

# Community Safety Division – Delivery Report 2020-21



# Introduction

- Over an unprecedented year, the Community Safety Division at the Council, and working in partnership with the statutory Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership, have continued to work hard to tackle Crime and ASB in the borough.
- This presentation provides an overview of our activity to tackle Crime and ASB over the last 12-18 months. In summary, we have worked with our partners to deliver on the agreed priorities:
  - Tackle neighbourhood crime and ASB
  - Reduce reoffending and tackle the drivers of crime
  - Tackle hate crime, community tensions, and extremism
  - Reduce violence, and safeguard those at risk of violence and exploitation



# Tackling neighborhood crime and ASB



- **Neighborhood Management :** We have now rolled out our very successful neighborhood management service model across the Borough
- **New ASB & Drugs Suppression Unit:** We have launched a new ASB & Drugs Suppression Unit, the Neighbourhood Enforcement and Treatment team (NET), utilising council funded police and neighbourhood officers. The NET Team works across the borough, responding to resident concerns and builds a picture of where and when crime and ASB is regularly occurring. This ensures the best use of resources to specific problems. They also work with partners to enforce, support and signpost individuals to treatment services, including rough sleepers.
- **Unlicensed Music Events:** Between April and June – 15 unlicensed music events were closed down, reducing asb, noise, and preventing an escalation in serious incidents.
- **Support to vulnerable victims of ASB:** 55 vulnerable victims of ASB were supported through our multi agency safeguarding panel.
- **National ASB awareness week:** Delivered a week of ward-based events for National ASB awareness week. More to follow.
- **Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO):** Reviewed and renewed Public Spaces Protection Orders to tackle irresponsible drinking and ASB in Limehouse (Ropemakers Fields). We also consulted and implemented a new PSPO to tackle Nitrous Oxide related ASB across the borough
- **CCTV:** We are delivering a £3m capital upgrade of CCTV infrastructure. We continue to use the council's CCTV to support the police and target criminals. Between April and June, 254 criminal incidents detected by our CCTV, leading to 43 arrests, and 12 arrests made from 42 wanted vehicles linked to serious crime





# Tackling neighborhood crime and ASB

- **In Focus: Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – tackling nitrous oxide abuse**
- Following a public consultation earlier this year, a Public Spaces Protection Order that deals with the antisocial behaviour (ASB) related to the misuse of nitrous oxide came into force on 30 April 2021 (with full implementation in May). This allows the police and council to be led by intelligence and identify hotspots where ASB associated with the misuse of nitrous oxide is most prevalent. Officers can now enforce this PSPO by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) of £100, which can carry a fine of up to £1,000 at court.
- Several patrols have been conducted in hotspot areas, where officers have been able to engage with suspects (groups that are mainly aged over 24) and advised them on the dangers of using psychoactive substances
- Those found using nitrous oxide have been offered support but officers have also dealt with any related ASB by issuing FPNs. To date, 46 FPN's have been handed out and this number is increasing. This included the seizure of two nitrous oxide boxes and ASB Warnings served, following a resident reporting men misusing nitrous oxide in their car



# Tackling hate crime, community tensions, and extremism

- **Hate Crime Awareness Week:** We ran a series of events for National Hate Crime Awareness Week (9th Oct)
- **Focus on women and islamophobia:** 20 London Muslim Centre Ambassadors trained with a focus on women and islamophobia
- **Training, outreach and engagement activities delivered.** These included the 'Building Stronger Communities' and 'Young Peoples Rise & Shine Conference', International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Inter-sexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)
- **Prevent training:** As part of our prevent programme of work, we deliver training for frontline staff in recognising, referring, and responding to radicalization. In the year to date, we have trained 1742 people. Demand for support from schools has increased steadily since the start of the academic year, with 614 teachers and students supported in the first two quarters of 2021/22.
- **Prevent Projects:** Our Prevent programme is currently working with 9 funded projects to support the delivery of Prevent in the community dealing with a range of issues including protection from exploitation by gangs and extremists, through to critical thinking for young people around social media and fake news. These projects are delivered in the community and in schools. The team are currently working through potential bids for new projects in 22/23 with the Home Office.
- **Tension Monitoring Group (TMG):** In the last 12 months we have managed issues including serious hate related murder, reports of a rise in antisemitism, and reports of rise in youth violence.
- **Design out crime and protective security:** 53 Protective Security and Designing Out Crime referrals received and managed by our specialist in house officer. Capital programme to protect two locations identified as vulnerable to vehicle borne attack.





# Tackling hate crime, community tensions, and extremism



## • In Focus: Protective Security

- Tower Hamlets is a borough with many tourist attractions and places of worship, many located on streets which have large numbers of pedestrians. The risk and threat to key iconic sites in the borough has been an increased focus since the New Zealand mosque attacks in 2019.
- We have supported applications for the Home Office 'Places of Worship' protective security funding scheme, which funds any specific protective security work organisations wished to undertake.
- In addition, a Capital Growth bid to support the development and implementation of wider protective security measures at the East London Mosque and Columbia Road Market was successful. In relation to this work, complex technical assessments involving a range of external stakeholders and the community are near completion. This will see the implementation of a range of physical security measures in both localities.
- The government is set to imminently publish its response to the 'Protect Duty' consultation placing a new legal requirement for venues to ensure preparedness for and protect from terrorist attack. Having invested in specialist staff which are already in place and our experience in this field will place us in a strong position to take this work forward.



# Reducing reoffending and tackling the drivers of crime



- **Tackling substance misuse and sale and supply of drugs:** We continue to work in partnership with the police on our joint operation implemented in 2017 to tackle the sale and supply of drugs.
- **Drug and alcohol dependency treatment:** We invested £8m in specialist and mainstream drug and alcohol dependency treatment and maintained provision throughout the Pandemic getting more drug users into treatment.
- **'Addiction, Disruption, Diversion, Enforcement & Recovery' (ADDER programme):** We have secured £1m per annum for the next 2 years from Public Health England and the Home Office for 'ADDER. We are one of the few partnerships in London to be chosen for the Programme. There is also an additional £1m available for Central East police Borough Command Unit for additional enforcement on the middle level drug markets.
- **Integrated Offender Management:** We have rolled out a refreshed 'Integrated Offender Management' framework that is targeted at persistent violent offenders. Since the new framework was introduced in Tower Hamlets in April 2021, we have significantly decreased reoffending in adult offenders, with figures currently at a low of 14%. Another key success in the past year has been that, considering 70% of offenders on our Integrated Offender Management System are Class A drug users, 71% of these have successfully engaged in drug treatment.
- **Address Serious Organised Crime (SOC):** In the last year, we became the first borough in London to co-produce a local serious organised crime profile that describes and identifies the unique SOC picture in Tower Hamlets. This has enabled us to secure ADDER funding for policing and additional law enforcement against middle level drug markets.





# Reducing reoffending and tackling the drivers of crime

- [In Focus: Addiction, Disruption, Diversion, Enforcement & Recovery' \(ADDER programme\)](#)
- We have been awarded nearly £1million in a bid to tackle substance misuse in the borough through a targeted one-year intervention programme.
- The funding package is part of Project ADDER, a joint Home Office, Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England programme which is testing an intense whole-system approach to tackling drug misuse and drug-related crime.
- A separate funding package has also been awarded to Met Police Basic Command Unit ( Tower Hamlets & Hackney), meaning the council and local police can work in partnership to offer a system-wide approach to tackling drugs. This will include additional investment into treatment and recovery support services, drug outreach and strengthening existing drug enforcement work through the ongoing Operation Continuum partnership.
- The programme aims to reduce drug-related deaths, drug-related offending and the prevalence of drugs as well as disrupting high-harm criminals and networks involved in the drug market and firearms supply..





# Violence reduction: safeguarding those at risk of violence and exploitation

## Knife Crime & Tackling Violence:

- **New Community Safety Partnership Plan:** Published a new statutory community safety partnership plan that priorities' violence reduction through safeguarding those at risk of violence and vulnerability
- **New Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan:** Working with the London VRU, developed and implemented a new action plan to tackle violence (including knife crime) in partnership.
- **Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy:** A new Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy was approved in November 2020 and formally launched at an event in May 2021. The strategy is built on engagement with young people as well as partners and sets out our proactive, partnership-based approach to tackling criminal and sexual exploitation and serious violence affecting children and young people.
- **Exploitation Team:** Includes multi- agency training programme developed and being delivered within LBTH, development of joint disruption plans alongside the Met Police, and developed partnership screening tool for children being harmed through exploitation and or violence
- **Community weapons sweeps:** Conducted by the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and Council funded police officers
- **My Ends:** We supported the successful bid to secure £750k funding from the London VRU for consortium of VCS partners called the Tower Hamlets Island Community Network to deliver place-based interventions to tackle violence on the Isle of Dogs.

## Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

- **Solace Women's Aid:** A new contract with Solace Women's Aid to support victims of domestic abuse in Jan 2021
- **Sanctuary Scheme:** Continue to deliver the sanctuary scheme – allowing domestic abuse victims to stay in their own homes. Enhanced security at the homes of 82 survivors through the Sanctuary scheme
- **Women's safety programme:** We developed a new women's safety programme. This includes Mayor of London's Women Night Safety Charter, 'Operation Roussanne' and 'Ask for Angela',
- **VAWG champions:** Continue to roll out VAWG champions. Trained 24 new VAWG champions
- **Women's criminal justice pathway:** Developing a women's criminal justice pathway to improve outcomes for women in the criminal justice system.



# Violence reduction: safeguarding those at risk of violence and exploitation



- In Focus: How are we tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- **Operation Roussanne**, a joint police operation with other London boroughs saw police presence increased in hotspot locations and licensed premises visited to advise on how to protect and prevent violence against women and girls. This included specialist training delivered on Ask for Angela to over 350 staff from 150 London venues, to help discreetly keep women safe on a night out

- In Focus: How are we tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- **Mayor of London's Women Night Safety Charter** Tower Hamlets signed the Charter, which encourages everyone to play an active role in making London a city where all women feel confident and welcome at night. This is complemented by Councillor Amina Ali and Councillor Bex White, who are both Women's Night Safety Champions.

- In Focus: How are we tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- **Specialist training on challenging misogyny and sexual respect amongst students** The VAWG team developed a misogyny session that challenges toxic masculinity and encourages male allyship, ensuring the commitment and responsibility to change behaviours is on men as well as women. Two new sessions on 'sexual mutual respect' were delivered to 230 first year medical students at Queen Mary University: after research from Everyone's Invited found that the culture of sexual harassment was perceived acceptable amongst students. These sessions unpicked sexual abuse, rape myths, consent and safe sex. A further two sessions were delivered to secondary school parents that addressed 'peer-on-peer sexual abuse', making parents aware of how students could be at risk of harm or of harming.



# Civil Protection Unit

- **Enhanced out of hours capability and resilience:** We now have a full cadre of trained staff from across the Council to be able to respond 24/7 to emergencies
- **We responded to 30 Civil Protection incidents that occurred in the Borough:** This included incidents such as the fire at New Providence Wharf. Blanket coverage from the national media, particularly referencing ACM cladding attracted interest at Ministerial level of Government and therefore frequent requests from MHCLG for information. The incident itself was a positive reflection of the council's civil emergency arrangements.
- **Civil Contingency Training:** We have held thirty-nine training events attended by a total of 503 LBTH officers; and run seven exercises attended by 60 staff. This included a Cyber attack exercise and the pan-London Safer City Exercise.
- **Continuity Plans:** Overseen the 102 business continuity plans in the council including regular reviews by Directors and service managers





# Supporting people to be safe through Covid-19



To make Tower Hamlets a safe place during the pandemic, we carried we engaged with businesses and residents and took enforcement action when needed.

- **Communication and engagement:** We carried out a huge range of communication activity: This includes signs and posters across the borough, proactive social media, leaflets and newsletters, webinars and meetings, and information in community languages.
- **Parks and open spaces:** We have kept over 120 parks open and safe through the pandemic, patrolling over 100 sites weekly.
- **Covid-19 regulations:** We worked with police to engage, explain, encourage & enforce regulations. We advised businesses on safe trading practices, carried out 'Days of Action' in challenging areas, observed more than 4,000 commercial premises and issued written warnings where needed. 27 Fixed Penalty Notices have been given out since October 2020.
- **Tackling domestic abuse:** Lockdown is generally understood to have had a negative impact on domestic abuse, and locally demand for support has increased. We continually promote support so people know where to go for help, and in January we launched a new Solace Advocacy and Support Service.
- **Tackling ASB:** Lockdown brought an increase in ASB complaints. To help tackle this, we set up a new ASB and Drugs Suppression Unit. We renewed the borough-wide responsible drinking Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) until October 2023 and introduced a new PSPO tackling antisocial behaviour linked to nitrous oxide use.



# Some Resident & Partner Feedback



*"What an amazing result. The residents are so pleased! There are times that they have despaired that no-one would listen to them and there would be no outcomes. This is a great boost and will really help with community cohesion going forwards."*

**Praise for Neighbourhood Manage in engaging residents, resolving licencing issue**

*"As always, you and your team have provided a Gold star service, leading to the arrests of 2 dangerous and seemingly prolific robbers. On a wider note, what is particularly satisfying for me, is that your/our team has extended its reach to our Pan London colleagues – VCTF, TSG and NPAS. I know that you also respond fantastically in your support of Specialist Crime. There cannot be a Borough in London with a team as sharp eyed and dedicated as the one at Tower Hamlets"*

**D/Supt Praise for LBTH CCTV Team**

*"We have had a sporadic problems of ASB/Nox use for many years in Tench Street which happens to be on my door step... Around 2 months ago the Tench Street location spiked dramatically. It started to escalate, a very real and significant problem that sometimes lasted till 4.00am and consistently..... It's a thank you to you and the Community Safety Team and to Kridos for his significant efforts and work in securing resources to St Katharine's and Wapping.*

*I have had very positive comments from residents on your recent achievements"*

**Praise for dispersing persistent ASB**

*"you have been brilliant getting every thing done being transparent all the way through just brilliant  
**Case where the residents were being affected by ASB/Drug issues daily right outside their doorstep.***

*"Please pass on my thanks to the line manager of Sophie Costello. She's a fantastic hire from a neighbouring borough, has a great understanding of the issues at hand. and I know other residents alongside me think she's going to do everything she can to help with our ASB issues"*

**Praise for ASB Officer and area based work**

