

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Safer Communities	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE 7 October 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities provides the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee with her annual report for discussion.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report</p> <p>Contact Officer: Hannah Bennai Cabinet Officer Corporate Services 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 1750 Email: hannah.bennai@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:

Pat Callaghan

Councillor Patricia Callaghan, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities

Date: 25/09/2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Camden is a vibrant borough located at the heart of Central London. It is home to 3 major rail stations, many businesses, large, and small, and vibrant busy mixed communities. It is a multicultural area whose diversity, not only brings a wealth of opportunity, but is tempered with levels of crime and antisocial behaviour which impacts on local communities and continues to be highlighted as an issue of concern by those who live in, work in, study or visit Camden.
- 1.2. After years of austerity imposed by Central government, which led to service cuts, impacting on low-income families and vulnerable residents, we continue to deliver vital services for our residents and communities. We now welcome a new government which presents itself as a fresh opportunity for growth and progress. giving people hope. Being pragmatic, we understand that change can only happen with time, and we are resolute and committed to continue to provide services which everyone can contribute to in creating, safe, strong and open communities.
- 1.3. We are determined to actively tackle our levels of crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB), Our We Make Camden missions, ambitions and challenges set out how we intend to achieve positive social change for our residents. A key We Make Camden challenge at the heart of the Safer Communities portfolio is that we work together towards a Camden where 'everyone is safe at home and safe in our communities'. Over the course of this year, we have been working meticulously with Council officers, partners, and residents towards this shared vision where our communities feel safe at home and on our streets, as well as being empowered and protected by local services. Listening to people who live in, work in and visit the borough, continues to play a frontline role in our service delivery, and we will continue to incorporate our community voices into our strategies, action, plans and initiatives, so that they can respond directly to issues of most concern.
- 1.4. Some of our residents especially on our Housing estates display very challenging behaviour, which impacted on all their neighbours. Many had become entrenched, and we knew that we had to act, and combating this issue has been a key priority within the portfolio over the course of this year as we designed our ASB taskforce to respond to the growing concerns we were hearing. The taskforce comprises of five specialist officers who work alongside key delivery services, (Community Safety, Housing, Mental Health, Adult Safeguarding, and Drug and Alcohol treatment services) to develop an intelligence led approach towards reducing this activity. We piloted this on the 12 housing estates more disproportionately impacted, and the taskforce trial period February to June 2024, was very successful and had positive feedback from the community. As we transition out of the pilot phase, we are beginning the borough wide rollout of the new system and are developing a long-term preventative approach to tackling ASB.
- 1.5. This year our Community Presence officers (CPO's) have transitioned to Community Safety Enforcement officers (CSEOs). This shift has been part of the overall enforcement work to ensure officer intervention activity can be used

consistently with efficiency, improving the level of performance reporting, and the development of a data and outcome based approach. Residents have welcomed this approach to enforcement.

- 1.6. We have had multiple successes with our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services throughout this year. Camden Safety Net (CSN) continues to provide the life changing frontline support to women and girls who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse. We continue to work with Camden Voices Against Abuse (CVAA) whose knowledge and experiences of living through the abuse and accessing our VAWG support services have played a pivotal role in our learning and development as an organisation. We will continue to work with them to ensure that the support we offer is accessible and welcoming to all. Through this, we have also launched a communication campaign against sexual harassment so that we as a council send a clear public message that in Camden, “we call it out”.
- 1.7. Being a Central London Borough hosting, three major transport intersections coupled with the last governments policy on housing asylum seekers-or not as the case was, means that we have seen an upsurge in Rough Sleeping. Our multi agency approach to support these individuals is covered in the report.
- 1.8. Our young people are accomplished and awesome and we need to create an environment where they can thrive, they are the future of Camden and it’s critical that we keep them safe. The work and resources delivered by our Youth services are exemplary. The strength and resilience of the service has meant that staff have continually learnt from experiences and evolved to deliver high quality and effective services to children and their families.
- 1.9. As the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, I’ve made a number of important decisions to direct work across my portfolio over the last 12-month period. These decisions include approval of changes to the Camden Community Safety Partnership Board (which I chair) and the development of a partnership plan to address priorities such as Violence Against Women and Girls, Serious Violence, Hate Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 1.10. I also played a central role in the commissioning and oversight of the Anti-Social Behaviour Review and the subsequent ASB Taskforce pilot programme. I am confident that the outcome and learning from the review will play an important role in shaping the way in which Council services (Community Safety and Housing in particular) work with residents and key partners such as the Metropolitan Police to tackle anti-social behaviour which we know has an impact on the quality of life of residents living in our Housing Estates.
- 1.11. I have continued to prioritise the challenges relating to homelessness and rough sleeping throughout the last 12-month period. I have approved proposals relating to the creation of a Housing First intensive ‘floating support’ service which will deliver specialist and intensive support for people who are living independently in the community. I anticipate that the service will be introduced early next year in order to meet the needs of multiple disadvantaged people experiencing homelessness.

- 1.12. I shall continue to oversee the development of a range of Safer Communities strategies, policies, programmes and initiatives over the coming 12 months on behalf of Camden residents. This report summarises the work and success across the Safer Communities portfolio from November 2023 to October 2024.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.1. With time and commitment, we believe that we can make a real change in ensuring that everyone is safe at home and in our communities. It's one of the "We Make Camden Challenges" central to this portfolio. Anti-social behaviour has been highlighted as a major area of concern from residents and businesses as part of the ongoing Tenant Participation Programme. A significant percentage of Camden residents highlighted anti-social behaviour as a key issue/concern. This issue has cut across the Safer Communities portfolio as well as the Better Homes and Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care portfolios.
- 2.2. We recognise that anti-social behaviour is a challenge across most Camden Housing Estates. Recurring concerns, such as drug-related anti-social behaviour, unauthorised access to estates, and noise disturbances, underscore the widespread nature of these issues. The depth of these challenges is not only reflected in the sheer number of residents expressing concern but also in the variety of anti-social behaviour activities reported. Additionally, the data highlights that certain Housing Estates are disproportionately impacted by such behaviour.
- 2.3. In recognising the need for a clear response method to these complex and challenging cases (particularly cases where mental health is a factor), we initiated an Anti-Social Behaviour Review in alignment with broader initiatives such as the Government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan (which launched in 2023) and new standardised approaches introduced by the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.
- 2.4. We authorised a series of case studies that highlighted several issues regarding the management of complex and challenging cases of anti-social behaviour compounded with mental health issues which seriously impacted Camden's communities. The main concerns were around how the Council manages long standing or "stuck" cases, particularly where mental health is a factor.
- 2.5. It is anticipated that anti-social behaviour trends are likely to continue to increase across Camden. Data held by Camden consistently underscores the pervasive nature of anti-social behaviour throughout the borough. As the Intensive Tenant Participation Programme unfolded, it became increasingly evident that tackling issues related to anti-social behaviour is an urgent priority for the Council. Anti-social behaviour has consistently emerged as a persistent and major concern for Camden's Housing Estates.

- 2.6. **ASB Review:** To counteract this deep concern from residents, a working group was established to review the current position of the management of anti-social behaviour across the Council. This initial review revealed challenges, particularly in relation to case management and information sharing. The working groups' priority areas are:
- Process Mapping: understanding the journey of cases to ensure they reach the appropriate service and improving the way information comes into Council to create effective referral pathways.
 - Needs Analysis and Evaluation: providing context on reported issues to understand the demand on antisocial behaviour across the Council.
 - Enforcement and Legal: seeking to formalise protocols for antisocial behaviour enforcement beyond current reliance on housing regulations and the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Applying the current Enforcement Ladder to a wider set of services to develop a clear framework and thresholds for use of enforcement powers.
 - Governance: establishing governance protocols aligned with frameworks from the Regulator for Social Housing, Housing Ombudsman, and Community Safety Partnership Board. Create clear guidance for operational and strategic governance as well as support networks and escalation.
 - Data Quality: developing a single reporting mechanism that improves and standardises data to improve understanding and the extent of problems and localised issues.
 - Partnerships: fostering collaborative protocols to overcome isolated working practices and promote collective ownership.
- 2.7. **ASB Taskforce:** In response to unmet need, we also launched our Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce, which was piloted from February 2024 to July 2024 in support of these efforts. The Taskforce includes five dedicated officers who consistently worked with residents on estates who were most impacted by some neighbours challenging behaviour. Community Safety, Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, and Legal Services, worked collaboratively to adopt an intelligence-led approach to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- 2.8. In addition to this we recognise the distinct nature of the challenge Camden Housing Tenants face from this conduct. We therefore overhauled our Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, providing the Housing Service with an end-to-end procedure for managing instances of such actions jointly with the Community Safety Service.
- 2.9. Throughout the pilot period, the Council has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from residents on the estates the Taskforce has been present:

“

ASB Officers have been amazing at answering me and just hearing me. I feel like I've been talking to deaf ears for over a year now. Thank you so much, this is now the start of a new beginning for my daughter and all of us.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise our new colleague ASB Officer for her true professionalism – especially in relation to her proactive approach and early intervention to contact me to discuss activity of drug dealing at Helston on the College Place Estate.

ASB Officer was very knowledgeable and experienced, they left no stone unturned to capture anything significant about what the residents had verbally stated... they were informative and indeed professional when engaging with the residents and other Council departments.

It was so nice to sit down and tell my story of the past 11 years with someone who seemed genuinely interested in what I had to say. ASB Officer showed such empathy to what I have gone through and the effects that it has been having on both my physical and mental health.

”

- 2.10. As we transition out of the pilot phase, we will commit to delivering this work, to ensure residents continue to feel happy and proud to live in Camden. A key component of this review has been to increase the use of our statutory enforcement powers under the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This has included use of Closure Orders and Injunctions in our own properties, but also increased use of Community Protection Warnings (CPW) and Community Protection Notices within our newly formed Community Safety Enforcement Team.

3. **Enforcement**

- 3.1. From April 1st, 2024, the Education & Enforcement team from Environmental Services and the Community Presence Team from Community Safety merged into a single multi-disciplinary Community Safety Enforcement service. This has seen a significant expansion in the use of fixed penalty notices and other statutory powers to address environmental crime and anti-social behaviour. There have been significant benefits in bringing existing services together with enforcement functions delivered via a central team. The team consist of 22 on-street officers, which provides a greater degree of resilience and economies of scale. The Community Safety Enforcement Team is governed by three key priority work areas:

- Enviro Crime: Including a focus on commercial waste, unlicensed street trading and domestic and commercial enforcement
- Antisocial Behaviour: Tackling all forms of ASB in both the public realm and our estates. Working with partners to deliver statutory enforcement interventions to address resident concerns
- Rough Sleeping & Street Activity: Engaging with partners, providing support and appropriate use of statutory enforcement interventions



Image: Cllr Callaghan and CPOs in Russell Nurseries

- 3.2. Providing services to deal effectively with ASB will continue to be a portfolio priority across 2024-25 so that we can continue to work towards a Camden where “everyone feels safe in their homes and communities.”

4. Youth Safety

- 4.1. Our young people are extremely accomplished, and we need to create an environment where they can thrive, where through their talents they achieve their potential. They are the future of Camden, and it is critical that we keep them safe. Sadly, at the beginning of the year, we lost two young men in tragic circumstances due to youth violence. Each incident is devastating for their families, friends and communities and we are determined that through the work of our integrated youth service staff and partners we will ensure, as much as we can, that we provide services that help keep our young people safe and resilient.
- 4.2. We are determined to take a systemic and grassroots approach to tackling and preventing youth violence. Together we can make change, which is why we have committed to taking a whole community approach to acting on the roots of youth exploitation and focusing on protecting our young people.
- 4.3. Our Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation Service (RYVE) leads on the response to any incidents of serious youth violence within Camden. The Service works in partnership to ensure safeguarding of children, vulnerable people and their families, and effectively communicates with partners in the council, schools, Voluntary and Community Services (VCS) and neighbouring boroughs to ensure a joined-up response and provide reassurance in the communities most affected. RYVE has continued to develop the Council’s understanding of the current context of youth violence and the risks faced by children and young people.
- 4.4. The main area of exploitation of young people in Camden continued to be the supply of drugs, however theft and robbery have become increasingly common. Whilst offending ‘groups’ and criminal groups are active; these often differ from

our previous understanding of gangs in the borough. Increasingly, we see smaller peer groups of children who are exploited and/or involved in ongoing conflict leading to serious youth violence, but these groups are more fractured and less stable than would be associated with a 'gang'. Conflict between peer groups, including relating to schools, has been identified as an indicator of subsequent risk of youth violence and exploitation and our integrated youth service play a key role in engaging and supporting to deliver high quality and effective services.

- 4.5. We measure youth violence by tracking the number of young people aged 1-24 who were victims of non-domestic knife crime with injury. In the 12 months up to July 2024, there were 27 youth victims, this is the lowest annual total for two years. Despite fluctuations, this reflects a continued downward trend from the peak of 101 victims in February 2018, which is indicative of the good partnership work undertaken by our youth services.
- 4.6. Following a post-pandemic decline, youth involvement in crime is gradually increasing. Violence and robbery are the most common offences, as we had anticipated. The number of children accessing the Youth Justice Service is low, with an average of 50-60 children's cases open at any one time in 2024. Throughout 2024, there has been an increase in the number of children entering the Youth Justice Service (First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System), with 34 from April 23- March 24, an increase of 10 from the previous year. The same period saw sustained low custody figures, with no children receiving custodial sentences, though the use of remand increased slightly from 3 to 7 incidents.
- 4.7. In taking a preventative approach we have made significant progress within the service in offering paid work experience placements which support children to earn legitimate income at a London living wage salary, gain skills and self-confidence, thereby reducing the appeal of criminal activities which carry high risk.

Our Preventative Approach

- 4.8. Camden Summer University: From 23 July to 25 August 2024, we partnered with organisations including the British Library, London Zoo, and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to hold the annual free programme for young people aged 13-19 in Camden. We offered 70 courses ranging from half-day to week-long sessions.
- 4.9. We also ensured any young person with additional needs was supported to attend any course, as well offering three specialist courses in partnership with the Integrated Youth Support Service Disability Project. We have 693 young people registered to take part in Camden Summer University, of these 265 are eligible for free school meals, 91 young people registered with a disability and 35 are looked after young people. We also ensured any young person with additional needs was supported to attend any course, as well as offering three specialist courses in partnership with the Integrated Youth Support Service Disability Project.

- 4.10. The Regent's Park Community Guardianship Project: This project focuses on the key principles of being community based and community led, so benefits a wider group of young people. This embeds both skills and knowledge of the area and its residents thereby creating resilience for the groups involved. From November 2023 to March 2024, the Young Guardians have met weekly and developed a community safeguarding workshop, hosted a Winter Wellbeing event, and received positive feedback. At the Winter Wellbeing gathering the Young Guardians printed a large map and asked over 200 residents where they felt safe, and unsafe and to consider where they thought young people may feel safe. From the feedback, they made some minor amendments and started to promote their training officially to professionals in Regent's Park Ward but also surrounding areas. In total, they have trained over 90 professionals and community members, ranging from local primary school teachers and headteachers, caretakers, youth workers, police and community safety teams who work across the Euston area, Community Champions Regent's Park estate, early help and social work teams and local workers from community and arts centres in the area.
- 4.11. MyEnds Partnership: We received funding of £140,000 per year for two years from London Mayors Office for Policing and Crime - Violence Reduction Unit (MOPAC-VRU) to expand the Guardian programme to Somers Town Area. An additional £100,000 per year will support enforcement and youth engagement in Camden, targeting robbery hotspots and vulnerable young people after school (3-6pm). This aligns with the 2024-27 Community Safety Partnership Plan's focus on reducing serious violence.
- 4.12. Youth Hubs: Our locality-based youth hubs and voluntary sector youth organisations offer a range of activities during term time and holidays for young people, keeping them engaged, safe and reducing the risk of young people involved in high-risk activities in the communities. From April 2023 and March 2024, over 3700 young people accessed youth provision in the borough.

5. Community Cohesion and Addressing Hate Crime

- 5.1. Camden is known and celebrated for its diversity and inclusion of every individual; this is part of its unique and proud identity. Our borough is no place for hate, and over the past year we have supported and led initiatives to promote social cohesion, address hate crime, and ensure that everyone feels welcome and safe in our borough.
- 5.2. In our population, global issues do transcend to the local level and have an impact on our resident's day to day lives. We have been horrified by the atrocities taking place in Gaza and Israel and have made it our priority to offer high levels of visibility and engagement with faith communities across the borough. Although we are conscious that what is happening in Israel and Gaza is not a conflict of faiths, we are mindful of its exacerbated impact on Muslim and Jewish residents.

- 5.3. The Council has delivered a number of activities to ensure we continue to promote and strengthen community cohesion. The Community Safety Service has played a significant role in delivering these services; increasing visible presence patrolling and engagement in partnership with the Met Police, reassigning employees to the Community Safety Enforcement Team as well as providing reassurance to synagogues, mosques and priority locations/venues.
- 5.4. Over the past year, global tensions have risen since October 7th and in Camden we saw the impact of this with an increase in hate crimes, hate-based graffiti, and a notable rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents.
- 5.5. In response to rising tension and acts of hate, we strengthened our work in partnership with the Camden voluntary and community sector (VCS) to provide spaces for discussion and cross-cultural engagement. This included:
- Weekly online Camden Inter-faith Network meetings held after the conflict outbreak, providing a space for sharing concerns and fostering empathy. Feedback highlighted their importance for inter-faith allyship.
 - Increased reassurance and engagement patrols with CSEOs and police, focusing on mosques and synagogues, with over 1,500 patrols conducted from October 2023 to August 2024.
 - We held two Community Engagement meetings in early 2024 with the Jewish and Muslim communities to address challenges and promote actions for cohesion.
 - Hosting initiatives promoting community cohesion, including inter-faith coffee mornings, a Ramadan iftar, and the first Camden Faith & Belief Community Awards in May 2024.
 - Provided small grants for community and inter-faith events to foster cohesion across different communities and faiths.
- 5.6. For International Women’s Day in March 2024, we supported a ‘Peace of Cake’ event to build connections between people of different faiths. In addition to a panel discussion, the event featured sharing cakes at tables where people were encouraged to voice their perspectives and discuss important issues, particularly those faced by women.



Image: Camden Faith & Belief Community Awards, May 2024

- 5.7. The Camden Tension Monitoring Group (TMG) – which includes representation across the council in addition to the police - also continued to provide useful analysis and monitoring of international, national, and local events that may cause community tensions in Camden. In 2024, the TMG initiated a new Risk Management Tracker system, which is used to coordinate a unified response and provide reassurance and support where needed.
- 5.8. In late July and early August 2024, we were deeply saddened by the tragic killings of three young girls in Southport. The violence that then followed by far-right extremists brought mass chaos and disruption across the country. The scenes of violence and in particular, the anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim targeting, was appalling and left many of our communities feeling fearful.
- 5.9. The Council proactively partnered with the police to protect residents, especially those in asylum housing and muslim communities. Our Council leadership conducted reassurance visits, while our CSEOs increased joint patrols with police at key locations across the borough.
- 5.10. Many in Camden, like across the UK, faced racist and Islamophobic hate crimes during this time. Although we did not see the far right take to the streets of Camden, the distress and unease this has caused across the country is immeasurable. During a door knocking exercise we heard many residents recount how they felt deeply concerned about leaving their homes during this period of time.

Initiatives to Prevent and Mitigate Hate Crime

- 5.11. We know that communities experience many barriers to reporting hate crime, including language barriers, technological barriers, and a lack of trust and confidence that the police and Council will act upon reports.
- 5.12. We have responded to these concerns by developing a community based ‘Hate Crime Prevention Champions’ initiative, which will empower local organisations to provide support to their residents. By working directly with these trusted organisations, we aim to break down the barriers to reporting, and ensure that communities receive the support they need in the event of any hate crime or incident.
- 5.13. This forms part of the wider working, together with the police, and will continue to increase community trust and confidence in the services we provide. It involves continuing our engagement with community organisations, in particular faith groups, and ensures that the Council responds quickly to safety concerns that are raised.

6. Community Safety Partnerships

- 6.1. We continue to strengthen our excellent partnerships across the borough and across London. This includes with the Met Police, London Fire Brigade, Mayors Office for Policing and Crime, schools and universities, businesses, and with the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

- 6.2. Camden Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are a requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and consist of representatives from the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, health partners, and probation services (all known as the ‘responsible authorities’). The responsible authorities work together to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in their communities. The Camden CSP aims to:
- Create a safer borough for people to live, work, and visit
 - Work in partnership to deliver local priorities that address crime and disorder
 - Deliver local, regional and national priorities.
- 6.3. In response to the Home Office Review of CSPs conducted in March 2023, we undertook a comprehensive internal analysis aimed at strengthening our collaboration with key partners to ensure the safety and well-being of residents across the borough. This initiative consisted of two distinct components: the CSP Review and an Internal Audit of Partnerships.
- 6.4. The CSP Review involved interviews with external partners and a self-assessment to evaluate the Board’s compliance with statutory requirements. The Internal Audit of Partnerships focused on two critical Council boards: the CSP Board and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. The audit examined governance arrangements, information sharing practices, partnership effectiveness, benefits management and risk management.
- 6.5. Key recommendations included appointing the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities as CSP Chair, establishing new operational principles, defining roles and responsibilities for partners, and setting annual strategic priorities with performance metrics. The Board will also invite faith and community group representatives to relevant meetings, hold two of six annual meetings in a hybrid format and ensure transparency by making all documentation publicly available. These recommendations were adopted by the CSP Board in March 2024, and we have been actively implementing them to position Camden ahead of the curve in response to the Home Office’s CSP review.
- 6.6. In March 2024, we completed our annual Strategic Assessment for 2023/24, the purpose of which is to identify trends, patterns and drivers of crime and antisocial behaviour. The key findings are detailed below. The insights gained from this assessment have enabled the partnership to set clear priorities, develop intelligence-led activity and deploy resources effectively.



6.7. The Camden Community Safety Partnership Board agreed the following five priorities for the 2024/25 year:

- Drug Related Activity
- Serious Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Women's Safety
- No Place for Hate.

- 6.8. These priorities are detailed in the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024 – 2027, which outlines our commitment to working collaboratively with all partner agencies to enhance safety across the borough. To achieve these priorities, the Camden CSP has established a structure that brings together partners at a strategic, performance and operational level. The plan will be implemented by the CSP subgroups, where key partners will support the delivery of local priorities. The plan is reviewed annually to evaluate performance based on the latest strategic assessment and to ensure that resources are directed toward emerging local needs. Through this collaborative effort across the CSP and jointly with our communities, we are committed to making Camden safer for everyone.
- 6.9. Collaboration with the Police: The Council has worked in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service over the summer to successfully implement the Summer Nights Plan. This initiative, coordinated with Community Safety, Integrated Youth Support Services, and the Police Borough Command Unit, focused on four key areas: reducing robbery, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), serious youth violence, and violence linked to the Evening and Night-time Economy (ENTE).
- 6.10. Key achievements include supporting the deployment of knife amnesty bins in hotspot locations and daily weapon sweeps, a proven method to prevent serious harm. Joint patrols, evening and night-time economy focussed partnership shifts and collaboration with council, police and voluntary sector contributed to the plan's success.
- 6.11. Cuckooing is where the properties of vulnerable residents are exploited by groups engaged in crime for drug related and criminal offences. Our Addresses of Concern (AOCs) list consolidates information across partnerships creating a clear multi agency approach to tackle the issue. In November 2023, there were 138 addresses of concern. As of September 2024, this number has dropped to 70, representing an overall 49.3% reduction. This significant decrease reflects ongoing efforts to manage addresses of concern more effectively across the borough. We continue to develop our best practice-based approach towards tackling issues relating to cuckooing which often impacts the most vulnerable residents. This also forms an important aspect of our approach towards disrupting local illegal drugs markets.
- 6.12. There are a number of high-profile instances where Camden Community Safety and Housing services have worked in partnership with the Met Police Borough Command Unit to tackle cuckooing via issuing Closure Orders in order to address offending behaviour. Over the last 12 month period nine Closure Orders were issued by the Council to disrupt drug related offending behaviour and provide support to vulnerable residents impacted by criminal activity.
- 6.13. We have also partnered with the police through Operation Pantera and Project Adder to tackle Addresses of Concern (AOCs) by providing comprehensive support to affected individuals, closing intelligence gaps on organised crime, launching preventative safeguarding efforts, and targeting key perpetrators. By

using collaborative data systems, we have proactively identified vulnerable residents, enabling early interventions. These initiatives underscore our commitment to preventing violence and enhancing community safety.

- 6.14. We continue to support the Met Police Borough Command Unit to further develop the proactive/intelligence led approach towards local policing. We recognise the need to engage with local communities in order to provide reassurance and highlight the importance of local intelligence in supporting the delivery of targeted policing/enforcement activity.
- 6.15. We recognise the importance of Community crime-fighting within the Metropolitan Police 'A New Met for London' plan which reinforces the Met Police commitment to neighbourhood policing, rebuilding trust and tackling both crime and anti-social behaviour.

7. Safeguarding against Radicalisation (Prevent Duty)

- 7.1. During this reporting period the Home Office ceased their funding to Camden which supported us with the delivery of the Prevent Duty. This is part of the move away from a local to a regional model of delivery and will see many other London boroughs needing to find ways to resource this important work. It is a retrograde step in this significant duty.
- 7.2. Camden has recognised that the risk of people being drawn into terrorism has not reduced, in fact the threat picture has become more diversified and complex and thus harder to mitigate risk. The change in funding from our previous government, although unfortunate and onerous, will mean Camden will align activity ever more strongly with our guiding principles whilst maintaining the statutory duties of Prevent and Channel.
- 7.3. Preventing radicalisation is a cross departmental, multi-agency safeguarding approach led by the Community Safety Team. Camden has adopted an early intervention and prevention approach, in line with other areas of safeguarding. Prevent is delivered through building relationships, understanding starting points, supporting development of strengths-based approaches, across the Council and in the community.
- 7.4. Ensuring that activity is aligned with identified risk is a key emphasis of the refreshed Prevent Duty 2023. In Camden our efforts to understand risk factors, which may make people particularly vulnerable to being drawn into radicalisation, are ongoing.
- 7.5. Every year Camden is an active partner in a comprehensive assessment of local threat, carried out by the police. As a result of the above approaches, Camden is able to establish annual priorities.
- 7.6. The Camden Prevent Steering Group and partners are focusing on several priorities. This includes: addressing divisive rhetoric and extremist thinking, the role of the internet in radicalisation, vulnerabilities across age groups (especially under 25), a range of ideologies (including Islamist and Extreme

Right Wing), mental health and neurodivergence, trauma-informed approaches to radicalisation and environments that allow extremist narratives to spread.

- 7.7. Over the course of the year, we undertook several proactive initiatives to build resilience to extremism in the borough. This included development of joint workshop with Voluntary Action Camden for holiday activity providers promoting safeguarding and prevention of radicalisation among children and young people under 25. The face-to-face workshop was delivered just before the start of the summer holidays.
- 7.8. We also held a workshop to raise awareness of the risk of far-right extremism for Camden staff and community organisations working with families. The workshop was led by a mother who had experienced her son being drawn into the far right. This offered a strengths-based approach and provided new ways to think about how Camden works with families in these circumstances.
- 7.9. At the start of each year the Prevent Lead also meets new school SENDCos and attends the SENDCo forum to deliver information on autism and radicalisation. Our work to support those working with people with autism who may be vulnerable to radicalisation also includes delivering training for our Channel panel, and ensuring all Channel interventions consider the need for autism expertise in interaction with individuals.
- 7.10. An expert group was convened to explore how extreme groups may target people with autism. The Community Safety Service Manager will also be attending the Autism Partnership Board for this reason. The Camden Safeguarding Against Radicalisation Lead was also part of the Department for Education (DfE) sub-group on radicalisation and autism. Findings from the subgroup and DfE commissioned research were widely shared.
- 7.11. Preventing radicalisation is a priority across Camden and therefore we rely on strong relationships and partnerships to carry out this work. This year we have begun to measure those partnerships to assess the impact and sustainability of our work practice. We recognise that the journey towards embedded approaches can take time and there is value in all partnership levels; from communication to training to joint working to embedded approaches.

8. Drug Misuse

- 8.1. We want everyone in Camden to feel safe and secure in their homes and on our streets. We're dedicated to actively preventing and tackling drug dealing and unsafe use of drugs and alcohol. This is the issue of most concern to many residents and our multi-agency approach to tackling this is vital to achieving our ambition to reduce drug activity.
- 8.2. Camden's Community Drugs Partnership (CDP) has been formed, with two active sub-groups focused on Criminal Justice and Community Safety, and mental and physical health. These sub-groups met bi-monthly and played a key role in shaping proposals for Camden's 2024-25 Supplementary Substance

Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG). However, the main Board has yet to meet. Health and Wellbeing Officers plan to combine the two sub-groups to form a “Strategic Group”. The first meeting of the new group will take place in October 2024.

- 8.3. The Local Outcomes Framework incorporates a number of measures including Police recorded trafficking of drugs and possession of drug offences; the Number of county lines closed; the Number of major and moderate disruptions against organised crime groups; the Number of drug seizures; Drug Testing on Arrest. The key measures for drug and alcohol treatment services are as follows:

Numbers of People Engaging in Treatment

	End of Q4 2023/24 Performance	Current Performance Data (May 2024)
All adults “in structured treatment”	1648	1809
Opiates	920	946
Non opiates (combined non-opiate only and non-opiates and alcohol)	412	468
Alcohol	316	395
Young People	52	56

- 8.4. Continuity of Care: This is the percentage of people who access the community substance misuse services (which operate across the borough) within 21 days of release from prison (12 months rolling data).

Continuity of care	End of Q4 2023/24 Performance ambition	Current Performance Data (May 2024)
	32%	42%

- 8.5. Drug and Alcohol Needs assessment: The Camden Health and Wellbeing Department produced a drug and alcohol needs assessment, which was published in March 2024 to inform the decision-making process relating to the

allocation of grant funding. This is publicly available via the Camden Council website: [Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment 2024](#).

- 8.6. Over the past 12 months, high-strength opioids have surged nationwide. In Camden, there were a spate of non-fatal overdoses and one overdose death in summer 2023 linked to these opioids. Police intelligence and additional drug harm incidents suggest ongoing adulterated supply locally, in London, and nationally. There is also increasing evidence of adulterated supplies in other drugs, including benzodiazepines, some of which are likely purchased online.
- Our comprehensive drug and alcohol treatment and support offer is also being developed with a key focus on increasing numbers of people accessing treatment. This includes:
 - Engaging individuals in treatment who are also in contact with the criminal justice system can help prevent re-offending.
 - Approximately 1,810 people are accessing treatment, with Change Grow Live (CGL) working to increase this number by implementing a number of interventions.
 - Focusing on encouraging early support for those concerned about their alcohol use.
 - Ensuring a robust response to high-strength opioids, considering licensing and legal limitations.
 - Better understand and address the drug and alcohol needs of under-represented groups.
 - Developing closer ties with mental health services to support residents with co-occurring issues, including addressing barriers to mental health support.
 - Supporting people with no recourse to public funds (e.g., refugees, asylum seekers) and strengthening links with homelessness prevention services to identify and address drug and alcohol needs early.

9. Rough Sleeping

- 9.1. A key We Make Camden ambition is that “Everyone in Camden should have a place they call home.” The lack of affordable accommodation, fewer rental properties and increasingly high rents has meant many people have had no other choice but to sleep rough. Camden is a place where everyone matters – we’re clear that no-one should be sleeping rough and everyone should have a place to call home. Our central London location coupled with having one of the biggest international travel hubs in the country, means we are seeing higher numbers of people sleeping rough. It’s heartbreaking to see people living on our streets and we’re using all our powers to support those most vulnerable into safe and secure housing.
- 9.2. Camden remains one of the top five UK Local Authorities most affected by rough sleeping, second only to Westminster in London. In 2023/24, the borough experienced a 26% rise in rough sleeping, with 903 individuals recorded, up from 719 the previous year. Of these, 55% were new to rough sleeping, 28% had been identified previously, and 17% were returning. The complex needs of

this population, ranging from substance use to mental health issues, poses significant challenges.

- 9.3. To combat these issues, Camden has enhanced its multi-agency approach, integrating health outreach services like the Health Outreach Pilot (HOP). Quarterly rough sleeping counts continue, with the most recent in June 2024 identifying 112 people, a significant rise from 64 in June 2023. This increase has been ongoing since 2020, despite dwindling government funding through the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI).
- 9.4. A large proportion of Camden's rough sleepers are non-UK nationals. Data from Q1 2024-25 shows only 45.3% are UK citizens, with the rest from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The increase is partly due to individuals leaving National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation following the previous government's Home Office asylum decisions, asking individuals to leave their lodgings after 26 days, with London Councils reporting an estimated 311 refugees sleeping rough across the city in March 2024.
- 9.5. Routes off the Streets: Our Routes off the Streets (RTS) outreach team is dedicated to assessing individuals who are rough sleeping and offering tailored solutions to help them rebuild their lives. These options include:
 - National or international reconnection through Connect Forward
 - Short-stay accommodations like the 165 Project, Camden Respite Rooms and St Giles
 - Private rented accommodation
 - Longer-term hostel stays within the Adult Pathway
- 9.6. From December 2023 to June 2024, RTS successfully moved 255 people into accommodation:
 - December 2023: 49
 - January to March 2024: 158
 - April to June 2024: 48
- 9.7. Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP): Each year, Camden's rough sleeping team prepares for severe weather by securing emergency accommodations. This year, we expanded available spaces through partnerships with Swiss Cottage Library and Conway House, which served as resting centres. SWEP operated from 8 to 22 January 2024. During this time:
 - 183 people were referred to SWEP accommodation
 - 109 of those referrals accepted the offer, marking our highest single SWEP housing outcome.
- 9.8. The increase in successful housing outcomes from January to March 2024 is largely due to our effective SWEP response and commitment to keeping individuals 'in for good' whenever possible.

- 9.9. Commissioned Services – Rough Sleeping Initiative and beyond: Camden, in partnership with CGL, operates the Routes off The Streets outreach and day centre and several other commissioned services to prevent and address rough sleeping. Although off-the-street accommodation is vital, demand often exceeds supply, and the shortage of affordable move-on options, particularly within Local Housing Allowance rates, hampers transition out of temporary housing.
- 9.10. This year, we expanded capacity by investing in 16 new beds at Gray's Inn Road, offering psychologically informed support and set to open in Autumn 2024. Additionally, our Housing First initiative, funded by the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme.
- 9.11. Off-the-street accommodation in Camden includes:
- **165 Rough Sleeping Hub**: 16 beds in Kings Cross, operated by the Single Homeless Project (SHP), providing support for men and women.
 - **Camden Respite Rooms**: A 15-bed women-only service, operated by SHP in partnership with Women at The Well and Camden Safety Net, supporting women who have experienced violence or abuse.
 - **St Giles**: 15 beds for those with lower support needs, including those without recourse to public funds, in collaboration with Westminster City Council.
 - **Finchley Hub**: 12 beds commissioned with the North London Housing Partnership.
- 9.12. Specialist support services include:
- **SHP Navigators**: Offering 1-to-1 intensive support for those with entrenched homelessness.
 - **Immigration Service**: A multi-borough service aiding those with immigration issues.
 - **Connect Forward**: Supporting clients with no local connection to Camden.
 - **Homelessness Prevention Advisor**: A new role providing tailored advice for rough sleepers.
 - **Floating Support**: Assisting individuals in maintaining their tenancies.
- 9.13. Partnerships: Camden has a long history of collaboration in health and social care within homelessness services, a relationship that was strengthened during the pandemic through essential multi-disciplinary teamwork. Current partnerships supporting rough sleepers in Camden include:
- **Cross-borough Mental and Physical Health Pilot**: Funded by NHS England, this project integrates mental health, physical health, and peer support with partners including UCLH, Focus Mental Health, Inroads, and Likewise. Its success has secured ongoing funding from the North Central

London Integrated Care Board, becoming central to the homeless health system.

- **Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) in Hostel Pathway:** A Social Worker and Nurses from UCLH and Camden's Adult Social Care team are embedded in hostels.
- **Drug and Alcohol Teams:** Joint outreach by Camden's team, Inroads, and CGL Substance Misuse Service addresses drug and alcohol issues.

9.14. Given that over one-third of rough sleeping in London occurs in Camden or Westminster, central London boroughs face unique challenges. Camden plays a crucial role in developing collaborative solutions with neighbouring boroughs and the North London sub-region. Key initiatives include:

- **St Giles Project:** A central London accommodation and support project providing a safe route away from rough sleeping for transient groups.
- **Cold Weather Shelter:** A joint severe weather offer with Westminster during extended cold spells, hosted by Connections at St Martins.
- **Support for Women:** Camden participated in the National Women's Rough Sleeping Census, led by Solace in partnership with key organisations. Findings and recommendations from this survey have been shared with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government.

9.15. Reviewing our rough sleeping services: Following the Section 35 dispersal order at Huntley Street on December 10, 2023, Camden Council investigated, with findings and recommendations [here](#).

9.16. One key recommendation was a comprehensive review of Camden's rough sleeping services. This review, led by Jess McGregor, Executive Director of Adults and Health, was presented to the Housing Scrutiny Committee in July 2024: (Public Pack) Agenda Document for Housing Scrutiny Committee, 16/07/2024.

9.17. In response to the review, the Council reactivated its Homelessness Partnership Forum, holding meetings in April and July 2024. The forum's terms of reference were co-produced with key stakeholders, focusing on several key areas. First, a collaborative approach to unite the Council, commissioned services, and the voluntary sector to make rough sleeping rare, brief, and non-recurring. Inclusion of lived experience is prioritised, ensuring that the voices and ideas of those who have experienced homelessness directly inform and enhance services.

9.18. The forum also emphasises shared learning, promoting the exchange of best practices, data, and insights across organisations to improve service provision and address gaps. Additionally, it seeks to identify and test innovative methods to reduce rough sleeping while coordinating existing efforts. A consistent, trauma-informed approach across all services supporting homeless individuals is a central focus, ensuring that care is sensitive and effective. Finally, the forum

aims to develop a unified regional and national advocacy organisation to influence systemic changes and improve local service delivery.

- 9.19. We want to welcome collaborative work with different agencies and their impact on the lives of rough sleepers.

10. Violence Against Women and Girls

- 10.1. Gender targeted violence is an unfortunate reality women and girls face on a day-to-day basis. From a call to a friend for support whilst we walk our streets, to taking longer routes to avoid paths where there may be perpetrators, our free movement is restricted. At Camden we have been working conscientiously to ensure we are doing our best to create a safer society for women and also hold men accountable for their actions. For too long, conversations have centred around the actions women need to take to protect themselves, rather than placing the onus on tackling male violence. Our male allies play a vital role towards achieving the objective of tackling violence against women and girls and preventing it from taking place for future generations. Our approach must be co-ordinated and recognise the root cause, misogyny and gender inequality.
- 10.2. Within the Camden Community Safety Partnership Action Plan 2024-2027, we outline our plans to promote women's safety in public spaces and to address gender-related crime.
- 10.3. Camden has also adopted the Women's Night Safety Charter, which is part of the Mayor of London's 'Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy' and London's commitment to the UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces global initiative. The charter sets guidance for venues, operators, charities, councils and businesses to improve safety at night for women.
- 10.4. In March 2022, Camden launched a new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) board. It brings together council officers with the police, health services and community and voluntary groups, all dedicated to combatting VAWG. Most importantly, it includes representatives from those with lived experience of domestic abuse and is attended by the Camden Voices Against Abuse (CVAA) group. The Board drives forward the borough's partnership work to eliminate domestic abuse, sexual harassment and other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls. The Board met quarterly across 2023 where we covered a broad range of topics including housing, children and young people, mental health and police response.
- 10.5. In January 2023, Cabinet endorsed the Council's overall We Make Camden vision statement: "Camden is a place where Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is unacceptable and not tolerated. We want to reduce levels of VAWG in Camden, to broaden, enrich and increase the levels of support to survivors of VAWG and their families, and to deal with perpetrators". Cabinet also endorsed the six pillars underpinning our work:

- Raise awareness and break the stigma across all parts of the community
 - Identify everyone affected by VAWG at the earliest opportunity
 - Support those affected by VAWG to access the help they need to be safe
 - Seek to take action to change and stop the behaviour of offenders and the conditions that enable them to offend
 - Ensuring that women and girls are safe in the public realm
 - Taking a Public Health approach to tackling and eliminating VAWG
- 10.6. We are actively engaged with and informed about the police’s Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy. The Borough Command Unit’s (BCU) Delivery Plan for 2024-2025 outlines its strategic goals, including those aimed at enhancing the safety of women and girls. The BCU plans to establish a Strategic Partnership Board to oversee the implementation of this plan, with senior Council officers joining the Board. This will enhance communication and collaboration between the Council and the police.
- 10.7. In February 2024, Cllr Djemai, the Cabinet Adviser for Reducing VAWG, produced a report of recommendations on addressing violence in the public realm so that we make the necessary progress to reach our goals. The report, titled ‘Reducing Violence and Abuse for Women and Girls’ contained recommendations for the Council’s work in partnership with the police, community organisations and local women’s groups including those with lived experience. We have taken prompt action in line with the report’s recommendations.
- 10.8. One of the recommendations from our report was that a yearly, themed Community Safety meeting should be held on a borough-wide level, in order to increase awareness and public discourse related to violence against women and girls. The first annual event of this nature is being planned and will take place before the end of the year.
- 10.9. Another recommendation was that the Council could make better use of our bus stops to promote campaign material. In July 2024 we launched a new campaign “call it out” to help keep women and girls safe by encouraging people to safely intervene when they witness sexual harassment or any type of inappropriate behaviour. This campaign was prominently displayed at Camden bus stops, as well as at various other locations across the borough.
- 10.10. In line with the recommendation that campaigns are done with residents and not to residents, the campaign was designed in partnership with Camden residents, including women with lived experience.



Image: A poster from the campaign against sexual harassment

- 10.11. White Ribbon Day (25 November 2023) and the 16 days of action which followed in Camden as part of the campaign provided an opportunity to raise awareness of domestic abuse against women and girls. This important campaign continues to influence the development of the Camden VAWG strategy as it aligns with Camden’s commitment to work with our statutory partners and voluntary/community organisations to address the unacceptable levels of violence against women and girls and ensure that the lived experience of survivors continues to play a central role in shaping our response.
- 10.12. Women’s Safety Walkabouts: Our Women’s Safety Walkabouts continue to be delivered as a priority, to provide an opportunity to obtain extremely important information about the challenges faced by women during their daily lives. In far too many instances we hear about how women need to make changes to the daily routines in order to ensure that they feel safe. This is unacceptable and continues to influence our broader approach towards the safety of women in public. By engaging directly with women and listening to their experiences and concerns, the Council can identify areas for improvement and develop targeted strategies to enhance safety measures and create more inclusive and secure environments for all residents.
- 10.13. Camden Safety Net: Camden Safety Net (CSN) is the front-line service providing advice and support to those who present as high and medium risk of domestic abuse. Referral routes are well developed from agencies both within and outside the Council. Work is now completed on the website to facilitate self-referrals and completion of updated information. This work was co-produced by Camden Voices Against Abuse (CVAA) who provided very useful insight.
- 10.14. This year, CSN received 1,240 referrals, with 54% being new and 46% repeat. Most referrals came from Children and Young People services, with increases in self-referrals, referrals from Adult and Safeguarding and a rise in Housing referrals towards the end of the year. Notably, police referrals decreased over time. On a positive note, fewer clients are declining services and more are being accepted as domestic violence and abuse (DVA) clients.

- 10.15. Our frontline practitioners are co-located in different service areas to provide advice and advocacy to those who most need it. Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocates (IDSVAs) are co-located in; Holborn Police Station, Royal Free Hospital, University College Hospital, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).
- 10.16. Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC): The MARAC Steering Group continues to meet with the purpose of monitoring, evaluating and providing support to the MARAC. Camden MARAC hears on average 25 cases every two weeks and over the past years there has been an increase in referrals. The number of cases discussed at MARAC between July 2023- June 2024 was 478 cases, which is above the national average.
- 10.17. Navigator Service: The Domestic Violence and Abuse Navigators (DVAN) service improves the safety and wellbeing of survivors facing multiple disadvantages in Camden. The service is funded by the Mayor's office and jointly commissioned by Camden's housing, learning support and VAWG teams provide assertive outreach, advocacy and holistic wrap-around support to women impacted by gender-based violence and multiple disadvantages who face complex and intersecting risks and are often struggling to access other services. The navigators support survivors around anything else they need such as attending their GP and other appointments with them, support setting up their benefits, support to maintain their tenancies and often a cup of tea and a chat to reduce isolation.
- 10.18. Many of the survivors supported by the project have experienced long histories of trauma and abuse, so often find it very difficult to trust services. The success of the navigators relies on building up trusting relationships with women over time. However, once the trust and relationships are built this can meaningfully support service users to take steps towards their recovery.
- 10.19. To enable the navigators to provide intensive and relational support their caseloads are low, and they will likely support the same women for a long time into effective long-term interventions. The project has accepted 20 referrals since it mobilised in May 2023.
- 10.20. As well as direct support to survivors, the navigators provide indirect support to survivors via other professionals, such as delivering training, as members on advice panels and through the provision of advice drop-in surgeries as a specialist VAWG and multiple disadvantages service.
- 10.21. Domestic Abuse Navigators: The Domestic Abuse Navigator team is now fully embedded in the service complimenting and enhancing existing offer. Over the first year, they have directly supported 20 survivors between the age of 17 and 48, with a wide range of challenges including violence against women and girls, benefits, mental health, substance misuse and more. Having a small and intensive caseload of five survivors per navigator is essential to the work.

- 10.22. Over the first year, 282 face-to-face meetings with survivors were arranged, with an average 54% attendance rate; meaning that 525 meetings were initially scheduled. This reflects the barriers survivors face to attending face-to-face support sessions. With an estimated average duration of 2.5 hours, this equals approximately 705 hours of direct support, not including phone calls, outreach, texts or travel time.
- 10.23. DA Navigators have supported survivors to attend 259 appointments with other services including housing, probation, GPs and more. Attendance at these meetings averaged 70% over the year, showing the impact our service has on improving survivors' access to external services. This reflects the hard work of the team, who will undertake assertive outreach; arriving in advance, arranging wake-up calls, taxis, bus passes and more to enable survivors to build and maintain relationships with services that may otherwise be inaccessible.
- 10.24. The team attended a total of 391 professional meetings on behalf of survivors, creating multi-disciplinary networks around them that previously had limited support. This included liaising with other services, assessing and communicating risk and advocating for the survivors.
- 10.25. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation: Our vision at Camden is to deliver exemplary Housing and Repairs Services that are proactive, responsive, relational and empathetic. We are committed to delivering a housing-led domestic abuse response, which prevents the re-traumatisation and the harm associated with homelessness through a robust, tightly coordinated and survivor-led support offer. Our journey to achieving DAHA accreditation is central to achieving this. DAHA accreditation is a best-practice approach endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for how local authorities respond to domestic abuse. This involves work across housing and repairs to develop an enhanced domestic abuse response.
- 10.26. We are undertaking a programme of work in order to achieve DAHA accreditation which includes:
- Developing domestic abuse procedures and a bespoke training offer for housing staff
 - Creating a co-produced Resident DVA Housing Policy and Survivors Handbook
 - Establishing an 'early detectors' network for staff on the front-line such as caretakers and repairs operatives
 - Developing perpetrator intervention pathways and schemes
 - Preventative support and tenancy sustainment through sanctuary measures
- 10.27. This is a long-term commitment to bring about system change and improve how we identify and respond to domestic abuse.

10.28. Legal Offer: Since May 2023, Camden Community Law Centre (CCLC) provide six weekly consultation slots either by telephone or face to face for victims/survivors of domestic abuse referred to the organisation. Face-to-face appointments happen in 5 Pancras Square. Having a clinic booked by appointment ensures we reach victims/survivors in the borough and provide a bespoke support offer which does not get absorbed into business-as-usual work as part of the Law Centre. The work involves either offering one off advice/information or if it is a more substantive issue that is within scope for Legal Aid funding, and the client is eligible, they will open a Legal Help (Legal Aid funded) file.

10.29. The support offer includes:

- Support victims and families to help navigate pathways around immigration by developing a robust legal plan
- Provide face-to-face and telephone crisis intervention, information, advocacy and support from a legal perspective
- Provide access to housing, benefits and immigration advice.
- Identify and work with victims and families to obtain suitable legal, civil and criminal remedies, housing, benefits and family support.
- Advise women of their rights and options for seeking help and support from other agencies, making referrals and co-ordinating the provision of multi-agency support where necessary, and proactively advocate to ensure barriers to accessing support and protection are minimised.
- Work within a framework of safeguarding and confidentiality.
- Provide support to approximately 100-150 victims and families in Camden

10.30. Until December 2023 a total of 54 sessions have been held with 44 clients – 42 female and 2 males.

Women's Safety in the Evening & Night-time Economy

10.31. Women's safety has been identified as an area where the risk of harm may be greater within licenced premises, hence licenced premises should act in a responsible manner to mitigate these risks.

10.32. Via our partnership with the Safer Business Network, we deliver Welfare & Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training to staff at licenced premises across Camden. So far in 2024, we have held two in-person training sessions (in March and September) in addition to a virtual session (in May). We also offer e-learning, which participants can study at their own pace. The training also covers Safe Havens, drink spiking and the 'Ask for Angela' scheme.

10.33. The target is to have 60% of the approximately 1,700 licensed venues in Camden trained by 2028 (1,020 venues total). So far, 118 venues in Camden have volunteered and have received the training.

- 10.34. The Camden Safety Bus, located in Camden Town on Friday and Saturday evenings also continues to be a safe space for anyone who is feeling vulnerable on a night out. So far in 2024, 170 people have been supported by the Safety Bus, this is a threefold increase compared to the 2023 figures.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1. Community safety continues to be an important service that responds to the worries and concerns of our residents. Central government's recognition of the importance of reclaiming our streets through raising public confidence in the police and criminal justice system, aligns with the values we have upheld within Camden for years. Nevertheless, crime and antisocial behaviour continues to impact local communities and remains a highlighted area of concern by those who live, work, study and visit the borough.
- 11.2. In our We Make Camden vision we've pledged to work towards achieving a Camden where everyone feels safe at home and on our streets. This report reflects the incredible progress we have made.
- 11.3. From our transition from Community Presence Officers (CPOs) to Community Safety Enforcement Officers (CSEOs) to our ASB taskforce trial (which we will be rolling out to more estates), I am incredibly proud of the work that has taken place over the course of this year and that is still underway.
- 11.4. Our youth safety taskforce continues to embed a culture in Camden that focuses on prevention and early intervention. Meanwhile, our drugs action partnership work continues to deliver an increased level of activity and support for young people so that our communities are deterred from both selling and using drugs.
- 11.5. We continue to work with people who have no choice but to sleep on our streets. Our dedicated outreach team, Routes off the Streets (RTS), work diligently to support each individual with tailored solutions to help them rebuild their lives.
- 11.6. Through our community safety partnership, our strong relationships with our strategic partners, the Metropolitan police, government departments and the community and voluntary sector has given us further insight into council data and the resident experience. This has enabled us as a Council to work across organisations to achieve our ultimate goal of attaining the greatest impact and better quality of life for our residents. The Summer activity plans we delivered with the Met were extremely successful and my sincere thanks to all involved in this work. I am so proud of you! We are now going forward on our Autumn nights and Winter night planning, to ensure we are maximising effectiveness and targeting the times and locations that are the biggest concern to our residents.
- 11.7. Our work reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) continues to evolve and grow through incorporating the lived experiences of the Camden

Voices Against Abuse (CVAA) so that we can ensure our services are accessible and well received. A special mention to Councillor Nasrine Djemai, Angela Mason, and the CVAA ladies for their outstanding contributions throughout the year.

- 11.8. There are so many people involved in this mission, working often behind the scenes, night and day, against difficult odds and I want to say a 'heartfelt thanks' to all of you. The council officers who contributed to this report, our colleagues in the Met, Fire Brigade, Health Service, Voluntary and Community Sector, our Community Safety Team, Housing Team, Adult Social Care Teams, and Integrated Youth Services and all other staff who relentlessly pursue the cause of justice, so that people going about their daily lives in Camden can do so safely, you make me so proud! And finally, to Hannah Bennai for your endless patience, support and goodwill have been immensely helpful.
- 11.9. Thank you. You are our quiet heroes.

12. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 12.1. The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted and has no additional comments to add.

13. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 13.1. Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are incorporated in this report.

14. Environmental Implications

- 14.1. This report should contain no significant environmental implications for Camden.

15. Appendices

- 15.1. There are no appendices added in this report.

REPORT ENDS