

Serious Violence Strategy 2026-2035



**If you are experiencing
Serious Violence, please contact
Victim Support Enfield:
0808 168 9291.**

In an emergency, dial 999.



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Foreword

The impact of serious violence across our communities is profound. Testimonies from friends and families lay bare the lasting emotional and psychological trauma caused by violence. Birthdays, cherished holidays and family celebrations become painful reminders that someone they love is missing due to the most tragic of circumstances.



The effects extend far beyond the immediate victim and their family. Schools, faith groups and local communities also feel the devastating consequences. Like a stone dropped into a pond, serious violence creates ripples that reach every corner of community life.

This is why this strategy is so important — not simply because addressing serious violence is a statutory requirement, but because tackling both its causes and consequences is fundamental to changing the narrative within our communities. Serious violence, including weapon-related violence, is not accepted, not tolerated and will not define us.

As partner agencies, including the Council, Police, Health, Probation, education providers and wider criminal justice services, this strategy sets out our long-term commitment to preventing and reducing serious violence. However, we cannot achieve this alone. Meaningful and lasting change requires the support of our local communities, voluntary and faith sectors, residents and businesses. Our ambition is to create opportunities for everyone who wants to play an active role in making our communities safer.

We also recognise the significant challenges surrounding disproportionality in relation to those involved in serious violence offences. Currently, young people under the age of 25 from Black and mixed heritage communities are disproportionately represented within the criminal justice system for serious violence offences, being up to five times more likely to be remanded into custody than their peers. This is not a true reflection of our communities. As a Council and Community Safety Partnership, we are committed to collectively addressing these inequalities. Tackling disproportionality is therefore one of the four key principles underpinning this strategy and central to delivering our priorities.

Serious violence is preventable, not inevitable, and no conversation, intervention or act to prevent violence is ever wasted. We must not wait until another tragedy occurs before action is taken. Together, we have a responsibility to create safer communities and better futures for all.

Cllr Alessandro Georgiou
Leader of the Council

Section 1:

Introduction



Introduction

This Serious Violence Strategy 2026-35 has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Duty requires several specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area. This includes identifying the kinds of serious violence in the area, the potential causes and drivers of that violence and preparing and implementing a shared strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The specified authorities as set out in the Serious Violence Duty are:

- The Police
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Justice organisations (Youth Offending Teams and Probation Services)
- Health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- Local Authorities

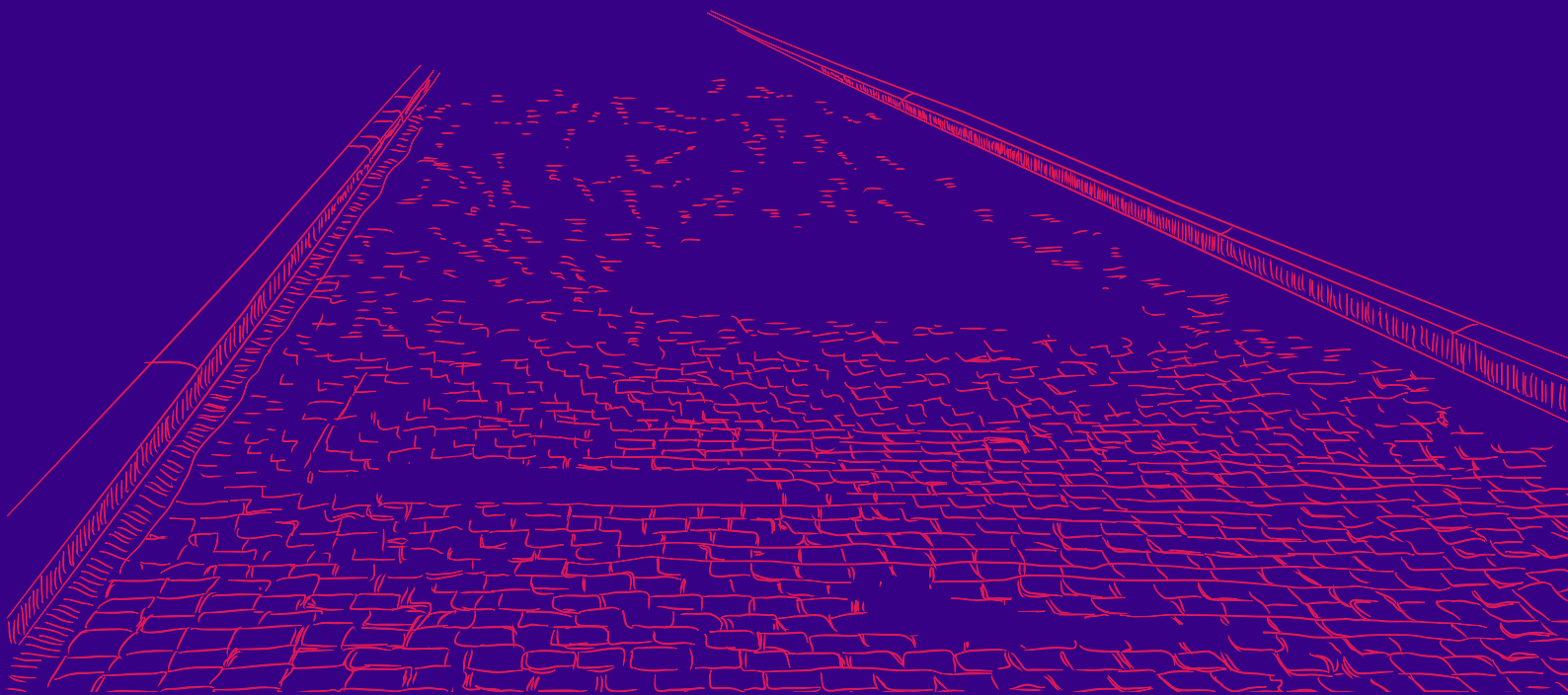
The legislation also identifies a range of other bodies or organisations who should be consulted with and collaborate on the development and delivery of Serious Violence Duty.

Due to the significant focus of addressing serious violence and how it affects young people under the age of 25, education representatives from across the education sectors are included in our governance structures set out below.

The Serious Violence Duty is also part of the responsibility of the local Community Safety Partnership. In Enfield this is referred to as the Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board.

Section 2:

Defining Serious Violence



Defining Serious Violence

Overarching definition

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 does not define serious violence for the purposes of the Duty.

In light of this, The Safer Stronger Communities Board has adopted the World Health Organization definition of violence:



“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”

Krug et al, ed. World report on violence and health. 2002, World Health Organisation: Geneva

Our Strategic Ambition

We recognise as partner agencies that we need to listen to those most affected by serious violence and from the tragic incidents that occur so that we can drive the necessary changes and prevent future incidents.

Our intention is to ensure that the voice of victims is both listened to and heard and that they receive appropriate and timely support. This strategy is written with them in mind and sets out the following ambition.

Our Strategic Ambition

“Prevent and tackle serious violence and causes in Enfield, creating a safer borough for all.”

Defining our local priorities

The 2022 Act provides an opportunity for Enfield to define the types of serious violence that impact communities the most. The Duty also encourages the specified authorities to take account of new and emerging forms of serious violence as they develop and are identified.

Based on the local profile (set out below) and taking into consideration the emerging themes, the priorities for the Enfield Serious Violence Strategy 2026-35 are:

- Tackling serious violence and its causes, including extra familial harm, criminal exploitation related to young people under the age of 25. This encompasses those aged under 25 who are affected by serious violence including victims, suspects or close family or friends.
- Violence connected to organised criminality including drug supply and affiliated harm groups.
- All forms of weapon enabled violence.
- Domestic abuse as defined within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. (affecting over 16 year olds as victims and perpetrators and children through the impact of abuse)
- Sexual Violence.

Our definition encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.

The Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board adopted a 10-year Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy in December 2025. Both Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences are covered in detail in this strategy and can be found at https://www.enfield.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/129095/Violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-2026-to-2035-Community-safety.pdf

The Serious Violence Strategy acknowledges the importance of both Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence however the detail and delivery plans are set out in the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and will be overseen by the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group.

Section 3:

Our partnership to Serious Violence



Our partnership approach to Serious Violence

The following section set out our partnership approach to preventing and addressing serious violence and the causes of serious violence. The partnership recognises the devastating impact that serious violence has on victims, their family, friends and community.

Adopting a Public Health Approach

A public health approach to violence prevention and reduction is now widely adopted across the country, including the Mayor of London. The Mayor's approach is set out on the following weblink: [A public health approach to reducing violence | London City Hall](#).

A Public Health Approach focuses on the underlying factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of serious violence. It allows partner agencies to consider the wider determinants of crime and community safety, including social inequalities, employment, skills, health and housing.

A public health approach looks at the following three key pillars:

	Definition	What does this mean in practice?
Primary	Preventing violence before it occurs	Using data and evidence to identify causal factors of violence that affect communities and develop/ commission evidence-based programmes and interventions which lower the risk for current and future generations. Our intention - Address the underlying drivers of serious violence through prevention and early help.
Secondary	Responding to immediate risk of serious violence and violent conflict	Co-ordinating a response led by specialist services and statutory partners including housing, health agencies, children and family services, Police, Probation and other criminal justice agencies. These teams aim to effectively recognise and respond to emerging risks or serious violence incidents to protect residents, victims, their friends and family. Our intention – Use our combined tools and powers to tackle those involved in serious violence, protect potential victims, their friends and families.

Tertiary	Long term support for those affected by serious violence	Co-produce a series of interventions and embedded policies that offer long term change for those affected by serious violence and future generations, ensuring that the voices of victims are heard, acted upon and represented. This includes addressing contextual factors outside of the home which can play a vital role in serious violence between individuals and groups Our Intention - Work in partnership with our communities to ensure there is a long-term approach to preventing and reducing violence.
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The importance of the 5 C's

In its publication, "A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention" the government set out a place-based multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention. ([A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention](#))

The placed based approach applies the following model which is known as the 5 C's Approach to violence prevention.



Collaboration	Requires partners to work collaboratively, gaining a collective understanding of a multi-agency approach; to develop a shared response which reflects the needs of the local community and to jointly identify resources that will enable effective working.
Co-production	Recognises that any response to serious violence should be informed by the multi-agency perspectives of all partners. It should include a broad range of activities encompassing public protection, identifying & supporting vulnerable people and engaging the community and voluntary sector in co-producing and delivering solutions.
Co-operation in data and intelligence sharing	The sharing of data and intelligence is critical to mobilise effective preventative and operational interventions. To achieve this; the partnership must work together to understand what data is available and how it can be lawfully shared in way which protect personal information but enables partners to: Measure the levels and nature of violence in a local area, Identify the population groups and geographical areas most affected, Inform the development and delivery of interventions.
Counter Narrative	By working across a wide sector of the community organisations in developing and delivering programmes which promote positive life choices, aspirations and role models as an alternative to violence and criminality.
Community Consensus	Every programme should be based on the principle that it is delivered with, for and/or by the community. The legacy of any violence prevention programmes rests with its ability to resonate and empower the local community which goes beyond participation and becomes owned by the community.

Whilst the Public Health Approach provides a valuable violence prevention model, the 5 C's approach is the framework for delivery that will be adopted across all the interventions designed to address serious violence and its causes in Enfield.

Our core Principles

The following table will guide our actions and decision making to prevent and tackle serious violence

Recognise and challenge inequalities and disproportionality

We know that people's experience of crime, violence and safety is influenced by many factors, including age, ethnicity, gender expression, sexuality, religion and disability. We also recognise that understanding identity, intergenerational trauma and a sense of belonging are key to addressing inequalities. Our approach to tackling and preventing serious violence is informed by a comprehensive picture of those who are affected, either as victims or perpetrators and we recognise and respond to all forms of disproportionality.

Responding the serious violence issues that affect our communities the most.

We will ensure that we are agile and flexible in the way we respond to the changing nature of serious violence that impacts on local communities.

This includes online abuse, violence and intimidation that increases the risk of exploitation of young people and vulnerable residents.

Adopting a risk outside of the home, safeguarding approach

We will embed a safeguarding approach, which assess risk for the individual, within their family, their peer group, at school and wider community. This will ensure that any interventions recognise the positive and negative impact across risks within and outside of the home.

Use of tools and powers

We will ensure we use the full range of tools and powers available to partner agencies to reduce the risk of serious violence and those who perpetrate it.

Section 4:

What our data told us



What our data told us.

In 2021, Public Health undertook as detailed needs analysis, identifying the local risk factors for serious youth violence.

The following table summarises the identified risk factors. It includes:

- Generic risk factors for young people involved in serious violence,
- The risk factors for young people convicted of weaponised crime or possession/supply of drugs and
- Risk factors identified by young people and families who were interviewed as part of the research.

The needs analysis also highlighted that there was an overrepresentation of young people from ethnic minority backgrounds, consistent with trends identified in national reports on disproportionality. Whilst ethnicity data was incomplete, the available data indicated that young people from ethnic minority backgrounds were represented within the cohort at approximately three times the rate of their white peers.

Serious Youth Violence in Enfield needs analysis - identified risk factors

Local risk factor indicators for young people convicted of serious violence incidents	Young people convicted of weaponised crime, possession or drugs supply	Consultation feedback from young people and parents
• Living in areas with high crime levels, (this includes domestic abuse) • Deprivation and unemployment • Education, (including school absence, school attainment, fixed term school exclusions and young people not in education, employment or training) • Mental health (This includes mental health contacts and diagnoses Data for anxiety and depression in adults was also included, highlighting the importance of these factors within the households where children live) • Substance misuse – (experiences of substance misuse including within the household) • Social care (this includes child protection cases, looked after children and social care contacts)	• Group / Gang affiliations • Special Education Needs • Mental Health • Substance Misuse • Social care involvement • Witness to domestic Violence) • Sexual Exploitation • Child Criminal Exploitation • Missing/Absconding Not in Education • Employment or Training (statutory and post-16)	• A lack of community cohesion, including a lack of community spaces and services. • Poverty and poor housing. • Home and family problems, including domestic violence, criminal or violent behaviour in older siblings or parents. • Lack of trusted adults. • Safety: many young people expressed feeling unsafe and cited this as a reason to carry weapons. • School and peers; young people felt that exclusion from school increased the risk of gang involvement. • Mental health: both parents and young people talked about a lack of self-esteem, poor emotional regulation and poor decision-making skills. • Gang life was perceived by many young people to be glamorous and exciting, and offered them excitement, friendship and popularity. • Employment, education and training. • Social media was cited by many as a key driver of violence and gang involvement.

The summary of the needs analysis identified the following risk and protective factors where interventions could have the most impact to tackle or prevent serious youth violence.

- **Poverty and deprivation, including housing and debt;** These risk factors were evident at all levels and strongly associated with serious youth violence.
- **Social care, looked after children and safeguarding;** These risk factors were especially evident in Enfield level data, particularly amongst the youth offending cohort.
- **Emotional and mental health;** emotional regulation, good communication and healthy problem-solving skills are protective, whilst low self-esteem, aggression and anti-social behaviour are risk factors. Poor mental health in young people, or within the household, were also identified in national and London wide data, although the local Enfield picture around mental health was less clear.
- **Adverse childhood events;** exposure to adverse environments or experiences were proven risk factors; this includes exposure to domestic violence, abuse or neglect within the household, offending behaviour within the household, and family breakdown.
- **Parenting and family;** disrupted families and poor parenting and supervision were identified risk factors as was household overcrowding and family size. Protective factors include nurturing and stable home relationships and shared activities with parents
- **Education, employment and training;** these are protective factors against youth violence and support social mobility and future employment opportunities. Special educational needs were identified as a risk factor, as was truancy from school and school exclusion.
- **Safe and cohesive communities;** these were protective factors, together with recreational opportunities for young people. Risk factors include exposure to drugs and gangs, whether locally or through social media
- **Substance misuse;** whether connected to young people or within the household, misuse of drugs or alcohol shows a strong association with gang involvement and youth violence
- **Gangs and illegal activities;** gangs and illegal activities, such as selling drugs, are considered an attractive option for some young people, especially those with other risk factors and vulnerabilities. Previous offending behaviour shows a strong association with serious youth violence, so once engaged in illegal behaviour, this pattern is difficult to disrupt.

Data analysis

The following data information relates to the key priorities for the Serious Violence Strategy 2026-35. It reviews the data information across the past 5 years.

The detailed data analysis for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is contained in the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2026-36.

Tackling serious violence and its causes, including extra familial harm, criminal exploitation related to young people under the age of 25.

Key findings: Violence against the person (VAP) offences where the victim and suspect are under the age of 25.

There were 1,749 recorded offences of violence against the person in 2025 where the victim was under the age of 25. In relation to the rate of violence against the person offences, per 1,000 population, Enfield's has seen an improvement for both victims and suspects, between 2021 and 2025, compared to other London boroughs.

Victim (U25)					
Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rate per 1,000 population	17.6	19.5	19.3	15.9	16.1
Rank compared to other 32 London boroughs	15 th Highest	11 th Highest	17 th Highest	24 th Highest	25 th Highest

Suspect (U25)					
Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rate per 1,000 population	9.0	9.0	9.5	6.6	6.8
Rank compared to other 32 London boroughs	15 th Highest	11 th Highest	17 th Highest	24 th Highest	25 th Highest

Location and temporal profile

- Peaks times were midday and after school (3pm-5pm).
- The wards with the highest number of offences were **Edmonton Green, Upper Edmonton, Haselbury and Ponders End.**

Demographics of victims and suspects

Between January 2021 and December 2025, victims aged under 25 were relatively evenly distributed by gender, on average 50% were male and 47% were female.

Suspects in the same age group were predominantly male. On average 60% were male and 33% were female.

Violence connected to organised criminality including drug supply and affiliated harm groups

Key findings: Drug offences

Enfield has reported a steady increase in drug supply cases since 2021.

In the latest year up to December 2025, Enfield has seen an increase of 28.6% in drug relates incidents compared to the same period in 2024. Enfield's ranking in comparison to other London boroughs has also increased since 2021. This increase reflects the proactive operations as part of the Clear Hold Build programme on Upper Edmonton, aimed at addressing organised criminality and drug supply. (see below).

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rate per 1,000 population	3.6	4.7	3.6	4.7	6.0
Rank compared to other 32 London boroughs	25th Highest	19th Highest	20th Highest	18th Highest	18th Highest

Location and temporal profile

- The wards with the highest number of offences were **Edmonton Green, Upper Edmonton, Lower Edmonton and Ponders End**.

Demographics of suspected offenders

- Suspected were considerably more likely to be male (92% in all the years from 2021 to 2025).
- Between January 2021 and December 2025, suspects involved in drug supply offences were consistently more likely to be male across all recorded years. On average 61% were male and 5% were female.
- The age group with the highest number of suspects between 2021 to 2025 was 18-24 (37%) and 25-29 (19%).

Most identified Drug Types in 2025

Drug Type / Offence Category	Offence Count	% of Total
Possession – Class B – Cannabis	976	51.21%
Unlawful importation – Unknown class	708	37.15%
Possession – Nitrous Oxide	75	3.93%
Possession – Class A – Cocaine	39	2.05%

Production – Class B – Cannabis	30	1.57%
Possession with intent to supply – Class B – Cannabis	29	1.52%
Possession with intent to supply – Class A – Cocaine	15	0.79%
Possession – Class B – Other	14	0.73%
Possession – Class A – Crystal Meth	10	0.52%
Possession – Class A – Heroin	10	0.52%

All forms of weapon enabled violence

Knife Crime Offences

There were 622 recorded knife crime offences in 2025. This represents a 5% decrease compared to 2024 (650). Enfield's rate of knife crime has shown an increasing trend since 2021, rising from 1.7 per 1,000 population in 2021 to 1.9 in 2025.

Knife Crime					
Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rate per 1,000 population	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.9
Rank compared to other 32 London boroughs	6th Highest	9th Highest	12th Highest	14th Highest	11th Highest

Note: Not all knife crime offences will involve a visible weapon, some knife crime offences will involve multiple weapons that are visible.

Knife with Injury Offences

In 2025 there were 124 recorded knife crime with injury offences. This represents a 21% decrease compared to 2024.

Knife crime with Injury					
Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rate per 1,000 population	0.41	0.41	0.44	0.52	0.41
Rank compared to other 32 London boroughs	11th Highest	15th Highest	17th Highest	9th Highest	16th Highest

Location and temporal profile

- The wards with the highest number of knife crime offences were **Edmonton Green, Upper Edmonton, Haselbury, Ponders End and Brimsdown**

Demographics of victims

- Victims of knife crime were consistently more likely to be male. On average 78% were male and 20% were female.
- Victims were more likely to be in a younger age group, with 55% of victims under the age of 25 and 45% aged above 25. Among youth victims, most were in the 10–17 age group.

Demographics of suspected offenders (Victims of all ages)

- Between January 2021 and December 2025, suspects involved in knife crime were more likely to be male than female or any other recorded gender category. On average 57% were male and 7% were female.
- Looking across 2021 -2025 identified suspects for knife crime with injury offences tended to be older. 24% were aged 18-25 and 60% were aged over 25.

Demographics of suspected offenders (Victims under 24)

- Male suspects consistently made up the largest proportion in knife crime incidents involving victims aged under 25. On average 54% were male and 4% were female.
- Suspects were more likely to be in younger age groups, with 76% aged under 25 and 24% aged over 25. Among youth suspects, the largest proportions were in the 10–17 age group (49%) and the 18–24 age group (27%).

Types of weapons being used

Out of a total of 10,930 knife crime offences recorded in London between April 2025 and February 2026 (11 months), the most commonly used weapons were kitchen knives (23%), machetes (7%), sharp instruments (6%), and flick knives (5%).

Weapon related homicide

Between 2021 to September 2025, there were 13 homicide victims in Enfield, with 69% of cases involving a knife or sharp instrument.

Gun Crime Offences

Gun crime in Enfield has shown an overall increasing trend between 2021 and 2024, but a slight decrease was seen in 2025.

The number of gun crime offences increased by 48.7% in 2024 compared to 2023 but decreased by 11.5% in 2025.

Gun Crime					
Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rate per 1,000 population	0.21	0.21	0.23	0.34	0.30
Rank compared to other 32 London boroughs	7th Highest	7th Highest	6th Highest	2nd Highest	2nd Highest

Demographics of suspected offenders

- Male suspects remain the dominant group in gun crime across the 2021–2025 period. On average 57% were male and 2% were female.
- The age group with the highest number of suspects between 2021 to 2025 was 18 to 24 (29%) and 30 to 39 (26%).

Domestic abuse as defined within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Key findings: Domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse Incidents

- As of December 2025, over a third of violence against the person offences in Enfield are categorised as domestic violence.
- Between January 2025 to December 2025 there were 3,541 domestic abuse incidents reported to the police.
- 74% of victims were female with the highest proportion aged 18-24. 76% of suspects were male with the highest proportion aged 30-39.
- The Rate of domestic abuse incidents in Enfield was 10.7 per 1,000 population, the 12th highest rate of all 32 London boroughs in 2025.
- Domestic Violence with Injury
- Between January 2025 to December 2025 there were 776 Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences recorded by Police.
- The rate of domestic abuse injury incidents in Enfield was 2.4 per 1,000 population in 2025, 13th highest among the 32 London boroughs.

Sexual Violence

Other Sexual Offences

Key findings: Sexual violence including rape offences

There were 558 sexual offences and 307 rape offences recorded by Police in Enfield in 2025. Just over half of victims of reported sexual offences were aged 24 and under. Ongoing domestic abuse was identified in one in ten reported rape cases.

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rate per 1,000 population	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.6
Rank compared to other 32 London boroughs	17th Highest	20th Highest	16th Highest	20th Highest	21st Highest

Detailed data analysis of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences can be found in the Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2026-36.

What did residents tell us about serious violence in Enfield?

The Council conducted Residential Priority Research between 5 and 22 August 2025 to understand the priorities of local residents. The findings were based on 750 in depth, face to face interviews from residents across the borough.

While the borough-wide residents’ priorities survey was not undertaken specifically to inform the Serious Violence Strategy, it provides important contextual evidence on residents’ perceptions of safety, crime and antisocial behaviour across Enfield.

The survey is part of the Council’s routine approach to understanding residents’ concerns about living in the borough. Its findings are particularly relevant to this strategy as they highlight the extent to which feelings of safety, concerns about serious violence and perceptions of crime vary by area and level of deprivation, and how these are closely linked to wider environmental issues such as antisocial behaviour and street cleanliness.

This insight helps ensure the strategy is grounded in residents lived experience, supports a targeted and place-based response, and complements engagement undertaken specifically for the Serious Violence Duty through the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

Feelings of safety and perceptions of serious violence

750 residents responded to the survey, and this is what they told:

- Residents were far less likely to report feeling safe after dark than during the day, with feelings of unsafety after dark increasing significantly compared to previous residential surveys (2018).
- Concerns about safety were most pronounced in more deprived wards, particularly in parts of Edmonton, where residents were more likely to report feeling unsafe and to perceive higher levels of crime and antisocial behaviour.

- When asked about crime and antisocial behaviour in their local area, residents identified drug dealing and use, knife crime, serious violent crime and antisocial behaviour linked to loitering as particular concerns, especially in deprived areas.
- Women, disabled residents and those living in deprived wards were more likely to report feeling unsafe after dark, highlighting differences in how fear of crime is experienced across communities.
- Residents consistently described crime and feelings of safety as closely linked to wider environmental issues, such as street cleanliness, fly-tipping and car cruising, rather than as isolated problems.
- Overall, residents emphasised the importance of addressing both the reality of crime and serious violence and the fear and impact it creates, reinforcing the need for a targeted, place-based and preventative approach.

Section 5:

Delivering against our priorities



Delivering against our priorities

The following section sets out the context of our 5 priorities and the key actions that will have the greatest impact.

We recognise that this strategy covers a 10-year period and that these actions will evolve over time. This will be assessed and managed through a delivery plan which will be owned by the specified authorities and refreshed every year, along with a profile of serious violence and how it affects the borough.

Priority 1 - Tackling serious violence and its causes, including extra familial harm and criminal exploitation related to young people under the age of 25.

Background

There is considerable research on how certain childhood experiences can increase the risk of someone being involved in violence, either as a victim and/or a perpetrator. At the individual level, these include prior experience of neglect and/or abuse, substance use, exclusion from school, exposure to crime in childhood and unemployment in young adulthood.¹ Whilst recognising that not all individuals who have these risk factors will be involved in violence, we can provide additional support at an earlier stage to prevent greater harm in the future.

There is a recognition of the vital role that school plays, as protective environments. Our strategy highlights the importance of reducing school exclusions, unmanaged SEND, repeated suspensions and negative school experiences. In addition, there is a recognition that school-based incidents, peer conflict and transitions between settings are common precursors to offsite violence. Combined these experiences have the potential for compounding contextual risk factors for serious violence.

Our Serious Violence Strategy will work closely with the government and local partners to achieve emerging priorities from national reviews or inquiries. In particular we will want to ensure that: -

- **There are clearly defined arrangements for both organisation and multi-agency ownership of the risk.** This includes an increased focus on 'contextual safeguarding' and the risks outside the home posed by a person(s) to others.
- **We embed information management and information sharing across agencies** so that the risk posed by a person/persons is fully assessed in terms of separate information and the cumulative risk.
- **Wider vulnerabilities and neurodiverse challenges are fully understood** so that appropriate interventions can be applied to reduce the risk.
- **Greater understanding of the online space and the risk it poses** – particularly the harm caused to individuals, to themselves, from others and to others.

¹ [Crime speech report December 2021.pdf](#)

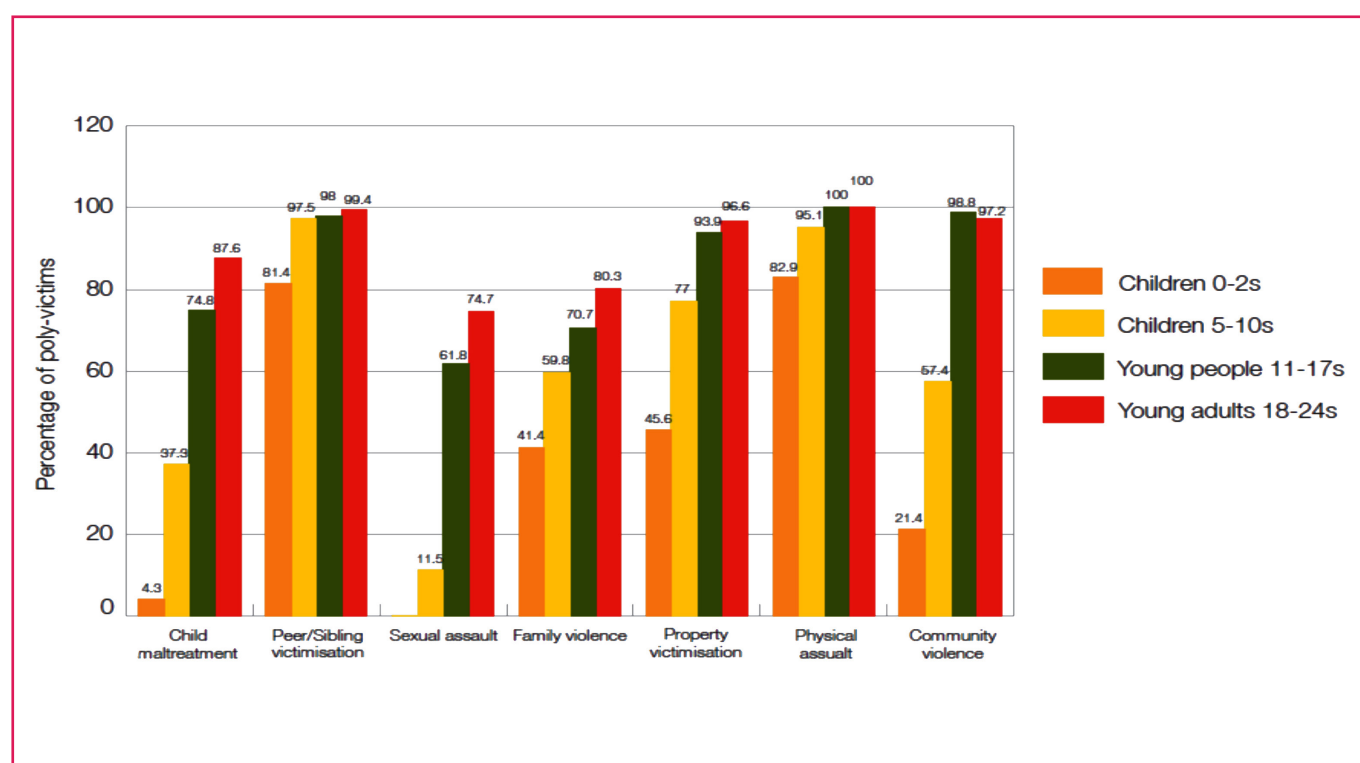
Exposure to multiple traumatic experiences between birth and early adulthood

NSPCC research² looked at cases where 0–24-year-olds were exposed in multiple traumatic experiences in early years. This included neglect, peer or sibling victimisation, sexual assault, family violence, and property victimisations such as being a victim of robbery.

Neglect (maltreatment) and victimisation categories were most prevalent among the young people with multiple traumatic experiences as shown in Diagram 1 for each age group separately. Childhood neglect and sexual abuse were particularly prevalent among young people.

Physical violence and victimisation by a peer or sibling were the most prevalent forms of victimisation among infants, children, young people and young adults who experienced multiple traumatic experiences. More than half of victims across the 3–24 age range had witnessed family and community violence during their lifetime.

Diagram 1 - Proportion of 0–24-year-olds exposed to multiple traumatic experiences



Identity, Status and Respect

Status and respect within and across peer groups is a key casual factor for young people exploited or drawn into serious violent conflict. Maintaining status and respect can be a key in the escalation of violence between individuals and groups. As a result, retaining status through any means possible, increases the risk of serious violence.

Identity and the different types of cultural, social and environmental experiences that individuals and families relate to is fundamental in creating a sense of belonging. Identity is also shaped by childhood experiences and intergenerational trauma which impacts of how individuals and families respond to agencies and support services.

² [Child abuse and neglect in the UK today | NSPCC Learning](#)

Understanding a person's identity is critical in fully appreciating the decisions they make, particularly when those decisions increase the risk of exploitation or involvement in serious violent conflict.

Whilst this is often seen through the lens of young men, there is clear evidence and cases where young women seek status and respect through their associations with members of affiliated harm groups. For example, the historic Honey trap case which involved Samantha Joseph and Shakilus Townsend who was tragically murdered in South London after Samantha lured him to her gang affiliated boyfriend.

The importance of prevention and early intervention

Our early help services deliver a wide range of early intervention projects alongside targeted support for children and families with additional needs and vulnerabilities. These projects focus on identifying and reducing risk factors to violence as well as building on protective factors. Our youth offer is another critical component of our approach to prevention and early intervention. Positive activities enable young people to learn new skills, build resilience and healthy relationships, stay safe and boost their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

This work aligns with the Youth Endowment Fund's evidence on reducing violence, particularly the importance of reducing exclusion, maintaining school engagement and supporting effective reintegration, with the Secondary Inclusion Team playing a central preventative role.

We have strengthened our **Start for Life**⁷ Services through our **Family, Youth and Community Hubs**. Family Hubs contribute towards the good level of development of children by providing integrated services such as job support, housing, and early intervention. Family hubs create a more stable and nurturing environment, helping to close the developmental gap and improve a child's overall life chances.

Enfield Summer University and **HAF Programmes** offer a diverse range of learning courses and fun activities during the summer holidays. This is a unique offer that positively engages young people during the summer holidays, reducing social isolation and vulnerability to harm in the most deprived and crime-impacted wards of the Borough. Young people are actively engaged in the co-production of the programme itself, from commissioning through to delivery and evaluation.

The Inspiring Young Enfield – Mentoring to Succeed programme follows the Mayor of London's Mentoring Quality Framework and provides targeted mentoring for young people aged 11–19 (up to 25 with SEND). Mentors with expertise in youth work, substance misuse, trauma-informed practice, and sports education use Gerard Egan's Skilled Helper model to guide young people through Exploration, New Understanding, and Goal Setting, helping them address challenges and make measurable progress.

Detached and Outreach Youth Work in Enfield operates in areas of the borough where there are concerns of rising anti-social behaviour, youth violence and extrafamilial harm. Youth workers engage young people directly in their own environments, offering informal education, guidance and support. Through conversation, listening and relationship building, Youth Workers provide information, develop tailored, diversionary projects, and signpost young people to positive activities. Our approach in Enfield is intentionally adapted to local needs, making it different from traditional Detached and Outreach models.

Young Futures Prevention Panels

Enfield has successfully secured funding from the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), positioning itself as one of only four London boroughs selected to pilot a multi-agency 'Young Futures' Prevention Panels. The Young Futures Prevention Panels were launched in Enfield on 29th October 2025. The pilot aims to support over 200 children between October 2025 and April 2026, with a target of achieving voluntary engagement with at least 40% of children referred into the panels, which has been exceeded. The Prevention Panels operate as a triage mechanism, reviewing arrest data and coordinating multi-agency checks across social care, education, health, and housing services. The model is designed to reduce first-time entrants into the criminal justice system and reduce serious youth violence through targeted, data-driven and trauma informed interventions, aimed at enhancing children's emotional wellbeing and tackling disproportionality in the youth justice system.

The Secondary Inclusion Team (formally known as the Secondary Behaviour Support Service)

Secondary Inclusion team (formally known as SBSS) and NEXUS interventions are structured, timelimited mentoring and behaviour support addressing emerging risk. The secondary Inclusion team offer preventative value of avoiding exclusion as a violence reduction intervention.

The team delivers targeted 1:1 3-month mentoring interventions, to meet the needs of around 200 referrals annually. The team have supported children annually through behaviour panels and achieved consistently successful directed moves—contributing to reduced risk and safer outcomes for young people.

The approach forms a core part of the Enfield Inclusion Charter which works with education settings (including primary, secondary, alternative provision, further education and pupil referral units) to keep pupils safe and reduce the likelihood of suspensions and exclusions.

Anti Bullying Policies in Schools

The council collaborates with school leads to embed anti bullying policies following best practice set out by the Anti Bullying Alliance. Ensuring that there is a strong student voice is crucial in the drafting of the anti-bullying policy and monitoring its effectiveness.

Project Dove

Project Dove provides social prescribing casework interventions for children affected by serious youth crime. The project was developed by Enfield Council in collaboration with North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG's) and informed by the NHSL Violence Reduction Programme. The project aims to identify and intervene with young people in need of early support as soon as possible. In 2024/25: 46 children received support from Project Dove. This included an assessment of needs, well-being scale assessments, and a bespoke action plan to work towards. Referrals made to local services such as Mentoring, Carers advice, drug and alcohol services, mediation, SEN support services counselling.

Outcome 22

Outcome 22 is a Home Office code used when diversion, education, or intervention has taken place and further action is not considered in the public interest. It is an informal disposal used within Out of Court Resolutions (OOCRs), and it does not require an admission of guilt to an offence.

Children will be required to sign an intervention contract with the Youth Justice Service (YJS). Successful completion will result in No Further Action.

There are two pathways under Outcome 22:

- **Deferred Prosecution** - Used when a child does not accept guilt but there is strong evidence against them. The child signs a contract with specified conditions. Failure to engage will result in the matter being returned to court for prosecution.
- **Deferred Caution** - Used when a child does accept guilt. The child signs a contract with conditions. Failure to engage will result in an Out of Court Resolution being issued without returning the matter to court.

The Pathways Programme has been created to provide support for young people aged 10-25 to reduce their risks of becoming drawn into violence and conflict. It brings together a range of interventions such as Mentoring Youth Xtra, Sexual Violence Support Worker and the Enfield Safe Panel with the aim of providing tailored support to each young person based on their contextual safeguarding risk and protective factors and motivation to change.

The programme provides a mixture of specialist 1-2-1 mentoring/advocacy support, interventions at the point of custody to support youth offenders who make a not guilty plea to receive a diversion offer and providing funding to support young people overcome small practical challenges on their pathway.

Engage Project

The Engage Project places outreach youth workers in Wood Green custody suite to provide support, signposting and mentoring to young people who come into custody at a time when they are most inclined to receive support. In 2024/25: 663 children were arrested and taken to Wood Green custody suite:

- 286 from Enfield
- 165 from Haringey
- 212 from other boroughs

All children were offered support through Engage, with consent rates for in-custody sessions rising to 80%. Disengagement rates fell significantly, with only 17% of children exiting early from their intervention.

How we will deliver our priority

The following Table sets out how we will delivery our priority against the 3 Public Health tiers. We have used the 5 C's headings of Collaboration, Co-production, Co-operation, Counter Narrative and Community Consensus as part of our delivery framework. These are highlighted using the following colour coding:

5 C's	Colour reference
Collaboration	
Co-production	
Co-operation in data sharing	
Counter Narrative	
Community consensus	

Public Health Pillars	Intention	Impact
Preventing Violence before it occurs	Creation of Youth and Family Hubs, including satellite provision, that brings together a range of different services for children and families into one place. Work with all education settings to keep pupils safe and reduce the likelihood of suspensions and exclusions, in line with the Enfield Inclusion Charter. Use the learning from the Young Futures Prevention Panel to drive system change and improve our intervention offer Work across the community safety partnership and with voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver an effective youth offer that has a positive impact on the lives of young people by increasing their confidence, strengthening their resilience. Continue to improve the Early Help Directory for All which is Enfield's Early Help digital brochure, supporting families and agencies by offering a comprehensive directory of services and increasing access to support Build on knife crime interviews with young people through schools so their voice is heard and findings used to develop future interventions.	Deliver effective early help, giving families better access to the right information, services and support as early as possible. Increase life chances for young people to reduce their risk of exploitation and violent conflict. Ensure young people identified as being at risk of extra familial harm have an accessible youth offer that meets their needs. Address the underlying drivers of serious violence through prevention and early help Increase life chances for young people to reduce their risk of exploitation and violent conflict

Responding to the immediate risk of serious violence and violence Conflict	We will ensure that we have robust multi agency structures in place to identify those at risk of becoming involved in serious violence conflict. Ensure that prevention and early intervention case management processes have clear escalation pathways. Ensure that the learning and recommendations from local, regional and national reviews and inquiries are acted on and embedded, specifically in how risk is assessed and managed. To develop and embed a Contextual Risk Outside of the Home assessment process using data information that identifies early risk indicators for both the victim and perpetrator	To reduce the number of young people being drawn into or exploited through serious violence Earlier identification of extra familial harm risk factors to prevent young people being exploited, becoming involved in violent conflict and/or posing a risk to others.
Long term support for those affected by serious violence	Co-production of the Youth Strategy for Enfield. To embed identity within a multi partnership, Risk outside of the home process, which can be shared across community and voluntary sector organisations	Deliver effective early help, giving families better access to the right information, services and support as early as possible. Deliver tailored project-based on the needs of each school, focusing on reducing vulnerability to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and harmful sexualised behaviours by empowering young people with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to build healthy relationships, recognise risks, set boundaries, and stay safe online and in the community. Recognise and address disproportionality for young people at risk of being exploited or becoming involved in serious violence

Priority 2 - Violence connected to organised criminality including drug supply and affiliated harm groups

Background

The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2018 defines organised crime as:

“.....as individuals planning, coordinating and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks.”³

Organised crime networks are structured sophisticated groups often based on longstanding, intergenerational and cultural connections. They can be involved in a wide range of activity, including legitimate business activity. The breadth of illegal offences includes, drug importation, supply of firearms, trafficking of people, importation of counterfeit goods, organised networks of thefts and robberies of high value items, money laundering, extortion of business and people, bribery and cyber-crime.

Organised crime networks tend to be involved in multiple illegal offences.

The Local Picture

Enfield and its neighbouring boroughs are affected by organised crime groups. Examples include

- **Street sex work** – there is evidence of organised crime networks who traffic and exploit women into the street sex trade that has operated in the borough.
- **Theft and pickpocketing** – organised crime networks linked to theft of mobile phones, high value vehicles as well as pickpocketing across London have direct connections to Enfield.
- **Organised crime conflicts** – there have been several high-profile shootings, attacks of families and businesses connected to national and international organised crime group conflicts. This included the shooting of an innocent 9-year-old girl in Dalston 2024 due to a feud between two known organised crime groups, some of which had family connections to Enfield.⁴
- **Counterfeit and Illegal Goods** – There is evidence of counterfeit goods being imported and sold in Enfield. These can range from illegal cigarettes, vapes, to illegal pharmaceutical products, illegal drugs and weapons.⁵
- **Drugs supply** - In the year-to-date MPS North Area recorded 75 “disruptions” of organised criminal networks and high harm groups. These are for a variety of offences including drug supply, robberies and serious violence.

³ [Serious and Organised Crime Strategy \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK](#)

⁴ [Man guilty over role in shooting of nine-year-old girl in Dalston - BBC News](#)

⁵ [Man arrested as estimated £500,000 of counterfeit wine and prosecco seized in NFCU operation | Food Standards Agency](#)

Affiliated Harm Groups

An affiliated harm group is defined as:

“A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who

(1) see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group,

(2) engage in a range of criminal activity and violence,

(3) identify with or lay claim over territory,

(4) have some form of identifying structural feature,

(5) are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.⁶

Affiliated harm groups are often connected through identity. This could be cultural, economic, social, to an area or, in some cases, following the serious violent incident such as a death of a close friend or relative. They are less structured than organised crime groups, more chaotic in their criminal and anti-social behaviour. They are more likely to have internal conflicts within their group, often due to personal feuds over respect and status.

This results in the fragmentation of groups and the creation of new allegiances resulting in increased violence.

Conflicts are often played out through social media, video posts including music video's calling out rivals.

The Local picture

Enfield has several established affiliated harm groups across the borough. These groups have conflict, or in some cases connections, with other known affiliated harm groups in neighbouring boroughs and the home counties.

They are involved in criminal activity such as robberies and theft offences but are also heavily involved in illegal drug supply, locally and regionally. This activity includes the transportation of illegal drugs to different parts of the country, by car or through rail networks. This often involves young people who are coerced to deliver drugs through extortion, intimidation or threats of violence against them or their family members. This is known as “County Lines”.⁷

As part of the Clear Hold Build programme in Edmonton (see below), 41 county lines were closed between June 2024 and February 2026.

⁶ [Layout 1](#)

⁷ [County Lines Programme overview - GOV.UK](#)

Cuckooing Panel

Cuckooing is a term that has been applied to exploitation of a person, or family, by organised crime groups, affiliated harm groups or chaotic individuals or groups.

The above will tend to target, befriend or enter into a relationship with a vulnerable person with the intention of taking control over their property for illegal activity. This could include a place where drugs are taken, stolen goods stored or other activity, such as sex work that results in increased drugs activity.

The address can also be used for the sale, manufacturing, storing or distribution of illegal drugs or could be used to hold monies.

In each case the resident is exploited, threatened, harmed or intimidated, often resulting in them being confined to a room in their home or at times, displaced from it.

Enfield has established a dedicated Cuckooing Panel, bringing key partner agencies together to review, assess and take action in cases where a premises has been cuckooed. The Panel is intelligence led, enabling agencies to coordinate resources effectively. The Panel provides operational delivery through regular scrutiny and oversight, ensuring that high-risk cases are quickly identified, prioritised, and acted upon.

Since its inception in February 2026 the Panel has already reviewed and intervened on 6 cases, including moving two vulnerable residents to supported accommodation and securing their premises.

Clear Hold Build

Clear Hold Build is a multi-agency programme aimed at tackling organised criminality in the Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green area. Prior to the programme commencing in June 2024, these two wards accounted for 20% of the total crime in Enfield and there was an ecosystem of sub criminality and anti-social behaviour that affected the daily lives of residents and businesses in the area.

The programme is based on three interconnected phases which run concurrently. The Clear phase aims to address those involved in or orchestrating organised crime, including drug dealing and exploitation. The Hold phase looks to bring in activity to make improvements that resist the criminality returning and the Build phase looks at long-term physical and social changes that enable the local communities to take a lead role.

The programme includes proactive policing, improved engagement with residents, use of a wide range of enforcement powers, a focus on prevention and young people, regeneration of Joyce and Snell's Estate and highways improvements. The programme includes a focus on street sex work with the long-term aim of improving the support offered for women who are exploited through sex work.

Impact to date

Between June 2024 and December 2025 there has been over 1,000 arrests, most for drug-related offences. Over 80 weapons have been recovered including 12 firearms and 40 knives.

18–25-year-old Serious Violence Advocacy

In April 2025, Enfield set up an Advocacy service for young people aged 18-24 who were involved in or affected by group violence and who are seeking pathways out of that lifestyle.

The service was established, recognising the challenges of transition, pre and post 18, and the emotional development that impacts on young people in their early adult life. The advocate works with clients referred by Youth Justice Service, Probation and the Care leavers team, offering practical, task and action orientated support which supports each client to make positive life choices and reduce the risk of harm and exploitation.

To date the advocate has worked with over 20 clients with key impacts including effectively engaging clients in education, training, and employment, as well as building strong, trusting relationships that have improved overall engagement and willingness for clients to trust and disclose in a service when they have previously not been engaged by offers of support. Support has been provided through advocacy in court, access to appropriate housing, including relocation to enhance their safety and reduce risk.

Additional outcomes include facilitating access to wellbeing services, promoting consistent engagement with key appointments, and supporting the development of independent living skills. Through a multi-agency approach, there has been strengthened collaboration with partner organisations, leading to improved stability for clients.

Youth Justice Strategic Management Board – Disproportionality Pledge

The Disproportionality Pledge has been developed by the Youth Justice Strategic Management Board to demonstrate the commitment to support whole system, service and community changes which contribute to the disproportionality of Black and mixed heritage boys in our local youth justice system.

The Pledge states:

“Enfield Youth Justice Service Management Board recognises the existence and negative impact of disproportionality upon the lives of children and young people. As a multi-agency partnership and as individual agencies, we commit to working hard to challenge disproportionality and improve outcomes for the children and young people who are over-represented within the youth justice system in Enfield.”

The Pledge is currently being refreshed and will be implemented across all strategic groups involved in preventing and addressing serious violence.

Victim Advisory Group

The Victim Advisory Group has been established to strengthen partnership arrangements that support victims of crimes committed by children. Its core purpose is to ensure victims receive high quality, individualised, and responsive services, aligned with the Victim Code of Practice and HMIP standards for victim work. The Group works with victims of all ages and promotes continuous improvement through review, evaluation, and meaningful engagement with victims' voices.

How will we deliver our priority

Tackling organised crime requires close co-operation across partnership agencies and the involvement of national and international specialist services such as the National Crime Agency and Europol. The Enfield Safer Stronger community partners have a vital role in recognising the key points of conflict and working with local communities to reduce their wider impact. This requires the development of trusted relationships across communities, including the business, voluntary and faith sectors.

Our approach to tackling affiliated harm groups is based on the following framework

- Preventing young people from becoming drawn into affiliated harm groups
- Offering viable and legitimate routes out which does not increase the risk of violence.
- Working with members of affiliated harm groups as part of planned approach to reduce violent conflict.
- Focused deterrence programme – originally developed in the United States a focused deterrence programme uses as combination of:
 - **Support.** Help for people involved in violence to access positive support and social services.
 - **Community engagement.** Engaging the wider community to communicate that they want violence to stop and those involved to be safe, provide support, and encourage reintegration in the community.
 - **Deterrence.** Clear communication of the consequences of violence and swift and certain enforcement if violence occurs.

The programme has been successfully delivered in parts of London and the United Kingdom and is recognised as one of the most effected approaches in addressing conflict within and across affiliated harm groups.⁸

5 C's	Colour reference
Collaboration	
Co-production	
Co-operation in data sharing	
Counter Narrative	
Community consensus	

⁸ [Focused deterrence | YEF Toolkit](#)

Public Health Pillars	Intention	Impact
Preventing Violence before it occurs	Develop the Strategic Disproportionality Pledge across all strategic partnership groups involved in preventing and addressing serious violence Work with County Line experts to develop and deliver educational programmes across schools and youth settings Strengthen our information sharing processes to ensure we have a shared understanding of the dynamics of both organised crime and affiliated harm groups. Ensure that identity is a key consideration within Risk Outside of the Home contextual risk assessment processes.	Address disproportionality for both victims and offenders of serious violence. Better understand and respond to the emerging risks of organised crime and street crime. Educate young people about substance misuse in schools and the community to provide timely support for those showing early signs of substance misuse to reduce harm and improve outcomes. Reduce the risk of harm from organised crime groups and affiliated harm groups Improve our risk assessment processes, to increase the impact of interventions, resulting in a positive outcome Address the underlying drivers of serious violence through prevention and early help
Responding to the immediate risk of serious violence and violence Conflict	Continue to embed contextual safeguarding/ Risk Outside of the Home across our partnerships Establish a Focused Deterrent Programme as part of our intervention pathway to resolve serious violence conflict between affiliated harm groups. Increase our intelligence and understanding of online conflict that drive serious violence incidents across affiliated harm groups. Use the full resources of our operational services, the Enfield Public Safety Centre and community and voluntary sector to share intelligence on organised crime and affiliated harm groups and disrupt their activity.	Improve our risk assessment processes, to increase the impact of interventions, resulting in a positive outcome. Reduce the risks of an escalation on serious violence. Earlier identification of extra familial harm risk factors to prevent individuals being exploited or becoming involved in violent conflict. Reduce the risk of harm from organised crime groups and affiliated harm groups

Long term support for those affected by serious violence	To ensure that all the strategic groups involved in addressing serious violence consider and challenge disproportionately as part on their delivery plans Ensure that the Serious violence Strategic Group, NAVRAG and respective case management processes are effective and address the priorities and risks related to serious violence. Ensure our partnership structures enable us to focus on the key risks posed by organised criminality and co-design interventions to protect those most at risk Strengthen the Safe Panel, MACE and Serious Violence Intervention Panel to co-produce interventions across partner organisations. Ensure that we maximise the Victim Advisory Group to challenge and shape our criminal justice interventions that reflects the voice of victims Establish an After Fatal Serious Violence Advocacy Service that Supports families affected by a tragic death	Better understand and respond to the emerging risks of organised crime and street crime. Reduce the risks of an escalation of serious violence Earlier identification of extra familial harm risk factors to prevent individuals being exploited or becoming involved in violent conflict. Ensure that the voice of victims is at the heart of assessing our criminal justice outcomes Ensure every family affected by serious violence is supported.
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Priority 3 - All forms of weapon enabled violence

Background

The carrying of weapons, including bladed articles, such as knives, machetes, swords, Rambo knives, kitchen knives, sharp bladed instruments has been part of street culture over the past 2 decades. The fear of being a victim to a knife enabled crime or attack has resulted in young people carrying a knife for their own protection. However, statistics indicate that there is an increased chance of a knife being taken off a person and used against them.⁹

In April 2026 the Government Published “Protecting Lives, Building Hope: A plan to halve knife crime.”¹⁰ The plan sets out the government’s approach to halving knife crime over the next decade by combining early support, targeted intervention, targeted policing and specialist rehabilitation, with the aim of driving lasting change. The Plan includes four key priorities:

- SUPPORT young people so they get a better start in life;
- STOP those at risk from turning to knife crime;
- POLICE our streets to punish perpetrators and stop offending,
- END the cycle of knife crime.

In February 2026 the Government also published new guidance for child knife possession offences. This guidance sets out the Government’s expectations that all children who break the law by carrying a knife will swiftly receive tailored support and high-quality interventions from a Youth Justice Service. Where a child is arrested in possession of a knife the guidance states that they should be responded to with a mandatory intervention plan, with the aim of ensuring public protection. Knife possession offences should only be met with either:

- A charge,
- A Youth Conditional Caution or
- A Deferred Prosecution¹¹

Youth Workers at North Middlesex Hospital

Through the London Violence Reduction Unit, Oasis Hadley is funded to provide young workers at North Middlesex Hospital Emergency Department. The aim is to work with young people up to the age of 25 with knife or gunshot injuries. In 2025/6 the team engaged with 18 young people from Enfield. The team work with young people whilst they attend the hospital and with them once they are back in the community, provide one to one support and links into educational and vocational activity.

Enfield Youth Council has developed a video focused on the harms associated with knife crime that can be shared in schools. The workshops give young people a clear understanding of the risks linked to carrying or being around knives. Through discussion, role play, and reflection, participants

⁹ [Carrying a knife makes it more likely someone will harm you | London City Hall](#)

¹⁰ [Protecting Lives, Building Hope - A Plan to Halve Knife Crime](#)

¹¹ [Government guidance for child knife possession offences \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)

learn about the legal, emotional, and social consequences of knife crime, how grooming and peer pressure can influence behaviour, and the wider impact on individuals, families, and communities. The workshop builds practical skills for making safer choices and increases confidence to seek help when needed.

Stop and Search workshops – To give young people the confidence, knowledge, and practical tools to understand their rights during a stop and search, to respond calmly and safely, and speak up if they feel something isn't right.

How will we deliver our priority

5 C's	Colour reference
Collaboration	
Co-production	
Co-operation in data sharing	
Counter Narrative	
Community consensus	

Public Health Pillars	Intention	Impact
Preventing Violence before it occurs	Work across our partnerships to maximise the No Knives better Lives resources and learning to prevent knife crime.	Deliver effective early help, giving individuals and families better access to the right information, services and support as early as possible.
	Work across community and voluntary organisations to reduce the risk of people carrying weapons as a form of protection.	Reduce the risk of harm of knife related incidents
Responding to the immediate risk of serious violence and violence Conflict	Ensure that new guidance for child knife possession offences is fully implement and its impact is assessed.	Use the full extent of tools and powers to persistent offenders who carry knives
	Identify and disrupt the sale of knives' to under 25-year-olds, through retail outlets, markets and on-line	Using our combined tools and powers to tackle those involved in serious violence and protect potential victims, their friends and families
	Working with community, voluntary sector, health and police partners to identify safe methods for the collection and disposal of all forms of weapons	Reduce the risk of harm of knife related incidents

Long term support for those affected by serious violence	Work with the London Violence Reduction Unit to identify best practice to tackle weapon enabled violence.	Improve our risk assessment processes, to increase the impact of interventions, resulting in a positive outcome.
	Ensure there is a comprehensive education programme on both knife crime and county lines.	To reduce the number of young people being drawn into or exploited through serious violence

Priority 4 - Domestic abuse as defined within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board has recently adopted and published a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2026-35. The strategy sets out a 10-year plan. The vision is to:

“Create a borough where all residents live a life free from domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.”

The Enfield Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy includes Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, with 4 key priorities. As a result, the Serious Violence Strategy does not cover these areas in detail but will work through the governance structures set out in Section 6 below to ensure interventions are co-produced across strategic groups.

Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2026-35 priorities

- Work in partnership to support all victims and survivors no matter where they are in their journey.
- Understand, prevent and tackle the root causes of all forms of violence.
- Responding to the changing nature of how harassment and violence against women and girls is committed.
- Holding perpetrators to account.

Domestic Abuse as a causal factor for Serious Violence

It is well documented that the exposure to domestic abuse in early years through to adolescence is a key causal factor for emotional, social and relationship challenges in later life.

It is important to note that the relationship between witnessing abuse as a child and becoming a perpetrator or victim later in life is not always totally causal; protective factors such as trusted adult relationships can reduce the risk.

Nevertheless, the risk exists, and requires greater understanding to identify the causes, so we are better equipped to provide early intervention. Failure to address the impact and trauma experienced by children who witness domestic abuse, can result in them experiencing negative outcomes.

The report by NSPCC - Child abuse and neglect in the UK today¹² looked at this impact of exposure domestic and family abuse on behaviour, including “acts such as violence to others, skipping school, running away and taking drugs”.

As part of the research interviews were completed with:

- 2,160 parents or guardians of children and young people under 11 years of age (under 11s).
- 2,275 young people between the ages of 11 and 17 (11–17s), with additional information provided by their parents or guardians.
- 1,761 young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 (18–24s).

The report highlights that across all age groups, exposure to physical violence, emotional abuse and witnessing domestic or family violence were associated with significantly higher levels of harmful behaviour.

Priority 5 - Sexual Violence

Background

Sexual offences include sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking and harassment, intimate image abuse, upskirting, child sexual abuse and exploitation, as defined above. For analytical purposes, rape has been considered separately.

Sexual assault against females was the most frequently reported crime category up to December 2025, followed by exposure and the sharing of intimate photographs or films.

The Enfield Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy includes a focus on child sexual abuse, recognising that it is one of the most severe and pervasive forms of gender-based violence, with profound physical, psychological, and social impacts on survivors. By embedding this focus, within the strategy the aim is to drive systemic change and uphold our commitment to safeguarding and equality of children.

The strategy also includes a focus on support for women exploited through street sex work and who are highly vulnerable to sexual violence and intimate partner abuse. These services include Streetlight UK, Salvation Army, All People All Places, Enable, CLASH and SHOC.

How will we deliver our priorities for Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence

Our Enfield Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy includes a series of interventions to prevent and address Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence. Details can be found at https://www.enfield.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/129095/Violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-2026-to-2035-Community-safety.pdf

¹² www.nspcc.org.uk

Section 6:

Our governance structure for preventing and tackling serious violence



Our governance structure for preventing and tackling serious violence

The Enfield Safer Stronger Communities Board is made up of a range of partner agencies community and voluntary agencies, including Enfield Council, Metropolitan Police, Integrated Care Board and local National Health Service Trust, Probation Service, London Fire Brigade, community and voluntary sector organisations.

Enfield has an established partnership governance structure, including a Serious Violence Strategic Group which reports to the Safer & Stronger Communities Board. The Strategic Group has responsibility for the delivery of this Strategy and the oversight of the Delivery Plan which will be developed alongside it.

In addition, Enfield has a series of risk-based management meetings which brings together front line, partner organisations and community and voluntary service experts to review current risk for both individuals and groups involved in or affected by serious violence. These include:

- **Young Futures Prevention Panels** - Designed to reduce first-time entrants into the criminal justice system and reduce serious youth violence.
- **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting** - MACE develops a detailed strategic overview of exploitation in Enfield and across borough boundaries and coordinates protective and tactical responses to exploitation.
- **Multi Agency Public Protection Agency (MAPPA)** – MAPPA is a partnership approach to manage violent and sexual offenders who are about to be released or are already in the community.
- **SAFE Panel** – leads on cases related to young people under the age of 18 who are at risk of exploitation.
- **Serious Violence Intervention Panel** – reviews the emerging trends related to affiliated harm groups, potential points of conflict and provides a referral pathway to one-to-one support for young people aged 18-25 involved in or affected by serious violent conflict.

In addition, there are partnership networks meetings including:

- **North Area Violence Reduction Group (NAVRG)** - The NAVRG leads on the development, coordination and delivery of an agreed action plan to reduce violent crime across the North Area Borough Command Unit (covering Enfield and Haringey boroughs).
- **Tackling knife crime partnership meeting** – Led by North Middlesex Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust the meeting focuses on the involvement of health professionals in the prevention and tackling of serious violence.

Appendices: **How to access support and information**



How to access support and information

Victim Support

Victim Support can offer advice and support if you have been a victim of any crime or have been affected by a crime committed against someone you know. Their services are free and available to everyone, whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened.

Phone Victim Support Enfield on 0808 168 9291 or visit www.victimsupport.org.uk

If you are concerned about a child useful contacts include:

Enfield Council Children's MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

020 8379 5555
Children's Portal
ChildrensMASH@enfield.gov.uk

Childline

0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC

0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk

If you are concerned about an **adult with care and support needs** who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, the best way to report your concerns is to:

- complete the online referral form
- call our Adults MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 020 8379 3196 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
- call the Adult Abuse line on 020 8379 5212 (this is 24-hours and you can leave your concern anonymously)

Reporting a crime in an emergency

In an emergency, you should phone 999.

You should use this service to contact police in situations when you need an urgent response.

Reporting a crime which does not require an immediate response

If you want to report to the police but the matter is not urgent, please call using the non-emergency number 101.

Street Safe App – StreetSafe | Police.uk

Met Engage: www.metengage.co.uk

Reporting a crime anonymously

If you have information on a crime and wish to report it anonymously, call Crimestoppers on:

0800 555 111

or report online

crimestoppers-uk.org

If young people (aged 11-17 years old) have any information on a crime and wish to report it anonymously, visit

www.fearless.org/give-info

Domestic abuse and sexual violence

Enfield Council's Domestic Abuse Hub

0800 923 9009 (Freephone number open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

callusDAH@enfield.gov.uk

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 2000 247 (operates 24 hours a day)

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Solace Women's Aid

0808 802 5565

www.solacewomensaid.org

Enfield Saheli

020 8373 6218

www.enfieldsaheli.org

Galop (LGBT+ helpline)

0800 999 5428
www.galop.org.uk

Respect (Men's Advice Line)

0808 8010327
www.mensadvice.org.uk

Enfield Women's Centre

020 8351 8934
www.enfieldwomen.org.uk

If you would like further information on how to report a crime, or how to access support, please visit the Community Safety webpage.



Serious **Violence** Strategy

2026-2035