

ITEM 3b

Appendix 1 – Camden’s Community Safety Strategy

CamdenSafe 2008 – 2011

Camden’s Community Safety Partnership Strategy

Ways that the community can help make Camden safer

- Report incidences of bullying, anti-social behaviour and crime and take a stand in your community.
- Get involved in Safer Neighbourhood Panels and community payback schemes.
- Mentor a young person.
- Become a Metropolitan Police Special Constable or volunteer with the local police force.
- Don't leave items on display in vehicles.
- Don't buy goods from illegal street traders.
- Take preventative action such as home and vehicle security and follow Camden's door opening policy and don't allow entry to bogus callers.
- Practice safe and sensible drinking.
- Take steps to prepare for an emergency, such as power failure, fire or extreme weather.
- Arrange a home fire safety check and maintain a working smoke detector.
- Take steps to reduce risks and hazards in the home to prevent falls and decrease accidents involving children.

For more information and advice on how to keep yourself and your family safer visit the Community Safety Partnership's website at: camdensafe.org.

Camden Facts

Camden is a lively borough. It has universities, famous teaching hospitals and cultural and other institutions that serve and attract worldwide audiences. It is home to 18,700 businesses, with over 220,000 people working here each day, and one of the largest and richest economies in the UK. It has a thriving nighttime economy based on pubs, clubs and restaurants. It is a major transport interchange for London, as well as an international destination, with Eurostar services direct to Paris and Brussels.

With a population of over 200,000 Camden is also a diverse borough with over 110 languages spoken in local schools and 27% of its residents from black and minority ethnic groups. Camden has a number of definite town centres but also many recognisable and smaller neighbourhoods. Camden is home to some of the wealthiest neighbourhoods in London but also some of the poorest.

Along with its central London location, these and other factors contribute to the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour that Camden experiences. Resident's concerns about community safety remains high, even while actual levels of most crimes and anti-social behaviour are falling.

Foreword

As we come to the end of our third 'Crime and Disorder Strategy' we can celebrate some key achievements. Working together has been vital to our success and the range of organisations involved in Camden's Community Safety Partnership have reduced crime more effectively than any single organisation working alone. However, big challenges still remain in building on our achievements. Our aim for the next three years is to continue to reduce crime and respond effectively to

incidents of anti-social behaviour across the borough by working together across agencies and with the communities we serve.

This is reflected in our sustainable community strategy, *Camden Together 2007 – 2012*, which puts a safer Camden at the heart of the vision for the borough. It also responds particularly to the clear message from residents and business across Camden that the open drugs market in Camden Town is still an issue. We want people to enjoy the area without experiencing crime or anti-social behaviour or being troubled by drug dealers or users. We want to ensure that victims and witnesses of crime are supported and that services and support are available to steer people away from committing crime. However, when these approaches are not effective we will use our detection and enforcement powers to bring offenders to justice.

To achieve these aims we intend to:

- Use data analysis and problem-solving approaches to get behind crime figures and understand where and why crime is committed, and what options there are to intercede.
- Focus on the drivers of crime, such as drug and alcohol misuse and supportive interventions, to reduce crime, re-offending and anti-social behaviour.
- Engage communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour by making them aware and knowledgeable about preventative measures they themselves can take.
- Help people feel secure in their homes and communities by informing local residents about crime in their area, listening to what is of most concern to them, acting to tackle those issues effectively and efficiently and letting people know what success has been achieved.

We, and the rest of the Community Safety Partnership, are committed to working together to ensure that Camden is a safer place and a vibrant part of our world city.

Neil Litherland
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and Adult Social Care
and Chair of Camden's
Community Safety
Partnership

Dominic Clout
Borough Commander
and Deputy Chair of
Camden's Community
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Councillor Rawlings
Executive Member
Community Safety

Safer Camden Strategy 2005 – 2008

The focus of the Safer Camden Strategy for 2005 – 2008 was to:

- Reduce the overall crime rate in Camden;
- Create a greater sense of safety and community confidence across the borough;
- Increase effective and responsive partnership working at neighbourhood level.

The last three years have been successful with a reduction in priority crime of 30%. Within that we have achieved significant reductions in violent crime, criminal damage, vehicle crime and theft from the person. We also reduced the overall crime rate in Camden by more than 10,000 offences a year, which means thousands less victims of crime.

We invested in an extra 18 police and community support officers (PCSOs) alongside a significant uniformed police presence in Camden Town to tackle the aggressive cannabis market and the crime and anti-social behaviour associated with it. Environmental improvements at Inverness Street enhanced the appearance of the area and reduced the ability of drug dealers to operate. As a result, crime in Camden Town has decreased by 17% and visible drug dealing in the area by 26.5%. Holborn Business Improvement District invested in two PCSOs that will help to tackle crime in the area.

We have implemented a well developed case management approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, through the youth inclusion support panels, tasking and targeting meetings as well as race and hate crime panels.

We worked with the local community on key estates to tackle area specific anti-social behaviour issues. We also proactively used the available anti-social behaviour powers, such as anti-social behaviour orders, dispersal notices and parenting programmes, with the full use of available housing powers as part of our responsibility as a social housing landlord.

We put a greater focus on local communications to ensure that communities knew what action was being taken to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, including *QuickComms*, which informs residents of positive news stories such as crack house closures and arrests of drug dealers in their area.

We established a number of projects to help increase respect within our communities such as family intervention and parenting support projects which help the most problematic families to turn their lives around and live as responsible citizens. We also developed the priority and prolific offender scheme that targets those who persistently offend and cause significant harm to their communities.

In 2006 the police introduced the local policing programme 'Safer Neighbourhoods' a year ahead of schedule. This programme introduced dedicated local policing teams in every ward across the borough to increase more visible local-level policing and enable residents to have a greater say about how certain crime issues are tackled in their area.

The drug intervention programme delivered some of the best results in London in getting people into treatment and through to successful completion. We also established a family drug and alcohol court that supports drug and alcohol misusing

parents into treatment and helps better protect children affected by parental substance misuse.

CamdenSafe 2008 – 2011

In spite of our success and although recorded crime has been falling overall, Camden continues to experience the crime that affects many inner-city areas. Community safety is consistently one of the top concerns of Camden's residents – both adults and young people. This is true in the rest of London and other major urban areas. The borough's location and position as a vital transport interchange also brings security risks: two of the 7 July bombings in 2005 were in Camden.

Being effective in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and its causes requires understanding the drivers of crime – drugs, alcohol abuse, and poor environmental design. It also requires analysis, evidence-based action, and responding to the needs and views of the community. This document is a roadmap to achieving that.

We will continue to focus our activity on effective enforcement and proven preventative interventions, such as are highly successful weeks of action. These weeks had a direct and visible impact on reducing crime in the borough. We will also try new and innovative approaches, such as the joint patrols between the police and youth workers to engage with young people.

Consultation

The consultation on the principal themes of the plan was undertaken between December 2007 and January 2008 through a survey in Your Camden, the Council magazine and an online survey.

In addition, we also attended a range of meetings to consult with specific groups of residents, including Safer Neighbourhoods Panels, the Camden Community and Police Consultative Group, and representatives of council tenants through District Management Committees, amongst others. We also looked at the key concerns that residents expressed through Area Forums.

The messages from residents included:

- Tackling crime and community safety issues are top priorities
- The visible use and dealing of drugs impacts on the quality of life in the borough
- Anti-social behaviour undermines the quality of life of residents
- Violent crime and the impact it has on individuals and communities is a concern of our residents

Another key point from this and other consultations is that the community wants to be involved in the solutions to making the borough safer.

These strong messages along with our strategic assessment have helped to shape the priorities and commitments set out in the next section of this strategy.

Strategic Assessment

We used extensive analysis and problem solving to get behind the crime figures in Camden so that we understand who commits crime, under what circumstances, and what opportunities there are to intervene. The strategic assessment reviewed the

Partnership's performance against the targets and provided an analysis of emerging priorities with recommendations for action. The assessment also included a scanning approach looking at emerging trends and 'hot-spots' to inform and support strategic planning by partners working in the relevant fields. It provided an accurate overview of the issues affecting the borough, which include:

- Crime and disorder
- Anti-social behaviour
- Behaviour adversely affecting the environment
- Drugs, alcohol and other substance misuse issues.

Tackling anti-social behaviour

Tackling anti-social behaviour, such as youth disorder, public drug use and dealing, neighbourhood nuisance, graffiti and street drinking, is one of the top concerns of residents. We have a comprehensive action plan in place and will continue our focus to improve the quality of life of our communities. We aim to address those behaviours that cause harassment, alarm or distress to our communities by targeted intervention and appropriate measures. We also aim to improve communications with residents, particularly on a ward or neighbourhood basis.

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol and illegal drugs

Alcohol and illegal drugs are key factors in anti-social behaviour. A recent survey showed that 40% of Camden residents perceive that people being drunk or rowdy is a problem in their area. The same survey found that 55% of residents felt drug use or dealing was a problem. We aim to address this by focusing on targeted interventions and appropriate enforcement measures.

Responding to the challenge

This section of the strategy drives delivery against the national targets relating to:

- Reducing the perception of anti-social behaviour as a problem.
- Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police.
- Reducing the perception of drug use or drug dealing as a problem.
- Reducing the perception of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem.
- Increasing satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour.
- Increasing understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police.
- Reducing the number of arson incidents.

Key actions

- Continue to develop Camden's anti-social behaviour ladder approach, which illustrates the earlier intervention, support and enforcement process applied to the full range of anti-social behaviour. It will establish a clear and consistent approach and allow creative use of anti-social behaviour legislation and housing management interventions in order to address problems as they arise, providing respite to victims and service to perpetrators.
- Establish one access point for information about crime and disorder and make it easier for residents to report anti-social behaviour.

- Create a new anti-social behaviour team of specialist dedicated council officers covering Camden's estates and street properties.
- Help people feel secure in their homes and local communities with stronger, locally responsive neighbourhood policing teams to listen and respond to local priorities.
- Work across all sectors to minimise the harm caused by drugs and alcohol misuse to individuals, families and the community.
- Tackle the drug misuse hotspot areas using a treatment and enforcement approach, including asset recovery, to deal with street use and dealing of drugs.
- Support to parents to help them address the issues of their children's behaviour through a range of family and parental interventions.
- Building on the preventative work of the Youth Inclusion Support Panels (YISPS), extending the YISP approach to young adults 18-25.

Reducing property crime

Property crime is the highest volume crime in the borough and includes crimes such as burglary, robbery and theft from vehicles. These crimes are important to the public and the partnership. We aim to focus on property crime and look at the short- and long-term factors that enable crime to occur as well as patterns of crime such as repeat victimisation.

Reducing the harm caused by illegal drugs

Drug related crime is a serious problem in the borough particularly focussed on two open drugs markets. These markets are driven by the congregation of users in particular areas and are characterised by higher than average drug related crime. Government estimates that between a third and half of all acquisitive crime is committed to fund drug addiction. We will target our activity to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs through integrating enforcement options with appropriate treatment and support service interventions.

Responding to the challenge

This section of the strategy drives delivery against the national targets relating to:

- Reducing the serious acquisitive crime rate, including theft of and from motor vehicles, robbery and residential burglary.
- Reducing the drug-related (Class A) offending rate.
- Increasing the number of drug users into effective treatment.
- Reducing the re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders.
- Reducing the adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision.
- Increasing the number of offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence.
- Increasing the number of offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence.

Key actions

- Use analysis to target high visibility patrols in the most problematic locations and during times when most needed.
- Continue to target the street drugs market to address property crime hotspots due to drug use.
- Develop a comprehensive communication strategy to ensure that drug users know about and are able to access treatment and that all partners understand and make the most of the range of available services through the development of a comprehensive communication strategy.
- Work with businesses to design out crime to reduce opportunities for drug use and drug dealing.
- Distributing crime prevention advice across the borough, including property marking and IMMOBILIZE registration.
- Targeting known burglary, robbery and vehicle crime offenders and hotspot areas.
- Encourage residents to be safer by providing crime prevention advice and communication, particularly focusing on repeat victim areas.
- Offer security checks, free locks and security equipment to repeat victims of burglary and provide a fitting service for security equipment to residents who are elderly or disabled.
- Improve the use of forensic detection to tackle vehicle crime

Tackling violent crime

The most harmful crimes are those in which people are killed, seriously injured and/or psychologically harmed. For a number of years our communities have told us that violent crime is a key concern. We aim to tackle violent crime, including domestic violence, hate crime and terrorist activity and ensure that fewer people will be victims. We will also ensure appropriate support to victims.

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol

Alcohol is a significant factor in violent crime and can be linked to 35% of all violent offences and 44% of domestic offences in Camden. We aim to tackle alcohol-related violence and disorder and focus on key groups through integrating enforcement options with appropriate treatment and support service interventions.

Responding to the challenge

This section of the strategy drives delivery against the national targets relating to:

- Reducing the serious violent crime rate.
- Reducing the assault with injury crime rate.
- Reducing alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates.
- Reducing the serious knife crime rate.
- Reducing the gun crime rate.

- Improving specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence.
- Reducing the re-offending rate of registered sex offenders.
- Reducing repeat incidents of domestic violence.
- Reducing the rate of murder due to domestic violence.
- Building resilience to violent extremism.
- Protecting against terror attacks.

Key actions

- Further develop the Best Bar None scheme and work with licensees to reduce alcohol related violence.
- Use targeted enforcement campaigns integrated with support and treatment interventions to tackle specific alcohol harm in hotspot areas.
- Use analysis and information sharing with local hospitals to increase intelligence, particularly with regard to repeat violent crime offenders.
- Continue to share data and intelligence to inform the joint licensing enforcement operations, concentrating on high-risk premises.
- Raise awareness of domestic violence within the population generally and by targeting specific groups.
- Develop the holistic response to tracking domestic violence by rolling out the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate service and exploring new initiatives to further the partnership in addressing domestic violence.
- Develop an awareness of and create an atmosphere in communities where violent extremism is resisted and rejected.
- Work to reduce the vulnerability of crowded places to terrorist attacks.

Tackling youth crime and violence

We want to increase the opportunities for young people and give them aspirations and alternatives to bullying, criminal and anti-social behaviour. To achieve this we will strengthen our existing preventative approaches, such as parenting programmes, positive and diversionary activities and behaviour contracts such as Acceptable Behaviour Agreements. We will support victims as well as perpetrators but where this approach has failed to improve behaviour, we will use the powers available to us responsibly and effectively.

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol and illegal drugs

In a recent survey, Camden's young people, aged 10 – 15, told us that 33% of them had drunk an alcoholic drink and 26% had taken an illegal drug. Alcohol contributes to 15% of youth on youth violent offences in Camden. We want young people to live healthy and safe lives and aim to ensure that all young people make responsible choices about their own behaviour and are protected from the impact of parental substance misuse.

Responding to the challenge

This section of the strategy drives delivery against the national targets relating to:

- Reducing the rate of proven re-offending by young offenders.
- Reducing first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17.
- Reducing the rate of serious youth violence.
- Reducing substance misuse by young people.
- Reducing the number of young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody.
- Increasing the number of young offenders engaging in suitable education, employment or training.
- Increasing the number young offenders accessing suitable accommodation.

Key actions

- Focus on youth robbery by encouraging young people to register property, such as MP3 players and mobile phones on the IMMOBILISE database.
- Further develop services to meet the needs of children affected by parental substance misuse.
- Work with our partners to reduce the number of first time offenders entering the criminal justice system.
- Joint patrols between police officers and youth workers to engage with and deter young people away from offending.
- Develop opportunities such as volunteering and intergenerational activities, which encourage young people to contribute to the life of the community.
- To challenge and support young people at risk of offending through engagement with our youth inclusion and support panels.
- Reduce serious youth crime including weapon enabled crime by developing a coordinated approach to youth crime and taking action against retailers caught selling knives to young people.
- Support young victims of crime by improving access to support services.
- Work with licensed premises to reduce underage sales of alcohol.
- Challenge negative attitudes by working in schools and youth centres and with parents to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the spread of hate crime.

Improve Camden Town by reducing overall crime and anti-social behaviour

At the heart of the borough, Camden Town is loved by many people and attracts millions of tourists each year to its market and vibrant nightlife. However, many also see it as a place with considerable problems to tackle, especially drugs. Partners and members of the community have developed a vision for Camden Town, which is set out in the borough's community strategy, *Camden Together*.

Camden Town was identified as a crime hotspot in 2001. Crime and visible drug dealing in the area have decreased in the past three years but there is still much more to do. The council and police will continue to respond to the enforcement challenge to improve the quality of life in the area. Partners are also working together to improve the physical environment and the area's reputation. Businesses and residents can all make a contribution to changing Camden Town for the better.

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol and illegal drugs

Drug and alcohol related crimes are serious problems in Camden Town. Visible drug dealing, drunkenness, noise and crime all impact residents' quality of life. We will continue to tackle these issues and cut crime further, improve community safety and help deliver the long-term vision of Camden Town.

Responding to the challenge

This section of the strategy drives delivery against the local targets relating to:

- Reducing the overall crime rate in Camden Town including criminal damage, pick pocketing, shoplifting, robbery, and violence against the person
- Reducing visible drug dealing in Camden Town

Key actions

- Continue to tackle drug related crime and anti-social behaviour by encouraging drug users to access treatment services, enforcement action and through environmental design solutions.
- Continue to tackle alcohol related disorder through the targeting of alcohol related violence hotspots, enhanced management in problem premises and active use of enforcement powers.
- Improve alcohol regulation in the area by introducing a marshalled taxi rank and the use of enforcement powers including dispersals and drinking banning orders.
- Target our activity to focus on the key crimes in the area, including property crime, violent crime, and anti-social behaviour including that by young people.
- Work with partners to design out crime through delivery of Streetscape improvements.
- Continue to support residential and business communities, including working closely with the Camden Town Business Improvement District, to address local concerns.
- Continue to work with partners to address crime and anti-social behaviour around the transport network in Camden Town.
- Work with local businesses to support and further develop the radio scheme in Camden Town to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Camden's Community Safety Partnership is a well-established network of multi-agency working groups. The partnership is statutory and provides a platform for the Council and its partners to deal with crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol street population issues. It involves a number of public services and representatives from the voluntary and community sectors. Partners include:

- British Transport Police
- Camden Council
- Camden Community & Police Consultative Group
- Camden NHS Primary Care Trust
- London Fire Brigade
- Metropolitan Police Authority
- Metropolitan Police Service
- National Probation Service
- Victim Support
- Voluntary Action Camden
- Transport for London

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To find out more about Camden's Community Safety Partnership go to camdensafe.org.