

# Community Safety Strategy

2022 to 2024

Delivering for Croydon

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## Foreword

### **The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon, as stipulated by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.**

The SCP is responsible for co-ordinating the development and implementation of Croydon's Community Safety Strategy. The partnership comprises the police, council, fire, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, and community and voluntary sector organisations. It works with other boards on Croydon's Local Strategic Partnership on crime and safety matters, in particular the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Adults Safeguarding Board.

Croydon is geographically the fifth largest borough in London covering 86 square kilometres. At 388,563 people, Croydon has the second largest population in London. Almost a fifth of the population is aged 60 or above. However, Croydon has the highest number of residents aged 0 to 19 years of age and the highest number of looked after children in the capital, which has implications for the types of services we need to provide for young people

Croydon ranks as the 17th least deprived out of the 33 London boroughs. However, this average hides the pockets of high deprivation within Croydon. One small area of Croydon is the third most deprived area in London (out of 4,642 small areas) and some 8,950 people live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in the country.

In 2020, there was a 1.7% decrease in crime in Croydon compared to the year before. This may be compared with reductions of 14.2% in London and 8% nationally. These falls can be linked to the restrictions imposed on society during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the lockdowns also brought about new challenges.

Violence represents around a third of all crime in the borough. In 2020, there was an 11% increase in the number of violent offences in Croydon, the highest total in the capital. London saw a 1% decrease in violence in the same period. This significant rise is largely attributable to an increase in domestic abuse, fuelled by lockdowns.

Croydon is a diverse, friendly and vibrant borough full of people living busy lives and helping to create supportive communities. However, we have seen violent incidents in our borough, across London as well as nationally, with the tragic loss of young people killed on our streets, women and young girls targeted in public places as well as experiencing violence at home, and public figures killed while carrying out their civic duties. We are working together as a partnership to ensure that people from all of our communities feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods

We have sought to develop a collaborative strategy with all parts of Croydon's partnership and communities.

This strategy supports the priorities of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) as set out in the [Police and Crime Plan for London 2017 to 2021](#): a better police service for London; a better criminal justice service for London; keeping children

and young people safe; tackling violence against women and girls; and standing together against hatred and violence.

Croydon adopted a public health approach to reducing violence in June 2019 and has since started work to create a violence reduction network in order to implement it. A number of themes and principles were developed:

Theme One - **Using Data to drive our approach**- Building a strong evidence base and a common screening tool that can be used across organisations to predict who, where and why individuals and families are more likely to be involved in violent or aggressive behaviours and identifying the interventions that will have the maximum impact.

Theme Two - **Preventing Violence before It Occurs** - Looks at the periods and key influences in a person's life journey, from pre-birth to adulthood which can increase the risks of becoming involved in violent behaviour and the opportunities when interventions can be most effective.

Theme Three - **Community Based Support** – Recognises the strength of the Community and Voluntary Sector in Croydon and places them at the heart of Croydon's public health approach to violence reduction. It promotes combining skills and enabling voluntary and community organisations to support people and families collaboratively.

Theme Four - **Targeted Interventions** - It uses the principles of a family centred approach aimed at addressing violence, by looking at the wider family and connected family dynamics, based on clear safeguarding, case management approaches.

Theme Five – **Intensive Interventions and Enforcement** – Sets out an intention to offer personalised support for those who are motivated to step away from a life of violence, whilst using the full range of enforcement across all agencies, against those whose behaviour places themselves, those around them, or the wider community at risk of harm.

The principles set out in the Framework for The Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction in Croydon are issues that have been consistently voiced at community meetings, with young people and by those directly affected by violence, offenders, victims and families.

- Every person understands the role they can play in reducing violence –Embedding trauma informed practice across local authority, health, schools, colleges, community and voluntary agencies, business sector and criminal justice agencies.
- Developing community-based networks to help those impacted by violence navigate the challenges they face – Identifying and training individuals who have influence in their local area to provide support for young people and families who are at risk of or affected by violence and guide them into support services.
- Focusing on the vocabulary of INCLUSION – Supported by the evidence from the Croydon Vulnerable Adolescent Review published by the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board in February 2019, to build a collaborative, partnership approach to

inclusion, including the development of an 'Inclusion Intervention Offer' in schools and colleges, or as part of a work readiness programme.

- Recognition of the importance of culture and identity for families and young people - The challenges of culture and identity within families are becoming increasingly relevant in terms of violence prevention. This priority proposes embedding an understanding of culture and identity within the family dynamics within contextual safeguarding and trauma awareness training for the Borough and as part of the screening and assessment process for families and vulnerable young people.
- Social media and violence – Sets out a series of Prevention and Intervention steps to improve the awareness of the impact of exposure to violent social media content for families, guardians and those working with young people

The above inform the four elements of this new Community Safety Strategy:

1. **Curtail** violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action.
2. **Treat** those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread.
3. **Support** those susceptible to violence due to their exposure risk factors.
4. **Strengthen** community resilience through a universal approach.

This new Community Safety Strategy focuses on all of the above and seeks to strengthen it by actively involving a greater number of people and partners in our solutions to reduce violence in the borough. We have worked with a wide range of institutions represented on the Safer Croydon Partnership Board to develop the new strategy. We have involved our voluntary sector partners who participate directly in violence and safety work. Our strategy has also been informed by the views of residents and communities, particularly through surveys of young people and women and girls.

Engagement with the local communities is important both in order to contribute to our understanding of the causes and impact of crime, but also in order to work with them to tackle the underlying causes. We also need to provide reassurance of our determination to reduce crime and our progress in doing so. We will continue to learn from partners about the methods of communication and engagement that are working well for them.

Taking account of the evidence from the 2021 Strategic Crime Assessment, the views of stakeholders and findings from public engagement, our strategic priorities for the next three years will be:

1. **Tackle domestic abuse**
2. **Protect young people from violence and exploitation**
3. **Tackle disproportionality in the criminal justice system**
4. **Strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services, focusing on Hate Crime, and build trust in the partnership**
5. **Focus on high priority neighbourhoods**

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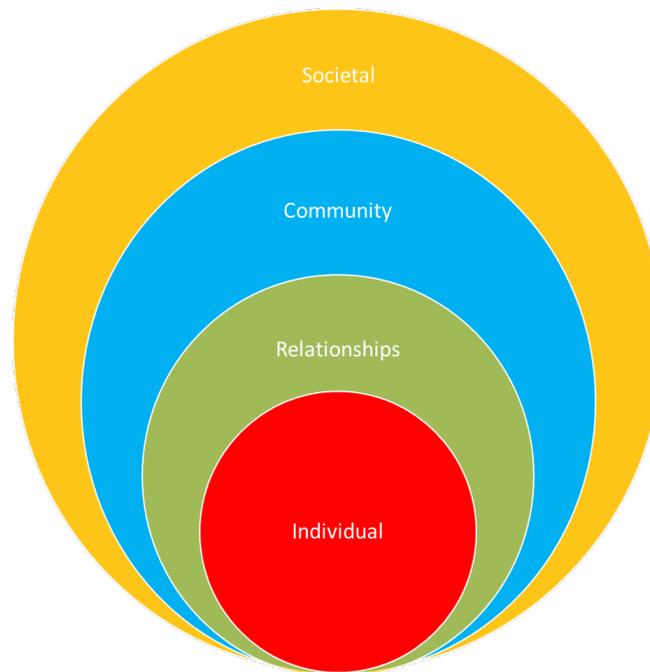
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## 1. Our Approach

### The public health model

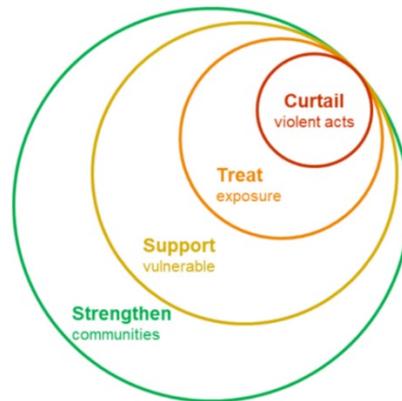
Croydon's Violence Reduction Network (VRN) has adopted the public health approach in reducing violence. This strategy details how we will implement it.

The approach takes a holistic view of both violence and coercion, based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels:



- **Community:** the contexts where social relationships occur (such as school, neighbourhoods and workplaces) also influence violence. Risk factors may include the level of unemployment, population density, mobility and existence of a local drug or gun trade
- **Relationships:** influence the likelihood of an individual becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence (family, friends, intimate partners and peers – e.g. violent friends)
- **Individual:** personal history and biological factors increase the likelihood of an individual becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence (including being a victim of child maltreatment, psychological or personality disorders, alcohol or substance misuse)

The core actions of a public health approach to reduce violence are summarised in the figure below, as used by Waltham Forest's Violence Reduction Partnership:



- **Treat** those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread.
- **Support** those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors.
- **Strengthen** community resilience through a universal approach.

To achieve this there must be a holistic networked approach to tackling violence involving a wide range of relevant partners. It is also vital that data and lived experience are at the heart of how the VRN and the partnership operate.

#### Problem-oriented approach

We regard crime in an area as a problem, not an individual incident. For a crime to occur, three components are needed: a likely offender, a victim or target, and the absence of a guardian.

We focus on the underlying causes of those problems and how to tackle them. We assess places (where and when crime happens), victims and offenders and their respective potential controllers: the manager (e.g. a guard or security door), the guardian and the handler (e.g. parent, teacher or mentor) as shown below. Cross-cutting issues are identified, for addressing through a collaborative strategic plan.



## Crime harm, the 'Felonious Few', high priority victims and hotspots

We use the Cambridge Crime Harm Index to calculate how harmful a crime is relative to other crimes as a tool for focussing resources. The index multiplies each offence by the number of days in prison that crime would attract if an offender were to be convicted of committing it, based on no previous offending history.

Most crime, specifically crime harm, is committed by a small fraction of offenders against a small fraction of victims in a small fraction of locations. The Partnership will refocus its limited resources on, respectively, the 'Felonious Few', high priority victims and hotspots, to increase the chance of crime reduction, particularly concerning those targets which give rise to serious harm.

## Evidenced-based action

Any new method or approach we adopt to reduce crime must be based on evidence to avoid wasting time and resources on ineffective or less efficacious measures. The VRN ensures this through what is known as the "Triple-T Strategy" - targeting, testing and tracking:

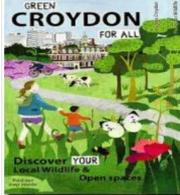
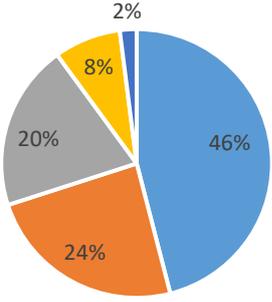
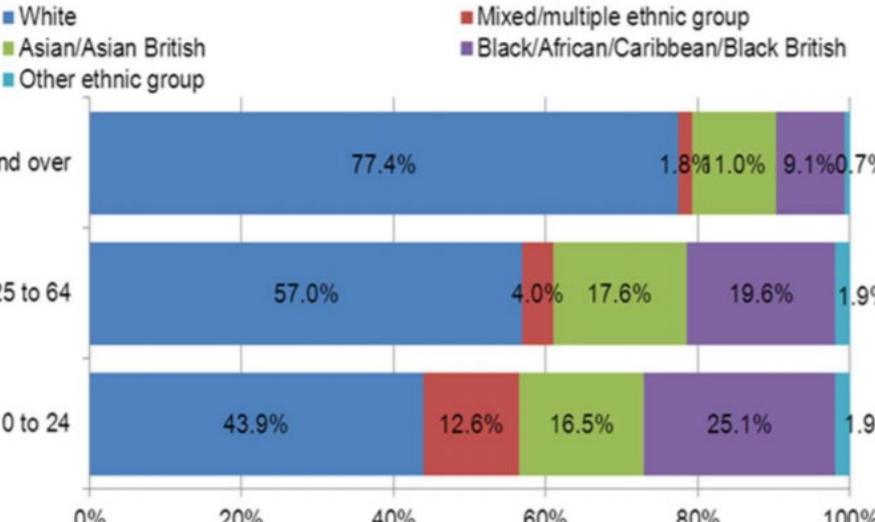
**Targeting:** It systematically identifies, ranks and compares the levels of harm linked to various crime "units", whether they be places, times or people.

**Testing:** Having identified the high harm target areas, the VRN reviews and tests methods to identify which is the most effective at reducing the harm.

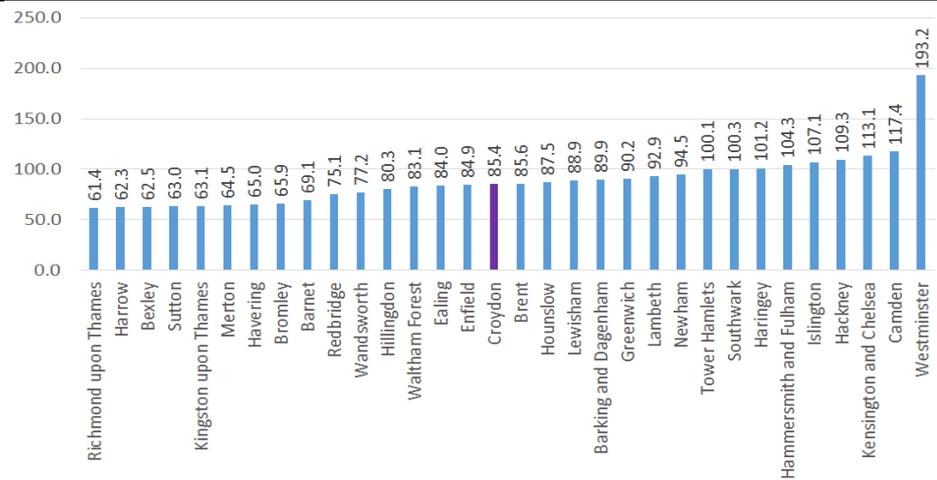
**Tracking:** It then generates and uses internal evidence to track the delivery and evaluate the effectiveness of the approach. The new tracking data forms the basis of new research and more reliable evidence of "what works".

For more information on the Partnership's approach, see the Strategic Assessment 2021 (pages 3-5).

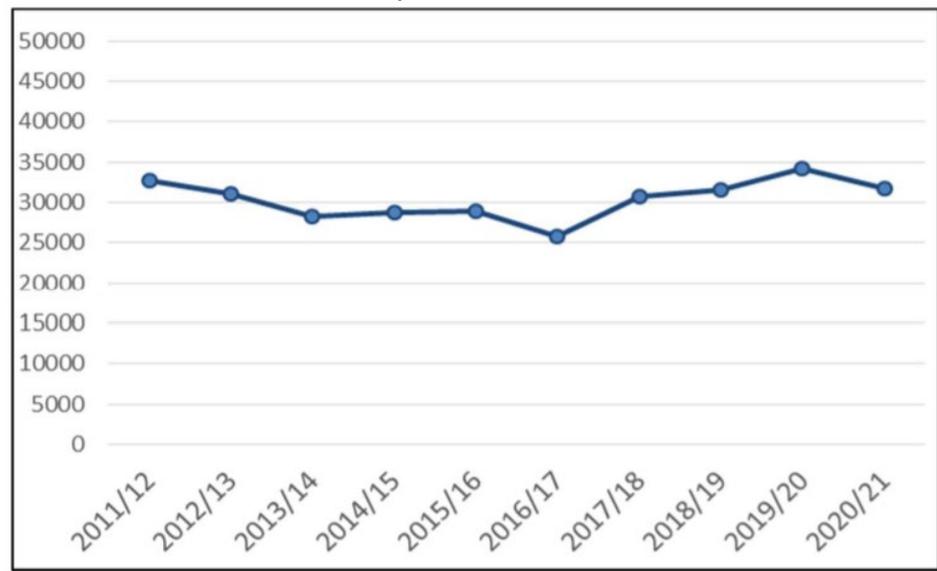
## 2. Croydon Facts

	<p>Croydon is London's southern-most borough and covers an area of 34 square miles (87km<sup>2</sup>). It is one of London's biggest local retail and commercial centres, with good rail, tram and road links, more than 120 parks and open spaces and some of London's most expensive housing.</p>																								
	<p>Home to around 388,600 people, Croydon is the second largest London borough in terms of population and is continuing to grow. It is projected to grow by another 20,000 by 2043.</p>																								
	<p>Croydon has the largest population of 0-19 year olds in London at 103,300 residents (Estimate ONS 2020), who make up 27% of the borough's total population.</p>																								
	<p>Croydon Ethnic Group Profile in 2021 (GLA 2016 housing-led projections by ethnicity):</p> <div data-bbox="459 853 1398 1391" style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Croydon Ethnic Group Profile 2021</p>  <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnicity</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>46%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black</td> <td>24%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Ethnicity	Percentage	White	46%	Black	24%	Asian	20%	Mixed	8%	Other	2%												
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	<p>Croydon has become relatively less deprived compared to other local authorities in England between 2015 and 2019. There are pockets of deprivation and one small area of Croydon is the third most deprived area in London (out of 4,642 small areas) and some 8,950 people live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in the country.</p>
	<p>Levels of permanent exclusions from primary and secondary schools in Croydon are lower than both the national and regional average rates (2019). Permanent exclusions were 0.06% in 2017/18, compared with 0.08% in London and 0.1% in England.</p> <p>The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds in education or training in Croydon (94.0% in 2019) has been in line with both regional and national averages for the past 3 years.</p>
	<p>The proportion of out of work claimants has risen by around 3% since March 2020 – directly as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy.</p> <p>The claimant count (not all unemployed) in July 2021 was 8.3% of the resident population of working age (up 3.9 percentage points from 4.4% in March 2020, but down 1.2 percentage points since the peak in March 2021). Croydon has a higher proportion of claimants compared to the region and national figure.</p>
	<p>The number of looked after children in Croydon is the highest in London (791 in March 2020)</p>
	<p>For 2020, the rates of children in need referrals and child protection referrals (563.0) per 10,000 children are much higher than the rates in London and England</p>
	<p>The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation on March 2021 was 2,029, of which 1,475 included children (Q4 2021 MHCLG)</p>
	<p>Rate of total notifiable offences per '000 resident population (year to 31 December 2020) was 85.4. Source MPS, Borough Volume and Trends dashboard</p>



After a downward trend, the number of offences increased from 2016/2017. However, the year since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 has seen a drop in numbers. Source: MPS



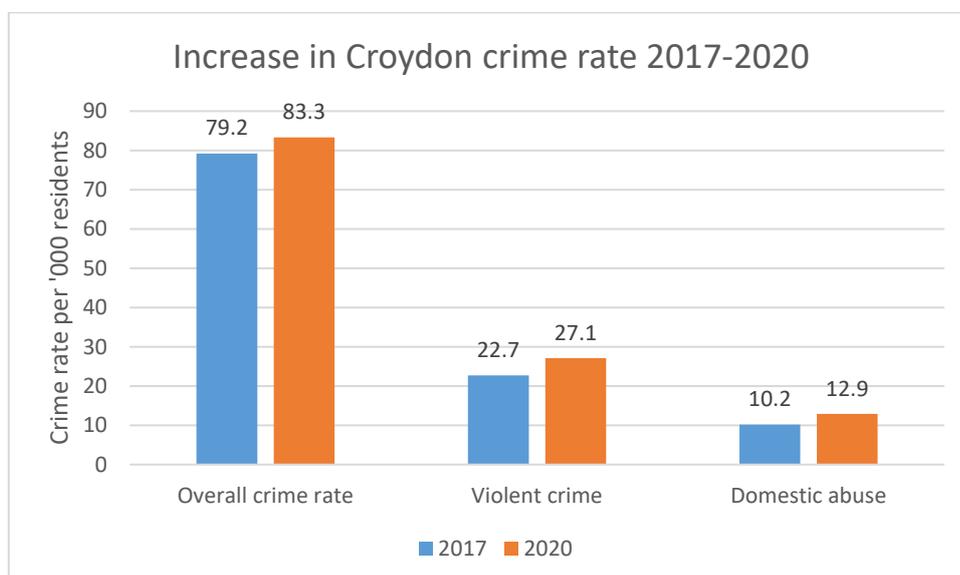
### 3. Key Outcomes 2017-21

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused fluctuations in crime and anti-social behaviour on a global, national and local scale. Government-imposed restrictions on society throughout 2020 had the effect of suppressing many types of crime. However, they were also a catalyst for other types of crime to increase. The overall effect is reflected in statistics that show a fall in crime in Croydon of only 2% in 2020, compared to the year before. Though some types of crime have been police driven – like drugs offences – it is violence that remains the main contributor to high crime in the borough.

Some of the outcomes achieved over the last four years are set out under each theme of the 2017-20 strategy:

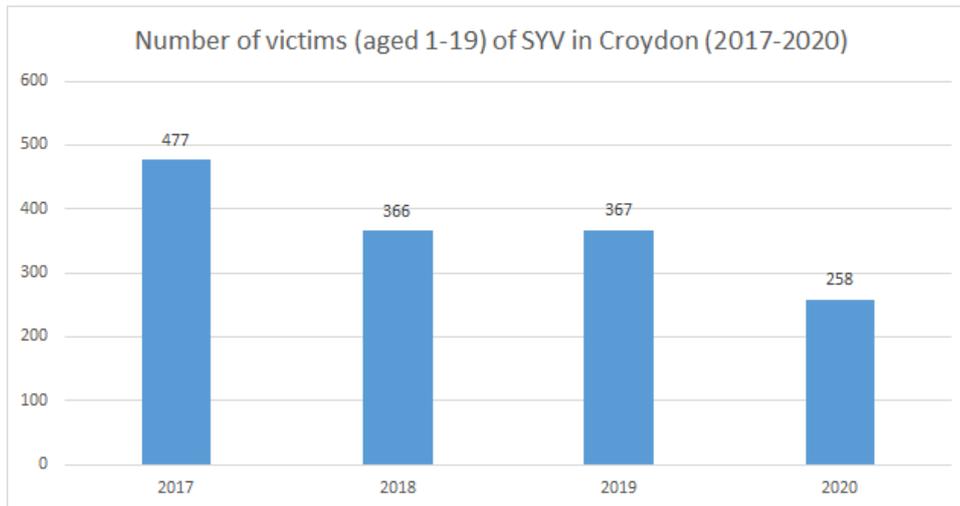
#### 1. **Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon with a focus on violent crime, and domestic and sexual violence.**

- Croydon adopted a public health approach to violence reduction in 2019. The Council appointed the first director of the violence reduction network and restructured the community safety team to give a strategic and operational focus to violence reduction work. It secured significant external funding and committed council resources to implement the public health approach and reduce violence in Croydon.
- Even though there has been a decrease in *crime volume* in 2020 compared to 2019, by comparing 2020 to 2017 the overall *crime rate* in Croydon rose by 5%. Also during the same period the violent crime rate increased by 19% and the domestic abuse rate (DA) by 26%.
- Most DV and abuse is hidden, as in the rest of London. The Family Justice Centre (FJC) continues to perform at close to capacity with an average of 67 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference cases per month in the year to August 2021. This includes new victims and people who have been referred before.



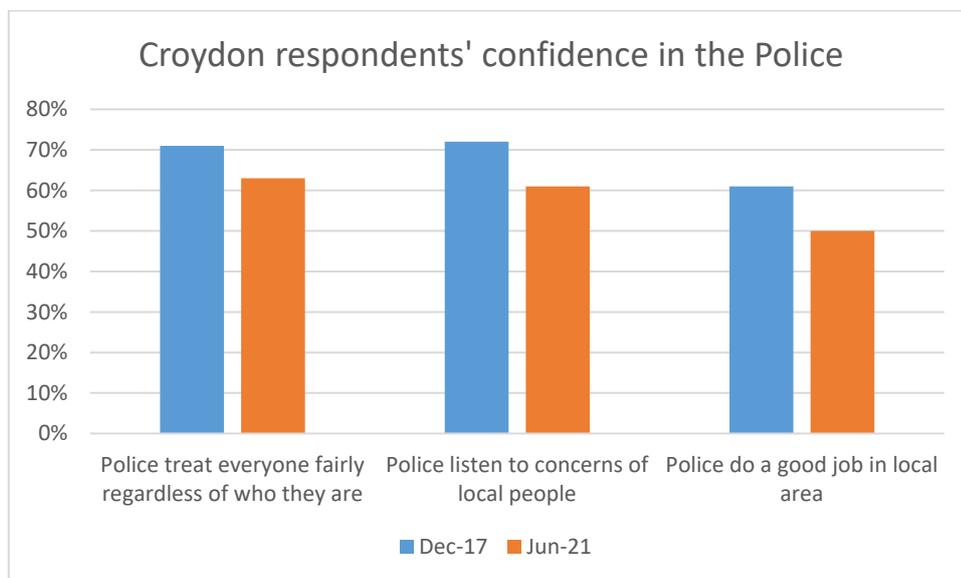
## 2. Safety of children and young people.

- The rate of serious youth violence has fallen since the 2016 peak (even before the Covid lockdown reduced the opportunities for such crimes), but it remained a serious issue for young people.
- Challenges relate both to safety of children and children's perceptions of their safety – many young people carry weapons because they feel threatened.
- The number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time has fallen for four consecutive years.



## 3. Improving public confidence and community engagement.

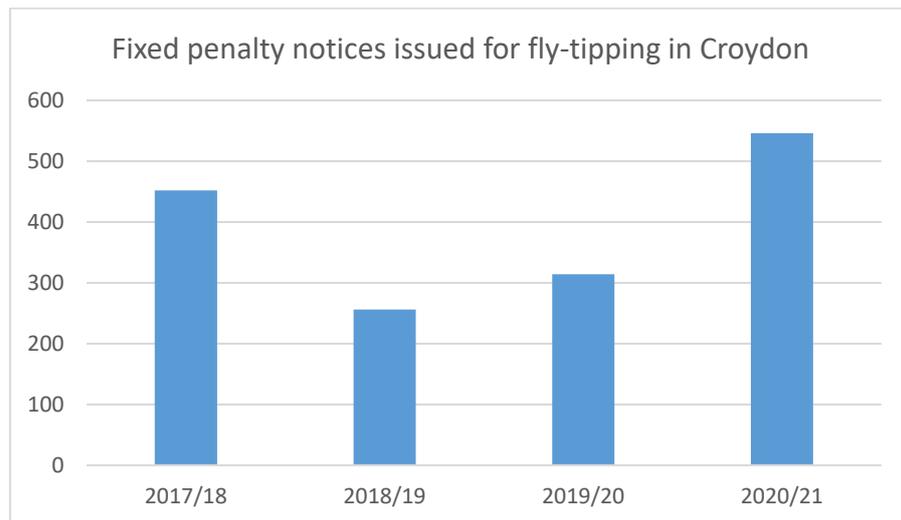
- Croydon residents' confidence in the police is higher than the London average, but has declined since 2017, according to MOPAC's Public Voice Dashboard. However, in the Violence Reduction Network's survey of safety of women and girls in the borough 79% of respondents stated that they would report a crime to the authorities.



- Other parts of regulatory services contributed to this work including Trading Standards who are doing nationally recognised work on illegal knife sales to children both on and off-line.

#### **4. Anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.**

- ASB-related calls to the Police in Croydon increased by 5% between 2017 and 2019. A further increase of 85% in 2020 is mostly attributed to Covid-19 where all related calls (e.g. social distancing and mask wearing) were recorded as anti-social behaviour.
- There were however a number of high profile successes, including business closures in Portland Road following a major undercover police operation.
- Fly-tipping incidents in Croydon increased by 3% to 25,532 between 2016/17 and 2019/20. In 2019/20 the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the council represented 1.2% of incidents, though some recipients may have been responsible for multiple incidents. The number of FPNs issued in 2020/21 increased by 74%.



#### **5. Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime, focusing on hate crime.**

- Tackling hate crime has been a key area of success. Since it was launched in 2019, Croydon's hate crime pledge has been signed by 24,000 individuals and organisations.
- The Prevent and community outreach teams have worked with community organisations to equip them with the tools and knowledge to tackle hate crime and to support people to report it.
- The number of recorded hate crime offences increased by 35% from 698 in 2017 to 944 in 2020. However, the percentage of borough residents regarding hate crime as a problem in their area fell slightly from 14% in 2017/18 to 12% in 2019/20.

## 4 Strategic Assessment 2021

The Strategic Assessment provides the main evidence base for this strategy. It has highlighted the key issues for the Safer Croydon Partnership to address in order to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the borough. Conducted annually, it will help to evidence the impact of the strategy on crime trends.

### Statistics

Although crime in Croydon fell slightly (by 1.7%) overall in 2020, there were large falls in crimes including burglary (-17%), robbery (-17%) and theft (-22%). This drop can be linked to societal restrictions implemented as a result of Covid-19. However, there were increases in other crimes, particularly drugs (+12%) and violence against the person (+11%). A rise in domestic abuse and hate crime contributed to this increase as well as a rise in harm in non-domestic violence with injury, specifically knife crime and, to a lesser extent, gun crime. The increase of arson offences, which show a link to domestic incidents, are also a cause for concern.

Both crime count and crime harm show a decrease in crimes involving young people. However, this is most likely linked to the Covid-19 restrictions and the VRN still recognises young people and their involvement in crime, particularly violence, to be a strategic priority.

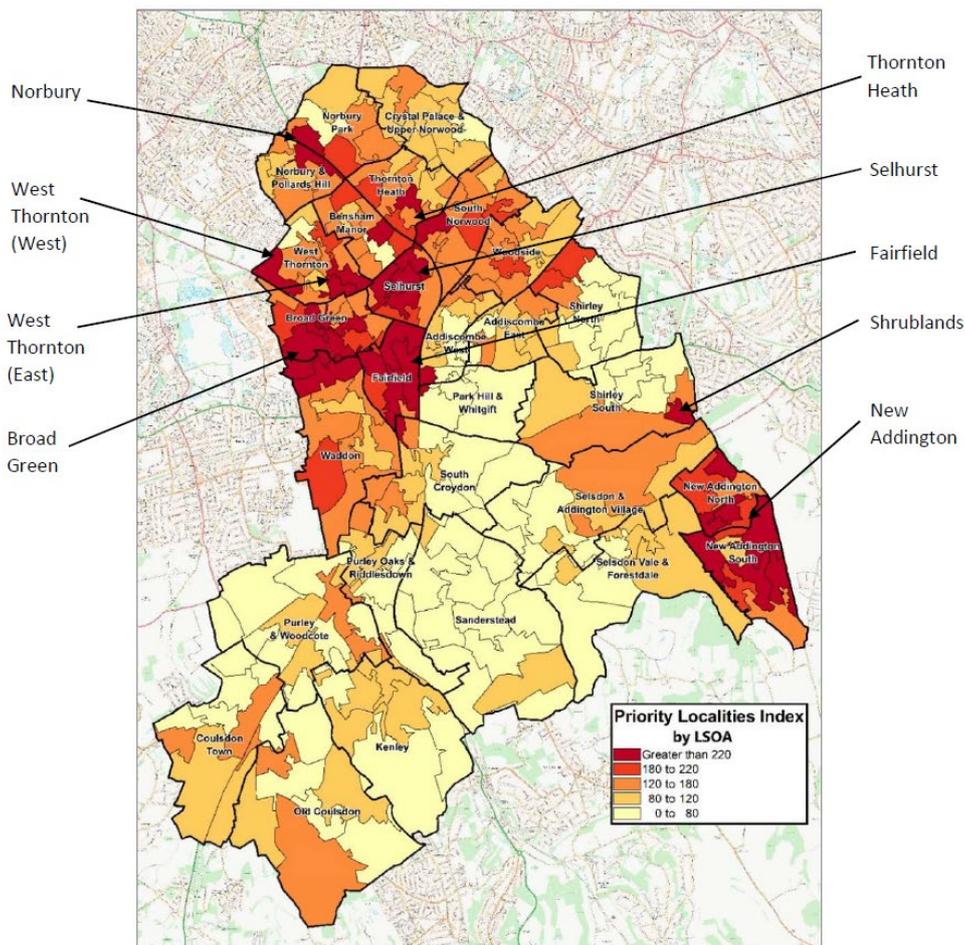
The table provides a breakdown of crime harm levels in Croydon by major crime type. It shows that where for some crime types there has been an increase in the count of offences, there has actually been a reduction in harm of this crime type.

Crime Harm				
Crime Type	2019	2020	+/-	% +/-
Arson and Criminal Damage	49,645.25	57,169.00	7,523.75	15.2%
Burglary	69,130.00	55,550.00	-13,580.00	-19.6%
Drug Offences	41,503.50	32,565.50	-8,938.00	-21.5%
Misc. Crimes Against Society	59,411.75	49,928.25	-9,483.50	-16.0%
Possession of Weapons	92,613.50	64,467.75	-28,145.75	-30.4%
Public Order Offences	24,781.25	25,658.00	876.75	3.5%
Robbery	397,850.00	330,325.00	-67,525.00	-17.0%
Sexual Offences	644,378.00	470,670.25	-173,707.75	-27.0%
Theft	43,104.00	36,366.00	-6,738.00	-15.6%
Vehicle Offences	19,899.00	18,611.50	-1,287.50	-6.5%
Violence Against the Person	528,368.50	578,093.00	49,724.50	9.4%
<b>Total Notifiable Offences</b>	<b>1,970,684.75</b>	<b>1,719,404.25</b>	<b>-251,280.50</b>	<b>-12.8%</b>

In line with our problem-oriented approach, we have focussed our assessment on Place, Offenders and Victims.

### Place

Given the shifts in crime owing to conditions under the pandemic, we have used data on crime, deprivation and demography to design a Priority Localities Index for the borough. This has helped us to identify neighbourhoods where cross-cutting issues causing crime and ASB need prioritised action by the partnership. The priority areas are highlighted on the next page.



## Offenders

Repeat offenders represent 20% of all suspects but commit more than 40% of crime in Croydon. For specific types of violence including domestic abuse, knife crime and serious youth violence, this rises to about half of all offences and harm committed. They also contribute significantly to hate crime offences. The homes of suspects and repeat suspects are highly concentrated in the Priority Localities Index areas.

A focus on high harm suspects will provide a more manageable, resource-focused and intensive approach to reducing serious crime in the borough. The number of individuals who commit 50% of harm in Croydon is less than 10% of the number of those who commit 50% of the volume of offences. They include the most high-risk individuals who have committed serious violence, sexual offences, robbery and arson, rather than more minor crimes of theft and criminal damage. They also commit a significant proportion of serious harm in the borough including domestic abuse, serious youth violence and non-domestic violence with injury.

Analysis of repeat offenders, high count and high harm offenders shows several cross-cutting issues which are likely to influence criminal behaviour, namely drugs, mental health and alcohol. In addition, most high count and high harm offenders are unemployed.

## Victims

Most adult victims of crime are aged between 18 and 45. Large percentages of victims of specific crimes, especially domestic violence (DV), are in this age-group. However, those aged 10 to 17 years old experience almost one fifth of all crime harm; this is closely associated with knife crime.

Repeat victims (9% of all victims) are victims of 20% of the crime count and 31% of crime harm where victims have been identified. They figure strongly in cases of:

- Domestic violence - more than a third of all DV offences and harm are committed on repeat victims
- Hate crime – 60% of repeat crimes are between neighbours (a consequence of increased interaction during lockdown)
- Alcohol related crime.

Identifying and supporting victims of 50% of crime harm, rather than of 50% of crime count in Croydon, would enable the partnership to maximise the use of its limited resources, as the cohort is 95% smaller.

High harm victims have experienced violence (including domestic abuse, non-domestic violence with injury and serious youth violence), sexual offences and arson, as well as alcohol-related crime. They are not, however, typically victims of hate crime.

Strategic Assessment recommendations for the strategy are:

1. Focus on the neighbourhoods identified from the Priority Localities Index to collaboratively address the underlying issues linked to crime and ASB.
2. Establish ways to improve neighbourhood cohesion in areas identified by the Priority Localities Index where this may have deteriorated.
3. Expand micro-patrols to the crime hotspot areas of the borough. This is to be done not just by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) but by other uniformed enforcement strands of the partnership too.
4. Invite and form a partnership with key agencies who can heavily contribute to addressing the underlying issues of crime in the borough and enforcement. One should be involved in providing opportunities to residents; the other should be the British Transport Police.
5. Use crime harm as a measure to identify suspects and victims of serious crimes in order to focus intensive resources to reduce further serious risk in the borough.
6. Increase information sharing by partners to reduce offending in the borough, specifically on mental health, employment, and alcohol and substance misuse.
7. Provide better guidance to 10 to 17 year olds on the risks and consequences of capturing and sharing explicit material online.

8. Write a problem profile on domestic abuse in the borough in order to provide a detailed strategic document to focus resources efficiently.
9. Build and implement a performance framework for the whole network so that the responses based on these recommendations are monitored and measured closely.

## 5. Public Engagement Summary

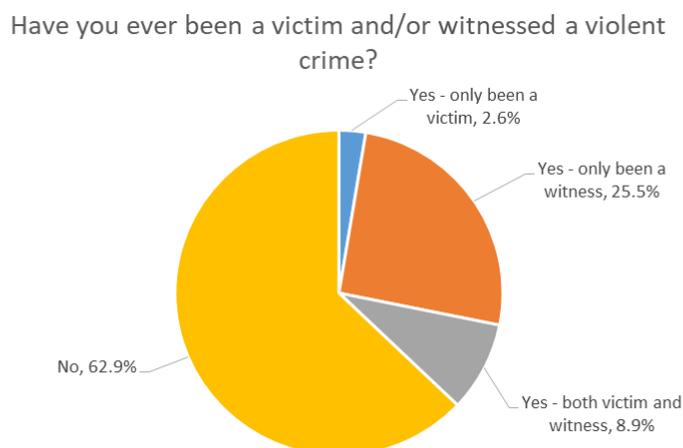
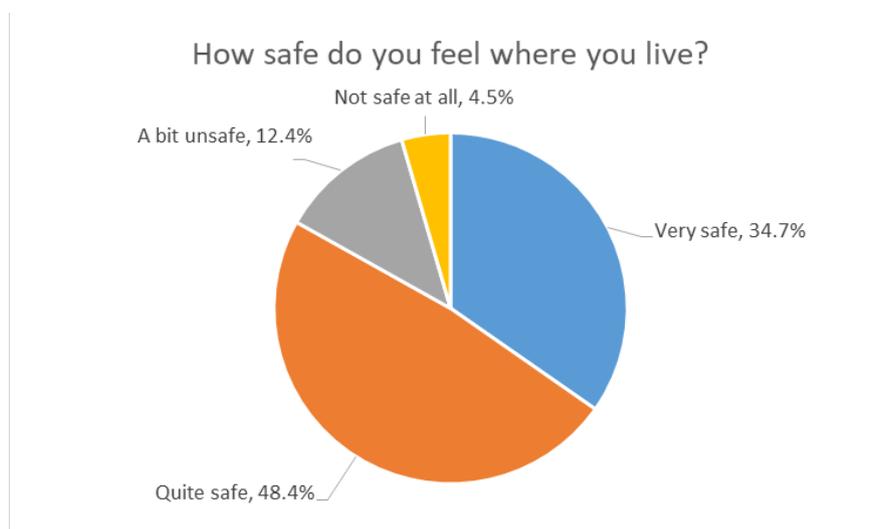
The Safer Croydon Partnership undertook two surveys in 2021 to improve our understanding of crime and safety from the point of view of young people and women and girls.

### Survey of young residents

The survey was completed by young residents aged up to 25. Its purpose was to identify where people felt unsafe and how we could improve safety there. There were 451 respondents, of which 380 were used for the analysis after data cleansing.

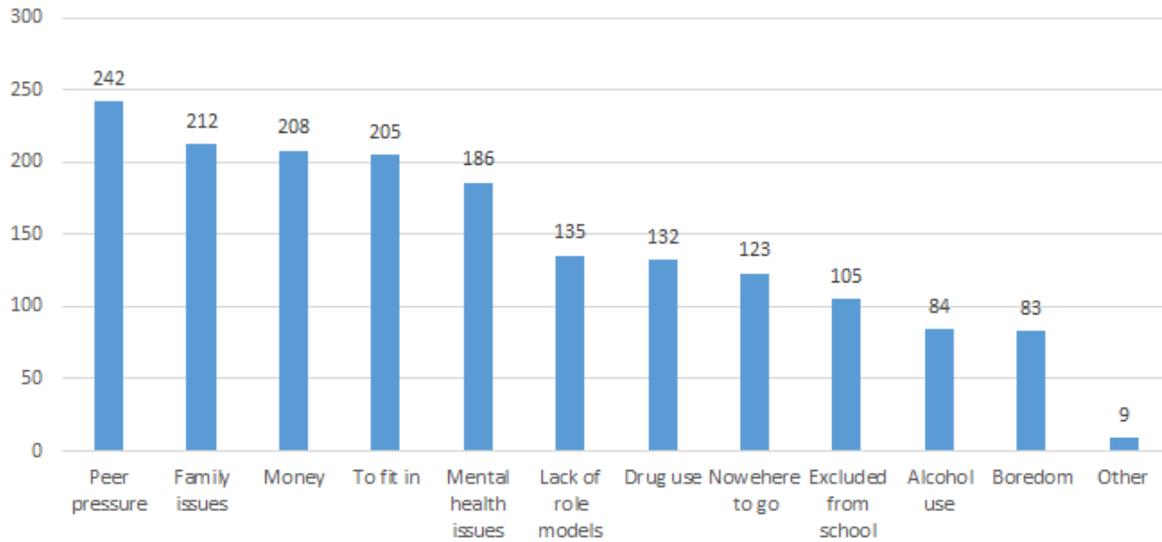
While the vast majority of respondents felt safe, one sixth felt a bit unsafe or not at all safe where they lived, mainly because of knife crime, violence and gangs. However, one third had experienced or seen crime.

Larger district centres in the north and east, such as West Croydon and Thornton Heath, were most frequently mentioned as areas they would avoid.



The top five reasons why young people committed violent crime were given as peer pressure, to fit in, family issues, money and mental health issues.

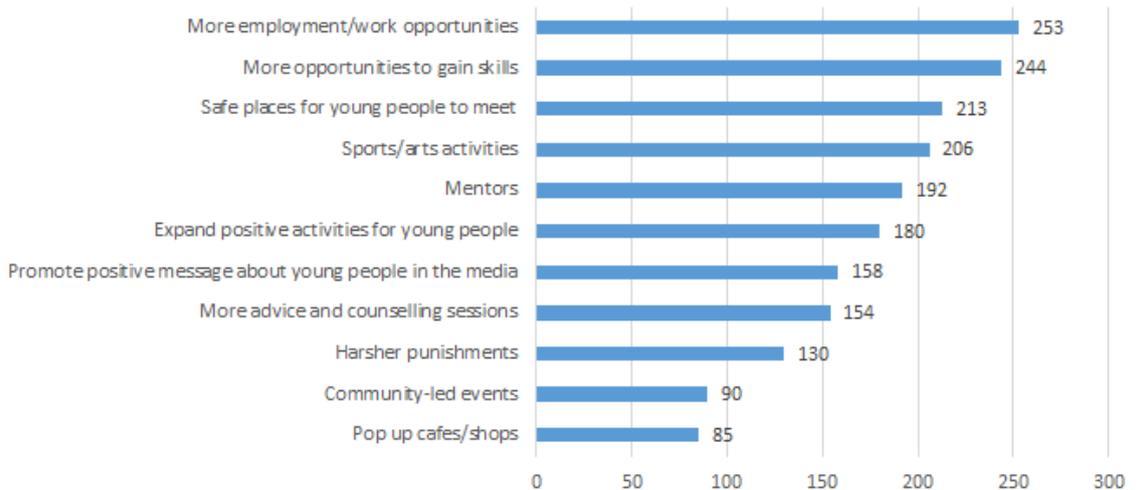
### Why do you think young people commit violence crime (multiple answers optional)?



Undetected crimes included knife carrying, drug dealing, child neglect, grooming and DV. However, a third of respondents would not report an incident, mainly for fear of being seen as a ‘snitch’ and because of a lack of trust in the authorities.

The most helpful ways to help young people at risk of violent crime included: more opportunities for gaining skills and jobs; safe places to meet, more sports, arts and other positive activities, and mentoring. Young people also believe that increasing CCTV, visible enforcement on patrol, family support, educational and community activities would also help reduce crime in their area.

### What do you think would be the most effective ways to help young people at risk of violent crime (multiple answers optional)?

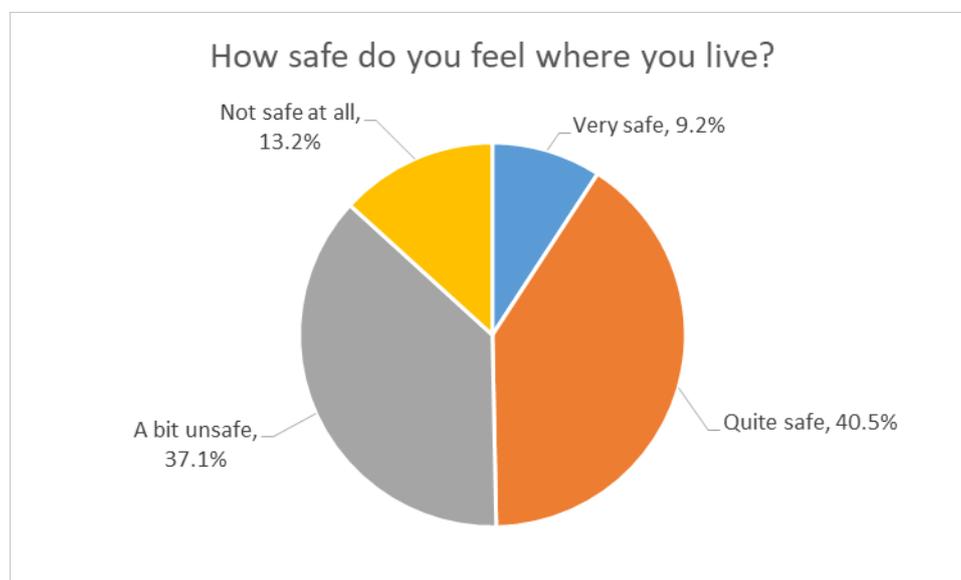


## Survey of women and girls

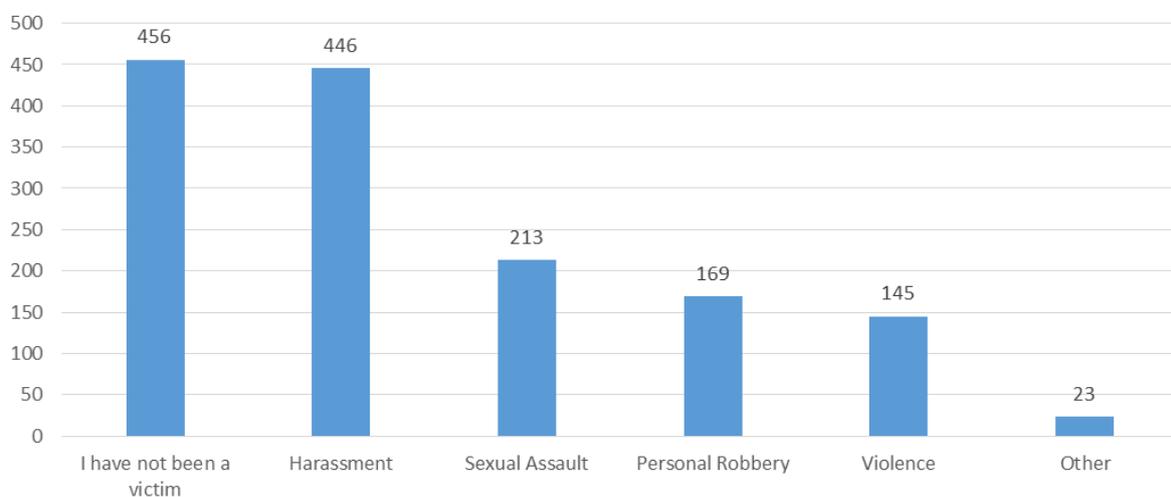
This survey focused on safety for women and girls, and identified areas where residents did not feel safe and what would need to take place in order to improve their safety. There were 1,245 responses, of which 1,113 were used for analysis after data cleansing.

Half of women and girls felt a bit unsafe or not at all safe where they lived (in contrast with one sixth of young residents); this was mainly because of harassment, sexual assault and personal robbery. 59% had experienced crime and three quarters had witnessed crime.

Larger district centres in the north and east, such as West Croydon, Thornton Heath, South Norwood and New Addington, as well as Croydon Town Centre, were most frequently mentioned as areas they would avoid.



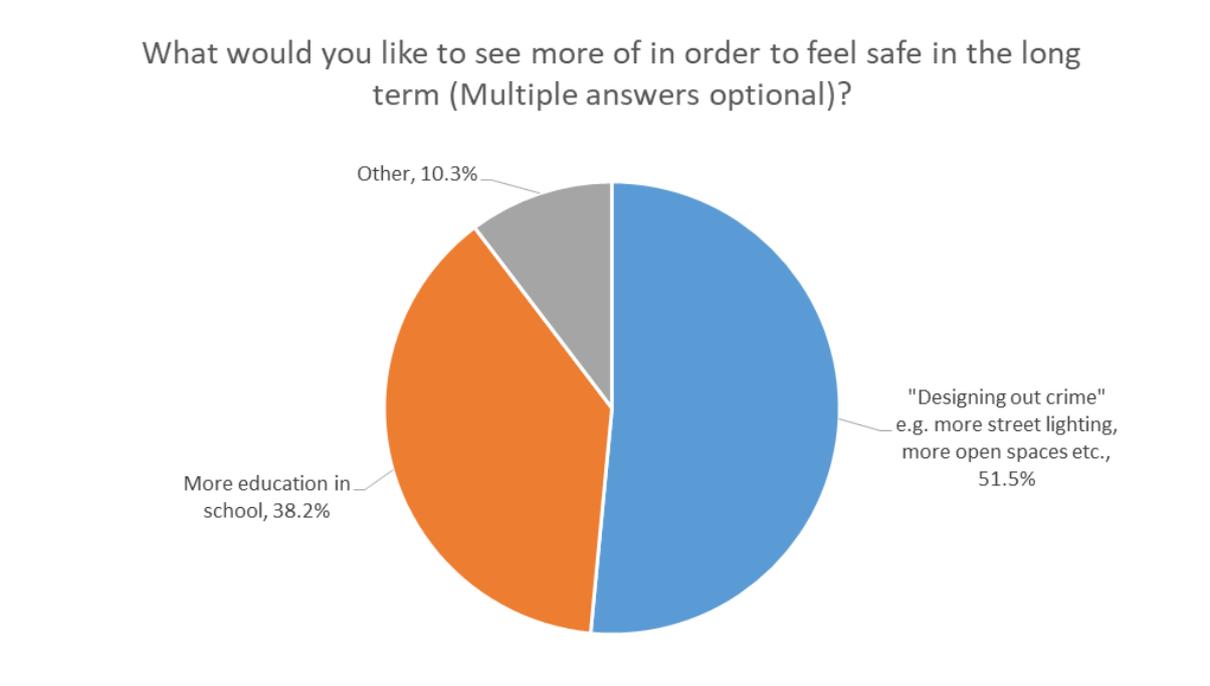
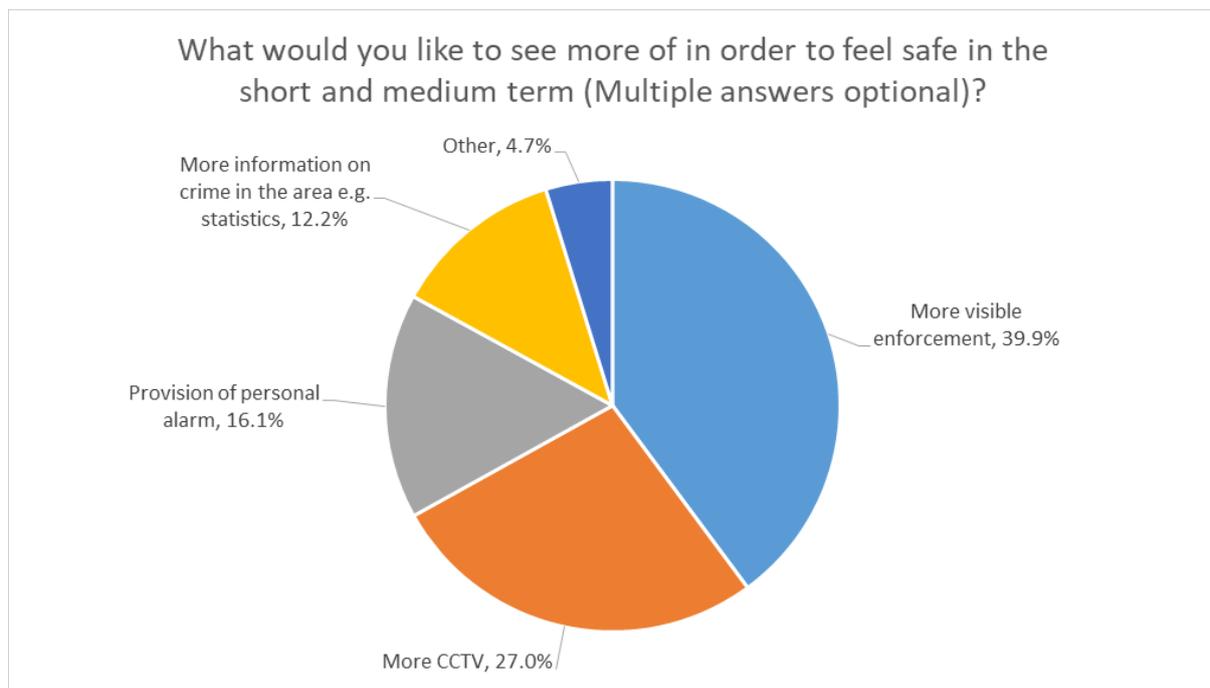
Excluding in your home, school and workplace, have you ever been a victim of the following:



Respondents did not feel safe while travelling or waiting for public transport, in parks, shopping centres and high streets, as well as in pubs, bars and clubs.

A fifth of respondents would not report an incident, mainly because it was a long process or for fear of reprisals, or of not being believed, and because of a lack of trust in the authorities.

In the short and medium term, more visible enforcement, more CCTV and personal alarms would make most people feel safe, as well as provision of personal alarms. In the long-term respondents wanted more education in schools and crime designed out of the public realm.



## 6. Conclusion

The Safer Croydon Partnership has considered the findings and recommendations in the Strategic Assessment. It has also taken account of feedback from engagement with young people and women and girls. It has decided on the following priorities for the Community Safety Strategy for 2022-2024:

1. **Tackle domestic abuse**
2. **Protect young people from violence and exploitation**
3. **Tackle disproportionality in the criminal justice system**
4. **Strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services, focusing on Hate Crime, and build trust in the partnership**
5. **Focus on high priority neighbourhoods**

This strategy implements the Public Health approach to violence reduction. All actions within each priority are therefore designed to address the four elements of this model:

1. **Curtail** violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action.
2. **Treat** those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread.
3. **Support** those susceptible to violence due to their exposure risk factors.
4. **Strengthen** community resilience through a universal approach.

Consistent with the problem-oriented approach, the partnership will focus on the underlying causes of those problems and how to tackle them. Mindful of the limited resources available, interventions will target the 'Felonious Few', high priority victims and hotspots to increase the chance reducing crime, particularly crime harm. The strategy's evidence-based approach will target, test and track its actions.

It is essential that the Safer Croydon Partnership has the confidence of people who live and work in the borough. The Partnership will build and implement a performance framework so that the responses to the recommendations in the strategic assessment are monitored and measured closely. The evaluation of the outcomes achieved by this strategy will include the views of residents, obtained through regular engagement during its three-year period.



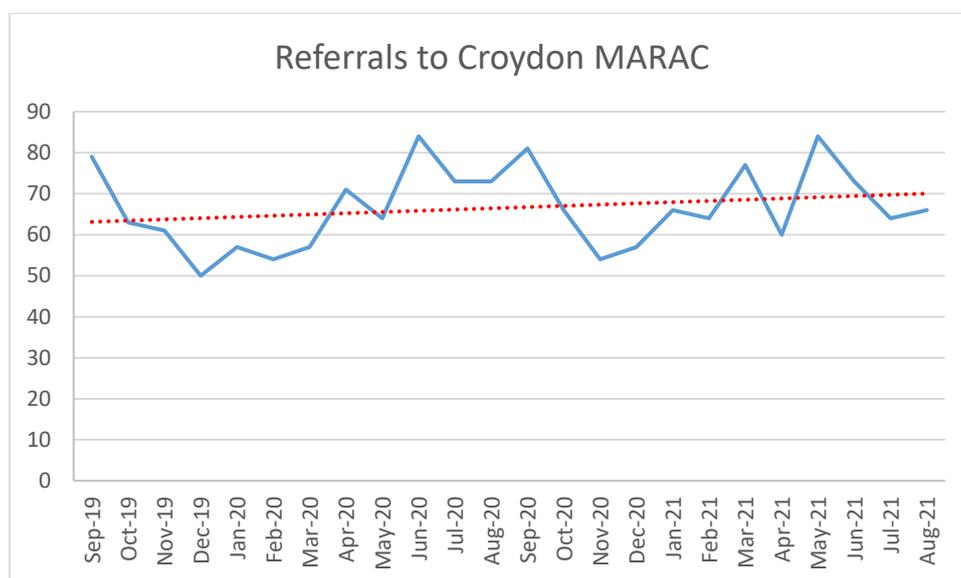
## 8.1 Priority 1 Tackle domestic abuse

### ***What we want to achieve***

Tackling domestic abuse remains a priority for the Partnership. We also want to support victims better, challenge perpetrators and support them to change, and help people to thrive once they have left abusive relationships.

### ***Level of need***

The rate of domestic abuse incidents and offences per 1,000 population has been increasing year on year in Croydon, which had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate in London in 2020. There were 5,154 reported incidents of domestic abuse, an increase of 17.9%, compared to the previous year. In the year to August 2021 there was a 3.3% increase in the average level of cases with a high risk of severe harm referred to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).



Lockdown restrictions during the Covid pandemic forced intimate partners and family members of the same household to stay indoors together, putting themselves at greater risk of harm from an abusive partner or relative. In addition, better awareness of services for victims and of what constitutes domestic abuse increased the likelihood of people coming forward to report it.

### ***What we are doing***

#### ***Support victims***

The Partnership works through the police, council, including the Family Justice Centre (FJC), and voluntary and community organisations to mobilise the professional and community network through raising awareness and training frontline staff. It will use the measures introduced by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to protect and support victims.

FJC brings together several agencies to provide a single, multi-agency assessment of victims' risk and harm, obviating the need for victims to repeat their history, and refers victims for specialist support including accommodation and legal services. It

coordinates volunteers who provide emotional support and practical help. Its freedom programme supports survivors who have left abusive relationships.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisors at the FJC, police stations, and Croydon University Hospital provide specialist support, which extends to victims who are homeless, experiencing modern slavery or radicalisation, and those with no recourse to public funds. An independent sexual violence advisor is also available. Several local voluntary and community organisations support BAME women experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence and work to improve their relations with the criminal justice system to encourage engagement and trust.

The Police use the Domestic Violence Disclosures Scheme (Claire's Law) to reduce serial perpetrators and give more control to women.

People with learning disabilities are at high risk of suffering domestic abuse due to factors including difficulties in recognising abuse, fear or lack of knowledge of how to report this, emotional vulnerability and communication difficulties. All staff working with people with learning disabilities need to be alert to the possibility of domestic abuse and know how to address this and where to make referrals for support.

### ***Challenge perpetrators and support them to change***

The police arrest perpetrators at the scene wherever possible, and otherwise within 24 hours. They will use and enforce bail conditions and compliance with Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) to protect victims. After arresting perpetrators, the police will refer them to support groups, to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator's Panel (DAPP) where appropriate, and to the rehabilitative DRIVE programme, which makes interventions to change the behaviour of perpetrators.

Several themed forums coordinate activity among practitioners in Croydon and exchange good practice, including the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) coordinators meeting (Pan London), the VAWG Forum, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board, and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Operational Management Group.

Relevant case management meetings include the Adults Safeguarding Board Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), and Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme (DAPP) Meeting.

### ***What we will do***

We will continue to apply a multi-agency approach to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) within Croydon and provide multi-agency service provision for victims. DASV must be understood as part of the wider context of violence against women and girls (VAWG). This is the case, for example, with how young people experience domestic abuse. VAWG is dealt with under Priority 4. We will update Croydon's DASV Strategy and will:

### ***Curtail violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action***

1. Use recommendations and learning from domestic homicide reviews to improve partnership practice and actions to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence.

2. Produce an evidence-based profile of domestic abuse in Croydon and engage with service users and the VCS to develop actions to tackle this crime in hotspot areas.

**Treat those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread**

3. Continue to provide and arrange refuge and other safe accommodation to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
4. Work with perpetrators through the rehabilitative [Croydon DRIVE Project](#) programme to end their abusive behaviour.
5. Train partners to develop appropriate trauma-informed responses to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
6. Croydon Health Services NHS Trust to appoint a qualified member of staff to support the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor.
7. Develop a domestic abuse specialism in Croydon Health Services NHS Trust's safeguarding team to develop practitioners' knowledge and skills across the organisation

**Support those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors**

8. Raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence and train Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams to support victims and monitor and enforce perpetrators' compliance with bail conditions and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs).
9. Strengthen partnership work and make services available to support parents involved in conflict and the children and young people exposed to it.
10. All staff in Croydon Health Services NHS Trust working with people with learning disabilities will be trained in understanding and responding to domestic abuse, complete training in safeguarding adults level 3, and develop links with the FJC.

**Strengthen community resilience through a universal approach**

11. Provide training for organisations working with victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, and raise awareness to increase understanding of this crime and ensure that it remains everyone's business.
12. Ensure that all schools and GP practices in hotspot areas receive training to identify signs of violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse and sexual violence, and arrange appropriate responses.

**How we will we know our actions have been effective**

- Statistics on number of domestic abuse incidents, offences and sexual violence offences recorded by the Police. The volume of cases reported per '000 of women and girls resident in Croydon. This rate is likely to increase, as more victims come forward following implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Number of cases at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Number of cases recorded by the Family Justice Centre
- Level of engagement with and outcomes from [Croydon DRIVE Project](#)
- Feedback from voluntary and community sector partners
- Feedback from Family Justice Centre service users

- Sufficient independent domestic violence advisors are available to provide a safe level of support for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in Croydon.

## 8.2 Priority 2 Protect young people from violence and exploitation

### ***What we want to achieve***

We want to protect young people at risk of becoming victims of crime. We want to reduce serious youth violence in Croydon, including knife enabled violence and robbery, and involvement in gangs. We want to reduce the number of children and young people involved in exploitation, in particular county lines which involves using children and vulnerable people to traffic drugs from location to location.

This strategy takes a more holistic view, addressing both violence and the safety of young people. It has been informed by the views of young people in Croydon, their concerns and what they think would reduce youth violence.

Identifying adverse childhood experiences as early and quickly as possible is crucial for planning effective interventions to prevent violence. These include domestic abuse, child neglect, older siblings involved in crime and anti-social behaviour, school behaviour and exclusions, and cannabis use.

### ***What we are doing***

The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) covers the direct and indirect criminality and victimisation of children. This includes county lines, sexual and criminal exploitation and grooming. The SCP coordinates and leads on several meetings designed specifically in protecting young people from violence.

The Gangs and Serious Youth Violence (SYV) Board oversees the multi-agency approach to reducing SYV and gang activity in the borough at a strategic level. The Community Partnership ensures appropriate interventions are made for young people be they diversion, disruption or enforcement. The council runs workshops in schools on harm and safety, as well as events for staff on SYV and exploitation.

The Youth Crime Board is responsible for the work of the multi-agency Youth Offending Service to coordinate the delivery of actions to prevent and reduce re-offending and manage risk to safeguard children and young people within the borough in accordance with the Youth Justice Plan 2021/22.

Whereas the SCP is focussed on the risk of criminal exploitation of children, the [Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (CSCP) focusses on raising awareness of safeguarding risk and supporting the wider partnership to recognise and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns involving children up to 18 years of age. It supports the SCP by building awareness of child exploitation and providing training and quality assurance of safeguarding practice. Together, they provide a holistic approach to safeguarding children in the borough.

The CSCP provides for effective joint working with the SCP on matters of young people's safety through the Vulnerable Adolescents Priority Group, which uses a public health approach in reducing violence amongst young people.

The council leads working groups in areas where SYV is an issue. CVA and Croydon BME Forum deliver the 'My Ends' project to divert young people from crime through mentoring, support for parents, training youth work organisations on trauma and mental health, and establishing community partnerships. The Partnership also encourages young people to participate in decision-making on the issue of violence and exploitation through Croydon Youth Forum.

Other themed forums, including the Early Help Partnership Board, collaborate on funding bids, co-ordinate activity among practitioners and exchange good practice. Case management meetings include PREVENT's Channel Panel, Gangs Weekly Tasking Group, Risk Management and Vulnerability Panel and the Complex Adolescents Panel (CAP).

### ***What we will do***

#### ***Curtail violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action***

1. Provide more visible enforcement on patrol where possible in areas of high harm towards young people.
2. Apply for Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs), Knife Crime Prevention Orders and Gangs Injunctions when disruption is appropriate.
3. 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)
4. Weapons sweeps by staff of partner agencies, e.g. London Fire Brigade, housing providers/estate managers and refuse collectors.
5. Sign up businesses to responsible retailer agreements and train them on knife sales issues and take appropriate enforcement action on the sale of knives to young people.
6. Use London Information Sharing to Tackle Violence programme and wider public health data, social media intelligence, local drugs markets and local rescue and response county lines analysis, and other relevant local authority data to inform the strategic assessment analysis.

#### ***Treat those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread***

7. Provide violent crime offenders with bespoke community service interventions before court and after conviction that protect the public.
8. Reduce harm to direct and indirect victims of offending
9. The Gangs Team to deliver on bespoke actions plans for gang members.
10. Refer offenders from police custody to providers of education, employment and training through the DIVERT programme.
11. YOS to ensure that Interventions take account of adverse childhood experiences and are trauma informed in recognition that those carrying out SYV have often been victims themselves
12. YOS to ensure victim(s) and potential victims are at the core of its work by offering restorative justice interventions by contacting identified victims of serious youth violence to offer the opportunity to engage in direct or indirect restorative interventions

13. Provide young victims of violence with a trauma informed needs assessment, with referral to the Emotional Health and Wellbeing service where appropriate and work effectively with partners for a fast track access to support for young people affected by serious youth violence.
14. Place a commissioned third sector organisation such as RedThread in Croydon University Hospital A&E to provide immediate support and space for young people injured through serious youth violence and ensuring information is shared with relevant agencies in a timely way.
15. To strengthen work on parents and families of those affected by knife crime.
16. Ensure that offenders (aged 18+) who meet the criteria for the MOPAC Knife crime GPS Pilot be considered and the relevant licence condition added. Consider also those already in the community who it is identified may pose a risk, as an alternative to recall or when re-released from recall.

***Support those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors***

17. Minimise school exclusions (and managed moves in place of exclusions), create inclusive settings and support young people back into education, employment and training.
18. Work with parents and carers, especially those who are vulnerable, to engage young people in diversionary activities and education and prevent harm.
19. Ensure services are deployed to known hotspots
20. The Youth Engagement Team to continue their delivery of the 'Safe and Well' programme in schools
21. YOS to offer bespoke services that support young people back into education and employment.
22. Ensure young victims of violence, are identified and given support to access diversionary services, including education, training and employment
23. Deliver universal and targeted programmes in schools (including as part of Sex and Relationships Education), based on Croydon safeguarding issues and trends, and support schools to assess quality and impact.
24. Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure local Early Help processes and referral pathways, and everyone's role within them, are clear and easily accessible to parents, carers, schools, Pupil Referral Units and college staff.
25. Create more opportunities for gaining skills and jobs.
26. Develop more sports, arts and other positive activities, youth engagement, counselling and mentoring.
27. Develop resources for workshops in youth community settings and train partners to run them.
28. To develop communication methods to young people and families.
29. All staff in Croydon Health Services NHS Trust Learning Disability Team to complete PREVENT training

***Strengthen community resilience through a universal approach***

30. Where possible, to improve design of areas to remove opportunities for storing weapons.

31. Work to ensure places of education are safe and inclusive, build young people's resilience and have a trauma-informed approach.
32. To encourage schools to include knife crime and youth violence within their safeguarding plans.
33. Hold educational and community activities.
34. All partner agencies to adopt a trauma informed approach and commission training accordingly.
35. Co-design communication materials with YP in engagement stages to increase awareness of services by getting the language right and engage with families at a human level.
36. To explore the extension of the social workers in schools programme in partnership with education providers beyond March 2022

### ***How we will know our actions have been effective***

- Reduction in the number of young people who are victims of Youth Violence, Serious Youth Violence, CSE and Knife Crime with Injury where the victim is aged 1 to 24, recorded by the Police (MPS).
- Regular surveys of young residents find that a greater percentage of respondents report that they feel safe in Croydon.
- Reduction in the number of young people treated by London Ambulance Service for violent injuries inflicted in Croydon.
- Reduction in the number of people treated by Accident & Emergency at Croydon University Hospital for violent injuries received in Croydon.
- The number of young people being worked with by the Gangs Team.
- The number of PREVENT referrals of young people.
- A reduction in number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.
- A reduction in re-offending.
- An increase in the number of young people in Education and Employment particularly for those 16+.
- Reduction in school exclusions.

### 8.3 Priority 3 Tackle disproportionality in the criminal justice system

#### ***What we want to achieve***

Some people are treated differently by a range of public institutions, and this can have an impact on how they experience violence. This chapter shapes a multi-agency response to reduce the disproportionality of outcomes people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds in the Criminal Justice System.

#### ***The problem***

People from a BAME background were over-represented as defendants in the criminal justice system in 2019, according to [Ministry of Justice \(MoJ\) data](#). This was largely because people from these ethnic groups made up a disproportionate share of people arrested, and this carried through to the prosecution, conviction, and imprisonment stages. Evidence also suggests that offenders from BAME backgrounds receive longer custodial sentences, which could be partly due to the higher rate of 'not guilty' pleading among defendants from these ethnic groups.

Discriminatory treatment of young people from BAME backgrounds can have significantly adverse impacts on young persons' views of themselves, their health and life chances. In Croydon young black males are significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system, more likely to enter it at a higher level, and more likely to receive stiffer sentences, including custodial sentences. This group are also more likely to be stopped and searched. Additionally, Black Caribbean pupils in Croydon, as in England as a whole, have the greatest level of disproportionately when it comes to exclusion from school.

When considering discrimination we must consider race, disability, gender, religion, sexuality and take into account the fact that discrimination can occur not just amongst individuals but also systemically.

#### ***What we are doing***

Croydon Youth Offending Service has developed a Disproportionality Action Plan for 2021/22 to monitor services with regard to diversity and address oppressive practice and inequality proactively, informing local practice and strategic planning, working collaboratively with Croydon BME Forum and strategic partners such as the police, courts and the NHS. Inspirational black male professionals and police are invited to speak to the young males group on the Criminal Justice System and aspirations. The service also closely monitors under-14 year olds entering the system and strives to divert them from re-offending.

Croydon BME Forum conducts training sessions for professionals on cultural sensitivity, addressing bias, prejudice, and discrimination and how to overcome this in practice. It advises the Partnership and the Gangs Matrix Board on local issues and partnership work to reduce disproportionality in the criminal justice system.

Police are conducting ongoing research in response to critical incidents, stop and search and criminal justice outcomes with a disproportionality focus and continue to

evolve their response to the systematic and institutional racism that influences the overrepresentation of young black males in the criminal justice system.

Although several agencies have made progress, currently the partnership lacks comprehensive and accurate equalities data of the cohorts of people affected in Croydon. This is needed to understand disproportionality fully and tackle it effectively. The CSCP has asked its member agencies to be more robust in their recording of ethnicity and disability of young people.

The Vulnerable Adolescent Priority Group (VAPG) reviews data on disproportionality and champions the need for accurate data recording. VAPG's Schools Curriculum and Change Group shares resources, strategies and information. It has begun a work programme that will examine racial harassment; teacher recruitment, retention and promotion; governor recruitment; exclusions; and pupil achievement.

The Probation Service inputs equalities data on their cases to inform the services they commission for particular groups. It has introduced the Effective Proposal Framework helping to reduce disproportionality by taking account of offending history and producing suitable proposals and disposals to use in court reports.

### ***What we will we do***

#### **Understanding the problem**

1. All agencies to record equality and inclusion information about their cases, including the Probation Service and Police research on critical incidents, stop and search and criminal justice outcomes with a disproportionality focus.
2. Produce data to understand the impact of disproportionality at every stage of the Criminal Justice System, from policing ('stop and search'), sentencing trends, custody rates and rates of reoffending, and numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.
3. Once available, analyse data by ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, religion and geographic information to inform the planning of interventions and commissioning of services.
4. Analyse and review BAME groups at risk of gang affiliation and criminal exploitation through county lines in order to establish a baseline.
5. Share data, patterns, needs and learning across the partnership, including education (exclusions data), health and police, and hold discussions to better understand disproportionality across the criminal justice system and define actions required
6. Working and exchanging learning with other London Authorities
7. The Partnership will use relevant forums to formally raise the Partnership concerns and recommendations.

#### ***TREAT those who have been exposed to violence/crime to control the spread***

8. Youth Offending Service interventions are tailored to meet the individual needs of young people and address overrepresentation, paying particular attention to young people's self-assessments and learning styles

9. Youth Offending Service Officers to attend regular reflective practice to discuss needs of staff and offenders and plan actions to tackle overrepresentation, disproportionality and oppressive practice
10. Probation Service to use the equality and inclusion analysis of their caseload to ensure that services commissioned are tailored for certain groups.
11. Ensure the physical and mental health needs of individuals are quickly identified and actioned, promoting accessibility to health provision for disadvantaged groups
12. Ensure the Youth Offending Service and police identify young people suitable for diversion from the criminal justice system to achieve a fair application of alternatives to prosecution
13. Maintain dialogue with the judiciary and court users group on overrepresentation, involving young people, and compare similar offences and sentencing outcomes for young people by ethnic groups.
14. Probation will continue to use the Effective Proposal Framework Tool to produce a list of suitable proposals and disposals, before court reports are written, to ensure there are better sentencing outcomes for all groups, reducing disproportionality amongst those going through the criminal justice system and extend use of tool to those coming out of prison on licence.
15. Officers are being trained to ask safeguarding questions of all juveniles in custody and involve social services to help manage risk and offer diversions.

**SUPPORT** *those susceptible to violence due to their exposure risk factors.*

16. Identify individuals who are potentially experiencing systemic discrimination within the education system, and advocate accordingly.
17. Ensure that all young people, particularly those who are NEET, are offered opportunities for education, training and employment that are in line with their individuality and personal need.
18. Develop joint working between the Youth Offending Service and social care to develop a trauma-informed and culturally aware approach to meet the needs of unaccompanied minors.
19. Work with specialist voluntary organisations, and community and grass-roots projects that target the prevention and reduction of crime within overrepresented groups in the Criminal Justice System
20. Set up DIVERT programme to promote universal services with partners, including the community sector, for those arrested where no further action is taken.
21. Croydon Health Services NHS Trust Learning Disability Team will develop links with neighbourhood policing to ensure crisis plans are in place.
22. Police schools officers to offer early engagement to divert individuals from involvement in the Criminal Justice System.
23. Police Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation teams to divert those exploited who may also be involved in criminality themselves through the Complex Adolescents Panel.

## **STRENGTHEN** *community resilience through a universal approach*

24. Arrange and encourage training in cultural competency, unconscious bias and disproportionality awareness for members of partnership organisations as well as programme boards
25. Strengthen and support schools to reduce fixed and permanent exclusions of BAME children. Continue monitoring exclusion rates and taking action to address over-representation, by working with schools, local health services, and the community to reduce the need to exclude pupils
26. Continue monitoring exclusion rates and taking action to address over-representation, by working with schools, local health services, and the community to reduce the need to exclude pupils

### ***How we will we know our actions have been effective***

- Reduction in the number of young people from BAME backgrounds who enter the criminal justice system for the first time
- Reduction in the number of young people from BAME backgrounds who reoffend
- Improved identification and support of people from BAME backgrounds involved in gang activity so they are provided opportunities and support to exit gangs
- Increase in the numbers of people from BAME backgrounds in the Criminal Justice System who gain access to education, employment and training
- Reduction in school exclusions and truancy
- Feedback from the Youth Offending Service, Police, and Courts
- Staff are fully trained in cultural competency and have full awareness of anti-discriminatory practice
- Services/interventions are culturally in tune with service users.

## 8.4 Priority 4 Strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services, focusing on Hate Crime, and build trust in the partnership

### ***What we want to achieve***

Individuals benefit from different protective factors, ranging from personal resilience to trust in other people and organisations. We need to understand how to foster the protective factors in individuals and communities.

We will look at how the whole community safety system in Croydon and our services are organised and delivered and consider what steps we should take to help traumatised service users to heal and to avoid, or minimise, adding new stress or reminding them of their past traumas. 'Trauma-informed approaches' are ways of supporting people that recognise specific needs they may have as a result of past or ongoing trauma. A traumatic event is an event, a series of events or a set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration 2014).

Croydon residents' confidence in the police is higher than the London average, but has declined since 2017, according to MOPAC's Public Voice Dashboard. However, in the Violence Reduction Network's recent surveys in Croydon, 79% of women and girls responding, and 66% of young people, stated that they would report a crime to the authorities.

### ***What we are doing***

The Council coordinates and takes part in a wide range of regular meetings of relevant partners to strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services and build trust in the authorities. Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings manage the most serious offenders and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) meetings manage prolific reoffenders. At the Risk and Vulnerability Management Panel, organisations jointly develop coordinated plans to protect vulnerable residents who are victims, witnesses or perpetrators of crime and ASB. Agencies at the Community Gangs Forum discuss individuals involved or at risk of being involved in gangs to plan a holistic approach to divert them away from gangs.

Through the Young Londoners Fund, the Council coordinates trauma-informed services for young people, including mental health professional and a range of diversionary activities.

Members of the community may use a community trigger to ask the Council, Police or a relevant housing association to review the work they are doing to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB) after reporting three separate incidents of ASB in the previous six months. When residents in a particular area report concerns about a rise in crime or ASB, the Council may set up a working group to plan a multi-agency response. Using data and community feedback, it tasks appropriate services and monitors progress, amending actions where necessary.

The Croydon Resilience Forum (CRF) ensures an integrated approach to emergency response and management for the borough. It involves emergency planning officers and representatives of sectors with a role in emergency preparedness and response, including local authority, health, police, fire, utility, environment, business, voluntary, community, faith and transport.

There is no place for hatred and intolerance in Croydon's communities: since 2019, 24,000 individuals and organisations have signed Croydon's hate crime pledge. It helps us to identify whether communities understand hate crime issues and the reporting mechanisms in place. We engage signatories about events and training by VCS partners on tackling hate crime. The partnership is committed to targeting offenders, monitoring community tensions, increasing awareness of action to combat hate crime, reducing tolerance of it and undermining any social acceptability of it.

We will develop the work of our partnership to provide an effective response across the borough to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). This will include developing a detailed three-year strategy for 2022-2024 to focus the partnership's resources effectively on ending violence against women and girls. It will involve partnership work across national, regional and local boundaries to help victims and provide an effective first response to violence and abuse. It will cover ensuring streets are safer for all women and girls, as well as sex work, trafficking, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices. We are also preparing a more detailed strategy on the Partnership's approach to tackling harmful practices. Croydon's strategy will be in conformity with the government's new VAWG strategy and the Mayor's forthcoming Pan-London VAWG Strategy. Further actions will be developed in Croydon's new VAWG strategy.

The Council's [statement](#) in May 2019 details its approach across all council activity to raise awareness of and identify modern day slavery and respond accordingly.

### **What we will do**

#### ***Curtailed violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action.***

1. Develop a detailed three-year strategy to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG), in conformity with the forthcoming Pan-London VAWG Strategy.
2. Increase the visibility of enforcement and support services, such as the Family Justice Centre, enforcement teams and police, on the street, in bars, and brothels (also supports Priority 5).
3. Develop Croydon's partnership response for addressing modern slavery through a multi-agency case conference to share intelligence, identify victims, offenders and hotspots and coordinate focussed action.
4. Expand partnership working groups across other areas of need in the borough and develop plans involving all agencies.

***Treat those who have been exposed to violence, and their trauma, to control the spread***

5. Provide frontline staff in partner organisations with trauma and attachment training, enabling them to adopt a trauma-informed approach
6. Increase information sharing by partners to reduce offending in the borough, specifically on mental health, employment, and alcohol and substance misuse.
7. Continue providing trauma-informed support and advocacy to women involved in the criminal justice system to aid their resettlement
8. Deliver training to partners on identifying and responding to modern slavery and supporting victims.
9. Croydon BME Forum's Health and Well-being Space will see a range of trauma-informed services support people with mental health issues and ensure they can access mental health support in their local communities.
10. Improve support and reduce vulnerability for victims of hate crime.

***Support those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors, taking account of their trauma***

11. Invite and form a partnership with key agencies who can contribute to addressing the underlying issues of crime in the borough and enforcement through providing opportunities to residents to contribute to addressing the underlying issues of crime and enforcement (Strategic Assessment Recommendation 4)
12. A qualified psychologist will be based in Croydon BME Forum's hub to provide free therapeutic support.
13. Hold a quarterly forum on violence against women and girls to exchange intelligence, share good practice and address challenges and barriers to help VCS partners in delivering support services within their communities.
14. Croydon Health Services NHS Trust Learning Disability Team to re-establish the 'Risk Assessment Forum' to identify and mitigate risks posed more robustly.

***Strengthen community resilience through a universal approach and build trust***

15. Challenge the deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and limit women and girls across all communities by working directly with grassroots organisations in raising awareness
16. Build strong stakeholder relationships and reduce silo working across the Safer Croydon Partnership and Croydon Resilience Forum
17. Facilitate community involvement in Police monitoring of the impact of section 60 'no suspicion' stop and searches for offensive weapons

18. Launch police encounter panels as part of MOPAC promise to improve transparency and accountability of police tactics which are identified by the public as of particular concern (e.g. viral videos on social media)
19. Improve access to Police through ward panels, Safer Neighbourhood Boards and community meetings, focussing on areas of risk with a priority to improve community cooperation, involvement and legitimacy.
20. Develop a Safer Croydon communications plan to increase awareness of the work being done by the council, police and other partners to combat crime; specific communications for local communities to focus on what is being done in specific areas of crime such as:
  - Domestic abuse and sexual violence
  - Serious youth violence
  - local statistical information for community organisations on violence against women and girls
  - Hate Crime
  - PREVENT work
  - Other areas of concern highlighted by the community
21. Engage with the community through surveys on a more regular basis to gauge their concerns in their area.
22. Run programmes of community involvement, capacity building and regular engagement involving Croydon BME Forum and CVA
23. Partnership to support and inform the Police's assessment of community tensions monitoring
24. London Fire Brigade will provide easier community access to local fire stations and build trust and confidence with all stakeholder groups.
25. Develop a Modern-Day Slavery (MDS) action plan which will be implemented by the MDS Forum.

### ***How we will we know our actions have been effective***

- Feedback from the voluntary and community sector
- Public Dashboard of the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime
- Regular surveys, including trust and confidence in services.
- The number of staff receiving trauma training
- We are developing our method for collecting and understanding community feedback. We wish to assess whether there is an increase in people responding to surveys (women, young people and BAME residents in particular) who say that they would report an incident or crime to the authorities.

## 8.5 Priority 5 Focus on high priority neighbourhoods

### ***What we want to achieve***

The strategic assessment identified nine priority areas in the borough which the Safer Croydon Partnership should focus on because they score highly in our 'Priority Localities Index' with regard to crime, anti-social behaviour and the causes of crime.

By focussing our resources on these areas, we will tackle the underlying causes of crime so that these persistent high harm targets no longer generate such serious crimes, reducing overall crime rates and costs in the medium to longer term.

### ***What we are doing***

The Council coordinates and participates in multi-agency meetings to reduce crime and ASB in specific areas. Several apply a problem-solving approach, analysing the issues, developing a tailored response, and finally assessing the outcomes. The monthly Joint Action Group (JAG) tackles any crime and ASB problems in the borough requiring a multi-agency approach. Lately, a specific multi-agency working group is set up when a neighbourhood of concern raised at the JAG requires a more intensive partnership approach in the medium-to-long term.

The Council contributes to the local Police Tactical and Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG), where crime and ASB in the previous month is analysed and actions are allocated to officers and partners based on the findings and recommendations. With Probation, it participates in the local Police's daily partnership violence meetings where seriously violent incidents in the previous 24 hours are discussed and appropriate partnership actions agreed in order to reduce harm, safeguard those involved, and reassure the community.

### ***What we will do***

#### ***Curtail violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action***

1. Focus on the neighbourhoods identified from the Priority Localities Index to collaboratively address the underlying issues linked to crime and ASB
2. Expand the use of data from MPS, London Ambulance Service, London Fire Brigade and A&E and other relevant agencies to identify specific hotspots within those neighbourhoods.
3. Increase micro-patrols focussing on areas with concentrations of high harm crimes involving violence. Other uniformed enforcement strands of the partnership will support this action.
4. Use enforcement resources to target areas of high crime and ASB and offenders, including CCTV, Rapid Deployment Cameras and Enforcement Officers
5. Invite and form a partnership with the British Transport Police to address the underlying issues of crime and enforcement in relevant high priority neighbourhoods.
6. Where possible, conduct Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) to determine "what works" in regards to interventions.

***Treat those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread***

7. Use crime harm as a measure to identify suspects and victims of serious crimes in order to focus resources intensively to reduce further serious risk in the borough.
8. Develop and expand fortnightly working groups to organise a partnership approach in high priority neighbourhoods for tackling issues highlighted by partners' intelligence.

***Support those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors***

9. Develop and implement crime and safety prevention initiatives to minimise the frequency and impact of critical and major incidents that require a coordinated emergency response as required by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and London Emergency Services Liaison Panel Procedures
10. Focus and maintain the Change Grow Live service for those neighbourhoods that have high rates of alcohol and substance misuse

***Strengthen community resilience through a universal approach***

11. Engage communities in targeted neighbourhoods with messages that inform them of services that will protect them, help them feel safer, and promote civic pride.
12. Establish ways to improve neighbourhood cohesion in areas identified by the Priority Localities Index where this may have deteriorated.
13. Engage with VCS partners who are delivering programmes in the areas identified

***How we will we know our actions have been effective***

- Statistics on crime, ASB and other indicators.
- Where working groups have been active in a specific neighbourhood, a comprehensive assessment including a before/after comparison of the treatment area compared to a control area.
- An annual survey provided to the community on crime and ASB and other related issues.

## Glossary

### **Adults Safeguarding Board**

The Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB) following the Care Act is now a statutory body with the following functions:

- Assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act
- Prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- Provide a timely and proportionate response when abuse or neglect has occurred.
- The SAB must take the lead for adult safeguarding across its locality and oversee and co-ordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies. It must also concern itself with a range of matters which can contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect such as the:
  - Safety of patients in local health services
  - Quality of local care and support services
  - Effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding offenders

The Board fully supports work on such priorities as hate crime and domestic abuse and is a part of the cross-cutting domestic abuse group. Other areas of importance to the Board include work on the Prevent programme, a national counter-radicalisation strategy.

### **Channel Panel**

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency panel designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour.

### **The Croydon Resilience Forum (CRF)**

The Council runs the CRF in order to have an integrated approach to emergency response and management for the borough. Membership includes emergency planning officers and representatives of sectors with a role in emergency preparedness and response, including local authority, health, police, fire, utility, environment, voluntary, community, faith, business, and transport.

### **Community Trigger**

This is a process used by members of the community to ask the Council, the Police or a relevant housing association to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB). They may do this after reporting three separate incidents of ASB to the Council, the Police or the housing association in the previous six months.

### **Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP)**

The CSCP is responsible for scrutinising safeguarding arrangements across the borough. The CSCP is an independent body and challenges and holds to account the organisations working with children and young people in Croydon. The Children and Families Partnership and the CSCP work together to ensure that children and young people in Croydon are safe.

### **Complex Adolescents Panel (CAP)**

The CAP is a multi-agency panel (incorporating MACE) which hears individual cases for children and young people who have been assessed as having a child exploitation episode to enable practitioners to share information, gather intelligence and help to determine the best way to manage the risk presented.

### **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASV)**

This group exists to have a strategic oversight of multi-agency responses to domestic abuse within Croydon, working in partnership to provide scrutiny to progress on the delivery of the DASV strategy and ensure the multi-agency management of domestic abuse is victim focused, efficient and effective.

The group brings together managers from key agencies and services whose remit has a direct impact on the domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy. Members are committed to effective partnership working based on trust and open communication and are aware of and understand the organisational frameworks within which colleagues in different agencies work.

### **Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Group**

Oversees the strategic delivery of the multi-agency response to tackling Serious Youth Violence and Gangs. This group also led on the VRU's Local Violence and Vulnerability Action Plans.

### **Integrated Offender Management Group**

A multi-agency response to reduce re-offending; by targeting the most problematic offenders in the borough. The IOM framework helps to address the problems behind an offender's behaviour by effective information sharing across a range of partner agencies and jointly providing the right intervention at the right time.

### **Joint Action Group (JAG)**

The JAG is a multi-agency problem solving group tackling anti-social behaviour. Member agencies include, Police Neighbourhood Cluster Inspectors, Youth Offending Services, Youth Outreach, Substance Misuse Outreach Services (for individuals displaying anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol and/or substance misuse) Croydon Connected (multi-agency gang team) Environmental Health

Teams, Council and Police ASB Team, Safer Transport Teams, Fire Service, UK Border Agency and Neighbourhood Watch.

Each problem location identified is dealt with by a dedicated team responsible for pulling together short term action plans based on problem solving techniques. These are monitored by the JAG and the Police Borough Tasking Group. On-going hot spot areas, for example the Town Centre, remain as core agenda items.

### **Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)**

A Multi-agency meeting to manage the most serious offenders

### **PREVENT Strategy**

Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Home Office works with local authorities and a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver the Prevent Strategy.

The Prevent Strategy:

- responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views
- provides practical help to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- works with a wide range of institutions (including education, statutory services charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

You can [read the Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales on GOV.UK](#).

The Prevent team delivers work including:

- training for frontline staff in recognising, referring and responding to radicalisation
- projects to build capacity, increase resilience and improve understanding of extremism and radicalisation with partners such as schools, colleges, frontline staff, community groups, venues and parents
- Channel, a referral service for concerns, which acts as an early intervention service to safeguard vulnerable individuals from radicalisation.

### **PREVENT Board**

To act as a strategic group in the identification of priorities which are in-line with the national priorities as outlined in the Prevent Strategy:

1. Working with vulnerable individuals,
2. Working with vulnerable institutions;
3. Challenging extremist ideology. This includes being responsible for the governance and scrutiny of Prevent's Channel panel.

**Risk and Vulnerability Management Panel (RVMP)**

The RVMP is a meeting where information is shared on complex/high risk cases between various stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting is to work together to take appropriate action to prevent people with vulnerabilities being a victim and or perpetrator of crime and or ASB.

**Violence against Women and Girls Forum**

Quarterly forums to support VCS and grassroots organisations that provide support for victim/survivors of domestic abuse. Support with access to funding, share practice/trends. Organisations: Anos, BCWA, Lioness Circle, ARC, Hersana, Anima Youth, Cassandra Learning Centre, BME Forum, Encouraging Her, Walk With Me, Hestia

**Youth Crime Board**

The Youth Crime and Safety Board has a dual role in acting as the statutory governance board for the Youth Offending Service as well as the strategic board overseeing the delivery of the Youth Crime prevention Plan requires a partnership approach to ensure preventative measures are put into place across all partner agencies. It includes key statutory partners with a number of different council teams involved as well as representation from the voluntary and community sector.