

Hackney's approach to violent crime

Hackney's 'public health' approach

Hackney applies a public health approach to knife crime which has been proven to be successful in areas where it has been employed to tackle the causes of violence. The approach essentially involves treating violence as a preventable public health issue, using data and analysis to identify causes and focusing on prevention through multi-agency systemic approaches.

The public health model requires four steps:

- A problem is identified
- The risks; protective factors; and the causes are established
- Once this has been done, interventions are developed and evaluated, and finally effective policies and programmes need to be scaled up
- Once the final step has been reached, the cycle starts again from the beginning, with systematic data collection to identify the problem.

How we work with the voluntary and community sector

By working together over the past ten or more years, voluntary and community organisations and the Council have made huge progress in tackling gangs, violent crime and youth crime in Hackney, but as the events of this week have shown, we need to do more to make sure that progress is not lost, and to halt the wave of violence affecting our communities.

We work closely with these groups by commissioning services, providing community grants and meeting regularly to share intelligence - for example, via the Integrated Gangs Unit's monthly voluntary/community group meeting.

The Community Resilience Partnership brings together a wide range of local organisations, including the voluntary sector, to address key community safety concerns. At its meeting on 28 February, one of the agreed actions was to focus on how we can build on the relationship between organisations in the borough. Recent events have led us to fast forward our plans to hold a meeting with community

leaders, youth organisations and local voluntary groups to look at what more we can do to respond to recent events.

Key stats on violent crime trends

Between 2002/03 and 2014/15, crime fell by 34.7%. Since then, crime has been increasing but is still well below historic levels.

In 2017/18 (to February 2018), there were 66 gun-related crimes. This compares with 114 in 2010/11.

In 2017/18 (to February 2018), there were 23 offences where a gun had been fired. This compares with 34 in 2010/11.

In 2017/18 (to February 2018), there were 177 knife crime injury offences in Hackney. This compares with 195 in 2010/11.

There were 6 murders in Hackney in 2017/18, compared with 20 in 2003/04 when the murder rate in Hackney was at its peak.

Offences involving serious wounding and assault with injury have been broadly in line with comparable London boroughs since 2003/04.

Youth Justice data

- Nationally the numbers of young people involved in the youth justice system have been decreasing dramatically since a peak in youth offending in 2006 - 2007 and this trend has also been mirrored in Hackney. This has changed the demand for youth justice services but has meant that those young people who remain in the Youth Justice System can be the most challenging to rehabilitate.
- The number of young people convicted of an offence in Hackney has almost halved between 2009/10 and 2016/17 (a decrease from 395 young people to 212 young people).

- The number of young people in Hackney who re-offend has also substantially reduced from 139 in 2009/10 to 68 in 2016/17.
- The Prevention and Diversion team, delivered through the Young Hackney Service, continues to have a significant impact on reducing the number of young people involved in the Youth Justice System. Of those young people who have had no previous contact with the Police and receive an informal diversion intervention through the Prevention and Diversion team, year on year under 16% of these young people go on to become first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.

1. Integrated Gangs Unit

Our Integrated Gangs Unit brings together the police, Council and other strategic partners in Hackney to divert people at risk away from gangs. The first co-located service of its kind, it brings key officers from a broad range of organisations to work together in the same building.

At any one time, the IGU works with around 150 people who are involved in gangs to support them to change their behaviour. Only 9% of those the IGU work with are young people and around a third are in custody. See below for an outline of partners we work with in the IGU.

- St Giles Trust is embedded within the IGU and provide one-to-one sessions to the 150 people. It provides support, training and education to prevent offending.
- We support the Crib's Parents Voice project, which brings together parents worried that their children are at risk of becoming involved in gangs. The sessions are free, with professionals from the Integrated Gangs Unit, Hackney MIND, and the Council's domestic violence team present to help parents recognise the signs of gang involvement and give advice on how they can support their children to avoid getting involved with gangs.
- Empower Safer London is embedded within the IGU and offers one-to-one support to hundreds of young people across the capital every year who have experienced sexual exploitation associated with gangs or are displaying

harmful sexual behaviour. Young people are given a safe and confidential space to talk about their experiences.

- 'Mentivation' is a mentoring, motivation and mediation service that works one-to-one with young people experiencing difficulty in education, the community or at home. They provide diversionary activities such as football coaching and music sessions.
- Youth workers work within the IGU to provide outreach support to young people.
- The Probation Service is embedded within the IGU and works with adults to break the cycle of gang involvement.

2. Early intervention

- **Young Black Men programme** - The Improving Outcomes for Young Black Men programme was set up in 2015 to look at how persistent inequalities for young black men can be improved using a holistic approach and by doing things differently in partnership with young black men themselves, placing them in leadership roles. The programme has been developed following learning from similar programmes across London and the UK. It also uses academic research to inform the programme, recognising the issue of racial inequality affecting outcomes for young black men in different areas including education, unemployment, housing and health, particularly mental health - all of these are still major areas of inequality for young black men.

The programme has set out ambitious goals to achieve over the next 10 to 15 years.

1. Within 10 years: Outcomes and opportunities for black boys and young black men should be the same as the wider population.
2. Within 15 years: We start to see cultural changes in terms of aspirations and in terms of trust of the state
3. Within 15 years: Working with other authorities, central government and the state, we also want to see changes in media representation and portrayals
4. The programme is different in its approach - young black men are at the heart of the programme, who have been trained as inspirational

leaders to reach others as peer leaders and to influence and shape the programme through workshops in youth, school and community places across the Borough.

5. The programme is about a “no blame culture,” – this is not caused by one single group of people or sections of society – this is everyone’s business to address at all levels of society, whatever their background and role maybe.
- **Contextual Safeguarding** - Hackney Council’s Children and Families Service is developing a new approach to address risk outside of the family context, involving partners across the borough, from schools to transport providers and take away proprietors. Drawing upon practice experience and research into adolescent development there is growing recognition that, as children grow older and spend increasing amounts of time outside of the family home (with peers, online, at school, in the community etc), they may face particular risks within these extra-familial contexts including risks associated with peer abuse and sexual or criminal exploitation. Contextual Safeguarding Theory, developed by Dr Carlene Firmin, recognises that, in order to better safeguard vulnerable young people, systems need to be developed in which practitioners can appropriately assess where risk of harm comes from beyond a young person's family. This includes developing new child protection frameworks and procedures which engage partners responsible for extra-familial settings (e.g. schools, housing, and parks) in developing and implementing contextual intervention plans to actively change contexts of concern.

In March 2017 Hackney Children and Families Service (CFS) received funding from the Department for Education’s Innovation Programme to establish the contextual safeguarding project in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire. An initial framework for *Contextual Safeguarding Conferences* has been piloted in Dalston to address risks in the context of peers, schools and neighbourhoods. The project team have also been piloting a contextual intervention in a local secondary school which commenced in November 2017.

- **The COACH programme** is an early intervention, evidenced-based gangs prevention programme for 7-11 year olds and their families. The COACH programme is co-ordinated by the CFS Clinical Service (the in-house CAMHS within the Children and Families Service) and works closely with Young Hackney and Voluntary Sector partners, to address risk factors such as

behaviour problems and parenting issues, and to build protective factors, such as positive peer relationships and community support networks.

- **Street Doctors** - The Weapons Awareness Group work is a workshop delivered by the charity Street Doctors to teach young people first aid skills, and discourage young people from carrying weapons. This workshop is delivered to all young people working with the Youth Offending Team and has been expanded to those who attend alternative education provision.
- **Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS)** - We are further strengthening the coordination of domestic abuse services in Hackney to ensure there is a comprehensive support offer available and early intervention is prioritised. This includes providing support where young people have demonstrated violent or abusive behaviours towards parents/carers or siblings, and addressing the hidden harm for children who have witnessed domestic abuse, which we know increases vulnerability and the risk that a young person will use violence themselves. Contact details for DAIS are included in Section 5 of this document.
- **Pembury Children's Community** - Led by Peabody and Hackney Council, the Pembury Children's Community aims to significantly improve the lives of the 1,000 children and young people living on and around the Pembury estate and be a model for neighbourhood transformation.

Our vision for 2025 is that Pembury will be:

1. A neighbourhood where people are proud to live
2. A community where people from all backgrounds come together, where everyone matters and there are opportunities for all
3. A place where young people are encouraged, inspired and empowered to get the best out of life

Our approach

Together with residents, we have developed 8 'Goals for 2025' which outline our ambitions for the estate:

1. Pembury children are more ready for school
2. Pembury children and young people are in education, training and employment and on the way to achieving their ambitions
3. Pembury families experiencing poverty are on a long term route out of poverty and are more able to manage financial difficulties

4. Both young people and parents are more connected to informal support networks that create opportunities and meet needs
5. Pembury children feel healthy and happy and Pembury families experience positive wellbeing
6. Pembury children and young people are safe and secure
7. Service providers can demonstrate that services are more accessible and joined up across children's home, school and community lives
8. We have developed a model that can transform children's outcomes and their neighbourhoods

The Children's Community was launched in 2015. In its first two years, 659 children and young people along with 357 parents have taken part in our projects.

It has three priority areas:

Getting things right early Our focus is on bringing early years services to Pembury, increasing the availability of and access to childcare (in conjunction with Pembury Pre-School), and facilitating family learning through providing books and supporting reading group sessions. We have strengthened relationships between Peabody, the local children's centre and primary school (Linden and Mossbourne Parkside), and kicked off an innovative pilot initiative to improve school readiness.

Supporting young people in Secondary School and beyond We're supporting young people in secondary education through several projects. We're providing estate-based youth programmes at our community centre, along with intensive one-to-one support to vulnerable 16-24 year olds helping them out of crisis and into education, training or employment. We have been developing a partnership between Mossbourne Academy, Young Hackney and Peabody to support some of the most vulnerable students at risk of exclusion. We are also building relationships between youth workers, teachers and statutory services so that children and young people receive coordinated support across their home, school and community.

Support for parents We know that in order to make an impact for children and young people, we need to work alongside their families. We provide support to vulnerable families with rent arrears

by reducing their arrears, avoiding court orders and relieving family stress and the threat of eviction. We also facilitate peer support networks for parents (including dads), encouraging residents to support each other. Additionally, we run training for Pembury parents to improve relationships with their children, and help them to get into work through employment training.

3. Youth Justice

The Safer Young Hackney Board has the dual function of strategically co-ordinating the delivery of all youth crime and disorder related priorities across Hackney and acting as the statutory Youth Offending Team Management Board providing oversight to the work of the youth justice partnership, as set out in the Youth Justice Plan which is monitored closely by the Board and refreshed annually.

The Safer Young Hackney Board is chaired by Hackney Council's Director of Children and Families Service. The Board meets quarterly and regularly receives performance and financial reporting in respect of the youth justice service as well as notification and analysis of any community safeguarding and public protection incidents.

The offending cohort of children and young people are recognised as a vulnerable and high risk group, and this was an important factor in the decision to integrate all Children and Families Services to achieve closer alignment of expertise, skills and leadership between safeguarding, youth offending and youth provision.

Hackney's Youth Justice Service operates as a co-located multi-agency team comprising of:

- Police
- Probation
- Youth Offending Service
- Forensic Psychologist
- Drug dealing & substance misuse workers
- School nurses
- Speech & language therapists
- Virtual School
- Young Hackney Prevention and Diversion Team

Prevention and Diversion – Young Hackney is commissioned by the YOT to deliver prevention and diversion activity with young people and do so with the support of the

police officers seconded to the YOT. Reducing first time entrants into the youth justice system is supported through direct access to diversionary activities including psycho-educational, resilience-building and targeted youth programmes. In addition, Young Hackney delivers victim services, restorative conferencing, reparation, unpaid work hours and offending behaviour programme development, and provides mental health support to young people including addressing the impact of trauma that young people have experienced.

Substance Misuse – Young Hackney’s specialist substance misuse team supports young people up to the age of 25 and works directly with young people who are misusing, or at risk of misusing substances, by raising awareness about the dangers of substance misuse and drug dealing and supporting them with clinical plans. The service also works alongside colleagues in the Youth Justice Service to undertake specific dealing interventions with young people. Interventions take a tailored and holistic approach that builds young people’s resilience and addresses issues of family and relationships, finances, education and housing, while liaising with other services and partners as necessary.

Forensic psychology – The co-location of a forensic psychologist within Hackney YOT is supporting quality and specialist assessment and intervention focused on improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young offenders. The correlation between youth offending and exposure to trauma, violence and abuse is well-documented, as is a key area of focus for the partnership over 2017/18, particularly in relation to how this interplays with racial identity and contributes to disproportionality of Black and Minority young people in the youth justice system.

Speech and Language Therapy – National research has indicated that 60% of young people involved in offending have been found to have speech, language and communications needs (SLCN). Furthermore over 80% of NEET and 60% of children facing school exclusion have speech, language and communication difficulties (SLCD). Since September 2014 one whole-time equivalent Speech and Language Therapist post has been commissioned by Hackney YOT, and is embedded within the team.

Virtual School - Hackney YOT maintains a strong focus on securing access to education, employment and training (EET) supported by the co-location of the Virtual School within the team.

4. The Council’s Young Hackney Service

Young Hackney offers early help and prevention services for children and young people aged 6 –19, or up to 25 years if a young person has a special educational

need and/or disability. The service delivers effective school programmes and activities that build resilience and support the development of young people's critical thinking and emotional development, and address some of the factors giving rise to the exploitation of vulnerable young people into various forms of criminality. These factors include poverty, unemployment and educational failure.

Targeted support

Young Hackney provides a broad range of individual support that always considers family and peers, within the home, school, and community settings including at our youth hubs. Young Hackney positively and pro-actively engages young people, and establishes helpful relationships with trusted adults to support the achievement of positive outcomes. The service runs universal services such as youth, sports, play and citizenship activities, combined with offering individual help for those children and young people who need additional support, such as:

- Those at risk of exclusion from school or young people not in education, training or employment (NEET)
- Young people who offend, are at risk of offending or who are victims or perpetrators of violence
- Young people who are at risk of sexual or other types of exploitation
- Young people expressing concerning sexual attitudes or displaying harmful sexual behaviour
- Those young people who are experiencing physical or emotional health and wellbeing difficulties
- Young people who need support to develop healthy friendships or peer relationships
- Young people with additional needs or have caring responsibilities
- Young people who have experienced or been impacted by inequality and/ or discrimination

Universal provision

The Council continues to fund four youth hubs across the borough alongside investment in local voluntary sector provision, and we have the second highest level of funding for youth provision in London. The hubs also provide access to Young Hackney's Early Help services including targeted outcome-focused and time-limited interventions for those at risk of - or already - involved in violence.

Contact information:

020 8356 7404 9am – 9pm, Monday to Friday

www.younghackney.org

www.hackney.gov.uk/young-hackney

www.hackney.gov.uk/newsletters

Email: info@hackney.gov.uk

5. Supporting young people and families

- Anyone with concerns about the safety of a child or a young person can contact the Council's First Access & Screening Team (FAST), which is a single point of contact or 'front door' for Children and Families Services. In FAST co-located professionals from Children and Families Service, Police, Health and Probation work together to share information and make decisions about the type and level of services children/young people and their families need.

FAST can be contacted on 0208 356 5500 any time Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm for advice, guidance or to make a referral. After 5pm and at weekends, the out of hours social work service is contactable on 0208 356 2710.

Professionals can also refer young people to the Children and Young People's Partnership Panel (CYPPP) for early help and support services. CYPPP provides a multi-agency forum in which decisions are made to match young people aged 6-19 to the services available. It makes intervention recommendations and coordinates access to the whole partnership provision including Young Hackney specialist provision.

There is no wrong way to access support. Young people can visit their local Young Hackney youth hubs to get involved in activities, or to access support. There are four hubs in the borough (The Edge, Forest Road, Concorde and Stoke Newington).

Alternatively anyone who has a question about the service can contact us by phone, email or visit us in one of our hubs. You can also ask a question through the 'Ask us anything' contact form on our website. www.younghackney.org or 020 8356 7404.

- **Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS)** - Professionals and members of the public can call the Council's domestic abuse team to discuss any concerns and receive advice about making a referral.

Tel: 020 8356 4458 / 0208 356 4459 / 0800 056 0905 (free)

E-mail: dais@hackney.gov.uk / dais@hackney.gov.uk.cjism.net

Website: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/domestic-violence>

DAIS work with anyone experiencing domestic abuse:

- living in Hackney
 - aged 16 or over
 - male or female
 - of any sex and/or gender
 - of any sexual orientation
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- **Pre-Employment Scheme** is a new scheme being delivered in partnership between Hackney Council's Employment and Skills Team, Young Hackney, the Virtual School, and Hackney Learning Trust, alongside a training provider. The objective of the scheme is to improve the chances of disadvantaged young people successfully applying for a job or apprenticeship with the Council or another employer.
 - **Parent's Voice** is a scheme delivered by the Crib, to help parents and carers spot signs and risks in four areas: cannabis and its risks regarding mental health, gang affiliation, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse in teen relationships. Although not directly focused on knife crime, its work crosses over with knife crime, and provides pathways to statutory and third sector organisations, ensuring parents and carers can get advice and guidance from professionals.
 - **Redthread** (starting at Homerton Hospital in July 2018) support young people aged 11-25 who attend hospital as a result of serious violence, abuse or sexual assault. They are funded through Hackney's community grants programme to deliver a 2-year local programme called the Youth Violence Intervention Programme. This involves deploying a team of local youth workers in Homerton Hospital's trauma department supporting young people who have become victims of violence or sexual assault, helping them to pursue positive change, move away from violence and better engage with their communities.