

**Target Law Breakers and Take Weapons Off Streets**

- Weapons sweeps with local community
- Control sales of knives and corrosive substances
- Target knife crime operations and awareness raising
- Intelligence led use of Stop & Search powers
- Targeted drugs operations
- Support offenders out of crime

“It’s rooted in the gangs and drugs”



**Knife crime up 15.4% to 705 vs 2016/17**

**Protect and Educate Young People**

- Substance Misuse Service
- Knife crime programme in schools & colleges
- £4 million Youth Service provision
- Dedicated police officer for each and every school
- Promote Junior Citizens Scheme



**First time entrants into youth justice system down 82 to 549 per 100,000 of population vs Oct 2015 – Sept 2016**

“The seeds of violent behaviour are sown early on”

**Community Safety Partnership Knife Crime Action Plan**

What do we know in Tower Hamlets?  
Community told us knife crime was a top 3 concern  
Focus groups with young people developed this plan

Victims: 85% male, 25% 13-19 yrs, 46% 20-30 years,  
Suspects: 100% male, most common aged 16-30 years  
We are third worst in London for knife crime injury where the victim is aged under 25



**Robbery up 16.3% to 1,550 vs 2016/17**



**Weapons Possession up 22% to 318 vs 2016/17**

**Support Victims**

- New multi-agency Exploitation Team for early identification and support
- Accident and Emergency Major Trauma Team and Paediatric Team Projects
- Victim support violent crime workers
- Work with community and voluntary sectors to provide support
- Intensive 1-2-1 support for young people

“We all go for the quick fixes and there is no quick fix in this. It has to be long term relationship building for change”



**Knife crime with Injury up 2.4% to 210 vs 2016/17**

**Build Trust with and Confidence in Communities**

- Youth Independent Advisory Group for policing
- Community safety outreach and engagement
- EMPOWER: a support programme addressing young women’s experiences of sexual violence and exploitation, primarily through gangs
- Develop community champions to raise awareness
- Support community and voluntary sector projects



**Violence up 4.2% to 415 vs 2016/17**

“The community need to be supported to intervene”

**“When you are going into families where the support structures aren’t there, the damage is done for a young person. You’ve really got to be able to invest in relationships to allow that young person to be able to undo their perceptions, attitudes, their thinking”**  
*(Community org.)*

**“They just read things off books. They don’t know how we feel or what leads up to doing crime”**  
*(young person)*

**“We all go for quick fixes. And there is no quick fix in this. It has to be long term relationship building for change”**  
*(Community org.)*

**“We work with a lot of young people who if you tapped into their ability would be highly successful business people or entrepreneurs. But it doesn’t get tapped in the right way”**  
*(Community org.)*

**“It’s not about creating jobs. The jobs are there. But a lot of young people can’t access jobs. They don’t have the confidence or skills. We have more jobs than people’**  
*(Community org.)*

**“Its about my family and being away from them. At the end of the day I’ve only learnt this recently by going to jail”**  
*(young person)*

**“The cops always pick on us because of the way we dress, the way we look”**  
*(young person)*

**“You see how easy it is to get caught up in a (criminal) environment when you don’t see changes and opportunities for you”** *(Community org.)*

**“How do you give people second, third and fourth chances to make that change? To fund something means long term resourcing... two or three years”**  
*(Community org.)*

**“Tough enforcement is needed, identify the elders and disrupt, disrupt, disrupt..”**  
*(Partner org.)*