

6.6 Rates of violent crime including sexual violence

The Home Office defines violent crime as robbery, sexual offences, including violence against the person with offences ranging from assault without injury, through to wounding and homicide. Sexual violence includes rape and other sexual assaults such as sexual abuse of a child, sexual bullying and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Prostitution is recognised because of its gender bias. It is recognised as a victim centred crime and recognises that those who are coerced, abused and exploited into prostitution required holistic support. The 2015 Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment identified preventing and reducing domestic and sexual violence as well as ending gang and youth violence as priority areas due to the high volume of offences relative to other offences reported in Barking and Dagenham.

When compared with the other London borough areas, Barking and Dagenham recorded the fourth highest rate per 1,000 population for Violent Crime – 31.50 per 1,000 residents against an average of 25.17 across comparable boroughs Lewisham and Greenwich.

Analysis of violent offences based on the characteristics of the victims, the offenders and location have suggested that the Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership needed to structure a response to address two particular aspects of violence - Domestic Violence and Serious Youth Violence. These were adopted as priority issues by the 2013 Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment and have been agreed as priorities in all subsequent Strategic Assessments.

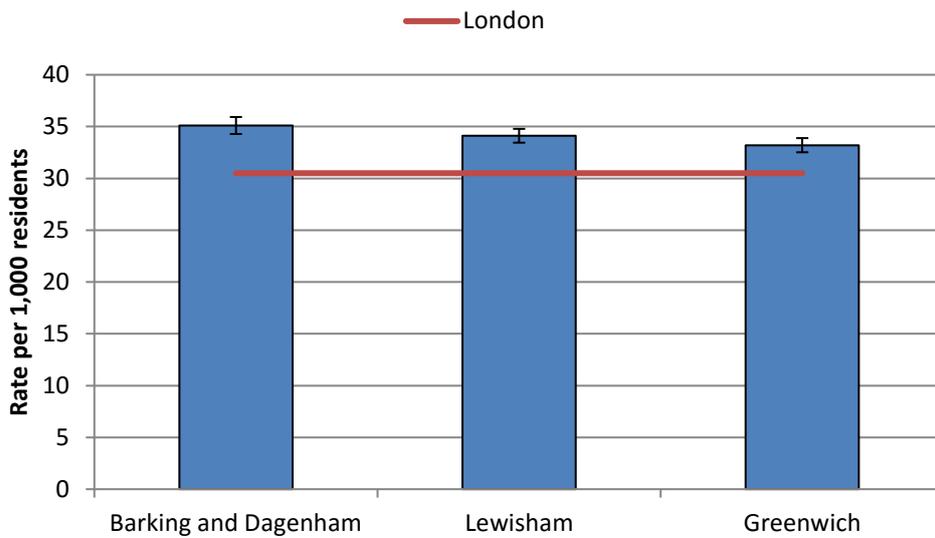
A predicted increase in population, particularly of young people in Barking and Dagenham will impact on the levels of Violent Crime and Sexual Offence reports and increase the demands on services across the borough.

An updated version of the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment is currently being written with partners across areas of community safety, police, public health, fire and children's services. The updated crime and disorder strategy, once completed, will feed into the crime and disorder sections of future JSNAs.

6.6.1 Violent crime: the scale of the issue

In 2015/16 Barking and Dagenham recorded a 17% increase in violent crime (7,089 offences reported) compared to the previous year, against a 12.9% increase across the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) area. Violent crime represented 41% of all notifiable offences within Barking and Dagenham in 2015/16. This is higher than the MPS area rate of 36%. When the violent crime rate per 1,000 residents is compared with Barking and Dagenham's statistical London neighbours, Barking and Dagenham is the highest and significantly higher than London average (Figure 6.6.1).

Figure 6.6.1: Violence Crime, rate per 1,000 residents 2015/16



Source: met.police.uk

In terms of volume, Barking and Dagenham has seen a rise in 'Most Serious Violence' Criminal Damage, Wounding/GBH and Violence with Injury between 2014/15 and 2015/16. Using crime rates per 1,000 population for 2015/16, the borough records significantly higher crime rates for some crimes compared to the rest of London (Table 6.6.1).

Table 6.6.1: Top three crime category based on 2015/16, Barking and Dagenham compared with London

Crime Category	2015/16 rate per 1,000 Residents	Ranking in London
Criminal Damage	9.65	1 of 32
Assault with Injury	6.86	3 of 32
Wounding / GBH	3.65	4 of 32

Source: met.police.uk

6.6.2 Youth violence

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that young people aged 16-24 suffer higher levels of violence than other adult age groups. Indicative of levels of violence against young people is monthly London Ambulance Service data on call outs to assaults against teens:

Table 6.6.2: Total count of ambulance attendances for violence under 25 years

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% change 2014/15 – 2015/16
Barking & Dagenham	252	204	217	162	185	14.2%
Greenwich	330	245	263	204	246	20.6%
Lewisham	369	314	287	204	221	8.3%

Source: GLA Safe Stats data

Barking and Dagenham experienced an increase of 14.2% in London Ambulance Service attendances as a result of youth violence in 2015/16. This increase was based upon the previous year's data which was a decrease compared with the previous year. Overall youth violence call outs have decreased by 26.6% over the last five years.

6.6.3 Serious Youth Violence

The Serious Youth Violence (SYV) indicator counts the number of victims aged between 1 and 19 years old of serious violence offences or weapon enabled crime. The number of young victims in Barking & Dagenham has been steadily increasing since 2013/14.

The latest rolling 12 months to March 2016 for Barking and Dagenham shows a 33% increase on the previous year (183 to 244 victims). In comparison the London average shows a 3% increase for the same periods (6041 to 6223 victims).

The YOS has looked back at the last three years to identify if there are any trends that are apparent throughout the YOS cohort with regard to violent offences such as assault, GBH, ABH and also possession of an offensive weapon or bladed article. With regard to violent offences the numbers of young people open to the YOS that have been charged with a violent offence has reduced year on year in terms of numbers from 151 in 2013/14 to 141 in 2015/16. However this is within the context of a reducing caseload within the YOS. The emerging pattern over the last three years is that violent offences now make up a larger percentage of the YOS cohort.

Regular quarterly mapping events between agencies to highlight lower level association and potential gang involvement have been agreed.

The age range for analysis of SYV has been increased locally to 25 to ascertain a clearer picture of SYV in the borough. The local Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment which will be released in December 2016 will look into this area in more detail. This strategy and analysis will be used to update this and other sections of the JSNA in 2017.

6.6.4 Sexual violence

In 2015/16 there were 410 sexual offences reported in Barking and Dagenham, a 1.7% increase compared to 2014/15 and the 11th highest in London in terms of rates per 1,000 population. The 2014/15 victims data for the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment continues to identify a young age profile of reported victims of sexual offences (334 victims). The predominant profile of victims in 2014/15 was white (61%), female (92%) aged between 0 and 19 years old (54%).

The victim profile for sexual offences will be updated as part of the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment.

For crime recording purposes, Sexual Offences are broken down into two main types of Rape and Other Sexual offences. During 2015/16, 42% (171) of all sexual offences reported were Rape reports.

6.6.5 Intimate partner violence

As with youth violence, data is available on a monthly basis from the London Ambulance Service on assaults against women, although not all of these will be due to intimate partner violence it provides a potential proxy data source.

Table 6.6.4 Total counts of ambulance attendances for sexual violence

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% change 2014/15 – 2015/16
Barking and Dagenham	19	17	15	8	11	37.5%
Greenwich	14	24	13	9	11	22.2%
Lewisham	21	25	17	20	15	-25.0%

Source: GLA Safe Stats data

Barking and Dagenham has experienced an increase in ambulance attendances for sexual violence in 2015/16, however the number of incidents are low.

6.6.6 Gaps in knowledge

Further analysis of the needs of both victims and perpetrators in the following categories would be helpful to inform future commissioning and ensure appropriate interventions are in place and at the right time in the life course of those affected (From adolescence to adulthood):

- Domestic violence and abuse - victims and perpetrators.
- Child victims of domestic violence and childhood sexual abuse.
- Sex abusers and offenders (adolescents and adults).
- Adult rape and sexual assault victims.
- Adults sexually abused in childhood.
- All victims of sexual exploitation.

In particular an area of further exploration would be the local level of childhood sexual abuse and any links this has with domestic/sexual violence in adulthood.

Recommendations for Commissioners

All Partnership recording systems to have alerts for domestic and sexual violence (including female genital mutilation, honour based violence, forced marriage and no recourse to public funds). If Police and partnership systems could further flag or breakdown the type of sexual offences being reported (instead of just Rape or Other Sexual Offences) then this would enable the partnership to more accurately identify the prevalence of each type of sexual offence in Barking and Dagenham.

Improvement in the interrogation of existing systems is required to identify at risk individuals and families so that preventative and support services can be put in place for these individuals.

Ensure resources are available to continue to deliver against the plans outlined in the D&SV Strategy and to resource the new strategy for 2016 to allow for the continuation of key services and ensure that they are approachable, accessible, and supportive.

Consideration should also be given to:

- Allocation of resources to the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation group so its objectives can be delivered. This will include developing Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence responses for young people.
- Maintaining access to East London Rape Crisis Service for residents who have experienced sexual assault.
- Further develop specialist provision for individuals who experience domestic and sexual violence, including female genital mutilation, honour based violence, forced marriage.
- Ensure domestic violence and sexual violence is connected to the Integrated Victim Management Work.

A problem profile should be developed for the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group to help to clearly define and identify these issues and how they can be addressed.

The JSNA sections relating to crime and disorder are to be updated with the findings from the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment in 2017.