



**TOWER HAMLETS**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



# Community Safety Plan 2025-2029

April 2025

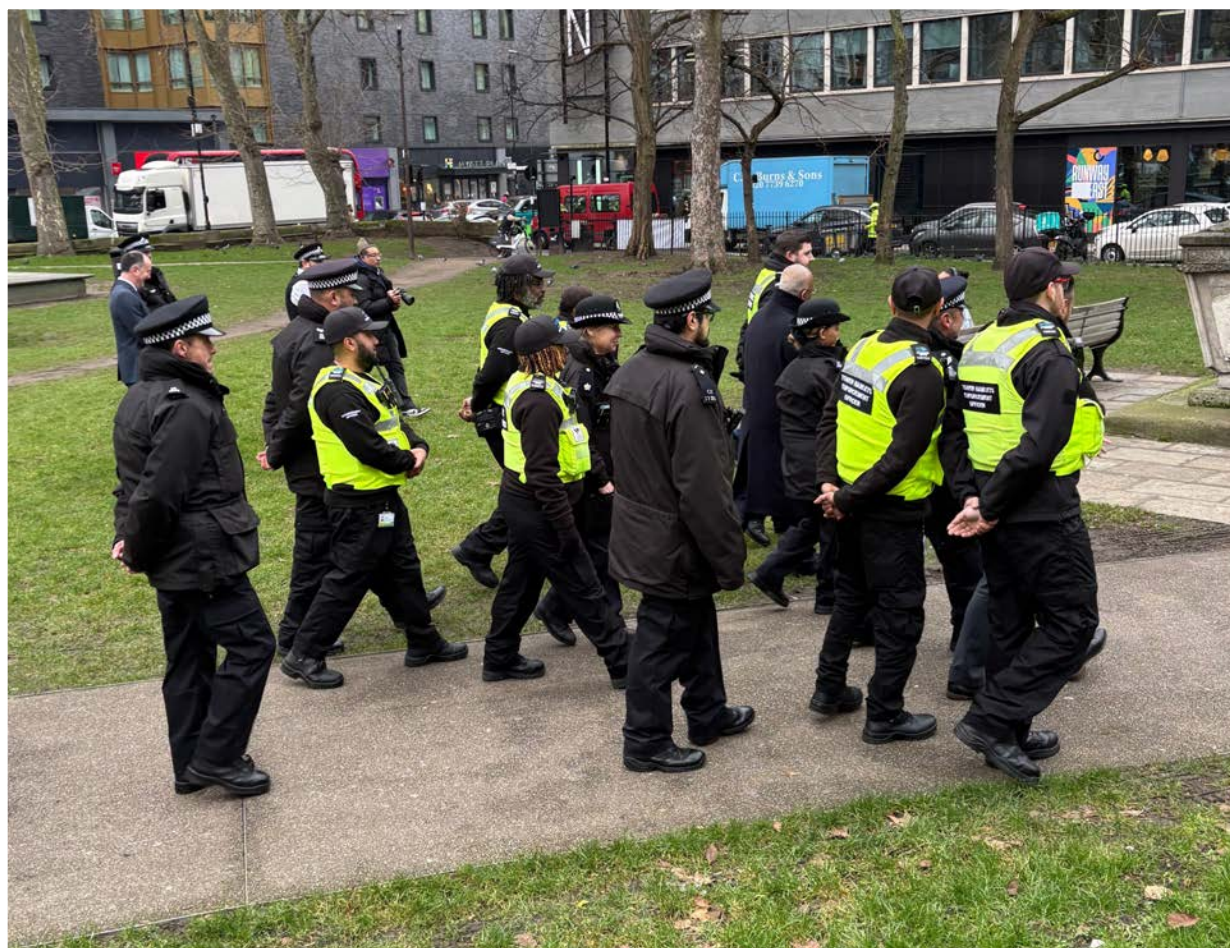
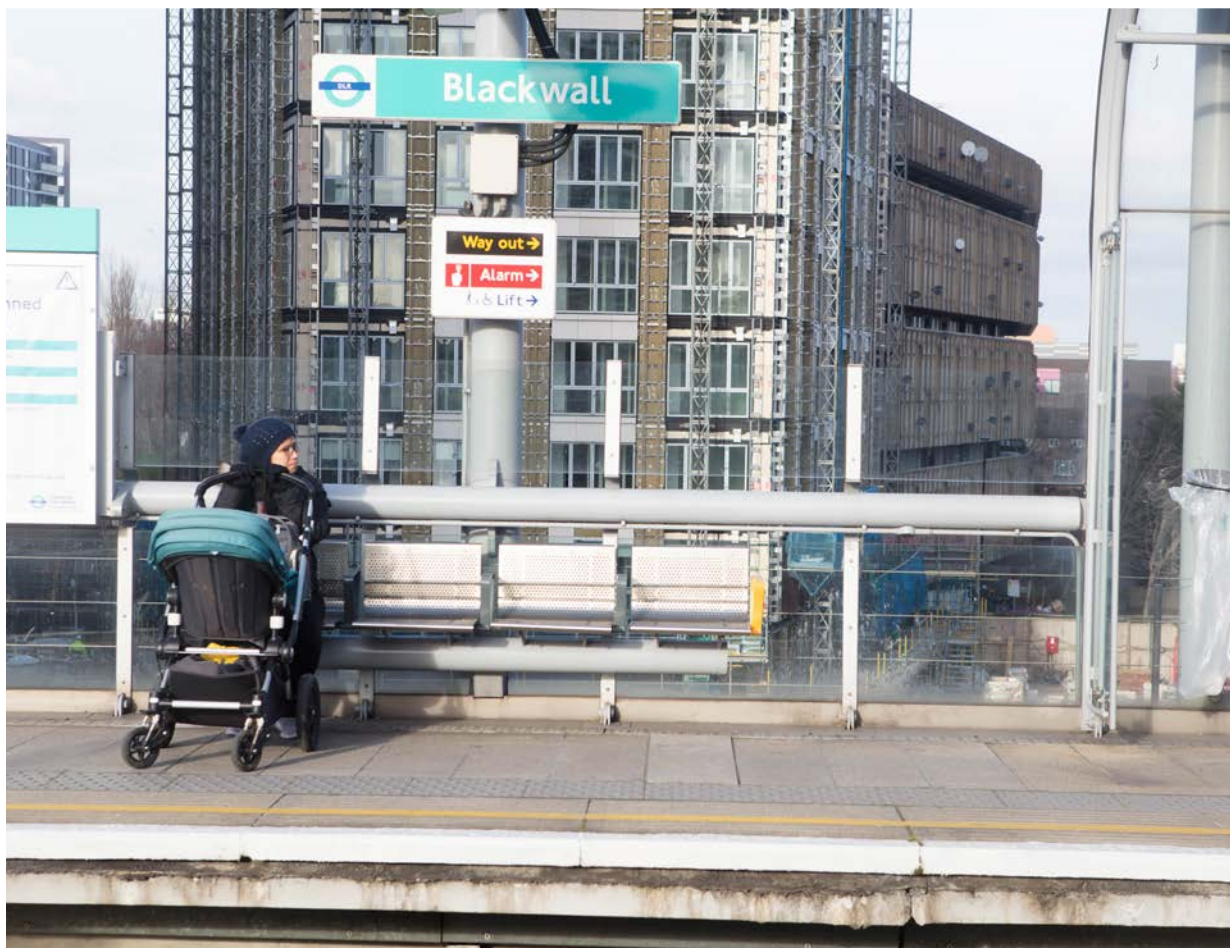
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# Foreword

Tower Hamlets is a diverse and dynamic borough, home to a vibrant mix of cultures, backgrounds, and communities. As we continue to grow and evolve, it is essential that we keep our residents safe and provide a thriving environment where everyone can feel secure, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential. We are acutely aware of the challenges that crime and disorder present in our borough and are committed to making Tower Hamlets a safer place for all.

This new Community Safety Partnership Strategy builds on extensive data analysis, community consultation, and professional insights, ensuring that we address the crime and disorder issues that matter most to our residents. The nature of criminality is ever-changing, and as such, this strategy adopts a more focused and streamlined approach, responding to emerging threats and evolving crime types. It reflects the priorities highlighted by local professionals, crime data, and, importantly, the feedback we have received from our residents, including through the annual resident's survey.

While we continue to address longstanding issues such as reoffending, and rough sleeping, this strategy places an enhanced focus on tackling the most pressing crime and disorder concerns. This targeted approach enables us to allocate our resources more efficiently and effectively, making the best use of available funding and grants. By concentrating our efforts on these priority areas, we aim to not only reduce crime but also alleviate pressure on public services, allowing us to build a stronger, more resilient community.





A key contributor to this approach is Safer Tower Hamlets: the Council's collaborative and co-ordinated community safety focused services that work alongside key partners, including the police, health services, probation, housing providers, and community groups. This collaborative approach seeks to keep residents safe and ensure our shared efforts deliver meaningful outcomes for local people.

We understand that safety is not just about policing but also about creating an environment where residents feel empowered to take responsibility for their own communities. This strategy reflects our commitment to supporting local people and ensuring that they have the tools, resources, and confidence to play an active role in keeping Tower Hamlets safe.

This partnership approach will be underpinned by ongoing collaboration with local partners, including the police, local authorities, and community groups, ensuring that we respond to the changing needs of our borough. Together, we will work to create safer spaces, reduce the demand on public services, and foster a sense of shared responsibility across Tower Hamlets.

We are excited to embark on this next phase in our work to reduce crime, improve safety, and build a more resilient Tower Hamlets. Our new strategy represents a clear, focused path forward, rooted in the needs and priorities of the people we serve. By working together, we can ensure that Tower Hamlets remains a place where everyone can feel safe, secure, and supported.



**Cllr Abu Chowdhury**  
Lead Member for Safer  
Communities &  
Co-Chair of the  
Community Safety  
Partnership Board



**Detective Chief  
Superintendent  
Brittany Clarke**  
Metropolitan Police



**Lutfur Rahman**  
Executive Mayor of  
Tower Hamlets

# Introduction

The Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is committed to further developing the strong foundations laid by local partners to tackle crime, disorder, and the complex drivers of crime. This strategic plan builds upon the valuable work already being undertaken, strengthening our collective effort to improve safety, support victims, and build resilience within our community. Central to this plan is the use of our annual strategic assessment, which provides a comprehensive understanding of the key crime-related issues facing our borough. This assessment has been instrumental in guiding our approach, ensuring that we focus on the most pressing concerns as identified by both partners and the local community.

Our new CSP plan reinforces the vision and ambitions set out in 'Our Tower Hamlets 2035'. Like the strategic vision, this plan prioritises tackling hate whilst promoting respect and tolerance; children and young people feeling safe and secure; and people feeling they can live in a clean and safe place. This plan helps to implement commitments made as a borough, like taking a partnership approach to achieve local ambitions and monitoring how impactful the work we do is on every-day life for local people.

The commitment of key services in Tower Hamlets to deliver meaningful change for local people remains a key priority. We recognise that the landscape of crime and disorder is ever-evolving; shaped by factors such as social and economic challenges. Through consultation with local residents, we have gained invaluable insights into their experiences and concerns. Issues such as the misuse of nitrous oxide, the prevalence of drug use, and the visibility of drug dealing has been consistently raised. Additionally, the rising cost of living has exacerbated social pressures, leading to an increase in crime and vulnerability within our communities.

In response to these concerns, our strategy is shaped by a desire to ensure that our actions address both the symptoms and causes of crime. Working in partnership to address the various factors that impact crime and disorder in Tower Hamlets, our commitment to implementing a collective-focussed approach to addressing this acts as the linchpin for the CSP's ambition to tackle crime cohesively. The introduction of new legislation, such as the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and the inclusion of nitrous oxide in the Drug Misuse Act 1971, has created opportunities for the partnership.

This plan represents a clear, collaborative, and sustained commitment to addressing crime and disorder in Tower Hamlets, ensuring that we not only respond effectively to current challenges but also foster a safer, more resilient community for the future. By working together with our local partners, stakeholders, and the community, we are confident that we can achieve tangible, positive change for everyone who calls Tower Hamlets home.

# Community Safety Partnership

## National context

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are a requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership is made up of representatives from the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, health services, and probation services (known as the 'responsible authorities'). The responsible authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and help people feel safer. They work out how to deal with local issues including anti-social behaviour, drug, alcohol misuse, and re-offending. They assess local crime priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them.

Community Safety Partnerships have a requirement to develop a Community Safety Partnership Plan every three years which sets out how they will tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending. The Community Safety Partnership Plan outlines the main priorities for the Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership for 2024-27, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment, crime analysis and consultation. The Community Safety Partnership Plan is also informed by the views of local residents and businesses.

The Community Safety Partnership aims to:



**Create a safer borough for people to live in, work in, and visit**



**Work in partnership to deliver local priorities that address crime and disorder**



**Deliver local, regional, and national priorities.**

To support this, every year the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) conducts a review of crime and disorder (known as a Strategic Assessment) to ensure emerging crime and community safety trends are identified: helping inform the development of a Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Partnership working is key to delivering against the aims of the CSP. The partnership must understand the causes of what is happening, where it is happening and why it is happening to ensure that the right strategies and initiatives are implemented to tackle issues, as well as reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

The CSP regularly monitor crime trends and workplans set out to deliver against the CSP priorities, enabling the CSP to maintain an overview of all measures from the CSP sub-groups and their priorities. The CSP monitors strategies and action plans to improve performance for each of the sub-group and thematic areas.



## Regional context

Every four years, the Mayor of London will develop a new Police and Crime Plan, setting the regional crime and disorder priorities for London. In March 2024 the Mayor of London published the final [Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2029](#).

The four key priorities of the Plan are:

- Reducing violence and criminal exploitation
- Building safer, more confident communities
- Supporting and overseeing reform of the MPS; and
- Improving the criminal justice system and supporting victims

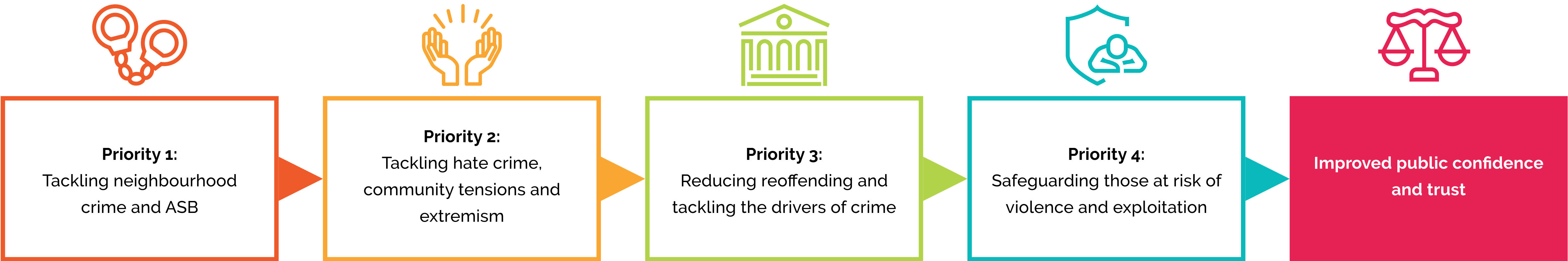
The Metropolitan Police have launched their mission for policing which aims to deliver 'More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards'. The plan identifies how the Met will improve trust and confidence and renew policing by consent: citing three area of focus Community Crime fighting, Culture Change and Fixing the foundations. The full plan can be viewed [here](#).







# 2021-2024 Community Safety Strategic Priorities and Achievements



The priorities we committed to delivering in the previous Community Safety Partnership Plan covering the period 2021-24 are set out below:





Priority area of focus	Outcomes	RAG rated outcomes
<div><div><b>Priority 1:</b> Tackling neighbourhood crime and ASB</div><div></div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce repeat victimisation.</li><li>• Comprehensive ASB profile for Tower Hamlets to inform operational tactics.</li><li>• Reduce the impact of the night-time economy.</li><li>• Residents report ASB via the correct channels.</li><li>• Fewer deliberate fire incidents</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repeat victims increased by 21% when comparing data from 2021 to 2024. There was a 16% reduction when comparing figures from 2024 to the previous year, however.</li><li>• An ASB profile will be completed for 2025 now the council and Tower Hamlets Housing have merged.</li><li>• The CSP have reduced the impact of the night-time economy (NTE), enforcing the nitrous oxide PSPO, improving boroughwide CCTV and residents reporting they are less concerned with related ASB when compared to the 2021.</li><li>• Residents told us they know how to report ASB.</li><li>• There was a 10.6% reduction in the number of deliberate fires in 2023-24.</li></ul>
<div><div><b>Priority 2:</b> Tackling hate crime, community tensions and extremism</div><div></div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved confidence to report hate crime.</li><li>• Increased support and protection for victims of hate crime.</li><li>• Increased training and awareness of hate crime within communities.</li><li>• Build cohesion and resilience within local communities.</li><li>• Improved public perception of feeling the police treat everybody fairly regardless of who they are.</li><li>• Ensure people know what to do if concerned about someone who is vulnerable to radicalisation, or you think is being radicalised.</li><li>• Achieve a 10 per cent sanction detection rate for hate crime offences.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confidence in reporting hate has improved, with 245 Hate Incident Panel (HIP) cases received and reviewed over the last 3 years.</li><li>• Support for hate crime victims has improved, providing 100% of known victims with specialist services.</li><li>• Training and awareness of hate crime has increased, running more than 60 awareness raising activities during hate crime awareness week, over 6300 people trained through Prevent-led sessions and 45 Hate Crime training sessions delivered with 672 people trained over the last 3 years.</li><li>• People know what to do if they think someone is at risk of radicalisation: with Tower Hamlets council again has been assessed as 'exceeding' all Home Office performance benchmarks for 2023-24 in relation to CONTEST.</li><li>• The Positive Outcome Rate for hate crime reduced to 8.86% and fell below the CSP Target of 10%.</li></ul>



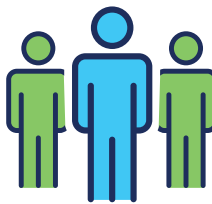
Priority area of focus	Outcomes	RAG rated outcomes
<p><b>Priority 3:</b> Reducing reoffending and tackling the drivers of crime</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visible drug and alcohol use and dealing reduced.</li><li>• Reduction in the reoffending rate for adults and juveniles.</li><li>• Reduce reoffending behaviour through Integrated Offender Management (IOM).</li><li>• Fewer first time entrants into the criminal justice system.</li><li>• Fewer people 'sleeping rough' in Tower Hamlets.</li><li>• More people successfully completing treatment and not returning to the service for treatment within a six month period.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visible drug use and dealing was actively targeted through patrols and targeted operations tackling drug trafficking and port seizures.</li><li>• The adult reoffending rate increased by 11%, however the youth reoffending rate reduced by 9%.</li><li>• The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) reoffending rate has reduced by 1% when comparing figures from 2021 to 2024 data.</li><li>• Rough sleeping has increased since 2021 by 25%.</li><li>• 86% (12/14) of Young People left structured treatment in 2023-24 successfully compared to 76.9% in 2022-23. 2.9% of adult users of opiates successfully completed treatment in 2023-24, increasing from 2.7% compared to the previous year. This is lower than the national average of 5.4%.</li></ul>
<p><b>Priority 4:</b> Safeguarding those at risk of violence and exploitation</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fewer victims of violence.</li><li>• Victims of VAWG feel confident in reporting.</li><li>• Increase in referrals via the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).</li><li>• Achieve a 15 per cent sanction detection rate for rape offences.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overall violence against the person offences increased by 10.3% when comparing 2024 figures to the previous year.</li><li>• Victims of violence have been supported in improving confidence in reporting through awareness raising campaigns, an increase in Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) support provision and access to refuge spaces.</li><li>• The positive outcome rate for rape offences increased in 23-24 to 14.14%; just below the target of 15% set by CSP in the 2021-24 CSP Plan.</li></ul>



# Tower Hamlets Profile

## Population

The population of Tower Hamlets is **325,789** (2022, mid-year estimate). Tower Hamlets has had the fastest-growing population of any local authority area across England and Wales, with the number of residents increasing by more than 22% between 2011 and 2021.



## Age

Tower Hamlets continues to have one of the youngest populations in the country with a **median age of 30**. The largest proportionate rise between 2011 and 2021 was amongst the working age population (25%). The borough had the smallest proportion of older people aged 65+ in England and Wales.



## Diversity

More than **two-thirds of the borough's population belong to a minority ethnic group** - largest Bangladeshi population (35%) and largest Muslim population (40%) in England and Wales. It had the fourth smallest White British population (23%) and the smallest Christian population (22%) in England and Wales. 4 % of residents identified as gay/lesbian compared to rest of the country (1.5%)



## Employment

In Tower Hamlets **66% of residents aged 16-64 are in employment** and 7% of residents aged 16-64 are unemployed. The proportion of Tower Hamlets residents in employment are below the levels in London and Great Britain and working age unemployment is higher than regional and national levels. Levels of employment amongst female residents is also below London and Great Britain.



## Health

The health of people in Tower Hamlets is varied compared with the England average. Tower Hamlets is one of the 20% most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England. **85% of Tower Hamlets residents described themselves as being in good or very good health**, whereas 10% were in fair health, 4% in bad health and 1% in very bad health.



## Gender

In 2021, the proportion of residents who were male was **50.2%**, slightly more than female (**49.8%**). 1% (2,643) of Tower Hamlets residents had a gender identity that was different to their sex registered at birth. This was the same proportion as London but twice the proportion in England and Wales (0.5%).



## Housing

There are **120,539** households in Tower Hamlets, 10th highest of all boroughs. The number of households in the borough grew from 101,257 in 2011 to 120,500 in 2021, an increase of 19% – the highest increase in the country. 16% of households (19,130) were living in overcrowded conditions (fewer bedrooms than needed).



## Area

Tower Hamlets covers an area of **19.76 km2** and lies to the east of the City of London. Tower Hamlets was the most densely populated borough in England with 15,695 residents per square kilometre compared to an average of 424 people per square kilometre in England.



## Deprivation

**19.2%** of the population was income-deprived in 2019. Of the 316 local authorities in England (excluding the Isles of Scilly), Tower Hamlets is ranked 22nd most income deprived.



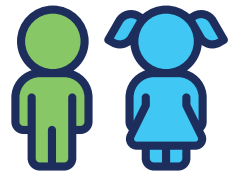
## Earnings

The median annual salary in Tower Hamlets is **£39,868.00**, compared to the London median of £39,391. Nearly 10% of households have an income of under £15,000, a similar proportion to the 9% with incomes above £85,000. One in four (22.2%) White residents (16+) are economically inactive, half the rate for those who are Asian.



## Children

**27% (15,254)** of children in Tower Hamlets were living in relative low-income families before housing costs in 2023. That is 42nd highest proportion among UK local authority areas. Tower Hamlets had the 2nd highest proportion of children living in absolute low-income families (21%, 11,915) in London after the City of London.



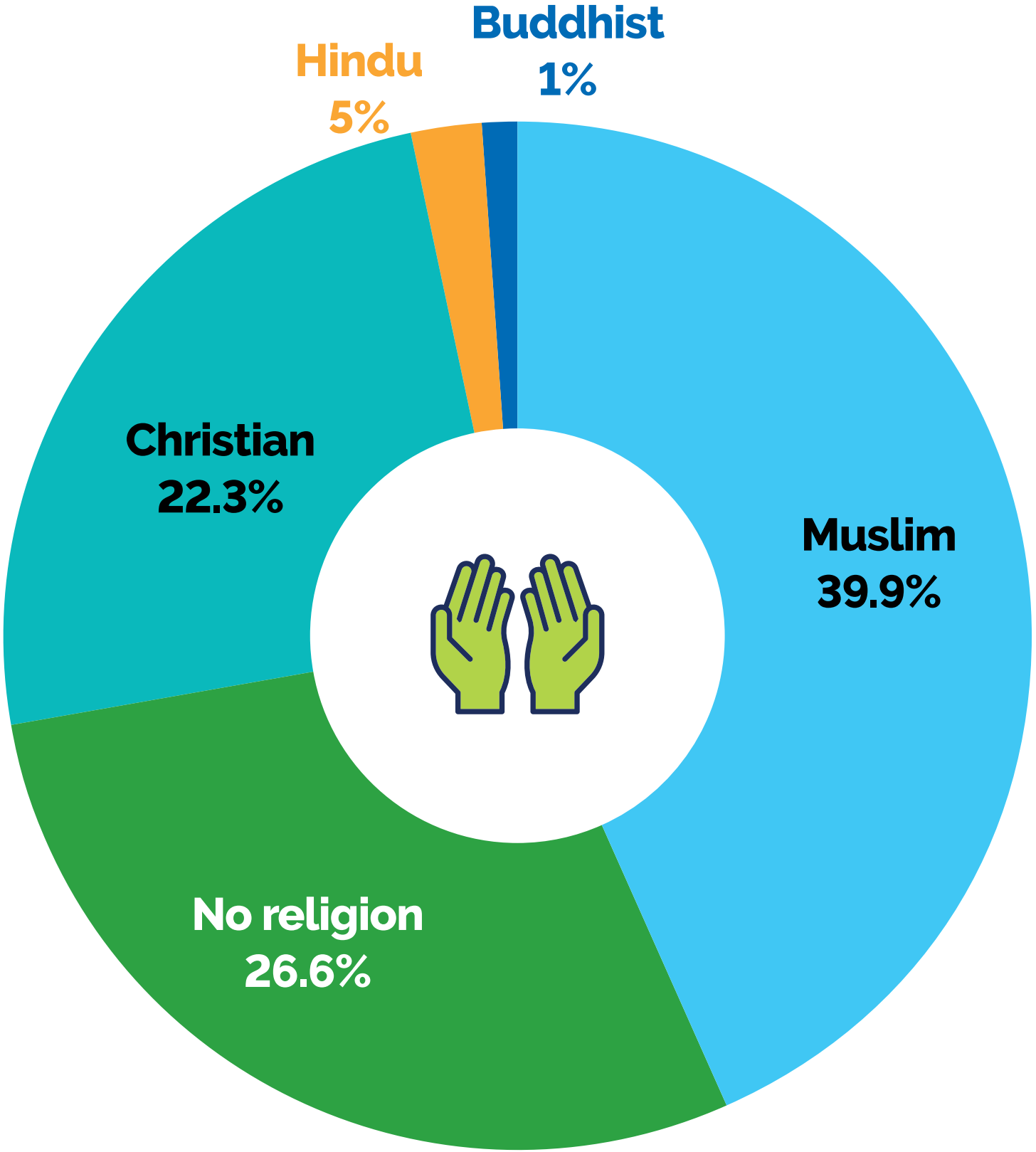
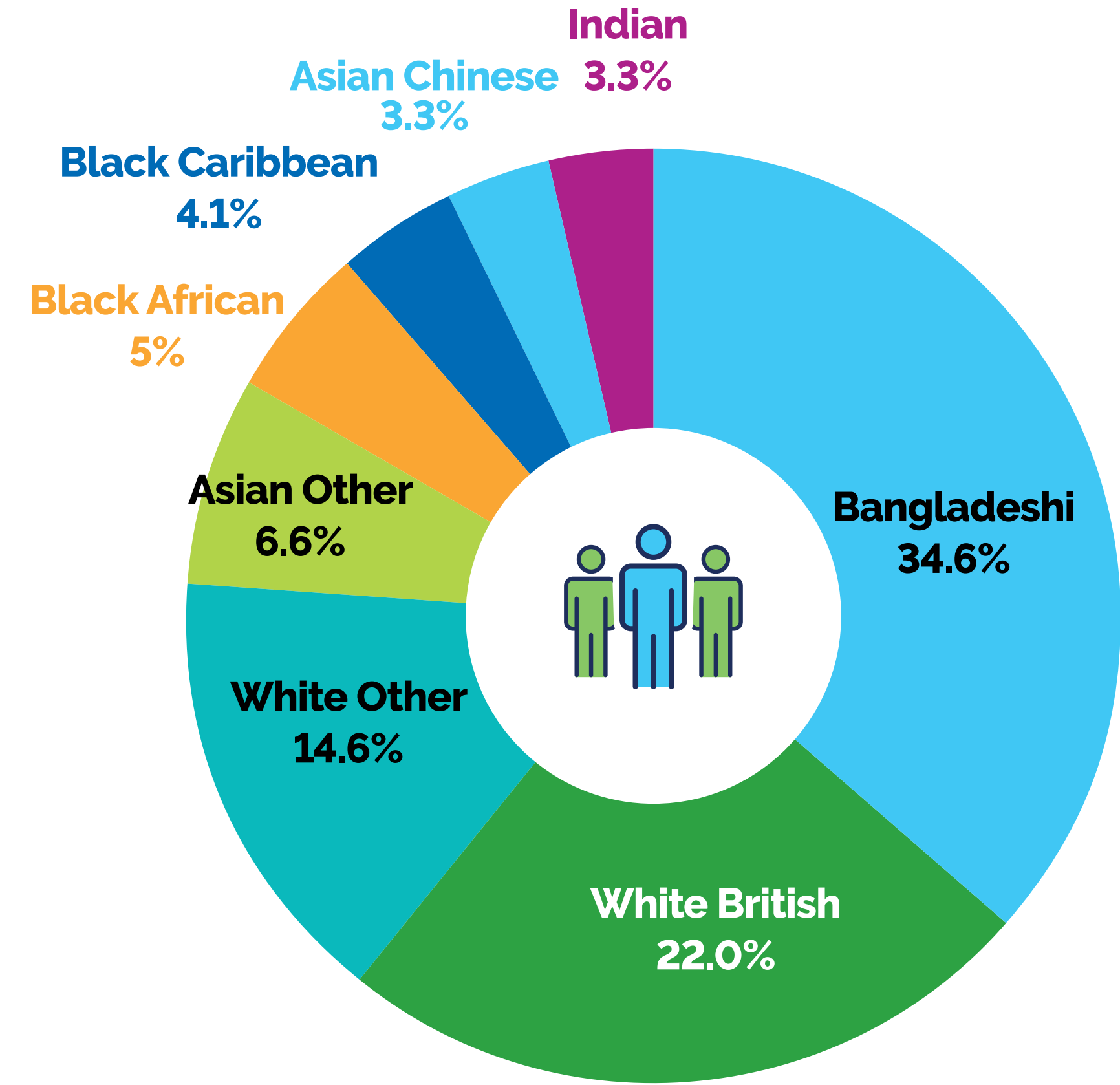
## Population churn

**46.8% of residents of Tower Hamlets were born outside the UK**. Nearly a quarter of all residents (24.2%) had lived in the UK for less than ten years. This was 75,000 residents. Population turnover is also high with more than fifth (21%) of residents having lived somewhere else a year prior to the census.





# Population breakdown





# Strategic framework delivery, monitoring and measuring

The Community Safety Partnership Board (CSP) is responsible for delivering the priorities that are set out within this plan, as well as the related strategies that flow from this plan, are linked to this plan, and strategies that inform this plan which include the:

- Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan
- Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Substance Misuse Strategy and Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy
- Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy

The CSP operate strategic subgroups that drive the delivery of the objectives we set out within these strategies, by developing and monitoring progress against partnership action plans. Our strategic subgroups are reflective of our strategic priorities. Therefore, we will amend change the current subgroups to reflect the new priorities that we will focus on for the duration of this strategy.

- Youth Justice Partnership Executive Board
- Combatting Drugs Partnership
- Serious Violence and VAWG Strategy Group
- Reoffending, Acquisitive Crime and ASB Board
- CONTEST Board



\* The Safer Neighbourhood Board is a resident run board that brings the police and local people together to decide policing priorities and solve local issues collaboratively.



# Key legislation

Legislation	Description
<b>Crime and Disorder Act 1998</b> <b>Police and Justice Act 2006</b> <b>Policing and Crime Act 2009</b>	<p>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.</p> <p>The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.</p>
<b>Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 &amp; Domestic Abuse Act 2021</b>	<p>The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004).</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 created a statutory definition of domestic abuse (DA), emphasising that DA can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse. It aims to transform the response to domestic abuse, helping to prevent offending, protect victims and ensure they have the support they need.</p>
<b>Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011</b>	<p>The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought with it a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.</p>
<b>Criminal Justice Bill 2023</b>	<p>The Criminal Justice Bill has been legislated to reform the criminal justice system to cut crime and deliver for victims. It has a number of ambitions which include longer sentences for the most dangerous criminals, including those involved in grooming gangs; give probation officers more powers to improve managing the risk presented by offenders; tackle violence against women and girls by criminalising the taking of intimate images; cracking down on crime and ASB that affects communities; tackle technological criminal threats; and improve the justice system. Whilst this bill has not been passed, it has gone through two readings in the House of Commons and is at the report stage with many welcoming its introduction.</p>



Legislation	Description
<b>The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014</b>	The Act introduced simpler more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour to provide better protection for victims and communities including a new Community Trigger and Community Remedy to give people a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints. Updated statutory guidance from the Home Office released in December 2017 has brought greater clarity around the use of the tools and powers introduced by the Act.
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Between 2014 and 2016 a number of pieces of legislation were introduced to provide authorities with additional tools, powers and statutory duties to tackle community safety and safeguarding issues. Including the Care Act 2014, Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 (and subsequent amendments in 2019), Serious Crime Act 2015, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. These pieces of legislation introduced a range of duties including new reporting, referral and decision-making mechanisms, staff awareness requirements and impacts on contract management to be included in the everyday work of relevant organisations.
<b>Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015</b>	<p>The Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal duty on local authorities “when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Prevent is one of four strands of the government’s counterterrorism strategy, and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.</p> <p>Section 36 of the CTSA places a duty on local authorities to ensure that a Channel panel is in place for their area that provides support for people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.</p>
<b>Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 &amp; Crime and Policing Bill 2025</b>	<p>The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 provides that, for the purposes of the duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism. The legislation places a new legal duty on localities to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence.</p> <p>The Crime and Policing Bill aims to tackle the epidemic of serious violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG), and equip police with the powers they need to combat antisocial behaviour, crime and terrorism. This bill supports the government’s Safer Streets Mission to halve knife crime and violence against women and girls in a decade and rebuild public confidence in policing and the criminal justice system.</p>



# What does our 2023-24 strategic assessment tell us?


**All Crimes**

Tower Hamlets had an all crime increase of 9.5% in 2023-24, ranking 6th in London above the MPS average. When weighted for population size (113.4 Per. 1000), Tower Hamlets ranks 8th in London.



**Theft and Robbery**

Theft and Robbery offences saw the most notable increases in 2022-2023: by 14% and 7% respectively, compared to previous year figures. Both offence categories have seen small increases in reporting for a consecutive year (2023-2024): by 5% and 2% respectively.




**Possession of weapon**

Possession of weapon offences saw the most notable decrease: by 16% when comparing figures from 2024 to the previous year.



**Drug complaints**

Drug complaints to the council increased by 10% (from 736 to 815) in 2024 when compared to the previous year.




**Drug trafficking**

Drug trafficking offences have risen for the last three years: most notably increasing by 32.1% (113 offences) when comparing figures from 2022-23 to the previous year. This upward trend continued in 2024 where data shows an 8.1% increase (44 more offences) when compared to the previous year figures: rising to 590 recorded offences.




**Hate Crime**

Hate Crime increased by 10.69% (124 incidents) in 2023 when compared to the previous year. However, we have seen a significant reduction in recorded offences in 2024: representing a 20% reduction.




**Stop and Search Positive Outcome Rate**

Stop and Search Positive Outcome Rate increased from 24.93% in 2022 to 29.18% in 2023. However, comparing 2024 data to the previous year, there has been an 8% reduction in the positive outcome rate.




**Youth reoffending rate**

There was a 9% reduction in the youth reoffending rate when compared to the previous year.



**Youth Criminal Justice System**

Young people entering the Youth Criminal Justice System for the first time saw a 11.2% reduction when compared to the previous year.




**Adult reoffending rate**

The adult reoffending rate increased by 11% when compared to the previous year: rising to 26% overall.




**Domestic abuse**

In 2023-24, police received 4519 Domestic abuse reports from LBTH residents: an 8% reduction when compared to the previous year.




**Knife Crime**

Knife Crime with injury offences saw an increase of 16.90% when comparing 2022-23 figures to the previous year. However, 2024 figures show a 13.5% reduction (23 fewer offences) when comparing to the previous year.



**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

In Tower Hamlets, the most commonly reported category of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is 'online exploitation': accounting for 34% of all reports.



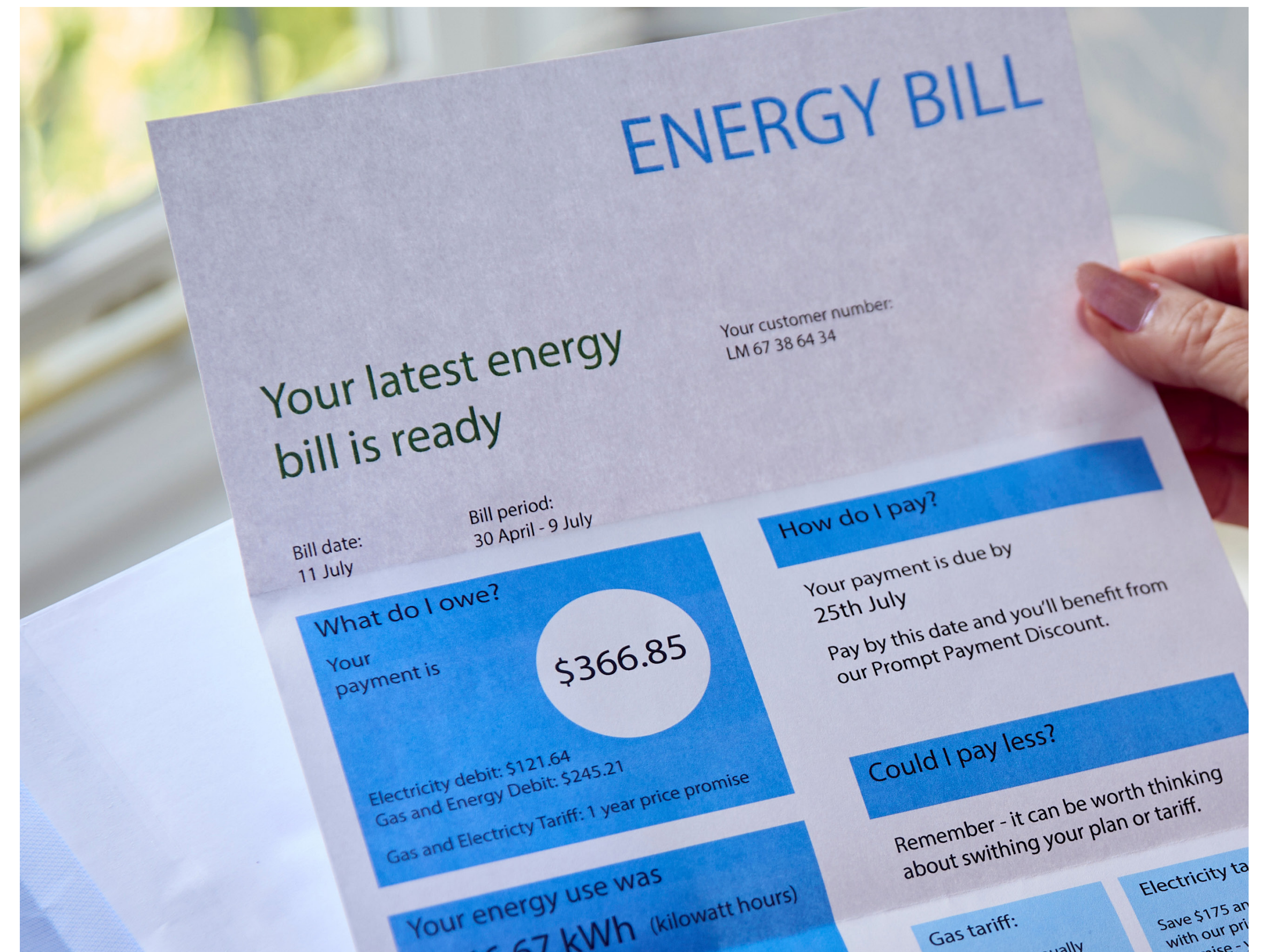


# Crime and the cost-of-living crisis

The cost-of-living crisis has had a significant impact on crime and disorder in London, with Tower Hamlets also being affected. Between 2021-2024, public crime data has shown several trends that highlight the correlation between economic hardship and increased criminal activity: also suggested within the Tower Hamlets Strategic Assessment through the increase in acquisitive crimes and consistent increase in drug trafficking offences. Local economic deprivation means Tower Hamlets has been particularly hard-hit by the cost-of-living crisis: with Tower Hamlets having an overall deprivation score of 27.9 which is higher than both the London (21.8) and England (21.7) values. Rising prices for basic necessities, coupled with stagnant wages, have exacerbated economic inequalities and driven more people into poverty.

Economic pressures have seemingly led to a rise in acquisitive crimes such as theft and burglary. Metropolitan Police data shows a noticeable increase in reported thefts and a surge in shoplifting incidents, as individuals face greater financial strain: with a 23% increase in total theft offences and a 45% increase in business shoplifting seen between 2023-2024, when compared with the previous year. Retailers in Tower Hamlets reported higher instances of theft, particularly of essential items like food and clothing.

Violent Crime figures have also increased: with violence related robbery offences rising in recent years. Between 2021-2024, overall violence against the person offences increased by 10.3%. Local data reflects a significant rise in street robberies, often targeting vulnerable





individuals: with robbery offences up by 40% over the last two years. Reports of domestic violence has also seen an increase, with exacerbated domestic tensions, potentially leading to an increase in incidents. Tower Hamlets has seen a concerning rise in recorded knife crime and gun crime offences: increasing by 18% and 44% respectively.

Drug-related crimes have also increased across London: noting a 55% increase in drug trafficking offences between 2022 and 2024. Economic hardship is likely to have impacted youth involvement in crime: particularly gang activity and violent crime, as young individuals face limited opportunities and greater socioeconomic pressures. This correlates with the increase in the number of drug possession offences recorded between 2022 and 2024: rising by 65% (296 more arrests for possession of illegal substances). Research suggests that the cost of living also has a correlation with emerging crime types such as fraud and scams, as perpetrators exploit the financial vulnerability of residents. Online and phone scams, offering fraudulent financial relief or investment opportunities, have become more prevalent.

The cost-of-living crisis has had a profound impact on crime and disorder in Tower Hamlets, with crime data showing increases in various types of crime. Acquisitive crimes, violent offenses, and anti-social behaviour have all risen, contributed to by economic deprivation and instability. Emerging issues such as fraud, drug-related crimes, and youth involvement in crime further highlight the complex challenges faced by the borough. Addressing these issues

requires a comprehensive, system-wide approach that includes economic support, housing stability, and mental health services to mitigate the adverse effects of the cost of living crisis on crime.

Going forward, we will look to support the local community through the implications of the cost-of-living crisis: managing the impact of economic hardship and minimising the likelihood of our younger generation feeling pressured to search for opportunities that lead them into criminality to alleviate the impact of poverty.

The Council has invested heavily in mitigating cost-of-living pressures which have included initiatives like free school meals, school uniform grants, Winter Fuel Payments and a dedicated Household Support Fund: all directly easing household strain. These interventions are complemented by enhanced community safety services, including our expanded CCTV coverage and a new Anti-Crime Taskforce. By addressing economic hardship, the Council seek to reduce the drivers of crime whilst improving community resilience and reducing vulnerability in our most affected communities.

We anticipate there will continue to be challenges, but also opportunities to empower our local people and build the foundations for prosperous communities that have a sense of duty to contribute to society.



# What did the consultation with partners tell us?

Consultation with community safety partners told us what they thought would be best to address in our new local plan. Partners identified the following as key areas to address when developing the Community Safety Partnership Plan.





# What did our residents' feedback tell us?

The Community Safety Partnership strategy consultation adopted a dual focus approach, highlighting findings from the Tower Hamlets Annual Resident survey 2024 and the community safety public engagement survey. The findings from other surveys such as the Hackathon Survey, which was conducted by Young Tower Hamlets, and the Serious Violence Duty survey also contributed to the overall analysis of the local perception of crime and disorder. This ensured that the strategy was informed by a wide range of perspectives with its foundations firmly based on the real experiences and needs of the community.

The public consultation was promoted through the council's digital engagement platform, Let's Talk'. 59 residents chose to respond to the survey. This platform allowed contributors to provide feedback on several critical aspects:

- Feelings of safety
- What residents think the council and other services should focus on to keep their communities safe
- What residents think about crime and disorder issues in their local area

The online consultation provided valuable insights and constructive feedback, which were crucial in refining the strategic objectives and ensuring they resonated with community needs. Some of the qualitative feedback we received detailed concerns and suggestions:

“My area feels safe when there are visible and regular police and THEO patrols, council CCTV, adequate lighting.”

“Good lighting, CCTV and activities for young people e.g. outdoor gyms is so important.”

“My area doesn't feel very safe – there is a lack of police presence and this has given rise to ASB and drugs.”

“The area is far too male dominated. Street harassment is an issue.”

“The council need to set up youth centres and have activities for the young and vulnerable.”



Some of the most notable feedback we received highlighted that 76% of respondents believed crime to be a significant problem in their local area (recording a score of a 4 or 5) when ranking on a scale of 1-5 (with 1 being no problem at all, and 5 being a very big problem).

78% of respondents believed drug dealing and/or drug use' is a problem in their local area (recording a score of a 4 or 5) when ranking on a scale of 1-5. This is compounded by feedback from residents about the visibility of the drugs market: with people seen dealing or taking drugs in their local area.

This was echoed by the Annual Resident's Survey which highlighted 58% of respondents thought drug related issues (dealing or use) was a significant problem. This represents a 9% increase compared to the previous year's resident survey.

Nuisance vehicles, speeding, fly tipping and robberies were the next most recorded issues for local people when voting on their top three concerns. This was compounded by feedback in the Annual Resident's Survey which highlighted crime and disorder concerns in their local area: highlighting an increase in the perceived issues around vandalism and graffiti and drunk and disorderly behaviour to 30% and 36% respectively.

The detailed and actionable feedback received has played a crucial role in shaping a responsive and effective strategy that meets the needs of all Tower Hamlets residents.

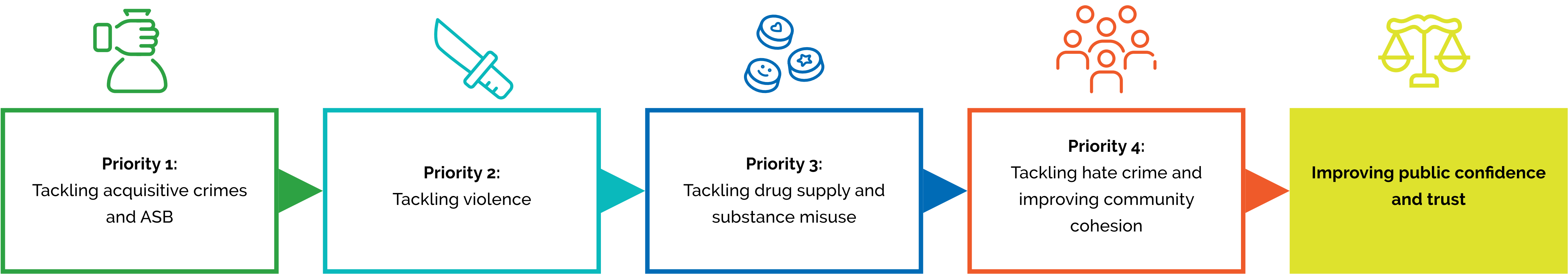




# Community safety priorities for 2025-2029

Tower Hamlets' Annual Strategic Needs Assessment, alongside our public consultation and strategic engagement sessions with key services, identified a need to focus on the following priorities:

## Strategic Priorities:



Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership will ensure all four priorities are addressed within the context of exploitation and vulnerability.

The Community Safety Partnership will look to improve on the trust and confidence our local public have in services that tackle crime and disorder through focusing on the four priorities that have been identified as key concerns.



The Police have launched the New Met for London plan which focuses on building trust with our local community, reducing crime and ensuring high standards.

It details nine priority areas which include, but are not limited to:

1. Having the strongest neighbourhood policing to date
2. Taking a proactive approach to reducing crime
3. Being data driven and evidence based in the delivery of a strong policing service

The police also have local policing priorities that are aligned to the broader Community Safety Priorities, which are:

- Apprehending wanted offenders
- Domestic abuse
- Knife crime

Working in partnership to address these issues, the CSP will ensure it monitors and responds to other specific crime types that present an ongoing problem in the borough.





# Principles and cross-cutting themes

## Child First Approach

Placing children at the heart of service provision, identifying and addressing the influences on children that affect offending behaviour and promoting influences that help them move to pro-social, positive behaviour.

## Effective Collaboration

Work across agencies by sharing data and intelligence. This will allow a more efficient and effective approach and better-targeted interventions.

## Supporting Victims

Place a strong focus on victims and ensure the local systems to support victims are strong, reduce repeat victimisation, and embed the understanding in practice that perpetrators of violence can often be victims too.

## Community Input

Working with our local community, co-producing solutions and understanding local priorities to develop an approach to crime reduction that is responsive and effective in increasing feelings of safety

### Mental Health:

Some victims of crime or those who come into contact with the criminal justice system, suffer from mental health problems. We will aim to identify and address mental ill health at the earliest opportunity so we can aim for the best outcomes for those people experiencing mental health issues and provide support for those with complex and challenging needs.

### Substance Misuse:

We are aware of the links between drugs and crime, with substance misuse and an active drugs market affecting the rate of acquisitive crimes and violence. Drug supply and misuse will be a focus across our strategic priorities

**Poverty:** The impact of the cost-of-living crisis has affected crime and disorder in London. Implementing a system-wide approach is required: focusing on things like economic support and housing stability to mitigate the effects of the cost-of-living crisis on crime.



# Priority 1: Tackling Acquisitive Crimes and ASB

## Areas of focus



- ✔ ASB
- ✔ Robbery
- ✔ Burglary
- ✔ Theft
- ✔ Vehicle Crime
- ✔ Business Crime
- ✔ CCTV
- ✔ Tackling problem locations and supporting those with complex needs
- ✔ Fire





## Why is this a priority?

- Acquisitive crimes such as theft and robbery have seen increases in reported offences between 2023-2024: rising by 5% and 2% respectively.
- Whilst residential burglary figures have remained at a similar level when comparing figures from 2024 to the previous year (0.6% reduction), business burglaries have increased by 3%.
- Evidence links the cost-of-living crisis and crime and disorder: with public crime data showing several trends that highlight the correlation between economic hardship and increased acquisitive crimes.
- Business Crime including theft and fraud rose by 12% in 2024 when compared to the previous year.
- Business shoplifting has seen an exponential increase when comparing figures from 2024 to the previous year: rising by 46% (747 more reports).

## What are our strategic intentions?

- Identifying and addressing high harm and high-risk locations in partnership.
- Understanding and exploring the connection between drug trafficking, drug use and acquisitive crime.
- Facilitate a more strategic, partnership driven approach to tackling business crime.
- Providing a subject focused approach with an emphasis on driving down the 'wanted offender' stock, working in partnership with Integrated Offender Management Teams. Prioritising high risk offences and offenders.

## What have we done and are still doing?

- We have placed a strong focus on tackling robbery which also has recognised links to violence. We have and will continue to implement policing programmes such as 'safer school corridors' and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funded 'School Robbery Prevention' project.
- We have focused on addressing the full spectrum of anti-social behaviour (ASB) across all local neighbourhoods. We will continue to address the implications of the night-time economy on crime, ensure reporting ASB is seamless, safeguard vulnerable victims and perpetrators of ASB, and work with partners and residents to address neighbourhood and cross border issues.
- We invested £3.9 million to upgrade our existing CCTV system which has further improved the image quality and zoom function. We will continue to use digital video surveillance to positively affect place-based crimes.
- We have focused on tackling irresponsible business practice through licencing and trading standards functions.
- We have trebled the number of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) to enable improved resource allocation to areas of focus across the borough and better respond to particular crime types.



## What will we do next to address acquisitive crime?

### ASB

Addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Tower Hamlets is a shared priority across our Community Safety Partnership (CSP). We are committed to a coordinated, multi-agency approach that brings together the Council, Police, housing providers, health and community organisations to prevent, respond to, and reduce ASB. This has been further solidified through the Council's decision to bring Tower Hamlets Homes, in-house: improving the response to ASB in both public spaces and on estates. This, partnered with the development of our new ASB policy which will ensure our public know how, when and to whom they can report ASB reinforces the partnership commitment to reducing the impact of ASB on communities. Through our newly formed 24 hour ASB reporting service and trebling the number of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers we have to deploy, we ensure that victims are supported, perpetrators are held accountable, and communities feel safe and confident.

### Offender focused approach

To address the linkages between acquisitive crimes, drug supply and substance misuse, Safer Tower Hamlets will work collaboratively and police will deploy proactive teams, neighbourhood teams and employ reactive investigations that allow for analysis of the most prolific offenders. This will involve prioritising outstanding wanted offenders categorising by risk to ensure police are identifying & locating those most likely to cause harm. As part of this police will implement local offender management processes and adopt the Achilles approach: analysing crime patterns and identifying links to potential prolific offenders known to be either residing in the area or conducting criminality in the area.

### Use of Intelligence, analysis and resource

We understand the importance of using data and analysis to combat acquisitive crime: enabling the effective use of resource in the right places at the right times. We will:

- Work with partners across the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to share information and improve our understanding of priorities and emerging trends – jointly allocating resources for maximum impact through Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TTCG) meetings.
- Ensure partnership analytical assets are used in conjunction to enable cohesive sharing of data and information through hotspot analysis and VOLT (victim, offender, location, time) analysis.
- Operate an agile tasking process through the council Integrated Enforcement team: addressing low level ASB and crime issues and more serious and complex problems. The tasking model facilitates early intervention on hyper local crime generators, reducing the risk of escalation.

### CCTV

Tower Hamlets' CCTV network and infrastructure uses 380 street-based cameras and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology. Recently, we have invested a further £3.7 million to install 100 more cameras. The additional 100 cameras will be installed on Tower Hamlets estates by spring 2026. The CCTV network boasts the latest technology, which is used to help gather evidence, support the community including vulnerable residents, and deter law breakers. Using digital video surveillance, redeployable cameras and body worn cameras supported by Police facial recognition technology, we use video surveillance to positively affect place-based crimes.



**Business Crime**

We understand the significant rise in business crime, partnered with existing organised criminal groups that seek to gain through fraudulent activity, correlates with the cost-of-living crisis. Partnership activities to address business crime in Tower Hamlets will focus on:

- intelligence sharing.
- targeted enforcement.
- crime prevention initiatives to implement Business Improvement Districts and Business Crime Reduction Partnerships.

The council has invested £20k in a new business crime partnership that works directly with business owners to gather information, provide guidance, and work together to crack down on shoplifting and business burglaries.

The Met Police will focus on delivering a local strategy, supported by centralised expertise, to improve the response to business/retail crime. Joint initiatives such as enhanced CCTV coverage and improved reporting mechanisms will help address vulnerabilities for local businesses, whilst utilising visible THEO patrols and a network for businesses to share best practice and updates around emerging threats.

**How will we know it's working?**

- ✔ The number of recorded robbery offences has reduced by 7%.
- ✔ Residents can quickly and easily report anti-social behaviour (e.g. drug-related activity) and the council and police respond to hotspots as they develop.
- ✔ The number of recorded business crime offences has reduced by 5%.
- ✔ We have a Business Crime Reduction Partnership with a minimum of 20 local businesses signed up.
- ✔ The Fire service will complete a minimum of 720 fire audits per year to identify fire risks and potentially reduce the number of house/flat fires.



## Priority 2: Tackling Violence

### Areas of focus

- ✔ Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- ✔ Serious violence (including knife and gun crime)
- ✔ Supporting victims
- ✔ Exploitation
- ✔ Modern slavery
- ✔ Women's safety





## Why is this a priority?

- There have been 5 domestic homicides since 2021.
- In 2023-24, police received 4519 domestic abuse reports from LBTH residents, one of the top five London boroughs for domestic abuse offences.
- A 6 month snapshot of police data in 2023 found 33 known survivors of modern slavery in the borough.
- Overall violence against the person offences increased by 10.3% when comparing 2024 figures to the previous year.
- Violence with injury offences have increased by 6% (from 2865 to 3029 offences) between 2022 and 2024.

## What are our strategic intentions?

- Tackling the causes of violence.
- Using a multi-agency approach for prevention and early intervention.
- Improving support to victims of violence.
- Adopting a reinvigorated focus on hidden, high harm crimes such as modern slavery.
- Taking a safeguarding approach to both victims and perpetrators of violent crime, considering adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) of those affected, and adopting a public health approach to addressing violence.
- Prioritising women's safety in public spaces.
- Work with key partners to improve information sharing in relation to 18-25 year olds at risk of exploitation, to improve management of risk and need.

## What have we done and are still doing?

- We launched the Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) Programme which is available for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- We have focused on empowering our community, delivering close to 600 domestic abuse and VAWG awareness training sessions and more than 950 residents receiving female genital mutilation (FGM) awareness training.
- We have launched an initiative that means we conduct women's safety 'digital walks' to pinpoint and address public spaces that are hotspots for harassment or are spaces where women do not feel safe.
- We have launched our partnership Violence and Exploitation strategy which seeks to address serious violence affecting those up to 25 years of age, as well as domestic and sexual violence affecting those of all ages.
- We have implemented a new strategic group which addresses violence and exploitation and brings together key partners to address violence and its wider impacts.
- We safeguard children by implementing the police led investigation strategy and targeting exploiters who seek to harm vulnerable children for profit or gratification, through the Police Child Exploitation Team (CET).
- We continue to provide support for young people who are involved in offending and reduce the number of first time entrants (FTEs) into the criminal justice system.



## What will we do next to address violence?

### Greater ownership of VAWG across the whole system

We will secure buy-in at the right level from partners and support agencies across a range of services. This will enable us to understand the root causes of VAWG, identify the early signs of abuse and exploitation and intervene with those affected so that they can receive the right support at an early stage. This will be implemented through our new VAWG strategy which is complemented by a comprehensive and robust action plan that includes (but is not limited to) improving women's safety, challenging outdated public attitudes and stereotypes of women and girls and training and awareness.

### Education

Educational settings can reduce the risk of violence to those who are vulnerable, in addition to working alongside parents and families to build understanding of exploitation and violence. We will:

- Work diligently with schools in Tower Hamlets and Young Tower Hamlets, so that all children and young people remain in education and are supported to achieve their aspirations.
- Deliver programmes of education and awareness to ensure children learn about personal safety, their rights, healthy relationships, emotional regulation and how to recognise and report abuse.
- Monitor exclusions data and persistent absence (including any patterns of high rates of disproportionality for those with protected characteristics).
- Develop a package offer to schools to support them with keeping students at risk of exclusion in mainstream education.

### Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. The Community Safety Partnership will improve on the use of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to identify and refer potential victims of modern slavery and trafficking, ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Metropolitan (MET) Police tackle modern slavery locally by conducting investigations and NRMs via the Police Proactive Team, who have lead responsibility for modern slavery & human trafficking. The MET Police Child Exploitation Team (CET) will continue safeguarding, disrupting, and enforcing: making proactive referrals when criminal investigation thresholds aren't met. Additionally, Operation Orochi will address County Lines by partnering with county forces to rescue missing children and arrest those encouraging and facilitating the trafficking of children. The council will also address trafficking and visa exploitation, in partnership with the MET Police, through initiatives such as a dedicated reporting line and specialist police task force.

### Implement our 'Serious Violence and Exploitation' strategy

We have developed a violence reduction strategy as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The strategy sets out the partnership approach and intentions to address violence and exploitation by focusing on six key themes:

- Prevention and early intervention.
- Safer spaces.
- Disrupting, pursuing and managing offenders who pose a risk to children and young adults.
- Supporting victims of serious violence.
- Safeguarding those at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation.
- Tackling violence against women and girls.



As part of our partnership wide approach to tackling violence, we will make best use of violence reduction unit (VRU) funding to support diversionary and prevention work.

Supporting victims and survivors

As part of our ambitions to ensure that Tower Hamlets is a safe borough for all, particularly women and girls, we know that effective prevention will do more to put an end to VAWG than any intervention after the fact. To achieve this, we will:

- Give professionals and residents across Tower Hamlets the right knowledge and skills to understanding of what healthy and unhealth relationships look like, what appropriate support can be given and where to find help.
- Improve joined up working with housing and health systems to improve access to housing provision and continued primary care and mental health support.
- Ensure that support for addressing the longer-term impact of violence is available and accessible, catering to the various needs that survivors of violence require.
- Support vulnerable women involved in sex work through the Door of Hope project which is run by Streets of Growth: a charity which seeks to end sexual exploitation.
- Provide Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy Services to support medium/high-risk victims/survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- Develop and implement a victim's group that seeks to understand what the current victims offer is across the council and how this can be strengthen.
- Police will visit all arrested knife carriers under 18 to issue a diversion/support letter to prevent future violent offending.
- Launch our new domestic abuse 'one-stop-shop' at our new Women's Centre: providing various support services as well as a place to report domestic abuse for suvivors of abuse.

How will we know it's working?

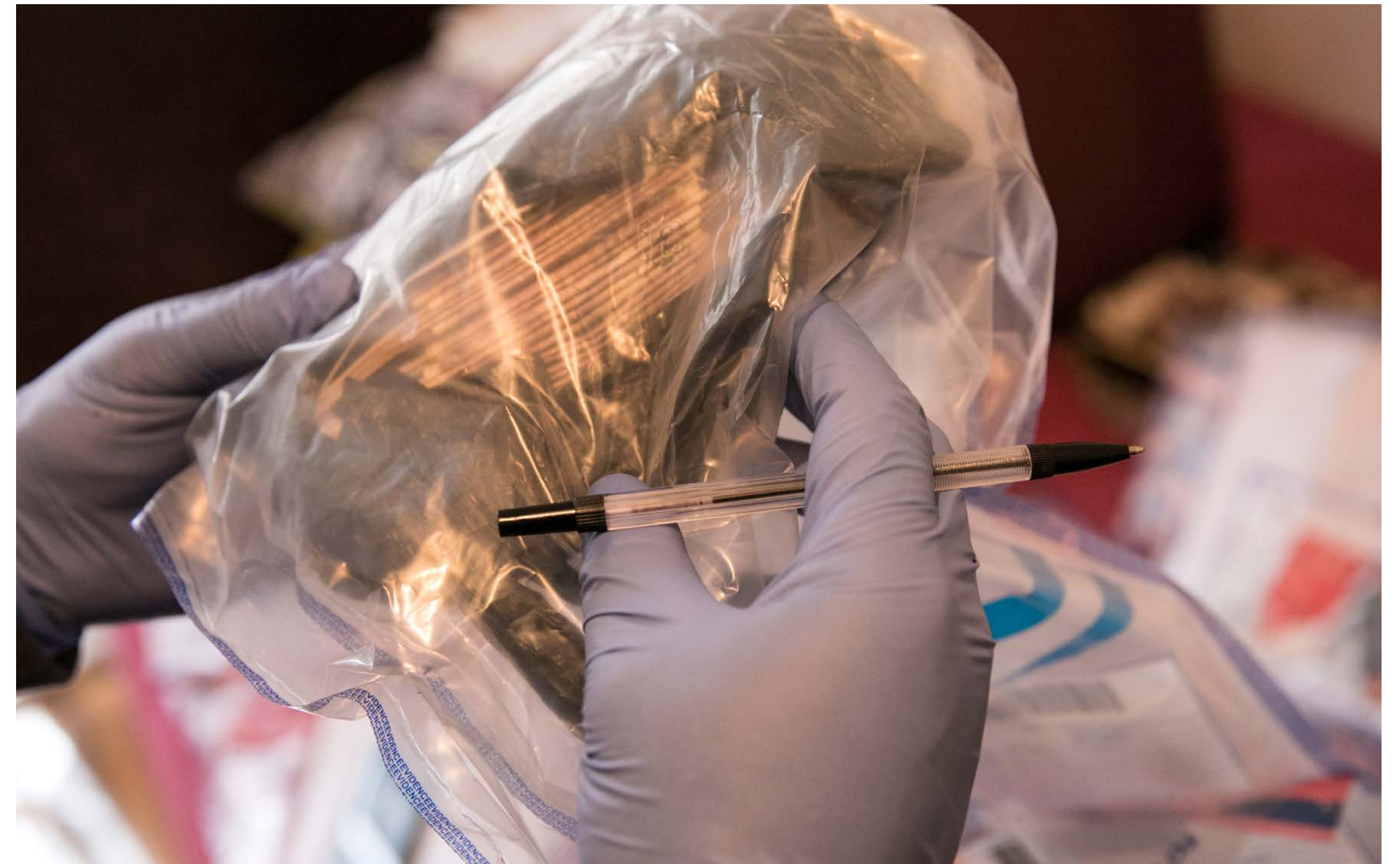
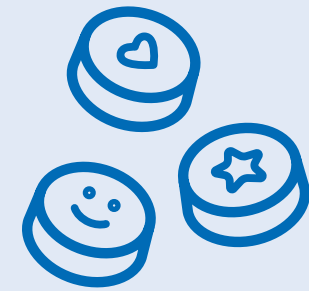
- ✔ 15% reduction in recorded incidents of serious violence (including knife and gun crime)
- ✔ 10% increase in the proportion of women and girls who report feeling safe in public spaces at night
- ✔ Increase the number of coordinated multi-agency operations targeting modern slavery, human trafficking, and exploitation networks, by 33%
- ✔ Create and implement a clear offer from the council and police to support children remaining in mainstream education by Q2 of 2026.



# Priority 3: Tackling Drug Supply and Substance Misuse

## Areas of focus

- ✔ Serious and organised crime (SOC)
- ✔ Targeting offenders
- ✔ Drug and alcohol misuse
- ✔ Drug supply
- ✔ IOM





## Why is this a priority?

- We know that drugs are a driver of violence, exploitation and other crimes. Tower Hamlets recoded 590 Drug Trafficking offences for period 2023-24: an increase of 8% when compared to the previous year.
- The percentage of offenders who have a drug or alcohol dependency, engaged with drug and alcohol treatment services, has consistently decreased between 2022 and 2024: reducing by 15%.
- Our online consultation highlighted that 66% of respondents thought drug dealing or drug use was a significant problem in their local area.
- The number of adults in treatment who live with children has increased by 48% when comparing figures from 2023-24 to the previous year.

## What are our strategic intentions?

- Break drug supply chains.
- Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system.
- Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs.
- Improve intelligence sharing opportunities to address our most prolific offenders.
- Work in partnership to deliver a strong Integrated Offender Management (IOM) response for Tower Hamlets, in line with regional IOM framework.

## What have we done and are still doing?

- We have established an effective Combatting Drugs Partnership that addresses shared challenges related to substance misuse.
- We have developed a comprehensive and ambitious substance misuse strategy which will see us continue our focus on reducing drug related crime, reducing drug use, improving drug recovery outcomes and more.
- We have used our substance misuse additionality grant to increase capacity in our treatment service and improve engagement with those that misuse substances and have committed offences.
- We have focused on reducing drug related deaths through use of Project ADDER funding: operating a 'Death Oversight Panel' implementing a multi-agency approach to identifying issues and learning.
- We manage risk through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) – a multi-agency approach to offender management: monitoring a targeted group of offenders who are deemed likely to re-offend.



# What will we do next to address drug supply and substance misuse?

## Tackling Organised Crime Groups

We recognise the links between serious organised crime (SOC), violence and exploitation and the associated harms for communities. SOC groups are involved in a multitude of criminal activities from drug trafficking, modern slavery and human trafficking (including county lines). To tackle the operation of organised crime groups (OCGs), we will:

- Implement the clear, hold, build strategy - working in partnership to target and disrupt criminal activity in high harm locations, stabilising the area and focusing on the reduction of placed-based harm where serious and organised crime is most concentrated.
- Support our communities and build resilience to the social harms caused by organised crime by working with communities.
- Improve how we fund community organisations to co-produce interventions at a local level and enable them to deliver a localised approach to help bring statutory partners into areas that have multiple issues.
- Introduce a new Specialist Drugs Unit within the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officer (THEO) service that will focus on combining engagement, investigation, and supplementary enforcement tactics to assist the policy by responding and disrupting drug trafficking operations across the borough.

## Governance

We have revised our community safety partnership (CSP) governance arrangements, ensuring our strategic board drives key operational activity, including integrated offender management (IOM) and multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA), and is overseen by key partners.

As part of this, we have established a new violence subgroup which manages and oversees the work related to violence and exploitation: bringing together key partners to deliver the relevant action plan. We understand that the drugs market and demand for drugs is a significant driver for violence, so through co-ordinating our efforts in tackling violence and exploitation we also positively affect drug supply and substance misuse.

Our local partnerships, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership, will continue to work together to prioritise local people leading healthy lives – providing quality substance misuse treatment recovery services that support people away from addiction.

## Combatting Drugs Partnership

The Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) will oversee the substance misuse strategy delivery plan and assess the impact that the work is having by tracking local outcomes and indicators. The local outcomes framework is considered regularly at CDP meetings and will help guide discussion and provide positive challenge in terms of whether we're doing the right things to address our priorities. Our CDP will focus on delivering three strategic priorities:

- Breaking drug supply chains.
- Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system.
- Achieving a shift in the demand for drugs.



The partnership has developed a strategy that provides a detailed insight into the local approach to tackling drugs and substance misuse. It sets out how we will reduce drug and alcohol-related harm in Tower Hamlets and details our focused approach that prioritise 'evidence-based treatment and recovery support'. As part of this new approach, Tower Hamlets have developed a new culturally sensitive substance misuse recovery service that will targeting holistic interventions towards black and global majority communities whose needs are not fully met by generic services: ensuring hard to reach groups are supported through their treatment journey.

Targeting Offenders

Tower Hamlets will continue to implement robust Integrated Offender Management (IOM) through a multi-agency approach to offender management: monitoring high risk offenders who are deemed likely to re-offend.

Working in partnership with Police, Probation Services will supervise Integrated IOM individuals, in line with IOM framework expectations, to reduce risk of reoffending and harm caused to the public. This includes:

- Sharing information with relevant agencies in relation to probation cases of 18-25 year olds in order to ensure full intervention offer and reduce risk of exploitation.
- Continuing to work in partnership with Police to share live information on risk presented by those on Probation, and make appropriate enforcement decisions to protect the community.
- Launch of Mayor's anti-crime and disorder taskforce to co-ordinate front facing community safety resources with a focus on tackling drug related crime and ASB.

How will we know it's working?

- ✔ 10% increase in successful disruption or closure of organised crime groups linked to drug supply.
- ✔ 15% reduction in the number of recorded drug trafficking offences.
- ✔ 100% of the top 50 problematic individuals identified for persistent drug misuse and associated criminal behaviour, are managed through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) or targeted enforcement.
- ✔ Individuals who have successfully completed drug treatment has increased.



## Priority 4: Tackling Hate Crime and Improving Community Cohesion

### Areas of focus

- ✔ Prevent
- ✔ Community cohesion
- ✔ Hate crime
- ✔ Protective security
- ✔ Counter terrorism
- ✔ Extremism





## Why is this a priority?

- Whilst reports of hate crime reduced by 20% (249 incidents) in 2024 when compared to the previous year, it remains an under reported crime type that has significant impacts on the community.
- The emergence of far-right activism in 2024 has put a strain on community tensions across the country, with some protests evolving into rioting behaviours: particularly in communities that are home to people of global majority backgrounds.
- Tower Hamlets has a diverse and vibrant community, with the largest Bangladeshi and Muslim population in England and Wales.

## What are our strategic intentions?

- Develop a Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) & Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) led version of a localised police scrutiny panel.
- Analyse & develop an understanding of themes contributing to disproportionality around Stop & Search.
- Support a community engagement approach which incorporates a policing purpose.
- Ensure all victims of all forms of hate crime have access to appropriate protection and support.
- Hold perpetrators of hate crimes accountable.
- Prevent hate through awareness raising, encouraging reporting and building community cohesion across all communities.

## What have we done and are still doing?

- The council has a dedicated hate crime team that works closely with police and other agencies to prevent all forms of hate crime, act against offenders and support victims.
- We monitor community tensions and promote social integration to reduce the likelihood of violence enacted against our local community.
- We have developed a robust and comprehensive action plan.
- We have worked with the communities of Tower Hamlets to help increase the reporting of hate crime.
- Developed an online reporting system for all cases of gender-based violence, harassment and hate crime/incidents experienced by Queen Mary University students, staff and visitors.



## What will we do next to address hate crime and improve community cohesion?

### Community cohesion

We want to break down barriers and build strong relationships between different faith and non-faith groups within Tower Hamlets, whilst increasing awareness of faith hate crimes and improving reporting of hate incidents. To achieve this, we will:

- Engage Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum and other faith-based organisations to identify and address the support needs of faith communities including faith hate crime/incidents.
- Use quarterly Police Data intelligence to target community engagement work in identified hotpot areas.
- Work in partnership with key stakeholders to reduce community tensions.

### Tackling hate

Tower Hamlets has a diverse and vibrant community, with the largest Bangladeshi and Muslim population in England and Wales. To ensure we support all of our residents:

- The council has a dedicated hate crime team that works closely with police and other agencies to prevent all forms of hate crime, act against offenders and support victims.
- We monitor community tensions and promote social integration to reduce the likelihood of violence enacted against our local community.
- Deliver the No Place for Hate (NPFH) awareness campaign, promoting clear messages that Tower Hamlets is 'No Place for Hate'.

- We coordinate the multi-agency Hate Incident Panel (HIP) which ensures a coordinated response to hate crime and incidents: improving co-ordination and increasing enforcement for better outcomes for victims of hate crime.
- Continue to make referrals to commissioned community provision such as Osmani to support those with experience of discrimination.

### Contest

We will continue to adopt a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism, in line with the national CONTEST strategy. Central to this is the Channel Panel, a safeguarding process that works to prevent individuals, both children and adults, from being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist activity.

The council's Prevent Team plays a key role in raising awareness of local risks, building community resilience, and providing guidance on how to support individuals at risk of radicalisation. The team will continue to offer training and awareness workshops through the dedicated Engagement Officer, who liaises with stakeholders and local organisations to ensure a well-informed, proactive response. By working collaboratively with partners across the borough, Tower Hamlets aims to protect its communities, challenge harmful ideologies, and create an environment where all residents feel safe and empowered.

Probation staff have also committed to completing mandatory Prevent training to support making referrals to forums like the Channel Panel and maintain a comprehensive understanding around the risks associated with extremism within the context of exploiting vulnerable young people or adults



Protective security

In line with the national CONTEST strategy's Protect strand, Tower Hamlets focuses on enhancing protective security across the borough. A dedicated Protective Security Officer supports this effort by assessing and mitigating potential threats, particularly through identifying physical vulnerabilities. This involves working with local partners to analyse risks to key sites, including places of worship and high-profile locations like the Tower of London and Canary Wharf. By identifying and addressing security gaps, Tower Hamlets works to:

- Reduce the risk of terrorist incidents.
- Improve the resilience of critical infrastructure.
- Ensure the safety of our community.

This proactive, intelligence-led approach helps to safeguard residents and key assets across the borough.

How will we know it's working?

- ✔ 8% increase in the proportion of residents from under-represented or over-policed communities reporting trust and confidence in local policing, measured annually.
- ✔ 15% reduction in repeat hate crime victimisation.
- ✔ Increase in the number of residents that feel people, in their local area, from different backgrounds get on well together.



# Improving trust and confidence



This plan places the focus of improving trust and confidence at the heart of the work community safety partners do. We know that crime and disorder is a particular concern for some of our residents and we want to make sure local people see the effects, commitment and efforts of key services across the borough to ensure Tower Hamlets is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Through Public Attitude Surveys, Annual Resident Surveys, public consultations and connecting with local people in their communities, we aim to ensure the voice of our residents is at the heart of the services we provide.

The New Met for London Plan is focused on rebuilding trust and confidence in the police. It includes nine key priorities designed to improve how officers work with communities. The plan emphasizes transparency and accountability, ensuring that police actions are clear and fair. Officers will receive better training on treating everyone with respect and fairness, while also focusing on tackling crime more effectively.

The police will work hard to communicate more openly and listen to people's concerns. By addressing issues of misconduct and making sure officers act with integrity, the plan aims to create safer communities where people feel protected and confident in the police. This plan puts local people's needs first and strives to restore trust in policing across the city.



## The focus – what will we do?

To achieve our goals, we know that there are things that we need to implement. To improve trust and confidence, we will:

- ✔ Hold an annual community safety partnership (CSP) public meeting to ensure CSP partners are public facing and engage our local people: improving transparency and accountability to the people we serve.
- ✔ Continue to build strong relationships with our communities by finding ways to engage directly with our residents: listening to concerns and responding to feedback on how we can meet the needs of local people.
- ✔ Improve on how we communicate and the frequency of communicating with local people: ensuring those who live, work and visit the borough are informed on what we do in partnership to ensure Tower Hamlets is a safe place.
- ✔ Embed our commitment to serving a diverse borough through cultural competency, having culturally appropriate services and embedding our dedication to anti-racist practices and process within service provision.
- ✔ Work with local organisations and the voluntary community sector to build community trust and nurture the links between our communities and those that serve them.



# Need information and advice?

Service	Contact
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phone <b>999</b> (in an emergency or when a crime is happening)</li><li>• Phone <b>101</b> (non-emergency and to report ASB)</li><li>• Report ASB and crime online to the police (for drug dealing select antisocial behaviour): <a href="http://www.met.police.uk/report">www.met.police.uk/report</a></li></ul>
VAWG services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tower Hamlets Council website: <a href="http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/VAWG">www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/VAWG</a></li><li>• VAWG support services directory</li><li>• Email: <a href="mailto:vawg@towerhamlets.gov.uk">vawg@towerhamlets.gov.uk</a></li></ul>
Victims of crime - victim support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Victim Support website: <a href="http://www.victimsupport.org.uk">www.victimsupport.org.uk</a></li><li>• Free support line: <b>0808 168 9291</b> (8am-8pm, Mon-Sun). Out of hours: <b>0808 168 911</b></li></ul>
Drug and alcohol services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RESET (adult drug and alcohol treatment service) website - <a href="#">RESET Treatment and Recovery Support Service   Change Grow Live   Tower Hamlets service</a> Phone: <b>020 3889 9510</b> (9am – 5pm, Mon-Fri). Out of hours, leave a message for a member of staff to get back to you Email: <a href="mailto:reset.towerhamlets@cgl.org.uk">reset.towerhamlets@cgl.org.uk</a></li><li>• Safe East - Compass UK (young people's health &amp; wellbeing service) website - <a href="#">Compass Safe East   Tower Hamlets   YP health services</a> Phone: <b>020 3954 0091</b> Email: <a href="mailto:compass.towerhamletsyphws@nhs.net">compass.towerhamletsyphws@nhs.net</a></li></ul>



Service	Contact
Community Trigger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Email: <a href="mailto:asb.casereview@towerhamlets.gov.uk">asb.casereview@towerhamlets.gov.uk</a></li><li>Phone: <b>020 7364 3277</b> (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)</li><li>Mail to: Tower Hamlets ASB Case Review, The ASB and Community Safety Delivery Team, Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ</li></ul>
Anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tower Hamlets Council website and reporting online: <a href="http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ASB">www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ASB</a></li></ul>
Hate crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tower Hamlets Council website: <a href="http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/HateCrime">www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/HateCrime</a></li><li>Phone <b>999</b> (in an emergency)</li><li>Phone <b>101</b> (non-emergency)</li><li>Report online: <a href="http://www.report-it.org.uk">www.report-it.org.uk</a></li></ul>
Health and wellbeing	Tower Hamlets Council website (includes useful contacts and links to NHS services, community navigators, physical health, mental health, sexual health, addiction, children, young people and families).





**TOWER HAMLETS**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY**  
**PARTNERSHIP**