



Scrutiny Committee
3 May 2017

**Report from the Strategic Director of
Regeneration and Environment**

Wards affected: ALL

**Community Safety Update: Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse,
Crime & the Fear of Crime**

1.0 Summary

1.1 This is a paper to update on the issues, response actions and operations concerning some of Brent's community safety related concerns. Namely, this report details information relating to Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse, Crime and the Fear of Crime and the crime profile related to these crime type themes for Brent.

1.2 Not all of the above crime types have been a direct Safer Brent Partnership priority since 2014, however the paper details the analysis and reasoning for this.

1.3 The crime type themes are detailed in section 3.0:

- 3.1 Hate Crime
- 3.2 Domestic Abuse
- 3.3 Crime and the Fear of Crime

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the committee regard the crime profiles detailed and the actions and operations made in response to the priority issues related to the requested crime type themes.

2.2 That the committee use this information presented to discuss council operational developments relating to the requested crime type themes.

3.0 Detail

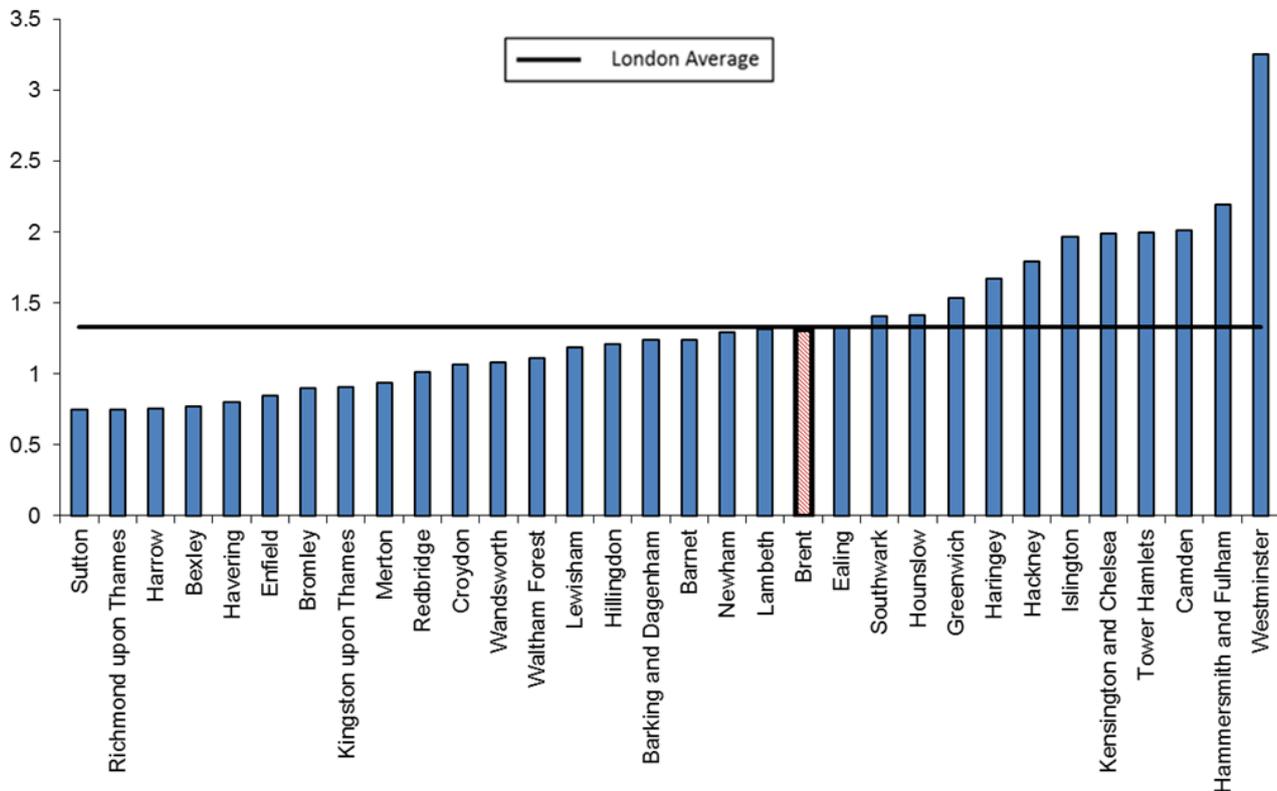
1.4 Hate Crime

3.1.1 The new Mayor of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Police and Crime Plan aims to boost the confidence of communities targeted by hate crime, as a result of recent spikes in reported hate crime incidents across London since the EU referendum. Brent however has positively only seen a slight overall increase of Hate crime over the past 12 months, as seen below, increasing by 3%.

3.1.2 Race and religious related Hate Crime offences are the most reported hate crime offences in Brent, albeit still only under 600 for the year. We have seen fluctuations in this offence related to regional and local events with an increase of 20% over the past 12 months. The increase was mostly seen following the Brexit announcement last

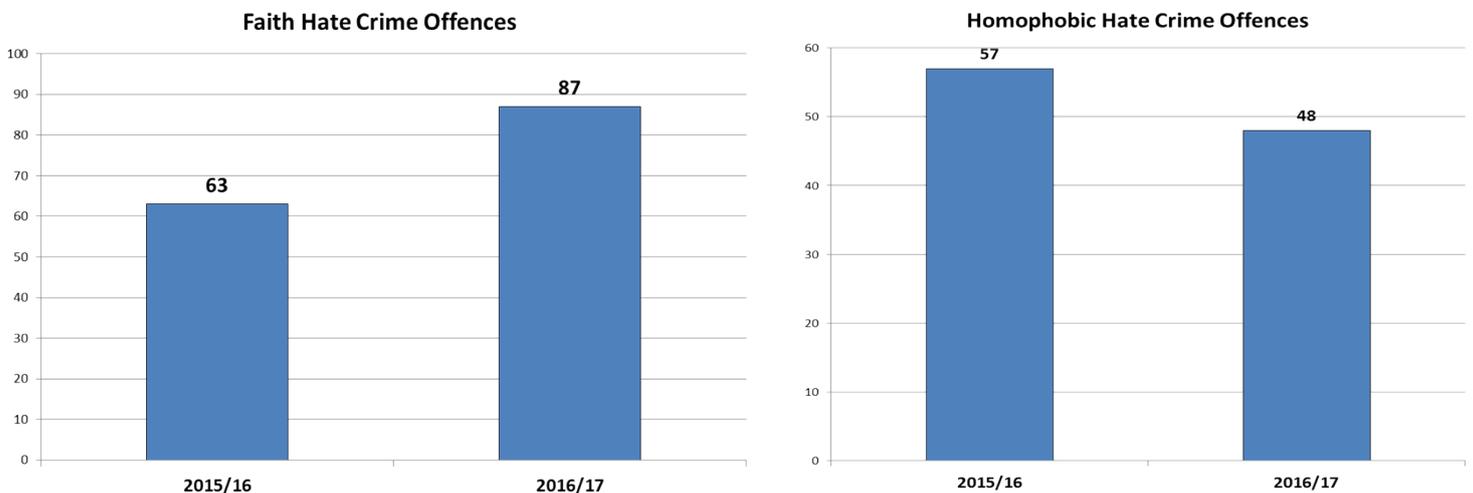
summer, with reported incidents decreasing since as shown in Graph 1. In context of London wide statistics, Brent is currently average for race and religious crimes, as seen in Graph 1.

Graph 1: Reported Race and Religious Hate Crimes across London



3.1.3 Other Hate Crime offences in Brent are very low in numbers. Anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, Disability and Faith Hate Crimes have all seen an increase over the past 12 months, however the increase in numbers are surprisingly small. For example, the largest increase has been evidenced in reported Faith Hate Crimes, with a 38% increase however as seen in Graph 2, the numbers are still low and therefore must be taken in context, whilst Islamophobic offences have increased by 25% but only by 13 reported offences in total. Transgender and Homophobic Hate Crimes (see Graph 2) have alternatively seen a decrease in reported offences over the past 12 months, however again the numbers are still very low.

Graph 2: Hate Crime Reported Offences



- 3.1.4 MOPAC hope to be able to commission a Hate Crime Advocate service across London following a pilot completed throughout 2016 in Hackney and Westminster. The scheme will be designed to reduce repeat victimisation, increase feelings of safety, improve accessibility of services and reduce the likelihood of victims discontinuing their case before it gets to court. It has not yet been determined or confirmed however when this service will roll out will take place or whether this will be a pan London or local service.
- 3.1.5 In Brent as a response to the MOPAC policing guidance released, which not only focuses on Hate Crime but focuses on exploitation, vulnerability and victims as a whole, we have planned for local provision. Brent has not previously had any dedicated hate crime intervention, as the numbers were low and therefore not a priority for the borough, when compared to other priority crimes. Although the numbers are still low, we are seeing a potential trend of increased offences therefore are adopting the Brent Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC) model to respond affectively. This Brent model has been cited as a best practice example for intervening to support vulnerable victims in the community.
- 3.1.6 We have developed the current CMARAC panel and widened its scope to take on a wider role in addressing those affected by hate crime ensuring there is an affective risk case management plan that provides professional support. As well as applying this model to community cohesion issues to reduce escalation of victimisation in the community. This work has started in April 2017 and aims to build response and intervention as a response to hate crime victims in the borough. Previously this panel was funded by Public Health funds, however from 2017-2019 will be funded by the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund.
- 3.1.7 The CMARAC has been extant in Brent since May 2014 following the sharing of good practice across the country as partnership ASB arrangements. The CMARAC is a multi-agency problem-solving meeting that promotes joint ownership and early resolution into how complex and high-risk cases affecting vulnerable people within the community are investigated and effectively managed. The aims are ultimately to reduce repeat victimisation and improve agency accountability, while also addressing service gaps and providing additional support for agencies who manage high risk cases. An annual review for 2015/2016 showed that out of the 56 cases referred to the CMARAC for intervention, there was a total risk reduction of 46% which exceeded the annual target of 20%.
- 3.1.8 Furthermore, the Strategy and Partnerships service have recently reviewed the Stronger Communities Strategy and are currently implementing new actions to better respond to the borough needs and requests, as well as recommendations set form the recent Casey review. An action plan deriving from the strategy review will detail further developments to increase response to issues relating to Hate Crime.

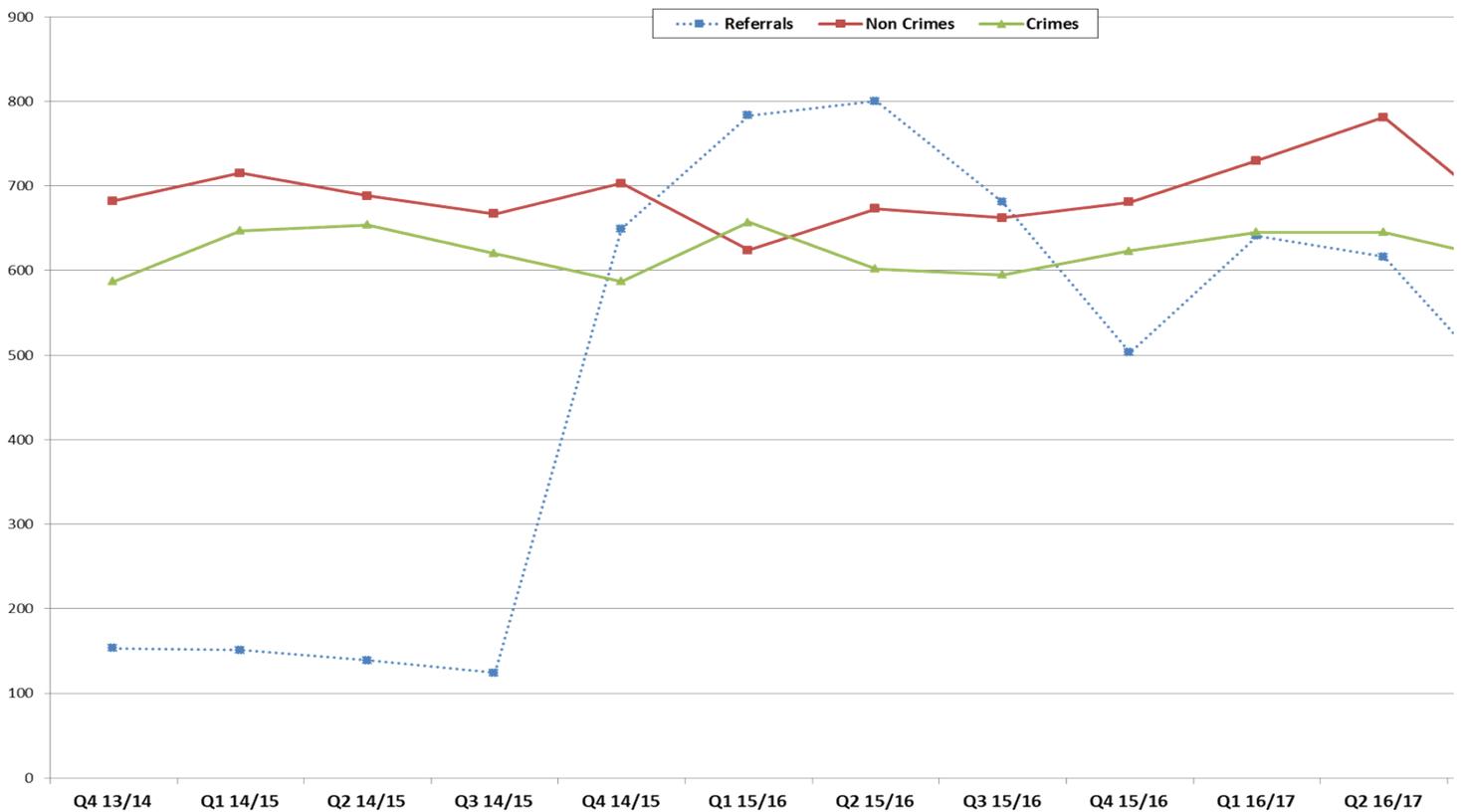
1.5 Domestic Abuse

- 1.5.1 Brent Council has commissioned advocacy support for domestic abuse victims since 2010. Brent council have also commissioned services for perpetrators since 2013 through grant funding allocated via the MOPAC London Crime Prevention fund. Domestic abuse incidents have increased over the years, in line with the wider pan London incident profile.
- 1.5.2 Brent council currently commission a London charity, Hestia, to deliver Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA), Family Support and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) coordination services. Hestia are in their final year of service delivery which commenced 03 Dec 2014, ending 02 Dec 2017. The contract is due to be reviewed and upon agreement will need to be re-tendered in June 2017 to ensure deadlines are met for a smooth service transition. The current recommendation,

due to go to PCG and Cabinet by May 2017, is based on current service provision, however ensuring 10% contract savings are still met. Similarly, the domestic abuse perpetrator programme was previously delivered by provider Domestic Violence Intervention Project. The new two year change programme and additional two year perpetrator support programme is currently underway to be procured in time for June 2017.

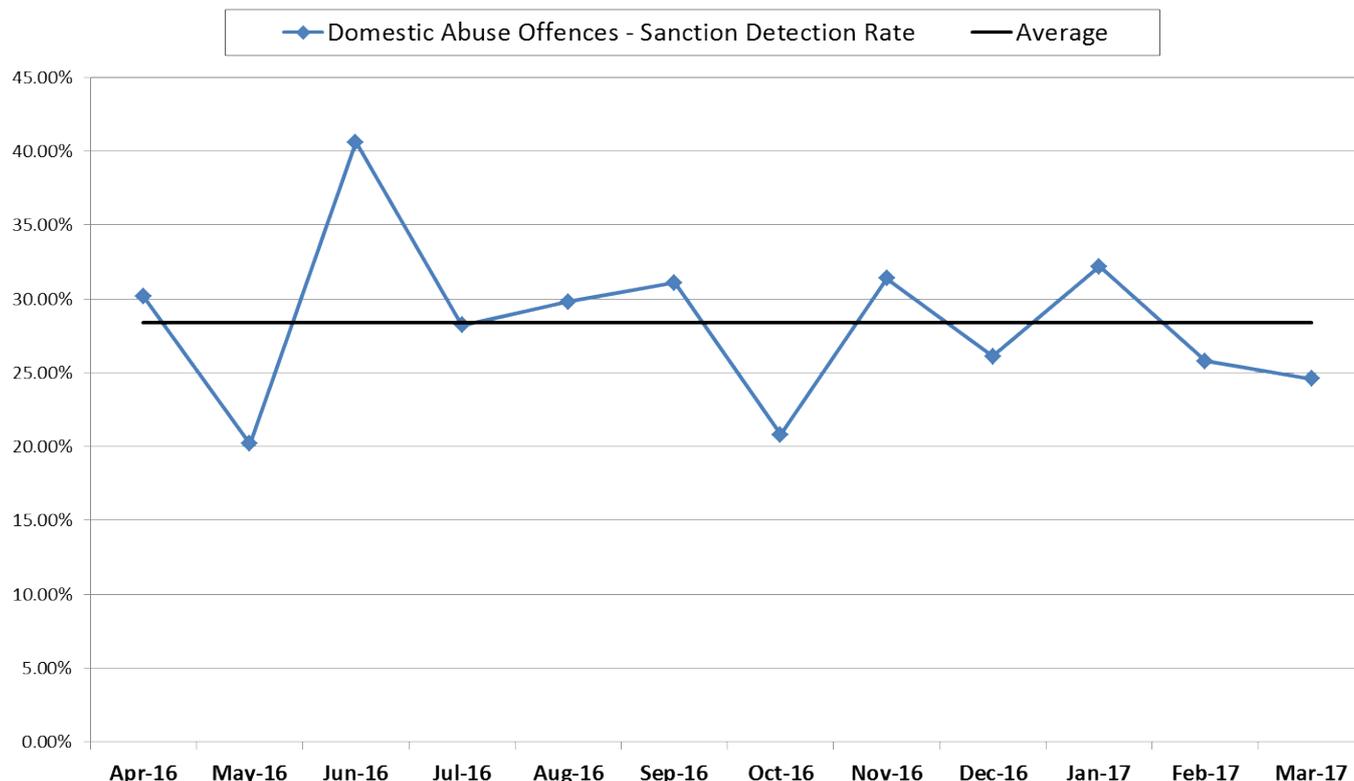
1.5.3 Domestic Abuse has slightly increased over the past couple of years as detailed in Graph 3 (on average by 7% over past 12 months), however this is in line with the pan London picture. As a response, and as Graph 3 illustrates, the additional number of victims offered support (referrals) by council commissioned services from Q3 14/15 increased by an average of 250% per quarter, for no extra cost, simply by introducing a new operational process which involves all Police incidents being screened as a response to better manage service demand. This helps to identify more victims and victims for earlier prevention, potentially reducing resource costs for the future by reducing risk of further incidents. However, in response to this action a heightened reporting rate is anticipated, as more victims become aware of the support options, and thus there is not an immediate corresponding reduction in the level of reported crime. We intend to retain this national best practice process as domestic abuse has increased over the past several years.

Graph 3: Domestic Abuse Crimes and Referrals for Support



1.5.4 Although domestic abuse incidents have slightly increased over the past couple of years, the sanction detection rate has slightly reduced, however largely fluctuated over that period as highlighted in Graph 4. The sanction detection rate refers to a term used to describe Police generated detections to resolve cases. The reduction in the sanction detection rate is mirrored across London and is not purely reflective of Brent.

Graph 4: Sanction Detection Rate



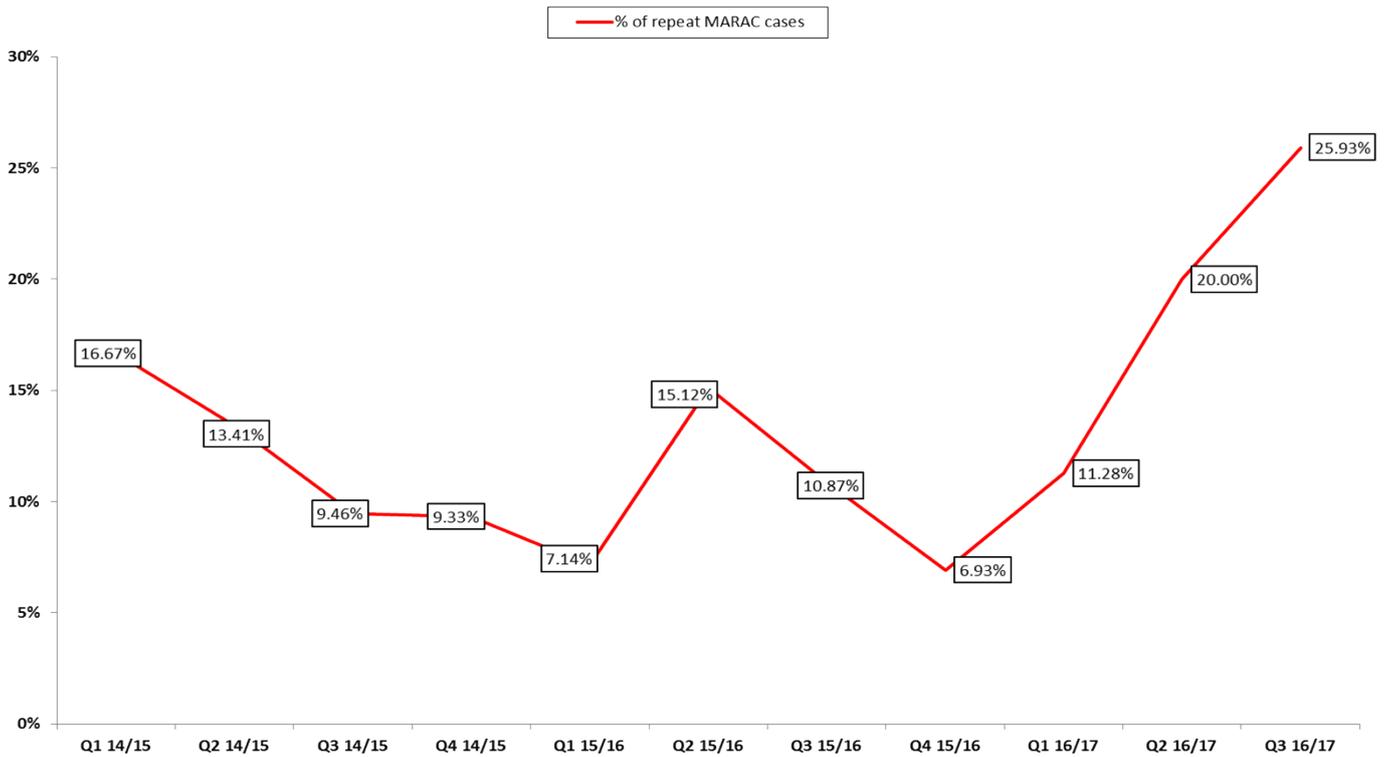
1.5.5 The MARAC repeat rate, reflects both repeat victimisation, as well as victims returning to services, for example them continuing to report incidents and return for support. Unlike most other crimes, repeat domestic abuse reporting and therefore repeat MARAC referrals are welcomed as it shows victims are returning for support and not keeping it behind closed doors. For Brent the MARAC repeat rate had been falling over since about 2013. However as Graph 5 illustrates, it had started to significantly increase last year as a result of new operating procedures and governance procedures being put in place to increase the repeat rate to be more in line with London average. London average MARAC repeat is 20%, therefore Brent is currently above average and more within best practice region for MARAC repeat.

1.5.6 Moving forward we hope to develop our best practice and secure the new commission from December 2017. From April 2017 the council is focusing one of the annual Outcome Based Reviews on Domestic Abuse. The main challenge of the Outcome Based Review is to look at:

‘How do we increase the number of victims and perpetrators who are able to access early intervention and support to prevent reoccurrence?’

We hope this will benefit the future developments of how the council, partners and community respond to this issue and how we shape services as a response.

Graph 5: MARAC Repeat Rate



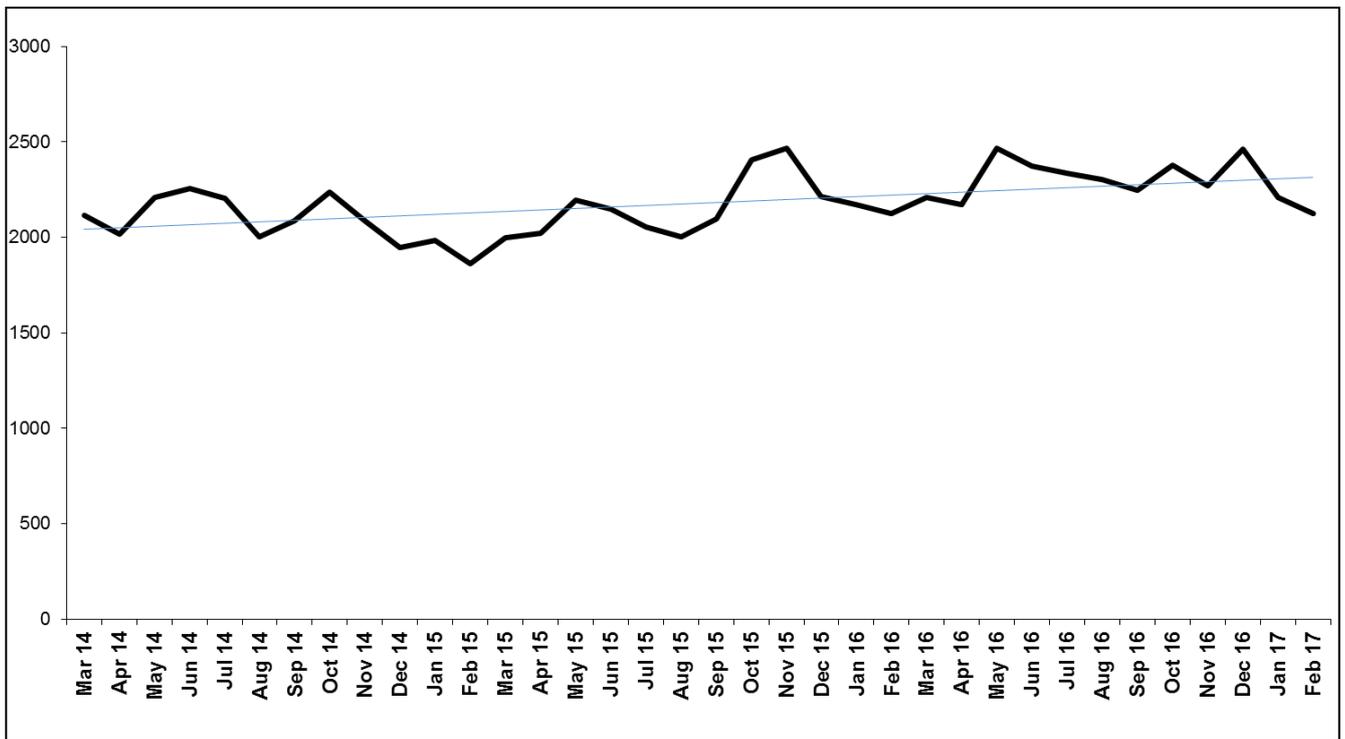
1.5.7 The theory behind the MARAC repeat rate is reflected in our data in other ways. Domestic abuse overall offences have slightly increased (as per pan London profile) but the number of victims have slightly decreased, therefore highlighting the incidents include repeat victims and repeat victims reporting – which is a positive sign and a sign Brent has not always evidenced.

1.6 Crime and the Fear of Crime

3.3.1 Previously, London boroughs were set targets based on city wide volume crime even if they were not the crimes of highest concern to that community. The new MOPAC Police and Crime plan moves away from such a blunt approach and will enable local solutions to local problems based upon evidence, whilst also ensuring focus on high harm and wider issues that affect all of London. This is a positive move for Brent as the plan proposes to move towards targeting high harm crimes which Brent prioritises locally, focusing on preventing those crimes and protecting vulnerable victims; therefore the alternative target theme of 'Violence and Vulnerabilities' is evident throughout the plan and is welcomed.

3.3.2 Crime in Brent has increased by over 7% (see Graph 6) over the last 12 months but has dropped from 11th to 12th for Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) within the 32 London boroughs, with a below London average for TNOs.

Graph 6: Total crime in Brent between March 2014 – February 2017



3.3.3 Volume Crime:

MOPAC have developed a suite of high volume crimes that significantly influence the overall crime landscape moving forward. These volume crimes make up over 60% of all TNO within Brent and below highlights their varying influence on total crime.

Crime Rank	Crime Type	% of all borough TNO	London Rank
1	Common Assault	10.6%	3
2	Harassment	9.7%	15
3	Criminal Damage	8.3%	10
4	Non Domestic VM	7.8%	6
5	Theft from MV	6.7%	11
6	Burglary in Dwelling	6.7%	6
7	Theft from Shops	5.4%	17
8	Robbery - Personal Property	3.2%	9
9	Theft Person	2.6%	11

3.3.4 Ranking over time shows us that Common Assault offences have increased from 6th to 1st since 2013 and have remained there for the last 3 years, also ranking within the top 3 boroughs in London. Non Domestic Violence with Injury (VWI) and Theft from Motor Vehicle (MV) offences have also increased during the last year. Burglary in Dwelling has dropped from 4th to 6th in the last year yet still shows as a high crime type for Brent. There is an upward trend in received Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls since December 2015 with Brent recording a 19.7% increase compared to the previous 12 month period and currently ranks 9th within London.

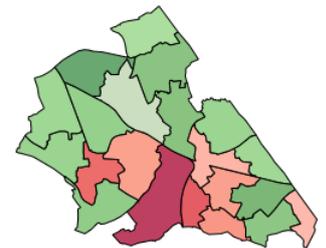
3.3.5 As a result of the above analysis, Brent have been allocated three priority volume crime types going forward:

1. Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Violence with Injury (Non-Domestic)
3. Burglary (Residential)

3.3.6 Looking at offending across wards in Brent, it is clear that offending is generally higher in the south of the borough and this is also evident in the examples below.

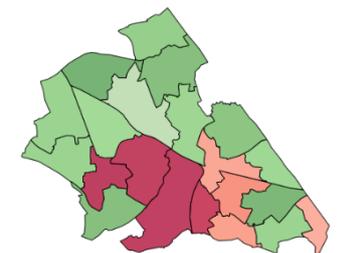
1. Common Assault – 10.6% of TNO

Common Assault offences in Brent have shown a significant upward trend since 2014, and remain 1st in the borough crime rankings. The highest volume ward is in Stonebridge, which is within the top 10% of most vulnerable London wards. Central Middlesex Mental Health Unit within this ward make up 25% of those volume crimes; many offenders/victims not being Brent residents.



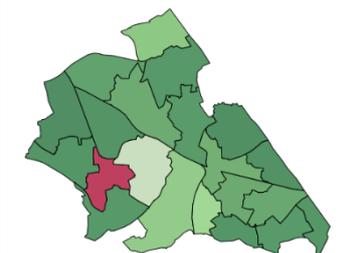
2. Non Domestic Abuse VWI – 7.8% of TNO

Non Domestic Abuse VWI in Brent has shown a significant upward trend since 2014, and has moved up to 4th in the crime rankings. The highest volume of offending in Brent are in four bordering wards and of these, Stonebridge and Harlesden are in the top 10% of London’s most vulnerable wards. This falls in line with recent gang related and youth offending.



3. Theft from Shops – 5.4% of TNO

Theft from Shops has significantly increased in Brent over the last 3 years. Offending is highest in Wembley Central, where there is a clear upward trend, and this accounts for nearly a quarter of all Theft from Shops offences in Brent. This is contributable to many of the Wembley stadium and arena event days; many offenders/victims not being Brent residents.



3.3.7 High Harm Crime:

As well as the volume crimes, MOPAC will be making the below suite of high harm crimes a compulsory priority for all London boroughs, which again in something Brent welcome moving forward.

Crime Rank	Crime Type	% of all borough TNO	London Rank
1 ➡	Domestic Abuse	10.2%	10
2 ➡	Hate Crime	2.9%	10
3 ➡	Total Sexual Offences	2.1%	12
4 ➡	Knife Crime	1.6%	9
5 ➡	Gun Crime	0.3%	10

3.3.8 Tabling these crime types in the same way as the volume crime shows us that Brent is currently within the top 10 London boroughs for Hate, Domestic Abuse, Knife and Gun crime. The rankings for the high harm crimes remain unchanged from last year.

3.3.9 There were a total of 1,718 Child Sexual Exploitation enquiries recorded on the MPS crime system in 2016 (up from 1,675 at the end of FY 2015/16). Eight in ten enquiries are deemed to be within the lowest risk category. Brent borough accounted for 34 enquiries, or 2% of the total (ranking the borough 28th out of 32 for volume). Only 15% of these cases were categorised as medium or high risk.

3.3.10 **Fear of Crime:**

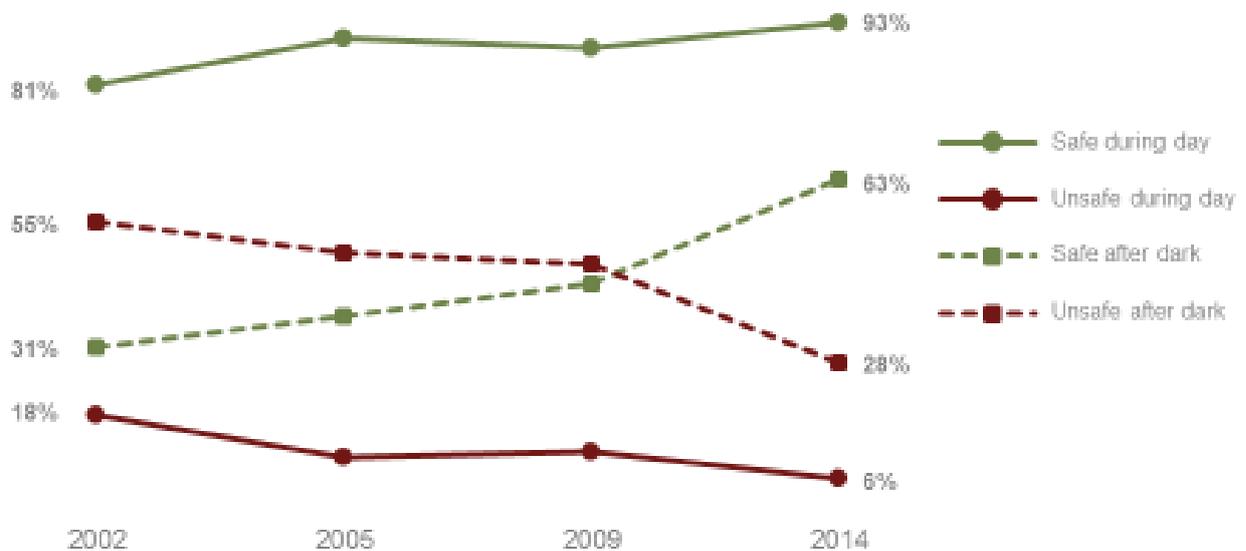
In September – December 2014 the Brent council Business Intelligence team carried out interviews and face to face surveys with over 2,100 Brent residents regarding their attitude towards Crime and ASB in Brent. This survey is completed by the Business Intelligence team every three years, so is due to be reviewed autumn 2017.

3.3.11 The general outcomes from the 2014 survey highlighted that perceptions have changed over time, and perceptions do not always align with reality. Highlights from the survey include the following:

- 44% of all residents wanted more money spent on ‘a safe area, free from crime and ASB’.
- 1 in 4 residents felt unsafe walking alone in their local area after dark (LGA national unsafe average = 11%, Brent unsafe average = 27%).
- 84% of residents believed parts of Brent were more cohesive than others.

3.3.12 There was encouragement in how perceptions of safety have changed over time though. Graph 7 below shows how residents have largely started to feel safer in the day and at night over the past 10-12 years. The biggest change has been regarding residents feel safer after dark which is a positive shift for Brent:

Graph 7: Resident Safety Perceptions:



3.3.10 **Public Voice:**

Brent is currently recording 77% victim satisfaction (ranked 27th in London) and 62% ‘good job’ confidence levels for residents of the borough (28th of the 32 London boroughs).

3.3.11 MOPAC are developing a new approach to the measurement of public voice, one that focusses upon 8 actionable key questions within the MOPAC Public Attitude Survey. The final number to be monitored will be an average of the below questions – using this approach Brent would move from being ranked 28/32 for ‘Good Job Confidence’ to 16/32 for the new composite measure.

PAS Question	Overall Result %	London Ranking
Have you heard about your local Policing Team?	26.0	22
Do you know how to contact your local policing team?	50.3	1
Local information provision	36.4	27
Police are dealing with the things that matter to people in this community	63.4	28
Police can be relied on to be there when you need them	71.2	28
Police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason	87.7	30
The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	67.8	31
The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people	68.5	28

3.3.12 Improvements in the borough as recommended by MOPAC should be focussed on treating everyone fairly, local information provision and dealing with things that matter, which I know our borough Police are on board with. The performance framework will also focus on the inequalities observed towards victim satisfaction and public perceptions.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Brent currently commission a domestic abuse Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service, Family Support service and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Coordination. This is procured therefore relates to procurement savings for the future which are an important part of the Council's medium term plan savings plan. Average savings of 10% must be found across all contracts for this to be achieved. Children and Young People department funding which contributes 40% of the contract value of this service is to be found from within existing resources, where there is considerable budgetary pressure from 2017/2018.

4.2 The Home Office no longer provide grant funding towards IDVA and MARAC coordination, therefore the council will be receiving £35,000 less grant funding per year from 2017/2018.

4.3 The Mayor's office currently fund the Community MARAC, and the Domestic Abuse perpetrator provision via the Mayor of Policing and Crime London Crime Prevention Fund. This fund is confirmed until March 2019 therefore future funding for this intervention is uncertain.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Regarding the domestic abuse commission, 2017/2018 will be a year for re-tendering the service. The below legal implications therefore apply.

5.2 Under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, contract for domestic violence advocacy, family support and MARAC coordination is a Schedule 3 service contract and in procuring such services, where the value is above the EU threshold for Schedule 3 services (currently 750,000 Euros), contracting authorities are required to publish a contract notice or PIN as a call for competition in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and a contract award notice once the contract has been awarded. The procurement procedure can be determined by the contracting authority and they must comply with the EU Treaty principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination, fairness and transparency and provide reasonable and proportionate timescales and award of the contract.

5.2 The value of the contract over its lifetime as mentioned in this reports is in excess of £500,000. It is therefore deemed a High Value contract for the purposes of the Council's Contract Standing Orders ("CSO") and Financial Regulations and under the CSO, Cabinet approval to invite tenders must be obtained for High Value Contracts

and CSO 89 provides that Cabinet approval of pre-tender considerations should also be obtained before the contract is tendered.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The public sector duty is set out at Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share that protected characteristic. There are no negative equality implications resulting from this report.
- 6.2 A protected characteristic is defined in the Act as: Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Pregnancy and maternity, Race (including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), Religion or belief, Sex and Sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are also a protected characteristic for the purposes of the duty to eliminate discrimination. The previous public sector equalities duties only covered race, disability and gender.
- 6.3 Previous Domestic Abuse service contracts commissioned by the council indicated services may only work with women however this new contract specification indicates the need to work with men, women, and transgender as anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse and we hope to support anyone in Brent who requires the support. Our statistics indicate the need for a non-women only support service. This also applies for crimes including wider Hate Crime types.
- 6.4 IDVA and MARAC monitoring, as well as Community MARAC case monitoring will collate data relating to equality as part of the programme of work including gender, disability, sexuality, ethnicity, and age (with particular interest in young victims and perpetrators). The advocacy service will be monitored on their ability to deliver effective services to specialist BME victims, and to link in with other local specialist partners to facilitate this. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out to compliment pre-cabinet reports going forward.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 The current provision of IDVAs, family support and MARAC coordination to the Council is delivered by Hestia who are accommodated by both Brent Children and Young People department via the Civic Centre and the Police via Webley Police station. The Community MARAC coordination is completed via a Brent council staff member within the Community Protection service.
- 7.2 In the re-tender of the domestic abuse services, if a provider other than the current provider (Hestia) is successful, the provisions of the Transfer of Employment (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006, ("TUPE") will apply in that the current staff of Hestia providing the service will transfer to the new provider on the existing terms of their employment contracts and the new provider will inherit all rights, liabilities and obligations in relation to the staff. TUPE implications will be considered by Officers as part of the procurement exercise and TUPE information will be made available to bidders if appropriate to enable tender process to be compiled. No changes to accommodation will therefore result.

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