



Strategic Partnership Boards  
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING

## October 2025, Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children and Community Safety Partnerships' Response to the **Thematic Review into Violence Affecting Black Boys**

We acknowledge the findings of the thematic review into violence affecting Black boys in Waltham Forest which highlights the disproportionate impact of serious violence and the urgent need for systemic change.

As statutory partners, we are united in our commitment to addressing this issue. We recognise that violence is not inevitable, and that the vulnerabilities identified - school exclusion, SEND, previous criminal justice involvement, and intersectionality - require a coordinated, multi-agency response which we will drive collectively through our statutory partnerships.

We have already started implementing changes, including:

- Investing in community-led violence reduction initiatives and trauma-informed training.
- Strengthening early intervention and safeguarding, particularly at key transition points.
- Reconfiguring alternative provision and expanding inclusive education.
- Building trust between young people and police through community-led forums and mentoring.
- Expanding youth provision and career opportunities.
- Improving mental health support, especially for Black boys and young men.
- Enhancing intelligence gathering and workforce development.

We will continue to work with children, families, and communities to co-design solutions, monitor progress, and ensure accountability. Our collective mission is to create safer, more inclusive environments where all children can thrive.

