



**Newham Safety Partnership Board Meeting**

**22 January 2026, 14:00-16:00, MS Teams**

**Attendees:**  
 Sean McDermid – Director, Community Safety & Integrated Enforcement (Chair)  
 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 & Integrated Enforcement  
 Antony Rose – London Probation, Head of Service  
 Allison Sherwood – Head of Community Safety Enforcement  
 Bill Griffiths - DARDR Chair  
 Daniel Wilson - Safeguarding Adults Designated Nurse, NHS  
 DS Joshua Palmer – Metropolitan Police Service  
 Edward King – Assistant Director of Licencing and Regulatory Services  
 Fiona Hackland - Assistant Director of Commissioning Adults and Health  
 James Ryan – Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade  
 Jon Norris - Senior Advisor Safeguarding Adults  
 Joe Mutter - Community Safety Project Officer  
 Kirk Facey - NICE Tasking & Coordination Officer, CSET  
 Lisa Rosier – Head of Community Safety and Corporate Resilience  
 Lucky Singh – Superintendent, MPS  
 Mike Shoesmith – PREVENT Lead  
 Paul Leslie - IAG and REIN Chief Executive  
 Tony Lynes - Head of Housing  
 Sharmeen Narayan - DV & SV Commissioner, Public Health  
 Sukhy Hira - Community Safety & Corporate Resilience Manager  
 Victor Cook, Assistant Director, Quality Assurance

**Apologies:**  
 Ben Ramsay – Senior Community Safety Analyst  
 Cassandra Beckford - Strategic Programme Manager, Youth Safety  
 Zohra Safi – National Management Trainee, Community Safety Team

	Item	Action lead
1.	Introduction & Apologies	

<p>2.</p>	<p><b>Minutes and Outstanding Actions:</b></p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated. No amendments were raised and the minutes were agreed.</p> <p>Sukhy Hira confirmed that there is one outstanding action relating to the <b>Policing with Compassion</b> project. Lucky Singh advised that the project has now been signed off by the Metropolitan Police Service for piloting in Newham, with delivery due to commence by the end of the month. An evaluation framework and costings are currently being finalised, with further assurance being provided regarding community impact. The project is expected to progress within the coming weeks.</p> <p>It was noted that there is an ongoing action relating to updating the NSP Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lucky Singh</b> to provide an update on the Policing with Compassion pilot following completion of the evaluation and funding assurance.</li> <li>• <b>Sukhy Hira</b> to continue work on the NSP Action Plan updates.</li> </ul>	<p>LS</p> <p>SH, NSP - ongoing</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>DARDR Case (GB) Update – Bill Griffiths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Griffiths presented a summary of the DARDR, noting the complexity and sensitivity of the work and the length of time over which the issues occurred. Members were encouraged to read the full report to fully understand the patterns of behaviour and learning identified.</li> <li>• Sharmeen Narayan thanked Bill for his work over a five-year period and highlighted that the findings reflect experiences regularly seen within domestic abuse services. Members were encouraged to reflect on the learning and consider how their own organisations would respond in similar circumstances, particularly where services may have failed.</li> <li>• Sean McDermid raised questions regarding the timing of publication in light of an ongoing police investigation and suggested early engagement with the Home Office to seek advice on next steps. He also emphasised the importance of understanding and respecting the wishes of the family.</li> <li>• Bill Griffiths confirmed that the family is currently engaged with the Major Investigation Team and remains supportive of the process. He advised that anonymisation and submission of the report to the Home Office would allow learning to be shared, regardless of publication timing, and confirmed that the review had informed the coroner’s inquest of subsequent findings.</li> <li>• It was agreed that the Home Office should be kept informed and that the family should continue to be updated and their views taken into account. Learning and actions arising from the review will continue to be progressed, with a further high-level update to be provided to the Board or NSP Executive as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sukhy Hira</b> to liaise with the Home Office to provide an early briefing on the report and seek advice regarding publication considering the ongoing investigation.</li> </ul>	<p>SH – ongoing – final report has</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sharmeen Narayan</b> to ensure the family are kept informed and their views considered in next steps.</li> </ul>	<p><b>been submitted to the Home Office.</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Premier League Pilot (MPS) – Joshua Palmer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua Palmer (NE BCU) provided an overview of <b>Operation Onside</b>, a dual-funded diversionary project delivered by NE BCU in partnership with the West Ham United Foundation. The project is jointly funded through Project ADDER and neighbourhood policing funds, with match funding from the Premier League Foundation.</li> <li>• The project supports children and young people at risk of criminal exploitation and drug-related harm through an 18-week programme, including mentoring and structured interventions. The pilot has demonstrated positive outcomes, including successful diversion from criminality, re-engagement with education, and progression into employment.</li> <li>• Members noted a case example highlighting sustained positive outcomes following completion of the programme. Plans were outlined to upscale and roll out the model in spring and summer, supporting approximately 70 young people across three BCUs. A toolkit has been developed to support implementation, with interest expressed in further expansion beyond London.</li> <li>• Joshua Palmer emphasised the importance of strengthened collaboration with the local authority to provide a safeguarding wrap-around before, during and after participation, including improved information sharing and agreed post-programme support to reduce the risk of relapse.</li> <li>• Members welcomed the positive outcomes and expressed support for continued delivery and expansion of the programme. The importance of sharing positive messaging and maintaining momentum was highlighted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Victor Cook and colleagues</b> to link with NE BCU to strengthen safeguarding wrap-around arrangements for Operation Onside participants, including pre- and post-programme support.</li> <li>• <b>Joshua Palmer and NE BCU</b> to explore opportunities for referral pathways from local authority services, including Youth Justice and social care.</li> <li>• <b>Asta</b> to work with partners to share positive messaging and outcomes from Operation Onside for public consumption (e.g. One Newham channels).</li> </ul>	<p><b>VC</b></p> <p><b>MPS</b></p> <p><b>AD</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Youth Safety Action Plan Update – Victor Cook</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victor Cook provided a progress update on the Youth Safety Strategy, which was launched in November 2024 and is overseen by a multi-agency subgroup co-chaired with the Metropolitan Police. The strategy brings together existing plans and activity across the partnership into a single framework, with a focus on early intervention, prevention, tackling disproportionality, and addressing structural inequalities.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strategy includes 66 priority areas and 46 actions, with 10 priorities identified for Year 1. Work to date has focused on adding value and aligning existing activity rather than duplicating delivery. Positive progress was highlighted across several areas, including improved practice and experiences for children and young people subject to stop and search, increased detection rates, and continued focus on high-harm offending.</li> <li>Examples of effective partnership working were noted, including safer spaces initiatives such as the Safer Stratford Partnership and alignment with wider NSP activity, including knife crime prevention campaigns. Members also noted the importance of addressing the impact of organised crime and older perpetrators on children, alongside preventative work with young people.</li> <li>Victor advised that Year 1 delivery is currently under review, with work underway to evaluate progress and evidence of impact. Emerging Year 2 priority areas include tackling racism and disproportionality at a systems level, child sexual exploitation, aspirations and post-education opportunities, high-harm offending (including increasing involvement of girls), early intervention on misogynistic attitudes in schools, and the impact of social media and online harms on offline violence.</li> <li>Members welcomed the update and noted the positive feedback from the recent children’s services inspection regarding strong multi-agency collaboration. Discussion highlighted the challenge of evidencing outcomes and the need to better link local activity with available data, which will be explored further at the forthcoming progress and challenge session.</li> <li>Victor confirmed that a Youth Safety Strategy Progress and Challenge Event will take place on 10 February, aligned with Safer Internet Day, to review progress, scrutinise delivery, and inform Year 2 priorities.</li> <li>It was agreed that continued alignment between the Youth Safety Strategy and NSP governance would be maintained through representation and updates to the NSP Executive.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victor Cook to circulate invitations to NSP members for the Youth Safety Strategy Progress and Challenge Event on 10 February.</li> <li>Victor Cook and NSP Executive to ensure ongoing alignment through regular updates and representation at Executive meetings.</li> <li>Relevant partners to explore links between youth safety work, online harms, and preventative activity, including discussions with communications and Prevent colleagues as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>VC - Completed</b></p> <p><b>VC – ongoing</b></p> <p><b>NPS - ongoing</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Crime Performance Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean McDerimid introduced the item, noting that members had received and reviewed the performance papers in advance. Kirk Facey was invited to provide a brief headline overview using the infographic, with discussion focused on key trends and implications for delivery against the Action Plan.</li> <li>Kirk Facey outlined rolling 12-month performance, noting that overall crime levels remain broadly stable year on year. Newham continues to rank highly in several crime categories compared to other London boroughs, reflecting the borough’s context and complexity. While some offence categories have increased, sanction detection rates have risen</li> </ul>	

significantly, indicating increased reporting confidence and improved investigative outcomes.

**Key points highlighted included:**

- Hate crime has reduced overall, with increases in homophobic offences accompanied by substantial rises in sanction detections, suggesting improved victim confidence and enforcement.
- Knife crime and weapon-enabled crime remain areas of concern, although there are indications of stabilisation and improved enforcement outcomes.
- Sexual offences have increased, with notable ward-level concentrations, alongside significant improvements in sanction detection rates.
- Sean McDermid emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum on positive trends while sustaining focus on high-harm areas, particularly knife crime and sexual offending. It was agreed that more detailed ward-level and tactical discussion would be taken forward outside the Board and, where appropriate, at the next NSP Executive.
- Lucky Singh provided a policing response, highlighting current priorities and operational activity. Robbery and knife crime remain key focuses, supported by precision crime fighting, enhanced stop and search activity, increased weapon recoveries, and improved crime management. Lucky noted the expansion of specialist teams, including additional town centre policing capacity and forthcoming integration of TfL policing assets around Stratford.
- Lucky also highlighted improved communications with communities through monthly newsletters and positive feedback from residents, particularly in East Ham. Targeted activity was outlined in Forest Gate South to address violence against women and girls, including operations focused on predatory behaviour and increased resourcing. While acknowledging ongoing socio-economic challenges, Lucky emphasised that rising sanction detection rates and falling homicide levels represent meaningful progress.
- Sean McDermid concluded by stressing the need to maintain a live link between crime performance and the Board's Action Plan throughout the year, to ensure delivery remains outcome-focused and evidence-led.

**Actions / Next Steps:**

- Crime performance to remain a standing consideration for the NSP Executive, with continued emphasis on linking data trends to Action Plan delivery.
- Detailed tactical and ward-level analysis to be considered outside the Board and, where appropriate, at the next NSP Executive meeting.
- Partners to maintain focus on knife crime, sexual offending, and youth-related harm, aligning activity with the Youth Safety Strategy and NSP priorities.

**KF/BR**

7.

### NSP Action Tracker 25 - Oct 26 – Sukhy Hira

Sukhy Hira provided an update on delivery of the **NSP Action Plan**, which has been in progress for the past three months. The update focused primarily on community safety-led activity, with an acknowledgment that wider partner contributions are needed to be incorporated into future iterations of the plan. Sukhy confirmed that structured catch-ups with partners will be arranged to ensure activity is accurately reflected, with more formalised updates expected at the next NSP Executive.

Key delivery highlights included:

- Successful delivery of the **16 Days of Activism**, comprising 37 events delivered in partnership with a wide range of organisations, alongside a White Ribbon campaign engaging senior leaders and over 250 residents, supported by a public communications campaign.
- Joint work with MPS BCU teams, including a pilot **mobile police station** in Maryland and targeted community engagement, supporting over 150 women through crime awareness and safety discussions.
- Plans to relaunch the **Newham Safety Survey** to capture before-and-after measures of confidence and perceptions of safety linked to engagement activity.
- Completion of a public consultation on **hate crime**, with 204 online survey responses and 98 responses from young people, supported by focus groups.
- Development of a first draft **Hate Crime Strategy**, with Hate Crime and Modern Slavery working groups scheduled to commence in February, feeding directly into NSP Executive governance.
- An update on Home Office-funded **knife surrender bins**, which were adapted to accept ninja swords. Since installation, 179 knives have been deposited. Detailed data remains restricted due to Home Office conditions, but utilisation was noted as positive.

Sean McDermid highlighted the importance of strengthening the link between action plan delivery, crime data, and wider measures such as **fear of crime and public confidence**, noting that engagement activity must translate into visible action and feedback to communities. He also emphasised the need for clearer tracking of actions, milestones, and outcomes to ensure accountability and avoid retrospective reporting.

Andy Opie confirmed that work is underway to consolidate and strengthen the Action Plan, with a more detailed review scheduled for the forthcoming NSP Executive meeting. While progress has been made, the plan remains a live document and further partner input is required to ensure completeness.

Paul Leslie highlighted opportunities for the voluntary, community and faith sector to contribute evidence of impact, including detached youth work in Becton and East Ham, community conversations, and schools-based activity, and offered to follow up to ensure this is reflected within the plan.

Sean McDermid reiterated the importance of closing the feedback loop with communities following consultation and engagement, to maintain confidence and trust by demonstrating tangible outcomes and delivery.

**Actions / Next Steps:**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sukhy Hira</b> to coordinate catch-ups with partners to strengthen contributions to the NSP Action Plan.</li> <li>• <b>NSP Executive</b> to undertake a detailed review of the Action Plan at the next Executive meeting, including action tracking, milestones, and alignment with crime performance.</li> <li>• <b>Community Safety / Partners</b> to develop measures capturing fear of crime and public confidence alongside recorded crime data.</li> <li>• <b>All partners</b> to ensure consultation and engagement activity is accompanied by clear feedback and delivery messaging to communities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SH - ongoing</b></p> <p><b>All partners</b></p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Winter of Action in Town Centres Plan – Allison Sherwood</b></p> <p>Allison Sherwood provided an update on delivery of the <b>Safer Streets Winter of Action Plan</b>, delivered as part of the Government’s Safer Streets mission and building on the Summer Action Plan. Over the past two months, Community Safety officers have worked jointly with a wide range of partners including MPS, Licensing, Environmental Enforcement and other council services.</p> <p>Targeted multi-agency operations were delivered across high-footfall and hotspot locations including <b>Stratford, East Ham and Green Street</b>, focusing on anti-social behaviour, environmental offences and public reassurance. Three dedicated days of action were delivered, generating significant follow-up activity and problem-solving work.</p> <p>Key outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement action for <b>PSPO breaches</b>, fly-tipping, unlicensed street trading and littering, including Fixed Penalty Notices.</li> <li>• Seizure of counterfeit and illicit goods (including perfumes, mobile phones and earbuds), referred to Trading Standards.</li> <li>• Licensing enforcement at a premises linked to street drinking and associated ASB, with alcohol seized and the premises now under investigation.</li> <li>• Safeguarding interventions with rough sleepers, including referrals into support services and identification of new sites for the rough sleeping pathway.</li> <li>• <b>Weapon sweeps</b> using VRU-funded metal detectors in parks, estates and open spaces, resulting in the recovery of a knife.</li> <li>• <b>Blue Badge enforcement</b>, including seizure of four stolen badges, vehicle removals and referrals for prosecution.</li> <li>• Joint patrols with police resulting in arrests, stop and searches, and community resolutions for drug possession.</li> <li>• Over <b>250 CCTV checks</b> coordinated through the Council’s control room, supporting real-time tasking and operational response.</li> </ul> <p>Allison confirmed that one further targeted operation remains, planned for later in the month, focusing on <b>mobile phone theft around DLR stations</b> in partnership with the police. Results from this and wider activity (including spiking prevention, mobile police station deployment and engagement activity in Stratford) will be collated as part of the Winter of Action returns.</p> <p>Sean McDermid welcomed the update and highlighted the value of producing a standalone summary product capturing the full set of <b>Days of Action</b> outcomes, separate from wider NICE good news reporting. He also encouraged consideration of giving future seasonal plans (e.g. winter and summer activity)</p>	

	<p>clearer operational structure and forward planning, rather than positioning activity solely in response to Home Office initiatives.</p> <p>Allison confirmed that Days of Action are embedded as business as usual, typically delivered every two months and driven by data-led targeting. The next planned operation will focus on <b>East Ham</b> in February, addressing parking and related ASB issues.</p> <p><b>Actions / Next Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSET</b> to produce a consolidated summary slide deck capturing Winter of Action and Days of Action outcomes.</li> <li>• <b>CSET / NSP partners</b> to consider formalising seasonal operational plans (e.g. winter/summer) within NICE priorities.</li> <li>• <b>CSET and MPS</b> to deliver the final Winter of Action operation focused on DLR phone theft and report outcomes.</li> </ul>	<b>AS/CSET/ Partners</b>
9.	<p><b>PREVENT – Mike Shoesmith</b></p> <p>Mike Shoesmith provided an update on <b>Prevent referrals and activity</b>, following an action from the previous meeting to focus on quarterly data.</p> <p><b>Referrals (Q3):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of <b>15 referrals</b> were received in Q3, following an unusually high volume in Q4 2024/25 and a subsequent dip.</li> <li>• The earlier spike was attributed to external factors including the <b>Southport trial outcome</b> and increased media exposure (including a Netflix release), particularly impacting education-based referrals.</li> <li>• Referral levels are now stabilising closer to expected norms.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ideology and Demographics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>33% of Q3 referrals</b> related to <i>Other Susceptibility</i>, prompting discussions with Counter Terrorism Policing on targeted communications, training and awareness to improve understanding and referral quality.</li> <li>• <b>80% of referrals were male, 7% female</b>, with the remainder unspecified. While Newham has historically seen higher female referrals than the London average, this was not reflected in Q3.</li> </ul> <p><b>Data and System Alignment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike highlighted a disconnect between <b>Prevent referral data and arrest/investigation data</b>, with arrests predominantly linked to Islamist extremism. Work is ongoing with CTP and the Home Office to better understand and address this imbalance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement and Delivery:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent engagement activity continues to expand, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Parent workshops</b>, delivered by the Education Officer, with strong feedback and requests for sessions within community settings.</li> <li>○ <b>Youth engagement</b>, including work with the Youth Independent Advisory Group, shaping delivery on online safety, conspiracy theories, digital harms and extremist narratives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ongoing work with schools and youth services, with new sessions commencing imminently.</li> </ul> <p><b>Targeted Intervention Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A targeted intervention project is underway, addressing a wide range of online harms including extremism, sextortion, blackmail, child sexual abuse, AI misuse, rage baiting and cult-like online behaviours.</li> <li>● Early feedback from participants and parents has been positive.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk and Community Tensions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The dynamic risk register is being updated to reflect international developments, including tensions linked to Iran and Syria, with liaison underway with community tensions teams to assess local impact and radicalisation risk.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The partnership is awaiting a Home Office decision on continued <b>priority area funding</b>. An update will be provided at the next meeting, including implications for delivery should funding status change.</li> </ul> <p>Sean McDermid formally thanked Mike Shoesmith, Ella and Lisa for significant progress in Prevent delivery, noting positive feedback from the Home Office and emerging recognition of Newham’s practice across other boroughs.</p> <p><b>Actions / Next Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Prevent Team</b> to continue engagement activity with parents, schools and youth settings, incorporating feedback from YIAG.</li> <li>● <b>Prevent Team / CTP</b> to progress work on referral quality and alignment with arrest and investigation data.</li> <li>● <b>Prevent Team</b> to update the partnership on Home Office funding decisions and delivery implications at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	<b>MS/EC - ongoing</b>
10.	<b>Forward Planning and AOB</b>	
	None raised	
	<b>Date/Time next meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026</b>	