



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KINGSTON
UPON THAMES

Safer Kingston Partnership Plan

2024 - 2029




This is an Easy Read document with information on the Safer Kingston Partnership Plan



Involve



Introduction



- Community safety is about feeling safe where you live.
- It means making sure people are not scared in their neighbourhoods.
- Feeling safe is important for everyone.



- Local communities feel safe when they have support.
- People like to live and work in places where they feel safe.
- Businesses grow better in safe areas.
- When businesses do well, the area gets more money. This helps everyone in the community.



- We are proud that the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames continues to be a safe borough that includes everyone.



- Our new Safer Kingston Partnership Plan sets out how organisations will work together to keep Kingston safe and achieve our shared vision:

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



- We all need to work together to make our area safe. We want less crime and bad behaviour.



- However with some crime types we will aim to grow the number of people reporting to us, as victims have told us they do not always feel confident to do this.



- We will help people who have been hurt, stop it from happening again, and make sure those who did wrong are punished.



- By working together and improving 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 partnership, which was put together under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.



- The partnership helps keep the area safe.
- It works with local businesses to stop crime, violence, and drug problems.

Organisations working in the partnership 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).



- We work with other partners such as local businesses, voluntary organisations and the local community.

What are our rights?

The **Crime and Disorder Act 1998** says Community Safety Partnerships must do certain things such as:



1. They need to make a group to guide important work.



2. They must also talk with people about what matters to them and their experiences.



3. Create ways to share information easily.



4. Share data and make a yearly report to help set local goals.



5. Be in charge of carrying out the Serious Violence Duty locally.



6. Make a plan with partners to lower crime, stop drug misuse, and reduce re-offending.



7. Review cases of domestic abuse deaths to learn and improve.

Our plan



- This plan sets out to work with communities to prevent, reduce and respond to crime and antisocial behaviour and improve community safety.

What is community safety?



- Community safety means making sure people feel safe.
- Community safety is not just about stopping crime. We need to understand why people might become victims.



- We also need to know why some people might commit crimes.
- Some people might be at risk of being hurt or taken advantage of. Others might be at risk of doing bad things.



- Understanding why people are at risk is important. We can help stop crime by knowing these reasons.

Crime harm



- Crime harm means the bad effects of crime on people and society.
- The harm depends on the type of crime and how the victim feels.
- People can get hurt physically or lose money. Some people might need health and victim support services.

Safety



- Feeling safe is important for feeling good and contributes to better communities.
- Safety can also affect communities financially.
- Understanding what makes people feel safe is important for creating welcoming, happy and inclusive community spaces.

Working with our residents



- People in different communities have different worries about crime and feeling safe.
- Men, women, young, old, and people from different backgrounds all have different experiences.
- Where you live can change how you feel about safety. Different areas have different problems with crime and bad behaviour.



- Our services help keep people safe. We protect those who might get hurt.
- Residents have told us they want good services and as a community work together to make public spaces safer.



- We will work alongside victims to make sure their voices are heard and that we are learning from their experiences.



- We will work with those with lived experience of the criminal justice system to talk about their experiences. **This will help us understand how we can support people to stop this from happening.**

Dealing with the issues that matter



- Crime can be different depending on where you live. Depending on neighbourhood, high street or public space.



- Research shows us that crime and bad behaviour are not the same all across a borough. Instead there are usually certain areas that have higher levels and more regularly.



- Crime often happens in the same places. To stop crime, we should focus on these areas and people.



- We need to listen to and involve the community in our plans. It's important to talk to people often and understand their needs.
- Services should work together better to help everyone.

Serious Violence Duty



- The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is a new law.
- This law asks certain groups to work together. These groups include police, fire, and rescue teams.
- Justice groups like youth offending teams and probation services are included too.
- Health bodies and local councils also need to help.



- They must work together to stop serious violence. They need to look at what causes serious violence. They must find out who is most at risk.



- This plan will help make the area safer.



- The **Safer Kingston Partnership** knows there are many kinds of violence.
- This plan looks at harmful and criminal acts. These acts can happen in public or at home.



- Serious violence means:

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 includes homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during one of these offences.



- We have found other 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.

How we will do it:



1. Focus on stopping problems early. Focus on people who might have problems, try to make things better and help them get stronger.



2. Learn about a problem and how big it is. Find out what causes it and how to stop it. Use shared information to understand it better now and in the future.



3. The police, their partners, and communities can work together to solve problems. They look at the whole picture to find out why things happen and how to fix them. **This is called a whole system approach.**



4. We work with others to stop problems before they start, stop small problems from getting big, and stop big problems from getting worse.



5. We check how well actions work to fix problems or help people. We see if they make things better or safer for everyone.



6. Learning from the actions and making any changes that are needed at an individual, organisation or system wide level.



7. Helping leaders in public services and communities work together. They focus on solving problems, understanding why they happen, and fixing them. Sharing plans, leadership, and resources to make things better for everyone.

Principles

We will have five key principles that we will follow:



1. Working Together: We will work together with different groups to reach our shared goal.



2. Co-production: We will listen to everyone, including partners and the local community, to guide our work.



3. Co-operation in data and sharing: We will share information to understand local problems better. This helps us find out who and what is affected, plan where to help, and see if our help is working.



4. Counter-narrative development: We will help people grow and choose good paths instead of crime. We will support dreams, show good role models, and celebrate our strong communities.



5. Community consensus: We work with local people to solve problems together. We want everyone to join in and help make things better in their area.

How did we decide on our priorities?



- The Safer Kingston Partnership looked at facts to decide what is most important. They did two checks: one on safety and one on serious violence. This helps them know what to focus on first.



- Looking at levels of crime, antisocial behaviour, offending and substance misuse to provide an understanding of the community safety issues for the borough.



- Reviewing the feedback provided by people who live, work, study and visit the borough, including those who have been affected by crime.



- Using the views of professionals and organisations in the borough.



- Make sure we are learning from safeguarding reviews and domestic homicide reviews informs our approach.



- This has ensured that this plan is informed by research and evidence.

Our Commitments

1. Working in, and with our communities to ensure our borough is a safe place for everyone.



- We want to help people know about different crimes and bad behaviour. We will tell them how to report these and what help they can get, even if they don't report it.



- We will share important messages about Fearless and CrimeStoppers. This will help people report crimes without saying who they are.



- We will look for places where crime might be starting. We will work with others to stop problems before they get worse.



- We will work with different groups to help and protect victims. We will also try to stop people from committing crimes again.



- We will use all our tools to make sure people who do bad things are punished. We will also work with local businesses to make our community safer.

1. Preventing and reducing serious violence and exploitation.



- We want to work with others to make our area safer. We will learn more about local drug problems to help make our community safer.



- We will work with partners to stop serious crime. We will learn more about crime in our area and work with the community. We will try to stop people from being exploited and catch criminals.



- We will find people who might get hurt or hurt others. We will help them early to stop problems.



- We will help schools support children and young people. We will work with parents and carers to support families.



- We will look at what causes violence and help people with their needs. We will use people's strengths to find solutions.



- We want to stop children and vulnerable adults from getting into trouble with the law. We will work together to protect and help them.

2. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)



- We want to make a plan to stop violence against women and girls. We will work with others and make sure those who hurt others are held responsible.

- We will learn more about how violence affects women and girls. We will make sure they get the help they need, like mental health support. We will listen to people who have experienced violence to improve our work.

- We will make our support services better by listening to what local people need. We will also help survivors by making their support network stronger.

- We will work with schools, colleges, and universities to stop violence before it starts. We will teach young people about the root causes of violence.

- We will work with others to stop people from hurting women and girls. We will use all the tools we have to keep victims safe. We will also help the Kingston Women's Hub to get more support and funding.

3. Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities



- We want to share good news to help people trust us more. We will make plans to keep our community safe.



- We want to celebrate young people. They do great things for their community. We will give them chances to help keep Kingston safe.



- We want everyone to feel included and equal. This will help people get along better. We will work with groups to stop hate crimes. We will teach people about hate crimes and how to report them.



- We will have workshops about hate crimes for our partners and the community. We want to work closely with local leaders and communities.



- We will teach people how to safely help if they see a crime. This will help them feel ready to make a difference.

Six important ideas to make communities safer



- We will look at six important ideas to make communities safer. These ideas will be part of all our plans and actions, these are:

- **Vulnerability**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Reducing reoffending**
- **Mental Health**
- **Housing needs and homelessness**
- **Cyber/Online crime**

Vulnerability



- Vulnerability means someone might not be able to protect themselves. This can be because of their situation or past experiences.
- People who have been hurt or taken advantage of might end up in the criminal justice system. They might have been victims or have hurt others.
- A person's vulnerability can change. It can be affected by things around them or their personal life.

Substance Misuse



- Substance misuse can lead to crime. It can also make people more vulnerable to being victims.

Reducing reoffending



- Reducing reoffending is important. Many people in the criminal justice system have been victims or have had trauma.



- People with neurodiverse conditions are more common in the criminal justice system than in the general population.



- Reoffending costs a lot of money and causes harm. Having a home, job, and healthcare can help stop reoffending.



- We should help people not commit crimes. Early help and support can make a difference.

Mental Health



- Mental health is linked to other vulnerabilities.
- Experiencing crime can make mental health worse. Some crimes can cause a lot of psychological harm.
- People in the criminal justice system have higher rates of suicide and self-harm.

Housing needs and homelessness



- Housing needs and homelessness can make people more likely to be victims of crime.



- Being in prison can make it harder to find a home. This can lead to reoffending.
- Not having a home can make it more dangerous for victims of domestic abuse.

Cyber/Online crime



- Cyber and online crime is growing. Fraud is a big threat.
- Online harms include child exploitation, radicalisation, and cyberbullying.
- We need to understand and tackle these online threats to keep people safe.

What we will do next



- The Safer Kingston Partnership will make plans every year to use their resources well. They will work together to reach their goals.



- There are different groups and meetings that help make and check these plans. They will look at how well things are going **every three months**. If there are problems, they will talk about them in these meetings.



- Every year, they will look at their goals again. They will make sure new problems are included in their plans for the future.



- They want to hear from different people like young people, families, and community members. They will work with others to make sure everyone's voice is heard.



- They will also check what difference their work is making. They want to know if their help is making things better.



- The Safer Kingston Partnership wants to make sure Kingston is a safe place for everyone. They will keep working hard to reach their goals.