

Welcome

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Chief Executive Brent Council and Chair of the Safer Brent Partnership Board

It is my pleasure to introduce the Safer Brent - Community Safety Strategy for 2023 – 2025. This Strategy gives an overview of our key priorities as a partnership for the borough. We aim to draw on our shared commitment to keeping residents safe and where we can, understand and improve safety in Brent.

This strategy, sets out our priorities for the next 3 years, with a dedicated focus on results, we will shape action plans to monitor and accomplish this work. We will adopt a 'Public Health' approach to crime reduction and whilst reducing crime remains the focus of all our activities, we will work hard to understand and address the root causes of crime impacting communities, with a focus on early intervention and prevention.

Over the next 3 years we recognise we may face significant and complex pressures that are likely to have an impact on our residents and services. We are mindful of ongoing health inequalities, issues of disproportionality and access to support. In addition, we know that national pressures such as “the cost of living crisis”, are likely to increase poverty and deprivation in the borough. As a Partnership, we are concerned about how all of these issues affect crime and our communities, in particular those who are most vulnerable.

Through this strategy we aim to honestly address issues by targeting, preventing and mitigating against all forms of crime and exploitation. Whilst we know a large proportion of our residents' feel safe, including when travelling throughout the borough, we will continue to identify ways to improve our neighbourhoods and design out crime.

I am proud that Brent is a borough rich in culture and diversity, with a wealth of experience to help shape our approach. As one of 32 London boroughs, we are very aware of the challenging, city issues, faced by residents. To ensure the future of Brent is one that is safer we will target resources towards the greatest need, pushing Partners to prioritise preventative, as well as responsive measures, to reduce criminal activity. We remain committed to doing all we can to find creative solutions to prevent crime and exploitation in Brent.

Carolyn Down
Chief Executive

Foreword

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Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection

As Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, I am passionate that Brent should be a place where residents and visitors can feel safe. I am proud of our achievements so far, but recognise there is always more we can do. I am absolutely resolute that Brent should be ambitious, tackling community safety issues with innovation and pushing hard to stay ahead of the curve.

Over the next 3 years I am committed to ensuring that our ‘Public Health’ preventative approach, is embedded across every strand of our work. We need to act earlier, smarter and more proactively to tackle crime and disorder, as well as protecting the most vulnerable. This means we will seek prevention at all costs, intervene earlier, interrupt negative cycles and disrupt escalating activity. We will continue to work collaboratively, at all levels, with our partners in Police, Health, Probation, London Fire Brigade and the voluntary sector to achieve these aims.

We want to listen to the voices of survivors to help refine and shape our approach; and do more to protect our young people from a life of crime and exploitation. Our cohesive community is a reflection of our great strength. We possess a resilience against adversity that I am extremely proud of and collectively I am certain we can make Brent a safer place for all.

Lead Member

Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection

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Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities, to work together with Partners to develop and implement localised crime reduction strategies for their areas. In Brent, this activity is overseen by the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP). The SBP works together to prevent and reduce crime and disorder and improve cohesion and safety within neighbourhoods.

In 2022, the SBP undertook a strategic threat assessment which informed the Partnership about the types of crime and antisocial behaviour we need to focus on in Brent. The findings of that assessment has informed this strategy by outlining local challenges and the areas of work we need to prioritise for the next 3 years.

We will continue to assess threat in Brent on an annual basis, improving and developing our response. We will also obtain insight from key stakeholders, such as the Mayor's Office for Crime and Policing (MOPAC) and align any shared priorities.

Mayor's Office of Police and Crime (MOPAC)

The Mayor of London has published his plan for policing and crime to keep Londoners safe and also ensure they feel safer. [London's Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 | London City Hall](#)

The four key themes are;

- Reducing and preventing violence
- Increasing trust and confidence
- Better supporting for victims
- Protecting people from being exploited or harmed

Violence Reduction Unit

MOPAC also hosts London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This is a team of specialists leading and advising on crime reduction for London. The team have specialisms in various areas, including local government, health, policing, education, communities and youth services. The VRU fund local authorities and key partners to support violence reduction activities in targeted areas. Brent is a beneficiary of this funding.

Working with Communities

We recognise the most important voices are those of the Brent community. Central to our approach is listening to communities with lived experience, taking on board recommendations and being responsive to concerns. It is the diverse communities of Brent that will help shape our 'Public Health', early intervention approach. Identifying the underlying causes of crime, in particular those that are impacting 'some' young people. We will also work with communities to protect the most vulnerable, especially those who are being physically or financially abused and those being coerced into a life of crime and exploitation. We will continue to use a variety of methods to involve our communities in the planning and delivery of our work.

Safer Brent Priorities 2023-2025

When developing our priorities, we consulted with stakeholders, including members of the community, to provide solutions to reduce crime and make Brent a safe place to live, work and visit. Participants were also asked **how communities can work together** to tackle safety concerns, with some of the most popular suggestions below;

(Use Word Cloud Imagery – design team)

“You told Us”

Neighbourhood watch schemes
 Increased CCTV
 More street lighting installed in dark public areas and brighter street lighting.
 Increased visible police presence
 Intergenerational mentoring
 Ward panel app
 Community strategy meetings
 Increase reporting of criminal activity
 Youth counselling training
 Increased interaction from local authorities and police
 Increased visibility of police
 Workshops for youth
 Youth clubs
 Increased Victim Support
 Increased enforcement of SPOs
 Increased publicity of enforcement activities in the local area

Our Priorities

After listening to the community and analysing our most pressing needs, the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) agreed that Safer Brent Strategy will focus on four priority areas;

1. **Tackling Violent Crime**
2. **Challenging Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls**
3. **Focus on Incidents Impacting Our Community**
4. **Protecting Those Most Vulnerable**

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

PRIORITY	WE NEED TO	FOCUS ON
1. Tackling violent crime	Keeping our streets safe, reducing risks and threats to our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on Serious Violence ● Preventing reoffending ● Challenging Prolific Offenders
2. Challenging Domestic, Sexual Abuse and	Prioritize Safety and Protection for victims / survivors of abuse, to be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Domestic Abuse ● Sexual Abuse ● Violence Against Women and Girls

preventing Violence Against Women and Girls	safe at home and in our streets	
3. Focus on incidents impacting our community	Empower communities, building strength and resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antisocial Behavior • Serious Incidents, Criminal exploitation (Gang) exit and support • Hate Crime
4. Protecting those most vulnerable	Support those at risk and vulnerable to exploitation. Protect victims of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims of Crime (including exploitation and county lines) • Prevent (Radicalisation and extremism) • Safeguarding (Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Our Priorities will be supported by action plans to track how issues will be addressed. Work will be co-ordinated and overseen by multi - agency sub-groups who will identify responses to address each priority.

Our Public Health Approach to Community Safety

Our ‘public health approach’ is all about intervening earlier, by identifying wider support needs as soon as possible to prevent escalation into violent crime. Research suggests that a person’s exposure to poverty, domestic violence, a lack of parental support, lack of education, or significantly disrupted education, can indicate a greater likelihood of individuals becoming entrenched in criminal activity.

In Brent, we are concerned about all of these issues and aim to tackle concerns earlier and in a holistic, inter – agency way. We will work with partners to identify more opportunities to intervene earlier and extend support; building protective factors such as, mentoring, counselling, substance misuse outreach services and employment opportunities.

It’s all about agencies working together to support a shared vision. Much of this work already exists in Brent through the multi-agency offer we provide through our ‘Exploitation Violence and Vulnerability Panel’ and ‘Integrated Offender Management’ scheme, but there is always more we can do to deliver on our ‘Public Health’ commitment and improve the lives of those who have had a difficult start.

(Use image “Iceberg image” to demonstrate – Design Team)



“You Said - Early Intervention and Prevention Is..”

Consultation findings

Following a period of engagement through focus groups with service users, surveys and reviews. The headline concerns and suggestions for early intervention and prevention were:

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

What are your current concerns?	What can be done, to help?
Violence against women and girls.	More access to mentor programmes for young people.
Gang violence.	More education for young boys in relation to Violence against women and girls.
Increase in use of social media negatively influencing young people.	More information provided to parents and carers to identify new and emerging trends that affect young people.
Lack of safe spaces for women and young people.	Increased visibility of Police and council enforcement agencies.
Knife Crime.	More severe consequences for those convicted of anti-social behaviour and environmental issues.

Anti-social behaviour including Street drinking and illicit drug taking in public areas.	Anti-social behaviour including Street drinking and illicit drug taking in public areas.
Street robberies.	Increased CCTV.
Lack of police presence on the streets.	More street lighting.
Illegal businesses acting as “fronts” for organised gangs.	Better response time from enforcement agencies including the Police and Local Authority.
Increase in Mental Health crisis amongst young people.	Diversionary programmes where young people can better understand the criminal justice system.
Impact the Covid 19 legacy has had on everyday life.	Better access to local Community Mental Health services.
Unsafe walking areas for young people.	Increased public consultation events where Local Authority/Police can introduce themselves to the community.
Support packages and resources for parents on how to educate and safeguard children e.g. family/ parent champions to circulate info within community.	Leading more victimless prosecution.

Tackling Our Priorities

Much of the activity identified in our priorities will have overlaps. We will take every opportunity to understand these concerns and work to raise awareness of harms in schools and community settings, intervening earlier.

Priority 1 - Tackling violent crime

- Focus on Serious Violence
- Preventing reoffending
- Challenging Prolific Offenders

Serious Violence

In recent years, gang and serious offending has been primarily linked to drug markets, distribution through county lines, violent incidents and exploitation of vulnerable people. High harm gang offending is dynamic and activity quickly diversifies, so it’s important that we continue to monitor crime trends, particularly for sudden spikes. We will monitor crimes committed by multiple offenders, also crimes committed by those who we would consider vulnerable to exploitation.

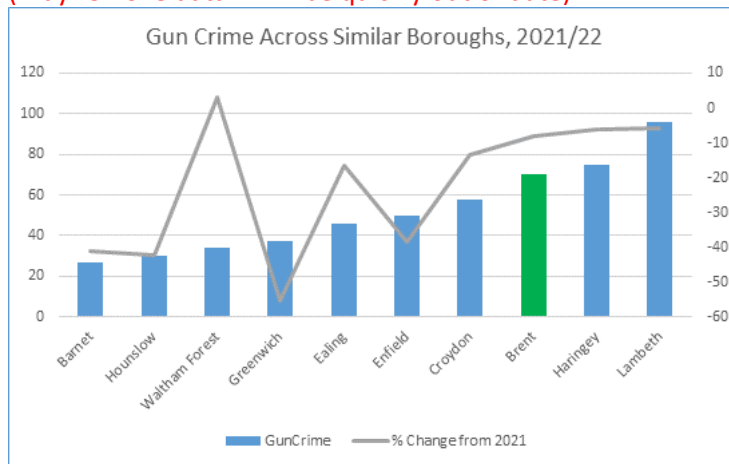
We are concerned by the supply of drugs being a major activity for criminal groups and gangs in Brent. Open drugs markets are high risk and often lead to an increase in violence, mainly due to transaction disputes and drug patch competition. We recognise that this activity not only impacts

those directly involved, but also increases the fear of crime and associated anti-social behaviour within communities.

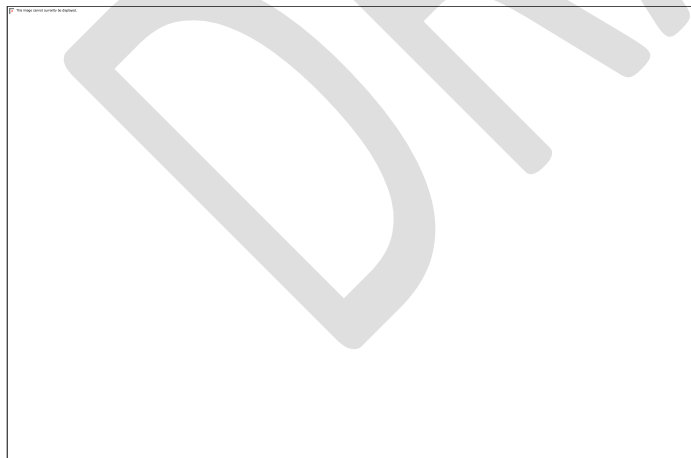
Although, we are pleased to have seen an overall reduction in gang related offending, when incidents occur, these offenses cause some of the highest harm to our communities. We aim to be ahead of the curve by, engaging with communities on this issue, being open about our concerns, encourage early reporting, promote diversionary activities and opportunities. And where activity is dangerous and persistent, use all of our powers to disrupt activity and bring prolific offenders to justice.

Proxy Gang indicator: Gun Crime (RECENT INSERTS –Remove for a 2023 – 25 Strategy)

(May remove data – will be quickly out of date)



(May remove data – will be out quickly of date)



The peak age range for knife crime victims is between 20 and 29 years old. Victims are over-represented between the ages of 10 and 49 compared to the borough population.

Preventing Reoffending

Integrated Offender Management

London Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme has introduced a managing persistent and violent offender's framework that came into effect in February 2021. These prolific offenders cause harm to communities and individuals, and cost London taxpayers the equivalent of £2.2 billion a year in criminal justice costs alone. We know that it takes targeted and specific support for individuals to break the cycle of reoffending. Many prolific offenders are over 25 years of age and are stuck in a cycle, requiring intensive intervention to bring about a change in behaviour.

We will continue to use a trauma informed approach to the delivery of our support, this enables professionals to consider wider risks and historic personal trauma. In addition, we recognise there may be multiple barriers to engagement, including wider vulnerabilities such as substance misuse and homelessness which we will attempt to address.

Priority 2 - Challenging Domestic, Sexual Abuse and preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be a significant concern in Brent and a crime which we believe is under reported. This pattern of behaviour seeks to deliberately create fear and control and can have long lasting impacts, in particular for children who witness abuse in the home.

As a borough we have learnt lessons from the tragic deaths of victims of domestic abuse, by undertaking comprehensive Domestic Homicide Reviews ([published insert link](#)) and learning lessons from their findings.

We will continue to commission specialist support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse to access the services needed to rebuild their lives. We will also commission services to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse to help deconstruct negative and violent patterns of behaviour.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual assault, rape and abuse can happen suddenly and requires specialist support to be offered to the victim. In the first instance that may be physical or medical support, but we know that practical and emotional support is of equal importance. We will continue to work with Partners and commissioned services to be responsive to the needs of victims.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Recent and tragic fatal attacks that have gained national attention, have rightly raised the profile of violence against women and girls and there is a clear need to raise awareness in this area.

Unacceptable behaviours such as stalking, harassment, whether in person or online, cat-calling and unwanted attention have no place in our society. We will do more to campaign against such

behaviours and raise awareness in schools, colleges, the business sector and community settings. We want to empower allies to intervene and disrupt these behaviours at an earlier stage, promoting a zero tolerance approach to all violence against women and girls.

Priority 2 – Focusing on Incidents Impacting our Community

- Antisocial Behavior
- Serious Incidents, Criminal exploitation (Gang) exit and support
- Hate Crime

Anti-Social Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person. There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:

- Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

Brent had the third highest number of ASB calls, in comparison to the most similar London boroughs, in the last 2 years. All the hotspots of ASB are in or adjacent to town centres. Despite non-essential retail being closed, town centre areas continue to be affected by abusive or difficult customers with mental health or substance misuse issues in the shops and businesses that have remained open.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

To provide the Council with the appropriate measures to tackle visual anti-social behaviour Brent implemented the Borough wide Street Dinking Public Spaces Protection Order 20 October 2020 up until 19 October 2023, Wembley Park Public Spaces Protection Order 1 January 2020 up until 31 December 2022 and the Parks and Open Spaces Public Protection Order 17 September 2019 up until 16 September 2022. Brent held a public consultation in 2022 to amalgamate 3 Public Spaces Protection Orders into one. Following a favourable consultation there are plans to implement the **PSPO in early 2023 up until 2026**, which will bring greater consistency in enforcement and clarity to residents on the prohibitions.

To deal with the cycle of reoffending we are committed to identifying persistent individuals for prosecution, ensuring any vulnerabilities such as mental health or substance misuse are signposted to support services or our Community MARAC before enforcement is considered. We are also applying other enforcement tools and powers such as Closure Orders or Community Protection warnings, notices, banning individual from public areas.

PSPO Enforcement Outcomes 21/22:

PSPO Fixed Penalty Notices	985
PSPO Court Prosecutions	59

Brent will also be implementing a PSPO to deal with Nuisance Vehicles in early 2023 to increase our menu of options with the Police in tackling dangerous use of vehicles in the borough and damage to our pavements and highways infrastructure.

Neighbour disputes, drugs use/dealing, street drinking and harassment have been the highest reported category to the Council in the last 3 years. Complaints around neighbour noise and disputes were over represented in social housing estates, private rented accommodation and houses with multiple occupancy. The COVID pandemic has resulted in lifestyle changes with more people working from or residing longer at home.

The Council created a joint Anti-Social Behaviour Policy in 2022 Team with Brent Housing Management who manage approximately 8000 Council Homes and 4000 leaseholds to ensure a uniform service is provided to our residents within the private and social housing sector. The Council over the years has taken the lead role in investigating cases relating to anti-social behaviour in properties not owned or managed by the Council. Whilst the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 empowers residents to request a community trigger on cases which they feel have been inadequately managed, this looks back retrospectively. As a result, we created a service level expectation protocol with Registered Providers with large housing stocks in the borough outlining best practice on anti-social behaviour case management and a greater focus on tenancy management under the Housing Act to deal with anti-social tenants.

We are committed over the next few years to expanding the service expectation with more social and private landlords in Brent and also working with housing providers to design out anti-social behaviour and crime on estates.

We will continue to invest in more additional mobile CCTV cameras to support our fixed CCTV infrastructure, deploying rapid CCTV to monitor emerging problems. We will use an intelligence led approach to map hotspots, based on complaint and reports to the Council and Police. This will inform our on-street multi agency operations and one of our key aims over the next few years will be to provide a greater on street presence in anti-social behaviour hotspots with the Police, commissioned Services our local councillors.

Brent launched an Online Watch Link Scheme (OWL) with the Police. This provides an online platform for residents who sign up, to be provided with localised information on our outcomes in tackling anti-social behaviour. It also gives residents and businesses the platform to build watch schemes in their localities. We are committed to supporting the development of resident and business led watch schemes and also increasing resident sign up over the next few years.

Serious Incidents, Criminal exploitation (Gang) exit and support

Much of this work has overlaps with Priority 1 - “Tackling Serious Violence”. However, we know that when we don’t understand or address tensions within our community, serious incidents can occur.

When a serious incident takes place, much of the activity is led by our Policing Partners to apprehend perpetrators and bring them swiftly to justice. However, we are aware that the impact of a serious incident can leave a ripple effect within communities, causing fear for their ongoing safety.

After a serious incident has taken place, we will work swiftly with Partners to understand the impact on communities. Working with key stakeholders, such as Housing, Youth based organisations and

Safer Neighbourhood Teams to draw up localised action plans to mitigate tensions and suppress violence. Where appropriate, will extend interventions and diversionary support to individuals.

Hate Crime

Brent is a diverse borough that welcomes people from all over the world and one value that unites us is that we do not tolerate any division in our communities, our disruptive activity that would seek to divide us. Brent is unique in terms of its community cohesion and this something we will aim to prioritise and protect.

Hate incidents happen because of hostility or prejudice based on the Equality Act's - '9 protected characteristics'. These are: Age, Disability, Gender Re-assignment, Marriage of Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

We encourage all hate crime to be reported and where people are identified as victims, we will extend a multi – agency response to support these individuals.

Protecting Those Most Vulnerable

- Victims of Crime (including exploitation and county lines)
- Prevent (Radicalisation and extremism)
- Safeguarding (Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Victims of Crime (including exploitation and county lines)

We are committed to supporting victims of crime and in particular, those who are being routinely targeted by criminals. We are concerned for the most vulnerable in our community, including the elderly who are being financial abused and threatened. And those whose homes are being taken over to host criminal activity, known as “cuckooing”. We are also concerned for our young people, coerced and exploited into criminal activity, hiding weapons or couriating drugs. We understand that when individuals are being exploited it is difficult to ask for help. We will work with multi-agency partners to offer training and host awareness raising activity, so that professionals and the community can identify different forms of exploitation. We will also strengthen our reporting and referrals pathways so that individuals can be supported earlier.

Prevent (Radicalisation and extremism)

Prevent aims to stop people from engaging in terrorist activity or supporting terrorism. It's about early intervention to protect and divert people away from activity before serious illegality occurs.

Local Authorities have a duty to safeguard young people and adults at risk of radicalisation and recruitment into terrorism. Work undertaken is extended to individuals predominantly through the Channel Programme. This programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect, divert and support those at risk. In Brent, delivery of Prevent is locally led and driven by analysis of the threat. We will continue to work closely with communities to understand their concerns about radicalisation and all forms of extremism. Extending support, advice and training according to need.

Safeguarding (Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Community Safety works closely with Adult and Children’s Safeguarding leads to address shared concerns, particularly for those more vulnerable individuals known to our services.

Our Brent Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) reviews cases of extremely vulnerable and high risk individuals, whose personal safety has become a concern. An individualized risk management plan is put in place to reduce immediate concerns, including repeat victimization. The process also improves inter – agency accountability for professionals supporting an individual.

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – Design Team)

Examples of individuals that are supported by the MARAC are:

- Victims or perpetrators of antisocial behaviour
- Victims of hate crime
- At risk of fire related incidents
- At risk of financial abuse or fraud
- At risk of homelessness or difficulties maintaining their property

Measuring Impact

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

Priority	Measure	Reduction and Collection method
Tackling violent crime reducing recorded crime	We will aim to be below the London borough average for the overall crime rate	Total Notifiable Offences per 1000 population, as per Home Office approved statistics
Focus on Incidents impacting our community	Reduce the number of lethal-barrelled gun discharges	All recorded lethal barrel gun discharges in the borough reported to Brent Police
Focus on Incidents impacting our community	Reduce the number of victims of knife related injuries (non-domestic)	All recorded victims of knife related injuries by Brent police
Focus on Incidents impacting our community	Reduce the number of calls to the police for ASB	All calls to Brent Police which have been flagged as ASB related (personal, nuisance and environmental)
Challenging DA	Reduce the number of Violence with Injury Domestic abuse offences	All Brent Police recorded violent offences where the victim and suspects are intimate partners or are family members reported to

		the police and flagged as a domestic incident
Tacking violent crime	Reduce the number of personal robberies	All Brent Police recorded personal robbery offences
Tackling violent crime	Reduce the number of robberies where a weapon is used	All Brent Police recorded personal robbery offences with a knife crime flag

Each of these priorities will be monitored by their own supporting actions plans, incorporating and early intervention, Public Health approach. We will undertake ongoing analysis of each priority and create separate priority plans which track how we intend to;

(Use image to demonstrate priorities – rather than table – Design Team)

- Identify
- Disrupt
- Prevent and Reduce
- Protect and Support

We hope that you find the plan informative and that it offers a snap shot into the wider work we are undertaking as a borough to reduce crime and drive change.

We are always happy to hear your thoughts on how we could improve things. Our communities remain a key partner and are important to us.

Please contact us on Community.safety@brent.gov.uk

Key data of the borough

The London Borough of Brent has a population of population of 339,800 (ONS) (the 5th largest population among London boroughs)¹ this is expected to rise 25% by 2041 and the borough's population has grown by 28,600 since the last census in 2011, a rise of 9%. About 53% of Brent residents were born outside of the UK and over 149 languages are spoken locally. Around 65% of residents are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds and Brent is home to over 66,000 EU citizens. We are very much a borough rich in diversity and cultures.

The health, education and wellbeing of young people in the borough is aligned to our statutory duty and our aim to reduce poverty, inequality and social exclusion. In Brent there are around 28,400 young people 13-19 (8% of the Brent population). Around 22% of children live in Poverty (rising to 43% where housing costs are also considered). On average Brent pupils attain grade C in each of their three A Level Subjects (equal to London and National averages). 38/10,000 children in Brent are in Care, for England the average is 67/10,000 children are in care.

The borough recognises the climate and ecological emergency we are facing and is actively working to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030. The steps we plan to take are outlined within our local strategy and annual delivery plan.

Brent is proud of its diverse and inclusive workforce and also our unique multicultural community. We continue to progress actions against our Brent Black Community Action plan <https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/black-community-action-plan/brent-black-community-action-plan/> And will strive to ensure that our workforce is culturally competent, aware of any unconscious bias.

¹ [2021 Census first release - Brent summary - Final AV.pdf](#)