

Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Strategy

2024-27

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Foreword and Introduction

from Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas OBE, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

We are delighted to introduce the Hackney Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Strategic Plan 2024-2027, which sets out the Community Safety multi-agency serious violence priorities for the next three years. This plan focuses on the violent crimes that are of most concern to our residents in Hackney to ensure that their voices are heard and effectively responded to.

In Hackney, we have been at the forefront of reducing serious violence for a number of years through the work of our Community Gangs Team (formerly the Integrated Gangs Unit) and our innovative approach to reducing violence against women and girls, youth violence and serious violence in our night time economy.

I would like to thank our statutory community safety partners for their contributions to reducing serious violence over the last three years to consistently deliver outstanding performance on our crime and disorder priorities.

We've achieved the following serious violence reductions in Hackney for the last 12 months (until October 2023)

- All crime reduction ↓ **1.8%**.
- Youth Knife Crime ↓ **2.1%**.
- Young people being the victim of knife crime ↓ **6.1%**
- Serious Sexual Offences ↓ **15.8%**.
- Domestic Abuse ↓ **1.8%**.
- Hate crime ↓ **10.2%** (to 7th October 2023)
- **No change Gun Crime** in comparison with a 6.5 % increase across London.
- Robbery increased 1.6 %, in comparison with London's average increase of 20.9 %.
- Nearly 19 % fewer young people entered the criminal justice system.

However, as a Community Safety Partnership, we acknowledge that we still have much to do to build on our serious violence reduction successes.

Our Hackney Nights initiative has seen reductions in crime in our night time economy with violence down by 31 % in the Shoreditch area. We have also introduced a Hackney Nights Accreditation Scheme that supports licensees to improve safety on their premises. Our medics team has supported many vulnerable people in the night time economy and we have signed up 50 licensed premises to our radio scheme.

We remain committed to tackling hate crime in all of its forms and we have just launched No Place for Hate Community Champions to ensure that victims and communities are supported should they become adversely affected by hate crime. We have also refreshed our Hackney Hate Crime Strategy 2023-2026 to ensure that victims of hate crime are supported in a way that ensures that the community safety response is right first time, every time.



Our commitment is to deliver on our residents main priorities and that is why our Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-2027 has taken account of residents surveys, feedback from community meetings and partnership data to identify the following serious violence strategic priorities:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Domestic Abuse
- Serious Sexual Violence
- Gangs and Serious Violence against Young People (including robbery and knife crime)
- Hate Crime
- Serious Violence in the Night-Time Economy

Early Intervention is crucial in helping to prevent young people from entering the criminal justice system and in preventing adult offenders from reoffending. Tackling the drivers of violent behaviour can help to break cycles of violence and enable individuals to lead positive lives free from crime. We also know that supporting victims of violence and their families is fundamental to improving quality of life for those who have been directly affected.

In tackling serious violence, we are committed not just to working with statutory partner agencies but also voluntary sector organisations and communities as we all have a role to play. In Hackney, we want to ensure that local residents' priorities are at the forefront and that they have a voice in co-designing the solutions that will help to make our streets safer.

Therefore, we will continue to provide additional investment into our nationally recognised Community Gangs Team (CGT), which brings together key stakeholders in a co-located setting to reduce the devastating effects of gang violence and exploitation. Our commitment is to safeguard young people at risk of gang exploitation whilst working to prevent gang violence through providing meaningful positive alternatives to those involved in gangs.



Cllr Fajana-Thomas OBE

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Hackney Community Profile

Historically, Hackney has welcomed people from around the world and inward migration can be traced back to the 17th century with the arrival of immigrants such as the French Huguenots. There are well established Caribbean, Turkish, Kurdish, Vietnamese and Orthodox Jewish communities as well as newer communities of people from Africa and Eastern Europe.

Hackney is a relatively young borough with 25 % of its population under 20 and a further 23 % aged between 20-29 years old. People aged over 55 make up 18 % of the population.

According to the 2021 Census, 14.6 % of the population of Hackney or 35,709 people, reported that they were disabled or that they experienced long-term limiting illnesses.

The number of people over the age of 16, who were in paid employment rose by 4.1 % in the 2022 census, compared with the 2011 census, with the 2022 census recording 62.4 % of residents (130,628 residents) in paid employment, whilst the unemployment rate in Hackney decreased by 2.1 %, from 6.8 % in the 2011 census to 4.7 % in the 2022 census (9,945 residents).

27 % of adults in Hackney are married or in a civil partnership compared to 40 % in London and 47 % in England and Wales.

The 2021 census shows that over half of residents live in a single-family household (51.8 %), with 33 % living in one person households, with most residents (41 %) living in social rented housing, followed by private rented or lives rent free (32 %).

Around 40 % of the population come from Black and Global Majority groups with the largest group (approximately 20 %) being Black or Black British. 36 % of the population are White British and 16 % are "other White."

Hackney has one the largest groups of Charedi Jewish people in Europe who predominantly live in the north east of the borough and represent 7 % of the borough's overall population. At least 4.5 % of Hackney's residents are Turkish and are mainly concentrated in the South, East and Central parts of the borough. At least 89 different languages are spoken in the borough.

The 2015 GP patient survey indicates the number of people in Hackney who identify as gay or lesbian is 5 % and bisexual is 2 %.

Hackney's communities represent a diversity of religions and beliefs. Nearly 40 % say that they are Christian, 28 % say they have no religious belief, 14 % say they are Muslim and 6 % say they are Jewish.

Most households live in purpose-built blocks of flats or tenements (60 % - 64,067 households).

A population of 259,146 residents with 52.5 % identifying as women compared with 47.8 % of residents identifying as men.

Our Successes

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Since the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) was launched in September 2016, over 5,000 Hackney residents (predominantly women) have been referred to the service.

Despite the high-risk and complex nature of the casework involved, no one referred to DAIS has been killed as a result of domestic abuse, nor has any perpetrator referred to DAIS killed anyone.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, DAIS offered in-person meetings as needed. The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme was delivered virtually for public health reasons, but one positive effect was that attendance levels improved.

The Hackney Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Protocol has been created and approved by the CHSAB (City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board) and CHSCP (City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership).

DAIS has worked to attain White Ribbon accreditation for Hackney Council - this is an acknowledgement of work done by the Council regarding domestic abuse and women's safety in public spaces. The White Ribbon Action Plan will further consolidate work in these areas, particularly in the growing of champions roles for men as allies in women's safety.

Following an initial rise of up to 60% in referrals at the beginning of the COVID restrictions period, referral numbers to DAIS fluctuated then stabilised over the course of 2020/21 and has since reverted back to the pre-COVID rate of 25 referrals a week.

DAIS works closely with statutory partners and stakeholders to deliver interventions in a holistic way, led by need/risk and to improve partnership responses to domestic abuse and VAWG generally.

The Hackney Domestic Abuse and Adult Safeguarding Pathway has been created.

DAIS co-ordinates Hackney's annual 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate VAWG campaign and provides a number of events and activities as part of this.

DAIS has signed up to the 'Ending Racism In VAWG' Charter.

Since 2019, Hackney and Waltham Forest have partnered in pioneering the Safe and Together approach to safeguarding children affected by domestic abuse.



Gangs and Serious Violence Against Young People

(inc. robbery and knife crime)

The Community Gangs Team (CGT) has continued to work with individuals involved with, and at risk of, gang affiliation and have provided specialist support (including into paid employment) and diversionary activities with great success through Mentivation Services (Over 100 workshops delivered each year) and the CGT's own community engagement team.

Some CGT Milestones...

- CRiSP Project - Initiated and coordinated by the CGT, and supported by 25+ partner organisations and departments, this project's objective was to drive down serious youth and gang violence within a small geographical area which had seen a surge in violence. There have been no more youth violence offences in that area for the last year and a half.
 - The CGT has undertaken many one-to-one and group sessions in educational premises to support young people at risk of gang exploitation.
 - The CGT has raised the funds and refurbished two football pitches within known gang territories, and now, with the help of Arsenal FC and Orient FC, provide regular year round coaching sessions free to users.
 - The CGT have supported and navigated 11 victims of gangs into safe places.
 - The CGT's Community Gangs Workers have mediated between two warring gangs and managed to negotiate three short-term truces. Work continues along this vein with a view to achieving a long-term outcome.
 - The CGT's Community Gangs Workers and Analytical Team are currently involved in a training program for care home supervisors with a view to helping them identify gang issues. There are 40 such homes in Hackney.
 - The CGT has deployed 3 knife bins resulting in the recovery of 180 weapons.
 - The CGT's DWP, Probation and YOT teams are involved in promoting young people into education, training and employment.
- The incidences of youth and serious violence has been on a downward trend for 5 years.
 - Gang-related violent crimes have reduced year-on-year for the six years 2017-2022 from 129 in 2017, to 31 in 2022
 - We have safeguarded and supported over 45 young people at risk of gang exploitation through early interventions.
 - There is a continued downward trend in first time entrants to the youth justice system.



Hate Crime

We worked in partnership with the Heartstone 'Story Circles' Project to educate and support young people in finding solutions to tackling discrimination, prejudice and hate behaviours. The project has been successfully delivered to over 300 young people (aged 9-12) from January to July 2022. The Project is currently in its second year (2023) with another 300+ young people, with more schools involved than in 2022.

Improving security in places of worship. We supported several of our Faith communities to secure Home Office funding to enhance security at four of our places of worship in 2022. This has increased their engagement with us and enhanced engagement opportunities with them. One of the positive outcomes is future participation in our Hate Crime Champions Scheme. Over the coming years, we will continue to work with our Faith communities to support trust and confidence in their reporting of hate crimes.

We are enhancing staff knowledge of hate incidents/ crimes and how to improve support to victims.

Over 25 workshops have taken place across our council department teams to enhance staff awareness, resulting in regular consultation with our Hate Crime Coordinator, for advice on supporting victims of hate crime and identifying perpetrator motivation and hostility.

To increase community engagement and knowledge of hate incidents/ crimes, we have participated in National Hate Awareness Weeks in October 2022 and 2023, supporting community awareness of hate incidents/ crimes, using these and other public engagement events to raise awareness of hate crime reporting, and options available for community members to seek support.

Two hate crime information films were produced in 2021 and 2022 to support community messaging of the importance of reporting hate crimes. Each of the films were launched ahead of Hate Crime Awareness Week to improve awareness of the difference between hate incidents/crimes, reporting options and support available to victims and witnesses.

To improve our awareness of where hate incidents/ crimes are taking place, we are working with our police partners, Housing and Neighbourhood Teams, and we have been able to identify and focus on hotspot areas across the borough. This has resulted in increased patrols and proactive use of CCTV to monitor and better respond to incidents when they are identified. This has supported our targeting of Community Enforcement Officers and the local Police.



Violence in the Night-Time Economy

The new Hackney Nights initiative is the council's scheme to promote safety in the night time economy (NTE) and is managed by the Late Night Levy Manager. This combines public awareness campaigns with venue training, best practice guidance and our new accreditation scheme.

- We have connected licensed venues and improved communication and delivered a cohesive safety strategy to Hackney's residents, workers and visitors, all under the Hackney Nights banner.
- Working with venues to reduce congestion caused by long queues on public highways by encouraging uptake of a virtual queuing system.
- Introduction of dedicated medical staff in the NTE and a safe space where vulnerable individuals can be assisted.
- CCTV Radio scheme for licensees (late night levy payees receive a free handset). Approx. 50 premises already signed up.
- The creation of electronic briefings to be distributed on Friday every week to nightclubs, bars and pubs ahead of the weekend via the Portal.
- Public Awareness campaign around NOX (Nitrous Oxide), assets have been created, and a comms plan is under development.
- We have created a version of "Hackney Hospitality Stars" using videos of hospitality workers in the borough to spotlight certain issues and promote good practice on the Hackney Nights Portal, YouTube and socials.



Our Approach

Preventing Serious Violence in Hackney

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 places a statutory duty on Community Safety Partners to work together to share information to allow them to target their joint interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.

Hackney Community Safety Partnership will adopt a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.



In particular, Hackney Community Safety Partnership has worked in an integrated way to:

- Develop the SVD Strategy with partnership solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in Hackney. The Serious Violence Duty Strategy will be reviewed every year by the Hackney Community Safety Partnership.
- At the far end of the prevention spectrum, we will work with those who have committed serious violence to prevent re-offending, to reduce the harm of crime for victims, families and communities. This model of prevention is often referred to as primary (stopping the problem from occurring in the first place), secondary (intervening early to stop problems taking hold) and tertiary (prevents the problem from lapsing into crisis) prevention.
- Work with Hackney community groups and leaders to ensure that communities in Hackney have their priorities identified and responded to.
- The Serious Violence Duty Strategy will create the conditions for Hackney Community Safety Partners to collaborate and communicate regularly, share information and take effective coordinated action in their local areas.
- Adopt Contextual Safeguarding principles by understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. Our approach will recognise that the different relationships that young people form in their online space, neighbourhoods, and schools can feature violence and abuse.
- The strategy will focus on the whole spectrum of prevention opportunities available, from preventing the social determinants of serious violence (the 'causes of the causes'), to early identification of those at risk of serious violence and appropriate interventions to address this.
- Produce an evidence-based Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) of the causes/drivers of serious violence in Hackney.

Violence is preventable, not inevitable. Interventions (especially those in early childhood) can stop people from developing a propensity for violence, and improve educational outcomes, employment prospects and long-term health outcomes.

Preventing violence and its root causes can improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and have wider positive implications for the economy and society. Violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing and is strongly related to inequalities. To ensure that our Hackney interventions are focused on providing long term solutions to serious violence we have taken a 4-step process for implementing a public health approach to violence.

The Hackney Serious Violence Duty Strategy will be accompanied by a Serious Violence Duty Action Plan (SVDAP), which will be delivered through a number of Serious Violence Strategy Boards, reporting into the Hackney Community Safety Partners Statutory Officers Group.

Underpinning all of these priorities is the need to embed a strong communication strategy to ensure that residents feel well informed about what is happening to tackle issues of crime and disorder, and to promote reporting mechanisms and make best use of data available to the partnership to ensure resources are effectively utilised to achieve successful outcomes for people in Hackney.

The four step approach aims to...

1

Define the serious violence problem by systematically collecting partnership information about the size, scope, characteristics and consequences of serious violence.

2

Use research to determine the causes of violence, the factors that increase or decrease the risk of violence, and the factors that could be changed through interventions.

3

Find out what works to prevent violence by designing, implementing and evaluating interventions

4

Implement effective interventions in a wide range of settings, monitor the effects of these interventions on risk factors and the target outcome, and evaluate their impact and cost-effectiveness.

What Have Hackney Residents Told Us?

Hackney Community Safety Partnership is committed to listening and responding to our residents needs.



This section aims to provide a snapshot of how the residents of Hackney not only feel about violent crime in the borough, but also provide some information about how the residents feel about the services that are tasked with reducing and preventing violent crime in the borough and supporting those who have become victims of this type of offence. A number of surveys were recently conducted which will be discussed below. The consultation findings have helped to share the serious violence priorities whilst ensuring that our serious violence response meets their needs.

The Hackney Residents Survey collected paper-based views and face-to-face interviews with Hackney residents aged 16 or above, with the aim of understanding their views on living in Hackney so that the council can improve how they do things and provide a better and more efficient service. A section of the residents survey related to crime in the local area and identified that most residents were worried about being the victim of crime, with a third of residents citing that knife crime was something they were worried about.

Residents from Dalston, Stoke Newington and the North-West of the borough are significantly more worried about knife crime (50%) than residents from other areas. A fifth of residents were worried about gun crime (21%) and rape or sexual assault (19%).

Women were significantly more likely to be worried about being victims of all the offences listed above, whilst males were significantly less likely to be worried about being victims of the same offences. Black and Global Majority communities were significantly more worried about gun crime (25%) and hate crime (27%).

Whilst the fear of crime remains, there has been a significant drop in the proportion of residents who say they are worried about being the victim of a crime since 2018, across all crime types. Whilst certain demographic groups remain more likely to be worried about crime, the decline in worry has been replicated across all demographic groups. The Hackney Women's Safety in Hackney Consultation 2022, was created to allow the council to better understand the concerns, perceptions, and experiences of women and girls, and allow them to identify public spaces in the borough where they may not feel safe.

The report highlighted that just under 63% of respondents stated that they feel safe during the day, over 69% of respondents stated that they felt unsafe walking around their neighbourhood after dark, and just under 43% of respondents stated they felt safe in public places in Hackney.

A number of respondents stated that they had experienced sexual and street-based harassment in Hackney, with catcalling and sexual harassment the main issues reported.

“Constant sexual harassment and catcalling on this road, even by men who work in the local shops! I try to avoid walking down this road at all costs.”

“I have been followed, cat-called and stared at while running along the path. It has caused me to stop running.”

“Young people at school were described as being threatened because they were from a different postcode.”

Voices from the Hackney Young Futures Legacy Reps and Hackney Youth Parliament on Serious Violence Experiences:

“It was suggested that children started to generally become cognisant of gangs around 11/12 years old, though this could sometimes be younger or older.”

“Holding drugs or selling drugs for gangs was seen as an instant way of getting money instead of slower legal routes. Very disadvantaged young people are more vulnerable because the fast money makes a big difference to them and their families now rather than the promise of reward later.”

Hackney Serious Violence Strategic Priorities

The Hackney Serious Violence Needs Assessment identified the following Serious Violence Strategic Priorities for 2024 to 2027:

Domestic Abuse

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Serious Sexual Violence

Gangs and Serious Violence against Young People (including robbery and knife crime)

Hate Crime

Serious Violence in the Night-Time Economy

Each of the Serious Violence Strategic Priorities will have a number of integrated partnership activities contained within a Serious Violence Action Plan aimed at reducing the harm from Serious Violence through early intervention, prevention, diversion and safeguarding. These priorities will be reviewed annually by the Community Safety Partnership Statutory Officers Group.

The delivery of our commitments contained within this strategy will be monitored at the following strategic boards and into the Hackney Community Safety Statutory Officers Group:

Safer Young Hackney Board

Strategic Priority 1 and 4

Gangs and Serious Violence Board

(including knife crime and robbery)

Strategic Priority 4

Violence Against Women and Girls Board

(including Domestic Violence and Serious Sexual Offences)

Strategic Priorities 1, 2 and 3

Night Time Economy Board

Strategic Priorities 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

Each of the Boards will be chaired at Director Level to gain strategic support for the delivery of the strategic objectives contained within the Serious Violence Duty Strategy.

The Hackney Serious Violence Needs Assessment (SVNA) is a process where local partner organisations work together to assess the current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of people in Hackney. This assessment then informs decision making and helps community safety partners to agree on priorities and allocate resources to prevent serious violence.

The SVNA has a specific focus on serious violence-related needs within Hackney. It helps local partners to identify people and groups who are most vulnerable to being or becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. It also increases understanding of the types, distribution and extent of violence in the local area.

What is the Hackney Serious Violence Needs Assessment Telling Us?

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a widespread and underreported public health issue and crime issue, which can lead to physical and psychological health impacts and contribute to intergenerational cycles of trauma. Data shows that domestic abuse is still one of the most common types of violence committed, especially against women, with most violent offences recorded taking place behind closed doors in residential premises. That said, the number of reported incidents of domestic abuse has reduced in Hackney by 1.8% in the last 12 months to October 2023.

In Hackney, both male and female victims recorded the largest share of violent offences inside residential premises, accounting for 58% of female victims and 38% of male victims and, whilst the number of male victims assaulted inside residential premises might seem low, it still accounted for the largest share of offences recorded during the period under review.

The majority of victims of domestic abuse are still female, accounting for 71% of victims, with 24% of victims recorded as male. Female victims were primarily targeted by men, especially a current or ex-partner, whereas male victims were assaulted by both men and women, with most offenders being a family member, including a mother, brother or son, followed by a current or ex-partner.

Overall, 92% of Domestic Abuse offences (4192 offences) were recorded inside residential premises, with business premises (86 offences) and licensed premises (40 offences) recording the second and third largest number of offences. Offences are recorded throughout the week and throughout the day, however peaks do exist between 9am and 10am (426 offences), between 12pm and 1pm (276 offences) and between 4pm and 5pm (246 offences).

The City and Hackney Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2021) reported that women of mixed and black heritage reported more than twice the average number of domestic abuse offences, and women who live in the most deprived areas were also higher than the average.

Male victims were more likely to be assaulted by a same-sex partner than female victims.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Overall, more women and girls are victims of violent crime than men, with women and girls accounting for 55% of victims of violent crime between 01/01/2021 and 21/12/2022. Most of those offences still occur behind closed doors, inside residential premises and are committed by male partners, male ex-partners, and male family members.

Women were also the peak victim type for all types of violent offences, apart from offensive weapon and serious wounding, where it was the men who were the main victim type. Interestingly, there were also more female victims of violence recorded in schools than male victims.

Night-Time Economy (NTE) analysis of violence against women (Actual Bodily Harm and Grievous Bodily Harm) identified that the main hotspot in Hackney was in Shoreditch, with a secondary, smaller hotspot in Dalston.

In terms of the offence of "Administering Poison to Injure", women make up the largest victim group, accounting for 68% of victims. However, 16 victims were also recorded as male, indicating that whilst women are the main target group, males are also victims of this type of offence.

For offences of "Child Cruelty and Neglect", female victims make up the largest share, accounting for 54% of victims. Victims were primarily between 5 and 9 years old, followed by between 15 and 19 years old, and most were recorded inside residential premises and were committed by their mother, followed by their father.

Serious Sexual Violence

Overall, the number of reported serious sexual offences in Hackney has decreased by 15.8% for twelve months to October 2023. Fortunately, the analysis shows that rape and other sexual offences in Hackney are still quite rare. However, these types of offences have a devastating long-term impact on the victims, both physically and psychologically, and that is why serious sexual assault is a primary community safety priority in Hackney.

Over two thirds of victims of serious sexual assault are female, with only a small percentage of male victims being recorded. Female serious sexual assault victims were mostly assaulted by male suspects, with 73% of suspects not previously known to the victim. This is in contrast to offences of rape, with 30% of suspects being unknown to victims, indicating that a victim is more likely to be raped by someone they know, but they are more likely to be sexually or inappropriately touched by someone they don't know.

Where the suspect was previously known to the victim, most were an ex or current partner, followed by an acquaintance. Male victims of sexual assault were also primarily targeted by male suspects, and like the female victims, most offences were previously unknown to the victim.

Residential premises were recorded as the location of 56% of sexual offences, with Shoreditch accounting for 12% - public highways accounted for the majority of these offences.

Gangs and Serious Violence against Young People (including knife crime and robbery)

It must be stressed that whilst there are a number of gangs that are currently active in Hackney, the number of individuals involved in gangs is few in number, with the vast majority of young people in Hackney achieving outstanding results both academically and in the workplace. Hackney compares very favourably with the London average for Serious Youth Violence. A disconcerting children and vulnerable adults are being exploited by their peers to commit acts of serious violence. The Hackney Community Gangs Team (CGT) has worked in a colocated setting since 2010 (previously as the Integrated Gangs Unit or IGU) to divert and safeguard those who may be victims of gangs.

County Lines are linked to a form of criminal activity in which drug dealers in major cities such as London establish networks for the supply and sale of drugs to users in towns and rural areas, using other people

(typically those who are young or otherwise vulnerable) to carry, store, and sell the drugs. Social media is being used to advertise opportunities to make money. Over the last 2 years:

- 59 victims of county lines in Hackney, aged 25 years or younger who have been the victim of forced labour and alleged that they have been forced to sell drugs.
- The majority of victims (34) were 16-17 years old.
- The majority of victims (26) were of African-Caribbean ethnicity, followed by White European victims (23).

Young males aged 15-25 years remain the biggest concern in terms of gang exploitation and violence, both as victims and perpetrators. The main drivers of gang violence in Hackney are connected to issues of "Respect", "Revenge" and "Resource" (financial gain).

Bladed weapons are used far more often than firearms, but the number of reported incidents of knife crime leading to injury in Hackney (under 24 years old) has reduced by 13.6% over the last 12 months to October 2023. There were a total of 586 knife crime offences recorded (01/01/2021-31/12/2022) where a knife or bladed instrument was involved. In the majority of cases the victims were 25 or younger. Knife crime, to commit robbery, made up the majority of these offences, of which there were 336.

In 331 of those instances, it was used to intimidate or threaten and on 101 of those instances it was used to injure. Fridays and Saturdays saw the most knife crime accounting for 193 out of 586 offences.

The largest cluster of knife crime offences was in the Shoreditch area of Hackney, our main Night-time Economy area, most often Friday and Saturday, 8pm-4pm. There were 166 named suspects for knife offences where the victim was aged 25 years or younger and was injured by a knife or bladed article, with the majority of suspects being male.

The Shoreditch Ward recorded the largest share of robbery offences, with a total of 661. Mobile phones are the main items targeted, accounting for 56% of all robberies (373), followed by money (25 robberies, 4%) and pedal cycles (24 robberies, 4%). Knife enabled robberies accounted for 10% (69). 57% of robberies took place between 8pm and 6am, Friday to Sunday, with peaks between 2am and 4am. The highest proportion of suspects are 15-19 years old and male.

Hate Crime

Hackney has a diverse and vibrant community, with well-established Caribbean, Turkish, Kurdish, Vietnamese and Orthodox Jewish communities, as well as communities from Africa and Eastern Europe. The prevention of hate crime is, therefore, a priority and the Hate Crime Strategy 2023 to 2026 will ensure that communities and survivors of hate crime will receive an integrated partnership response that is not only sensitive to the victim's needs but is also proactive in protecting people from hate crime.

Hate crime is defined as “any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, disability, or perceived disability, or motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender”.

Prior to the Hamas and Israel conflict, October 2023, hate crime data reflected a decrease in the number of hate related offences, with the 2022 calendar year recording a 17 % decrease in all types of hate crime, with the exception of homophobic and transgender hate crime, which recorded a 25 % increase in the 2022 calendar year, compared with the previous calendar year.

Three main types of hate crimes were recorded in Hackney, which together accounted for 84 % of all hate related crimes, with the largest being homophobic and transgender hate crime, followed by racial hate crime and anti-Semitic hate crime. Since the Hamas and Israel conflict began on 7th October 2023, there has been an increase in reports of antisemitism and, to a lesser extent, Islamophobia. The reported incidents have ranged from graffiti and fly posting, through to verbal insults and common assault. The Hackney Hate Crime Strategy 2023/26 brings together a range of community safety partnership interventions to ensure that Hackney is No Place for Hate.

Serious Violence in the Night-Time Economy

Analysis has shown that Shoreditch, and in particular the Night-Time Economy in Shoreditch, is a crime hotspot, with a number of different crime types reporting the Shoreditch NTE area as a hotspot location, including theft, violence, robbery, sexual offences and drugs (dealing and taking). Shoreditch is Hackney's most vibrant and busy NTE area, and is a popular place for people to visit, especially at the weekend.

Shoreditch was the second largest hotspot location for violent offences, behind residential premises (domestic abuse). Overall, 63 % of offences are recorded on Saturday and Sunday, with 70 % of offences recorded between 11pm and 4am. Serious Violence offences recorded a reduction in the 2022 calendar year, especially outside business premises and outside restaurants and takeaways. Victims are predominantly male and 20-34 years old and 90 % of offenders were not known to the victim prior to the offence, however most were male and 20-39 years old.

Delivering on our

Serious Violence Strategic Priorities

Violence Against Women and Girls

(including domestic abuse and serious sexual offences)

During the course of this Strategy the following priority areas will be pursued.

PREVENTING AND REDUCING VAWG

1. Children and young people in Hackney exhibit positive behaviours and attitudes relating to gender, including non binary, trans and non-conforming gender.
2. Children and young people in Hackney harmed through violence or abuse are enabled to heal and avoid experiencing harm from or causing harm to others in adolescence and adulthood.
3. Individuals who live and/or work in Hackney are aware of domestic abuse and VAWG, and of the support services available.
4. Women and girls, including trans women and girls and non binary children and adults, are safe in public spaces in Hackney and in online spaces.
5. Attitudes and behaviour that underpin violence against women and girls are addressed.

SUPPORTING ALL VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

1. Women and girls who experience VAWG and all victims / survivors of domestic abuse receive effective support from all members of the Hackney VAWG partnership.
2. Victims / survivors of abuse are aware of pathways to report abuse, and receive support through the Criminal Justice System.
3. The housing needs of victims / survivors of domestic abuse are prioritised.
4. Employers to support victims / survivors of VAWG and domestic abuse.
5. Women and girls, including trans women and girls and non binary children and adults, are safeguarded from sexual exploitation.

HOLDING PERPETRATORS TO ACCOUNT

1. Perpetrators of domestic abuse to receive a response which reduces the harm they cause through disruption, deterrence and sanction.

2. Perpetrators of domestic abuse to receive a response which reduces the harm they cause through behavioural change approaches.
3. Perpetrators of domestic abuse against family members to receive responses which reduce harm through deterrence, disruption, sanction and behaviour change approaches.
4. Employers to hold perpetrators of VAWG and domestic abuse to account.
5. Perpetrators of public-space VAWG to receive holistic approach to disruption, deterrence, sanction and behaviour change approaches.

BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

1. All agencies across the Hackney partnership to understand and work to an agreed casework pathway when addressing all forms of VAWG and domestic abuse.
2. Effective data reporting and sharing mechanisms to be embedded across Hackney.
3. VAWG partnership to foster a learning culture where good practice flourishes.
4. The Hackney partnership is committed to ensuring provision for services working with victims / survivors who are male, trans, non-binary, Black and Global Majority or who have unresolved immigration status as well as any groups within the community for whom services are not meeting their needs.

Gangs and Serious Youth Violence

Hackney's Community Gangs Team (CGT) is a co-located team consisting of LBH staff, Police officers, an Analytical Team, Project Coordinator, DWP Gangs Worker, Youth Offending Officers, Mentivation and Community Gangs Workers.

During the course of this Strategy the following priority areas will be pursued.

1. The main objective of the CGT is to reduce Serious Gang Violence, and to achieve this we take an IPDE (Intelligence, Prevention, Diversion and Enforcement) approach.
2. We are committed to developing and maintaining community contacts with a view to obtaining information and intelligence, and to reassure the community in times of distress.

3. We will develop and maintain intelligence sources with a view to informing our decision making.
4. We will identify hot spots and request additional police and council resources to prevent violence e.g Enforcement and Police Officer patrols.
5. We will use Community Protection Notices, Injunctions and doorstep curfew checks against those individuals that do not engage with our services.
6. We will use our intel to help advise the police on whether section 60's or dispersal orders should (or should not) be put in place.
7. We use mediation to de-escalate heightened gang tensions and therefore prevent violence.
8. We respond to major incidents relating to gangs and put in place Critical Incident Plans with a view to reducing heightened tensions.
9. We will consider the safety of people affected by gangs in their homes and seek ways of protecting them, for example special schemes (alarms) or even a move to temporary accommodation.
10. We will develop long term projects and initiatives to introduce opportunities to young people in at-risk areas. This will include education / training / employment / sport / gaming / community events.
11. We will look to take enforcement action against those that groom / exploit young people into gangs.
12. We will educate young people about the negative aspects of crime and violence and explain what opportunities are available to them (Mentivation 6 and 12 week school courses).
13. We will intercept gang members as they leave prison with a view to getting them into training and employment.
14. We will help young people exit gangs.
4. Implementation of an effective communication process that supports information sharing across our partnership to address hate incidents and crimes.
5. To raise the awareness of the effectiveness of third party and confidential reporting mechanisms.
6. We will establish and implement a Hate Crime Media Strategy to support Hate crime reporting in Hackney.
7. Working with our Hackney Young Futures and other community youth projects we will ensure that young people have a voice in the process and know how to report hate crime.
8. We deliver hate crime awareness training to our front-line staff and partners including Enforcement and Housing Officers.
9. Develop programmes to work across school groups to facilitate diversity dialogues across school year programmes

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM HARM BY IMPLEMENTING AN INTEGRATED FIRST CLASS RESPONSE AND ONGOING SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY HATE CRIME.

1. Analyse community safety partnership data on hate crime patterns, hotspots, and perpetrators to enable the council to act to prevent hate crime.
2. We will monitor all reports of hate crime to ensure that our response is integrated, coordinated and meets the needs of survivors.
3. Provide a consistent and coordinated response to perpetrators of hate crime within council owned housing and housing association properties.
4. Improve support for victims of hate crime and reduce repeat victimisation.
5. To keep victims informed of the progress of their case via regular communication and contact with the relevant and appropriate people and support organisations.
6. To work with local businesses and organisations to establish a network of designated places of safety across the Borough.
7. To deal effectively with those who perpetrate hate crimes and to engage with those that are responsible for hate incidents, to hold them to account and where necessary to utilise our range of civil remedies.
8. Making best use of our community led Safer Neighbourhood Board, CCTV and Enforcement Officers to support collection of intelligence and collaborative work with our police partners in gathering evidence to deal with perpetrators.

Hate Crime

During the course of this Strategy the following priority areas will be pursued.

TO INCREASE THE REPORTING OF HATE CRIME BY MAKING IT EASIER FOR THOSE AFFECTED TO REPORT HATE CRIME.

1. To work with our diverse communities to identify reporting barriers and to seek their support and guidance to increase hate crime reporting.
2. We will undertake a number of community hate crime and incident awareness sessions to highlight the importance of hate crime reporting.
3. We will ensure there is clear knowledge and understanding of the differences between hate crimes and hate incidents through presentations to community groups and networks.

BUILDING COMMUNITY TRUST AND CONFIDENCE BY IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF HATE CRIME.

1. To establish Hate Crime Champions across the borough who will be able to support and advise survivors and witnesses subject to hate incidents and crimes.
2. Create safe places where victims and witnesses can access support and advice, and seek protection if they feel they are in danger.
3. To introduce a local Hate Crime Forum, consisting of community members, represented across the protected characteristic, to support the key aims of our Hate Crime Strategy and to provide regular updates of community concerns with regard to specific hate crime categories.
4. To monitor and give feedback to survivors and our communities of successes in dealing with perpetrators of hate.
5. Provide specialist support to victims of hate crime in collaboration with our internal and external partner agencies, such as MIND, Age Concern, Stop Hate UK and CATCH.
6. Encourage community cohesion activities through increased engagement during Hate Crime Awareness Week and the use of social media.
7. Increase educational hate crime workshops for young people raising awareness.
8. To utilise the support of our Hackney Faith Forum to challenge and provide feedback on our approach with improvement in mind.

PREVENTING HATE CRIME BY TACKLING THE BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES THAT CAN LEAD TO HATE CRIME.

1. To deliver training and support to our designated Hate Crime Champions, supported through our local Hate Crime Forum.
2. To provide our support to diversity awareness campaigns such as Hate Crime Awareness Week to highlight the negative impact of hate whilst celebrating difference.
3. Through the work of the Hate Crime Champions we will encourage greater cultural understanding to celebrate diversity within the borough.
4. Working with the Police, we will target online hate crime, making the internet a safer space for residents.
5. We will introduce a quarterly Hate Crime Advice Surgery, in partnership with community organisations covering each strand of hate crime.
6. The surgeries are a confidential drop-in service for victims of hate crime to be offered advice and support.

7. A hate crime information leaflet and wallet card will be developed, which signpost victims to appropriate support services across the different strands of hate crime.

Serious Violence in the Night-Time Economy

During the course of this Strategy the following priority areas will be pursued.

1. We will take a multi-agency approach to address the harms of alcohol related crime and disorder, whilst promoting responsible licensing and growth of the hospitality industry through our Hackney Nights programme.
2. We will create safer places where people can enjoy the hospitality sector, and minimise the harm and negative effects for visitors, businesses and residents. We will do this by dedicating resources to priority areas (particularly Shoreditch and Dalston).
3. We will monitor growth and change in other developing areas, including Broadway Market, Hackney Wick and Hackney Central.
4. We will identify, and where necessary, intervene with venues that are linked to crime or anti-social behaviour, including noise. This will be overseen at weekly Tasking Meetings and at Monthly LOEG (Licensing Operational Enforcement Group). We will apply problem solving principles to achieve sustainable crime reduction in the short to long term.
5. Interventions will include warning letters, engagement and training. Repeat offender venues will receive enforcement action that will include licence reviews, variations and revocations, and Environmental Protection notices.
6. We will uphold the licensing objectives: The prevention of crime and disorder; Public safety; The prevention of public nuisance; The protection of children from harm.
7. Venues that achieve the desired standards will be given accredited status. The accreditation scheme also aligns with the Council's commitment to ending violence against women and girls, ensuring all venues taking part in the accreditation scheme sign up to the Women's Safety Charter and promote Hackney's on-going work to protect women and girls against sexual harassment.
8. We will update our Licensing Policy and review our Special Policy Areas (SPAs).
9. Police and LBH Enforcement Officers will be deployed to at-risk areas when needed the most to provide reassurance, assistance, engage with businesses and residents, and enforce crime and anti-social behaviour incidents.

10. People caught littering, urinating or illegally trading (including nitrous oxide) will be issued with fixed penalty notices.
11. People actively engaged in anti-social behaviour will be dispersed and / or issued with an ASB Warning (ASBW) and, where necessary, issued with Community Protection Warnings and Notices (CPN).
12. We will work together to tackle theft and robbery offences through the collation and sharing of partnership robbery data to inform resource deployments.
13. We will safeguard victims of crime, particularly women and other vulnerable people.
14. The Hackney Nights first responders medical team will be on duty every weekend, and attend a variety of incidents with a focus on vulnerable individuals, injuries and bodily harm. They will also attend where drink spiking is suspected.
15. We will collaborate with Police Town Centre Teams and Regeneration and Planning regarding any major changes to Town Centre usage, particularly in priority locations.
16. We will actively encourage participation from local businesses. This will be achieved through the Hackney Nights Portal.
17. We will target high crime areas and repeat perpetrators.
18. We will provide regular safety advice to venues, residents and visitors through various campaigns (under the Hackney Nights banner) including a mobile messaging van, welfare areas and posters. This will include raising awareness of women's safety and anti-misogyny campaigns.
19. Date rape and drink spiking will also be targeted, and we will work with venues to safeguard females and other vulnerable people, and apprehend perpetrators.

List of Useful Websites

[Young Hackney](#)

[Young Hackney Substance Misuse Service](#)

[Victim Support](#)

[Young Hackney stop and search advice](#)

[Mentivation Services](#)

[City of London & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

[Domestic Abuse Support](#)

[Hackney End Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

[Hackney VAWG Strategy](#)

[City & Hackney Adults Safeguarding Board](#)

[Hackney Nights](#)

[Hackney Report Noise](#)

[Hackney Licensing](#)

[Hackney Council's commitment to anti-racism](#)

[Alcohol advice and support](#)

[Stop Hate UK](#)

[Metropolitan Police how to report Hate Crime](#)

[CrimeStoppers](#)

[Crime Concern](#)

[Metropolitan Police Crime Figures](#)

[Mayors Office for Policing and Crime \(MOPAC\)](#)

[Metropolitan Police - Crime Prevention Advice](#)

[Serious Violence Duty Guidance](#)

Appendices

[Census 2021](#)

[ONS Census Information](#)

[Health Needs Assessment for City and Hackney for 0-25 years](#)

[ONS - Exploring Local Income Deprivation](#)

[Public Health England – Local Authority Health Profile 2019](#)

Hackney Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019

[Early Identification Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment – Produced in March 2022 by Kate Dun-Cambell and Emer O’Sullivan](#)

DAIS – VAWG – Report to City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership – produced on the 18th of May 2023.

Hackney Borough Violence Analysis, produced in April 2023

Hackney Borough Robbery Analysis produced in June 2023

Hackney Borough Sexual Violence Analysis, produced in June 2023

Rape and Sexual Assault – Focus on Public Space produced in November 2011

Hackney Council Hate Crime Strategy Delivery Plan – Bennett Obong

[Hackney Council Hate Crime Strategy 2023-2026](#)

Hackney Residents Survey 2023

Hackney Women’s Safety in Hackney Consultation Report – February 2022

Second insight – Violence/Crime – Star Survey 2022/2023

[Hackney Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023 to 2026](#)

[Hackney Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2022/2025](#)