

**Keeping Hounslow
Safe, Together**

London Borough of Hounslow

SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

2021-2024





Cllr Katherine Dunne's Introduction

Hounslow is a safe borough. It is not a knife or violent crime priority borough nor is it a gangs borough. But we know there is more we can do to keep everyone safe. We understand the negative impact crime can have on our residents and our communities; how the fear of crime can affect the way residents feel about the areas they live in, and how some communities will experience crime issues because of who they are.

Even though Hounslow recorded less crime than the average London borough last year, there has been an increase in crimes that worry our residents including young people and professionals. This increase has happened across London, not just in Hounslow. We have worked out the total cost of crime in Hounslow is £213 million each year.

To address this, we have outlined in this strategy the work we will do over the next three years to keep crime levels low.

This includes working with our partners and our residents to reduce serious crimes in local neighbourhoods, which are often linked to young people and adults being exploited into criminality and working with offenders to change their behaviour.

This strategy has been developed at a challenging time, while we are responding to a pandemic. We are working hard to address the devastating impact Covid-19 has had on our borough, through our multi-

agency Covid-19 Recovery Plan. At the same time, the Council is working on becoming an outstanding local authority, by improving the services it delivers, to make sure they are right ones for our residents. This work is called the One Hounslow Programme. This improvement work will also include how we deliver our community safety services across the borough. The Council has also embedded new Corporate Values and Behaviours, which underpin all work we do. These are: Lead with the Heart, Do New, Pass the Power, Harness the Mix and Be Rock.

Part of our new way of working includes how we work with all our communities, to keep Hounslow a low crime borough. To do this, we will talk to communities in their local neighbourhoods to understand the crime issues affecting them the most and then work with the residents to look at ways to reduce these crimes.

We have listened to our communities, consulted professionals and looked at crime data, to help us identify the priorities for this strategy:

PRIORITY 1: Residents are less affected by serious crimes;

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

PRIORITY 3: Residents work together to keep Hounslow Safe.

The responsibility to keep all residents safe means working with other Partnerships in Hounslow, who will also play an important role in delivering the priorities. The diagram below demonstrates the different partnerships.



Over the next three years, we will be working towards our new ambition of **Working with communities to keep Hounslow a low crime borough and a safe place to live, work, study and visit.**

Cllr Katherine Dunne

Cabinet Member for Communities and Climate Emergency and
Chair, Hounslow Community Safety Partnership Board



OUR PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1:

Residents are less affected by serious crime

PRIORITY 2:

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

PRIORITY 3:

Residents work together to keep Hounslow safe



OUR FOCUS



PRIORITY 1:

Residents are less affected by serious crime.

THIS MEANS:

We want to make sure Hounslow remains a low crime borough by tackling the most serious community safety issues affecting the borough such as, violent crime and drug related activity. Often these are linked to anti-social behaviour.

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:

- ✓ Reducing the number of Violence Against the Person (non-domestic abuse) offences
- ✓ Reducing the number of robberies in the borough
- ✓ Reducing the number of serious offences in high crime locations.

PRIORITY 2:

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

THIS MEANS:

We will make homes safe by supporting people experiencing domestic and sexual abuse, better identify young people and adults who are exploited into committing crimes and those affected by hate crime. They will have access to the right help before problems escalate and we will work with offenders to change their behaviour.

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:

- ✓ Improving identification and positive outcomes for young people and adults who are criminally exploited by offering specialist help
- ✓ Improving the number of domestic and sexual abuse survivors who feel safe by offering specialist help
- ✓ Improving identification and positive outcomes for victims of modern slavery, hate crime and financial abuse.

PRIORITY 3:

Residents work together to keep Hounslow safe

THIS MEANS:

People from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to work together to keep Hounslow safe. We will encourage more voluntary and community groups to provide help to those affected by community safety issues.

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:

- ✓ Increasing the percentage of residents who feel safe
- ✓ Increasing the number of communities who feel better informed about the work we are doing to keep crime low
- ✓ Increasing the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents and young people who are engaged in neighbourhood community safety initiatives.

OUR BOROUGH

26%
of Hounslow's
population is
under the
age of 19

The borough
will be home to
285,000
by 2024

Hounslow
has seen a
165% increase
in benefit claimants
since January
2020

Hounslow
ranks 18th
out of the London
boroughs, and
122nd nationally on
deprivation
deciles

**£316
wage gap:**
too many Hounslow
residents miss out on
higher-paying local
jobs

Hounslow
has slightly
less crime than the
London average,
despite
2.4% increase
in total notifiable
offences

The borough
has **17%** total
green space
compared to
England's average
of 2.2%

Younger
residents are more
likely to be from
BAME
groups

Both Hounslow
and London fall
below
the England average
number of owned
properties

There are
more male
residents than
female in the
borough

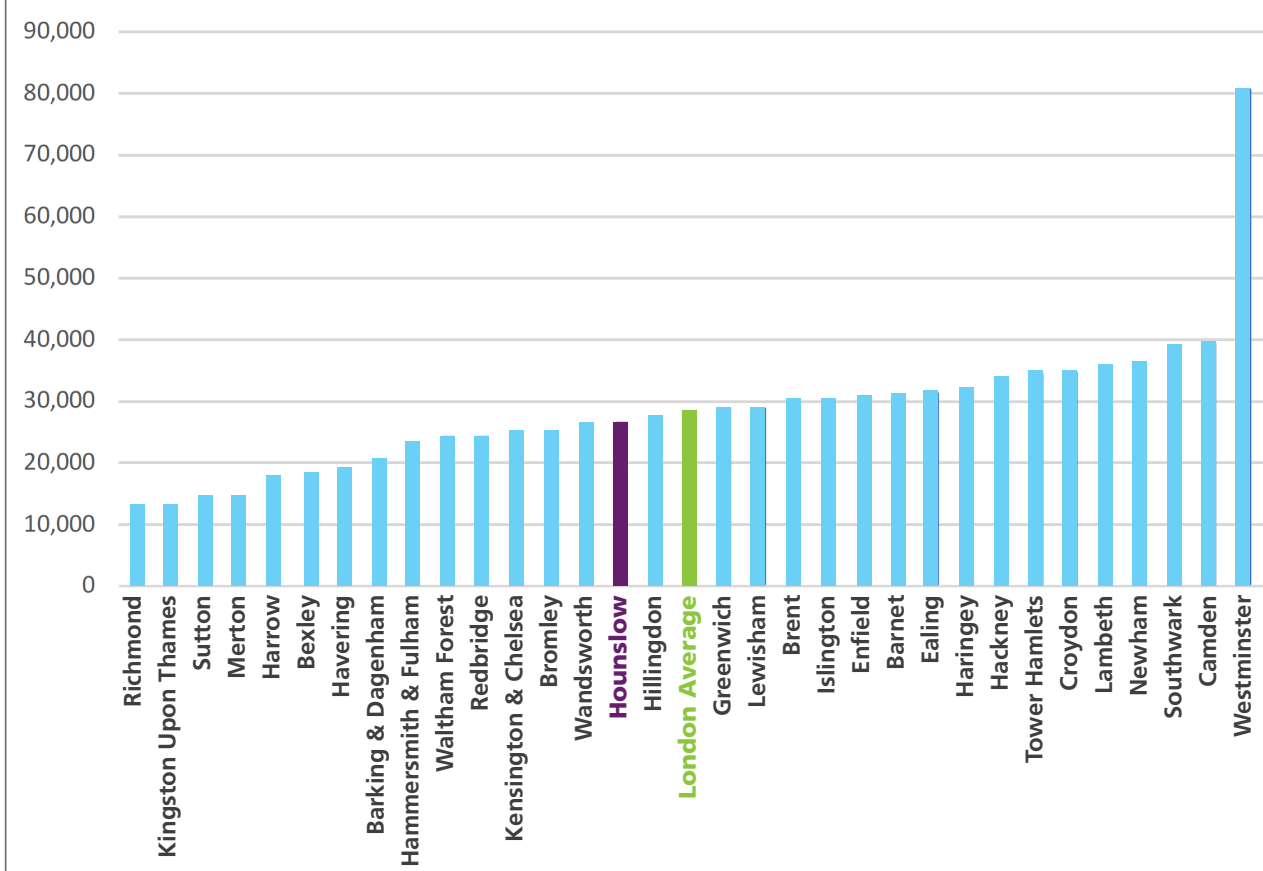
Council
looks after
13,000
tenants and
3,000
leaseholders

Almost
53%
of Hounslow
residents are from
Black, Asian, or
Minority Ethnic
backgrounds

BOROUGH CRIME LEVELS

Hounslow is a safe borough but like other parts of London, we have seen an increase of 2.4% in crimes recorded compared to 2018-2019.

London Total Notifiable Offences – April 2019 to March 2020



OUR AMBITION

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

We are proud of all the different organisations, communities and residents who work with each other every day, to deliver a wide range of services and projects to keep Hounslow safe. They provide help and support to victims of crime, take enforcement action when a crime has been committed and work to stop offending behaviour. But we know since our last Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020, there has been a change in the types of crimes we need to focus on. This means we will need to change how we work together to keep Hounslow a low crime borough.

Our approach to making Hounslow safer for everyone will mean the borough will set out its most ambitious plans to date.

We have used borough wide data, listened to our residents and talked to professionals before agreeing the priorities set out in this document.

These priorities will change over the life of the strategy, as we progress the delivery of our Covid-19 Recovery Plan and update our work on resident engagement.

The most important area of work impacting how we deliver the strategy, is the



development of a borough-wide preventative and early intervention approach; we want to help residents before they reach crisis point and before they need support from statutory services.

This strategy will also drive forward the Council's work on becoming an outstanding local authority, through its new One Hounslow Programme. We want to transform our services, by improving how we work across the Council and with our partners and make sure we are delivering the right services for Hounslow residents.

In addition to this, we want to help more residents to take civic pride in their local areas, build on the generosity of people coming forward to help others during the pandemic and encourage residents to actively participate in making Hounslow safer.

We want to address the impact of inequalities experienced by some members of our communities, which means they are more likely to be affected by certain crimes.

OUR APPROACH

To achieve our ambition, we will adopt a **preventative approach** based on the Public Health Model.



WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU:

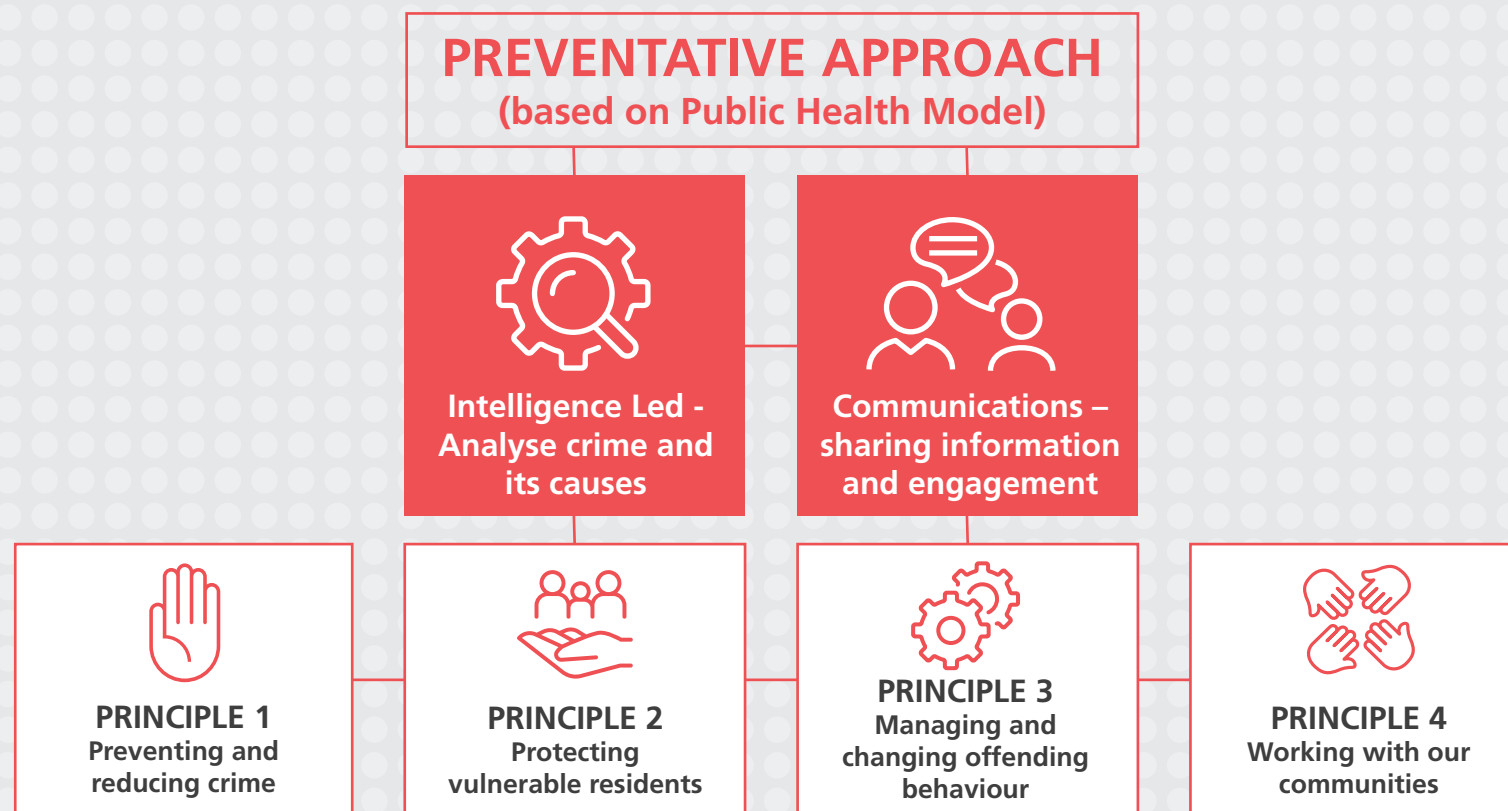
We will use data and intelligence available to us, to understand why some individuals are more likely to commit serious crimes. Once we know who these individuals are, we will offer a range of services at the earliest opportunity, to deter them from committing crimes. Often public places such as parks, housing estates and town centres are locations where the most serious crimes are carried out. We will look at these places in detail, to see how we can make them safer.

We will need to make sure we work with all our residents regularly, to understand the types of crimes that affect them, get their views on how to reduce crime and empower them to support and deliver initiatives to make their neighbourhoods safer.

We know some residents are more affected by crimes because of who they are, their beliefs, where they live and other differences. We want to work with everyone, so everyone feels safe.

To help us deliver this new approach, we will create a new team who will focus on working in local areas across the borough to reduce crime related issues and we want you to help us. We will continue to work with different organisations to deal with crime problems as and when they occur. This includes providing support to some of our most vulnerable residents who are affected by crime issues.

We have identified four principles, which we will adopt when delivering this strategy. These are:



PRINCIPLE 1:
Preventing and Reducing Crimes by focusing on providing help to stop crimes from happening in the first place and working to create safer and cleaner spaces to deter criminal activities.

PRINCIPLE 2:
Protecting Vulnerable Residents by reaching out to children, young people and adults at most risk of being affected by crime.

PRINCIPLE 3:
Managing and Changing Offending Behaviour by providing positive activities to prevent criminal behaviour, using civil remedies and other statutory powers to tackle offending and where necessary, use criminal legislation.

PRINCIPLE 4:
Working with our Communities by understanding their needs and supporting them to share ideas about how to make their neighbourhoods safer.

HOW WE WILL DELIVER ON OUR PRIORITIES

By law, we have a Hounslow Community Safety Partnership Board, which is made up of key organisations in the borough who are responsible for this strategy.

We have started to review our local partnerships to make sure we have the right people, structures and working arrangements in place to successfully deliver this new ambitious strategy.

In addition to this strategy, there are other plans that set out how we are working together to make Hounslow safer. Some of these plans are delivered by the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership, Hounslow Safeguarding Adults Board and Hounslow Health and Well-being Board.

WHAT WE WILL DO

The next diagram illustrates the key changes we want to achieve each year to support the successful delivery of **Our Priorities, Our Ambition, Our Approach** and **Our Principles**, over the life of the strategy.



- ✓ **Our preventative approach** to address serious crime is promoted across the borough
- ✓ **Implement new work** to focus on areas in the borough where crime is high
- ✓ All professionals will encourage more **residents to be involved** in keeping Hounslow safe
- ✓ Look at how multi-agency Partnerships and other groups discussing serious crime can **work better together**

Update and improve community safety related services to reflect the Council's One Hounslow Programme work on becoming an outstanding local authority



- ✓ Our new preventative approach to address crime is embedded **across all agencies and Partnerships**
- ✓ More residents and communities are **actively involved in keeping Hounslow safe**
- ✓ **Simplified structures** and processes in place to help residents understand how to access community safety related services

APPENDIX 1

YEAR 1 DELIVERY PLAN 2021-2022:

(Year 2 and 3 Delivery Plans will be developed at the end of Year 1)

PRIORITY 1: Residents are less affected by serious crime	
WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO:
Reducing the number of Violence Against the Person and Robberies offences	1. Implement the borough's Violence Reduction Plan
	2. Use the West Area Borough Command Unit's Violence Suppression Unit to focus on robbery in high crime areas
	3. Implement new work to reduce the number of times someone commits a violent crime
	4. Actively increase the offer of support to stop drug dealing by those under 25 years
A reduction in serious offences in high crime locations	5. Create a new Council team to work in different locations across the borough to work with communities, to reduce crime in local neighbourhoods
	6. Deliver training and briefing sessions on our new preventative approach across the borough
	7. Improve how we use our data to help us understand high crime areas in the borough, identify victims and offenders in these areas and work towards identifying residents at risk of getting involved in criminal behaviour

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

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO:
Improving identification and positive outcomes for young people and adults who are criminally exploited by offering specialist help	1. Agree a new way of working to identify and support adults whose properties are taken over by criminals
	2. Offer a range of positive activities to stop 18-25-year olds being exploited into carrying out serious offences
	3. Provide additional support to school aged children not in education who may be vulnerable to criminal exploitation
Improving the number of domestic and sexual abuse survivors who feel safe by offering specialist help	4. Ask survivors if they feel safer after receiving support and help
Improving identification and positive outcomes for victims of modern slavery, hate crime and financial abuse	5. Deliver training to professionals to encourage referrals to the council for adult victims of modern slavery and provide each victim with an individual risk and needs assessment to address immediate safety and further support
	6. Raise more awareness on financial abuse so professionals can identify cases and work on prosecuting more offenders

PRIORITY 3: Residents work together to keep Hounslow safe

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO:
Increasing the percentage of residents who feel safe	1. Explore a mechanism for regular feedback from residents on feelings of safety in their local neighbourhoods
Increasing the number of communities who feel better informed about the work we are doing to keep crime low	2. Develop a quarterly Safer Communities E-Newsletter to update residents on our work to keep Hounslow safe and promote opportunities to support crime reduction initiatives
Increasing the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents and young people who are engaged in neighbourhood community safety initiatives	3. Proactively talk to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents about community safety issues in their local neighbourhoods and encourage all communities to work together
	4. Use technology to encourage more young people to talk to the Council and the Police about crimes they are most worried about