



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
10 November 2021

**Report from Community Protection,
Children and Young People
Services**

Knife Crime: An inquiry into knife crime in Brent – summary update

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Three Appendix 1 Violence Reduction Action Plan Appendix 2 Youth Justice Plan 2020/21 Appendix 3 Youth Justice Plan 2021/22
Background Papers:	https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/violence-reduction-unit-vru/partnerships
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Colin Wilderspin – Head of Community Protection 020 8937 5367 Colin.wilderspin@brent.gov.uk Davina Smith – Community Safety Manager 020 8937 1780 Davina.smith@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1** Brent Council is committed to tackling knife crime and working in partnership to enable a targeted response and safeguard our community. This report is to provide an update and will highlight the actions the relevant partners have taken to ensure the issue of knife crime is addresses in the borough.
- 1.2** Below are the 13 recommendations provided by the Scrutiny committee and the relevant updates. This report aims to provide members with the assurance that knife crime remains a key priority within Brent which is being addressed collectively as a partnership.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the committee is assured that the scrutiny recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 14 October 2019 have been implemented

3.0 Detail

3.1 In accordance with Part 4 of the Brent Council Constitution (Standing Orders of Committees) Brent Council scrutiny committees may make recommendations to the Full Council or the Cabinet with respect to any functions which are the responsibility of the executive or of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the borough or its inhabitants. The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee may also make recommendations to the relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service providers or Full Council.

4.0 Response and update to Knife Crime: An inquiry into knife crime in Brent

4.1 Brent Council and partners are committed to ensure the safety of those in community through the reduction of knife crime incidents and offences. There is the recognised strategic priority to 'Reducing the impact of gangs and / or knives in our community' in the Safer Brent Community Safety Strategy (2018-2021 extended to 2022) to provide a partnership commitment to address Knife Crime.

4.2 Throughout 2020 and into 2021 the nation has been gripped by a Pandemic and this has impacted the work we deliver, and timescales, as we have had to adjust in line with government and health guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Throughout this difficult time we have not stepped away from our commitment in challenging knife crime in our community. Below are the previous and current updates inline with the recommendations.

4.3 Recommendation 1:

A multi-agency, contextual safeguarding approach must be taken by the council to address knife crime, and to overcome barriers in information sharing and collaboration between agencies.

Action – Implemented

Updates:

Children and Young Peoples Service have employed a dedicated contextual safeguarding lead, providing case support and oversight to all cases involving children and young people. We continue to embed Contextual Safeguarding in Brent across all areas of work.

Children and Young Peoples Service and Community Safety continue to work collaboratively and in partnership in delivering the Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Programme (EVVP) and continues to run a fortnightly panel meeting which is well attended by both statutory partners across all agencies, commissioned agencies and key voluntary sector partners. The EVVP focuses on reducing re-offending and serious youth violence through a coordinated, multi-agency and intelligence led approach. This includes a specific focus on a cohort not yet known to statutory services, increasing earlier intervention and

identification of an unknown potentially younger cohort. The programme consists of prolific offenders, weapon carriers, domestic abuse perpetrators and those affiliated, or at risk of affiliation, with gangs. Individuals requiring support can either be referred in by professionals or identified through targeted outreach.

The Panel has been observed by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and commended for our approach and management of sensitive information, whilst addressing safeguarding concerns.

Partnership working has also been a key commitment strategically and is embedded within the Violence Reduction Action Plan (VRAP).

4.4 Recommendation 2:

The Brent Knife Crime Action Plan and the Brent Knife Crime and Serious Violence action plan should be refreshed to join up actions and strategies across early help, family solutions and other children and young people's services with community protection to derive one action plan going forward.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

1. Brent Youth Justice Plan - All local authorities are required to have one. It sets out the aims and past performance of the Brent Youth Justice partnership with particular reference to Youth Offending Services (YOS).
2. Knife Crime – The Knife Crime Action Plan was reviewed by the Violence reduction unit (VRU) and identified as good practice in comparison to all other London Boroughs. In April 2020 the format was reviewed and the Violence Reduction Action Plan (VRAP) was designed and replaced the Knife Crime Action Plans across London. Following partnership consultation Brent developed and adopted the Violence Reduction Action plan in September 2020. This has been reviewed at the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) Board every 6 months, last review May 2021. Despite some delays due to Covid that had resulted in extending the timescale for delivery, the overall progress on the VRAP is very good with 13 actions moving from amber to green and 2 actions moving from red to amber. The VRU have recently made additional changes and we are in the process of consulting with partners before we resubmit updates in December 2021. The SBP board will retain oversight of this action plan.
3. Youth Justice Improvement Plan 2020 -21 and 2021 – 22 includes all recommendations from the YOS Inspection by HMIP published in December 2019. Particular areas of focus have included changes to the Out of Court Disposals processes, review and monitor decision-making to ensure that there is no unnecessary criminalisation of children with high levels of welfare needs as well as ensuring there is enough capacity in this part of the service. Secondly to provide services to children and young people who are not in education, training and employment and finally to provide suitable and sufficient places for children and young people to be seen and supervised.

4. The Exploitation Violence and Vulnerability Panel (EVVP), was established December 2020, it is the alignment of the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel and the Violence and Vulnerability Panel, both multi-agency professionals meetings are now aligned and held fortnightly to discuss cases of concern in the borough. The main focus is to identify local resources and interventions that can provide support, reduce risk, reoffending, and support safeguarding plans. The Panel is Co-chaired with the Local Authority and the Police.

See Appendix 1 – Violence Reduction Action Plan (September 2021)

See Appendix 2 – Youth Justice Plan 2020/21

4.5 Recommendation 3:

The council to support and encourage community projects that aim to prevent 'at risk' young people from being drawn into knife crime, and are set up with measureable evaluation outcomes.

Action – Implemented

Updates:

The Young Brent Foundation (YBF) has been commissioned through Community Safety and funded through the Violence Reduction Unit to deliver interventions to young women and girls in Brent at risk of gangs and exploitation. The providers are a consortium of local Brent projects.

The Young Brent Foundation has been successful in obtaining funding for the 'My Ends' programme and is supporting a consortium of local grass roots projects to deliver interventions to young people. YBF continue to work alongside our Children and Young People's services and other local partners to reduce and prevent knife crime and other serious youth violence.

Community Protection continue to provide local interventions (as listed below) to divert from or at risk of criminality through the Violence and Vulnerability Programme. The success of the program has seen the serious perpetrators of crimes who were referred through to the Violence and vulnerability programme (VVP) where 75% of the cohort have not re-offended since being added to the program.

There is access to mentoring support, sports programmes, outreach and wider community programmes, including mental health and wellbeing. We are able to monitor and consider safeguarding concerns through our Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel (EVVP).

St Giles Trust are commissioned to provide a Gangs Intervention Programme until March 2022 to challenge and work with those involved or on the periphery of gangs, to change their behaviour, while holding them to account so as to take responsibility for their actions. This programme works with those involved in gangs to exit gang lifestyle, knife carrying and to provide early intervention to people identified as being on the periphery of gang offending. The programme provides targeted support to assist those involved to achieve positive outcomes

linked to the service users' specific needs. As part of the gang intervention programme aligned to our Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021 (extended to 2022), St Giles Trust, educational programs will be offered to all Primary, Secondary and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) within Brent providing early intervention and prevention to Brent's young people and increase awareness around the consequences of joining a gang.

The Mentoring, Sports and well-being programme from Air Network provides support to those offenders on the Offender Management Programme by: providing flexible working hours to meet the needs of the clients, providing assistance with appointments if needed i.e. escort to probation appointments etc, providing support around the nine pathways of re-offending e.g. housing support and assistance securing housing, education, training and employment, with the aim of securing employment and support with drug and alcohol needs.

The Mentoring, Sports and Well-being programme includes a pre-release prison programme and an extensive community based mentoring activity and personal development programme for the offenders on the Integrated Offender Management Programme therefore ongoing multi-agency work with Youth Offending Teams YOT, Probation services, Westminster Drugs Project WDP.

Brent Council has now established an alternative provision free school with an integrated youth offer, located at the Roundwood Centre in Harlesden. Brent Council successfully procured the provision for Roundwood Youth Centre with approval being made by the Department for Education on which provider. The alternative free school has been open since early February 2020. It has contributed to creating a safe place for many young people who struggle or have not been able to engage with mainstream education. The provision links into many community programs offering young people an alternative approach to learning.

The integrated youth offer is open to all young people across Brent, including young people attending the Alternative Provision Free School. The provider is able to offer educational opportunities, enrichment and youth services delivered by the right mix of practitioners, including teachers and youth workers, working with and alongside young people to improve their life chances. The Brent Alternative Provision Free School with integrated youth also offers a safe space for young people and will support the wider efforts to reduce the impact of knife crime.

The integrated youth offer means that the school will deliver alternative education provision on site during the school day, with youth provision delivered in the mornings, evenings, weekends and school holidays, in line with the My Place outcomes below:

More young people, parents and communities feeling that young people have attractive and safe places to go in their leisure time where they can get involved in a wide range of exciting activities

More young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, participating in positive leisure time activities that support their personal and social development

More young people having access to information, advice and guidance services from within places they feel comfortable

Some of the activities taking place at the Roundwood Youth Centre include:

- Mixed Martial Arts
- Music Studio
- Prospects Careers Advice and Guidance
- Multi-Sports
- Cooking
- Arts and Craft
- SAAFI (Somali Advice and Forum of Information (Brent)) also run knife crime workshops at Roundwood Youth Centre for the Somali Community.

The educational and MyPlace outcomes will be closely monitored as part of the new provision.

The Valuing Live Programme is funded via the National Lottery (Reaching Communities) and is a 3-year (£480,000) fully funded consortium programme with (12 local partners).

It has been exploring the evidence and changes in:

How providers are able to focus on positive life experiences for children and young people and their families to change negative / turn around behaviours.
How as a society through a Theory of Change approach, look to change the behaviours of the sector (both internal and external) in working with children and young people.

Goldsmiths College will provide the systemic review (TofC) and Research required to evidence the outcomes. London Borough of Brent's Early Help, Youth Offending Team and Community Safety are key internal partners.

4.6 Recommendation 4:

A graphic and hard-hitting media project be funded, which involves ex-offenders, role models and victims and focuses on knife crime's impact on individuals, families and communities.

Action – Implemented

Updates:

We have delivered our local knife crime intervention project, which uses Virtual Reality (VR) technology to simulate a 360 degree virtual experience of the victim and perpetrator of a knife crime incident. The programme has been funded by the Home office and created with the Police using Brent locations for the filming. The Virtual Reality project has been independently reviewed by Middlesex University and will be available to schools, groups and services to support in the conversation regarding the impact of knife crime.

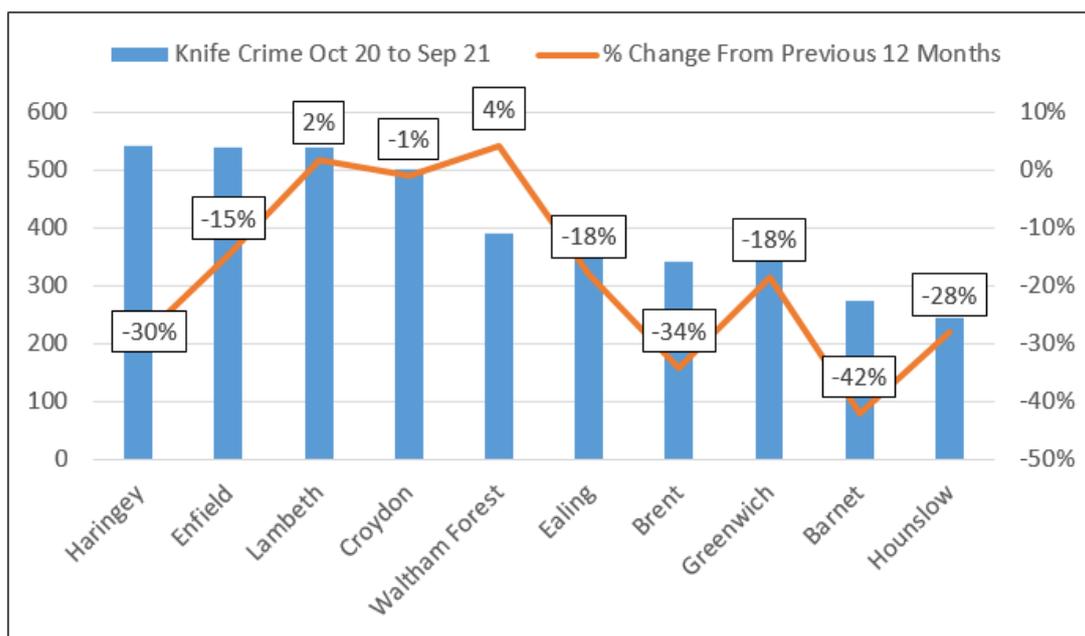
The Community Safety team are supporting the current campaign with the Metropolitan Police (MPS) and Crimestoppers 'Hard Calls, Save Lives'. Highlighting and appealing to people in communities that 'calling with information about knife crime may be hard, but there are harder calls'. The focus is on five mothers who share their experience of losing a son to knife crime.

One of the mothers Lillian Serunkuma who lost her son Quamari Barnes due to knife crime tells her experience and she shares the impact this had on her family.

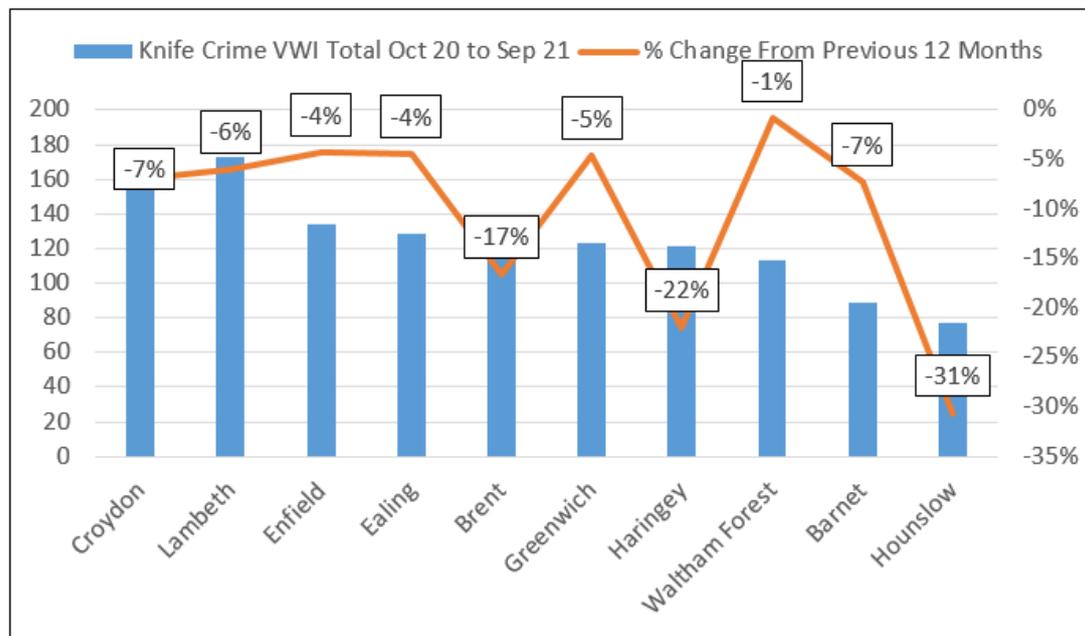
Community Safety continues to support a project delivered by the MPS called 'No Knives, Better Lives'. The event is an collaborative event supported by the Courts, Police, Local Authority, School, Community and Youth Services to support young people who are experiencing challenges in their lives which could lead to involvement with the criminal justice system. It is an interactive event with a mock trial, judges, guest speakers and an opportunity for discussion. Speakers include a trauma surgeon, former gang member, Kinsella Foundation, a high ranking Police Officer, The Recorder for London - HHJ Hilliard, a Barrister and a parent of a young deceased person. The main aim of the event is to show people the effects of knife crime, in a detailed manner from the most suitable agencies and people who deal with knife injuries on a daily basis. There is also opportunities available for young people to divert themselves from this path. Brent has previously attending and we have scheduled Young people to attend again.

Amani Simpson has lived experience as a young man having battled with the consequences of his actions and wider impact on those around him after being stabbed seven times. Amani has delivered the funded 6 week intervention programme across some of the schools in one of Brent's violence hotspots. Amani has engaged students in the programme that has enabled them to reflect on their behaviour and also incorporate mindfulness while doing so. Being in the moment at that moment we recognise triggers, feelings, emotions and in understanding these it will teach students to be responsible and aware of their thoughts, feelings and sensations.

The graph below shows the number of knife crime with injury offences in Brent (highlighted) alongside the borough's most similar groups.



Eight of the ten boroughs in the Most Similar Group recorded a reduction in knife crime offences in the last 12 months to end September 2021. Brent's reduction when compared with the previous 12 months was the second highest.



All the boroughs in the Most Similar Group saw a reduction in Knife Crime Violence With Injury Offences in the last 12 months to end September 2021. Brent's reduction of 17% when compared with the previous 12 months was the second highest.

4.7 Recommendation 5:

The MPS must improve relations with local communities. This may be achieved by providing a more visible presence in neighborhoods and adopting a more empathetic method of stop and search.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

Stop and search statistics are discussed at every Police Independent Advisory Group (IAG) meeting. The group is also attended by Community Safety to ensure partnership working and support from the local authority. The Police also support an independent public group which specifically looks at stop and search led by Roy Crossdale. Both groups are represented by members of the public in Brent who are also very active in the community.

The police are working alongside partners to improve community relationships, the IAG are leading on a piece of work which is training and advising officers on the implication of stop and search on members of the community. Specifically addressing factors of disproportionality and any cultural biases or prejudice.

Further Community action and initiatives are also being developed and supported by the MET Police, such as the Innovation Hubs, to try to improve policing relationships and trial new approaches to problem solving.

The Community Safety Team successfully recruited a Community Engagement Officer to work alongside the MPS, statutory and voluntary services to help support and improve relations between MPS and local communities. We will be developing a local Community Safety Advisory Forum and raising awareness of key Community Safety issues, whilst focusing on reducing the perception of crime.

Neighbourhood policing remains a high priority for the Police with local Safer Neighbourhood teams delivering a local response to the key community issues which are criminal or causing harm. Officers are usually in attendance at Ward Panel meetings and can be contacted online. There is always an ongoing review of neighbourhood policing and new recruits all spend part of their induction working within a safer neighbourhood team.

4.8 Recommendation 6:

Brent CCG to work with statutory partners (including the council) to enable the provision of more services at hospital A&E departments at the 'teachable moment', such as RedThread. Stakeholders in primary and tertiary care should be educated in how to approach knife crime issues.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

Community Safety have successfully commissioned St Giles Trust to deliver Hospital based intervention provision within the Accident and Emergency department in Northwick Park Hospital, funded through the violence reduction unit. This service is focused on improving the identification of vulnerable people and reduce vulnerability of young victims of violence, ensuring they receive the right support at the right time and increase the number of young people being supported through appropriate local longer-term interventions. The overall aim is to contribute to disrupting the cycle of violence and reducing further victimisation or exploitation. Additionally, the service is able to offer bespoke training to increase the awareness and knowledge of vulnerability and safeguarding issues in the Emergency Department for staff.

The project has been really well received within the Hospital are greatly appreciated by staff having the access to an engagement worker who is trained to speak with the young person, family and friends following a serious incident and gather further information to support safeguarding through present and post hospitalisation.

The project is funded until March 2022.

4.9 Recommendation 7:

The council to support and encourage schools and other community organisations to make their facilities available for youth-focused activities after school hours and during holidays, to keep young people engaged in positive activities and deterred from crime.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

'Your Life You Choose'(YLYC) Brent delivered a one day multi-agency presentation to educate young people about the consequences of crime, not only for the offender but their family and friends, victims and the wider community.

The project is led by magistrates in the North West London Justice Area in conjunction with the Youth Offending Service. YLYC Brent brings together magistrates, police – safer schools officers and Trident officers, prison officers, EOTAS – inclusion officers, Directions project – ex offenders, paramedics, education consultation in cyberbullying & sexting.

Brent YOS had plans on facilitating a Restorative Justice Session with schools across LB Brent in 2020, however due to the pandemic this has been put on hold to be reviewed at a later stage.

Brent Safer Together Through Sport is a Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) funded project, which provides young people who are at risk of being drawn into gangs, violence or antisocial behaviour with after-school activities and mentoring.

The project provides diversion from gangs for 12 young people in Year 5 and Year 6 from 6 schools in the Harlesden and Stonebridge localities. They will receive some lunchtime sport mentoring followed by two after school multi-sport sessions per week for the whole of Y6, plus a Sunday event where families have tasters of local clubs which they are supported and accompanied to attend. The project focuses on crime prevention by targeting the most vulnerable young people at an early age and working with them for an extended period to establish long-term positive behaviours.

Throughout the summer holidays and during school half term, Brent Council in conjunction with Schools, community groups and delivery agencies rolled out a collection of positive activities during School holiday which were free for families in receipt of benefits and included meals. Ongoing work is under way to continue an offer across other school holidays. This also links into work being delivered by the family well being centres across the borough.

4.10 Recommendation 8:

The council to work with Brent primary and secondary schools, the Brent School Partnership (BSP) and the Safer Brent Partnership, to develop and implement a Schools Safety Charter.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

Brent schools have a range of policies and procedures that address issues related to knife crime and the risk of serious youth violence. The Designated

Safeguarding Leads have contributed to the Violence reduction action plan and remain active in membership at key safeguarding forums and meetings.

St Giles SOS+ project delivers early intervention work in educational settings, through 1:1 mentoring and preventative sessions on violence, vulnerability and exploitation.

This approach allows for pro social modelling and our staff use their lived experience to offer an alternative to the 'street' narrative from their own experiences; it has successes where more conventional approaches fail.

The service offers:

- Prevention and awareness-raising whole year group assemblies,
- Targeted sessions (with a group of up to 10 young people),
- Parent/carer information sessions, Professionals/teacher training.

The programme aims to equip young people with practical tools and strategies that they can use to build resilience to risks, such as negative peer pressure and grooming, giving them real knowledge and insights that will help them to make positive choices, stay engaged with education, and preventing exclusions.

This recommendation is also incorporated within the Violence Reduction Action Plan.

4.11 Recommendation 9:

The council must enhance the way it works with Brent youth offending services, London CRC and the National Probation Service in order to support offenders who can be rehabilitated, and continue to manage and assess risk.

Revised recommendation:

The council must enhance the way it works with Brent youth offending services, and the Probation Service in order to support offenders who can be rehabilitated, and continue to manage and assess risk.

This is to reflect the newly formed probation service following the reunification with the CRC. Therefore the CRC no longer exists in the delivery of Brent Probation Services.

Action – Implemented

Updates:

There is now consistent and clear lines of partnership working and accountability. Probation services in England and Wales have been fully restored to public ownership and control therefore CRC is now unified with the National Probation Service which has consolidated delivery within Brent.

This recommendation has been evidenced in January 2021 when the YOS, Probation, CRC and Community Safety pulled together a joint funding bid with the aim to secure a co located multi-disciplinary team, we were unfortunately unsuccessful in receiving the Grant, however the improved working

relationships, flexibility and support offers a greater ability to meet the needs of those within the criminal justice system, through our shared coordinated meetings.

The YOS also now receives a full time Probation officer who is co located in the team to support with cases transitioning into the Probation to ensure continuity of support and close case oversight.

There are monthly meetings for our IOM (Integrated Offender Management) cohort where MPS, NPS (including legacy CRC), Department for Work and Pensions, Westminster Drug Project and VCS attend to manage and monitor RAG rated prolific offenders. This has been instrumental in managing risk and planning in advance if an individual is due for release, for example, and providing wrap around support to ensure they maintain any mandated orders they are subjected to comply with.

4.12 Recommendation 10:

The council to facilitate more collaborative working between the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and religious organisations, to raise funds for projects and training to prevent knife crime.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

Strategy & Partnerships alongside community protection delivered a meeting with community organisations around the knife crime agenda in early March 2020, encouraging greater joint-working among Brent-wide organisations, discussing funding opportunities and providing an opportunity for networking. Due to Covid-19 and national restrictions the follow up work has been on hold.

The community agencies which did attend received useful information on the steps to take when sourcing funding and how to utilise and gather data to support a project as well as key Community Safety information.

Project Horizon is a partnership response to the crime within the NW10 hotspot area due to this being a longstanding area within the borough that has entrenched gang links and prolific offending with high rates of crime. £750,000 in funds has been secured via MOPAC by a local VCS organisation for each local borough.

The Violence Reduction Unit has launched the MyEnds programme in September 2020. The Unit is allocating a total of £3.3 million (including an evaluation piece) to this programme, designed to provide support, capacity, and funding for locally-designed interventions in neighbourhoods affected by high and sustained levels of violence. Brent has been one of the successful boroughs to benefit from the funding which was awarded to the Young Brent Foundation working with our voluntary and community sector.

This project also aims to link in with families who have suffered a tragic loss and ensuring they have a platform to share the message such as Hard Calls Saves Lives (CrimeStoppers), urging the public to report information about knife crime. Additional approaches are explained throughout this report.

4.13 Recommendation 11:

The council to make representations to Government to put guidance in place on the handling of housing needs cases for those at risk of violence (through gangs/ county lines) and reconsider the threshold at which someone who is deemed to be at sufficient risk gets re-housing support.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

The housing team at Brent council successfully secured funding from MHCLG to help reducing rough sleeping and reoffending by supporting ex-offenders into the private rented sector. This project is yet to go live as of September 2021 and key partners e.g. NPS, prisons, IOM panel have been informed of this new initiative. MHCLG's joint working with the MoJ and has been developed to complement the MoJ's recently announced Community Accommodation Service (CAS), which will provide interim accommodation for people who are homeless on leaving custody, for up to 12 weeks for those local authorities in the CAS funded regions, the aim is to build a pathway for those who would otherwise be homeless on leaving prison, through the MoJ's CAS provision, before moving onto their own private rented sector tenancy through the schemes this funding will unlock.

Current housing processes remain and exist pan London as part of the Pan London reciprocal scheme. Individuals may approach any council due to fear of violence and cases will be reviewed and accessed.

4.14 Recommendation 12:

The council to make representations to the GLA/ Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime/ Violence Reduction Unit advising that the county lines programme is running at full capacity with an increasing unmet need. More intensive, longer-term funding needs to be provided.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

MOPAC confirmed that the project is to be extended for a further year 2020-2021. There has been exceptional positive feedback regarding the program and the impact it is having pan London and specifically in Brent.

As of Q4 2019/20, Rescue and Response(R+R) managed to reduce their 'holds list' down to zero, resulting in young people receiving the support they need much more quickly. Rescue and Response have maintained this into Q1 and Q2 of this year 2021, which means that they continue to have the ability to expedite referral processes and allocate to service providers with a shorter turnaround. However, R+R are still only working with individuals who have some level of previous or current involvement in County Lines. Due to project capacity, they do not have the resources to extend that support offer to those

who may have demonstrated a risk of being subject to County Lines exploitation in future. The overall reflections on the previous year of delivery during the Covid-19 pandemic would be that the County Lines exploitation picture has remained highly consistent with the previous year pre-pandemic, with referral numbers and demographics of young people involved showing very little fluctuation. The resilience of exploiters during this time has demonstrated the ongoing need for sustainable support for young victims of this form of criminal exploitation.

4.15 Recommendation 13:

The council to further explore bids for external funding for innovative council and CVS projects, to tackle the risks associated with young people becoming involved in crime.

Action - Implemented

Updates:

The Brent over represented children pathfinder pilot continues. One hundred and forty five Brent children and young people accessed the Outreach project in the period October 2020 to September 2021 (with a target of 375 children by 2023). Fifty six young people have completed safety mapping in the period January to September 2021. This reduces the likelihood of young people being inadvertently exposed to contextual safeguarding risks as a result of their participation in the pathfinder or other community engagement. As part of the Brent Pathfinder Young People's Panel, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage group children and young people are supported by a Youth Participation Worker to share their experience of COVID-19 and identify activities and interventions that can reduce its impact. Twenty-three young people have joined the Panel since March. Members hosted MOT Check-up Saturday in September, at the Preston Park Family Wellbeing Centre. Mental Health practitioners from Westminster Drug Project offered individual and group mental health, emotional wellbeing, and substance misuse advice and support. Panel members have made arrangements to create COVID-19 themed monthly podcasts from September 2021.

The Brent Over Represented Children Pathfinder offers a range of targeted services for young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage groups aged 10 to 17 years who have been adversely affected by COVID-19. The project is managed by Early Help and seeks to reduce the number of young people entering the youth justice system by alleviating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that have been compounded by COVID-19, particularly amongst children and young people not previously known to services. The project is funded by the Youth Justice Board until 31 March 2023. An Executive Steering Group (ESG), chaired by the Operational Director - Integration & Improved Outcomes, meets monthly to provide strategic guidance and monitor performance.

The Brent Pathfinder Outreach Project is led by voluntary sector agencies and consists of mentoring support delivered by the Young Brent Foundation and emotional well-being counselling provided by EACH Brent Counselling

Safety mapping is a process in which young people identify any locations and related risks in the community that could cause them harm. This reduces the likelihood of young people being inadvertently exposed to contextual safeguarding risks as a result of their participation in the Pathfinder or other community engagement. Fifty six young people have completed safety mapping in the period January to September 2021.

Brent Youth Offending Service is a member of the Youth Justice Board's (YJB) Serious Youth Violence Reference Group. Funding obtained from the YJB to test innovation has been used to contribute to community delivered out of hours mentoring provision for high risk young people.

In September 2019, Brent were advised of the successful outcome of the Mayor's Young Londoners Fund bid. This will provide 3 year funding for the Early Help service to lead the work with young people between 10 and 18 years who are at risk of becoming involved in crime, not achieving their educational potential and at risk of poor health outcomes in adulthood, because of indicators such as poor school attendance, school exclusions, siblings being involved in crime and living in families who have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences. The project will adopt a whole family, trauma informed approach to address the underlying issues and build family resilience to improve the likelihood of young people fulfilling their potential/ or improving young people's life chances.

The strands of the project are:

Family coaches

Brent will work develop Family Coaches, to build strong relationships with families, to understand the underlying issues through an Early Help Assessment. They will be guiding the families through the trauma recovery model for them to accept and understand how their past experiences impact their family life. By proactively using the Signs of Safety (SoS) approach with a focus on "appreciative enquiry", we will enable families to understand their strengths. Over time, it has become apparent that several children within the same family may have worked with Youth Offending, or attend an alternative education provision. By working in a whole family way, supporting parents to address their trauma will increase their confidence to parent their younger children. It is anticipated that this will help the families to build resilience, reducing the likelihood of perpetuating similar difficulties experienced by the older siblings.

Detached and Outreach service -Volunteer Community Sector

Young Brent Foundation have been commissioned to establish a Detached and Outreach service to reduce the risks to young people. By the end of June 2021 the Detached and Outreach project has really taken off. There was a great increase in the number of contacts they had with young people. This had increased from 310 at the end of the first quarter to 511 young people by the end of June 2021. To date 10 young people had been supported into employment by one of the delivery partners with onward referrals to local youth provision for many young people they meet with.

Services for young people would be complemented by centre based and youth outreach activities. Male and female Street Mentors, will work with at-risk young people (between 10 to 18 years). Some of their work will be outside of traditional

service hours in order to engage young people in areas and places they go to. They will establish trusting relationships, to start the journey of recovery. Group work will focus on gangs' awareness, resilience and choices, linking young people to council teams and voluntary services to meet their needs. They will also monitor and intervene with group conflict, working with the police and Community Protection team and in the community in line with our shared contextual safeguarding approach.

Emotional well-being support

A young person's mental health practitioner will undertake mental health assessments and direct interventions with vulnerable young people in families experiencing crisis, thus preventing delays in support, addressing issues to prevent escalation. This will complement current Troubled Families work in Brent, providing extended provision and extra support for complex cases. By focusing on an established risk factor for offending behaviour, this intervention embodies the move towards the public health approach set out in the Government's Serious Violence Strategy. Mental health support may be pivotal in preventing gang-affiliation and/or perpetration of youth violence, by building confidence, developing resilience, self-awareness, and coping strategies.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Equality Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1 Through key delivery and partnership boards, the voice of the user is reflected in case studies and in review / audits of interventions.

8.2 The Lead Member for Community Protection and Engagement is aware and has been briefed. She continues to monitor this line of work alongside the Safer Brent Partnership Members.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

9.1 None

Report sign off:

Alan Lunt
Strategic Director of Regeneration and
Environment