

Barking & Dagenham Partnership

NI 16 – Serious acquisitive crime rate

Responsible Owner

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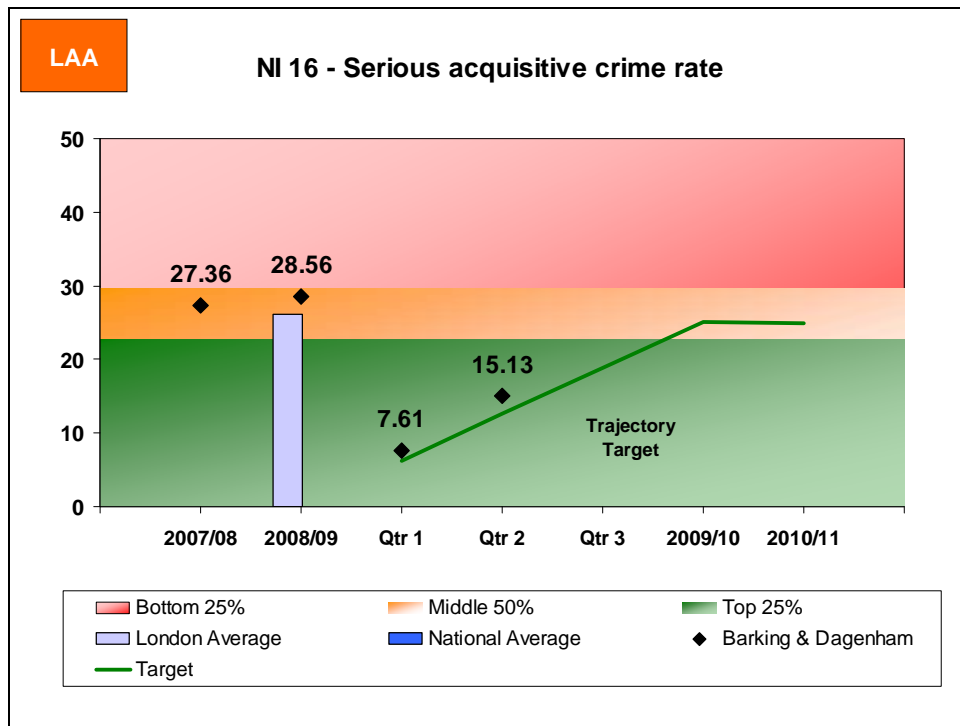
National Indicator Rationale

Acquisitive crime covers aspects of theft, burglary and robbery including street crime, business and retail crime and vehicle crime. Although Nationally and within London there has been a fall in acquisitive crime it still remains an ongoing concern for the borough. This continues to be a priority for The Safer Borough Board which is the Borough's statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Current Performance

Performance against Target

Off Target



Current Performance Commentary

The end of year 2008/9 figure is 28.56 crimes per 1,000 pop. This is against a target for 2008/09 of 25.49 per 1,000 pop. Performance for Quarter 2 (April – Sept) shows 15.13 offences per 1,000 population which is a 15% increase compared with the previous year to date.

Theft of motor vehicles shows the biggest reduction when compared with April – Sept 08 with -15%. Residential Burglary remains high at a 44% increase although the rate of increase is also in decline from April. When comparing with the rest of London, LBD currently has the 7th highest acquisitive crime rate in the Met per 1,000 residents. It also currently has the 2nd highest rate amongst its CDRP Group. The forecast for the year (April – March) is 32.84 crimes per 1,100 pop against a target of 25.90 crimes per 1,000 pop.

Key Issues:

Specific reasons for underperformance, including equalities / area issues where relevant

1.	<p>The primary challenge for this indicator has been residential burglary where a substantial increase of 64% (the largest in London) has been experienced at the start of the financial year. In 2008/09, Barking and Dagenham was one of nearly a 3rd of London Boroughs that saw the highest levels of burglary since 2005/06.</p> <p>The Partnership, through proactive work, has reduced the rate of increase to 44%. A burglary action plan is in place but the random nature of offending and method of entry is making it difficult to impact on this particular crime type. The North East London quadrant has seen the biggest increase in acquisitive crime, which has been exacerbated due to the recession.</p>
2.	<p>52% of those cautioned for residential burglaries in Barking and Dagenham are committed by people who reside on the borough. They are more likely to be a white male aged between 15 and 19 years old. Prevention other than target hardening is unlikely to contribute to a reduction in terms of the out of borough cohort. Cross border working has been problematic but the Partnership has led a 4-borough Vigilance bid to the Home Office which has been successful in terms of financial contribution from Government</p>
3.	<p>Currently 12% of residential burglaries involve the theft of the victim's vehicle. The vehicle taken is usually less than 6 years old.</p>
4.	<p>Almost 7% of residential burglaries in the Borough have been a distraction or artifice offence. This type of crime is primarily targeted at vulnerable older people. Offenders pose as officials (including council, police and utility workers) in order to gain access to homes. The most common method used on Barking and Dagenham is to pretend that a neighbour has a burst water pipe.</p>

Key Projects:

Areas of current /planned projects should focus on reasons for underperformance and link to the Key Issues listed above

Key Issue No.	Project Title	Key Milestones / Date	Project Lead	Project Details
1.	<i>Safer Homes Project</i>	Funding to continue the project until March 2010.	Shelley Hart, Manager, Victim Support Barking and Dagenham Teresa Munro, Community Safety LBBD	The scheme offers victims of residential burglary a free lock changing service to their homes, as well as other security measures as appropriate. The service is also available to: people being identified as vulnerable; those who live in areas that have a high level of crime; or neighbours to people who have been the victims of crime. In quarter one of 2009/10 the service secured 84 homes and surveyed a further 67 homes.
2.	<i>Property Marking Initiatives</i>	Continuation of UV marker pen scheme and Selecta DNA through Ward SNT. Ongoing	Teresa Munro, Community Safety LBBD. Ian Piggott, MPS	Distributing forensic marking SelectaDNA kits to local residents to use on their property. Continuation of UV marker pen scheme through Ward Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Kits have been distributed to residents in Valence ward in July, and been taken-up by approximately 260 homes. SelectaDNA kits are also now being used as part of Operation Puma (see below) on the Leys Estate, Village Ward

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	<i>Increase access to treatment via criminal justice pathways</i>	Ongoing	Jenny Beasley, Joint Commissioning Manager, DAAT Carina Heckroodt, ACO Probation Services	<p>Improvements are being made to arrest referral service provision as often clients that have been referred into treatment from drugs workers based in the police custody cells and court have not presented to their appointments. As B&D is a non intensive DIP borough non attendance is not a criminal offence. By bringing the service in house, and placing the staff within the Gateway Service, the issues of follow-up and case management should be lessened. One team will have responsibility for referring people into treatment, ensuring that they attended treatment and providing intensive case management during this period.</p> <p>We continue to be one of the highest performing non intensive DIP boroughs in terms of numbers attending treatment. As a percentage though, drop out between referral and attendance remains high. Of 68 referrals, 18 (25%) engaged in treatment.</p> <p>The Care Management Team have significantly increased the number of assessments undertaken in prisons over recent months. Gateway service meet clients at the gate where release dates are known in advance. Feedback form service users has been very positive about this.</p>
	<i>Priority and prolific offender strategy</i>	Ongoing project	Carina Heckroodt (Probation)	This strategy focuses on the most prolific acquisitive crime offenders in the Borough so that they are subject to concentrated attention by the justice system and offered support to end their offending lifestyle by Probation. The Vigilance programme will contribute to those offenders who are under a 12 month 'no licence' cohort. Currently, the borough was third lowest in London during 2008/09 for the re-offending rate of adults under probation supervision and that performance was above the London average for re-offending rates of prolific and priority offenders in 2008/09.
1.	<i>Operation Puma</i>	4 -13 September 2009	Valerie Jones, Group Manager, Community Safety Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services	This was a week of action at Village and River, concentrating on The Leys and around Digby Gardens. This was a partnership project and involved targeted high visibility police patrols, street wardens, environmental enforcement, TV licensing, street sweeping, parking enforcement and tenancy enforcement etc. The long-term outcomes

				that we hope to achieve include: reductions in burglary; increase in resident satisfaction with their neighbourhood; increase in community pride; improved community spirit; and a reduction in the fear of crime.
2	<i>Vigilance Programme</i>	Funding to March 2010.	Valerie Jones, Group Manager, Community Safety Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services	The Home Office have selected the borough to take part in the Vigilance Programme, a tailored support package focusing on areas where Burglary and Robbery are presenting a particular challenge. The Vigilance programme includes the provision of analytical support, training and additional resources for areas across the country that has seen a recent rise in burglary and robbery offences over the last 12 months. The programme will also provide between £50k and £100k to the local area to fund initiatives to help to reduce these crime types. The funding will be used to review the PPO scheme and look at potential PPO's not currently on the Partnership's scheme, through funding of a Police officer, a link-officer with the Probation Service and an admin. Officer to facilitate B+D and Havering's scheme.
1	<i>Adopt a Burglar initiative</i>	Ongoing	Safer Neighbourhood Teams – MPS	This is a proactive campaign that involves the SNT visiting newly released offenders from prison that have convictions for robbery with the aim to act as a deterrent from committing further acts of crime. Letters are also to be personally delivered explaining Police are aware of their release and will be watching them carefully.
1	<i>Publicity and Victim Support programme</i>	Ongoing	MPS	This includes the distribution of a burglary pack which is given to all victims of domestic burglary within 72 hours of reporting the crime. The pack, to be delivered by the SNT, includes crime prevention advice & information to enable the victims to 'beef up' their home security and prevent them from becoming repeat victims. There is also a proactive publicity campaign in specific wards detailing when offenders are sentenced for burglary to improve the public's confidence in the Police and Local authority in this area.
1	<i>Tenant Eviction</i>	Ongoing	LBBD	If a council tenant is charged with a criminal offence in the borough this will be cross-checked against Council tenant records and, where appropriate, warned their actions may lead to both criminal prosecution and eviction from their council home.
1	Domestic Burglary Problem solving group	Ongoing	Valerie Jones, Group Manager, Community Safety Community Safety and	The partnership has established a problem solving planning group which is facilitated by the Community Safety and supported by a number of different officers both within the Council and the Police.

			Neighbourhood Services	
1	Relaunch of Operation BumbleBee	Ongoing	MPS	Operation Bumblebee, which was originally launched in 1993, was one of the most well-known campaigns ever run by the MPS. The campaign will ask Londoners to 'Think like a Burglar' and encourage them to take action to protect their properties. The adverts will appear at bus stops, on tube card panels and on radio. Operation Bumblebee packs have also been produced, giving comprehensive crime prevention advice. Barking and Dagenham Police will also be running an internal action plan which covers many of the actions listed above and be centred around – investigation, enforcement, forensics and reassurance. This is to be managed by Ch Insp Hancock.

Key Risks:

Risks may relate to specific projects or to performance in general

Currently the most common point of entry for a burglar is through the front door accounting for 37% of offences and through the rear window accounting for 18% of offences. With this in mind it is important that residents take proper precautions in securing their properties. As the winter months approach, dark nights also traditionally see a spike in burglary activity. The Partnership will be undertaking a targeted campaign over the winter months to provide local residents with crime prevention advice, such as publicity around Christmas time regarding the disposal of refuse (e.g. not advertising to potential criminals what the household received for Christmas) as well as the distribution of timer switches to give the impression that properties are not empty.

Actions for Improvement (To be used for Quarterly Reporting):

Plans for further interventions must be robust and show clear prospects for improving performance

- There are a number of operations running to combat the recent increase in residential burglary offences on the borough with the aim of improving performance. As listed above, an example is the partnership initiative funded by GOL using Selecta DNA technology. Its purpose is to target harden potential burglary victims and provide an assessment for possible future rollout of the product. This will be evaluated after 6 months and recommendations made with regard to the future use of this technology.
- The Borough has been selected by the Home Office to take part in the Vigilance Programme. This is a tailored support package focusing on Burglary and Robbery. The Vigilance programme includes the provision of pre-emptive support, training and additional resources for areas across the country that have seen a rise in burglary and robbery over the last 12 months. The programme of support will last for one year and will then be reviewed.
- In order to gain a better understanding of acquisitive crime rate within the borough the Performance and Improvement Team working jointly with Community Safety will be carrying out in depth analysis of local crime data from the Police. This will concentrate in particular on two areas which are a priority for The Safer Borough Board and include MSV and Burglaries. Any key trends extrapolated from the data will be fed back to the Police and then presented to the partnership for a tactical and strategic action plan.