



Council Community Safety activity in Waltham Forest

As a council we are committed to making Waltham Forest a place where residents feel safe and secure in their homes and neighbourhoods. By adopting a cross-council approach to community safety, we have made preventing and reducing crime and ASB everybody's business. Our key actions and achievements include:

Tackling anti-social behaviour

- Our 12 ASB officers support the borough's 280,000 residents with issues such as vandalism, noise disturbance or harassment. This includes investigating complaints, mediating disputes, supporting victims and gathering evidence for enforcement actions.
- Our three, locality-based, problem-solving teams in the north, centre and south of the borough bring together the council, police and other key partners to share data and insight and work together to solve priority, local ASB issues such as drug dealing and street harassment. Currently, the multi-agency teams are pooling knowledge, resources and expertise to tackle 77 priority ASB locations, properties or individuals across the borough.
- In September, Parkguard, Waltham Forest's patrol services, carried out 350 taskings at locations across the borough to investigate ASB issues and provide reassurance.
- Over the last 12 months, our officers have taken robust enforcement action to tackle ASB which has included issuing:
 - 350+ formal warning letters to individuals engaging in nuisance behaviour such as aggressive begging or harassment.
 - 50+ Community Protection Warnings or Notices requiring individuals to stop their behaviour or face penalties.
 - 30+ premises closure orders, often relating to drug use occurring on or around a property.
- We have provided targeted support to 65 ASB victims over the last 12 months, mainly related to neighbour disputes around noise and harassment, which included investing £3,000 in security measures such as personal alarms and ring doorbells, and also in the provision of therapeutic, emotional and advocacy support.

Building safer places

- Investing £1 million in our state-of-the-art CCTV facilities which are staffed 24/7, 365 days of the year, and include over 1,000 CCTV cameras at crime



and ASB hotspots across the borough. 42 cameras are re-deployable to other areas as new ASB and crime issues emerge, costing £360 each per month and £500 to deploy. We also have a live stream direct to the police borough control room so they can see images in real time.

- Creating safer town centres and industrial areas by investing over £600,000 from central government funds and local developer contributions in new paving, street lighting and other initiatives to design out crime and ASB by improving surveillance and creating safer, greener more inclusive public spaces.
- Working with housing services and external partners including the police and VCS to identify, address and prevent ASB through community engagement and appropriate enforcement measures in homes owned and managed by the council.

Protecting our young people from crime and violence

- Funding a new multi-agency team of specialist case workers to work alongside partners to address the root causes of gang violence, and drive coordinated enforcement activity, curbing violence while simultaneously offering gang involved members a safe way out
- Developing a 'Safer Routes' pilot, which places trained chaperones around secondary schools at times and places where we know risk of violence is heightened.
- Extending and promoting our network of 'safe spaces' to locations across the borough so young people have places they can go to if they feel worried or unsafe, with friendly, welcoming staff trained to provide support and signpost them into relevant services
- Secured external funding for specialist, commissioned services to provide expert support to young people who are most vulnerable to violence and exploitation to reduce the risks they face (1,665 young people were supported over the last 12 months).
- Continued to commission Barnardo's to deliver the evidence based LifeSkills programme that in 16 primary schools across the borough. In the last academic year, 4,380 children received the programme, building their resilience to prevent involvement in risky behaviours.
- Undertaken 121 sessions with key stakeholders and partners which included engaging with 1,261 residents, young people and business owners during this year's summer holiday plan which aims to reduce serious violence among young people.



- In the 12 months to July 2024, our trained young advisors have engaged with 3,000 young people in crime hotspot areas across the borough through Streetbase, our flagship peer-to-peer outreach programme.

Find out more about what we are doing to tackle knife crime in our '[Keeping Young People Safe](#)' Strategy.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

- Since 2022, our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) team has partnered with community organisations to put the needs of women firmly at the heart of our approach to preventing and tackling violence and abuse. This has included working with commissioned partners to provide:
 - targeted practical, emotional and therapeutic support to over 5,000 survivors through our drop-in and community in-reach session.
 - training and awareness raising programmes to over 2,000 residents in a range of settings including libraries, gyms, cafes and schools.
 - personal and group programmes for residents who have used violence and abuse, challenging attitudes and facilitating long-lasting behaviour.

Building stronger, more cohesive communities

- Engaged over 1,350 residents in our [Citizens' Assembly on the future of Neighbourhood Policing](#), resulting in tangible recommendations that are driving the council and policing to take sustained action to reshape local policing and strengthen trust across our communities. This includes trialing new approaches to police-community engagement that ensure the voices of our diverse communities are heard and responded to.
- Conducted a citizen panel with 26 residents on how we could improve community cohesion. As a result, we are reinvigorating our 'No Space for Hate' campaign and actively promoting our 'Stand by Me' training, including working with victims of hate crime to produce powerful communications pieces in a range of languages. Residents can sign up for the training [here](#).
- Following the summer riots, we developed a briefing on the Extreme Far Right and workshops were delivered to 30 designated safeguarding leads and headteachers in schools. We continue to make this offer available to every school.
- Working with local mosques to devise a programme of activity for Islamophobia Awareness month, which will include a public facing workshop on "Tackling Islamophobia together", promoted through mosques and faith groups.



**Safe, green neighbourhoods
where everyone can thrive**

**MISSION
SIX**

Reducing reoffending

- Working collectively with partners through our multi-agency Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme to ensure high-risk offenders receive bespoke interventions targeted at their individual needs, including education, training, employment and housing support to break the cycle of repeat offending.