Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2022-2025



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1. Foreword

Across London the tragic news that a teenager has lost their life from knife crime or violence is sadly too frequent and is devastating for many. We know that the risk to our local communities is acute and requires action. The solution to this does not start or end with this Strategy, though it will drive forward our ambition and inclusive approach to reduce harm caused by violence.

In the same way that this Strategy has been developed through collaborative multi-agency work, we must work together to deliver the Strategy in partnership. The Strategy goes further than we have before to set out our shared vision to protect local communities from crime and damaging behaviours that take place when exploiters offend, and violence occurs.

This Strategy is one element of a broad range of work in RBKC that supports young people to have happy, safe, and healthy lives. It builds upon and strengthens the work set out in the School Inclusion Strategy, Early Help Strategy, and the Youth Justice Plan—just some of the other areas where the Council is committed to improving outcomes for children and young people.

The role of the Council is to lead the coordination of the Strategy's implementation, putting local communities and their needs at the centre of everything we do. This work has already begun with many successes that we are proud of—such as our Youth Offending Service receiving a Kite Mark for services to Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities—but we cannot be complacent. We must understand what matters, what works and ensure communities most adversely affected by violence can participate without stigma or discrimination.

As Lead Members for Community Safety and Family and Children's Services, we have seen many examples of the important work of the services and voluntary sector organisations within the Safer K and C Partnership, Local Safeguarding Partnership and beyond. We are already doing so much to keep our young people and communities safe. This needs to continue as a long-term, collaborative approach, and we are committed for the Council to do all it can to make this happen.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this Strategy and look forward to supporting the important outcomes it will deliver.

Councillor Emma Will, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety and Councillor Josh Rendall, Lead Member for Family and Children's Services.

2. Introduction and context

- **2.1.** Youth Violence and Exploitation has a devastating impact on young victims, their friends, family, and the wider community. In communities that are facing harm caused by youth violence there is no single solution and there is no single agency that is responsible for action. In RBKC, communities have spoken, and they are fearful for the safety of their children outside their homes from knife crime and violence. They have asked the Council to continue to make Youth Violence one of their priorities and to lead on making positive change for their neighbourhoods.
- **2.2.** Reducing the harm caused by violence has been a priority of the Council Plan since2019 and continues to be in the current plan 2021 2023. The Council wants to see that "Children and Young People are protected from criminal or sexual exploitation and from being drawn into gang activity and serious violence".¹ This strategy builds on the successes that have already been achieved and is ambitious to deliver more.
- **2.3.** The circumstances which generate and allow for youth violence and exploitation to become established are complex, fluid, and at times, chaotic. To meet the challenge of preventing young people from being drawn into violent offending, whilst supporting those living risky lifestyles to change, involves the collaboration and coordination of multiple partners, communities and the those directly affected themselves. A strong and effective local partnership exists to build a shared understanding of the nature and extent of issues and develop and coordinate the responses required to generate change.
- 2.4. It was through this local partnership that this strategy was developed with input from a number of stakeholders, including Adult Social Care, Community Safety, Detached and Outreach Team, Family and Children's Services, Housing, Police, Public Health, NHS Designated Safeguarding Nurses, Youth Offending Team, Young K&C, Youth Participation Leads and Youth Violence Parenting Champions, voluntary and community organisations and of course residents and young people themselves. Each stakeholder brought invaluable insight and knowledge to decide what is needed to be successful in RBKC..

¹.https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/council-councillors-and-democracy/ how-council-works/our-council-plan

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- **2.5.** This strategy builds upon our existing work in this area and is founded upon five key streams of evidence:
 - the views and wishes of residents especially parents and young people themselves
 - analysis of the problem, drawing on data and information from a breadth of partners
 - evidence of "what works" in tackling youth violence and exploitation.
 - An understanding of public health informed approaches, contextual safeguarding and the impact of childhood trauma
 - The views of professionals and stakeholders working locally
- **2.6.** Through this strategy the Council and its partners are affirming their commitment that youth violence and the exploitation of young residents has no place in this borough. The views, wishes and needs of our communities, parents and those directly affected by these issues are at the heart of our approach and partnership. This is a live and dynamic Strategy which we will review, change and amend in response to the needs and wishes of local communities and learning as we progress the vision to reduce the harm causes by youth violence and exploitation in RBKC.

3. What is Youth Violence and **Exploitation?**

3.1. Youth Violence is a term often used to describe the threat, physical injury and harm caused to children from violence outside the home. As offending behaviours and the methods of exploitation of young people changes, so does the understanding of what constitutes Youth Violence. In the past five years, there has been a significant change in the nature and extent of those affected, as well as professional understanding of the issues and of what works to reduce its harm. This strategy focuses on youth violence and exploitation, recognising the impact it has beyond only physical injury. It also goes beyond 18 years of age, and services and support are open to those who transition into adulthood up to the age of 25.

In Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea Youth Violence is understood to be...

A threat or behaviour from outside home which may lead to serious physical injury or harm.

This reflects the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy definition which describe it as:

🖣 specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing."²

Although it is hard to account for all associated behaviours, youth violence and exploitation but here are some examples. A definition of these can be found in the Annex;



² The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018

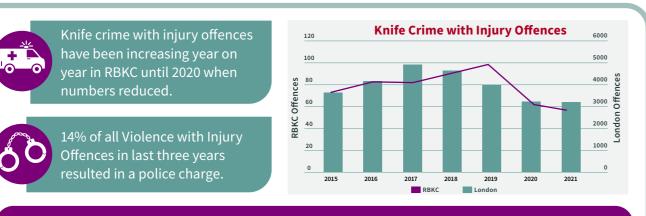
Weapon enabled Crime

County Lines

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

4. The Local Picture

4.1. In 2021 there were 11 teenagers that were known to be a victim of a stabbing in RBKC. Each of these attacks caused not just physical harm but also emotional trauma to the victim, their family, friends and local community. The impact of youth violence and exploitation extends beyond the number of stabbings, but there is no single statistic which provides an understanding of the level of harm caused. On some occasions incidents can go unreported and are therefore hidden from local statistics. Inconsistent data recording also has an impact on the information that is used to understand youth violence, both locally and across London and England as a whole. The data picture will therefore not include everything, but we do know about the local harm from some key statistics.



In the last 3 years there have been



87 victims of knife injuries in RBKC under the age of 25.



56 young people under the age of 18 have been reported missing linked to a concern of county lines or criminal exploitation.



24 young people under the age of 18 who live in RBKC have been sentenced to a violent offence, 340 and 33 young people have been sentence to weapon possession.

237 hospital attendances at a local A&E Major Trauma Unit for knife and gun injuries. These will be for injuries that have occurred across a number of boroughs but often victims don't report where the assault took place.

In the last 2 years there have been



63 RBKC residents identified as having a link to County Lines by the National County Lines Coordination Centre.



117 young people under the age of 25 have been referred to the Councils Serious Youth Violence Partnership following an identified risk associated with youth violence or

How does RBKC Compare to London?

In the last 5 years RBKC has had a **37% reduction in knife crime with injury offences**, compared to a 35% reduction in London as a whole.

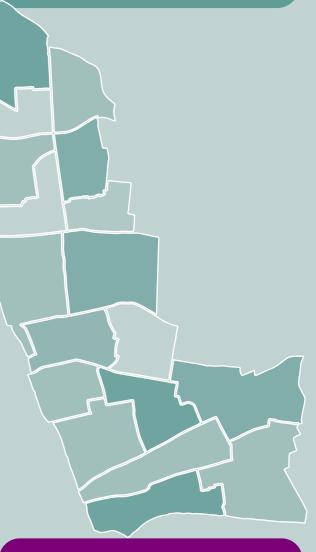
In the last 3 years

40% of RBKC's Knife Crime with Injury Offences have victims aged under 25. The London average is 42%.

RBKC is ranked 15th^{*} out of the 32 London Boroughs for Knife Crime with Injury Offences per 1000 population.

* Where 1 is the highest

The wards with the highest number of knife crime with Injury Offences were **Colville** (31 offences), Notting Dale (28 offences) and **Golborn**e (27 offences). These are ranked 54th and 27th highest out of London's 634 wards by number of offences.



Knife Crime with Injury Offences 2019 - 202

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5. What has been achieved already?

- **5.1.** This strategy does not start from scratch and much work has already been delivered to reduce harm caused by youth violence. It's been a Council Plan priority since 2019, and before that Safer K and C Partnership Priority.
 - In the last three years approximately £1.5 million has been spent by council budgets and external grants to provide services to support and engage young people who have been affected or at risk of youth violence.
 - There have been approximately 200 young people benefiting from specialist case work support and safety planning in the last two years.
 - Established Parent Champions Network who are trained by professionals and passionate about youth crime and violence. Each community volunteer has supported at least three families each.
 - The Council's Detached and Outreach Team reached 2343 young people through delivery of 251 detached and outreach sessions across the borough, provided six projects (including joint delivery and between 4 – 8 co-designed workshops in schools, hubs and street-based (during COVID restrictions) and one to one mentoring (of up to 6 months) through weekly two-hour sessions.
 - In 2021, £23,000 has been awarded in Critical Incident Grants to support victims and communities following serious violent incidents.
 - Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for victims and those affected by youth violence a new training programme called "Your Choice" has been training Council staff with existing relationship with young people to deliver this support.
 - Local programmes have been supported and enhanced by access to pan London Services such as Rescue and Response, which supports young people exploited by County Lines.
 - ✓ Young people who are hospitalised from serious assaults are supported by youth workers in London's Major Trauma Units.
 - A network of professionals from police, youth services, housing, schools, and voluntary sector services has been meeting regularly to share best practice and enhance collaboration since January 2020.

5.2. These achievements show the variety of services and organisations that support to reduce violence. Their successes will provide the foundation of how the strategy will build on and learn from what works.



6.The RBKC Approach

- **6.1.** The vision of this strategy is to reduce the harm caused by Youth Violence and Exploitation in RBKC communities. It will work to strengthen communities that have been adversely affected by violence to live safe, healthy and positive lives.
- **6.2.** To achieve this vision a local Theory of Change demonstrates what needs to be done and the impact it will have. This is founded upon
 - A strong understanding of the local crime patterns and drivers of crime
 - Evidence of "what works" to reduce youth violence, gangs and exploitation from elsewhere
 - The views of residents and especially parents and young people themselves
 - The views of professionals and stakeholders working locally
- **6.3.** The evidence for what works in tackling Youth Violence and Exploitation in the UK is continually developing. The UK National Government has been increasingly recommending Public Health approaches to tackling violence. This means that violence is preventable and requires a long-term plan to make a positive change. All recent publications and research have highlighted the importance of Public Health in the response to violence, and this has been incorporated into the Government's new Serious Violence Duty³, which calls on multi-agencies to plan, collaborate and engage to prevent serious violence together.
- **6.4.** This strategy builds on much work has already been done to reduce the harm caused by Youth Violence in RBKC. The local approach to tackling Youth Violence has been to follow the Public Health England, now the UK Health Security Agency, methodology. This approach will be continued and developed.
- **6.5.** The strategy requires an understanding of the local causes of violence and a long-term plan to successfully respond, reduce the risk factors and build strength in protective factors. It also needs to be evidence led and be confident that programmes are proven to work. This makes insight from local communities critical to success. The strategy needs local voices to inform what works by those who have been affected by violence.

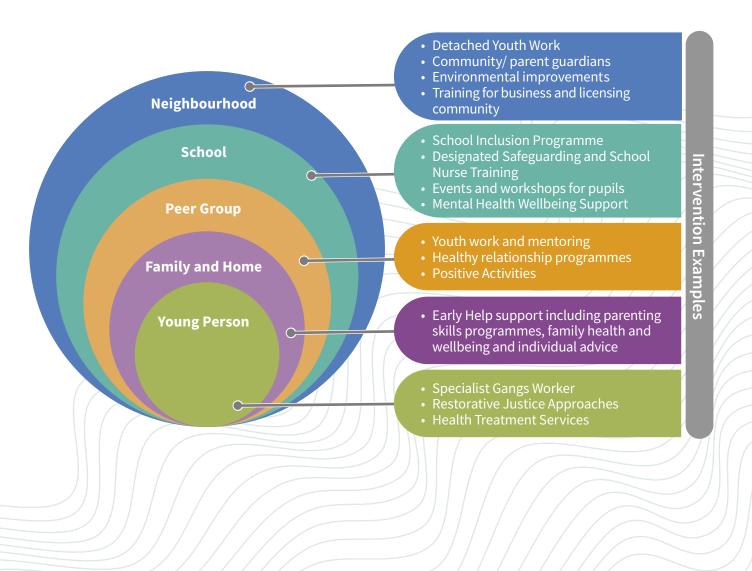
^{3.} https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets/ police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-serious-violence-duty-factsheet

⁴. https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/about/what-is-contextual-safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding

6.6. Youth Violence and Exploitation usually takes place outside the home and is separate from familiar harm that forms part of traditional safeguarding approaches. This makes consideration of a young person's safety in their local community, in school, friendship groups essential to support a young person to be safe. This is known as Contextual Safeguarding⁴ and forms part of professional multi-agency assessments when recommending safety and support plans. The focus moves away from only the individual young person, but also locations of harm to prevent violence. This works well as part of a Public Health Approach and includes responsibilities across a range of services.

Contextual Safeguarding Approach



Trauma informed Practice

6.7. Young people who have been affected by violence and exploitation will have experienced trauma from these events. But they may also have experienced trauma from previous life experiences and have interacted with a number of services in their past. Therefore, anyone who works with young people and families should have an awareness of how traumatic events will have an effect on how a person interacts and responds to all things in their life from making decisions, engaging with services to developing personal relationships. A trauma informed approach aims to provide an environment where a person feels safe and develops trust. This will give the young person the best opportunity to accept support and engage to make healthy choices. However, it is also important that work focuses on growth and the young person's future. A young person should feel empowered to control their future and not be limited by their trauma. Trauma Informed practice, and how workers appropriately respond to it, is therefore an important foundation of all work to support those affected by Youth Violence and Exploitation and is important this this strategy's approach.

Causes of Youth Violence and Exploitation in RBKC

6.8. It is not always possible to know or understand the reasons why violence is committed and there are many different reasons why a young person may be affected. It is important to consider the impact of organised crime groups and street gangs. There are between 3 and 5 active gangs in RBKC, three which have distinct names and territories and two that have strong group associations but are not classified as organised gangs. These gangs have conflict and violent tensions within the borough as well as gangs in neighbouring boroughs of Brent, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster and further afield. These gangs are involved with the distribution and supply of illegal drugs in the borough and elsewhere. Violence stems from competition for local drug markets, personal rivalries, and retaliation of previous violence. These groups recruit and exploit young people into criminal activity through threat and coercion causing significant harm.

6.9. The circumstances which influence the extent of violence are complex, but some of the themes understood to have been a part of local violence in recent years include:

Illegal Drug Markets	Social Media	Personal Rivalries	
Drug supply within the local area, as well as to areas across the Country is one of the leading causes of Child Criminal Exploitation for young people in RBKC. Young people are frequently used by older drug dealers because they are a more easily exploited, keen to impress, succumb to pressure and do not fully grasp the risks. In order to protect themselves from associated harms, young people carry weapons putting them at further risk of violence. Some of these young people may become future exploiters themselves.	 can escalate threats and lead to violence between groups that would otherwise not have had contact. Past violent acts (stabbings/ shootings/ beatings/robberies) can be tallied in points to show which gang is winning the conflict. This ripples into real life violence. There are examples where a young people's first contact with gangs is through social media. Social media also provides 	Negative relationships or tensions within extended family and friendship groups can lead to violence. If not positively resolved trauma and anger from long standing disputes can lead to future assaults and also impact tensions across generations, younger siblings, cousins and friendship groups. Bullying between peers can also lead to serious violence. When this is shared on social media in front of an audience, conflicts escalate more rapidly.	
	the digital platform for recruitment of young people for criminal exploitation.		
Retaliation and Peer Pressure	Random Violence	Robbery	
After an assault the victim and their peer group can feel threatened by further attacks. This can lead to violent retaliation and an escalation of linked violent offences. A young person may feel pressure from their peers to respond to threats within their friendship group or to demonstrate their loyalty. They may be fearful of being	Violence can occur without a premeditative reason. An argument or disagreement without a previous relationship between victim and perpetrator do happen. A victim can be hurt through being present but not involved in another person's fight. Sometimes victims can be injured due to mistaken	Robbery of personal items using a weapon to threaten or injure can be associated with gang related criminal behaviours. The presence of a weapon, even if only intended to threaten, increases the severity of harm caused if an assault takes place.	

Who is at risk of Violence and Exploitation?

- **6.10.** National research has shown that some vulnerabilities that have an influence on if a young person is more likely to be at risk of harm. This includes, but is not exclusive to, adverse childhood experiences, substance misuse, domestic and family abuse and poor or low attainment at school. Although understanding vulnerability is important it does not explain. Anyone, no matter what their background or life experience can be affected, and life experience does not lead to involvement.
- **6.11.** This Strategy does not work alone in response to these vulnerabilities or take sole responsibility for all actions to prevent these factors in local communities. There is a broad range of work in RBKC that supports young people to have positive, happy, safe, and healthy lives. This Strategy has an interface with these areas of Safeguarding and Community Safety. It will make sure multi-agencies collaborate to support each other to reduce harm to young people, links to other Strategies can be found on page 32.
- **6.12.** Although there is no typical experience for a young person, a journey map on page 26 tells one young person's story and the support services that are available at different stages of their lives.
- **6.13.** There are some groups which are over-represented in Youth Violence and Exploitation statistics including young Black males. In London Black males are more likely to be murdered by knife crime "Between 2008-2018, Black Londoners were 1.8 times more likely to be victims of knife crime than non-Black Londoners and five times more likely to be charged than non-Black Londoners." And in London "over the last three years from September 2017 to August 2020, 94% of charged homicide offenders in London were male, 58% were Black and 30% were white. 42% of charged homicide offenders were teenagers, and of those 75% were Black."⁵
- **6.14.** However, this data on ethnicity is simplistic and it doesn't account for all the diverse cultures and communities that make RBKC their home. It hides communities and does not provide a good enough understanding of those most affected by youth violence in this borough. Therefore, this Strategy will be led by insight from community experience and not just ethnicity data alone.
- **6.15.** It is part of this Strategy to ensure that all youth violence services are culturally competent to support those most vulnerable. All young people and their families will be supported to access services free from discrimination or stigma. To achieve this, engagement with communities affected most adversely is a priority so they have a voice to inform how support can be best provided.⁵

^{5.} https://www.london.gov.uk/publications/action-plan-transparency-accountability-and-trust-policing

The	To reduce the harm caused by			
Vision	Youth Violence and Exploitation			
The Objectives	Identify and support victims	Victims receive justice Exploiters and high harm offenders change their behaviour through coordinated support and enforcement	The community is supported and engaged	
The Strategy	The whole system of local services knows how to spot the signs of harm through education and training. Services are accessible, trusted, and operate without judgement or discrimination. Services are able to meet complex needs and are successful at providing solutions to reducing risk of harm.	Multi-agency Intelligence sharing is successful at identifying high harm offenders. A range of enforcement powers are utilised, and high risk individuals are managed through court or legal restrictions where necessary. Offenders are supported to change behaviours. Local policing is trusted by communities.	Community participation and co-design is incorporated into commissioning and delivery of services. The Community are skilled at spotting signs of risk, know how to report and access services. The Strategy Action Plan is delivered with community quality assurance and involvement. Young people have a voice on how best to keep them safe.	
The	 The approach to tackling Youth Violence and Exploitation is led by			
Outcomes	the Community. Those affected feel supported and are safeguarded. Violence is reduced.			

7. The Priority Commitments

7.1. To achieve the Vision there are three objectives which need to be responded to. Each of these will have a set of actions which form part of the Strategy's Delivery Plan which is detailed on page 19.

Objective 1: Identify and support victims

What is needed	What difference will it make
The whole system of local services and parents knows how to spot the signs of harm through education and training.	Victims will be identified at early opportunities and can access appropriate support.
Services are accessible, trusted, and operate without judgement or discrimination.	Barriers like ethnicity, gender, age, emotional wellbeing, substance misuse, language and learning needs do not prevent victims accessing services. The stigma of exploitation is reduced.
Services are able to meet complex needs and are successful at providing solutions to reducing risk of harm.	Victims feel confident to live free from violence and are able to effectively manage the trauma they have lived.

Objective 2: Victims receive Justice. Exploiters and high harm offenders change their behaviour through coordinated support and enforcement.

What is needed	What difference will it make
Multi-agency Intelligence sharing is successful at identifying high harm offenders.	It will be harder for offenders to cause harm in the local community. Enforcement and Support will be considered before further harm is caused.
A range of enforcement powers are utilised, and high-risk individuals are managed through court or legal restrictions where necessary.	Those who do not accept support and cause the greatest harm are brought to justice for the victims and community they have harmed.
The neighbourhoods in which they offend will be less favourable for them to operate.	

What is needed	What difference will it make
Offenders are supported to change behaviours.	There will be protective factors supporting those that have committed violence and are motivated to change. Including education, training and employment support, family relationships support, access to treatment services (substance misuse and mental wellbeing), safe housing and health services.
Local policing is trusted by communities.	Victims and neighbourhoods affected by crime will feel more confident to support police action and be empowered to have an influence on how they are policed. It will be harder for offenders to operate within these communities.

Objective 3: The Community is supported and engaged

What is needed	What difference will it make
Community participation and co-design is incorporated into commissioning and delivery of services.	Communities support and trust services, increasing access and confidence in outcomes achieved.
The Community including parents, carers , youth providers and schools are skilled at spotting signs of risk, know how to report and access services.	Neighbourhoods are less favourable to those who are exploiting and causing harm and they become safer places to live. Victims feel supported by their community and access services at early opportunities.
The Strategy Delivery Plan is delivered with community quality assurance and involvement.	The Community feel empowered to influence how their neighbourhoods are supported to live free from violence.
Young people have a voice on how best to keep them safe.	Young people are at the heart of multi-agency delivery. Their experiences and insight at the core of actions agreed.

8.What have local communities told us?

- **8.1.** The Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy cannot be successful if it works in isolation of the local community. Understanding local experiences, knowledge and attitudes are vital to be able to make positive change. Residents have told the Council that safeguarding communities against the impacts of youth violence and exploitation should be a priority for the borough. During these consultation conversations⁶, it was clear that youth violence causes a considerable anxiety within communities that have experienced violent incidents, as well as across the borough as a whole. The impact of the drug market as a reason for exploitation and cause of violence was also a significant resident concern.
- **8.2.** The impact on communities was significant and the Council heard from parents that are fearful to let their teenagers leave the house alone after certain times. Families also shared their concerns about asking for help in case young people become criminalised, and that trust in services is low.

⁶https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communities/community-safety-survey/

The voice of local communities

selling drugs on a small or big scale will allow them to top up the electric at home, buy food shopping, clothes etc. these pressures would then ease up on the older within that family home. Worse case is that their parents are suffering with mental health, drug use."

When there's violence within the local area there's a cold sadness within the air. Most victims will find it hard, they feel weak and vulnerable within themselves as they feel alone there's multiple crimes that have taken place and the police do nothing." I think the borough should focus on the increase of crime among young people, the grooming and the county lines are serious issues."

Drug trafficking and grooming is an ongoing issue. You see people as young as 12 and 13, you also have parents who are aware of their young children going missing and they won't report it as they don't want social services involved... we need to address this as drug dealers see our young people as targets." 8.3. The voice of those who use existing services can provide insight into what works and if these services are successful at reducing harm. It is important that those who have directly experienced youth violence have a say in what should be done to prevent it. Some of the community voices and those who have committed violent offences and have been supported to change are below.

The voice of service users



He has been able to get me into university and has engaged me well giving me the necessary tools and confidence to navigate my personal development."

" I have seen a change in my brother's attitude and thinking, he is much better and stays home more and we have more peace at home."

66 He has helped me to become more confident in my ability to find work and make a success out of myself, I no longer want to keep bad company and follow my dreams."

He has helped me stay focused and away from trouble, I call him when I am angry and he calms me down so I am very happy with all the support he has given me."

- **8.4.** A young people Survey completed by the Youth Council with 120 young people participating found that when asking about feelings of safety, 49% of respondents said that Knife Crime made them feel unsafe in their local area, followed by 22% fearful of mugging or physical attack. Although promisingly, 25% did not feel unsafe in their local area. Young people also reported that the things that would make them feel safer were "providing them with more things to do" (41%), "CCTV cameras" (35%) and "improving their local environment" and "more friendly adults and neighbours" (31%).
- **8.5.** Through outreach work in one North Kensington community affected by violence, residents and young people also shared their views on the causes and solutions of youth violence and exploitation within their communities.

Community Insight into.....

....Causes of local youth violence

Financial Hardship - selling drugs allows young people to contribute to household bills or get themselves things they cannot afford, as well as lack of job opportunities for young people. Family problems and trauma including poor mental health and substance misuse at home.

Peer pressure, the pull of gang culture and belonging to a group that will protect you. Lack of support for victims and a community affected by significant trauma.

Exclusion from school and the long-term consequences this has on the young person's outcomes.

Fear for safety including weapon carrying for protection.

- **8.6.** The young people that shared that they had carried weapons some of the reasons behind this were:
 - For protection feelings that the streets aren't safe.
 - Being paid to carry weapons for others.
 - Personal experience of being a victim of gun and knife crime.
 - Feelings that if they don't carry a weapon, it will be them that is hurt worse in a fight, or robbery.
- **8.7.** This Strategy will continually be informed by Community insight. It is a commitment of this strategy to ensure that services are co-designed with residents and that the local community are able to quality assure and participate in service improvement to keep young people safe.

....Solutions to local youth violence

Trust in police - a regular presence from local officers so the community know their faces. The community need to feel like the police understand the local issues and are respectful in their engagement with young people. Tackle the root causes through more community events including job fairs, fundraisers for positive activities (sports and arts) and drop-in centres for support.

Consequences for actions and enforcement against those causing the most harm.

Telling the community what is being done about the issues so there is not a feeling of hopelessness.

9. The Delivery Plan

9.1. The delivery plan sets out all of the actions which are required to meet the Objectives. Work has not started from scratch with this Strategy. Some of this work is already being delivered and will be continued, some has started but needs more development and some is brand new work that is planned to commence – please check the status to understand these differences.

The Objectives	The Strategy	What will be done
Identify and Support victims	The whole system of local services knows how to spot the signs of harm through education and training.	 A core group of specialist multi-agency professionals will share community and police intelligence securely to identify those at most risk of harm, advise on safeguarding and safety plans. The Community Safety Team and Child Exploitation Designated Lead offer confidential consultation to external services. This includes guidance to those working in communities about how best to safeguard those affected. Training on gangs, youth violence and exploitation will be regularly available through Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership. This will be tailored to spot signs according to different groups including gender, learning needs or age. Local community campaigns will be delivered that will Support young people to recognise signs of exploitation and abuse within their friendship groups or personal experiences. A professional's network open to all those who work with young people in the borough will offer support to understand local trends, risks, and specialist services available.

The Detached and Outreach Team and Police Youth Engagement Teams will work in communities most affected by violence and support young people to access support services. Schools will be supported through dedicated police officers.Services are accessible trusted, and operate without judgement or discrimination.A Strategic Youth Violence and Exploitation Board will provide Senior Officer oversight and scrutiny of the specialist services available to residents and will have community representation from a new Youth Violence and Exploitation Residents Group.Council Commissioned Services will be accessed through a range of routes (outreach, professional or thrid-party referrals), be culturally competent and reflective of the local communities affected by violence.Services are able to meet complex needs and are successful at providing solutions to reducing risk of harm.Council Services are commissioned based on local needs analysis of those who are most effected by youth violence and exploitation. These services will be tailored to meet those needs according to gender, age and learning needs. Council commissioned services have strict contract and performance management plans to ensure that they are meeting needs and delivering outcomes. Project Evaluation is incorporated into contract monitoring. Safeguarding decisions following a critical incident will include a multi-agency approach to safety	The Objectives	The Strategy	What will be done
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planning and reducing risk of further harm.		meet complex needs and are successful at providing solutions to	needs analysis of those who are most effected by youth violence and exploitation. These services will be tailored to meet those needs according to gender, age and learning needs. Council commissioned services have strict contract and performance management plans to ensure that they are meeting needs and delivering outcomes. Project Evaluation is incorporated into contract monitoring. Safeguarding decisions following a critical incident

The Objectives	The Strategy	What will be done
Victims receive Justice. Exploiters and high harm offenders change their behaviour through coordinated support and enforcement.	Multi-agency Intelligence sharing is successful at identifying high harm offenders.	The monthly Youth Violence and Exploitation Multi-agency Panel ensures a core group of professionals' share community and police intelligence securely to identify those causing harm in the community. Community Safety Team coordinate neighbourhood specific intelligence mapping meetings to understand community risk and take appropriate multi-agency action. All those with proven violent offences have appropriate safety plans to ensure the harm they cause to the community is minimised. Information Sharing guidance will be made available to professionals and youth services so there is confidence with how to report concerns that a young person may be a risk to themselves or others.
	A range of enforcement powers are utilised, and high-risk individuals are managed through court or legal restrictions where necessary.	A group of core multi-agency partners consider enforcement options available to Police, Council and Probation Services for those with proven violent offences. This is alongside a support plan to ensure those causing harm are engaged with specialist services. A Council Protocol for Criminal Behaviour Orders and Civil Injunctions will be agreed by the Youth Crime Partnership Board. The monthly Youth Violence and Exploitation Multi-agency Panel and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements will consider community support options for violent offenders being released from prison sentences.

The Objectives	The Strategy	What will be done
	Offenders are supported to change behaviours.	Council commissioned services have contract and performance management plans to ensure that they are meeting needs and delivering outcomes.
		Specialist Services are available to those who have committed youth violence and exploitation Offences. These will all be trauma informed services which are tailored to need according to gender, age, and severity of violent offending.
		Restorative interventions are available at youth, school and other settings to reduce violence escalation based on "grudges and revenge".
		Youth Offending Team provides a holistic assessment including risk of harm, likelihood of reoffending, safety, and wellbeing. The assessment informs the intervention plan with the aim of reducing the risks and providing support.
	Local policing is trusted by communities.	The Police Youth Engagement Team works closely with communities to build trust and respect between police and young people. A range of programmes will be delivered from the Council's Youth Hubs.
		A Youth Independent Advisory Group will be established to ensure that the experience of young people is heard by police officers working in local communities affected by Violence.
		The Police Community Monitoring Group will have membership that is representative of all local communities. There is transparency of the local use of Stop and Search and the experience of local communities is heard and responded to.



The Objectives	The Strategy	What will be done
The community is supported and engaged	Community participation and co-design is incorporated into commissioning and delivery of services.	The Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategic Group will establish a resident led group to advise on community insight and co-design of commissioned services specific to youth violence.
	The Community are skilled at spotting signs of risk, know how to report and access services.	A Youth Violence and Exploitation Information will be made available for parents and the community. This will be accessible and developed with community input and will include raising awareness of anonymous third-party reporting. It includes family, neighbourhood and business communities in addressing the location context of risk as well as individual young people.
		The Youth Violence Parenting Champions will continue to develop the recruitment of community guardians who can support families affected, take a community safeguarding role, and refer concerns to services. This is an important contextual safeguarding intervention for neighbourhoods that do not trust authorities or are fearful of the stigma attached to seeking help.
	The Strategy Action Plan is delivered with community quality assurance and involvement.	A resident led group will be established and it will receive regular updates on the delivery of this Strategy. This will include representation from community parenting champions and young person representation. A Council Communications Campaign will make information obtainable for all residents about the achievements and challenges of the Strategy Outcomes.

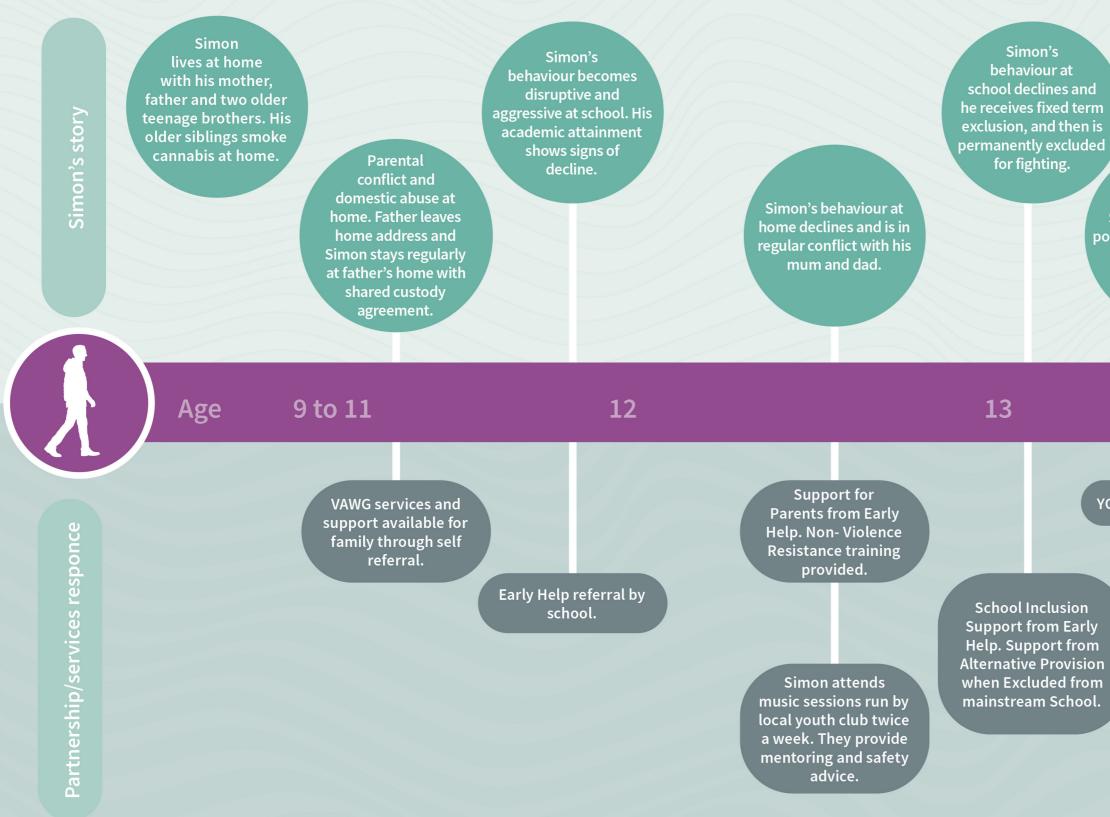
The Objectives	The Strategy	What will be done
voice	Young people have a voice on how best to keep them safe.	The experiences of young people in the borough will be obtained through
		Young People's Plan Consultation
		 Youth Independent Advisory Group established
		 Youth Council to have an annual topic of young people's safety.
		Council Commissioned Services will include the feedback of young people as part of performance monitoring with the opportunity to include input into improving feelings of safety.
		Young people will co-design a local community campaign to support young people to recognise signs of exploitation and abuse within their friendship groups or own experiences.

10. Conclusion

Reducing the harm caused by Youth Violence and Exploitation is a priority for RBKC Communities. To be successful at achieving this for those affected today, as well as future generations a long-term Public Health approach is required. This needs to be led by Community Insight, experience, and support and no one agency will be able to have an impact alone. By working together victims will be identified and supported, harmful offending will be reduced, and the Community will feel empowered to drive change.

11. Annex

Young Person's Journey



Simon regularly goes missing from home and doesn't share where he is with family.

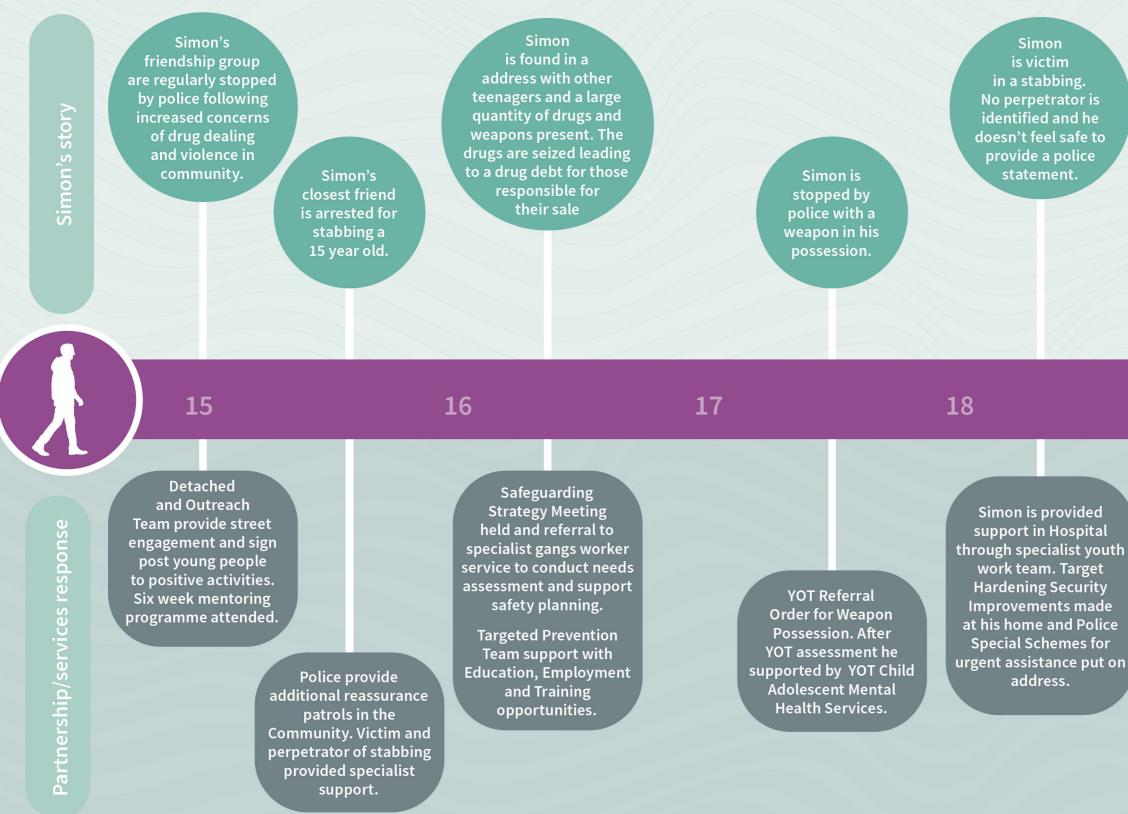
Simon is stopped by police with small amount of cannabis.

YOT Diversion Support

Social Services complete return to home interview to understand where Simon is going and reasons behind it. Police complete a welfare check and appropriate support identified through safeguarding duties.

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Young Person's Journey



What Next?

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Simon continues to engage with his gangs worker to access Employment and Training programmes. This support continues as long as Simon requires it and he is supported with Housing, Substance Misuse, his response to conflict as well as access to other Adult Community Services.

Critical Incident Response

Immediate

The response to Youth Violence and Exploitation risk needs to be immediate and long term. These are some examples of actions which may be required after a critical incident such as a life-threatening stabbing.

Critical Incident Response

When a young people is a victim of a serious assault there will be a need for immediate support, in addition to physical medical care. This can include but is not exhaustive of;

Housing and Security: Improved safety at their home address (is it safe for the victim to return?) including safe transport to their home.

Safety Planning: the victim will require support to think about their personal safety, what can be done to manage this risk and what support is available for them.

Criminal Justice: support from police and/or appropriate adult, youth advocate to understand and be guided through a police investigation.

Family support: A support network that is equipped and informed to support the victim in the following days, and help them make informed choices about support choices.

Medical care: In addition to immediate medical attention the victim may need ongoing health support for their injuries, which may be long term if injuries are deemed life changing.

Mental Health Support: Assaults are traumatic and a young person will need support to comprehend, accept and positively move forwards from what has happened.

Long Term

Targeted specialist support

Long term support may be required when it has been identified that a young person is at risk of continued harm or exploitation. This does not need to follow a critical incident, but may be identified through a number of warning signs. This work will need to focus on contextual safeguarding of the individuals circumstances and will include long term work to improve safety, wellbeing, health and access to positive support systems such as education, training and employment. This work will use Trauma Informed approaches1 to develop healthy coping mechanisms.

1 Trauma Informed approaches promote an understanding of the individuals experiences and what has happened to them, past and present, to help guide healthy recovery.

Helpful Terminology

Activity	What does it mean?
Child Criminal Exploitation	Another person or persons manipulate, deceive, coerce, or control the person to undertake activity which constitutes a criminal offence where the person is under the age of 18.
Child Sexual Exploitation	Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
County lines	County Lines is a police term used to describe the exploitation of children or vulnerable adults to move and sell drugs. It is named after the phone lines often used in the distribution. Exploited individuals may have been groomed to believe they are autonomously selling drugs or that those exploiting them are their friends.
Drug supply	Production, movement (or trafficking) and sale of illegal drugs. Often referred to as the illegal drug market and includes "knowingly taking part in" a wide range of activities involved in the distribution, provision and/or sale of prohibited drugs.
Exploitation	Exploitation refers to someone else benefitting from the actions performed by an individual who is not appropriately rewarded and/or experiences a violation of their legal rights.
Gang association and involvement	Gang association and gang involvement are two separate things. A person can be gang associated because a family member or friend is involved in a gang. Gang involvement by contrast they are directly involved in the criminal behaviour of a gang.

Activity	What does it mean?
Grooming and Coercion	Grooming is when a person builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or vulnerable person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them. Grooming can take place over a long time or a few weeks. Groomers may build a relationship with their victim's family so that they can appear trustworthy or authoritative. Coercion means forcing a person to do something that they would not normally do by making threats against their safety or well-being, or that of their relatives or property. In some instances, a person may be threatened into committing a crime in order to avoid physical or emotional injury.
Human Trafficking	Recruitment, movement or restriction of movement, by deception or coercion, for the purpose of exploitation. Anyone under the age of 18 does not need to be deceived or coerced for it to constitute trafficking.
Knife Crime	All types of crime where a bladed weapon has been used to threaten or injure victim. This can include where a knife is intimated but not seen.
Modern Slavery	Modern slavery refers to situations where an individual is deceived, coerced or forced into exploitation. Modern slavery is an umbrella term which encompasses human trafficking, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. It is outlined in the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
Serious Organised Crime	Serious Organised Crime is investigated by the National Crime Agency and focuses on criminals who have worked together to plan, coordinate and conduct serious crime. This can include drug trafficking, modern slavery, human trafficking, cybercrime, firearm offences, money laundering, child sexual abuse and exploitation, bribery and corruption.
Weapon enabled crime	All types of crime where a weapon has been used to threaten or injure victim.

Common Myths associated with Youth Violence and Exploitation

Youth Violence, Exploitation and Knife Crime often get confused to be solely linked to Gangs. This is a myth and not all Youth Violence is directly associated with gang violence, and those involved would not identify as such. Here are some common myths and truths related to gangs and youth violence.

Myth	Truth
There are no female gangs	 Females are involved through relationships with gang members (sister, friends, daughters, cousins, girlfriends), as well as being members themselves in their own right. However, females affected can be harder to spot – or may not recognise this themselves. The signs of risk for females are likely to be different to boys, and they are likely to experience emotional, physical and sexual violence. Females can play an important role in gang activities by being asked to hold weapons, drugs or taking part in gang initiations or revenge. In RBKC Safer London provide a Female Gangs Worker to support those affected.
All young people loitering in public places are violent gangs	Being with friends outside the home is a part of normal healthy teenage life and it does not mean that a group are committing offences or are part of a gang. If a group is causing intimidation or harassment this could constitute Anti-social behaviour and young people may need some advice and support to understand how this feels to other members of their community. The Council's Detached and Outreach Team can engage with young people in public places, to sign post to activities and services as well as discussing the impact of their behaviour. The Council also has Antisocial Behaviour Officers who can coordinate action if behaviours are affecting others' lives.
Only young people are involved in gangs	Gangs always have adult members, and they are often those in control of the group. Older members can often be those who are exploiting and grooming young people to be part of their group, and therefore causing the most harm in communities. They are also likely to have complex needs and trauma themselves through being part of a gang for a long time. In RBKC, St Giles Trust provide services for those aged up to 25 to support those involved with violent offending to change.

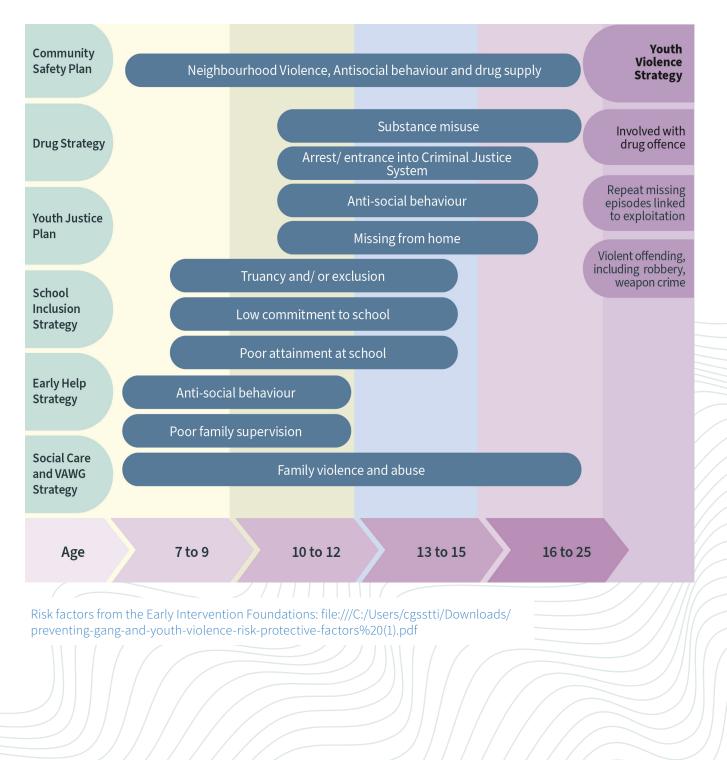
Myth	Truth
Young people who join gangs are from broken homes in deprived areas	The majority of young people live positive lives and are not involved with the dangers of gang or knife crime. There are a number of risk factors that make a young person more vulnerable to join gangs, but there is no set profile of a typical gang member. For those that are affected there can be a number of reasons why they joined a gang - it can be a sense of belonging and identity, as well as peer pressure, financial gain or fear. Often young people might not consider themselves to be part of a gang but just that they have a strong commitment to their friends.
	In RBKC, services take an evidence-based approach to reducing crime in the communities and neighbourhoods who experience the most harm. The Council's Early Help services support those who are affected by a range of Adverse Childhood Experiences.
Gangs and youth violence is only a "Black" Issue	Youth violence and exploitation affects young people and communities regardless of race or culture. Sadly, in London, Black and mixed-race young males are more likely to be murdered by knife crime than white or female young people. The disproportionality of Black and mixed raced young people in the Criminal Justice System is a National and local concern. Despite this tragic impact falling unequally in some communities, in order to reduce the harm caused by violence it is important that all communities play a role to ensure that young people are protected. Evidence has shown that high levels of social cohesion and social trust are strong protective factors against violence ⁷ . It is also important that anyone affected by violence is able to access services free from judgement or discrimination, recognising the trauma they may have experienced. Disproportionality is a priority for our Local Youth Justice Plan.
	The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) have a London wide Action Plan to tackle Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing ⁸ .

^{7.} BIT-London-Violence-Reduction.pdf

*https://www.london.gov.uk/publications/ action-plan-transparency-accountability-and-trust-policing

Strategies supporting young people in RBKC

There is a broad range of work in RBKC that supports young people to have positive, happy, safe, and healthy lives. Those linked to risk factors associated with youth violence and Exploitation Include:



Youth Violence and Exploitation Risk Factors and RBKC Strategies

Support and Resources

- Childline: Your child can call Childline on 0800 1111 at any time if they are worried about their own safety or if they think someone they know is carrying or even using a gun or knife.
- Children's Society provide information and resources for parents if you're worried a young person is involved in county lines. <u>childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/</u> <u>tackling-criminalexploitation-and-county-lines</u>
- Citizens Advice: If your child has been illegally sold a knife, you can report this to Trading Standards on 03454 04 05 06 or visit: <u>citizensadvice.org. uk/consumer/get-more-help/</u> <u>report-to-tradingstandards/</u>
- Community Safety Team: RBKC has services available to work with vulnerable and exploited young people to help reduce risk of harm. If you have a concern about your child's involvement with group violence or on the periphery of gangs, please contact the RBKC Community Safety Team commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk
- Crimestoppers: You or your child can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 if you want to report a crime that has already happened. Crimestoppers Fearless County Lines information: <u>fearless.org/en/campaigns/ county-lines</u>
- Children's Commissioner provides more information on the experience of children affected by gangs and exploitation: <u>childrenscommissioner.gov.uk</u>
 - Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) To find out all the available services for victims and survivors in RBKC visit <u>www.rbkc.</u> <u>gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety/domestic-abuse-and-violence-against-women-and-girls</u> The Angelou Partnership offer access to 10 specialist services through one front door. Angelou can provide support if you have been subjected to any form of VAWG Contact Angelou by phone on tel: 0808 801 0660 or visit <u>www.angelou.</u> <u>org/young-people</u>
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support: A mental health problem is when difficulties in the way we think and feel can mean that we find it hard to cope with family life, relationships, education or the wider world. Problems can range from everyday worries or stresses, to more serious problems. There is a lot of help available and this can be accessed in lots of different ways. You can access any of the below services

On My Mind aims to empower young people aged between 10 to 25 to make informed choices about the mental health support they want, the treatments they receive and the outcomes they desire. <u>annafreud.org/on-my-mind/about</u>[®]

- **Kooth** offer an online service of anonymous emotional and mental health support for anyone aged 11 to 25. <u>www.kooth.com</u> to register for a free, confidential account
- Mind provide advice and support to empower anyone of any age experiencing a mental health problem <u>mind.org.uk/informationsupport/helplines</u> or call 0300 123 3393
- Shout provide support to young people experiencing a personal crisis who are unable to cope and need giveusashout.org/get-help/issues/ or text Shout to 85258, free (on most networks) any time.
- Papyrus is the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide and provides support to anyone up to the age of 35. <u>papyrus-uk.org/hopelineuk</u>, call 0800 0684 141, text 0778 620 9697 or email <u>pat@papyrus-uk.org</u>
- The Samaritans offer a safe place for you to talk any time you like, in your own way

 about whatever's getting to anyone of any age. <u>samaritans.org/how-we-canhelp/</u> contact-samaritan/talk-us-phone or call 116 123 free any time, from any phone.
- Child And Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are the NHS services that assess and treat young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties. If you are under 16 you can be referred to CAMHS by your parents, teacher, social worker or GP. If you are over 16 you can self-refer to CAMHS as well as being referred by your parents, teacher, social worker or GP. <u>camhs.cnwl.nhs.uk/</u> youngpeople-adolescents/
- 24 Hour CAMHS Crisis Support: 24-hour telephone services for children, young people and adults who may be experiencing a mental health crisis the telephone number is 0800 023 4650.
- Speak CAMHS This is a helpline line for children and young people offering telephone support, basic counselling and problem-solving to young people and their families to help prevent difficult periods from becoming a mental health crisis. To access this service call 0800 328 4444 and select option two.
- The Mix If you're aged under 25, The Mix takes on the embarrassing problems, weird questions, and please don't make me say it out loud thoughts that we have.
 themix.org. uk/get-support/speak-to-our-team or call for free on 0808 808 4994.
- Family Lives: Gives advice on all aspects of parenting and is open 24/7. Calls are free on 0808 800 2222 or visit <u>familylives.org.uk</u>
- Family support programmes: RBKC Early Help provide support for families with emerging difficult circumstances before they develop into more serious issues call us: 020 7598 4601 or 020 7361 4129 or email: earlyhelp@rbkc.gov.uk
- Fearless: Your child can contact a young person friendly site online at <u>fearless.org/en</u> to report a crime anonymously.

Insight Substance Misuse Services: provide information, advice and help to young people between the ages of 12 – 25 who are living with or affected by drug or alcohol issues.
 51 Golborne Road, Ladbroke Grove W10 5NR, website <u>www.insightyoungpeople.org.uk/</u>our-services/insight-kc/ call 020 8960 5510 or email <u>insight@humankindcharity.org.uk</u>

Leisure Centres and Sport in RBKC: Details of Leisure Centres and their activities. <u>rbkc.gov. uk/leisure-and-culture/sports/leisure-centres/kensington-and-chelsea</u>

Midaye: Providing the Borough's Parenting and Carer Champions, passionate about providing community support on the issues of youth violence and exploitation, web <u>www.midaye.org.uk</u> or email <u>contact@midaye.org.uk</u>, call (+44) 75 93 440 944 or 020 8969 7456, Thorpe Close, London, W10 5XL

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC): Their helpline provides information and advice to parents and others concerned about young people who may be involved, or affected by gang activity. Their helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Freephone: 0808 800 5000, email: <u>help@nspcc. org.uk</u>, web: <u>nspcc.org.uk/gangs</u>

Police: To find details of your local team and find out more about the work they are doing in your area, type your postcode at <u>www.police.uk.</u> You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. Call **999** in an emergency.

Safeguarding: If you want to report any abuse or discuss concerns in relation to children and young people please contact Kensington and Chelsea – <u>socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk</u> or call 020 7361 3013

Safer London: works with young Londoners and their families affected by violence and exploitation. Website: www.saferlondon.org.uk, Telephone: 0207 021 0301 Email: info@saferlondon.org.uk

Solace Women's Aid: A free anonymous service available to girls aged 13+ who have experienced rape, child sexual abuse and other forms of sexual violence or web: www.solacewomensaid.org/. Call: 0808 801 0305

St Giles Trust: Intensive one to one Community mentoring services for young people affected by violence and exploitation. Contact us: <u>stgilestrust.org.uk</u>

Victim Support: A national charity which helps people affected by crime. Contact us: victimsupport.org.uk

Women and Girls Network: Advice and support service to girls affected by violence and abuse. Contact us <u>wgn.org.uk/contact-uk</u>, or call: 0808 801 0660

Youth Services, Activities and Play in RBKC: There are a broad range of services on offer for young people in Kensington and Chelsea. Whether it's dance, drama, sport, music – there's something for every young person and family. Go to the <u>RBKC website</u> and search for youth services, activities and play.

- Youth Offending Service: For information and advice on children who have been arrested, attending court or been convicted of offences contact 020 7598 4734 or email youth. offending@rbkc.gov.uk.cjsm.net
- Youth Work: Two youth work teams, managed by the Council, are in place to provide a targeted support offer to young people. These teams work to address a range of concerns from young people, including safety, throughout the borough and help them to access support.
 - Detached and Outreach Team: To help tackle serious youth violence, the Detached and Outreach Team will deliver targeted street-based engagement (detached work) and mentoring support for up to 6 months. For more information email: <u>DOTduty@rbkc.gov.uk</u>
 - Targeted Prevention Team: The Targeted Prevention team will provide support to young people that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). They will deliver one to one regular support using a life coaching approach to help enable young people to gain skills, grow in confidence and overcome barriers so that they can access employment or training and fulfill their aspirations. For more information email: TargetedPrevention@ rbkc.gov.uk

English

Information in the Grenfell Recovery Community Update can be made available in alternative formats and in different languages. If you require further assistance please use the contact details below.

Arabic

يمكن توفير المعلومات التي وردت في هذا المستند بصيغ بديلة ولغات اخرى. إذا كنت في حاجة إلى مزيد من المساعدة، الرجاء استخدام بيانات الاتصال الواردة أدناه.

Farsi

اطلاعات حاوی در این مدارک به صورتهای دیگر و به زبانهای مختلف در دسترس می باشد. در صورت نیاز به کمک بیشترلطفا از جزئیات تماس ذکر شده در ذیل استفاده کنید.

French

Les informations présentées dans ce document peuvent vous être fournies dans d'autres formats et d'autres langues. Si vous avez besoin d'une aide complémentaire, veuillez utiliser les coordonnées ci-dessous.

Portuguese

A informação presente neste documento pode ser disponibilizada em formatos alternativos e em línguas diferentes. Se desejar mais assistência, use por favor os contactos fornecidos abaixo.

Somali

Macluumaadka dokumentigan waxaa lagu heli karaa qaabab kale iyo luuqado kala duwan. Haddii aad u baahan tahay caawinaad intaas dhaafsiisan fadlan isticmaal xiriirka faahfaahinta hoose.

Spanish

La información en este documento puede facilitarse en formatos alternativos y en diferentes idiomas. Si necesita más ayuda por favor utilice la siguiente información de contacto.