

BROMLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2023

Produced by the

saferbromley
partnership

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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Safer Bromley Partnership was set up in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that the public sector agencies, voluntary groups and businesses work together with local communities to reduce crime and improve safety.
- 1.2. Members of the SBP include chief officers from the Council, Police, Health, Probation, Fire Service and Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.
- 1.3. The Safer Bromley Partnership has a statutory obligation to produce this annual strategic assessment which aims to:
 - a. Assess crime, disorder and the issues that may impact on these,
 - b. Highlight areas of increasing and reducing threat, and
 - c. Inform future priorities.
- 1.4. This summary seeks to outline the key factors and findings of the 2023 Strategic Assessments.
- 1.5. Bromley is a borough in the south of London, bordered by Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley, and Kent to the south. Covering 59 square miles it is the largest London borough.
- 1.6. The borough enjoys 166 parks and open spaces. There are over 50 fully active [Friends groups](#) with over 3,500 individuals Friends. These groups provide education, social events and complete additional maintenance tasks to complement the existing the grounds maintenance service. They also attract external funding to the parks.
- 1.7. The four largest town centres in the borough are Bromley, Orpington, Beckenham, and Penge, which are all managed by Business Improvement Districts. The smaller towns are:
 - Biggin Hill
 - Chislehurst
 - Hayes
 - Mottingham
 - Petts Wood
 - The St Mary Cray
 - West Wickham
- 1.8. The [Business Profile](#) for Bromley in 2019 states that the borough contains just over 17,000 registered businesses, 90% employing less than 9 people. The borough has strengths in professional, scientific, and technical services, as well as administrative and support services, with 19% of the boroughs registered businesses providing management and computer consultancy activities (1600 firms), while health and social work is the largest sector by employment at 16%.
- 1.9. The 2021 [Census](#) shows the population in Bromley has increased by 6.7%, to 330,000. Bromley is the least densely populated of London's 33 boroughs, with

15.7 people living in area equivalent to the size of a football pitch, the most densely populated borough is Tower Hamlets with the equivalent of 112 people in the same area. Key Bromley population statistics from the Census are;

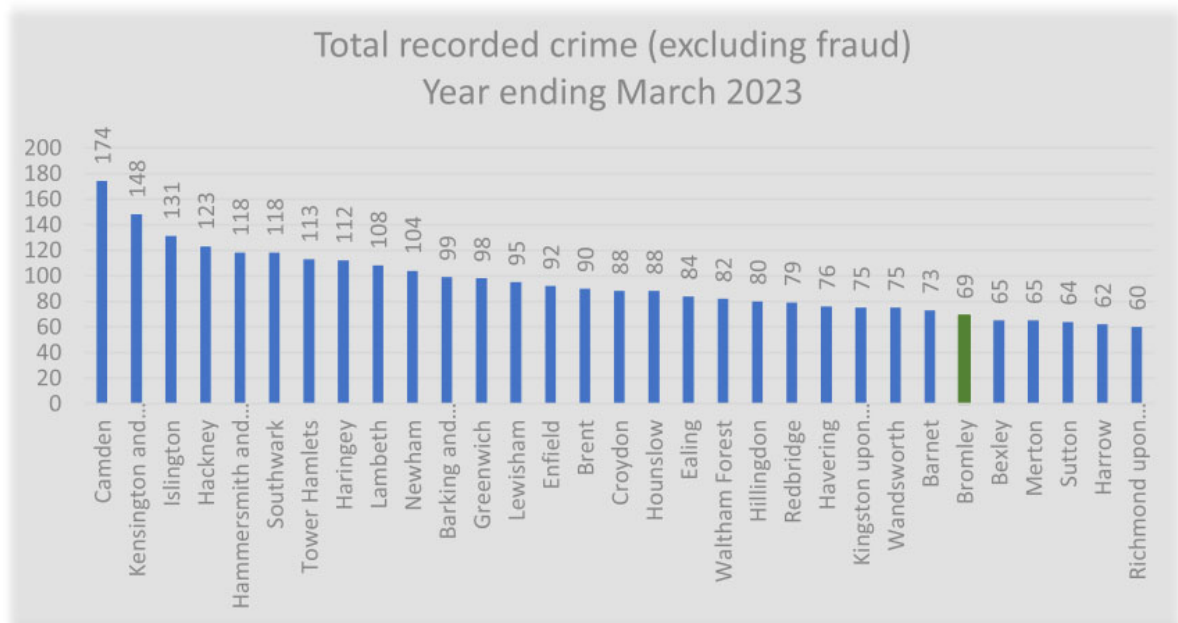
- 52% female.
- 48% male.
- 23.7% were aged 19 or under.
- 17.65% were aged 65 or over.
- 5.7% of residents have a disability that limits their day-to-day activity a lot and 8.6% are limited a little.
- 76.5 identify themselves as White.
- 8.4% identified as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh.
- 7.6% identified as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African.

- 1.10. Bromley has 191 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), areas that usually comprise or between 400 and 1,200 households and have resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons. The National [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (IMD), which applies a methodological framework to measure relative deprivation, divides the LSOAs into 10 equal groups, known as deciles, with 1 being the most deprived and 10 the least. There are 6 Wards in which all LSOA's are in Decile 7 or above (Biggin Hill, Chelsfield, Hayes & Coney Hall, Petts Wood & Knoll, Shortlands & Park Langley and West Wickham). St Paul's Cray Ward has no LSOAs above Decile 5.
- 1.11. Whilst collating a range of data for this assessment, it is acknowledged that by pooling a general population comprising of a significant majority of individuals who are unlikely to be directly affected by crime with a much smaller cohort of individuals who have a higher risk, it is more likely opportunities for prevention and early intervention may not be identified. This is an evolving process and work is ongoing to obtain datasets and information that will enhance our knowledge, particularly around factors that may increase the likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime.
- 1.12. The introduction of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) and the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#) gives greater focus on working together to prevent and reduce violence, both within and outside the home, and on our collective ability to effectively safeguard and protect those within our communities who are vulnerable to these forms of harm.
- 1.13. The Government have also introduced '[From Harm to Hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives](#)' to address illicit drugs as part of their mission to level up the country. It relies on a co-ordinated action across a range of local partners including enforcement, treatment, recovery, and prevention.
- 1.14. We also acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant and continuing impact on society, changing physical interactions through the adoption of remote working for many people and shifting many day-to-day activities to online platforms. These changes created fewer opportunities for criminals in public areas and more opportunities online.
- 1.15. Two of the Safer Bromley Partnership statutory agencies have also undergone significant organisational changes with the Probation Service consolidating its

functions in June 2021 and the South-East London Integrated Care System taking over from the Clinical Commissioning Group in July 2022.

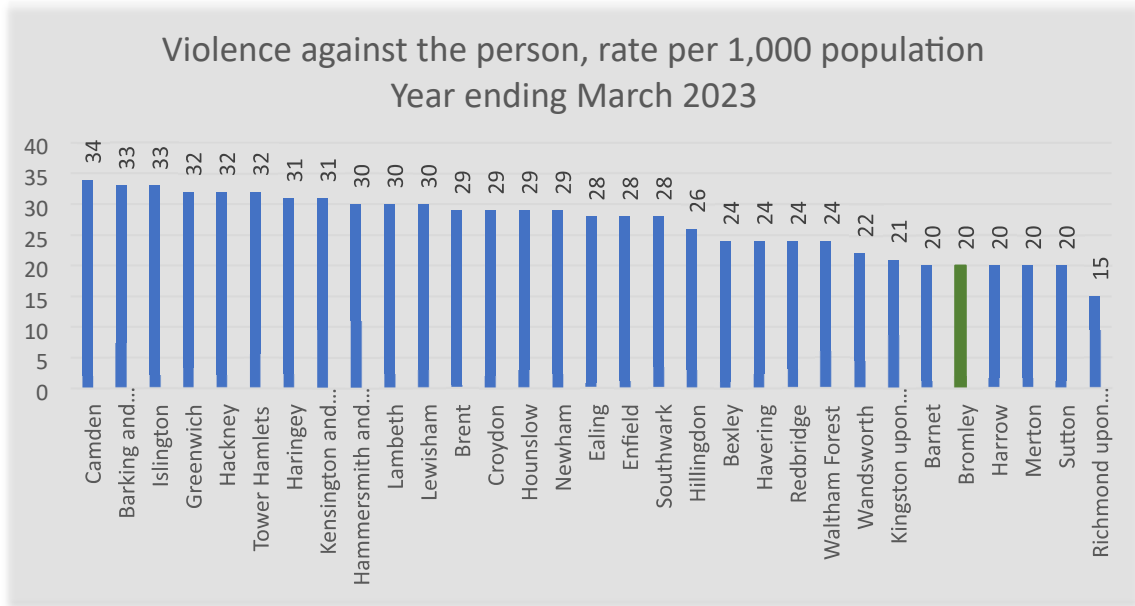
- 1.16. In May 2022 the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection published their report, [The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the criminal justice system – a progress report](#). This report highlighted the significant challenges facing the whole criminal justice system (CJS) as it recovers from the impact of the pandemic. The agencies involved in the criminal justice process, particularly the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Probation and Prisons across the UK saw many experienced staff leave. Many continue to struggle to recruit to vacancies, and remaining staff are experiencing increased pressure whilst new staff are inducted into an environment that is both complex and challenging.
- 1.17. The report highlights the difficulties in progressing cases through the criminal justice system to conclusion. The sometimes lengthy process makes it more likely that victims will withdraw from cases, impacting their confidence in the judicial process.
- 1.18. Additionally, judicial outcomes for perpetrators have been delayed. Often with bail and associated conditions becoming less sustainable over extended periods, potentially allowing them greater freedom to continue offending.
- 1.19. Whilst London saw an increase of 4.8% in reported crime in the 12 months to March 2023 compared to the 12 months to March 2022, Bromley saw a decrease of 1.6%. With 69 crimes per 1,000 population being reported to the Police, Bromley is ranked 6th safest of the London borough, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1



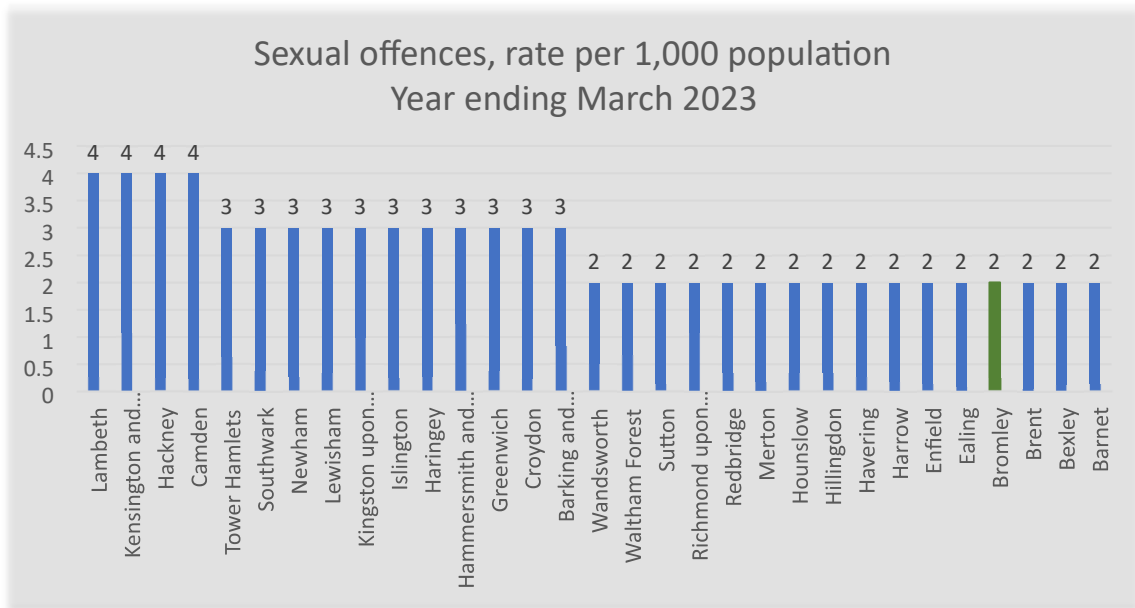
- 1.20. Due to Ward boundary changes which took effect in Bromley in May 2022, data provided at ward level is not directly comparable to previous years.
- 1.21. Bromley has one of the lowest rates of violence against the person, with 20 reports per 1,000 population to the year ending March 2023, it is ranked the 5th safest London borough, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2



1.22. In the 12 months to March 2023 there were 629 sexual offences reported to the Police. Table 3 shows reported sexual offences per 1,000 population across London.

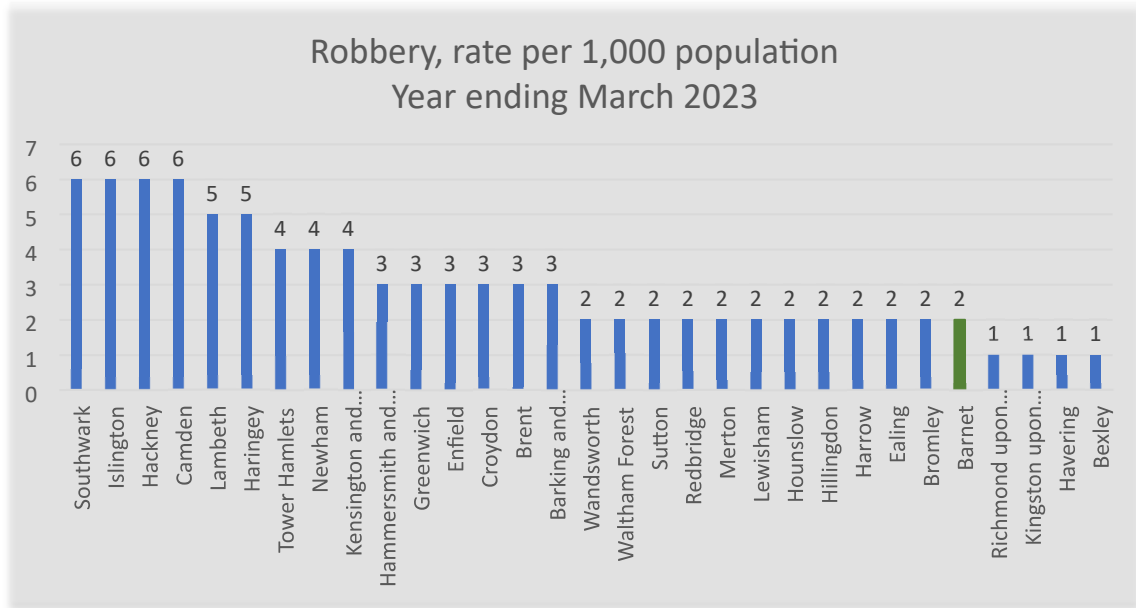
Table 3



1.23. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) reported that the volume of suspects charged with Rape across the UK increased by 13.7% and prosecutions increased by 63% in 2021/22, compared to 2020/21.

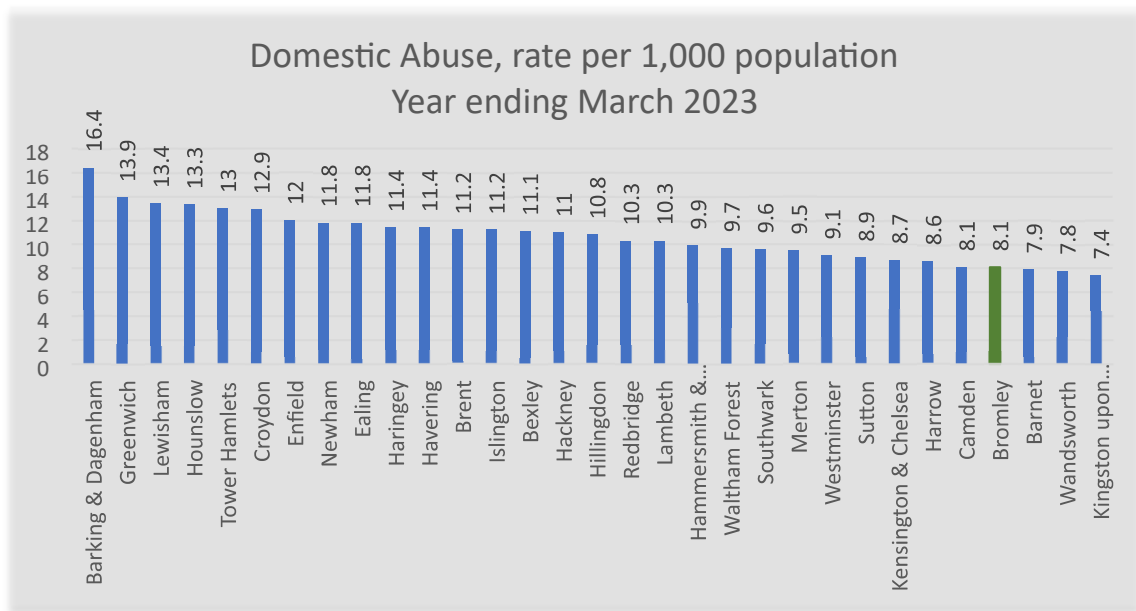
1.24. Bromley had 594 reports of Robbery the 12 months to March 2023. The rate of reported Robbery per 1,000 population are shown in Table 4.

Table 4



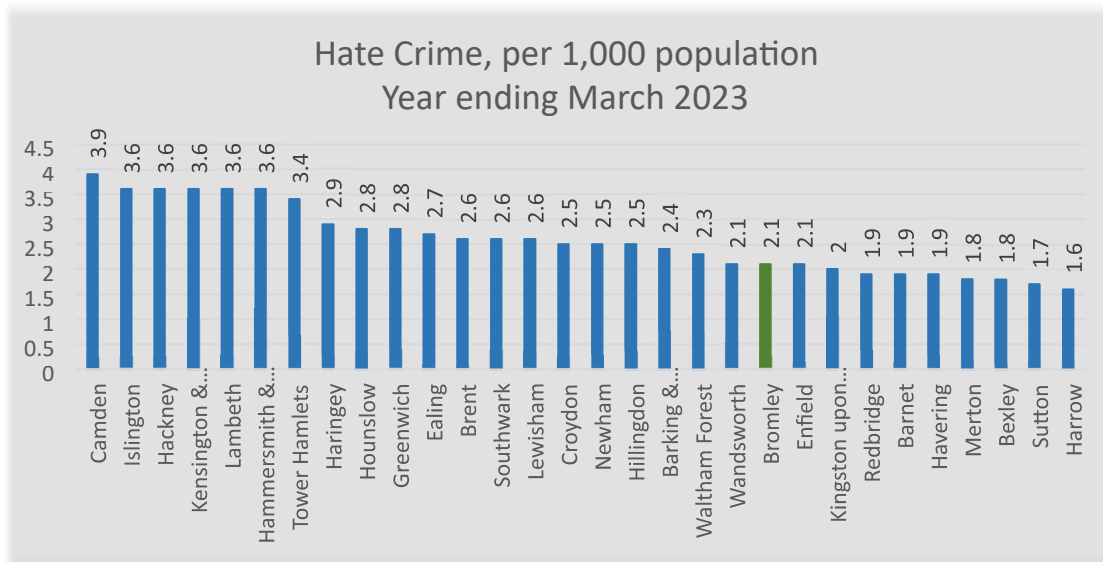
1.25. In the 12 months to May 2023 there were 2,680 Domestic Abuse incidents reported in Bromley. Table 5 shows the rate of reporting per 1,000 population across London. The Crown Prosecution Service report that between July and December 22/23 76% of domestic abuse related cases referred to them in the UK resulted in a charge and this resulted in a 75% conviction rate.

Table 5



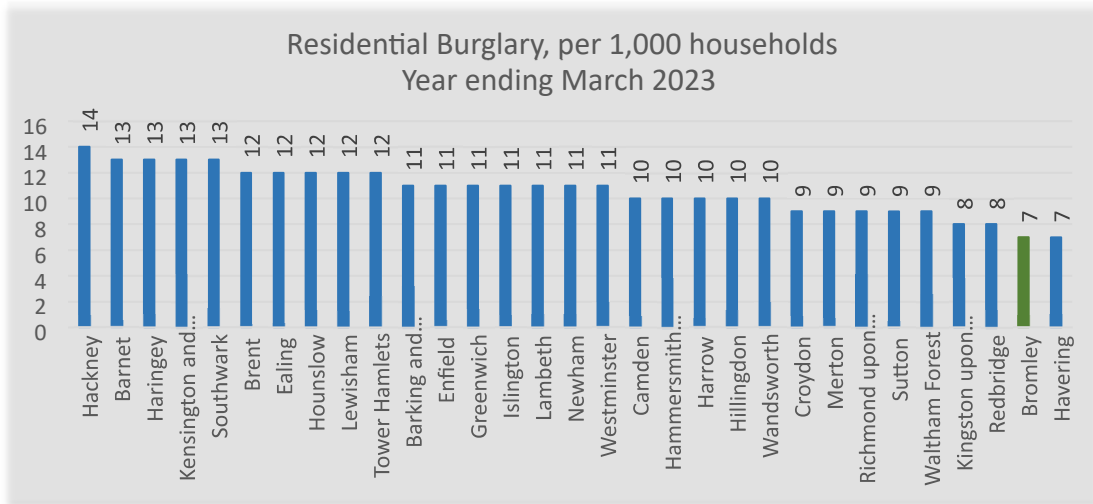
1.26. Between April 2022 and March 2023 there were 692 reports of hate crime in Bromley, equating to 2.1 offences per 1,000 population, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6



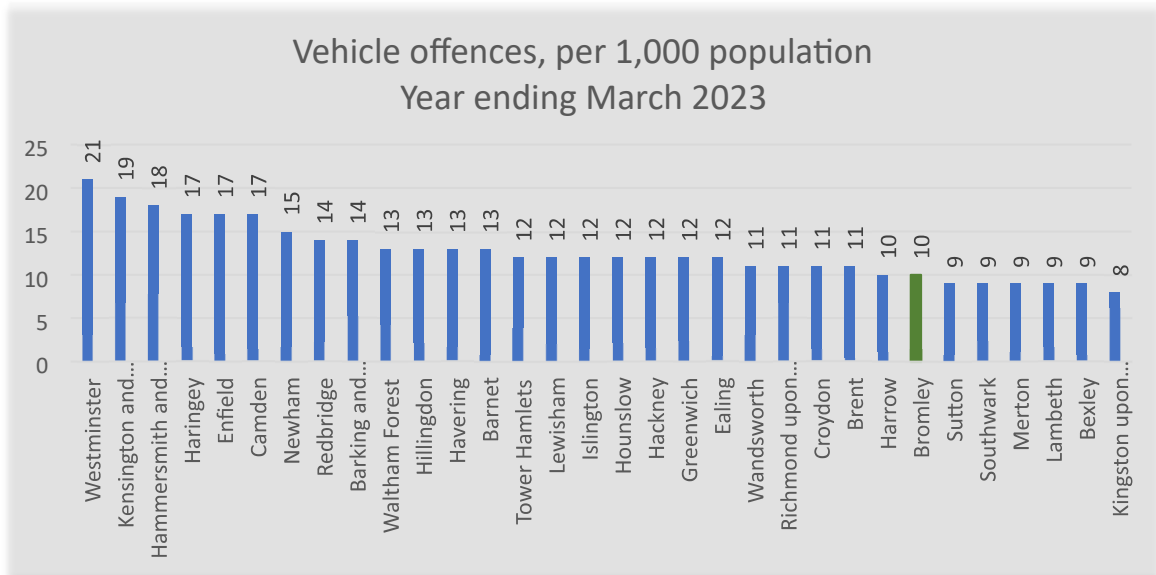
- 1.27. In 22/23 1,676 Bromley residents were defrauded of £9,108,006 through a range of scams and cybercrime. Individual losses can vary considerably, the highest loss by an individual was over £100,000, and can be financially devastating.
- 1.28. During the period August 22 and July 23 Bromley had the highest rate of Courier Fraud in London, with 34 incidents incurring losses in excess of £1,1m. The average age of people targeted by this particular fraud is 76 across London.
- 1.29. In 2022/23 there were 74 'rogue trader' crimes reported to Trading Standards. There were also 18 incidents which required a rapid response, in which a Trading Standard officer attends an active incident, for example when called by a bank as they are concerned that an individual is acting under duress from a 'rogue trader'. The types of methods used by offenders changes and evolves, however, they will usually target people who are more willing to engage with them in conversation, such as older people and vulnerable adults.
- 1.30. Since 2015 Bromley Trading Standards have installed 61 call blockers to protect older and vulnerable people from nuisance and scam phone calls. On average each unit has blocked an average of 25 scam calls a month. When considering the average amount lost to scams it is estimated that this has scams worth in excess of £300,000.
- 1.31. Bromley had one of the lowest rates of reported residential Burglary, per 1,000 households in London in the 12 months to March 2023, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7



1.32. Bromley saw a 1.6% reduction in vehicle crime in 2022 compared to 2021. Table 8 shows the rate of reported vehicle crime across London.

Table 8



1.33. A range of agencies have responsibility for addressing anti-social behaviour, this can make collecting accurate data difficult. Each agency has their own method of recording and there is a high risk of duplication as often more than one agency will receive report/s and be involved in dealing with a particular case. There were around 5,500 reports of anti-social behaviour made to the Police in the 12 months to March 2023, this is a significant decrease from the 6,600 reports received in the 12 months to March 2022. However, it is important to note that due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid19 pandemic comparisons with previous years may not be meaningful in determining trends.

2.0 2024 - 2027 Recommended Priorities

- 2.1 Considering the data and analysis contained in this document, and gaps in knowledge that have been highlighted, the following are recommended as priorities for the partnership:
- 2.2 The Safer Bromley Partnership are recommended to work towards achieving their priorities underpinned by the following strategic principles:
- a) Enhancing knowledge and understanding of crime and anti-social behaviour through better information sharing, so we may address the human, social and environmental factors that drive offending; the interventions likely to have a positive impact; and the ways we may work with communities to prevent and combat the negative drivers.
 - b) Collaborating across agency and sector boundaries to plan, commission and jointly deliver to improve efficiencies for the benefit of the Bromley community.
 - c) Ensuring victims and communities are central to the development, commissioning, and delivery of services.
 - d) Being committed to developing a partnership that embraces equality, diversity, and inclusivity.
 - e) Ensuring community safety issues are mainstreamed into corporate policies, procedures, and practices.
 - f) Operating a robust performance management framework to measure what works and how to be more effective.
 - g) Ensuring that safeguarding is and remains everyone's responsibility.
- 2.3. Considering the data and analysis contained in this document, and gaps in knowledge that have been highlighted, the following are recommended as priorities for the partnership.

PREVENTION

Build resilient communities by delivering a comprehensive crime prevention programme to improve safety.

PEOPLE

Protect people by delivering targeted early intervention to people who are at high risk of being impacted or affected by crime.

PLACES

Be stronger together by designing and delivering targeted crime and disorder reduction measures in collaboration with communities in areas with the highest levels of reported crime and disorder.

3.0. Linked Strategies

3.1. Whilst this strategic assessment seeks to provide a holistic view of community safety concerns in Bromley, there are other established partnerships that have developed strategies and programmes that are intrinsically entwined with the work of the Safer Bromley Partnership. It is not the intention of the Safer Bromley Partnership to duplicate work that is being progressed elsewhere, but to support and compliment it. Below are some of the key linked strategies.

- [Making Bromley Even Better 2021 - 2031](#)
- [An Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy for 2021 to 2024 'Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business'](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2023](#)
- [From Harm to Hope](#)
- [Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2024](#)
- [Bromley CSE Protocol 2020 update v2.1](#)
- [Bromley's Early Help Strategy for Children and Families](#)
- [Bromley Safeguarding Adults Strategic Business Plan](#)
- [The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism \(CONTEST\) 2023](#)
- [Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031](#)
- [Bromley Council Housing Strategy 2019-2029](#)
- [Tackling Loneliness – A Strategy for Bromley 2022 -26](#)
- [London Community Risk Management Plan 2023 - 2029](#)
- [A New Met For London](#)