

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

YOUTH VIOLENCE BRIEFING REPORT

Subject: Tackling Youth Violence

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Security: Protected

Executive Summary

- This briefing report provides the Community Safety Partnership board with an update on youth violence in Barking and Dagenham.
- Progress is being seen in reducing indicators around Serious Youth Violence (Victims) and First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System, although there is further work to be done
- Proposals around utilising a substantial amount of the London Crime Prevention Fund allocation for 2017/18 on this work stream are currently with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime with feedback on these proposals expected by the end of February 2017
- This funding will enable the continuation of work around preventing first time entrants, offering a strong diversionary programme and supporting our highest risk offenders make positive changes.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This briefing report provides the Community Safety Partnership board with an update on youth violence in Barking and Dagenham. This report is following a briefing provided in June 2016 which outlined the issues at that time and to update the Partnership on progress 6 months on.

2. Youth Violence in Barking & Dagenham February 2017

- 2.1 The Serious Youth Violence (SYV) indicator counts the number of victims of serious violence offences or weapon enabled crime. This data is publicly available and can found at [MOPAC Gangs Dashboard](#)
- 2.2 As of June 2016 the number of young victims in Barking & Dagenham had been steadily increasing since 2013/14.
- 2.3 In June 2016 the Community Safety Partnership was provided with figures for Serious Youth Violence (which counts victims under the age of 19) from January 2012 to June 2016. As of June 2016 these showed a 33% increase on the previous year (183 to 244 victims - fig 1). In comparison the London average showed 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)

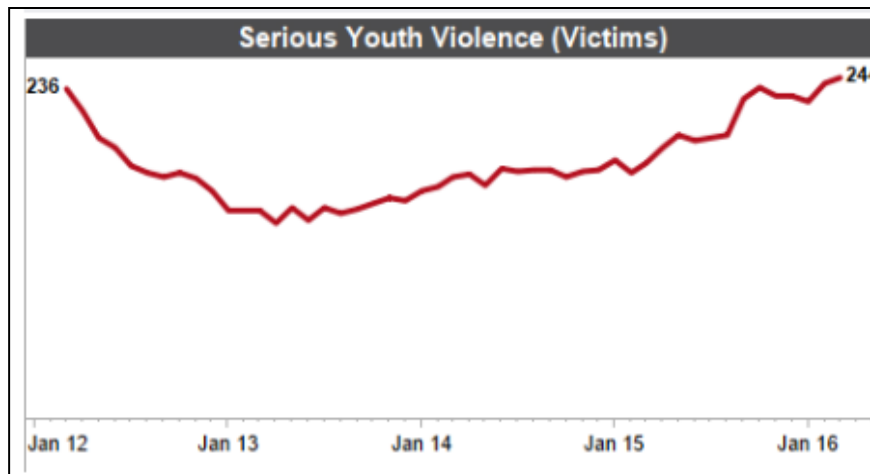
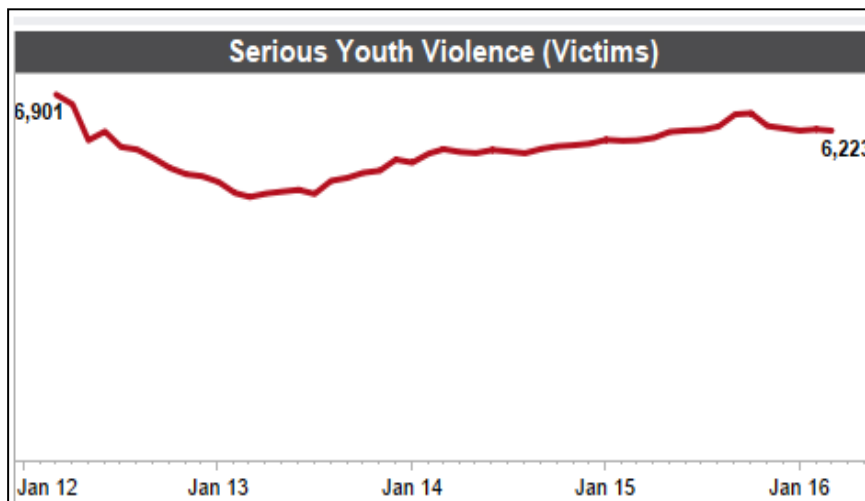


Fig 2: Serious Youth Violence (victim count) London (rolling 12 months)

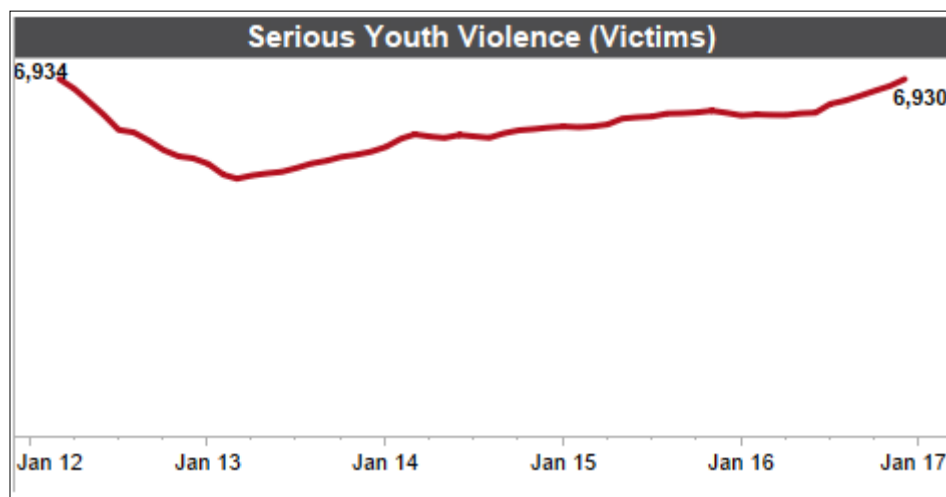


2.4 Figure 3 shows the same data for serious youth violence in Barking and Dagenham up to January 2017. While number of victims are still much higher than we would want, the number of victims have started to decrease since June 2016. This is compared to figures for serious youth violence (victims) for the whole of London which shows continued increases in victim numbers (Fig. 4)

Fig 3: Serious Youth Violence (victim count) Barking and Dagenham (rolling 12 months)



Fig 4: Serious Youth Violence (victim count) London (rolling 12 months)



2.5 While any downward trends should be welcomed, comparing the number of offences between January 2016 (226 victims) and January 2017 (251 victims) there is still a year on year increase in offences. This is being closely monitored and there is continued work being done to tackle this issue to ensure reductions are maintained.

2.6 Fig 5 shows knife crime with injury offences for those under 25 the whole of London. There is an upward trend in these offences in the past 6 months: 1665 in June 2016 compared to 1844 in January 2017. Fig 6 shows knife crime with injury offences for Barking and Dagenham over the same period. This data shows 61 offences in June 2016 and 57 offences in January 2017.

Fig 5: Knife Crime with Injury (under 25s) London

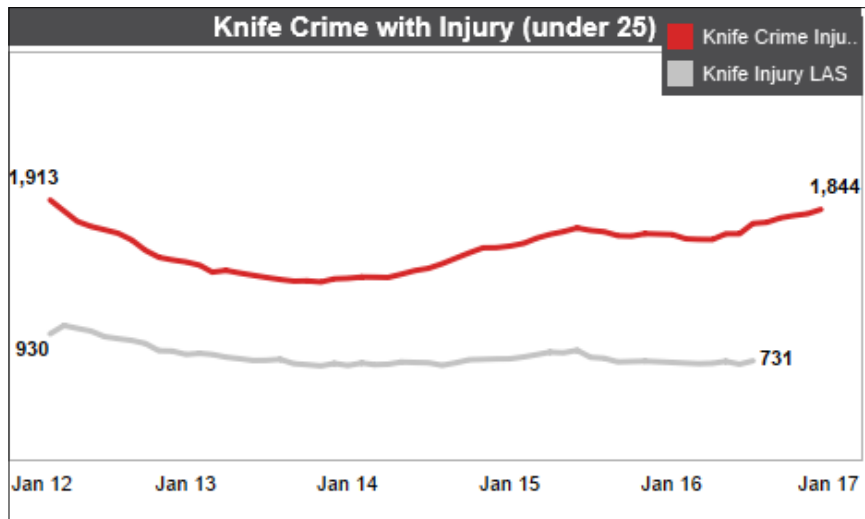
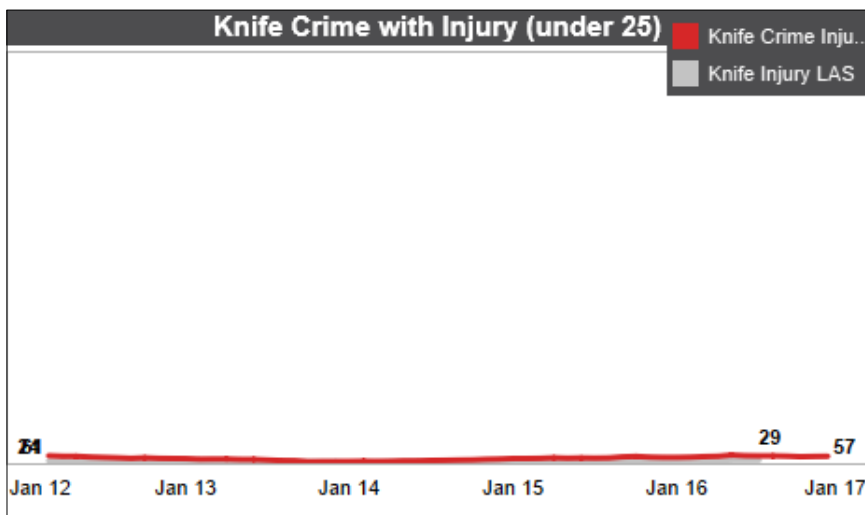


Fig 6: Knife Crime with Injury (under 25s) Barking and Dagenham

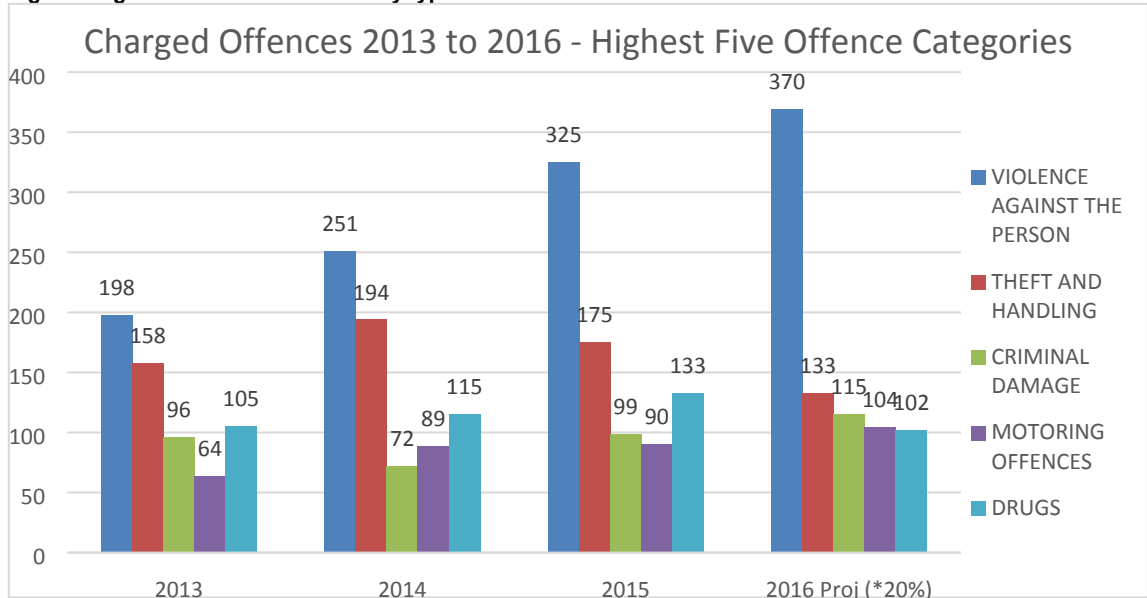


2.7 This suggests that while London is continuing to see an increase in knife crime offences with injury to victims under 25, in Barking and Dagenham our offence rate is remaining largely static.

3. YOS Perspective

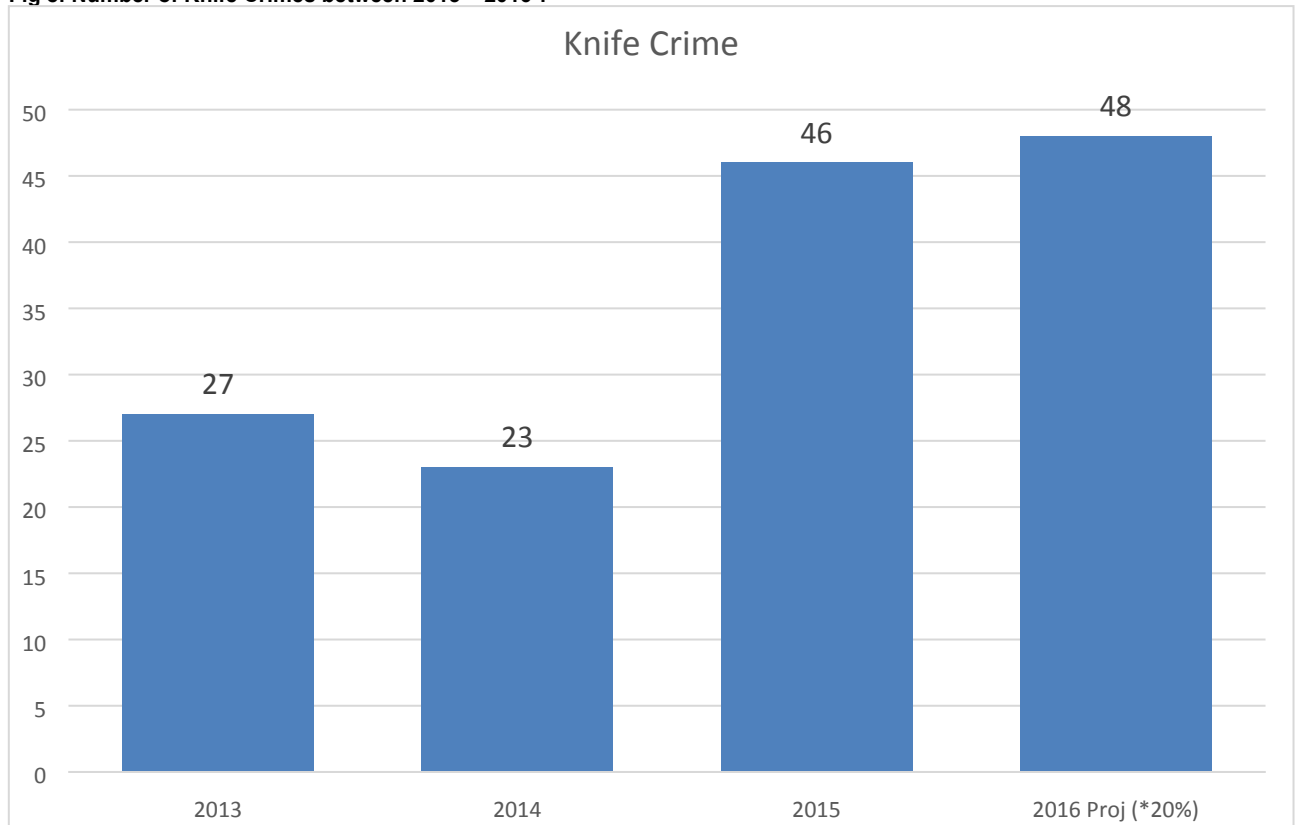
3.1 The YOS has looked specifically at its cohort and violence against the person has shown a 14% increase over the last rolling 12 months. The emerging pattern over the last three years is that violent offences now make up a larger percentage of the YOS cohort.

Fig.7 Charged Offences 2013 – 2016 by type



3.2 More concerning is the increase in knife offences which have shown a dramatic jump from 2014 to 2016. However this is a projected value, with 40 knife incidents in 2016/17 to date.

Fig 8: Number of Knife Crimes between 2013 – 2016*.



3.3 The First Time Entrants (FTE)s into the youth justice system has continued to increase over the last rolling 12 months which is of concern. However there has been a reduction in the latest quarter which is optimistic and the YOS are working hard to maintain this The YOS has completed two detailed reports for the partnership management board (YOS COG) to identify the cohorts that are coming into the system and the presenting issues. This also provided an opportunity for partners to identify how they can also impact on this figure at an earlier stage.

- 3.4 Groupwork has been developed at the very early stages of contact with the YOS and areas of focus are:-
- Weapons awareness and safety work
 - Substance misuse, to include addressing county lines issues
 - Emotional health and wellbeing
 - Parenting work to assist parents in identifying when their children may be involved in gangs or serious youth violence.
 - Education training and employment and positive activities
- 3.5 The service has been monitoring the re-offending of those young people receiving an out of court disposal and this is showing good progress in comparison with last year. Those young people that receive a triage will not then enter the criminal justice system as a FTE if they do not re-offend. Rate for those that received an OOCOD in 2016 currently stands at just 8%. However, this will still need tracking for a further 12 months.
- 3.6 Recent Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents (CSPPI) reports have identified potential areas for earlier intervention and this has been fed into the potential bids for MOPAC funding. Specifically, the development of a youth 'at risk' matrix, and support for victims of stabbings in order to reduce the likelihood of them going on to become a perpetrator.
- 3.7 The youth 'At Risk' matrix will identify young people at a much lower level, primarily years 6 and 7 at school in order to identify concerning or risky behaviours at school that may suggest that a young person is at a higher risk of becoming involved in youth crime. This list will be reviewed regularly with partner agencies to ensure that pertinent information is shared and informs a fuller picture of a young person and their behaviours.
- 3.8 Intensive mentoring is currently being provided for those most high risk and complex young people and those young people due to resettle back into the community after a custodial sentence. This support focuses primarily on education training and employment and getting young people into alternative activities to reduce the risk of re-offending.
- 3.9 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.

4. Action Taken Since June 2016

- 4.1 The discussions at the Community Safety Partnership meeting in June 2016 were developed into a plan to address youth violence. This plan was divided into the areas of:
- Prevention
 - Protection

- Perpetrators

4.2 A Youth Violence Conference was held on the 28 September 2016 which enabled the partnership to engage with a wide range of professionals around this plan and seek their ideas about the work required to address this issue. Alongside this all staff and all Member briefings were delivered across the Council to ensure that everyone was aware of the work being done to tackle this issue and to see the views and engagement of staff.

4.3 In the area of prevention the following work has taken place:

- The number of Safer Schools Officers have been increased to strengthen the relationship between schools, the police and young people
- Increased neighbourhood policing levels across Barking and Dagenham
- Conducted test purchasing of knives and engaged with businesses around the issue of noxious substances
- Reviewed the diversionary activities available for young people and commissioned projects to work with young people in schools around weapons
- Completed audits at locations where violence has occurred to prevent further incidents
- Delivered a Job Fair targeted at young people involved with or at risk of involvement with gangs
- Engaged with communities directly affected by youth violence to agree how we can support them to deal with the issues they think have contributed to the problem.
- Developed a trained team of local volunteers to work with our young offenders as mentors to offer them support and help with accessing positive opportunities.

4.4 In the area of protection the following has been completed:

- A trained team of local volunteers has been developed to work with our young offenders as mentors to offer them support and help with accessing positive opportunities
- We are improving our work with victims and offenders of violence, to ensure that victims are protected and supported and that offenders are managed and encouraged to make the right choices
- Continued Sceptre Operations focused on removing knives from the streets.

4.5 In the area of perpetrators the following work has been delivered:

- A specialist service has been commissioned to deliver targeted mentoring to 'hard-to-reach' cases, particularly high risk offenders who are leaving custody
- The membership and processes in the Tactical Gangs Meeting have been reviewed
- Work has been completed to ensure that all relevant staff are aware of targeted interventions available to young offenders
- A problem profile into violence has been completed to aid our understanding of what contributes to people becoming involved in violence.

5. Work to Address SYV 2017-18

- 5.1 The London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) is a four-year fund with a value of over £70 million to enable local areas to prevent crime, reduce reoffending and support safer communities.
- 5.2 Barking and Dagenham has received an uplift of £241k, amounting to a total of £644k for 2017/18. In year two, the LCPF budget is allocated between direct borough funding (70%) and funding for co-commissioned services (30%).
- 5.3 A full report on the LCPF has been prepared for the Community Safety Partnership.
- 5.4 In recognition of the importance of to tackle the issue of youth violence a substantial amount of the LCPF is proposed to be allocated to the area of keeping children and young people safe. In total the funding proposed to be spent in this area totals 268,000 (42% of the total funding).
- 5.5 The specific work streams which have been proposed under this funding are:
- Expansion of the trial of high level mentoring support – Those identified as high risk of involvement in violence, gang involvement or resettling back into the community after a custodial sentence.
 - Out of Court Disposal – Supporting the delivery of Out of Court Disposals work in a bid to work with young people at an earlier stage to avoid entry into the criminal justice system.
 - Diversionary Activity – This will come in the form of counselling, mentoring, workshops and performances with targeted groups of young people in schools and other settings. Some of these are gender based with a focus on CSE, offences with weapons such as knives and noxious substances, which has been an evolving issue in offending locally.
 - Youth Risk Matrix – Create and maintain a matrix that identifies the most at risk young people through schools, police, youth service and Youth Offending Service (YOS).
 - Full Time Support Workers – This is early intervention of young people identified through the Youth Risk matrix. Support workers will work within schools and partner agencies to provide one to one mentoring. They will also support the Young people ward panel meetings encouraging engagement with police and the Council, giving young people a voice in their community.
- 5.6 As well as the work stream with the main aim of keeping children and young people safe, this work would also be supported by work in the areas of 'neighbourhood policing' and 'violence against women and girls'. Neighbourhood policing contains a proposal to commission a High Risk Victim Worker to work intensively with the highest risk victims. This may include victims of serious youth violence. The violence against women and girls proposal includes the proposal to commission a service to work with young women around issues such as FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage and domestic abuse. This project would also contribute to work around reducing youth violence as it would assist in the safeguarding of young women through positive peer support and education.
- 5.7 MOPAC are anticipated to provide feedback on our proposals for LCPF spend by the end of February 2017. Work to prepare to commission this work is currently on-going so that work can start promptly on the 1 April 2017.

Protected

