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| **Violent Crime Summit Statement of Action** |

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| During 2017/8 crime increased in Tower Hamlets. Overall reported crime has gone up 4% and violent crime has increased by 4.25%. Currently Tower Hamlets has the 4th highest rate of Knife crime in London, but generally has a lower increase in violent crime than in London averages.   * Robbery increased by 16.7% in Tower Hamlets and 36% in London * Sexual offences Increased by 8.6% in Tower Hamlets and 11.8% in London * Violence Increased by 4.3% in Tower Hamlets and 4.3% in London * Wounding/GBH increased by 2.8% and 6.5% in London * Murder increased by 20% in Tower Hamlets and 50% by London * Offensive weapons increased by 26.1% in Tower Hamlets and 27.2% in London |

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| **Context Stakeholder: Violence Perception from Violent Crime Summit (September 2018)**     * It was thought the most common crimes in the borough were domestic violence, gang crime and knife crime. This is in line with police data about local crime trends. * It was thought that homicide was the least common crime; again this is reflective of what is known about crime locally. * People generally think that gun and corrosive substances/acid attacks are less common forms of crime. |

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| **What has Tower Hamlets been doing about Violent Crime?** |  |
| **Council** | **Project** |
| Children and Family Services | The Exploitation Team, St Giles and the Youth Justice Team are working collaboratively with each other to develop an educational training programme for schools and youth centres, focusing on current issues such as serious youth violence, criminal/sexual exploitation. |
| Children and Family Services | Local research published in December 2015 (Troubled Families, Tragic Consequences) found that young people who had been exposed to trauma as children are more likely to become involved in serious violence. To prevent this, and to ensure that vulnerable children have access to mental support, LBTH has funded a mental health social worker who will be based in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). |
| Children and Family Services | LBTH is currently considering how to deliver Public Health related violent crime interventions for example skilling up young people to deliver training to their peers in educational settings. The training would be around gangs/groups, CSE, staying safe, county lines, criminal exploitation (Glasgow Violent Crime Reduction Project recommendation) |
| Youth Services | The exploitation of vulnerable young women is being addressed by the Youth Service's ‘A Team Arts project’ that run a 3 hour CSE workshop called 'Her Link' in schools, Youth Centres and Community Centres. The workshop aims to:   * Explore young people’s understanding of what the meaning of exploitation and consent is * Know how to recognise the signs and indicators of grooming and sexual exploitation * Use puppetry as a safe way for young people to do scenario work in order to increase early identification of CSE and what to do to get help. |
| Youth Services | Restorative practices and conflict resolution is being rolled out across the borough to enable children and young people to learn how to deescalate scenarios before they become violent |
| Youth Services | LBTH has 18 youth hubs across the borough that aim to keep young people safe as well as providing the opportunity to receive support if it is needed. |
| Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) | CAHMS provides early intervention and treatment to support children, adolescent and families affected by violence and related issues such as anger/behavioral difficulties and trauma and abuse.  Work at CAMHS may be in groups (with people in similar situations) or as individuals/families. |
| Tower Hamlets Youth Offending Team | The YOT works with young people (aged 10 to 18) in the criminal justice system including young people who have been involved in violence. They also work with the wider community to prevent vulnerable young people entering the criminal justice system. |
| Education Services | Tower Hamlets education services provide a range of services to reduce and prevent violence amongst children. This includes training for teaching assistants so they can support children emotionally and whole school training to support children who are undergoing trauma. |
| Adult Social Care | The Safeguarding Adults Board works to support vulnerable people to become more aware of and resilient to abuse, violence and exploitation. Over Safeguarding month, for example, a series of awareness-raising workshops are being held on issues such as modern slavery. |
| Adult Social Care | The staff in adult social care are currently exploring how to support vulnerable young people who are aging out of children services and who still need interventions but do not meet the threshold for support from Adult Social Care. This is being done in consultation with the community through running ‘community conversations’ to elicit their views. |
| Licensing Service | The Council has a statutory duty to safeguard children and ensure that they are protected from the effects of alcohol, especially alcohol related violence related to the night time economy. The Council has used money from the night time levy to fund interventions such as the Street Pastors who reduce violence with interventions such as de-escalation. |
| Trading Standards Service | The Trading Standards Team is responsible for preventing the sales of knives to underage people. In 2018, during 9 months the team carried out 76 test purchase operations. |
| Scrutiny and Equalities | LBTH has developed a local Community Fund which provides funding to Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations, through a light touch commissioning process. As part of this fund, organisations will be able to bid for funding to support crime reduction initiatives in the borough. Currently the funding available for the community safety theme is £190,000 per year for 3.5 years. Currently we are working with community organisations to agree outcomes, which will hopefully include a violent crime reduction outcome |

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| **Tower Hamlets approach to addressing Violent Crime** |
| * Prioritising action and impact. * Less consultation, more focus on ongoing two way communication. * A balanced approached between enforcement and prevention with an emphasis on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults * Co-production with the voluntary, community and faith sectors * Increasing resources where possible, both financial and other resources * Intelligence and data led interventions. |

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| **What have Tower Hamlets residents, community groups and professionals told us they want?** | **What we are doing** |
| **Targeted support aimed at hard to reach young people** | The LBTH Community Safety Team have worked with the RLH Major Trauma Unit to create a post a Violent Crime Reduction Officer (VCRO) to engage with victims of weapon enabled, violence including knife crimes that are treated and discharged without being admitted to hospital. The VCRO will work with people aged 10 to 26 supporting them through preventative work bespoke to the risk and circumstance either as victims or perpetrators or both.    The Rapid Response Caseworker post will deliver a community based wrap around service tailored to the individual, working towards exit strategies in line with circumstances and aspirations.    Targeted outreach is provided by the Rapid Response Team (RRT) are not in touch with mainstream services. The RRT works out of hours covering the early evening on weekdays and late nights at the often in partnership with community groups to understand concerns, identify risk, promote resilience against all forms of violence and exploitation, and help to safeguard anyone who may be at risk of harm. |
| **Partnership working with the Police.** | The Council has funded the ‘Partnership Task Force’ which currently consists of 1 Sergeant and 10 Constables tasked to undertake stop and search for weapons, disrupt drug markets and detect violent offences. The team have arrested people for offences such as GBH and threats to kill. In addition, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Specialist Police officers have been involved in Operation Continuum which is an ongoing operation to reduce crime. They have had impressive results for example 33 weapons recovered from weapons sweeps, 164 drugs ‘stop and search’ and 190 arrests for drug offences |
| **A balanced approach to tackling violence, with a mix of enforcement and prevention and early intervention actions.** | The Council is committed to developing a Public Health approach to addressing violence. This means developing a holistic approach based on what is known about the needs of the borough. We are following best practice for example the Glasgow model focussing on preventative actions such as Restorative Justice, peer mentoring in schools and supporting family relationships.    Schools and Youth Services build resilience in young people with a range of activities for example youth hubs which offer a range of activities and the Early Help Transition Service who support families |
| **Empowering voluntary community sector and faith organisations** | The Council is working with faith and community groups, particularly those with a specialist understanding of violence reduction. We will commission the Streetpastors a faith based organisation, who will help to deescalate violence related to the night time economy, St Giles Trust to provide interventions to children and young people affected by violent crime. |
| **Increasing resources to tackle gang related activity** | Where we can, we will increase the resources available to support all those affected by violence. As well as exploring how we can fund additional ‘on the ground’ workers, we will bring together funding and resources across the Council to make sure that there is support for vulnerable young people aged over 18 who are no longer eligible for support from Children’s Services |
| **Targeted outreach to ensure young people are able to influence the services, strategies and interventions that affect them.** | We continue to look for young people’s views on all issues which affect them by engaging with them in schools, youth groups, through police consultative bodies and targeted outreach. We are committed to having an ongoing dialogue about violence with all members of the community affected by violence in Tower Hamlets. |