

Newham Safety Partnership Board Meeting

23 October 2025, 14:00-16:00, MS Teams

Attendees:

Cllr Amar Virdee – Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Lead for Community Safety, Homelessness, Housing Needs and Private Rental Sector (Co-chair)
 Andy Opie – Interim Director Community Safety (Chair)
 Antony Rose – London Probation
 Allison Sherwood – Head of Community Safety Enforcement
 Ben Ramsay – Senior Community Safety Analyst
 Daniel Wilson - Safeguarding Adults Designated Nurse, NHS
 Daniel Parsonage – Senior Commissioner, Public Health
 Daryl Jones – Chief Inspector, Met Police
 Graham Beers – London Fire Brigade
 Jon Norris - Senior Advisor Safeguarding Adults
 Joe Mutter - Community Safety Project Officer
 Lisa Rosier – Head of Community Safety and Corporate Resilience
 Lucky Singh – Superintendent, MPS
 Mitchell Walsh – ASB and Nuisance Manager
 Mike Shoesmith - Community Resilience Officer
 Paul Leslie- IAG and REIN Chief Executive
 Tony Lynes - Head of Housing
 Sukhy Hira - Community Safety Manager
 Zohra Safi – National Management Trainee, Community Safety Team
 Dr Darren Sharpe (UEL)
 Ruth Halkon (Police Foundation)
 Richard Oldfield (MPS)
 Hannah Eldridge (MPS)
 Enock Maposa (MPS)

Apologies:

Sean McDermid – Interim Corporate Director Environment & Sustainable Transport
 Fiona Hackland – Assistant Director of Commissioning in Adults and Health
 James Ryan – Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade
 Cassandra Beckford - Strategic Programme Manager, Youth Safety

	Item	Action lead
1.	Introduction & Apologies	
2.	Minutes and Outstanding Actions: Sukhy confirmed that there is only one outstanding action, which will be an agenda item at the April 2026 meeting as at this point the CIDVA service will have	

	<p>been delivering for 6 months. Other actions from previous minutes have been completed.</p> <p>Ben Ramsay provided an update on the progression of sexual crime data and confirmed that details on emerging hotspots will be circulated to all members.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Ramsay to ensure sexual assault hotspot data is included in his next analytical report to the Board. 	BR
3.	<p>Policing with Compassion (VRU funded):</p> <p>The <i>Policing with Compassion</i> project was introduced as an initiative funded by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and supported by the University of East London (UEL). The project's aim is to promote a more compassionate and inclusive policing culture, particularly when engaging with young people who have neurodivergent needs.</p> <p>Superintendent Singh shared his lived experience of neurodiversity and reflected on the challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals during interactions with police and other authority figures. The initiative was designed to reduce escalation, unnecessary criminalisation, and safeguarding failures, with particular relevance to stop and search, county lines, and sexual exploitation cases.</p> <p>The project secured £12,000 in VRU funding alongside additional knowledge exchange support from UEL. The methodology included expert interviews, youth focus groups, and desk-based research. Co-production was a key element, with contributions from statutory partners, voluntary organisations, and police officers with lived experience of neurodivergence.</p> <p>Project outputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practitioner's guide and an accessible easy-read version. • A series of five 10-minute training videos. • Introduction of the CALM Framework (Comprehend, Ask, Learn, Model), designed to guide officers in their approach to neurodivergent individuals to reduce escalation and build trust. <p>The project has been well-received, with plans to embed the learning locally in Newham and explore wider rollout across the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) as part of the <i>Child First</i> strategy. Partners agreed there was strong potential to extend use across other frontline services including housing, health, fire, and enforcement.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sukhy Hira to re-circulate project materials (videos and guidance pack) to NSP members in confidence. • Lucky Singh to provide update following MPS sign-off. • Sukhy Hira to liaise with Council Communications Team to explore internal promotion and potential integration with safeguarding training. 	<p>SH - Completed</p> <p>LS</p> <p>SH - ongoing</p>
4.	Operation Ephedra	

	<p>The <i>Operation Ephedra</i> update provided an overview of ongoing work addressing street-based sex work and associated community impacts. Paul Leslie asked whether ethnicity data was being collected and used to connect individuals with culturally appropriate support services. Hannah Eldridge confirmed that while ethnicity data is not routinely recorded, officers actively link individuals to relevant community-based services. The team has been developing networks to improve cultural understanding and engagement, including collaboration with services supporting specific nationalities. Hannah outlined that positive partnership links have been established, and learning continues to develop through shared best practice with neighbouring boroughs.</p> <p>Public Awareness and Communications:</p> <p>Superintendent Singh raised the importance of sharing successes and updates on operations with residents and businesses to improve community confidence and understanding of the police response. Hannah confirmed that although formal newsletters are not yet in circulation, this is being explored in collaboration with Lisa Rosier and the Communications Team.</p> <p>Lisa Rosier confirmed that work is underway to produce flyers, posters, and online content to raise awareness of the operation and its outcomes. <i>Operation Ephedra</i> will also be featured at the forthcoming Community Safety Summit (20th November) to share best practice and strengthen cross-borough collaboration.</p> <p>Key Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed on the need for a consistent set of public communication lines that highlight positive operational outcomes while maintaining confidentiality. • Tony Lynes highlighted the link between street-based activity, community perception, and resident safety concerns, stressing the importance of community engagement to rebuild empathy and understanding. • Hannah shared that community partnership events, such as open-access 'soup kitchen' sessions are effective in humanising vulnerable individuals and shifting community perspectives. • Daniel Parsonage provided data insights from an 18-month research project into sex work in Newham, highlighting demographic trends, including an increase in male sex workers and a high proportion of local residents. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Rosier and Hannah Eldridge to agree approved communication lines for use by police and NSP members when publicising operation outcomes. • Daniel Parsonage to share summary data from the Newham Sex Work Strategy with NSP members for reference. 	<p>LR & HE</p> <p>DP - Completed</p>
5.	<p>Crime Performance Update</p> <p>Ben Ramsay provided an update on crime statistics and trends within the borough, using data from the publicly available MPS dashboard. Overall crime has seen a slight decrease of 1.8% for the financial year to date, with Newham ranking fourth highest in London for total crime. Theft remains the most common offence, although it has decreased by 8.5%. Violence has increased by</p>	

	<p>9%, with violence without injury showing a similar rise. Together, these two categories account for 61% of all crime in the borough.</p> <p>Hate crime has decreased by 55.3%, with reductions in race and religious offences but a slight increase in homophobic offences. Domestic abuse has seen a small increase of 0.5%, including a 40% rise in domestic violence with injury. Sanction detection rates have improved across all categories, with notable increases in hate crime (107%) and domestic abuse (21%).</p> <p>Knife crime remains a concern, with Newham recording the highest rate in London despite a 3% overall decrease. Knife crime with injury has increased by 18%, and 27% of knife crime incidents involve injury. Offences involving victims under 25 have risen by 22%. Sexual offences have increased by 30%, with a corresponding rise in sanction detection rates. Vehicle crime remains high (2nd in London) and stalking and harassment offences have also increased (3rd in London).</p> <p>Lucky highlighted ongoing efforts to address these challenges through precision crime-fighting initiatives, live facial recognition, and targeted enforcement in hotspots such as Stratford and East Ham. The partnership continues to focus on improving trust and confidence in reporting, especially for underreported crimes such as sexual offences and domestic abuse.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben to circulate the updated performance report to partners once finalised. Lucky to share his bi-monthly newsletter with the partnership for wider communication. 	<p>BR – Completed</p> <p>LS - Completed</p>
6.	<p>Hate Crime Strategy Update</p> <p>The development of the Hate Crime Strategy is currently in the needs assessment stage, involving data analysis and public consultation to inform key priorities. The strategy builds on the priorities identified in the recent NSP Strategic Plan and uses baseline data from a previous survey. A new public survey has been launched to gather updated insights, with 55 responses received since its launch. The survey mirrors the wording of the previous version to enable direct comparison of trends and addresses the key priority areas of the strategy. Work is also underway to deliver face-to-face consultations with groups most affected by hate crime, including focus groups and community discussions. These cover all five strands of hate crime: race, faith/religion, sexual orientation, disability, and gender identity. The team is actively engaging with networks and advisory groups such as interfaith forums, youth advisory panels, and disability groups to ensure inclusivity.</p> <p>The next stage will involve developing a three-year strategy and action plan, supported by the relaunch of a Hate Crime Working Group to oversee implementation and delivery.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners to share the public survey through their networks to boost responses. Joe/Zohra to continue engagement with community and faith groups. 	<p>All partners</p> <p>JM/ZS - completed</p> <p>JM</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft strategy and findings from the needs assessment to be presented at the next meeting. 	
7.	<p>NSP Action Tracker</p> <p>The NSP Action Tracker has been reviewed following feedback from partners. The plan's timeframe has been extended from 12 months to 18 months to enable more comprehensive delivery. Greenlight given. It was noted that the action plan is currently heavily council-focused, and partners were encouraged to contribute more actively to ensure a balanced and collaborative approach. Some actions are currently being delivered primarily by Sukhy and her team, and there is a need for wider partner ownership to share responsibility and enhance delivery.</p> <p>Subgroups under the NSP strategy were identified as key to driving progress, and their effectiveness will be reviewed to ensure clear accountability. The NSP Executive Board will continue to oversee delivery and adjust as required to maintain progress and relevance.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners to review the updated NPS Action Tracker and identify areas for contribution. Andy, Lisa and Sukhy to review subgroup structure and delivery oversight ahead of the next Executive Board. NPS Executive Board to monitor implementation progress and review at mid-point. 	<p>All partners</p> <p>AO, LR, SH</p> <p>All partners</p>
8.	<p>PREVENT</p> <p>Mike provided an update on recent activity under the Prevent strategy, highlighting ongoing work to address a rise in hateful rhetoric and extremist narratives, particularly among young people in the borough. These concerns relate both to far-right commentary and online misinformation linked to national and local events.</p> <p>To respond to this, the Prevent team is developing a series of resilience workshops in collaboration with the Youth Advisory Group and detached youth workers. These sessions will focus on misinformation, disinformation, online safety, and extremist rhetoric, helping young people to critically assess online content and resist harmful influences. The workshops will first be rolled out across youth zones and then expanded into schools.</p> <p>The programme is being co-created with young people to ensure relevance, authenticity, and engagement. Alongside this, the Prevent education officer is working with schools to deliver sessions that strengthen digital literacy and online resilience.</p> <p>Mike noted that referral rates, which usually dip during the summer months, have recently shown a sharp increase. The team is analysing these referrals to identify patterns and underlying concerns, which will inform future interventions. The Prevent team has also secured Home Office funding to deliver targeted interventions across 8–10 schools in partnership with Waltham Forest, focusing on students identified as most vulnerable to exploitation and radicalisation.</p>	

	Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent team to provide an update on referral trends and data analysis at the next board meeting. 	MS
9.	Forward Planning and AOB None raised	
	Date/Time next meeting Thursday 22nd January 2026, 2-4pm	