

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 12 February 2025

6.30 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London  
SE1 2QH

## Supplemental Agenda No.1

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Date: 5 February 2025

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	12 February 2025
<b>Report title:</b>	Southwark Community Safety Partnership Priorities and Refreshed Plan
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	N/A
<b>From:</b>	Southwark Community Safety Partnership

## RECOMMENDATION

1. This report recommends that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee review progress made against the 2024/25 Community Safety Partnership priorities and consider the findings from the 2023/24 Strategic Assessment. This will inform the development of updated priorities for 2025/26, which are being shaped as part of the new Community Safety Strategy 2025-2030.

## Background Information

2. Established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for developing and implementing strategies to address crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour within the borough. The responsible authorities that make up a Community Safety Partnership are the:
  - Police
  - Fire and rescue authorities
  - Local Authority
  - Health partners
  - Probation services
3. The Community Safety Partnership conducts annual Strategic Assessments to analyse crime trends and uses the findings to develop annual priorities. This evidence-based approach aims to ensure that priorities effectively address community needs and emerging challenges. These priorities guide resource allocation and are monitored against a wider partnership plan.
4. The Community Safety Partnership outlines shared priorities among partners, while each organisation within the partnership also has its own strategic priorities. For the council, the Council Delivery Plan (2022-26) identifies "Keeping You Safe" as a key priority. Through this plan, the council is committed to:

- Launching an anti-social behavior task force and investing in our CCTV network.
  - Upgrading all our street and estate lighting and working with residents to identify and redesign the spots where people feel most unsafe.
  - Taking on misogyny and violence against women and girls, rolling out our women's safety charter to pubs and venues across the borough and delivering a women's safety centre where women can turn to for support when facing abuse.
  - Working to tackle youth violence, putting young people, victims and their families at the heart of our work.
  - Taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate and seeking to make our borough safe for all our communities.
5. The Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership and subject to annual scrutiny through local authority scrutiny processes to aid accountability and transparency.
  6. The Community Safety Partnership operates within a broader network of statutory governance structures and strategies, such as Southwark 2030 and the London Police and Crime Plan. The board interacts with key partnerships, including:
    - Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)
    - Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SCP)
    - Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)
    - Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP)

These interconnections ensure the Community Safety Partnership's work is aligned with broader statutory and strategic priorities, frameworks, risks, and lessons learned across the borough.

7. Community safety is a major concern for Southwark residents. In the 2024 Resident Insights Survey, crime and policing ranked as the second most pressing issue after the cost of living, with 53% of respondents identifying it as their top concern. Feelings of safety vary significantly between day and night—89% feel safe during the day, but only 33% after dark. Additionally, perceptions of safety differ across groups, with women and non-white residents feeling the most unsafe at night.
8. Trust and confidence in the police are generally low across London, but Southwark reports significantly lower levels than the city average. Perceptions vary among different groups, with Black residents less likely to trust the police and White residents less likely to feel confident in their performance. However, participation in public attitude surveys on trust and confidence in the police remains low.
9. The Community Safety Partnership is dedicated to understanding residents' concerns through various community feedback channels. Several engagement initiatives took place in 2023/24 and 2024/25 delivered by statutory agencies. These included Council-led Community Conversations, a Women's Safety Survey, and a dedicated inbox for the public to share concerns about trust and confidence in policing, following the introduction of

the Policing Oversight Board. Feedback from these initiatives is reviewed by relevant boards, ensuring it informs Community Safety Partnership decision-making.

10. A dedicated ongoing engagement plan is planned by the Council during 24/25. Additionally, the upcoming Community Safety review will further assess engagement mechanisms across the partnership to reinforce that community safety is everyone's business along with ensuring that it has a comprehensive engagement strategy.

### **Community Safety Partnership 2024/25 Priorities**

11. The Community Safety Partnership identified five key priorities for 2024/25:

- Tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) and promoting women's safety
- Reducing and preventing violence and vulnerability
- Reducing drug related harm
- Increasing trust and confidence in policing
- Creating safe and sociable estates and neighbourhoods

12. Delivery of priorities is driven through dedicated multi-agency boards and action plans, with regular monitoring to ensure accountability. Quarterly Community Safety Partnership board meetings provide strategic oversight, enabling a clear focus on achieving key objectives.



13. "Creating safe and sociable estates and neighbourhoods" is the only priority without a dedicated partnership board. This priority includes a focus on tackling anti-social behaviour and area-based working. Forthcoming legislative changes and the continued strengthening of neighbourhood policing are expected to influence enforcement powers and the future delivery of this priority. Additionally, the new police Neighbourhoods Superintendent for Southwark - a dedicated post introduced in every London borough – aims to strengthen local leadership and partnership working.
14. A range of operational and tactical tasking mechanisms, including the Tactical and Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG), which is led by the police, and the Partnership Tasking Group (PTG), co-chaired by the local authority, are also responsible for directing partnership resources toward emerging priorities.

## Delivery Highlights Against 2024/25 Priorities

### Tackling VAWG and Promoting Women's Safety

15. This Community Safety Partnership priority is overseen by the VAWG Strategic Group, chaired by a Senior Council Officer and a Senior Police Detective responsible for the BCU's Public Protection Unit. This group is directly linked to the Police-chaired BCU VAWG Group, which is a mandatory requirement by the Metropolitan Police Service, providing strategic oversight from a policing perspective.
16. The council currently commissions services to provide advocacy and support to any member of the community who is a victim-survivor of VAWG crimes, including domestic abuse. During 2023/24:
  - Over 1,300 referrals were made to Southwark Domestic Abuse Service, resulting in safety plans for over 820 of those referred.
  - The domestic abuse multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) supported 471 victims, involving over 645 children and 517 suspects.
  - A commissioned child therapeutic support service assisted 25 children under 11 affected by domestic abuse, despite a waiting list.
  - Southwark Council's domestic abuse refuge accommodated 43 victim-survivors.
  - A co-located housing independent domestic abuse advocate handled over 190 referrals, conducting more than 130 risk assessments and safety plans, including sanctuary referrals to help victims-survivors stay in their homes.
17. All five Environment Visual Audits—Peckham (Rye Lane), Canada Water, Burgess Park, Tooley Street, and Elephant and Castle—have been reviewed, with action plans developed and bi-monthly working groups established to drive progress. The council remains committed to enhancing safety for residents by removing graffiti and upgrading CCTV and lighting across key areas.
18. As part of a VAWG transformation journey, the council is expanding its focus beyond domestic abuse to public-space violence against women and girls. New advocacy and support services are being commissioned, including a dedicated VAWG support hub offering comprehensive services under one roof. Satellite and virtual services will ensure borough-wide accessibility and remove barriers for victim-survivors.
19. 20 Safe Havens and 71 Safe Spaces established, providing domestic abuse support and safety. Collaboration with businesses in the nighttime economy promotes VAWG awareness, including initiatives like Ask for Angela and the Women's Night Safety Charter, which is supported by 49 businesses.
20. Our anti-misogyny campaign, 'Through Her Eyes', launched in November 2022, has now reached over 1 million views on social media. It continues to be promoted in healthy relationships education and was a key focus during the VAWG 16 Days of Activism in November.

*See Appendix 1 for a detailed breakdown of objectives and progress achieved under this priority.*

### **Reducing and Preventing Violence and Vulnerability**

21. This Community Safety Partnership priority is overseen by the Violence and Vulnerability Board, chaired by the Director of Stronger Neighbourhoods and a Senior Police Detective who oversees the BCU's Proactive Crime Unit. The board is also responsible for implementing the Serious Violence Duty and the local Violence Reduction Action Plan, ensuring key strategic links in reducing serious violence.
22. The Violence and Vulnerability Board also has responsibility for robbery, including mobile phone snatches. There are daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly multi-agency meetings directly and indirectly taking action against robbery and phone snatches. Some of the work being done is as follows:
  - Teams of Police Officers and Council wardens are patrolling hotspot areas across Southwark to provide a visible presence to deter crime and are carrying out mobile phone marking with the public.
  - The "Our Routes" initiative targets school-related robberies, while Southwark collaborates with the police to address phone snatching and moped-enabled crime. Awareness campaigns and community engagement efforts reinforce crime prevention strategies.
  - To complement operational activity, the Community Safety Partnership are running public awareness messaging through the council's digital channels and new e-newsletter. One example being the Police "Look Up, Look Out" campaign which reminds the public how they can make themselves less vulnerable.
23. The Community Harm and Exploitation Hub currently supports 105 young people at risk of violence, with targeted interventions such as mentoring, housing, and mental health services. This work complements the Combatting Drugs Partnership's efforts to address County Lines and drug-related harm, applying a public health approach.
  - Over 200 young people have engaged so far, this year.
  - 100% of clients engaged were not convicted of any crime within 6 months.
  - 97% positively engages or successfully exited the programme.
  - 91% engaged in employment, training or education, boosting their confidence and employability.
24. The Southwark Young Advisors (SYA) play a crucial role in shaping policing and community safety strategies by working with local leaders, guiding decision-making, and delivering training. They are also collaborating with the Youth Parliament (who have a cabinet focused theme on youth violence) to organise a Youth Conference for 2025/26.

25. The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Board<sup>1</sup> oversees 150 high-risk offenders, ensuring coordinated interventions to reduce reoffending.
26. As a pilot borough for Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews (OWHR)<sup>2</sup>, our data helps identify patterns and trends in weapon-related homicides, shaping future prevention strategies and policy decisions. OWHR awareness training has been provided to over 120 partnership staff, including Young Advisors, to ensure a youth perspective in our approach.

*See Appendix 2 for a detailed breakdown of objectives and progress achieved under this priority.*

### **Reducing Drug Related Harm**

27. This Community Safety Partnership priority is overseen by the Combatting Drugs Partnership, chaired by Director of Public Health and Director of Stronger Neighbourhoods. The Combatting Drugs Partnership brings together different organisations to understand and address shared challenges in connection with drug-related harm. It is also accountable to the UK government for delivering the outcomes of the national drug strategy in Southwark.
28. The Combatting Drugs Partnership was convened in October 2022 and has progressed through a process of development and refinement throughout 2023-24 and 2024-25. In Quarter 1 2024-25, the partnership's governance structure was refreshed to deliver against five identified strategic priority themes in its refreshed delivery plan. These are:
  - Breaking drug supply
  - Building a world-class treatment and recovery system
  - Achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs (prevention)
  - Developing the Combatting Drugs Partnership governance
  - Preventing and reducing drug and alcohol related death

Below are some key progress highlights against these priorities:

29. Project ADDER<sup>3</sup> and Operation Yamata<sup>4</sup> have been mobilised in Southwark to reduce drug-related harm, disrupt supply chains, and tackle middle-market drug and firearms trafficking. The two initiatives work together to address the harm caused by controlled drugs, focusing on both prosecuting drug suppliers and intervening to reduce demand by diverting users from substance misuse.

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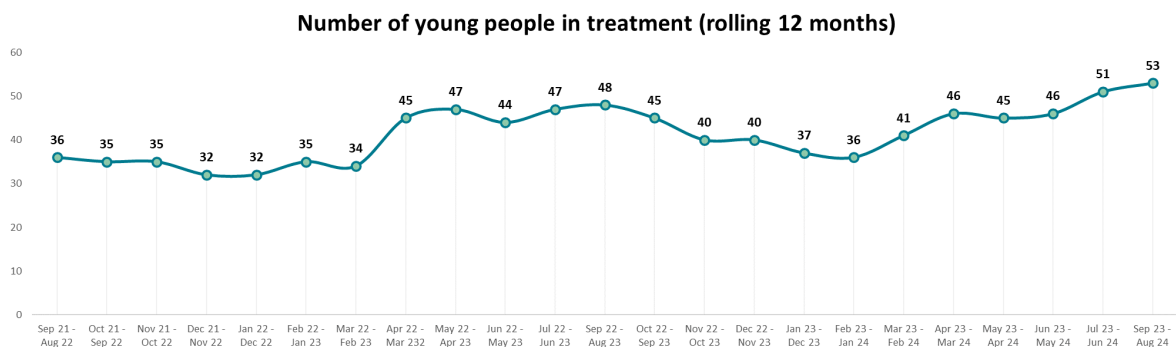
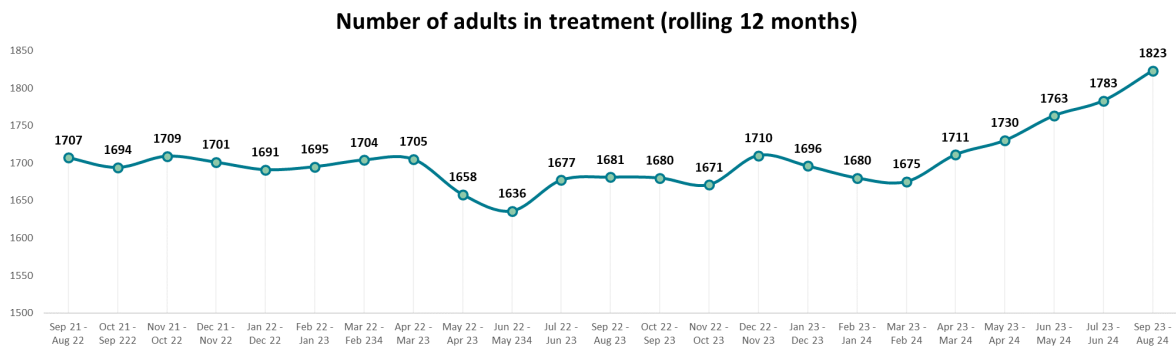
<sup>1</sup> The IOM integrates support and enforcement to provide a coordinated, multi-agency approach to crime and reoffending. It focuses on diverting persistent and high-risk offenders from criminal behaviour through joint management by partner agencies. [Integrated offender management \(IOM\) - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>2</sup> Introduced in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the purpose of OWHRs is to ensure that when a qualifying homicide takes place, local partners identify the lessons that can be learnt from the death, to consider whether any appropriate action needs to be taken and to share the outcome of the review. The reviews are being piloted for a period of 18 months from 01/04/2023. [Offensive weapons homicide reviews: statutory guidance \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>3</sup> Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) is a pathfinder programme, which aims to reduce-related offending, drug deaths and drug use. Project ADDER combines coordinated law enforcement activity, alongside expanded diversionary programmes, enhanced treatment and recovery provisions (including housing and employment support). [About Project ADDER - GOV.UK](#).

<sup>4</sup> Operation Yamata is model for combatting gang and drug-related violence in London, by identifying and tracking active London-based drug lines through communications data and direct engagement with users.

30. A refreshed borough drugs profile has been developed, which includes location-based mapping of drug-related harms and local response action taken by a wide range of partner agencies.
31. The council has invested additional drug strategy funding into supporting treatment delivery in a range of different settings including the criminal justice system, hospitals, education, social care and provision for people sleeping rough or at risk of homelessness. Additionally, investment has been made to develop a bespoke women's treatment pathway and to increase engagement with people in under-represented groups. The number of adults and children and young people accessing the borough's drug and alcohol treatment services is at the highest levels since before the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a key drug strategy ambition.



32. The council has allocated funding for a cannabis campaign which is in development. There has also been investment in updating drug and alcohol educational resources to support engagement with children and young people. Local treatment providers represented the borough as part of Recovery Month in September 2024.
33. A new drug and alcohol related death panel has been convened in 2024-25. The partnership has also responded to the threat of novel synthetic opioids through the development of a local preparedness plan which will govern the borough-level response. There is also an established naloxone programme including innovative peer-led delivery which is supporting the reach of this life-saving medication in the event of an opioid overdose to communities.

*See Appendix 3 for a detailed breakdown of objectives and progress achieved under this priority.*



## **Increasing Trust and Confidence in Policing**

34. A local Trust and Confidence Plan has been developed, aligning with the Casey Report, Mayor's Police and Crime Plan and New Met for London Plan. A Local Policing Oversight Board has been established to provide independent oversight of the local Trust and Confidence Plan. The board launched in December 2024, with eight independent members in place, and will meet quarterly. This Board is the only variation of its kind currently in London.
35. The Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) has engaged over 964 young people through workshops, mentoring, and initiatives addressing stop and search, youth violence, and community harm, including training on first aid and "Know Your Rights"<sup>5</sup>.
36. The YIAG collaborates with Youth Parliament to play a key role in shaping youth-centered policing priorities and promoting improved understanding and communication between young people and law enforcement.

*See Appendix 4 for a detailed breakdown of objectives and progress achieved under this priority.*

## **Creating Safe and Sociable Estates and Neighbourhoods**

37. With a £3 million investment from the council, work has started to upgrade CCTV cameras and expand coverage in key public areas. Over 500 cameras now monitor public spaces 24/7, and the number of CCTV operators has increased by 20%.
38. A Complex Case Review Panel is in place to improve case management, alongside specialist roles to support residents with complex needs.
39. The ASB procedure is being fully reviewed in 2024/25, with resident and stakeholder consultations to ensure it meets necessary standards.
40. Enforcement training is being refreshed to shift towards more enforcement-based responses, in line with national guidelines and a broader cross-council approach to tackle antisocial behaviour more effectively.
41. Insights from the latest Crime and ASB survey have reshaped warden patrol priorities, particularly in SE1/London Bridge. A new data dashboard is being developed to improve decision-making, relating to resource deployment.

*See Appendix 5 for a detailed breakdown of objectives and progress achieved under this priority.*

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<sup>5</sup> Know Your Rights is a training program developed in collaboration with police officers and designed to empower young people with an understanding of their legal rights during stop-and-search encounters

## Strategic Needs Assessment 2023/24

### New Data Sharing Issues

42. New data sharing issues with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) are creating challenges for the CSP in fulfilling its statutory requirements:
  - Loss of third-party access to MPS system
  - CONNECT system issues and specific CONNECT data issues
  - Loss of access to Violence Harm Assessment (VHA) tool
43. These data-related issues will impact the partnership, making it challenging to complete future strategic assessments required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Serious Violence Duty. These assessments are a critical to the evidence-based approach adopted by the Community Safety Partnership. A limited ability to conduct these assessments restricts the understanding of causal factors and trends driving crime and disorder, ultimately hindering informed decision-making going forward.
44. These issues stem not from the local BCU, but central decisions made by the MPS. Matters will be escalated to Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime seeking assistance to ensure MPS fulfils its obligations to partners and residents.

### Crime and Disorder Data<sup>6</sup>

45. The following statistics provide an overview of crime trends in Southwark for 2023/24. The data emphasises the need for focus and action under the CSP to address and prioritise ongoing issues and emerging challenges.
46. Crime in Southwark has risen by 18.2% since 2021/22, surpassing the London average (12.2%), with theft driving this increase. Theft has surged by 51.8%, particularly in Thefts from Persons in the north-west of the borough. This makes Southwark the 3rd highest in London for thefts in 2023/24.
47. Burglary has remained largely unchanged, decreasing slightly by 0.2%, while London saw a 4.9% increase, causing Southwark's ranking to drop from 1st to 3rd in London.
48. Hate crime has risen by 0.6%, with increases in Islamophobic and antisemitic offences, positioning Southwark 8th highest in London in 2023/24.

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<sup>6</sup> NB caution needs to be exercised when using MPS data due to the new reporting system which was introduced in February 2024.

Offence Category	21/22		22/23		23/24		Change (since 21/22)	
	Offences	Proportion	Offences	Proportion	Offences	Proportion	Southwark	London
Arson and Criminal Damage	1,842	5.8%	2,056	5.9%	2,101	5.6%	14.1%	7.7%
Burglary	2,490	7.8%	2,458	7.1%	2,484	6.6%	-0.2%	4.9%
Drug offences	2,028	6.3%	1,664	4.8%	1,308	3.5%	-35.5%	-19.2%
Misc. Crimes against Society	347	1.1%	323	0.9%	277	0.7%	-20.2%	-18.7%
Possession of Weapons	277	0.9%	250	0.7%	294	0.8%	6.1%	-5.1%
Public Order offences	2,070	6.5%	1,942	5.6%	2,086	5.5%	0.8%	0.0%
Robbery	1,144	3.6%	1,864	5.4%	2,032	5.4%	77.6%	42.3%
Sexual offences	923	2.9%	926	2.7%	942	2.5%	2.1%	-2.3%
Theft	9,642	30.1%	12,289	35.6%	14,638	38.7%	51.8%	41.8%
Vehicle offences	2,815	8.8%	2,558	7.4%	2,832	7.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Violence Against the Person	8,428	26.3%	8,237	23.8%	8,822	23.3%	4.7%	4.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,006</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34,567</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>37,816</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>

### Tackling VAWG and Promoting Women's Safety

49. VAWG (excluding Domestic Abuse) has increased by 8.2% since 2021/22, with 1,234 reported offences in 2023/24. This has been driven by increases in miscellaneous sexual offences and exposure & voyeurism in North Bermondsey and North Walworth wards.
- North Bermondsey has reported an increase in rape offences. (2021/22 - 7, 2023/24 - 22) and the volume of sexual assaults have doubled (2021/22 - 9, 2023/24 - 18).
  - North Walworth has reported increases in harassment (2021/22 - 24, 2023/24 - 33) and sexual assaults (2021/22 - 14, 2023/24 - 29).

VAWG Category (excl DA, Public and Private Space)	21/22		22/23		23/24		Change (since 21/22)
	Offences	%	Offences	%	Offences	%	
Assault by Penetration	12	1.1%	16	1.3%	12	1.0%	0.0%
Coercive Control	1	0.1%	4	0.3%	3	0.2%	200.0%
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-
Harassment	431	37.8%	431	36.3%	418	33.9%	-3.0%
Harassment - Stalking	39	3.4%	48	4.0%	51	4.1%	30.8%
Non-Fatal Strangulation	0	0.0%	16	1.3%	38	3.1%	-
Other Misc. Sexual offences	45	3.9%	35	2.9%	77	6.2%	71.1%
Rape	181	15.9%	182	15.3%	170	13.8%	-6.1%
Sexual Activity (Under 16)	35	3.1%	35	2.9%	30	2.4%	-14.3%
Sexual Activity without Consent	5	0.4%	6	0.5%	5	0.4%	0.0%
Sexual Assault	292	25.6%	288	24.2%	300	24.3%	2.7%
Sexual Grooming	12	1.1%	14	1.2%	14	1.1%	16.7%
Spiking	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.4%	-
Upskirting	2	0.2%	1	0.1%	3	0.2%	50.0%
Voyeurism and Exposure	86	7.5%	111	9.3%	108	8.8%	25.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>

50. Domestic Abuse reported offences have decreased by 5.5% since 2021/22, with 2,818 in 2023/24. Although this is a decrease, this could underline a reduction in willingness for victims to report, taking into considering existing poor trust and confidence levels in the police and the findings of the Baroness Casey Review.

## Reducing and Preventing Violence and Vulnerability

51. Violence Against the Person (excluding Domestic Abuse) increased by 8.5% since 2021/22, mostly driven by violence without injury offences.
52. Serious Violence (all ages, excluding Domestic Abuse) increased by 7.9% in line with overall violence, driven by increases in Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Threats to Kill offences. The number of homicides has seen little change across all years.
53. Knife related offences has seen little overall change, with an increase of 2.2% compared to 2021/22. When knives have been present in offences, they are most commonly used to inflict injury, accounting for 52.6% of knife offences in 2023/24. Gun offences has seen an increase of 84.6% since 2021/22, with 72 gun-related offences taking place in 2023/24.

Weapon Offences	21/22		22/23		23/24		Change (since 21/22)
	Offences	Proportion	Offences	Proportion	Offences	Proportion	
Knife Crime							
Knife Injury	116	51.6%	121	49.0%	121	52.6%	4.3%
Knife Threatened	93	41.3%	107	43.3%	86	37.4%	-7.5%
Knife Intimated	16	7.1%	19	7.7%	23	10.0%	43.8%
Knife Crime Total	225	100%	247	100%	230	100%	2.2%
Gun Crime							
Lethal Barrel Discharge	6		16		7		16.7%
Gun Crime Total	39		85		72		84.6%

54. Personal Robbery has increased by 69.4%, higher than London (34.2%). Southwark ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in London in 2023/24. Robberies are concentrated in the area close to Borough High Street/London Bridge, where theft hotspots are, with local intelligence indicating the use of bicycles and scooters to commit offences. In 2023/24, 1 in 4 robberies involved the use of a knife, most commonly to threaten violence.

## Reducing Drug Related Harm

55. Drug offences have decreased by 35.4% since 2021/22, mostly due to a reduction in drug possession offences. Possession offences are mostly for cannabis (84.2% of drug possessions in 2023/24). Although drug offences have decreased, drug trafficking has increased by 73.3% since 2021/22, with 324 offences reported in 2023/24.

Offence Category	21/22	22/23	23/24	Change (since 21/22)
Drug Possession	1751	1228	928	-47.0%
Drug Trafficking	187	346	324	73.3%
<b>Total Drug offences</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>-35.4%</b>

56. Substance Misuse Treatment services are seeing greater numbers of people accessing treatment, showing positive progress for service engagement. There is a greater use of club drugs such as ecstasy, GHB/GBL and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) since 2022/23.

57. There is an emerged identified risk of synthetic opioids, which are more potent than heroin and caused spikes in drug-related deaths in England in 2017, 2021 and 2023. With concerns that they may become more widespread and pose greater harm to people who use them.

### **Safe and Sociable Estates and Neighbourhoods**

58. Police received 9,011 complaints concerning ASB in Southwark in 2023/24, a 20.0% decrease from the 11,267 incidents in 2021/22 but an increase of 9.9% compared with 2022/23. Police ASB was at its highest in 2020/21 because of imposed Covid-19 measures. Southwark ranks 8<sup>th</sup> highest of the London boroughs for ASB reports to the police (also 8<sup>th</sup> in 2021/22 and 10<sup>th</sup> in 2022/23).
59. The Council received 2,835 reports concerning ASB in 2023/24, a 15.7% increase from the 2,451 incidents in 2021/22 and an increase of 3.0% compared with 2022/23. Notwithstanding 2020/21 (3,396), 2023/24 saw the most ASB reports in the last 10 years.

### **Increasing Trust and Confidence.**

60. Trust and confidence in the Police has continued to decline for all measures both in Southwark and across London.
61. A significant amount of data and insight highlights that women and Black residents are less likely to trust the police. According to MOPAC analysis, trust in the MPS is significantly lower among Black Londoners (57%) compared to White Londoners (71%).

### **Timeline for Determining CSP 2025/26 Priorities and Refreshed Plan 2025-30**

62. Over the past year, the CSP has made notable progress. However, it is acknowledged that there is still work to be done. Looking ahead to 2025/26, the CSP is committed to addressing the key issues that affect community safety and well-being of our community. Below is the ongoing timeline for refreshing annual priorities:
- **12<sup>th</sup> February 2025:** Present at Scrutiny to gather proactive feedback and input to shape priorities for the upcoming year.
  - **February/April 2025:** Develop the framework of the 2025-30 Community Safety Partnership plan and establish updated priorities.
  - **April 2025:** First draft of the 2025-30 plan presented at Community Safety Partnership board for review and feedback.
  - Review of Community Safety scheduled to be commissioned in February and completed by June 25.
  - **Q1 25/26:** Development of Strategic Assessment 2024/25.
  - **Q2 25/26:** Alignment of refreshed plan to latest Strategic Assessment data.
  - **Q2 25/26:** Statutory partners internal sign off.
  - **Q2 25/26:** Final sign-off for new plan and priorities and onwards delivery and publication.

## **Factors and Considerations Influencing Future Development of 2025/26 CSP Priorities and the 2025-2030 Community Safety Plan.**

### **Community Safety Partnership Review**

63. Part two of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review, recommended that the Home Office undertake a full review of Community Safety Partnerships. The review ran from March 2023 to January 2024 and has now concluded. It sought to clarify the role of Community Safety Partnerships, and improve their transparency, accountability and effectiveness, making it easier for them to serve the needs of their communities. The Community Safety Partnership review was launched alongside the Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan
64. As a result of the review, the Home Office will be developing new guidance for CSPs, which will reflect the context CSPs currently work within and set out recommended minimum standards, as well as suggestions for good practice.

### **Southwark 2030**

65. The Southwark 2030 strategy outlines the council's approach to leading local partners in addressing future challenges and building on the work already underway across our communities, schools, businesses, and organisations. A central focus of the strategy is "A safer Southwark", with commitments to addressing crime and anti-social behavior hotspots, reducing violence against women, children, and young people, and improving trust and confidence in local policing. The CSP will play a pivotal role in achieving this commitment and so a collaborative approach is crucial.

### **Southwark Council Community Safety Review**

66. Southwark Council Cabinet requested that officers commission a comprehensive, external, and independent review of the council's community safety and antisocial behaviour policies and strategies over the next six months, in line with the Southwark 2030 Strategy that will examine:
  - The way that the council works in partnership with other agencies through the Community Safety Partnership.
  - Cross council working on community safety issues.
  - The community safety services that the council provides, including the Community Wardens service.
67. A whole system review will consider how the partnership, in particular the police and local authority, work together to keep our residents safe and make them feel safer.
68. Engagement with residents and stakeholders will be a key element of the review, with regular check points with the community, including community workshops, so that the review is informed and shaped by resident experience.
69. The review's findings may lead to operational changes within departments and partner agencies and will be instrumental in guiding the work of the CSP going forward.

## **Serious Violence Duty**

70. Introduced in January 2023 as part of the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) is a key element of the Government's strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence. Central to this approach is a multi-agency public health model that seeks to understand the root causes and impacts of violence, with a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention. In Southwark, the CSP oversees the delivery of the SVD, and the Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Board will lead on the borough's compliance and ongoing implementation of the duty.
71. The SVD has, and will continue to, significantly influence the work of the Southwark Violence Reduction Unit and wider CSP. By fostering a shared focus, enhancing data-driven decision-making, and improving collaboration and communication, the duty acts as a catalyst for more effective action to address serious violence within the CSP, and across other strategic partnership boards, especially those linked to safeguarding and Social Care.

## **London Police and Crime Plan 2025-29**

72. In December, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime launched their consultation on the draft Police and Crime Plan (2025-29) for London which sets out the Mayor's high-level priorities for policing, crime and community safety in London. A key principle of this plan is a collaborative approach, emphasising how MOPAC, the MPS, and partner agencies, including local councils, health services, criminal justice partners, and TfL/transport operators, will work together to reduce and prevent crime now and in the long term.
73. The Plan is structured around three core objectives: reducing violence and criminal exploitation, increasing trust and confidence in the MPS, and improving the criminal justice system and victim support. The CSP will need to consider these objectives when developing future priorities, ensuring actions align with and contribute to the broader goals outlined in the Mayor's Plan.

## **A New Met for London 2023-25:**

74. A New Met for London is a two-year plan on how the Met will deliver more trust, less crime, and high standards. It sets out three priorities for reform:
  - Community crime fighting: Working with Londoners to keep them safe.
  - Culture change: Embedding the values of policing by consent. The London-Race Action Plan outlines the next steps to become an anti-racist organisation.
  - Fixing our foundations: Setting the Met up to succeed.
75. The second priority responds directly to the findings of the Casey Report, which exposed critical failings within the MPS and highlighted a sharp decline in public trust, particularly among Black and minority communities, where misconduct has severely tarnished the Met's reputation.

76. These ongoing efforts by the central Met will directly influence the priority of increasing trust and confidence in policing, and could also impact other local priorities, for instance by improving domestic abuse reporting. It's crucial to stay informed about central developments and their effects on local issues.

## **Risk Factors and Emerging Threats to Continuity**

### **Reforms to Public Funding**

77. Funding for statutory services, is highly dependent on national government decisions, making them vulnerable to shifts in funding priorities and allocations.
78. Council funding reforms outlined by central government in November 2024 have the potential to affect service delivery and resources at all organisational levels across Southwark Council.
79. Despite recent announcements of increased national police funding, the Met Commissioner has highlighted significant budget gaps. While deliberate efforts have been made to protect neighbourhood policing, public protection, and frontline services like emergency response, substantial reductions are still likely, which will impact service delivery.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Safety	-
Link: <a href="#">Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 3 December 2024, 11.00 am - Southwark Council</a> (see item 12)		
Southwark Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2023-2024 <a href="#">Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2023 2024 (3).pdf</a>	Community Safety, Violence Reduction Unit	-

## **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Tackling VAWG and Promoting Women's Safety Delivery Milestones 24-25
Appendix 2	Reducing Violence and Vulnerability Delivery Milestones 24-25
Appendix 3	Reducing Drug-Related Harm Delivery Milestones 24-25
Appendix 4	Increasing Trust and Confidence Delivery Milestones 24-25
Appendix 5	Safe and Sociable Neighbourhoods Delivery Milestones 24-25



**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Stephen Douglass, Director of Stronger Neighbourhoods		
<b>Report Author</b>	Abbie Box, Community Safety Officer		
<b>Version</b>	Final		
<b>Dated</b>	4 February 2025		
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No		
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>			
<b>Officer Title</b>		<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance		No	No
Strategic Director, Finance		No	No
List other officers here			
<b>Cabinet Member</b>		Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team</b>			5 February 2024

**Priority: Tackling VAWG and Promoting Women's Safety**

Objective	Delivery/Milestones
<p>Establishment of a collaborative and co-ordinated local VAWG training offer including health, education, social care, housing, community engagement, and justice amongst others.</p>	<p><u>Understanding the VAWG training offer in Southwark</u>  During 2024 a mapping exercise was undertaken to establish the availability and breadth VAWG training in Southwark. 50 organisations delivering localised VAWG services in Southwark were approached. Of which 6 were identified as regularly delivering training in Southwark. They provided general DA/VAWG training and also more specialist training to delve deeper into harmful practices such as honour based abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage etc This information will support the development of a new training offer as part of our VAWG Transformation workstream.</p> <p><u>Training delivered by the Southwark Domestic Abuse Service (council's commissioned service)</u>  Refuge currently delivers the councils domestic abuse contract which includes a Domestic Abuse Awareness training offer. 15 sessions were delivered with 575 individuals attendees between April 2024 and Dec 2024. This includes council Housing and Children's Services, Faith Groups, Housing Association, Perinatal Team and 300 Primary Care Health Professionals at a DA training day in April.</p> <p><u>VAWG 16 days of activism – training delivery</u>  This year's 16 days offer included a number of training opportunities including sessions on cyber awareness, bystander intervention training, working with perpetrators, DA awareness, and Consent aimed at parent/carers.</p>
<p>Work with organisations within the health economy, including Public Health</p>	<p>At the beginning of the year in April the council along with Health Primary Care colleagues worked to develop a one day</p>

<p>Departments and NHS Trusts to take a Public Health Approach to VAWG</p>	<p>conference/training day on domestic abuse for individuals working in primary care, including GP's. This included sessions on domestic abuse awareness, and signs to watch out for, the local offer; referral routes and mechanisms Including Iris Programme), Domestic Homicide Reviews, and presentations from DA providers working in Southwark. 300 practitioners attended the day for which the feedback received was very positive.</p> <p><u>Iris Programme</u> In 2024 the Iris programme was extended to be available to all GP surgeries in Southwark. Since April 33 referral have been received from GP's to our domestic abuse service. This is lower than anticipated. Discussions are currently taking place to move away from the Iris model to more flexible delivery model better suited to current GP working practices. The dedicated Iris IDVA has delivered 1 training session and 9 outreach sessions during the period</p>
<p>Tackling misogyny and prevention of the rise of other harmful attitudes towards women and girls including VAWG in an on-line context; for example through Education and Campaigns.-</p>	<p><u>Through her eyes</u> Since introducing the Through Her Eyes campaign in November 2022 it has had over one million views on all social media platforms to date. Our primary audience in 2024 was men and boys aged 16 to 35 years old. We targeted them directly through paid-for YouTube ads, working with partners in the community, and our ongoing education programme run by our Young Advisors.</p> <p>In 23/24, Bede House incorporated the Through Her Eyes campaign video in their Healthy Relationships workshop. During Q3, they focused on scheduling workshops for the following quarter. They planned a workshop at City of London Academy for January 2024, delivering to over 200 students.</p> <p><u>Bede - Healthy relationships workshops</u></p>

	<p>Bede have been delivering their Healthy Relationships Programme in secondary schools in Southwark for a number of years. The programme delivers key messages promoting healthy relationships, misogyny, and prevention of domestic and dating abuse. Delivery for 24/25 will take place in January to over 200 students at City of London Academy.</p> <p><u>Freshers Fairs – Awareness Raising</u> This is an area of development that we are taking forward during 24/25, building relationships with post 16 colleges and universities based in Southwark. In October council officers supported an VAWG engagement stall at London Southbank University, engaging with students on all VAWG related matters and handing out material including personal safety alarms. More recently in January we promoted VAWG awareness along with other community safety colleagues at a freshers fair at Kaplan International College.</p>
Improved early identification of those affected by VAWG particularly those in minoritised or often marginalised groups. We will do this thorough ensuring individuals understand what VAWG is and capacity building our communities to identify those at risk and raise appropriate alerts.	<p><u>VAWG Transformation</u> Over the last 18 months Southwark has undertaken a review of its VAWG service offer, liaising with statutory partners, and the voluntary sector to understand what is working in our current service, what can be improved and what is missing. This has involved 121 meetings, stakeholder events, completion of a VAWG Strategic Needs Assessment, and Equalities Impact Assessment, to form an overall picture of the current position and future service requirements.</p> <p>Part of this work involved engaging with local groups working with minoritised and marginalised groups in Southwark which was identified as an area of weakness and service gap identified through the VAWG transformation work. 17 exclusive BAME groups were engaged with including 121 meetings, site visits, to develop relationships and build</p>

	<p>working relationships and referral pathways to support the communities that these groups represent.</p> <p>We are currently undertaking a procurement process for a new VAWG Service for which engaging and working with local 'by and for' will be a mandatory requirement for the new service provider.</p> <p><u>VAWG forum and newsletter</u></p> <p>In support of improving our engagement, information sharing and relationship building with the local voluntary sector delivering VAWG Services in Southwark, we will be re-launching our VAWG forum on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025. To date 23 organisations including housing, asylum, alcohol/drug, food bank, health and BAME specialist sectors have signed up to be members. We will be launching our new VAWG newsletter at the first meeting.</p>
Understand local VAWG picture including service need, demand and provision.	As part of our VAWG Transformation workstream in the Summer of 2024 a VAWG Strategic Needs Assessment utilising cross partner data was completed to understand the local VAWG picture; service need, demand and provision, in order to support the direction of service transformation including the procurement of a new service.
Development of an intersectional approach to developing VAWG responses, in consideration of the impact of disproportionality on different sections of the local community. This will include taking account the needs of people as both victims and perpetrators, black and minoritised people, people with disabilities, older people, those who are LGBTQ+ and those with insecure immigration status or no recourse to public funds (NRPF)	<p>The VAWG Strategic Needs Assessment completed in the Summer of 2024 included demographic data; age, ethnicity, gender for individuals reporting VAWG offences (Police crime data) and also for individuals accessing services. This together with feedback from stakeholders formed part of the basis of an Equalities Impact Needs Assessment (EQINA) reviewing our service offer and impact on individuals with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The EQINA recognised that although the existing service is designed to meet the needs across all protected characteristic group and does not have any recognised adverse impacts on individuals with protected characteristics. It was identified that there is unequal access to</p>

	<p>specialist support, which the new service currently being procured to be in place by November 2025 will work to reduce. The new service will be designed with this in mind; to meet specific needs for people with protected characteristics in line with the Equality Act 2010. This will include the reach of the new service which will be increased to improve equal levels of access to appropriate, needs led specialist support services. Service delivery will need to have the capacity to understand individual and community nuanced needs and be required to demonstrate how they will ensure availability of effective and appropriate provision of “By and For” specialist services, delivered by people with relevant, knowledge and skillsets aligned with the needs of victims/survivors.</p> <p>The issue of support for NRPF individuals remains an areas of difficulty due to the restrictions in place. We endeavour to make use of resources that are available signposting to voluntary sector organisations working with this client group and also within the public sector, engaging with the NRPF team in the council and participating in cross-partnerships such as the Education and Safeguarding Sub Group, and the Latin American Health Working Group.</p>
Establish a ground-breaking Women’s Safety Centre, so women experiencing violence or abuse can access all the support they need in one place.	<p>The establishment of a ground-breaking Women’s Safety Centre is central to our VAWG Transformation work. The Research and development phase was completed during 2024. The VAWG Support Service procurement exercise is currently underway due to complete by early summer with the appointment of the provider for the new service.</p> <p>The Service Specification around the Women’s Safety Centre has been drafted, covering the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site services</li> <li>• Satellite provision – mobile and virtual Staffing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core service provision – emotional support, legal assistance, safety planning, advocacy, etc..</li> <li>• Communications and promotions</li> <li>• Governance and management</li> </ul> <p>Potential buildings have been identified and are currently being explored for their feasibility to house the Centre, as the aim is to find a central location for the Centre, closer to transport hubs.</p>
Continuous service development of current commissioned domestic abuse service(s) to ensure they meet quality standards and user need and demand.	<p>Our commissioned domestic abuse provided by Refuge is subject to quarterly contract monitoring requirements including the submission of key performance indicators and monitoring narrative highlighting areas of achievement and risks to service delivery. To date (end of Q3) The service is currently meeting the majority of its KPI's, the Iris (enhanced DA support for GP's) outputs and outcomes are below expected level. This has been subject to review by the steering group for which proposed changes; the introduction of a more flexible Health IGVA model will be in place for April 2025. In January a second full time worker was recruited for our Child Therapeutic Service to support the demand for this service.</p> <p>The annual performance review is currently taking place, expected to report back by the end of March 2025.</p>
Appropriate and timely management of 'high risk' DA victim/survivors.	<p>The Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meets on a fortnightly basis to manage the risk of high risk DA victim/survivors referred. Financial year to date (end of Q3) 361 cases have been heard (note this will include repeats).</p> <p>We are constantly reviewing our MARAC processes to introduce improvements. Recent changes include introduction of SharePoint to improve information sharing, and implementation of more rigorous action monitoring process. We are currently at our case management</p>

	systems, we have a view to upgrading our database system alongside the introduction of an online form.
Improved community access to DA services for DA victim/survivors and their families	<p><u>Safe Havens</u> - We currently have 20 venues operating as Safe Havens. All six of Southwark's leisure centres have now received Safe Havens training. We are also planning Safe Havens training for all 12 of Southwark's libraries in January 2024. We continue to promote the scheme and have discussions with businesses and organisations that have expressed interest.</p> <p><u>Safe Spaces</u> - We have 71 venues currently signed up to the Safe Spaces programme. We are working to merge our Safe Havens and Safe Spaces schemes into one offer, in order to streamline engagement and awareness of the schemes. We will be re-engaging with all Safe Spaces venues to discuss this.</p>
Develop 'lived experience' service user feedback to ensure services are fit for purpose.	<p>We introduced our Expert By Experience Panel in March 2023 with the aim of directly engaging with service users with 'lived experience' for feedback on their experience of engaging with Southwark Services and recommendations to improve the service user experience. 5 panels have taken place since April 2024 including discussion topics on Mental health, Housing, Working with Perpetrators, and meeting with the lead member for Community Safety. Comments made by the group have been shared with colleagues across the council and have fed into our VAWG Transformation work feeding into the direction of future services.</p> <p>As the programme ends its first year, we will shortly be undertaking a review, with a view to improvements as we go into our second year of delivery.</p>



Expansion of service development into other VAWG private space areas such as Honour Based Violence and Harmful Practices	Expansion of our current DA support offer into other areas of non-DA related VAWG is a key requirement in the development of our new VAWG service. Service providers will be expected to provide support for individuals experiencing wider VAWG and engage with by and for organisations providing more specialist support.
Domestic Abuse Act implementation and development	<p><u>Housing</u> Work to implement effective responses and improve performance for domestic abuse survivors has been ongoing under the whole housing approach. A collaborative approach has been taken to address need. This includes the formation of the Domestic Abuse and Housing Operational Subgroup (DAHOS) which was established to facilitate a forum about domestic abuse within and between different housing sectors to ensure victim/survivors (with or without children) receive consistent, appropriate and professional support.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to explore the experiences of domestic abuse survivors in temporary accommodation this includes a data exercise with Housing Department colleagues to understand the scene of domestic abuse survivors residing in Southwark temporary accommodation. This will feed into a solution focused Temporary Accommodation Working Group to understand the experiences of residents in temporary accommodation and identify solutions to the challenges.</p> <p><u>Children as victims</u> Safer Communities has membership of the Southwark Safeguarding Children's Partnership Quality and Effectiveness Subgroup as the VAWG representative. Our standing agenda item presents an opportunity to update on the work of the team and this has been improved to provide structured updates on both MARAC and SDAS data that relates to children. From this group, partnership work has</p>

	<p>begun with statutory health colleagues to explore Healthy Relationships training, Southwark's Community Learning Disabilities Service, and Children's Social Care Reducing Parental Conflict workstreams. These relationships reflect the need to adopt a collaborative and preventative approach to domestic abuse to promote the safety and wellbeing of children.</p> <p>Preventative work is underway to improve responses to children living with domestic abuse in educational settings. Partnership work with our local Police MASH team has improved knowledge of Operation Encompass and has helped to identify the gaps/challenges in this programme. We are working collaboratively with a VSC organisation to develop a Healthy Relationships training offer for education providers and intend to support this offer by providing practical information and support to access Operation Encompass.</p>
Improve public spaces where women tell us they feel unsafe.	<p><u>Safe Havens</u> We currently have 20 venues operating as Safe Havens, predominantly in the area of London Bridge in the north of the borough. All 6 of Southwark's leisure centres have now received Safe Havens training. We are also planning Safe Havens training for all 12 of Southwark's libraries in January 2024. We continue to promote the scheme and have discussions with businesses and organisations that have expressed interest.</p> <p><u>VAWG Awareness Sessions for Businesses</u> Since April 7 VAWG Awareness sessions have been delivered in person at locations across the borough and also online. This includes awareness raising of public space VAWG and support that businesses can provide including the Ask For Angela Scheme, Safe Havens, and sign up to the Women's Night Safety Charter. Attendance has been</p>

	<p>much lower than originally anticipated with an average of 15 attendees per session. One final session is due to be delivered in Q4.</p> <p><u>Women's Night Safety Charter</u> This is a pan-London initiative delivered by MOPAC. 50 venues are currently signed up to the charter in Southwark. Work continues with the Safer Business Network who delivers the scheme to promote in Southwark. We continue to promote via Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Business Forums, Licensing team, Local Economy Team and on social media..</p> <p><u>EVA update</u> In May 2024 a review of the original EVA's from 2021 for the areas of: Peckham (Rye Lane), Canada Water, Burgess Park, Tooley Street, and Elephant and Castle took place. Identifying work already taken place and action still required. Work continues to implement safety improvement works. This includes steps taken to address issues such as graffiti, CCTV coverage, lighting, fly tipping, and community engagement</p> <p><u>Women's Safety Survey</u></p>
	<p>Expansion of our current DA support offer into other areas of non-DA related VAWG is a key requirement in the development of our new VAWG service which will be in place by November 2025.</p>
Insight and understanding prevalence of perpetrating behaviour. Development of revised perpetrator support offer	<p>The council currently delivers two programmes working with DA perpetrators:</p> <p>The Prevent and Change Programme (PAC) working with high-risk perpetrators of DA, and the Yuva working with Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence.</p>

	<p>PAC programme – perpetrators are referred to a multi-agency panel which meets on a monthly basis at which cases are discussed and assessed if appropriate to be taken forward. Perpetrators can be offered 121 or group interventions, with the victim also receiving professional support. This programme was established as a pilot and although has been successful in encouraging agencies to ‘think’ perpetrator and make referrals to the panel the actual take up of the perpetrator offer of support has been minimal. This grant funded programme is due to end at the in March 2025. Discussions are currently taking place as to the perpetrator offer past this point. To note the new VAWG Service procurement does contain the requirement for a perpetrator offer.</p> <p>Yuva - offers support to children/young people committing violence against their parents/carers. A support offer is also made to the parents experiencing the violence. Since April work has been undertaken with the service provider developing relationships and referral routes with Children’s Services. This has led to an increase of referrals to the service and the implementation of a waiting list for support. 11 young people and 13 parents/carers have received support from the service.</p> <p>The new VAWG Service procurement includes the requirement to provide a perpetrator offer. It is likely therefore that the current perpetrator offer will change post November 2025..</p>
Accessibility of VAWG service information to the public and stakeholders	A review of VAWG information held on Community Safety Pages on the Southwark Council website has been completed. This included ensuring that signposting to VAWG support Services in the borough is up to date with working weblinks.

	<p>In addition a service directory of VAWG services operating in Southwark has been created. The directory has a list over 100 organisations, separated by categories of VAWG, DA and general community agencies. The directory also reflects on the catchment area of the agencies, whether Southwark based, or Pan London based, services offered, contact details and client/service user basis.</p>
<p>Promotion and awareness raising of local VAWG services to the public and stakeholders</p>	<p>Throughout the year there have been a number of promotion and awareness raising of VAWG services to the public and stakeholders. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public engagement stalls with Police and other partners at main transport hubs , London Bridge Station, Elephant and Castle, Peckham Rye, Canada Water during the VAWG 16 days of activism</li> <li>• Lunch and learn sessions for professionals to promote subject learning and service awareness</li> <li>• Attendance at Team days and events</li> <li>• Faith Leaders Event held as part of 16 days of action to increase VAWG awareness within this community.</li> </ul> <p>The introduction of our VAWG Forum and partners newsletter will also support awareness raising and the dissemination of service information to the wider community and hard to reach groups in Southwark.</p>
<p>Promotion and awareness raising of pan London VAWG provision to Southwark stakeholders), to ensure victims and perpetrators can access the support they need, when and where they need it.</p>	<p>This work is ongoing and will form part of the Terms Of Reference for the newly established VAWG Forum and be promoted in the new VAWG Newsletter.</p>
<p>Promotion and awareness raising of steps taken to improve women's safety in public spaces.</p>	<p>Throughout the year there have been a number of promotion and awareness raising of activities to support and improve women's safety in public spaces. This includes:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement stalls in key areas such as Burgess Park and Peckham Square.</li> <li>• Freshers Fair engagement, targeting students, offering practical safety advice, and personal alarms.</li> <li>• Awareness raising with business and how they can get involved, via our VAWG Awareness Sessions</li> <li>• 16 days of action activity</li> <li>• Face to face delivery of Women's Safety Survey, in community settings</li> </ul> <p>Women's Safety comms messaging in the lead up to Christmas.</p>
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**Priority: Reducing and Preventing Violence and Vulnerability**

Objective	Progress
<p><b>Coordination and implementation of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD).</b></p> <p><i>(The Duty was created by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 which came into effect on 31st January 2023.</i></p> <p><i>As a result of the Duty, 'specified authorities' including the local authorities, police , Fire and Rescue Authorities, the Probation Service, Youth Offending Teams and Integrated Care Boards have a statutory responsibility to prevent people from becoming involved in, and to reduce instances of, serious violence.</i></p> <p><i>Information sharing is also a core element of the Serious Violence Duty. It places a requirement on services to work together to share data and knowledge, enabling them to better target their interventions to prevent serious violence).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Southwark, the implementation of this duty is led by the borough's Community Safety Partnership, which comprises entities such as the council, police, fire and rescue authorities, justice organisations (including youth justice service and probation services), health bodies (Integrated Care Boards), and representatives from the community and voluntary sectors. The Southwark VRU is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the SVD.</li> <li>• A SVD Strategic Needs Assessment was produced which provide data to inform priorities for the Southwark VRU and partners for 2023/2024.</li> <li>• The partnership has developed a strategy detailing how these organisations will work together to address serious violence in the borough.</li> <li>• Southwark VRU have produced the Southwark Violence Reduction Action Plan. This plan shows the work being delivered across the Partnership.</li> </ul> <p>All documents are available to the Panel</p> <p>Work ongoing</p>

<p><b>Deliver Priorities link to Community Harm and Exploitation Hub – Operational Group (gang exit programme under the Council Delivery Plan)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwark Council's Delivery Plan emphasises the importance of community safety and the reduction of violence.</li> <li>• A key initiative under this plan is the Southwark VRU, which operates as an Operational Group focusing on gang exit strategies and addressing various forms of exploitation.</li> <li>• The Operational Group is a multi-disciplinary team. It aims to tackle serious urban violence, including issues related to gangs.</li> <li>• The Operational Group works with 105 young people aged 18-25 years.</li> <li>• The young people are offered support such as mentoring, life skills, housing, health both physical and mental health including trauma support, education, training and employment, alcohol and drugs addiction support.</li> </ul> <p>This collaborative approach aligns with the council's commitment to creating a safer Southwark by addressing the root causes of violence and providing support for individuals seeking to exit criminal involvement.</p> <p>Work ongoing with a weekly meeting.</p>
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<p><b>Development of work linked to modern slavery and human trafficking, including county lines.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwark has appointed a specialist officer to coordinate efforts in tackling modern slavery, human trafficking, and county lines, ensuring a focused response to exploitation Ensures alignment with national legislation, policies, and local safeguarding frameworks and works with senior leadership to embed anti-slavery measures into council policies and service delivery.</li> <li>• Southwark is creating detailed intelligence profiles on modern slavery and county lines activity to better understand the scale, trends, and risk factors in the borough. These profiles will inform targeted interventions, resource allocation, and multi-agency responses to effectively combat exploitation and safeguard vulnerable individuals. This work involves Police, Community Safety, Probation Southwark ASB Unit, Youth Justice Services and Housing.</li> <li>• Report produced by Modern Slavery charity “Stop The Traffic” working with the Corporate Procurement Team to examine the compliance of Tier One Companies contracted by the Council with their Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking policies and procedures.</li> <li>• Creation of a referral pathway and multi-agency response for victims of MS and HT (6 cases to date).</li> <li>• National Referral Mechanism training to over 60 Partnership staff to raise awareness and understanding of the process.</li> </ul> <p>Work ongoing.</p>
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<p><b>Development of work linked to robbery, burglary and theft, particularly phone snatching.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management and oversight of the “<i>Our Routes</i>”** initiative - this programme is to reduce school boy robberies with a presence of uniform staff outside schools and on routes home for young people.</li> <li>• Collaboration with the Metropolitan Police's to tackle moped-enabled crime, including phone snatching.</li> <li>• Work with Council Communications to produce social media awareness campaigns to educate residents on how to stay safe and avoid phone snatching, including securing devices and staying alert in high-risk areas.</li> <li>• Partnership with Local Economy Team to engage local businesses, including cafés and shopping centres, to distribute crime prevention materials.</li> <li>• Workshops in schools and colleges to inform young people about robbery risks and personal safety measures.</li> <li>• Working with government agencies and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to influence policies related to street crime prevention.</li> <li>• Supporting stronger penalties for repeat offenders and better enforcement of laws related to stolen goods resale.</li> </ul> <p>By combining enforcement, prevention, and community engagement, Southwark aims to reduce robbery, burglary, and theft—particularly phone snatching—and improve public safety across the borough.</p> <p><u>This is a priority area for all partners but is a London wide and national problem: work is on going and tasking for Police and wardens to hotspot areas is reviewed weekly.</u></p>
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<p><b>Oversight and co-ordination the of Integrated Offender Management Board, in partnership with Probation.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight &amp; Coordination – The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Board in Southwark works in partnership with Probation and key stakeholders to ensure a collaborative approach to reducing reoffending and managing high-risk individuals effectively.</li> <li>• Multi-Agency Collaboration – The Board facilitates joint working between law enforcement, local authorities, health services, and community organisations to provide tailored interventions and support for offenders. IOM works with 150 offenders</li> <li>• Performance Monitoring &amp; Impact Assessment – Regular reviews and data analysis are conducted to measure the effectiveness of IOM interventions, ensuring they align with key objectives and deliver positive outcomes for offenders and the community.</li> <li>• Service Review is ongoing – A comprehensive evaluation of the IOM service is undertaken to assess its impact on reoffending rates, resource allocation, and cost-effectiveness, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.</li> </ul> <p>Work on going.</p>
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<b>Coordination and management of Southwark Young Advisors, who work across Community Safety Team.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Southwark Young Advisors (SYA) are a diverse group of trained young professionals aged 16 to 25, embedded within Southwark Council's Community Safety Team. They collaborate with local leaders to enhance community life, inform decision-making, and improve services.</li><li>• Currently 20 YAs working. A recruitment drive is about to be launched to increase their numbers to 35.</li><li>• Young Advisors are locally recruited and undergo extensive training to equip them with skills necessary for their roles as young consultants and mentors.</li><li>• A Southwark Young Advisor was awarded the Young Advisor of the Year award in 2023/24.</li><li>• SYA members deliver training on various topics, including Stop and Search procedures. This training enables them to educate Police Officers about their approach during encounters with young people, fostering better understanding and communication between young people and law enforcement. Over 150 Police Officers trained.</li><li>• SYA and Youth Parliament are planning a Youth conference, date TBA in line with education commitments and exams.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SYA engages with schools to promote community safety and their potential involvement in Community safety work. They deliver presentations, workshops, and mentoring sessions aimed at empowering young people to actively participate in their communities and voice their perspectives on local issues.</li></ul> <p>Through these efforts, the Southwark Young Advisors play a crucial role in bridging the gap between young people and authorities, ensuring that youth perspectives are integral to community safety strategies and initiatives.</p> <p>Work ongoing.</p>
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<b>Pilot borough for Offence Weapons Homicide Review (OWHR).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The OWHR pilot has now ended.</li><li>• Southwark has one OWHR currently running. An Independent Chair has been appointed. (No further details provided due to confidentiality).</li><li>• As a pilot borough the implementation of OWHR, means the Southwark VRU are working in collaboration with police, and health services. The aim of the OWHR is to identify lessons learned and develop strategies to prevent future incidents.</li><li>• With the pilot the Southwark VRU fosters partnerships among various agencies to ensure a holistic approach to understanding the causes of weapon-related homicides and to implement effective prevention measures.</li><li>• The data from our OWHR, will identify patterns and trends in weapon-related homicides, informing targeted interventions and policy decisions.</li><li>• OWHR awareness raising training delivered to over 120 Partnership staff including Young Advisors to include the youth perspective.</li></ul> <p>Work ongoing.</p>
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<p><b>Working with the Combatting Drugs Partnership to embed a public health approach to violence.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwark's VRU collaborates with the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) to implement a public health approach addressing violence linked to drug-related activities, including initiatives like Project ADDER and efforts against County Lines.</li> <li>• Key aspects of this collaboration include:</li> <li>• Integrated Strategy Development: The CDP operates under Southwark's Community Safety Partnership, focusing on reducing drug-related harm by breaking drug supply chains, enhancing treatment and recovery systems, and decreasing drug demand.</li> <li>• Project ADDER Participation: this is a national initiative aims to reduce drug-related crime and harm by combining targeted law enforcement with expanded treatment and recovery services.</li> <li>• <i>"Hidden in Plain Sight"</i> a report produced by CSP &amp; CDP showing the links between Southwark's drugs markets and violence issues</li> </ul> <p>Work ongoing.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County Lines Disruption: The VRU and CDP work together to combat County Lines operations, which involve the transportation of drugs from urban centres to other areas using vulnerable individuals. Efforts include intelligence sharing, targeted enforcement, and safeguarding those at risk of exploitation and harm</li><li>• Public Health Framework: By adopting a public health approach, the VRU and CDP address the root causes of violence and drug misuse, focusing on prevention, early intervention, and community-based solutions to promote long-term safety and well-being.</li><li>• Multi-Agency Collaboration: The partnership brings together various organisations to understand and tackle shared challenges related to drug-related harm, ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated response to violence linked to drug activities.</li></ul> <p>Through these collaborative efforts, Southwark aims to effectively reduce violence associated with drug-related activities, fostering a safer and healthier community.</p>
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<p><b>Management of all critical incidents linked to crime but not emergency planning.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwark Council employs a multifaceted approach to manage critical incidents related to violent crime, incorporating both financial support mechanisms and community engagement initiatives:</li> <li>• Critical Incident Protocol has been created and is used as a framework when a critical incident occurs, There is also a briefing document for Elected Members for them to provide advice and Guidance within their communities</li> <li>• Critical Incident Fund: The Council can access grants of up to £5,000 from the Critical Incident Fund from the London wide Violence Reduction Unit to enhance partnership responses following serious incidents. These funds are utilised to deliver prevention work and support community resilience in the aftermath of violent events. Southwark has made several successful claims for this funding.</li> </ul>
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## Glossary

## Our Routes

The programme is an operational partnership involving: Southwark Council's Violence Reduction Team, School Leadership teams and Safeguarding leads, Southwark Young Advisors, Various Met Police Teams including schools officers/sergeants, SNTs, British

Transport Police, Transport For London, CCTV, Safer Business Network, Community Wardens, Parks, Youth Services, Cleansing Teams, London Fire Brigade, and voluntary sector organisations.

The partnership will agree the deployment of a range of staff to key hotspot areas in readiness for the end of the school day, providing a visible presence from school sites and along the main transport routes used by young people, supporting the safety of young people as they travel home from school.

Youth outreach workers and Southwark's Young Advisors are also part of the Our Routes programmes to signpost young people to safe activities that they can be part of after school and at weekends.

Priority: Reducing Drug-Related Harm

Objective	Delivery/Milestones
Breaking drug supply chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement &amp; Recovery) has been mobilised in Southwark by the Metropolitan Police, with the aims of reducing drug-related death, reducing drug-related offending, reducing the prevalence of drug use and sustained and major disruption of networks involved in middle market drug/firearms supply and importation.</li><li>• Southwark has benefitted from the positive impact of Operation Yamata, a Metropolitan Police team focused on closing drug lines at scale in South London.</li><li>• Enhanced multi-agency partnership outreach delivery to proactively engage with people with drug and / or alcohol support needs, including people sleeping rough and those engaged in drug-related behaviours in public places in the borough, takes place on a regular basis with good representation from partner agencies.</li><li>• There has been a focus in 2024-25 on improving the capture and reporting of enforcement and engagement agency delivery in the Combatting Drugs Partnership. This has been achieved by ensuring the right representation of enforcement and engagement agencies at all levels of the CDP and a priority work programme to improve information sharing of local drug intelligence between the Metropolitan Police and partner agencies / general public.</li><li>• The Metropolitan Police and partner agencies took part in the national County Lines intensification week in November 2024, a</li></ul>

	<p>seven day period focused on stopping county lines activity and removing drugs, weapons and people committing crime from the streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A refreshed borough drugs profile has been developed for the borough which includes location-based mapping of drug-related harms and local response action taken by a wide range of partner agencies.</li> </ul>
Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local drug and alcohol treatment system has expanded in terms of the offer and workforce skill and volume, which has supported more people to engage with drugs and / or alcohol treatment and get the help that they need to live a life free from drugs and / or alcohol. This has included an enhanced focus on continuity of care for people with drugs and / or alcohol support needs leaving prison to return to Southwark's communities.</li> <li>• The numbers of adults and children and young people accessing the council's commissioned drug and alcohol treatment system is at the highest levels since before the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Our community drug and alcohol treatment provider Change, Grow, Live has undertaken a systematic review of the opioid use treatment pathway and will be implementing changes to the treatment and recovery offer for people using opioid drugs (e.g. heroin) in February 2025. A systematic review of the alcohol use treatment pathway is due to commence in Quarter 4 2024-25.</li> <li>• The council has invested in developing a bespoke women's treatment pathway to increase the number of women with drug and / or alcohol support needs that access treatment.</li> <li>• A rapid review of unmet need undertaken in 2023-24 identified a number of groups of people that are under-represented in treatment. As a result, a targeted marketing campaign is</li> </ul>

	<p>underway to try to increase awareness of treatment within these groups and support access and engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of the borough's residential drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation pathway will be undertaken in 2024-25. This is for the purpose of refreshing the pathway to increase the number of people who access residential care and to improve local processes.</li> <li>• The council has utilised additional drug strategy funding to invest in supporting drug and alcohol treatment delivery for people of all ages in a range of different settings including the criminal justice system (prisons, courts, probation and police custody), hospitals, children's social care, education and community outreach for people who are sleeping rough or at risk of homelessness).</li> <li>• In addition to the Combatting Drugs Partnership's delivery groups, the council has convened an outreach meeting focused on delivery for people on the borough's streets and also co-chairs a chemsex specific forum with Lambeth which brings together a range of professionals to consider and deploy the local approach to people engaged in chemsex.</li> <li>• Substance misuse peer-led delivery has expanded in the borough since 2022, where people with lived/living experience of drugs and / or alcohol use demonstrate visible recovery in the community and support other people to make positive change.</li> <li>• There is a commitment to supporting the development of a local drug and alcohol recovery community for people with lived / living experience of substance use and investment has been allocated for a needs assessment to underpin this work programme (subject to governance approval).</li> </ul>
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<p>Achieving a general shift in the demand for drugs (prevention)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council has invested funding with the community drug and alcohol treatment provider Change, Grow, Live in 2024-25 for the provision of current drug and alcohol educational resources to support delivery with children and young people.</li> <li>• The council's commissioned Recovery Support Service hosted by Janus worked in partnership with Change, Grow, Live to represent Southwark as part of Recovery Month in September 2024. This included representation at the national recovery walk at Crystal Palace as well as a borough-based recovery 'walk and talk' opening conversations about naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.</li> <li>• The council has allocated funding for a cannabis campaign which is in progress.</li> </ul>
<p>Developing the Combatting Drugs Partnership's governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout 2023-24 and into 2024-25, we have been developing and refining a performance dashboard. Our performance dashboard is comprised of a range of measures that our Combatting Drugs Partnership uses to assess progress against local need and harm and has been developed with input from a wide range of organisations.</li> <li>• Our Combatting Drugs Partnership Board reviews the performance dashboard at least quarterly. Our delivery groups have dashboards that are segmented from the partnership's overall performance dashboard aligned to their strategic priority area which are reviewed and discussed at each meeting.</li> <li>• The visibility of the Combatting Drugs Partnership has been increased with a dedicated web-page which has recently gone live. A work programme focused on developing the public's awareness of the work of the Combatting Drugs Partnership and how they can get involved will be taken forward in 2025-26.</li> <li>• Partnership has committed to the following needs assessments to be delivered.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Borough Drugs Profile Refresh: to improve our understanding of drug-related harm in Southwark and what action is being taken across the partnership to reduce drug-related harm in the borough.</li> <li>○ Synthetic Opioids Needs Assessment: a new needs assessment focused on improving our understanding of the presence and impact of synthetic opioids in Southwark.</li> <li>○ Refresh of Adult and Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessments: to update with more recent data to improve our understanding of the substance misuse needs of adults and young people in the borough.</li> <li>○ Quality of Care Planning Evaluation and Lived / Living Experience Consultation (co-produced): to evaluate community drug and alcohol treatment care plans and a consultation with people with lived/living experience of substance use to better understand their experiences.</li> <li>○ We are also liaising with another borough in relation to an opportunity to participate in a chemsex needs assessment.</li> </ul>
Preventing and reducing drug and alcohol related death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Combatting Drugs Partnership has convened a drug and alcohol related death panel in 2024-25. New guidance has been produced by central government this year which is being used to develop and refresh existing local protocols.</li> <li>● The Combatting Drugs Partnership has responded to the threat of novel synthetic opioids through the development of a novel synthetic opioids preparedness plan which will govern the local response.</li> <li>● The council has invested funding in drug and alcohol related death software to support local capture and monitoring.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The borough has an established naloxone programme led by Change, Grow, Live. Additionally, the council has invested funding in a peer-led naloxone project which has been successful in improving the reach of this life-saving medication across our communities.</li> </ul>
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**Priority: Increasing Trust and Confidence in Policing**

Objective	Delivery/Milestones
<p>Plan and deliver 'Community Conversation' events across the borough.</p> <p><i>Following several high profile incidents, Baroness Casey was appointed to lead an independent review into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service. The final report was published in March 2023, identifying failings and shortcomings by the Metropolitan Police and made numerous recommendations to improve trust and confidence in policing.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to the Baroness Casey Review, three 'Community Conversations' were held between October and December 2023 in Bermondsey, Walworth, and Dulwich. These evening events were chaired by the Lead Member for Community Safety and attended by Borough Commander, Sebastian Adjei-Addoh, with members of the Community Safety Team facilitating discussion.</li> <li>• Key themes that emerged from these conversations included perceptions of safety, visible policing, and racial disparities in policing powers, particularly around stop and search.</li> </ul>
<p>Establish a Policing Oversight Board to have oversight of police activity on the borough.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The police have developed a local Trust and Confidence Plan, which aims to ensure that communities feel listened to, informed, and treated with respect and fairness. The Southwark Policing Oversight Board will provide oversight, challenge and recommendations on the progress of this plan.</li> <li>• Recruitment of board members took place in November 2024, resulting in a total of eight board members (six appointed through recruitment and two co-opted).</li> <li>• The board officially launched in December 2024 and will meet quarterly to carry out its functions.</li> <li>• Key themes identified for focus include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence Against Women and Girls, including intersectionality in gender-based violence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inquiry into policing powers and interaction, known to disproportionately effect young Black and ethnic minority men, such as stop and search. Additional thematic areas will develop as the board evolves, and local residents and elected members are encouraged to suggest areas for focus.</li> <li>• A dedicated communication/engagement plan will form part of the board's development visibility and impact.</li> </ul>
Contribute to the review of community engagement and scrutiny of the police via the MOPAC London wide board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively participating in a London-wide review of community engagement structures, ensuring that Southwark's perspective is well-represented in shaping these frameworks. This effort aims to assess and enhance how communities across London engage with policing and safety initiatives.</li> <li>• Contribution to forthcoming Police &amp; Crime Plan: Insights from this review will directly inform the development of the new Police &amp; Crime Plan, ensuring that community voices and concerns are central to future policing strategies.</li> </ul>
All new Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) members to deliver training to the police on stop and search.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YIAG members actively participating in police training at Hendon Police College and other venues, with a programme in development to extend training to all BCU new recruits. Training covers areas such as stop and search, control and restraint, public order, firearms, and the use of dogs and horses.</li> <li>• Sessions involving young people from Arco Academy launched, with plans to expand to other schools and youth practitioners.</li> <li>• Supporting the Met in creating the "Know Your Rights" stop and search workshop for young people.</li> </ul>
Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) members to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivered a range of events, workshops, and webinars in collaboration with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP),</li> </ul>

<p>deliver events and workshop sessions to increase awareness and empowerment among young people.</p>	<p>focusing on stop and search, community harm and exploitation (CCE, CSE, county lines, youth violence), VAWG, drug-related violence, reducing violent reoffending among young offenders, and minimizing school exclusions. From July to September 2024, 141 young people participated in these workshops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented a peer-to-peer street mentoring program aimed at educating young people on their rights and correct information about stop and search. Through #MYENDS initiatives, street-base sessions, and critical incident responses in partnership with the Police and CSP, YIAG engaged with 823 young people.</li> <li>• Partnered with 'Street Doctors' and 'Your Stance' to deliver workshops on street first aid, CPR, and bleed kit training.</li> </ul>
<p>Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) members to offer key community representation and engagement, to ensure youth-focused policing priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YIAG's central ward panel is contributing to borough-wide ward panel meetings, working to establish 3-4 'Youth' Ward Panel Priorities for Southwark and its wards based on consultations with young people, aimed at influencing neighbourhood policing priorities.</li> <li>• Collaborating with the CSP and Combating Drugs Partnership enforcement group to refresh the Southwark Narrative, focusing on young people's and community members' perspectives on the local drugs market and its impact. Findings from the Southwark Narrative and Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment highlighted the disproportionate representation of young Black men as both victims and perpetrators, driving further CSP work to systematically address disproportionality across programmes.</li> <li>• Continued community representation on Independent Police Complaints Commission (IOPC) groups, supporting Met Outreach Days, and engaging with the London Police Race Action Plan to influence local implementation.</li> <li>• Collaborated on community crime-fighting initiatives, trust-building efforts, and the wording for the Stop and Search Charter.</li> <li>• Participated in Southwark Black Parents Forum and IAG meetings to address concerns and expand youth engagement with policing.</li> </ul>



**Priority: Creating Safe and Sociable Neighbourhoods**

Objective	Progress
Upgrade to existing CCTV cameras in town centres and public spaces to provide better coverage	Work has commenced
Better support residents with complex factors, such as dual diagnosis, substance misuse and/or mental health that are impacting ASB	<p>The establishment of a <b>Complex Case Review Panel</b> to improve Stage 1, 2 and Ombudsman case outcomes. It ensures the right officer is dealing with the right thing and feedback is provided to the victims and witnesses.</p> <p>Recruitment of a <b>Dual Diagnosis, Advanced Practitioner Social Worker</b> to support residents both reporting and experiencing ASB who had unmet needs of treatment and support or who were difficult to engage and had previously declined referrals to support and treatment.</p> <p>Recruitment of an <b>ASB Management Officer</b>, funded by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities to engage, support and refer residents into treatment where there is alcohol or substance misuse. The officer conducts regular outreach patrols to identify and ensure individuals are referred to the appropriate support.</p>
Refresh of the council's Anti Social Behaviour policy to include a council wide approach and incorporate a housing specific process within it.	<p>The current ASB procedure was reviewed in 2021. During 2024/25, the ASB procedure is undergoing a full review, with consultation from all stakeholders, to make sure that the response to ASB incidents meets the levels that are necessary.</p> <p>A resident consultation workshop has been arranged for 28/01/25. The purpose of this workshop is to listen to what the residents</p>

	expect and want when they report ASB, and how they think the current procedure needs to change.
Upgrade of digital software to adequately capture ASB interventions.	<p>Introduction of <b>new case management system</b> and <b>handheld devices</b> for the Community Wardens Service so they are able to capture their patrols in real time, reducing administrative tasks and thus increasing time out on patrols.</p> <p><b>Upgrade of Civica APP</b> software and dashboard to include adequately capturing ASB interventions</p>
A data driven approach to ASB to ensure resources are in the right place at the right time	<p>In May 2024, the 2023-24 Crime and ASB survey became available, and the data highlighted that <b>the top 5 priority areas for reported antisocial behaviour had changed</b> from the previous year, with the SE1 / London Bridge area featuring as a hotspot for both crime and ASB. In response to this, the Town Centre Community Warden team have expanded their current priority areas to include patrolling the SE1 / London Bridge area.</p> <p><b>Power BI Dashboard</b> being developed to provide better data on activities and outcomes.</p>
Greater use of the council's enforcement powers to address antisocial behaviour in instances where advice and guidance has not received the required reduction.	<p><b>Refresh of enforcement</b> training and procedures in preparation for more enforcement rather than the current approach which is primarily reassurance, education and engagement.</p> <p>A wider <b>cross council approach</b> to enforcement is needed in line with the Enforcement Concordat agreed between central and local government and any changes proposed nationally.</p>
A comprehensive, external, and independent review of the council's	To include the development of a new Target Operating Model for tackling ASB.

community safety and antisocial behaviour policies and strategies in line with the Southwark 2030 Strategy	
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#### Key Challenges/Risk:

**Tackling ASB** – numerous departments (including Community Safety & Partnerships, Parks, Housing, Environmental Enforcement, Noise Nuisance and Adult Social Care) address ASB which requires a coordinated approach

**Defining ASB** – Services across the council interpret what constitutes ASB differently and this can cause confusion for residents i.e. reports from town centres of graffiti are handled differently to graffiti on estates

**Reporting ASB** - Residents report acts of ASB to the council that are actually crimes and should be reported to the police. These are triaged to Police, mostly at the request of anonymity

**Reported ASB** – we can only address the ASB that we know about, but this may not reflect what our residents are actually experiencing i.e. some areas have higher reporting, but lower level ASB whereas other areas may have high risk and complex ASB which goes under reported possibly due largely to fear or the behaviour has become the “norm”.



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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MUNICIPAL YEAR 24/25

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