

Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership

Annual Report
2012-2013



Foreword: Cllr. Alexander, Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities

Crime and disorder concerns every one of us. That's why there are so many organisations, across all sectors, working to tackle the criminal activity that can make people's lives a misery and make the Borough a safer place where people treat each other fairly and respectfully. At the Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership, we aim to make sure that the different work that all these organisations do is as co-ordinated and effective as it can be. Every year, we look at all the data on crime and disorder across the Borough and agree priorities for focussed work. As the lead Councillor for crime, justice, and communities, it is my job to provide democratic oversight of the Partnership and to report back to you on our work.

Barking & Dagenham
Partnership

In 2012-13, we selected four areas for focussed work that we believed would reduce crime and increase public safety:



Anti-Social Behaviour



Youth Violence

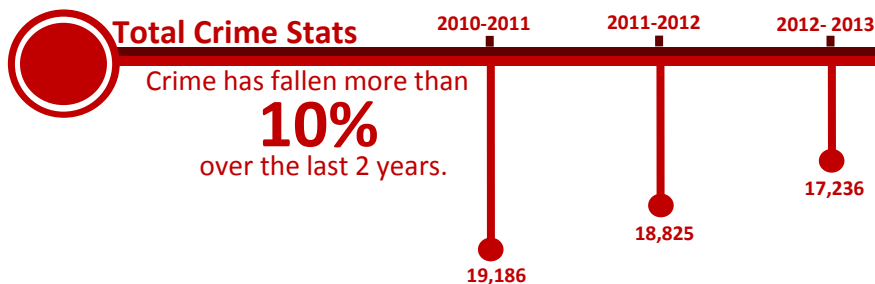


Acquisitive Crime



Drugs and Alcohol

As you can see from the diagram below, we've had tremendous results:
1,900 fewer crimes in the last two years!



Last year, crime in Barking and Dagenham, fell by just over 8% - that's over 1,500 fewer crimes. In this document, you'll find the highlights of the work we've been doing in these areas, as well as the fantastic work you have been doing as a community to ensure that criminals know that Barking and Dagenham is not a place that is soft on crime.

2012 was a year unlike any other – I don't think anyone will forget the thrill of the Olympics or the excitement of the Jubilee – but as the cuts get worse, we know that the coming years will present lots of different challenges. By continuing to work together, I am confident that we will continue to find ways to make this Borough an even better place to live and work.



Anti-Social Behaviour

Behaviour which caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress.

We're making progress:

Number of calls to police reporting anti-social behaviour:

7,171

(1,718 fewer calls than last year)

86% of people reporting ASB were satisfied with the way their complaint was dealt with

Tenant-Funded Estates Police Team

Last year, the Council and the Police agreed to set up a Police team to specifically target the Borough's housing estates. The team is made up of 20 Police Officers, and is funded by tenants and a grant from the Mayor's Office. They respond directly to issues raised by tenants and Councillors. As well as reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), their aim is to develop relationships with those who live and work on the estates, with a view to improving the lives of our residents in the long-term. Clocking in hundreds of hours of patrolling time and hundreds of arrests, the team have had a fantastic impact, and made a great dent in the levels of ASB in our Borough. The Team has also taken a lead in developing our cadets; under their guidance it is no surprise that one of our cadets was shortlisted for MPS Cadet of the Year!

School of Hard Knocks



School of Hard Knocks is a charity that the Council, the Police, and the Job Centre commissioned to run a 16-day rugby course for adults. The idea is that attendees are taught how to improve their health and to learn discipline on the rugby pitch, with a view to reducing crime and unemployment. The programme was extremely successful. Physical fitness and body shape noticeably improved during the course, with one participant fulfilling his lifelong ambition of reducing his BMI to the level required by the Royal Marines, and a number of attendees were able to find full-time work after it completed. Those who did not find work immediately report that they are more confident and have better prospects for finding full-time employment. This is a sterling example of the kind of voluntary work that the Partnership supports, and we are currently looking into how we can ensure that this project, and others like it, are continued through these hard times.



A Message from our Anti-Social Behaviour Lead

As Chair of Barking and Dagenham's Community and Police Engagement Group, I am a member of the Community Safety Partnership. This year, I was elected to Chair the Partnership's Anti-Social Behaviour Group. I have a strong sense of how important it is to residents of this Borough that we are clamping down on anti-social behaviour (ASB) and that we are taking measures to prevent it from happening in the first place. Because of that, we agreed to put together a clear strategy for reducing ASB that is tailored to the needs of our community. We know there have been delays from the Home Office on the direction we are supposed to take, but the message that I get from you is that this is too urgent an issue that can cause too much misery for us to hold back on. Over the year, we have successfully delivered this strategy, and we are now beginning to see levels of ASB come down. Now that the Queen's Speech has outlined the focus of the new ASB, Crime, and Policing Bill, we will be delivering a new ASB strategy for the next few years to ensure that this great progress continues.



Work on Gangs

Last year, Barking and Dagenham was selected for targeted 'ending gang and youth violence' work. This involved a small amount of funding and a review of the work we do to reduce gang violence by experts. The reviewers had lots of great things to say about our work: it is focussed, appropriate, and proportionate, and has made effective use of the funding we were given to pay for activity from the voluntary sector. In particular, our Youth Offending Service was praised for its work on parenting, and the Partnership was commended for its work with colleges and schools.

Barking and Dagenham Cadets

In the last year, the number of Police Cadets in the Borough has risen by 50% (to 120). This is largely thanks to the work our tenant-funded Estates Police Team has done to engage with young people. Cadets have been providing valuable assistance across the Borough, assisting in covert test purchases of alcohol and cigarettes and at crime prevention roadshows, and providing a visible presence at events.



Update from the Youth Offending Service

Following on from the glowing inspection result of our Youth Offending Service (YOS), we have now agreed to merge our service with the YOS in Havering. Barking and Dagenham shares its court with Havering, so our young offenders are largely brought before the same set of magistrates, and the Probation Service already works across the two Boroughs, so we are confident that merging will bring us greater flexibility, and reduce the cost of management without affecting any front-line posts. This will improve how we address youth violence as a partnership across our region of London.

Youth Violence

Any offence of violence or weapon-related crime, where the perpetrator or victim is aged 1-19.



We're making progress:

Fall in violence where the victim is aged 1-19



Fall in First Time Entrants aged 10-17



Fall in crime and robbery involving youth as victims



Boot Camp is a new programme being tested out by our Youth Offending Service. The idea is that offenders are forced, as part of their Order, to face an intense 26 day slog at a boot camp led by ex-military personnel in the freezing hills of Dartmoor (far from Wi-Fi or phone signal!). Certainly not a treat for poor behaviour, the Camp consists of one-to-one behavioural therapy sessions, and group work to challenge young offenders and teach them how to change their behaviour. Every offender is forced to do a range of chores, and to prepare their own meals every day. This makes sure that they were instilled with a sense of routine and structure.

Initial feedback from case managers and teachers has been highly positive. All have reported a marked difference in the behaviour of attendees of the Boot Camp since their return. Even better, every young person to complete Boot Camp has said that they are very glad to have taken part and feel that it has made a lasting difference to them. This work is highly innovative and we will be updating you on its outcomes in the long-term.





Acquisitive Crime

Any offence that can be described as burglary, theft, or robbery.

We're making progress:



Visit the Council's Burglary Roadshows and Find Out how to Safeguard your Home

Barking and Dagenham Council has been holding regular burglary roadshows in various locations across the Borough to help people learn how they can avoid being the victim of burglary. Working with the Police, the Council hopes to help residents to keep themselves and their property safe. This has been effective – we have observed a 36% fall in the number of bogus callers over the past year – and the Partnership will continue to support these events as long as residential burglary continues to be an area of concern for us. At the roadshows, you can meet the Council's Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Team, and sometimes even our Cadets, and receive personal safety advice, learn about crime prevention techniques, pick up a property marking kit, door handle alarms, window alarms, personal alarms, lift, lock and remove stickers, and a variety of other safety devices (while stocks last and based on individual requirements).

Update from our Parks Police

Our Parks Police have been moving from strength to strength. This year, they made 50 arrests! For their fantastic year of work, the team received a commendation from Cllr. Tony Ramsay. The Parks Police will be continuing this work, make sure to say hello if you see them, they are the really fit looking Officers on bicycles!

Burglary Campaigns

Over the past year, it's become clearer that there is a real problem with burglary in North-East London. This summer, the Partnership will be launching an extensive campaign to raise awareness of this issue – by keeping your eyes open and reporting anything suspicious you could help to prevent a burglary before it's even taken place! This will include focussed work on bogus callers who are trying to scam our residents – just remember: your bank or the Police will never ask for your PIN or bank card!



Residential Burglary

5%

(125 more than last year)

We clearly have a problem here and we are doing work to fix it

Police Commissioner's Excellence Awards



Commissioner Hogan-Howe commended two of our Police Officers for their brilliant work this year:

Best Detective of the year - DI Darren Richards, for Robbery Reduction and Detection.

Best Police Staff member - Jo Deacon, for setting up the Fresh Wharf Custody site, and for income generation.

Congratulations to both, and keep up the good work!



We know that drugs and alcohol are a driver for much of the violence and anti-social behaviour that occurs in our Borough. While we have made good progress this year, we still have much work to do, and in the coming years we will be working even more closely with our partners in Public Health to tackle these issues.

Drugs and Alcohol

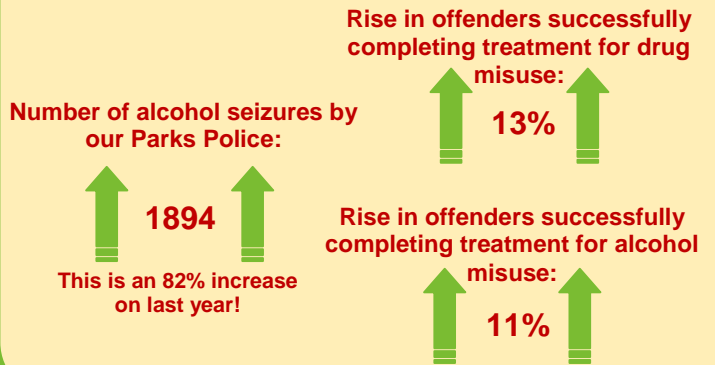
Misuse of substances can drive crime and disorder.



London User Forum

The London User Forum is an organisation that works to improve treatment for substance misusers across our city through service user involvement, and Barking and Dagenham had the privilege of hosting it for the first time in April 2013. The event drew approximately 90 people from all over London and Kent, who all shared new ideas and discussed better ways of ensuring that former substance misusers can be supported to become independent citizens again. This was a great chance for us to showcase the incredible work that some of our service users have done in recovery to change their ways, and there was a short award ceremony for 30 former substance misusers. One of the attendees told us: 'this conference proves I'm on the right track in my recovery. I'm going to become a volunteer now'.

We're making progress:



Challenging Inappropriate Licensing Applications

As a Partnership, we are able to challenge licensing applications that we deem inappropriate under the Prevention of Crime and Disorder Act, and we have done this with notable success in the past year. We were able to use a licence review to use evidence obtained during Operation Condor to demonstrate that a shop was not effectively protecting children from harm, and to revoke its licence to sell alcohol. This sends a strong message to businesses in the area that Barking and Dagenham will not stand for commercial practices that compromise the safety of our community.

Operation Condor

Operation Condor was a 48-hour initiative across the city between the Police, Transport for London, and the Council's Trading Standards Team that cracked down on all aspects of licensing that can affect community safety. Pubs, clubs, unlicensed minicabs, benefit fraud, and illegal sale of knives were just some of the areas that the immense operation covered. Across the city, 297 arrests were made and 61 vehicles were seized. In this Borough alone, there were 35 seizures of counterfeit alcohol. Complementing this enforcement was a range of awareness-raising activity in secondary schools and on the streets, which will ensure that our streets remain safer as a result of this work.

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Domestic Violence

Substance misuse is often the driver behind domestic violence. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that this does not go unaddressed, and you may have seen the poster campaign that we have been running throughout the Borough making clear where you can go if you are worried. As the campaign enters its next phase, you will find information booklets available at various locations.



Alcohol Awareness Week

National Alcohol Awareness week took place between 19 and 23 November 2012, and the theme for this event was 'It's time to talk about drinking'. During the week people were encouraged to take time to time to listen and talk about the health risks, social problems and stigmas associated with drinking. A variety of events and awareness sessions took place across the Borough, which included engaging with residents, local businesses and a variety of frontline staff. Key successes included our Counterfeit Alcohol Stand at ASDA in Barking and an information and advice training event for staff from across the Partnership at the BLC.

Together: A Community Cohesion Strategy for Barking and Dagenham

The Community Cohesion Strategy, "Together", was launched back in October 2012 at the annual Peace Awards ceremony.

"Together" lays out the Borough's commitment to community cohesion and to describe clearly the actions we are going to take to encourage us to think daily about how we treat our neighbours, listen to others and come together across our communities to build a better Barking and Dagenham together.

The Strategy has an action plan which will be updated regularly and Partners throughout the Borough will be working to take all of the work forward. For more information on the strategy please contact Teresa Evans on 020 8227 3478 or Carl Blackburn on 020 8532 7320.



More Highlights from this Year

The overall vision of the Strategy is for Barking and Dagenham to be:

“A place where people respect one another and enjoy safe and peaceful lives; where there are opportunities to meet together and look forward to the future, and to be a united community who will get fair access to services”

Voluntary Sector Showcase

In July 2011, a presentation was given to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on the development of a Third Sector Strategy. It was agreed that the CSP should aim to build and further develop an environment which would encourage a thriving voluntary sector.

In May 2012, the Community Safety Partnership invited a variety of voluntary organisations involved in reducing crime and disorder and fostering community cohesion in the Borough and asked them to take part in some interviews. The CSP wanted to know how they could help local organisations to achieve their aims of building a safer and stronger community in Barking and Dagenham. The interviews were made into a short film called the 'Voluntary Sector Showcase' and the film was shown to the CSP at their June 2012 meeting.

Eleven different organisations from across the Borough took part in the filming. Five issues and recommendations emerged again and again from the interviews. Organisations wanted: more networking opportunities; the CSP to publicise 'Good News' from the voluntary sector on a regular basis; regular communications on the CSP's activity to the voluntary sector; improvement in training and support and wanted to know how Public Sector cuts would affect the voluntary sector.

The interviews were a great opportunity for the organisations to tell the CSP what they do in the Borough and how the CSP can help them to make the Borough safer and stronger. The CSP will continue to build and develop their work with the voluntary sector over the coming years.



Safer Homes Project

The Safer Homes Project is a service delivered by Victim Support and commissioned by the Council to provide practical solutions to keep victims and witnesses safe. The project offers free security checks and home improvements to the properties of anyone living in Barking and Dagenham, whether they are a victim of crime, concerned about crime in their area or for those who feel they are vulnerable or at risk. As well as supplying and fitting a range of security improvements free of charge, the Project also provides emotional support, assistance and crime prevention advice through its network of volunteers at Victim Support.



Sexual Exploitation Group

A Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group has been set up to reduce the harm caused by sexual exploitation in Barking and Dagenham. The Group first met in January 2013 and includes people from across the Community Safety Partnership.

The group has been set up in response to an increase in sexual violence across London. This is taken very seriously by partners across the Community Safety Partnership, and the Group are working to address concerns and raise potential issues around sexual exploitation by developing and implementing an Operation Plan responding to the impact of criminal gangs and serious youth violence on women and girls.

The main aims of the Group are to protect and provide support to victims of sexual violence, helping them move on and preventing recurrence, as well as holding perpetrators to account. The Group wants to achieve a measurable reduction in incidence of sexual violence in Barking and Dagenham.

More Highlights from this Year

We're making progress:

Number of homes visited and secured through referrals to the Victim Support Safer Homes Project

↑ 1,657 ↑

This is 239 more than last year!

As well as giving practical and emotional support and advice at home visits, volunteers also attended a number of the Community Safety Roadshow events.

Peace Week

Peace Week in 2012 ran from 16 to 22 September and celebrated the work of organisations and individuals who promote community cohesion throughout the Borough. Seventeen different events ran throughout the week, seeing 1900 people take part. Events included a school choir and poetry competition, a Kickz football match at Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club and a Peace Flash Mob in Barking Town Centre. Feedback from the events was really positive, with different age groups and communities coming together to take part in fun and engaging activities.

A Peace Awards event was also held to celebrate Peace Week on 2 October at the Broadway Theatre to recognise the achievements of residents and organisations who work hard in their communities to bring people together. Nominees were put forward for awards such as the The Most Welcoming Neighbour Award and the The Young Person Contributing to Society Award. The event was attended by the Mayor, the national Leader of the Peace Alliance, and the Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities, who presented awards to the winners. The event was attended by 250 people and was really well-received by all who attended.



What You've Done this Year

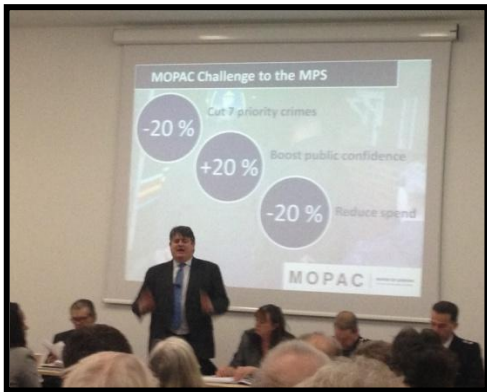
A Message from Anne Bristow
Chair of the Community Safety Partnership



Last year was very successful for Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership. With crime coming down in so many areas, we have a lot to be pleased about. But ultimately it is you, the public, who are our eyes and our ears. Last year, you made extremely clear to us what you care about and where you think we should be doing better. This year, the Mayor's Office is making changes to the way that we hear your views: I hope that you will continue to engage so brilliantly with the Partnership.

Find out about
**Neighbourhood
Watch in Barking
and Dagenham**
at:
<http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net>

Saved Dagenham Police Station!



The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime held a public consultation meeting at the BLC on 4 March, and we were delighted to see such a passionate response from you. Over 130 people came to discuss planned changes to policing, and the Mayor's Office were left in no doubt that Barking and Dagenham cares deeply about keeping the community safe.



And the Mayor's Office certainly heard you: after they proposed to close Dagenham Police Station, your strong showing forced them to change tack! We are delighted that Dagenham Police Station will be remaining open – this will definitely help the whole Partnership.

Got involved in Neighbourhood Policing!

Attendance at our Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panels has been better than ever this year. By attending these meetings and making your voice heard, we have been able to solve countless problems and ensure that the Partnership's priorities reflect your own. To find out more, visit:

<http://content.met.police.uk/Borough/Barking>.

How to Get Involved in the Future

The Mayor's Office agreed in its Policing and Crime Plan to reform the way in which Community Safety Partnerships engage with the community. As such, in October 2013 Barking and Dagenham Community and Police Engagement Group will become Barking and Dagenham Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB). The SNB will be a public meeting that will scrutinise the work of the Police and ensure that the Partnership is delivering the Mayor's priorities. Ward Panels will continue to run, and will feed into the SNB. We look forward to seeing you there!

Young People Affected by Crime

The Youth Offending Service has been doing lots of work with young people who are victims of crime. We know from research that those who are victims of low level crime and issues such as bullying in their early years are more susceptible to displaying these kind of behaviours as they reach teenage years. With colleagues in Children's Service and the Metropolitan Police the YOS have been Young People Affected by Crime (YPAC), which is a weekly activities club that supports young victims of crime or who are otherwise vulnerable. This has had great feedback, and we will be launching it formally in the coming year.

Register for email updates on
**Community Safety issues from the
Police's Neighbourhood Link Service at:**
<http://www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk/registration/>

