

# Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2011-2012

This is the annual report 2011-12 for the **Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership**. To help you understand what the Partnership is all about, here are a few pieces of information on how it works and what it has done over the last year.

## What is the Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership?

The Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership brings together all those who work together to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in Barking and Dagenham and who want to make the Borough a safer place where people treat each other fairly and respectfully. The partners include the Council, Police, Probation, Health Services, Fire Brigade and representatives from the voluntary and community sector.



## How does the Community Safety Partnership Work?

Each year the Partnership looks at the information on crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse in Barking and Dagenham. The Partnership then decides what its priorities will be for the year ahead. It puts these priorities into a Community Safety Partnership Plan, and then pools its resources to turn these priorities into reality by working together and finding joined up solutions to the problems.

## What were the priorities for 2011 to 2012, and how were they delivered?



The Partnership set up a number of groups to work on these priorities.

- Violent Crime with a specific focus on:
  - Domestic Violence and Violence against Women
  - Serious Youth Violence
- Acquisitive Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing re-offending by addressing the drivers for offending, including substance misuse
- Improving then maintaining public confidence and engagement in the Partnership

Some of the groups make sure there is co-ordination on a day to day basis to deal with problems, as and when they arise. Other groups make plans for how problems can be reduced over the longer term (for example by tackling the social problems that lead to crime, such as drug or alcohol misuse). In this way, the Partnership ensures that it is tackling the problems on both short- and long-term bases. The Partnership meets regularly to review progress and see if it's on track to reach the targets it sets at the beginning of the year. Highlights from the Partnership's work over the past year are enclosed.

## How we're doing...

### Good News



### Challenges



## Priorities for 2012-13

The Partnership is currently assessing through public consultation and strategic analysis what its priorities for the next year should be. It is expected that we will focus on the following for intensive work:

- ✓ Serious Acquisitive Crime
- ✓ Substance Misuse as a Driver of Crime
- ✓ Anti-Social Behaviour
- ✓ Serious Youth Violence

### Contact Details

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## In 2011-2012 the Community Safety Partnership has...

1) Continued to deliver a high quality Youth Offending Service (YOS). An inspection in July 2011 rated our Borough's YOS among the top tier of similar services. This result is a fantastic vindication of the recent changes the service has undergone, and gives the Partnership full confidence that it is on the right track in reducing youth offending. This year has also seen the establishment of a specialised Gangs Unit, which complements the YOS's work. Among its first activities has been the commission of two services that engage with young people on the fringes of gang membership, and provide awareness of gang-related issues and training to schools, youth services, Children's Centres and Family Support staff. The YOS has also continued its reparations work with young offenders, giving them a way to pay back the community.

*We found the YOS staff group to be enthusiastic and committed to working with the children and young people they were responsible for. The YOS is reaping the benefits of its investment in developing staff. - YOS Inspectors*

2) Taken a pro-active approach to tackling the Borough's anti-social behaviour hotspots. Working as a Partnership means that we can solve problems more effectively and innovatively than in the past. One way that we have improved the Borough's response to anti-social behaviour is by setting up regular 'Victim, Offender, Location, Time' (VOLT) information-sharing meetings that ensure that repeat and vulnerable victims are never overlooked, and that their needs are addressed at the appropriate level. But our work is not only reactive: in January 2012, the Home Office awarded us £13,000 to work a community



organisation called Marks Gate Agenda 21 to pilot a history project called 'A Mirror on Marks Gate.'

This project aims to reduce anti-social behaviour by encouraging residents to take a sense of pride and place in the area. As a result, we hope that perpetrators will be able to see the negative impact that anti-social behaviour can have, and in a neighbourhood will deter people from committing the low-level behaviour that can tear communities apart.

14% reduction in the number of calls to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team

This year, tenants agreed to fund a specialised Police team for the Borough's Housing Estates.

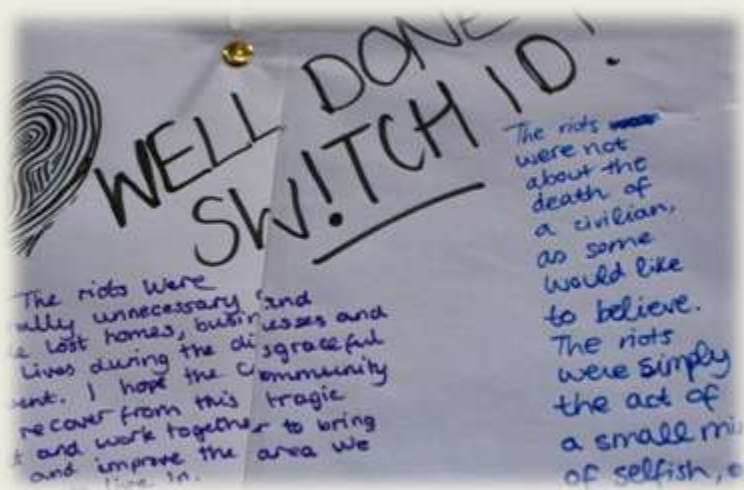
3) Celebrated Silver and Gold Mayor's Safer Parks Awards in Mayesbrook and Barking Parks. This is

thanks not only to the crime reduction activity of the Council-funded Parks Safer Neighbourhood Team, but also the team's efforts to reassure and engage the parks' users. The team have contributed significantly to improvements in all of the Borough's parks, and we have recently had great success in the Green Flag competition for high quality park, and winning a record eight awards.

61% reduction in offences in Barking Park

To get in touch with the Parks Safer Neighbourhood Team please call them on 07525 410394 or email [ParksSaferNeighbourhoodTeam@met.police.uk](mailto:ParksSaferNeighbourhoodTeam@met.police.uk)

**4) Responded to the Summer Disturbances effectively and as a Partnership.** The disturbances across London last summer spread to Barking Town Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The Partnership responded to the disorder robustly, acting swiftly to pre-empt rioting by closing Barking Train Station and advising businesses to close: compared to the rest of London, the Borough saw a



relatively small amount of damage. On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> August, the Partnership was able to convene, at only three hours' notice, an emergency community meeting, and draft a joint statement expressing outrage at the disorder, which was signed by all attendees. With over 40 attendees, a wide range of groups across the community were represented; this successful Partnership approach was repeated in a number of other boroughs over the following days, with other

Boroughs releasing similar statements. Besides addressing the fears and concerns of attendees, the meeting was used to plan events and activities, such as clean-up days and the 'Write not Riot' wall (pictured), that would build resilience across the community as it moved on from the disorder.

**5) Encouraged crime prevention through road shows and awareness campaigns.** Prevention is one of the most effective tools in crime reduction, and as such the Partnership has continued to hold advice and information road shows across the Borough. At these sessions, the public are given free advice about programmes like the



Safer Homes Project and the Hate Crime Support Service, as well as practical information about how to detect bogus callers. In response to the 19% increase in bike theft, the Partnership continues to run free bike-marking events at these road shows. Awareness campaigns like



**White Ribbon Day**, which promotes a commitment among local men never to commit, condone or keep silent about violence against women, and **Lift, Lock, and Remove** and **Think like a Burglar**, which remind people to secure their properties, have also been organised.

**6) Engaged with the wider community** through Neighbourhood Watch, and the Police's new Neighbourhood Link information service, which sends Police updates directly to residents. The Community Police Engagement Group (CPEG) also encourages communication between residents and the Police. Residents are given the opportunity to question Police on their policies and practices and the Police have the chance to respond. Additionally, CPEG runs a regular 'Stop & Search Sub-Committee' that scrutinises the local Police's Stop & Search data, and holds the Police to account on its decisions.

The percentage of victims satisfied with the overall service of the Police is 70%, 4% below the London average.

For more information on CPEG and Neighbourhood Link, please contact [wendy.kinch@met.Police.uk](mailto:wendy.kinch@met.Police.uk).