



# YOUTH SAFETY TASKFORCE REPORT

ACTION PLAN 2018-2020



Two Year Update from the Camden Youth Safety Steering Group





Andrea Giró-Adeleye,  
Camden Deputy Youth MP, 2021-22.

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**In 2018, Camden’s Youth Safety Steering Group was set up to oversee and deliver the 17 recommendations made in the Youth Safety Taskforce Report to help reduce youth violence and keep young people safe.**

The group includes representatives from the Metropolitan Police, Camden Youth Council, schools, the voluntary sector, youth services, public health, community safety and equalities.

Since its formation in 2018, the Youth Safety Steering Group have successfully overseen and co-ordinated a programme of work by Camden Council and partners, which includes:

- Addressing the 17 recommendations set out in the Youth Safety Taskforce Report.
- Establishing a £500,000 Youth Safety Fund to support a range of projects that put the recommendations into practice, including targeted youth outreach work with at risk groups and programmes to help young people to develop life skills and employment skills.
- Launching the ENGAGE and Redthread projects, which place youth workers in police stations and hospitals to provide tailored support and help keep young people away from violence.
- Working with the New Horizon Youth Centre on their Constructive Resettlement project supporting pathways for young people leaving custody.
- Successfully applying for funding of £690,000 from the Mayor of London’s

Violence Reduction Unit, which is going towards tackling the drug related drivers of violence, reducing exclusions, reducing reoffending and piloting different ways of working with parents.

- Holding a ‘Disproportionality in Youth Justice’ event in partnership with The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).
- Holding Camden’s first-ever ‘Youth Safety Week’ to provide support for the borough’s young people and their families and raise awareness of what is being done locally to help keep Camden’s young people safe.

Initially set up for two years, we announced in October 2020 that the Steering Group would continue building on its vital work to tackle the root causes of youth crime as well as address issues that have emerged as a result of the pandemic.

An action plan approved by the Steering Group in September 2018, is drawing to its conclusion at the end of this year. To reflect on and review the initiatives carried out, we have commissioned London Metropolitan University to conduct an independent evaluation of the progress made in addressing the

17 recommendations to keep the young people of Camden safe. The findings of the evaluation will inform the next phase of work and future priorities.

Our goal is to make Camden a place where every young person feels safe and can succeed, and throughout these challenging times, ensuring that our young people keep safe has remained at the forefront of our work. We’re proud of what we have managed to achieve so far.

However, we know more can and should be done to reduce youth violence in Camden.

As the group continues to build on this vital work, we will now focus on tackling the issues that have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, including youth unemployment and the effects on our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.



**Co-chair: Keir Starmer QC, MP -**  
Member of Parliament for Holborn and St Pancras



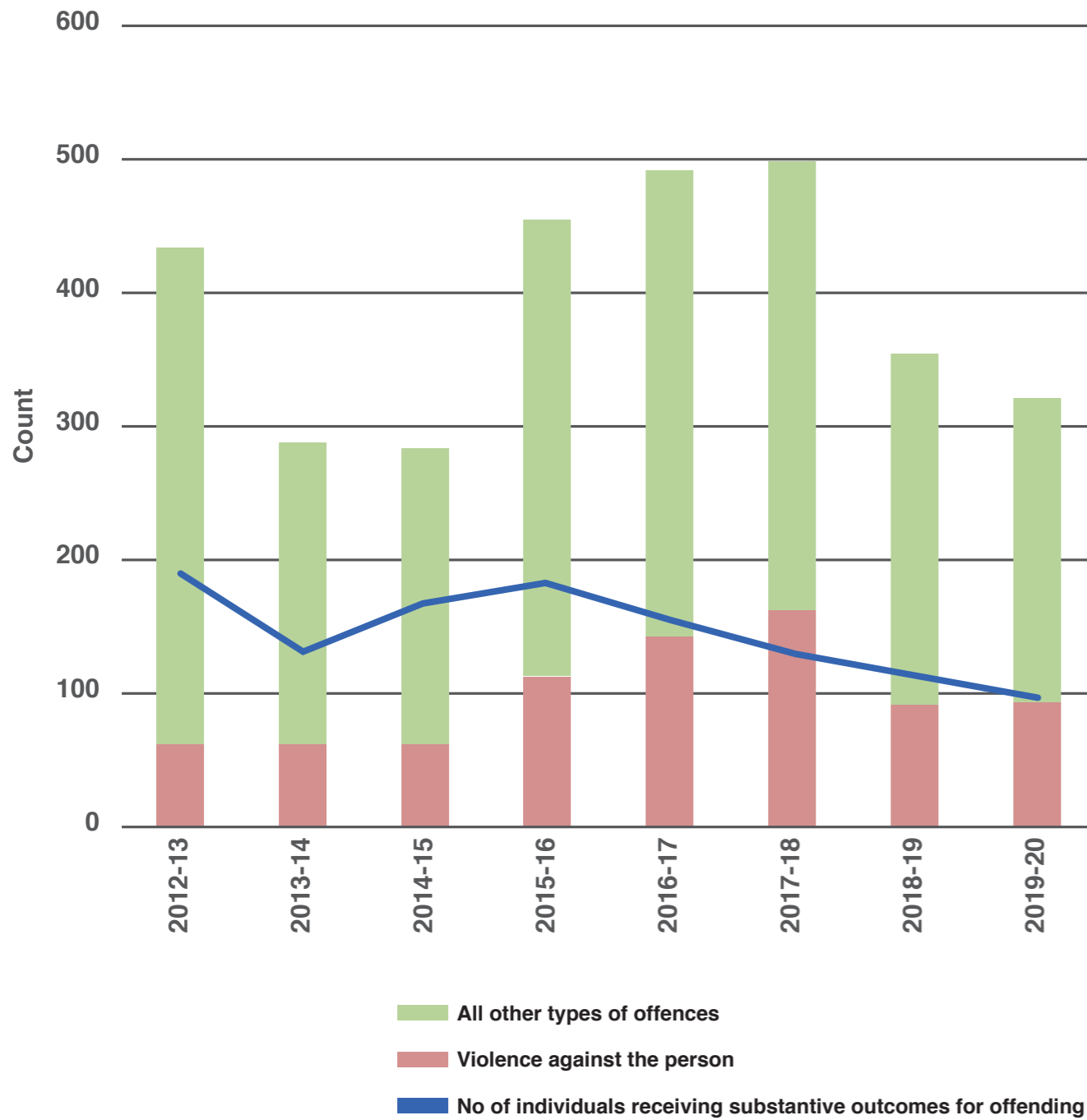
**Co-chair: Councillor Abdul Hai -**  
Cabinet Member for Young People, Equalities and Cohesion, Camden Council

# Youth Offending Service data

The number of children in Camden receiving substantive outcomes (a caution or conviction) for offending has been consistently falling since 2015-16, with the number of offences committed by this cohort also decreasing, particularly over the past two years.

During the same period, the number of violence against the person offences has similarly fallen. In this context, violence against the person includes violence without injury, threats of violence, possession of weapons, as well as violence with injury.

**Youth Offending Service data offenders and offence types**



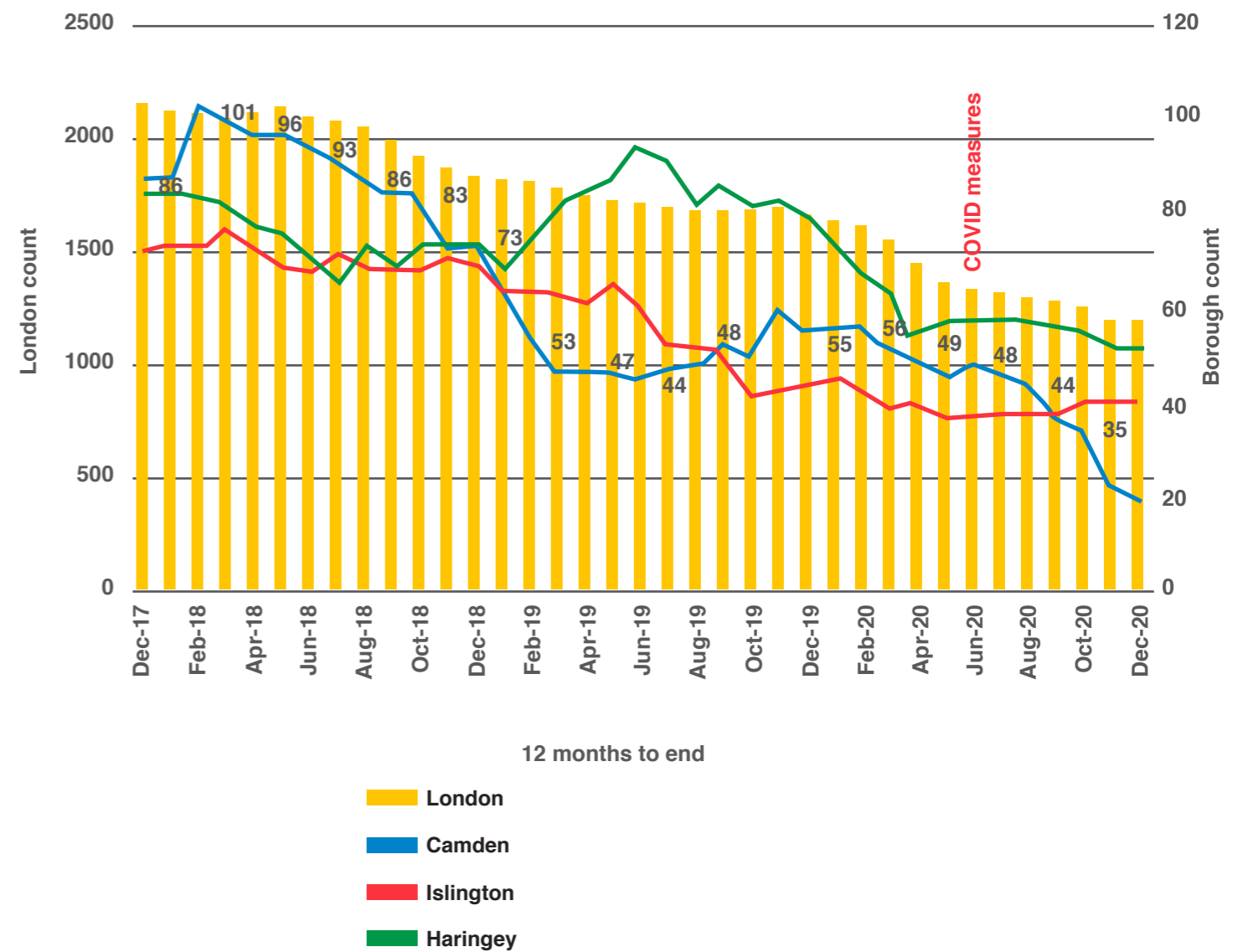
# Knife crime with injury

There has been a consistent decrease in youth victims of knife crime with injury in Camden since February 2018, with 52 victims in 2019-20, compared with 99 in 2017-18.

There were 20 youth victims in the 12 months to end of December 2020, the lowest figure since this measure was first used in 2012.

**Please note:** COVID restrictions, introduced at the end of March 2020, have had an impact on all recorded crime in Camden.

**Knife crime with injury - victims under 25 (not domestic violence)**



<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/weapon-enabled-crime-dashboard>

**Prevent** youth violence by providing young people, parents and professionals with information which raises their awareness of the issues and helps them to keep themselves safe, make positive choices about their behaviour and build their resilience.

**Partners:** Volunteer Centre Camden, Camden Giving, Somali Youth Development Resource Centre, British Somali Community Centre, Fitzrovia Youth in Action (FYA), SHAK, Elfrida Rathbone, Camden and Islington Public Health.

- The huge goodwill and community spirit, which has been shown to the Taskforce should be mobilised by supporting community-led efforts to prevent youth violence and finding ways to make it easier for local residents to volunteer and get involved.**
  - Developing **volunteering opportunities** for young people and the community including virtual volunteering. 'Time to Spare' Camden went live in March 2020 – a digital platform to promote volunteering opportunities.
  - Initiated a **Community Champions programme** for local residents to volunteer<sup>1</sup> in Kilburn, Kentish Town and Regent's Park to improve health and wellbeing on estates. Co-ordinators have been appointed in each area and are recruiting volunteers (aged 14 and over). FYA has been particularly successful at recruiting young people to support meal drops during lockdown.
  - Implemented the **Communities Together Fund** that supported 54 community-led volunteering activities and involved 14,000 residents to build community cohesion.
  - Delivered two rounds of the **Social Action Fund** providing small grants to support social action and resilience in community groups. **Total of £93,510 awarded to 58 projects.** Further rounds planned in 2021/2022.

- A Camden-wide 'public health approach' to tackle youth violence should be established, which involves young people, parents, residents, schools, businesses, community and voluntary groups, the council, the police and all other local partners who can contribute to keeping our young people safe.**
  - The Safer Camden Network worked in Gospel Oak**, developing a network of partners to test new ways of tackling the impacts of youth violence. **Examples of activities:** graffiti art project with young people at Lismore Circus.
  - The Safer Camden Network also worked with the **Somali community** across Camden to develop action plans on education, youth safety and mental health, setting up a community-led mentoring scheme for Somali young people who are at risk of disengaging from school. A **workshop on youth safety** in September 2020 involved over 75 participants, sharing their lived experiences.
- Robust programmes should be developed to equip young people with the skills and resilience needed to make positive choices and deal with difficult situations, with a focus on those young people moving from primary to secondary school.**
  - Funding until March 2022 secured from the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit to deliver a **parenting programme** aimed at **building resilience in our communities**. Eight themes including supporting parents around their children's use of social media, an exacerbating factor in youth violence. The **social switch training** has had excellent feedback from parents and carers, with three parents trained to be facilitators.
  - Delivered **12 projects through the Youth Safety Fund**, which include a promotion of life skills project. Examples:
    - LEAP providing conflict resolution training for 18 to 25 year olds.**
    - SYDRC and N1C Centre** delivering a project to help **reduce school exclusions** for children aged 9 to 12 who are at risk and helping them to manage the transition from primary to secondary school.

- Drama-based workshops** delivered in **3 secondary schools**, focusing on forming healthy relationships, and **'Breaking the Chain'** play focusing on child exploitation delivered in **5 secondary schools**.
- Young people's access to and ownership of activities in their community which can have a positive impact on their lives should be increased, and information about the borough's full youth service provision should be brought into one centralised and easy-to-access place.**
  - Creation of **Camden Rise** website (June 2018) - a hub of information for young people. Average of 1,500 visits per month. A valuable resource to increase access and provides a vehicle for young people to contribute to youth issues and opportunities in the borough.

- Delivery of a **Youth Safety Week** in partnership with residents, young people, public, private and voluntary sector partners. A call to action for the community to come together to raise awareness of youth safety issues, promote the support available and create social action.
- Working with Camden Learning, junior doctors and our local universities on developing a **health and wellbeing offer to support young people transitioning into adulthood**, with a programme of work that provides information, skills and tools for lifelong good health. Elements include first aid training targeted at the health needs of young people, health literacy, mental health resilience and preparation for employment.



Community-led graffiti art project in Gospel Oak, supported by local charity HVH Arts, which grew from Safer Camden Network conversations.

**“ Throughout these challenging times, ensuring our young people keep safe has remained at the forefront of our work ”**

<sup>1</sup>A resident-led tender process was completed in December 2019. Three organisations have been commissioned to run the Community Champions projects: Kentish Town - Elfrida Rathbone; Kilburn - SHAK; and, Regent's Park - Fitzrovia Youth in Action.

# IDENTIFY

**Identify** and refer those young people who need support because they are vulnerable to being affected by youth violence.

**Partners: Metropolitan Police, Camden Primary and Secondary Schools.**

5. **Professional identification of those at risk of being affected by youth violence should be increased to inform effective prevention and support strategies, and ensure appropriate referrals are made by schools, youth workers and other practitioners who work with young people.**

Appointment of a **Youth Violence and Exploitation Analyst** in the Council's youth service enabling a greater understanding of youth violence, gangs and child criminal exploitation in the borough.

**ENGAGE** (youth diversion programme) went live in **Feb 2019** and has been embedded in the police custodial approach. In **2019/20** – we directly supported **24 Camden children** following their arrest and supported a further **173 children** via the established network. From April to Dec 2020 we worked with 43 children since their arrest. **ENGAGE** has seen a **98% uptake** of an Early Help Offer compared with 54% in the previous year. **ENGAGE** is now located within the Youth Early Help Team. This enables the project to link in with wider family services for referrals for casework as well as access to positive activities via the networks of youth projects across the borough. **ENGAGE** was nominated as a finalist in the Children and Young People Now awards 2020.



The ENGAGE project team.

- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) risk assessment tool and response meeting format is in use by Youth Offending, Youth Early Help, Early Help and Children's Safeguarding and Social Work services.
- The **Camden Vulnerability Matrix**, a set of related vulnerability indicators to inform educational professionals that a child is at risk of not fulfilling their potential and experiencing negative life outcomes, has been developed in partnership with William Ellis and Haverstock secondary schools, Gospel Oak and Fleet primary schools, Camden Learning and UCL's Institute of Higher Education. After a successful pilot in 2020, the **Vulnerability Matrix** has now been embedded in the new Camden Secondary Transfer Form process for all schools in Camden. This means that for every Year 6 pupil who is identified as vulnerable, key information to support transition and planning for their secondary education will be shared. It is expected that many secondary schools will then continue to use the matrix as part of their pastoral support to track the pupils, inform school provision and influence borough-wide initiatives.

- 6. **Young people, families and the wider community should be better able to identify and act on early warning indicators of those at risk of youth violence, with one centralised place for people to contact for advice and help.**
- All secondary schools have been visited by the **Early Help Team** to increase awareness of the support available.
- Roll-out of **Early Help** friends awareness workshops in local communities. **30 workshops** now delivered, **357 people reached**, comprising parents, professionals and residents.

- Regular publicity about Early Help services in **headteachers newsletters** and work with pastoral teams as required.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic - the **Family Check-In Service was implemented and ran until April 2021**. Camden's Early Help team can contact families requiring additional support via referrals. Schools have been the biggest referrer and the service has acted as a reminder of the support services the team is able to offer.



Keir Starmer MP, Co-chair of the Youth Safety Steering Group, helps to launch Camden Youth Safety Week 2020.

Target those at risk of or affected by youth violence and provide them with the support they need, including enabling parents and professionals to **support** the young people with whom they are involved.

**Partners: Young Camden Foundation, Redthread, Chance UK, Somali Youth Development Resource Centre, Camden's Youth Providers and Schools.**

- 7. **Developing trauma-informed practices for schools, youth workers and professionals who work with young people.**
  - **Young Camden Foundation (YCF)** have been funded by the Youth Safety Steering Group to develop **trauma informed practice training** for voluntary/community sector youth workers. YCF launched a grants scheme in Sept 2020 for organisations to apply for funding for training programmes best suited to their needs. 8 applications received totalling £17,988. Ongoing rounds up until September 2021.
  - Camden Educational Psychology Service are delivering one-day training for school staff on **trauma informed practice**. To date 6 primary schools, 1 secondary and 1 special school have completed the training with a target of 15 schools to complete it by summer 2021. Schools are identifying a lead contact and champions to take the work forward and incorporate the learning in action plans.
- 8. **Additional support for students excluded, at risk of exclusion or with poor attendance should be provided and schools should have information on the most effective interventions alongside a knowledge-sharing mechanism for best practice.**
  - Camden's Youth Offending Service developed a **Peer Advocates scheme** to support the service with the delivery of interventions for young people. Three advocates are in post and are involved in a range of projects (e.g. follow on review of the Lammy Report, Youth Safety Week).
  - Over 2019-2020, **Chance UK** ran their award

winning **mentoring programme targeting 5 to 12 year olds experiencing** emotional and behavioural difficulties in schools. 48 students were supported with 9 months of individual mentoring, engaging children in activities to build social, emotional skills, confidence and resilience to protect them from risks in the future. The programme also offered parent engagement and an offer of family support.

- 9. **Encouraging businesses to develop employment and training opportunities for young people at risk of youth violence.**
  - Funding<sup>2</sup> granted to run an **employment pilot project involving 10-15 young people** (aged 19 to 25) with intensive support to improve occupational skills, self-efficacy, work readiness and progression into further learning and/or employment. Referrals are made via any service that is supporting young people in or at risk of youth violence.
  - To date **15 referrals have been received** and several employers are on board to (e.g. British Land, HS2, YMCA) provide 6 month paid work placements.
  - **Two neighbourhood job hubs created** in Gospel Oak and Regent's Park which are open to all Camden residents. This has moved online during the pandemic. The hubs have actively engaged about 270 residents since April 2020 including 65 young Camden residents aged 16 to 25. A third job hub, which is community-led, was already running successfully in Somers Town.
  - Working on the **youth offer for Camden** incorporating new initiatives such as the Government's **Kickstart scheme** with existing local provision, to create holistic, wrap-around provision.
  - **COVID-19** has shone a spotlight on the **inequalities** that exist in our society, and in some cases has made these worse. **Camden Renewal Commission** was set up by the Council and UCL's Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) to develop practical solutions to help achieve a fair, sustainable economy and address the inequalities we have in Camden.

- 10. **Additional support for young people aged 18 to 25 at risk of or affected by youth violence.**
  - **Established an over 18s working group** and created a regular network level meeting for a variety of service providers (e.g. probation, public health, youth service) to establish support for this age group across the borough.
  - **Creation of the Council's Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation team (EVOLVE).** The team has been operational since March 2020 and are dedicated to **supporting 16 to 24 year olds in Camden who are affected by serious youth violence and exploitation**. The areas of intervention they support include: education and employment, physical and emotional wellbeing, relationships, living arrangements and feeling safe.
  - In October 2019 <sup>3</sup>**Redthread** were commissioned by UCLH to run a support service for young people aged 11 to 24 who were victims of violence and admitted to the hospital emergency department. Using a **trauma informed approach**, youth workers meet young people at their hospital bedside to establish the specific challenges they face in their lives and work with

them, and professional networks, to develop support measures and safeguarding interventions. **Referrals from Camden - 22 young people.**

- 11. **Early Help services to be promoted to families in need and those least likely to ask. Community-led parenting programmes to develop parenting skills and promote greater resilience in families.**
  - **Early help service visits** were rolled out across all schools in Camden and we ran **'Full Circle' workshops** – an opportunity for parents to engage with our teams to shed light on certain topics and issues of concern.
  - We have delivered **community engagement events to promote the range of Early Help services available** to parents, carers and adolescents. This includes a well-attended market place event at <sup>4</sup>SYDRC that featured a variety of services (youth, housing, sports). **An estimated 200 people attended.**
  - **Early Help services** were also promoted at a Camden Somali community workshop in September 2020, delivered by the Safer Camden Network and attended by over 75 people.



Early Help 'Full Circle' session at the Surma Centre, Regent's Park, during Youth Safety Week 2020.

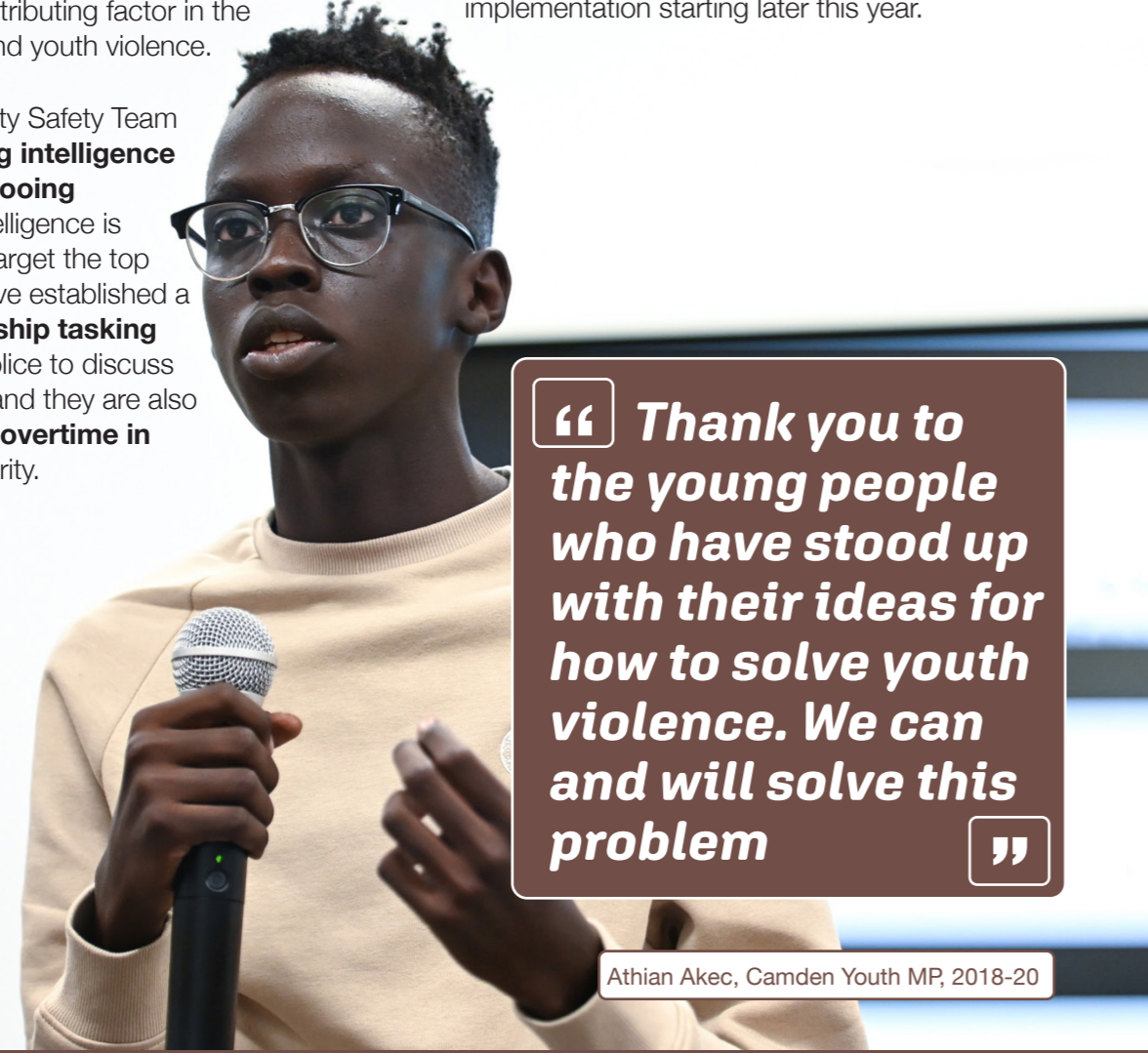
<sup>2</sup>Funding received from the Greater London Authority.  
<sup>3</sup>Redthread is a charity that embeds youth workers in health settings and is currently running a youth violence intervention programme in hospital A&E departments.  
<sup>4</sup>Somali Youth Development Resource Centre.

**Disrupt** Disrupt the patterns of youth violence to make Camden a safe environment by interrupting the activities of perpetrators and inhibiting the grooming and targeting process.

**Partners:** SYDRC, British Somali Community Centre, Somers Town Youth Centre, Safer Neighbourhoods, Camden Police, Camden's Youth Providers.

**12. Take a leading role in changing the conversations about the drugs trade, and campaign nationally to highlight exploitation of children in gangs.**

- ❑ **Youth Safety Partners** are supporting the police with pre-planned drugs enforcement operations via **joint patrolling and intelligence gathering** to target those at the top of the chain to disrupt criminal activity and the exploitation of young people. This is a contributing factor in the reduction of crime and youth violence.
- ❑ Camden's Community Safety Team have been **gathering intelligence and mapping cuckooing properties**. This intelligence is fed to the police to target the top tier criminals. We have established a **fortnightly partnership tasking meeting** with the police to discuss high priority issues, and they are also **investing in police overtime** in specific areas of priority.



*“ Thank you to the young people who have stood up with their ideas for how to solve youth violence. We can and will solve this problem ”*

Athian Akec, Camden Youth MP, 2018-20

- ❑ Implementation of a successful **multi-agency Camden Town drug strategy group**. This has decreased the level of drug dealing in Camden Town, an activity that is typically carried out by exploited young people.
- ❑ Completion of a detailed evidence gathering stage on the **Illegal Drugs Enquiry (IDE)**. The Community Safety Partnership Board (CSPB) has agreed that a risk-matrix approach is undertaken to **develop a drug action plan** that takes the research of the IDE forward.
- ❑ The CSPB has **agreed three areas of focus for the action plan:** keeping young people safe from drug related harm (including criminal exploitation), supporting communities to tackle drugs, and supporting people with complex needs (including rough sleepers, people with mental health problems etc). Work is underway to develop the action plan, including engagement with partners and stakeholders with the aim of implementation starting later this year.

**13. Exploring ways for greater trust and cooperation being fostered between young people, local communities and police, and other public bodies.**

- ❑ Development of a **youth safety action plan** between the Somali community, Council and the Police to identify activity that builds trust. **Actions include:** regular community workshops with the police, supporting parent champions to be 'bridges' between services and the community, ride-a-longs with the police for the community, and improving representation in forums e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Panels, police working with SYDRC to increase contact with young people that attend.
- ❑ Camden's Detached Youth Team ran the **Choices programme** on weapons awareness during 2019-20 in **6 secondary schools for 744 young people**. Safer Schools Officers supported these sessions.
- ❑ The charity **Growing Against Violence were funded to run preventative education workshops** covering issues such as grooming and exploitation. **Delivered in nine secondary schools, six primary schools, and the Pupil Referral Unit. In total, 5,435 students engaged.** Funding has been confirmed for '20/'21 to deliver in more schools and provide online resources.
- ❑ Community Safety and Youth Services have assisted in recruiting **volunteer police cadets**, targeting hard to reach young people (e.g. via the Somali Youth Development Resource Centre). **82 recruited in total to date**, including 40 young people from Black, Asian or other ethnic communities.



Safer Camden Network and HVH Arts project, Lismore Circus.

**14. An improved rehousing and resettlement offer should be available for young people at risk and families, including a pan-London approach on the issue.**

- ❑ Youth Safety partners are working with the Safer London Partnership to develop a **Pan-London Housing Reciprocal** and have highlighted the challenges of moving families between boroughs. Guidance and support has been provided on how best to liaise with other local authorities to move families safely. We have **safely rehoused several families** who felt under threat or distressed by living in their previous property.
- ❑ Creation of a **Bereaved Families Liaison Officer** post in Camden's Housing Needs team. Using a psychological trauma informed approach, the officer works closely with Camden families who have suffered the trauma and tragedy of losing a loved one due to violent crime, and who want to move home. The role of the officer has recently been extended to working with families who have had a threat to life to examine preventative measures and safeguarding.
- ❑ Development of a draft **Bereavement Protocol**, which sets out the actions that can help support families. This includes a tool kit setting out the approach for Council services to consider to ensure that families and communities remain supported and protected in the most challenging of circumstances.

**15. The design and planning of local environments which help reduce crime and make residents feel safer should be promoted.**

- ❑ Roll out of a **place-based approach to designing out crime** in areas that young people and communities feel unsafe - working in Camden Town, EC1/King's Cross (with Islington Council), and in Warren Street, working in partnership with Fitzrovia BID.
- ❑ The **Safer Camden Network** is working in Gospel Oak, engaging the community to identify areas they feel are unsafe and need addressing. Examples of projects include the **graffiti art project** on **Lismore Circus** shopfront shutters, (see photo, left).

**Enforce** - Use appropriate enforcement against perpetrators, using information and intelligence gathered by partner agencies.

**Partners:** Camden Police, SYDRC, British Somali Community, Somers Town Youth Centre, Safer Neighbourhoods, Camden's Youth Providers.

**16. Enforcement action should be targeted on those 'at the top' of the drugs market who exploit children and young people.**

- Since 2018, **multiple drugs operations have been carried out** specifically targeting higher tier criminals, resulting in more than 60 people being prosecuted for drug supply.
- **Creation of the Drugs Focus Desk**, a team of dedicated experts made up of 8 officers who are there to assist and back up officers when dealing with PWITS (possession (of drugs) with intent to supply) matters.
- **Formation of the Violence Suppression Unit** which has brought an **increase of 40 x police constables and 12 x detective constables** in Camden and Islington Borough Command Unit. The team focuses on reducing serious violence, knife crime and robbery and are deployed into the hotspots where intelligence suggests there is a higher risk of violence.



Chief Superintendent Raj Kohli, Borough Commander, Met Police

**17. The borough police, young people and the wider local community should work together to explore ways to ensure stop and search measures are seen to be used fairly, proportionally and in a respectful manner.**

- In September 2020, Camden's Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) and Police started delivering **ongoing workshops between new police recruits and young people** from the Somers Town Youth Centre and Camden IYSS's Youth Offending and Youth Early Help Services. The aim is to increase awareness for officers and young people regarding the challenges of stop and search, share mutual experiences and develop an appreciation and understanding of how it makes members of the community feel being stopped and searched. To date, **25 young people have been engaged** with a core group of 8. The group has taken part in 3 sessions with newly-trained police officers and one further session specifically for young people in the youth offending service. Positive feedback received from young people that these sessions have begun the process of achieving their goal of improving relationships between young people and the police.
- **Off the Hook project** - Police officers worked in partnership with youth workers from the **Queen's Crescent Community Association** to deliver **10 weeks of boxing and educational sessions for young people aged 10 to 18**. The aim was to divert young people from crime, by delivering workshops on stop and search, bullying etc, using boxing as a vehicle to engage with the young people and hear about their concerns and experiences. Young people have taken part in a **weapons sweep at Lismore Circus**, with police officers explaining the importance of carrying out such operations to help keep young people safe.

- **There is a dedicated Safer Schools Officer (SSO) assigned to each Camden mainstream school, embedded in each secondary school and as a point of contact for all primary schools.** SSOs carry out visits in schools and deliver workshops on a range of topics, including visiting Year 7 students to discuss the reasons for stop and search, students' views and experiences, police powers and young people's rights and responsibilities.

- The annual **Junior Citizens Programme, last run in 2019, reached 1,200 students** from 37 Camden primary schools across two weeks on a variety of topics, including robbery, knife crime and stop and search.

**“ Our goal is to make Camden a place where every young person feels safe and can succeed ”**



Fabio Dovalle, Camden YOS Peer Advocate (centre), with Supt Ben Clark, Met Police; Cllr Abdul Hai, Co-chair of the Youth Safety Steering Group, and Florence Eshalomi MP.



**The Youth Safety Action Plan** was agreed by the Steering Group in 2018. Significant progress has been made in addressing the 17 recommendations of the Taskforce. Taking into account recent events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, we have adapted particular actions and the focus for the remaining duration of the action plan. These are listed by workstream below.

**Prevent**

- ❑ Delivering **parenting support programmes** that build resilience in our communities.
- ❑ Focused delivery of actions paused during lockdown, such as the **Full Circle** programme to train parents as facilitators and provide a supportive forum for targeted parenting work, and **Strengthening Community Conferences**, with families of young people leading on the planning and delivery of community conferences to engage parents, share information and concerns, and work together to instigate change.
- ❑ Delivery of the **over 18s transitioning support programme** - to support the health and wellbeing of young people transitioning into adulthood. Roll-out of this programme to all sixth forms in Camden secondary schools.
- ❑ Building on the success of this year's event, we plan to hold **Camden Youth Safety Fortnight** in Summer 2021 to continue to raise awareness and promote social action. **Planned dates: 25 June to 9 July 2021.**

**Identify**

- ❑ **Continuing the Early Help awareness campaign with schools visits** (virtual and real) to all new headteachers in Camden, and targeting schools where Early Help services have less embedded relationships.
- ❑ **Maintaining and developing the continuum of Early Help support** that has been available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Support**

- ❑ **Supporting our voluntary and community sector to have a better impact in reducing violence among young people** - Young Camden Foundation (YCF) to target the delivery of the grants scheme to ensure we are funding a diverse range of organisations who can receive training to improve their support services offer to young people. YCF to deliver additional free training for youth providers on contextual safeguarding, mentoring and conflict resolution.
- ❑ **Embedding trauma-informed practices into schools and youth services, ensuring that they are also racially and culturally informed to address disproportionality** – The TIPiC scheme will continue to provide training for schools staff, and identify champions to monitor progress of the training to help embed it in the school's approach to supporting vulnerable young people. Developing a **range of offers to involve more schools**, including a one-hour Introduction to TIPiC, shorter 'taster' training and multi-agency webinars for professionals and school staff to access anytime. **Involving young people** via the development of a **pupil audit**, to be trialed in focus groups at the Camden Centre for Learning.
- ❑ **Supporting young people into positive outcomes** – we aim to recruit 3 new peer advocates to work in our Youth Offending Service, and monitor the progress of the youth pathways scheme to support the young people into good work. Working with Camden's Renewal Mission on the delivery of the 'youth mission', with the following overarching aim:  
  
**"By 2025, every young person has access to economic opportunity that enables them to be safe and secure."**
- ❑ **Supporting and empowering parents and families** – continue working with our voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver information sessions to parents and **promote community engagement on Early Help services.**

**Disrupt**

- ❑ **Supporting Police and Council engagement with young people and families** ensuring a targeted approach in light of the **evidence on BAME disproportionality**:
  - **A Mothers and Sisters event** – reaching out to families of young people predominately from Black, Asian or other ethnic groups to provide an understanding of the issues the Police face in tackling youth safety and violent crime.
  - **Targeted engagement at faith establishments** by the Police and Council services to raise awareness of the support services available.
- ❑ **Implementing place-based approaches to improving safety and reducing crime** – After-school (4pm) is a key time slot for youth violence offences to be committed. Develop measures to create safe havens for young people, ensuring our most vulnerable children are protected. **Safer Camden Network** to deliver proposal to **improve lighting** in and around **several housing estates**, replacing traditional street lighting with LED lighting that spreads the light more evenly over an area - thus **improving visibility and perceptions of safety.**
- ❑ **Detailed examination of the risks of rehousing and resettlement** to ensure any young person or their families are safely moved. Greater consideration is required on the outcome in the planning of a move.

**Enforce**

- ❑ Continuation of the intelligence-led operations on drugs enforcement.
- ❑ Develop the **new police recruits programme into a longer scheme** – up to March 2022, at least six sessions per recruit with the aim of challenging unconscious biases.
- ❑ Targeted engagement work to build relations and trust with young people and their families, including wider participatory activities on the use of stop and search practices.

❑ **Projects including:**

- **Work Up** –delivering support to young people on employment in areas of deprivation and/or high populations of Black, Asian and minority groups. Highlighting training opportunities and introduction to careers in the police.
- **Break the Cycle** – bicycle maintenance sessions used as the focus to teach young people new skills, alongside providing mentoring and advice. Workshops on subjects such as stop and search and youth safety.
- **Metrobox boxing club** – delivered free of charge at Handyside Sports Pitch, King's Cross. Led by police officers and members of the community, it aims to form links with young people, dispel false ideas and build relationships with local police officers.

It is important to note that these priorities will allow the Steering Group to conclude this phase of work, but it does not signify the end of our commitment to youth safety in Camden.

We have commissioned London Metropolitan University to conduct an independent evaluation of the progress to address the 17 recommendations of the Taskforce. The main focus of the evaluation will be to examine the following question:

**"How have the interventions implemented as part of the Council's response to the Youth Safety Taskforce recommendations enhanced the safety of young people within Camden and positively contributed to attempts to address youth crime and violence?"**

The evaluation will provide invaluable feedback from youth safety partners, young people and families, and vital information for the ongoing focus of our work to keep the young people of Camden safe.

The Steering Group will reflect on and review the achievements of the last few years, identifying key gaps to address, which will allow the development of a fresh set of priorities for the future. These are expected to be announced in spring 2022.

## Key Contacts

For more information please visit [camden.gov.uk/youthsafetytaskforce](https://camden.gov.uk/youthsafetytaskforce)

If you would like to contact the Steering Group or get involved in making Camden safer for our young people please email [youthsafety@camden.gov.uk](mailto:youthsafety@camden.gov.uk)

## Youth Safety Steering Group Members

**Co-chair:** Keir Starmer QC, MP - Member of Parliament for Holborn and St Pancras

**Co-chair:** Councillor Abdul Hai - Cabinet Member for Young People, Equalities and Cohesion, Camden Council

Nicholas John - Headteacher, Acland Burghley School

Keith Morgan - CEO, Young Camden Foundation

Camden Youth MP and Deputy Youth MP

Martin Pratt - Executive Director, Supporting People, and Deputy Chief Executive, Camden Council

Eve Stickler - Director of Early Intervention and Prevention, Camden Council

Carole Stewart - Director of Community Services, Camden Council

Jodi Pilling - Head of Safer Camden Network, Camden Council

Eugene Griffin - Head of Integrated Youth Support Services, Camden Council

Lucy Southern - Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation Team Manager, Camden Council

Baljinder Heer-Matiana - Assistant Director, Camden and Islington Public Health

Detective Superintendent Caroline Haines - Metropolitan Police

Chief Superintendent and Borough Commander Raj Kohli - Metropolitan Police

## The work of the Steering Group is supported by Camden Council

### Officers:

- Saima Downes - Senior Policy and Projects Officer
- Jahnelle Hutton-Parr - Senior Policy and Projects Officer
- Beth Wagstaff - Portfolio Lead
- Phil McCorkell - Communications Manager
- Lizzie Skalski - Youth Violence and Exploitation Analyst and
- Noemi Drew - Constituency Office Manager, Office of Keir Starmer QC, MP

## Acknowledgements

The work of the Youth Safety Steering Group has been in partnership with many different voluntary and community sector organisations, schools, young people and parents. We would like to thank all those who engaged with our work and contributed to producing the action plan. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the support given by the following groups:

- Coram's Fields Youth Centre
- Project 10:10
- Acland Burghley School and students
- Haverstock School and students
- The Winchester Project (The Winch)
- British Somali Community Centre
- LEAP Confronting Conflict
- Somers Town Youth Centre
- Somali Youth Development Resource Centre (SYDRC)
- N1C Centre
- Queen's Crescent Community Association
- Central North Borough Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service
- Camden Re-integration Base (CRiB)
- Camden Centre for Learning
- GOAL Youth Club
- Young Camden Foundation
- Chance UK
- Redthread
- Volunteer Centre Camden
- Camden Safer Neighbourhoods Board and the Camden Youth Independent Advisors
- Camden Giving
- Elfrida Rathbone
- South Hampstead and Kilburn Community Partnership (SHAK)
- Fitzrovia Youth in Action
- Safer London
- Violence Reduction Unit, The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- Islington Council
- Camden and Islington Public Health
- Safer Camden Network
- Camden staff and officers



Camden Youth Shout Out, held during Youth Safety Week 2020.



Anes Bouzouina, Camden Youth MP 2021-22.



Loveita Baker, Camden Council Young People's Substance Misuse Case Manager, at a youth safety awareness-raising exhibition in Camden Town.



Acland Burghley students at a Youth Safety Week 2020 event, with Keir Starmer MP, Cllr Abdul Hai (far left) and Cllr Georgia Gould (far right).