



**Barking &
Dagenham**

Women's Safety Survey Update November 2021

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Community Safety Partnership

one borough; one community; no one left behind

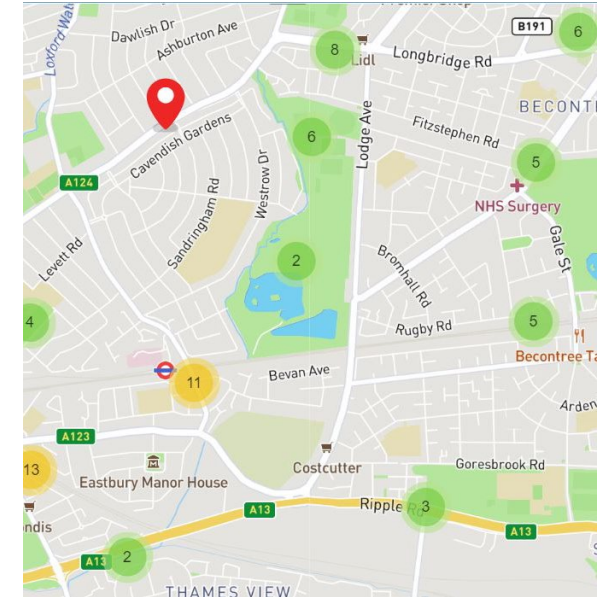
Women's Safety Survey

Purpose

- The Council were keen to understand perceptions of safety and locations in the borough where residents in particular women and girls feel unsafe.
- On 1st April, we launched a 'project page' with a mapping tool, asking women 'Where don't you feel safe in the borough'.
- The map was supported by a survey, where women could report these locations anonymously and there was an opportunity for people to demonstrate their allyship through an ideas board.
- The page also provided links to further support, information and advice.

Engagement

- Over 2,500 visits were made to the page.
- 282 people took part in the engagement.
- 84 anonymous submissions.
- 408 pins added to the map.



Women's Safety Survey

Following the survey

- We shared findings through the Community Safety Partnership and Violence against Women and Girls and IVOLT subgroups.
- Analysed data and hotspot areas identified through the One Borough Voice engagement page.
- Feed consultation findings into the roll out of the Safe Haven Scheme to provide safe spaces across the borough.
- Used the findings as an evidence base to apply for funding opportunities to improve safety in public spaces.
- Feed consultation findings into the development of the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment and review of the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Safe Haven Scheme

Safe Havens are a practical way of helping vulnerable people enjoy their communities knowing that support is available if they need help. Safe Haven works with local identified businesses to provide safe spaces for residents who may approach a business asking for support.

How does the Safe Haven scheme work?

- If a member of the public is feeling intimidated or harassed, unwell or just in need of some help, they can look for the Safe Haven sign and know instantly that they can get assistance there.
- Public premises such as shops, cafes, pubs, libraries and other places of interest can register to be officially known as a 'safe haven'.
- Premises display a Safe Haven sticker on their window and ensure that staff are aware of how to offer appropriate support.
- The Council will hold a directory of businesses who are signed up to be a Safe Haven and will provide ongoing coordination and engagement to ensure they can effectively support residents.



Safe Haven Scheme

Completed actions to date

- Collected an evidence basis through consultations including women's safety survey and One Borough Voice Safe Haven consultation to identify the need for the scheme, areas where residents feel most unsafe, types of venues residents would approach, times and what support they would like to be offered through businesses.
- Consulted with children and young people through schools and BAD Youth Forum on the design of the Safe Haven logo (attached).
- Designed the information and advice pack for businesses on Safe Havens (attached).
- Designed the In Case of Emergency (ICE) card (attached).
- Ordered materials and handouts for the roll out of Safe Haven Scheme.
- Applied for SWAN Funding which includes a SWAN co-ordinator to support the roll out and delivery of training for Safe Haven and manage ongoing coordination.
- Updated Community Safety Partnership Board, IVOLT and Project Team Cultural Venues as Safe Spaces.



Safe Haven Scheme

Next Steps

- Explore alternative funding if SWAN is unsuccessful – Exploring the proceeds of crime funding.
- Develop a job specification for recruiting a coordinator post.
- Continue to map businesses to approach to become Safe Havens to gauge coverage across the borough.
- Connect with ComSol to link in community hubs as Safe Havens.
- Connect learning from Street Space on perceptions of safety into the roll out of the Safe Haven Scheme.
- Develop an information page on the council website for Safe Haven Scheme.
- Develop a training package for local businesses.
- Develop comms plan.
- Roll out of Safe Haven including delivery of training.
- Develop a directory of businesses signed up to be Safe Havens – add to council website.
- Update Community Safety Partnership Board, IVOLT and Portfolio.



Street Space – Station Activation

Street Space were commissioned to deliver a pilot to explore perceptions of safety at Barking Station. The pilot was designed to work and listen to residents, business and those who use the station to better understand residents' perceptions and co-create an activation to improve perceptions of safety. The pilot identified;

- 86% felt unsafe outside barking station, the four reasons for feeling unsafe were, other people, the area felt run down, the space is dark and high speed traffic.
- Residents found it hard to relate with other people leading to a disconnected with other people and moved through the station quickly adding to the space feeling uncomfortable.
- The area is uncared for which makes it feel unseen and unregulated.
- Lack of care and maintenance impacted the levels of crime at the station.
- By asking how we can improve perceptions in a more helpful way outside of looking at enforcement and more policing it allowed residents to be involved in design and change.
- The pilot used inspired ideas gathered through workshops and surveys and filmed noises from across the borough then worked in partnership with the council and C2C to implement the sound activation for 2 weeks.
- Upon review, 65% of residents who participated said they felt calmer and 70% felt the space was more cared for.



Street Space – Station Activation

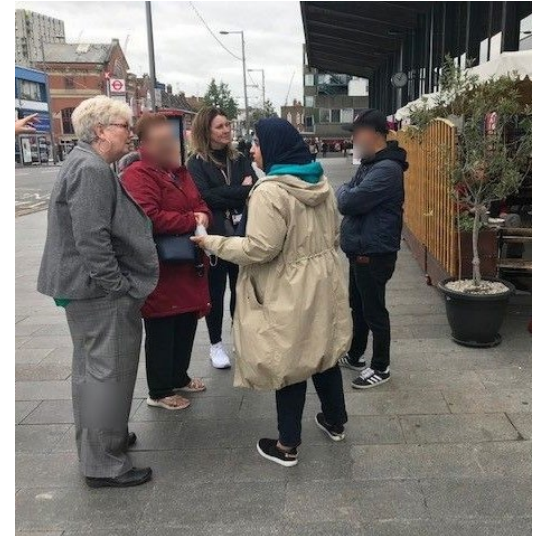
A second pilot was commissioned to implement more positive interventions to improve perceptions of safety and ASB at Barking Station. The following is being implemented on an 8 week pilot.

- Create a platform for busking or arts performances and testing this at different times of the day, experimenting with a range of licensing and permission models to create a new sense of vibrancy to the station through shared experience and distraction.
- Green the station through innovative and community led methods and models to create a relaxing, inspired by nature atmosphere.
- Commission local artwork for the station to add vibrancy, colour and energy to the space with the potential to humanise and bring a sense of local connection to the station.
- A resident launch day took place on 7th November 2021 with planting, live music performances and artwork installations.
- A robust before and after evaluation is being conducted with residents and businesses to understand the impact of the intervention.



Councillor follow-on walkabouts

- Following on from the results of the Women's Safety Survey, Councillor Saima Ashraf, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Leadership and Engagement and Councillor Margaret Mullane, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety joined council officers to visit local hot spots.
- Councillors visited Dagenham Heathway, Chadwell Heath and Barking Town Centre which were 3 of the areas highlighted in the survey, so they could see first-hand what the issues are.
- The findings from the walkabout were worked up into an action plan by the Community Safety Partnership, setting out timescales for delivery including the quick fixes to improve safety in the borough.



Safety of Women at Night Fund (SWAN)

- Applied for the Home Office SWAN (Safety of Women at Night Fund) to provide:
- Training, coordination to the rollout of Safe Havens.
- Deliver active bystander training to the community.
- Use of Toot Toot / Stribe for real-time information and reporting.
- Recently confirmed by the Home Office that LBBD bid was not successful. Only 1 borough in London received funding.
- Currently investigating other local funding streams including Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

Women's Night Safety Charter

- Launched in 2021 by the Mayor of London, organisations across the capital are invited to join the charter. Key actions are as follows:
- Nominate a champion in your organisation who actively promotes women's night safety.
- Demonstrate to staff and customers that your organisation takes women's safety at night seriously, for example through a communications campaign.
- Remind customers and staff that London is safe, but tell them what to do if they experience harassment when working, going out or travelling.
- Encourage reporting by victims and bystanders as part of your communications campaign.
- Train staff to ensure that all women who report are believed.
- Train staff to ensure that all reports are recorded and responded to.
- Design your public spaces and work places to make them safer for women at night.



Environmental Visual Audits

- Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) are used by the Police alongside other agencies to identify problems in the area such as litter, graffiti, vandalism, and fly-tipping and make recommendations for crime reduction and improvement.
- In July 2021, walkabouts took place in Barking Town Centre with Police and Council officers.
- We have received 3 reports covering the following areas:
 - Barking Train Station / Station Parade.
 - Wakering service road to rear of the shops.
 - East Street and London Road.
 - Cross cutting licensing recommendations.
- Development of a Barking Town Centre Action Plan Meeting to pickup recommendations and capture existing work across the partnership.

Barking Town Centre Action Plan Meeting

- First Barking Town Centre Action Plan Meeting held on 10th September 2021.
- Range of services in attendance including Parking, Licensing, BeFirst, ComSol, Community Safety and the Police.
- Draft action plan which highlights the tasks, action owners, timescales, and updates from each of the service areas about progress or issues.
- Positive - Lots we can do right now, licensing work, existing development projects, enforcement patrols, uplifting of trees.
- Concerns - Areas of private land ownership and areas which are ear-marked for longer term development.
- How to measure success – We can use crime data but feedback from businesses and residents will be important.
- Next meeting in December 2021 to take forward next steps.

Street Safe Tool Launch

- StreetSafe is a pilot service for anyone to anonymously tell the Police about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.
- Residents can report environmental issues, e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, e.g. being followed or verbally abused.
- Residents can put pins onto a map of the borough, highlighting the areas where they feel less safe.
- The tool asks residents to indicate if this is an emergency or in immediate danger. In these cases the tool will direct them to appropriate channels e.g. 999.
- Next steps are for the data collected by the tool to be shared with the Police Basic Command Unit for review and to inform local responses including partnership working.

Police Town Centre Team

- Uplift agreed in current Police Town Centre resources
- New team will comprise of 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 27 Police Constables. Recruitment underway
- Initial meeting taken place between Council Community Safety Team and new Inspector
- Training day planned for late November
- Team to go-live in early December

Community Safety Enforcement Team

- We identified the need for a new council enforcement team that will specifically focus on patrolling key hotspot locations providing reassurance and tackling ASB and other visible street issues.
- They work alongside the police crime and enforcement taskforce, Safer Transport team and SNT, tasked to areas of need via the weekly and monthly (IVOLT) tasking meetings.
- Team of 5 increased to team of 12 on a 24hr/ 7days a week shift rota from September 2021.
- Enforce our PSPO areas, issue FPN's, CPW's and CPN's.
- Engage with vulnerable individuals encouraging access to the appropriate Council services.
- Assist in building better intelligence picture of LBBD.
- Can be deployed immediately to any areas following a critical incident.
- Assist with joint visit for other Council staff to provide greater safe working.
- Act as professional witnesses in ASB hotspots.
- Help assess areas following reports of ASB.

IVOLT Subgroup

- Monitor relevant actions within the local serious violence and knife crime action plan to ensure partners are using resources effectively to deliver on commitments outlines in the plan.
- Determine any trends, hotspot areas, offending and victim cohorts
- Addressing perceptions of safety
- Improving fire safety and fire prevention
- Reduce levels of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) including ASB around local licensed premises and identified hotspots
- Monitor licensed premises to ensure any violence/crime is managed and reduced.
- Reduce levels of repeat victimisation
- Improve residents perception of safety to be better than the London average and review local data to monitor changes to perceptions of safety
- Conduct an in depth review of local data and dashboards to monitor high harm crimes to inform allocation of council and partnership resources.
- Monitor levels of complex ASB and hate crime through a local standing case conference to resolve high risk/complex cases and provide support to victims.
- **Recent locations of concern around Women's safety flagged through iVOLT included Marks Gate and Dagenham East Station.**

Consideration being given to the following

- **Community Conversation:** Setup an online event, inviting everyone who has taken part, where we feed back on what has been reported, and outline what we're doing with the info, and when.
- **Support ideas which come out of the above conversations:** Support residents to take action- building on their passion and insights. In our experience it's hard to predict what might arise and what opportunities might develop.
- **'Closing the loops':** Ensure feedback on this issue, on a regular basis, to 'close the loops' on what has taken place, what has been achieved and what is ongoing.
- **'Policies and Strategies':** Consider how this work links in with MPS VAWG Action Plan and Police and Crime Plan 2021/25

For any further information please contact CSP@lbbd.gov.uk

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