

***The Barnet
Crime & Disorder
and Substance Misuse
Strategic Assessment
2007/08***

Executive Summary Document



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. In each of the two sections (crime priorities and ASB/disorder priorities) analysis has led 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

Burglary

It is recommended that Residential Burglary be considered as a High Level Priority

Robbery

It is recommended that Robbery be considered as a Medium Level Priority

Motor Vehicle Crime

It is recommended that Motor Vehicle Crime be considered as a Medium Level Priority

Violent Crime:

It is recommended that Violent Crime be considered as a Medium Level Priority

Recommendations for ASB/Disorder Strategy Priority

Alcohol Related Disorder and its effect towards young people

It is recommended this be considered as a High Level Priority.

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)

Drugs

It is recommended that drugs issues be considered as Medium Level Priority.

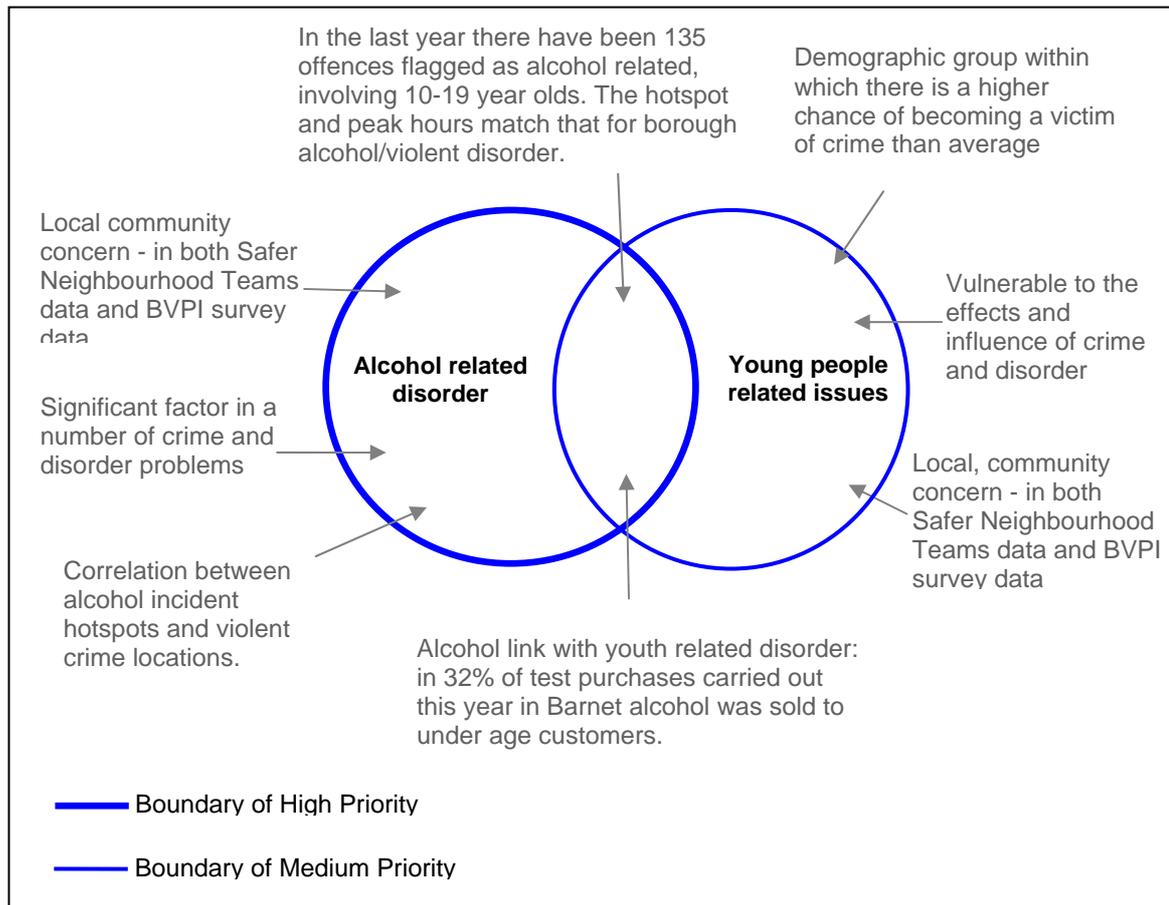
High Priority: Citizen Focus Developing an understanding of citizens and communities, their needs, expectations and concerns, through engagement at every level that is meaningful to that community, and gives us the information to make informed choices

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



Please note all figures in the crime and ASB priority issue section below were accurate as of time of writing (December 2007) and where possible footnotes have been provided with more up to date figures.

Crime Strategy Priorities

Burglary (High Priority)

It is recommended that Residential Burglary be considered as a High 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.¹
- 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

¹ Only relevant at time of writing (Nov 2007). Provisional end of year figure for Residential Burglary in Barnet is 8% increase from 2006/07 to 2007/08.

Motor Vehicle Crime (Medium Priority)

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

- Theft from Motor Vehicle: Barnet has approximately a 15% higher level of these offences than the borough family average.²
- 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.

² Only relevant at time of writing (Nov 07). Provisional end of year figure for Theft from Motor Vehicle Crime is a 10% increase from 2006/07 to 2007/08.

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.
- 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 corner is still the main hotspot
- Costs generated across partnership agencies – for example Barnet Ambulance Service has experienced an increasing number of calls to Alcohol related incidents.

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 as much 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.
- The peak age for victims of violent crime is 15 to 22 years
- 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 is 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 year to date with an increase in the level of drugs offences. However it should be noted that the increasing drugs offences is a trend also shown across the MPS and the family of similar CDRP's. However it is worth noting that reported levels of drug offences are strongly affected by the type and level of enforcement activities.
- Drugs and the impact on crime: The Barnet Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) report that in the first quarter of 2007/08 a significant proportion of Barnet's Persistent Prolific Offenders (PPOs) were identified as having a drug problem.