

VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2019

THE VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP HAS BENEFITED FROM THE INPUT OF MANY ORGANISATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR

We thank them for their support

Met Police

Waltham Forest
CCG

Willowfield School

Streetbase

MOPAC

WF Citizens

The Crown
Prosecution Service

Sir George Monoux
College

Spark2Life

Waltham Forest
College

Youth Independent
Advisory Group

South Chingford
School

L&Q

CRC

East London Business
Alliance

Change Grow Live

Leyton Sixth Form
College

Solace Woman's Aid

The Lammas School

DWP & JCP

Clarion Housing

Frederick Bremer
School

Victim Support

WF Housing
Association

NEFLT NHS

Barts Health

The Jenny Hammond
School

Davies Lane Primary
School

Project Zero

The Mall

We Can Work It Out

Abianda

Peabody

Leyton Orient Trust

thinkFOUNDATION

Boxing4Life

Waltham Forest
Young Advisors

KIS4LIFE

Total Security
Solutions

The Man Den

NPS

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FOREWORD

Cllr Ahsan Khan
Cabinet member for
Community Safety

Young people in Waltham Forest have tremendous talent and potential. It is up to all of us to make sure they grow up in supportive environments. Our work to improve life chances, and build connected communities is central to this, and goes hand in hand with making our communities safer.

We must recognise the difficult context in which many young people now grow up. It is not their fault that nearly a decade of austerity has decimated youth services, police and education budgets. It is not their fault that changes to social security and the rise of zero-hours contracts have made it harder for parents.

Austerity has created the context in which violence can thrive. But that is not to excuse violent behaviours.

Our Violence Reduction Partnership sets out a strategic, public health approach: tough on violence and on the causes of violence. It acknowledges that tackling violence needs a long-term commitment and is not a quick win. It is a new way of working with our communities to find solutions; a collaborative, partnership approach that recognises that it is our collective responsibility to support our young people to showcase their talents: the council, the police, our schools, health workers, community organisations -

and our residents as parents, friends and neighbours.

We are now 12 months on from the establishment of the VRP, and I'm delighted we can bring you this update on the progress we've made so far and detail about how you can get involved in our efforts.

The most recent statistics are promising – a 27% reduction in knife crime offences over 12 months – but only a start. The borough has been touched by tragedy this year and one incident of knife crime is one incident too many.

At the launch of the VRP, Dame Louise Casey asked *'how can it be that a young person can get more love, respect and opportunity from gangs than from their communities?'*

It is up to all of us to ensure that they don't. We all have a role to play. It will take time, but with the commitment we have we will get there.

Together, in partnership.

Ahsan



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - OVERVIEW



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY — PROGRESS SO FAR

Curtail

violent acts at source,
pursuing perpetrators &
enforcing action

Treat

those who have been
exposed to violence to
control the spread

Support

those susceptible to
violence due to their
exposure to risk factors

Strengthen

community resilience
through a universal
approach



More joint operations with Police than any London borough; St James St work led to 38% reduction in crime



48 community mentors trained to help support those at risk of gangs & violence



First borough to launch the **Safe & Together** model to support domestic abuse survivors



Recruited local residents to act as **'Ask Me' ambassadors** to address concerns around gangs



Launched ASB Strategy to embed the partnership approach within Curtail domain



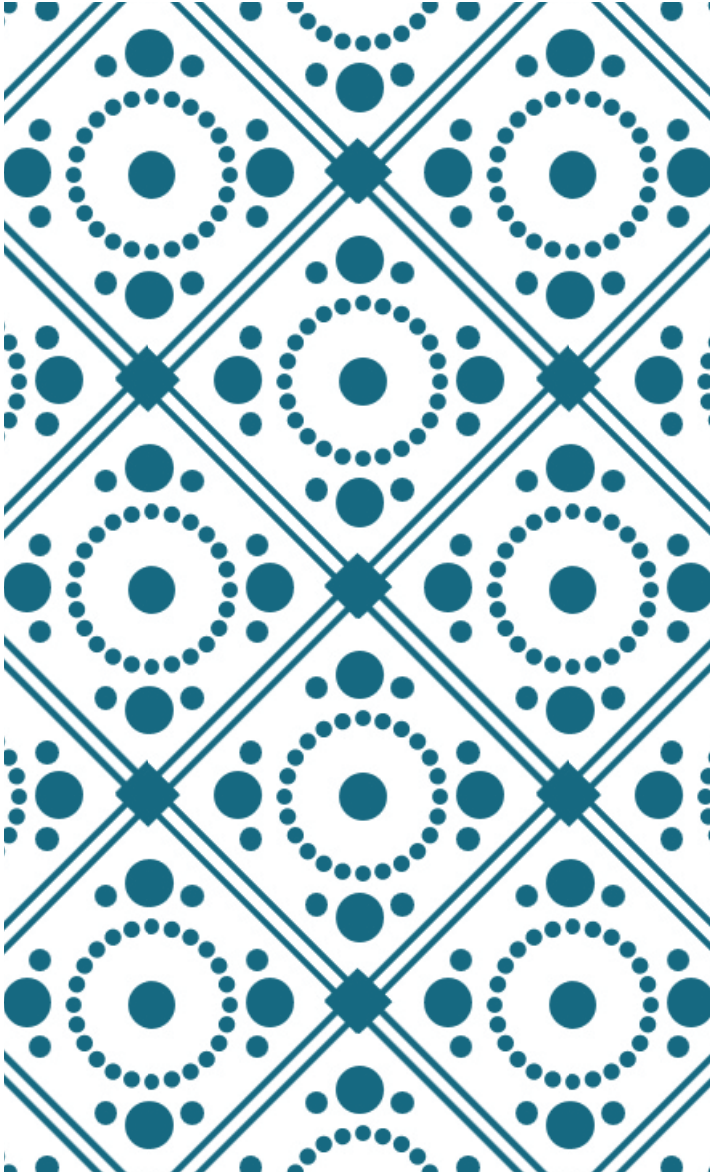
Almost 20% reduction in Persistent Absence in 2018/19, 573 fewer pupils



Implemented gang-exit programme, supporting leavers in the community and as they exit prison



First cohort of 2,000 primary school pupils on **Lifeskills programme** showing **best progression results seen in UK**



WHY?

Setting the context for our Violence Reduction Partnership

SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN THE UK AND LONDON

Serious violence has increased across the UK over recent years:

- Homicides have increased by over a third in the last five years
- Knife offences have risen by over 70%
- The number of under-18s admitted to hospital with knife injuries rose by a third between 2013/14 and 2017/18.¹

A similar pattern has been seen in London:

- Rates of knife crime offences have increased from a low of 1.1 per 1,000, to 1.6 per 1,000 last year.
- The overall rate of serious violence has increased by around 25% since 2013/14

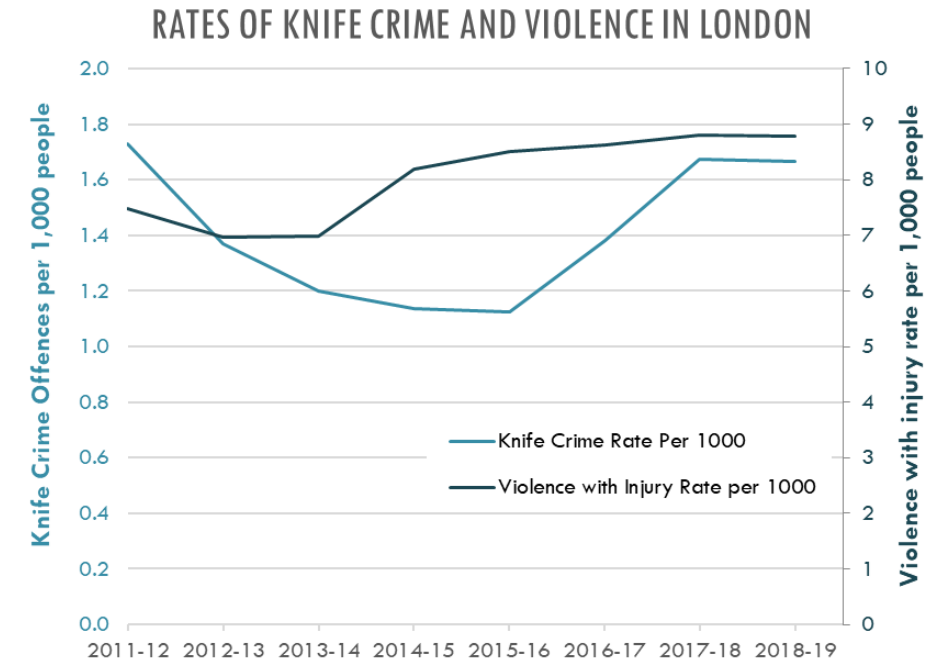
Why has this happened? This year the Home Affairs Committee identified:

Cuts to Youth
Services

Cuts to Police
budgets

Exclusions from
school

Failure of agencies
to effectively
safeguard and
collaborate



"The current epidemic of youth violence has been exacerbated by a perfect storm emerging from cuts to youth services, heavily reduced police budgets, a growing number of children being excluded from school and taken into care, and a failure of statutory agencies to keep young people safe from exploitation and violence. Young people have been failed in the most devastating way, and they are losing their lives as a result. This country is full of resourceful, intelligent and energetic young people who need empowerment, opportunity, something to strive for, a safe space to spend their free time, and trusted adults to turn to when they need help or advice."

Home Affairs Committee, 2019

¹ House of Commons Home Affairs Committee - Serious youth violence
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/1016/1016.pdf>

TACKLING VIOLENCE THROUGH A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

Our public health approach is informed by what we know about violence and its causes:

We know that violence spreads

You are much more likely to be violent if you have witnessed violence or been a victim of violence. According to the Met Police, 72 per cent of homicide suspects were previously victims of crime, and 26% victims of knife crime. More than half of the young people within the Waltham Forest Youth Offending Service have either been witness to domestic abuse, or be victim to it.

We know that some people are at greater risk of violence than others

People with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - stressful events occurring in childhood including parental drug and alcohol misuse, being the victim of neglect, and parental mental health conditions - **are more vulnerable to violence and exploitation** and need additional support to keep them safe.

We know that strong, active communities provide effective alternatives to violence.

This isn't something that can be solved through a single initiative or organisation. It is the responsibility of the whole community to provide a positive, supportive environment where residents have access to positive activities and opportunities. It requires a range of partners to work collaboratively and strategically.

It is therefore crucial that our approach **tackles both violence and the causes of violence**

We must rigorously target outbreaks of violence – stopping acts occurring and prosecuting offenders where it does

We must stop violence spreading, by treating those exposed to violence

We must support the most vulnerable who are most susceptible

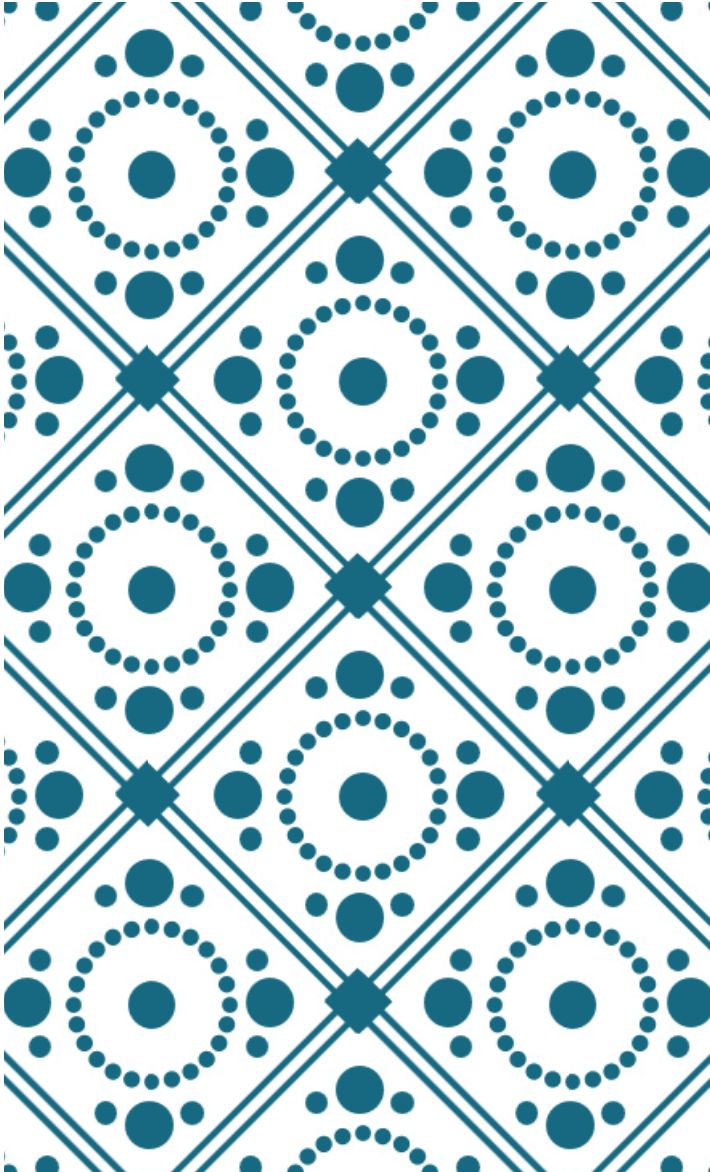
We must strengthen our communities so that they are more resilient

DELIVERING IN PARTNERSHIP

It is clear that **reducing violence cannot be achieved by one organisation working alone.** To successfully tackle violence, it requires all of us to work collaboratively to tackle violence and the causes of violence.

- Effective enforcement action might be led by the police, but it can be more effective when taken forward in partnership with the council and community groups who can offer local knowledge and support.
- Treatment for trauma will often be led by health professionals, but having clear working channels between the police, criminal justice setting, our schools, and voluntary organisations can help get more effective treatment to the right people more quickly.
- We all have a role in supporting those vulnerable to violence and exploitation, but we can do this more effectively through partnerships and information sharing.
- Building strong, resilient communities is a collective responsibility; society is built on partnership.

It is for this reason, that we established the Violence Reduction Partnership, to bring together everyone involved to create a safer Waltham Forest.



HOW?

The principles of our approach to tackle violence

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

Our Violence Reduction Partnership has a **single ambition: to reduce violence in Waltham Forest so that our residents feel safer.**

To deliver this **we need to tackle violence and reduce the fear of violence.**

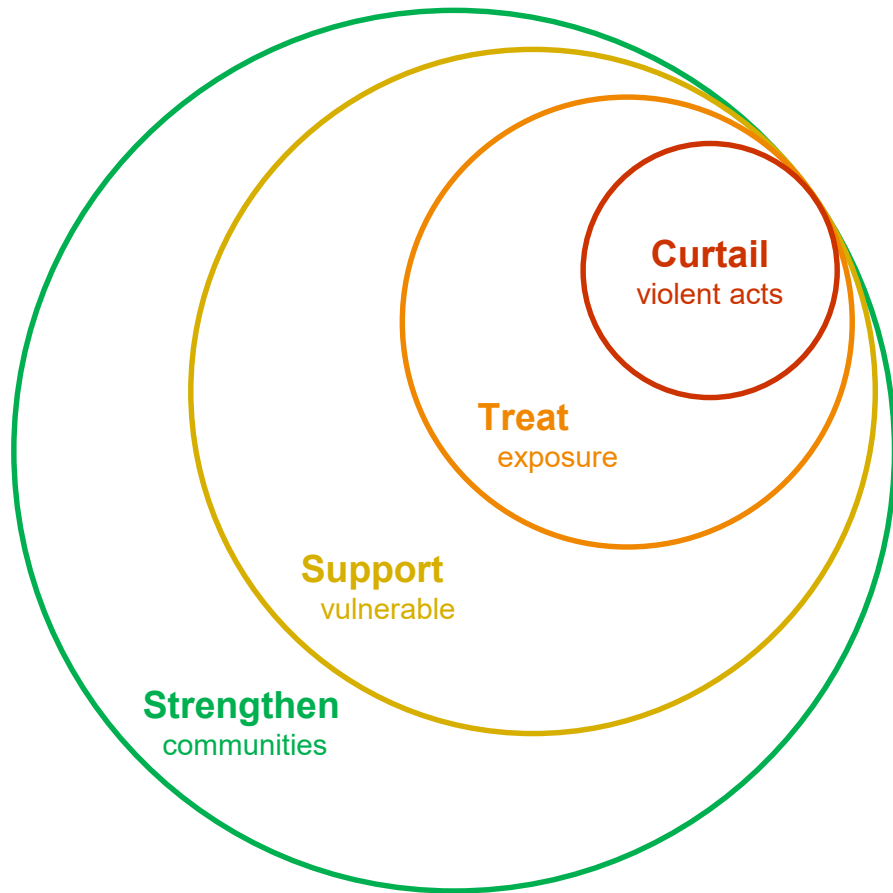
This is not a short-term project – it will require sustained effort across the partnership of years to come. Our work to date is just the start.

Our approach has two strands:

- **Embedding best practice:** ensuring our collaborative public health model is robust, resonates, and is delivering successful outcomes to tackle violence and its causes.
- **Reducing fear of violence:** understanding resident concerns, communicating the activities we are taking locally, and boosting the role that our communities and community groups play in supporting our efforts.



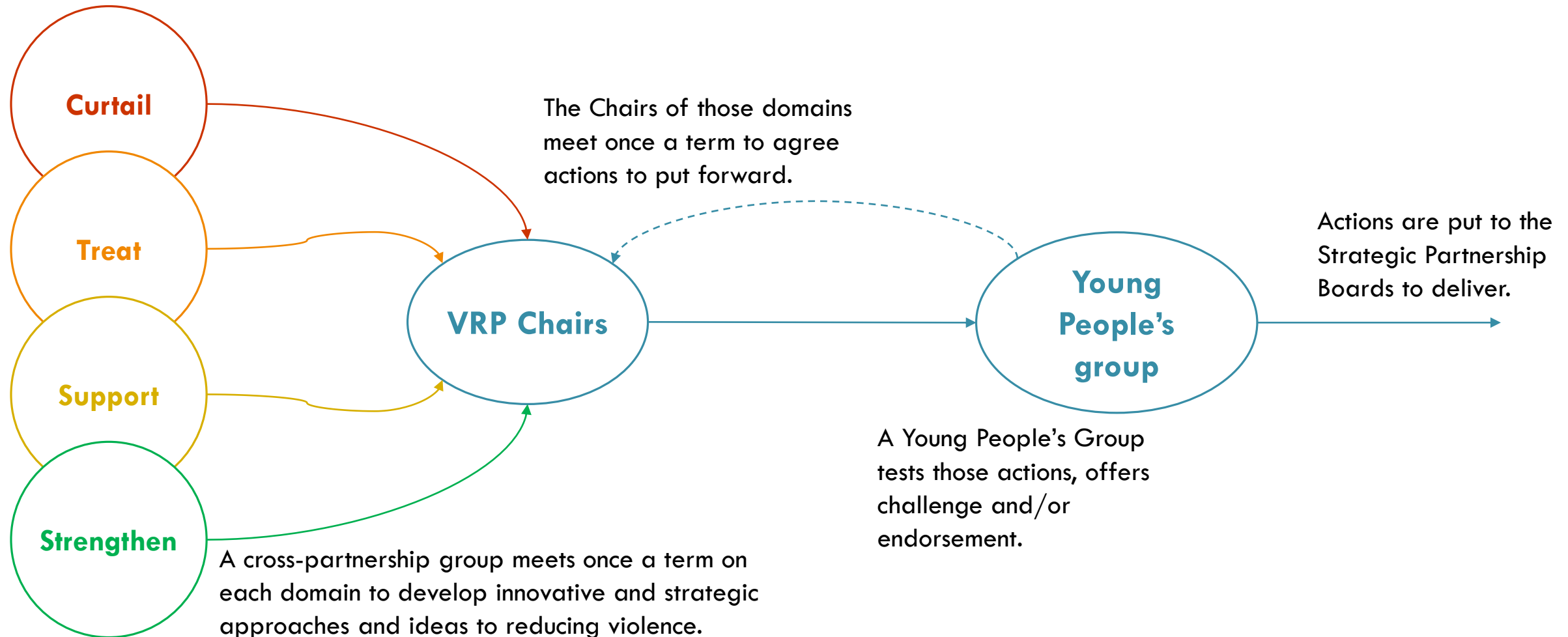
THE VRP HAS FOUR DOMAINS TO TACKLE VIOLENCE AND ITS CAUSES

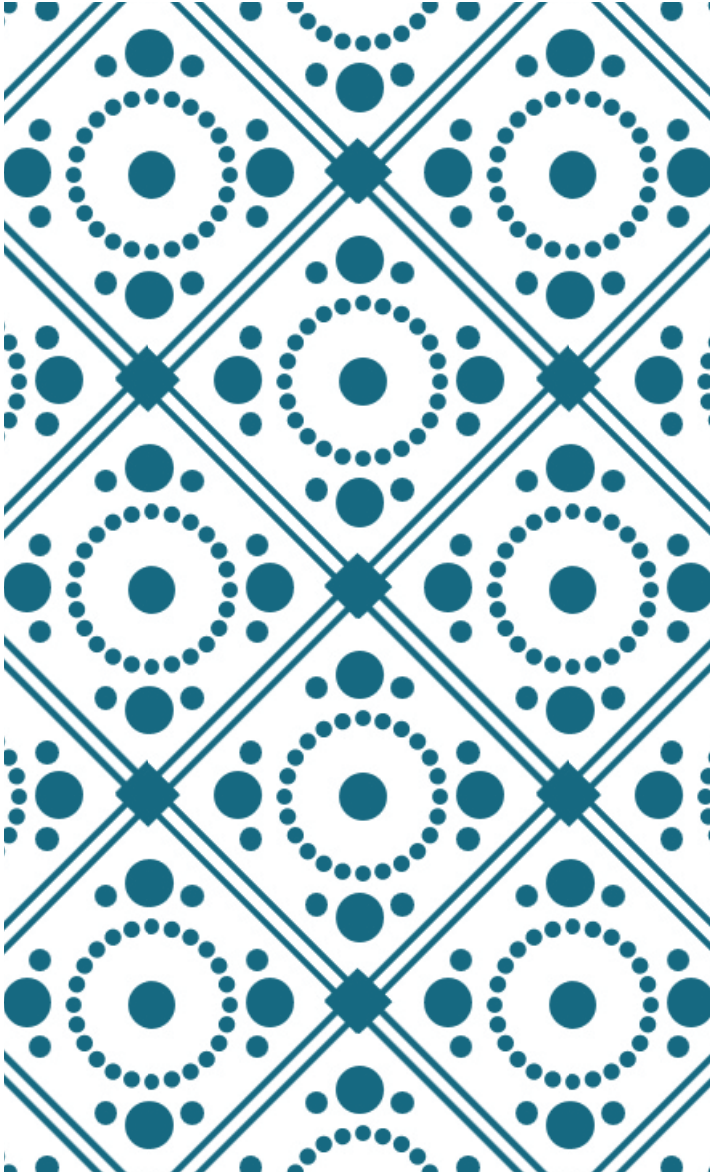


- **Curtail** violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action
- **Treat** those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread
- **Support** those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors
- **Strengthen** community resilience through a universal approach

Each 'domain' has a working group made up of partnership representatives.

PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS





WHAT?

Progress made by the VRP over the first year

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

Curtail

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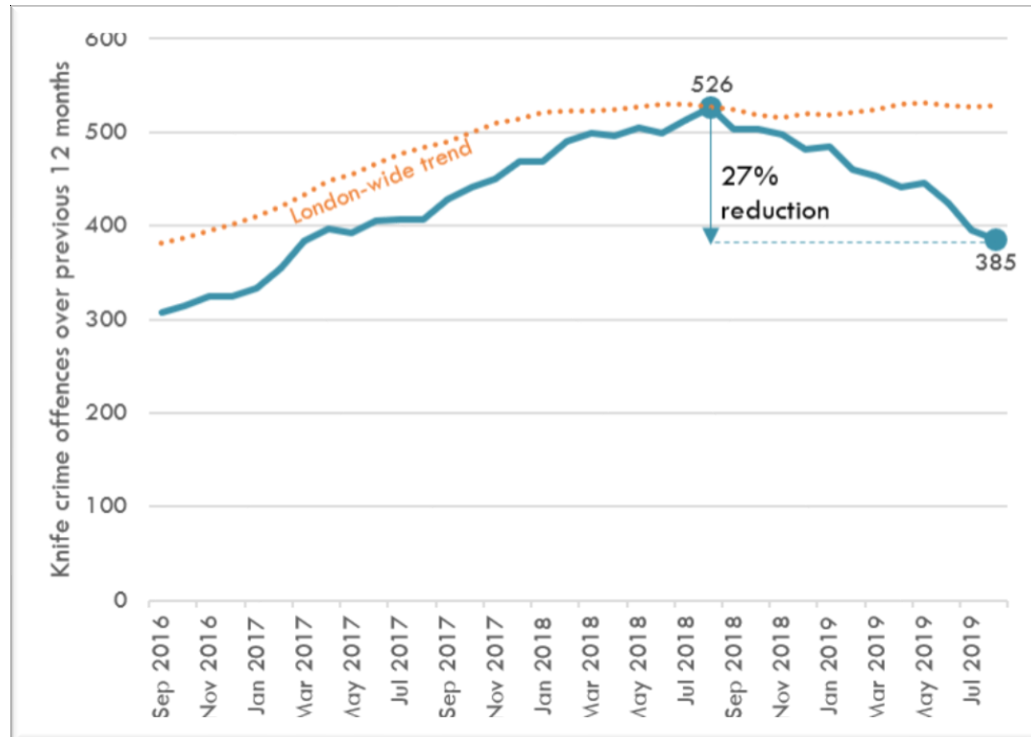
Implemented gang-exit programme, supporting leavers in the community and as they exit prison.



First cohort of 2,000 primary school pupils on **Lifeskills programme** showing **best progression results seen in UK**.

POSITIVE EARLY RESULTS...

There have been tragic incidents involving young people and violence in 2019, and other high profile attacks that have given a painful reminder about how much work there is to do to reduce violence in Waltham Forest.



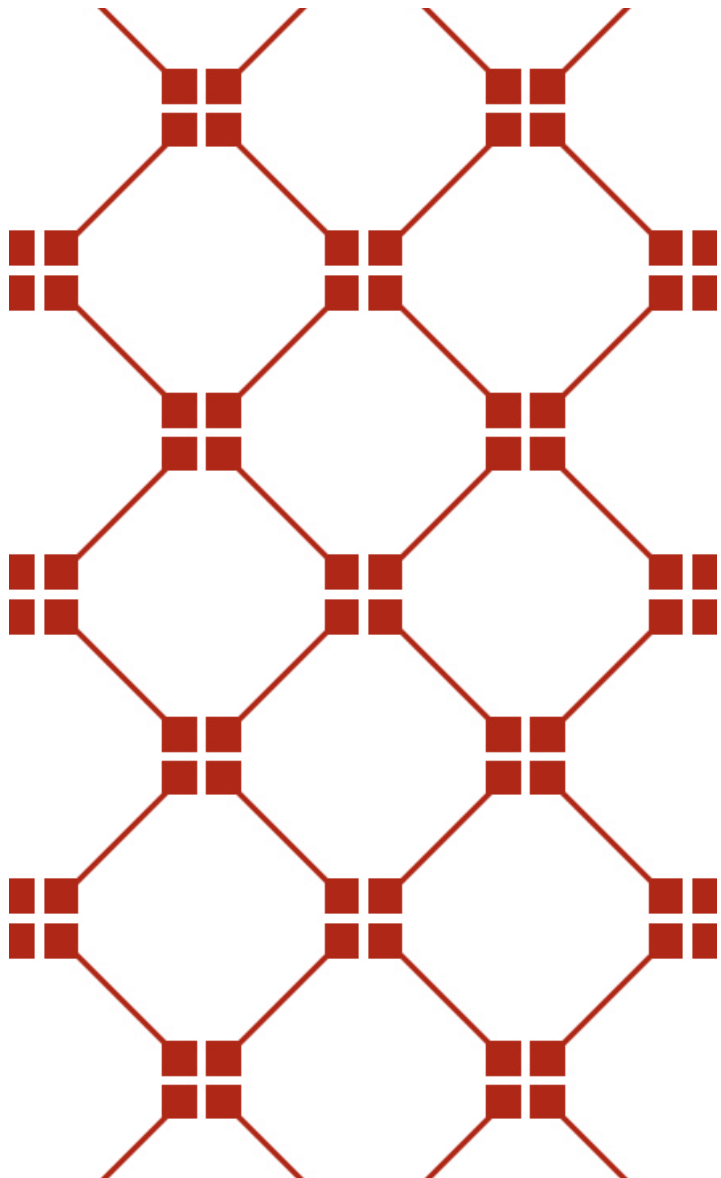
Such incidents are devastating, and no statistics can possibly heal the pain felt by the families of the victims.

However, it is important that we monitor rates of violence and knife crime offences in particular, and there are promising signs of progress. **Knife crime offences have reduced by 27% over the past 12 months**, from a peak of 526 in the 12-months to August 2018, to 385 in the 12-months to August 2019. This compares to a slight increase across London as a whole.

...BUT THERE IS MUCH WORK TO DO

Whilst it is positive that knife crime offences have reduced, we have a long way to go before we can celebrate. In particular:

- **Rates of knife crime and violence are still too high.** Though rates have been reducing, too many residents are still having their lives affected by knife crime. And whilst the overall rate of serious violence has been below the rate across London for the past two years, it remains above the rate seen at the start of the decade.
- **We need to address perceptions of crime and violence:** Waltham Forest residents are 50% more likely to be concerned about knife crime than the London average. Whilst offences have reduced, fears have increased.
- **Confidence in police is low** and worse than for residents in Newham despite being part of the same command unit. In Police surveys, Waltham Forest performs second worst in response to the question *‘do you agree that the police can be relied upon to be there when needed?’*.
- We have the **lowest rate of ‘successful’ stop & searches** across London – only 21.2% of them led to further action.



CURTAIL

violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action

THE CURTAIL GROUP HAS THE
FOLLOWING

AMBITION

VIOLENT ACTS ARE
PREVENTED &
DISRUPTED, WITH
PERPETRATORS
PURSUED AND
PROSECUTED
QUICKLY AND
EFFECTIVELY

To achieve this, the **Curtail** group is working to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Rates of crime, violence and ASB to reduce** across WF, especially in our hotspot areas
- Violent crime is **prosecuted effectively**, with those responsible brought to justice
- Residents to feel **empowered to report crime** and provide intelligence
- Our **neighbourhoods to be safe** for residents, with effective action taken by housing providers to tackle crime and ASB
- **Curtailment activities to be targeted effectively**, with a greater proportion of stop and searches being successful, and greater use of innovation to stop crime
- Residents, young and old, to have **greater confidence in the Police**



PARTNERSHIP VIEW: **SUPT IAN BOWLES** MET POLICE

Simply put, we can't do this alone. As police, we are focussed on enforcement, but youth violence is too big a problem for us to tackle by ourselves.

The Violence Reduction Partnership informs our approach and increases our resources. Our partners within the Curtail domain bring good ideas about how we can target offenders, through a wider mix of views and tactics.

It also sends a clear message to residents: public services working together to achieve the best outcomes. As taxpayers, it's important to know that money is well spent, and having a transparent, honest approach – as we do with the Violence Reduction Partnership – helps the community to understand what we are doing. Our joint operations with the council's anti-social behaviour teams in hot spots around the borough are a key example, and helping to reduce crime and serious ASB.

Never underestimate the value of the partnership – for years we have worked to tackle youth violence in the borough, but the last twelve months have shown that the VRP is the way forward.



CURTAIL PROGRESS

'Mashallah, things are much better now, thanks to the police for their presence and working with us.' 'The area seems safer and things have improved because of the partnership work and patrols in the area'

Quotes from shopkeepers after work to reduce crime and ASB.

The Police and Council have conducted a series of joint operations to reduce crime and serious anti-social behaviour in hotspot areas across the borough - the **highest number of joint Operations in London, including...**

A pilot in **St James St** which saw 70 arrests, 15 knife seizures & led to a 38% recorded decrease of crime. The learning from this pilot had a significant impact on subsequent targeted work.

Operations Gibus & Bicorne which saw 21 arrests and 74 seizures.

Operation Concho which targeted the addresses and assets of known gang members and led to 20 individuals being charged with drug-related offences.

LBWF published an **ASB Strategy** in September which embeds the partnership approach that we've taken to tackle ASB within *Curtail*.

A new **PSPO** for the Northern wards has been introduced, designed to tackle street-based ASB

We've funded a **financial investigator** to seize criminal assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

We will shortly **pilot a new ASB out-of-hours service** to support our enforcement activities.

NEXT STEPS:

Gang Interventions: We will tackle the drug-related drivers of violence through the increased use of civil legal action. We are putting £50k of funding towards a range of resolutions that seek to avoid criminalising young people, and are bespoke to the harm being caused.

Tackling organised crime: We will embed partnership with the NE London Serious Crime Directorate, to do more to tackle the leaders of organised crime operating in locally.

Improving Police Young People relations: We will launch a programme of activity to change the dynamic of the relations between the Police and Young People, in a borough with the highest proportion of unsuccessful Stop & Searches.

ASB Chatbot: We have funded technology students to design a chatbot that will allow residents to easily report ASB.

Over past 12 months:



2,134 serious violence offences— down 5.1%



10 joint operations between Police and Local Authority



21.2% of stop & searches led to further action - lowest across London

IN FOCUS: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

Earlier this year Waltham Forest Council published an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy that embeds the partnership approach that we've taken to tackle ASB within Curtail domain.

In summary, the ASB Strategy sets out:

- **The overarching 5-year strategic direction**, supported by an operating model that is refreshed annually to ensure it adapts to the changing context
- **The key deliverables**, which include a reduction in incidents of ASB, a reduction in harm resulting from ASB, swift response from support services, and delivery through a multi-agency approach
- **The guiding principles**, which include joint tasking and hotspot operations, effective governance and close collaboration with the Think Families model
- **The approach to the underpinning annual operating models**, which are based on a framework of Prevention, Early Intervention, Support and Enforcement

Governance is conducted through the ASB Board and SafetyNet, with steer from the VRP.

Anti-Social Behaviour: Our Strategy 2019 - 24

Foreword

Introduction from Claire Coghill, Leader of Waltham Forest Borough Council, and Councillor Ahsan Khan, Portfolio Lead Member for Community Safety & Voluntary Sector

Keeping Waltham Forest clean and safe is one of our key priorities. This new Strategy sets out how we intend to tackle anti-social behaviour in our borough.

This is not something that can be done in isolation - tackling anti-social behaviour has to be done in partnership. Our strategy and the accompanying Operating Model explains how different council services will come together to provide a co-ordinated response to ASB, addressing the root causes as well as the problems that arise.

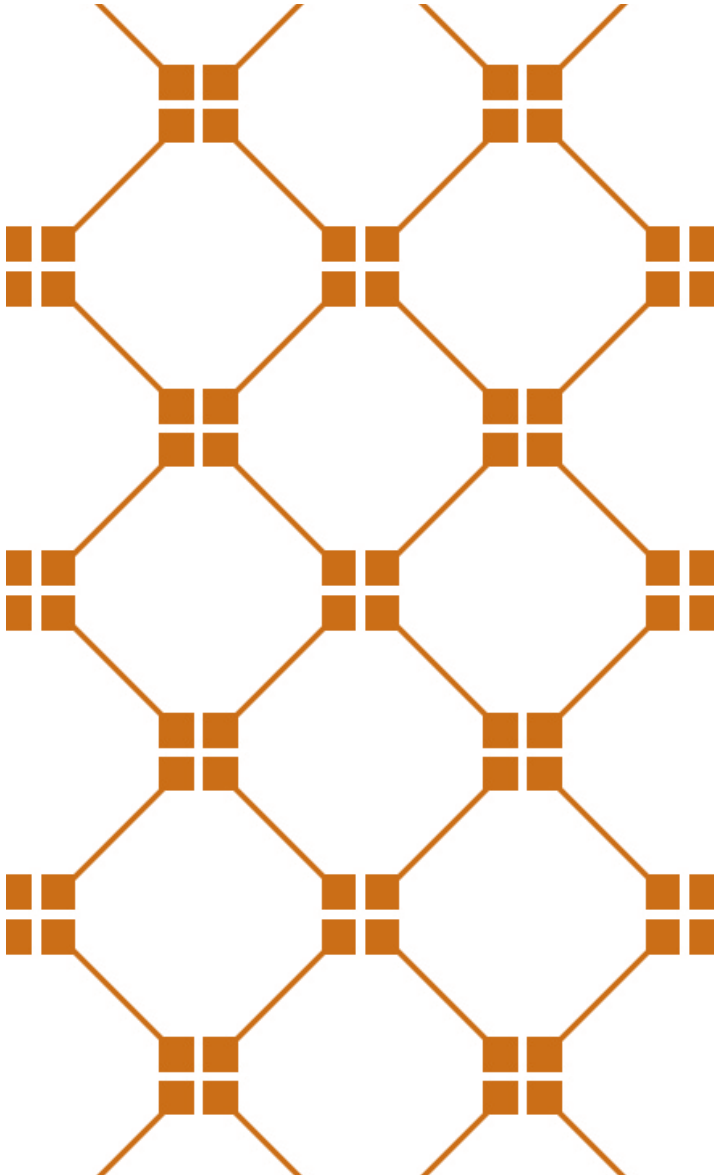
We will also work with other key agencies such as the police, local health agencies and registered housing providers. Each of us has a role to play in addressing this issue and improving the quality of life for all residents.

And this is also a partnership with our residents. Tackling ASB is an issue in which everybody has a role to play. The five steps below are actions that anyone can take and together we can ensure we all live in a clean and safe borough.

1. Report what you see.
2. Participate in Safer Neighbourhood Boards.
3. Create Neighbourhood Watch in your area.
4. Report rough sleepers to the agencies there to support for them. There are resources funded by the council the mayor of London and government that are here to help those who need it.
5. Recognise the harm done by those who supply, buy and use drugs in our communities, and take personal steps to reduce the impact of drugs in the Borough.

*Read more about the
ASB Strategy [here](#).*

Our 'hotspot approach' sees multi-agency teams target areas of elevated ASB, tackling hyper-local issues and developing sustainable spaces in which crime and ASB are reduced.



TREAT

those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread

THE TREAT GROUP HAS THE
FOLLOWING

AMBITION

THOSE HARMED BY
VIOLENCE &
EXPLOITATION ARE
GIVEN HIGH QUALITY
TREATMENT QUICKLY
TO AID RECOVERY
AND PREVENT
VIOLENCE SPREADING

To achieve this, the **Treat** group is working to achieve the following outcomes:

- People who have experienced violence are given **care and treatment quickly**
- Treatment is **readily accessible where it is needed**, across a range of settings, including hospitals and custody
- We **encourage those that need treatment to access it**, including through use of civil powers
- **Trauma-informed treatment is embedded** across WF, including within statutory partners and community groups
- Treatments that most **effectively lead to behaviour change** are prioritised
- **Risks associated with treatments are fully understood**, including their implications for further violence



PARTNERSHIP VIEW: CHETAN VYAS WF CCG

We know from the MET that 72 per cent of homicide suspects were previously victims of crime, and 26 per cent victims of knife crime. Closer to home, we know that more than half of the young people within our Youth Offending Service have either been witness to domestic abuse, or a victim of it. This is simply not acceptable.

It is why the Violence Reduction Partnership's public health approach to tackling violence is so important, as it emphasises the value of effective treatment, in the widest sense, to help reduce the risk of further violence, whilst getting those affected the help they need to recover.

It requires all agencies within Waltham Forest to collaboratively work together to provide a range of effective and innovative approaches in treating anyone that has been exposed to violence, in a range of locations around the borough. Treatment should be available where appropriate for people to access.

As the Director of Quality and Safety across Waltham Forest, Newham and Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Groups I am pleased to say that we are investing much more into mental health provision and looking at how we can better deliver the support that those exposed to violence and trauma need to heal.



TREAT PROGRESS

'Basil, one of my mentors from the PRU who had already got me into fitness and exercising, also taught me about medication and mindfulness. He helped me to realise that cannabis wasn't a source of relief, particularly with my inability to sleep, but the major source of my problems.'
Daniel, 23, from Leytonstone

Safe & Together: First borough to launch innovative model to support domestic abuse survivors by focusing on the perpetrator's behaviour.

Secured seed funding for a **Youth and Family Resilience service** which will support innovative, localised treatment for young people at risk of violence and exclusion.

Using our year as the **first London Borough of Culture** to demonstrate how to tackle violence through culture, including **Eastside Story** which saw young people participate in a three-month programme of youth work and performing arts; and our Youth Offending Service taking eight young people to a six-day creative arts programme in **Snape Maltings**.

Implementing **IRIS domestic abuse programme in all GP surgeries** to improve identification and referral of domestic abuse and ensure survivors support and safety needs are met

Embedded our **programme to support those wishing to leave gangs**, supporting them in the community and as they exit prison.

One Stop Shop domestic abuse support service embedded in Children and Family Centers across the borough, so survivors can easily access free advice on how to respond safely to abuse.

NEXT STEPS:

We will be **designing our Youth and Family Resilience Service** (next page)

We will be providing **trauma training to local VCS organisations** that work with young people, to better treat those experiencing violence

We are **investing £100k to expand Functional Family Therapy**, providing evidence-based treatment to families with a high-risk young offender

We are **looking to expand Operation Encompass**, so that young people get wraparound support in school the day after witnessing or experiencing serious youth violence.

Over past 12 months:



The One Stop Shop for domestic abuse received 100% positive feedback



Police notified schools 304 times in 2018/19 about pupils that had witnessed domestic abuse



22 young people involved in Eastside story

IN FOCUS:

YOUTH & FAMILY RESILIENCE

Our Youth and Family Resilience Service is about giving quick and effective treatment to young people and their families, embedding 'trauma-informed practice' throughout Waltham Forest. We already have pockets of successful specialist and clinical support in place e.g.

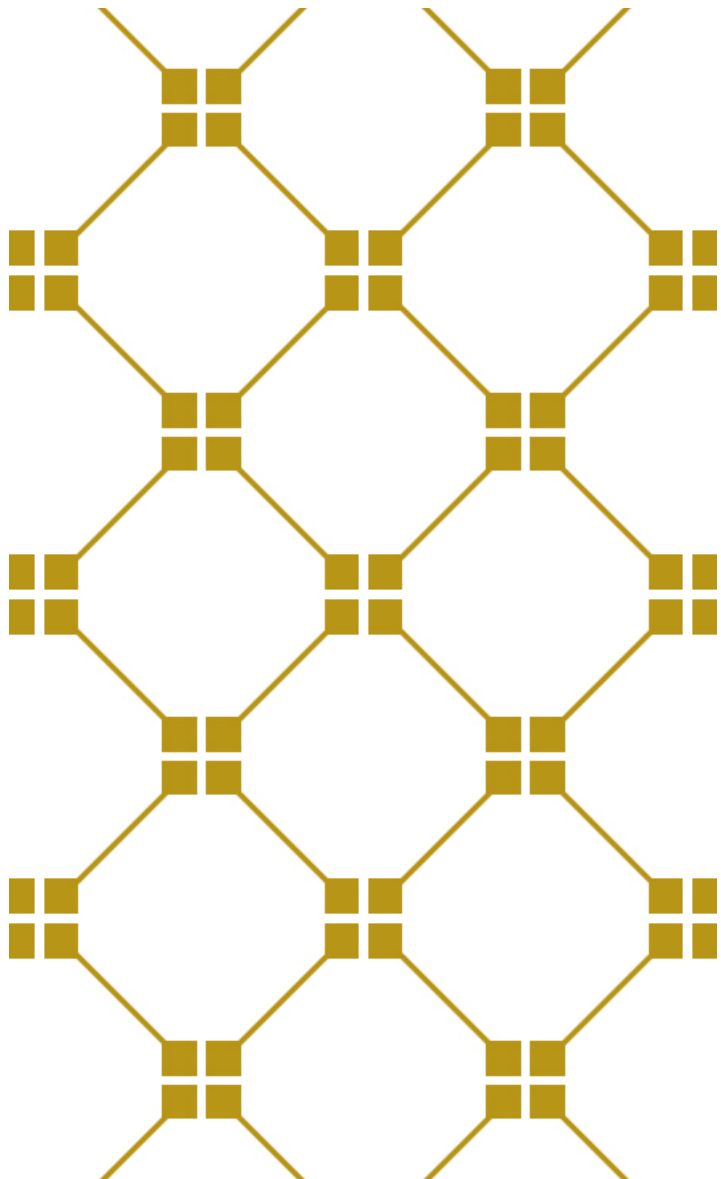
- A co-located CAMHS worker based within the Youth Offending Service
- Clinical nurse overseeing Harmful Sexual Behaviour cases, and
- Vulnerability screening for young people in police custody

The new service will build on this by enhancing the specialist support through wider reach and new innovations. Through the service, we will:

- **Train three staff in the Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing** and provide the treatment to young offenders and those excluded from mainstream school
- **Invest in family therapist sessions** for young people at risk, and supervision for family practitioners; and
- **Engage a Consultant Psychiatrist to provide system leadership** and case consultation.

'Trauma-informed practice' is where staff and organisations are able to understand, recognise, and respond to the effects of trauma, and can treat patients in a way that prevents re-traumatisation. It requires flexible approaches that are tailored to the trauma involved, to allow staff to engage with confidence and care.

We are investing an additional £90k into this service as part of funding from the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit



SUPPORT

those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors

THE SUPPORT GROUP HAS THE
FOLLOWING

AMBITION

THOSE VULNERABLE
TO VIOLENCE &
EXPLOITATION GET
TARGETED EARLY
SUPPORT AND
OPPORTUNITIES TO
REDUCE THE RISKS
THEY FACE

*To achieve this, the **Support** group is working to achieve the following outcomes:*

- **Young people and their families identified ‘at risk’ are given targeted care and support they need**
- **Reductions in the number of young people persistently absent or excluded from school**
- **Greater number of opportunities** available to young people locally and clearly signposted
- **Families and parents to feel supported**, particularly across key transition points in children’s lives.
- **Mental health and wellbeing support services** are high quality, accessible and utilised by those in need



PARTNERSHIP VIEW: KATY THOMPSON STREETBASE

The **Support** group looks at how we, ordinary residents and members of the community, can help those most vulnerable. The partnership is incredibly important as it encourages everyone to take responsibility towards building a safe, secure borough we all want to live in.

I coordinate the Streetbase programme, which is delivered by young people for young people, supporting children and teenagers. Streetbase works alongside the Police, the council's Anti-Social Behaviour team and many other organisations, to identify vulnerable young people who are at risk of violence and offering them the support that they need.

We find that the most young people often want something very simple: for somebody to believe in them and listen to them. This is why we go directly to the young people on multiple patrols each week, to build and maintain relationships, and offer positive activities and services to support and cater to their needs.

It is incredibly valuable to work collaboratively, as many of us have the same aim – to reduce violence and support young people most at risk. By sharing ideas and ways of working through the VRP, we are all strengthening our ability to further help and support young people.



SUPPORT PROGRESS

"I loved the Spark2Life training - being around everyone in class and hearing all they had to say helped me see that there are so many different ways to reach the young people in our community. I have been going in to a local school and running mentoring sessions with a 14 year old young man. Being able to have an instant connection when talking about the struggles that come with living in the area has been eye opening to me"
Emmanuel.

Spark2Life recruiting and training local residents as community mentors for those at risk of gang activity – almost **50 mentors trained in first cohort**, with mentoring now underway.

Ground-breaking **Streetbase programme** provides **peer-to-peer support to vulnerable young people**, with young people patrolling borough hotspots to offer support and signpost positive activities.

We've commissioned Abianda to review and help us improve our approach to **safeguarding young women and girls at risk of violence and exploitation**

We undertaken a **review of Alternative Provision** and are consulting on changes (next page).

Successful '**single view of adolescent risk**' pilot enabling information-sharing across services

Introduced **Adolescent at Risk workers** to divert young people away from risk taking behaviour that can lead to serious youth violence

NEXT STEPS:

We're investing an additional £50k into **community mentoring**, providing targeted mentoring to those at risk of exclusion.

The **Opportunity Bank** will be **launching next year** to provide work experience and other opportunities across our networks.

We will improve signposting to local **VCS organisations** that can provide early support to those in need.

Over past 12 months:



The **rate of persistent absence in schools** has reduced by almost 20%



We've trained almost **50 community mentors**



Streetbase have **engaged more than 800 young people** across the borough

IN FOCUS: ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Alternative Provision (AP) is education arranged by local authorities for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons are not in a mainstream setting, including pupils in off-site provision due to their behaviour. The majority of young people in AP are of secondary school age.

Young people excluded from school are at a higher risk of exposure to crime and serious youth violence – this is one of the reasons that we have been reviewing AP arrangements and are currently consulting on a new operating model which aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Creating diverse learning and development opportunities that maximise educational and vocational outcomes
2. Strengthening emotional health and well-being
3. Helping maximise individual potential
4. Keeping young people safe from harm, sexual and criminal exploitation

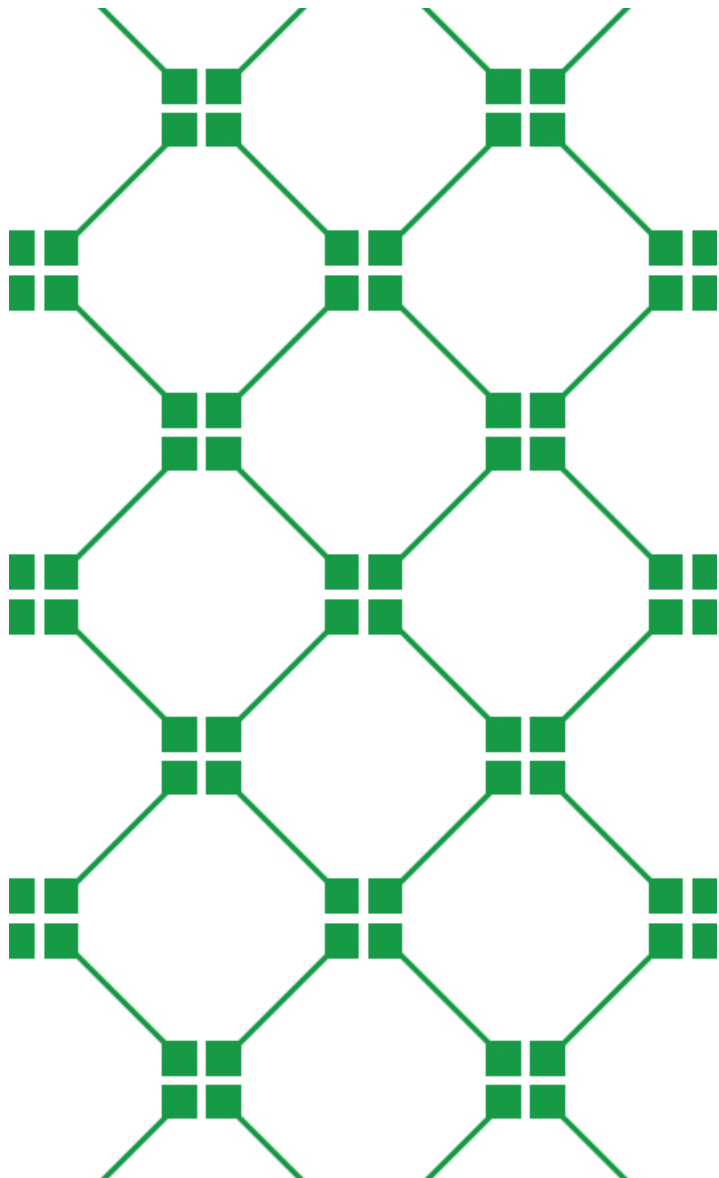


A key principle of the proposed new operating model is to maximise the impact of interventions in family and school settings to help ensure children remain in mainstream education for as long as possible - a strong focus on inclusivity remains a vital component.

“94% of Year 11 pupils from a mainstream or special school go on to a sustained education or employment or training destination, compared to 57% from alternative provision.”

Forgotten children: alternative provision and the scandal of ever increasing exclusions, House of Commons Education Committee, July 2018

The consultation on our AP Review closes at 5pm on Friday 22 November 2019. Please [click here](#) to respond.



STRENGTHEN

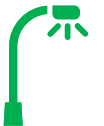
community resilience through a universal approach

THE STRENGTHEN GROUP HAS
THE FOLLOWING
AMBITION

OUR COMMUNITIES
ARE EMPOWERED
TO BE STRONG &
RESILIENT TO END
VIOLENCE, WITH
OPPORTUNITIES AND
ASPIRATION FOR ALL

To achieve this, the **Strengthen** group is working to achieve the following outcomes:

- Young people to have **a good range of activities, spaces and opportunities**
- **Residents and community groups to be empowered** to offer more to help all young people, and work more closely in partnership
- **A better relationship between our police and young people** so that they work together to tackle violence
- **Young people to learn resilience & be supported** to act as community champions, so that they can help their friends, family and neighbours
- **Our public spaces to feel safe** for young people and conducive to positive activities
- Communities have **accurate information about level of crime and violence** locally



PARTNERSHIP VIEW:

STEVE BARNABIS PROJECT ZERO

People in the borough need to see exactly what is being done to address their concerns about their safety and the safety of their children.

The way for them to see the practical ways that their community is changing is by bolstering the way services are signposted, helping people to access these services, and working to improve those services, so there is an activity for every single young person in the borough, where they are valued, where they build their confidence in themselves and their skills.

Every child and young person engaged with a positive activity is off the streets: they are learning more about their areas of interest and deepening their expertise to a point where they can start contemplate studying or building a career in that field. Every child deserves to learn what they are good at and we need to make they get that chance.

The VRP allows us to work together to formalise our networks, to provide people with a sense of longevity and continuity – for them to know that we are today and we will also be around a year from now, supporting young people in the borough towards being their best selves.



STRENGTHEN PROGRESS

'I learned that you should think about your decisions before you make them. I now know how to 'Stop, Think and then Go' before making a decision.' – quote from Year 4 pupil after LifeSkills lessons

Launch of LifeSkills resilience programme: around 10,000 primary school children will be given tools and guidance in positive decision-making and resilience. Evaluation of first WF cohort suggests **UK's best progression results.**

Connecting Communities programme is building networks and encouraging volunteering across communities, with hyper-local groups on violence & youth engagement.

Our **VAWG whole school approach** has delivered training and education on a range of VAWG issues to 1,000 pupils, 400 staff, and 60 parents

Every Year 6 child in the borough received dedicated guidance during the transition from primary to secondary school - children who are identified as vulnerable are given extra support.

Hosted performance of Lockdown by Leyton Sixth Form College, facilitating insight of issues facing young people in the borough to local community

Co-designed **Young People's Mental Health Charter** which outlines our commitment to supporting every young person's mental and emotional wellbeing

Recruited first cohort of local residents as **'Ask Me' ambassadors** to address concerns around gangs, with coverage across the borough.

NEXT STEPS:

Expanding of LifeSkills programme into local secondary schools, training 30 teachers across the borough

Partnership with East London Business Alliance to provide capacity and capability support to local community organisations working with young people

Fear of violence is increasing, so **we are undertaking research into residents perceptions of crime and violence**, so we can better address concerns.

Through our Connecting Communities programme we will be **supporting a number of local organisations working with young people**

Over past 12 months:



Almost **2,000 primary** school pupils have received LifeSkills lessons



We've put in place **four network managers** across WF



Fear of crime has increased: 45% fear knife crime

IN FOCUS: LIFESKILLS TRAINING

Our Botvin Essential LifeSkills programme, delivered with Barnardo's, supports teachers to build the resilience of young people in schools in the borough – **we expect up to 10,000 primary school pupils to benefit from the programme** over the next three years.

The programme:

- Is for children in Years 4, 5 and 6
- Consists of nine lessons taught in one hour sessions using dynamic teaching techniques such as facilitation, coaching and behavioural rehearsal.
- Covers diverse topics such as self-esteem, decision making, advertising, dealing with stress, smoking, communication, social skills and assertiveness.

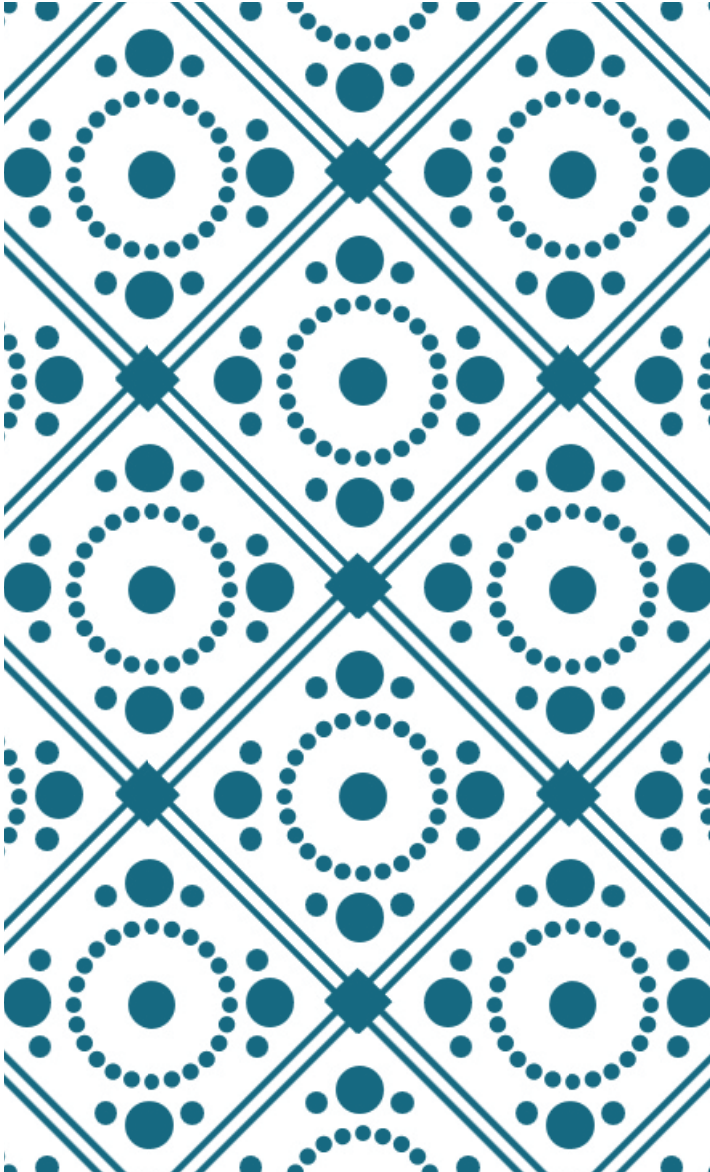
The initial results are promising: **the evaluation of first cohort of nearly 2,000 pupils shows they have demonstrated the best progression results seen in the UK** with this delivery model.

Based on the success of the programme so far, we have commissioned an Advanced LifeSkills Programme in secondary schools in the borough.

LifeSkills concentrates on a preventative approach, providing young people with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to make healthy choices.

UK evaluation of LifeSkills shows it helps prevent violence and substance misuse, improves self-esteem, communication, social skills and ability to cope with stress.

Learn more about the Barnardo's Life Skills Programme [here.](#)



GET INVOLVED

How you can help reduce violence in WF

YOU CAN HELP US REDUCE VIOLENCE

Our Violence Reduction Partnership includes you. Here's how you can help:

Curtail

If you see crime happening, **call 999** and report it immediately

If you have information about a crime or a known criminal, you can **report it to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111**

You can **report anti-social behaviour** on the council's website

Treat

If you are concerned that a child has been harmed, exploited, or exposed to violence then **contact the Multi -Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** by **email** or on 020 8496 2310

Consider volunteering for one of partners looking to treat violence. **Email us.**

Support

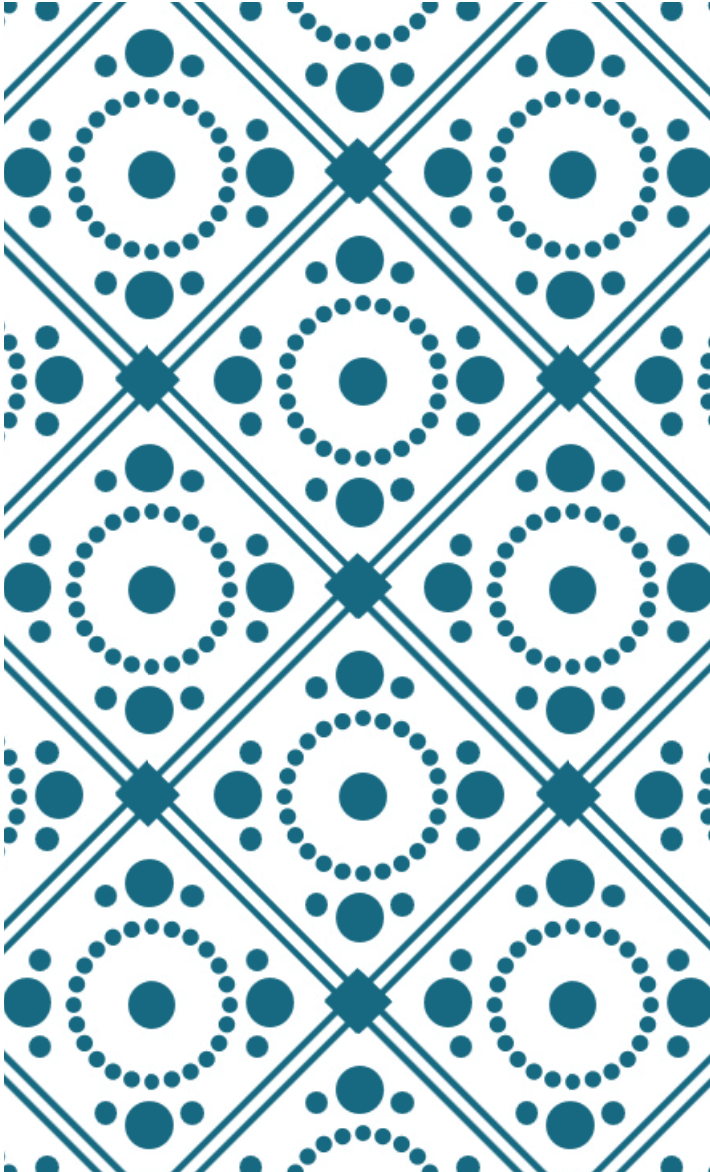
We are recruiting local residents to act as **Community Mentors** for those at risk of exploitation – **contact us** to get involved.

Young people need **high quality opportunities** – including apprenticeships and work experience. If you're able to help **email us.**

Strengthen

We need residents and businesses to act as 'Ask Me Ambassadors' who can speak to young people concerned about gang activity or youth violence. **Contact us.**

We have a thriving network of community organisations who support our young people. **Contact us to find out how you can get involved.**



THE YEAR AHEAD

Priorities and plans for the next 12 months

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Curtail

violent acts at source,
pursuing perpetrators &
enforcing action

Increased use of gang injunctions & other enforcement powers:

Targeting injunctions at
individuals to prevent their
operation.

**Programme to build
confidence between Police &
YP:** restorative work that seeks
to increase effectiveness of
stop & search in WF.

**Tackling organised
crime:** Partner with NE London
Serious Crime Directorate, to
do more to tackle the local
leaders of organised crime.

Treat

those who have been
exposed to violence to
control the spread

Expanding **Functional Family
Therapy** for young offenders
and their families.

Providing **trauma
training to local VCS
organisations** that work with
young people, to better treat
those experiencing violence.

Building a **Youth & Family
Resilience Service** to provide
innovative and localised
treatment to those
experiencing or at risk of
violence.

Support

those susceptible to
violence due to their
exposure to risk factors

Consultation and finalisation of
the **Alternative Provision
Strategy**, including the
transformation of Hawkswood
provision.

Opportunity Bank launching
next year to provide work
experience opportunities within
the council and through our
business networks.

Expanding **community
mentoring** – currently
oversubscribed – providing
targeted mentoring to those at
risk of exclusion.

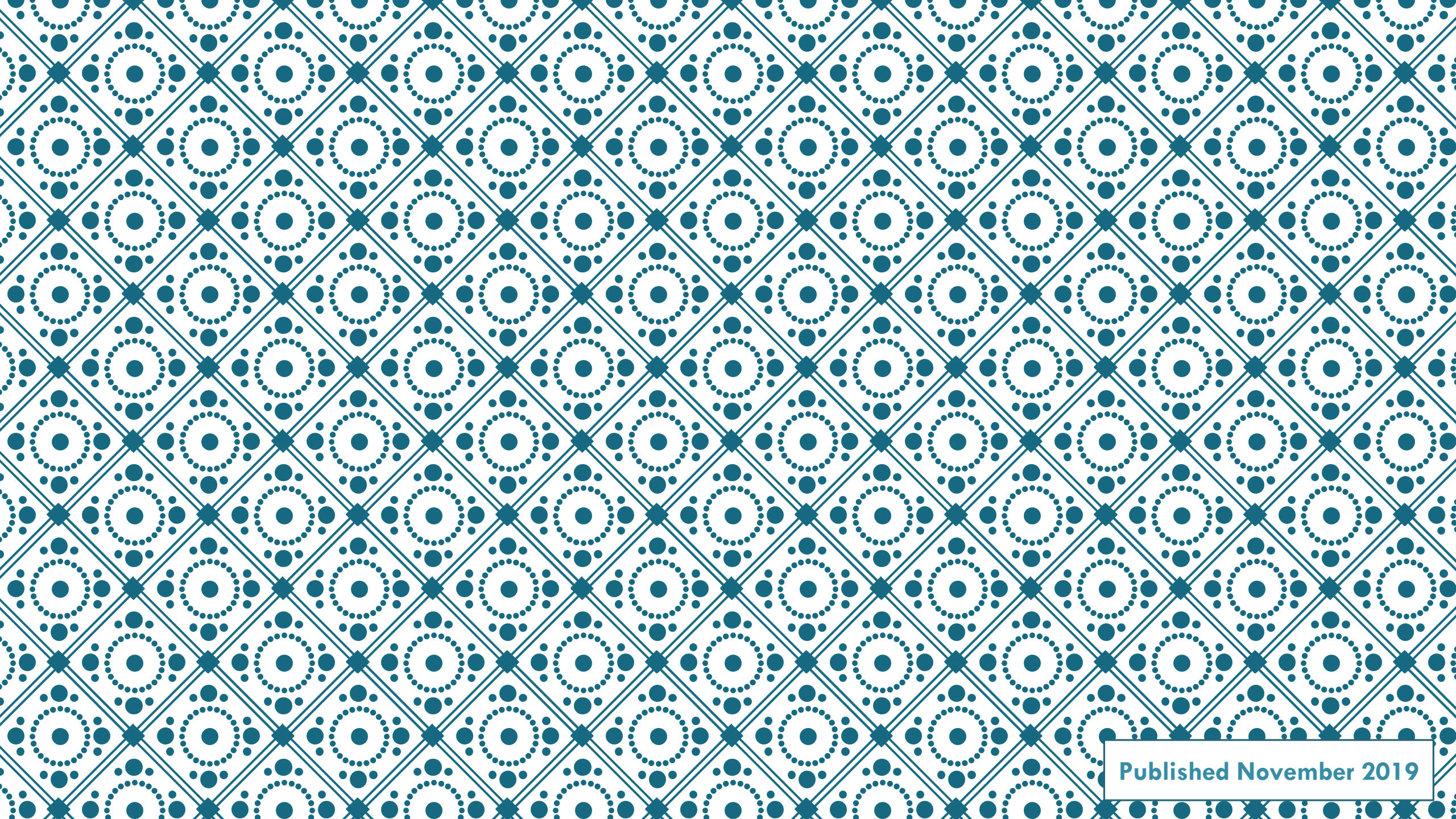
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Partnership with ELBA to
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Published November 2019