

Making Barnet Safer

Safer Communities Strategy
for Barnet 2008 – 2011



June 2008



A safe Barnet – the story so far

Crime and anti-social behaviour are top of residents' list of the greatest areas of local concern. Despite Barnet being among the safest boroughs in London, 40% in the most recent residents survey highlighted crime as the most important local issue.¹

Barnet Safer Communities Partnership has made substantial progress in reducing crime in the borough. In 2005/2006 there were 20,546 crimes which reduced by 15% to 17,270 in 2006/2007 and 15,938 in 2007/2008. Nearly all of the main crime types, including vehicle crime, robbery, assault and violent crime have seen significant reductions.

We are now starting to see the benefits: in the most recent annual residents survey, 8% more residents than last year felt safe both when it is getting dark and during the hours of darkness.²

How have we gone about reducing crime?

We have reduced crime through better partnership working, for example:

- improving the quality of data analysis and using this to manage performance more effectively, for example through adapting for the Safer Communities Board the Council's widely acclaimed 'first stat' system of performance management, which uses and analyses data to challenge partners on how they are reducing crime;
- the restructuring of council services to establish a Community Protection group, which provides an integrated approach to tackling crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime, both within the council and with key partners such as the Police. Within the Group a Priority Intervention Team has been created to provide a rapid response with partners to abandoned or untaxed vehicles, graffiti, anti-social behaviour and flytipping;

¹ Annual Residents Survey 2008

² Annual residents Survey 2008

- an operations group which brings together partners, including police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, to assess data and intelligence and get to the heart of problems in a particular ward and tackle them through very practical actions;
- the creation of police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Community Action Panels which has given the Police greater capacity to tackle issues at a local level and engage local people.

Community safety in Barnet- the context

Barnet will see significant changes over the next 10 years. Our population in 2018 is likely to exceed 366,000, largely as a result of major regeneration and development. An extra 30,000 new homes will be built over the next 20 years, attracting a much younger and more diverse population. New town centres will be built in Cricklewood/Brent Cross and Colindale and the poorest quality housing across the borough will be replaced in four major regeneration estates (Stonegrove/Spur Road, West Hendon, Grahame Park and Dollis Valley). We are working together to create new, sustainable communities that will contribute to Barnet's prosperity.

In addition the council is implementing a strategy to enhance the borough's suburban town centres, which make a huge contribution to the life of residents. This will focus initially on the priority town centres of Edgware, North Finchley, New Barnet and Chipping Barnet.

The development of the borough will be brought together in the Council's Local Development Framework which will set the context for the physical and spatial development of the borough for the next ten years.

The story of Barnet is told through our Local Area Agreement, which is a joint agreement between the Council and its partners and central government to improve performance on the most important issues facing the borough. Barnet is a successful city suburb of London where people want to live and enjoy a high quality of life, and they need to be protected from criminal and anti-social activity to maintain that quality of life. There are a much smaller number of people who

experience multiple problems in their lives and are at risk of doing great harm both to themselves and to wider society. We also need to tackle their needs with the right mix of targeted support and enforcement where appropriate.

The national picture

The government recently issued an updated crime strategy, the National Community Safety Plan 2008-2011. It sets out the framework for meeting their Public Service Agreement target of making communities safer, and has four main priorities; tackling acquisitive crime, reducing reoffending, reducing the most serious violence and tackling local priorities and increasing public confidence.

Barnet's community safety priorities make a significant contribution to each of these, but particularly the last one, and this is shown later in the document.

Risks and challenges to a safer Barnet

The partnership faces some challenges to ensuring that Barnet remains a safe place to live:

- maintaining the current rapid rate of progress in tackling crime;
- overcoming the continued perception that crime levels are worse than they are, through improved reassurance and engagement with our communities;
- young people themselves have identified crime as the most important issue affecting them and as Barnet's population will become younger there will be risks of an increase in crime perpetrated by young people on other young people;
- vibrant town centres could bring the unintended consequences of alcohol related disorder and new transport links could provide opportunities for crime and disorder;
- Barnet's ever increasing diversity and population mobility, especially as a result of new developments, make it essential to ensure that new communities integrate cohesively with settled ones and that hate crime does not increase, and is reported and tackled effectively when it does happen.

Managing the partnership to deliver a safer Barnet

Our approach to ensuring that a changing Barnet remains a safe one will include:

- **using good quality data and evidence**, brought together in an annual strategic needs assessment, which analyses the patterns of crime and disorder in the borough, both local trends and the impact of changing national developments on Barnet, as well as the findings of existing public consultation and engagement to help identify priorities and give us the evidence to differentiate issues that are specific to Barnet from current national crime priorities;
- **prioritisation** based on needs assessment: on receipt of the first assessment, the Safer Communities Board agreed that the two highest priorities should be **alcohol** (including youth related alcohol disorder) and **household burglary**.

Alcohol is the common factor in many of Barnet's crime and disorder problems, including violent crime (where there is a strong correlation with alcohol related incident hotspots), domestic violence and youth disorder, and alcohol misuse can lead to a series of other problems. As a result alcohol is causing an increased social and economic cost to the borough, and the ambulance service has received an increasing number of calls to alcohol related incidents. We will work to reduce alcohol related disorder and to prioritise the commissioning of treatment services, that address the needs of those who misuse alcohol with wider consequences for themselves and society.

Residential burglary is the one type of crime which was showing a significant increase, although the rate of increase has reduced in recent months. It is an intrusive crime which causes personal distress to law-abiding residents and has been designated high priority to ensure that resources are focused on tackling and reducing it. As the borough grows, it is even more essential that this problem is tackled at local community level. We need to understand and tackle the drivers of burglary, in particular the manner in which drugs misuse generates acquisitive crime.

Medium priorities for the partnership have been identified as young people as offenders and victims; robbery; motor vehicle crime; violent crime; and drugs. A summary of the conclusions of the assessment are attached at Appendix 'A'.

- **action planning:** a more detailed annual action plan will be developed to support the strategy, which will include the activities identified in the final column of the attached targets. The action plans will be based around five major stages of crime reduction activity: **visibility, intelligence, prevention, reduction** and **enforcement** and regularly monitored. We will adopt a problem solving approach at all levels to tackling crime.
- **involving local people** through Safer Neighbourhood teams and other innovative forms of community engagement. For example we are developing a new form of conversation with our residents known as mass narrative capture to better understand how they experience crime and what drives their fears of crime. We are also developing proposals for a new borough community engagement group for the community to be able to hold the partnership to account;
- **a tailored approach to the needs of the individuals** who cause most harm to themselves and wider society. We will work together across agencies to identify them at an earlier stage, assess their needs and develop targeted programmes of intervention and support (including through the Youth Offending Service and Priority and Prolific Offender Scheme).
- **using the Safer Communities Partnership Board as a commissioning group** that identifies the factors that will make the borough safer, manages performance and marshals the joint resources of partners, sharing information and intelligence and working together to join up solutions to problems in an imaginative way. The action plan will capture in more detail how the individual organisations on the Safer Communities Partnership Board can work together to further each others' business objectives.
- **focusing on the needs of young people** through a co-ordinated approach with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board;

- **focusing on improving safety in town centres**, including developing research to increase our understanding of why residents feel less safe there;
- placing community safety considerations at the heart of the **planning and design of new developments and community facilities** through the local development framework;
- ensuring our **assets** are fit for purpose and sharing them where possible;
- ensuring the Safer Communities Strategy **makes links with related plans**, eg the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement; Children and Young Peoples plan; Suburban Town Centres Strategy, drug and alcohol action plans;
- **reviewing the strategy annually** on the basis of future strategic assessments and progress against the action plans to ensure it still meets Barnet's needs.

Safer communities strategy targets 2008-2011

National strategy framework	Barnet's priorities	Targets
Progress on serious acquisitive crime	Combating burglary, robbery and vehicle crime (National Indicator (N1) 16) (all medium priority with household burglary a high priority)	Residential Burglary 07/08– 2694 08/09- 2468 09/10 – 2393 (3% reduction) 10/11 – 2321 (3% reduction)
		Business Robbery 07/08 – 114 08/09 – 111 (1% reduction) 09/10- 110 (1.5% reduction) 10/11 – 110 (1% reduction) Personal Robbery 07/08 – 843 08/09- 835 (3% reduction) 09/10 – 822 (1% reduction) 10/11 – 814 (1% reduction)
		Theft of Motor Vehicle 07/08- 1193 08/09- 1157 (3% reduction) 09/10- 1134 (2% reduction) 10/11 – 1117 (1.5% reduction) Theft from Motor vehicles 07/08 – 3450 08/09- 3243 (6% reduction) 09/10 – 3178 (2% reduction) 10/11 – 3130 (1.5 % reduction)
Reducing reoffending	Adult reoffending rates for those under probation supervision (N1 – 18)	Data to be set during 2008/9
	reducing rate of re-offending by young offenders (N1 – 19)	Data to be set during 2008/9
	Priority and Prolific Offender (PPO) reoffending rates (N1 – 30)	Reduction in convictions: 07/08- 16% 08/09- 18%

National strategy framework	Barnet's priorities	Targets
	Reducing Domestic Violence repeat offences (N1 – 32)	% reduction in repeat victimisation for cases being managed by a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference: 07/08- 6.01% 08/09- 6.01% 09/10- 5.71% 10/11- 5.42%
	Increase % of Young Offenders in suitable education, employment training (NI – 45)	06/07- 77% 08/09- 90% 09/10- 90% 10/11- to be set
Reduce the most serious violence	reducing Assaults (ie Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) (N1 – 20) (medium priority)	07/08- 1795 08/09- 1705 (5% reduction) 09/10- 1671 (2% redeuction) 10/11- 1638 (2% reduction)
	Reducing Domestic Violence (DV) repeat offences (N1 – 32)	See above
	Reducing alcohol related crime (high priority)	Reduction in number of young people who re -present to Criminal Justice Agencies (within the following twelve months) where alcohol is considered to be an aggravating factor on both occasions. 08/09- set baseline 09/10- 5% reduction 10/11- 5% reduction

National strategy framework	Barnet's priorities	Suggested targets
	Tackling drug misuse through enforcement and disruption of supply and increasing numbers into drug treatment services (N1 – 40) (medium priority)	<p>Drug users into treatment</p> <p>07/08 612 08/09 618 09/10 624 10/11 631</p> <p>Class A seizures</p> <p>07/08 – 181 08/09- 186 09/10- 192 10/11- 198</p> <p>Cannabis warnings</p> <p>07/08 – 622 08/09 – 641 09/10 – 660 10/11 – 680</p> <p>Number of police drugs operations</p> <p>07/08- 40 08/09- 42 09/10- 44 10/11- 45</p>
	Young People as offenders and victims (Medium priority)	<p>Youth on Youth Victim rates – under 20</p> <p>07/08 – 4895 08/09- 4846 (1% reduction) 09/10- 4798 (1% reduction) 10/11- 4750 (1% reduction)</p> <p>Under 19</p> <p>07/08 –4365 08/09- 4321 (1% reduction) 09/10- 4278 (1% reduction) 10/11- 4235 (1% reduction)</p>
Tackle local priorities and increase public confidence	Increase Satisfaction in way anti-social behaviour dealt with (N1 – 24)	baseline to be set when national indicator determined

National strategy framework	Barnet's priorities	Suggested targets
	Building resistance to violent extremism (N1 – 35)	Score against quality standards of Preventing Violent Extremism Projects as described in national indicators: 2007/2008 – 11.5/20 2010/2011 – 16.5/20
	Tackling race and faith hate crime	100% follow up on all incidents reported to Council (431 in 07/08)
	Action on alcohol and drugs (see above)	

Appendix A to Safer Communities Strategy

Strategic Assessment - Executive Summary.

The strategic assessment aims to recommend long-term priority issues to be addressed. In regard to priority level recommendations, crime issues and Anti social Behaviour (ASB) issues are considered separately i.e. the document recommends a number of crime priorities and a number of ASB/disorder priorities.

The tables below introduce each of the recommended priority categories. These were agreed by the Safer Communities Partnership Board when it considered a draft Strategic Assessment at its meeting on 3rd December 2007. The following two pages in the executive summary highlight key points in relation to these priorities. A more detailed review of each of the priority categories can be found in the Priority summary section later in this document. In each of the two sections (crime priorities and ASB/disorder priorities) analysis has lead to a single issue justifying a priority level above all the other issues in that section, it has then been designated as a high priority.

Note: the ASB/Disorder high priority "Alcohol related disorder" includes the area where there is an overlap between alcohol related issues and young people related issues. See overleaf for an explanation of the overlap.

Recommendations for Crime Strategy Priority Issues	Recommendations for ASB/ Disorder Strategy Priority Issues
<p>Burglary It is recommended that Residential Burglary be considered as a High Level Priority</p> <p>Robbery It is recommended that Robbery be considered as a Medium Level Priority</p> <p>Motor Vehicle Crime It is recommended that Motor Vehicle Crime be considered as a Medium Level Priority</p> <p>Violent Crime: It is recommended that Violent Crime be considered as a Medium Level Priority</p>	<p>Alcohol Related Disorder and its effect towards young people. It is recommended this be considered as a High Level Priority.</p> <p>Young People It is recommended that Young People be considered as a Medium Level Priority. (Note where there is an overlap between the alcohol related issues and young people this is considered a high priority – see above)</p> <p>Drugs It is recommended that drugs issues be considered as Medium Level Priority.</p>

High Priority:

Citizen Focus

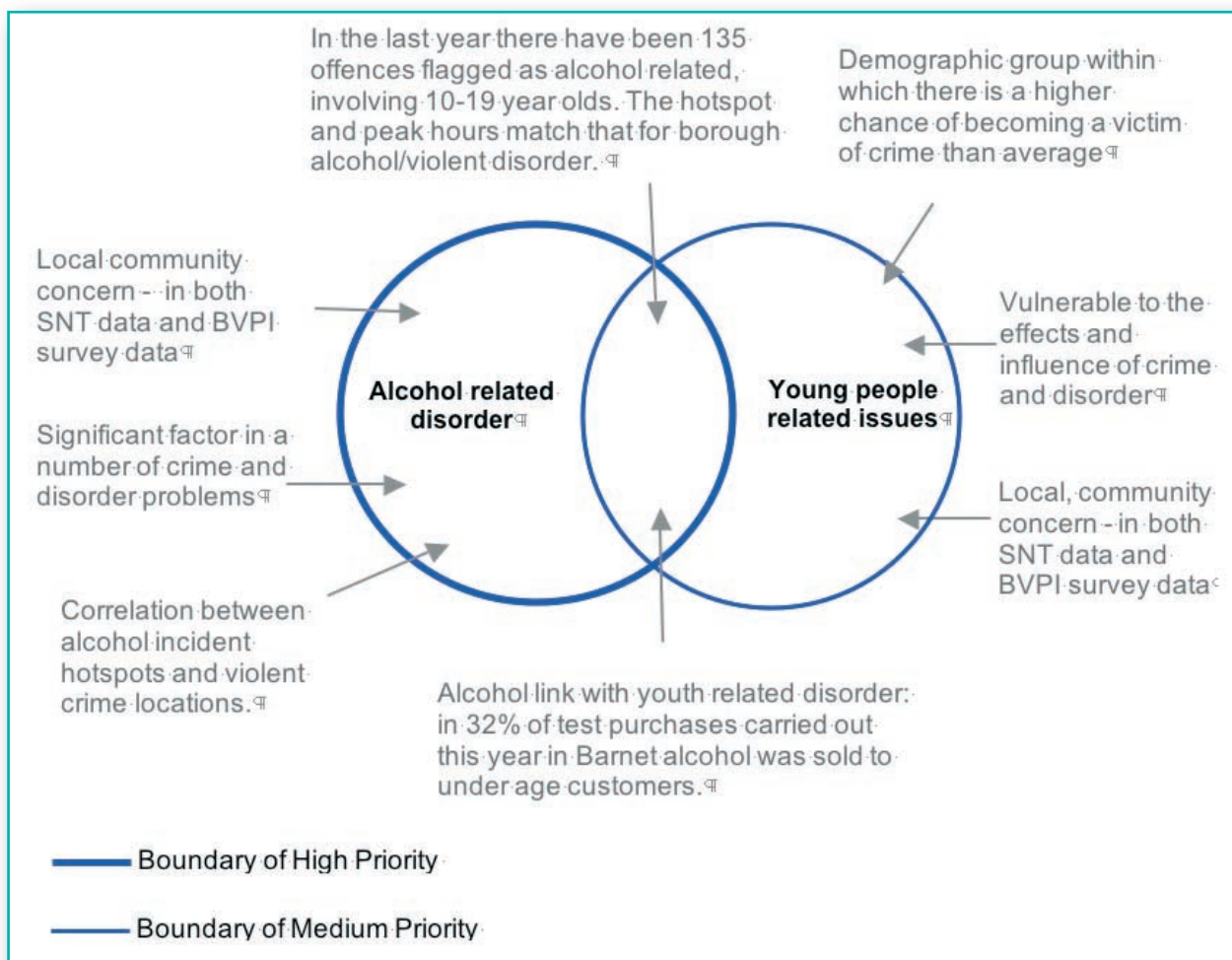
Developing an understanding of citizens and communities, their needs, expectations and concerns, through engagement at every level that is meaningful to that community, and gives us the information to make informed choices

As mentioned above the ASB/Disorder high priority “Alcohol related disorder” includes the area where there is an overlap between alcohol related issues and young people related issues.

The explanation below outlines how the recommended priorities draw the distinction between alcohol related issues affecting young people and those where alcohol is not a significant factor. The Alcohol high priority category includes issues where alcohol affects young people and issues relating to alcohol related disorder and problems in general.

The young people medium priority relates to the issues of young people as victims of crime; as vulnerable to effects and influence of crime; and young people related disorder as a community concern. Where alcohol is a significant factor in any of these young people related issues this is considered as a high priority.

Illustration of priority issues and overlap between categories



Crime Strategy Priorities

Burglary (High Priority)

It is recommended that Young People be considered as a Medium level priority.

- residential burglary is the second largest contributor to the British Crime Survey (BCS) levels in the borough after theft from motor vehicle.
- in the current financial year to date (April to November) there is a significant increase, 32% increase compared to the previous year. This equates to an increase of 363 burglaries in the year to date.
- as residential burglary is a highly significant contributor to the overall BCS levels in the borough the increase has had a significant impact on BCS levels in Barnet – offsetting a large proportion of the decrease in auto crime.
- Barnet has over a 20% higher level of offences than the borough family average, which places it as the third highest in its family of fifteen most similar boroughs.
- based on Safer Neighbourhood Ward (SNT) data, of the serious acquisitive crimes, burglary is the main local community concern.

Robbery (Medium Priority)

It is recommended that Robbery be considered as a Medium level priority.

- robbery offences are the primary source of knife enabled youth offences on the borough and these offences fall within the key overlapping areas of: harmful, weapon enabled, youth related crimes.
- while Barnet has outperformed the overall Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) average and similar Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) since late 2005, over the last nine months these CDRP's have also begun to achieve reductions and therefore caution is necessary in assuming Barnet's robberies will remain lower than them.

- increasing media, political and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) focus on violent and weapon enabled crime, particularly among young people. Robbery is the main contributor to serious youth violent/weapon enabled offences in Barnet.
- continued advancement and ownership of portable high value technology (e.g. MP3 players) is a potential upward pressure on insurance / false reports

Motor Vehicle Crime (Medium Priority)

It is recommended that Motor Vehicle Crime be considered as a Medium level priority.

- theft from: Barnet has approximately a 15% higher level of these offences than the borough family average.
- theft from motor vehicle is the largest contributor to BCS crimes on the borough.
- demographic changes are increasing the relative size of the population of young people in London. Based on the suspect profile for auto crime in Barnet this could lead to upward pressures on the level of theft from motor vehicle.

Violent Crime (Medium Priority)

It is recommended that Violent Crime be considered as a Medium level priority.

- BCS wounding offences Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) are the third largest contributor to BCS levels of the borough.
- increasing national media with political and London wide MPS focus on violent and weapon enabled crime.
- while overall violent crime has fallen, there has been a slight increase in Common Assault indicating a possible reversal of the downward trend seen in this offence type.
- emerging communities from European accession states are likely to have a younger average age and be more transient than national averages. Based on crime data analysis there is a potential upward pressure on violent crime.

ASB Strategy Priorities

Alcohol Related disorder - including where alcohol affects young people. (High Priority)

It is recommended that Alcohol related disorder be considered as a High level priority.

- alcohol related disorder accounts for three of the top ten local community issues of concern Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) ward data. 2006-07 Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) survey results showed that 29% of residents considered the problem to be significant.
- a significant factor in a number of crime and disorder problems (e.g. violent crime, domestic violence, youth disorder) in Barnet is a strong correlation between alcohol related incident hotspots and concentrations of violent crime. There is also a link with youth related disorder: out of 72 trading standards test purchases this year alcohol was sold to an individual under the legal drinking age on 23 occasions.
- in the last 12 months there have been 135 offences involving 10-19 year olds which are flagged as being alcohol related, (though many offences likely not to have been flagged). Violent crimes account for around half of the offences. The peak time for these is weekends: 2300hrs to 0200hrs. Although these offences are more evenly distributed across Barnet, Tally Ho is still the main hotspot
- costs generated across partnership agencies – for example Ambulance Service

Young People (Medium Priority)

The Strategic Assessment recommends Young People be a medium priority for Barnet. Within this category there are a number of key strands: young people as victims of crime and disorder; young people as a group vulnerable to the effects and influence of crime and disorder; and, crimes / disorder involving young people as a significant local community concern.

It must be emphasised that tactical implementation of this recommendation should seek to avoid any inadvertent criminalisation of young people. The assessment identifies young people as a significant group in terms of being victims of crime and being vulnerable to the influence of crime and disorder. Addressing these issues form a significant part of this recommended priority as the issue of crimes and disorder being committed by young people.

This priority recognises issues relating to young people represent significant local concerns. However it is important to bear in mind that youth crime levels in Barnet are not higher than the average of the surrounding boroughs (Barnet had a lower level of youth violence per 1000 population than three of the five surrounding boroughs over the last six months). This indicates the importance in the tactical implementation of a clear distinction between young people involved in actual crimes/ASB (for example where there is an overlap with alcohol, drugs related disorder or serious violent crime) and where legitimate behaviour may lead to perception of disorder. Appropriate approaches are required in each case.

It is recommended that Young People be considered as a Medium level priority.

- as victims of crime / disorder: the peak age for victims of robbery is between 14-16 years (people aged 14 to 16 in Barnet are approximately 10 times more likely to be a victim of street robbery than a person in their 30s.); the peak age for victims of violent crime is 15 to 22 years (a person aged 15 to 19 years in Barnet is approximately 1.5 times more likely to be a victim of violent crime than a person in their 30s) The peak age in Barnet for victims of crime in parks is 13 to 16 years.

- as a demographic group vulnerable to the effects and influence of crime and disorder. Research indicates that the profile of an individual most at risk of becoming long term prolific offenders are young people who are co-offending at a young age. This is a very significant consideration when looking at factors that will affect future crime levels (especially so for certain offences such as auto crime).
- crime / disorder involving young people being a significant issue of community concern: Safer Neighbourhood teams in 80% of wards have young people related disorder as a local priority. The other main local ward priorities (Graffiti and Disorder in parks and open spaces) have a correlating suspect profile. The BVPI survey also indicates that young people related issues are a key community concern.

Drugs (Medium Priority)

It is recommended that Drugs be considered as a Medium level priority.

- in approximately 45% of wards drug taking is considered a significant local problem, and street dealing is considered a significant concern in approximately 35% of the wards. Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) survey: The 2006-07 survey results showed that 30% of Residents surveyed, felt that people using/taking drugs was a fairly big or very big problem in Barnet.
- upward trend since late 2005 and this has continued over the last 6 months. Year to date there is a 23% increase in the level of drugs offences. However it should be noted that the increasing drugs offences is a trend also shown across the Metropolitan Police Service and the family of similar crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.
- drugs and the impact on crime: The Barnet Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) report that in the first quarter of 2007/08 out of Barnet's 31 Persistent Prolific Offenders (PPOs) 21 were identified as having a drug problem.

