



London Borough
of Hounslow

SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

2024-2027

Working with communities to keep Hounslow a low crime borough and a safe place to live, work, study and visit.



www.hounslow.gov.uk/community_safety

**ONE
HOUNSLOW**

Introduction

We are living in unprecedented times. Returning to normal life following COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crisis have both caused a huge impact to our residents.

We are also seeing increasing demand for Council services at a time when there are huge financial strains on public finances.

Hounslow is a low crime borough, and we continue to put victims first and identify and engage those who may be exposed to and exploited to commit crimes.

Over the past three years, we have worked closely together in partnership to make Hounslow an even safer place to live, work, and visit. We know there is still more work to do, building on our success and we also need to focus on new challenges.

We have regularly reviewed our data and our latest analysis of crime information has informed this strategy. In Hounslow, the fear of crime is higher than actual crime, and we need to do more to improve residents' feelings of safety.

We will continue to increase our visibility, especially in areas of higher crime to further improve the public's trust and confidence in the services we provide.

The economic cost of violence was over £3 Billion in London last year. This is without measuring the devastating impact that violence causes to communities and the affected families' lives.

We will continue to deliver our preventative approach, which means that we not only respond to serious crimes as they happen, but we work in

partnership to tackle the underlying causes and prevent more serious crimes from happening in the future.

We know some members of our community are more affected by crime, and we need to ensure we offer the right services to support victims, who come from a range of diverse backgrounds.

We have listened to our residents and partners about the issues which matter most in our borough and these views have helped us to shape our priorities for the Safer Communities Strategy 2024-27.

Our priorities

Priority 1 Residents are less affected by serious crimes. ✓

Priority 2 Young people and adults exposed to and exploited to commit crimes receive help. ✓

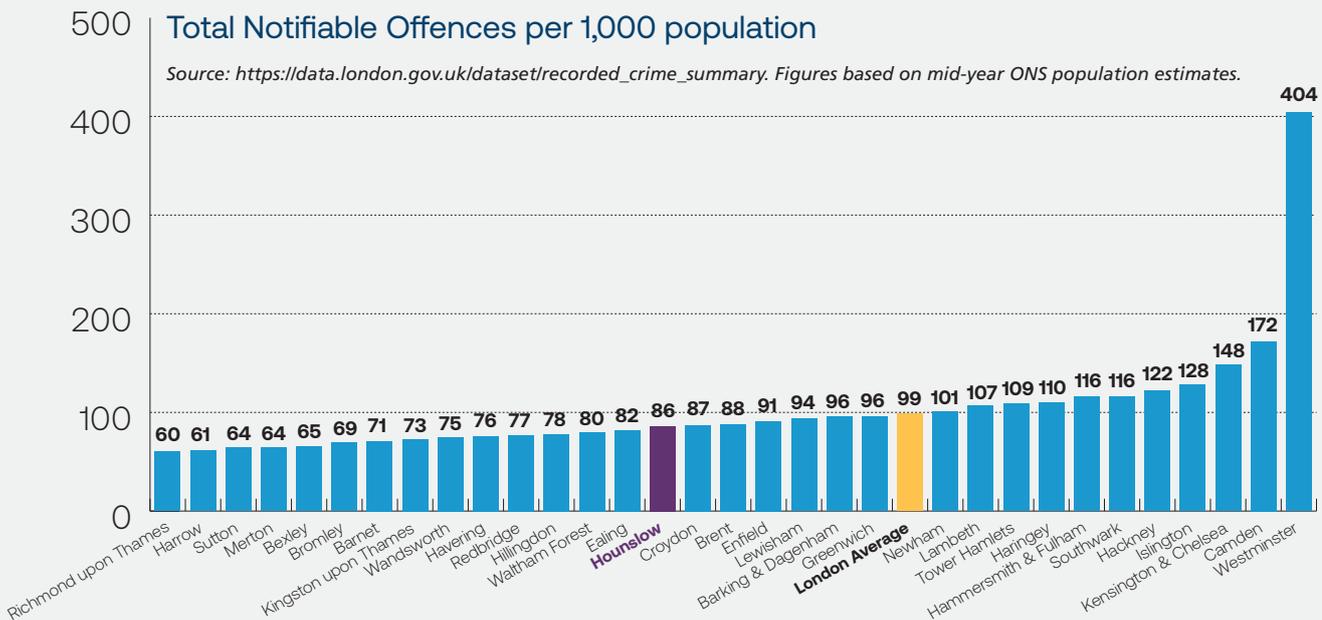
Priority 3 Residents work together to keep Hounslow Safe. ✓



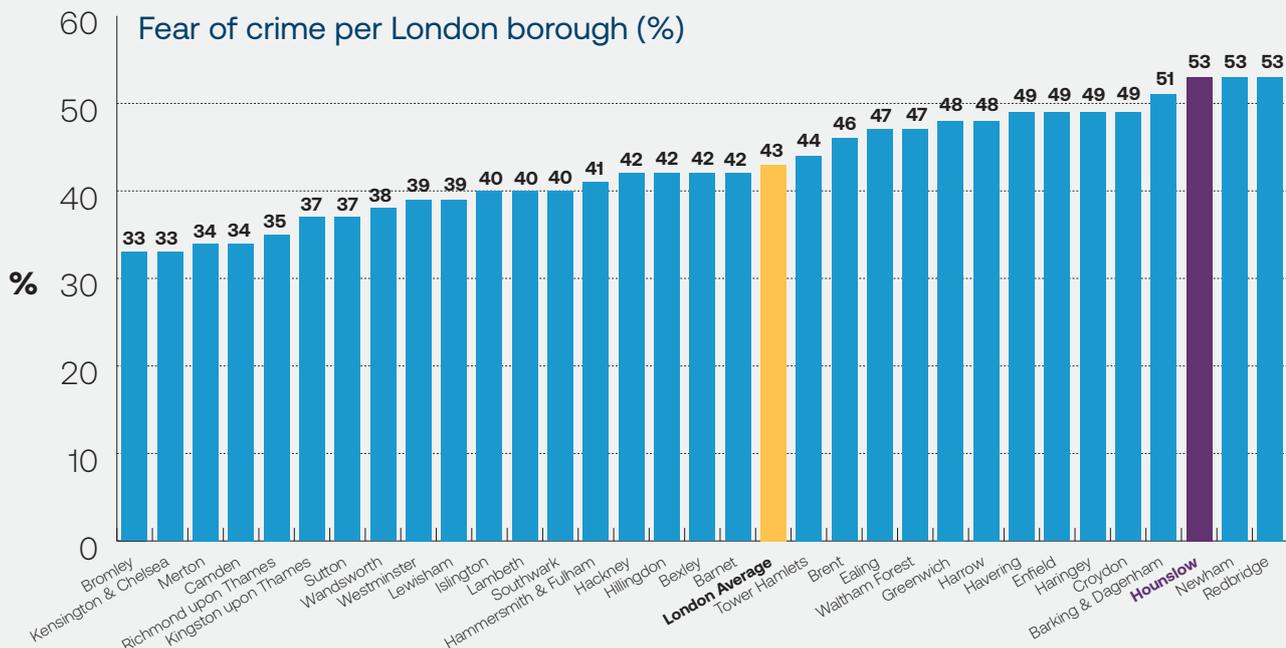
**Councillor
Ajmer Grewal**
Lead Member for Safety and
Regulatory Services and Chair
of Hounslow Community
Safety Partnership Board

Hounslow and London crime levels

We are a safe borough, but like the rest of London, Hounslow saw an increase in reported crime in 2022-23 of 3%. However, this is lower than the London increase, which was 5%.



Our fear of crime was the third highest in London and is disproportionate to crimes levels in the borough. (Public Attitude Survey, September 2023)



Hounslow crime rates

Hounslow is not a gangs borough but we know in some parts of the borough group offending is taking place. The Police, Council and other partners are working closely on this.

Crime Type	Offences	Change from previous year
Drug Possession	822	-26.5%
Youth Offending Offences	316	-17.4%
Domestic abuse Violence with Injury	755	-12.6%
Rape	227	-9.6%
Other Sexual Offences	410	-5.5%
Hate Crime	776	-4.0%
All Domestic Offences	3,610	-1.8%
Violence with Injury	2,410	-1.3%
Possession of Weapons	161	No Change
Public Order	2,045	+4.0%
Robbery	389	+4.3%
Domestic Burglary	1,200	+6.2%
Theft from the person	554	+15.4%
Drug Dealing	262	+37.2%
Shoplifting	1,249	+39.7%

Source: 2022-2023 MPS crime data and Council's Youth Offending Service Offender Management Data.

What did our data tell us?

Fear of crime is higher than actual crimes

We welcome a **26.5% reduction in people arrested for possession of drugs**. We continue to work with our award-winning drug and alcohol service ARC, which provides treatment to those who have been affected by substance misuse.

We are pleased to see there was a **reduction of 17.4% in offences committed by young people under the age of 18**. Our data tells us some of these young people are vulnerable and often are groomed and exploited by others into committing crimes

A **1.8% reduction in domestic offences** can be viewed as being positive. However, we know this crime is under-reported and therefore, we want to increase reporting.

There has been **no change in the number of times weapons were used compared to the previous year** but we know there is more we can do. We are actively working with shops to ensure knives are not being sold illegally, working with children and young people to understand why some of them carry weapons and the Council's Youth Justice Service is helping young people when they are caught with a weapon to prevent further crimes.

Robbery rates increased by 4.3%. Our local Police are working in partnership with us to tackle this problem, and we are both putting extra resources in to help. The data tells us that some of the people committing these crimes do not live in the borough. Work with other Police teams across London is taking place to address this.

We saw an **increase of 37.2% in drug dealing** compared to the previous year. The Police have prioritised tackling drug related criminality and the increase tells us they have been successful in making more arrests.

Shoplifting has increased by 39.7%. Again, this is happening across London. We know the cost of living crisis means more people are experiencing financial difficulties. This is often linked to shoplifting. The Council and its partners continue to provide support to residents affected by the crisis and we will work with our businesses to tackle this crime.

What else did we consider?

Over the last three years there have been some developments locally, across London and nationally that we had to consider when writing this strategy. Below are some of those examples.



Hounslow

- » We have stronger working relationships with the Voluntary and Community Sector and residents
- » We have implemented our early help offer through the new Family and Community Hubs
- » Agreed the Violence Against Women and Girls Plan 2023-2026
- » Introduced a new Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Board
- » A Fair and More Equal Hounslow – our new strategy on equality, diversity and inclusion



London

- » Barriers to accessing Police data experienced by all London boroughs
- » New Neighbourhood Superintendent for each London borough
- » Baroness Casey Review into the Metropolitan Police Service
- » Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime Policing Plan priorities relevant locally
- » Policy change on Police responding to mental health calls

National

- » Challenges including financial faced by Prison and Courts services
- » Changes to The Probation Service
- » Impact of the cost of living crisis
- » Domestic Abuse Act introduced
- » 10 Year Drugs Strategy launched
- » New Serious Violence Duty implemented



What our residents told us

Residents provided us with their feedback and we used this information to write the strategy

Priority 1

79%
agree with this priority

Residents are less affected by serious crimes.

Priority 2

93%
agree with this priority

Young people and adults exposed to and exploited to commit crimes receive help.

Priority 3

89%
agree with this priority

Residents work together to keep Hounslow Safe.

“More Police are needed to patrol local roads, streets and estates.”

“All crime that affects residents and should be dealt with effectively.”

“Many offences are committed by young people who need support with mental health issues.”

“There needs to be provisions for children and young people to access.”

“The Area-based approach sounds appropriate to help solve issues in the local area.”

“The Neighbourhood Watch has worked well locally and has helped residents to work together to address issues in the local area.”



Our preventative approach

The four principles below explain our preventative approach.

Principle 1
Stopping crimes

– by addressing the underlying reasons for crime and working to make our public spaces safer.



Principle 2
Reducing vulnerability

– by working with vulnerable residents who are at higher risk of experiencing and/or committing crimes.



Principle 3
Working with offenders

– by ensuring that we are working with individuals who cause crime and addressing offending behaviour including the use of civil and criminal legislation.



Principle 4
Strong community and resident partnerships

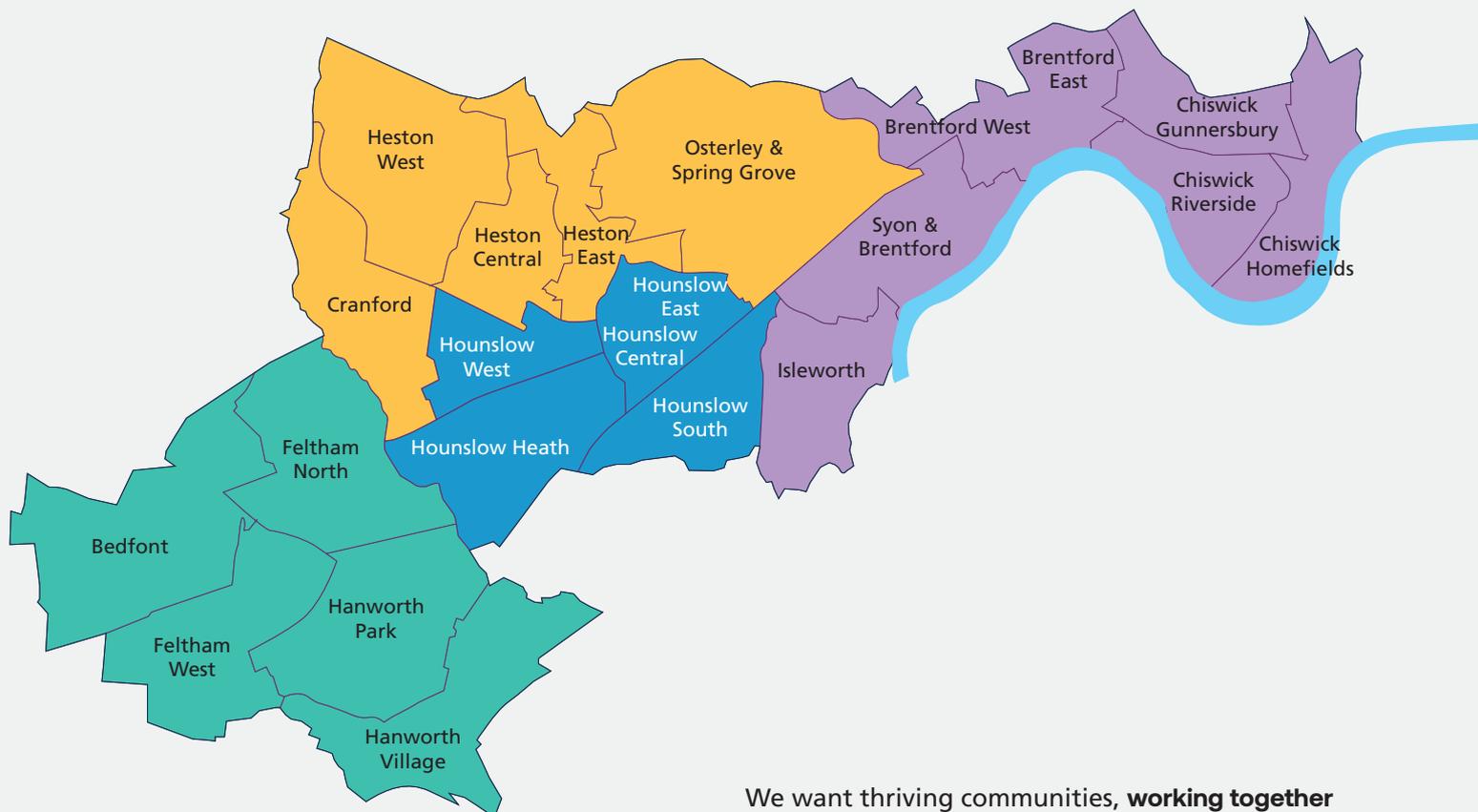
– understanding what different communities need from us and empowering residents to help make their areas safer.



Understanding our data, intelligence and trends will help us deliver our approach.

Our ambition

We want our communities to be safe and feel safe. This means we will focus on preventing crimes and protecting residents by providing early help and support in local areas, and empowering communities to work with us to keep crime low in their neighbourhoods.



During our last strategy we launched our new **preventative area-based approach** to community safety, with **Safer Communities Coordinators** each dedicated to one of four areas in Hounslow outlined in the map. They are working with residents in their neighbourhoods and co-ordinating a range of partners and activities to resolve complex crime issues.

We have begun the launch of our **Community Hubs**, which provide a wide range of resources and support for residents, linking to **our area-based Safer Communities Team** who are working in your neighbourhoods.

We want thriving communities, **working together in partnership** with our residents, Hounslow's voluntary and community sector, other public bodies and businesses. Only by working together can we continue to **improve our approach to collaborative working to reduce crime** and ensure that Hounslow is a place where everyone **feels safe**.

We want a **fairer and more equal** Hounslow by **tackling inequalities** across the borough, regardless of where people live. We need to support people who are currently disadvantaged because of who they are. We know that residents from **some of our communities are more likely to experience and be impacted by crime because of this**.

Our priorities



Priority 1 Residents are less affected by serious crimes. ✓

Priority 2 Young people and adults exposed to and exploited to commit crimes receive help. ✓

Priority 3 Residents work together to keep Hounslow Safe. ✓

Priority 1 Residents are less affected by serious crime

What this means to you	How we will measure our impact
<p>We want to make sure Hounslow stays a lower crime borough by tackling serious violence such as murder, grievous and actual bodily harm, rape, sexual assault, robbery and threats to kill. We will also work on theft, burglary and drugs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Reducing serious violence crimes and support victims of serious violence.
<p>We want to focus on crimes where weapons are used as we know the devastating impact this has on our residents including on young people and children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Addressing problem drug use by ensuring more people get into effective treatment and recovery services.
<p>We will commit to working in local neighbourhoods to increase our presence to improve community safety and provide reassurance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Increase our presence in higher crime/anti-social behaviour areas to reduce neighbourhood crimes and improve feelings of safety in our public spaces

Priority 2 Young people and adults exposed to and exploited to commit crimes receive help

<p>We want to support parents, carers and communities to recognise the signs of exploitation and provide support before people are exploited into committing crimes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Increasing the number of vulnerable young adults, children and young people engaged in services
<p>We want to make sure residents are safer by tackling online crime including hate crime and financial abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Developing services for those affected by online crime.
<p>We want to build trust and confidence with young people and adults at risk of domestic abuse and reassure them their safety is at the heart of our work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Strengthen the number of domestic and sexual abuse survivors who feel safe following the offer of specialist help.

Priority 3 Residents work together to keep Hounslow safe

<p>We want to make sure the voice of all our communities is heard and recognise that community participation is essential to a vibrant and safe Hounslow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Increase engagement with different forums, including diverse and inclusive networks that represent our communities.
<p>We know that many voluntary and community groups in Hounslow already provide essential help and support to those affected by local community safety issues and we want to strengthen this working arrangement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Increase the number of community and voluntary sector groups involved in making our community safer
<p>We want to support a two-way flow of information between communities and local services which is built on trust and delivering on our priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Improving our community messaging with residents and businesses to prevent crime and provide reassurance.

By the end of the strategy:



✔ We will have more Council staff working in local areas with residents and communities, focused on making neighbourhoods safer

✔ A new Council wide area based community safety approach introduced. This will improve our response to residents and communities affected by crime, anti-social behaviour and other community safety issues

✔ We will improve our understanding on how our residents including children and young people are affected by online crimes and improve our support for them

✔ There will be extra Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers working across the borough to reduce crime and fear of crime

✔ There will be a reduction in serious violence through the successful implementation of the multi-agency Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Plan

✔ More women and girls will feel safer as we progress the work set out in the borough's Violence against Women and Girls Plan 2023-2026

How we will deliver the strategy

We know having strong partnerships across a range of different organisations will help us deliver the strategy successfully. The Hounslow Community Safety Partnership Board includes the Council, Police, Fire & Rescue, Health, Probation and other agencies, will be responsible for its delivery. Each year the board will create a plan outlining what work it will do to deliver the priorities in the

strategy. This will include understanding why the fear of crime is much higher than actual crimes and agree actions to address this. Year 1 Delivery Plan is set out in Appendix 1. The board will regularly review the implementation of the strategy and publish it each year. There are other partnerships who help keep Hounslow a low crime borough and these are:



There is strong evidence, which tells us, people who take an interest and pride in their areas, not only help keep crime levels low but can create strong, happy communities. This means we want to continue the work we have started in developing good relationships with residents and communities in their local areas. They have helped us tackle crime issues in their neighbourhoods.

Our Voluntary and Community Sector partners also play an important role in delivering community safety related services across the borough. We will continue this partnership and the work started with our businesses affected by crime.

Appendix 1

YEAR 1 DELIVERY PLAN

PRIORITY 1: Residents are less affected by serious crime

HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR IMPACT:

Reducing serious violence crimes and support victims of serious violence

Addressing problem drug use by ensuring more people get into effective treatment and recovery services

Increase our presence in higher crime/ anti-social behaviour areas to reduce neighbourhood crimes and improve feelings of safety in our public spaces and provide reassurance

WHAT WE WILL DO:

1. Increase visible policing by recruiting more Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers
2. Work with those who re-offend by offering different support services to help them reduce their offending behaviour.
3. Deliver our plan to reduce violence and vulnerability by safeguarding and educating, supporting victims, working in communities, reducing access to weapons, and diverting people from violence
4. Create a new Police team to improve drug enforcement activity connected to organised crime, supply and county lines, whilst working in partnership to divert those in the criminal justice system with drug addictions into treatment and recovery services
5. Provide a link to the substance use work in Prisons and manage court orders which require offenders to engage in treatment by introducing specialist criminal justice workers into the drug and alcohol treatment workforce
6. Increase Council staff numbers to enhance our partnership area-based community safety work in neighbourhoods including Town Centres and Parks
7. Employ more Council staff to address anti-social behaviour in Homes of Multiple Occupation

YEAR 1 DELIVERY PLAN (CONTINUED)

PRIORITY 2: Young people and adults exposed to and exploited to commit crimes receive help

HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR IMPACT:

Increasing the number of vulnerable young adults, children and young people engaged in services

Developing services for those affected by online crime

Strengthen the number of domestic and sexual abuse survivors who feel safe following the offer of specialist help

WHAT WE WILL DO:

1. Increase the number of 18-25 year olds who are diverted from criminality through the support provided by specialists Safer Communities Workers.
2. Improve attendance at school and reduce exclusions by working with the Hounslow Education Partnership to support young people who are facing barriers to their learning.
3. Reduce the exploitation of children by targeting our street-based detached youth outreach team to work in areas experiencing higher levels of crime
4. Improve our response to online crime by better understanding who is affected, making sure staff are trained in this area and assess if we have the right services available for victims
5. Deliver the borough's Violence Against Women and Girls and White Ribbon Action Plans to make sure Hounslow is a safe place for women and girls.
6. Make improvements to our Domestic and Sexual Abuse service by speaking with survivors, to understand if they feel safer after accessing support.
7. Support survivors of domestic abuse by providing programmes run by Probation Services to increase their safety awareness and ensure they are informed of risks by bespoke support teams

PRIORITY 3: Residents work together to keep Hounslow safe

HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR IMPACT:

Increase engagement with different forums, including diverse and inclusive networks that represent our communities

Increase the number of community and voluntary sector groups involved in making our community safer

Improving our community messaging with residents and businesses to prevent crime and provide reassurance

WHAT WE WILL DO:

Improve hate crime reporting by working with Friends of Faith

Work closely with young people to understand their community safety concerns, by engaging and consulting with them to ensure their voices are heard

Brentford Football Club to deliver one to one mentoring services to young people at risk of, or already involved in anti-social behaviour and criminal activity

Increase the number of families reached through our Parent Carer Champions Network by recruiting community champions to support children who are or may be at risk of violence, grooming and exploitation.

Improve domestic abuse support for south Asian women and their children at the One Stop Shop by working with SheWise

Through the Radical Overhaul of Consultation and Engagement Programme, we have more empowered residents and increased participation in the work to keep Hounslow safe

Improve the effective use of social media, newsletters, our websites, engagement platforms, public and community events, including Area Forums to ensure we reach our whole community.

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