

Serious Violence Strategy 2024–2027



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

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1. Foreword

- 1.1** In 2023, RBKC launched a Council Plan that set out our ambition to become the best borough for our residents. Building on our commitment to make Kensington and Chelsea safer, we are excited to share our strategy for tackling serious violence.
- 1.2** We want a safe and inclusive borough where all can participate and enjoy the exciting things the borough has to offer. A borough that supports its residents, champions its businesses, provides a nurturing environment for those studying and welcomes those who come here to visit.
- 1.3** The New Met for London plan has been produced following nearly ten thousand interactions with Londoners, the Metropolitan Police Service, and partners from across the city. It represents what they've told us they want policing to focus on. The police's three priorities for reform are: **1. Community crime-fighting; 2. Culture change; 3. Fixing our foundations.**
- 1.4** Effectively tackling all forms of serious violence is a cornerstone for rebuilding trust and making all communities feel safe. The Met's mission is to deliver more trust, less crime and high standards. This will directly support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan for London, the Mayor's Race Action Plan and the government's Beating Crime Plan. The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan provides a commitment to transform how the MPS protects the public from harm and how it combats violence against women and girls.
- 1.5** The support that the Council and our partners (both statutory and voluntary) provide is vital and at the heart of the work we are doing to prevent all forms of violence, support victims and bring perpetrators to justice.
- 1.6** This strategy affirms the Council and its partners commitment that serious violence has no place in this borough and that our combined experiences of delivering effective and innovative work in this area are required to deliver results. It is from these experiences that we have been able to craft a strategy that combines local knowledge and an understanding of local patterns of crime alongside evidence of approaches to serious violence taken nationally.
- 1.7** Much alike our Council Plan, this strategy has outlined three clear, central themes which we will use to tackle serious violence in the borough.

⦿ Those who commit violence are held to account and harmful behaviour is prevented.

⦿ Victims are supported to feel safe, and their voices inform direct action.

⦿ Communities most adversely affected are prioritised and engaged.

1.8 Serious violence has devastating effects upon individuals, families and communities. The effects of trauma from violence can curtail people's behaviour leading to restrictions in lifestyle and the ability to realise potential. It can be viewed as a virus, spreading fear, increasing division, and limiting ambitions. As strong a weapon as serious violence is on peoples wellbeing, our resolve and ambition to combat it is stronger. This strength comes not from the Council, or the police, or our residents but from us all, as a collective. Partnership work is central to the local model, and this is informed by the public health model of violence reduction and the Coordinated Community Response model of tackling serious violence which recognises the roles we all must play in reducing violence.

1.9 Understanding the intricacies and behaviours of crime is an important part of enabling us to deliver informed, targeted support. Our Violence Against Women and Girls and Youth Violence and Exploitation are set out in our strategies the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021/26 and Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2022/25 and this Strategy should be considered alongside them.

1.10 Huge thanks goes out to all those who have taken part in forming this strategy. This includes residents, young people, voluntary, community and faith organisations, the London Probation Service, London Fire Brigade, Mayors Office for Police and Crime and Safer Neighbourhood Board.

2. Introduction

- 2.1** This Strategy has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.
- 2.2** The Duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the Duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing and analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and production of a Strategy to set out how the Duty will be implemented locally.
- 2.3** The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.
- 2.4** The responsible authorities (also known as ‘Duty holders’) in the Serious Violence Duty are:
- ▶ the police
 - ▶ fire and rescue authorities
 - ▶ justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation)
 - ▶ health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
 - ▶ local authorities
- 2.5** Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions are under a separate duty to co-operate with Duty holders, but they are not Duty holders.
- 2.6** This strategy takes account of guidance issued by the government, as well as London guidance, developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit, in collaboration with London Councils, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police, NHS London and Probation Service.

The Strategy builds on the extensive work which is already being delivered to tackle serious violence in Kensington and Chelsea.

- This is set out in the **Community Safety Plan 2022/24** and in detail in the **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021/26** and the **Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2022/25**.
- This Strategy augments the detail included in these strategies and sets out further the Safer K and C Partnership's ambition to tackle serious violence in the borough.
- Working in partnership with statutory organisations (Council, Police, Probation Service, Fire Brigade, Health) and the voluntary, community and faith sectors and alongside residents and communities is central to the local approaches to tackling serious violence.

The Serious Violence Strategy furthers these achievements and ambitions to be more impactful in this area.



3. What are we already doing to tackle violence and what have we achieved?

3.1 The VAWG Strategy has the goal: To End Violence against Women and Girls through our Coordinated Goal Community Response. Four outcomes inform the delivery:

- VAWG is prevented.
- Survivors are supported.
- Partnership working to end VAWG.
- Abusers are held to account.

3.2 The Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy holds the goal: To reduce the harm caused by Youth Violence and Exploitation. Three outcomes inform the delivery:

- Identify and support victims.
- Victims receive justice.
- The community is supported and engaged.

3.3 These strategic approaches hold some core and common principles which have been used to inform this Strategy. These can be summarised as:

- The victim / survivor's views and wishes are central.
- Partnership and community are the foundation.
- Justice – holding offenders to account and providing opportunities to change is important.

3.4 These principles, alongside what residents told us was important to them and analysis of data have informed the strategic priorities of this Plan.

3.5 The nature, impacts and extent of these crimes are in flux and the responses are required to change to meet need and drive innovation.

Set out below are some examples of recent work to tackle serious violence in Kensington and Chelsea.



The Council has continued to invest services to support and engaged young people who have been affected or are at risk of youth violence. Between 2021 and 2023 approximately £1.5million has been spent by council budgets and external grants, reducing risk of harm to those engaged.



In 2023 two new domestic abuse perpetrator services were established. One specialises in support for perpetrators from a minoritised background. All victims are supported simultaneously.



Local schools have been supported to improve their identification and response to violence against women and girls related issues among their school communities via the development and rollout of a new toolkit.



Domestic Abuse awareness training has been provided to voluntary, community and faith sectors to improve the local response to disclosures of domestic abuse.



A growing number of serious youth violence parent champions are trained to know the signs of youth violence and support parents to access support. They play a vital role in the local response to tackling these issues.



The Council has increased the number of specialist youth violence advocates from 3 to 6 supporting children and young people up to age 25 affected by violent behaviours or gang associated harms. This includes the Council's Youth Violence Reduction Service as well as voluntary sector support services.



In the last two years over 200 young people at risk of violent harm have received specialist case work support and safety planning to reduce their risk of their involvement in violent crime.



Over 120 parents, young people, community and faith organisations participated in "It Takes a Village" community event which focussed on the risks of youth violence, exploitation and knife crime. This work has ensured that the "community voice" has shaped local services.

4. What does our analysis and engagement tell us?

4.1 This Strategy has been informed by several key themes of evidence:

- ▶ Analysis of the problem, drawing on data and information from a breadth of partners.
- ▶ The views and wishes of residents.
- ▶ Evidence of what works in tackling serious violence across the three themes.
- ▶ The views of professionals and stakeholders working locally
- ▶ An understanding of the public health informed approaches to serious violence which is the foundation of the serious violence Duty.

4.2 The Strategy has been developed to align to, and not replicate, the detailed analysis, approaches and commitments contained within the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021/26 and the Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2022/25. This Strategy should be considered alongside those already published.

4.3 The key findings of the three themes within the definition of serious violence, including violence affecting those under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence will be a focus. However, it should be noted that:

- ▶ Violence with injury in RBKC is low in number compared to other boroughs (5th lowest in October 2023).
- ▶ However, as a rate per 1000 population violence with injury is more concerning and is in the highest half of London boroughs (12th highest in October 2023).
- ▶ Violence with injury in RBKC has been increasing in the last year, following a reduction in numbers of offences during the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions.

4.4 The findings of the detailed analysis of the three themes of serious violence within the Duty are provided described below.

Serious youth violence (under 25)

- ☀ Low numbers of police detections despite increase in offences with a victim under age 25 years.
- ☀ 42% of victims live in RBKC so many will likely need to be supported out of borough.
- ☀ Female victims are higher than males for this age group (58% of victims of all offence types). This includes violent assaults which are not domestic where females are 55% of victims.
- ☀ Male victims are highest in number for robbery offences (81%) and knife injury offences (14 of 18 in previous 12 months).
- ☀ Black victims are disproportionately represented in victim statistics in this age group with 43.1 per 1000 residents (compared to 18.5 per 1000 white residents in this age group).
- ☀ Children affected by violent offending have complex needs and multiple services working with families. Youth Offending data shows 45% of children with violent convictions have Speech, language, communication, or neuro - disability concerns.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

- ☀ Female referrals to services a higher percentage (91%) compared to all police victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) (61% are female).
- ☀ A police detection rate for domestic abuse (10%). It is difficult to determine an accurate profile of accessed suspects because police detection rate for domestic abuse is 10%.
- ☀ The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) data does not provide information regarding perpetrators or type of violence.
- ☀ Experience of DA is significant. There were 196 children in households where a referral has been made. DA is also part of safeguarding needs assessments for 191 children (2022/23).
- ☀ Number of victims referred to MARAC with a disability is high compared to rate of population with disabilities (17%).
- ☀ Although 26% of ethnicity data missing for victims, as a rate per the resident population Black victims are proportionally higher with 30.8 victims per 1000 residents (compared to 11.5 per 1000 residents for white victims).

Sexual violence

- ☀ Low police detection rate (6%) makes it difficult to determine an accurate profile of those committing sexual violence.
- ☀ Limited data available from services to share profile of those committing sexual violence.
- ☀ Victims age of those reporting is skewed towards younger years with 66% of victims under 34 years and 18 to 24 years accounting for 21%.
- ☀ 26% of victims live in RBKC so victims will likely want to access support out of borough.

5. What are the priorities and what we will do?

5.1 There are three outcomes that the Serious Violence Strategy will achieve through focusing on the evidence of what additional work needs to be done to reduce the impact and prevent violence in RBKC. These align with the existing outcomes in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021/26 and the Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2022/25 and referenced at 4.3. These are:

Those who commit violence are held to account and harmful behaviour is prevented

Victims are supported to feel safe, and their voices inform direct action

Communities most adversely affected are prioritised and engaged

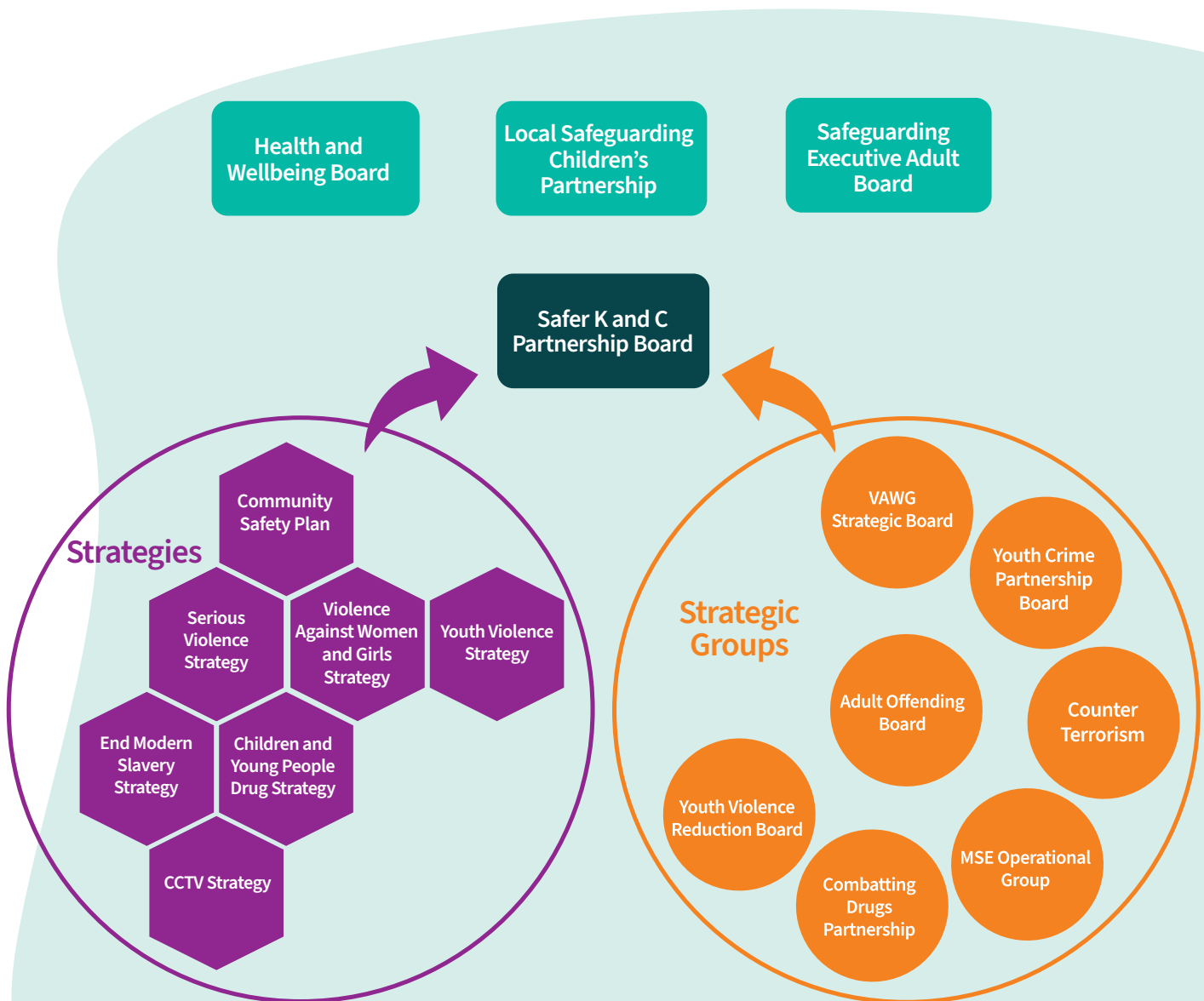
The detail of what the Duty holders will do to achieve these outcomes in addition to work already underway through the **Community Safety Plan**, **VAWG Strategy** and **Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy** is provided below on the following page.

The objectives	What we learnt	What we will do to respond
<p>Those who commit violence are held to account and harmful behaviour is prevented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of violent assaults across all themes have a low proportion of criminal justice outcomes. • Data and information on those who commit violence is limited and improved data collection is needed so services are evidence led. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve local understanding of the challenges causing low criminal justice outcomes across all themes. • Duty holders and services should help to reduce the data gap and improve the understanding of those committing violence.
<p>Victims are supported to feel safe, and their voices inform direct action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience of victims is needed to inform what approaches make them feel the safest with or without criminal justice outcomes. • Black communities are disproportionately represented in victim data of all types of violence. • Female victims of violence under the age of 25 is higher than expected and their needs require better understanding. • Victims of domestic abuse report a high level of disability and health needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain victim insight into what best helps victims following an assault or incident. What has been successful at making them feel safer following violence? • Ensure projects and services respond to the local disproportionality of Black communities affected by violence, across all themes. • Improve understanding of young female victims of violence (under 25) and ensure there are services available to support them. • Develop a clear intersectional approach to support victims of domestic abuse and include disability and health needs.
<p>Communities most adversely affected are prioritised and engaged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Kensington wards (specifically Dalgarno, Colville and Golborne), Chelsea Riverside and Earls Court are wards that have the highest number of all serious violence offences across each theme and therefore should be areas prioritised for projects and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that communities most adversely affected know about the services available and find these services accessible.

6. How will we know we have made a difference?

6.1 The work that is delivered to achieve the outcomes of the Serious Violence Strategy is under the direct responsibility of the Safer K and C Partnership Board. However, there are other Strategic Boards that also have a contribution to the successful delivery of this plan including Health, Adults and Children’s Safeguarding.

There are also other strategic delivery groups that are responsible for working towards collaboration to achieve outcomes across agencies. The strategies and strategic groups that are linked into the Safer K and C Partnership Board responsibilities are below:



- 6.2** An action plan of the serious violence strategy will track delivery of the agreed projects and recommendations.
- 6.3** The Strategic Needs Assessment review in year 2 (2024/25) will include a direction of travel against the findings from the initial baseline data.
- 6.4** The Safer K and C Partnership and duty holders will engage with residents and those directly affected by these issues and in receipt of specialist services to obtain their views on the efficacy of our work in this area.



7. Definition of Serious Violence

7.1 Under the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism.

7.2 The London Violence Reduction Unit has collaborated with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, London Councils, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London and Probation Service have developed a serious violence definition which has been accepted by all London Community Safety Partnerships.

This defines Serious Violence as:

Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.

Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

7.3 There are three themes that are central to this definition, domestic abuse, youth violence and sexual violence. These incidents are not always mutually exclusive, but it is helpful to understand them separately as three forms of serious violence.

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 بیشتر لطفا 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.

For more details visit
www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety