

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Cabinet Member for Safer Communities	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<b>DATE</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b> <p>The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities provides the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee with her annual report for discussion.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b></p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b></p> <p>Hannah Bennai Cabinet Officer Corporate Services 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 1750 Email: <a href="mailto:hannah.bennai@camden.gov.uk">hannah.bennai@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> <p>The committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:



Councillor Patricia Callaghan, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities

Date: 01.11.2023

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Camden's determination to actively tackle injustice and inequality to create safe, strong and open communities where everyone can contribute, is central to this portfolio and a We Make Camden ambition. Our strategies, action plans and initiatives are framed around residents, and we have been working with people, businesses, and local partners to create a safer community.
- 1.2. We want to ensure Camden is a place where every individual is celebrated for the qualities that they contribute to our community, where people can flourish, and diverse voices are represented and heard. We all aspire to making the borough safer, and while Camden's central London location brings an appealing wealth of opportunity and diversity, crime and anti-social behaviour is a key area of concern in the local community.
- 1.3. Everyone in Camden should be able to go about their daily lives in a safe environment. Making the borough a place where Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is unacceptable remains a strong objective within the organisation, however, the threat of male violence towards women and girls remains an unfortunate reality for many across Camden and London. From harassment and violence in our public spaces to abuse and coercive behaviour in our homes, the organisation continues to shape our services to build trust and deliver strong offers of support to eliminate this danger, while working with our partners to ensure we are reducing crime and protecting communities.
- 1.4. We continue to work closely with our colleagues in the police and advocate the need for an open and transparent approach with residents. The publication of the Baroness Casey Review has played a monumental role in publicly recognising institutional racism, sexism and homophobia ingrained within the Met. Many of the report's observations reflect concerns members of the public have been raising for years which has driven public distrust and lack of confidence. The Met now has an opportunity to reform the way they work and a chance to commit to a major culture change and reconnect with communities.
- 1.5. In recognition of increased anti-social behaviour concerns, we have developed our ASB taskforce to respond to the management of challenging cases which are impacting local communities. This directly relates to our we make Camden long term challenge to ensure everyone is safe at home and safe in our communities.
- 1.6. The young people of Camden are the future of the borough which is why it is crucial we create an environment where they can thrive. Our youth safety

steering group's overarching ambitions are to see a reduction of violence; increase in young people feeling safe and improved trust between young people and those in positions of authority, which is central towards our We Make Camden Mission for every young person to have access to economic opportunity that enables them to be safe and secure by 2025.

1.7. This report summarises the work and success across the Safer Communities portfolio from January 2023 to November 2023.

## **2. Violence Against Women and Girls**

2.1. Camden continue to address Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) which is a blight on our society and unfortunately a day-to-day reality for many residents in Camden. We know that VAWG presents itself in many guises from street harassment to domestic homicides with technology and social media creating new opportunities for further violence and harassment. We listen to and learn from our residents who make us aware of their experiences.

2.2. VAWG is a priority for Camden and encompasses one of the 10 missions and challenges within *We Make Camden*. We are focusing on VAWG within this vision which has been endorsed by Cabinet in January 2023 to ensure:

*“Camden is a place where VAWG is unacceptable and not tolerated. We want to reduce levels of VAWG in Camden, to broaden, enrich and increase the levels of support to victims/survivors of VAWG and their families, and to deal with perpetrators.”*

2.3. We are shaping the VAWG service to reflect what we know are our needs and by engagement with those with lived experience who influence the service offer. Our ongoing work is underpinned by a theory of change approach which outlines the outcomes that Camden wishes to achieve for our residents, staff, the council, and our partners by setting out four long-term impacts that this work intends to deliver, with director sponsors ‘holding’ each pillar:

**Pillar one:** *“Raise awareness and break the stigma across all parts of the community” -*

**Pillar two:** *“Identify everyone affected by domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity, including victims, family members, perpetrators, colleagues etc” -*

**Pillar three:** *“Support those affected by domestic abuse to access the help that they need to be safe” –*

**Pillar four:** *“Seek to take action to change and stop the behaviour of offenders and the conditions that enable them to offend.” –*

### Camden Safety Net

2.4. Camden Safety Net is the front-line service providing advice and support to those who present as high and medium risk of domestic abuse. Referral routes are well developed from agencies both within and outside the Council. Currently work is being done on our website to facilitate self-referrals. Our frontline practitioners are co-located in different service areas to provide advice and advocacy to those who most need it. Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA's) are co-located in

- Holborn Police Station
- Royal Free Hospital
- University College Hospital
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH)

### Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

2.5. We have now recruited a full-time MARAC Manager who has been an enormous asset in transforming the working practises for the better and supporting the MARAC process. Camden MARAC hears on average 25 cases every 2 weeks and over the past years there has been an increase in referrals. The number of cases discussed at MARAC between 1st July 2022 30th June 2023 was 541, above the national average.

- The MARAC Steering Group has resumed its quarterly meetings with the purpose of monitoring, evaluating and providing support to the MARAC.
- The Launch of the MARAC Operating and Information Sharing Protocol gives guidance to the MARAC and the Steering Group. It looks at the MARAC process, criteria, roles of representatives, information sharing and data storing.
- The MARAC Agency Attendance has been able to attain 100% core agency representatives' engagement in the MARAC process and above 90% meeting attendance rate overall. Through the attendance and engagement rates, we can see partnership working and the coordinated community response in the borough.
- An updated and improved version of the MARAC referral form has been crafted for professionals to use.

### VAWG Board

2.6. Camden's VAWG Board was launched in March 2022 in response to recommendations from Camden Women's Forum, following their inquiry into Domestic Violence and Abuse in 2021. The purpose of the board is to:

- Embed Camden's zero tolerance approach to VAWG
- Consider Camden's strategic response and its implementation
- Review and monitor Camden data
- Ensure accountability of key partner agencies

2.7. Since launch, the VAWG board has met five times in 2022 and 2023. Meeting themes have included Children and Young People, Women's Safety and Coproduction.

2.8. We're committed to engaging people with lived experience in Camden as key stakeholders in a safe and supported way, recognising the value and necessity of their voices and providing opportunities for their development. We are working towards having the board co-chaired by someone with lived experience of DVA as recommended by the Camden Women's Forum.

2.9. Following a themed meeting on coproduction, a lived experience subgroup was convened and in February 2023 trauma informed training was undertaken by all VAWG board members. In March and April 2023, we spoke to women with lived experience who vocalised the benefits of meeting separately as a group to share ideas as well as attending board meetings. In June 2023, we recruited a diverse group of 10-12 women who had previously accessed support from Camden Safety Net, who named themselves the Camden Survivors Group.

#### Navigator service

2.10. The new Navigators service funded by the Mayor's office provides assertive outreach, advocacy and holistic wrap-around support to women impacted by gender based violence and multiple disadvantages who face complex and intersecting risks and are often struggling to access other services. The navigators support survivors around anything else they need such as attending their GP and other appointments with them, support setting up their benefits, support to maintain their tenancies and often a cup of tea and a chat to reduce isolation.

2.11. Evidence shows that 'women with extensive experience of physical and sexual violence are far more likely to experience disadvantage in many other areas of their lives, including disability and ill health, substance dependence, poverty and debt, poor living conditions, homelessness and discrimination' (Fulfilling lives 2016 evaluation), so there is a high need for a gender and trauma informed outreach VAWG service to meet this cohorts needs.

2.12. Many of the survivors supported by the project have experienced long histories of trauma and abuse, so often find it very difficult to trust services. The success of the navigators relies on building up trusting relationships with women over time. However, once the trust and relationships are built this can meaningfully support service users to take steps towards their recovery.

2.13. To enable the navigators to provide intensive and relational support their caseloads are low and they will likely support the same women for a long time

into effective long-term interventions. The project has accepted 20 referrals since is mobilised in May 2023.

- 2.14. As well as direct support to survivors, the navigators provides indirect support to survivors via other professionals, such as delivering training, as members on advice panels and through the provision of advice drop-in surgeries as a specialist VAWG and multiple disadvantages service.

#### Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

- 2.15. In 2022 Camden signed up to DAHA accreditation - a UK benchmark as to how Housing providers should respond to domestic abuse. This promotes best practice (DA Statutory Guidance 2021). The accreditation process works across eight priority areas at strategic and operational levels to develop safe and effective services.

- 2.16. The DAHA coordinator took up post in February 2023 and is progressing work across the eight priority areas. Once again, the work draws on the involvement of those with lived experience who are actively involved in the development of policies and procedures. The work is also closely aligned with and compliments the larger Housing Transformation work stream.

#### Legal Offer

- 2.17. Camden Community Law Centre (CCLC) provide two 3 hour sessions every week for victims/survivors of domestic abuse referred to the organisation. Having a clinic booked by appointment ensures we reach victim/survivors in the borough and provide a bespoke support offer which does not get absorbed into business as usual work as part of the Law Centre. The support offer includes:
- Support victims and families to help navigate pathways around immigration by developing a robust legal plan
  - Provide face to face and telephone crisis intervention, information, advocacy and support from a legal perspective
  - Provide access to housing, benefits and immigration advice.
  - Identify and work with victims and families to obtain suitable legal, civil and criminal remedies, housing, benefits and family support.
  - Advise women of their rights and options for seeking help and support from other agencies, making referrals and co-ordinating the provision of multi-agency support where necessary, and proactively advocate to ensure barriers to accessing support and protection are minimised.
  - Work within a framework of safeguarding and confidentiality.
  - Provide support to approximately 100-150 victims and families in Camden

2.18. The service started in late Summer and to date all advice slots have been used to full advantage. The CCLC will report to VAWG Board in January on work to date.

#### Women's Safety in the public realm

2.19. The Women's Safety Public Realm Action Plan was developed to address issues around VAWG and women's safety in the public realm with a specific emphasis on three main areas:

- Tackling Offending Behaviour
- Licensing & the Evening & Night-Time Economy
- Public Space Management

2.20. Following the development of the action plan, a Women's Safety Working Group was set up. The Group joins internal and external partners monthly and, in partnership with the Met Police, devised a Women's Safety Framework which includes specific performance measures to review and identify key trends / data relating to women's safety and crime.

2.21. Some key outcomes since the framework was crafted are increased reporting of VAWG incidents, high visibility patrols, interventions such as improved lightening & CCTV following Women Safety walkabouts and enhanced action in key locations women have identified.

2.22. There is a broader long-term ambition to develop a women's safety framework to be used in public space developments and improvements, ensuring women's safety is integrated into environmental objectives.

#### Work with the police

2.23. Women's safety is a key priority in the Police's Summer, Autumn and Winter Nights Plan, with dedicated patrols carried out in locations within the evening and night-time economy including Christmas and New Year. The Police have been running a Domestic Abuse Utility Vehicle through a portion of the Late-Night Levy funding. Public Protection Officers have been conducting licensing visits during peak times and enforce messaging around the 'Ask for Angela' scheme in partnership with Camden Licensing Officers. As well as this, plain clothed Officers have been patrolling both licensed premises and problematic locations and intervening in incidents of misogynistic behaviour as well as preventing crime against women.

2.24. Project Vigilant is a proactive policing operation which uses uniformed and non-uniformed Police Officers to target perpetrators of violence against women and girls within evening and night-time economy venues. The objectives include preventing violence against women and girls and enables predatory behaviour to be identified and challenged immediately. Camden Council have committed to

supporting the Police to resource this project by providing funding amounting to £85,000.

Women's safety in the evening and night time economy

- 2.25. It is anticipated that by January 2024 85% of Camden's licensed premises will be supporting the Ask for Angela scheme. To ensure this is achieved, Officers have included and been encouraging the sign up to this as part of their Licensing programme visits. They will carry out monthly visits to cover all licensed premises. To implement Ask for Angela a key criterion is the delivery of the Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training. In partnership with Licensing, Community Safety, and the Police, training sessions occur on a bimonthly basis, with additional ones taking place as and when needed.
- 2.26. As part of the wider Evening and Night-Time Economy Strategy that is being developed for Camden, Community Safety attend the Evening and Night-Time Economy Working Group and have been liaising with Licensing and Legal Teams to develop core license conditions relating to women's safety. In addition, Community Safety officers attend the Camden Inner London Licensing Association (CILLA) monthly meetings comprised of staff from local licensed premises who share ideas and challenges. The intelligence gathered is presented to the Women's Safety Working Group to ensure Camden's approach is tailored to local needs of community members.
- 2.27. Community Safety attend the Future High Street's Programme Working Group to ensure that women's safety related issues are considered. The Women's Safety Survey carried out showed the areas where people felt unsafe and when. This information is being used with input from females with lived experience to determine the locations of future walkabouts. The survey results have highlighted key environmental improvements for this group to consider which will make areas more accessible and help women feel safer across the Borough.
- 2.28. The Camden Safety Hub launched in November 2022 providing a safe space for anyone visiting the evening and night – time economy in Camden, with a specific focus on women and young girls. It is a space where anyone can go to for assistance and support after a night out, who may feel vulnerable, need help getting home or just to charge their phones. The hub is managed and run by Council staff with the support of the Police and is open every Friday and Saturday evening from 9pm – 2.30am, and from 9pm-5:00am once a month supported by Project Vigilant. Currently, the Hub is based in 1 – 7 Dockery Place, NW1 8QH, a venue given to us by LABS that oversee the running of Camden Market. Feedback has been given that this place maybe a bit further away from the main high street and not easy to locate. This has been considered and we are looking at having a mobile bus on the high street in addition to the current venue to ensure we can reach out to more people living, working and visiting Camden.



2.29. Community Safety are exploring introducing Safe Spaces alongside the Safety Hub to ensure people can get support from local businesses if they need help outside of the Safety Hub operating hours.

2.30. Dedicated walkabouts to address Women's Safety in the Public Realm continue to offer residents, employees, and students a safe space to share their experiences on their usual walking routes. These walkabouts take place on a bimonthly basis with input from women with lived experience from a diverse background. We have been working to deliver place-based solutions in areas where women have flagged concerns about feeling unsafe. This includes things such as improving lighting and enhanced deployment of CCTV cameras in hotspot locations.

### **3. Working with the Police**

3.1. The publication of Baroness Casey's Review lay bare the scale of the challenge the Metropolitan Police Service (Met) now faces to rebuild trust and confidence in policing across London. The Casey review's findings, particularly in relation to 'institutionalised behaviour', systemic and ingrained racism, misogyny and homophobia were extremely concerning and outline the need for the Met to fully engage with communities across Camden/London.

3.2. The policing by consent model requires an open and transparent approach which reflects the importance of the Met's ability to engage with local communities to build levels of public trust and confidence. We recognise the vital importance of the work delivered by the Met in ensuring those who work, live, study and visit Camden feel safe and secure. However, it remains clear that the failings and cultural issues outlined in the Casey Review require a radical approach towards systemic and organisational change across the Met.

3.3. It's imperative that the Casey Review serves as a landmark moment in the history of the Met. There have been countless commissioned reviews, initiatives and action plans over the years, none of which have addressed the systemic and cultural issues that remain prevalent today. We are now a decade on from the Murder of Stephen Lawrence, and the concerns raised in the Casey Review reflect those which residents and communities across Camden/London have been raising for many years. Baroness Casey states in the review that the Met need "complete overhaul to restore trust and confidence and earn back consent from women, Black communities, and the rest of Londoners". It's crucial that the Met takes on board all the findings from the Casey Review and takes urgent action to drive widespread cultural and organisational change which is open, transparent, and community led.

- 3.4. The New Met for London Turnaround Plan provides an important opportunity for the Met to demonstrate a commitment towards re-engaging and connecting with communities across Camden/London. The plan sets out core policing activities to ensure effective delivery of the Met's mission. Nine priorities have been identified in the plan to improve policing activities, reduce crime and deliver More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards. These priorities focus on rebalancing the Met's activity to give more emphasis to proactive capabilities and increasing efficiency. The Community Safety Service have been supporting the Met to co-produce the localised Turnaround Plan for Camden with our local communities to ensure the views and experience of those who live, work, visit and study in the borough are embedded. We will continue to work in partnership with the Met to ensure our communities are engaged in co-producing the Turnaround Plan, and that the lessons from the review and its impact on local policing are fully understood.
- 3.5. The Council will work with the police to create opportunities for Camden residents and communities to co-design the development of a local policing plan, which aligns with the over-arching aims and objectives outlined within the new Met for London Strategy. We will utilise our experience of working with our communities to develop programmes which focus on long-term sustainable change to continue to support the Met. Through this, we hope the Met can improve levels of engagement and build trust and confidence throughout our local communities, whilst holding them to account for the much needed cultural and organisational change.

#### **4. Community Safety Partnership**

- 4.1. After the Home Office Review into Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) in March 2023, we initiated an internal audit to continuously ensure our collaboration with various partners, such as the police, schools and medical professionals, to ensure residents are protected within the borough. This initiative comprises two distinct components: the CSP Review, and the Internal Audit of Partnerships.
- 4.2. The CSP Review aims to revise and enhance the current Terms of Reference for the CSP Board and establish a 'Ways of Working' Document outlining partnership practices and governance procedures. This document will provide a set of recommendations and best practices for the Board to refer to. The review focuses on the following areas:
- Purpose
  - Performance Measures
  - Forward Planning
  - Membership (including the appropriate Chair)

4.3. Since August 2023, we have conducted a series of interviews with external CSP partners. Throughout the Autumn, the review plans to assess the CSP Board's compliance with the Statutory Requirements through a self-assessment process.

4.4. The Internal Audit of Partnerships is part of the 2023-24 Audit Plan, as approved by the Council's Audit and Corporate Governance Committee in March 2023. The Audit's scope encompasses two critical partnership boards within the Council: the CSP Board and the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board, with a primary focus on understanding their governance arrangements and evaluating the effectiveness of the partnerships. Key areas of interest for the audit include:

- Governance arrangements
- Information sharing between partners
- Effectiveness
- Benefits management
- Risk management

4.5. The audit employs a risk-based approach, and includes the following activities:

- Gaining an understanding of the existing processes through discussions with key personnel and reviewing documentation associated with the board.
- Assessing the design of controls in place to address the identified issues.
- Testing the operational effectiveness of the key controls by reviewing and sampling documentation.

4.6. The findings from both parts of the review are scheduled to be presented to the CSP Board in March 2024, aiming to initiate the proposed changes in the upcoming financial year.

## **5. Enforcement**

5.1. Anti-social behaviour has been highlighted as a major area of concern from residents and businesses as part of ongoing door knocking, tenant engagement and participation programme. Issues of this nature have been brought to the Safer Communities portfolio as well as Better Homes and Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care portfolios. In recognising the need for a clear response method to these complex and challenging cases we have begun an Anti-Social behaviour review in alignment with the launch of the new Government ASB Action Plan, (which was launched earlier this year).

- 5.2. We recognise that we need to understand more about the drivers of ASB and the population cohorts that we need to focus in on. We have identified a series of case studies highlighting a number of issues with regard to the management of complex and challenging cases. Community Safety data highlights that some housing estates across Camden continue to be disproportionately impacted by levels of ASB, which is further compounded by the levels of resident concerns as part of the ongoing Tenant Engagement and Participation Programme.
- 5.3. We are establishing a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce, comprised of four specialist Officers working alongside key delivery services such as Community Safety, Housing, Mental Health, Adult Safeguarding, and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services. The Taskforce will develop an intelligence led approach towards reducing ASB activity in the Housing Estates more disproportionately impacted and will focus on the management of complex and challenging cases.
- 5.4. The Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce trial period will begin in November 2023 for a five-month period until March 2024. At the end of the trial period there will be a review of the effectiveness of the Taskforce, in which the findings will be compiled into a final evaluation report and presented to Joint Cabinet Members in May 2024.
- 5.5. The Taskforce, throughout the five-month trial period, will focus on the following areas:
- Reviewing anti-social behaviour reporting and resident engagement process, to reduce levels of duplication and establish a consistent approach across services.
  - Evaluating the existing multi-agency approach towards tackling complex and challenging cases where there are underlying mental health or safeguarding issues.
  - Assessing the existing ASB enforcement policy to ensure intervention activity can be used on a consistent basis.
  - Exploring opportunities to increase the use of available enforcement powers.
  - Developing a nuanced enforcement approach that's mindful to avoid criminalising individuals unnecessarily and mitigating the risks regarding unintended consequences.
  - Exploring options to improve the level of performance reporting and the development of a data-based outcome.

- 5.6. ASB will continue to be a portfolio priority, which we will maintain across 2024-25 in response to the concerns raised by Camden residents and local communities.

## **6. Community Engagement**

- 6.1. Community engagement plays an important role in keeping our residents and communities safe. Community Safety led walkabouts continue to help us listen to the concerns of our residents and communities around crime and anti-social behaviour in their area. Actions to resolve this involve several services across the Council, as well as the police and other partners. The Community Safety led walkabouts take place on a monthly basis in areas where intelligence has suggested there are street-based safety issues.
- 6.2. To ensure that issues raised about safety in Camden are addressed, we have also been working closely with housing colleagues, the Police and other relevant partners to arrange joint community safety and estate-based walkabouts. The aim is to allow participants to identify key priority issues that need to be addressed and agree a process of clear actions which the Council and partners can take forward. Feedback and progress on these actions is then communicated back to residents/businesses through different community meetings such as Tenants and Residents Association meetings, District Management Committees and Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panels.
- 6.3. In July, the Council started its programme of intensive engagement and participation across all of its estates. This involves door knocking on every one of our 22,000 tenanted homes and holding Action Days on the largest estates. There are multiple objectives for the programme however, fundamentally it represents a shift in how the Council is working; bringing us closer to our residents and enabling us to work with them to identify creative solutions to issues on their estates and neighbourhoods. To date, The Council has engaged with 2,410 tenants and held 15 Estate Action Days – these are events that are attended by a number of council services, including Community Safety, Housing Management, Repairs and Public Health.
- 6.4. Some estate plans have been developed and further engagement with residents on those estates will continue. We will work with them to deliver positive and creative responses to issues that have been raised, whilst being clear with them about the Council's challenging financial position and the implications this has on what can be achieved.

## **7. Partnership Activity**

- 7.1. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has recently established a pan-London Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Forum. Camden has a representative on this, which is providing a framework for delivering a more consistent approach to how we identify and manage prolific and high risk of harm offenders throughout the capital. This forum has provided excellent opportunities for networking and direct contact with senior decision makers in MOPAC on subjects such as information sharing, partnership working between the police and local authority, and the implementation of ECINS as a new case information sharing tool. ECINS is a nationwide platform that gives us access to information on offenders and is currently being run as a pilot across London all London boroughs. Access to this data helps us understand more about our high harm offenders and how we can work with partners, such as the police and probation service, to address their offending behaviour.
- 7.2. A continuing programme of proactive policing, prevention, engagement and partnership working with community presence officers, local businesses and policing professionals, from Neighbourhood and Town Centre Teams is delivering a new phase of enhanced services. This includes "Camden Day of Action" with targeted activities across Camden Town and throughout the North of the Borough designed to address continued and prolific anti-social behaviour through issuing Community Protection Warnings (CPW's) and Community Protection Notices (CPN's) to eligible perpetrators as deterrents.
- 7.3. Operation midnight is a Camden-specific joint operation between the metropolitan police's IOM & Operation Pantera teams, plus our community safety team. Through the provision of additional resource into known Addresses of Concern (AoC's), we are enabled to deliver enforcement measures such as surveillance, or the execution of search warrants and arrests for cuckooing perpetrators. Through this information sharing and responsive planning Operation Midnight remains in the purview of Project Adder, and as such, additional policing resource receives funding from this source.

## **8. Youth Safety**

- 8.1. The Integrated Youth Support Service supports young people's social and personal development by offering a wide range of activities including accredited programmes, information, advice, and guidance. They offer support to young people primarily aged between 13-19 and up to 25 for young people who have learning difficulties. Through a network of youth projects, detached and outreach work across the borough, the service engages young people in positive activities that help gain new skills, increase confidence and

resilience. The service carries out other statutory requirements such as preventative work and criminal justice functions, for example the Youth Offending Service. The aims and objectives of our annual programme are:

- Socialising
- Understanding
- Opportunities
- Accreditation
- Learning
- Fun

8.2. Following the tragic death of a 17-year-old Camden resident who was a victim of a fatal stabbing whilst at a party over the summer, the Council worked hard to support the family and provide reassurance to the community. We conducted additional high visibility patrols in both Kilburn and St Pancras & Somers Town to provide a visible presence to the community as well as giving the residents an opportunity to ask questions or share additional information they may have. Given the high-profile nature of this incident, we worked with Community Safety colleagues to ensure the safety of residents at this time.

8.3. In Camden, our key measure of youth violence is the number of young people aged between 1-24 who were victims of knife crime with injury in the borough, where the incident was not flagged as domestic abuse. Figure 1 below has remained stable for the past 18 months, following an increase due to the relaxing of restrictions during the pandemic. The most recent figure was 55 youth victims in the past 12 months to the end of August. This figure is well below the peak of 101 in the 12 months to the end of February 2018.

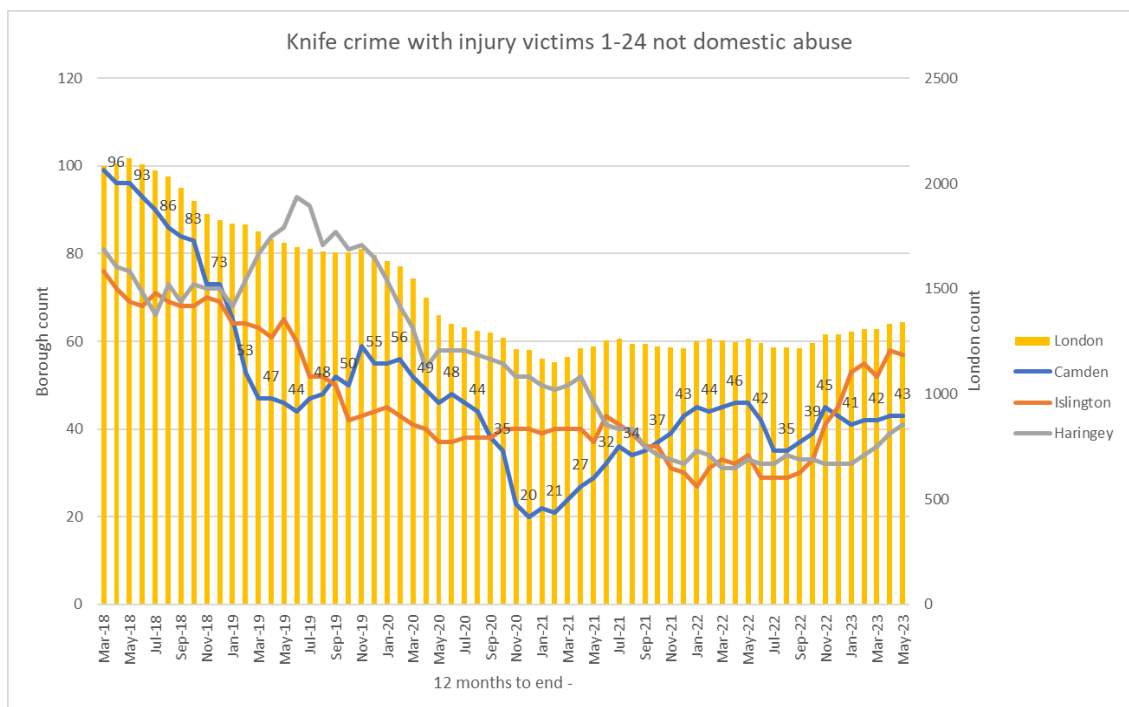


Figure 1: Knife crime with injury victims 1-24 not domestic abuse.

- 8.4. Throughout 2023, there has been continued progress in both reducing the number of new people open to the Youth Justice Service (First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System) and the reduction in the number of children receiving custodial sentences. There is still work to be done on reducing reoffending, but this remains a priority for the Youth Justice Service moving into 2024. Between April 2022 and March 2024 24 children became first time entrants to the Youth Justice System, representing a 33% reduction on 2021/22. During this time, no children received a custodial sentence compared to two children who received three custodial sentences in 2020/21.
- 8.5. The Integrated Youth Support Service has had a busy summer offering a range of activities to young people across Camden. As well as having information on the main Camden website, we have a dedicated young people's website called Camden Rise. All local activities, opportunities and support is brought together in one place making it much easier for young people to find what they're looking for.
- 8.6. Camden Summer University is our annual programme of free activities for young people aged 13-19 who live or go to school in Camden that runs over the summer holidays. This programme is managed and run through the Participation & Progression team within the Integrated Youth Support Service working with partners including the British Library, British Museum, London Zoo, The Avalon Project, NHS Speech and Language Therapist Whittington Hospital, Royal Holloway University of London and many more. In 2023 there were a total of 80 courses available with opportunities varying from half day to week-long courses including everything from art and media to sport and even vocational options and we attracted over 600 young people. We also ensured any young person with additional needs was supported to attend any course, as well offering three specialist courses in partnership with Integrated Youth Support Service Disability Project. Types of courses on offer were:
- Music Production
  - Photography
  - Public Speaking
  - Jewellery Making
  - Journalism
  - Inspiring Black Figures – Poetry and Spoken Work
- 8.7. Through our Detached Youth Team, we have been able to provide targeted support to young people across the borough. Camden is split into three areas: North, Central, South. The detached work takes place over 3-4 afternoons or evenings a week in different areas, linking in with our close partners. This



model of youth work practice takes place in the young person's territory such as streets, cafes, housing estates and parks, at times that's appropriate to them and on their terms. There are four key elements to this work:

- Reconnaissance: youth workers build a picture of the area.
- Making contact: we contact with individuals and groups that have seen us during the reconnaissance.
- Interventions: once a trusting working relationship is established, bespoke interventions are offered.
- Concluding and closing: once the intervention is completed, an evaluation is conducted to determine if ongoing work is needed with the young people.

8.8. Other Our youth hubs across the borough have offered support to 262 young people, and 50 vulnerable young people engaged with Youth Justice Service Worker through one-to-one intervention. We organised a residential weekend to Avon Tyrell, offering 19 young people the opportunity to build relationships and learn through social activities and the educational curriculum. We hosted a football tournament which engaged over 100 young people and Regents Roots Festival which had over 2000 people in attendance.

## **9. Drug Misuse**

9.1. Drug related problems remain the number one issue reported to us by our residents, and we have been working closely with a number of internal and external partners to deliver a new Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) in Camden. The CDP will be an annual meeting of a joint Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership Board. It is a mandated requirement to ensure the effective allocation of resources made available via the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SSMTR) Grant and Project ADDER funding provided to the Met Police. The CDP will also oversee the outcomes delivered by this new investment.

9.2. The delivery of this work is being overseen by The Camden Drugs, Alcohol and Community Safety working group. This group is formed of council and external stakeholders across the following services:

- Adult Integrated Substance Misuse service
- Camden Community Safety
- Camden Health and Wellbeing (Public Health)
- Camden Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Camden Youth Justice Services
- Camden Youth Substance Misuse services
- Camden Youth Violence and Exploitation services
- Individuals with lived experience

- Metropolitan Police Central North Borough Command Unit (MPS CN BCU)
- National Probation Service
- NHSE
- Prison representatives

9.3. Delivery of this work will be tracked by not only the national metrics laid out in the government's national drugs strategy, but also through the creation of a 'Local Outcomes Framework' that is specific to Camden. This local framework contains around 30 different performance measures designed to track both the delivery and effectiveness of interventions. The measures are split into the following outcomes:

- Increase Engagement in Treatment
- Improving Recovery Outcomes
- Reduce Drug Use
- Reducing Drug Supply
- Reduce Drug-Related Crime

## **10. Prevent**

10.1. Camden continues to take a safeguarding approach to Prevent by framing all decision making within the context of promoting welfare of vulnerable children and adults, to stop them from becoming individuals who pose a serious threat to the public by engaging in terrorist related activity. The service's overall aim remains to stop people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism by increasing knowledge and awareness of the causes and signs of radicalisation and providing appropriate support for those most at risk.

10.2. The Independent Review of Prevent was published on 8 February 2023, which has been followed by a refreshed Counter Terrorism Strategy, Prevent Duty Guidance and Channel Panel Guidance. The new guidance adds clarity to and strengthens the existing duty on Local Authorities and the approach to preventing people being radicalised into becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

10.3. Local Authorities are expected to deliver on the Prevent Duty and are annually monitored for compliance. The refreshed duty guidance re-aligns Prevent with the first principle to stop terrorism and focus on ideological drivers. This requires Local Authorities to have strong leadership and management on Prevent.

10.4. Camden's Prevent strategy and current Home Office funded resourcing levels are well placed to deliver on the refreshed duty, keeping people safe in Camden and mitigating the risk of people being drawn into terrorism. In line with Camden

services and principles, safeguarding is at the heart of all Camden Prevent activity. The Camden Prevent Strategy has 5 strands:

- Prevent - risk of people being drawn into terrorism and build resilience to radicalisation.
- Identify – those most at risk through training and understanding of safeguarding approach.
- Support – through bespoke safeguarding packages (Channel).
- Disrupt – divisive narrative and limit opportunities for lack of cohesion in Camden.
- Engage and learn – listen to our communities and develop and grow the approach in line with learning.

10.5. In line with recommendations from the review, central government are taking steps to address the disparate terrorist threat and are moving away from a local model to a regional one with no increase in overall funding. This approach will see Camden along with many other London boroughs lose the funding which they have received from the Home Office for approximately 10 years. This decision has been made although there has been no reduction in the risk of people being drawn into radicalisation, in fact the threat picture has become more diversified and more difficult to mitigate risk.

10.6. Going Forward, Camden is committed to keeping our communities safe and safeguarding our residents from radicalisation. The Prevent Duty on Local Authorities compels Camden to deliver in this area and steps are currently being taken to ensure that capability which would expose risk is not reduced.

## **11. Rough Sleeping**

11.1. Camden is in the top five Local Authority areas impacted by rough sleeping in the UK and is second to Westminster. Rough sleeping patterns in Camden show us that each month we see new people on the streets, with 719 people bedding down on Camden streets in the last financial year. Typically, 30% of people seen each month are new to the service. Another trend is the number of people who rough sleep in the borough and don't have a local connection to Camden (through residency, work or family), for example in August 2023, only 29% rough sleepers had a local connection. In the last 10 months, close to 50% of people who slept rough in the borough were non-UK Nationals, many with limited rights to work and benefits in the country.

11.2. In addition, 50% of the people rough sleeping in the borough have complex needs, and multiple occurring disadvantages such as substance use, poor mental health, offending and trauma. When someone experiences these

overlapping problems at the same time their needs can fall through the gaps between traditional services. We have designed and adapted our services with this cohort and challenges in mind.

11.3. The last bi-monthly single night snapshot count was in October where 90 people were counted on a single night. Figure 2 below shows how this count compares to other records over the last five years.

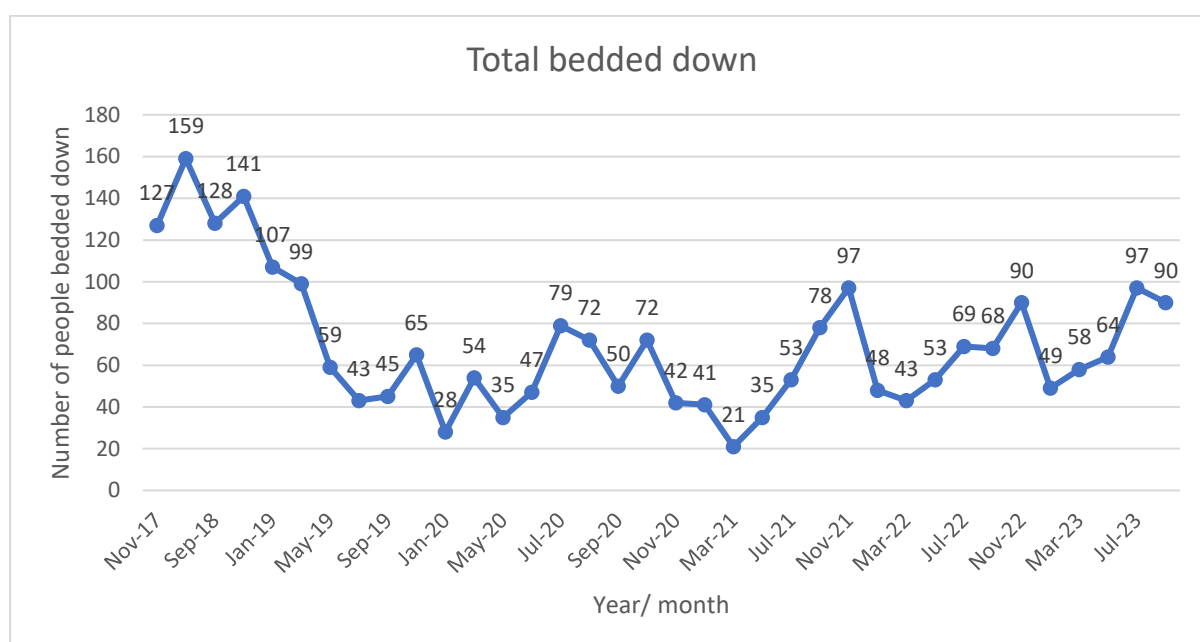


Figure 2 Rough sleeping as measured by the single night street count over the years.

11.4. Rough sleeping has decreased from its peak in 2018 but has increased since 2020 when appropriate government funding was given to local authorities to accommodate rough sleepers. As funding has discontinued the number of people sleeping on the streets, has again increased.

11.5. In January 2023, Routes off the Street (RTS) saw 69 people rough sleeping. The number of people seen rough sleeping increases each month, and in September RTS worked with 147 people. This demonstrates a 10% increase on last year. There are seasonal variations in rough sleeping, with the summer months often quite high. However, these numbers are disappointing as we try to end rough sleeping in Camden.

11.6. From Jan – Aug 2023, there have been 32 people seen rough sleeping in Camden who have recently received a positive asylum decision. Six of these had a confirmed local connection to Camden. Officers in Camden are working together and with the Home Office to address the issue and deliver a more tailored offer to people.

#### Moves off the streets:

11.7. The aim of our outreach team RTS is to ensure that people who are rough sleeping are assessed and then given an offer that means they no longer need to sleep rough and can rebuild their lives.

Options are tailored to the persons individual circumstances and could include:

- Reconnection: A national or international reconnection to a home borough via Connect Forward. This includes advocacy and support to access accommodation that the person is entitled to.
- Moving on: into 'short stay accommodation' such as the 165 Project, St Giles or Camden Respite Rooms.
- Private Rented Accommodation in Camden and in other boroughs
- Longer term hostel accommodation in the Adult Pathway Hostels

11.8. Since January, Routes off The Streets have achieved 219 accommodation outcomes for people rough sleeping. Although this is an admirable number, the rate at which people are moving into accommodation is slowing due to lack of affordable properties in the capital.

#### Commissioned services – Rough Sleeping Initiative and beyond

11.9. Alongside the Routes off The Streets outreach and day centre, which is delivered by Change Grow Live, Camden has several commissioned services which aim to prevent rough sleeping and when it does happen to make it rare, brief and non-recurring.

11.10. Off the street accommodation:

- 165 Rough Sleeping Hub: 16 beds in Kings Cross for men and women. This service provides move on support. It is delivered by Single Homeless Project (SHP).
- Camden Respite Rooms: The Respite Rooms is a 15-bed women only service that is delivered by Single Homeless Project in partnership with VCS organisation Women at The Well and Camden Safety Net. The service supports women who are rough sleeping and homeless who have experienced violence or abuse to find safety and rebuild their lives.
- St Giles: 15 beds in the St Giles hotel. This service is a short-stay project, targeted at people with lower support needs, who don't have recourse to public funds, and who are interested in work. This project is commissioned in partnership with Westminster City Council.

- Finchley Hub: project commissioned in partnership with the North London Housing Partnership for people rough sleeping. Up to 12 beds for Camden referrals.

#### 11.11. Specialist support:

- SHP Navigators: a team that give 121 intensive support to people with 'entrenched' homelessness and multiple disadvantages
- Project Acasa: specialist team that provide support to Roma people in the borough, offering them voluntary reconnections and employment, housing and advocacy support in Romania.
- Immigration service: a multi-borough immigration service that supports people who are rough sleeping with immigration issues, which was Particularly helpful during Brexit.
- Connect Forward: a four-person team in Camden Council that support and advocate for clients with no local connection to the borough
- Homelessness Prevention Advisor- rough sleeping lead: a new role we have recently appointed that will provide Homelessness Prevention Advice in a tailored way to people who are rough sleeping
- Floating support: a service that helps people sustain their tenancies.

11.12. Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) is a capital and revenue funding programme by Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) which aims to increase local authorities' homes and support services for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough. Camden has had one successful bid, and will be making another in November. Projects funded by this programme include:

- Gray's Inn Road: a 16-bed project that will provide psychologically informed support to people who have been rough sleeping in Camden. Stays are 3-6 months, and clients will be supported to move on into longer term accommodation.
- A bid for a Housing First project in Camden – Housing led support, where individuals are provided with their own flat and intensive floating support.

#### Partnerships

11.13. Camden has long history of health and social care partnerships within the homelessness and street services, which was strengthened after the pandemic when multi-disciplinary team working was essential to meet people's needs. Camden currently has several partnerships that support people who have rough slept such as:

- Cross-borough Mental and Physical health pilot. NHS England have funded Camden and Westminster to deliver an ambitious systems change pilot for an integrated approach to pre-treatment for mental health, physical health and peer support. As well as enhancing the services available to vulnerable

people on the street, this pilot is another example of integrated work with Westminster.

- This is in partnership with UCLH, Focus Mental Health, Inroads and Likewise
- Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) in the Adult Pathway: A team made up of a Social Worker and Nurses who work in the pathway. This is in partnership with UCLH and Camden's Adult Social Care
- Drug and Alcohol teams: RTS work closely with Inroads and Change Grow Live Substance Misuse Service (CGL) drug and alcohol services in the borough. This includes joint outreach and co-location.

11.14. Over one third of all rough sleeping in London occurs in Camden or Westminster. It is important to acknowledge the unique challenge faced by central London boroughs. Camden's approach is to speak with "one voice" with our partners and neighbouring boroughs, wherever possible, and to this end we have played a leading role in developing solutions with our neighbouring boroughs and across the North London sub-region. No single borough can tackle the complex issue of rough sleeping on their own. Projects include:

- St Giles Project: A central London accommodation and support project which helps to provides a viable and safe route away from rough sleeping for transient groups active in central London.
- Cold weather shelter: A Westminster and Camden severe weather offer during extended cold spells, hosted by Connections at St Martins
- North London Housing Partnership
- Support for Women: Camden took part in the Women's Rough Sleeping Census and will take part in a pilot with Westminster and Islington Council to record homelessness in a more gender informed way.

## **12. Conclusion**

12.1. At this moment in time community safety is a service which is crucial for the people of Camden. The safety of our diverse community represents a goal which we work towards tirelessly each day. At the heart of central London, with our 200 languages spoken in our schools, it's a beautiful metropolis driven by the ambition of its citizens and we as a council do our best to empower that ambition. Together, we make Camden!

12.2. However, across our borough there is deep concern within the community about the negative impact that ASB has on our residents/ businesses-we are not alone in experiencing these difficulties -they are a national dilemma, impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and the stringent austerity measures which our present government have imposed on us.

12.3. As each month passes, we are looking at a series of measures that help us to challenge the anti-social actions of a small minority whose behaviour impacts on others quality of life-this is especially acute on our large estates.

- 12.4. Throughout the course of this year, we have heard from many of our residents/businesses who have voiced their concerns, regarding the deterioration of the quality of their daily lives due to the inconsiderate action of others. Living and working closely together in densely populated areas such as ours creates tension and the major blight on community cohesion in Camden is ASB.
- 12.5. As members of the Local Authority, we strive for excellence in service delivery to our population. One of our key aims in promoting a better quality of life for our citizens is that Camden should be a place with stronger communities-and a safe place. The most powerful assets that Camden has against inappropriate criminal behaviour are our communities. The key to reducing ASB lies in our strength when we work with our partners, supported by reliable and appropriate services- this is intrinsic to coping with, and enhancing, our daily lives.
- 12.6. Our new dedicated ASB taskforce of 4 specialised officers working alongside key services, will focus on the management of complex and challenging cases which have seriously impacted on the daily lives of residents and businesses. They will review and evaluate existing processes and services and assess their effectiveness -advising where we need to reshape service delivery to get better outcomes for our citizens.
- 12.7. Community engagement which is vital in gathering information from our residents/businesses continues, our walkabouts are a major part of this engagement, allowing participants to identify key issues of concern, and are a way of working which we value in solving problems. Obviously providing for safer communities in Camden means teams working together with partners; of which there are many, and we are indebted to them for their valued work. A major part, of this partnership is working with the police in a proactive way focusing on prevention and engagement with officers, who day after day engage with our citizens working to promote safer neighbourhoods where people feel able to live without harm.
- 12.8. Our integrated youth support services works with young people through a network of youth projects, detached and outreach work, across our borough, engaging them in positive activities that help gain new skills and increases their confidence and resilience. Camden Summer University, which runs over the summer holidays, with free activities for those aged 13-19 and 25 years for those who have learning disabilities was real success offering varied courses for students. Our youth team's work with young people where they gather and at an appropriate time on their terms and offer one to one education when needed. This way of working continues to provide good outcomes.



12.9. Our specialised work with the youth justice service, has continued to progress in reducing the number of new young people into the service and reducing the number of children receiving custodial sentences. Between April 2022 and March 2023 no children received custodial sentences which is a mighty tribute to our youth justice services. Thank you.

12.10. Throughout this year we have continued to focus effort across our services on VAWG. Our VAWG board now has the vital contribution of members from the survivors groups who impart their experience and knowledge of our services which are invaluable in scrutinising those services and highlighting where we need to change them.

12.11. There are so many people involved in this mission, working often behind the scenes, night and day, against difficult odds, and I want to say 'heartfelt thanks' to all of you. The officers who contributed to this report, our colleagues in the Met, Fire Brigade, Health Service, Voluntary and Community Sector, our Community Safety Team, Housing Team, Adult Social Care Teams, and Integrated Youth Services and all other staff who relentlessly pursue the cause of justice, so that people going about their daily lives in Camden can do so safely, you make me so proud! A special mention to Angela Mason and Helene Reardon-Bond for their continuing focus on prevention and tackling DVA. Also, to Hannah Bennai, your endless patience, support and goodwill have been immensely helpful. Thank you.

### **13. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

13.1. The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted and has no additional comments to add.

### **14. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

14.1. Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are incorporated in this report.

### **15. Environmental Implications**

15.1. This report should contain no significant environmental implications for Camden.

### **16. Appendices**

16.1. Appendix A Camden Supplementary Substance Misuse treatment and Recovery Grant Spending Plan 2023-24

#### Appendix A Camden Supplementary Substance Misuse treatment and Recovery Grant Spending Plan 2023-24

Intervention	Proposal	Grant spend in 2023-24
Improved CJS working arrangements	SM/CJ team working with prisons, Probation, Police and local courts to improve the pathways between CJ services and treatment services, improve	£921,000

	continuity of care rates and increase the number of people accessing treatment.	
Improved CJS working arrangements	Prison Link Worker to support transition work (pre and post release), expand on the development work already achieved with Pentonville to other feeder prisons and to establish better relationships with HMP Bronzefield.	
Improved CJS working arrangements	Additional co-located workers at Probation, Police Custody and at the local court to manage DRR/ATR assessments and build relationships with key court personnel.	
Improved CJS working arrangements	Worker to support related drug and alcohol police work including hotspot outreach team, and cuckooing operations.	
Improved CJS working arrangements	CJ Enhanced Case Worker to work in the CJ system with people who are experiencing challenges with mental health, housing, substance misuse, including people at risk of abuse and those who have historically struggled to engage with support in the community.	
Improved CJS working arrangements	SWIM Project - Targeting black males in /leaving prison who may not have engaged with prison SM services and are non-opiate users.	
Development and expansion of recovery community and peer support network	CJ Peer Support Project	
Partnership approaches	Worker to support hospital and A&E discharge pathways, ensuring seamless transition to treatment for those who require this. Also supporting continuity of care for existing service users who are admitted to hospital.	<b>£150,000</b>
Psychosocial responses to common mental health problems	Designated SM workers to be co-located in the MH Core Teams in Primary Care, providing training/advice to MH core team staff in relation to substance misuse and encourage joint assessments/appointments.	
Increased treatment capacity	Young People - Worker co-located in youth violence/gangs team. The aim of this additional role is to identify more young people to access support for their SM needs.  Young People - Worker to be co-located with Looked After Children Team Camden's YPSM service have identified a need to increase the substance misuse capacity within the Looked After Children team.	<b>£375,400</b>
Improved psychological interventions	Senior Practitioner based in adult drug and alcohol service who will ensure all hostels in Camden can be offered pre-engagement sessions for pre-contemplative people, with a view to increasing numbers in treatment.	
Increased commissioning capacity	Programme Lead to oversee CDP, sub-groups and overall implementation of Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant.	
Increased treatment capacity	Drug/alcohol workers/recovery coordinators to support manageable caseloads as a result of increasing numbers entering treatment.	
Enhanced harm reduction provision	Nasal naloxone distribution via Community Pharmacies.	
Improved pharmacological interventions	Increased prescribing and treatment costs to meet increases in numbers in treatment.	
Outside of MOI	Capital spend – with the specific aim of increasing the number of women accessing and remaining in treatment and to improve the experience of women in treatment. Working with community venues to provide, psychologically informed spaces outside of mainstream service sites, for women's treatment.	

**TOTAL £1.446,400**

**REPORT ENDS**