



Islington together

**Violence Reduction Strategy
2022-2027**
A community partnership
response to tackle serious
violence and crime in Islington





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Foreword



Councillor John Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety and Chair of the Safer Islington Partnership.

The safety of our community, for both myself and for Islington, is an absolute priority. Violent crime has been reducing in the borough for some years but concerns within the community remain high – and we are all impacted by serious incidents. As such, we are committed to making our borough a safer, fairer place for all; collectively working to reduce serious violence so that we can all live, work, study and socialise in a secure, inclusive and harmonious borough. Reducing serious violence and crime is a key part of that ambition, so I am pleased to see the launch of this partnership strategy.

Feeling and being safe – whether at home, in the street, at work or whilst enjoying the many exciting things the borough has to offer – is essential to our quality of life. We know that feeling included and safe enhances community pride and a sense of belonging. Violence, on the other hand, has devastating consequences, traumatising families and altering patterns of behaviour that can lead to further and deeper restrictions on people’s quality of life.

Like a disease, serious violence is contagious. It spreads fear and trauma into our communities, fuels wider community safety concerns, leads to isolation and division, and distorts our priorities and can limit our ambition. Whilst nobody should ever live in fear, as a result of either direct or indirect violence and crime, the reality is that too many people do. This leaves us with a continued challenge to do our very best to reduce all forms of violence.

Over the years relentless efforts have been made to drive down violence in the borough. From Youth Safety, to Violence against Women and Girls, from Hate Crime to Exploitation, we have listened to families impacted by serious crime and have developed plans and delivered actions that are responsive to local priorities and challenges. Consequently, we have seen declines in areas such as serious youth violence, robberies and knife crime, (with over 2,000 knives deposited in secure knife bins across the borough), but there is still much more work to do. We are never, ever complacent and to address the complex task, we have outlined within this strategy the work we will all do together, over the next five years, to try and keep serious violence on the decline.

Our approach is to work closely with our partners and residents while maintaining our commitment to tackling violence at its root. As such, whilst we recognise the importance of enforcement, we also know how vital it is to focus on prevention and early intervention, ensuring our work is trauma-informed and cognisant of the complex causes of violence, which include poverty and discrimination. That is why we have adopted a Public Health Model to reducing violence, which avoids over-criminalisation and places our communities at the centre of our approach.

Indeed, in order to develop this strategy, in 2021 we held the biggest community safety consultation of any borough. Within that consultation, we hosted events that brought council colleagues and communities together to discuss what was important to them and what they needed to live free from violence and fear. We listened to our communities, and their priorities. These priorities shaped this strategy and, as such, you will hear the voices of the community throughout. The commitment of the community to be part of the solution – the place where safety starts – came across powerfully.

This long-term strategy complements our seasonal violence reduction plans, our commitment to proliferate Safe Havens in the borough, our drive to promote campaigns such as 'Ask Angela', and our determination to pursue active engagement with all our communities, adopting a 'You Said, We Did' approach, which demonstrates how we have responded to concerns while continuing to listen.

Our priorities are clear, with a sharp focus on places and spaces, women's safety, youth safety, wider adult crime, organised crime and drugs as a driver of crime. Our approach is four-fold – prevent serious violence, minimise the impact, support the victims and divert the offenders and empower communities – wrapped within the Public Health Model of violence reduction that is data and intelligence led.

Violence is not an inevitability. No one is safe until we are all safe. And tackling violence cannot happen in isolation. Through a whole-systems approach, which involves working closely with our partners, Islington remains determined to confront serious violence and crime, so we can all live safely in our wonderful borough. I would like to end by extending a very big thank you to everyone who has taken part in contributing to this truly collaborative piece of work; the challenges are large, but together we can make a difference.



Chief Superintendent Andy Carter, Borough Commander of Islington/Camden Borough Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service.

Tackling violence in all its forms remains the Met's number one priority. This is the main issue that Londoners have made clear is important to them and that underlines our ongoing commitment to tackling violence.

Violent crime devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities. The police are determined to do all they can to prevent and disrupt such violence but we are clear that we cannot achieve this alone. Tackling the root causes requires a combined effort with our partners and our communities. We need to properly understand the issues, addressing the risk factors that increase the likelihood of somebody becoming an offender or a victim of serious violence, and to work together to reduce this risk. As such, prevention is central to our approach. We are constantly developing our capabilities and our response through a range of initiatives, such as:

- Problem-oriented policing (POP), also known as problem-solving policing, an approach to tackling crime and disorder that involves the identification of a specific problem, thorough analysis to understand the problem, the development of a tailored response and an assessment of the effects of the response.
- Focussed deterrence, also called "pulling levers," a focussed strategy that attempts to deter specific criminal behaviour through fear of specific sanctions (or "levers"), as well as anticipation of benefits for not engaging in crime.
- 'Hotspot's policing, a strategy that involves the targeting of resources and activities to those places where crime is most concentrated. The strategy is based on the premise that crime and disorder is not evenly spread within neighbourhoods but clustered in small locations. Focussing resources and activities in 'hotspot's aims to prevent crime in these specific areas and potentially, reduce overall crime levels in the wider geographic area.

We are also focussing on solving more violent crime in order to bring justice for those affected and improving the outcomes for victims.

This strategy sets out a new challenge for our partnership. We are determined to end the misery serious violence can cause. Only with this joint effort can we begin to achieve sustainable reductions in serious violence and improve the health and quality of life of those who live, work and visit Islington.

Introduction

Violence is a universal challenge. It has devastating consequences for victims, perpetrators, and their families, instils fear within and sows division into our communities, and has major financial and public health consequences for society.

As a category, 'violence' covers a broad range of incidents. The scope for violent crimes within this strategy encompasses exploitative and criminal activities where there is an inherent threat or reality of serious violence in the public realm and connecting to violence in the home. This includes: homicide, violence against the person (with injury) including knife and gun crime, organised crime (including county lines drug trafficking), serious youth violence, violence against women and girls (including domestic abuse), hate crime, modern slavery and human trafficking, cuckooing, and sexual offences (including rape and sexual assault). Within this scope, our remit is focussed specifically around reducing harm in the context of victims, offenders, and the location of where the actual or threat of serious violence took place.

Tackling this challenge is no easy task. Although the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has shown long-term reductions in estimates of violent crime over the last two decades overall, incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014. Certain types of violence have increased sharply in recent years – knife crime, for example, increased by 84% between June 2014 and June 2020.² While we have recorded a decline in crime and violent incidents in Islington between 2020 and 2021 (compared to 2019–2020), this can be partly attributed to the Covid-19 lockdown. As restrictions ease and activities return, now is a time to refresh our ambition and approach towards serious violence reduction.

This is not a single agency issue. In order to truly tackle the root causes and examples of violence effectively, we must work in co-ordination and collaboration with local partners, as well as adapting a whole-community approach. We know that ethnicity, gender, and age shape the lived reality of

¹ Office for National Statistics, 'The nature of violence crime in England and Wales', <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/thenatureofviolent-crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

² Home Office, 'Serious Violence Duty', https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027878/Draft_Guidance_-_Serious_Violence_Duty.pdf, p4.

violence³; a 'whole-community' approach also means understanding and addressing the differences in lived experience within our borough. Our commitment to addressing the disproportionate impact of violence on certain groups, such as young Black men, women, and vulnerable adults, is essential to our vision.

Although there have been positive reductions in the level of violent incidents across Islington, even one violent incident is an incident too many. We know there is more to do to make our community safer. This strategy sets out the framework for how we will take ownership of our ambition as a partnership to effect long-lasting change and reduce the long-term scale and impact of violence, specifically around six key priority strands:

- Places and Spaces
- Women's Safety
- Youth Safety
- Wider Adult Crime
- Organised Crime
- Drugs as a driver for crime

Our aim is to place the reduction of violent crime at the heart of community safety: to promote a coherent collective vision, priorities for collaborative partnership working, and shared and sustainable measures of success.

Our work to reduce violent crime links to wider community safety concerns, and we recognise the community feedback we received on experiencing factors such as inequality, poverty and mental ill-health and anxiety, which have negative consequences on individuals and communities. **To reaffirm however, the purpose of this work is a reduction in the scale and impact of actual, and perceived fear of, serious violent crimes in the borough – making Islington a fairer, safer borough for all.**

Creating this strategic framework has allowed us the opportunity to reflect on the extensive engagement that has taken place with communities and partners across Islington over 2021, ensuring diverse voices from across the borough and key learning from previous actions are analysed for us to build on. It has provided us with a strong steer and support for the work we must do in the coming years, including identifying underdeveloped areas of understanding or provision, and an opportunity to assess effective use of resources towards common objectives. However, this is only the start of our journey.

³ Office for National Statistics, 'The nature of violence crime in England and Wales', <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/thenatureofviolent-crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

There is much work to do and we will continue to put the community at the heart of this partnership effort. This will include the development of an action plan through a process of community consultation and engagement with partners, community groups and residents. The plan will allow us to robustly, continuously and regularly monitor the progress, outputs and impact of our work as a partnership. Our intention is for this to remain a 'live' document; the strategy and plan will evolve and develop in response to the changing nature of serious violence and crime in Islington as well as through our improved intelligence and understanding of issues.

With this in mind, we have collated violence reduction actions from various plans across the Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) – Islington Council, the police, London Fire Brigade, health sector, schools, probation services and representatives from the voluntary, community, faith, and business sectors – into a draft action plan. We recognise that this document, attached as an appendix to the strategy, requires much work to ensure that the resources and collective effort align with – and can be measured over time against – our strategic objectives. This work is underway and will continue through year one of the plan.

We recognise that lots of community safety activity takes place in Islington, but the landscape can present a confusing and incoherent picture. Our primary action for year one of this strategy will be to further develop a clear summary action plan of the things which have greatest impact in reducing violent crime and which offer the community greatest assurance. This action plan will be a lens through which we can view changes in violent crime over time.

Further development, governance and monitoring of this strategic framework and plan will form part of our next steps, but first we will look to establish the context and purpose of our actions.

Our vision

Our ambition is to reduce the long-term scale and impact of violence – making Islington a safer, fairer borough for all.

We will adopt a whole-community approach: supporting all victims, families and communities affected, providing positive opportunities to those at risk of becoming involved in violence, and rehabilitating offenders. Integral to this vision is our commitment to addressing the disproportionate impact of violence on certain groups – namely, young Black men, women, and vulnerable adults. Through realising these aims, we aspire to:

- Save lives and significantly reduce serious injury
- Improve community resilience and cohesion
- Empower local people to take ownership over their neighbourhoods and communities
- Improve trust and confidence in public services and the police, particularly among Black and minoritised ethnic groups.

Taking ownership

In May 2021, the UK Government published guidance on the new Serious Violence Duty⁴, which obligates Community Safety Partnerships to reduce serious violence through implementation of a violence reduction strategy. Although this Violence Reduction Strategy is informed by this statutory duty, it is predominately inspired by our aspiration in Islington to promote a fairer, safer borough.

We know that tackling violence is a multi-faceted challenge that cannot be resolved by any single organisation. Only a partnership approach can be effective in delivering tangible reductions in violence on a local level, one that listens to and involves all our communities.

⁴ Home Office, 'Serious Violence Duty', https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027878/Draft_Guidance_-_Serious_Violence_Duty.pdf

In Islington, the Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) is responsible for coordinating and overseeing efforts to reduce violence in the borough and improve community safety. This includes ownership over and monitoring of this strategy, which brings together and builds upon several existing or in-development strategies, as illustrated below:

Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) and Youth Justice Services Management Board



Our Summer Violence Reduction and Safety work in 2021 focussed on responding to the predicted escalation of serious violence and homicide from late June to September 2021 saving young Black lives and ensuring our residents continue to feel safe in Islington.

Although centred on the short-term as an emergency response, our plan utilised the principles of a public health approach and has provided the foundation for the development of this longer-term comprehensive strategy. These principles include using data and intelligence to work with and for communities and identify levels of risk for the population and are outlined further in the 'Our Approach' section of this strategy. We have learnt from the opportunity to trial initiatives such as daily multi-agency tasking huddles, which were excellent in allowing sharing of information and joint quick tasking, and up-scaled community reassurance messaging and engagement outlining the range of work going on in this space and providing ways for residents to get involved.

With this strategy, we now turn to build on and take forward our action so far in support of our medium and long-term vision, responding to the picture of violence in Islington.



Violence in Islington

Defining violence

Violence is a broad category, encompassing numerous different kinds of violent incidents. In Islington, our scope includes particular violent crimes alongside exploitative and criminal activities where there is an inherent threat or reality of serious violence. This includes:

- Homicide
- Violence against the person (with injury) including knife and gun crime
- Organised Crime, including County Lines drug trafficking
- Serious Youth Violence
- Violence Against Women and Girls, including domestic abuse
- Hate Crime
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, including cuckooing
- Sexual offences, including rape and sexual assault

The causes of violence are complex and its consequences can touch anyone in the community. However, some people are at much greater risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence, such as those who experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) (such as growing up in a household with domestic abuse, childhood trauma, abuse or neglect), or struggle with substance misuse and addiction. People with learning difficulties and/or disabilities can also be more vulnerable.

We also know that ethnicity, gender, and age shape the lived reality of violence. Perpetrators of most forms of violence are predominately men aged 16 – 39, while young Black men are disproportionately represented as both victims and perpetrators in terms of youth violence⁵. These differing experiences in-part influence communities' trust in public services and the police; Black and Mixed groups have significantly less confidence in the police compared to White ethnic groups according to data from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) on public perception and victim satisfaction with the Metropolitan Police Service⁶.

⁵ Office for National Statistics, 'The nature of violence crime in England and Wales', <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/thenatureofviolent-crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

⁶ Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, 'Public voice dashboard', <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/public-voice-dashboard>

What does violence look like locally?

Islington experienced a 24% decline in crime and violent incidents between April 2020 and March 2021 (compared to the same period in 2019/2020). However, this can be partly attributed to the impact of Covid-19 – as restrictions have eased, violence and crime are likely to rise again.

Every year the Safer Islington Partnership carries out a strategic assessment of crime in the borough to give an overview of the current and long-term issues affecting or likely to affect the London Borough of Islington. This is then used to determine local priorities. In March 2021, our strategic assessment found that the experience of violence in Islington is also gendered; men are more likely to be a victim of robbery and non-domestic violence against the person (including serious violence), while women are more likely to be a victim of sexual offences, domestic abuse, other theft and theft from person.

The below figures outline the borough's performance data for different types of crime, which also forms part of the yearly strategic assessment. Data is taken from MetStats2, the Metropolitan Police Service business intelligence tool⁷, and compares the period between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 to the same period in 2019/20:



- **Knife crime** – although knife offences declined by 23% between 2019/20 and 2020/21, Islington remained the tenth highest London borough for knife crime offences. Incidents with injury declined by 18% overall, but only by 5% for young people under 24 – meaning we have more work to do to specifically protect our young people from knife harm.



- **Youth violence** – overall youth violence incidents declined by 35%, a reduction higher than the London average (31%), and serious youth violence declined by 37%. However, significant ongoing tensions among groups of young people in the borough remain.

⁷ Data is taken from MetStats2 and reported internally by the Community Safety Intelligence Team, Islington Council. For publicly available statistics see also: Metropolitan Police Service, 'Crime data dashboard', <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/crime-data-dashboard/>; Metropolitan Police Service, 'Annual crime summaries: 2020-2021', <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/>. Please note that the data parameters, including types of crime, within publicly available statistics may vary compared to data shared with the council and partners internally.



- **Robbery** – whilst recording reductions, Islington still ranked highly across London for personal robbery (sixth out of 32 boroughs). This was partially driven by pedal cycle and moped enabled crime, which is often connected to organised crime.



- **Sexual offences** – overall the number of sexual offences declined by 25% between 2019/20 and 2020/21, higher than the London average reduction of 8%.



- **Domestic abuse** – Islington recorded a 2.5% increase in detections of domestic abuse offences and the borough was ranked 1 out of 32 in London for the highest level of detections for the 12-month period between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 at 18%. While this may reflect well on our borough and our commitment to this work, it is a real challenge to all involved to drive up this unacceptably low rate.

How did Islington rank in London according to the Metropolitan Police Service across this period from April 2020 to March 2021?



Trust and confidence

Within our ambition to make Islington a safer, fairer place for all, we acknowledge the paramount importance of both reducing the scale and impact of serious violence so our communities are safe, and addressing fear of violence so our communities feel safe. Fear can have a profound impact in itself, adversely affecting health and wellbeing outcomes, disrupting community cohesion and resilience, restricting choices and mobility, and undermining the impact of positive reductions in violence.

We understand that the perception of safety within our borough is not always necessarily linked to evidential factors, such as living in an area with a high concentration of crime. We also know that perception or fear of safety impacts not only those who experience violence as victims and/or perpetrators but the whole community, including friends, family and neighbours. Following the past two years of feeling uncertain and unsafe in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, our residents may be feeling a heightened sense of vulnerability. We have heard from our communities and recognise the role high-profile incidents of serious violence may play in shifting how someone feels and acts in their area. We have listened to experiences showing how multiple factors – such as age, disability, gender expression, race, visible religious affiliation, expression of sexuality, language barriers, care and support needs, experiences as a refugee or asylum seeker – may influence some residents to have a higher fear of violence. Ultimately, we also understand that the trust and confidence our communities have in public services and the police shapes feelings of safety in our streets.

Through consultation such as our Safer Spaces engagement platform run in 2021⁸, residents are encouraged to tell us not only where they feel safe and unsafe in Islington, but why. . This engagement exercise will help us develop actions to deliver practical, community-led responses based on the key locations, types of activity, environment and violence reported, and what we learn about the experiences of key demographics such as women and young people. Initiatives such as Safe Havens⁹ have already been developed in line with this thinking to reduce fear by providing a safe space within public and commercial premises for those who feel threatened on the street. In conjunction with Public Protection, our Community Safety teams work to carry out environmental visual audits and make physical changes to minimise the risk of crime and the perception of that risk in an area.

⁸ Islington Council, 'Safer Spaces Islington', <https://saferspacesislington.commonplace.is/>

⁹ Islington Council, 'Safe haven scheme', <https://www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/safe-havens-scheme>

As we look to further develop our strategy, we will continue to acknowledge this distinction. We will work with and engage with our residents to ensure we have a more accurate picture of what safety feels like in the borough and that we take a trauma-informed approach to understanding how we can tackle this challenge. Understanding that the perception of safety is influenced by concerns beyond the focus of this strategy on serious violence and crime, we will work to establish a wider community safety communications and engagement plan to set out in more detail how we capture, measure and address feelings of safety.



Our approach

Developing our approach

Our strategy has been informed and shaped – at every step of the process – by extensive engagement with communities and partners across the borough, including residents, service-users, voluntary and community sector organisations, and our statutory partners.

This consultation and development process has included:

- Islington Council development of an initial **Summer Violence Reduction Plan** with Islington police including actions centred around four key steps: preventing violence, minimising impact, supporting victims and offenders, and empowering communities
- **Partnership roundtable event** – consultation on the Summer Plan with organisations across Islington involved in violence reduction work
- Our **Safer Spaces physical postcard campaign**, targeting all households in the borough, encouraging residents to tell us where and why they feel unsafe locally
- Our **Safer Spaces engagement platform**, open to all who live, work, study or socialise in Islington until December 2021, attracting approximately 1750 response

Additionally, our **'Islington Together: Let's talk about a safer future'** engagement week was the largest safety consultation in London in 2021. We engaged over 700 people and community conversations took place in conjunction with a variety of residents, partners and voluntary and community sector groups, including:

- Islington Residents
- Somali communities
- Faith groups
- Voluntary Groups
- Young People
- Muslim communities
- Businesses
- Schools
- Tenancy Management Organisations
- Parents affected by violence

- LGBTQ+ residents
- Councillors and Youth Councillors
- Women
- Parent champions
- Ward Panels
- Police
- Tenants and Residents Associations
- Residents with complex needs (e.g. substance misuse)
- Staff who work directly with young people (including LBI staff)
- Residents with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

From the launch event at the Islington Assembly Hall, our virtual Community Conversations, visits at three libraries, sixteen community centres, ten virtual partnership meetings, and five service user group meetings, a range of events were carried out in each ward. Each event had a fierce dedication to intensive, quality engagement with the diverse voices across all of our communities in Islington.

Our approach focussed on gaining insight from people with first-hand experience or interest in this work, putting local people at the heart as experts on their own neighbourhoods. This also involved asking voluntary and community groups to host discussions with their service users with which they had established relationships. This included: Arsenal in the Community, One True Voice, Caxton House, Better Lives, Centre 404, Forum+, Voluntary Action Islington, Parent Champions, Copenhagen Youth Project, SoapBox Youth Hub and the Violence Reduction Unit Parent Champions. In this way, we were able to lead with quality participation from people who have been affected by violence, giving voice to their experiences, and desire to be a part of the solution to these challenges.

Across these community spaces, everyone who lives and works in Islington was invited to share their experiences and feedback, answering five key questions:

1. How should the police, council and partners tackle violence in Islington?
2. Who do the police and council need to work with to tackle violence in Islington?
3. How can we keep you informed about the work we are doing to tackle violence in Islington?
4. How would you like to be involved in tackling violence in Islington?
5. What can we do as a community to tackle antisocial behaviour?

Five key themes emerged, highlighting what communities want us to prioritise and address within this work:

- Invest in early intervention and prevention by deploying a joined up approach between schools, families and social services.
- Work with communities to tackle violence and equip them with the skills and confidence to report antisocial behaviour and crime.
- Prioritise working with young people and parents/carers, to understand and tackle the root causes of violence.
- Make spaces safer for communities, particularly women and young people.
- Build relations between the police and communities.

What you had to say about a safer future in Islington

- “Tackle poverty and inequality from the beginning of young people’s lives”
- “Early intervention is crucial and once individuals are identified you need an intensive intervention with a clear action plan”
- “We need a more holistic approach, including having role models within the system”
- “Women would like workshops on safety advice”
- “There is a lot of trauma in the community. We need to do more work in areas where we know there is a lot of trauma surrounding incidents of violence”
- “We need to empower and deliver training to parents. Taking part in the Parent Champion project has made me feel empowered and it would be nice to share this with other parents”
- “We can tackle violence as a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)”
- “Professionals speak about violence in terms of statistics; even one death is one death too many”
- “We know the police are there to protect us and we need to respect them but respect goes both ways”
- “We need to keep on talking and having these meetings. But we want solutions to follow”

This engagement week was only a starting point. We know there is still more to be done to ensure the voice of all of our community are truly heard in this strategy as it is implemented. Adopting a ‘you said, we did’ communications approach will allow us to continue the conversation with our communities, partners and residents across the borough and improve transparency and accountability in our delivery.

A public health model

While often regarded as simply a criminal justice matter, violence is a significant public health issue. It impacts the broader health and wellbeing of the general population (alongside the individuals directly affected) and causes poor physical and mental health through fear, injury and loss or grief, affecting individuals and communities. Like a disease, it is contagious, with clusters of incidents linked by varying factors, and it is distributed unequally across the population, connected to underlying inequalities.

In Islington, we recognise that tackling both the root causes of and manifestation of violence requires a partnership approach – led by and for the local community. Although the origins of violence are complex and challenging to tackle, it is not inevitable – patterns of violent behaviour and incidents can be predicted and prevented.

In developing our strategy and action plan, we have been guided by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 'public health' model of violence reduction. This approach is summarised by the following points:

- Focussing on a defined population
- With and for communities
- Not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries
- Focussed on generating long-term as well as short-term solutions
- Based on data and intelligence to identify the burden on the population, including any inequalities
- Rooted in evidence of effectiveness to tackle the problem

In adopting this approach, we seek to avoid over-criminalising those groups most at risk of or already offending, particularly as this can undermine trust and confidence in the police. However, we recognise that use of the law and law enforcement are critical aspects of a cohesive approach to tackling violence – our public health approach is complementary to, not in conflict with, enforcement and criminal justice activities. In the short-term, more people may come into contact with the criminal justice system because of increased police interventions while prevention and support services operate in tandem.

This model informs our whole-system approach – a multi-faceted challenge requires a multi-faceted response from across the community. SIP will therefore draw on the full resources of the partnership – Islington Council, the police, London Fire Brigade, health sector, schools, probation services and representatives from the voluntary, community, faith, and business sectors – to deliver evidence-based interventions and engagement work with young people, adults, families and communities.

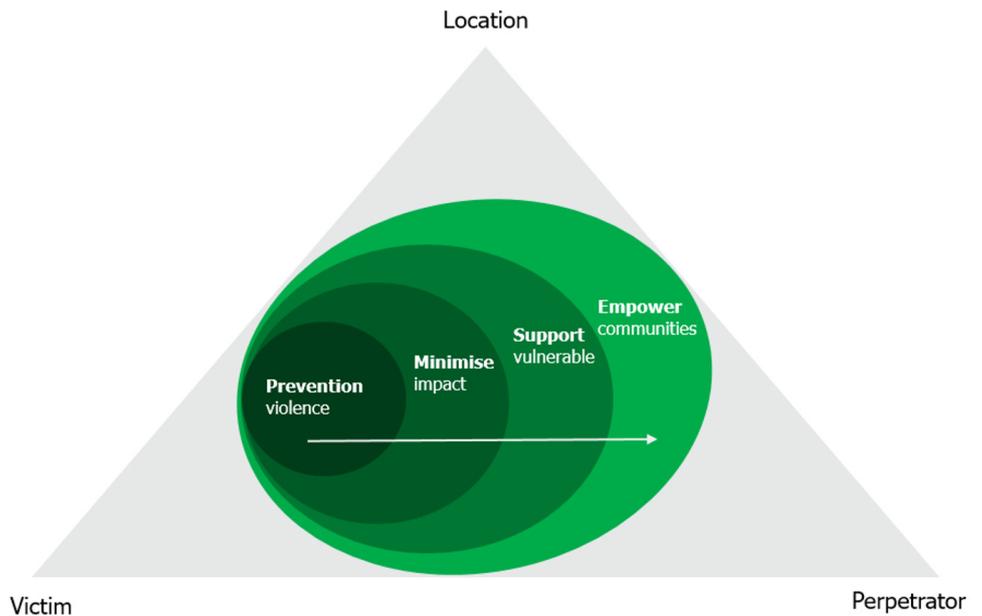
Four steps to reducing and preventing violence

Our approach is a four step, integrated approach that centres community empowerment as the most sustainable outcome for long-term, positive change:

- **Prevention** of serious violence before it occurs by providing violence-diverting information and opportunities alongside targeted interventions towards individuals most at-risk of committing violence.
- **Minimise** the impact of serious violence on the community by scaling-up the partnership and communications response to swiftly de-escalate and contain violence.
- **Support** those vulnerable to, at-risk of or affected by serious violence by providing them with adequate support and interventions.
- **Empower** communities to strengthen their own resilience and knowledge, make positive behavioural choices, and to work with others to prevent and reduce serious violence.

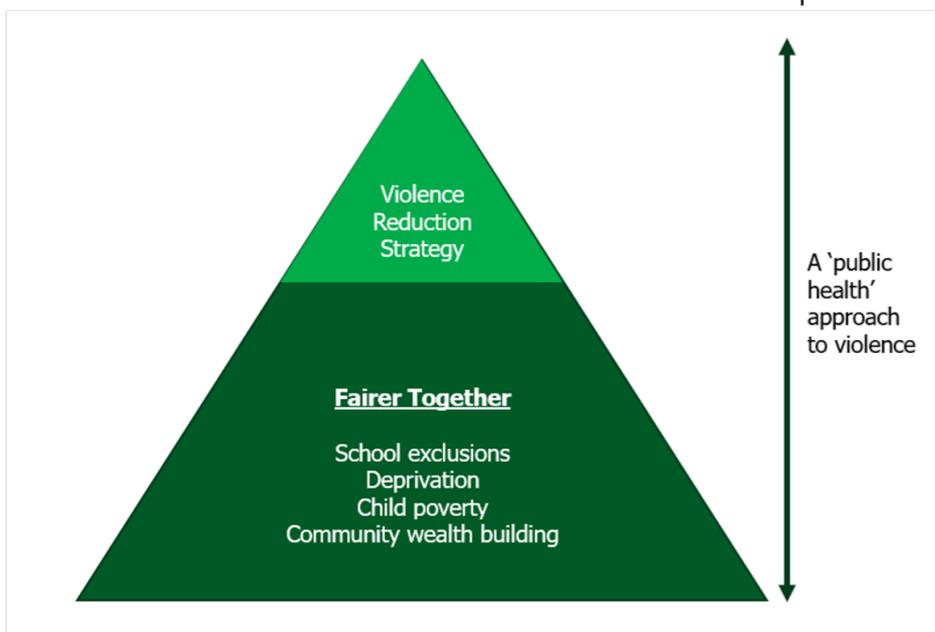


In order to effectively tackle violence, our approach also encompasses a focus on victims, offenders, and locations as the three ingredients for an incident (or threat) of violence:



As a part of our Fairer Together partnership, Islington is influencing the prevention and reduction of violence through a range of early intervention, prevention, and targeted approaches tackling the underlying causes of violence. This includes factors such as school exclusion, deprivation and child poverty.

However, as illustrated below, the remit of this strategy (and SIP) is focussed specifically around reducing harm in the context of victims, offenders, and the location of where the actual or threat of serious violence took place.



Putting community at the heart of our approach

Engaging, building trust with and collaborating with communities in Islington is vital to the success of this strategy. Local people are experts of their own neighbourhoods, providing valuable understanding into the trigger points for tensions and violence.

Ensuring communities are involved from the beginning also ensures long-term sustainability of our approach. This means empowering our communities, whether through offering forums for people to share concerns, exchange ideas and build networks, or exploring funding options to implement initiatives – such as the council’s new community chest funding for small community groups to get involved in making spaces safer and preventing violence.

By educating local people on violence reduction and equipping them with the tools to engage their networks, we will uplift communities to work alongside us in:

- Preventing serious violence before it occurs through provision of positive opportunities and education
- Minimising and containing the impact of violence on the wider community
- Supporting those at-risk of or affected by serious violence, including children, family and friends
- Developing and promoting positive alternative opportunities, away from violence, within the community

Essential to our approach is engaging with residents who seldom engage with or lack trust in public services. This includes targeted engagement with Black and minoritised ethnic groups to build confidence in and access to statutory partners’ services. This approach will be built upon in our development of a trust, accountability, and engagement action plan based on the Mayor of London’s Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing¹⁰.

¹⁰ Mayor of London, Greater London Authority, ‘Action Plan – Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing’, <https://www.london.gov.uk/publications/action-plan-transparency-accountability-and-trust-policing>

Some of our engagement plans could include:

- Developing 'community conversations' – an open forum for questions and discussion with residents and partnership organisations
- Establishing an annual memorial event of loss to provide an opportunity for people to come together and reflect, celebrate, and mourn those who have lost their lives through violence within the borough
- Developing trusted sources of information within community spaces – including barbershops, takeaways, religious sites, youth centres, and sports clubs – to deliver positive violence reduction messages
- Proactive involvement with ward partnerships to give local residents, community groups and businesses the opportunity to voice concerns, shape services, and receive information relating to violence reduction in their particular ward
- Using data from our Safer Spaces engagement to explore opportunities with specific communities, or in specific locations
- Adopting a 'you said, we did' communications approach to improve transparency and accountability in our delivery
- Establishing a Violence Reduction Ambassador scheme and/or support of empowerment initiatives such as Parent champions
- Working with the Arsenal/Adidas No More Red initiative to encourage young people who can work to reduce violence and increase confidence in their communities to seek mentoring and support from the scheme
- Youth safety parenting workshops targeted towards Black and Minority Ethnic communities
- Working with colleagues across the Fairer Together Partnership to identify shared engagement opportunities to support, involve and work with residents early

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Our priorities

We have developed five key priority focus areas for 2022–27. Each priority area will form a separate strand of work. There are six strands of work in total. A strand of work has been added to ensure we maintain a focus locally on the impact of drugs as a driver for serious violence and crime that uniquely cuts across each focus area.



Each of our strands of work will include focusses and corresponding actions connected to our four integrated spheres of violence reduction: **preventing** violence, **minimising** impact, **supporting** victims and offenders, and **empowering** communities.

1. Places and Spaces

Some locations in Islington are known as areas of 'high harm' or 'hotspots', which means there is a high concentration of violence or crime. Our knowledge of these more susceptible areas, whether that be transport hubs or places of work, such as hospitals, retailers and those within the night-time economy, already informs the prioritisation and resources we put into our everyday work.

Through our focus on 'Places and Spaces' we will continue to monitor, review and safeguard high harm locations we are already aware of, as well as expanding our knowledge of these locations in the borough through data analysis and engagement to target actions effectively. This includes commitments from the police for the use of 'hotspot' policing and patrols, focussing resources and activities to prevent crime in specific concentrated areas and potentially, reduce overall crime levels in the wider geographic area. It also involves broader work within the council to 'design out' crime through environmental changes and empower residents to take control to support the

improvement and safety of public places and greenspaces across the borough. This means taking a whole-systems approach in line with successful pilot projects in areas such as Finsbury Park, and the 'Parks for Health' programme to transform greenspaces to tackle health challenges for now and future generations.

Alongside 'hotspot' locations, we know that how safe local people feel in the spaces across our borough can be influenced by many factors – including age, gender expression, race, ethnicity, visible religious affiliation, and expression of sexuality, as well as how dark it is and how many people are outside. We also know that 'high harm' spaces are not only physical – violent incidents (or the threat of violence) can also take place in the online world.

Our aim is that no one should feel afraid in Islington, regardless of your personal identity, the time of day, or how busy it is; everyone should feel and be safe in our streets.

Safer Spaces

Our priority is to continually improve how we identify locations where violence occurs, or where people feel unsafe. Our aim is to reduce the level of criminality, violence and threat, working with communities to ensure those spaces become safe and welcoming for all.

Night-time economy

The night-time economy is a fundamental part of our community in Islington that everyone should be able to enjoy. However, it can be associated with issues related to drug and alcohol-fuelled violence, sexual harassment and assaults, so we have introduced the late-night levy and subsequent strategies to protect these assets and help ensure everyone can enjoy a safe night out.

Retail

We will work closely with local businesses to address retail crime and associated abuse perpetrated against business owners and staff. This includes access to police officers tasked to specific business communities in specific cases, such as work undertaken at Blackstock Road in 2021, and maintaining a strong dialogue between retail groups, the council's Inclusive Economy team, the police and community safety partners to highlight emerging issues.

Borders

Violence is not contained within administrative borders; as such, we will work closely with the surrounding boroughs of Haringey, Hackney and Camden, particularly in key locations of high harm. We expect all Safer Islington partners to work closely with colleagues across different boroughs to ensure effectiveness of services and support.

Online Space

We will reduce harm for local people in the online space by focussing on identifying and tackling the avenues for exploitation and grooming – particularly of young people and vulnerable adults, or those with learning disabilities – and supporting those affected to recover. We will also prioritise improving our understanding of how social media and online developments are used to facilitate the illegal drugs market.

Hate Crime

Crimes committed against someone because of any protected characteristic is a hate crime and should be reported to the police. Islington Council has also passed a motion to treat gender-based violence as a hate crime¹¹; our priorities around the safety of women and girls in particular are outlined in our next priority area below. Although Islington is a proudly diverse borough with a history of tolerance and openness, hate crime is a serious issue for some members of our community and has a history of being underreported. Given this history, we will take a nuanced approach to the data on hate crime in Islington, recognising both the work still to be done to deliver the best outcomes for our residents, and that improved identification and reporting is in itself one of our priorities.

We are determined to tackle hate crime and promote cohesion and good relations in our community. Our strategy for this is dealt with in more detail in our 4-year Hate Crime Strategy¹². This focusses on a number of areas ranging from encouraging the reporting and identification of hate crimes through communications and engagement and victim support, to providing challenge to the police through measures such as dip sampling of cases to ensure quality investigations are carried out and improve the response and outcomes for victims who report a hate crime.

¹¹ Islington Council, 'Islington women stand in solidarity: none of us are safe unless all of us are safe', <https://www.islington.media/news/islington-women-stand-in-solidarity-none-of-us-are-safe-unless-all-of-us-are-safe>

¹² Islington Council, 'Islington is 'no place for hate' as strategy to tackle hate crime is launched', <https://www.islington.media/news/islington-is-no-place-for-hate-as-strategy-to-tackle-hate-crime-is-launched>

In our support of the Islington Hate Crime Forum, we are committed to continuing to work with community organisations, specialist support groups and individual members of our community who work with and represent protected groups. Our aim is to better understand and address lived experiences regarding risk, reporting, support and outcomes of those who become, or fear becoming, victims of hate crime in Islington.

2. Women's Safety

While men disproportionately represent victims (and perpetrators) of violent crime, women are significantly more likely to experience gender-based violence in the home and sexual assault or harassment in public spaces. Younger women aged 16 – 24 are particularly more likely to be victims of sexual assault and experience domestic abuse than any other age group.¹³

Our work around women's safety prioritises providing those experiencing or fearing violence with the support they need to be and feel safe. This includes doing more to hold people who use violence and abuse to account, supporting practitioners to address the gap in services engaging with men who use violence and, where appropriate, supporting them to change their harmful behaviour. For example, our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and housing teams have previously carried out communications campaigns aimed at people using violence, which has been continued with a winter campaign specifically aimed at the behaviour of men placed in public spaces such as toilets and bars. Our commitment to take action is detailed more broadly in the council's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021–2026, one of the three focus areas for action as set out below.

Our aim is for women in Islington to live life free of fear – of domestic abuse, gender-based violence, sexual assault or harassment – both at home and in our public spaces. Our priorities for action include:

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Islington Council has developed a VAWG 2021–26 strategy, encompassing a range of actions which aim to reduce all forms of VAWG including domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, sexual violence, stalking and harassment, harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and sex trafficking. This was published in November 2021 and focusses on a number of areas ranging from creating and delivering a coordinated community response, to preventing violence and abuse from happening and challenging inequality throughout the delivery of our VAWG services to prevent discrimination and address the impacts of intersectionality.

¹³ Office for National Statistics, 'Sexual offences victim characteristics, England and Wales', <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/sexualoffencesvictim-characteristicsenglandandwales/march2020>

Making public spaces safer

We have developed a number of initiatives to improve women's confidence and safety in public spaces around Islington, including:

- Islington Safer Spaces – whole-borough initiative to encourage residents' feedback about where and why they feel safe or unsafe in locations around Islington. We will work with women's organisations to engage with women and develop practical, community-led responses and initiatives
- Supporting the Women's Night Safety Charter
- Women's Safety walks, developed by Islington4Women to encourage women to go out in their neighbourhoods and work with partners to make their routes safer
- Promoting Safe Havens – initiative encouraging public and commercial premises to register as a 'safe haven', providing a safe space for those in danger, feel threatened or harassed on the street

Nightlife

The police and council are committed to working closely with local businesses to promote women's safety in clubs, pubs, and other spaces connected to the night-time economy. This includes through providing easily accessible support if women feel unsafe or threatened, for any reason, such as through the 'Ask for Angela' initiative, and work to address people carrying out sexual violence, for example targeted communications aimed specifically at men placed in public spaces such as toilets and bars.

3. Youth Safety

Young people are particularly important to target in the violence reduction space, as young people (aged 16-24) in the UK are more likely to be victims of violence than any other age group.

In Islington, young people are also disproportionately involved in perpetrating some forms of violence. Based on Metropolitan Police Service data in 2020, in Camden and Islington 78% of people known to be involved in organised crime are between 18 and 28 years old. Young people are particularly vulnerable to be exploited as part of drug trafficking activities – 63% of individuals linked to 'county lines' trafficking in Islington are 18-25 years old, with the average age of 'runners' (those recruited to transport drugs and cash) becoming younger.

Islington has developed a comprehensive, five year youth safety strategy (Islington Youth Safety Strategy, 2020 – 2025) that underlines our commitments to: protect young people from violence, abuse and exploitation; safeguard young people and support families, parents and carers; address inequality and disproportionality within the youth and criminal justice system; and reduce re-offending for young people who have become more persistent in their offending behaviours.

Our priorities for action, as detailed in the strategy, include:

- Prevention
- Identification
- Engagement
- Diversion
- Support
- Protection
- Disruption
- Enforcement and Prosecution

The strategy aligns with our principles under Fairer Together to give our young people the best possible start in their lives.

4. Adults

Some adults – including those with learning disabilities, drug addiction, and poor mental health – are much more vulnerable to being affected by or becoming involved in violence than others.

Vulnerable adults are often targeted by perpetrators of violence specifically because of their perceived vulnerability. Adults with learning disabilities, for example, have a higher risk of being the victims of crime and abuse than the general population – yet they are also much less likely to report the crime or abuse they have experienced or seek help.¹⁴

We also recognise the broader impact that the incidence of serious violence can have on feelings of safety across all adults within our community, whether that be in relation to intergenerational dynamics, experience of and connection to ‘high harm’ locations or areas facing higher levels of deprivation. Through our communications and engagement plan, we aim to actively engage this cohort, including vulnerable and older adults, to improve our intelligence, measures and action to address feelings of safety in a way that centres community empowerment.

¹⁴ Joint Committee On Human Rights, ‘Seventh Report: treatment of people with learning disabilities in the criminal justice system’, <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200708/jtselect/jtrights/40/4010.htm>

Our ambition is to prevent vulnerable adults from being exploited into violence and support adult offenders to move away from crime, whilst holding them to account for their actions.

Vulnerable Adults

Three key vulnerability factors increase the risk of adults being affected by or becoming involved in serious violence: a learning or developmental disability, drug or alcohol addiction, and poor mental health.

The CCG's Adults Safeguarding Board, working closely with Islington police, the council, and health partners, have identified three priority areas of work in order to reduce violence affecting vulnerable adults:

- **Cuckooing** (a practice where organised criminals take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation or criminal activities)
- **Online exploitation and radicalisation**
- **Modern Day Slavery**

These will be developed and monitored as part of the Adults Safeguarding Board's 2021-22 action plan. Looking ahead, we will continue to work together with the Adults Safeguarding Board to identify and strengthen areas for collaboration in relation to violence reduction. This may include, for example, opportunities for action through emerging joint work with the Children's Safeguarding Board regarding transitional safeguarding; focussing on young people with complex needs who require transition planning to protect them against harm.

Further exploration to identify key issues and actions the partnership can take long-term to prevent violence, minimise impact, support those affected and empower communities around wider adult crime forms part of our initial action plan.

Repeat Offenders

In order to understand and address the root causes and manifestations of violence, we are committed to predicting, preventing and breaking patterns of violent behaviour and incidents. Whilst holding adults who continue to perpetrate violence to account for their actions, this means supporting repeat offenders to move away from crime. Through effective rehabilitation, we not only protect the public from the act and spread of violence, but also enable offenders, including vulnerable adults, to change their behaviour, participation and outcomes in our community.

We will work closely with the London Probation Service and key focus areas for our work will look to include:

- Holding offenders to account
- Supporting adult offenders to move away from violence
- Stopping the grooming and exploitation of others
- Use of the new Integrated Offenders Management framework to proactively manage local, priority offenders and make best use of shared resources and information
- Regular probation work to provide bespoke community sentence interventions and opportunities for training, employment, education and housing to reduce the risk of violence, weapon offending and improve personal well-being

5. Organised Crime

Across Camden and Islington, there are numerous Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) conducting a range of organised criminal activities. The main areas of criminality connected to violence in Islington include gang conflict, the illicit drugs market, and acquisitive crime (theft, burglary and robbery).

Of the OCGs identified in Islington and Camden, 51% are involved in organised acquisitive crime while 70% are involved in drug activity; this is based on local crime profile intelligence from the Metropolitan Police Service. The police take the lead on tackling this large subsection of organised crime related to the drugs market in Islington. Still, the council and local partners are committed to taking responsibility for their role – from supporting the police to identify local hotspots and providing local profiles, to co-ordinating enforcement between partners to disrupt criminality and protect local communities.

Although a relatively small number of individuals are directly involved in OCGs, their impact on communities is corrosive and wide reaching – 31% of residents in Islington feel that gangs are a problem. Organised crime tends to flourish in more deprived and vulnerable areas – young people from deprived backgrounds or excluded from school are particularly at risk of becoming involved. This contributes to even those not involved in organised crime feeling less safe and disempowered.

Overall, our aim is to better safeguard local residents from organised criminal violence by preventing at-risk individuals' involvement with organised gangs, disrupting criminal behaviour, and providing support and gang exit strategies for those who want to leave.

Our approach, which is an emerging area of work, will focus on the following:

- Improving our understanding of organised crime locally, including working with communities to cultivate local intelligence and keeping ahead of developments in technology
- Advancing our understanding of local predictors of recruitment into criminality, enabling earlier intervention and prevention
- Disrupting organised criminal networks and prolific offenders through targeted and legislative interventions
- Empowering communities to intervene and support local people at-risk through education, training and awareness-raising on organised crime
- Supporting young people who wish to leave gangs and organised criminality with tailored support and positive opportunities

6. Drugs as a driver for serious violence and crime

We know that the illegal drug market drives many issues related to violence and safety across our borough. Drug dealing is often highly visible to local communities and is a main economic driver of gang conflict, undermining community cohesion and public safety. It brings other forms of violence, and a heightened awareness of the possibility of violence, into our streets and estates.

For individuals, drug use can seriously detrimentally affect physical and mental health, as well as cause significant financial insecurity – leading to reoffending cycles that perpetuate repeat victimisation of innocent people. Substance misuse and abuse can also make people highly vulnerable to being victims of violent crime themselves, although crimes experienced by this cohort in the context of drug use often go largely unreported.

We recognise the unique challenges of this area across our borough and the way it intersects with other themes featured in this strategy. Alongside work to tackle violence in relation to the illegal drugs market as a subset of our organised crime focus area, we will also seek to better understand and address how drugs impact our local community through a separate strand of work. Here, our emphasis will lie on the role of drugs as a fuel for crime, and the impact on people made vulnerable by and through this trade. We will learn from lived experiences and intelligence gathered locally, as well as reflecting on the recommendations and outcomes of the recent independent review of

drugs commissioned¹⁵, and following strategy produced¹⁶, by the Government nationally.

In Islington, our aim is to reduce the harm that we know drugs cause to individuals and communities by supporting those with drug-use issues to recover and break free from perpetuating violence.

Our approach will incorporate work from across our focus areas and be outlined fully in our forthcoming Drugs Strategy. Here we will focus on four key areas:

Reduce demand

We will work with communities to strengthen resilience and design out issues by joint problem solving. We will also work with partners to change the appeal and image of drug dealing and drug taking, and take a prevention and early intervention approach to reduce the uptake of drugs. Within this work, we will maintain a focus on lived experiences of substance misuse and abuse, multiple complex needs and adverse life experiences, as well as recognising inequalities of impact and consequence in connection to illegal drug trade across our communities.

Reduce supply

We will coordinate approaches to enforcement that further connect the police and local partners to tackle the supply of drugs, recognising the role of access to means. We will ensure strong enforcement wherever possible on those involved in organised crime and profiting from the drugs trade.

Reduce harm

We will reduce the harm caused to, and use of drugs by, those caught up in the drugs market, and support recovery from dependence and reintegration into local communities. Our actions will be outlined fully in our forthcoming Drugs Strategy

Reduce crime

We will engage widely with local communities and partners, sharing information to fully understand the nature and scale of the problem across our borough. We will create a feedback loop with local communities on actions taken, creating positive cycles to increase future reporting.

¹⁵ Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care, 'Independent review of drugs by Professor Dame Carol Black', <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-review-of-drugs-by-professor-dame-carol-black>

¹⁶ Department for Education, Department for Health and Social Care, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions and Ministry of Justice, 'From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives', <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

Next steps: governance, action plan and monitoring

The Safer Islington Partnership (SIP), Islington Council, the police, London Fire Brigade, health sector, schools, probation services alongside representatives from the voluntary, community, faith, and business sectors, will take overarching responsibility for this strategy as the lead for reducing violence in Islington.

Our primary action for year one of this strategy will be to develop a clear summary action plan of the things which have greatest impact in reducing violent crime and which offer the community greatest assurance. This plan will be produced in consultation with the partnership and community and allow us to robustly monitor our progress, and ultimately our impact, towards our overarching ambition to make Islington a fairer, safer borough for all while holding the Partnership to account.

As part of a first phase of work, a draft plan has been appended to this strategy, setting out an initial picture of the tangible activities and resources attached to this strategic framework to be developed further in year one. The focus here has been bringing together the wide variety of violence reduction actions from across the Partnership, as well as highlighting gaps or opportunities in provision that have been identified through the development of our strategy, including community engagement and equality impact assessment processes; this is our starting point.

Actions will be delivered by SIP's working sub-groups, with short-term progress and updates monitored at SIP's quarterly meeting.

Long-term progress will be reviewed annually with an accompanying community safety report shared publicly.

In addition, we will continue to involve and engage our community to address the work outlined in this strategy through a range of other existing forums and activities, such as:

Safer Neighbourhood Board

- The Safer Neighbourhood Board was set up in 2014 by Islington Council and the police, funded through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), to give local people and victims a greater voice in setting policing priorities and improve consultation between the community, the council and other partners. The board is independent of the police, council and other statutory bodies and its role includes monitoring and engagement to hold these bodies to account.
- Due to Covid-19 the Safer Neighbourhood Board meetings are taking place online. If you are interested in attending then please contact Johnathon.Gallagher@islington.gov.uk, or for more information visit the Islington Council website at <https://www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/crime-and-policing/neighbourhood-watch-and-safer-neighbourhood-board>.

Safer Neighbourhood Panels

- Safer Neighbourhood panels are held by the police within each ward a minimum of four times a year, offering residents the chance to raise their concerns and opinions on a range of issues at a local community level to be fed back through the Safer Neighbourhood Board.
- For more information about your local safer neighbourhood panel please contact your local neighbourhood policing team sergeant or dedicated ward officer via the Metropolitan Police website at <https://www.met.police.uk/>

Ward Partnership

- Islington's ward partnerships are led by ward councillors and give local residents, community groups and businesses the opportunity to shape services, improve their neighbourhoods and have their say on important issues affecting their area. Agendas vary across each meeting and ward.
- For more information on past and future meetings including dates and venues, you can visit the Islington Council website at <https://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/have-your-say/ward-partnerships>.

SIP's Annual Strategic Assessment

- Every year the Safer Islington Partnership carries out a strategic assessment of all crime in the borough in the form of a data-driven analysis report, this is then used to determine local priorities. The work of delivering on these priorities is devolved to partnership subgroups which specialise in specific issues included across this strategy such as Violence Against Women and Girls, Hate crime and Youth crime.

Emergency community meetings

- Engagement activities will also continue to take place in response to specific events or issues raised within the community. The necessary processes and procedures for emergency or ad-hoc meeting are already established.





Appendix 1: Violence Reduction Strategy Action Plan

This draft action plan provides an indication of the key actions that we will take across our partnership, starting in year one, to deliver the priorities that are identified in the Violence Reduction Strategy.

Exact timelines and performance measures have been excluded from this summary version pending consultation and agreement with all partners.

A mixture of outputs and outcomes have been included in the final column to give an initial view of the direct results we aim to deliver and the positive difference we intend to achieve for our communities. Development of a complete, clearly defined and measurable plan is in progress and requires the active involvement of partners to further define and refine appropriate measures. Agreement of the strategy and plan is amongst our first governance actions outlined below.

This is only a starting point, capturing a summary overview of new, emerging and existing violence reduction actions in Islington for discussion and oversight. With so much activity already happening across the borough, we know there is more work to ensure that resources and collective effort align with – and can be measured over time against – our strategic objectives. We need to better understand and quantify the difference our actions are making in order to amplify the most impactful work to reduce violent crime across this piece. This work is underway and will continue through year one of the plan.

Beyond that, the action plan will be reviewed and updated at regular intervals in order to robustly monitor progress in relation to our overarching ambition to reduce the long-term scale and impact of violence, making Islington a fairer, safer borough for all. Ultimately, it will be a lens through which we can view changes in violent crime over time. Through our approach, we aspire to:

- Save lives and significantly reduce serious injury
- Improve community resilience and cohesion
- Empower local people to take ownership over their neighbourhoods and communities
- Improve trust and confidence in public services and the police, particularly among Black and minoritised ethnic groups.

We have developed six priority strands of work for 2022–2027: Places and Spaces, Women’s Safety, Youth Safety, Wider Adult Crime, Organised Crime and Drugs as a driver for crime. Each of our priorities will include focuses connected to our four steps of violence reduction:

- Prevention of serious violence before it occurs by providing violence-diverting information and opportunities alongside targeted interventions towards individuals most at-risk of committing violence.
- Minimise the impact of serious violence on the community by scaling-up the partnership and communications response to swiftly de-escalate and contain violence.
- Support those vulnerable to, at-risk of or affected by serious violence by providing them with adequate support and interventions.
- Empower communities to strengthen their own resilience and knowledge, make positive behavioural choices, and to work with others to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Cross-cutting actions surrounding intelligence sharing, communication and engagement and governance, including the development of this action plan, have been noted separately.

This is set out in the draft plan below.

Activity/Report	Date Compiled	Date of this update	Service Area	Date of Review
Violence Reduction Strategy – Initial draft action plan	January 2022	Not applicable	Community Safety	Short-term progress on actions will be updated, reviewed and monitored at the Safer Islington Partnership Board’s quarterly meeting. Long-term progress will be reviewed annually with an accompanying community safety report shared publicly.

Cross-cutting actions: governance, communication and engagement

Step	Action	Lead	Governance group(s)	Outputs and Outcomes
<p>Prevention Minimise Support Empower</p>	<p>Violence Reduction Strategy, including draft summary action plan, is formally approved by the Safer Islington Partnership Board for publication</p>	<p>Safer Islington Partnership, Islington Council Community Safety Team to lead</p>	<p>Safer Islington Partnership Board</p>	<p>This strategy sets out a clear and cohesive framework for how we will take ownership of our ambition as a partnership to effect long-lasting change and reduce the long-term scale and impact of violence. The strategy is discussed at the SIP meeting and agreed to allow us to implement a clear and cohesive approach to violence reduction across Islington, ensure effective use of resources towards common objectives and hold the partnership to account</p>
<p>Prevention Minimise Support Empower</p>	<p>Violence Reduction Strategy Action Plan is further developed and formally approved by the Safer Islington Partnership, including evaluation of the draft plan for any additional opportunities and agreement of appropriate timelines, output and outcome measures with partners.</p>	<p>Safer Islington Partnership, Islington Council Community Safety Team to lead</p>	<p>Safer Islington Partnership Board</p>	<p>We will hold a range of 121 meetings and workshops with partners in Spring 2022 in order to further develop and complete the Violence Reduction Strategy Action Plan. The result of this process of engagement will be a clearly defined and measurable action plan that is determined and agreed by all partners. The complete plan will be a lens through which we can view changes in violent crime over time and assess long-term outcomes and success.</p>

Prevention	Review of current Housing Police Liaison meeting deliver an early intervention panel to identify high risk and vulnerable cases and deal swiftly and effectively where people may at-risk of violence or crime.	Homes and Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	There is opportunity for information sharing and joining quick tasking between the police and council, which supports early intervention and prevents or minimises the incidence of violence at high-risk locations, victims or offenders.
Prevention	Implement daily violence assessment meeting attended by police BCU, relevant Local Authority colleagues and Probation.	Superintendent Neighbourhoods , Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Police undertake daily violence review and assessment meetings attended by key CSP attendees and opportunities for information sharing and tasking to take place to support early intervention and prevention.
Prevention	Monthly Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group (or local equivalent) to include Violence Intelligence Briefing, tasking of partnership services to target offenders and hotspot locations; maintain and or review Events Tracker to identify and manage events of risk, monitor and review community tensions and community feedback.	Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Police monthly tasking meeting covers these issues and response, and is attendd by key members of the Community Safety Partnership. Products are then shared within the partnership with a view to supporting police action where required e.g. CCTV monitoring hotspot locations, weapon sweeps carried out in key locations and supporting of communications through council networks and directly into communities through tenants residents associations etc. to target high risk victims, offenders and locations to prevent or minimise violence.

Minimise	Analysis to support a public health approach to violence reduction, including a Strategic Needs Assessment to understand patterns of violence and vulnerability, key local drivers, contexts where harm is occurring and communities/localities of greatest need, as well as a gap analysis against existing evidence of effective practice to inform the local action plan. The Community Safety Strategic Assessment to include serious youth violence, knife and gun enabled crime (to be refreshed annually).	Head of Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	This is completed annually and presented to the SIP and the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee. This ensures that there is an overview, analysis and scrutiny of knife crime so we can tailor service delivery accordingly to reduce the risk of violence and mitigate any incidents as required. Additionally, the Strategic Assessment provides suitable information on serious youth violence and knife crime.
Minimise	Develop a Violence Reduction communications plan, which engages communities in the programme, and supports a reduction in fear of crime through providing honest and positive messages about achievements and reduces risk of stigma and discrimination. This will include a 'you said, we did' approach to the strategy.	Head of Community Safety, comms, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Council Community Safety Comms plan developed to ensure residents are aware of local initiatives and priorities and minimise the impact of serious violence on the community, including community conversations in early 2022. Improved links with Metropolitan Police Service counterparts for localised work going forward to support a swift response.
Support	Develop a local partnership response to serious violence critical incidents, making use of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Serious Incident Toolkit where appropriate. Consider applying to the VRU critical incident fund, for a small one off funding grant to directly support communities in the aftermath of a serious incident of violence.	BCU Commander, Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Council and police have partnership notification protocol, which sets out clear guidance on serious incident response right across the partnership in granular detail. Violence Reduction Unit funding accessed further as opportunities arise; VRU funding on various occasions in regards to serious incidents in the borough to provide a range of interventions in the aftermath of serious violence.

Support	Community Tensions Monitoring - Community Impact Assessment by Metropolitan Police Service to be shared with and informed by Community Safety partners so it is based on multi-agency data.	Superintendent Neighbourhoods , Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Islington police regularly hold community tension monitoring sessions with key partners, including the LA, SNB, Hate Crime Forum and community groups. The inclusion of dip sampling of relevant cases allows best practice to be identified across the partnership to support appropriate intervention.
Support	Establishing an annual memorial event of loss.	Head of Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	There is an opportunity for community engagement in a public forum that brings people together to reflect, celebrate and mourn those who have lost their lives through violence within the borough. This also provides an opportunity to prevent serious violence through provision of education, support those affected by serious violence, including through community reassurance messaging, and take stock of progress or areas for further development as part of this work.

Empower	Develop a Violence Reduction engagement plan, which engages, builds trust with and collaborates with communities in Islington to reduce violence, with appropriate programmes of community involvement, capacity building and regular engagement.	Director for Homes and Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Overarching engagement plan developed to ensure communities are continuously involved, providing valuable understanding into trigger points for tensions and violence and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our approach by empowering our communities, building trust and confidence. Work with Islington Communities to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Safer Neighbourhood Board with supporting ward panels overseeing the local and borough community response to crime and violence reduction - Parent Champions representing bereaved families who have lost family members due to homicide and promoting engagement with families throughout the borough - Strong VCS partnerships across the borough with organisations including Minority Matters, Ben Kinsella Trust and Arsenal in the Community, all focused on violent crime reduction and exploitation
Empower	Development of a Trust, Accountability, and Engagement action plan based on the Mayor of London's Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing. This will include targeted engagement with Black and minoritised ethnic groups to build confidence in and access to statutory partners' services.	Community Safety Islington Council, Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board	A range of engagement, training and comms offered under the interconnected themes of transparency, engagement, trust and respect, empowerment, and accountability to increase community confidence, particularly engaging with residents who seldom engage with or lack trust in public services.

Empower	Development of a wider Community Safety communications and engagement plan, considering how our serious violence reduction work interlinks with broader community safety concerns beyond the specific scope of particular violent crimes defines. On the basis of our engagement, we understand and acknowledge that the link between serious violence and crime and other community safety concerns is relevant to our communities. This will include a focus on actual and perceived/fear surround community safety concerns for not only those affected as victims/perpetrators, but the wider community of residents, family, friends, neighbours or visitors who may be impacted.	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	The community are engaged around wider community safety concerns outside of this strategy and are clear on the distinction of what is and is not covered in this specific strategy. Perception and fear of violence is addressed through clear communication outlining the actions and initiatives we are taking to tackle challenges, and engage to identify concerns and address changing needs.
Empower	Police to work with local communities at a ward level, governed by ward panels, with the introduction of a new mandatory ward panel priority that must focus on violence or drivers of violence.	Superintendent Neighbourhood, Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Local communities are actively involved in priorities around violence and have the opportunity to voice concerns and build their own resilience and knowledge. Central north (CN) BCU have established ward panels with ward panel chairs. In addition, Islington has strong Safer Neighbourhood Board representation and the CN BCU Youth Engagement teamwork with Metrobox, London Village Network to support young people and provide opportunities and engagement with them.

Empower	Facilitate community involvement in Stop and Search - including the monitoring of S60 by community representatives. This action should set out what the local arrangements are.	Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Stop and Search Monitoring Group is well attended and supported by key partners. Outcomes are scrutinised, dip sampling takes place to identify opportunities for learning as well as providing critical friend analysis where required. Such practical tactics build trust and confidence between authorities and communities.
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1. Places and Spaces

Step	Action	Lead	Governance group(s)	Outputs and Outcomes
Prevention	Undertaking environmental visual audits (EVAs) to identify and implement physical improvements of localities to design out opportunities to store weapons as well as identifying other improvements to mitigate the risks of crime.	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Community Safety Officers trained by National College of Policing standards will undertake environmental visual audits (EVAs) and identify risks to space and environment as well as the implementation of physical and other improvements. This will reduce access to weapons to prevent serious violence and harm and mitigate risks of crime. All EVAs undertaken have representation from local police, the public and a range of other services to ensure a holistic response.

Prevention	Responsible retailer agreements put in place including No Knife Shop setup (https://nbcc.police.uk/guidance/knife-retailers-toolkit).	Public Protection, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Reduced access to weapons to prevent serious violence and harm. No Knife Shop setup so that premises are actively discouraged to sell knives unless absolutely necessary with additional restrictions on access and identification requirements. Further information is available at https://www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/no-knife-shops .
Prevention	Carry out engagement with registered housing providers to improve awareness around our approach to violence and crime in the borough and embed practices within these organisations.	Community Safety, Public Protection, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Increased engagement to build better relationships with registered housing providers in the borough, working more closely to ensure our approach to violence and crime is embedded within their organisations and they are aware of the actions we are taking to reduce serious violence and the response we can take to intervene early.
Minimise	Local Authority enforcement through use of assets to target locations and offenders, for example CCTV, Enforcement Officers, Parking Monitoring, removal of abandoned vehicles.	Community Safety, Public Protection, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Weekly analysis carried out utilising council and police data to identify locations. Pro-active tasking undertaken in relation to support and enforcement in identified hotspot locations to prevent crime and provide community reassurance to minimise risk.
Minimise	Weekly assessment of victims, offenders and key hotspot locations for crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) to identify areas vulnerable to violence and swiftly provide a risk reduction and action plan.	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Intelligence is shared allowing areas vulnerable to violence a swift, up-to-date response to effectively de-escalate and contain violence, reducing risk in hotspot areas.

Minimise	<p>Police tactical plan to be maintained to record, monitor and review key police tactical interventions and activity in support of the Violent Crime Task Force and local Violence Suppression Unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Police Service hotspot analysis to be shared with partners and subject of further analysis to support bespoke interventions • Problem Orientated Policing to be undertaken in key identified hotspots, collaborating with local authorities, housing providers, landowners, businesses and residents • Focused Deterrence initiative- Police project to provide close supervision and alternative positive pathways for a small but focused group of offenders who may be involved with violence and other crime. This project will be academically reviewed against a control group to identify methods of reducing risks around re-offending 	<p>Superintendent Neighbourhoods, Metropolitan Police Service</p>	<p>Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime</p>	<p>Intelligence and progress recorded, shared and monitored across partners. In addition to one operation to target hotspots, a further operation is also being trialled across the MPS. This is a focussed deterrence programme which utilises the DIVERT app to work with people most at risk of being a perpetrator or victim of violence and prevent or minimise incidences of violence and re-offending.</p>
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Minimise	Develop an agreed joint programme of actions to remove weapons and provide reassurance including Trading Standards initiatives (e.g. knife or corrosive substance test purchases).	Director of Homes and Community Safety, Director of Public Protection, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	There are a range of initiatives which tackle the removal of weapons and provide reassurance including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knife bins in high harm locations - Regular Police / Parkguard / Community weapon sweeps - Days of enforcement action targeting weapon hotspot locations - Regular test purchase operations - Knife Harm information leaflet for partners - No Knife Shop (shops encouraged to not sell knives unless it's essential)
Minimise	Conduct weapon sweeps such as Community Weapon Sweeps, or sweeps by staff or partners agencies e.g. LFB, housing providers/estate managers, refuse collectors.	Director of Homes and Community Safety, Director of Public Protection, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Reduced access to weapons to prevent serious violence and harm. Weapon sweeps care completed daily by Parkguard officers in identified at risk locations reducing access to weapons. Caretaking staff trained to handle issues of weapons finds on estates, how to report and preserve evidence.
Minimise	Local process where weapons can be safely disposed of, without repercussions such as knife amnesties or knife bins.	Head of Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Reduced access to weapons to prevent serious violence and harm. A range of eight knife bins maintained in the borough. Guidance on disposal of weapons is also provided as a guide on council webpages and shared within the community. Associated communications emphasise positive contributions the community can make to reduce crime. Bins to be emptied on a six monthly basis.

Minimise	Licensing - If a specific venue is identified as being associated with an incident(s) of violence, and it is Licensed (for example a pub, nightclub, betting shop, etc.), seek to contact and utilise the expertise of Local Council and Police Licensing teams in order to mitigate this risk. These teams can offer a range of partnership and enforcement options in order to improve safety at the venue and reduce said violence. (Potential Enforcement Options include – Review of Licence, Emergency Closure Powers and prosecutions under the Licensing or Gambling Act).	Director of Public Protection, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Police and council licencing teams co-located and working closely with other stakeholders to pro-actively manage licenced premises. This includes reviewing overnight incidents linked to licence premises and acting quickly to ensure close monitoring and minimisation of escalation.
Support	London Trauma and AandE centres to provide safeguarding information to local partnerships through an agreed referral mechanism and hence maximise opportunities for "teachable moments" and rapid service referral/support.	Director of Public Health, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Islington receives referrals from AandE departments through Red Thread, St Giles Trust Embedded Youth Work Service, etc. depending on the hospital concerned. Regular meetings are held between the LA and the support services to ensure the information sharing and support processes are working effectively to provide effective support to those affected by violence.

Empower	Implement hyper-local neighbourhood initiatives to support community cohesion in areas at high risk of violence. Co-produce with the community, projects within the neighbourhood designed to improve communication with and trust in statutory services, support for young people through mentoring, training and positive activities, enhance the physical layout and take opportunities to design out crime.	Head of Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Violence Reduction Unit funded hyper-local project in place in location close to where two young people were murdered in 2021. Local residents empowered to work with others to prevent and reduce serious violence through a multi-agency approach, which will build confidence and resilience in the community as well as encourage better relations between residents and authorities. There is a Youth focus providing training and support as well as a number of bleed kits being positioned within Safe Haven locations to support those affected by violence.
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2. Women's Safety

Step	Action	Lead	Governance group(s)	Outputs and Outcomes
Prevention	Ongoing borough wide council VAWG comms campaigns, aligned with housing and other partner to include targeted age-appropriate messages, and messages specifically targeted at perpetrators.	Islington Council comms Team	VAWG Strategic Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	Public awareness campaigns developed to prevent domestic abuse and harassment and sexual violence in private and public spaces. This will provide information on services and support to safeguard and empower victims/survivors. Additional, this will allow us to do more to hold people who use violence and abuse to account,

				e.g. more targeted communication and engagement with men who use violence and, where appropriate, supporting them to change their harmful behaviour.
Minimise	Continue to deliver a prompt multi-agency response to domestic abuse incidents through the Daily Safeguarding Meeting.	Islington Council VAWG Commissioning	VAWG Strategic Board, , Safer Islington Partnership Board	Achieve a reduction in repeat referrals by providing a prompt coordinated multi-agency safeguarding response to survivors and families at risk of serious harm and/or domestic homicide through Islington's DA Daily Safeguarding Meeting to reduce serious injury.
Minimise	Solace to provide confidential support to those experiencing domestic abuse, keeping survivors at the heart of the work that they do, whilst ensuring that support is holistic and trauma informed. Immediate triggers will include but are not limited to, contact to be made with the victim within 24 hours for all high-risk cases. This will include a safety plan and actions around support and continued engagement. Areas identified in which advocacy is required to ensure other agencies are held accountable in relation to support they can offer along with ensuring that we advocate that perpetrators are accountable for their behaviour and the requirement for them to continue to be visible to professionals throughout the service users support.	Solace	VAWG Strategic Board, , Safer Islington Partnership Board	Increase the safety and wellbeing of survivors and families by providing a prompt coordinated and holistic service who are experiencing VAWG including domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour and sexual violence etc.
Support	Communications campaign to promoting Safe Havens – initiative encouraging public	Community Safety Team,	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Increased number of 'Safe Havens' across the borough to reduce fear by providing a safe space within public and commercial premises for those

	and commercial premises to register as a 'safe haven'.	Islington Council		in danger, feel threatened or harassed on the street. Islington has a Safe Haven Scheme consisting of a variety of over 100 premises where communities, including women and young people, can access support if they feel unsafe. Target set to reach 300 Safe Havens by March 2023.
Support	The VAWG Team will carry out a full review of commissioned VAWG services to ensure that they are reaching the diverse communities of Islington and this will inform the commissioning strategy for the re tender of the VAWG service offer in Islington.	VAWG Service, Islington Council	VAWG Strategic Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	Work carried out collectively to combat racism and all forms of discrimination recognising that a one size fits all approach does not work, including the ring fencing of funding for specialist VAWG services working with Black and minorities communities. Increased targeted service provision and engagement from Black and Minorities ethnic groups, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities.
Prevention Minimise Support	Work together with our statutory partners to improve criminal justice outcomes for survivors of all forms of VAWG including rape and sexual violence where offences have been reported. This includes a range of initiatives: 1. Finalise and Implement CN BCUs VAWG Action Plan to drive activity. This includes driving activity to meet MPS KPI Targets. 2. Work with partners to explore the possibility of a specialist DV court being located on CN BCU. 3.Utilise the MPS Rape Action Plan, MPS DA Joint Improvement Plan and CNs bespoke CJ plans to increase justice for victims through improved case file quality, more effective case reviews (particularly of older cases),	Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, VAWG Strategic Board	Improved criminal justice outcomes for survivors of all forms of VAWG including rape and sexual violence where offences have been reported. Performance indicators will include, for example, reduction in domestic homicides and increased domestic abuse arrest rates.

	<p>better training and better use of digital solutions to improve disclosure of evidence.</p> <p>4. Support the expansion of the DRIVE domestic abuse offender programme (challenging serial and high harm domestic abuse perpetrators to change their behaviour) and scope the possibility of a pilot scheme taking place on CN.</p> <p>5. Work with partners to improve care and support for survivors of all forms of VAWG.</p> <p>6. Utilise training days for partnership devised and delivered training sessions for all PP staff and other officers such as Street Duties, ERPT and NPT.</p>			
Empower	<p>VAWG Workforce Development Team to recruit Community Champions (VAWG Reduction) and deliver a training scheme based in the community engaging shops, local businesses, VCS, and faith organisations.</p>	<p>VAWG Workforce Development Team, Islington Council</p>	<p>VAWG Strategic Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board</p>	<p>VAWG Community Champions scheme is developed to empower local communities and provide a network of peer-to-peer support and community educators including information for perpetrators</p>
Empower	<p>Continue development of women's safety workshops/walks as a part of the Violence Reduction engagement plan. This includes using data from the Islington Safer Spaces whole-borough initiative to encourage residents' feedback about where and why they feel safe or unsafe in locations around Islington. We will work with women's organisations to engage with women and develop practical, community-led responses and initiatives.</p>	<p>Islington4Women, Community Safety Team, Islington Council,</p>	<p>Safer Islington Partnership Board</p>	<p>Opportunities are provided for communities to strengthen their own resilience and knowledge and work with others to prevent serious violence and improve feelings of safety. Improved trust in partners, including public services.</p>

3. Youth Safety

Step	Action	Lead	Governance group(s)	Outputs and Outcomes
Prevention	Design and launch a new universal youth model and offer that is more inclusive of all of our children and young people, more responsive to their needs and able to provide additional support to 'hotspot' areas within the borough.	Young Islington, Fairer Together, Islington Council	Youth Justice Services Management Board, Safer Islington Partnership	Islington has recently recommissioned its universal youth services providing a full and comprehensive universal offer including youth hubs, clubs and summer activities. This offer helps to prevent issues from surfacing in the first place and enables youth workers and keyworkers to help young people develop their resilience and enable them to make safer choices.
Prevention	Work to ensure education settings are safe inclusive places to learn, that build young people's resilience and have a trauma informed approach. Children and young people have safe spaces and routes for them to speak to teachers around any concerns related to violence and vulnerabilities. Schools to include youth violence within their safeguarding plans as per Safeguarding children and young people in education from knife crime (2019) Ofsted guidance.	Islington Council Education Lead, Young Islington, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Children and young people have safe spaces and routes for them to speak to teachers around any concerns related to violence and vulnerabilities. A trauma-informed approach to working with children and families has been developed and rolled out to schools and other partners including VCS organisations, including Ben Kinsella Trust and Arsenal in the community and children and young people.
Prevention	Due care and attention to corporate parenting principles, and ensure support to children in care and care leavers, through diversion and preventative work that is bespoke to the risk of them becoming involved in serious violence.	Director of Safeguarding and Family Support, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Children who have a Social Worker are able to access a range of services to prevent them being involved in serious youth violence. These services also support them if they are already involved.

Prevention	This includes ensuring that our powerful and emotive knife crime prevention film – produced by the 'Love and Loss' group of bereaved parents/families – is used as an educative tool in the PHSE curriculum of secondary schools, Pupil Referral Units and beyond.	Director of Young Islington, School Improvement Service, Islington Council, Metropolitan Police Service and Love and Loss Group	Youth Justice Services Management Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	Knife crime prevention interventions are delivered in primary and secondary schools and colleges increasing the awareness of serious violence and exploitation, including the 'Love and Loss' Knife crime prevention film. The programme is delivered by council and partners including parent champions to schools and youth centres across the borough.
Prevention	Using the ASB early intervention scheme to deal with people involved in ASB, potentially preventing future criminal behaviour, responding to offending behaviour, increasing intelligence, highlighting safeguarding issues and providing opportunities prior to any enforcement.	Superintendent Neighbourhoods, Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Two ASB police officers co-located within Community Safety Team to deliver ASB Early Intervention Scheme with support from Community Safety. Young persons identified are immediately linked across to children's services to ensure the earliest intervention possible whilst minimising any risk of criminalising young people who are on the periphery of crime.
Prevention	Develop a local schedule of intervention options taking account of available services, including those in the VRU Diversion Directory. Include referral to the Your Choice CBT programme, where that is an appropriate option.	Director of Young Islington, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Islington has a comprehensive youth safety offer including the Integrated Gang Team Targeted Youth Support, St Giles Trust, Ben Kinsella Trust, Abianda, Wipers (mentoring service), Chance UK (mentoring), etc. and will actively refer cases to the appropriate pan London provision such as Response and Rescue, London Gangs Exit, etc. There is regular promotion of this extensive list of provision to front line practitioners across the partnership to ensure each young person receives the right offer of support to prevent engagement in anti-social behaviour and crime and reduce the risk of criminal exploitation.

Prevention	Use the MPS DIVERT programme to support referrals from police custody to local providers to support education, employment, and training (will be rolled out to all BCUS in 2021).	Superintendent Neighbourhoods, Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	DIVERT launched on CN BCU working with 18-25s that come into Holborn and Islington Custody. This provision works with Islington and Camden residents that find themselves arrested in in Holborn and Islington custody and provide violence-diverting information and opportunities towards individuals most at-risk of committing violence.
Minimise	A named Safer Schools Officer available to every school in the borough and actively engaged by schools within day to day safeguarding activity.	Superintendent Neighbourhoods, Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	A safer schools police officer is available to every secondary school, with primary schools having access to an officer as required to support safeguarding of children and young people in places of education and ensure an effective partnership response.
Minimise	Extend the use of 'Achilles Heel' tactics as a partnership strategy to strengthen community safety.	Metropolitan Police Service, Community Safety Team, Young Islington, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board,	Partnership work ongoing between Integrated Gangs Team and police unites around the targeting of identified gang members and 'Achilles heel' tactics that can be used to focus on their criminality, this includes both reactive and proactive deployments from various police units to swiftly respond and minimise the impact of violent incidences and specific offenders.
Support	All young victims of violence and those vulnerable to exploitation, are referred to appropriate packages of support across both statutory and voluntary provision. This could include to the London Victim and Witnesses Service, which supports victims, and witnesses of crime in London to cope and recover from their experiences. This also includes continuing to commission specialist services to work with girls/young women,	Director of Safeguarding and Family Support, Young Islington, Islington Council	Youth Justice Services Management Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	All young victims of violence or those at risk of exploitation are assessed by Children's Services who will ensure that the appropriate follow up action and support measures are undertaken in accordance with current Safeguarding procedures. This includes referrals to MACE, St Giles, Integrated Gang Team, mental health, substance misuse services etc. and specialist interventions.

	boys, and young men who are at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation.			
Support	Strengthen work with other local authorities, partners – such as Rescue and Response – and the Home Office to improve outcomes for children and young people who have been exploited and coerced into modern-day slavery. This could include work with the Modern Slavery Unit to expand the Independent Child Trafficking Guardian (ICTG) service into London.	Director of Safeguarding and Family Support, Young Islington, Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Youth Justice Services Management Board and Islington Children’s Safeguarding board	Improve outcomes for children and young people who have been exploited and coerced into modern-day slavery.
Empower	Working with the Arsenal/Adidas No More Red initiative to encourage young people who can work to reduce violence and increase confidence in their communities to seek mentoring and support from the scheme.	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Support the campaign to help keep our young people safe by providing more, positive, safe spaces and spotlighting talented individuals who are making a positive difference in their community
Empower	Engage parents and carers through projects such as the Violence Reduction Unit Parental Support project to increase capacity for parents and carers to keep their children safe and prevent harm and create peer networks of support among families.	Director of Young Islington, Islington Council	Youth Justice Services Management Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	More Parent champions are trained, are active in the community and are working with police, community safety, youth and housing colleagues to develop initiatives that are led and informed by parents. This will build collaboration and empowerment to reduce violence and increase trust in public services. Parent champions consulted on the Violence reduction strategy to ensure the voice of this group is central to our approach.
Empower	Develop engagement events and opportunities, which aim to strengthen and improve the relationship between young	Director of Young Islington, Islington Council	Youth Justice Services Management	Young people are actively engaged with a range of initiatives across the partnership, for example Youth Council, Safer Neighbourhood Board

	people, the police and other partners. This will provide the community with the confidence to share relevant information that will facilitate the disruption of criminality within the community.		Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	meetings, CN BCU ridealongs, giving young people a voice and improving the relationship between young people, the police and other partners.
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4. Adults

Step	Action	Lead	Governance group(s)	Outputs and Outcomes
Prevention	Use the new London Integrated Offender Management (IOM) framework, which focuses partner agencies on persistent, violent offenders who pose at least a medium risk of violent reoffending as the core/fixed IOM cohort, to proactively manage local, priority offender and make best use of shared IOM resources and share information.	Head of London Probation London, Probation Services	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	IOM meetings take place monthly with representation from all relevant key partners to mitigate risks for integrated service management where people may be at risk of perpetrating violence. Support of the IOM is provided with staff based within Community Safety Team within the borough ensuring key links are maintained into the Safer Islington Partnership.
Prevention	Extend the SEMH pathway offer from 18 to 25 years, which enables young people to continue to receive appropriate support whilst transitioning into adulthood	Islington Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Health and Wellbeing Board, Youth Justice Services Management Board and Islington Children's	Young people receive the appropriate support whilst transitioning into adulthood. This offer helps to prevent issues from surfacing in the first place and provides an opportunity for young people to develop their resilience and enable them to make safer choices to reduce the risk of violence and harm as they progress to adulthood.

			Safeguarding board, Safer Islington Board	
Support	Continue coordinated Islington Community Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (Community MARAC) response to share information on complex cases involving vulnerable victims and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour to safeguard the victims and witnesses, prevent further victimisation and reduce risk of violence and harm.	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	The Community MARAC process supports a multi-agency response to safeguard victims and witnesses, which prevents further victimisation and reduces risk of violence and harm in complex, entrenched or vulnerable cases. This process supports those who may be vulnerable to or at-risk of violence by providing the opportunity to review intervention and support options, for example evaluation what can be done through social care, health etc. This reduces risk and mitigates escalation.
Support	Utilise our community trigger processes to review anti-social behaviour cases in relation to repeat callers, and potential issues such as cuckooing. This ensures some of the most vulnerable people in the borough are not at escalated risk of violence and have a voice around harm experienced as a result of anti-social behaviour.	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Victims of persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB) have the right to ask for a multi-agency review of their case. Agencies share information relevant to the case and take joined up problem solving approach to find a solution for the victim, including identifying where there may be a risk/escalation of serious violation in relation to the case and implementing actions accordingly to intervene.
Prevention Minimise Support Empower	Further exploration to identify and articulate the key issues and actions the partnership can take to prevent vulnerable adults from being exploited into violence and support adult offenders to move away from crime, whilst holding them to account for their actions. This includes strengthening the relationship and coordination with the CCG's	Community Safety, Islington Council	CCG Adult Safeguarding Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	Clear articulation of the key problems and actions that will be taken as part of the extended action plan in year one of the strategy, having identified through the development of the strategy, including community feedback and equality impact assessment processes, that this is a strand that requires further development. Vulnerable adults and older adults are actively engaged and

	Adult Safeguarding Board to develop longer-term actions around the three priority areas of work to reduce crime affecting vulnerable adults: cuckooing, online exploitation and radicalisation, modern slavery. This also involves exploring targeted engagement with older adults and on intergenerational concerns.			reflected as a voice across initiatives from the partnership.
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5. Organised Crime

Step	Action	Lead	Governance group(s)	Outputs and Outcomes
Prevention	Use Information Sharing to Tackle Violence programme (ISTV) and wider public health data, social media intelligence, local drugs markets and local rescue and response county lines analysis, plus any other relevant local authority data i.e. Children social care, sources to inform the strategic assessment analysis and partnership tactical delivery.	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime?	Improved monitoring of social media intelligence and the CSE and Gangs Analysis to provide intelligence products on the gangs picture in the borough including county lines. Data from all services will be utilised in the Strategic Assessment, monitored at the SIP on a quarterly basis, to inform effective tactical delivery, early intervention and prevention
Prevention	Compile a gangs problem profile for the borough, taking appropriate account of county lines. To be reviewed in-depth every three years and refreshed every 12 months.	Director of Young Islington, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	A gangs profile is undertaken annually and modified regularly according to changes in gang tensions and incidents that occur on the borough in relation to violence or the risk of violence to support information sharing and the effective targeting of interventions.

Minimise	Training for front line staff, including partner agencies, on information sharing specific to violence and vulnerabilities so they are confident of what data can be shared and how. Where appropriate drawing on the ICO gangs checklist: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/in-your-sector/police-justice/processing-gangs-information-a-checklist-for-police-forces/	Community Safety, Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	As well as training for front line staff on information sharing practices, the council provides a regular Information Governance Panel available to all staff for specialist support, advice and guidance on information sharing. Furthermore, all panels with partners have a robust Information Sharing Agreement in place to underpin the tactical interventions across the partnership and ensure a swift response and mitigation of violence.
Minimise	<p>Police tactical plan to be maintained to record, monitor and review key police tactical interventions and activity in support of the Violent Crime Task Force and local Violence Suppression Unit.</p> <p>This includes a focus on the Disruption of gangs to have SRO/LRO for each BCU and have partnership input and analysis as required.</p>	Superintendent Neighbourhoods, Metropolitan Police Service	Safer Islington Partnership Board, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Development Plans created for habitual knife carriers and gang nominals that require visits. This intel is shared with the Local Authority alongside intelligence and progress to support work with people most at risk of being a perpetrator or victim of violence and prevent or minimise incidences.
Prevention Minimise Support	Launch a new multi-agency gangs panel that will focus on group offending intelligence and disruption via a locality based response. This panel and approach will also include the formulating of our approach to cross-borough working and gangs issues.	Young Islington Team Islington Council, Community Safety Islington Council, Metropolitan Police Service	Youth Justice Services Management Board, Islington Children's Safeguarding Board, Safer Islington Partnership Board	Implementation of diversion and enforcement tactics, reducing gang related offending and serious youth violence/gang related activity in hotspot areas. The community is safeguarded from serious criminal behaviour by the panel, identifying lead agencies to provide targeted strategic responses to localities and the monitoring of individuals to prevent association and involvement in group offending, disrupt

				criminal behaviour and provide support and exit strategies where appropriate.
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6. Drugs as a driver for crime

Step	Action	Lead	Governance group(s)	Outputs and Outcomes
Prevention	Drug Treatment services initiative-working with Community Safety and police to identify known knife carriers among drug treatment service users and to develop risk reduction plans accordingly as part of their treatment plans.	Community Safety, Public Health Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Prevention of serious violence from those affected by substance misuse and addiction, who are at greater risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence, before it occurs by providing violence-diverting information and opportunities alongside targeted interventions towards individuals most at-risk of committing violence. Reduced access to weapons and the risk of serious harm within this group.
Support	Continue work within the street outreach Team to move people from the streets and into accommodation, including those affected by substance misuse and abuse who may be at higher risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence and exploitation.	Community Safety, Public Health Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	People are supported to reintegrate into local communities and recover from dependence, providing targeted intervention to reduce risk of harm and of perpetrating violence.

Support	Develop and launch drugs warrant support protocol to support people in violent situations who come into contact with the police through drug warrants, e.g. people under duress, at risk of criminal exploitation.	Community Safety, Public Health Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Identify at risk individuals who may be caught up in the illegal drugs market and provide adequate intervention and support to reduce harm caused to these communities. Support recovery from dependence and reintegration into local communities.
Prevention Minimise Support Empower	Further exploration to identify and articulate the key issues and actions the partnership can take to reduce the harm that we know drugs cause to individuals and communities by supporting those with drug-use issues to recover and break free from perpetuating serious violence. This will include incorporating actions following the completion of the forthcoming Drugs strategy, as well as reflecting on the recommendations and outcomes of the recent independent review and strategy on drugs published by the UK Government.	Community Safety, Public Health Islington Council	Safer Islington Partnership Board	Clear articulation of the key problems and actions that will be taken as part of the extended action plan following year 1 of the strategy, having identified through the development of the strategy, including community feedback and equality impact assessment processes, that this is a strand that requires further development.