

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Safer Communities	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE 10 November 2025
SUMMARY OF REPORT The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities provides the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee with her annual report for discussion. Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report Contact Officer: Hannah Bennai Cabinet Officer Corporate Services 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 1750 Email: hannah.bennai@camden.gov.uk	
RECOMMENDATIONS The Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.	

Signed:



Councillor Patricia Callaghan, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities

Date: 28/10/2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Camden is a borough defined by connection. From our railways and stations that link London to the rest of the country and beyond, to our streets that bring together people from every background, faith and culture. This diversity is not just something Camden holds; it's something we celebrate. Whether through our vibrant neighbourhoods, or our thriving local groups, it is community that shapes the welcoming and resilient nature that is Camden.
- 1.2. Camden illustrates how community makes our borough truly great. However, while Camden's central London location brings an appealing wealth of opportunity and diversity, crime and anti-social behaviour continues to impact our residents. As part of our "We Make Camden" pledges we have committed to creating a borough where "everyone is safe at home and safe in our communities". The safer communities portfolio continues to work meticulously with residents, partners and council officers to achieve our shared vision of enduring safety. The voices of those who live, work and visit the borough continues to shape our strategies, action plans and initiatives so that we know our work continues to meet community need.
- 1.3. We have made incredible progress in our antisocial behaviour (ASB) response by building on our ASB Taskforce, bringing our ASB working group together to evaluate data, transitioning our Community Protection Officers (CPO's) to Community Safety Enforcement Officers (CSEO's) to empower intervention activity, as well as merging our community safety and our education & enforcement team's to expand the use of fixed penalty notices to address environmental crime as well as ASB. A significant ASB achievement has been the launch of our dedicated ASB communications campaign aimed at encouraging residents to report ASB. The campaign launched in June 2025 and reports have risen by 95% already.
- 1.4. We continue to celebrate Camden's diversity and work extremely hard to ensure we engage with all members of our communities so that everyone feels safe, supported and welcome. Our "No Place for Hate" commitment embodies our strong position on challenging prejudice and promoting inclusion. During the National Hate Crime Week 2024 we promoted our "Safe and Strong Together" theme which again reinforces our deep-rooted commitment to tackling hate crime in all its forms. With

this, we hope to continue to promote inclusivity and belonging for all members of the community.

- 1.5. Camden is a place where everyone matters and we're clear in our "We Make Camden ambition" of our desire to make the borough somewhere where "everyone has a place to call home". Our international travel hubs and central London location exposes us to higher numbers of rough sleepers. However, despite this, our officers continue their dedicated work across the year to support those rough sleeping into safe and secure housing. This year we have continued our focused work on making homelessness a whole system priority, joining up housing, health and social care to reduce harm caused by homelessness and secure more affordable housing for the long-term.
- 1.6. We have also been focused on taking a whole system approach to tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) to enhance our DVA response and ensure women are not re-traumatised when accessing our support systems. Gender targeted violence is an unfortunate reality women and girls face on a day-to-day basis and Camden are committed to eliminating VAWG and gender-based abuse completely. This encompasses combining our comprehensive support offers for those experiencing VAWG, with a calculated and strategic approach aimed at preventing VAWG happening all together. Camden safety net and Camden navigators continue support that our residents with lived experience describe as "lifesaving". Our perpetrator work also seeks to change misogyny from its roots by educating young people on "positive masculinity" from an early age, while also identifying potential perpetrators early on before they are able to act and assault.
- 1.7. The Safer Communities portfolio continues to oversee a variety of strategies, policies, programmes. This report summarises the work and success across the Safer Communities portfolio from October 2024 to October 2025.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.1. We Make Camden sets out our ambition to build a Camden where everyone is safe whether at home and in our communities. This principle underpins the community safety work across this portfolio, in particular Anti-social behaviour (ASB). ASB continues to be a key concern for residents, businesses and visitors across Camden and cuts across various aspects of the Council's work such as Housing, Health and Wellbeing as well as Social Care and Environment. While ASB can range from drug-related incidents, unauthorised access to estates to noise disturbances, the team have been working tirelessly to address some of our most challenging cases and concerns. Our data continues to highlight that some Housing Estates are disproportionately impacted by complex forms of ASB which is why formulating a resident focused approach with a focus on early intervention and partnership working has been so critical in our response. Successes since February 2024 include:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Activity 2024/25

Activity	Volume / Output	Impact
ASB reports triaged	3,164	Ensured timely, proportionate responses to resident concerns
Hotspot locations targeted	1,834	Delivered joint patrols with CSEOs, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and Routes off the Street, increasing visibility and reassurance
Estate Action Plans developed	13	Coordinated multi-agency interventions on estates most affected by ASB

ASB Review

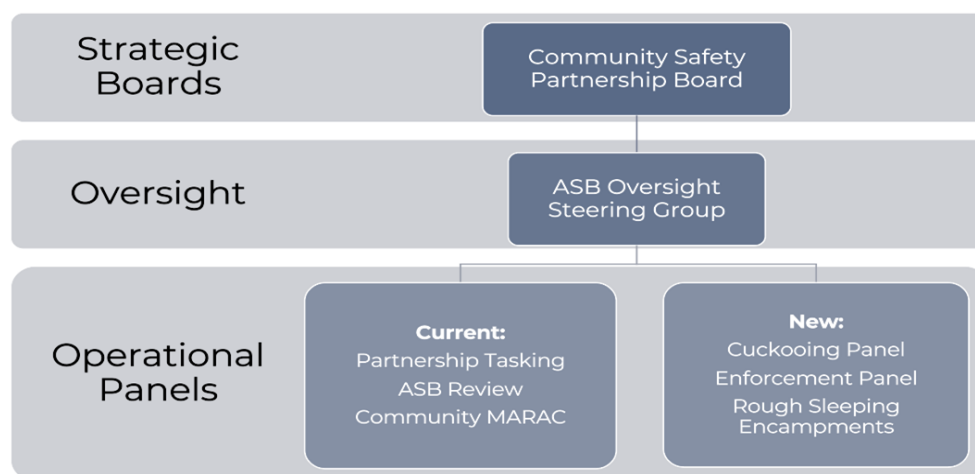
2.2. Last year the service began an ASB Review to address concerns around management of complex cases. The review aimed to provide a solution to long-term complex cases with a focus on reducing fragmentation across the 'ASB system' by joining services together and adopting a standardised approach to use of enforcement.

2.3. Following this review, there have been several key successes which have already led to clear improvements across our service.

- Data and Monitoring: We've now implemented a single point of reporting. This means officers can track cases through one pathway, creating a single source of ASB reporting data. It reduces duplication, strengthens compliance with the housing regulator standards, and gives us the ability to monitor key performance indicators including response times. Our target is for Contact Camden to provide an initial response within two working days, and for Community Safety to follow up within seven working days.
- Investment in Officers: We've invested in five new Antisocial Behaviour Officers. Their role is to bring together the new reporting and triage system, while making sure residents are kept informed about the progress of their reports.
- Risk Assessment: We've also introduced a universal risk assessment tool for all cases. This provides consistency across case management. Importantly, it

means that initial assessments are carried out for every case, so that we can triage them appropriately according to the level of risk.

- Policy and Procedure: We have created and published a new ASB Policy and Procedure, setting out clearly how we manage cases and what residents can expect from us.
- Communication and Engagement: We've launched a new ASB communications campaign to raise awareness of how we now work, and the different reporting methods available. The team is also recording all enforcement and engagement activity, giving us better insight into patterns and trends across the borough.
- Partnership Working: We have strengthened our partnership working. Our Mental Health Service has been brought in-house, which means we can work far more closely with other Council services. This is a significant step because it allows us to directly shape and influence social care interventions where an adult with mental health needs is either perpetrating or experiencing ASB. In practice, it means our social workers can work directly with that person, without the delays and barriers of navigating complex secondary care services or high eligibility thresholds.
- Governance: As the ASB Review draws to a close, governance arrangements have been established to support the ongoing and effective management of antisocial behaviour. An ASB Steering Group has been created to provide strategic oversight and act as a conduit between the Community Safety Partnership Board and the operational delivery of case management. The Steering Group will oversee a series of specialist panels, namely the Cuckooing Panel, Enforcement Panel, and the Rough Sleeping and Encampments Panel.



ASB Taskforce:

2.4. The ASB Policy was published in 2024, and a new ASB Procedure has since been developed jointly with Housing. This will be piloted using a test-and-learn approach to refine the process before full implementation.

2.5. Our ASB Communications Campaign launched in June 2025 has had a measurable impact. Reports of antisocial behaviour have increased, reflecting greater public awareness and growing trust that concerns will be addressed.

“It’s good to see ASB officers here, it’s such a relief to finally see them where we live” Resident

“ASB Officers have truly been a godsend, and I honestly don’t know what I would have done without their dedication and persistence in moving things forward”
Somers Town Resident

CCTV:

2.6. The Rapid Deployable Camera (RDC) CCTV Protocol has been revised to ensure that all requests for installations comply with statutory legislation, national guidance, relevant codes of practice, and the Council’s organisational CCTV Policy, while also being responsive to the operational needs of the Community Safety Partnership. To support this a new RDC Panel has been established to oversee installations and ensure ongoing compliance.

3. Enforcement

3.1. The service has adopted a strengthened approach to enforcement, with increased use of the tools and powers available to local authorities under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This shift has been shaped by learning from past practice, identifying areas for improvement, and embedding an overarching emphasis on early intervention. It also reflects a growing awareness and more consistent application of these powers to address antisocial behaviour effectively.

Enforcement Outcomes Since February 2024

Enforcement Action	Number Obtained/Issued
Injunctions	7
Possession Orders	5
Closure Orders (full and partial)	8
Evictions	1
Warnings	6
Antisocial Behaviour Agreements	6

3.2. Closure orders are used with the Police to close premises linked to ongoing ASB or crime, protecting residents and restoring community confidence. The above

figures demonstrate that closure orders are the most frequently used enforcement tool, reflecting a targeted approach to addressing high-risk antisocial behaviour, while a combination of injunctions, possession orders, and agreements supports both early intervention and sustained case management.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Data	
	2023	2025 (July)
Number of ASB cases logged	1604	1523
Number of ASB cases closed	Not recorded	1292
Number of Initial Risk Assessments conducted	Only completed for MARAC referrals	983
	11	
Number of community engagements	70	98
Number of Informal interventions (warning letters, joint visits, EVA etc)	Not recorded	52
Number of Formal interventions (CPW/N, CPN, NOSP etc)	Not recorded	16

3.3. The data demonstrates effective ASB management, with improved risk assessment, increased engagement, and consistent use of interventions to support residents.

Looking Forward

3.4. The Community Safety service is focused on a number of key initiatives to further strengthen ASB management and resident engagement:

- Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs): A forward plan of consultations will be developed for proposed borough-wide orders on Responsible Drinking and Street-Based Harassment, alongside targeted “town centre” orders for locations where street-based ASB is particularly challenging.
- Enforcement Policy & Procedure: The newly created policy will be delivered to practitioners, providing clear guidance on the correct application of ASB

powers, including Civil Injunctions, Community Protection Notices, and Dispersal Powers, ensuring both legal compliance and effective outcomes.

- Resident Engagement and Staff Development: A strategic plan will be developed to maintain and enhance engagement with residents through estates and hotspot action plans. Officer development will be prioritised alongside the continuation of communication campaigns to keep residents informed.
- New Case Management System: A fully tailored system for Community Safety will improve data quality, streamline casework via automated workflows, and centralise all ASB information. This will enable better performance monitoring,
- more effective case management, and stronger evidence for enforcement and service planning. The system will also feature a citizen portal, allowing residents to track updates on cases they have reported.

4. Community Cohesion and addressing hate crime

4.1. As part of Camden's Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024–2027, we make it clear that tackling hate crime and strengthening community cohesion remains a priority for this portfolio. Through our No Place for Hate commitment, we have worked with our partners, voluntary and community organisations, and residents to respond to rising tensions, provide reassurance, and make sure all our communities feel safe, supported, and welcome.

4.2. Our Community Safety and ASB Officers, alongside Community Safety Enforcement Officers (CSEOs), continue to work with the police and other services across the Council to respond quickly to incidents and provide visible reassurance where necessary. Strong partnerships with the Metropolitan Police, the Community Security Trust (CST), Tell MAMA and other specialist agencies ensure that hate crime is closely monitored, while communities are supported through advice, practical help and ongoing reassurance.

Addressing Antisemitism and Islamophobia

4.3. Rising levels of Islamophobia and Antisemitism, linked in part to international events, have had an impact locally. We have increased engagement with our Muslim and Jewish communities, provided reassurance patrols around key sites and supported awareness sessions in trusted faith settings to respond to concerns.

Partnerships with Faith Organisations

4.4. Over the past year, Camden has strengthened its partnerships with faith communities across the borough. The Camden Interfaith Network continued to host events fostering interfaith collaboration and celebrating religious

occasions, demonstrating faith leaders' commitment to promoting understanding and empathy across communities.

4.5. Led by the Community Partnership Team, the Council has provided grant funding and capacity-building support to faith organisations. Engagement with communities to understand their safety concerns also led to a joint initiative with the Metropolitan Police and Camden Youth Services, delivering knife crime awareness sessions for women at a faith centre, combining practical safety advice with outreach in a trusted setting.

4.6. During key religious dates and festivals, Community Safety Enforcement Officers (CSEOs), supported by the police, carried out enhanced patrols and reassurance visits to priority faith and community locations.

Community Cohesion Tension Monitoring Group

4.7. The Community Cohesion Tension Monitoring Group (TMG) continues to play a key role in safeguarding Camden's communities, bringing together Council services, CCTV teams, and the Metropolitan Police in a weekly forum to share intelligence and monitor local, national, and international developments.

4.8. Over the past year, the group has strengthened monitoring and analysis of tensions, reviewed hate crime trends to inform priorities, and coordinated multi-agency responses to address risks and build community trust. Early interventions included high-visibility CSEO patrols, removal of offensive graffiti, and reassurance visits. The TMG also worked with local organisations to build resilience and promote inclusion, while ongoing collaboration with Camden's 24/7 CCTV service and use of Rapid Deployable Cameras (RDCs) has supported monitoring in priority areas.

'No Place for Hate'

4.9. Through our 'No Place for Hate' commitment, Camden continues to challenge prejudice, promote inclusion, and support those affected by hate incidents. Over the past year, we have raised awareness of reporting routes and available support services.

4.10. During National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2024, the borough promoted the theme 'Safe and Strong, Together', reinforcing solidarity and our commitment to tackling hate in all forms.

4.11. Camden's status as a Borough of Sanctuary further demonstrates our support for asylum seekers and refugees. Working with charities and community partners, we provide inclusive spaces, reassurance, and ongoing support to safeguard the wellbeing of those seeking refuge in the borough.

Hate Crime Dip Sampling

- 4.12. Camden continues to collaborate with partners, including CST, Tell MAMA, Stop Hate UK, and the Metropolitan Police, through regular Hate Crime Dip Sampling meetings. By reviewing anonymised case studies of recent hate crimes, the group identifies areas for improvement, highlights good practice, and adapts services to better meet community needs.
- 4.13. Over the past year, this work has strengthened understanding of victims' experiences and reinforced Camden's commitment to continuous learning. Working alongside residents, community groups, and partners, we continue to promote a borough-wide culture of safety, solidarity, and mutual respect.

5. Youth Safety

- 5.1. Our young people are extremely accomplished, and Camden continues to work to create an environment where they can thrive, and achieve their potential. They are the future of Camden, and it is critical that we keep them safe. Through the work of our integrated youth service staff and partners we will ensure, as much as we can, that we provide services that help keep our young people safe and resilient.
- 5.2. We are determined to take a systemic and grassroots approach to tackling and preventing youth violence. Together we can make change, which is why we have committed to taking a whole community approach to acting on the roots of youth exploitation and focusing on protecting our young people.
- 5.3. Our Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation Service (RYVE) leads on the response to any incidents of serious youth violence within Camden. The Service works in partnership to ensure safeguarding of children, vulnerable people and their families, and effectively communicates with partners in the Council, schools, Voluntary and Community Services (VCS) and neighbouring boroughs to ensure a joined-up response and provide reassurance in the communities most affected. RYVE has continued to develop the Council's understanding of the current context of youth violence and the risks faced by children and young people.
- 5.4. The causes of violence against adolescents in Camden remain varied. The link between child criminal exploitation (CCE) and violence remains at the forefront of Camden's response. Exploitation through youth violence was the most prevalent type of CCE identified in 2024-25, closely followed by drug related exploitation and forced theft/robbery. Identifying vulnerabilities and presenting factors for CCE is a key part of Camden's prevention strategy, which has noted: Substance misuse, decline in school attendance, mental health, neurodiversity and missing episodes.

- 5.5. Camden's key measure for monitoring violence against adolescents is the number of victims aged 1-24 who were victims of non-domestic knife injury offences. This measure has recently been revised which inhibits direct comparisons with data before April 2024. In the most recent financial year (2024-25), there were 30 victims of non-domestic knife injury offences in Camden. There was a noticeable increase in this measure in the first three months on 2025-26, the reasons for which are currently being explored.
- 5.6. Following a post-pandemic decline, youth involvement in crime is gradually increasing. Violence and robbery are the most common offences, as we had anticipated. The number of children accessing the Youth Justice Service is low, with an average of 50-60 children's cases open at any one time in 2025. Throughout 2025, there has been a small increase in the number of children entering the Youth Justice Service (First Time Entrants), with 40 from April 24 - March 25, an increase of 6 from the previous year. The same period saw an increase in custodial outcomes with 4 custodial outcomes an increase from zero for the previous two years. Use of remand has decreased from 9 to 7 incidents in 2024-25.
- 5.7. In taking a preventative approach, we have made significant progress within the service in offering paid work experience placements which support children to earn legitimate income at a London living wage salary, gain skills and self-confidence, thereby reducing the appeal of criminal activities which carry high risk.

Our Preventative Approach

- 5.8. Camden Summer University: From 24 July to 22 August 2025, we partnered with organisations including the British Library, London Zoo, Lauderdale House, Euston Skills Centre and Latin America House in Kilburn. We offered 72 courses ranging from half-day to week-long sessions.
- 5.9. We had 694 young people registered to take part in Camden Summer University, of these 252 were eligible for free school meals and 141 young people with disabilities registered. We ensured any young person with additional needs was supported to attend any course, as well as offering three specialist courses in partnership with the Integrated Youth Support Service Disability Project.
- 5.10. The new Somers Town Community Guardianship Project: This project focuses on the key principles of being community based, and community led, so benefits a wider group of young people. This embeds both skills and knowledge of the area and its residents thereby creating resilience for the groups involved. The Young Guardians have meet weekly and are developing

work towards our Community Guardians Conference which will be held in February 2026.

- 5.11. We received funding of £100,000 from London Mayors Office for Policing and Crime - Violence Reduction Unit (MOPAC-VRU) to support youth engagement in Camden, targeting robbery hotspots and vulnerable young people after school (3-6pm). This aligns with the 2024-27 Community Safety Partnership Plan's focus on reducing serious violence.
- 5.12. Youth Hubs: Our locality-based youth hubs and voluntary sector youth organisations offer a range of activities during term time and holidays for young people, keeping them engaged, safe and reducing the risk of young people involved in high-risk activities in the communities. From April 2023 and March 2024, over 3700 young people accessed youth provision in the borough.

6. Community Safety Partnership

- 6.1. We continue to strengthen partnerships across Camden and London, working closely with the Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Probation, schools and universities, local businesses, and the voluntary and community sector (VCS).
- 6.2. The Camden Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together these responsible authorities, as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to reduce crime and disorder and improve residents' sense of safety. The CSP works collaboratively to tackle local issues, including antisocial behaviour, substance misuse, and violence, while assessing local crime priorities and consulting with partners and the community on effective approaches.
- 6.3. The Camden Community Safety Partnership (CSP) seeks to:
- Create a safer borough for people to live, work, and visit;
 - Work in partnership to deliver local priorities that address crime and disorder;
 - Deliver local, regional, and national priorities in line with statutory responsibilities.
- 6.4. By achieving these objectives, the CSP contributes to the wider We Make Camden strategy and its overarching vision of fostering safe, strong, and open communities where everyone can participate and contribute.

Strategic Assessment and Priorities

- 6.5. Community Safety Partnerships are also responsible for conducting an annual review, known as a Strategic Assessment, focussing on crime, anti-social

behaviour and substance misuse. The findings from this assessment inform the objectives outlined in the Camden Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-2027. The assessment identifies trends, patterns and drivers of crime and anti-social behaviour. The insights gained from this assessment have enabled the partnership to set clear priorities, develop intelligence-led activity and deploy resources effectively. The findings directly inform the objectives outlined in the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024–2027.

6.6. The key priorities for 2024–2027 are:

- Drug-Related Activity: Reducing drug misuse and associated crimes, particularly affecting young people and communities.
- Antisocial Behaviour: Preventing and addressing behaviours that disrupt communities, including youth-related ASB.
- 'No Place For Hate': Tackling hate crimes and discrimination to foster an inclusive borough.
- Women's Safety: Enhancing measures to protect women and girls from violence and harassment.
- Serious Violence: Preventing and reducing incidents of serious violence, especially involving young people.

6.7. The CSP Plan outlines Camden CSP's commitment to working collaboratively with all partner agencies to enhance safety across the borough. Implementation is delivered through CSP subgroups, where key partners support local priorities. Performance is reviewed annually against the latest Strategic Assessment to ensure resources are targeted effectively, and the Community Safety Partnership Board undertakes bi-monthly deep dives to scrutinise performance metrics across each priority area.

6.8. Through this coordinated, intelligence-led approach and ongoing engagement with partners and communities, Camden CSP is committed to making the borough safer for all residents.

Collaboration with Partners

6.9. Camden CSP works closely with key partners to deliver its priorities. For example, collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Service has strengthened intelligence sharing and coordinated responses to robbery and serious youth violence. Working with local schools and youth services has supported targeted diversionary programmes, helping to prevent young people from becoming involved in ASB and crime. These partnerships have enabled Camden CSP to respond more effectively to local challenges and achieve tangible outcomes for residents.

6.10. We continue to support the Met Police Borough Command Unit to further develop the proactive/intelligence led approach towards local policing. We recognise the need to engage with local communities in order to provide reassurance and highlight the importance of local intelligence in supporting the delivery of targeted policing/enforcement activity.

6.11. We recognise the importance of Community crime-fighting within the Metropolitan Police 'A New Met for London' plan which reinforces the Met Police commitment to neighbourhood policing, rebuilding trust and tackling both crime and anti-social behaviour.

7. Safeguarding against radicalisation (Prevent Duty)

7.1. Under the updated Prevent and Channel Duties (2023), local authorities must give due regard to preventing people from being drawn into radicalisation. In Camden, this is delivered through a cross-departmental, multi-agency safeguarding approach led by the Community Safety Team. Our focus is on early intervention and prevention, building relationships, understanding individual starting points, and supporting strengths-based approaches across the Council and community.

7.2. While central government funding for Prevent has been withdrawn, Camden continues to mitigate risks through locally aligned activity, reflecting our guiding principles and resident focus. Work is delivered across three key strands:

- Engage and learn from communities – Building partnerships with community organisations and schools to understand local risks and ensure a shared safeguarding approach.
- Prevent and disrupt – Raising awareness of radicalisation, promoting resilience, and providing training and networking opportunities.
- Identify and support – Recognising vulnerable individuals and delivering tailored support through Camden's multi-agency Channel Panel, which develops personalised interventions to redirect people toward positive outcomes.

7.3. Strong partnerships with local organisations, the police, Council services, and government support Camden's understanding of emerging trends, including divisive national or local issues, online radicalisation, and exposure to a wide range of extremist ideologies. Safe spaces are promoted for discussion, and resources support schools, community groups, libraries, GPs, and adult learning tutors in addressing these challenges.

7.4. Community organisations and faith groups play a key role in mitigating divisive ideologies. For example, Equaliteach delivered 56 sessions with primary school

children to develop critical thinking on extremist narratives, and the Integrated Youth Team ran a Youth Assembly on Violence Against Women and Girls, incorporating learning on extreme misogyny.

7.5. Camden also ensures safeguarding considers mental health, neurodivergence, and the specific needs of children and adults, with ongoing collaboration through School SEN networks and specialist training initiatives, including a joint funding application with Haringey. Particular focus continues supporting vulnerable people under 25 through schools and youth services.

8. Drug and Alcohol Use

8.1. We want everyone in Camden to feel safe and secure in their homes and on our streets. Many residents have expressed their concerns regarding drug dealing and unsafe use of drugs and alcohol in the borough. In Camden our preventative approach alongside our multi-agency collaborations play a vital role in achieving our ambition to reduce drug activity.

8.2. The Community Drugs Partnership (CDP) sub-groups (one focused on criminal justice and community safety, and the other on mental and physical health) continued to meet during the early part pf 2024-25. Despite attempts to secure regular attendance from key partners, attendance declined, and it was agreed to pause the sub-groups.

8.3. This year officers established a Drug and Alcohol Partnership Group (DAPG). The purpose of the DAPG is to bring together relevant partners across the drug and alcohol care and support system to provide a multi-agency setting for understanding and addressing shared challenges related to the use of drugs and alcohol in Camden.

<u>Numbers of People Engaging in Treatment:</u>	End of 2024/25 Performance	Latest Performance (May 2025)
All adults in structured treatment	2001	2029
Opiates	946	963
Non opiates (combined non-opiate only and non-opiates and alcohol)	605	610
Alcohol	450	456
Young People	71	65

8.4. Percentage of people who access the community drug and alcohol services within 21 days of release from prison (12 months rolling data).

<u>Continuity of Care:</u>	End of 2024/25 Performance	Latest Performance (May 2025)
Camden	33%	33%
London Average	26%	29%

8.5. In March 2025, Camden experienced a cluster of non-fatal drug overdoses, concentrated in the north and central parts of the borough. This was a hyper-localised incident with no apparent impact on other areas of London. Camden's adult drug and alcohol services – InRoads (provided by Via) and CGL Camden (provided by Change Grow Live) – responded rapidly and collaboratively, supported by Project ADDER (a Metropolitan Police programme to provide support to people who use drugs). The response included enhanced outreach, extended weekend provision with prescribing support, and distribution of harm reduction tools including naloxone, nitazene and fentanyl testing strips. Over 250 service users were contacted directly, and targeted engagement focused on high-risk individuals such as those recently discharged from hospitals or prisons. The response was underpinned by twice-daily debriefs, real-time information sharing, and support from local pharmacies, hostels and outreach teams. The incident highlighted strong operational and partnership working but also revealed areas for improvement. Learning from the response has resulted in a set of recommendations now being worked into an action plan, aiming to improve preparedness, ensure earlier intervention, and reduce harm in any future incidents.

8.6. These include:

- developing a formal protocol for emergency and out-of-hours responses
- exploring the future shape of the weekend offer
- updating clinical assessments to reflect the emergence of potent synthetic opioids (such as nitazenes) and other adulterants found in the local drug supply
- improving local information sharing between acute trusts and drug and alcohol services; expanding naloxone availability and training
- agreeing a joint drug alert protocol between commissioners and Police
- enhancing real-time sharing of non-fatal overdose data
- establishing a clear case definition for drug-related incidents in order to distinguish between isolated and cluster cases.

9. **Rough Sleeping**

9.1. A key We Make Camden ambition is that “Everyone in Camden should have a place they call home.” The lack of affordable accommodation, fewer rental properties and increasingly high rents has meant many people have had no other choice but to sleep rough. Camden is a place where everyone matters – we’re clear that no-one should be sleeping rough and everyone should have a

place to call home. Our central London location coupled with having several significant travel hubs terminating in the borough, means we are seeing higher numbers of people sleeping rough. It's very challenging to see people living on our streets and we're using all our powers to support those most vulnerable into safe and secure housing.

- 9.2. Camden's draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-2029 is currently out to public consultation which closed September 2025. It sets out clear priorities for the next 4 years on how we will tackle homelessness. These include making preventing homelessness a whole system priority, joining up housing, health and social care to reduce harm caused by homelessness, securing more affordable housing for the long-term and campaigning to address the structural barriers to preventing and relieving homelessness.
- 9.3. Camden remains one of the top five UK Local Authorities most affected by rough sleeping, second only to Westminster in London. In 2024/25, the borough experienced an 8% rise in rough sleeping, with 975 individuals recorded, up from 903 the previous year.
- 9.4. The percentage of people new to rough sleeping in 2024/25 was down from 54% to 48% from 2023/24 (the total number fell from 491 to 461). This may in part be related to the decrease in people rough sleeping after moving on from National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) Accommodation following the Home Office move on period being extended from 28 days to 56 days.
- 9.5. Concerningly, there was a 6% increase in people seen rough sleeping year on year, with numbers rising from 253 to 327. The complex needs of this population, ranging from substance use to mental health issues and lack of accommodation options, poses significant challenges. The percentage of people returning to rough sleeping rose by 2%, rising from 152 to 180 people.
- 9.6. Quarterly rough sleeping counts continue, with the most recent in September 2025 identifying 117 people, a slight rise from 104 in September 2024. This increase has been ongoing since 2020 and government funding through the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) has been reduced through tapering and external pressures such as inflation, the rise in NI contributions, and other factors.
- 9.7. A large proportion of people who rough sleep in Camden are non-UK nationals. Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) is a pan-London case management system used predominantly by street outreach services to record contacts with people sleeping rough. CHAIN data for 2024/25 shows only 47.8% are UK citizens, with the remainder holding nationality from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Encouragingly, the amount of people

reporting NASS accommodation as their last settled base before rough sleeping decreased from 27.3% to 17.7% from 2023/24 to 2024/25.

- 9.8. The borough faces some challenges with encampments in the Tottenham Court Road, University College London Hospital (UCLH) / Euston Road, and Abbey Estate / Rowley Way areas. The nature of encampments can limit our ability to get support to people there and increase risks to people in tents, as well as the surrounding community. Partnership responses and close working with Community Safety teams are essential, to ensure harm is prevented, people are supported into accommodation and ultimately encampments are reduced / ended for the benefit of all involved.
- 9.9. To combat these issues, the Camden Commissioning Team deliver a variety of services and initiatives. We continue to work in close partnership with multiple agencies, including health, social care, substance misuse services and Community Safety teams. Specialist support services include:
- Single Homelessness Project (SHP) Navigators: Offering 1-to-1 intensive support for those with entrenched homelessness.
 - Immigration Service: A multi-borough service aiding those with immigration issues.
 - Connect Forward: Supporting clients with no local connection to Camden.
 - Floating Support: Assisting individuals in maintaining their tenancies.
- 9.10. Routes off the Streets: Our Routes off the Streets (RTS) outreach team is dedicated to assessing individuals who are rough sleeping and offering tailored solutions to help them rebuild their lives. These options include:
- National or international reconnection through Connect Forward
 - Short-stay accommodations like the 165 Project, Camden Respite Rooms and St Giles
 - Private rented accommodation
 - Longer-term hostel stays within the Adult Pathway
 - Social housing through our Housing First programme
- 9.11. From October 2024 to end of August 2025, RTS successfully achieved 334 accommodation outcomes for people rough sleeping.
- 9.12. Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP): Each year, Camden's rough sleeping team prepares for severe weather by securing emergency accommodations. This year, we continued to use SWEP sites established last year through partnerships with Swiss Cottage Library and Conway House, which served as resting centres. SWEP is also now delivered through periods of extreme hot weather through a new approach developed with Public Health. During activations:

- 243 referrals were made to SWEP accommodation
- 99 outcomes of accommodation placements
- 22 refusals

9.13. Gray's Inn Road Assessment Centre: 16 new beds at Gray's Inn Road which offer 3-6 months of psychologically-informed support to people with multiple disadvantage who are rough sleeping. Referrals come from our outreach team and are for people both with and without local connection to Camden. This service opened in April 2025 and is funded until October 2027 through government's Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP).

9.14. Housing First: A new Housing First service was mobilised this year, also funded through SHAP from April 2025 until March 2028, which is making 30 additional social housing tenancies available to people with multiple disadvantage who are rough sleeping. Capital funding was used to acquire 10 former Council properties sold under the right to buy and partners Notting Hill Genesis did the same. The Council also brought 10 Council voids back into use. We have begun to provide homes for people, seeing real differences already for people who otherwise have no other housing option. This service is designed to meet the needs of multiply disadvantaged people experiencing homelessness including rough sleeping, whose needs have not been met in their previous accommodation. Camden recognises a need for 'housing led' accommodation for people who are rough sleeping or spent long periods of time homeless. This service provides an offer for 'couples' where domestic abuse is present in the relationship, and whose homelessness can be interdependent and housing them together may not be appropriate or in the survivor's best interest. This service creates a housing led offer, utilising local authority stock, with personalised strengths-based support for each person.

9.15. Partnerships: Camden has a long history of collaboration in health and social care within homelessness services, a relationship that is strengthened by the Council's Homelessness System Partnership Programme which facilitates multi-disciplinary teamwork around homelessness. Current partnerships supporting people rough sleeping in Camden include:

- Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) in Hostel Pathway: A Social Worker and Nurse practitioners from UCLH provide an outreach service embedded in Camden hostels.
- Homelessness social workers: developing referral pathways and integrated working with the dedicated homelessness workers in Camden's Adult Social Care Specialist Support Team
- Drug and Alcohol Teams: Joint outreach by Camden's team, Inroads, and CGL Substance Misuse Service addresses drug and alcohol issues.

- Partnership approach to supporting our Target Priority Group: following Ministry of Housing Community and Local government (MHCLG) guidance, we have developed a cohort of 35 people considered most at risk of fatality while rough sleeping, known as the Target Priority Group. The Adult Social Care (ASC) and Homelessness Steering Group oversees strategic approaches to supporting the cohort and a specific operational group coordinates multi-agency support. The aim is to provide additional support and flex barriers to accessing service where possible to improve engagement and outcomes.
 - Rough Sleeping Encampments Panel: a new multi-agency group overseeing strategic approaches to reducing encampments and minimising harms to those affected by them was launched in September 2025. This group oversees several newly established operational groups coordinating responses to several of Camden's established encampments.
 - Safeguarding Adults Board: the Head of Homelessness is now a member of the Safeguarding Adults Board, improving links with Adult Social Care and rough sleeping services, including the reviews of fatalities when these sadly occur.
- 9.16. Camden's rough sleeping forum: in partnership with Homeless Link we are coordinating a bi-monthly Rough Sleeping Forum which provides a space for services in Camden to come together, learn from each other and work together on issues related to rough sleeping in Camden. Forums have been well attended and included service presentations from Women at the Well, Routes Off the Streets, New Horizons, and Street Vet.
- 9.17. Given that over one-third of rough sleeping in London occurs in Camden or Westminster, central London boroughs face unique challenges. Camden plays a crucial role in developing collaborative solutions with neighbouring boroughs and the North London sub-region. Key initiatives include:
- Cold Weather Shelter: A joint severe weather offer with Westminster during extended cold spells, hosted by Connections at St Martins.
 - Support for Women: Camden again participated in the [National Women's Rough Sleeping Census](#), led by Solace Women's Aid (a charity focused on helping women and children affected by male abuse and violence) in partnership with key organisations. Learning from the survey has helped inform ongoing commissioning considerations regarding women's access to rough sleeping and accommodation services.
 - Monthly Partnership Meeting: we are now meeting with rough sleeping leads in Westminster monthly to review trends and understand each other's challenges and priorities in more detail. City of London will be joining this partnership from September 2025.

9.18. Priorities for the next year include:

- Mobilizing actions from the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-30 – the strategy has been developed and consulted on. Once finalised and approved, we will develop an action plan to deliver the priorities with a focus on preventing and reducing rough sleeping.
- Recommissioning of the Camden Outreach Service – Cabinet approval was acquired in July 2025 to tender for a new outreach service to be operational from April 1st 2026. The procurement will take place in Autumn 2025 with a new specification focusing on psychologically informed support.
- Increasing resources within the Camden Commissioning Team – we will be recruiting specialist coordinators and commissioning manager roles to allow us to better respond to the challenges of the second highest level of rough sleeping in the country. These roles will greatly enhance our partnership capacity, project delivery, and oversight of complex cases.

9.19. We have continued to prioritise the challenges relating to homelessness and rough sleeping throughout the last 12-month period. This has included supporting the development of our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy which we publicly consulted on, mobilising our new Housing First and Assessment Centre services, and approving proposals to tender for a new outreach service to be operational from April 1st 2026. These activities help to ensure we can continue to provide support and accommodation to help people to move away from life on the streets.

9.20. Developing partnerships – new partnerships will be developed and embedded through outreach and co-location at the Hub. These will be with specialist social work, mental health link workers, and our mobile public health intervention team, increasing multi-agency response for people rough sleeping with multiple disadvantage. Strategic partnerships with the Greater London Authority (GLA), other local authorities and third sector providers will also be developed.

- Target Priority Group – progressing support for our TPG cohort through a multi-disciplinary team approach at strategic and operational levels to review cases, provide additional support and flex barriers to accessing service where possible to improve engagement and outcomes.
- Mental Health Support – working in close partnership with the Focus Team and the new sub-regional rough sleeping service commissioned by the Integrated Care Board.
- Mobilizing new funding – a new funding arrangement and settlement will be in place from 2026-27 onwards which will require new commissioning approaches over Winter 2025-26.
- Reducing encampments – minimising the harms associated with encampments is a priority. We have recruited two rough sleeping coordinators, provided grant funding to secure Community Safety and Police

officer time, and developed the new Rough Sleeping Encampment Panel approach to achieve this aim.

10. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

10.1. Camden is a place where VAWG is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The Council has been working conscientiously to ensure we are doing all that we can to create a safer society for our women and girls. We're conscious that VAWG presents itself in many ways from street harassment to domestic homicide and we continue shape our service to reflect these needs. We continue to shape our services to reflect the needs of those with lived experiences of VAWG.

10.2. 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."*

10.3. White Ribbon Day (25 November 2024) and the ensuing 16 days of action which followed in Camden as part of the campaign provided an opportunity to raise awareness of domestic abuse against women and girls. The events were led by front line staff and this year was expanded to include council sites in the wider Borough. It is encouraging that senior leaders and Directors supported the events by leading on the discussions at the different venues. This important campaign continues to influence the development of the Camden VAWG strategy as it aligns with Camden's commitment to work with our statutory partners and voluntary/community organisations to address the unacceptable levels of violence against women and girls and ensure that the lived experience of survivors continues to play a central role in shaping our response.

10.4. Legal Offer: Since May 2023, Camden Community Law Centre (CCLC) provide six weekly consultation slots either by telephone or face to face for victims/survivors of domestic abuse referred to the organisation. Face-to-face appointments happen in 5 Pancras Square. Having a clinic booked by appointment ensures we reach victims/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 work involves either offering one off advice/information or if it is a more substantive issue that is within scope for Legal Aid funding, and the client is eligible, they will open a Legal Help (Legal Aid funded) file. To date the service has provided advice and consultation to over 135 survivors. This work has been funded for a further two years until 2027 and will include an element of advice around immigration which is essential as someone seeks to leave an abusive situation. 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

Camden Safety Net

10.5. Camden Safety Net (CSN) 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.

10.6. This year, CSN received 1,175 referrals, with 54% being new and 46% repeat (this is the same percentage of new and repeat cases as the previous year) Referrals increased from Adult and Safeguarding being the highest referrer and Children and Young People Services a close second. Self-referrals remain steady, which is due to the self-referral form being easily accessible on CSN Camden website.

10.7. Our frontline practitioners are co-located in different service areas to provide advice and advocacy to those who most need it. Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocates (IDSVAs) are co-located in; University College Hospital, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). A new IDSVA co-location is being tested within the family hubs in the east of Camden which commenced mid September.

10.8. We continue to value our partnerships with Camden Law Centres Housing legal advice offer, in addition to this CCLC also now offers CSN with an immigration legal offer which has been very beneficial so far. New DVA complex case workers roles within housing has supported positive outcomes for CSN clients and strengthened partnership work.

Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

10.9. July 2024- June 2025:

- Camden MARAC discusses on average 25 cases every 2 weeks. 458 cases over 12 months which is above Safelives recommendation of 380.
- Core Agencies should have a 100% attendance record as best practice and be at a minimum of a 90% attendance rate. Camden's rate is at 100% for all core agencies.
- Noticeable thinking around perpetrators and disruption includes increased awareness of the DRIVE project and DA Perpetrator Panel referrals.

Perpetrator work

10.10. For too long, conversations have centred around the actions women need to take to protect themselves, rather than placing the onus on tackling male violence. Our male allies play a vital role towards achieving the objective of tackling violence against women and girls and preventing it from taking place for future generations. Our approach must be co-ordinated and recognise the root cause, misogyny and gender inequality. Our perpetrator work is our preventative approach to tackling VAWG aimed at tackling the root cause, misogyny and gender inequality.

- Recruited 4 Intervention Practitioners who will be starting in a phased way over October & November.
- Task & finish professional group set up, have had 2 focus sessions.
- Service Name finalised and agreed in the VAWG SMT "Insight"
- Survivor Support Role in Recruitment phase.
- First analysis of corporate governance and its alignment with the National Respect Standard completed. (Gaps identified and Plan to implement documents & processes to approach these gaps initiated)
- Operational functions; forms; risk assessments, ect. all embedded in the service plan.
- Service Design (leaflets/posters) in process
- Planning to streamline whole system approach to working with perpetrators for professional support spaces (including DRIVE, Restart, Insight as a collective)
- Training around signposting with available services for perpetrators in Camden in progress
- Corporate Objectives around Outcomes/outputs for Perpetrator work embedded in the planning phase.
- DAPP Review in process.

Domestic Abuse Navigator Service(DVAN)

10.11. DVANs is a domestic abuse (DA) and multiple-disadvantage (MD) specialist service based in Camden's VAWG Service, providing assertive outreach, bespoke advocacy and wraparound support to survivors of DA in need of mental support.

The Service mobilised in May 2023 and consists of 1 navigator lead and 4 frontline navigators.

- 10.12. 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). This cohort of women ‘present with high levels of multiple disadvantage and layers of complex trauma’ (Wiser Project, year 4 evaluation). Research highlights that these survivors are often marginalised and excluded from mainstream services, who deem their support needs/risks as “too high” or situate contact within the prism of ‘non/engagement’. They might struggle to have their needs met in services that take a siloed approach. To build inclusion we adapt an assertive outreach approach as our practice model, proactively making our specialist gender and trauma informed VAWG service accessible to women who experience risks that are intersecting, dynamic and complex.
- 10.13. We have noticed good practice of multi-agency working and collaboration for multiply disadvantaged survivors across a range of internal and external services. This includes regular multi-disciplinary teams meetings, regular information-sharing, joint frontline outreach sessions, coordinating support across services and team around meetings.
- 10.14. We have noticed there continues to be ongoing barriers for survivors to access mental health support if they also use substances to cope. This leaves highly traumatised survivors with unmet mental health needs and puts pressure on VAWG and homelessness services to hold this risk when it is not their area of expertise.
- 10.15. We note there are ongoing issues of there being very limited housing options available to multiple disadvantaged survivors meaning they often end up in the adult pathways where they face further abuse and exploitation.
- 10.16. The DA navigators have added value of delivering multiple trainings to other services including hostels, housing first outreach teams and Change Grow Live (CGL). They are also involved in coordinating and participating in the women’s census to bring visibility to women’s homelessness.
- 10.17. The DA Navigators is funded externally via MOPAC who have said they will likely discontinue this Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) funding across many services by the end of April 2027. This means the DA navigators is at risk of being decommissioned, meaning withdrawing this essential specialist offer of support for multiply disadvantaged survivors.

CVAA

- 10.18. Our work reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) continues to evolve and grow through incorporating the lived experiences of the Camden Voices Against Abuse (CVAA) so that we can ensure our services are accessible and well received. CVAA members have embraced new areas of work in particular with our Police officer colleagues working on the front line. They have shared their experiences both positive and negative with front line officers who reported that listening to CVAA members has really influenced their practice and helped in their response
- 10.19. They are now in the process of working to 'reset' Council perceptions and relationships. in the words of a member of CVAA it is "a moment of reflection, recalibration, and reconnection. This reset is an opportunity to rebuild the relationship with transparency, shared values, and accountability.... It's also a chance to honour the courage it takes — for survivors to share, and for professionals to listen with openness and humility."

Women's Safety in the Public Realm

- 10.20. Camden is committed to ensuring that women and girls feel safe in public spaces across the borough. Our approach combines targeted community engagement, partnership working, and evidence-led initiatives to prevent violence, address risk, and empower residents. Central to this work is listening to women's experiences, shaping policy and practice based on their voices, and collaborating with community organisations, the police, and Council services to create safer streets and public spaces for all.

Community Conversation on Women's Safety

- 10.21. Community engagement remains central to Camden's approach to improving women's safety in public spaces. Following recommendations from the Cabinet Adviser on Safety for Women and Girls report Reducing Violence and Abuse for Women and Girls, Camden held its first annual Community Conversation on Women's Safety in November 2024.
- 10.22. Around 70 participants, including community organisations, people with lived experience, the Metropolitan Police, and Council services, attended the event, sharing experiences and exploring practical solutions to enhance safety. Recommendations from the discussion directly informed priority actions for 2025–26, ensuring women's voices shape Council initiatives. Building on this success, Community Conversations on Women's Safety will now take place annually, providing a regular forum for engagement, collaboration, and community-led input.

Strengthening Partnerships with Camden Universities

- 10.23. Camden is home to approximately 25,000 full-time resident students - around 6% of London's higher education population. Recognising the importance of

student safety, particularly for women, the Council has strengthened collaboration with universities across the borough over the past year.

10.24. Joint initiatives have included safety pop-up events on campuses and participation in university welcome programmes for new students in 2025. These activities provide opportunities to promote support services, shared key safety messages, and offer reassurance to new students as they arrive in Camden.

10.25. Through these partnerships, the Council has been able to deliver more targeted outreach within student communities and improve the flow of information between the Council, universities and partners such as the Metropolitan Police, ensuring a more coordinated approach to student safety and wellbeing.

Spiking Awareness

10.26. In recognition of the risks posed by spiking, in 2025 Camden launched a dedicated spiking awareness campaign. Working with the Safer Business Network, we developed information materials and produced a webpage providing clear advice and signposting to report it to the police.

10.27. A borough-wide communications campaign amplified these messages, while targeted engagement with venues and universities ensured information reached a wide audience.

10.28. During the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Spiking Intensification Week 2025, Camden collaborated with the Safer Business Network and the Metropolitan Police to conduct joint engagements with licensed venues. These visits reinforced best practice, promoted safety initiatives, and supported venue staff to be able to respond appropriately in the event of any spiking incidents.

10.29. The Council also held a high-profile awareness-raising event in King's Cross, engaging directly with residents, businesses and visitors to promote spiking prevention and awareness.

Camden Safety Bus

10.30. The Camden Safety Bus continues to provide a safe, visible presence in Camden Town on Friday and Saturday nights. As of early September 2025, Safety Bus Officers had engaged with 1545 people so far in 2025, sharing information about the service and ensuring residents and visitors know how to access its support if needed.

10.31. So far in 2025, 251 people have been supported by the Bus of these 176 were women, these people are supported by receiving services such as intoxication support, advice on onward journeys, provision of water or first aid, and signposting to blue-light services. Beyond individual support, the Bus also acts as a visible

deterrent to crime and harassment, and provides reassurance for everyone enjoying Camden Town's vibrant nightlife.

10.32. Over the past year, the Council launched a new public feedback campaign to gather insights from those using the Safety Bus. Feedback is collected via a dedicated online form, which allows users to share their experiences and suggestions. The input we receive will help inform service improvements.

10.33. In December 2024, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, we collaborated with the Metropolitan Police to deploy the Safety Bus outside King's Cross Station. This raised awareness of the Safety Bus services with a new audience, and promoted key safety messages during this important global campaign.

Welfare & Vulnerability Engagement and Ask for Angela Training

10.34. In partnership with the Safer Business Network, Camden continues to offer free Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) and Ask for Angela training to staff in public-facing roles across the borough's venues. This proactive approach ensures that employees in Camden's night-time economy are equipped to safeguard customers and respond effectively to incidents.

10.35. Over the past year, the Council has partnered with a range of new venues to deliver in-person training sessions. We also continued to promote our e-learning option, to ensure the training is accessible to all.

10.36. Working closely with Camden Licensing colleagues and the Metropolitan Police, we have expanded engagement across a broader range of venues to ensure trained staff are in place across diverse Camden businesses.

10.37. We remain on track to meet our target of 60% of venues with trained WAVE staff by the end of 2028, reinforcing Camden's commitment to safety across the night-time economy.

Partnership Work

10.38. The monthly Women's Safety Working Group brings together Camden Council services, the Metropolitan Police, and partners to coordinate action to improve women's safety borough-wide. The group shares information, plans initiatives, and responds to emerging concerns affecting women and girls.

10.39. Key activities include analysing VAWG data, coordinating Camden's Spiking Awareness campaign, planning university engagement events, promoting training opportunities, and providing advisory input on community concerns.

10.40. Partners, including Public Health and Community Safety, ensure strategies are inclusive, responsive to underrepresented groups, and aligned with Camden's broader women's safety priorities, supporting awareness-raising and training across the borough.

Police action to tackle VAWG

10.41. Our commitment to tackling Violence against Women and Girls continues to be demonstrated across all policing strands where we continually seek to improve. Key achievements during 2024-2025:

- Operation Pledge established to give scrutiny and improved service to victims of police-perpetrated VAWG.
- Increased positive outcomes in VAWG investigations, both for domestic abuse and violence
- Established VAWG strategic board and VAWG delivery group, with partner representation
- Incorporated VAWG into local tasking and coordination process
- White Ribbon 16 days collaborative delivery with partners and outstanding results recognised by Mayor of London visit to Holborn police station
- Police-led engagement event with partners and support organisations further extending links and bringing innovative referral pathways

Performance Financial Year to Date (FYTD) August 2024 > August 2025 (*note this is Camden and Islington Borough Command Unit (BCU) data*)

VAWG outcomes FYTD August 2025

	Central North BCU 2024 FYTD	Central North BCU 2025 FYTD	MPS FYTD 2025
DA VMI	8%	21%	19%
VAWG violence	7%	11%	8%
VAWG DA	10%	17%	15%
Rape (all)	9%	13.9%	12.8%
Rape (non DA)	9%	14.6%	12.5%
Stalking	8%	15%	11%
Other sexual offences	6%	18%	11%

10.42. We will continue our VAWG delivery under the three pillars of:

- 1- Trust and Confidence
- 2- Perpetrator Focus
- 3- Safer Spaces

10.43. Our strategic objectives are:

- To protect women and girls in Central North BCU at home, in public and online.
- To work to the highest possible standards of care and investigation, working with
- partners to provide the best support to victims and prioritising resources and training to
- our officers and staff.
- To engage effectively with women and girls, partners and third sector organisations to
- hear views, inform our response and scrutinise operational delivery.
- To apply an offender centric approach, prosecuting perpetrators, identifying and
- utilising prevention opportunities, including Judicial Orders.
- To take a precise policing approach towards public spaces, using data to target nighttime violence and create more safe space initiatives.

Training and Safe Havens

- 10.44. In partnership with Protection Approaches and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, borough-wide Bystander Training has been rolled out, available to all residents, workers, and students in Camden. Aligned with the We Call It Out campaign, the training empowers participants to take safe, positive action when witnessing harassment, discrimination, or prejudice. Sessions are delivered both online and in person to maximise accessibility.
- 10.45. The Safe Haven initiative is being actively promoted across Camden to local businesses, CVS organisations, council venues, and other public settings. Safe Havens provide temporary refuge for individuals in distress, supported by trained staff, with venues receiving formal accreditation and inclusion on the borough-wide Safe Haven map. Originally fewer than five Safe Havens existed; over 50 venues are now registered, significantly increasing safe spaces across Camden and contributing to the borough's approach to tackling violence against women and girls in public spaces.

Women's Safety Walkabouts

- 10.46. Over the past year, four Women's Safety Walkabouts have been completed across the borough. Each walkabout focused on a different ward and provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with local residents and businesses, assess environmental and community safety concerns, and identify areas for improvement in public spaces.
- 10.47. Key issues reviewed included lighting, visibility, signage, and perceptions of safety after dark. Issues identified from the walkabouts have been actioned, with many ongoing involving services across the council.

10.48. These collaborative events bring together community members, local police, and Council service areas. The aim is to strengthen engagement between the community and key services in relation to understanding women's safety concerns. This will aid a more effective approach to address the issues in partnership with different agencies, services and the community

11. **Conclusion**

11.1. Camden's moto is 'Not for oneself but for all'; a thread that runs through our communities, our strategic partnerships, and our service delivery.

11.2. Our Borough is formed by it's people. Whose life experience is honed by inner city living. On the one hand they enjoy living here, but on the other hand they are impacted by the behaviour of others.

11.3. In our 'We make Camden' vision, we have pledged to work towards achieving a Camden where everyone feels safe, at home and on our streets. A challenge which in Central London with our vibrant cultural mix, and our diverse community can pose many challenges, but with our strong partnerships we work together towards our shared vision of keeping our community safe.

11.4. Diversity is at the heart of Camden, however within this diversity are areas of deprivation and attendant crime and antisocial behaviour. Community safety continues to be an important service which responds to the concerns of our residents regarding their safety. They are at the core of everything we do, part of the eco-system which makes Camden work, and we strive to provide services which meet their needs. This imperative drives us on and is woven into the fabric of all our Council business, aligning with our Camden values.

11.5. We strive to do our best against a background of outside complexities which punctuate daily living in Camden. We have made incredible progress in very challenging circumstances, which is reflected in this report. I am so proud of our community safety team, and the work which has taken place over the course of this year.

11.6. We are determined to tackle our levels of crime and antisocial behaviour, and we have been working meticulously with Council officers, partners and residents towards our shared vision, where our communities feel safe at home and on our streets, as well as being empowered and protected by local services. Listening to people who live in, work in and visit the Borough, continues to be a front-line role in our service delivery, we will continue to incorporate our community voices into our strategies, actions, plans and initiatives, so that we can respond directly to issues to most concern.

- 11.7. We know that on our estates some residents display very challenging behaviours, which impacts on all their neighbours, so together with Councillor Anna Wright and Councillor Sagal Abdi-Wali and myself, we took forward an ASB review, and from the response designed our ASB taskforce, comprising of five specialist officers who work alongside key delivery services; community Safety, Housing, mental health, adult safeguarding and drug and alcohol treatment services, to develop an intelligence led approach towards reducing this activity. This taskforce has received positive feedback from the community, and we are looking to have a wider rollout of the programme, whilst developing a long-term preventative approach to tackling ASB.
- 11.8. Community cohesion is at the forefront of our work, and there are more reassurance visits taking place with both our Muslim and Jewish communities. The Community Cohesion Tension Monitoring Group brings together Council services, CCTV teams and the police in this weekly forum where intelligence is shared, whilst monitoring developments in this area. Our CSO's and CSEO's are working tirelessly with the police and other agencies to ensure there is 'no place for hate' in Camden, within any of our communities. If it does transpire and we are notified of it, then we will tackle it quickly and effectively. Our early intervention is about building community trust and resilience.
- 11.9. Our Drug and Alcohol partnership group provides a multiagency site for understanding and addressing challenges in this field and brings together relevant partners to develop future action plans to expand our knowledge and support.
- 11.10. Sadly the numbers of rough sleepers continue to rise, and we are seeing more larger encampments across Camden. We now have a Rough Sleeping Forum which is a bi-monthly meeting allowing services to come together working and learning from each other on all issues to rough sleeping. I welcome the recent partnership in this area with Westminster who like us, have a major challenge with rough sleepers.
- 11.11. Our Youth Safety Taskforce and Integrated Youth Services continue to work with our youngsters supporting and encouraging them to fulfil their potential. They were recently recognised for their outstanding services to young people by Ofsted, despite the challenges and complexity of an inner-city environment.
- 11.12. We continue to shape our services to reflect those with lived experience of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Our work reducing this distress and misery continues to evolve and grow. Our active communications campaign, plus our perpetrator initiative, has been well received. Helping us to ensure our services are relevant and accessible are the women of The Camden Voices Against Abuse (CVAA)- they have been steadfast and amazing. A special

mention to Angela Mason and Helene Reardon-Bond for their outstanding contributions throughout the year.

11.13. I want to say a 'heartfelt' thanks to all of the people involved in this mission, there are so many of you working night and day, behind the scenes, against very difficult odds. The Council Officers who contributed to this report, our partners in the 'MET', Fire Brigade, Health Service, Voluntary and Community Sector, Housing Team, Adult Social Care teams, Integrated Youth Services and especially our Community Safety team, 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. I am so proud of all of you.

11.14. Finally a mention to Councillor Edmund Frondigoun for his Cabinet Adviser Report on resident engagement on anti-social behaviour and community safety. And to Hannah Bennai who has been immensely helpful with her endless patience, good will and support.

11.15. Thank you, you are our unsung heroes.

12. FINANCE COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

12.1. The Director of Finance has been consulted and has no comment to add.

13. LEGAL COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR

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

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

15. APPENDICES

15.1. Appendix 1 Safer Communities Single Member Decisions

REPORT ENDS