

FOCUS

Tackling Violence and
Exploitation Team
Winter 2023

Welcome to our latest edition of Focus, we hope that you will find this Newsletter informative to the developments and ever-changing area of how in Barnet we endeavour to tackle Violence and Exploitation in the Borough. As a team the Summer represented an extremely busy period for us, firstly we are pleased to highlight that we have updated our working protocols, our new Tackling Violence and Exploitation Protocol contains several important updates which include:

- Updated terms, definitions on exploitation, and important names changes of our Tackling Violence and Exploitation Panel, (Previously VARP)
- Greater focus on contextual safeguarding and suggested guidance to help professionals construct plans to tackle extra familial harm
- New processes and systems to support young adults 18-25 who may remain at risk of exploitation or become involved in serious violence
- Outline on our Restorative Justice, Victims Support and Community Capacity Coordinators, and how to access them
- Emphasis around ensuring plans from Child Exploitation and Missing Meetings (CEAM's) are included in the central plan for the young person

The new protocol can be found [here](#)

Our Annual Tackling Violence and Exploitation Report was released during the summer break. The report contains important information as to how the shape and landscape changes on a year basis for young people in Barnet who are at risk of extra familial harm, and how we are working to tackle it across the partnership. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

In addition, we will be releasing briefings for staff highlighting what changes we are seeing and how we can try and support and safeguard young people. Finally, we have had a great response to our Contextual Safeguarding workshops for staff and partners. Our interactive workshops aim to help support practitioners in considering contextual ideas and approaches in the work they do with young people. We are running sessions regularly and happy to come to team so please contact CEAM@Barnet.gov.uk to book yourself on the next available slot.



Caring for people, our places and the planet



2024-27 Tackling Violence and Exploitation Engagement and Strategy

You are no doubt aware that during September, we have been completing a range of engagement sessions to seek the views of young people, parents, residents and professionals around exploitation and perception of violence in Barnet. Through the hard work of Sonal, Sukhy and Annie we had a fantastic turn out through the mixture of focus group, interactive slido sessions and online surveys.



The feedback will help shape our new draft strategy which we will be holding further consultation events during October and November. We would love you to be involved so please contact CEAM@Barnet.gov.uk to be part of a session.



Adults at Risk Panel

Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable young people does not stop when they reach the age of 18, although traditionally some services do. The transition into adulthood can come with typical stumbling blocks like accessing housing, managing the cost-of-living crisis and forging an employment pathway. For some of our adults, they are also juggling multiple complex needs, including experiencing current and previous trauma through exploitation and/or violence.

To strengthen our partnership response we have introduced our Adults at Risk Panel, which is a new amalgamated forum from Leaving Care High Risk case forum and Serious adult Violence Panel. The panel will look at support young adults 18-25 who are at risk or continuing risk of exploitation, becoming involved as a victim or suspect in serious violence.

We are accepting referrals for any adult who may be at risk of the following:

- **Criminal exploitation- Including victims of cuckooing**
- **Involved in weapons based offending**
- **Involved in group/ gang offending**
- **Causing/affected by harm**
- **Assessed by referrer as on the periphery of the above**

Our multi agency panel pulls partners from Probation, Police, social care, housing, and the voluntary sectors with the aim of intelligence gathering and information sharing to support formulating contextual assessments and plans to help mitigate risk, support the adult, sustain positive change and provide a professional thinking space to support practice. Outcomes from the panel helps tackle obstacles with clear community and individual focused outcomes.

In the two months the panel has been active, we have seen our referrals more than double, highlighting the gap we are filling for our professional network but also highlighting the cohort of vulnerable adults who have outstanding needs.

For any further information or to discuss a referral please contact Anika.Cosgrove@barnet.gov.uk



Restorative Justice

Great news that since our last edition of Focus, Barnet has joined forces with the Restorative Justice Council (RJC) to strengthen delivery of Restorative Approaches in the borough.

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales sets the minimum level of service that organisations must provide for victims of crime. As part of these entitlements, there is a specific requirement for victims to be made aware of their rights to Restorative Justice.

Restorative Justice is as a process whereby those harmed by crime or conflict can be brought together with those who are responsible for the harm to facilitate communication. The intention is to enable everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and to find a positive way forward. Outcomes following RJ interventions are highly effective, for example, in a survey conducted by Remedi Restorative Solutions (2021), 94% of victims of crime reported an increase in their feelings of safety following a RJ intervention, while in the Why Me? 2020 Valuing Victims Report, over half of victims reported being better able to cope with aspects of life such as developing and sustaining positive health and wellbeing, following an intervention.

Research published by Remedi Restorative Services (2021) shows that 98% of offenders taking part in RJ interventions stated that the process directly increased their personal understanding of the harm caused by their offending behaviour and furthermore, 96% of offenders stated that participation directly increased their motivation to not reoffend.

Here in Barnet, we are taking steps to ensure that all victims of crime benefit from access to support and advice, including Restorative Justice, to help them recover from incidents of crime. Since September 2022 we have been inviting internal and external partners to utilise our referral process, via the Barnet Victim Care Hub, to support individuals who disclose an incident of reported or unreported crime. Through this service we can provide practical support in terms of liaising with partner services, the provision of safety devices for home or personal use and onward

referral to specialist agencies to provide emotional care. Cases that are suitable for a RJ intervention are referred to Calm Mediation, the pan-London provider of Restorative Justice.

Organisational Membership of the Restorative Justice Council (RJC) will support our risk and safety planning, provide advice and training, share good practice and updates from professional and parliamentary bodies and promote engagement with a wide network of restorative communities. Further collaboration in the form of formal endorsement of the training packages designed by our RJ Co-ordinator will strengthen the RJ offer in Barnet and, in the long term, this professional affiliation will provide an accreditation pathway for Barnet to be recognised as a Registered Restorative Organisation (RRO).

Over the last ten months, our Restorative Justice Co-ordinator has been leading training in primary and secondary schools across the borough, inviting staff to 'tune up' or 'tune into' restorative approaches to transform character education and redefine school culture.

Six schools have benefitted from training which has been individually tailored around their phase, context and levels of prior experience with restorative approaches. We work to engage all staff in the school and to coproduce with them a school action plan to identify support to drive transformation and maintain momentum. 150 members of staff have been trained across the six schools and 100% of those who responded to the evaluation said they felt 'motivated to adopt restorative approaches' in their school following the training.

A restorative culture builds, nurtures and strengthens relationships so that they become resilient and resistant to challenge. In an education context, the investment in creating a culture where pro-social behaviour is explicitly recognised and rewarded, helps children and young people develop appropriate habits and virtues that enable them to make a positive contribution to society. Circle discussions, check ins and the use of shared language helps the exploration of thoughts and feelings, and more importantly these processes help connect individuals to the classroom



and wider school network. When conflict occurs, which it inevitably does, restorative approaches provide a safe, predictable, consistent, and fair structure in which to resolve it. Conflict de-escalation and resolution draws on the principles of Restorative Justice, giving those harmed a voice and compelling those who cause harm to accept responsibility and make amends. The impact can be felt immediately and the medium to long-term benefits include lower levels of disruption and conflict, lower levels of stress and an improved environment in which to work and learn.

But how does this feed into Tackling Violence and Exploitation? Simple, when people feel connected to a community, they feel compelled to co-operate, collaborate and adhere to the rules and conventions of that community and the wider society in which it resides. If their efforts to make a positive contribution are recognised, these habits become embedded and form part of the intrinsic character or belief system of the individual so that they no longer feel the need for reinforcement or reward, they simply act. Furthermore, when conflict is managed in a way that prioritises reconciliation and repair over blame and punishment, empathy and other positive character traits such as compassion and kindness are developed. Armed with these traits and virtues and equipped with the tools to de-escalate and resolve conflict in mutually agreeable ways, means young people can make better choices about their behaviour, leading to a reduction in incidents requiring intervention by emergency services.

If you would like more information about the Barnet Victim Care Hub or Restorative Justice, please contact annie.henken@barnet.gov.uk

Themes

For the vast majority of young people and families, Barnet represents a safe and family friendly place to live. For most young people they will never experience exploitation or violence. Many of you will be aware or have met Nina our intelligence Analyst, her role is to develop an understanding of; themes of exploitation and violence and make sense of the contextual relationships that young people have with places, locations, peer groups and person of potential concern in Barnet. These themes can therefore be discussed in strategic and complex planning forums to help tackle exploitation, violence and promote safety in the borough.

You are likely to be aware that Nina regularly completes quarterly intelligence briefings with both internal council staff and partners. To book on to one of these sessions please contact CEAM@Barnet.gov.uk. Over the last quarter the following theme have been identified.

- As reported by national and local media in the last month there has been a tremendously successful ongoing police operation which has been running in the Grahame Park Area. The operation has been tackling violent and drug related crime in the area. As a result of increased police presence and resources dedicated to this effort, over 100 arrests have been made in connection to violent crime. Many of these have been young people and adults not living on the estate but have been found to be travelling or trafficked into the area with the purpose of offending. This has in turn seen a reduction in the number of violent offences occurring on GPE.
- Regeneration in Barnet is of course having a positive impact of improving standards of living and housing; however, regeneration can cause period of transition which can leave areas and buildings vacant. We have seen during these times these abandon locations can represent an attractive prospect for storing and dealing drugs and weapons as well as homeless and vulnerable adults. In the last quarter we have seen significant activity from Police, the council and partners in the Grahame Park area which has dispersed the above activity to other areas. If you become aware of any locations or abandon premises that young people or adults are gravitating to please contact Nina.

- Over the summer police and Barnet children and family services have become aware of a new county line called "The Baby Line" running to Essex that is believed to originate from Barnet. While work is still ongoing to gather more information about this line and the network involved in this activity, there have already been several arrests made relating to this line.

- Over the summer we saw an increase in the number of serious violence incidents in the borough, with some incidents occurring in the Finchley area. However, the joint response from Police and its partners including community safety have helped contribute towards and a period of increased calm and stability. We are therefore trying to work with local residents organisations and partners to ensure that if tensions are recognised to please report them to the Police and Community Safety.





Practice Focus on Missing

An integral part of the Vulnerable Adolescents Coordinators role is to monitor missing, ensure Return Home Interviews (RHI) are completed and attend CEAM meetings for young people where contextual safeguarding concerns are identified.

As a reminder all children and young people whose whereabouts are not known to their parents or carers are deemed missing. On occasions where a young person is missing, it must be reported to police via 101 or the online reporting system. Missing strategy meetings with the police must be carried out after a young person has been missing for 72 hours and strategy meetings should be held on a weekly basis whilst the young person remains missing. Missing episodes on LCS should be continually updated, especially during an extended missing episode.

RHI's

Once a young person has returned a RHI should be offered to allow them to discuss their missing episode with an independent person rather than their social worker. The RHI gives the young person a chance to explore the push & pull factors and for the professional to identify any contextual safeguarding issues that may have arisen during the missing episode. This should allow professionals working with the young person to identify the support needed to reduce their missing episodes going forward.

For those young people who reside in Barnet their RHI's are carried out by one of the Early Help Hubs. When young people are placed outside of Barnet, St Christophers are the commissioned service.

CEAMs

If you would like a refresher training session for your team on how to complete any of the above or would like to discuss a case then please contact Amy.Nowland@barnet.gov.uk or Isabelle.Spencer@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet's Detached Outreach Project

This exciting new project will see experienced Detached Outreach Workers engage and offer support to children and young people up to the age of 25 years who are 'hard to reach', vulnerable or at risk in targeted areas. The aim is to identify risk factors relating to serious violence at an earlier stage to prevent and ensure appropriate and targeted responses via local interventions and provisions.

Visible youth workers will be in locations at peak times during the evenings including the weekends with the aim to encourage children and young people to access positive diversionary activities, and to feedback the lived experiences and general needs of young people to the council, to help shape future services. Through this engagement, young people will be offered information and guidance in a range of subjects including employment skills, drugs and alcohol awareness, sexual health, healthy relationships, emotional wellbeing, and mental health.

If you have any questions about the project, services Barnet offer or would like to share any concerns in relation to violent incidents, child exploitation and locations of concern, our youth workers are very friendly and approachable, please approach them and share your thoughts. Alternatively, contact can also be made through CEAM@Barnet.gov.uk.





Meet The Team

The Tackling Violence and Exploitation Team has expanded significantly over the last year below is a list of who we are and how to contact us.

Chris Kelly	Strategic Lead of Tackling Violence and Exploitation	Christopher.Kelly@barnet.gov.uk
Sukhy Hira	Project Manager	Sukhy.Hira@barnet.gov.uk
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Nina Teyara	Intelligence Analyst	Nina.Teyara@barnet.gov.uk
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Annie Henken	Restorative Justice Coordinator	Annie.Henken@barnet.gov.uk
Aarti Taylor	Victims Rights Coordinator	Aarti.Taylor@barnet.gov.uk
Amy Nowland	Tackling Violence and Exploitation Coordinator	Amy.Nowland@barnet.gov.uk
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Central Mail Box	CEAM@barnet.gov.uk	

However if your concern relates to an immediate safeguarding concern then please contact. MASH@barnet.gov.uk



**In future additions we would welcome partner contributions and updates
so please forward these to CEAM@barnet.gov.uk**