



NEWHAM
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP

Youth Safety Strategy 2025-2028

Foreword - Mayor of Newham

Becoming the Mayor of Newham in 2018 has been the greatest privilege of my life. Back then, I made a promise to our young residents and their families, that I would make Newham the best place for children and young adults to grow up, thrive and lead successful, fulfilling lives.

Since then I've engaged with thousands of children and young adults from all corners of the borough to discuss issues, listen to their concerns about life in Newham and championed a great many opportunities, (such as Year of the Young Person, Youth Safety Summits, Youth Citizen Assemblies and much more). Working collaboratively with young people reaffirms my determination to continue the work to tackle the hard issues like youth violence and exploitation; it takes each and every one of us in the community to build a borough where our children feel safe and valued and supported through our efforts to explore solutions together.

Across my administrations relentless focus on investing in our young people to create safe, welcoming spaces throughout our borough, some of the greatest achievements we have delivered for our young people together include:

- Delivered **Shipman Youth Zone and Family Hub**: Through an 8 million pound funding investment, this project was co-designed with young people across the promise to deliver them a centre as ambitious as they were – and here we excelled!
- Established the **Youth Safety Board**: Working in partnership with leaders in the youth violence space, families and residents, the Board acts as a key driver across developing our

understanding of the broader, system-wide issues, informs the thinking about the scale and depth of need in Newham and supports the work of the Council in best delivering the outcomes we want to see for our children and young adults in our borough.

- Launched Newham's **Youth Empowerment Fund**: A grant to support young people in achieving their ambitions through the provision of financial assistance that provides a pathway towards development in areas they are passionate about.

Newham's Youth Safety Strategy draws from a body of work across all that has gone before across research, policy, review and collaboration - it is the culmination of a breadth of work from the Council and its valued voluntary, faith and community sector partners across refining and defining priorities which set out a solid pathway across implementation and action for the next three years that will enable us to improve the experiences and outcomes for our children and young adults.

We would like to thank everyone that has co-produced this strategy – a commendable body of working professionals who are all committed to working in partnership to ensure all of our children and young adults are safe and thrive.

Our Strategy sends a powerful message that we will protect and care for all children and young adults like we would our own children - that their crucial and heartfelt voices matter; their experiences across discrimination and disproportionality are valid - and that their rights across equity and inclusion must be upheld.



Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
Mayor of Newham

Foreword - Deputy Mayor of Newham

Since 2011, Newham's youth population has grown by 14%; just over a quarter or 92, 600 (26.4%) of the population are children and young adults aged 0-19 years old – which makes it one of the youngest boroughs in the country.

Newham is a beacon of diversity; it has a higher proportion of young Black African, Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi residents in comparison to other London boroughs and, with over 100 languages spoken here, Newham boasts a vibrant, rich and inclusive culture and community.

Newham is home to some incredibly talented young people and with the additional, wrap – around support provided by this Youth Safety Strategy, we know we can come together as a partnership to help them to stay on track and reach their potential.

When looking at Education, our schools in Newham are some of the best in the country, and nearly all of our state funded schools have received either a Good or Outstanding rating from Ofsted. But we know more can be done to support our young people who experience school exclusion, who are missing from or missing out on education for any number of reasons or who have additional special educational needs and disability (SEND), which includes a rich spectrum across neurodiversity.

Across Housing, we have recently refurbished and converted to a Council building into an eight-bedded unit, which will provide supported accommodation for single homeless young people

This is a fantastic initiative which makes innovative use of a vacant unit to provide urgently needed, quality homes for young care leavers across the supportive pathway towards independent living. We pledge to include learning and evaluation across this new opportunity, to enable us to explore how we can go further and do more.

Newham's track record across food sustainability for young people is also exemplary; our Eat for free programme is the longest running universal free school meals scheme in the country, made up of 71 primary schools that serve more than 18,000 meals daily. The programme has made serving free, hot and nutritious meals to our young people every day a priority and we will continue to do so.

In Newham we fully believe all our young residents have the right to feel safer, supported and have equal access to opportunity. As a society and local community, we need to do all we can to ensure our children have the help they need to be healthy and succeed.

This Strategy, in place for the next three years, sets out a clear vision across putting children, young people, and their families at the heart of everything we do in our bid to become the most child-friendly borough in the country.



Cllr Sarah Ruiz
Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member
for Environment, Sustainable Transport,
Children Services and Education

Foreword - Young Changemaker

I am an ex-Newham resident who now studies in the borough at the University of East London. I engage with and empower other Newham young people through a range of activities; I participate in campaigns, plan and organise events with youth workers, and I also promote inclusion, diversity and equality in my support to others.

The safety of young people in Newham—or any community—is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Well-being and Development:** Young people are at a formative stage in their lives. Ensuring their safety provides them with the stable environment they need to grow, learn, and develop healthy relationships. Exposure to violence, crime, or unsafe conditions can have long-lasting negative impacts on their mental and physical health.
2. **Preventing Cycles of Violence:** A safe environment helps break the cycle of violence, poverty, and crime. When young people feel safe and supported, they are less likely to engage in risky behaviours or fall into patterns that perpetuate harm in the community.
3. **Future of the Community:** The young generation represents the future of Newham. By protecting and nurturing them, you're ensuring a brighter, more prosperous future for the entire community. Supporting their safety is an investment in the social and economic fabric of the area.

4. **Equal Opportunity:** Newham, like many areas, has diverse communities with varying levels of access to resources. Ensuring safety for all young people, regardless of their background, promotes equality and helps to close social and economic gaps.
5. **Building Trust and Social Cohesion:** When young people feel safe, they are more likely to trust local authorities, schools, and community organisations. This trust fosters social cohesion, encouraging them to become positive, active members of their community as they grow up.

I am really excited about continuing to make changes for the better within Newham as well completing my current degree and potentially doing a PHD in marketing.

I'd like to finish by adding the incredible experience I had through engaging with Newham's Youth Empowerment Service. This service is really beneficial for Newham children and young people; it provides a safe and supportive environment for to explore interests, connect with peers, and gain valuable skills.

By participating in activities or visiting youth zones, I have built confidence, learnt new skills, formed supportive friendships, stay active through engagement with others and accessed mentors and guidance. My engagement with this service helped me to prepare for the future, whether that's a job, school, or personal goals.



Colin Hays
Young Changemaker

Foreword - Partnership Chair, Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership is delighted to introduce our Youth Safety Strategy. Senior leaders from the local authority, the police, health and education services, the voluntary and community sector and all partners who work with the residents of Newham are committed to ensuring the safety of our children and young adults now and in the future.

We will work hard in a co-ordinated and collaborative way to have a real impact on making our children and young adults safer. The principles set out in this Strategy are key to delivering this ambition. The relational, child first trauma-responsive approach alongside children and young adult's voices are at the heart of everything we want to achieve.

As Chair of the Newham Safeguarding Children's Partnership I look forward to implementing this Strategy alongside children, young adults, parents, carers and all those who work with our residents.



Laura Eden
Director of Children's Service and Newham Safeguarding
Children Partnership Chair



1. Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Violence and exploitation can have a devastating impact on young victims, their family, friends, and the wider community in Newham.

In response, youth safety was made a priority of the local partnership in 2019 with the establishment of a Newham Youth Safety Board to identify and accelerate actions to improve safety for children and young adults in the borough. Significant progress has been made since 2019, with the successful implementation of a number of strategies and action plans linked to improving safety for children and young adults in Newham leading to tangible improvements in the local response.

Youth safety remains a priority for the partnership. The aim is to achieve a whole system change underpinned by a public health approach. This strategy builds on the successes that have already been achieved and is ambitious to deliver more.

The partnership wants to see that all children and young adults are protected from crime, criminal or sexual exploitation and from being drawn into gang activity and serious violence.

We understand that youth safety is an area of complexity; alongside newly emerging evidence of what works, we know that those who seek to harm or exploit children and young adults will continue to adopt new ways of doing so. In response to a changing landscape, our new strategy will remain agile and flexible during the three-year period of its implementation.

A strong and effective local partnership has built a shared understanding of the nature and extent of issues in order to develop and coordinate the responses required to generate further change. The views, wishes and needs of our communities, parents and those directly affected by these issues are at the heart of our approach and partnership.

Our Youth Safety Strategy has been developed through a multi-agency collaborative approach and is focused upon ensuring all Newham children and young adults are able to thrive, reach their best potential, and experience fair and equitable access to services and support. To do this, we will harness strengths from across the partnership to develop and deliver a coherent, whole systems approach to youth safety. The strategy goes further than we have before and sets out a shared vision to protect local communities and safeguard children and young adults.

Newham has a long and rich history:

- Valuing engagement and feedback from children, young people, parents, carers, communities and partners
- Working together to identify problems and co-produce solutions
- Engaging, sharing and delivering together



Executive Summary

Working with a wide range of stakeholders we have reviewed 10 existing strategies and plans relevant to the youth safety strategic landscape and developed a single revised strategy and action plan to take us forward over the next three years.

Single Strategy and Action Plan:

- We have developed a refreshed plan that the partnership will champion across 2025 to 2028
- Focused on areas that require more and further work over the next three years
- Engaged in further co-production work with our children, young people, parents/ carers, residents and a wide range of professionals across the partnership – to help us determine new priority areas, with regular check-in and review points built into the work programme along the way
- Set out clear governance arrangements for the youth safety work programme
- Devised a set of simple key performance indicators (KPIs) that allow us to track the performance, progress, impact and outcomes across our activity in youth safety
- The strategy is focused across the provision of support for all children, young people up to the age of 25 years in the borough recognising the importance of supporting them into adulthood

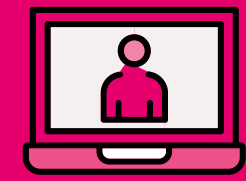
The Youth Safety Strategy 2025/28 incorporates six principle areas of focus which are:



1. Work in Partnership



2. Tackle Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality



3. Prevent and Intervene Early



4. Support and Protect



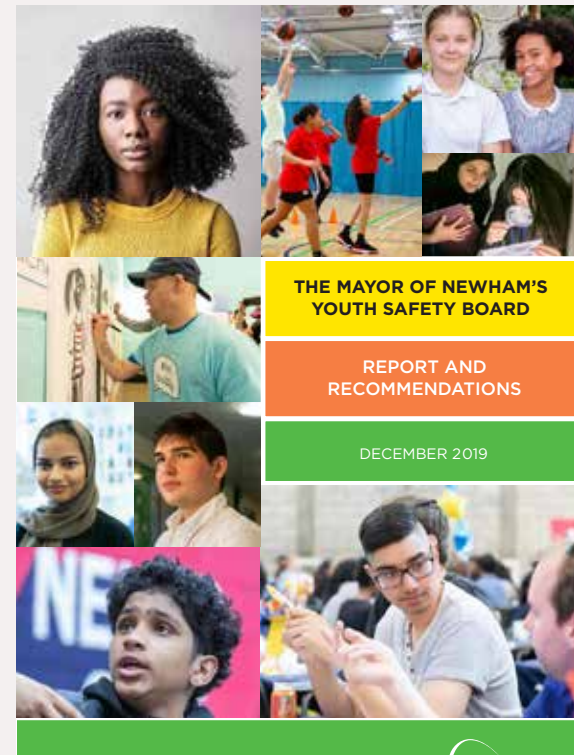
5. Deter and Disrupt



6. Create Safer Spaces

Newham Strategic Landscape

Strategy and policy delivery pathways across the youth safety agenda to date are set out below:



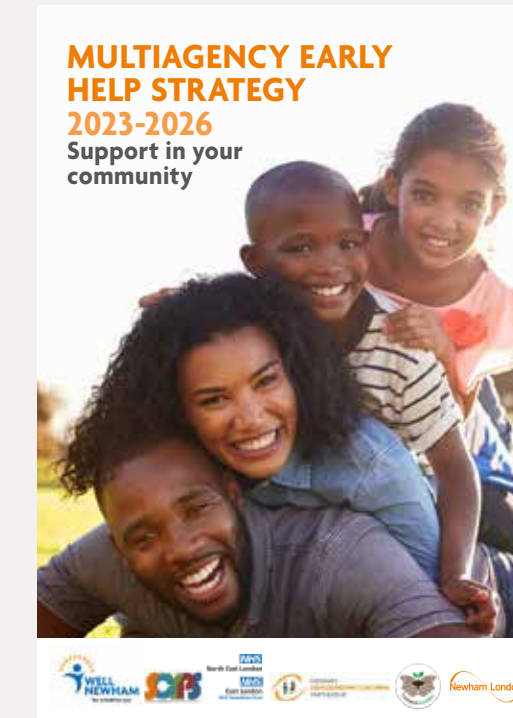
Youth Safety Board: 1st Report
December 2019



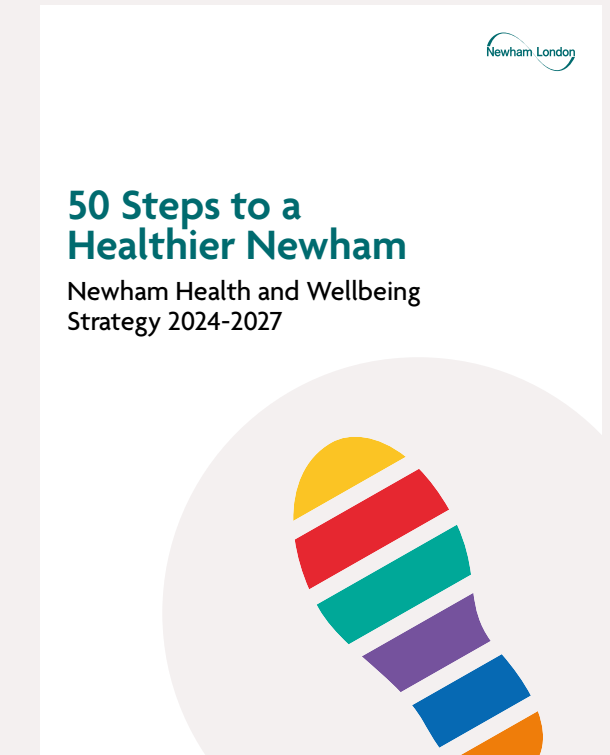
Youth Safety Board:
1 Year On May 2021



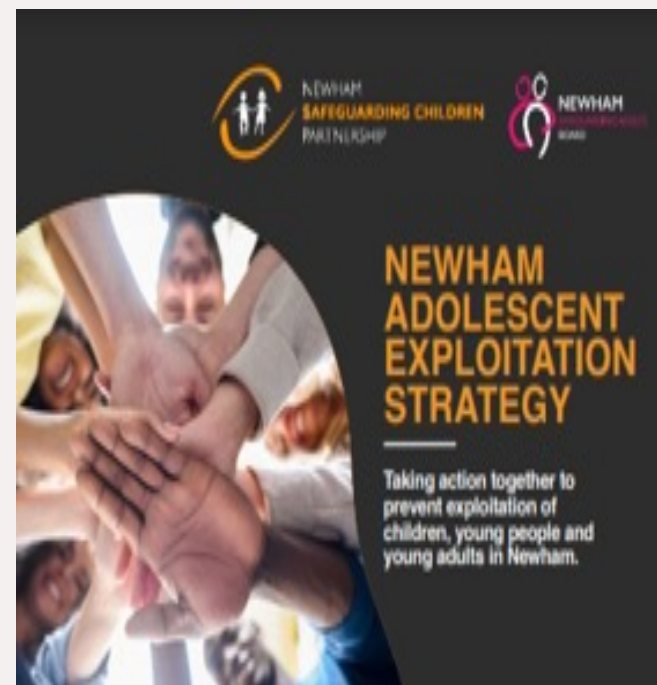
Whole System Approach to Youth
Safety August 2022



Early Help Strategy
September 2023



50 Steps to a Healthier Newham
April 2024



Adolescent Exploitation Strategy
October 2020



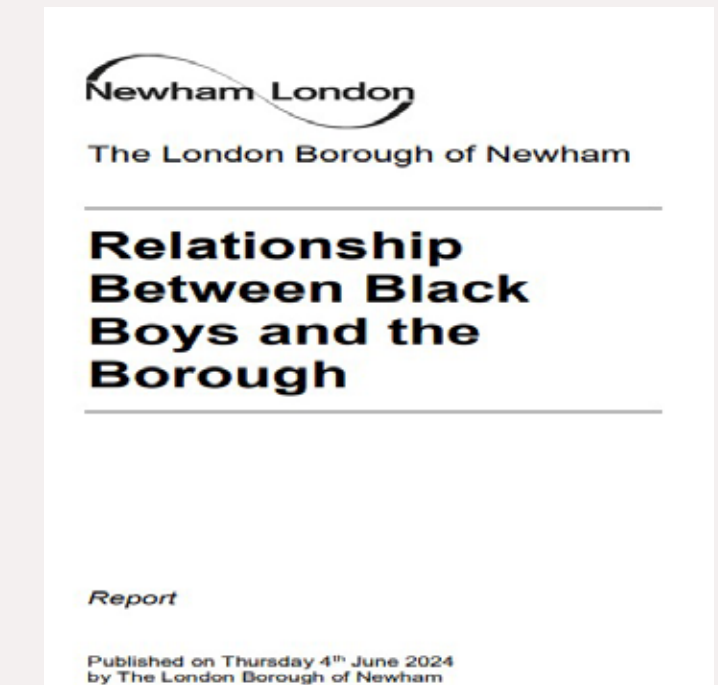
Adolescent Exploitation Strategy:
18 Months On - July 2022



Building a Fairer Newham:
Corporate Plan - November 2022



SEND Inclusion Strategy
October 2023



SCRUTINY: Black Boys & the
Borough - June 2024



2. National and Regional context

National Context

The government have set out a range of ambitions and initiatives which relate to the safety of children and young adults which this strategy will respond to. These include, to:

- Set a mission for the country to halve knife crime in a decade.
- Get weapons off the streets and making sure there are tough and clear consequences for violence.
- Create prevention partnerships for children and young people most at risk of being dragged into violence, and bring together the right services to help them lead safe and healthy lives.
- Strengthen the laws around the online sales of knives, making sure the rules in place to stop dangerous weapons ending up in the hands of children and young people are enforced.
- Tackle violence against women and girls, halving this over the next decade, as part of the wider mission to take back our streets.

The effects of youth violence, including knife crime, and child exploitation are devastating and have a profound impact on children and young adults for the rest of their lives. In Newham youth violence is considered as both a safeguarding and public health concern, as children and young adults' health and social outcomes are known to be worsened through increased exposure to violence. The exploitation of children can take a number of different forms and perpetrators may subject to multiple forms of abuse at the same time, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines) and sexual exploitation.

Partnerships have a key role in tackling youth violence and child exploitation head on, from awareness-raising and staff training, to prevention and support for children and young adults who have been victims and working together to disrupt crime and bring perpetrators to justice. We understand that a strong response will require a collaborative and aligned partnership working across agencies, communities, families, and with children and young adults.

This strategy is guided by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which outlines how local authorities, the Police and NHS Integrated Care Boards work together with other local partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. This includes schools and educational settings, voluntary sector organisations and faith groups. It is also guided by the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022) which set out the responsibilities of councils and partners to keep children and young adults safe.

Our strategy helps us to deliver the new Serious Violence Duty which requires specified authorities to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area.



Regional Context

Our strategy is also guided by regional developments and initiatives:

Youth Endowment Fund:

This fund was established in 2019 with a ten-year mandate from the Home Office to research what interventions work to prevent violent crime.

- Our Strategy acknowledges the interventions identified through the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit as having an evidenced impact on crime reduction. For example, mentoring was classed as having a moderate impact on reducing crime, and we aim to develop a co-ordinated mentoring offer across the borough.

The London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU):

This specialist team recognise that crime and violence are not inevitable, and their policies highlight the importance of using a public health approach. The Mayor of London also established the GLA Group Public Health Unit that advises the VRU in reducing health inequalities for crime reduction.

- Our Strategy is based around a public health approach, as it shifts the focus from incident response to prevention. We also discuss the wider determinants of health that can increase likelihood of crime, for example housing, money and mental health, and how we can better support young people across these areas.

Our strategy aligns well across national strategies, such as the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which has oversight of both the Metropolitan Police and London's VRU. Core areas of alignment here include:

- Increased trust and confidence;
- That violence is prevented (e.g. that young people, young women and girls are safer and feel safer, and that re-offending is reduced);

- That people are protected from exploitation and harm (e.g. fewer young people and adults are criminally exploited and harmed; young people and vulnerable people in the justice system are supported and safe including online).

In addition, the strategy aligns with the Metropolitan Police upcoming children's strategy, which highlights the below action areas:

- More Trust: a focus on build positive, trusted relationships with children and young adults to restore confidence in policing.
- Less Crime: a focus on preventing and reducing crime committed against children; a proactive approach towards identifying exploiters to mitigate risk.
- High Standards: a focus on improving partnership working and police officer standards across safeguarding, capability and cultural competence.

We are also engaged and aligned to work led by the London Improvement and Alliance (LIIA) delivering:

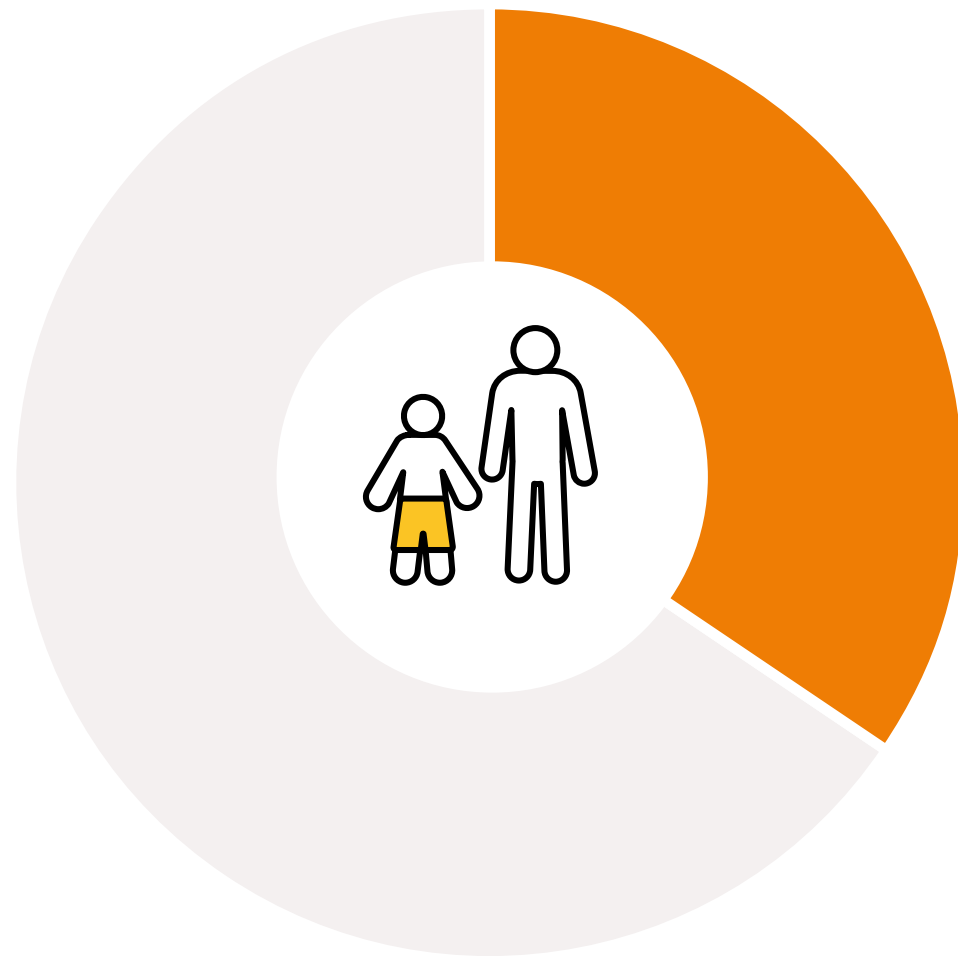
- The new London Children and young adults's Violence and Exploitation Support Service (VESS) which provides holistic support to children and young adults (up to the age of 25) impacted by violence and exploitation in London
- The development of the second edition of the Adolescent Safeguarding in London (ASIL) handbook
- Phase 4 of the Stop & Search project. This initiative seeks to better safeguard children and young adults by viewing stop and search encounters through a safeguarding lens.
- A new Multi-agency Child Exploitation panel (MACE) Protocol.

About Newham

AGE

34.5%

of Newham's population is aged 24 years and under



ETHNICITY

42%

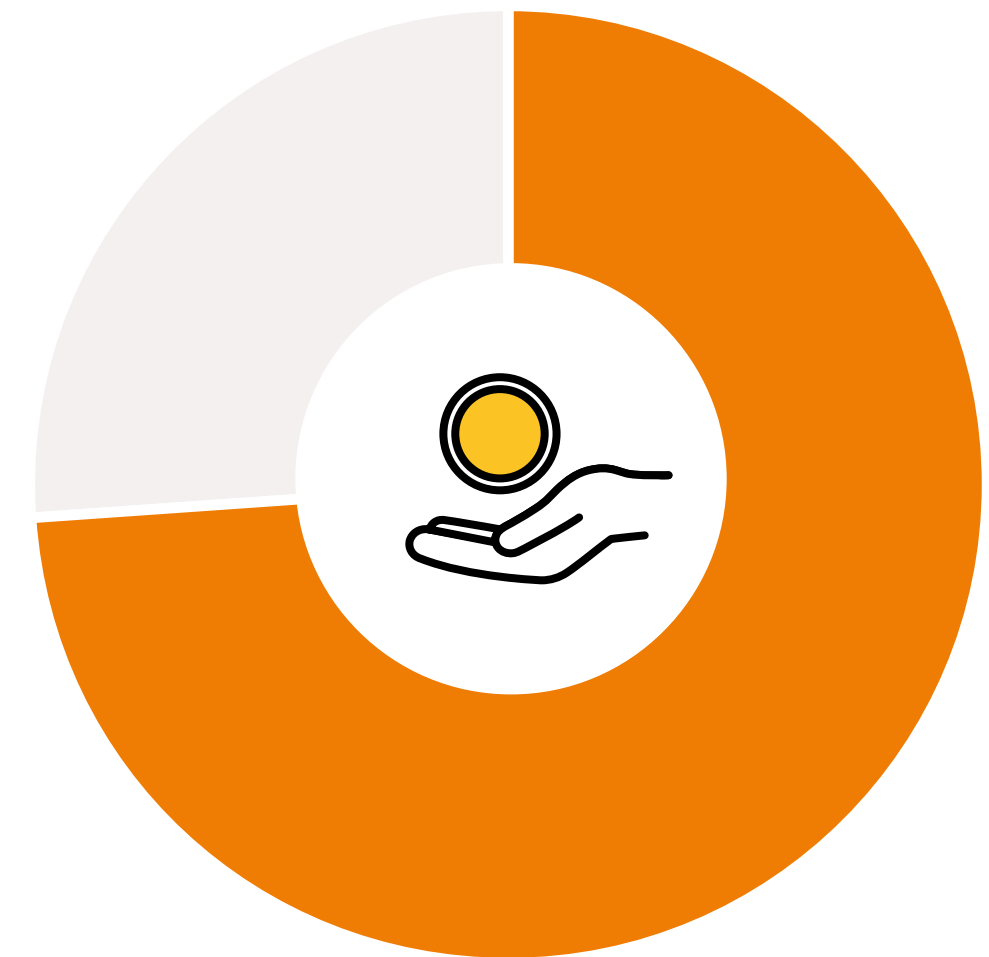
of children who came to the Youth Justice Service in May 2021 were of Black heritage, despite only making up 23% of Newham's general population.



DEPRIVATION

74%

of our youth cohort are in locations identified as being the 30% most deprived in England.



About Newham

Age and gender

Newham is one of the most diverse and dynamic boroughs in the UK. We have a notable young population, with 34.5% of the borough being 24 years and under. This cohort represents both a tremendous asset and a critical area of focus for the borough's Youth Safety Strategy.

Source: Clinical Effectiveness Group, 1st April 2024

Ethnicity

This diversity enriches our community, but also requires tailored approaches which are outlined within this Strategy's Action Plan. The Youth Justice Board identified that children of Black heritage are four times more likely to be arrested than White Children. They are less likely to receive an out-of-court disposal and avoid going to Court than their White counterparts and nearly twice as likely to receive a custodial outcome as their White counterparts. 42% of children who came to the Youth Justice Service in May 2021 were of Black heritage, despite only making up 23% of Newham's general population.

Source: Newham Council, Black boys in the Borough Scrutiny Report, June 2024

Deprivation

The Indices of deprivation are calculated using seven measures for each neighbourhood in England:

- Income Deprivation (22.5%)
- Employment Deprivation (22.5%)
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (13.5%)
- Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5%)
- Crime (9.3%)
- Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%)
- Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%)

Levels of deprivation decreases as the decile increases, so decile 1 represents the 10% most deprived, while decile 10 represents the 10% least deprived. No areas in Newham are ranked 9 or 10.

40% more crimes were recorded in the most income-deprived areas in 2023 in London, compared to the least income-deprived.

74% of our youth cohort are in locations identified as being the 30% most deprived in England.

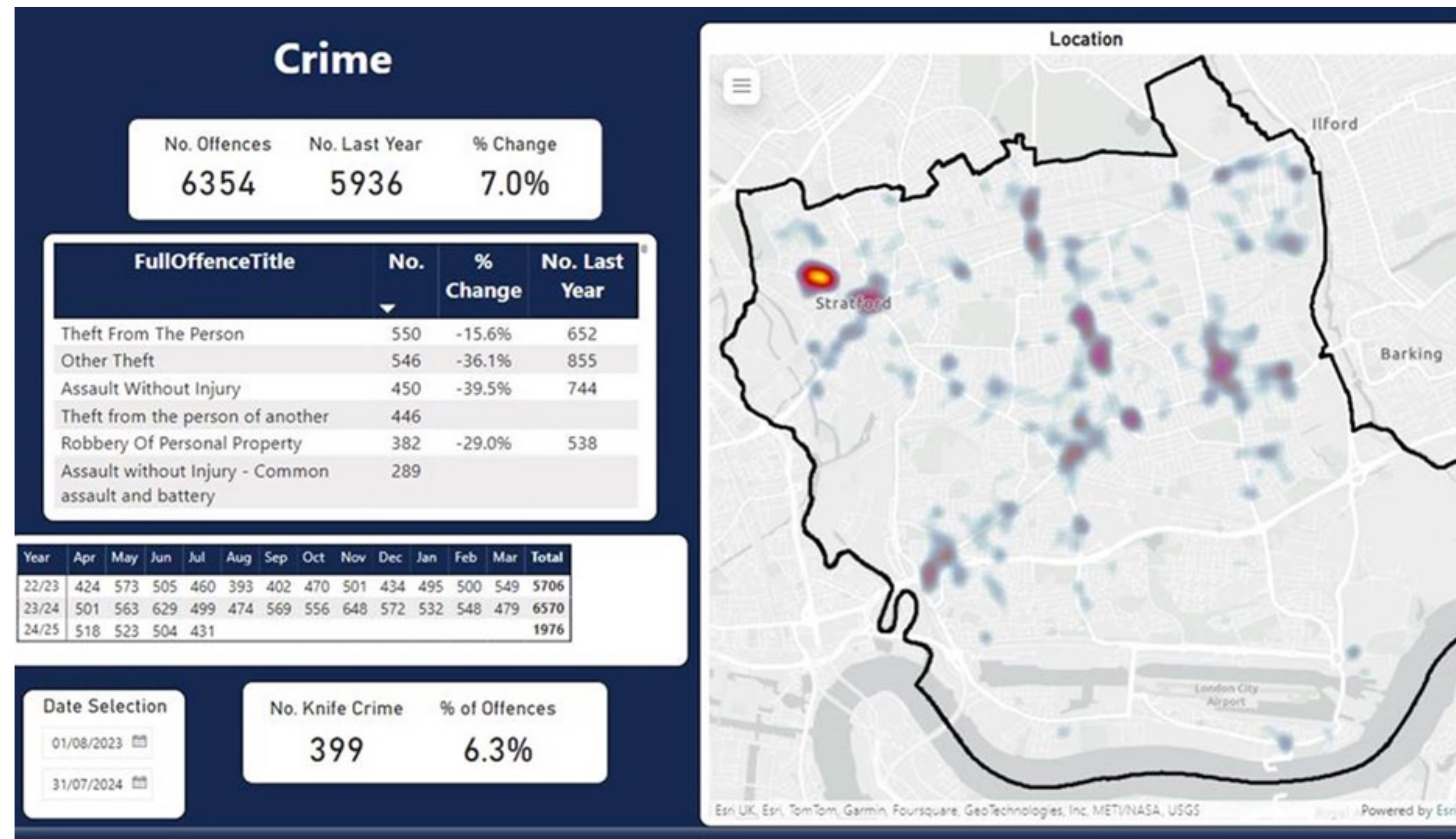
Source: The English Indices of Deprivation 2019

Youth Crime in Newham

Youth Crime Map: August 2023 – July 2024

This youth crime map shows the number of offences with a victim aged under 25.

There has been a 7% increase in total number of offences from 2022/23 to 2023/24. The hotspot for youth crime remains in the Stratford area.



Source: Metropolitan Police Service BOX

Youth Crime in Newham

Victim and Suspect breakdown

Overall hate crime in Newham has increased by 11.4%, with an increase seen across both victims and suspects within the youth cohort. The cause remains uncertain; it could be attributed to increased confidence in reporting or a genuine rise in the number of offences. Outside of Newham, tensions across the Middle East and the war in Ukraine are likely to be causation factors in regards to some aspects of hate, including islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

Overall knife crime in Newham has increased by 30.1%, with an increase seen across both victims and suspects within the youth cohort. Knife Crime does not need to involve actual knife use and can involve just the threat of a weapon and we have seen Robbery increase in the borough where these threats are being used as part of the crime. Possible reasons for the increase in knife crime in Newham during the last financial year may include factors such as rising gang activity and increased drug-related violence.

| Measure | Year | Victim under 18 | Victim aged 18-25 | Suspect under 18 | Suspect aged 18-25 | All age total offences |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Hate crime | 2022/23 | 38 | 104 | 45 | 64 | 819 |
| | 2023/24 | 54 | 118 | 70 | 80 | 912 |
| Knife crime including threats | 2022/23 | 203 | 136 | 211 | 177 | 569 |
| | 2023/24 | 259 | 161 | 397 | 259 | 740 |

Source: Metropolitan Police Service Monthly Crime Dashboard

Sexual Offences: Victim and Suspect breakdown

Overall sexual offences in Newham have decreased by 3.2%, with a slight decrease in victims under 25 but an increase in suspects under 18 and aged 18-25.

The reason for this decrease in sexual offences is uncertain; it may suggest that victims are becoming more confident in reporting such crimes, leading to a perceived decline in statistics, or it could indicate that victims still lack confidence in reporting sexual abuse.

| Measure | Year | Victim under 18 | Victim aged 18-25 | Suspect under 18 | Suspect aged 18-25 | All age total offences |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sexual offences | 2022/23 | 255 | 153 | 21 | 87 | 990 |
| | 2023/24 | 235 | 150 | 82 | 99 | 958 |

Source: Metropolitan Police Service Monthly Crime Dashboard

What children, young people and our communities tell us

Why would you choose this person to help you?

142 respondents (33%) answered 'trust' for this question.



What children, young people and our communities tell us

What do you think needs to change to make Newham safer?

67 respondents (16%) answered 'people' for this question.



What children, young people and our communities tell us

Make there be less robbery, pick pocketing, harassment, violence etc

More policemen patrolling. More street lights. More cameras

There should be less knife crime (RIP everyone that has died from knife crime).

Police should use metal detectors and scan all youths as many carry knives

Having police/wardens/security personal on the streets at the beginning and end of school days (i.e. during morning and evening services)

Try to perhaps make the crimes of knife stabbing and others stuff go down by adding more severe consequences or better protection

There is a lot of violence in newham and I think that is too occasional. This is a massive effect on the young people of Newham. You do not want to watch the news and then it says that there has been a stabbing in your borough. It spreads quite a lot of fear. There needs to be a lot more police on the roads. Especially in the unsavoury parts of Newham there needs to be some police.

There are too many vapes and cigarettes on the roads. Especially by the paddy power on Katherine Road it attracts unsavoury characters like drug dealers.

This is a good survey, keep talking Newham and let us eradicate bullying, oppression, victimisation and stabbing please. God bless Newham. Thanks.

Just want Newham to be a safer and better place in London for children and kids and residents

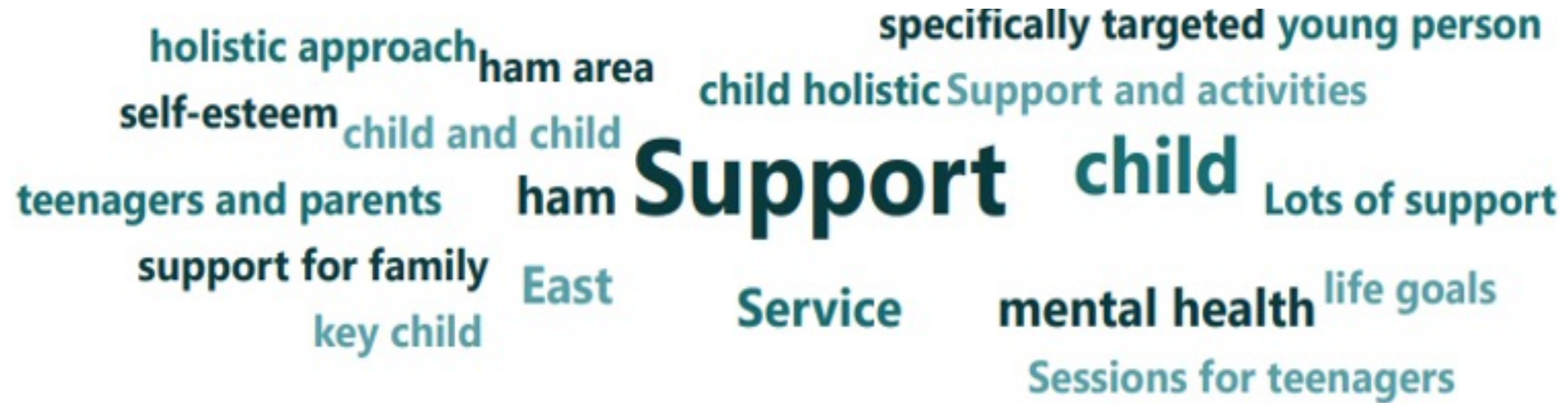
Less racism and less violence

Is there any other possible ways to support children in mental or physical struggles?

What Parents and Carers Tell Us

Is there any support you feel is missing for yourself in your local area?

4 respondents (50%) answered 'support' for this question.



What Parents and Carers Tell Us

School and college need to work together and not permanently exclude young people. This is a knock-on effect for the wrong pathway. There need to be easy access to apprenticeship short and long for youth to make legal money but to feel valued with a skill set for the future to invest in our youth, community and the next generation

Local free fun activities or workshops to attend for teenage girls in Eastham

Not enough workshops for anxiety, depression. College/School don't have understanding

Services are not joined up or connected to support the child holistically. Need mental health all under one roof so as to stop having to repeat the story

Plenty missing!! Mostly pastoral and mental health support for teenagers. The lack of parent meeting and supporting with parent forums is terrible.

CAHMs is very rigid framework and limited in its delivery. It does not take into account child's needs and many young people are waiting too long on waiting list. Getting help and diagnosis too late.

More activities are needed for school age children during term time and even holidays

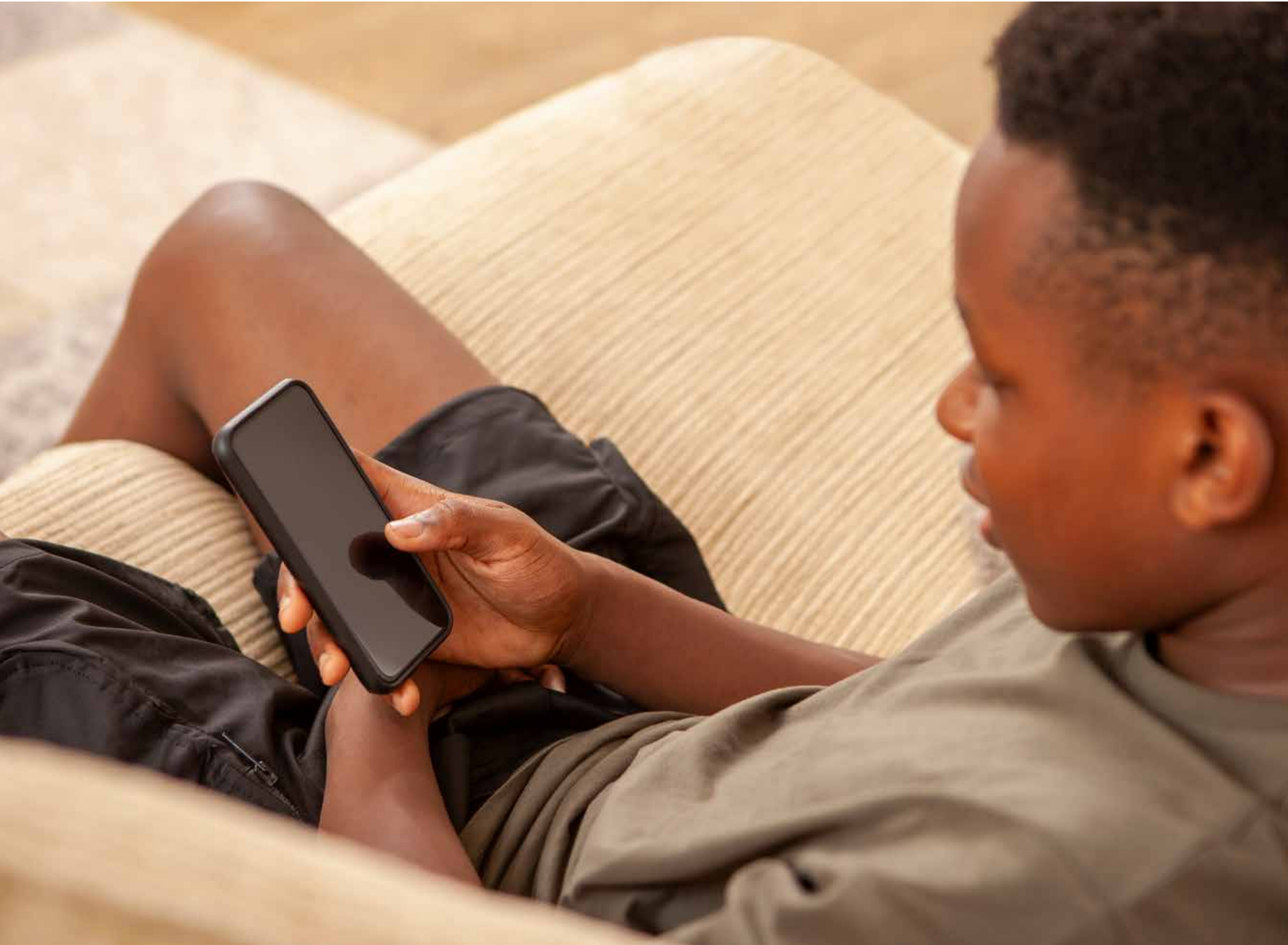
Support and activities specifically targeted for teenagers living in East ham to support their mental health and well being

Teenage workshops/sessions and fun activities to support their mental health and to raise awareness for self care and safety. Also activities to support the mental health for teenagers, and separate workshops for parents of such teenagers to attend.

I am really happy for the support I receive from the Newham Council Parent panel in all areas, for myself and my family. They have helped me immensely and continue to do so.

Lots of support is not a holistic approach for the young person. Services don't work together well and hold each other to account.

Sessions for teenagers and parents in East ham area for raising self-esteem, life goals and online grooming/safety awareness etc



3. Children and young adults at risk of youth violence and exploitation in Newham

Newham's partnership is determined to protect as many of our children and young adults from harm as possible. Our previous strategies linked to youth safety outlined our commitment to viewing and responding to youth safety through a safeguarding lens – the safeguarding of our children and young adults is one of our main priorities. We want to keep as many of our children and young adults away from youth crime and violence as possible and give them all the best possible start in their lives.

Any child or young person, no matter what their background or life experience can be affected.

National research has shown that some vulnerabilities influence if a child or young person is more likely to be at risk of harm. This includes, but is not exclusive to, adverse childhood experiences or trauma in early childhood, substance misuse, domestic and family abuse and poor or low attainment at school. We are aware of the impact of poverty, austerity and the economic downturn on family incomes, alongside youth and adult employment, which will probably have a greater impact on the borough's most disadvantaged children, young people and families. There is a danger that more children and young adults will be drawn into the 'informal economy' as a result and the most lucrative element of which is drug dealing and county lines. Keeping children in education can protect children from a range of harms. Multi-agency support to keep vulnerable children in school/ education, where possible, is vital. If a child is temporarily suspended or excluded, coordinated multi-agency work to reintegrate them into mainstream education needs to be seen as a priority by all professionals working with the child.

We face important challenges in relation to racism, discrimination, inequality and disproportionality. We have long known that Black boys are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, and have poor health outcomes. Black boys are overrepresented in youth violence and exploitation statistics including as victims of knife and gun crime. However, the data is simplistic and it doesn't account for the diversity of people who make Newham their home. Therefore, this strategy will be led by insight from community experience and not just ethnicity data alone. It is part of this strategy to ensure that all services are culturally competent to support those most vulnerable. All children, young people and their families will be supported to access services free from discrimination or stigma. To achieve this, engagement with communities affected most adversely is a priority to ensure they have a voice to inform how support can be best provided.



Where some groups of children and young adults, including Black boys, have been identified as being more at risk, a more targeted approach will be used to reduce risk and harm and increase safety:

Children impacted by domestic abuse

The evidence tells us that many of the children and young adults who become known to the Youth Justice Service have had adverse childhood experiences, such as domestic abuse. Experience of domestic abuse in childhood can have lasting negative effects on physical health, emotional wellbeing, the ability to form healthy relationships and the ability to access and be successful in education and employment. It can also increase a child or young person's vulnerability to extra-familial harm. Newham has developed a comprehensive approach in our work to support families experiencing domestic abuse. Children and young adults need to be recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. This would allow targeted interventions and support tailored to children and young adults - our aim is to provide earlier support children who experience violence and domestic abuse at home and at key points through their childhood to reduce the impact on their outcomes.

Research has found that children experiencing domestic abuse may normalise violence, making them more likely to become violent in their own relationships. It has also found that children with difficulties at home may seek alternative familial relationships elsewhere, with the potential to increase the risk of child exploitation or abuse, gang affiliation and offending behaviour.

We know that witnessing domestic abuse in early childhood is highly prevalent amongst the most concerning children in the Youth Justice Service and want to build on successful evidenced based approaches to support more children and young adults who have witnessed/ experienced violence at home to improve their outcomes.

Children and young adults known to the Youth Justice Service may have family difficulties, but they are often also responding to pressures in their peer group, school or neighbourhood. Newham has developed a trauma-responsive approach to youth crime and children and young adults's experience of violence outside the home as we are aware of the significant impact on future outcomes.

Black Boys

As part of our Youth Safety Strategy, we have identified Black boys as a key cohort for targeted support. This focus stems from an understanding of the unique challenges faced by Black boys in our community, as evidenced by both local and national findings.

Black boys in Newham face significant risk factors due to a combination of systemic and local challenges, including higher rates of school exclusions, over-representation in the criminal justice system, mental health barriers, socio-economic inequality, and historical mistrust of public institutions. These factors collectively contribute to poorer outcomes and heightened vulnerability.

Understanding what is happening locally and examining our practices is vital to ensure that our approach is equitable and culturally responsive. We are initiating a comprehensive analysis to gain deeper insights into the experiences and challenges faced by Black boys. This work will involve reviewing current practices, identifying areas for improvement, and collaborating closely with community stakeholders to gather valuable perspectives and foster joint solutions. Strengthening community partnerships is a key priority for us to build trust and encourage meaningful participation.

Girls

Violence against girls - including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, and harassment - has deep and lasting effects on their health, education, and future opportunities. Many girls face risks that extend beyond the traditional focus on 'gangs', most vulnerable girls do not identify as gang members themselves, yet they are often in relationships with boys and young men involved in gang activity. This dynamic leaves a significant number of girls suffering in silence, enduring violence and exploitation that frequently goes unnoticed by services and professionals.

To address this gap, our strategy adopts a comprehensive, public health approach that prioritises the safety, empowerment, and support of girls and young women. By focusing on early intervention, prevention, and community partnerships, we aim to tackle the underlying factors driving violence and exploitation. Our approach includes challenging harmful behaviours that contribute to a culture of violence, holding perpetrators accountable, and building trust within local systems. By creating safe spaces, raising awareness about healthy relationships, and providing dedicated support services, our aim is to build an environment where girls and young women feel valued, protected, and empowered to live free from violence and harm.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Children and young adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can face increased risk of harm outside the family setting, including vulnerability to youth violence and exploitation. Some children and young adults with SEND have communication challenges, and can face difficulties in recognising and responding to harmful situations. Limited access to resources can leave these children more vulnerable than their peers. Misinterpretation of distress signals by parents, carers, and professional- as signs of their disability rather than indicators of harm - further delays necessary support. Compounding these issues, children with SEND often have fewer social connections or trusted adults to confide in, heightening their isolation and increasing their risk of harm.

Our approach aims to increase awareness among professionals, parents, and carers about the specific vulnerabilities children with SEND face in relation to youth violence and exploitation. We are committed to providing targeted training which enhances the understanding of risk factors between SEND and youth safety, enabling early intervention and disrupting patterns of exploitation before they escalate.

Children who have Care Experience

Children in care and care leavers often face a set of vulnerabilities that can heighten their risk of exploitation and youth violence. Experiences of trauma, instability in placements, and a lack of consistent, trusted adults in their lives can leave these children and young adults more susceptible to grooming and exploitation. For some, repeated moves between care settings disrupt the formation of secure attachments, creating emotional gaps that may be filled by individuals with harmful intentions. Children in care are also more likely to go missing, which significantly increases their exposure to potential abuse and exploitation.

Our aim is to provide stability for children in care, ensuring secure and consistent placements that significantly reduce their vulnerability to exploitation. Alongside this, we will deliver specialised training to caregivers, social workers, and educators, equipping them to recognise signs of exploitation and respond to the unique needs of children in care for timely intervention. We will remain focused on transitional safeguarding for care leavers moving into adulthood.

Children and young adults seeking sanctuary, including unaccompanied children, refugees and those seeking asylum, are at increased risk of exploitation due to vulnerabilities such as the stress and trauma of displacement, the loss or lack of family and friend support networks, and language barriers. In Newham, a proud borough of sanctuary, we are committed to ensuring their safety and inclusion through partnership support and public health engagement.



4. Our approach

Our approach

In our approach to youth safety, we are committed to:

- Put children first.
- Respect the voice, experience and expertise of children, young adults and their families.
- Approach parents and carers as partners, wherever possible.
- Be strengths and relationship-based and trauma-responsive.
- Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable.
- Embed a whole system approach.

Child First:

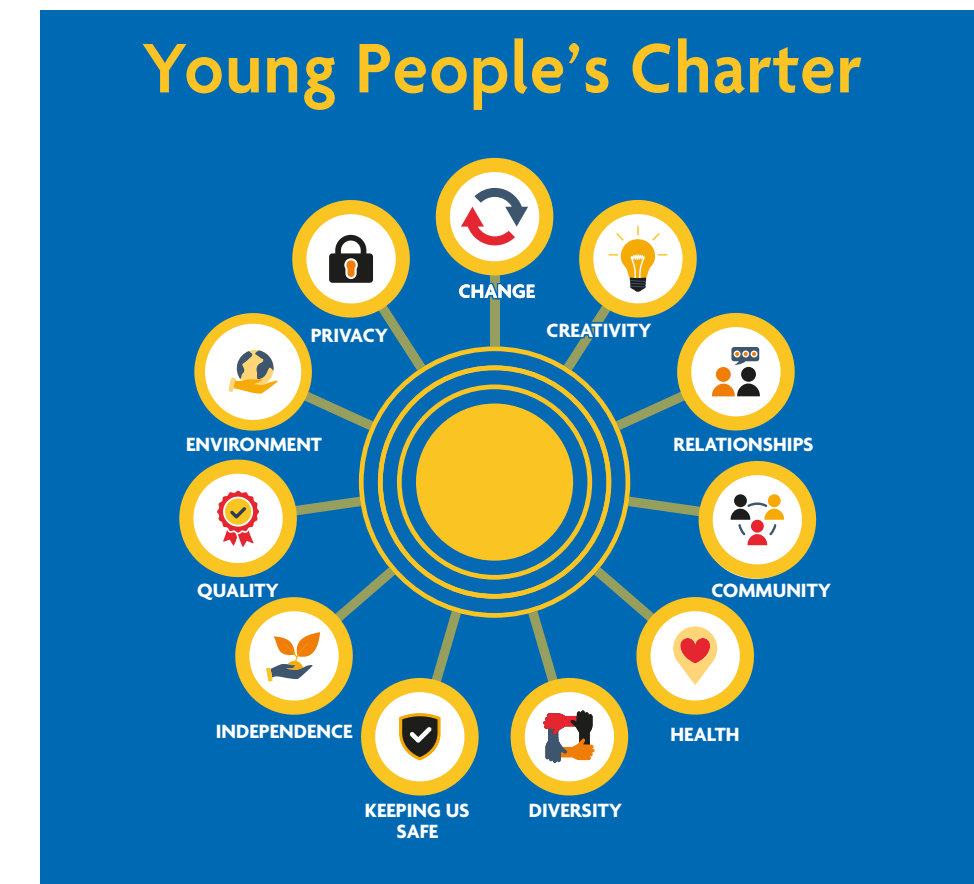
We have adopted a 'Child First' approach, which recognises that all children in contact with services are seen and supported as 'children first'. The 'four tenets' of the Child First approach are:

- See children as children:** prioritise best interests of children across needs, capacity, rights and potential.
- Develop a pro-social identity for positive child outcomes:** Build trusted relationships with children that help to promote their individual strengths.
- Collaboration with children:** encourage active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion with children and their parents/ carers.
- Keep children and the community safe:** utilise prevention and diversion to promote a childhood removed from the criminal justice system.

Young People's Charter:

Newham children and young adults told us about the 11 principles that matter most to them; this formed the basis of the Young Peoples Charter, a short video outlining principles within the Charter can be found [here](#).

The Charter is one of the primary strategic objectives of Newham's '[Building a Fairer Newham](#)' Corporate Plan.



Our approach

Youth Voice & Participation:

Youth assemblies are a key component in Newham's participation offer to children and young adults. They are completely run by children and young adults for children and young adults to surface and debate issues with the Council and wider stakeholders. The very first Youth Citizen Assembly influenced and championed the significant rebuilding of Newham's Youth Empowerment Service, which now works with over 10,000 young people and delivers over 152 youth work sessions per week.

Youth voice and coproduction exists as an ultimate priority, and first step across all changes to service development and delivery. We appreciate Newham's children and young adults and respect their insights that highlight risk, issues and gaps across the system, as well as their input to help us shape service development and design.

Relational approach:

Newham Council's 'Circles of Support' practice framework is a clear Purposeful, Planned and Focused approach to practice. One that is systemic, restorative, relational and trauma-responsive. The model places children, young people, their families and their systems at the heart of everything we do.

This framework of practice underpins the practice vision to ensure that every child and young person has the support they need:

- To be cared for, safe and protected from harm
- To be happy and enjoy improved wellbeing
- To reach their full potential

Whole systems approach

We have adopted a whole systems approach towards disrupting the landscape of youth violence and exploitation in our borough. This is based on Newham taking a public health approach which addresses the root causes of violence and harm, focusing on prevention rather than incident response.

This approach recognises that youth safety is influenced by a range of social, economic and environmental factors including poverty, education, health and support circles. Our approach ensures interventions are co-ordinated to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors for children and young adults across the borough.





5. Our aims and objectives

Our aims and objectives

We understand that youth safety is an area of complexity; alongside newly emerging evidence of what works, we know that those who seek to harm or exploit children and young adults will continue to adopt new ways of doing so. In response our strategy will remain agile and flexible and adapt to any changes.

We will support a culture of continuous improvement and have a whole system learning and improvement framework in place to support this work. This will include learning from local and national reviews and national research, as well as expertise from the lived experience of our children, young people and families, with a focus on embedding anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice across the workforce.

Our vision is to reduce the harm caused by youth violence and exploitation in Newham. To achieve our vision, the strategy identifies what needs to be done based on 6 key principles and the impact these will have.

This is based upon:

- Evidence of what has worked in Newham to reduce youth violence and exploitation in Newham and what has worked elsewhere
- The views of residents including children, young adults, parents and carers
- The views of professionals and stakeholders working locally
- A strong understanding of the current local patterns and drivers of youth violence and exploitation

Our primary objectives are to:

- Safeguard and protect children and young adults from violence, abuse and exploitation including online.
- Recognise, challenge and tackle racism, inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination.
- Support, collaborate with and empower families, parents, carers to recognise and respond to exploitation and abuse and empower families to strengthen parental authority to respond to harm
- Reduce the number of children and young adults who are victims of violence and exploitation.
- Tackle and stop organised criminal networks and street gangs who seek to exploit children and young adults. Work in partnership to bring those who exploit children and harm children to justice.
- Foster stronger and safer communities.
- Create safer spaces and places for children and young adults.
- Address the root causes of youth violence and exploitation in Newham.

Coproduction and engagement:

We recognise that this strategy needs to be evidence-led with confidence that existing approaches are proven to work. Insight from local stakeholders about what works is critical to success. The strategy will be informed by local voices to what works including those who have been affected by youth violence and/ or exploitation.

Success will only be achieved through a strong partnership involving all agencies working alongside children, young people, families and the community.

Newham Strategy Building Blocks

Highlights across key research and peer practice evaluations that have taken place in Newham across Youth Safety, which helped towards setting the Principles and Building Blocks of Newham's revised strategy.

Builds upon our practice models of Relational, 'Child First' and 'Circles of Support' approaches

Academic evaluation: folds in learning from our Overrepresented Pathfinder Project with the Youth Justice Board, London Borough of Brent and evaluation partner, Cordis Bright , (November 2023)

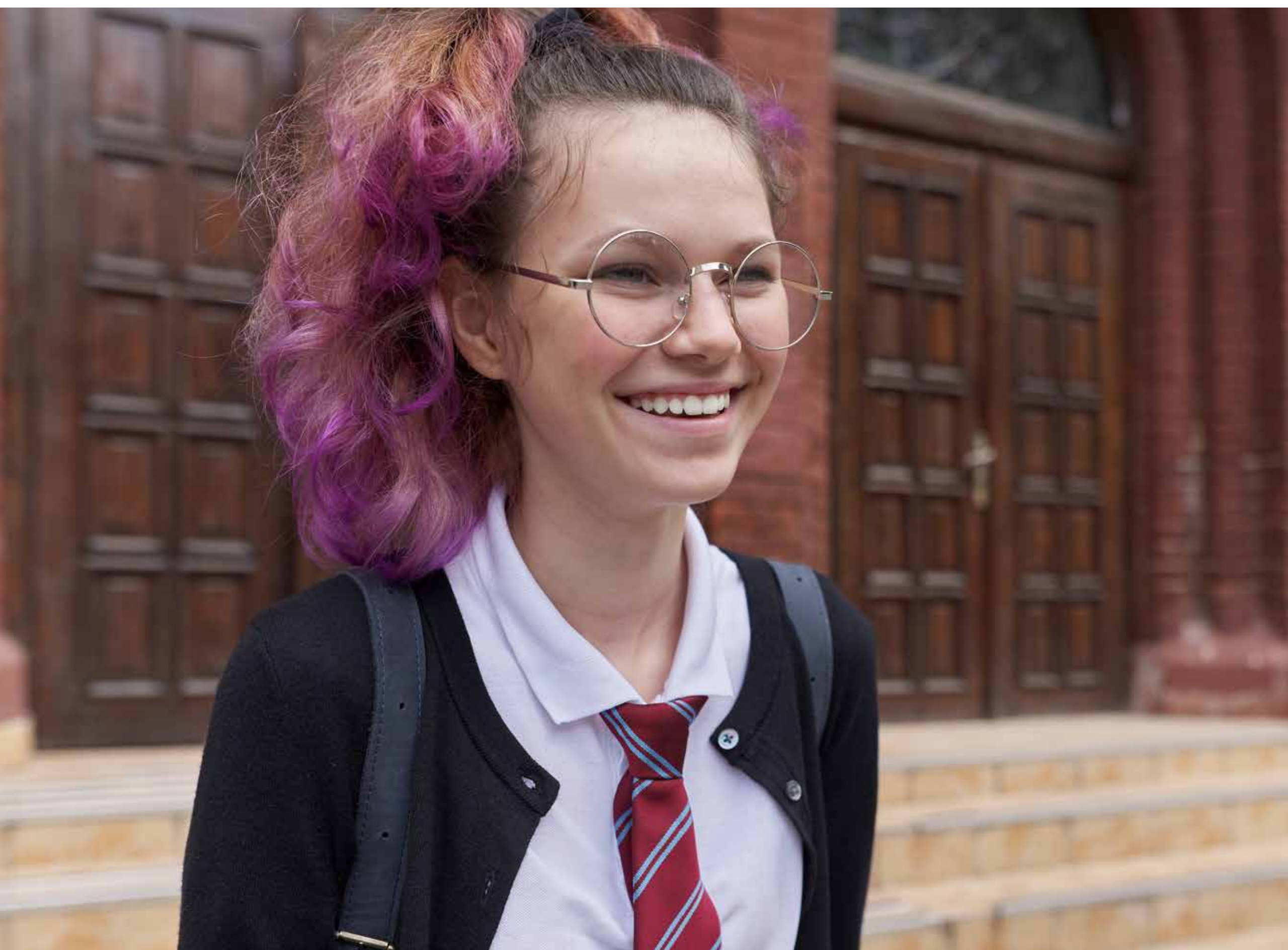
Informed by learning from Newham's Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality (TRID), ensuring we embed anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice through all that we do

Academic evaluation: our strategy will adapt over time to fold in learning from previous needs assessments (e.g. Crest Advisory, Kailo) and upcoming project evaluations from commissioned partners (e.g. SAFE, Vanguard & Thriving Communities)

Draws from the learning gained across our own studies across adolescent exploitation, thematic reviews and feedback from inspectors (e.g. Ofsted: Good rating, 2022)

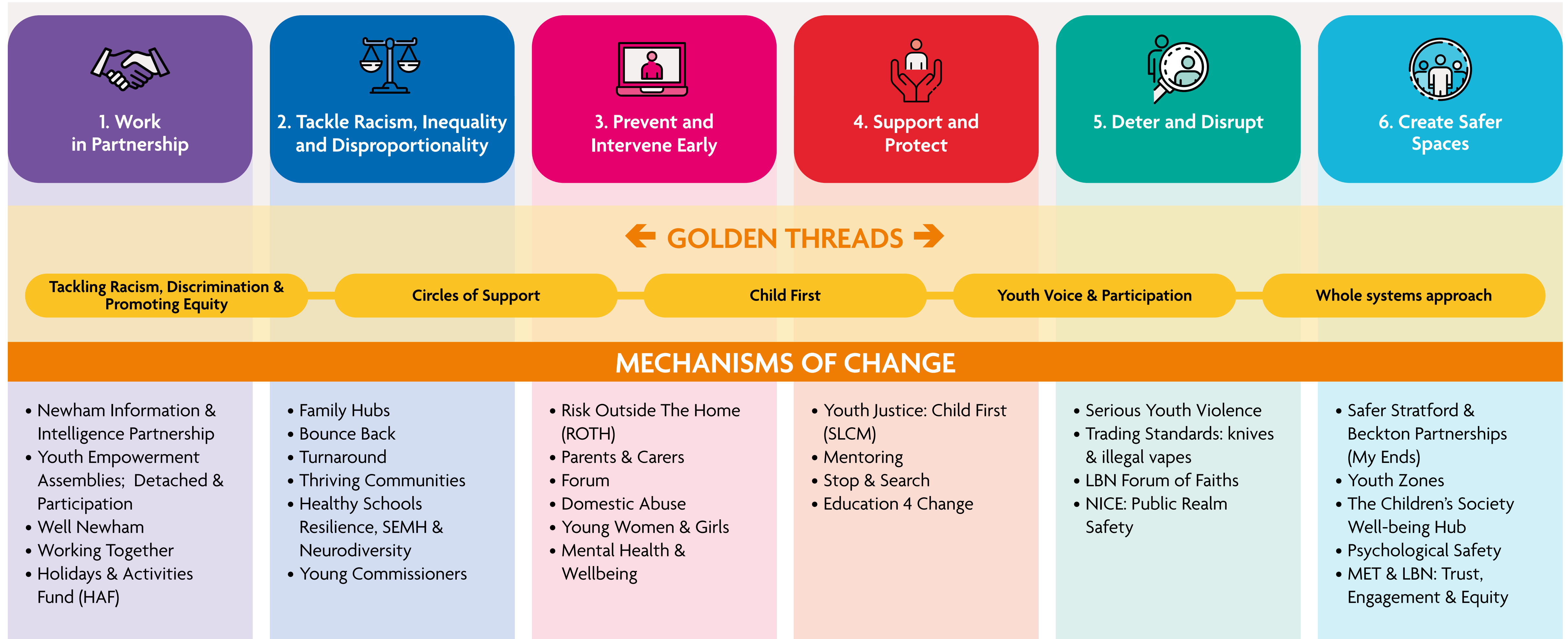
Aims to protect all of our children, but specifically those groups in Newham we have identified who are more at risk, such as children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), Black Boys and young women and girls

Based upon our own academic research: 'Violence Reduction Unit: VRU: Youth Safety Impact Framework' , which provides a template for measuring impact across multiple datasets for London Borough of Newham, (June 2024)



6. Strategy Principles

Strategy Principles



Principle 1: Work In Partnership

Newham will be one of the safest places in London for children and young adults. We will achieve this by working collaboratively and creatively to empower children, young people and families to make the change they want to see in their communities, alongside businesses, voluntary, community and faith organisations, places of worship and partner agencies.



- Our work will be informed by the lived experience of children and young adults about what they feel helps to keep them safe. We will do this through our ongoing commitment to and investment across our youth participation spaces.
- We will embed a 'Child First', systemic and relational approach to our work with children, young people, and families to ensure full engagement in planning and decision making about issues that affect them.
- We will develop peer networks of parents/ carers who have lived experience of dealing with youth violence and child exploitation.
- We will further develop our trusted adult and mentor models as we know this is an evidence based approach to prevent crime.
- We will incorporate community participation and co-design into the commissioning and delivery of services building on the strong engagement already in place across the system.

- We will continue to utilise strong, borough-wide leadership and partnership spaces to facilitate an effective early help and safeguarding response to risk, harm and vulnerability.
- Partner agencies will be confident in both how and when to share information, with any barriers swiftly identified and addressed. Communication at an operational and strategic level will be frequent and effective, with intelligence sharing extending beyond the borough.
- We will ensure analytical support is coordinated across a range of agencies to identify themes, patterns and trends relating to vulnerability and risk. Stronger intelligence gathering on individuals, peer groups and location of concern will provide a tactical response from the partnership to make children safer.
- We will be confident and robust in sharing information and evidence with partners to detect and bring to justice those who exploit children. We will be proactive in working to break the cycle of exploitation.



Principle 1: Work In Partnership

LBNIIPB

The LBNIIPB, as a virtual meeting space will:

- Bring together partners from Children's Social Care, Brighter Futures, Metropolitan Police, Community Safety, Youth Justice, Education and Mental Health to strengthen the identification and response to extra-familial harm and exploitation.
- Collate analysis across multiagency information relating to extra-familial risk including criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, serious youth violence, modern slavery and human trafficking will strengthen initial screening, active intervention and the review of need, risk and vulnerability.
- Threads together knowledge and builds comprehensive understanding of community-based risk; this meeting space has the capacity to provide a dynamic overview of the individuals, groups and contexts affected will grow over time assisting the prevention of, and protection from, exploitation, violence and other extra-familial.

Comments from stakeholders across gathered feedback regarding the benefits of this offer can be seen below

Professional curiosity – all the time!

The importance of health being present at strategy meetings

The importance of sharing your concerns with colleagues

Communication with all parties, no-one should be excluded

That the Escalation policy should be at hand and professionals should not be concerned about using this

Really thinking about behaviours and what may be happening for that child

Agree about professionals curiosity and exploring potential lines of enquiry ASAP!

Importance of open transparent communication between all professionals involved

Evidence is not always as important as strong suspicions

Principle 2: Tackle Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality

We know that crime affects some communities and groups of children and young adults disproportionately. We know that deprivation and structural inequality can be risk factors for youth violence and exploitation. In Newham we will work together to tackle the underlying issues including racism, inequality, inequity and disproportionality.



- We will recognise and take into account all inequalities and discrimination which impact the lives of children and young adults. This may relate to their health, socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, gender identity, special educational need or disability and care experience.
- We will develop culturally competent and anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice across the partnership which challenges unconscious bias and promotes self-reflection for the workforce.
- We will adopt an anti-racist approach to all we do
- We will build a comprehensive picture of children and young adults who are affected by youth violence and exploitation in our local area and recognise and respond to disproportionality and disparity in our responses.



Principle 2: Tackle Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality

Newham CYP Stop and Search Project

This project took place in May 2024 and included representatives from Newham Council, Community Partners, Voluntary Sector organisations and the Metropolitan Police. It sought to enhance understanding of how these interactions impact youth and to inform improvements in police-community relations, policing practices, and young people's awareness of their rights.

Project Aims:

- Capture the thoughts and feelings of children and parents/carers towards Stop and Search.
- Obtain and cascade knowledge of Stop and Search
- Offer training and support to MET. Police colleagues.
- Help shift the perception children have of the police
- A joint session between the police and children was facilitated by the Youth Justice Service, which allowed police colleagues to hear the views and opinions of the children in regards to Stop and Search, and additionally provided the police with a space to feedback directly to children and formed the basis on a NYJS training package around Stop and Search for the police.

Project Findings:

There were 307 responses collected across Youth Justice Service outreach, Youth Zones and Secondary Schools delivery which revealed that:

- 23.8% of the children did not know their rights when they were stopped, whilst 32.9% of children felt that Stop and Search had a negative effect on the community.
- Stop and search is a complex and sensitive issue for young people, who are deeply aware of the broader social conversations surrounding these practices.
- Regular sessions can provide invaluable insight across experience, opinion, reflection and learning for communities.

Mentoring

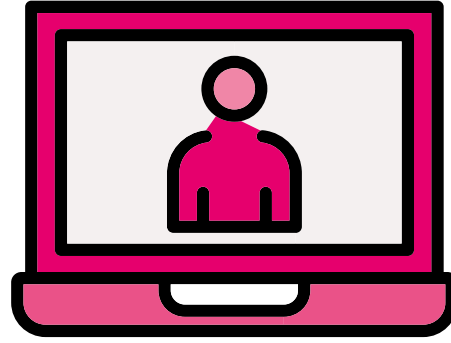
Mentoring support offers delivered by our VCFS partners, across whom we have built successful partnership relationships and delivered a range of vital, commissioned offers over the years across a whole borough approach. Key highlights here include the YES: Commissioned Youth Service Offer (e.g. AAA, Be Heard as One, Exit Foundation, Fight for Peace & REIN), as well as the 'Mentoring for Success' offer which supported 10 Newham schools across reducing exclusion rates. Full details for all partners are listed below:

- Community Links
- EXIT foundation
- Ambition Aspire Achieve
- Be Heard As One
- Rights and Equalities in Newham (REIN)
- The Brave Project
- Fight for Peace
- Evolve and Adapt

In addition, Newham has access to the One Million Mentors scheme; this national offer provides ranged support across multiple Newham establishments. Find out more across access [here](#).

Principle 3: Prevent and Intervene Early

Preventing violence and exploitation from happening in the first place underpins our approach. We aim to ensure that all children, young people and families who are experiencing difficulties and/or who are at risk of youth violence or exploitation will be able to access and receive effective support at the earliest possible opportunity. This will prevent any further escalation and the need for more specialist services and interventions later on.



- Whilst all children and young adults in the borough will have access to the help and support they need, we will ensure that those most at risk aged 8 to 25 years old, will remain the focus across the pathway from early intervention through to reduction of risk and harm.
- We will identify and support families at the earliest point possible where extra-familial risk has been identified to prevent needs from escalating.
- We will put targeted interventions in place for children and young adults with persistent absence at school and those who are at risk of temporary suspension, or who have been excluded, and support children and young adults at risk during key transitions from primary to secondary school.
- We will equip and empower children and young adults with the knowledge and resources about how they can keep themselves safe online, in their homes, schools and communities, equipping children and young adults with life skills such as building healthy relationships, conflict resolution, anger management, staying safe and being resilient.

- We will continue to build on community strengths to provide a range of preventative and supportive opportunities for children and young adults, meeting their diverse range of needs, to be involved in positive cultural, sporting and leisure activities, including at weekends and during the school holidays including through our universal youth services offer.
- We will continue to build opportunities to engage and work with children and young adults in their own communities and in areas identified as potential locations of concern through our detached and outreach youth work offer.
- We will ensure that all children and young adults have access to educational experiences and opportunities which enable them to thrive and achieve positive outcomes and go on to secure employment, training and access to lifelong learning.
- We will support children and young adults to maintain emotional wellbeing through effective prevention and promotion strategies and getting the right help early according to their needs.
- We will work with Housing and Health colleagues to address the wider determinants that impact crime.



Principle 3: Prevent and Intervene Early

Young Commissioners Team (YCT)

The Young Commissioners are trained and paid to take part in a range of co-produced, commissioning activities on behalf of the council, which include activities specific to special educational need and disability (SEND) Services. For example, out of a total of 28 YCT members, 6 young people are SEND-experienced. This project aims to train a cohort of children and young people (CYP) to ensure the voice, influence and needs of CYP impact commissioning decisions council and borough-wide.

Project Activity:

- First piloted in 2020 across care-experienced CYP, before expanding in 2022 to include young carers.
- Pilot successes expanded the brief across inclusion of YCT team in engagement across recruitment panels (e.g. Corporate Director posts, Youth Empowerment Fund assessment panels)

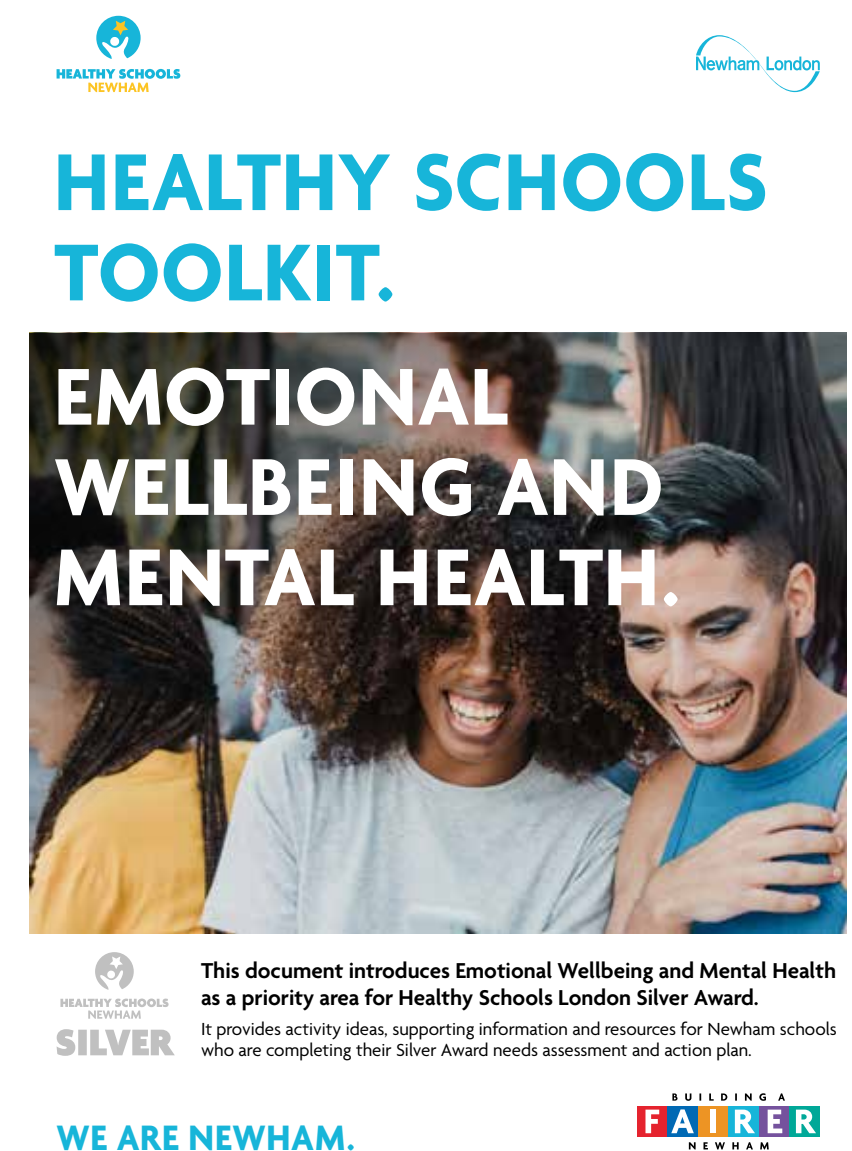
Healthy Schools

Healthy Schools Award is a Pan-London programme, sponsored by MOPAC and underpinned by schools' statutory duty to 'promote the health and wellbeing of their pupils and support a whole-school approach'.

Newham Healthy Schools programme began in 2020, growing from 12 awards in 10 schools (2020/21) to the current delivery model of 75 awards in 52 schools (2024/25).

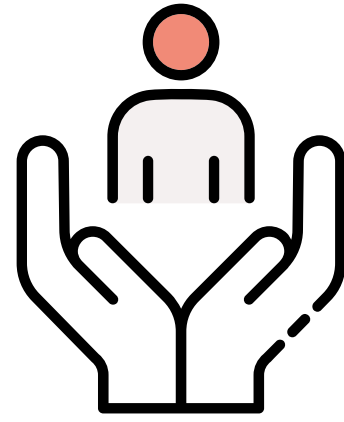
“Working towards obtaining the Healthy Schools Silver award has been instrumental in guiding our efforts to address key issues and implementing a comprehensive school-wide approach. By utilising the provided template, we have been able to ensure that our interventions are evidence-based and have been developed in consultation with both staff and students.”

Newham PRUs



Principle 4: Support and Protect

In Newham we will work together to support and protect those affected by youth violence and exploitation.



- We will support the community including parents, carers, schools and businesses to develop their understanding, through education and training at spotting signs of vulnerability, risk and harm, know how and where to report concerns and where to access support services.
- We will provide children and young adults who are affected by youth violence and exploitation with appropriate and targeted support that meet complex needs, reduces the risks they face and helps them to recover and rebuild their lives. Services and support will be trauma-responsive, accessible, trusted, non-discriminatory and anti-racist.
- Our approach to protection and support will include a focus on teachable moments, such as when a child or young person is admitted to accident and emergency, or in custody, making sure that the right support is available for children, young people and families whenever it is needed.
- We will increase our support to children, young people and families experiencing domestic abuse to help them to recover and repair from the trauma they have experienced.

- We will seek to develop pathways for young people aged over 18 to access safeguarding and relevant support which empowers them to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives as independent adults.
- We will support victims, strengthening joint work with victim support and health services by creating clear pathways and joined up responses, and ensuring restorative approaches are used where appropriate.
- We will build on our child first approach in our Youth Justice Service, seeing children as children, recognise their particular needs and vulnerabilities and help them build on their strengths and capabilities to build resilience and empower them to fulfil their potential. This also means that we prevent as many children and young adults coming into contact with the youth justice system as possible, prioritising mediation, prevention and diversion.
- We will provide a swift and coordinated approach to incidents of serious youth violence so that impact and escalation can be reduced.



Principle 4: Support and Protect

Newham Parent and Carer Forum (NPCF)

Newham Parent Carer Forum supports parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It works with Contact (a UK charity for families with disabled children) and is part of the national SEND Parent Carer Forum (SEND PCF) network, supporting all neuro-diversity experienced children across the borough.

Key Aims:

- Parent Voice – providing a platform for parents to influence local SEND services.
- Collaboration – building partnerships with local authorities to improve services for SEND children.
- Parent Empowerment – offering training and resources to help parents advocate for their children.
- Policy Influence – working with SEND PCFs and Contact to shape policies and services and key coproduction stakeholder.

Key Outcomes:

- Better access to SEND services.
- More confident and informed parents.
- Stronger partnerships between families and local authorities.

Next Steps for the NPCF:

- Ongoing collaboration with authorities to improve services.
- More training and support for parents.
- Broaden engagement to reach more diverse families.

Integrated Front Door

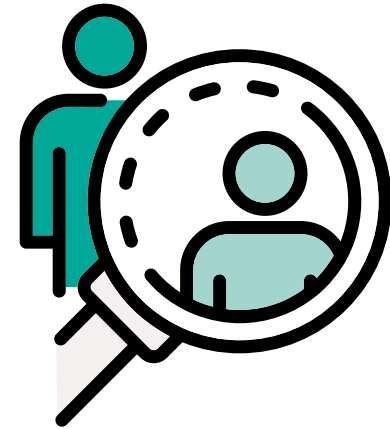
The Integrated Front Door (IFD) Team enable schools, GPs and voluntary sector agencies to access a multi-agency assessment of children who have emerging emotional well-being and mental health needs within 3-4 days. This includes children and young people who are experiencing:

- High levels of anxiety
- Emotionally base school anxiety and avoidance
- Self-harming behaviours
- Problems with low mood/depression
- Problems with troubling/repetitive thoughts
- Problems with low self-esteem
- Problems with hyperactivity/inattention
- Children who may be experiencing difficulties at home that is resulting in the child/young person struggling with their own emotional well-being/mental health

The IFD pilot is currently available to families in East Ham and Plaistow, whilst all Newham families can access borough-wide support via their social worker/key worker through the NewMAC (Newham Multi Agency Collective), the Child and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and/or the IFD Team. Please go here to find out more across accessing all the above services.

Principle 5: Disrupt and Deter

In Newham we will work together to deter children, young people and adults from perpetrating violence and disrupt individual and group activity associated with youth violence and exploitation. Whilst our priority is on preventing violence from occurring and supporting children, young people and their families, it is equally important that we take responsive action against perpetrators of harm including children and young adults and support change of behaviour.



- We will increase our focus on the disruption of perpetrators as part of our safeguarding response.
- We will work in partnership to hold perpetrators of child exploitation and violence against children to account through the criminal justice system.
- We will continue to build trust and confidence between agencies, communities, children and young adults as we know this is key to encouraging the reporting of concerns and taking action against those who cause harm.
- We will explore opportunities to work with children, young people and our communities to build trust and confidence in the police including police action on stop and search to ensure action is culturally informed, proportionate and effective.
- We will further develop our effective multi-agency approach that uses local intelligence to identify those who pose a risk to children and young adults and to disrupt activity.

- We will develop our contextual safeguarding approach, mapping areas, locations of concerns and potential exploiters.
- We will use a range of enforcement powers, to take action against both locations and people of concern, through both criminal and civil routes, including powers relating to licensing, health and safety, fraud and housing provision.
- We will ensure robust offender management post-conviction and/or effective intervention strategies are in place to reduce the risk presented by identified perpetrators.
- We will seek to disrupt the drugs market by identifying and targeting high harm gangs, trafficking activity and holding those account who may be involved in drug dealing through the criminal justice system.
- We will seek to build and maintain relationships with a wide range of individuals and organisations, including local businesses, community groups, voluntary sector and faith groups.



Principle 5: Disrupt and Deter

Trading Standards - Removing Illegal Knives and Vapes

Newham's Trading Standards Team is dedicated to safeguarding young people in the borough through proactive enforcement, education, and collaborative initiatives.

How:

Through preventing underage access to age-restricted products such as alcohol, knives, illicit tobacco, and vapes (including test purchases/purchase visits), aim to ensure that retailers comply with the law, particularly in areas surrounding schools, where young people are most vulnerable.

Since April 2024 to date, the team have:

- Confiscated 2599 illicit vapes (street value: £38,985)
- Seized of 6093 packets of illicit cigarettes and 120kg of illicit hand rolling and chewing tobacco products (street value: £169,860)

Beyond Enforcement, the team also:

- Offer awareness raising in schools to highlight the dangers of illicit vapes, tobacco, and age-restricted products.
- Engage in Newham's "Healthy Schools Programme (Silver Award) via the promotion of the 'report a consumer crime' anonymous information sharing tool, which helps to drive targeted action against businesses that sell harmful products to minors.
- Run the 'Responsible Retailer Scheme (RRS)', which aims to educate and support businesses in adhering to legal standards
- Promote career pathways in Trading Standards, via the Inspiring New Recruits programme
- Work with Property Services to explore termination of leases for businesses that exhibit persistent non-compliance with the law, which creates a safer environment for young people.

Newham Forum of Faiths

Chaired by Councillor Rev. Canon Ann Easter (Royal Albert), the forum includes membership of over 400 places of worship across the borough that regularly come together across Inter Faith suppers to remain at the forefront of enhance meaningful community relations, challenging hate in all its forms and supporting the council's work across community trust and cohesion.

Across youth safety, the forum have lent their support at critical moments to deliver additional engagement to faith communities, residents and the council.



Principle 6: Create Safer Spaces

In Newham we will work together to plan, build and maintain public spaces that are safe and free of crime. We will work children, young people, the wider communities, and across our partnerships to proactively identify and respond to place-based concerns. We will develop strong, supportive communities which celebrate and protect children and young adults, where everyone feels safe.

- We will work together with communities, families and faith groups to make our public spaces safer and crime free to be enjoyed by all children and young adults.
- We will improve the quality of the environment in our local community by employing safer design principles in housing estates, retail areas, and parks.
- We will strive to deliver safe and secure public transport, working with partners and businesses to tackle illegal behaviour and activity around transport hubs and intersections.
- We will partner with businesses to tackle illegal and anti-social activity around shopping areas across the borough, building on our successful Safer Stratford Partnership model.
- We will reduce use of weapons in Newham by working across partners and retailers to limit sale, whilst also maximising our wider education and engagement work undertaken in/around our public spaces. Bringing those who supply the weapons that harm children to justice.
- We will work together across the partnership to consider the requirements of Martyn's Law and take appropriate steps to ensure the protective security of our borough and for our communities.



Safer Beckton: My Ends Partnership

This VRU-funded programme was initiated in June 2024 to deliver:

- An 18-month project to support schools in the Beckton area
- Provision to young people at risk of offending, criminal exploitation and/or becoming involved in violent crime.
- Wrap-around support via a multi-agency team that will work closely with young people to prevent criminal activity and keep children away from harm.

Principle 6: Create Safer Spaces

Trust and Engagement Equity Group (TEEG)

The Trust, Engagement & Equity Group (TEEG) forms part of the Newham Safer Partnership (NSP) governance structure. It has been established to improve how the partnership considers the diverse needs of Newham's communities and to ensure its work can be more informed, inclusive and equitable as far as practicable.

Aims & Activity:

- Foster equitable engagement, build stronger relationships, and ensure that partnership strategies are inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the diverse needs of Newham's communities.
- Seeks to develop, and deliver upon, an ongoing action plan, identifying & addressing areas for systemic, procedural & cultural improvement in support of the overall objective on behalf, and as part, of the NSP.
- Seeks to improve equity of service
- Make better use of data to support service delivery
- Develop an overarching Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to inform, and as part of, the next NSP 3-year plan (due April 2025)
- Raise awareness of diverse needs across the Newham Community
- Develop joint tools and training focused on neuro-divergence and mental health
- Build community confidence
- Improve the use, knowledge of, and community experience of police stop-search powers
- Address the safety concerns of local women and girls
- Enhance communication with communities
- Establish a brand/presence for NSP
- Maximise the reach of the NSP through partner channels and our faith communities
- Develop a joint 'Prevention' hub/one-stop-shop (physical and/or virtual)

Principle 6: Create Safer Spaces

Nice objectives

The Newham Integrated Community Enforcement (NICE) model will strive to achieve the following:

- To increase collaboration, coordination & communication between Council teams & partners
- To provide a more holistic and joined up approach to common enforcement priorities & community concerns
- To proactively identify, respond to, and plan for traditional and emerging threats, harms & risks, be they thematic, geographical or seasonal
- To support the work of statutory Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnerships
- To empower and develop staff, and provide opportunity to develop & demonstrate leadership & partnership abilities
- To provide reassurance on progress & performance via scrutiny meetings and community (ward) forums

Governance Structure

The NICE structure will also feed into, and/or otherwise support other governance arrangements, particularly the Community Safety Partnership, Children & Adults Safeguarding, and Scrutiny.



- Annual Priority Setting & Performance Update with Lead Member & Relevant Senior Officer(s)
- Quarterly NICE Performance Board to oversee & drive NICE performance against key success metrics (outputs, but more importantly outcomes sought) – from 2025/26.
- NICE Programme Board (tbc) – to oversee the development & delivery of business change projects supporting NICE and maximising public facing delivery.



- Monthly Data/Intelligence Led Tactical Meeting responsible for mid term tasking & coordination based on emerging trends and impact of actions previously taken across NICE priorities and areas of focus



- Weekly 'Grip' Call amongst core delivery partners to discuss current & emerging issues. These are also fed by relevant member attendance at their own other & external internal and partnership forums.

What Success Will Look Like

- Increase in children and young adults's safety in Newham, including a focus on the dynamic between intra and extra-familial harm, prioritising a reduction in the impact of domestic abuse
- Reduction in the levels of youth violence and exploitation in Newham including knife crime
- Reduction in the number of children and young adults who are victims of violence
- Reduction in the number of Black children and young adults who are disproportionately impacted by serious youth violence due to structural racism
- Reduction in the number of children and young adults not in education, training and employment and a reduction in the number of temporary suspensions and exclusion children from school
- Reduction in numbers of children and young adults offending and reoffending through the provision of targeted and specialist support
- Children and young adults in Newham report they feel safer
- Residents and the community report they feel safer
- Increased evidence that criminal gangs and those who seek to exploit and harm children and young adults will be tackled, brought to justice and stopped
- Improvement in the quality and consistency of youth safety related practice across Newham
- Enhanced partner collaboration and strategic/ operational alignment
- Promotion of evidence-led approaches – building on the evidence base through our work
- Improvement in our understanding who is at risk / from what including individuals, groups, locations – data and insight



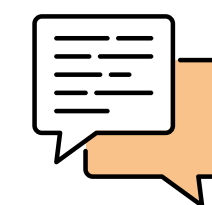
Key Goals Across Year One of Strategy

We will develop a detailed communication and engagement plan and publish and action plan across first quarter of strategy delivery.

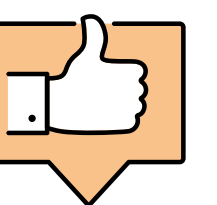
Update our understanding of the root causes of youth violence and exploitation in Newham to inform our priority actions



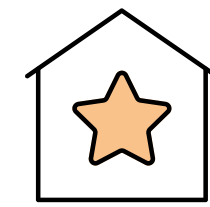
Engage with children, young people and the community to identify what is already working in this space and what we want to do more of



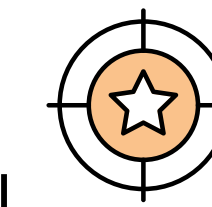
Understand more about the impact of social media and its role in serious youth violence and exploitation



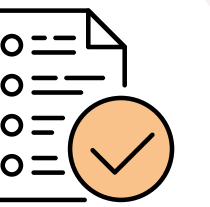
Develop our early intervention approach in schools, targeted youth services and through our family hub offer



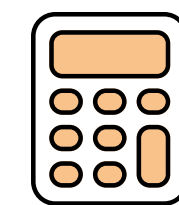
Develop a targeted approach to prevent children and young adults identified as the highest risk, from entering the care of the local authority and support them to remain or return to live within their family networks and local communities



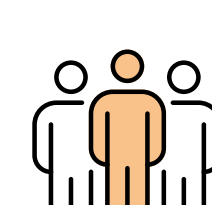
Review our approach to domestic abuse support to children and young adults including groups of children at risk of violence and exploitation



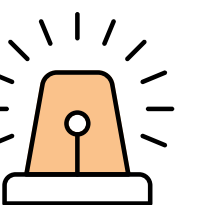
Evaluate the impact of time limited and grant funded programmes ending in 2025/26 building on and further developing approaches evidenced to work



Develop a detailed understanding of disproportionality and disparity amongst affected groups of children and young adults and actions to address



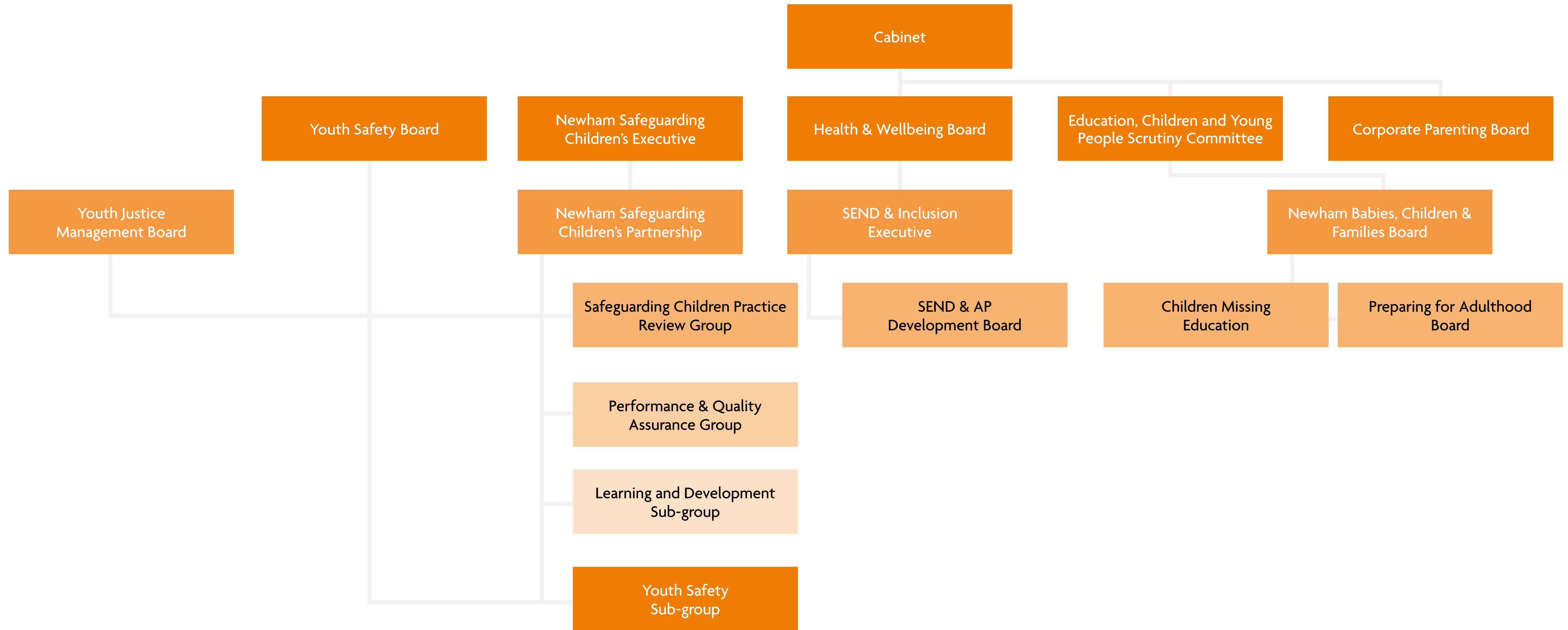
Evaluate the current effectiveness of approaches to disrupt organised groups causing harm to children and young adults and develop a plan to improve the response





7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Youth Safety Governance Chart



Appendix 2: Youth Safety Governance

| Meeting | Frequency | Chair | Attendees | Purpose of the board | Board priority |
|---|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Youth Safety Sub-group (formerly Youth Safety Implementation Board: YSIB) | Quarterly | To be confirmed | All partners and LA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring youth safety partnership outcomes • Oversight of projects, programmes, interventions and system change across the Newham Partnership that support youth safety • Policy and strategy development within thematic areas | Youth Safety outcomes oversight |

Appendix 3: Newham Youth Safety Sub-Group Membership

| Name | Role | Organisation |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Laura Eden | Corporate Director of Children and Children (DCS) | LBN CSC |
| Dave Tapsell | Director of Clinical Practice, Operations & Safeguarding | LBN |
| Victor Cook | Acting Director of Quality Assurance and Partnerships | LBN Quality Assurance |
| Annabel Bates | Director of Education, Inclusion and Achievement | LBN |
| Lynne Crank | Assistant director of youth empowerment service | YES |
| Michelle Edwards | Head of Service YJS | LBN YJS |
| DCI Claire Gentles | North East Command Unit BCU Proactive Teams | MET Police |
| Antony Rose | National Probation Service (NPS) Head of Service | NPS |
| Fiona Hackland | Strategic Commissioning Manager Substance Misuse | LBN Education |
| Fiona Stockley | CAMHS - General Manager | Newham CAMHS |
| Lisa Rosier | Head of Community Safety & Corporate Resilience | LBN Community Safety |
| Jack Squires | Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children | CCG |
| Alexander Webley | Head of Service 0-25 SEND | LBN Education |
| Kirsten Mcleod | Head Teacher Newham PRUs | Newham PRUs |
| Councillor Sarah Ruiz | Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainable Transport, Children Services and Education | |
| Councillor Amar Virdee | Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Crime | |

Appendix 4: Stakeholder Engagement

Since September 2024, input across the strategy was received from 505 children and young people, parents and carers and professional stakeholders across Newham who provided their insight into youth safety in the borough.

We would like to thank all those who gave up their time to speak to us.

Fight For Peace

Switchback

St Giles

Bonny Downs

Newham College

RDLAC

Newham Youth Safety Board

West Ham United Foundation (WHUF)

Youth Empowerment Service

St Bonaventure's School

Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Rights and Equalities in Newham (REIN)

Ambition, Aspire, Achieve (AAA)

Exit Foundation

Be Heard As One (BHAO)

Caramel Rock

Newham Muslim Forum

Appendix 5: Glossary

| Term | Description |
|----------------------|---|
| ACEs | Adverse childhood experiences. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices |
| ADHD | Attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder is a behavioural disorder that includes symptoms such as inattentiveness, hyperactivity and impulsiveness. |
| ASB | Anti-Social Behaviour |
| ASD | Autism (autistic) spectrum disorder: used to describe a range of developmental disorders that affect communication and behaviour |
| CAMHS | Child and Adolescent mental health services |
| CCE | Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity. |
| Children | We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection. |
| Child First | A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion |
| CIC/CLA | Children in care. A child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a 'looked after' child. Looked after children are also often referred to as 'children looked after (CLA). |
| Circles of Support | Newham's Circles of Support is a 'purposeful, planned and focused practice framework; it is systemic, restorative and relational, and places children, their families and their systems at the heart of everything we do. |
| CIN | Child in need: the status given to a child who is deemed to need support by the local authority to promote or safeguard their welfare but who does not meet the criteria for child protection |
| CJS | Criminal Justice System |
| CME | Child Missing Education |
| Community Resolution | Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt |

Appendix 5: Glossary

| Term | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Constructive resettlement | The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social |
| Contextual Safeguarding | An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety |
| County Lines | The illegal movement of drugs around the UK, often involving the exploitation of children or vulnerable adults to hold and move the drugs |
| CSC | Children's social care services: these are found in each local authority/county council area to protect and support the safety and wellbeing of children with heightened individual needs and/or at risk of harm from others or themselves |
| CSE | Child sexual exploitation: a type of child abuse, occurring when a child or young person is encouraged, forced or manipulated to take part in sexual activity for something in return, for example presents, drugs, alcohol or emotional attention. |
| EHCP | Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs |
| EHE | Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school |
| ETE | Education, training or employment |
| EOTAS | Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting |
| FTE | First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal |
| HMIP | Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services |
| HSB | Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves |
| IRO | Independent reviewing officer: IROs protect children's interests throughout the care planning process. They chair and quality assure the care planning and review process for each child in care and will make sure a child's wishes and feelings are given full consideration and that agreed actions are completed |
| LBNIIPB | London Borough of Newham Information Intelligence Partnership Briefing: a virtual, multi-agency case planning meeting undertaken in Newham 2/3 times per week. |
| MACE | Multi-agency child exploitation: a framework and/or meeting that describes arrangements for responding to children who are vulnerable to exploitation, including child sexual exploitation, missing from home, criminal exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking |

Appendix 5: Glossary

| Term | Description |
|----------------------------------|---|
| MAPPA | Multi agency public protection arrangements, whereby probation, police, prison and other agencies work together locally to manage offenders who pose the highest risk of harm to others. |
| MARAC | Multi-agency risk assessment conference: set up in each police area to consider the safety needs of victims of domestic abuse where the risk to them is assessed as serious. Normally a single event, although a victim can be referred for discussion after a new incident |
| MASH | Multi-agency safeguarding hub: these act as the first point of contact for new safeguarding concerns or enquiries. They usually include representatives from the local authority (adult and children social care services), police, probation, health and other bodies |
| MFH | Missing from Home |
| NEET | Not in Education, Employment or Training |
| NRM | National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them |
| OOCD | Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court |
| Over-represented children | Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average |
| PNC | Police national computer: the information management system used by the police across the UK to facilitate investigations and share information |
| Protected Characteristics | Defined by the Equality Act (2010) as age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity |
| PRU | Pupil referral unit: this provides education (and heightened support) to children unable to attend mainstream education provision |
| Reoffending Rate | Defined by the Ministry of Justice as the percentage of individuals given a caution or court conviction within one year of an offence or during a further six-month period (to allow time for cases to progress through the courts), as indicated by data on the PNC |
| RHI | Return Home Interview |

Appendix 5: Glossary

| Term | Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Safeguarding | Safeguarding is a wider term than child protection and involves promoting a child's health and development and ensuring that their overall welfare needs are met |
| SLCN | Speech, Language and communication needs |
| Section 17 | Of the Children Act (1989): provisions for local authorities to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and promote the upbringing of children by their families |
| Section 20 | Of the Children Act (1989): a local authority must provide accommodation for a child living in its area who is lost or abandoned, for whom no one has parental responsibility, or where those caring for them are unable to provide suitable accommodation. Section 20 applies where there is voluntary agreement between the child's carers, the local authority and where possible, the child, to find alternative provision |
| Section 47 | Of the Children Act (1989): when a local authority receives information indicating that a child in its area is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to investigate if action is needed to promote or safeguard their welfare |
| TAF/C | Team around the family/child: this is a multi-disciplinary team of practitioners working in an integrated way to support the wellbeing of a child or children in a family |
| Trauma-responsive Practice | An approach to working with children that recognises the impact of trauma and their lived experience (see ACE above) and provides a tailored, specialist response that builds on their strengths and avoids reinforcing the trauma. |
| Vicarious Trauma | The term used to explain how staff can be affected when they engage empathetically with survivors of traumatic incidents |
| YC/YCC | Youth caution: a caution accepted by a child following admission to an offence where it is not considered to be in the public interest to prosecute the offender. A Youth Conditional Caution (YCC) is an extension of a youth caution, but with conditions attached that the child is required to comply with for up to three months from delivery. Non-compliance may result in the child being prosecuted for the original offence. |
| YJB | Youth Justice Board: a government body responsible for monitoring and advising ministers on the effectiveness of the youth justice system. The YJB provides grants and guidance to the youth offending teams |
| Young Person | Young adults people are those typical aged 18 or over. However, in Newham we define young people as all those aged 25 and under. |
| YRO | Youth rehabilitation order: a community sentence imposed by the criminal court, which may include one or more requirements (e.g. supervision or an activity requirement) |

