



**ISLINGTON**

In partnership with



# **Working Together for a Safer Islington 2017 – 2020**

***A partnership response to tackling  
youth crime in our borough***



### **Councillor Joe Caluori, Executive Member for Children and Families, Islington Council**

Every time a child is born in Islington, or when a family moves here, the parents want their child to achieve their full potential and lead a long and happy life. No parent wants their child to fall into youth crime or a gang; and no child at primary school dreams of committing violent criminal acts.

However, for too many families the overwhelming pressures of poverty coupled with parental vulnerability factors such as mental health problems, substance misuse and domestic abuse creates a toxic environment for children in which they are unable to exercise self-control, set goals for themselves and relate to others appropriately.

The end result of this can be falling into offending behaviour which, if left unresolved can rapidly escalate into more serious violent offences. There are also older people who are ready to take advantage of these vulnerable young people and groom them into criminal networks with false promises of wealth and status. The true consequences of gang involvement for these young people are the worse outcomes imaginable.

In Islington we refuse to accept that this trajectory is inevitable or acceptable for any child. We invest more in universal youth services than any other local authority in the country. We have protected funding for our Youth Offending and Targeted Youth Services and allocated an additional £500k per year for additional mentoring and employment support for the hardest to reach young people. We are seeing record numbers of young people engaging with our youth provision and the number of first time entrants into the youth offending system is reducing, but we have a hard core of young people with entrenched offending behaviour who drive the majority of youth crime in the Borough.

This strategy is rooted in our early intervention philosophy. It sets out a detailed plan to turn off the tap whilst also bailing out the bath water; working with children at a very young age to enable positive choices whilst also taking decisive action to support children and their families when the early warning signs are there.

Working together, we can crack the problem of youth crime in Islington. But to do that we need the support of the whole community. Ensuring that all the children in our Borough thrive is our shared responsibility. Let's work together to give children back the childhood and the future they are currently being denied.

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## 1 Introduction

Reducing youth crime and the related harm to young people, families and communities is the highest priority for our council and all our partners. Islington, like other parts of London and the UK has seen worrying increases in youth violence. In the UK, there has been an increase in the number of fatal stabbings this year which rose to 33 in May, of these 16 were teenagers and children, and seven were in London. Like most large cities in the UK, London is also seeing emerging issues of child sexual exploitation and county lines, with drug dealing lines being run out of the capital into towns throughout the country. In Islington, this is increasingly prevalent and we continue to be committed to protecting all children and young people who may be vulnerable to all forms of exploitation.

The Islington **Youth Council** who represent children and young people who attend school and live here in our borough, have made youth crime one of their key priorities for action.

**'Islington Youth Council recognises the importance of crime and safety; we strongly believe that the youth of today represent a measure of success or failure for every borough. We believe that this plan will significantly help young people as they are the learners of today and the teachers of tomorrow. We need to do more to help young people to have a better future and a better life'.**

**Quote from Young Mayor Diana Gomez (May 2017)**

We are immensely proud to live, learn and work in Islington; its diverse and cosmopolitan demographic make it rich in language and culture. In Islington 94% of learners attend a good or outstanding school or pupil referral unit which is higher than found nationally (Ofsted Data View, August 2016). In addition, Islington pupils exceed key stage 1 indicators and our Children Looked After also exceed attainment levels against the national average. With 16 children centres, 42 primary and 8 secondary schools, 12 adventure playgrounds and 2 vibrant co-produced, designed and run youth hubs, along with a variety of good quality community and voluntary provision for all ages Islington is an excellent place to live, work, learn and play.

However, we do have challenges as 34.5% of our local authority's child population live in poverty and our primary and secondary free school meal entitlement are both significantly higher than the national averages. (Primary 29.1% national average is 14.5% and Secondary 33.6% average is 13.2%)<sup>1</sup> With the second smallest amount of green space per head in London, a child in Islington has half the amount of space to play in than other children.

There are currently 40,000<sup>2</sup> children, young people aged 4 to 24 living in Islington and we have a relatively small number of young people who need more support to achieve their full potential. We understand that these young people can provide a challenge to our community, and impact on our residents and services.

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<sup>1</sup> Children Living in Low Income Families Measure for 2012 – latest available).

<sup>2</sup> (2016 GLA Witan Population Projections for Islington).

## 1.1 National Context

Islington partners welcome the **Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Police and crime plan 2017-2021: A safer city for all Londoners**. Launched in March 2017, the plan provides the opportunity to work with partners across London and beyond.

The five priorities are:

- A better police service for London
- A better Criminal Justice Service for London
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls
- Standing together against hatred and intolerance

Serious youth violence and knife crime has increased across London and the UK in the past year and stabbings of young people are becoming increasingly common.

***'Ambulance staff said dealing with stabbings was "now just part of the workload"'***<sup>3</sup>

Statistics show that, in 2016 - 2017, gun crime had also increased in London. Whilst the numbers of such offences involving young people are lower than those perpetrated by adults, there is no room for complacency.

A report by the Police and Crime Committee suggests a dominant driver for young people carrying knives, ***"appears to be a belief that they need to be prepared to defend themselves"*** The report states ***"fear can also be fueled by awareness of stabbings in their community"***<sup>4</sup>.

**County Lines** is now recognised as a growing safeguarding issue for young people in the UK, and Islington as with other Local Authorities await the national steer from the Home Office.

The National Crime Agency defines 'County Lines' as a: ***'national issue involving the use of mobile phone 'lines' by groups to extend their drug dealing business into new locations outside of their home areas. A 'county lines' enterprise almost always involves exploitation of vulnerable persons; this can involve both children and adults who require safeguarding.'***<sup>5</sup>

There is a much greater recognition among the police and other partners that the response to gang crime and county lines should focus on support around vulnerability and exploitation, rather than drug arrests. This approach ties with the **Modern-Day Slavery Act 2015**, which stipulates that public authorities including councils and police, have a legal duty to notify the Home Office when we encounter any potential victim of modern slavery, the Home Office has asked the Crown Prosecution Service to provide procedural advice in the use of the modern slavery legislation in relation to County Lines.

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<sup>3</sup> Evening Standard, 27th April 2017

<sup>4</sup> PCC report on Knife Crime, September 2016

<sup>5</sup> NCA, County Lines, Gang Violence and Drug Supply report, November 2016

According to Metropolitan Police intelligence reports, there are an estimated **225** recognised gangs in London, comprising of around 3,600 gang members. 58 of these gangs are considered to be particularly active, being responsible for around two thirds of all gang related offences<sup>6</sup>. Nationally, official statistics on how many sexually exploited children have been identified by the authorities are not currently available however it is estimated that over 2,400 children were victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups from August 2010 to October 2011.<sup>7</sup>

A further challenge has been highlighted for us in the Lammy Review (2016)<sup>8</sup> which acknowledges the over representation of BAME people in the criminal justice systems and requires local authorities to address this. Figures published by the Youth Justice Board (for England and Wales) show that young black and minority ethnic groups are over represented nationally in youth offending in relation to both community and custodial penalties and these patterns are seen in Islington.

## 1.2 Local Context

Most young people do not perpetrate, or become victims of crime but the impact of those who do disproportionately affects feelings of safety among young people, families and communities within the borough. Islington has seen an increase in serious youth violence, up by 30% from 2015/16 and an increase in knife crime with victims under 25 years old up 9% this compares to 23% across London. There has been for some time, a worrying trend of mobile phone theft which rose in 2016 by 33%, higher than both the London and national average (MPS data). There are six known gangs in Islington and three are seen to be the most active. The gangs are all very different in how they operate and we have reason to believe that some of our gangs have formed alliances with other gangs in and outside Islington to strengthen their hold on some of the drugs markets.

Whilst our first time offending rates continue to drop and reoffending rates have started to reduce we have a small cohort of young people who persistently offend and escalate their offending behavior in a short space of time. This has been in part to the police becoming more sophisticated in their awareness of these young people, as well as the fact that the young people involved have developed a lifestyle that they wish to maintain and that can only be achieved through crime. We have, however, seen a reduction in our custody rates overall.

The Youth Offending caseload remains between 80 and 100 young people at any one time. We have seen through our Youth Offending tracker that we have a disproportion in the number of black young males offending in our borough. To address this, we have commenced work with a voluntary sector organisation that works to mentor and offer positive role models for young black males and will continually work to address this issue by developing a more intensive support package to this group through engagement with other voluntary providers.

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<sup>6</sup> Metropolitan Police, Trident Gang Crime Command FAQs [accessed 18 February 2016]

<sup>7</sup> Berelowitz, S. et al (2012) "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world." [The Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry in to child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups: interim report \(PDF\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> Lammy Review of BAME representation in the criminal justice system (November 2016)

We need to acknowledge the context within which this crime picture sits and that the borough is one of stark contrasts. In the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Islington was found to be the 26th most deprived local authority in the country and 5th most deprived in London. It is the third most deprived based on IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index), with approximately 35% of children living in income deprived households. 26% of Islington children live in workless families. The provision of affordable childcare, particularly for low income families, is key to ensuring children are safe and there is concern regarding the impact of the recent cut of the funding for the over 5s childcare subsidy.

### 1.3 Key messages from research and intelligence

Significant work has been undertaken by all agencies to understand our young people involved in offending, with a recent knife harm review led by Public Health commissioned by the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) and research on reoffending in Islington (University of London 2017). Both found that factors related to family background are the most common feature among young people who offend. The University of London report found that in 19 out of the 23 cases reviewed the young person was found to be living in a lone parent family, with parental substance misuse often an issue amongst mothers, and absent fathers. Concerns about parental capacity are also often shown in a long history of social work involvement with the mother, and domestic abuse is a common factor in these families. It is widely recognised that most of these factors are found in areas of economic poverty and social deprivation.

The Islington Fairness Commission (2012) spoke of the 'Two Islington's'; one characterised by relative advantage the other relative disadvantage (9). 60% of Islington's children and young people live in social rented housing; (compared to 44% of Islington's population as a whole). However, many of the risk factors can be seen through this lens; poor housing that pushes young people out onto the streets; low levels of parental support for academic achievement and career aspiration; family histories of adversity and risk; no money for extra-curricular activities; and parents struggling to support their children due to poor mental health. The Camden and Islington Public Health Report (2015) provides a preferred prevalence rate of a diagnosable mental health disorder rate based at 14% for our 5 - 16 year olds, which is considerably higher than the national average.

Through our involvement with young adults in Islington we have built up a clearer picture of their early life experiences and how this has influenced them becoming involved in criminal activity and escalation into violent and serious offending. In Islington, we see young people who are part of a gang or who undertake criminal activity who have had contact with specialised social work services for most of their young lives, as they have been emotionally and physically neglected.

We increasingly recognise that young people are suffering trauma due to their early childhood experiences and also through their exposure to criminality. This has led us to develop approaches around trauma based work. We want to continue to work with our education partners with children who are presenting with worrying

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<sup>9</sup> Islington Fairness Commission [www.islington.gov.uk/fairness](http://www.islington.gov.uk/fairness)

behaviours. We have worked jointly to set up a trauma based pilot, using \*ARC (Attachment, Regulation and Competency) systematic framework to guide work with children, young people and families with teachers and youth workers and community based staff to underpin their work. This will roll out in 2017.

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF, 2015)<sup>10</sup> reported that 7 years old is a key age for children with these vulnerabilities to be drawn into antisocial behavior and low level offending that can escalate as they grow. We are mindful of that research and it is imperative that our collective aim is to use our data better to identify children who may be at increased risk as early as possible in universal settings and not waiting for them, to be identified by our targeted services or become known to specialist services. The characteristics listed below are not exhaustive but have been found to have been evident as key indicators of risk factors that make young people both nationally and in Islington, vulnerable to partaking in crime.

Family	School	Individual and Peer Group	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor parental supervision/ discipline</li> <li>• Family conflict</li> <li>• Parents take part in problem behaviour/ approve of it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early and persistent anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Low achievement beginning at primary schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attitudes that condone problem behaviours</li> <li>• Early initiation into such behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norms favourable to crime</li> <li>• Low neighbourhood attachment and community disorganisation</li> <li>• Extreme economic deprivation</li> </ul>

In understanding this it is clear we need to increase the protective and resilience factors for children who experience these risk factors. Many studies have shown that although children may be born with certain predispositions their behaviour patterns are learned<sup>11</sup>. Community based action to reduce risk in children’s lives and enhance protection can not only enable them to reach their potential, but also reduce the chances of involvement in crime, substance misuse and other behaviors that cause concern.

We need to do more to identify and build on the protective factors that can support young people using a strengths based approach to make positive choices and avoid involvement in crime and ASB either as a perpetrator or victim. These include: strong bonds with family, friends and peers; healthy standards set by parent’s teachers and community leaders; social and learning skills to enable participation and recognition and praise for positive behaviour.

<sup>10</sup> Preventing Gang and Youth Violence EIF (17<sup>th</sup> November 2015)

<sup>11</sup> Nature–nurture integration: The example of antisocial behaviour. Rutter, Michael L. American Psychologist, Vol 52(4), Apr 1997, 390-398.



## 1.4 Our response

Our Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) has ensured that the youth crime agenda is seen within a safeguarding framework and is understood as such by all partner agencies and this further enhances the need for wider collective action. The serious youth violence work will be monitored and scrutinised through the Missing/CSE sub group to ensure that these factors are considered within a safeguarding context. There will also be regular reports to the ISCB and to our Safer Islington Partnership (SIP).

We **all** have a contribution to make towards reducing the risk factors that often lead to children and young people becoming vulnerable to entering the criminal justice system. The Youth and Community Service has the lead for tackling youth crime for Islington Council alongside our partners but we cannot do this alone. By working with key statutory partners, Voluntary and Community stakeholders as well as young people and their care givers, we know we will make a better and more sustainable impact.

### This is what we will do

We will continue to

- Create safer places for our children and young people to grow up in, learn and enjoy and just be young people
- Build resilience within individuals, families and communities
- Protect and safeguard young people and support them and their families when they are the victims of crime and exploitation
- Prevent young people from getting involved in crime and entering the Youth Justice System for the first time
- Tackle gangs, knife crime and other violence by and against young people and reduce reoffending by young people

## 2 Purpose of the plan

This plan sets out how we will work together over the next 3 years to reduce the number of young people becoming involved in crime or being the victims of crime and ensuring young people feel safe and are safe. We recognise that this issue requires a collective partnership response that requires a balance of prevention, interventions and the use of enforcement where young people persist in offending and risk harm to themselves and/or others. Our focus will be on **prevention and early intervention** as the most effective way to reduce youth crime is to prevent young people getting into trouble in the first place. We will work hard to ensure that young people, families and communities will be at the heart of our planning and delivery.

The plan builds on the Islington Youth Crime strategy developed in 2015 which set out to provide a comprehensive response to the issues of youth crime and gangs in Islington. It needs to be read in conjunction with our 10-year **Early Help strategy**<sup>12</sup> and seen as part of our stronger family work as part of the national agenda for “troubled families”. In addition, to be aligned with the work of the Islington **Fair Futures Commission**<sup>13</sup> launched on 22 February 2017 that will end in February 2018 with a report that summarises its findings and provides some recommendations for change.

### **Review of the previous Youth Crime Strategy 2015**

Islington has made good progress in responding to the challenges presented by and for children and young people concerned about, exposed to or committing crime since 2015;

- **The establishment of the co-located and multi-agency Integrated Gangs Team (IGT) at Islington police station**

Our strategy in 2015 outlined a need for setting up a multi- agency team to tackle the small number of high risk young people that we are in contact with through a range of services and look at preventing further escalation of this group. This resulted in the IGT team and identified the need for a successful co-located service to work cohesively with young people. This team focuses on the top 50 gang members identified thorough the police matrix and has worked with 103 Young People in 2016 - 17. Through the IGT we have been able to work intensively with young people involved in the gang lifestyle and provide support and education including access back in to education or employment pathways. We aim to build on this learning and add capacity to work with those young people who are on the cusp of gang membership.

- **Reducing the numbers of young people in Alternative Provision to mainstream education**

We have been working with our community of schools to reduce the number of young people excluded and placed in alternative provision. This has

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.islington.gov.uk/.../\(2015-06-02\)-Islington-Early-Help-Strategy-2015-2025](https://www.islington.gov.uk/.../(2015-06-02)-Islington-Early-Help-Strategy-2015-2025)

<sup>13</sup> [www.fairfutures.org](http://www.fairfutures.org)

resulted in a decline since 2015. We would like this to continue at pace, and have continued to offer a comprehensive offer of support through a broad range of interventions to schools to assist them. The Safer Schools programme run by the Islington Police is the only programme run by the Met police in London to work to assist schools in anti-knife work and bespoke educational activities to address violent and anti-social behaviour. We consider that schools have a unique role to play in supporting young people but require information about advising parents on where to go if they are worried about their child. We also need to ensure we continually support schools to work with young people who feel the only way they can protect themselves is to carry a knife.

- **The council has invested a further £2million of funding to address serious youth violence over four years**

The Council supported the need for additional capacity into Children Services by investing an additional £500k per year to be used primarily to increase mentoring and key working capacity to young people of both Primary and Secondary school ages. This has allowed practitioners to work alongside the community and voluntary sector who have developed expertise in approaches to support young people at risk. The sector also employs those adults that were once in gangs themselves and previously known to youth offending services. There is no better skill than drawing on lived experience. We will continually commission external support to share knowledge and skills in this field and learn from each other.

**Our continued approach;**

Despite progress being made, there are still too many children and young people who are impacted negatively by crime and to drive this forward we have broadened our range of commitments to work together within our refreshed strategic plan into 2020. As with all strategic plans we will update and change to reflect the environment in which we operate.

**We will deliver our objectives by working to the same values across our partner agencies by -**

- Focusing on prevention and early intervention
- Treating the issue of crime in the context of safeguarding and focus on vulnerability and exploitation of children and young people
- Working with children and young people up to the age of 25
- Seeing our young people as assets and building on the strengths and positives within their families
- Being persistent in our approach and not giving up on young people who professionals find harder to engage
- Recognising and responding to the impact of trauma on children especially those who have witnessed violence in the home or in their communities
- Listening and involving young people and families in their plans
- Acknowledge the specific needs of girls and young women in relation to crime and exploitation through gangs, CSE and County Lines and respond accordingly
- Recognising that young people's perception of Islington as a place to live, play and go to school and contribute to their feelings of safety.

### 3 What we aim to achieve?

We have identified five priority objectives for 2017-2020



This is what success will look like

#### Objective 1: Create safer places for our children and young people to grow up in, learn and enjoy

- involve children and young people in the design and decisions in the areas where young people frequent
- increase places of safety for young people to seek refuge when and if required
- achieve safer estates, roads and parks through design ensuring all planning applications and development consider youth issues as standard practice
- ensure young people have a voice in their community where they live, play and learn; on all issues that affect them now and in the future

#### Objective 2: Build resilience within individuals, families and communities

- ensure children and young people have the skills and knowledge to keep themselves safe and have key workers that provide consistency and support and challenge to meet their needs
- continually enhance the offer available to primary and secondary schools to effectively prevent the onset of early behavioral problems with children and young people that may leave them vulnerable
- empower parents / carers to seek information about issues affecting young people and know where to find the information they are looking for
- community partners throughout the borough effectively engage with children, young people and families through community-based projects
- Provision of support and services specifically for girls and young women

### **Objective 3: Protect and safeguard young people and support them and their families when they are victims of crime**

- services prioritise the safeguarding of vulnerable children at risk of harm and exploitation through crime, gangs, CSE and county lines as well as recognising the negative impact of living in a home where there is domestic abuse
- families experiencing or living with violence receive the support they need, when they need it by knowing what is available to support them
- Modern Slavery legislation protects young people exploited through gangs and county lines effectively whilst also offering protection to those young people who have been trafficked for criminal or sexual exploitation purposes
- young people who are victims of crime feel supported by a range of services which are age, culturally and gender appropriate

### **Objective 4: Prevent young people from getting involved in crime and entering the Youth Justice System for the first time.**

- siblings and family members of young people involved in criminal behavior receive effective preventative support to prevent repeat patterns of offending
- universal services such as schools understand the support available and offer appropriate response when issues or concerns about children and young people arise
- including staff working with young people being available at the times when young people need them to ensure we have a flexible child led offer
- communicating the youth and play offer to maximise children and young people's access to those services, as well as a point of contact for parents and professionals to utilise
- staff have sufficient knowledge and understanding of trauma to offer support that is sensitive to the impact of trauma

### **Objective 5: Tackle gangs, knife crime and other violence by and against young people and reduce reoffending by young people**

- broaden the scope of the Integrated Gangs Team to work with young people on the periphery of gangs as well as those who are established members
- work to establish a wider London footprint to tackle gangs and county lines recognising that young people do not recognise boundaries or borders
- delivery of evidenced based programmes for young people at higher risk
- young people are supported to exit offending lifestyles and access positive activities, continue learning and secure employment and apprenticeships
- strengthen our response and offer to victims and their families
- ensure that there is recognition of the fact that victims can be affected by various forms of crime and/or exploitation (e.g. young women by sexual violence and gang criminality) and that they require support
- ensure recognition that perpetrators can also be victims so require a welfare response as well as a criminal justice response

## 4 Our Plan

### **Objective 1: Create safer places for our children and young people to grow up in, learn and enjoy**

1.1 Review our play offer across the borough to ensure that children and young people have access to fun educational activities with their care givers, parents and families to support secure attachments

1.2 Ensure our staff within our Bright Start services , Play and Integrated Youth offer are trained and supported to identify those young people that may need additional support and can respond in a way which may reduce the need for specialist support in later life

1.3 Ensure that all partners are aware of trends and patterns around youth crime activity in our borough to assist in a more preventative and proactive response to emerging situations which may cause risk to young people in the area

1.4 Promote the development of 'safe zones' across the borough as places young people know they can attend if they feel unsafe and can call or ask for help as part of our wider community 'safe zones' plan

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## **Objective 2: Build resilience within individuals, families, and communities**

2.1 Increase the parenting offer for older children and adolescents across the borough replicating successful interventions in our early years and other services, as well as providing up to date information to parents and carers on potential risks and signposting to support services

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2.2 Increase the number of schools that utilise the Safer Schools police programme and police Youth Engagement Team as well as Targeted Youth programmes which are available across the borough

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2.3 All partners work together to identify those family members and siblings that we know to be more vulnerable to becoming involved in the criminal justice system. We will achieve this by targeting our approaches to these young people and widen our think family approach in this work

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2.4 Promote 'Think Family' as a model for all our youth and community services

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2.5 Adopt a 'one worker one plan' approach, where possible, so children can form sustaining relationships with one professional who they trust which we know will assist in changing and sustaining their behavior where we can

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2.6 Work with young people on the cusp of gang involvement to deter them rather than look to contain on the police Gang Matrix. We will widen the remit and develop the skill mix within the co-located services to strengthen our integrated gang offer

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**Objective 3:  
Protect and  
safeguard young  
people and  
support them  
and their families  
when they are  
victims of crime**

3.1 Ensure all staff across the partnership can effectively assess safeguarding situations where young people may be at risk as well as offending. Actively use the National Referral Mechanism and continue to ensure young people are considered as children first, offender second

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3.2 Extend the counselling offer to young people into the community to support talking therapies and other therapeutic approaches to young people

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3.3 Pilot the risk tool devised by the Trident Police to identify and track those YP who are involved in county lines or are susceptible to it. Use our learning to support any new policy which will minimise risks identified with child exploitation

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3.4 Continue to lobby with our elected members the need for a Marker / Indicator on all police records of a risk for young people to assist in cross border support and advice regarding county lines and promote the need for a unified police response across the UK

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3.5 Ensure all our information and training around safeguarding young people involved in exploitation is made available to all transport services and rail network hubs as well as taxis and hire car companies local to our borough and London

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3.6 Widen the use of the advertising and awareness campaigns which are designed by young people to ensure safety against crime (such as mobile phone theft, child slavery and wider exploitation)

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3.7 Ensure the Met police service can exercise their enforcement responsibilities to protect the wider community from the impact of crime and serious youth violence and promote the use of restorative justice approaches between victims and perpetrators

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**Objective 4:  
Prevent young  
people from  
getting involved  
in crime and  
entering the  
Youth Justice  
System for the  
first time**

4.1 Co-locate our current individual youth teams into local areas to encourage better alignment with schools, nurseries and community provision

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4.2 Strengthen the intensity of the intervention for our most vulnerable and aim to minimise the number of services involved with children, young people and their families at a given time

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4.3 Increase the youth offer to up to the age of 24 for our most vulnerable young people making transition into adulthood

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4.4 Continue to work closer with the community and voluntary sector to ensure a wide range of facilities and services are on offer in borough including linking young people into traineeships as well as apprenticeship and reducing NEET even further over the next three years

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4.5 Offer access to key workers and mentors to young people who we consider require additional support in developing independence and life skills

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4.6 Offer a variety of education programmes for young people, their parents and care givers around consequences of knife and weapon carrying including the Safer Schools programme

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4.7 Work with our children across the partnership to increase their confidence, build self esteem and self belief which is the cornerstone of establishing resilience and is essential to well being

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4.8 Continue to work with adult services to identify children with parents in prison and provide improved support to them and their families

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4.9 Provide a clear offer of support for younger siblings of those already involved in gangs and youth crime including the use of mentoring and key working and pathways to targeted support and positive activities

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**Objective 5:  
Tackle gangs,  
knife crime and  
other violence by  
and against  
young people and  
reduce  
reoffending by  
young people in  
our borough but  
offering intensive  
packages of  
support**

5.1 Work with those in the criminal justice system to disperse and reduce gang activity in our borough safely and effectively through a range of approaches including assertive outreach work and prosecution

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5.2 Advocate for harsher sentences for those adults who use young people to undertake their criminal activities through our work with the Home Office and with local magistrates and the judiciary system

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5.3 Increase our prevention work around schools and youth clubs and play areas to educate and divert young people to stop them carrying a knife as a means to protect themselves

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5.4 Work with our Youth Council to ensure young people have information and knowledge about what support and advice is available to them and who they can talk to

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5.5 Better use of digital technology and social media to inform partners, young people and parents of the local services and resources available to them within Islington

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5.6 Ensure our gang prevention programmes provide targeted interventions to specifically empower parents on signs of safety, grooming, and how to respond if their child is being drawn into offending behaviours

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## Governance

The governance for the Working Together for a Safer Islington 2017 – 2020 plan will be provided by the Safer Islington Partnership who will oversee the delivery of the plan with regular progress reports. Data and performance information for the Youth and Community Service which is responsible for the delivery of the plan will be reviewed at the Islington Safeguarding Children Board.

## References

### Other related strategies, protocols and initiatives:

Islington Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2017 – 2021

Islington Strategic Assessment SIP 2017 – 2018

Islington Early Help Strategy 2015 – 2025

Islington Fair Futures Commission

Information on the above can be found on the Islington Council website: <https://www.islington.gov.uk>

Islington Safeguarding Children Affected by Gang Activity and/or Gang-Related Serious Youth Violence Multi-agency Protocol and Practice Guidance February 2016

<https://www.iscb.org>

Home Office Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation January 2016 -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ending-gang-violence-and-exploitation>

Mayoral Police and Crime Plan – A safer city for all Londoners 2017 – 2021

<https://www.london.gov.uk/mopac-publications/police-and-crime-plan-2017-2021>

### Footnotes

1. Children Living in Low Income Families Measure for 2012
2. 2016 GLA Witan Population Projections for Islington 21
3. Evening Standard, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017
4. PCC report on Knife Crime, September 2016
5. County Lines, Gang Violence and Drug Supply report, November 2016
6. Metropolitan Police, Trident Gang Command FAQs (accessed 18 February 2016)
7. Berelowitz, S. et al (2012) "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world." The Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry in to child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups: interim report (PDF)
8. Lammy Review of BAME representation in the criminal justice system (November 2016)
9. Islington Fairness Commission [www.islington.gov.uk/fairness](http://www.islington.gov.uk/fairness)
10. Preventing Gang and Youth Violence EIF (17th November 2015)
11. Nature–nurture integration: The example of antisocial behaviour. Rutter, Michael L. American Psychologist, Vol 52(4), Apr 1997, 390-398.
12. [https://www.islington.gov.uk/.../\(2015-06-02\)-Islington-Early-Help-Strategy-2015-2025](https://www.islington.gov.uk/.../(2015-06-02)-Islington-Early-Help-Strategy-2015-2025)
13. [www.fairfutures.org](http://www.fairfutures.org)