

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

YOUTH VIOLENCE BRIEFING REPORT

Subject: Tackling Youth Violence

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Executive Summary

- This briefing report provides the Community Safety Partnership board with an overview on youth violence in Barking and Dagenham.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) victims since December 2015. The daily offence rate for SYV has also taken a steep rise so far in May 2016. There has also been a rise in 'Gang flagged' SYV offences in May 2016.
- The data for the last 12 weeks shows there are clusters of SYV in:
 - Abbey Ward and the northern end of Gascoigne Ward;
 - Longbridge Road / Lodge Avenue; and
 - Wood Lane
- Victims of SYV tend to be male, aged 15-19.
- Suspects in SYV offences tend to be male aged 15-19.
- Since the New Year, there has also been a marked increase in the number of offences using noxious substances in Barking & Dagenham.
- During the agenda item, members of the Community Safety Partnership will be invited to discuss and agree a way forward in terms of addressing the issue of youth violence and how we can develop a strategic and coordinated response.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This briefing report provides the Community Safety Partnership board with an overview on youth violence in Barking and Dagenham.
- 1.2 After key information is presented, all members will be asked to discuss and address the issue of how to involve partners in delivering a full response to youth violence. The aim is to work towards developing a holistic plan which encompasses measures to prevent youth violence, protect all victims of youth violence, and to effectively manage and enforce against offenders.

2. Youth Violence in Barking & Dagenham

- 2.1 The Serious Youth Violence (SYV) indicator counts the number of victims aged between 1 and 19 years old of serious violence offences or weapon enabled crime. The number of young victims in Barking & Dagenham has been steadily increasing since 2013/14.
- 2.2 The latest rolling 12 months to March 2016 for Barking and Dagenham shows a 33% increase on the previous year (183 to 244 victims - fig 1). In comparison the London average shows a 3% increase for the same periods (6041 to 6223 victims - fig 2).

Fig 1: Serious Youth Violence (victim count) in Barking & Dagenham (rolling 12 months)

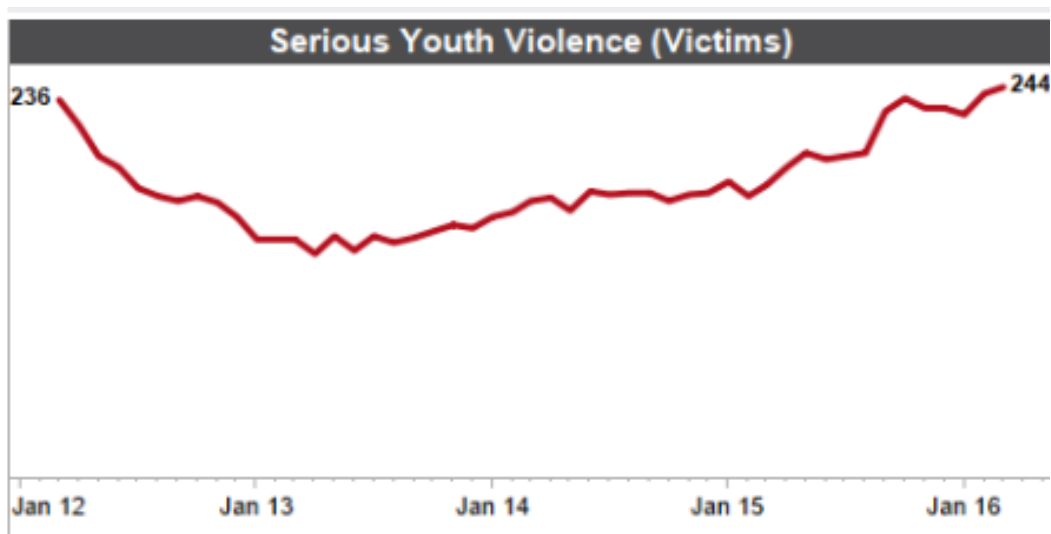
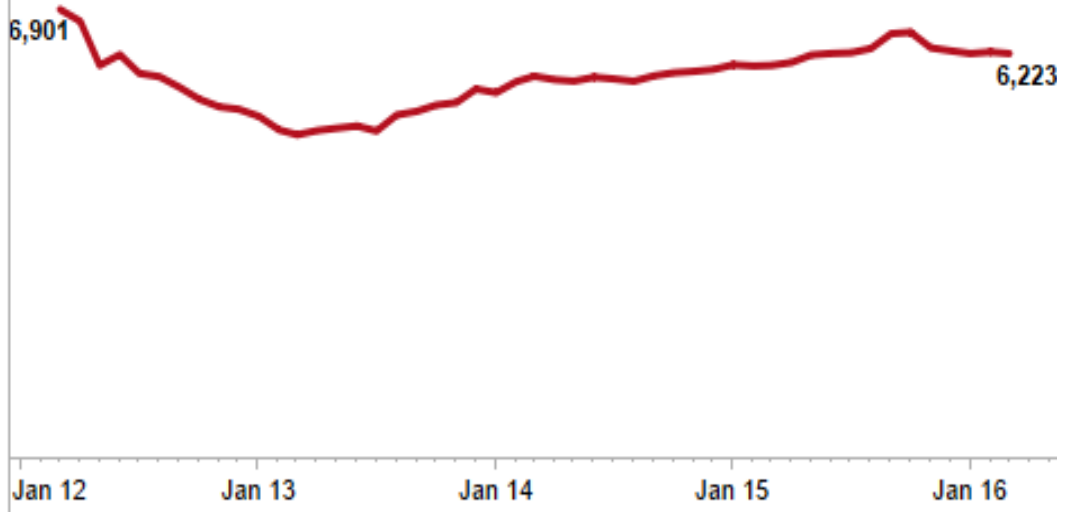


Fig 2: Serious Youth Violence (victim count) London (rolling 12 months)

Serious Youth Violence (Victims)



What the latest police data tells us (up to 19/05/2016):

2.3 Expanding the age range of victims and suspects up to the age of 25 provides a bigger picture for looking at who is involved and what the issues are. Using this data we can see there has been a steady upward trend in SYV victims since December 2015, although the numbers have not been much higher than average until this month.

2.4 As can be seen in fig 3, the daily offence rate has taken a steep rise so far in May 2016. If this trend continues then offences may well climb higher than the most recent peak in September 2015.

There has also been a rise in Gang flagged SYV offences in May 2016 (fig 4). There have been 5 so far this month and the previous highest had been three per month in the past 2 years. These 5 offences do not seem to be linked other than being Gang flagged.

Fig 3: Barking & Dagenham SYV for under 25s: 01 Jan 15 to 19 May 16

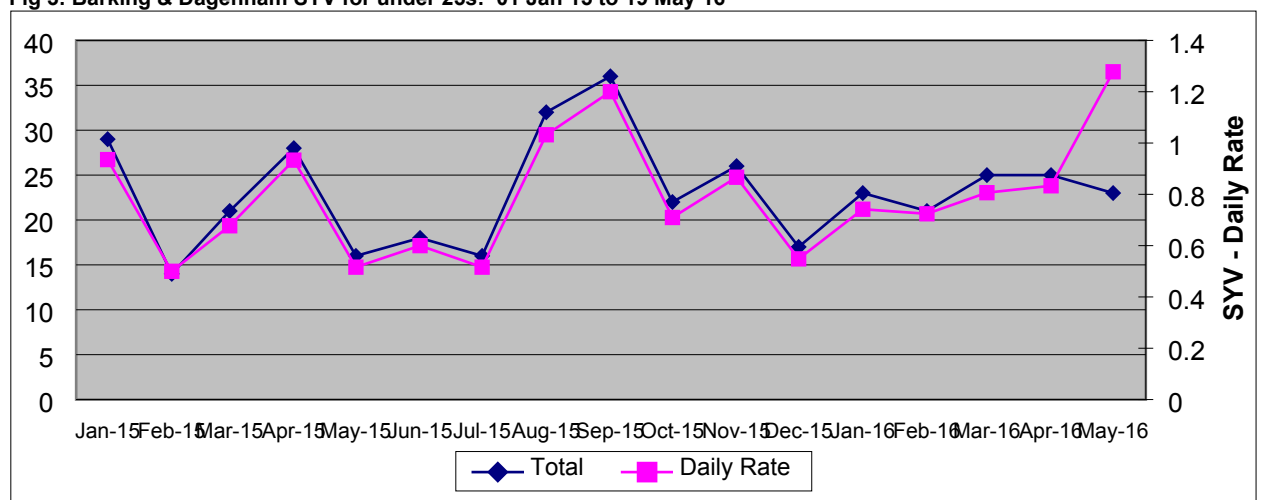
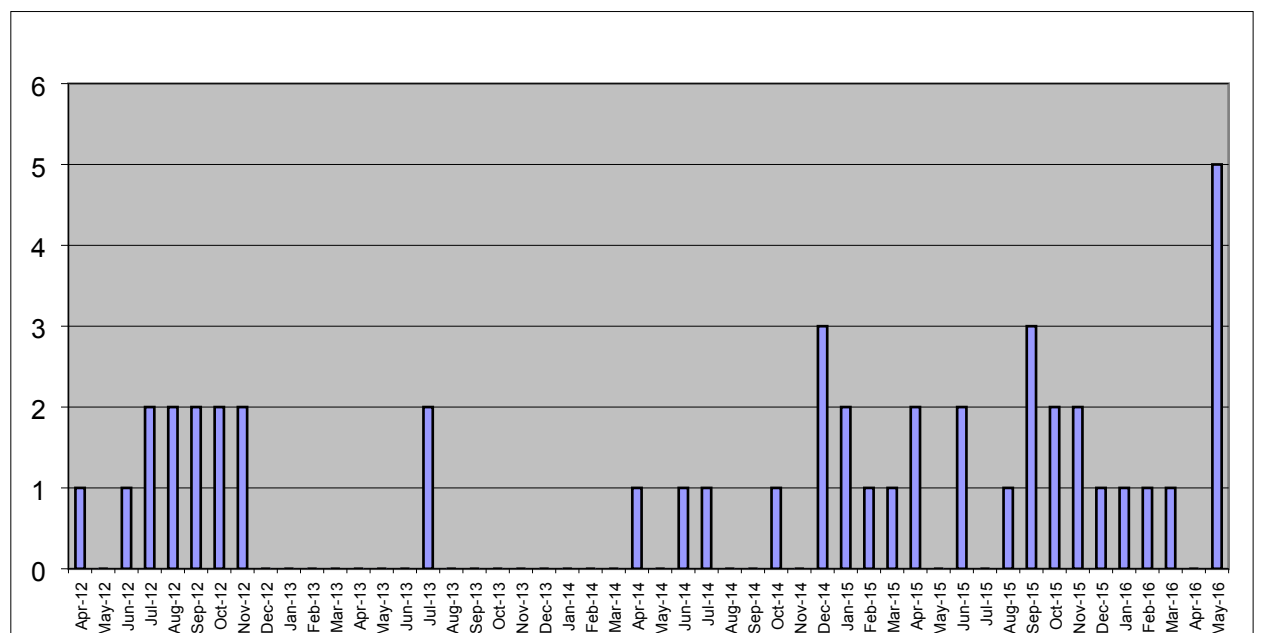


Fig 4: Barking & Dagenham Gang flagged offences for under 25's: 01 Apr 2012 to 19 May 2016



Serious Youth Violence: Key findings (data from 25/02/2016 – 19/05/2016)

- 2.5 There have been 54 Serious Youth Violence offences on Barking & Dagenham in the last 12 weeks and whilst these are spread throughout the borough, there are some noticeable clusters. There is a slightly diffuse cluster around Abbey ward and the northern end of Gascoigne ward. There is a tighter cluster of offences around Longbridge Road/Lodge Avenue comprised of 2 knife offences, 1 Ammonia and a Robbery; and a third around Wood Lane, 2 of which are fights at Sydney Russell School and one armed robbery at a convenience store.
- 2.6 Fig 5 shows there is a distinct concentration of (non-serious) Youth Violence in the Heathway area, these offences are mainly offences between family members and acquaintances, 5 are reports of children being hit by parents.
- 2.7 The peak time for SYV offences is 1500-1800 with a secondary peak 2100-0100, all days of the week are affected fairly evenly.

Victims and Suspects for Serious Youth Violence

- 2.8 Victims of SYV tend to be male, aged 15-19.
- 2.9 Suspects in SYV offences tend to be male aged 15-19.
- 2.10 Where data is available the schools for Victims and Suspects have been identified. Further information will be available in the CSP presentation on youth Violence on 01.06.2016.
- 2.11 Further data obtained from King Georges and Queens Hospitals Accident & Emergency departments show a total of 21 individuals aged between 1 and 19 years sought treatment for injuries after being assaulted in Barking & Dagenham between Jan and April 2016. Over half of these young people told the A&E staff that they did not report the assault to the police at the time. Half of the assaults were committed by strangers. The major profile of the 21 young people involved was Male, with the majority aged between 17 and 18 years with an even spread of individuals from a White European, Black Asian and Mixed ethnicity. Just over half of 12 of the 21 young people were Barking and Dagenham residents with the remaining individuals residing in Redbridge and Havering.

Use of Noxious Substances: Key findings (data from 01/01/2016 – 19/05/2016)

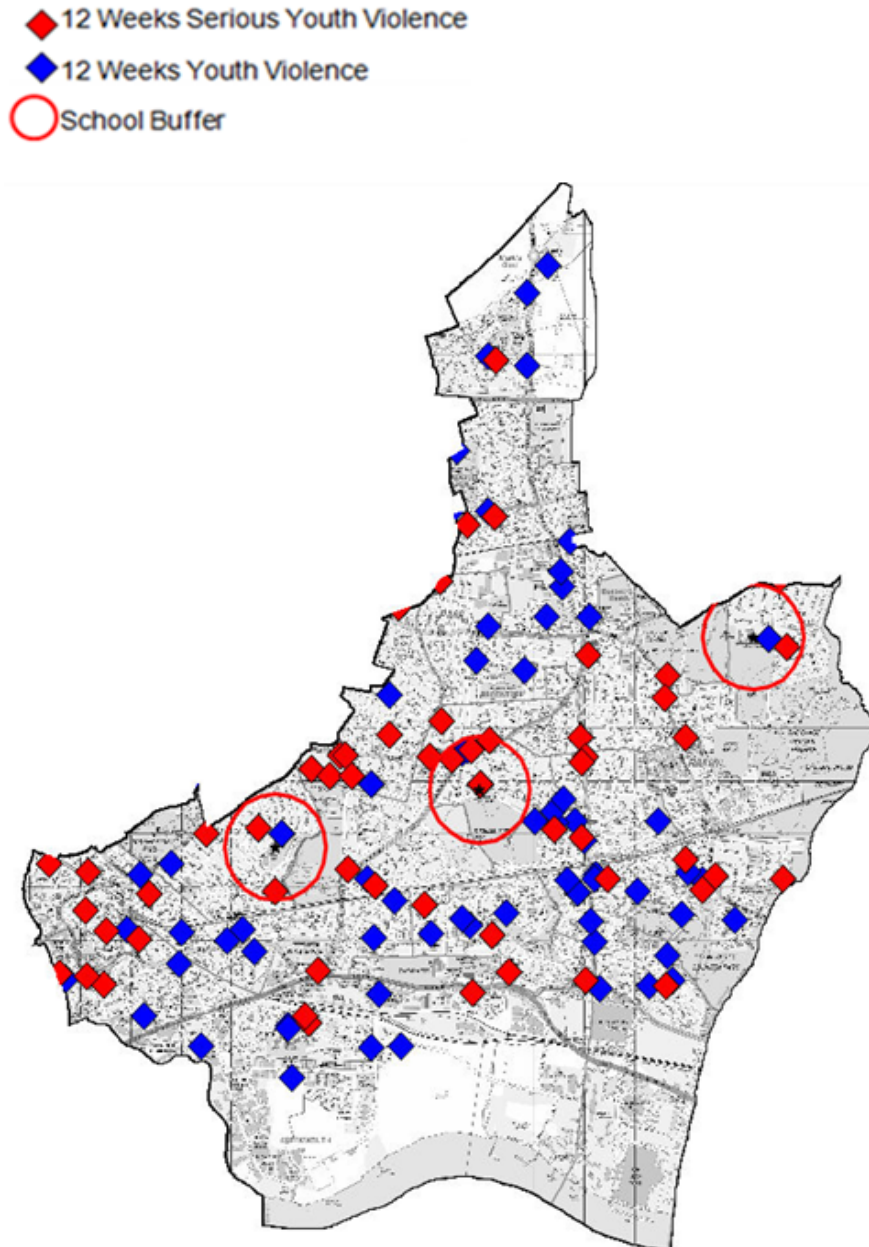
- 2.12 Since the New Year, there has been a marked increase in the number of offences using noxious substances in Barking & Dagenham.
- 2.13 When these offences are mapped (fig 6), there is a distinct bias towards the West of the borough with only 3 of the 21 offences in the east/north. 4 of the offences are Robberies in which the substance has been sprayed in the face of the victim in order to make stealing easier. A further 4 are Criminal Damage to MV offences, the rest are Violence or Offensive Weapon offences.
- 2.14 The substance is often stored in plastic bottles with "sports caps" such as Lucozade sport bottles. Only 2 of the offences were flagged as GA, for gang related activity.
- 2.15 Further data obtained from admissions to King Georges and Queens Accident and Emergency departments for assaults involving chemicals between January and

April 2016 is less than 5. This initially indicates that majority of incidents involving noxious substances are known to the police.

Victims and Suspects for Noxious Substances

2.16 Suspects are male and tend to be youths. There are 20 named suspects for these offences. Where data is available, the suspects tend to be Barking & Dagenham residents.

Fig 5: Map showing serious youth violence and youth violence offences over the last 12 weeks



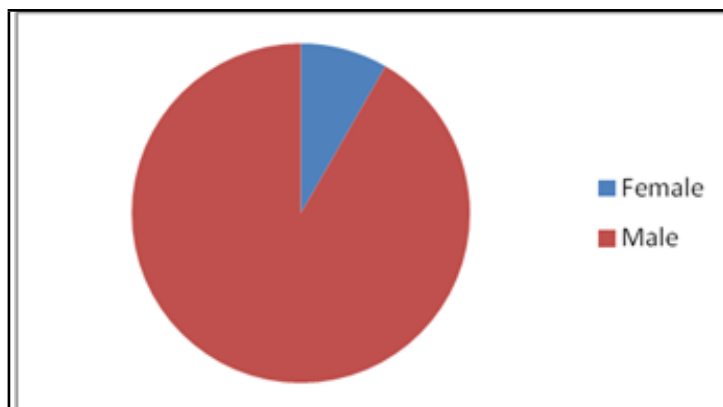
3. Police perspective

- 3.1 The police have a plan in place and recently reviewed this with staff from the local authority's Community Safety and Offender Management Service. Some additional details are being added to the plan which will be available for discussion at the Youth Violence Summit on Friday 01 June 2016.

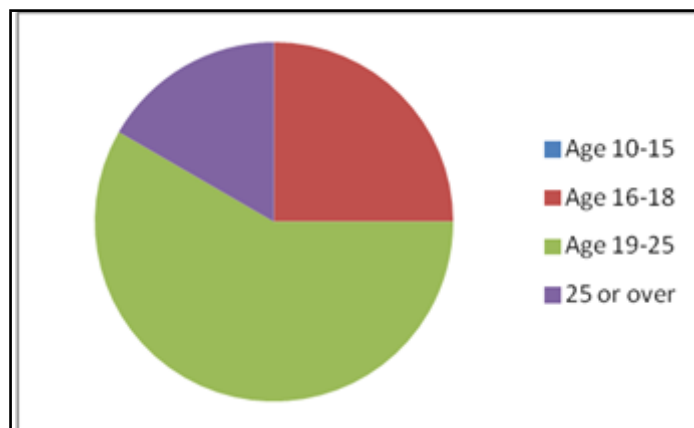
4. ASB perspective

- 4.1 Recent incidents of disorder in Barking Town Centre and involving pupils from schools have not been reported as ASB complaints to the Council. ASB involvement in these incidents has been initiated by partners who have had the incidents directly reported to them and ASB involvement has been in terms of allocating resources, for example the deployment of mobile CCTV to areas where this is required as part of a tactical response. ASB powers and non-legal ASB tools such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, engagement with parents (particularly where this is linked to tenancy), parent support and removal of privileges (like removing Zip cards) are being explored in terms of those involved.
- 4.2 In terms of the role of ASB in the work around gangs, this generally includes assisting with risk reduction through Safer Homes and working with partners in cases where individuals and families need to be re-housed, as well as the use of ASB powers to manage the behaviour of individuals.
- 4.3 Approximately 6 households per week approach the Council asking to be moved under management grounds (because their 'life or limb' is at risk). Those citing gang association or threats from gangs have historically been a small proportion of these requests to move. Generally those approaching the Council asking to be moved due to previous gang involvement will not be agreed as there is a specific scheme in place to deal with these issues. The Safe and Secure scheme ensures that the individual is committed to exiting the gang lifestyle and moves are out of the area.
- 4.4 Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) are an ASB tool used to manage offenders and given following a criminal conviction. Currently Barking and Dagenham has 12 CBOs. Information about these orders is as follows:

Gender of Subject:

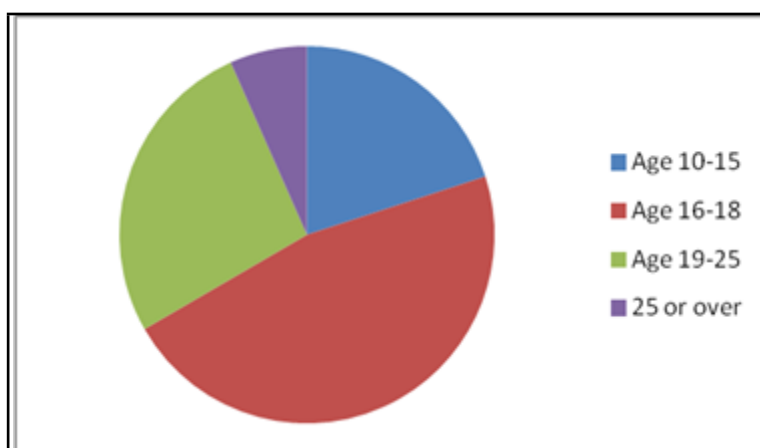


Age of Subject:



4.5 In terms of the current CBOs 66.6% are against subjects on the gang matrix.

4.6 There are also 15 CBO applications pending. In terms of these orders, all the subjects are male and the age breakdown is as follows:



4.7 66.6% of the applications are to manage subjects on the gang matrix.

4.8 Individuals who have not been convicted of a criminal offence can be managed by way of Civil Injunctions. The Council have used this power widely. We currently have orders against 42 individuals, 12 of which are individuals who are on the gang matrix, but are all adults. We have not applied for any Civil Injunctions against those under 18 to date. Civil Injunctions have been used more widely in the case of adults as officers make applications for these orders without the use of Legal Services which is not possible in the case of applications for under 18s. However work is taking place to agree how this tool can be used in a way which complements the partnership gang strategy and is used to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system.

5. Gangs Unit perspective

5.1 The police and gangs unit have a plan in place and recently reviewed this with staff from the local authority's Community Safety and Offender Management Service. Some additional details are being added to the plan which will be available for discussion at the Youth Violence Summit on Friday 27 May 2016 prior to being discussed at the CSP on 01 June 2016.

5.2 The Gangs Unit in each of the 32 London boroughs is linked to the Trident Gang Crime Command which leads the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) response to tackling gang-related crime and associated violence. Trident has resources, including Operation Connect, which is used to develop a coordinated police response to gang crime, whilst working with partners to divert young people away from gangs.

6. YOS Perspective

6.1 The YOS has looked back at the last three years to identify if there are any trends that are apparent throughout the YOS cohort with regard to violent offences such as assault, GBH, ABH and also possession of an offensive weapon or bladed article.

	Offences committed between May 2013 and April 2014	Offences committed between May 2013 and April 2015	Offences committed between May 2013 and April 2016
Overall total YOS caseload (individuals / offences they committed)	418 / 1156	318 / 1161	265 / 968
<i>Caseload year on year % Change</i>		<i>-23% / + 0.4%</i>	<i>-17% / -17%</i>
Of which total who committed violent offences (individuals / violent offences committed)	151 / 200	147 / 266	141 / 280
% of individuals on caseload committing violent offences / proportion of offences committed that were violent offences	36% / 17%	46% / 23%	53% / 29%
<i>Caseload committing violent offences year on year % change</i>		<i>-3% / + 33%</i>	<i>-4% / + 5%</i>

6.2 With regard to violent offences the numbers of young people open to the YOS that have been charged with a violent offence has reduced year on year in terms of numbers from 151 in 2013/14 to 141 in 2015/16. However this is within the context of a reducing caseload within the YOS.

6.3 The emerging pattern over the last three years is that violent offences now make up a larger percentage of the YOS cohort.

6.4 Appendix A shows the offences committed by individuals on the YOS caseload over the last three financial years. Possession of a bladed article reduced slightly between 13/14 and 14/15 but has shown a large increase in 15/16. However it is not clear what kind of weapon or the details regarding size of blade etc. This is not something the YOS routinely monitor but will be something that we will explore moving forward in order to capture a clearer picture of the use of particular types of weapons used and any trends within this.

6.5 There have been less than 5 individuals open to the YOS that have been charged with the use of a noxious substance at this time.

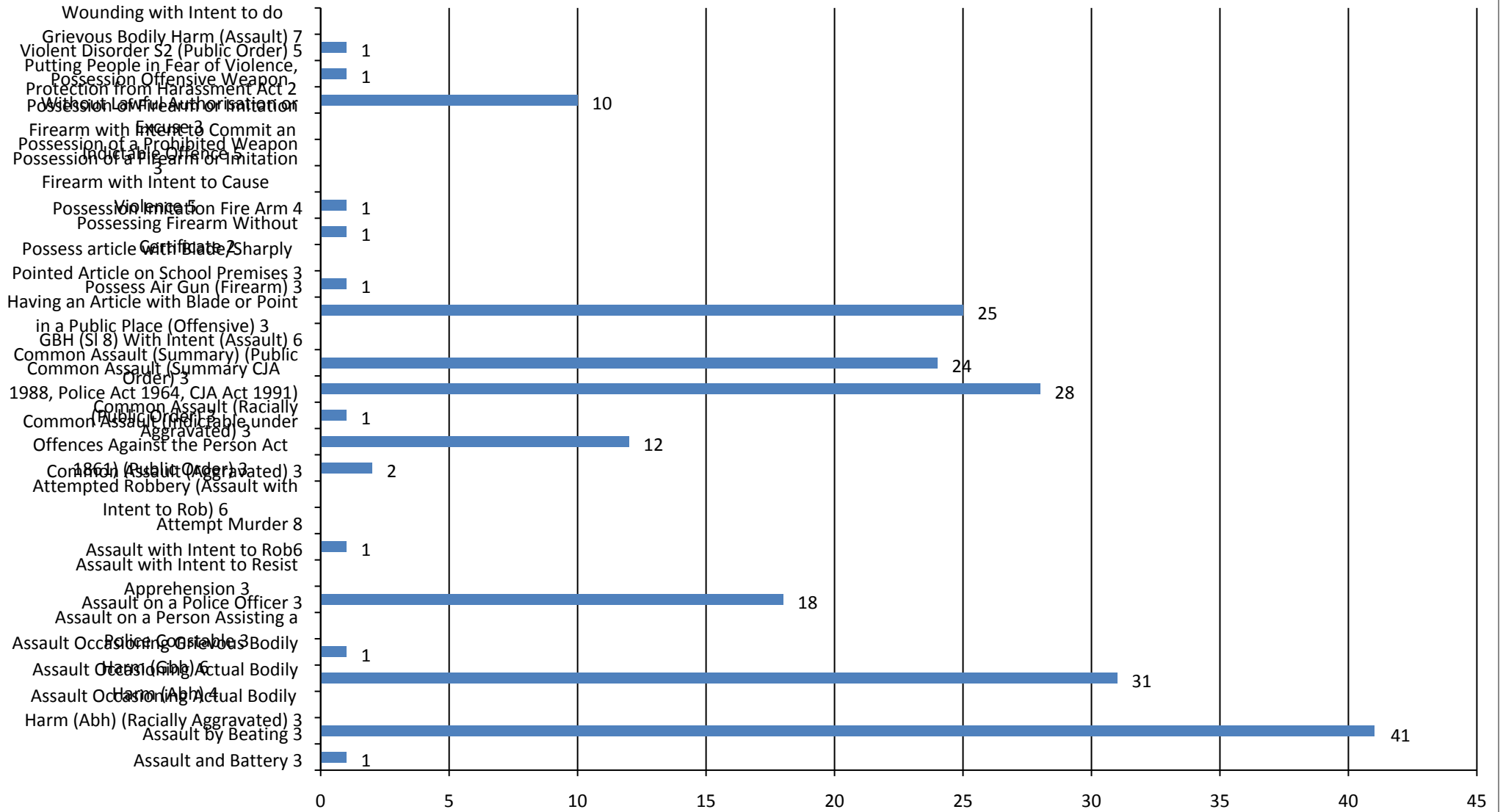
- 6.6 With regard to gang association and participation there are only a small number of young people that are open to the YOS that are on the police gangs matrix. Of the 385 young people that committed a violent offence over the last three years only 28 of these were on the gangs matrix. However there are a number of young people who may not feature within the matrix but may have some links or associations with gang nominals. The YOS is currently exploring the need to map these associations in a more formal way through its own matrix type document.
- 6.7 Due to some concerns regarding incidents that were believed to be linked to gangs and the possibility of reprisals the YOS instigated a mapping event and invited police, ASB, education and youth services to explore these concerns further.
- 6.8 This event was an opportunity for agencies to share lower level intelligence and information that may not have met any agency thresholds as an individual piece of information but linked to other information may raise concerns regarding any particular individuals. This proved to be a worthwhile event for all agencies concerned and a number of actions were taken by agencies with regard to particular addresses, individuals and groups. It is hoped that this event will become a regular occurrence on a quarterly basis with all agencies involved in order to maintain a clear overview of any issues that may be happening within a particular borough with regard to young people.
- 6.9 For those young people that are open to the YOS for violent offences there are a range of interventions that are utilised.
- 6.10 Anger management is one of the most common issues, particularly for young men who may lack a positive male role model within their lives. The YOS utilises the skills of the psychologist with these interventions as well as offering family work and parenting interventions to assist parents in managing these behaviours.
- 6.11 There are one to one interventions with the case managers to address the behaviours that impact the offending and ways to reduce these behaviours, such as substance use work and addressing any issues of boredom with access to education training or employment opportunities as well as diversionary activities.
- 6.12 For those young people that are charged with possession of offensive weapons there is a weapons awareness programme that is currently delivered as a group programme or one to one. We have also utilised the parent of a child who has been killed due to weapons and gang associations that young people have found a powerful experience.
- 6.13 Wherever possible we try to get young people and victims to participate in a restorative process. In a lot of circumstances victims do not want to participate but we will still get young people to complete letters of apology etc. We are also utilising surrogate victims taken from a pool of volunteers to put across the victims point of view and be the surrogate victim during referral order panels to try and bring alive the victims perspective when addressing the behaviours with the young person.
- 6.14 **Areas for further consideration**
- Regular quarterly mapping events between agencies to highlight lower level associations and potential gang involvement
 - Victims of stabbing incidents are targeted by agencies in order to intervene at an earlier stage due to the potential that this incident may have been gang

related and the victim is more likely to become a perpetrator through potential reprisals

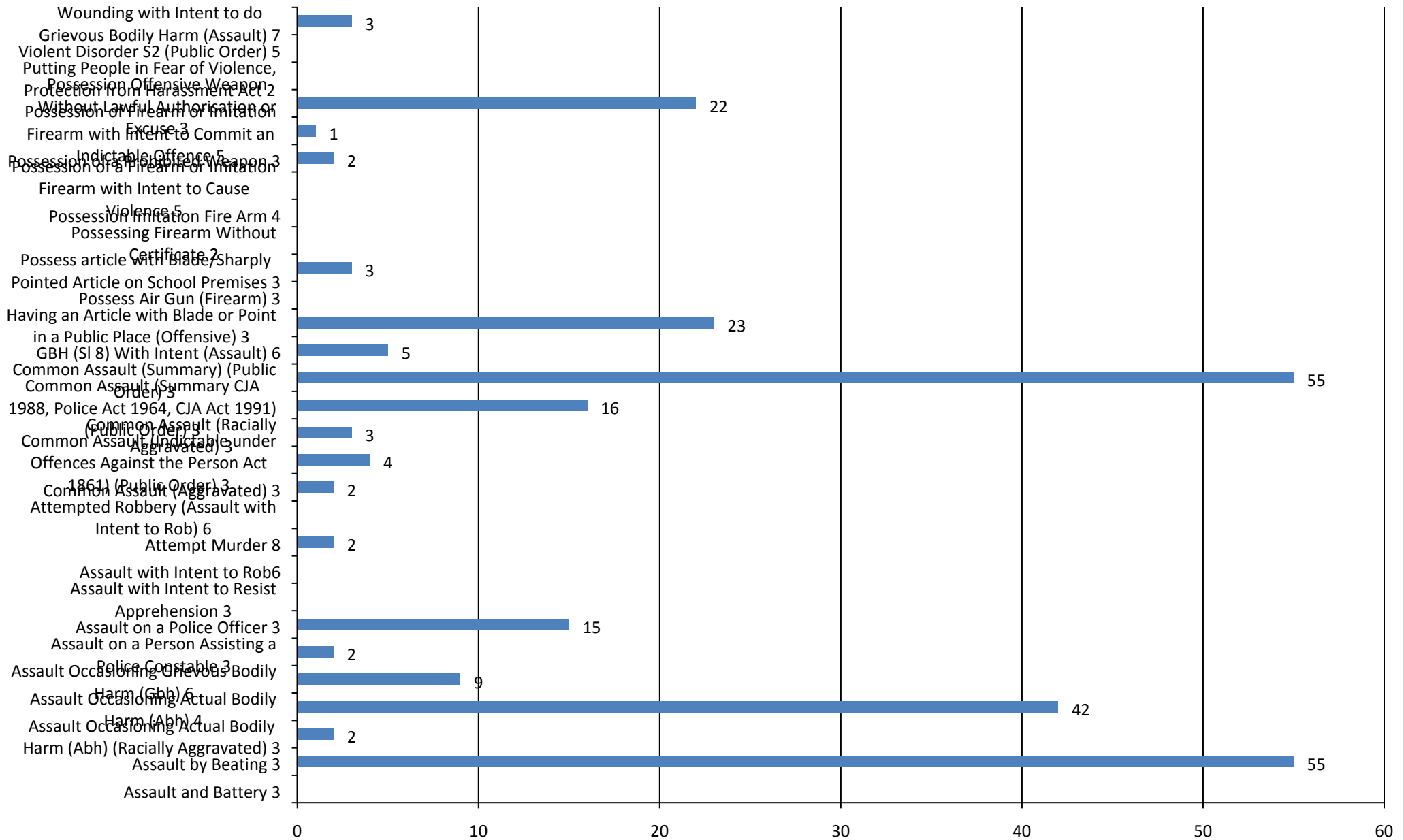
- Referral to weapons awareness sessions at lower level contact
- Educations sessions regarding noxious substances with young people

Appendix A: Youth Offending Service caseload and offences committed by individuals over the last three financial years 2012/13 to 2015/16

151 Young offenders known to YOS: For the 200 violent offences committed between May 2013 to April 2014



147 young offenders known to YOS: For the 266 violent offences committed between May 2014 to April 2015



**141 young offenders known to YOS for 280 violent offences committed between
May 2015 to April 2016**

