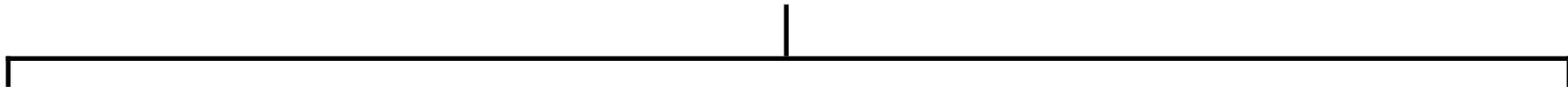




Making Redbridge Safe

Our plan 2022—2025

Community Safety Partnership



Executive summary



The Community Safety Partnership brings together all the key agencies in tackling crime in Redbridge. Our mission is to create a borough that is safe for us all.

Ours is a borough of contrasts, with bustling town centres and peaceful parkland. We are a growing borough, with more than 305,000 residents – 40% of whom are aged under 30. Providing opportunities for everyone to thrive means that we must target our resources where they are most needed.

During 2021 the Community Crime Commission – an independent board convened by the Council – reviewed the evidence, producing a report with 48 recommendations. Their work, bringing together the latest data and lived experience, has shaped the priorities for this strategy. It is a strategy focused not just on responding to crime as it happens, but on tackling the causes of criminality.



It puts the needs of victims first and foremost, recognising their right to feel safe and supported. But it also recognises that criminal behaviour is complex and our approaches to tackling it must be intelligence-led and targeted. Our wide-reaching strategy aims to identify and divert young people who might be vulnerable to crime at the earliest point; while addressing the insidious behaviours of those whose wrongdoing has become habitual or extreme.

This strategy sets an ambitious agenda to tackle the scourge of **violence against women and girls**, to create **new opportunities for young people**, to **break the cycle of addiction and criminality**, and to **reduce violence on our streets**.



Bringing together agencies and local people with renewed energy, the Community Safety Partnership is committed to creating a safer Redbridge for us all.

Introduction



There can be few more important goals than being safe. Our borough should be a safe place to live, work, travel and socialise. For everyone.

And while there are significant challenges to address, it is that vision for safety that drives the work of the Community Safety Partnership. This partnership brings together the key agencies involved in tackling crime. The aim is to create a joined-up response to the issues that matter most to local people. To ensure effective and timely delivery of services and to disrupt the activity of those who seek to do harm.

Our strategy is in line with the recommendations from the National Police Chief's Council and recognises that tackling crime requires an holistic approach, with partnerships across boundaries key to driving success. It is a robust approach, one that believes social justice can only be achieved when we provide opportunities to minimise crime but also seek redress for those that perpetuate wrongdoing.

This new strategy is based on the latest evidence from those working in crime reduction and is informed by the lived experience of people from across the borough. Over the coming years we pledge to further forge those links, working together to improve safety, and to enable Redbridge, in all its rich diversity, to thrive.



Claire Symonds
Chief Executive
Redbridge Council



Chief Supt Stuart Bell
Borough Commander
Redbridge



“The coming years will see us redouble our efforts to tackle the challenges that undermine our residents and our borough. From improving youth services to ensuring justice is delivered, our commitment to making Redbridge safe is unwavering.”



Cllr Jas Athwal
Leader
Redbridge Council



Cllr Khayer Chowdury
Cabinet Member for Crime
Safety and Community Cohesion

Making Redbridge safe



Our plan 2022 – 2025

The Community Safety Partnership is responsible for developing a long-term strategy to tackle crime and to report annually on progress towards achieving its goals. It is also required to implement a strategy to reduce reoffending and to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews when they occur. To work effectively, intelligence must be shared through an Information Sharing Protocol.

The Serious Violence Duty places a new emphasis on partnership working with agencies and residents, acknowledging that crime has disproportionate impact on specific communities and that tackling it requires us to adopt a 'public health' approach.

The backdrop for this strategy is complex. Covid-19, global security concerns and the cost of living crisis are pressing concerns for many people and organisations. But against this context, the need to work with communities, to join up our services and to prioritise the areas of greatest need is paramount.

This strategy has been shaped following a thorough review of the situation in the borough and benefits from the expert insight provided by the Community Crime Commission.

This independent board, convened by the Council, was made up of people with deep roots in the borough and with experience including education, youth services, policing, and behaviour change. They met throughout 2021 to consider the best ways to tackle crime. They were able to examine information about the data, trends and locations of crime across the borough.

With this insight they were able to ascertain how crime is experienced differently in different parts of the borough and to identify the steps needed to improve Redbridge. Their findings recognise the impact that crime has on victims as individuals, but also how it tarnishes the many qualities and resources that are to be found in the borough. Their recommendations form the priorities for our Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2022–2025.

Our priorities

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

Our goals, which align with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Crime and Police Plan 2022–2025, are designed to reduce violent crime in our borough, to protect against hate crimes and keep our residents safe from radicalisation.

And while we will focus our efforts on these areas, we know that tackling the causes of crime means that we must do more to support young people before they become involved in criminality. We must support the victims of crime, ensure offenders face justice and empower our communities to play their part in improving our borough.



Redbridge – an overview



Our previous strategy prioritised safeguarding against radicalisation, robbery and burglary, as well as safeguarding vulnerable victims, preventing people slipping into criminality, and a focus on Ilford Town Centre. This has forged effective new partnerships which will help us to achieve our goals as we look ahead to the new strategy.

A series of targeted joint operations have disrupted criminal activity across the borough, while new partnerships with voluntary sector specialists such as Refuge, Frenford Clubs, Lifeline, Box-Up Crime and Naz Legacy Foundation have increased our capacity and reach into our diverse communities.

And while we have seen an increase in recorded offences of 6.6% (2020–2021) we recognise that increased reporting of domestic abuse and hate crimes also reflects the renewed confidence that victims (of these often ‘hidden’ crimes) have in coming forward to report these acts.



But despite our efforts, local people have told us that they do not feel safe in the borough.

We are living in unprecedented times. Times when many people are fearful for themselves and their families.

We are determined that the work of the Community Safety Partnership will improve the lives of local people. In this strategy we commit to redouble our efforts to secure the Redbridge we all deserve.

By looking in detail at how our diverse communities experience crime our coming plan can precisely target resources where they are **most** needed.



Our priorities





Our #1 goal: Women and girls feel safe at home, on the street and in workplaces

Women + girls' safety

Too many women report feeling unsafe in Redbridge. To compound this, many lack the confidence that complaints will be believed or addressed. This is not good enough. Our strategy will focus efforts on improving public spaces and other locations which women tell us make them feel unsafe.

We will strengthen the responses of our services, creating the conditions where women and girls know they will be listened to and that action will be taken. A network of community allies will build partnerships across the borough, and perpetrators will be rigorously challenged.

Our approach

Our partnership will work with women to complete crime prevention audits for our high streets, identifying design and maintenance improvements which will make public spaces safer.

Alongside education partners, we will ensure schools are safe places for young people to learn about healthy relationships, to challenge the behaviour of boys who harass, and to support girls to be confident and safe wherever they are both physically and online.

Working directly with communities, we will recruit and train additional women's safety champions – leaders who can support change across the borough.

Working with local businesses and organisations we will provide support to create safe workplaces.

Providing guidance to ensure workplace policies, procedures and training reflect our ambition to protect women from harassment and misogyny.

We will provide support to create safe workspaces.

Measuring our success

Increasing:

In the short term, we will see an increase in women reporting abuse, reflecting their confidence to speak out; while in the longer term we are focused on reducing these crimes.

Increasing:

Women increasingly use, and feel safe, in public spaces – such as our town centres and parks.

Increasing:

Businesses that sign up to promote women's safety initiatives.

Increasing:

The effectiveness of programmes to support healthy relationships among young people, challenging the norms that allow violence and misogyny to persist.

Reducing:

The number of spaces where women report feeling unsafe – targeting resources at environmental improvements and tackling men who harass women.

Reducing:

Tolerance towards violent, abusive and intimidating male behaviours.



Domestic abuse

Our goal: To ensure victims are supported to be safe and to create change so that domestic abuse is no longer tolerated.

Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime. But it is estimated that 10,000 people in Redbridge experience domestic abuse from an intimate partner every year. The impact on families can be devastating, traumatising those involved and negatively impacting their wellbeing for life.

We are determined to shine a light on this crime, offering greater support for victims to be safe and stopping abusers in their tracks.

Our approach

We will streamline access to support – making it simpler for victims to get help and bringing together the various agencies to share information and reduce the burden on families

We will create a five-year training strategy to equip public, community and voluntary sector workers across the borough to spot the signs of domestic abuse, creating spaces for victims to speak in confidence and begin their journey to safety. At all stages, our practices will seek to learn from the feedback provided by service users, underpinning our aim for continuous improvement and a user-focused approach.

We will develop and publish an action plan on improving victims' confidence in police services.

Publish an action plan on improving victims' confidence in police services.

Measuring our success

Increasing:

The numbers of victims who come forward and receive help – emboldened by the knowledge that they will be respected, listened to and their rights supported.

Increasing:

Support to families at the earliest possible moment to keep them safer sooner, and reducing high-risk situations.

Increasing:

Safe spaces across the borough, with frontline professionals trained to spot the signs of domestic abuse and offer quality guidance.

Increasing:

Understanding of healthy relationships among young people, empowering them to be safe for life.

Increasing:

The availability of and participation in perpetrator programmes – changing the behaviours of those who do harm and reducing reoffending rates.



Drug-related crime & street violence

Our goal: To ensure that every street is safe, disrupting those who cause disorder and protecting our young people from the harm caused by gangs and criminality.

Our approach

To halt the pipeline that sees vulnerable young people's futures blighted by crime – both as victims and perpetrators. This work must be ambitious and comprehensive, working to identify children who may be at risk, supporting them with purposeful, relevant and engaging diversionary pathways. A new youth diversion strategy will see the expansion of provision, building on evidence of the success of projects like Box Up and Evolve and Adapt mentoring and reaching further across the borough.

Our approach is in line with the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty – a framework that puts intelligence-led intervention and engagement at its centre, ensuring an holistic, 'public health' approach to tackling the causes of crime.

We will establish a renewed focus on Our Streets Strategy, working with local communities to make our public spaces safer. We will regenerate underused high street properties and establish Community Hubs to provide safe, local facilities for young people to develop their confidence and skills.

We will increase intelligence-sharing across agencies – ensuring that information on criminals, locations and venues is shared in a timely way and resources targeted to disrupt and improve.

*... working with local communities to
make our public spaces safer*

Measuring our success

Increasing:

Programmes of support for secondary age children and their parents, ensuring that we have a robust safety net around our most vulnerable residents, including those who have been in the care system. Our efforts will focus on the needs and wellbeing of young people, intervening early to avoid the risks of being drawn into crime.

Increasing:

Efforts to remove the blight of drugs and the drug market from our communities, focusing enforcement on drug dealers, drug users and the stolen goods market.

Increasing:

The numbers of offenders undertaking drug and alcohol treatment to break the cycle of addiction and crime.

Reducing:

The numbers of people who reoffend after leaving prison, through proactive enforcement and improving pathways to support.

Reducing:

Youth violence on our streets.

Reducing:

Numbers of weapons on our streets and the routes for young people to obtain them.



Antisocial behaviour

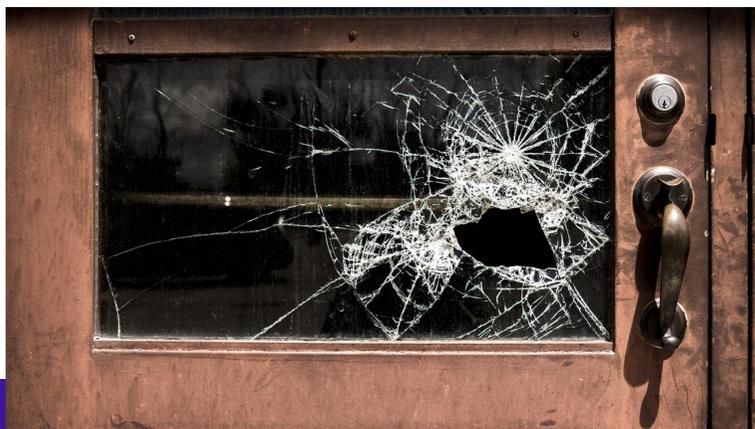
Our goal: Begging, verbal abuse, littering, drug-taking and graffiti mean that too many areas feel neglected and unwelcoming. We aim to turn the tide on this nuisance, ensuring that residents can feel pride in their communities and in public spaces across Redbridge.

Our approach

Working smarter, we will make better use of intelligence – including increased CCTV coverage, more targeted approaches for safer neighbourhood policing and by increasing the uniformed presence in hotspots such as parks.

Programmes such as Our Streets Strategy need to pick up pace, working with residents and businesses to capture and share the information that can be used to tackle antisocial behaviour. But we must also tackle the root causes of problems, providing better outreach and support for those affected by drug and alcohol use, as well as those who may be on our streets as a result of homelessness.

During the course of this strategy we will energise partnerships between agencies and citizens to renew pride in our borough.



...energise partnerships between agencies and citizens to renew pride in our borough

Measuring our success

Increasing:

Trust and collaboration between residents and agencies – strengthening community resilience and joint efforts to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Increasing:

Localised problem-solving, with input from residents shaping the work of police and enforcement agencies in their area.

Increasing:

Focusing council and police enforcement on individuals responsible for persistent antisocial behaviour.

Reducing:

The volume of abusive, intimidating and antisocial behaviour.



Burglary and theft

Our goal: Our residents should know that burglary is treated seriously and can be confident that agencies prioritise prevention activities as well as respond actively and personally when it happens.

Our approach

With a tailored plan for each ward, we will develop targeted, intelligence-led approaches for each area. Our efforts will enable people to improve the security of their homes, including subsidising equipment and improving safety features within social housing.

Every victim of burglary will be offered a visit from the police, with additional support afforded to nearby residents who may be fearful of their own risk. More effective working between police, council engagement officers, Street Watch and neighbourhood groups can amplify preventative and responsive work, increasing confidence among residents.



Every victim of burglary will be offered a visit from the police, with additional support afforded to nearby residents

Measuring our success

Increasing:

The numbers of police visits to victims and overall victim satisfaction rates. Home security improvements to help residents feel safer.

Increasing:

The resilience and partnership working of communities and agencies to improve safety and confidence across ward hotspots.

Increasing:

The impact of programmes and support for young people and their parents, ensuring that we have a robust safety net around our most vulnerable residents.

Increasing:

The numbers of offenders undertaking drug and alcohol treatment to break the cycle of addiction and crime.

Reducing:

Continue to drive down burglary rates across the borough.

Reducing:

The numbers of people who reoffend, through proactive enforcement and improved pathways to support.



Strengthening
our services

Strengthening our services

Strengthening public services is a vital part of delivering our goals. Feedback has highlighted areas where agencies can, and should, work better together. During the course of this strategy, we will ensure that our working practices are fit for purpose with multidisciplinary teams working to:

- Create a youth diversion and early intervention strategy to drive prevention
- Reinvigorate community spaces
- Develop and implement an intelligence-sharing database for use across agencies and to make better use of evidence generated by residents.
- Increase residents' engagement and confidence in our drive for a safer borough.

Our focus is on tackling crime as it happens today and taking the steps that will reduce the occurrence of crime in the future. Our residents deserve nothing less.

Membership of the Community Safety Partnership

- Metropolitan Police Service
- London Borough of Redbridge (the council)
- London Fire Brigade
- National Probation Service
- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- NHS North East London
- Primary Care Trust
- Redbridge Equalities and Community Council
- Victim Support
- Redbridge Council for Voluntary Services
- Redbridge Safer Neighbourhood Board (RSNB)
- North East London Foundation NHS Trust
- Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust

Further information



For more information about Redbridge
Community Safety Partnership:

www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-and-public-safety/redbridge-community-safety-partnership/