

REDBRIDGE'S SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY



Foreword

From Stuart Bell Chief Superintendent and Adrian Loades Interim Chief Executive

Violence is a pervasive concern that transcends geographic and cultural boundaries. It has devastating consequences for victims, perpetrators, and their support networks, instils fear and brings about division in our communities, and has significant financial, social, and public health consequences for society.

Tackling violence is no easy task, and it will not be solved by a single agency. To tackle the root causes of violence effectively, we must adopt a whole-community approach.

We know that ethnicity, gender, and geographical location shape the lived reality of violence; a whole-community approach also means understanding and addressing the differences in lived experience within our borough. Our commitment to addressing the disproportionate impact of violence on certain groups, such as young Black men, women, and vulnerable adults, underpins our work and vision.

Although considerable work is already underway and there have been positive reductions in the level of violent incidents across Redbridge, even one violent incident is one too many. We know there is more to do to make our communities feel safer.

We want to continually improve our relationship with local people, so that they are empowered to share evidence and contribute to reducing violence.

Our aim is to place the reduction of violent crime at the heart of the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). We will promote a coherent collective vision, reinforce our established priorities for collaborative partnership working, and continue to implement sustainable long-term measures of success.



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Commander



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Introduction

Since 2014 there have been increased levels of serious violence across England and Wales. We know that this has a devastating impact on victims, families, and communities, as well as being costly to society. As a response, the Government introduced the Serious Violence Duty (SVD). The duty ensures relevant services work together to share data and knowledge allowing them to target interventions to prevent serious violence altogether.

The Serious Violence Duty ensures Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) develop a Strategic Needs Assessment based on an evidence-based analysis of information relating to violent crime types, the drivers of crime within the partnership area and the most vulnerable cohorts. The CSP must then develop and implement a Strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Violence is a broad category, encompassing numerous different kinds of violent incidents. This includes violent crimes alongside exploitative and criminal activities where there is an inherent threat of serious violence.

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism.

The London Violence Reduction Unit has collaborated with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, London Councils, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London, and Probation Service to develop a collective understanding for serious violence in London. The Redbridge CSP accepts their definition of serious violence for the purposes of the duty:

"Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences. Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021."

Within this broad scope, our focus centres on reducing harm across the context of victims, offenders, and location.

The causes of violence are complex, and its effects can reach anyone in our communities. However, some people are at much greater risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence, such as those who experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) (such as growing up in a household with domestic abuse, childhood trauma, abuse, or neglect), or those who struggle with substance misuse and addiction. People with learning difficulties and/or disabilities can also be more vulnerable to harm or exploitation.

Differing experiences of the criminal justice system in-part influence our communities' trust in public services and the police; Minority ethnic groups have significantly less

confidence in the police compared to White British people according to data from the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) public perception and victim satisfaction survey.

Our vision

Our ambition for Redbridge is to reduce the long-term scale and impact of violence – making the borough a safer, fairer space for all.

The CSP will adopt a whole-community approach: supporting victims, their families, and the wider communities affected by violent crime, while striving to rehabilitate offenders, and providing positive opportunities to those at risk of becoming involved in violence.

Integral to this vision is our commitment to addressing the disproportionate impact of violence on certain groups – namely, young Black men, women, and vulnerable adults. There is also a focus on the disproportionate experience and impact of violent crime in specific areas of the borough.

Through realising these aims, we aspire to:



Local Partnership Arrangements

In line with the London guidance, the Redbridge Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will be the lead partnership for implementation and ensuring compliance with the duty. The importance of a partnership approach has been embedded throughout with the establishment of a working group of all relevant partners.

The CSP is managed through a multi-agency board Chaired by the Chief Executive of Redbridge Council and the Metropolitan Police Borough Commander and contains senior representatives for each of the statutory and voluntary organisations which make up the partnership.

The Redbridge CSP consists of the following voluntary and statutory organisations:

- London Borough of Redbridge (LBR)
- Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
- London Fire Brigade (LFB)

- North East London Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Redbridge Council for Voluntary Services (RCVS)
- The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- Redbridge Magistrates Court
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)
- Victim Support

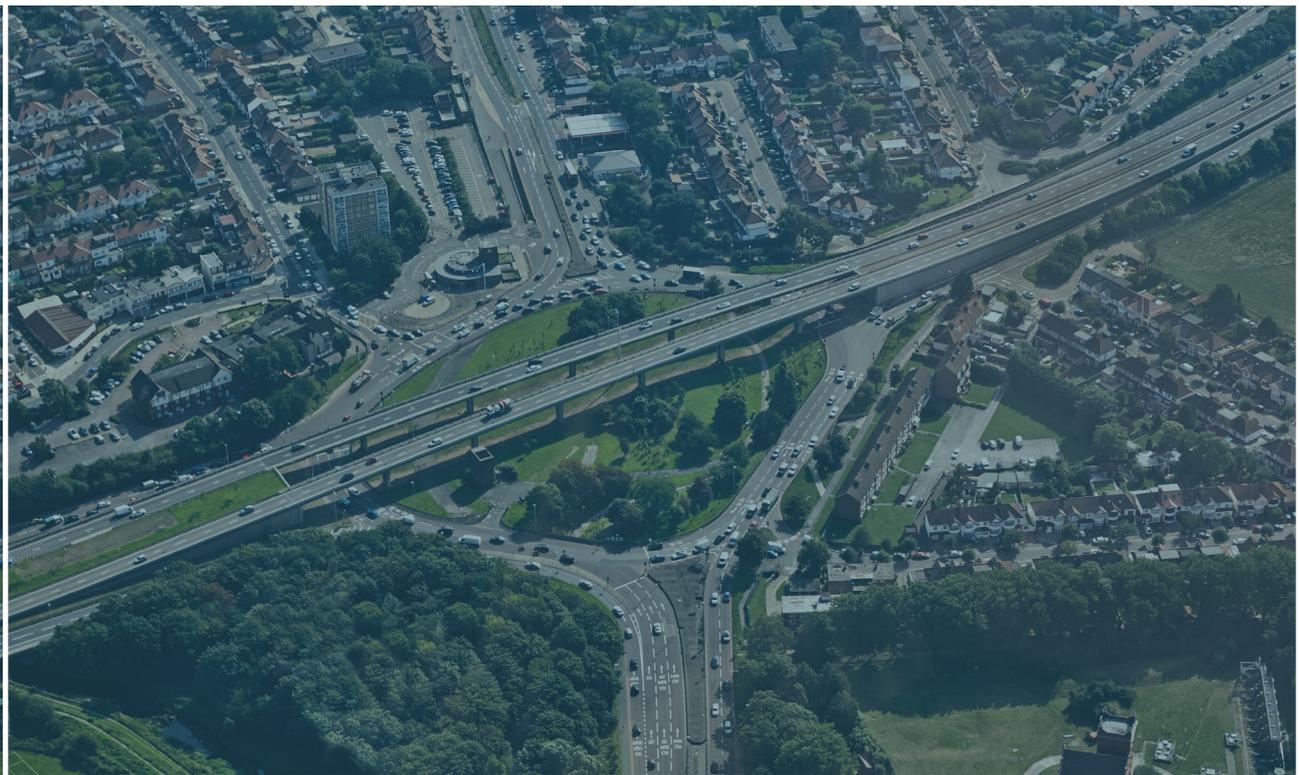
As well as the above bodies the CSP also has representatives from the Ilford Business Improvement District and other community leaders.

The CSP board meets every three months and will monitor both progress against and the content of the Serious Violence Duty and this strategy annually.

A Public Health approach to violence

The Redbridge Community Safety Partnership adopts the World Health Organisation's definition of a public health approach to reducing violence, which:

“Seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence... By definition, public health aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. Programmes for primary prevention of violence based on the public health approach are designed to expose a broad segment of a population to prevention measures and to reduce and prevent violence at a population-level.”



Summary of the Strategic Needs Assessment

The Community Safety Partnership undertook a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) during the summer and autumn of 2023. This assessment was based on the demographics of the borough, current and past crime levels, trends and consultation with the public. It provides insight into key issues and emerging themes related to serious violence; these have been used to inform the development of this strategy.

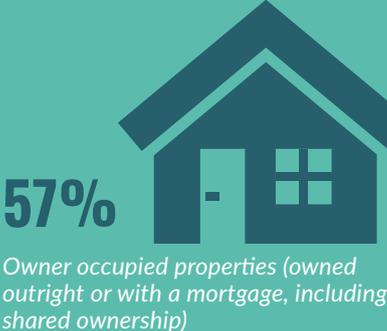
Demography

The population of Redbridge is 310,260 which in an 11% increase since 2011. The population is more concentrated in the east and south of the borough. Redbridge's population is getting older with less growth in the under 30 age groups and significant growth in 35-44 and over 65 age groups.

Redbridge is very ethnically diverse with 23.2% of the residents identifying as White British and 47% identifying as Asian. Islam is the largest religion, with 31% of residents identifying as Muslim, (compared to the London average of 15%).

Redbridge has a huge variation in wealth across the borough, with net annual income varying between £43,400 in Wanstead Village to £20,600 in Loxford. Much of the borough has above-average net income and low levels of deprivation whereas wards in the south such as Loxford and Clementswood, and Hainault in the North, have high levels of deprivation.

Redbridge has a high proportion of homeowners at 57%, and private renting has increased by 39% since 2011. We have the second highest rate of households in temporary accommodation in London. A sharp rise in household size has resulted in an increase in overcrowding in the most deprived parts of the borough. There is an ongoing shortage of affordable accommodation with a social housing stock of 4,485, the third lowest in London.



The average life expectancy for Redbridge has largely followed the same trends as the national average. However, significant inequalities exist within the borough. Residents living in the most disadvantaged areas have a significantly lower life expectancy (6.3 years for males and 5 years for females) than those in the least deprived areas.

Protective & Risk Factors

The number of economically active people has increased in Redbridge by 10% to 75.2% since 2011 but is still below the London average, unemployment is at 5.1%.

Redbridge is ranked 52 out of 331 English and Welsh local authorities, putting it in the top 20% of areas for educational attainment. 42% of Redbridge residents have a level 4 or above qualification and 17% have no qualifications.

Redbridge has a Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) rate for 16 and 17-year-olds of 2.2% which is better than the national but worse than the London average.

Redbridge has a substantially higher percentage of pupils who achieve a Grade 5 or above in English & Maths GCSEs at 64% when compared to geographical neighbours and the national average, all below 49%. This highlights the strength of schools in the borough.

Within the cohort of Children Looked After (CLA) in Redbridge, 61% are male and the average age is 12. There is also an overrepresentation of certain ethnic groups when compared to the population. 18% of the CLA cohort are from a black ethnic group compared to just 8.4% of the borough's population. 24% of the CLA cohort are from mixed/multiple ethnic groups compared to 4% of Redbridge's population.

The number of opiate/crack cocaine users has fallen in Redbridge since 2018/19. The cohort of clients in treatment for substance misuse is majority male at 75% however, the percentage of female users has increased by 5%. This cohort is not ethnically representative of the borough as White British is the largest ethnic group at 40% of clients.

The Redbridge Probation office has a caseload of 1,042 which is 93% male. The largest age bracket is 26-35 years old which accounts for 31% of the cohort. In 2023, 329 cases were violence-related, which equates to 31.57% of the caseload. The 26-35 age group committed the highest volume of violent crimes equating to 29.4%. Violent offences have been consistent in 2022 and 2023, there has been little change in the number of violent offences with only a 1.23% increase. However, drug-related offences on Probations databases have decreased by 34%.

Youth Justice first-time entrants in 22/23 were 83% male and 17% female. The majority were between 15-17 years old but nearly 20% were between 11-13. None of this cohort were given a custodial sentence.

As seen in other areas, there is an over-representation of certain ethnic groups in the Youth Justice Service. Black males are over represented compared to the population of Redbridge.

44% of the offences registered in the Youth Justice Service were violence against the person, including possession of weapon/knife and assault.

The number of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) offences has fallen from 59 in 2019-20 to only 25 in 2022-23.

Redbridge has a disproportionate number of Other Local Authority (OLA) looked after children placed in the borough. This does not only put additional pressure on demand for services, but also increases complexity for safeguarding. This disproportionality is also reflected in the Youth Justice Targeted Prevention Service (YJTPS) with, on average, 19% of the children on the YJTPS caseload being OLA looked after children. Many of these children are placed in Loxford and Clementswood.

The Strategic needs assessment did not highlight the link between alcohol abuse and violence due to a lack of available data on intoxication at the point of arrest. It has been conclusively proven that drunkenness does increase violence. As part of the public health approach outlined earlier in this strategy, alcohol will be considered an additional risk factor in reducing serious violence across the borough.

Crime rates

Redbridge has a crime rate of 84 offences per 1,000 members of the population (lower than the London average of 104), ranking Redbridge 22nd out of the 32 London Boroughs.

The rolling number of offences has decreased in the year to June 2023. The top three offences are:

- Violence Against the Person (28%)
- Theft (18%)
- Vehicle Offences (15%)

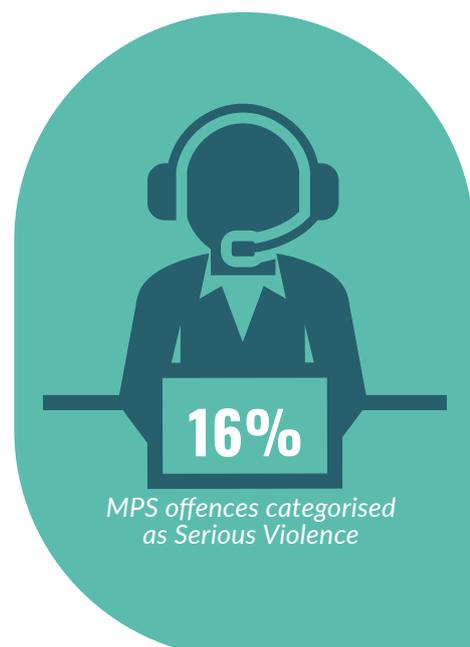
Analysis shows us that in Redbridge the peak in offences occurs between 15:00 and 18:00, this is consistent with other areas in Northeast London.

Crime rates differ hugely amongst wards in Redbridge but follow similar trends to deprivation. Ilford Town is the area with the highest crime rate.

Serious Violence

Serious Violence offences make up approximately 16% of all the offences in Redbridge. This category can be subdivided into two main segments: violence, which constitutes 14% of all crime in Redbridge and Sexual Violence, representing just under 2% of all reported incidents.

In the analysis of Violence Against the Person



Number of Serious Violence Offences and Rate per 1,000 population by Borough



offences, approximately 37% fall under the category of Serious Violence. The main offences within this category are:

- Actual Bodily Harm 58%
- Grievous Bodily Harm at 18%.
- Threats to Kill 14%

Overall, 29% of all Serious Violence offences recorded in Redbridge were flagged as Domestic Abuse.

Between June 2022 and July 2023 there were 388 weapon offences categorised as Serious Violence, with 69 flagged as domestic abuse.

In the 12 months up to July 2023 there were 61 offences committed in Redbridge which were flagged as Modern-Day Slavery, with 49 victims. The majority (73%) of Modern-Day Slavery victims were under the age of 25.

Youth Crime

1,340 under 25s were victims of serious violence between June 22 and July 2023. 52% of these victims were under 18. Half of these victims had no injuries.

In 21% of all robbery cases, both the victim and the suspect were under 25 years old.

For both personal robbery and sexual assault offences, 58% of incidents involved either a young person under 25 as a victim or a suspect.

Domestic Abuse

During the 12-month period spanning from July 2022 to June 2023, a total of 4,673 offences were flagged as domestic abuse incidents. This number includes all incidents mentioned in other parts of this strategy with domestic abuse flags.

Key Themes

The public consultation to support the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty revealed a disparity between the perception of crime and actual crime rates in the borough, with residents believing levels of serious violence are rapidly increasing when

crime data does not reflect this.

Appropriate housing is increasingly challenging due to Redbridge's limited stock and increasing population size. Additionally, the volume of people from other local authorities placed in Redbridge adds to pressure on the housing supply, as well as bringing concerns around crime and violence due to the vulnerability of those being placed in the borough.

Redbridge is an area of huge diversity, bringing many advantages to the borough, but within this diversity there is disproportionality. An over-representation of Black and mixed ethnic groups can be identified in Children's Social Care, Youth Justice, and Probation. This mirrors wider patterns within institutions and systems in the UK but does emphasise there is a need for action.

There is clear disparity evident across Redbridge, with levels of deprivation being far higher in the Northeast and South of the borough, this is mirrored by the trend for household income. Crime rates match the pattern of deprivation with higher rates in the South of the borough and Northeast. This highlights the importance of a hyper-local approach as otherwise issues may be overlooked when studying averages for the whole borough.

Youth violence is a key priority in London. However, data reveals that within the category of serious violence, 33% of victims and 21% of suspects are under 25 in Redbridge. This percentage is lower than the rate of serious violence in older age groups and indicates that youth crime is not as significant an issue here as in other parts of London. Within the cohort of clients in treatment for substance misuse, the largest age bracket is 40-49 at 34% and only 4.1% are 18-24 years. This follows the same pattern of an older age of vulnerability in Redbridge.

However, weapon offences are more common for under 25s than older offenders. This mirrors national and regional patterns and shows that a specialised approach is needed for under 25s.

While we are satisfied the SNA has provided an accurate overview of the key issues relating to serious violence in Redbridge. We are aware that there are potential gaps in the data capture due to lack of availability of some up-to-date information. As this strategy is renewed annually, we will work across the partnership to rectify these gaps and continually improve the knowledge and understanding of issues across the borough.

Aims and Priorities

The core priorities agreed by the Redbridge Community Safety Partnership, which form the overarching Safer Redbridge Strategy are:

- Women and girls' safety
- Domestic abuse
- Drug-related crime and street violence
- Anti-social behaviour
- Burglary

The above priorities correspond to the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) priorities listed below,

- Tackling knife crime
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Fighting extremism and hate crime.
- Improving the service victims of crime receive.

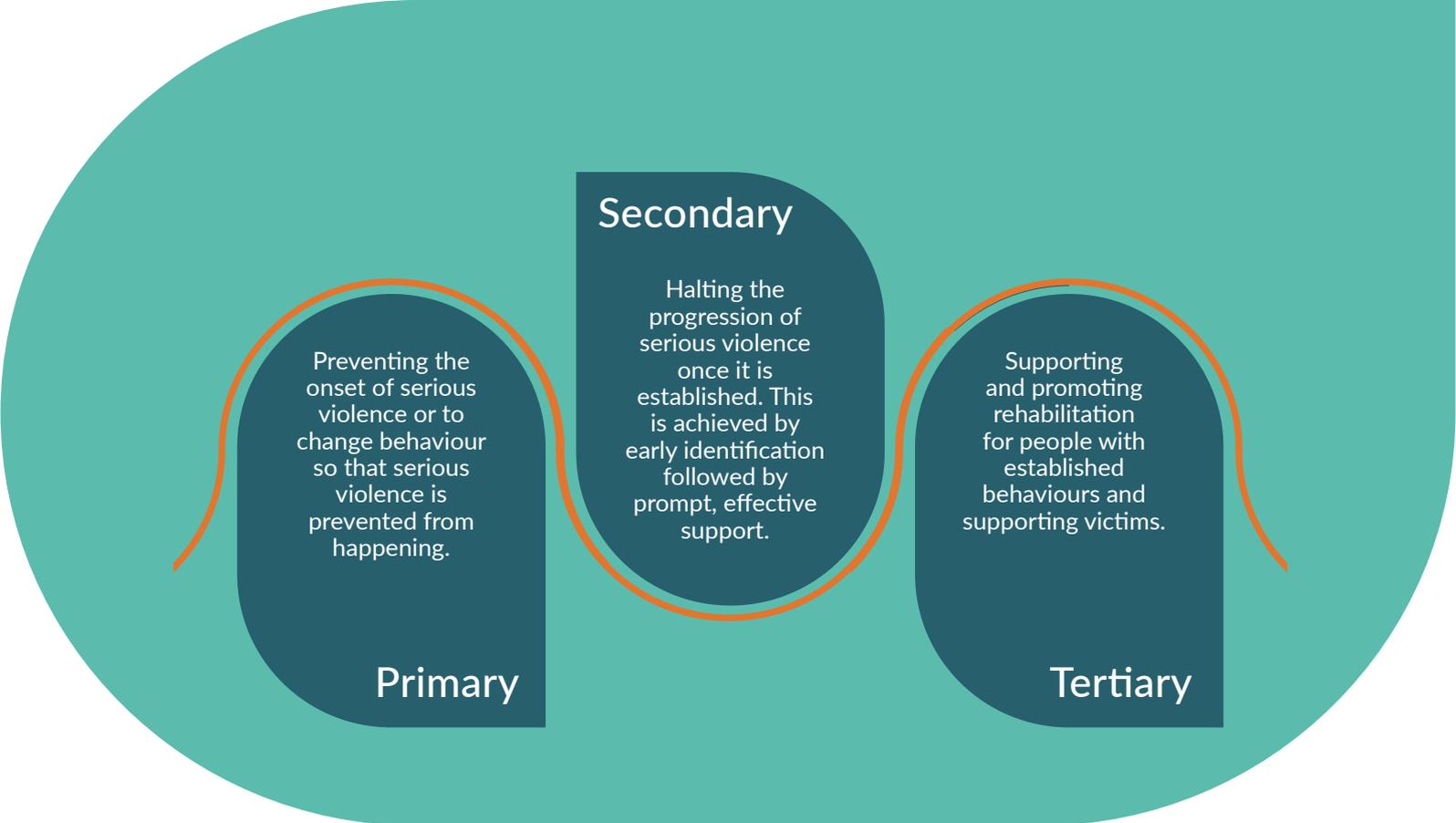
Our aim is to prevent and reduce serious violence across Redbridge. To do this, we must identify and address the drivers of serious violence and assess needs using a data-driven approach to manage resources and measure outcomes. This strategy will enhance and compliment the work outlined in the existing Safer Redbridge Strategy.

Serious Violence Duty Priorities (To be reviewed annually)

To address violent crime and support victims our priorities are to:

- Reduce violent crime across the borough.
- Target interventions to areas and families most in need.
- Work with community organisations to generate community solutions.
- Reduce drug related activity as a generator of violence.
- Increase support for those experiencing violence in the home.
- Improve safety for women in public places and reduce sexually motivated crime.
- Target persistent offenders.

To deliver these violence priorities, we will focus the partnership approach to prevention in the following ways:



Preventing the onset of serious violence or to change behaviour so that serious violence is prevented from happening.

Primary

Secondary

Halting the progression of serious violence once it is established. This is achieved by early identification followed by prompt, effective support.

Supporting and promoting rehabilitation for people with established behaviours and supporting victims.

Tertiary

Primary prevention so violence does not occur. We will:

- Embed serious violence as a shared priority across the Partnership taking a whole system, public health approach to its prevention.
- Recognise the power of sharing information across agencies to promote truly early interventions for people at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.
- Rethink our approach to early intervention to better identify vulnerability and lower thresholds for those who would benefit from support.
- Engage children and families to coproduce a range of services that offer support to families and interventions to divert young people from criminality.
- Ensure services respond effectively when issues do occur.
- Develop partnerships with the third sector to increase youth diversion and youth mentoring opportunities.
- Promote awareness of support services among parents, businesses, professionals, and communities.
- Work with our communities and use their expertise to make Redbridge a safer place for all.

Secondary prevention to halt the progression and escalation of serious violence. We will:

- Provide support to families perpetrating or experiencing serious violence to interrupt the intergenerational cycle of violence.
- Work with schools to identify and ensure holistic support for young people involved or at risk.

- Work with licensed trade to help reduce alcohol related violence.
- Develop and deliver targeted education and prevention programmes and support to those more vulnerable to, or at risk of, serious violence.
- Use all partnership assets in a coordinated way to improve outcomes across the Borough.
- Promote our new youth intelligence panel to ensure appropriate levels of referrals and issues are prioritised. The panel has representatives from statutory and voluntary sector to ensure essential information is shared in a timely fashion.
- Develop and support mentoring programs for our most vulnerable young people.
- Provide targeted educational and prevention programs and support services to those who are more vulnerable to, or at risk of, serious violence.
- Promoting positive activities and improve opportunities for children to divert them from harm.

Tertiary prevention to support victims and rehabilitate offenders. We will:

- Ensure that all public services can identify and respond to serious violence.
- Create a network of women and men with 'lived experience' who are willing to mentor and support those who are seeking life changes.
- Develop an effective, integrated range of services to meet the needs of victims and offenders (children, adults, and families).
- Continue to invest and improve in our domestic abuse services across all areas from support to victims and families experiencing abuse through to perpetrator programmes to support abusers who are willing to change.
- Provide victims with support and non-judgmental guidance during their decision-making process.
- Deliver programs to support people in stopping harmful behaviours.

The annual strategic needs assessment will allow the CSP to monitor the effectiveness of this approach. The focus on outcome measures will ensure the effective targeting of resources to reduce violence. These measures are detailed in the local Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan.

These priorities will be reviewed annually as part of the process for renewing the Serious Violence Strategy, as outlined in the governance section of this strategy.

Principles of Delivery

Data Analysis

- We will continually use and review data from a range of sources to ensure we understand serious violence locally. Identifying risk factors and drivers for serious violence.
- We will continue to work with the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and all partners in the CSP to develop community led approaches and evidence-based interventions.

Listening to the community

- We will continue to engage with the community locally to understand their views and concerns about serious violence.
- We will work with voluntary and community groups to deliver interventions where they are most needed.
- We will continue to work in partnership, supporting victims, their families, and communities timely and effectively.

Partnership

- The CSP will continue to work together, aligning priorities and working collaboratively to reduce all forms of serious violence.
- We will develop our partnerships with organisations sitting outside of our local CSP to improve information sharing, intelligence, and violence reductions.
- We will work across services to improve support for those transitioning from childhood to adulthood, to ensure support networks are maintained.

Trauma informed approach

- We will continue to develop a trauma informed workforce, improving our response to those who have suffered adverse childhood experiences.
- We will work with perpetrators and victims, taking a whole family approach to provide holistic support to those affected by serious violence.

Measuring our impact

With the nature of a public health, trauma informed approach, and the focus on tackling the root causes of serious violence, it is anticipated that while there will be some short-term progress, the main impacts of this strategy will be felt over the medium and longer-term. To demonstrate improvements, a performance framework for this strategy and its priorities will be developed.

Implementing the strategy

The implementations of this strategy will be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CSP will ensure that plans and programmes are delivered effectively. The CSP will govern this strategies reviews, establish priorities, and challenge and manage performance. It will also share good practice and champion achievements, whilst identifying and managing risks.





For more information about Redbridge
Community Safety Partnership:

[www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-
andpublic-safety/redbridge-
communitysafety-partnership/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-andpublic-safety/redbridge-communitysafety-partnership/)