



**Barking &
Dagenham**

**SAFER
BOROUGH**

Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Serious Violence Duty Strategy

Barking and Dagenham's Community Safety Partnership

Working together to keep Barking and Dagenham safe

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Foreword From Councillor Syed Ghani

Cabinet Member for Enforcement
& Community Safety



Tackling serious violence is of huge importance to our communities in Barking and Dagenham and continues to be a key priority for our Community Safety Partnership.

Adhering to the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, we have produced the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, which reaffirms that we are a fast emerging and diverse London borough, with the highest proportion of residents under the age of 16 in England and Wales. It sets out the key challenges and highlights the areas we need to concentrate on to combat serious violence. This is something we must do together.

The community have told us the areas that we need to focus on, and we will continue to listen. We are committed to working towards long-term solutions to serious violence, adopting a public health, trauma informed, whole family approach. To do this, we have devised six specific objectives and five principles, set out within this serious violence strategy, which demonstrate our understanding of violence at a local level. This will identify risk factors for those likely to become perpetrators or victims of serious violence.

We want to prevent serious violence before it occurs, which means working closely with all community safety partners, the police, criminal justice agencies, children and young people and all our local communities.

There is a considerable amount of work already underway, and we will build on this, putting the safety and the voice of local people at the forefront of the Community Safety Partnership.



Introduction

This Strategy document has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

The duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and production of a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.

The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.

The responsible authorities (also known as ‘duty holders’) in the Serious Violence Duty will be:

- the police
- fire and rescue authorities
- justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- local authorities

Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions will be under a separate duty to co-operate with duty holders, but they are not duty holders.

This strategy takes account of guidance issued by the government, as well as London guidance, developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit, in collaboration with London Councils, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police, NHS London and Probation Service.

The strategy sets out the agreed definition of Serious Violence for the borough, summarises the key aspects of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, the partnership arrangements that have been agreed locally to lead on delivery of the duty, the areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence, and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities - including young people, as well as businesses.

Publishing of the Strategy

The Strategy document will need to be published on the council’s website by 31st January 2024.

Date for review/annual review mechanism

This Strategy document will be reviewed annually, with the next review due by 31st January 2025.

Progress of this strategy, the objectives set out within it and the local action plan, will be reviewed at least quarterly through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

This strategy incorporates and aligns with the Councils CSP plan, which has outlined our approach to reducing serious violence over the next three years. Different components of the strategy will be reviewed at various points within these three years. This will ensure a balanced and responsive approach to the changing themes of serious violence on the Borough.

Review Dates:

Strategy Element	Date of Publication	Date for review
Definition of Serious Violence	31 st January 2024	31 st January 2027
Local Partnership Arrangements	31 st January 2024	31 st January 2025
Strategic Needs Assessment	31 st January 2024	31 st January 2025
Actions to Prevent and Reduce Violence	31 st January 2024	31 st January 2025
Engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, young people and local business	31 st January 2024	31 st January 2025
Identified funding streams or resources that can be used by the partnership for prevention and reduction activities	31 st January 2024	31 st January 2025

Definition of Serious Violence

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism.

In considering serious violence within their area, specified authorities should encompass serious violence as defined for the purposes of the Government’s Serious Violence Strategy and include a focus on issues such as public space youth violence. The Government’s Serious Violence Strategy sets out specific types of crime of concern, including homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing. These crimes should be at the core of the serious violence duty for the purpose of its reduction and prevention.

Whilst the government guidance sets out types of violence that should be incorporated within the definition of serious violence, there is no definition provided and it allows each local area to define serious violence.

It is important that there is consistency across London, to ensure that analysis of violence and the Strategic Needs Assessment are comprehensive and comply with the duty. The London Violence Reduction Unit has therefore collaborated with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, London Councils, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London, and Probation Service to develop London Guidance to support local areas in how they implement the duty.

In the London Borough of Barking, we have agreed to adopt the London guidance definition of serious violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty.

The London Guidance advises that Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in London, is defined as:

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

Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Notes

A

Within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

(1) This section defines “domestic abuse” for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if— (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are “personally connected” to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive. (3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following— (a) physical or sexual abuse; (b) violent or threatening behaviour; (c) controlling or coercive behaviour; (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4)); (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

(4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to — (a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or (b) obtain goods or services.

(5) For the purposes of this Act, A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).

(6) References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section.

(7) For the meaning of “personally connected”,

It should be noted that in Chapter 3 of the Statutory Guidance of the act, it recognises that domestic abuse can encompass a range of behaviours, including abuse that is physical, violent or threatening behaviour, sexual abuse, controlling & coercive behaviour, harassment or stalking, economic abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse, technology-facilitated based, abuse relating to faith, ‘honour’-based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

B

With regards to ‘violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25,’ this encompasses those aged under 25 who are victims of offences; suspects/offenders for offences; or both. (aligned to home office Home Office “definition” of serious violence in their 2018 strategy)

C

Serious violence includes (but does not require) any of the defined offences where a knife, section one firearm or corrosive substance is used, threatened or intimidated.

Local Partnership Arrangements

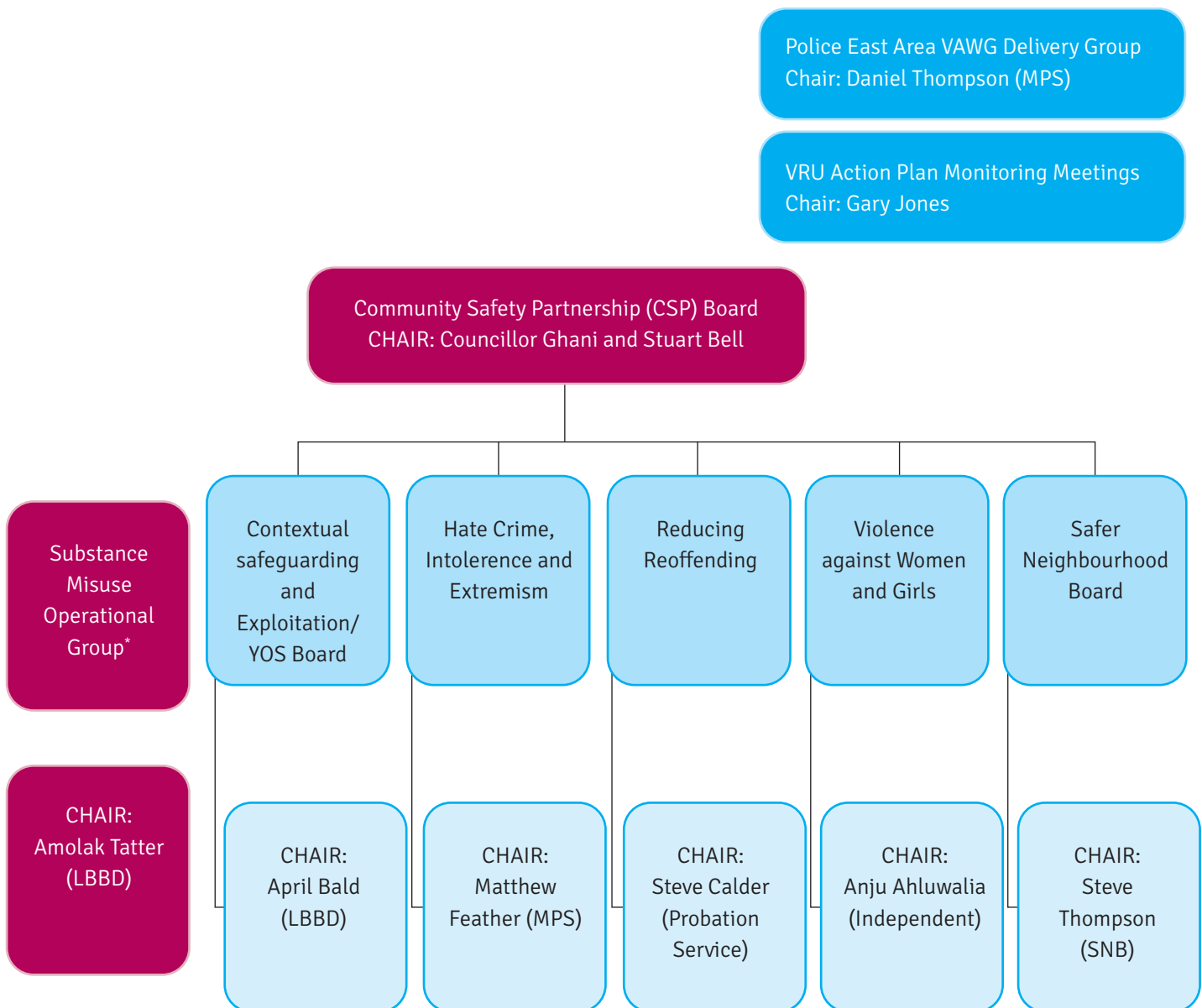
Within the Duty, it is for the specified authorities to come together to decide on the appropriate lead and structure of collaboration for their area.

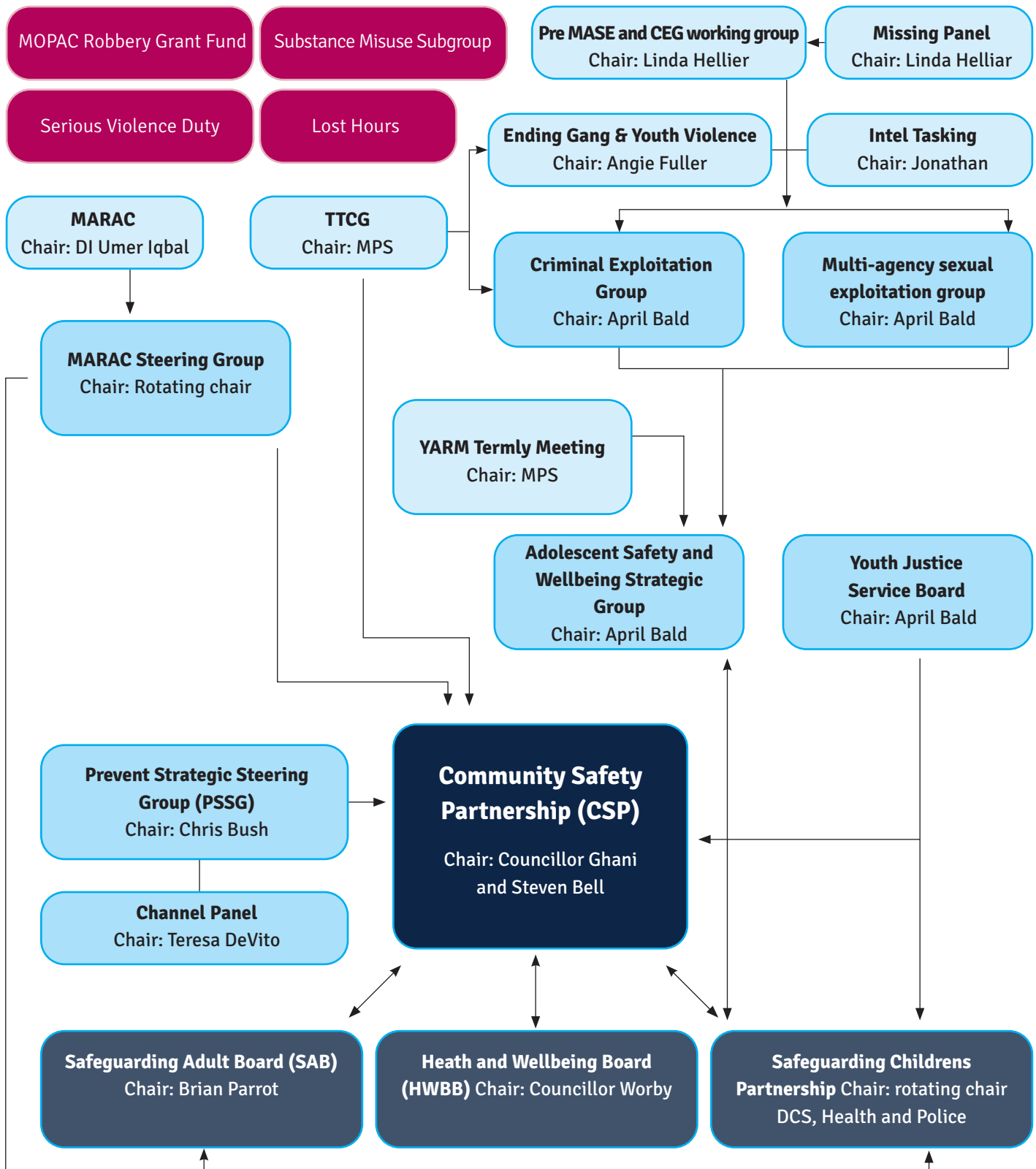
Of all the statutory partnership arrangements, only the Community Safety Partnership has all the “duty holders” within its membership, and it is not restricted by the age criteria for children and adult safeguarding partnerships.

In the London borough of Barking and Dagenham, we confirm that we are following the London guidance, and the Community Safety Partnership will be the lead partnership for implementation and ensuring compliance with the duty.

Partnership Meeting Arrangements

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board and Subgroup Structure Chart





There will be a CSP review which will work with partners to identify gaps within the structure and pathways, identifying what work feeds into the CSP and other forums within the council for example, the Safeguarding Childrens' Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and Community MARAC and how these can better align across partnership arrangements and structures to ensure an effective board.

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham publish the agenda and minutes to the Community Safety Partnership Board, alongside our local strategies which you can access the following links;

[Browse meetings - Community Safety Partnership \(barking-dagenham.gov.uk\)](https://www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk)

[Community safety partnership plan 2023 to 2026 | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbbd.gov.uk)

Executive Summary of the Strategic Needs Assessment of Violence

The strategic needs assessment is intended to enable partners to identify current and long-term issues relating to serious violence and those most vulnerable to involvement in the local area. This provides a greater understanding of established and emerging serious violence trends, priority locations or other high-risk issues.

The strategic needs assessment has been developed following an evidence-based analysis of data relating to violence, as well as broader datasets including those in relation to deprivation and health.

The strategic needs assessment has looked at the critical areas of violence and vulnerability within the definition of serious violence, including violence affecting those under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

In assessing each of the critical areas, the analysis has looked at locations that have a higher risk of violence and temporal factors, such as the times of greater and lesser offending, including the times of day, days of the week and seasonal trends through the year. The analysis has also looked at the profile of victims and offenders of violence, to understand the risks and opportunities for prevention.

An executive summary of the strategic needs assessment can be found in **Appendix A**. Further details, in relation to the summary, and the full copy of the assessment, can be made available to organisations and professionals working in the borough if proportionate. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. To request a copy, please contact the Community Safety Team; CSP@lbbd.gov.uk



Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

Taking account of the Strategic Needs Assessment, the local partnership has devised and agreed several actions to reduce the risks of violence. This is outlined within five objectives. They are based on what local communities have told us, listening to what children and young people have had to say, and our learning so far, regarding serious violence.

We will continue with our current CSP priorities and have devised five principles, in line with our objectives, which are based around *Primary*, *Secondary* and *Tertiary* Preventative measures.

Primary Prevention – Actions taken prior to violence occurring.

Secondary Prevention – Response when violence does occur, addressing the short-term consequences of violence, preventing progression.

Tertiary Prevention – This refers to the long-term response to serious violence.

These five principles, devised via the CSP, are referred to as the Five D's;

▶ **Deter - (Primary Intervention)**

- We will develop our existing early intervention and prevention practices, via evaluation projects, to adopt a best practice approach.
- We will ensure we regularly communicate with providers, young people, and members of the community, sharing intelligence and scrutinising it.

▶ **Disrupt - (Primary Prevention)**

- Using data, intelligence, and enforcement methods, we will disrupt violence and violence related activity.

▶ **Duty – (Secondary Prevention)**

- Halting the progression of serious violence by working with those known to or currently being processed within the criminal justice system, and others on the periphery of it.

▶ **Develop – (Tertiary Prevention)**

- Concentrating on rehabilitation for those who have committed serious violence and support for victims.

▶ **Data - (Primary, Secondary & Tertiary)**

- We will use data analysis throughout our intervention stages, to review, monitor and measure our effectiveness.

The CSP has agreed the following Five strategic objectives for the next 12 months, to prevent and reduce serious violence. This plan will be reviewed on a continuous basis, with contributions made from across the multi-agency partnership.

► **Objective One:**

Review of the Community Safety Partnership Governance

A review will be conducted into the current working arrangements of the Community Safety Partnership.

Evaluating the current effectiveness of the senior structure, as well as interoperability between the CSP and the Safeguarding Children Partnership, Adults safeguarding board and the health and wellbeing board, will ensure a public health approach to reducing violence.

This will allow for greater accountability of duty holders and assurances that the community are being kept up to date with the changes and emerging themes surrounding serious violence. Duty holders and partners will be asked to engage in this process, in addition to allowing residents and service users to contribute, where appropriate.

► **Objective Two:**

Commitment to the evaluation and researching of violence reduction and prevention interventions.

The CSP values the importance of evaluating past and present violence reduction initiatives.

The CSP will avail of all viable opportunities to facilitate the analysis of available data produced during both short term and long-term violence reduction projects and services operating on the borough.

The aim of this objective is to be able to increase the volume of learning around ‘what works’ in this field to help better target funding opportunities in the future. It will also offer guidance and advice internally between departments and externally, when considering our local investments.

The research could take several different approaches, for example:

- academic research
- peer reviews
- evaluation of a programme/ intervention
- youth led research.
- ethnographic research
- surveys (local areas)
- Learning and development for Local Authority to better utilise evaluation and research methodologies.

► Objective Three:

Prioritising Knife Crime and Robbery offences

(Review of the provision of services, regarding Violence and vulnerability, affecting people under 25, in response to the Strategic Needs Assessment)

The increase in the proportion of victims being threatened with knives or victims believing a knife to be present at the time of the violence and exploitation offences, in the latest 12 months, is from personal robbery offences.

In the 24 months to May 2023, **52% of offences with a knife crime flag / feature code, were personal robbery offences.**

If there was a reduction in personal robbery offences, this should also result in a reduction in knife crime offences.

Working with Duty Holders and partners, the CSP will directly address the key findings from SNA, including the recommendations, in line with initiatives already in place on Borough.

Actions will include;

► Identifying and addressing intelligence gaps in the data.

For example, requesting an up-to-date gang's profile for the Borough, which was being updated at the time of the SNA.

► Identifying victim and suspect profiles.

It is mainly young males who are both perpetrators and victims of robbery.

► Review of current resources, in response to these identified profiles.

Expanding the 'Lost Hours' project which concentrates on keeping young people diverted from serious violence after school.

► Targeting Hotspots

Directing enforcement resources to key locations, such as Barking Town Centre and Dagenham Heathway, at peak days and times.

46% of offences take place between 3pm – 9pm ***which coincides with commuting times to school, School lunch times, commuting from school and after school hours.***

► Offender Management

Working closely with outreach providers, YJS, social services and probation, to better understand the perpetrator profile and their interactions with the criminal justice system (i.e. reoffending rates).

Current Arrangements

Some of the current working arrangements already in place to tackle robbery are via the Mayor of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Robbery Grant Fund. Through the grant, a range of interventions and services were commissioned to support the reduction in robbery offences within the borough.

Spark2Life were commissioned to provide detached outreach, engaging young people in public settings, and signposting them into support services particularly within the Lost Hours, between 3-7 after school hours and school holidays. The staff were able to build relationships with young people, local businesses, spaces where young people frequent with a view to provide support. Spark2Life supported the identification and defusing of situations that have the potential to result in high harm crimes such as robbery and report to the Council and new hotspot areas of trends relation to high harm crimes. During 2023/24 Spark2Life detached caseworks conducted outreach sessions in the following areas;

- Dagenham Heathway
- Barking Station
- Barking Market
- Gascoigne Estate
- Harts Lane
- Becontree
- Becontree Heath
- Heath Park Estate
- Parsloes Park
- Dagenham East
- Eastbrook
- Cook Road (Dagenham Leisure Park)
- Thames View
- Pond Field Park
- Barking Park
- Mayesbrook Park
- Tallow Close
- Chadwell Heath
- Marks Gate

Spark2Life supported the identification and defusing of situations that have the potential to result in high harm crimes such as robbery and report to the Council and new hotspot areas of trends relation to high harm crimes.



Another strand within the MOPAC Robbery Grant fund was ‘*Stribe/Tootoot*’ which is a real time reporting tool that allows the council to create and shape focused questions so that targeted work can be done to address high harm crimes like serious violence and robbery. The tool allowed for residents to scan QR codes placed around the borough including transport hubs and bus routes to answer questions, report issues and provide feedback through both qualitative and quantitative data. The real time insights were populated into a dashboard which allowed the council to review the data sets, crime types and characteristics of those reporting. Below highlights some of the data captured through resident engagement.

Data collected through Tootoot supported informing public place improvements in safety and better understanding the data of robbery and serious violence, support with signposting and allowed for insight and evaluation.

Combating Drugs Partnership

Also relevant to knife crime and robbery is the Combating drugs partnership which is a response to the government’s 10-year drug strategy, which introduced local Combating Drugs Partnerships (CDP). The CDP provides a collaborative approach to understanding and addressing the issues around drug related offences that have significant impact on the borough and those who live, visit and work in LBBD. Our CDP partnership sits within the Operational Substance Misuse Board under the CSP Board. The purpose of the CDP is to have a strong partnership that brings together all the relevant organisations and key individuals, ensuring that local organisations work jointly to agree operational and strategic priorities, ensure that the delivery objectives by commissioned organisations are of sufficient quality to impact supply and distribution of illegal drugs and share intelligence in relation to emerging or underrepresented community’s needs, and how to support stronger integration.

The CDP have been responsible for delivering the following;

- Subwise (Young People’s) Service, staff have undertaken Refuge (DA) training and Subwise has delivered drug and alcohol training to Refuge.
- St Luke’s Service will also plan a DA training from Refuge.
- Cranstoun will be delivering perpetrator awareness sessions to St Luke’s (Adult) Service on 28th February 2024.
- Commissioned Refuge who attends St Luke’s every Friday’s.
- Funded Cranston to deliver two Men and Masculinity sessions from St Luke’s Service (Monday & Wednesday)
- Commissioned our Subwise Service who work closely with Refuge

This Partnership is also extremely important to reducing domestic abuse and violence against women and girls which are objectives set out further on.

MPS Barking Town Centre Plan

Currently in place and operational is the MPS Barking Town Centre Plan. The Policing Team relaunched in December 2021 which led to the formation of 3 teams, led by 1 Inspector, and comprising of 3 Sergeants and 21 Police Constables. The overall intention of the Team continues to address locally identified priorities within in Barking Town Centre. As part of the Metropolitan Police's (MPS) Neighbourhood Policing Initiative, Barking Town Centre team is one of 12 across the London, within the MPS Basic Command Unit structure. The Team is focused upon targeting individuals, intent on committing criminality and violence within the footprint. Furthermore, key values aligned to the ethos of the team, look to utilise, and apply local knowledge and a community focused, centric, and engaging approach to engaging residents, commuters, retailers, and employees operating within Barking Town Centre footprint.

The Barking Town Centre Team offers an enhanced policing presence, within the footprint and vicinity, working alongside Local Authority Community Safety Departments, situated within CCTV, Community Enforcement & Parking Enforcement Teams, Trading Standards, Housing Officers, Anti-social Behaviour Teams, and Social Services, working to proactively and actively reduce opportunities and activities of criminality, violence, and anti-social behaviour within Barking Town Centre footprint, through partnership, shared ownership, and expertise. Fundamental to visibility has been several key initiatives and operations that enhance policing presence in the area.

Key Ward Priorities are identified as (i) Robbery, (ii) Violence with Injury related offense, (iii) VAWG related offences (Street Harassment, Sexual Offences, Harassment, Assaults), (iv) Thefts (Retail and Person), (v) Prostitution and (vi) Anti-Social Behaviour fuelled by Drug Dealing and Supply into the area (Class A and B, including Nitrous Oxide) classified as Street Drinking, Aggressive Begging and Begging and Littering.

New Dagenham Heathway Police Team

Launched in January 2024, Dagenham Heathway has a new dedicated police team in place to focus on issues specifically within Dagenham Heathway with the aim to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The team provide high visibility presence around Dagenham Heathway and respond to issues impacting the local community, listen to community concerns and support local businesses.

Barking and Dagenham Council's enforcement team work collaboratively with the police to tackle any issues and ensuring that residents feel safer and reassured.

► Objective Four:

Prioritise Domestic Abuse offences

[Review Domestic Abuse provisions in line with the SNA]

In the 12 months to May 2023 there were 3670 domestic abuse offences in Barking & Dagenham. Barking & Dagenham had the highest rate of Domestic Abuse per 1,000 population across London. Domestic abuse offences are to be prioritised.

Working with Duty Holders and partners, the CSP will directly address the key findings from SNA, including the recommendations, in line with initiatives already in place on Borough.

Actions will include;

► **Identifying and addressing intelligence gaps in the data.**

Such as, in relation to the proportion of domestic abuse suspects who are repeat offenders and victims who are repeat victims.

► **Identifying victim and suspect profiles**

For example, 20% of violence and exploitation offences affecting young people under the age of 25 were flagged as Domestic Abuse. This was the highest flag type recorded ranging from 1% in personal robbery offences to 76% in non-fatal strangulation or suffocation offences.

► **Review of current resources in response to the profiles**

Focussing our efforts on targeting schools to reach victims under 25.

► **Targeting Hotspots**

Consider directly targeting areas with high rates of DA through local community groups and health services, with an engagement strategy. Using Public Health services to achieve this objective.

► **Offender Management**

Working closely with outreach providers, social services, and probation to better understand the perpetrator profile and their interactions with the criminal justice system (i.e. reoffending rates). Explore reoffending rates in line with the delivery of perpetrator programmes.

Further information about our current Domestic Abuse services can be found on the website;

[Domestic abuse and sexual violence services | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](https://lbbd.gov.uk)

► **Objective Five:**

Prioritise Sexual Offences and VAWG

[Review VAWG and sexual offences provisions in line with the SNA]

Data shows the overall number of Sexual offences reported to and recorded by the Police for Barking & Dagenham in the last 12-24 months and during the longer term of the last 5 years are up +10.3% and 23.6% respectively. However, these offence types are still considered to be significantly under reported.

Sexual offences can be broken down into its offence sub-group of “Other Sexual Offences” and “Rape” offences. There has been an increase in both offence types.

When using rates per 1,000 population for offences in the 12 months to March 2023, Barking & Dagenham is above the London average for overall Sexual offences.

Working with Duty Holders and partners, the CSP will directly address the key findings from SNA, including the recommendations, in line with initiatives already in place on Borough.

Actions will include;

► **Identifying and addressing intelligence gaps in the data.**

An example would be in relation to the victim profiles for these offences. whilst analysis shows females aged 1-29 years are overrepresented and 1-17-year-olds account for 47% of victims for 'other sexual offences' due to the age range beginning at 1 year, the average age of the victims requires establishing.

► **Identifying victim and suspect profiles.**

Schools can be a focus of both behavioural change projects and victim/reporting support, aligning with the needs assessment.

► **Review of current resources in response to the profiles**

The CSP will review the safer haven project to aid women and girls in the areas of the Borough, it is needed in most.

► **Targeting Hotspots**

Directing resources to key locations, such as Barking Town Centre and Dagenham Heathway, at peak days and times.

► **Offender Management**

Working closely with outreach providers, social services and probation to better understand the perpetrator profile and their interactions with the criminal justice system (i.e. reoffending rates).

Tackling violence against women and girls has and continues to be one of LBBD's main priorities. The Community Safety Partnership team have created the Woman's Safety Group, a partnership meeting to address women's safety in public spaces. The vision/mission statement that will be delivered by the Women's Safety Group is as followed.

- We aim to improve the perception of safety within the borough for women and girls.
- Improve the perception of safety within the borough for women and girls.
- Increase the actuality of safety within the borough for women and girls.
- Reduce incidents of violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and crime against women and girls.
- Address perpetrators negative behaviour.
- Increase a positive image of the borough in partnership and the local community.
- Reduce the acceptability of violence against women and girls amongst young people.

The role of the group will

- Monitor monthly and review annually the progress of the delivery of the Women's Safety Action Plan.
- Report progress regularly and when requested to the Women's Safety Group, the VAWG group and the CSP Board regarding areas of non-achievement and ways to improve progress of the delivery of actions plans and agreed outcomes.

- Ensure that all initiatives are carried out in a framework that promotes women and girls' safety.
- Ensure that activities promote a positive image of the borough, the Partnership, and the local community.
- Review the feedback from the Women's Safety Forum and lead on addressing VAWG issues within a public space.

The Met police have made VAWG a strategic priority following the publication of the first action plan, addressing VAWG. Within the plan the Met have included their 10 commitments which work on building trust and confidence, targeting perpetrators and a focus of safe spaces. You can find more information of the Met VAWG action plan and 10 commitments using the following link [VAWG action plan: Our 10 commitments | Metropolitan Police](#)

For further information on Barking and Dagenham Council's VAWG services, please see our website; [Domestic abuse and sexual violence services | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](#)

► Objective Six:

Improve resident perceptions of safety on the Borough.

As already outlined, the council's Community Safety Partnership Team recently commissioned 'Stribe' to provide community interaction tools, reporting and signposting.

We will run another survey in the following 12 months which will re-evaluate residents' perception of safety and whether they have been a victim of Personal Robbery. We will actively seek to reduce the number of residents that do not feel safe on the Borough.



Tackling violence against women and girls has and continues to be one of LBBDD's main priorities. The Community Safety Partnership team have created the Woman's Safety Group, a partnership meeting to address women's safety in public spaces.

Themes

The partnership has agreed a range of activity to reduce the risks of violence and vulnerability, in support of our strategic objectives. These are set out within a Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan. This plan contains information for which disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The plan, whilst not available to the public, contains seven different themes which contain both mandatory actions, in addition to optional ones.

The themes within the local plan, which align with the objectives set out in this strategy, are as follows.

- 1. Governance**- this provides an oversight of the leadership and governance of violence reduction locally, detailing the senior leadership structure as well as interoperability between Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Adults Safeguarding Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reduce violence.
- 2. Analysis and Enforcement**- understanding of how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally, including the Strategic Needs Assessment, monthly tasking meetings and using wider public health data.
- 3. Reducing Access to Weapons**- how partners are working jointly to minimise access including using Trading Standard initiatives and weapons sweeps.
- 4. Safeguarding and Educating Young people**- contains actions that include focussing on reducing exclusions, contextual safeguarding, support for children in care and care leavers, working with parents and carers and ensuring schools are safe and inclusive spaces.
- 5. Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence**- ensuring that local delivery works closely with communities to reduce violence including the Voluntary and Community Sector and in particular young people, who are most adversely affected by violence.
- 6. Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability** ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are most vulnerable to being exploited.
- 7. Positive Diversion from Violence**- recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them before or to move away from criminality.

As the serious violence definition includes domestic abuse and sexual violence, activity is also being undertaken in support of this through a range of actions, this has included modifying existing actions to encompass this (where relevant) as well as including a new section of actions listed below.

The definition of the Serious Violence Duty specifies domestic abuse and sexual offences. In London, we recognise that these are clear forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Mayor of London would encourage you to consider the wider context of VAWG, specifically the associated behaviours and offences that contribute to violence such as crimes committed in the name of 'honour,' forced marriage, harmful practices (e.g. female genital mutilation), prostitution and sexual harassment, wherever possible.

The domestic abuse and sexual violence specific actions are:

- *To ensure strong referral pathways from statutory services into local and pan-London specialist support services, including ‘by and for’ provision for all victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences.*
- *To ensure all victims and perpetrators can access the support they need- including information on how they can access this support and where they can find more information. This might include the consideration of cross-borough reciprocal agreements.*
- *Co-ordinate an appropriate local awareness training offer for key professionals coming in to contact with survivors and/or perpetrators- such as health, education, social care, and justice- which is refreshed annually.*
- *Local Authority departments such as children’s social care, housing, adults social care and community safety, to ensure policies are in place regarding working with perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual offences when safeguarding children and the non-abusive parent.*

Engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, young people, and local business

Engagement with the voluntary and community sector (VCS), businesses and communities and young people is paramount to support a holistic partnership approach, and to determine how local funding streams are aligned to activity tackling violence.

Carrying out a review of the CSP, in addition to committing to continuous review of the strategy and serious needs assessment, will allow for the CSP partnership to monitor progress and performance and ensure it continues to align to priority areas.

Local communities, the voluntary and community sector (VCS), local businesses and young people have an important role to play, in violence reduction. Our local violence and vulnerability action plan contain a range of activity that involves communities and neighbourhoods in reducing violence and the action within these, should support the strategy.

All CSP members and duty holders have been presented with the serious violence needs assessment (SNA). This is forming the basis for detached outreach providers, and the VCS to direct their services accordingly.

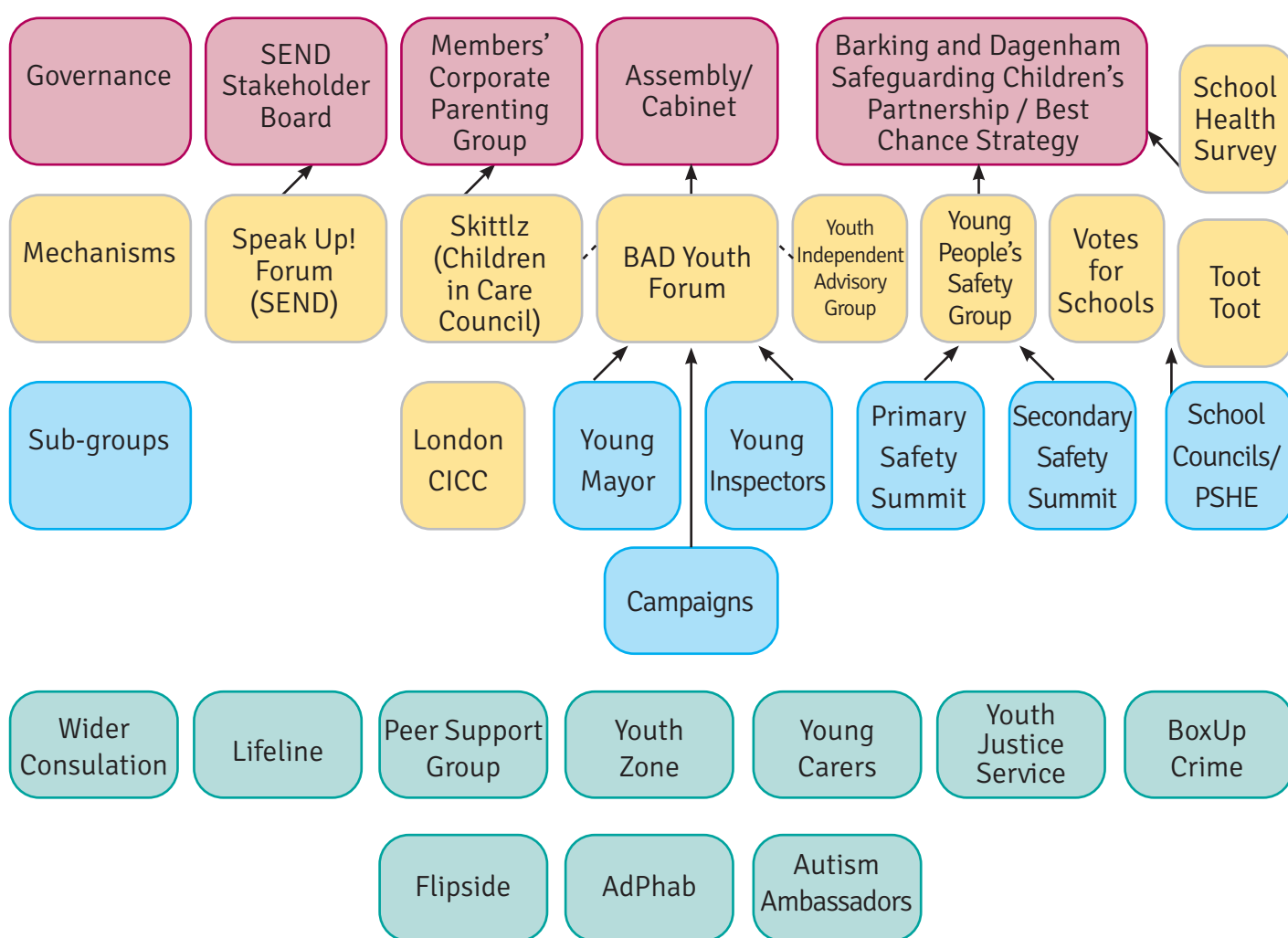
Several resident and community engagement initiatives are already in place which will continue. Further opportunities to use these forums and expand upon them, to address violence reduction, will be utilised.

Barking and Dagenham Council has a well-established BAD (Barking & Dagenham) Youth Forum which acts as the Council’s youth parliament and support our statutory duties as set out in the new Department for Education (DfE) guidance - [Statutory guidance for local authorities on services to improve young people’s well-being - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-services-to-improve-young-peoples-well-being). Secondary schools are invited to nominate reps every year, aged 13-19 (up to 25 if the young person has special educational needs or a disability). The Forum is made up of two sub-groups that meet weekly; Community Action sub-group focussing on campaigns and

issues most important to young people and Young Mayor’s sub-group. The Youth Forum also operates a Young Inspectors programme. It has around 50-60 members annually, with some being returning members from the previous year. The Young Mayor is also elected annually.

Barking and Dagenham Council also works closely with schools to host Primary and Secondary safety summits are held every two years. Their purpose is to seek young people’s views around issues related to personal and community safety across online, school, and community settings, as well as within peer groups. Other major pieces of engagement work include the School Health Education Unit survey which is held every two years and sees around 6000 responses to a detailed survey around health and health related issues, and the VotesforSchools resource and subscription service. In addition to the Youth Forum’s sub-groups, it also hosts 3-4 Youth Independent Advisory Group meetings a year which sees young people meet with the Police to discuss a range of issues.

See map of engagement structures below:



The council is committed to engaging and working alongside local businesses to improve community safety within the borough. Through the launch of the Safe Haven scheme, the council have been able to support residents and encourage the borough to be a safe place for residents to live and work. Safe Havens provide a welcoming place where people can get immediate help when they need it. We are continuing to promote the scheme and encouraging local businesses to sign up to become a Safe Haven. You can access the list of current Safe Havens on the council website using the following link www.lbbd.gov.uk/safe-havens/safe-haven-scheme

The council is committed to continue to engage and listen to;

- Local business through community safety initiatives such as the Safe Haven project.
- Young people via BAD Youth Forum, Youth Safety Summit, and Youth IAG.
- Women, via our women’s safety group and providers forums.
- Expand on platforms already in place, such as the Safer Neighbourhood Board and Stop and search panel, making them more inclusive and representative of the Borough.

Identified funding streams or resources that can be used by the partnership for prevention and reduction activities

Name and source of fund	Description of activity	Funding breakdown 2022/2023	Funding breakdown 2023/2024
MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-25	Commissioned youth Services, (e.g. mentoring/sparks to life etc) Ages 11-25 Mapping etc	CVS: £125,305 IOM & ECINS: £30,000 Out of Court Disposals: £40,000 YARM: £80,000 Mentoring for YJS & EGYV: £80,000 ReMove Abuse: £23,770	BKT (Consequences Exhibition): £75,085 CVS: £100,469 IOM & ECINS: £7,000 Out of Court Disposals: £40,000 YARM: £80,000 Mentoring for YJS & EGYV: £80,000 Perpetrator Programme: £30,000

MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit Funding	Provision of serious violence services/ support for the LCPF VRU and Capacity Building	Capacity Building: BKT: £3,360 LifeLine: £41,000 S3A: £27,333 EWC: £20,500 VRU Main Grant: £145,000 – YARM Workers	Capacity Building: LifeLine: £86,105 VRU Main Grant: £145,000 - - YARM Workers
MOPAC Serious Violence Duty Funding	Detached outreach provision in partnership with BoxUp Crime and London Borough of Redbridge. Development of the Serious violence needs assessment and duty	£10,767.58	£39,728.86
Safer Neighbourhood Board	Commissioned services through the SNB grant.	Arc Theatre's Stop 'Stop and Think' (£4,000) Arc Theatre's 'No Excuses' (£4,000) Peer2Peer's 'Lives Before Knives' (£4,653) Stop Hate UK's 24/7 Helpline (£4,500)	Arc Theatre's Stop 'Stop and Think' (£4,000) Arc Theatre's 'No Excuses' (£4,000) Peer2Peer's 'Lives Before Knives' (£4,653) Stop Hate UK's 24/7 Helpline (£4,500)

SVNA 2023 Executive summary: For Serious Violence Strategy

► Theme 1: Place and population:

The social, demographic and economic characteristics of the local population: Barking and Dagenham is a fast emerging and diverse London borough. The borough is continuously seeing an increasing number of residents and currently has the highest proportion of residents under the age of 16 in England and Wales (26.1%). With the regeneration and expected increases in housing the population is projected to grow by another 4.4K (2.0%) from 217K in 2022 to 222K in the ten years to 2032. The borough is set to become more diverse. By 2030, BAME residents are projected to make up 59.7% of the borough's population.

The Mayor of London is increasingly concerned that the spiralling cost of living will exacerbate poverty, deprivation, and the lack of positive opportunities for young Londoners, which evidence shows can be key causes and drivers of violent crime. Barking and Dagenham Council recognises the impact that the cost-of-living crisis will have on residents. Analysis by the insight hub has shown that Barking and Dagenham is ranked as the 13th most vulnerable local authority to the cost-of-living crisis (out of 307). The local poverty tracker highlights Barking and Dagenham as having the 2nd highest levels of unemployment in the country, the second highest number of residents in the country on Universal Credit, and the fifth highest on housing benefits. Levels of fuel poverty is also an issue for the borough residents. The council is proactively working together with partners looking at ways to impact on demand and meet the challenges that residents are facing.

Local Public Health Characteristics of the area: Key challenges in the borough include high rates of obesity and poor healthy life expectancy (the number of years lived without chronic illness or disability). Broader social challenges impacting on health include poor school readiness and high rates of economic activity and domestic abuse.

The local crime and community safety governance arrangements: There are clear and established links between the Barking & Dagenham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and other boards and partnerships that can contribute to the prevention and reduction of serious violence such as the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and the Children Safeguarding Partnership and their various sub-groups.

An annual Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment is completed which recommends the priority areas that the CSP should be focussing on in the year ahead. The assessment also informs the CSP Plan which is refreshed annually and re-written every three years. CSP strategic sub-groups are then put in place to address the priority areas and coordinate activity. There are various operational meetings that frequently take place and feed into the strategic sub-groups. The structure also supports a strong oversight and monitoring of the local Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Serious Violence Action Plan which is developed on an annual basis.

At the time of writing the Community safety team is currently reviewing the existing CSP governance structure to ensure it allows for effective monitoring of relevant policies and strategies to drive forward the delivery of priority areas for the CSP.

The local community safety priorities: The current priorities are:

- Keeping children and young people safe
- Reduce reoffending.
- Standing up to hate crime and intolerance.
- Tackling crimes that affect people the most (including ASB).
- Tackling serious violence (including violence with injury, personal robbery & knife crime).
- Tackling violence against women and girls (including domestic abuse and VAWG related offences).

The current priorities align with the priority areas set out in the Metropolitan Police's The Met Direction: Our Strategy 2018-2025 and the Mayor's Office for Police And Crime (MOPAC) Policing and Crime Plan 2021-2025.

► Theme 2: Risk and Protective factors:

Risk and protective factors for violence can span from individual to societal level and there is an overlap in the determinants and prevalence of violent behaviours, mental health problems and substance misuse problems.

The local protective factors which may contribute to the prevention of serious violence: When considering factors that have the potential to be preventative of serious violence at the earliest stages, the school readiness of Barking and Dagenham pupils shows potential for improvement.

The local risk factors which may exacerbate levels of serious violence: When compared to the London and England averages, Barking and Dagenham compares unfavourably for the following risk factors:

- **Domestic abuse offences:** highest rate in London.
- **The percentage of the population aged 16 and over with a common mental disorder:** higher than both the London and England averages.
- **The percentage of the population who are in contact with secondary mental health services and on the Care Plan Approach that are also in paid employment and aged 18 to 69:** Lower than the England average.
- **The rate of new referrals to secondary mental health services per 100,00 residents aged under 18:** Higher than the London average.
- **The rate of inpatient stays at secondary mental health services per 100,000 residents:** Above the London and England rates.

- **The rate of admissions to hospital for violence (including sexual violence):** Higher than both the London and England averages.
- **The proportion of its population aged under 18:** Highest of all local authorities in England and Wales.
- The developing Barking and Dagenham Special Educational Needs Assessment (SEND) highlights that there were 1,874 residents in the borough with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC plans) in 2022: The top needs identified in B&D were:
 - Autistic spectrum disorder (32%)
 - Speech, Language and Communication needs (18%),
 - Severe Learning Difficulty (14%) and
 - Social and Emotional mental health (SEMH) needs (11%).
 - People with SEND are likely to have difficulties in accessing good employment opportunities and are more likely to suffer from a range of physical and mental health conditions.
- **First Time Entrants to youth justice system per 100,000:** worse than the England average although this shows a trend of improvement in recent years.
- **The percentage of children under 16 in absolute low-income families:** the third highest percentage of any London borough and far more than the London and England averages.
- **Rate of absences from schools:** although Barking and Dagenham had a lower overall absentee rate than London and England, it had a higher rate of **unauthorised** absence from school.
- **% of adults feel lonely all or some of the time:** higher than the national average.
- **Deprivation:** The Office for National Statistics 2021 census found 62.4% of households in Barking and Dagenham are subject to 1 or more forms of deprivation, this is the highest level of deprivation experienced by any London borough.
- **Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019) score:** significantly higher than the England-wide score.
- **Households threatened with homelessness within 56 days:** Barking and Dagenham rate is higher than the London and England rates.
- **Households per 1,000 were assessed as being homeless:** above the national average.

The local Youth Offending Team (YOT) / Youth Justice Service (YJS) cohort and offence makeup:

There have been year-on-year falls in the number of Barking & Dagenham Children receiving a caution or sentence (the YJS Cohort). In the latest year, 15% fewer children received a caution or sentence than the previous year. There has been a 38% decrease in the number of Barking and Dagenham children who received a caution or sentence compared with 9 years ago.

In 2021/22 Barking and Dagenham children aged 15 to 17 made up 83% of the local YJS cohort. The YJS mainly works with 10–17-year-olds. Boys made up 83% of the Barking and Dagenham offending population compared to 51% of the local 10 to 17-year-old population. This has been a stable trend over the last 9 years.

In 2022 Mixed children and White children are statistically over-represented in the youth offending cohort. Proportionally, Black children were more likely to commit a serious offence with a gravity score in the higher band (of five to eight). 25% of all proven offences committed by Black children were serious offences.

The number of proven offences committed by children fell by 22% from the previous year to 291, the lowest in the time series reflecting regional and national trends. Whilst the number of proven offences committed by children has fallen for most crime types when compared with 9 years ago, the proportions of these offence groups has been changing. Violence Against the Person Offences have seen the greatest increase in proportion, gradually increasing from 23% in 2013/4 to 33% in 2021/22.

In 2021/22 the Barking and Dagenham YJS cohort had the 3rd highest overall proven offence rate in London. Barking and Dagenham had the 3rd highest, 2nd highest and 5th highest rate in 2021/22 for Robbery, Theft and Handling and Violence against the person offences respectively.

Robbery has a higher gravity score of 6 and was the most serious offence type committed by the YJS cohort in 2021/22 a trend which has continued from previous years and a trend that is seen across regional and national figures.

Following the national trend, the rate of First Time Entrants in Barking and Dagenham is in decline. The data below shows that between the reporting periods October 2018-September 2019 and October 2021-September 2022 the rate has fallen by 54.5% The rate in Barking and Dagenham has consistently remained above that of both the London and national rates. However, recent reporting periods indicate a narrowing in the gap.

The cohort of children known to social care for a violence related concern: Barking and Dagenham has had a higher rate of Children in Need (CIN) than both the England and London average since the year ending March 2013. In the Year ending March 2022 Barking and Dagenham had the 7th highest CIN rate per 10,000 10–17-year-olds in London placing it in the top quartile in London.

In 2023 the highest factor identified at the end of the CIN assessment was “domestic abuse – parent”. In comparison to other London boroughs Barking and Dagenham had the 2nd highest number of CIN assessments identifying parent domestic abuse as a factor in the year ending 2023.

Other factors relevant to this serious violence needs assessment are:

- Gangs 181, 2nd highest identified factors out of London boroughs
- Child Sexual Exploitation 189, highest identified factors out of London boroughs
- Child Criminal Exploitation 231, 3rd highest identified factors out of London boroughs (where they have recorded and reported it)
- Going missing 209, highest identified factors out of London boroughs
- Trafficking 44, 3rd highest identified factors out of London boroughs (where they have recorded and reported it)

The number of children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) in Barking & Dagenham has increased year on year. In the year ending 31 March 2023 the number of children on a Child Protection Plan in Barking & Dagenham is at its highest level in the last 10 years. When expressed as a rate per 10,000 10–17-year-olds, Barking & Dagenham has a higher rate of Children on a CPP compared to the London and National average over the last 5 years. In the year ending March 2023 Barking and Dagenham had the highest rate of Children on a CPP in London (at any point in the year). The main category of abuse was “Emotional” (48.5%) followed by “Neglect” (35.8%) consistent with previous years.

Children Looked After: When expressed as a rate per 10,000 10-17-year-olds Barking and Dagenham has been above the London average for the last 5 years. On the 31st March 2022 Barking and Dagenham had 413 Looked After Children giving a rate of 65 per 10,000 0-17 year olds placing Barking and Dagenham 10th highest in London, just outside the top quartile range.

At 31st March 2022 the top 3 categories of need of Looked After Children in Barking and Dagenham were 1) Abuse or neglect (68% of cases), Family dysfunction (16% of cases) and 3) Absent parenting (8% of cases). This is consistent over the last 5 years and mirrors regional and national trends.

Barking and Dagenham has lower levels of Looked After Children who go missing compared to regional and national averages, but higher levels of Looked After Children who were absent as well as repeat absentees from placements without authorisation.

The cohort of adults known to social care for a violence related concern: This area will need to be further explored in the lead up to the next assessment using local social care data.

The cohort of families known to the Supporting Families programme with crime and/or domestic abuse needs: At the time of writing there were zero successful outcomes under the new framework but potentially there are 72 families who have a crime and/or domestic abuse needs who have successfully achieved all their outcomes which needs to be quality assured and certified. The results of which will need to be reviewed and explored in the lead up to the next assessment.

The local substance misuse landscape: The substance misuse landscape in Barking and Dagenham reveals significant challenges and opportunities for intervention. In 2018-19, approximately 1.4% of the local adult population aged 18 or over were estimated to have an alcohol dependency. Notably, 9.6% of individuals aged 15-64 were using opiates and/or crack cocaine between 2016-17. Within the context of serious violent crime in the borough, addiction and substance abuse have the potential to worsen serious violent crimes through numerous mechanisms. For example, acquisitive crimes made to fund addiction escalating into violent crimes, violent crimes made as part of the drug trade, and violent crimes committed under the influence of drugs or alcohol, for example incidents of domestic abuse, are some mechanisms through which substance misuse can exacerbate serious violent crime. Rehabilitation of those with substance misuse issues therefore has the potential to positively impact serious violent crime. Unfortunately, only a small fraction (5.7%) of opiate users successfully completed treatment without re-presentation within 6 months in 2020, in contrast to a more favourable 37.1% completion rate for alcohol users undergoing structured treatment.

To address these challenges, several recommendations emerge. Partners in Barking and Dagenham are urged to increase participation in both drug and alcohol treatment, with special emphasis on the latter, especially among socially deprived individuals. Enhancing support for individuals with dual

dependencies on substances and mental health issues is also recommended. Additional efforts are required to assist street homeless individuals struggling with substance problems, and to prevent harm to children and families affected by parental substance misuse.

The local Probation cohort and offence makeup: Borough level figures were not available at the time of writing, but work is taking place with Probation to see if this can be developed for future assessments as well as showing trends over time. Caseload figures for Adult offenders at a PDU level were provided (Havering and Barking & Dagenham combined).

Violence was the main offence type committed by individuals on the Probation caseload, followed by drugs possession and drug trafficking offences.

The adults with the Very High / High Risk Of Serious Harm (ROSH) scores were individuals on the caseload for Sexual offences (42% to 58%), Robbery offences (48%) and Violence offences (40%).

Criminogenic Needs are the factors cited by offenders which contributed to their offending, as identified by probation officers undertaking risk assessments. The highest criminogenic needs for adult offenders involved the following offence types were:

- Violence offences: Attitude (49% of adults on the caseload), ETE (29%), Lifestyle (37%), Relationships (30%) and Thinking and Behaviour (30%).
- Robbery offences: Attitude (40%), Drugs (32%), ETE (34%), Finance (43%), Lifestyle (43%)
- Sexual offences (not child): Attitude (43%), Lifestyle (35%), Relationships (35%), Thinking & Behaviour (47%).
- Soliciting / Prostitution: Attitude (50%), ETE (50%), Finance: (38%), Lifestyle (44%).

► Theme 3: Violence Profile - Violence and Exploitation affecting under 25s:

Knife Crime overview: In the 24 months to May 2023 52% of offences with a knife crime feature code were personal robbery offences. Analysis showed that personal robbery is the main offence type driving overall knife crime offences in Barking and Dagenham. This is because a knife is being used to threaten the victim or perceived to be present by the victim at the time of the offence. Personal robberies that result in a knife injury to the victim are much lower in comparison. A reduction in personal robbery offences should also result in a reduction in overall knife crime offences.

Of the all the offence types to be analysed (Homicide, Grievous bodily harm, Actual bodily harm, Rape, Assault by penetration, Sexual assault, Personal robbery, Threats to kill), as a standalone offence type Personal Robbery made up 25% of the volume of all serious violence offences but 31% of all estimated harm. The socio-economic costs of personal robbery were estimated to cost between £5 million for recorded offences to £21.5 million when under reporting is accounted for.

There has been an increase in the proportion of victims being threatened with knives or victims believing a knife to be present at the time of the violence and exploitation offence in the latest 12 months to May

2023 compared to the 12 months to May 2022. The increase is from personal robbery offences.

Personal Robbery is an offence to prioritise.

Offence flags: 20% of violence and exploitation offences affecting young people under the age of 25 were flagged as Domestic Abuse. This was the highest flag type recorded ranging from 1% in personal robbery offences to 76% in non-fatal strangulation or suffocation offences. All other flags were low including gang flagged offences (0.6%).

Victim demographic profile and disproportionality:

Victim Gender: Males are over-represented as victims in personal robbery offences, murder and most 'violence with injury' offences affecting young people under the age of 25 years. Females are over-represented as victims in all 'Sexual offences' (Rape and Other Sexual offences), 'Threats to Kill offences', 'strangulation and suffocation' and 'racially / religiously aggravated GBH without intent' offences.

Victim Age: Although victims aged 1-17 years make up the most victims in terms of volume & proportions (23.3%), that age group is in line with the borough's make up of 1-17-year-olds (28.0%) for most violence and exploitation offence types as Barking and Dagenham is a young borough.

Victims aged 18-24-year-olds are over-represented across all violence & exploitation offences accounting for 8.7% of the population and 16.1% of victims. There is some variation within offence types. For example:

- Personal Robbery Victim Age: Victims aged 1-24 years accounted for up to 64% of all victims despite making up less than 37% of the population. Within this age group 1-17-year olds accounted for 46.1% of victims of personal robbery offences and are over-represented when compared to the borough make up (28%). There has been a notable increase in the proportion of victims aged 1-17 years for personal robbery offences in the 12 months to May 23 when compared to the previous 12 months.

Victim Ethnicity: Overall, victims of a White ethnicity were over-represented. This includes over representation within 'personal robbery' offences, 'Sexual Offences', 'Violence Without Injury' offences ('Threats to Kill') and 'Violence Against the Person' offences most of which are 'ABH and other injury' offences.

Victims of a Black ethnicity are over-represented as victims in all 'Sexual offences' and the more serious 'Violence Against the person' offences including 'homicide (murder)', 'attempted murder', 'possession of items to endanger life' and 'Wounding or Carrying out an Act Endangering Life' offences.

Perpetrator demographic profile and disproportionality:

Perpetrator Gender: Males are over-represented as suspects in nearly all the selected violence and exploitation offences affecting young people under the age of 25 years.

Perpetrator Age: Suspects of violence and exploitation offences aged 18 to 39 years are overrepresented (x2) accounting for 8.7% of the population and 18.1% of suspects. There is some variation with offence types. For example:

- Personal Robbery perpetrator age: Suspects aged 1-24 years accounted for up to 85% of all suspects of personal robbery offences, despite making up less than 37% of the population. Within that age group 1-17-year-olds accounted for 28.0% of the population and 54.1% of suspects of personal robbery offences. There has not been a notable change compared to the previous 12 months. The age profile is consistent over the last 2 years.

Perpetrator Ethnicity: Overall, suspects of a Black ethnicity are over-represented in the selection of violence and exploitation offences affecting young people under the age of 25 years. This includes personal robbery offences, sexual offences and Violence Against the Person offences including ABH on emergency workers, attempted murder and Wounding or Carrying out an Act Endangering life.

Suspects of a White ethnicity are over-represented in Sexual offences particularly Other sexual offences (sexual assaults) as well as Violence Against the person offences including homicide and non-fatal strangulation and suffocation offences.

How many incidents of violence and exploitation involve multiple perpetrators: Overall, most offences (71%) involve 1 suspect only. This is consistent over the last 2 years. Offences involving the highest proportion of multiple offenders includes Murder (33% 2-4 suspects), Attempted murder (50% 2 to 4 suspects), Possession of weapon to endanger life (100% 2-4 suspects) and personal robbery offences (58% 2-4 suspects).

Offence temporal profile and key locations: 2-year average shows offences are highest in January each year and lowest in August each year. The main consistent hotspots over the last 2 years are Barking Town Centre and Dagenham Heathway with the area around Becontree Station Parsloes Park and Mayesbrook Park emerging more so within the last 12 months to May 2023. Wednesday and Friday are the peak days There is a clear rise in the number of offences committed from 6am to 9am, at 12 noon and the largest increase between 2pm and 4pm before declining steadily throughout the evening to 10pm. This coincides with commuting times to school, school lunch times, commuting from school and after school hours. Overall, 46% of offences were taking place between 3pm and 9pm. Key locations attended by London Ambulance service for serious violence related incidents are in line with the key areas identified above.

Violent Incidents that take place at transport hubs: Barking Station continues to have the highest number of incidents reported out of all the train stations in Barking and Dagenham. Dagenham Heathway continues to have the second highest number of incidents recorded. This is consistent over the last 2 years and consistent across all offence types. For personal robbery offences there is an almost equal split between offences taking place on the train and at the station. All sex related offences take place on the train. Most violence related offences take place at the station.

► Theme 4: Violence Profile – Domestic Abuse:

In the 12 months to May 2023 there was 3670 domestic abuse offences in Barking and Dagenham, up 5% on the previous year. Barking and Dagenham had the highest rate of Domestic Abuse per 1,000 population across London.

In the 24 months to May 2023 40% of “Violence Against the Person” offences, 22% of “Sexual Offences” 14% of Arson & Criminal Damage & Arson” offences, 13% of Miscellaneous offences, and 8.5% of Public Order offences were flagged as domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Victim injury degree: Most victims (47%) receive minor injuries, consistent over the last 2 years. Most offence types flagged as Domestic Abuse which do not involve an injury to the victim include “Threats to Kill”, “Personal Robbery” and some “Sexual” offences. The more serious types of violence offences involve more moderate to serious injuries e.g. “Wounding or Carrying out an act endangering life”, “attempted murder”.

Weapon enabled domestic abuse: Overall proportions of Domestic Abuse offences involving weapons is low.

Victims / survivors of domestic abuse:

Gender: Females are over-represented as victims in all the selected offences that have been flagged as domestic abuse.

Age: Victims aged 18 to 44 years are overrepresented. Within this age range, victims aged 25-29 years are the most significantly over-represented across the Domestic Abuse offences (2 times over-represented). Victims aged 1-17 years and 55 years and above are under-represented.

Ethnicity: Victims of a White Ethnicity are over-represented overall for Domestic Abuse offences. This includes “Other Sexual offences”, and most “Violence Against the Person offences”.

Perpetrators of domestic abuse:

Gender: Males were over-represented as suspects in all the selected domestic abuse offences. Females are under-represented as suspects in all domestic abuse offences.

Age: 18 to 49 years are overrepresented as suspects. Within this age range 25-39- year-olds are the most significantly over-represented (almost X2) across all offences accounting for 24.1% of the population (Office for National Statistics, 2021 Census) and 47.4% of suspects for the selected domestic abuse flagged offences. Suspects aged 1-17 years and 55 Years + are under-represented.

Ethnicity: The suspect ethnicity profile is in line with the borough’s population except for suspects of a “Other” ethnicity category, which are underrepresented.

Domestic abuse victim / perpetrator relationship: Most suspects were a partner or ex-partner to the victim (72%), the next highest group was family members at 25%. This is consistent over the last 2 years and consistent across all offence types.

The locations where domestic abuse takes place: 66% of offences flagged as domestic abuse took place at the victim’s home address. This is consistent over the last two years. This ranges from 56% of rape offences to 67% Violence With Injury offences which were flagged as domestic abuse.

Ward level, LSOA level and hotspot mapping and temporal profile was undertaken to identify key locations to help inform support service delivery. Ward level figures for domestic abuse are also currently available on the metropolitan police crime dashboard (see Metropolitan police website for further details).

► Theme 5: Violence Profile – Sexual Violence:

The short / medium / long term trends of sexual offences: In the short and medium (12-24 months), and long term (5 years) offences are up +10.3% and 23.6% respectively. Increases in recent years will be due to a combination of factors including:

- Improvements in police recording of crimes.
- Greater willingness and confidence of victims to come forward and report such crimes.
- Historic cases being reported following high-profile cases and media coverage.

However, these offence types are still considered to be significantly under reported. Reporting offences to the police is encouraged. There has been an increase in both the sub type offences of “Rape” (mainly made up of rape of females aged 16 and over) and “Other Sexual” offences (mainly made up of sexual assaults of a female aged 13 and over).

Volume and rates of sexual offences: Rates per 1,000 population: in the 12 months to March 2023, Barking & Dagenham is above the London average for overall Sexual offences, 4th highest in London for Rape offences and in line with the London average for “Other Sexual” offences.

Historical cases: 21% of sexual offences reported to the police in the period were historical cases (offences which occurred months, years or decades before being reported to the police). Only current sexual violence offences were used in the analysis.

Flags and feature codes: 26% of sexual violence offences were flagged as domestic abuse. The remaining flags and feature codes are low in comparison. This is consistent when the data is broken down each year.

Weapon enabled sexual violence: Overall, the proportion of current Sexual Violence offences involving a weapon in Barking and Dagenham are low.

The demographics of victims and survivors of sexual violence: Females are over-represented in all sexual violence offences. Victims aged 1 to 29 years old are overrepresented compared to the borough population. For “Other Sexual” offences (sexual assaults) 1-17-year-olds account for 47% of victims. White victims are over-represented in ‘Other Sexual Offences’ (Sexual Assaults). All other ethnic groups are either in line or underrepresented when compared to the borough profile.

The demographics of perpetrators of sexual violence: Males are over-represented as suspects in all sexual violence offences. suspects aged 18 to 44-year-olds are overrepresented when compared to the boroughs population make up. Within that age band suspects aged 18-29 years are the most over-represented across all offences. For rape offences overall suspects aged 18-44 years are over-represented.

Where recorded most suspects of sexual violence offences knew the victim in the following ways:

- 46% of rape suspects are Partners / Ex Partners to the victim.
- A further 34% of rape suspects were a friend of acquaintance to the victim.
- For “other sexual offences” (Sexual Assaults) there is an almost equal split between the suspect knowing the victim as:
 - a partner / ex-partner (20%),
 - a friend / acquaintance (25%)
 - a family member (21%).

The locations where sexual violence takes place:

- 33% of sexual violence offences took place at the victim's home address.
- For Other Sexual offences (Sexual assaults) that took place in the 24 months to May 2023: Barking Town Centre (Abbey ward) has the highest rates.

The temporal profile of sexual violence: For Other Sexual offences (sexual assaults) the 5-year average shows offences decrease in Aug and Dec each year. Offences peak in Jul, Sep and Mar each year. Offences are spread out across the week but peak on a Thursday. 41% of offences occur between 12 noon and 6pm. There are clear peaks between 12 noon and 1pm and again from 4pm to 5pm. This is a consistent pattern when the data is broken down for each year.

► Theme 6: Community Voice

The local community's perception of serious violence: The Council's Community Safety Team have recently commissioned Stribe to provide community interaction tools, reporting and signposting. For this needs assessment Stribe provided an overview of community responses to 2 key areas 1) Do you feel safe in the borough and 2) Personal Robbery. One month of data was available to analyse but this will increase with time.

Do you feel safe in the borough: 223 people responded of which 50% were aged 13 to 17 years old. The next highest age group were responders aged 18 -21 years (22%). Overall, 80% of respondents did not feel safe. When asked a follow up question about what could be done to make them feel safer the most common responses across all age groups included:

- More police officers
- More police patrols in key crime areas including stations, trains and buses (uniformed and undercover)
- More police visibility
- More police stop and search
- More CCTV / Cameras
- More safe spaces / activities for youths
- Robbery: Overall, 89% of respondents had been robbed or knew someone who have been robbed. When asked where the personal robberies took place the most common responses across all age groups included locations which align with the hotspot locations identified in the needs assessment. The Robbery Fund Project Group are working with Stribe to expand on the questions being asked to the community regarding robberies in the borough. The results of which will be fed into future needs assessments.

The local community's trust and confidence in the police: Trust and confidence in police locally and across the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has been impacted by a number of high-profile incidents including the Steven Port murders and the Sarah Everard murder by a serving police officer. A review by Baroness Casey published in 2023 highlighted a number of deep-rooted issues around culture, systems and processes.

Commissioner Mark Rowley has made repairing Londoners trust and confidence a priority and in July 2023 launched “A new Met for London”. This will focus on the mission of “More trust, less crime, High standards” and will be delivered with 3 clear priorities:

- Community crime fighting
- Culture Change
- Fixing the foundations

This will be underpinned by the values of:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Courage
- Empathy
- Accountable

The current mechanism for measuring trust and confidence in local police is the public attitude survey (PAS) which is carried out quarterly. The results for Q3 and Q4 of 2022/23 shows that Barking and Dagenham is either around the MPS average in most areas with minor variations either below or above that average.

The local community’s perceptions on feelings of safety: The council’s 2021 ‘Residents Survey’ shows that residents feelings of safety both during the day (82%) and after dark (43%) have improved over the last two years, but further work is needed to get it back to 2016 levels (85% and 49% respectively). The survey also asks residents on how much they perceive certain problems to be in the area. The indicators which are relevant to this assessment are the perceptions of “people being drunk or rowdy in public spaces” (36% perceive it to be a problem) and the “perceptions of people using or dealing drugs” (53% a perceive it to be a problem). Both have seen an improvement in residents’ perceiving this to be a problem in the local area. Both indicators are at their best performance out of the last 5 surveys.

The perceptions of victims of serious violence, and their views on the service provided by organisations involved in responding to and supporting them: This is currently a gap and this information will need to be obtained in the lead up to future needs assessments.

The findings of any other relevant local resident surveys related to community safety:

The Young Peoples Safety Summit has provided an important insight into the young people’s specific views and perceptions of safety across a variety of domains. It also provides a glimpse into their lived experience. A report is produced following each summit summarising the main findings. The latest Young People’s Safety Summit was held on the 5th May 2022. Young people consider parks as the most unsafe spaces in the borough. Other unsafe spaces are focused on urban hubs, and /or reflect recent incidences of serious youth violence. Young people in the secondary phase report a strong reluctance to report criminal activity for fear of reprisals and do not trust the platforms available to anonymously report incidents.

Feedback from the young people at the Summit hints at an increasingly complex context within which to promote online safety. It also reflects the views of the Barking And Dagenham (BAD) Youth Forum who have expressed concerns around the teaching of e-safety in schools i.e. that is too frequently taught but often not relevant due to the speed with which the context is changing. It is perhaps interesting to reflect on how schools and educators can best meet this challenge.

The Children and young people's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2022 covered secondary school year 12 pupils and is developed and delivered by the Schools Health Education Unit. In the 2022 survey boys and girls were surveyed and asked to respond to various questions covering various topics including "Safety (internet safety, feelings of safety, bullying and harassment and violence & weapons)".

The 2022 survey showed that 8% of pupils said they have been the victim of violence or aggression in the area where they live in the last 12 months. 70% of boys and 64% of girls answered that they at least 'sometimes' worry about people with knives when going out.

44% of pupils said making it easier to report knife carrying could help young people who might get into trouble or get involved with knives. 43% of pupils said more police on the streets could help young people who might get into trouble or get involved with knives.

► Theme 7: Review of existing evidence

The key findings from the latest local community safety strategic assessment: The 2022 and previous Crime & Disorder Strategic Assessment (CDSA) recommended the following priority areas for Barking and Dagenham:

- Keeping Children and young people safe
- Reduce reoffending.
- Standing up to Hate crime and intolerance.
- Tackling crimes that affect people the most (including ASB).
- Tackling serious violence (including violence with injury, personal robbery & knife crime).
- Tackling violence against women and girls (including domestic abuse and VAWG related offences).

Most of the existing local CSP priority areas have been a requirement to further explore throughout this Serious Violence Needs Assessment such as domestic abuse, sexual offences, serious youth violence, knife crime, and personal robbery. As a result, a review of the key areas of the CDSA that were not covered by this Serious Violence Needs Assessment, such as a performance review, including estimated costs and harm of crime in the borough, and a horizon scan for opportunities and threats, was undertaken in September 2023 using the latest figures. In summary the 2023 CDSA performance review showed that the existing priority areas were still valid. The horizon scan highlighted the potential for the cost of living to exacerbate poverty, deprivation and the lack of positive opportunities for young Londoners, which evidence shows can be key causes and drivers of violent crime.

The key findings from the latest local health and wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA):

The borough's 2022 JSNA highlights population growth, particularly in areas like Barking Riverside and Rainham as a factor complicating the health landscape of the borough. Mental health is also a growing concern, especially among children and young people, as is addressing health inequalities within the borough. In relation to serious violence, the JSNA highlights the importance of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). An appreciation of ACEs raises the possibility of new opportunities to improve health and interrupt the transmission of a variety of negative outcomes from one generation to the next by:

- Preventing exposure to ACEs in the first place e.g., help re. parental attachment; parenting skills courses; resilience building; education and awareness raising re. sex and relationships; drug and alcohol etc. in schools and colleges; anti bullying interventions etc.
- Early intervention - effective safeguarding arrangements, identification and effective family focused treatment of parental Mental Health and drug and alcohol problems; support for victims of domestic violence.
- Mitigation in support those affected – trauma aware services; Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Youth Justice Services (YJS).

Safeguarding vulnerable adolescents from harm must be a priority for all partners. The threat may come in many forms. Serious youth violence is an ACE of major concern, which has sadly resulted in the deaths of young people in each of the BHR boroughs. Other forms of harm include exploitation in organised groups and other young people, involvement in religious or politically inspired hate crime.

The key findings from recent police Tactical Tasking and Coordinating Group (TTCG) analysis on serious violence: A review of recent TTCG products shows a common understanding of the key crimes and problems in relation to serious violence on the borough. For instance, for personal robbery, the TTCG product summarises the main suspects for these crimes appear to be young Males most of which are under the age of 18. These males do not appear to be in gangs per say more large groups of friends or associates that then go off in smaller groups. These males then target or have an opportunist approach to lone victims or in a small group due to size or numbers over power their victim and steal. This is an accurate summary of one of the key problems to address in the borough as identified in other sections of the serious violence needs assessment. Partners continue to work together to put in responses to the problems identified.

The key findings from any other evaluations of relevant local community safety initiatives: This is an area for development for future needs assessments.

The key findings of reviews relevant to the borough and covering serious incidents: A review of serious Child and Adult Safeguarding incidents took place for this assessment with the key points, themes and sources of further information noted. Future needs assessments would benefit from the review of all serious incidents related to serious violence that go through the Barking and Dagenham One Panel which is launching week commencing 5th February 2024. This will take place in the lead up to the next needs assessment.

Furthermore, the North-East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) was establishing a Task and Finish group across the health system to develop a systematic and appropriate way to collect and disseminate the safeguarding health data required for this needs assessment. The expected time for completion of this complex piece of work is the end of November 2023. This was outside the time frame of this needs assessment but once received the data will be reviewed to inform future needs assessments.

► Theme 8: Mapping current provision:

The current provision of services to prevent and reduce youth violence/ domestic abuse/ sexual violence/ crime: The Community Safety Team is reviewing the current service provision in this area with partners. Please see the Community Safety website for updates on provisions in this area.

► Theme 9: Cross border issues:

Future needs assessments would benefit from a review and identification of serious violence related cross border issues with Barking and Dagenham's neighbouring boroughs. This will involve collaboration with colleagues in neighbouring boroughs on key issues as well as a cross check of each boroughs Serious Violence Needs Assessment against Barking and Dagenham's. There needs to be a commitment to develop this in the lead up to the next assessment.

Summary of key Recommendations:

- Prioritise Personal Robbery offences to tackle due to its high impact and cost to the community affecting young people under 25 years, the recent increase in offences and it accounting for a significant proportion of knife crime flagged offences.
- Overall Violence & Exploitation Offences: Target resources at Barking Town Centre and Dagenham Heathway. Becontree Station and Mayesbrook Park should also be targeted due to those areas emerging as hotspots in the last 12 months. Monitor trends and displacement via existing Tasking & Coordination groups including the Robbery Group.
- Community Safety Partnership to continue to have Domestic Abuse as a priority to address.
- Community Safety Partnership to continue to have Sexual Offences as a priority to address.
- Community Safety Partners to work together to address the intelligence gaps identified throughout this year's needs assessment including an updated gangs profile, the results of which can feed into the next year's assessment.

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