

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.)