

**Croydon Youth Safety Plan**  
**2023 – 2026**

**September 2023**

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Intro from Croydon's Elected Mayor

Intro from Croydon's Borough Commander

# 1. Introduction

The Mayor's Business Plan 2022 – 2026, Outcome 4 centres on “**Croydon being a cleaner, safer, and healthier place, a borough we're proud to call home**”. A key priority is to tackle anti-social behaviour, knife crime and violence against women and girls so that Croydon feels safer.

As part of this, the mayor has committed to delivering a **Youth Safety Delivery Plan** that focuses on keeping children and young people safe on the streets of Croydon. The plan will crucially be delivered by working in partnership with children, young people, and young adults, communities and families, and the voluntary sector.

## Context

- It is important to recognize this is not a new issue in Croydon, and that a significant amount of work has already taken place by the Council, the statutory partnership, the wider voluntary sector and residents and communities themselves.
- This plan looks to build on that work, learning from the successes and challenges.
- It is part of our wider Community Safety strategy to make Croydon safer for young people. Working in partnership with Children's Services, Police, Community groups and other partners we aim to reduce violence and the fear of violence for young people.
- Over the last year we have already changed how we try to protect young people, through targeted interventions, working closely with trusted voluntary sector partners in high-risk areas, and better identifying young people at risk. This plan will take those changes faster and further.
- We need to consider areas where racial discrimination (in education, the criminal justice system, policing or wider society) might lead to young people of African and African-Caribbean heritage being more susceptible to becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.
- It is important to recognize that the lines between offender and victim are blurred in this space, and young people can be both.
- Involving young people and communities in the design and development of this plan is essential, and this document is only the first stage of that process.
- The plan will continue to change and develop over the course of the next three years.
- Ultimately, fear of violence and crime is the top concern of Croydon's young people, and our main measure of success will be our young people feeling safer on our streets.

## 2. What we want to achieve with this plan – our headline measures

### Our vision

***“Children, young people and young adults have the chance to thrive, learn and fulfil their potential”***

### What we will achieve with this plan

- 1) Fewer young people will be injured on our streets year on year
- 2) Fewer young people will enter the criminal justice system
- 3) Young people will feel safer in Croydon year on year

These are our three top line measures that will determine overall success. All of our activity should contribute in some way to these three over-arching goals.

Note that the Youth Justice Plan, led by the Youth Justice Service, has the statutory responsibility to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system and as such has a significant overlap with this goal. Both plans complement each other and work towards the same aim of making Croydon safer for young people.

### How we will do this

- 1) We will get better at identifying young people at risk earlier and faster.
- 2) We will improve how we protect and support those young people.
- 3) We will target and disrupt the gangs that exploit our young people.
- 4) We will remove weapons off the streets.
- 5) We will rebuild trust and confidence in the Police.
- 6) And everything we do will be working in partnership with the community, families, and young people.

### 3. What do we know about Youth Safety in Croydon

In 2021, London reported the worst year on record for children and young people dying because of serious violence. Tragically, of the 30 teenagers that lost their lives in the Capital, five of these were in Croydon.

#### Key Stats

- Croydon is a London borough located in South London with a population of 386,710 people, the largest population of any London Authority.
- It is estimated that 93,000 under 18-year-olds live in the borough subsequently giving the borough the largest youth population in London.
- Nearly a quarter of Croydon's population (23.1%) are aged 17 years and under compared to the average for London of 21.6%.
- There are 99 primary schools & 34 secondary schools.
- The number of looked after children in Croydon remains the highest in London.
- Like other London boroughs, Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from the Non-White communities compared to the national average. The Census 2021 data shows that there was more diversity in the younger age group population in Croydon.
- There is a higher proportion of males compared to females in the 0-17 years age band in Croydon. There is a higher proportion of females to males in the 18-64 years age band. The 65 years plus age group makes up 13.6% of the total population in Croydon compared to the average for London of 11.9%.

#### Serious Youth Violence

- Between April 2018-19 and April 2019-20, there was a 19% decrease in knife crime with injury among young people under 25-year-olds in Croydon. This indicates a downward pre-pandemic trend in Serious Youth Violence.
- However, total knife crime rates increased by 2% in Croydon in that period. Non-domestic knife offenses rose 15% from March 2019 to March 2020, just before the pandemic hit.
- In the year ending March 2023, Croydon saw a 12% increase in knife crime offenses from the previous two years, indicating an upward trend in the post-pandemic period.
- Between July 2019 and July 2023, Croydon is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in SYV crime count among the other London Boroughs and 15<sup>th</sup> in rate per 1,000 people.

### Victims of violence over the course of 3 years

- 80% of the victims are male, with an increasing trend for female victims, approximately 2% annually during the last 3 years.
- White Europeans accounted for the highest total percentage of victims (45.70%), followed by Afro-Caribbeans (37.58%).
- Afro-Caribbeans accounted for the highest percentage of victims within their ethnicity (49.65%), followed by White Europeans (56.41%).

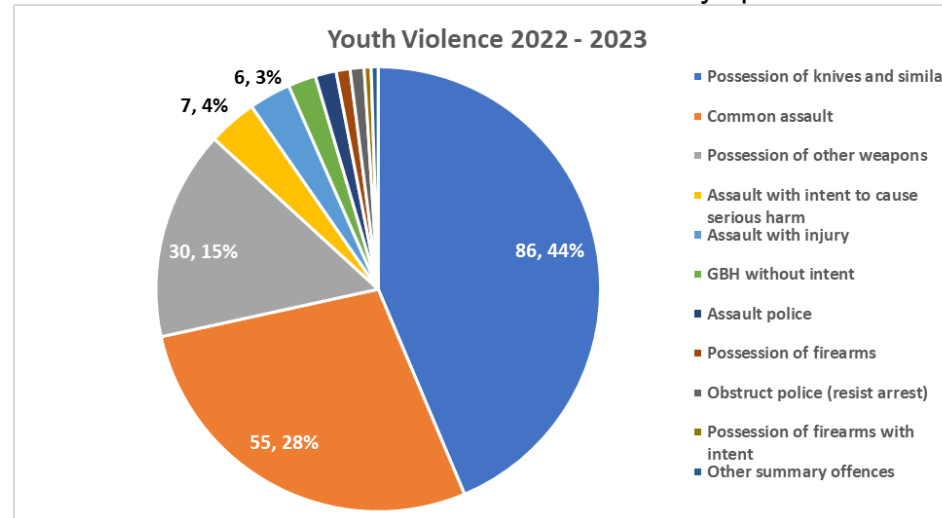
### Comparison to Borough of Croydon demographics

- Gender: The victim data skews heavily male, with 65% male victims compared to 48% of Croydon's population being male. This suggests young men are disproportionately affected by serious youth violence relative to their share of the population.
- Age: 27% of victimization occurred among 18-24 year olds, while this age group accounts for only 5.5% of Croydon's population. This indicates serious youth violence disproportionately impacts 18-24 year olds.
- Ethnicity: The victim data shows high representations of Afro-Caribbeans (37.6% of victims ages 1-17) and White Europeans (43.7% of victims ages 1-17). In Croydon, 22.6% are Black African/Caribbean and 48.4% are White. This suggests young Black/African/Caribbeans may be over-represented as victims relative to their share of Croydon's population.
- In summary, the data indicates serious youth violence inordinately impacts young men, those aged 18-24, and potentially Black/African/Caribbean groups compared to their demographic profiles in Croydon.

### Youth Justice Service

- Croydon YJS has a high throughput of under 18s making it one of the busiest in London.
- The Youth Justice Service works with young people
- In 2022/23 Croydon Youth Justice Service worked with 281 children on various disposals including: Out of court triages and cautions in addition to post court statutory sentences.
- 63 children of the 281 were placed in borough by other Local Authorities for the YJS to manage on their behalf (22.4%).
- Disposals and Orders can last for a minimum of 3 months up to 18 months and on average there are 120+ children open to YJS at any given time.
- In 2022/23 158 of the 281 were deemed First Time Entrants (entering the system for the first time).
- The YJS continues to see an overrepresentation of ethnically diverse (black or black British) males, albeit there was a reduction during this period.

- Girls remain to be less representative within the cohort but are often younger in age (13-14 whereby the average age for males 15-17). Whilst the female cohort is low, the number is significant with females presenting with their own unique vulnerabilities and risks.
- We know that a number of offences take place amongst individuals who are over the age of 18 years old who would not be engaging with the YJS.
- The table below shows youth violence offences which has been broken down by specific offences.



### The role of drug markets and drug supply

- The circumstances involving the drug market is complex and the supply of drugs in Croydon contributes to the violence taking place in the borough. Criminal organisations and adults who are involved in the supply of drugs target vulnerable young people and exploit them in order to distribute drugs for their own personal gain. As a result of the competitive nature of the drugs market, this has led to violent acts unfold in public spaces as well as behind closed doors. Breaking the supply of illicit drugs will contribute to the reduction of violence and safeguard vulnerable young people. The open air drugs market is considered within the hotspot locations.
- Furthermore, the borough reports high levels of involvement with county-lines and is deemed to have the highest numbers in London (Rescue and Response, 2023).

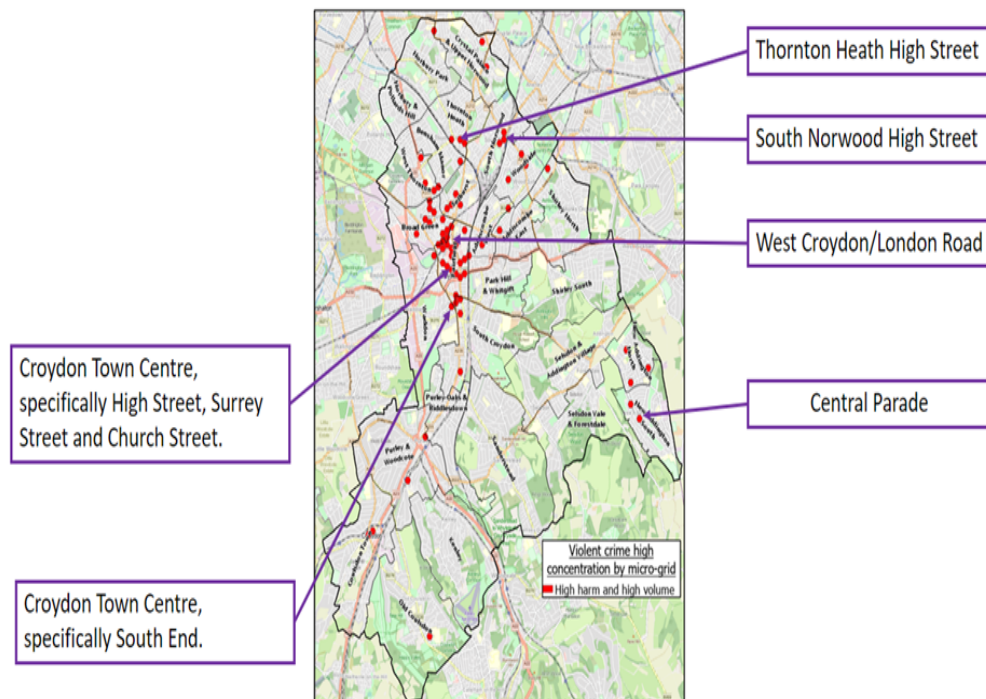


## The role of gangs

- The partnership have identified a number of gangs who are operating in the borough as well as work with other Local Authorities who may directly impact the behaviour taking place in the borough. Due to the criminal nature of the gangs such as drug dealing, knife point robberies and violence, there is often a conflict or tension between the gangs and their members, this can lead to violent acts in public spaces as well as behind closed doors. Young people are being exploited by gang members into conducting violent acts in the name of the gang, this can lead to retaliation which continues the cycle of violence.

## Hotspot Locations

- As part of the Strategic Assessment 2022, the Partnership identified micro-grids of high volume and high harm violent crime locations which we should focus on. This is due to relatively disproportionate levels of violence and other crimes of concern that are contained within these locations.



## Delivering on prior and current learning

This Youth Safety plan draws on Learning Reviews undertaken in Croydon about Croydon, and also draws from both national and regional learning. The 2019 I Vulnerable Adolescents Thematic Review was commissioned by Croydon's strategic partners through the Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board to support the improvement and effectiveness of the multi-agency response to children and families in Croydon.

The review considered sixty vulnerable adolescents in total and made five key findings with fifteen recommendations for consideration, which were far reaching and included **early help and prevention is critical** (finding 1), **greater recognition of, and response to children's emotional health and wellbeing is needed** (finding 2), **an integrated, whole systems approach is needed across agencies communities and families** (finding 3), **schools should be at the heart of multi-agency intervention** (finding 4) and **disproportionality, linked to ethnicity, gender and deprivation requires attention and action** (finding 5).

These recommendations have been acted upon through the Vulnerable Adolescents Priority Group of the CSCP and the partnership continues to incorporate the learning into practice.

Following the deaths of five children and young people in 2021 as a result of knife crime the CSCP commissioned a Serious Practice Review focused on Extra-Familial Harm. This review is reaching it's conclusion and will be published in due course.

A specific partnership strategy to tackle exploitation of 11 – 25 year olds is in development.

## 4. What is our approach?

The **Youth Safety Delivery Plan** focuses on four key themes:

- **Prevention** - how do we stop children and young people being made vulnerable.
- **Intervention** - what we do to help vulnerable children and young people.
- **Disruption** - how we tackle gangs and criminal exploitation of children and young people.
- **Diversions** - our positive offer for children and young people in borough.

These themes are how we organize and think about our work. Throughout our work, we need to ensure we focus on the key questions of:

- 1) How do we identify who this work is for and targeting?
- 2) How do we support those at risk?
- 3) How do we protect those at risk?
- 4) How do we make sure those people are engaged and part of the process?
- 5) How do we know our work is achieving the results we want?

Each area should answer those key questions in its work and projects.

### How will we deliver this?

- We will create a new dedicated Youth Safety Plan Delivery board, led by Community Safety and Children's services, that draws in our statutory partners to implement and oversee the delivery of this plan.
- It will report into the **Community Safety Engagement Board**, the public and partner forum open to all residents and voluntary sector groups to work with the statutory partnership on making Croydon safer. This will ultimately report to the Safer Croydon Partnership Executive as the lead partnership board, and also the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Board.
- Each of the four themes will be developed further with members of the statutory partnership, the voluntary sector, and young people working in equal partnership. This is outlined in the "What we will do" section of each template.
- We will work with Public Health to identify further interventions and projects that can be delivered in Croydon over the next three years.
- Wherever possible, we will draw in additional funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Home Office to supplement and build on this plan.

## 5. Community & Young People Involvement

Any successful community safety plan puts the voice of young people and their families at the heart of the work. Equally, we know our voluntary sector partners have vital expertise and relationships that are essential for making any change in Croydon. At every stage of our work, young people and communities must be involved in the design, development, delivery and evaluation of what we do, going beyond consultation and into real co-production.

### **Community Safety Engagement Board**

The new Community Safety Engagement Board is a vital part of how we develop and deliver this plan. This Board is open to all organisations and concerned residents in the borough and provides oversight of all our crime reduction work – making young people safer, tackling violence against women and girls, and stopping ASB in hotspot locations. Its purpose is to ensure that all the work of the statutory crime reduction partnership has community input and involvement at all levels. Progress and impact of this plan will be reported there on a regular basis.

### **Voices of Young People**

We recognize that to have the voices of young people at the heart of this work, we need to take time to build trusted relationships, and be ready to involve young people in their spaces when suits them. We know that no single approach can effectively capture the voices of all young people and young adults in the borough, and that we should involve young people in multiple places to get the best contribution. This will include but is not limited to:

- Young people at the Community Safety Engagement Board.
- Involvement of the MyEnds Young Persons Advisory Board.
- Inviting the Youth Mayor and Croydon Youth Assembly to contribute to the plan and delivery.
- Working with trusted partners to involve young people across the borough, and particularly those in the most at-risk cohorts, to be part of individual project design and development to make sure we are doing the right thing for young people.
- Work led through the Youth Justice Service including the E.M.P.I.R.E children in care and care leavers forum to ensure the voice of young people is present in our work

## What are the next steps for co-production?

This plan was developed based on feedback from key individuals and organisations through several events, including:

Meeting	Target Audience
MyEnds	VCS, Schools, Community Group, Residents
Renewing New Addington (RENA)	VCS, Schools, Community Group, Residents
Youth Voice / Forum	Young People
Community Safety Engagement Board	VCS, BIDs, Faith Leaders, SNB, SNT
Faiths Together	Faith Groups
Youth Safety Listening Event	VCS, Schools, Community Group, Residents

However, this is only the start of co-production. This delivery plan is a live document that will continue to be revised and refreshed with the input of key partners from the community, young people, and their families.

### **Our commitments to co-production:**

- We will develop sub-groups from the Community Safety Engagement Board to ensure each of the four themes has specific plans and projects from the voluntary sector and communities.
- We will ensure this plan is presented at multiple community engagement events throughout its lifespan.
- We will be honest and about its successes and failures, focusing on learning from projects that did not achieve their goals and ensuring that young people and young adults involved in projects are part of the evaluation.
- We will treat the voices of voluntary sector groups as equals in every sense, recognising their expertise, knowledge, and trusted relationships.
- We will never stop looking for better and more varied ways to include young people, their families, and their communities in projects and the overall delivery plan.

## 6. Measuring Impact

For the plan to succeed, we must be clear about what we are attempting to achieve and how we will measure it. This is a complex area with many interlinked elements, both short and long term, and measuring our impact is both challenging and necessary if we are to succeed.

### Our top line measures

- **Reducing serious youth violence:** measured through public Police stats and reported quarterly
- **Reducing first time entrants:** measured through the Youth Justice Board and the Youth Justice Plan
- **Reducing the fear of crime for young people:** measured through annual school surveys in Croydon

### Theme & project performance targets

Each of the four themes that contribute to delivering our top line measures will have specific performance targets and metrics to be developed that both measure the impact of the work. As outlined under our commitments to co-production, these will be further developed with the community and voluntary sector over the lifespan of this delivery plan. Every project intervention or action within the plan must be accompanied by a measurement of outcome and impact for it to be agreed by the delivery board where possible.

### Public Health analysis & support

Although this approach is three-year delivery plan, rather than a longer-term public health strategy, it is important to recognize the expertise and value of public health led evaluation in any intervention. We will involve and work with The Director of Public Health and her senior team to ensure that the principles and tools of public health analysis are embedded throughout all our work in delivering this plan. She has identified some dedicated time of a Consultant in Public Health from November 2023 to support this work.

### How will it be monitored?

Monitoring will be through the Youth Safety Delivery Board, which will then report to the Community Safety Engagement Board and the executive board of the Croydon Safer Partnership. It will also report into the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Board.

## 7. Action Plan

### 1. Prevention

We will prevent violence involving young people by ensuring all children in the borough have the best start in life. As a partnership we work with and support our communities by providing opportunities, information, and access. Prevention is about the broad early intervention work we do to stop young people being at risk of violence. It includes key areas such as:

- Sharing information amongst partners on current risks
- Broad, universal preventative work such as workshops and sessions in schools with young people
- Support for younger, primary school age young people before they become vulnerable

It is led through a combination of statutory partners, schools, commissioned, and non-commissioned voluntary sector groups working across Croydon.

Prevention Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
<b>What we are doing</b>			
Working with schools to help prevent robbery through smartwater marking	Met Police	Autumn 2023	Stop young people being the targets of robbery by making their items worthless to criminals
Partnership work with British Transport police to make our rail stations and tram stops safer	British Transport Police Met Police	Ongoing	Improving visible safety and awareness of safety at transport hubs across Croydon
Dedicated substance misuse board: New joint Public Health & Community Safety led board to tackle all aspects of Croydon's drug problems, including drug market supply, treatment, support etc, with additional dedicated government funding	VRN Met Police NPS Public Health Health CGL	Ongoing	Disrupting the supply and demand for drugs in the Borough which drives significant violent criminal activity



Prevention Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
<b>What we will do</b>			
Work with schools to identify “best practice” sessions with young people, and share across the Headteacher network	Education Services Violence Reduction Network	Autumn 2023	Ensure quality training and education on gangs and violence is spread across Croydon schools
Identify sessions specifically targeting primary school young people on the transition to secondary school	Education services Violence Reduction Network	Spring 2024	Provide preventative sessions for young people at the vulnerable point of transition to secondary school to prevent them being put at risk of violence
Improve information sharing between the wider voluntary sector and statutory services in the borough, building on the work of the community hub and gangs meetings led through the Youth Justice Service	Violence Reduction Network Met Police Children’s Services Voluntary sector YJS	Autumn 2023	Better targeting of support for vulnerable young people by improving how the different partners talk to each other and share confidential information
Improve how we update and share information with schools so that Headteachers and key safeguarding leads are aware of risks and issues in Croydon	Violence Reduction Network Children’s Services	Autumn 2023	Better enable schools to support young people at risk, and work with lead agencies in preventing young people being victims of violence outside schools
Work with Public Health to develop potential interventions for young adults aged 18 to 25 at risk of violence	Violence Reduction Network Public Health Probation	Spring 2024	Provide support to young adults who are at risk but outside the statutory role of the YJS

## 2. Intervention

We will identify children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in offending and criminality. We will identify children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in offending and criminality. A needs assessment being commissioned on behalf of the Director of Public Health looking at vulnerable people would support this by exploring the numbers and characteristics of CYP with risk factors for violence and gang related activity. We want to work with individuals and families who are at risk of exploitation and experiencing difficulties to access support services from across the partnership and the community. It is our intention to minimise the risk for the families and young people in order to help them thrive in the borough. This theme includes:

- How we identify young people and groups of young people who may be at risk
- The specific targeted services we put into place to help reduce that risk
- Information sharing amongst statutory and voluntary sector partners to help that identification
- Work led through the Youth Justice Service (YJS) to support those who have entered the criminal justice system to not offend again

It is led through a combination of statutory services, principally the YJS and the Violence Reduction Network, the Met Police, and commissioned voluntary sector organisations.

Intervention Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
<b>What we are doing</b>			
Engage: New funded project based in Police custody so that every young person going into custody gets an offer of support if not charged	Met Police YJS	Ongoing	Providing support to young people who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system to prevent them becoming offenders
CLIP: Bespoke 1-2-1 interventions for young people who are just below the thresholds of criminality, to stop them entering the criminal justice system	Children's Service	Ongoing	Providing support to young people who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system to prevent them becoming offenders
Rapid response to incidents: Securing funding and deploying local trusted community groups into areas following an incident within 48 hours to provide reassurance and preventing escalation	VRN Met Police	As needed	Preventing reprisal attacks following an incident, and routes into support and diversionary activity for young people affected by an incident

Intervention Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
Using local intelligence to review every high-risk child to ensure services are being accessed and appropriate actions being taken. Identifies physical spaces that are at risk and develops partner plans for each area	Children's Services	Ongoing	Identify the young people most at risk and develop specific and targeted interventions for those deemed vulnerable
Externally funded Targeted Outreach: Working with local trusted partners we have enhanced youth outreach for 6 months in Shrublands, Croydon Town Centre, and New Addington to make sure there are youth workers on the streets for young people.	VRN VCS Met Police	Ongoing	Provide additional on street youth workers for the most vulnerable locations in the borough, to provide one to one and group interventions for young people who are at risk of becoming victims or offenders
Mentoring: externally funded service for young people who are entering the criminal justice system for the first time	YJS Mentivity Reaching Higher	Ongoing	Reduce the re-offending rates of young people in the criminal justice system
Turnaround Project: Working with young people and their families identified at being of risk of criminality and offering preventative intervention	YJS	Ongoing	Reduce first time entrants in to the criminal justice system
Physical health nurse and a specific "Sexual Health Offer" to work with individuals known to YJS	YJS Health	Ongoing	Provides additional support to young people in the criminal justice system, and specifically looks at those who have been injured by serious youth violence.
Integrated Offender Management scheme for young people: Oversight of all children & young people who are deemed a serious risk to the public, or prolific offenders. High level monitoring of young people. All children & parents on the IOM scheme are informed.	YJS NPS Met Police VRN Education services	Ongoing	Reduce the re-offending rates of young people in the criminal justice system, and prevent offending by those identified as most at risk
Youth Justice Service employing young people on a six-month basis to gain employment skills and qualifications	YJS Skill Mill	Ongoing	Reduce the re-offending rates of young people in the criminal justice system

Intervention Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
<b>What we will do</b>			
Explore options for specialist service support for those young people and young adults not in education, training or employment.	Violence Reduction Network Public Health Probation	Spring 2024	Provide support to young adults who are at great risk due to being NEET
Review our referral pathways and information sharing to ensure that we effectively intervening where possible for young people at risk	Croydon Council Police Voluntary Sector	Autumn 2023	Making sure that we aren't duplicating work or wasting resources, and that we effectively identify and support vulnerable young people rapidly

### 3. Disruption

We will act against individuals identified who are causing harm in our communities and having a detrimental impact on others. We will target those who are exploiting young and/or vulnerable people to prevent harm to potential victims and protect the public. This work includes:

- Targeted operations to disrupt and take down criminal gangs
- Work to take weapons off the streets, including illegal knife sales
- How we use and deploy the resources we have to best tackle violence and violent offenders
- Work to rebuild trust and confidence in the police, as only with the support of young people and their communities can disruption operations be successful

This work is primarily Police led, with support from other statutory agencies. Work to address trust and confidence will be delivered in partnership with communities, particularly the Black African and Afro-Caribbean community.

Disruption Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
<b>What we are doing</b>			
Improved partnership working, particularly with neighbouring boroughs, to better manage high risk individuals who cross borough boundaries	YJS VRN Met Police	Ongoing	Better understand and target individuals who operate across borough lines
Injunction: apply for relevant court orders to include both prohibitions (which require a respondent to refrain from doing something) and positive requirements (where the respondent may be required to take certain steps or participate in specified activities) to address behaviour.	YJS VRN Met Police	Ongoing	Target individuals who pose a risk to our communities through non-custodial sentencing and use of positive requirements where possible to stop offending
Apply for Criminal Behaviour Orders in relation to individuals that have been identified as causing harm in	VRN Met Police	Ongoing	Target individuals who pose a risk to our communities through non-custodial sentencing

<b>Disruption Action</b>	<b>Lead Services / Organisations</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?</b>
our communities and are involved in criminal prosecutions.			and use of positive requirements where possible to stop offending
Seek a Premises Closure Order where properties have been identified as linked to crime and ASB	VRN Met Police	Ongoing	Close properties and businesses who create an unsafe environment for young people
Dedicated robbery patrols to help prevent robbery, especially of young people, in key locations	Met Police	Ongoing	Reduce rates of robbery amongst young people
Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle anti-social behaviour in hotspots	Met Police VRN	Ongoing	Reduce anti-social behaviour by young adults and increase feelings of safety in key areas
Upgrade of CCTV network cross Croydon to both deter crime and help the Police catch offenders	VRN	Ongoing	Support police enforcement action to identify and arrest violence offenders
Additional policing presence in Croydon Town Centre to help tackle violence against women and girls. Includes dedicated ring fenced resource	Met Police	Ongoing	Increase enforcement action in the town centre and increase feelings of safety through visible policing
<b>What we will do</b>			
Work with New Scotland Yard to increase on street presence in vulnerable locations, particularly Croydon Town Centre	Met Police Croydon Council	Autumn 2023	More visible deterrence and enforcement against criminals and those looking to exploit or attack young people
Work with New Scotland Yard to implement longer term gang disruption operations in Croydon to tackle the drugs market that drives violence in the borough	Met Police	Ongoing	Long term, specialist work is needed to take apart the criminal gangs supplying the drugs markets in Croydon that drives violence in the borough
Implement a pilot program to improve oversight of police powers and usage in Croydon, with a dedicated role for young people and for the Black community	Met Police Croydon Council	Autumn / Winter 2023	Improve trust and confidence in the Police by creating greater public oversight of their actions and use of powers, including stop and search
Improve training for new police officers in the borough by building on existing community trainers	Met Police Voluntary Sector	Winter 2023	Build on the existing community training for new Police Officers to incorporate more elements on young people and their experiences

<b>Disruption Action</b>	<b>Lead Services / Organisations</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?</b>
Work to tackle online knife sales that put dangerous weapons in the hands of young people	Croydon Council Met Police	Autumn / Winter 2023	Prevent young people accessing weapons more likely to cause injury and death

## 4. Diversion

We know that having a range of diverse activities and events for young people helps keep young people off the streets and engaged in positive activities. By continuing to offer, with our partners, as many diversionary activities as possible we can provide a positive alternative for young people in Croydon. This work includes:

- The council and other partners offer for young people activities in Croydon
- The many clubs and activities delivered by the voluntary sector across the borough
- Unlike other areas of the plan, this is broad based and may not have specific performance measures as it provides a broad range of activities for young people
- A large part of this work is providing alternatives for young people so that they are off the streets and in safe spaces and places where they can engage in positive activities

Diversion Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
<b>What we are doing</b>			
Holiday Activity Fund (HAF): provide funded holiday activities clubs with healthy meals for children who are claiming free school meals	Children's services	Ongoing	Providing healthy meals and activities to young people on free school meals as diversionary activity to give young people something to do
Provide supplementary externally funded grants for high risk areas to offer holiday activities in Croydon Town Centre, New Addington, and Thornton Heath	Violence Reduction Network	Ongoing	Additional summer activities for young people during school holidays, including back to school period
Upgrade work over 2023/24 to upgrade our cricket, tennis and football pitches in Croydon, including creating new Playzones in Croydon	Culture, Leisure & Libraries team Palace for Life CVA	Ongoing	Providing a range of sport and physical exercise options for young people in Croydon to give them something to do



Diversion Action	Lead Services / Organisations	Timescale	Why are we doing this and what will it achieve?
Kids swim for £1 – summer offer of discounted entry into sports centres	Culture, Leisure & Libraries	Ongoing	Cheaper swimming sessions for young people aged 11 to 17 to give them something to do
Summer Reading Challenge: working with Youth Sports Trust to encourage reading and sport across summer in local libraries	Culture, Leisure & Libraries	Ongoing	Activities in libraries for young people aged 4 to 11
Youth Engagement summer program: two-and-a-half-week summer program at Samuel Coolidge-Taylor centre for 8 to 16 year olds	Children's Services	Ongoing	Sports, arts, crafts, gaming and other activities
London Borough of Culture: range of young person activities and events across 2023/24	Culture, Leisure & Libraries	Ongoing	Range of outdoor and indoor cultural events ranging from music to visual arts, with specific youth elements and events
Croydon Music and Arts: music and vocal training for young people, including opportunities to perform, join a band, and celebrate young people's talents	Croydon Music and Arts	Ongoing	Support and tuition for young people to learn music and perform, that includes partner work and modern music types
<b>What we will do</b>			
Work with voluntary organisations to ensure there is a single up to date listing to promote all activities on offer for young people in Croydon	Children's Services Voluntary Sector Digital Services	Autumn 2023	Increase awareness and access to diversionary activity for young people
Work with MOPAC to continue to secure additional funding to enable extra activities in high-risk areas	Violence Reduction Network	Spring 2024	Bring additional resources in that allow us to help the young people most at risk
Work with our Sports & Leisure providers to increase access and activities for young people	Culture, Leisure & Libraries	Summer 2024	Improve access to sports and leisure facilities in Croydon
Ensure the legacy of the London Borough of Culture has specific elements for young people	Culture, Leisure & Libraries	Summer 2024	Continue to build on the success of LBOC and the role of young people and their talent in our creative and cultural landscape, providing opportunities for young people