used during serious violent crimes such as burglary, theft, and robberies.
- ❑ Taken from our Youth Justice Service data, the chart to the left illustrates a rising trend in the number of blades or knives carried by 10–18-year-olds in Barnet.
- ❑ 873 individuals aged between 14 to 17 underwent stop and search procedures. Among them, 44.6% were related to drugs and 28.5% were associated with weapons, points, and blades. This aligns with the increasing trend observed in Barnet youth justice data, specifically concerning individuals aged between 10 to 18 carrying blades and knives. The prevalence of sharp weapons appears to be pronounced among young males.

Knife & offensive weapons offences



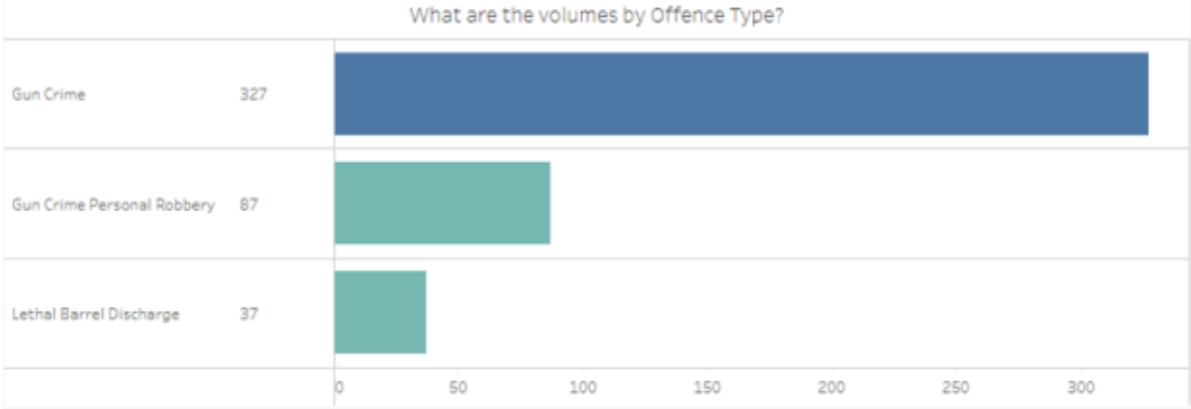
Caring for people, our places and the planet

SNA Key Findings – Firearm Offences:



Insights:

- ❑ Since 2019 there has been a steady increase in the number of firearm offences in the borough.
- ❑ April 2023 saw a notable spike of **120%** in the number possession of firearm and shooting offences which was linked to known local tensions in the Graham Park area.
- ❑ With the MPS adoption of the Clear Hold Build (CHB) model, there has been a substantial success rate of arrests following these incidents.
- ❑ Building on this achievement, there has been a **64%** decrease in the incidence of gun crime offences.



Young People

- Over 50 young people participated in focus sessions which were facilitated by trusted professionals in (YJS, UNITAS, REACH, Early Help, Youth Board)
- Questions were largely open ended and undertaken as a discussion rather than survey

Partners and Professionals

- Over 170 people working in Barnet participated in interactive 'Slido' Sessions.

Residents and Local Businesses

- Following three wards walkarounds, resident ward meetings and open day at the RAF. Residents were invited to complete an online survey via a QR code.

All three groups were asked about their views around:

- Perceptions of Violence and Exploitation
- Factors that support feeling safer or more at risk in the borough,
- Areas and priorities that the partnership and council to implement /drive to improve; safety, and response to violence and exploitation

Key challenges identified when managing child exploitation and serious violence

Lack of effective multi-agency collaboration, which hampers the process of understanding, identifying, and tackling exploitation

Language to communicate with young people and among professionals often misses the mark, causing mistrust among youth and reduces their engagement in support services

Need for broader awareness and education in schools about exploitation risks, coupled with desire for more proactive, rather than merely reactive approaches

Limited capacity and delayed responses inhibit timely intervention on mental health and socio-emotional support needs

Accommodation for victims remains scarce

Key priorities that should be implemented to combat child exploitation and serious violence

- **Early Intervention & Support:** combined services enforcement in pre-criminal spaces, recognising behavioural issues at early stages, and implementing trauma-informed practices across support systems
- **Education & Awareness:** Enhance education about risks both in schools and communities, educate parents about potential dangers, and foster open conversations
- **Community Engagement & Support:** Support marginalised communities; strengthen community cohesion; prioritise role of the community in early intervention; foster better police-community relationships
- **Professional Collaboration & Training:** Funding and training professionals to effectively identify risks; promote multi-agency collaborations with emphasis on safeguarding and disruption techniques
- **Youth Opportunities and Support:** Provide affordable after-school activities, supporting non-academic youth, and focusing on anti-poverty practices
- **Mental Health & Holistic Support:** Timely mental health support services vital; provide holistic support to families facing trauma; address substance misuse needs comprehensively
- **Policy Change:** Call for alternatives to harmful policing and school exclusions, ensuring justice system leans more towards rehabilitation, and addressing broader implications of drug laws *and demands*

Shared views on strategic focus to support those affected by child exploitation and serious violence



Young People and Resident Feedback: what needs to change

Policing & Security

- Increased police presence and patrols
- More CCTV in key areas
- Harsher sentencing for those who commit crime and carry weapons
- Stop and search practices
- Responding to reports of incidents promptly
- Tackling crime hotspots

Planning & Infrastructure

- Better lighting in areas to increase safety
- Minimizing areas treated as assembly points by gangs and drug dealers
- Planning hostels, children's homes, etc., evenly across areas and ensuring they are monitored

School / Education Reforms

- Promote and adhere learning to evidence-based education practices
- Adopt trauma-informed approach to discipline
- Offer support within schools for struggling students

Community Engagement

- Supporting residents and listening to their reports
- Inclusion of community in decision-making
- Education for community to spot signs of exploitation
- Council sharing implemented actions and their outcomes

Youth Support & Opportunities

- More activities for young people, including training, employment, education, and vocational opportunities
- Addressing root causes like adverse or deprived settings
- Mental health and SEN support for struggling kids and families
- Youth workforce development
- Empowerment and education for families to understand youth activities and risks

Key Findings: Summary

- Males under the age of 25 are most affected by and involved in incidents of serious violence.
- Barnet's overall crime profile reports violence against the person, burglary, theft and robbery as the highest crime types in the borough; a similar profile is reported for under 25's in the borough.
- Over the past 12 months, there have been 3,325 stop and search incidents of which 67.2% were related to potential drug offences. 49% of the stop and search resulted in positive outcomes such as arrest, community resolution, penalty notice, postal charge requisition, or caution. The remaining 51% resulted in no further action.
- The majority of stop and search incidents, amounting to 31.9%, carried out from January 2022 to October 2023 targeted young male adults aged 18-25.
- 875 individuals aged between 14 to 17 underwent stop and search procedures. Among them, 44.7% were related to drugs and 28.5% were associated with weapons, points, and blades – 96 were arrested. This aligns with the increasing trend observed in Barnet YJS data, concerning individuals aged between 10 to 18 carrying blades and knives. The prevalence of sharp weapons appears to be pronounced among young males.
- Youth Justice Service (YJS) data shows a 63% increase in the number of 10 to 18-year-olds found in possession of a weapon in 2023 compared to reported data in 2022. The increase is relative to an increase in robbery offences.

Key Findings: Summary cont'd

- While YJS data indicates that drug-related offending among 10 to 18-year-olds is relatively low, search and stop data shows that drug related offences was the highest reason for a stop amongst this age group. Although, 78.3% resulted in no further action.
- There has been a 40% reduction in serious violence incidences in the community, against a rise of violent incidents at public transport hubs and restaurants in the borough.
- There has been a 43% reduction in the number of young people residing in Barnet being identified as suspects in incidents of violence in the community.
- There are very low rates of children and adults of Asian ethnicity in serious violence, child exploitation and missing data. A recent 9% increase in reported crime from those identifying as Asian may indicate an increase in awareness and trust.
- The number of young people excluded from school due to involvement in a serious violent crime has risen from 24 to 65, of which 69% were male and 12% have Special Education Needs (SEN) and/or have an Education, Health, Care Plan (EHCP).
- Feedback from community engagement underscores the necessity for enhanced multi-agency collaboration, aiming to fortify the process of understanding, identifying, and tackling exploitation.

Key Strategic Objectives:

Objective 1.	Strengthen partnership working and maintain community presence across the partnership to tackle violent youth offending in the borough.
Objective 2.	To enhance our engagement and coproduction practices to solve local problems with local people.
Objective 3.	Creating and implementing multi-agency work models to lead in the early intervention and prevention of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls and to support in the pursuit of perpetrators to engage them in behaviour change interventions.
Objective 4.	To tackle the 'normalisation' of youth violence for both the individual, families and within schools, colleges, and the wider community.

Objective 5.

Support the development of a place-based approach in local schools and communities, with a focus on:

- Empowering parents and carers
- Preventative education approaches
- Meeting the emerging needs of children and young people with special educational needs
- Pro-active and evidenced-informed support for 10 to 25-year-olds at the greatest risk of exploitation, offending and violence.

Objective 6.

To address the gender disparity and adultification in engagement with victim services through improving trust and confidence towards statutory services.

Objective 7.

To enhance our victim support offers through making them more accessible and increasing trust and confidence in these offers and encourage victims to sustain positive trajectories from points of crisis.