



Safer Kingston Partnership Plan 2024-29



Safer Kingston Partnership Plan 2024-2029

Introduction

Community safety is a high public priority, it is about the issues that make people safe or unsafe in their communities. Everyone has the right to feel and be safe, whether at home, at work or in education or enjoying the many things our borough has to offer. It determines how people see their neighbourhood, helps to reduce fear of crime and is essential to improving people's quality of life. Local prosperity is also driven by a feeling of safety and reinforces the borough's reputation as a place to invest, supporting economic regeneration as businesses are supported to thrive in safe and secure places.

We are proud that the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames continues to be a safe and inclusive borough. We are pleased to welcome you to our new Safer Kingston Partnership Plan which sets out how agencies will work together to keep Kingston safe and achieve our shared vision:

'Our borough is a safe and healthy place where communities and businesses thrive and where residents, students and visitors feel safe and welcomed.'

Together with our communities, we all have a part to play in achieving this vision, where crime and antisocial behaviour remains low, people feel safe and supported and perceptions of crime and safety better reflect reality. However, with some crime types we will aim to increase the number of people reporting to us, particularly where victims have told us they do not always feel confident to do this. By increasing reporting, we will be able to offer appropriate support to victims, reduce repeat victimisation, bring more perpetrators to justice and reduce reoffending.

By working together and improving the services we provide we can really make a difference.

Who are we and what do we do?

The Safer Kingston Partnership (SKP) is the local community safety partnership, which is mandated under the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#). It brings partner agencies (responsible authorities) together to coordinate community safety activity at a strategic level and formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder, substance misuse, prevent and reduce serious violence and reduce reoffending in their area. The partnership approach is built on the premise that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety issues, and that these issues can be addressed more effectively and efficiently through working in partnership. The 'responsible authorities' are:

- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK) Council.
- Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Kingston.
- London Fire Brigade (LFB).
- Probation Service (PS).
- South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Collectively we work with a wide range of partner agencies, local businesses, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations and the local community to keep the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames one of the safest London boroughs. We have strong buy-in from partners across all sectors and we ensure that we make the most of each and every opportunity that comes our way.

What are our Statutory responsibilities?

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation place statutory responsibilities on Community Safety Partnerships to:

1. Set up a strategic group to direct the work of the ‘responsible authorities’.
2. Engage and consult with the community about their priorities and experiences.
3. Set up protocols and systems for sharing information.
4. Share data and intelligence and produce an annual strategic assessment (SA) and a serious violence strategic needs assessment¹ to inform local priorities.
5. Hold the local responsibility for the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty.²
6. To set out a partnership plan to:
 - Reduce crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).
 - Combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.
 - Reduce re-offending.
 - Prevent and reduce serious violence.
7. Commission domestic abuse homicide reviews.

There is a mutual duty for the Safer Kingston Partnership and the London Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to cooperate with each other and have due regard to the police and crime objectives set out in [London’s Police and Crime Plan](#).

Our Plan

The Safer Kingston Partnership has taken the decision to integrate the serious violence duty requirements within the Safer Kingston Plan as the priorities and activities required to address them are closely linked. The plan sets out a balanced approach, working in and with communities to prevent, reduce and respond to crime and antisocial behaviour and improve community safety. It outlines our commitment to support victims, a public health approach to prevent and reduce serious violence and reduce reoffending.

Our plan aligns with the statutory priorities and aspirations outlined in [London’s Police and Crime Plan 2022-25](#). It also aligns with [Kingston’s Council Plan 2023-27](#), which provides a vision for working with partners and communities to ensure the borough is Greener, Fairer, Safer, Together. It reflects the ambition outlined in [Inclusive Kingston 2021-25](#) to reduce inequality and establish Kingston as an area with equality of opportunity, an area of fairness and an area that is inclusive. Kingston is a Marmot borough and we will embed the Marmot principles from the [Marmot Review, Fair Society, Healthy Lives](#) into our work to reduce

¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-duty-strategic-needs-assessments/serious-violence-duty-strategic-needs-assessment-guidance>

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/639b2ec3e90e072186e1803c/Final_Serious_Violence_Duty_Statutory_Guidance_-_December_2022.pdf

inequality and improve health outcomes. This guarantees a collective approach to achieving the best possible outcomes for our communities.

What is community safety?

Community safety is about helping communities to be safe and feel safe. It is important that people feel safe where they live, work, study or spend their leisure time. Community safety is not just about focusing on the crime types that are committed, we also have to focus on understanding and addressing what causes people to be vulnerable to becoming victims or perpetrators of crime, exploitation and antisocial behaviour.

Crime harm

Crime harm refers to the negative impacts of crime on individuals and society. While crime is often seen as a harm in its own right, the negative impacts related to any one incident will differ by the type of crime experienced as well as the perspective of the victim. These harms include a wide range of outcomes for both individuals, such as physical harm and financial loss, and for communities and wider society, such as fear of crime and increased use of health and victim support services.

Perceptions of safety

Perceptions of safety contribute to personal wellbeing and community health, it has economic implications, and is a matter of equity and social justice. Understanding and addressing perceptions of safety contributes to quality of life and creating safer, more inclusive and vibrant public spaces that benefit communities and local businesses.³

A proactive relationship with our residents and communities

By engaging with our communities, we hear the concerns about crime, antisocial behaviour and feelings of safety but it is also clear that different people and communities experience different things. There are variations in views and experiences by gender, age, ethnicity and socio-economic groups; as well as variations in patterns of crime and anti-social behaviour, with the types of issues that are prevalent varying across and within different types of areas, leading people to have different views and experiences of where they live, work, study or spend their leisure time.

Our services are valued for keeping people safe and safeguarding and protecting people who are at risk of harm, but there is also a strong desire for community action and wanting to do more together, particularly to improve safety in our public spaces. Our residents have told us they want efficient and effective services, no matter who provides them. We will continue working in partnership to:

1. Place people and communities at the centre of our planning.
2. Have regular engagement with our communities.
3. Make sure that there are better-connected services.

3

<https://eprints.lincoln.ac.uk/id/eprint/54913/1/What%20Makes%20People%20Feel%20Safe%20-%20Literature%20Review.pdf>

We will work alongside victims, amplifying their voices and promoting their interests to ensure the victim's voice is heard and that lessons learned from their experiences are used to inform and shape practices, policies and service provision.

We will empower those with lived experience of the criminal justice system to talk directly about their experiences to better understand how current systems can exacerbate the cycle of crisis and crime and how we can better provide the support necessary to break this cycle.

Being safe and feeling safe is recognised as an important element of wellbeing and can provide the foundation for wider improvements in people's quality of life. We are committed to community collaboration to strengthen trust, confidence and accountability.

Tackling the issues that matter

It is important to recognise that crime trends can be very local and specific to a neighbourhood, high street location or public space. Therefore, there are differences in the types and experiences of crime dependent on the area of the borough.

There is strong evidence to suggest that crime and antisocial behaviour is not evenly distributed, but rather is highly concentrated. Some neighbourhoods, streets and people are much more likely to experience crime than others, and more regularly. Similarly, some offenders are more prolific than others and commit higher volumes of crime.⁴ The [Beating Crime Plan](#)⁵ published by the Government in 2021 indicates that nationally:

- Homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime are concentrated in certain neighbourhoods, with nearly a quarter of neighbourhood crime concentrated in just 5% of local areas.
- Many of these crimes are committed by a small number of persistent offenders, with just 5% of offenders accounting for up to 50% of all crime.
- Drugs often play a prominent role; and in the year to March 2020 48% of homicides were drug-related.

The research findings on how crime is concentrated have important implications for crime prevention and suggest that focusing resources on, and targeting crime prevention activities towards, the people and places that experience most crime or contribute most to the problem will be most effective.

There will also be differences in the types of crime that go unreported, which may also cause a disproportionate effect on understanding crime locally. The voices of those who have been directly affected, as well as the experiences of local communities are critical in helping us to understand the things which affect their safety and can assist us to better respond to specific needs.

Serious Violence Duty

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced statutory requirements on specified authorities (police, fire and rescue authorities, justice organisations (youth

⁴ <https://www.college.police.uk/research/what-works-policing-reduce-crime/people-and-places>

⁵ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6135f34ed3bf7f05b7bcb54e/Crime-plan-v10.pdf>

offending teams and probation services), health bodies and local authorities) to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area. This includes a requirement to conduct a serious violence strategic needs assessment to identify the drivers of serious violence in the local area and the cohorts of people most affected or at risk and the implementation of a strategy with solutions to address these issues.

The Safer Kingston Partnership recognises that there are many different forms of violence and that these are often related but require different approaches. The scope within this plan encompasses exploitative and criminal activities where there is an inherent threat or reality of serious violence in the public realm or in the home. We have defined serious violence using the minimum standard developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit:

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

Our serious violence strategic needs assessment identified the following additional areas for the Safer Kingston Partnership to focus on:

- Violence and exploitation affecting those over 25 years.
- Public space violence, including that related to the night time economy.
- Areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing and modern slavery.

Our aim is to ensure that partnership work to prevent and reduce violence and exploitation is at the heart of community safety and prioritised in this plan.

Our approach will be informed by the World Health Organisation's social ecological model⁶, which encourages a focus on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels, each of which influences and is influenced by the others. The following public health prevention levels will provide a framework for action to help us achieve our aims:

- Primary prevention: preventing violence before it occurs by addressing the underlying causes.
- Secondary prevention: preventing further escalation of violence by identifying opportunities to intervene and enable change.
- Tertiary prevention: focused on reducing the harm from violence by concentrating on care, rehabilitation and safety.

We will ensure that the activities in this plan and the annual delivery plans are rooted in evidence of effectiveness to tackle the problem⁷ and ensure we are commissioning interventions and services which are known to deliver the greatest impact for people at risk

⁶ <https://www.who.int/groups/violence-prevention-alliance/approach>

⁷ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/social-determinants-of-health/who_2022_plv_strategy_2022-2026_finalfile.pdf?sfvrsn=c819ff54_3&download=true

of, or already involved in, serious violence and exploitation. Several high quality reviews have been completed and provide valuable information into ‘what works’ to prevent and reduce serious violence. These reviews and other resources can be found in Appendix A.

How we will do it

The principles of a public health approach to policing⁸ provide a useful framework to underpin our work:

1. Seeking to prevent an issue for the population as a whole, and intervening early with at-risk groups to reduce the harm caused by the issue, including promoting recovery and increasing resilience.
2. Developing a detailed understanding of the nature, extent, and impact of an issue – including the evidence of what is likely to cause or prevent it in the short, medium and long term – using shared data and intelligence.
3. Understanding that the police, their partners and communities can work together to address the causes and impact of an issue by taking a whole system approach.
4. Working with partners to coordinate tailored and targeted action that, together, aims to prevent:
 - a. an issue emerging in the first place or re-emerging by focusing on social determinants/the causes at a population level (primary prevention)
 - b. an emerging issue from becoming an established problem (secondary prevention)
 - c. an established problem getting worse and becoming a crisis, and mitigating the immediate impact of the problem (tertiary prevention)
5. Assessing how well interventions are implemented, and how effective they are at preventing the issue for your population and/or reducing the harm to relevant groups.
6. Learning from the implementation and effectiveness of actions, and making any changes that are necessary at an individual, organisation or system wide level.
7. Building leadership across public services and communities to work together to address an issue, its causes and harms, by aligning strategy, leadership and resources.⁹

Principles

We will adopt the five key principles which guide good practice in partnership working and are called the 5Cs:

1. **Collaboration:** we will take a collaborative whole-systems approach that brings partners together from a broad range of functions to achieve our shared vision.
2. **Co-production:** our approach and the work undertaken will be informed by the perspectives of all partners and the local community.
3. **Co-operation in data and intelligence sharing:** we will share data and intelligence to ensure we have a better understanding of the levels and nature of local issues; help to identify groups, services and areas affected; inform targeting; and measure the impact of interventions.

⁸ <https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2021-02/principles-public-health-approach-to-policing.pdf>

⁹ <https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2021-02/principles-public-health-approach-to-policing.pdf>

4. **Counter-narrative development:** we will create opportunities for personal development and the option to pursue alternatives to criminal activities, by supporting positive aspirations, promoting positive role-models and celebrating the strength of our communities.
5. **Community consensus:** community consensus lies at the heart of our place based multi-agency approach. Our approach will be with and for our local communities and empower them to participate and get involved in tackling issues that affect them.

How did we decide on our priorities?

The Safer Kingston Partnership has used an evidence based approach, to conduct a combined strategic assessment (SA) and a serious violence strategic needs assessment (SVSNA) to help us to understand what we need to prioritise. This has included:

- Analysing levels and patterns of crime, antisocial behaviour, offending and substance misuse to provide an understanding of the key community safety issues impacting on the borough.
- Using the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI)¹⁰ to assess how harmful different crimes are in proportion to the others.
- Using the Problem Analysis Triangle¹¹ to inform solutions to specific problems.
- Reviewing the feedback provided by people who live, work, study and visit the borough, including those who have been affected by crime and those who are accessing our services.
- Utilising the expertise and views of professionals and organisations working in the borough.
- Ensuring learning from safeguarding reviews and domestic homicide reviews informs our approach.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of local services and identifying gaps in provision.
- Evaluating the extent to which the previous priorities have been implemented.

This has ensured that this plan is informed by research and evidence and assisted the Safer Kingston Partnership to:

- Systematically pinpoint areas where they can make a distinct and significant contribution and which areas should be of highest priority to the Safer Kingston Partnership.
- Identify the root causes and contributing factors of serious violence.
- Identify population groups that are most vulnerable to being affected by violence, as victims or perpetrators.
- Understand the risk and protective factors in the local area and identify opportunities for prevention and early intervention.
- Allocate resources and identify activities to be prioritised.
- Highlight gaps in information and guide further in-depth analysis of priority areas.

In deciding our priorities, our considerations covered a range of crimes and vulnerabilities where we looked at the level of harm caused to victims and how different crimes affect the

¹⁰ <https://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/research/thecambridgecrimeharmindex>

¹¹ <https://www.college.police.uk/app/intelligence-management/analysis/analysis>

wider community. The frequency and scale of crimes was another important consideration, for example, how often each type of crime is happening and whether it is predicted to increase or decline over the next 12 months. When considering key risks, we also looked at the reliability of the knowledge and data the assessment was based on, how well-placed partners are to mitigate the risks, including the resources available. This comprehensive analysis has helped to identify the most significant current and emerging crime and community safety issues, which have been explored further through consultation with our partners, including voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, business representatives and feedback from the local community.

Priorities and commitments

This five year plan provides the overall strategic direction for the Safer Kingston Partnership to achieve our vision. We will focus our resources and collaborative working practices on four thematic priorities, each with their own annual delivery plans which will be reviewed following an annual strategic needs assessment. We aim to be responsive to any changes, and if deemed appropriate and evidenced by the strategic assessment, the priorities set out within this plan may change within the five year period.

Aims

In each of the thematic priorities we will aim to:

- Take a proactive and evidence led approach, to prevent and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Increase reporting of crime and harmful behaviours.
- Listen to our citizens and our communities.
- Adopt both individual and place-based approaches.
- Understand and address the root causes underlying crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Ensure support for victims and reduce repeat victimisation.
- Have a joint, robust, and proactive approach to tackle perpetrators, enablers, and places where harm is caused and reduce reoffending.
- Utilise early intervention to facilitate positive changes in harmful behaviours.
- Continue to embed evaluation and learning across the system.
- Be innovative and try new ways of working.
- Be trauma informed.
- Adopt a [contextual safeguarding approach](#).
- Promote key community safety campaigns and deliver community action days.

1. **Working in, and with our communities to ensure our borough is a safe place for everyone:** Our key commitments are to:

- a. Raise awareness about the different types of crime and antisocial behaviour, how people can report these and the support services available whether they report a crime or not.
- b. Regularly promote key messaging relating to [Fearless](#) and [CrimeStoppers](#) to provide opportunities for people to report anonymously.
- c. Adopt and implement the five [Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Principles](#) into our partnership arrangements to ensure an effective multi-agency response.

- d. Take a strategic approach to identify areas and/or communities with early indicators of rising crime and/or antisocial behaviour and facilitate proactive multi agency problem solving practices.
- e. Coordinate multi agency risk management/safeguarding panels to ensure a multi-agency response to safeguard and support victims and coordinate interventions to reduce re-offending.
- f. Use our full range of partnership tools and powers to enforce and hold perpetrators of crime and antisocial behaviour to account.
- g. Work with local businesses to learn, share and support each other to prevent and combat crime and improve community safety.
- h. Develop a Night Time Economy Strategy to protect and build on the boroughs strengths and assets, provide insight into tackling violence in public spaces and identify opportunities to grow and diversify night time activities.
- i. Design out crime and 'design in' community safety by adopting key design principles¹² to create public spaces that are safe during both daylight and darkness.
- j. Work in partnership with Kingston River Safety Forum (KRSF) to continue to review and improve the water safety measures along the River Thames that passes through Kingston and identify opportunities to improve support to those experiencing a mental health crisis.
- k. Improve CCTV coverage and monitoring to assist detection of perpetrators and increase the number of successful prosecutions
- l. Improve the safety of our local communities by reducing the risk to life, property and the environment from fire.

2. Preventing and reducing serious violence and exploitation. Our key commitments are to:

- a. Work with partners to develop a whole systems approach and refresh our Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan (VVRAP).
- b. Work with the Strategic Partnership for alcohol and drugs to better understand the local drug market which is a key driver for many issues related to violence and safety across our borough.
- c. Adopt a proactive, partnership approach to reduce the impact of [serious organised crime](#) in local communities by:
 - i. Improving our understanding of organised crime locally, including working with communities to cultivate local intelligence and keeping ahead of developments in technology
 - ii. Advancing our understanding of local predictors of recruitment into criminality, enabling earlier intervention and prevention
 - iii. Disrupting organised criminal networks and prolific offenders through targeted and legislative interventions.
- d. Identify those at risk of harm and exploitation or at risk of becoming involved in causing harm or exploiting others at an early stage and intervene appropriately.

¹² <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a790c2040f0b679c0a081de/147627.pdf>

- e. Take a [focused deterrence approach](#) that combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it.
- f. Adopt a [Child First approach](#) and encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion.
- g. Promote the [London Inclusion Charter](#) and support education providers to effectively support children and young people.
- h. Facilitate participation and engagement with parents and carers and continue to build the parenting champions network.
- i. Address the inequalities and needs driving serious violence locally, including identifying and responding to trauma and other needs in a holistic and timely way.
- j. Take an asset based approach focusing on the capacity, skills and strengths of those individuals and communities most impacted by violence and exploitation to find out what is working well and identify opportunities to co-produce solutions.
- k. Engage with people with lived experience, such as those who have been stopped and searched, spent time in prison or been the victim of a crime as they have unique insight into what works and what doesn't in the criminal justice system.
- l. Further develop the partnership response to ensure that victims of all forms of exploitation are safeguarded and supported, preventing the unnecessary criminalisation of children and vulnerable adults.

- 3. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):** Our key commitments are to:
- a. Co-produce a VAWG strategy highlighting key theme areas such as partnership working, meeting the needs of diverse communities, young people and early intervention, holding perpetrators to account and provision of victim survivor support services.
 - b. Develop a better understanding of the impact of serious violence and exploitation on women and girls and ensure appropriate support is available, including mental health support.
 - c. Continuing to learn from people with lived experience and use the learning to drive what we do, how we do it and how we measure success.
 - d. Continue to strengthen the survivors forum network and build on our services being led by local needs.
 - e. Continue to raise awareness around VAWG and build on the existing work with our minority ethnic communities.
 - f. Continue the early intervention and prevention work with our schools, colleges and universities to tackle root causes of VAWG.
 - g. Ensure the newly commissioned VAWG Service is promoted to highlight expansion of support from Domestic Abuse to all forms of VAWG.
 - h. Work towards a partnership approach to disrupt perpetration of abuse and to utilise all enforcement options available to reduce the risk to victims and survivors.
 - i. Enhance the community response to longer term holistic support and enable sustainability and further funding opportunities for the Kingston Women's Hub.
 - j. Commit to our duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to create local

pathways and provide safe and specialist accommodation to victim survivors of domestic abuse.

- k. Continue to work within our night time economy venues to tackle VAWG through prevention, education and partnership working.

- 4. **Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities:** Our key commitments are to:
 - a. Promote good news stories to increase trust and confidence.
 - b. Continue to develop and enhance the community safety engagement strategy and produce an engagement portal for residents, businesses and professionals.
 - c. Celebrate young people and the contributions they make to their communities and provide opportunities for them to be part of the solution to keep Kingston safe.
 - d. Promote social inclusion to encourage equality of opportunity and improve community cohesion.
 - e. Work in partnership with the anti hate crime action group to increase awareness and understanding of hate crime and promote reporting methods for victims and witnesses.
 - f. Roll out a series of hate crime workshops for partner agencies and the community.
 - g. Build strong and trusted partnerships with elected members and our local communities to facilitate the sharing of information and provide opportunities to come together to develop place-based solutions to local issues.
 - h. Continue to strengthen the partnership response to community tensions, recognising and responding early to avoid escalation .
 - i. Promote opportunities for people to network, volunteer and improve community safety e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, Safer Neighbourhood Board, Police Ward Panels, community groups, friends groups etc.
 - j. Further develop our bystander approach to help people feel empowered and prepared, if they do see a crime occurring, so that they know that they can do something safely, to make a positive difference.

Cross cutting themes

We will consider six cross cutting themes as part of a holistic approach to improving community safety. They will be considered in each of the priority areas and integrated into the strategies and delivery plans:

- **Vulnerability:**
 - Someone is considered vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation¹³.
 - Involvement in the criminal justice system can stem from people's past experience of trauma and vulnerability, including experience of exploitation, whether as a victim or a perpetrator.

¹³<https://www.college.police.uk/guidance/vulnerability-related-risks/introduction-vulnerability-related-risk>

- Vulnerable people are often at greater risk of being a victim of crime - targeted by criminals who exploit vulnerabilities and take advantage through financial, sexual or criminal exploitation.
- The nature and extent of someone's vulnerability can change over time, in response to social, environmental and personal factors.
- **Reducing reoffending:**
 - Many people who come into contact with the criminal justice system have also experienced victimisation and trauma.
 - Estimates suggest that neurodiverse conditions are three times more common in the criminal justice system than in the general population.¹⁴
 - Reoffending has substantial costs, both financial and harm related. Research has shown that an offender's likelihood of reoffending is significantly decreased if they have a home, a job and access to healthcare. Therefore it is imperative that we tackle these criminogenic needs to keep our communities safe.
 - We need to better understand the impact of specific interventions to prevent/reduce reoffending. [CAPRICORN](#) provides a useful framework to prevent offending and re-offending and join up action between organisations at a local level.
 - We need to divert individuals from offending by providing prevention and early intervention initiatives as well as targeted and desistance based interventions to rehabilitate individuals effectively.
- **Substance Misuse:**
 - Substance misuse can be a factor in a range of crimes, as a driver behind a range of offences; from acquisitive offences to fund addiction and organised crime, to serious violent offences relating to feuds over drug supply activity, in addition to drug specific offences relating to possession and supply
 - It is also a factor that increases an individual's vulnerability to victimisation and/or exploitation.
- **Mental Health:**
 - Mental health links to a range of other vulnerabilities and trauma.
 - Many with mental health needs appear in other high-risk cohorts; including those with drug and/or alcohol challenges, those who are socially isolated and living in poor quality housing, as well as young people and adults who are at risk of exploitation.
 - As well as those with existing mental health conditions being at risk of experiencing crime, experiencing crime itself also exacerbates and can create considerable mental health challenges for individuals.
 - Many types of crime are judged to pose a substantial or severe risk of psychological harm to individuals; in particular, but not limited to; domestic abuse, serious violence and sexual offences, stalking and harassment, hate crimes and criminal exploitation.
 - People in contact with the criminal justice system have higher rates of suicide and self-harm behaviour than the general population.

¹⁴<https://www.uservoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Neurodiversity-in-the-Criminal-Justice-System.pdf>

- [Research on intimate partner violence, suicidality and self-harm](#) showed that past-year suicide attempts were 2 to 3 times more common in victims of intimate partner violence than non-victims.
- **Unmet housing needs/homelessness:**
 - Unmet housing needs and homelessness are vulnerabilities that increase the likelihood of being a victim of certain crimes.
 - It is well documented that spending time in prison increases an individual's chances of becoming homeless. Prisoners who have problems securing accommodation on their release are significantly more likely to reoffend than those individuals who do not face these challenges.¹⁵
 - It can be a factor that escalates the risk to domestic abuse victims and individuals fleeing violence.
- **Cyber/Online crime:**
 - Crime is increasingly digitally enabled and online.¹⁶
 - Fraud is a critical threat, both to London and nationally.¹⁷
 - Examples of online harms include, but are not restricted to:
 - [child sexual exploitation and abuse.](#)
 - [online radicalisation.](#)
 - [technology facilitated abuse.](#)
 - [hate crime and hate speech.](#)
 - [cyberbullying and online harassment.](#)

Right Support, Right Time, Right Place

Working together remains an important aspect of our ambition in Kingston. Shared priorities and actions to improve community safety are taken across many of the strategic partnerships in Kingston such as:

- The [Kingston Partnership Board](#) (incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Board).
- [Kingston's Safeguarding Adults Board.](#)
- [Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children's Partnership.](#)

This arrangement is facilitated by a Board Chairs interface meeting and a Board Coordinators meeting. The Safer Kingston Partnership Plan also supports the delivery of strategies and action plans developed by:

- Kingston's Strategic Partnership for Alcohol and Drugs.
- Youth Justice Service Management Board.
- Kingston's Suicide Prevention Steering Group.
- Borough Resilience Forum.

Governance

The Safer Kingston Partnership is responsible for delivering the priorities set out in this plan. We will develop a framework of strategies and annual delivery plans that bring our resources

¹⁵https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sqgfrl11sfj/3qHWDX2rKlyPwEcA2X5jk6/3b5c84740334af434ce13e1106b90583/Preventing_Homelessness_and_Reducing_Reoffending_092015_FINAL.pdf

¹⁶<https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/met/about-us/turnaround-plan.pdf>

¹⁷<https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/met/about-us/turnaround-plan.pdf>

together to provide an effective response to the shared priorities and commitments, cross cutting themes and form our core work plan.

There are several thematic groups, forums, boards, etc. that are responsible for developing and monitoring the annual delivery plans and will inform reports on progress and performance to the Safer Kingston Partnership on a quarterly basis. Areas of concern will be escalated to these meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We will measure our achievements by monitoring activity and outcomes, developing case studies and evaluating the impact of the joined-up approach with all of our partners.

The priorities will be reviewed every year to make sure any emerging trends from the annual strategic assessment are factored into future years' delivery.

Insights and Feedback

We will embed opportunities for different beneficiary groups – including young people, families, community members, victims, offenders and professionals – to share their insights and to shape services and interventions. We will collaborate with our partners to strengthen their community involvement work to ensure that diverse voices are listened to.

Knowledge Exchange

We will adopt a reciprocal approach to knowledge exchange by facilitating opportunities to share grassroots insights, and by using a range of engaging and accessible approaches to share new evidence and learning from within and beyond the Safer Kingston Partnership.

Evaluation

We will continue to improve the robustness of evaluations conducted by the Safer Kingston Partnership and across the system. This will include:

- Process Evaluations - When implementing new interventions we will conduct process evaluations to assess how they're being delivered and what's working well or needs improving.
- Impact Evaluations - Where possible we will undertake impact evaluations to provide an objective assessment of what difference Safer Kingston Partnership supported interventions are making.

Appendix A - Review of Evidence

- [Policing and Crime: An Evidence Base for London](#) provides an understanding of the challenges London can expect to encounter and insights in how to respond effectively are highlighted.
- [Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit](#) provides an overview of existing research on approaches to preventing serious youth violence.
- The [EIF Guidebook](#) provides information about early intervention programmes that have been evaluated and shown to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- The College of Policing's '[Crime Reduction Toolkit](#)' rates the best available evidence on reducing crime.
- The Department for Education (DfE) and Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) [The role of systems of support in serious youth violence: evidence and gaps.](#)
- [Crest Inequalities and Serious Violence in West Yorkshire](#) annex 2 provides evidence review sources
- [A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention](#)
- The WHO's '[Violence Info website](#)' hosts a global evidence database of violence studies.
- [Scotland's Violence Prevention Framework: Evidence Supplement.](#)
- The Early Intervention Foundation's report [Adverse childhood experiences: what we know, what we don't know, and what should happen next.](#)
- The Behavioural Insights Team's report '[Violence in London: what we know and how to respond](#)'.
- The Local Government Association's '[Public health approaches to reducing violence](#)'.
- The UK government's '[Serious Violence Strategy](#)'.
- [MOPAC guidance and resources](#)
- Kovalenko and others' study on '[What works in violence prevention among young people?: a systematic review of reviews](#)'.
- [Preventing Serious Youth Violence - what works](#)
- The College of Policing [Interventions to reduce violence against women and girls \(VAWG\) in public spaces. Evidence briefing.](#)
- [What works to prevent violence against women and girls? Evidence Review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls.](#)
- [Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and reoffending by children \(CAPRICORN\).](#)
- [In Search of Excellence - A refreshed guide to effective domestic abuse partnership work - The Coordinated Community Response\)](#)
- [Evidence Based Approaches to Violence Reduction](#)

If you have difficulty reading this document or would like it in a different format, please call our helpline on 020 8547 5000 or ask someone to call on your behalf.

Safer Kingston Partnership Plan 2024-2029

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Guildhall 2, Kingston Upon Thames,
KT1 1EU

