



Lewisham Safer Schools Partnership and Lewisham Schools

Offensive Weapons in Schools Protocol

1. Introduction

1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan 2015–18: It's everybody's business.

The plan establishes how partner agencies will continue to work together to improve those outcomes that will make significant improvements to the lives and life-chances of Lewisham children and young people.

All agencies across Lewisham who work for our children and young people share a single vision:

Together with families, we will improve the lives and life chances of the children and young people in Lewisham.

The vision is underpinned by three shared values:

- We will put children and young people first every time
- We will have the highest aspirations and ambitions for all our children and young people
- We will make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.

Lewisham's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has identified four key areas to improve outcomes for children and young people to be taken forward through our Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18. These priority areas are:

- **Build child and family resilience**
- **Be healthy and active**
- **Raise achievement and attainment**
- **Stay safe**
 - We will work across the partnership to ensure that the right of every child to live in a safe and secure environment, free from abuse, neglect and harm is protected.
 - We will identify and protect children and young people at risk of harm and ensure that they feel safe.

1.2 Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan 2017-18 (see Appendix 1)

The Safer Lewisham Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment, and through consultation with residents.

The following **relevant Plans** set out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved. These include:

- The Violence Against Women and Girls Action Strategy 2017-2021
- Local assessment profiles : Peer on Peer abuse, Serious youth Violence, Domestic Abuse under 25
- Youth Offending Service Business Plan and inspection improvement plan
- Health and Wellbeing Board Plan
- Children and Adults Safeguarding Board annual plans
- Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015 – 2018
- Missing , exploited and trafficked Strategy 2016
- Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice – Local response – Feb 17

The Partnership will continue to deliver and focus on Police and Crime Commissioners identified areas within the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 which include:

- A better police service
- A Criminal Justice System for London
- Keeping children and young people safe
- VAWG

- Hate crime and counter terrorism

Focus on young people under Peer on Peer Abuse. This will include work in relation to identified serious youth violence, drugs markets, knives, firearms, trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation, and cyber-crime. Particular focus on contextual violence and risk, harm and vulnerability will be essential.

What will be done?

- A whole borough active stance on a zero tolerance approach to drug dealing in the community.
- Universal education offer within Secondary schools.
- Continued campaign and communications strategy for professionals and residents.
- Focused deterrence approach which ensures swift action by all in respect of peer on peer abuse.
- Implementation of a trauma informed model across services recognising the strong associations between victims, perpetrators, trauma, childhood conduct disorders, and violent behaviour – increasing the level of people within the children’s workforce economy trained.

2. The Aim of the Protocol

The aim of this protocol is to set clear guidelines that enable schools, police and other services in Lewisham to ensure that learners and staff are protected and the carrying of offensive weapons and violent behaviour is discouraged through:

- Early identification of potential problems.
- Early intervention.
- The support, agreement and collaborative approach of schools, police and other services.
- Proactive enforcement.

2.1 Definition of Offensive Weapon

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 provides that an offensive weapon is *“any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by some other person.”*

The vast majority of young people attending Lewisham schools will not be affected by serious violence or carry weapons. However, where these problems do occur there will almost certainly be a significant impact. Schools, both primary and secondary, have a duty and a responsibility to protect and safeguard their learners and staff. Lewisham schools are safe places where learners are offered high quality teaching and learning opportunities enabling them to leave school with qualifications and access to greater employment opportunities.

Each school, special school, college, sixth form provider or alternative providers must have a strategy in place to ensure learners:

- feel safe at school all the time;
- understand very clearly what unsafe situations are; and
- be highly aware of how to keep themselves and others safe.

The number of learners permanently excluded, from Lewisham schools, for weapons related incidents, has remained fairly constant over the last three years.

2011-2012	9
2012-2013	16
2014-2015	14
2015-16	23
2016 to date	13

However even low levels of youth violence can have a disproportionate impact on schools and communities.

Success in learning is one of the most powerful indicators in the prevention of youth crime and dealing with youth violence effectively can help attainment and attendance.

In adopting this protocol we will ensure that schools are safer places where important interventions can take place to prevent violent behaviour, including the carrying of weapons and violent incidents that take place in the community.

2. Staff powers

Teachers have a number of legal powers (May 2013) to manage learners' behaviour and impose discipline. The main ones are listed below.

- A statutory power to discipline learners, which includes the power to issue detentions and to confiscate inappropriate items (Education and Inspections Act 2006). The Department for Education's (DfE's) advice for headteachers and school staff on the power to discipline¹.
- A statutory power to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils (Education and Inspections Act 2006). The DfE's advice to schools on this power².
- Power to search pupils without consent for a number of 'prohibited items'. These include: - knives and weapons; - alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items; - tobacco and cigarette papers; - fireworks; pornographic images; - any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property; and any item banned by the school rules that has been identified in these rules as an item that may be searched for³.

2.1 Guidance on searches

Schools in England have powers to search and screen pupils and confiscate prohibited items. The Department for Education released Departmental Advice entitled Searching, screening and confiscation in February 2014. This advice applies to all schools in England. **See Appendix 2 for full details.**

2.2 School procedures

Staff discovering or identifying learners carrying an Offensive Weapon.

- Learners and parents are communicated with and notified of an offence immediately.
- Police must be notified immediately of all incidents where a learner is in possession of a knife or other offensive weapon.
- Where offensive weapons are found or abandoned outside the school grounds but in the vicinity. Staff should also follow school procedures in these circumstances which is to firstly the Safer Schools officer.
- There is a Safer Schools officer in post covering Lewisham secondary schools. **(Appendix 3).**

¹www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0076803/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools-a-guide-for-headteachers-and-school-staff

²www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0077153/use-of-reasonable-force

³www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0076897/screening,-searching-and-confiscation

- In emergencies where immediate action is needed where there is threat to staff / students / community then contact will be made by reporting the incident by phone on the **999** system. For non-emergencies it is the Safer Schools Officer, or if unavailable 101.
- Where weapons come into staff possession they will be retained for collection by the Police Officer dealing.
- The member of staff taking possession of the weapon, from a student, will document the incident and provide police statement regarding the seizure if requested.
- It's important to recognise that police should be granted access and a member of staff who has knowledge of the circumstances available to meet and explain what has happened.

2.3 Subsequent actions

- In consultation with or on advice of police school staff should document the incident and collect witness statements. Staff need to be trained if providing evidential statements to the police.
- All weapons seized should be kept in a safe place and handling them should be minimised as it could lead to loss of forensic evidence.
- The decision to impose a school based consequences remain with the Headteacher and governing body. It is important to indicate if the decision is made at the time of the incident or at a later date, and how that is communicated to the learner and family.
- Each incident will be considered and a measured response provided according to the individual circumstances and severity of the incident.
- A risk assessment should be carried out by the police on the severity of the offence and if appropriate presented at Fair Access Panel to consider the most appropriate action for the learner. This would be on the request of the Fair Access Panel Chair to Lewisham Safer Schools. This will be presented at Fair Access.
- Headteachers may decide on a Restorative Justice meeting between all parties, where appropriate and diversionary support for perpetrator from Youth Offending Service and Lewisham Council Anti-social Behaviour Team. This can also be supported by a Safer Schools officer.
- School based consequences could include:
 - Restorative justice
 - Internal exclusion
 - Fixed term exclusion (for further investigation)
 - Managed move to Alternative Provision, another Lewisham school or a school outside the borough
 - Permanent exclusion

3. Police Action

Once informed of the incident police will make the decision on the appropriate action to be taken, this will depend on the gravity of the offence and specific factors concerning the young person. These may include:

- Previous incidents that have come to notice at the school or through police contact such as arrest or previous prosecution.
- Prevalence of offence in local area.
- Attitude of offender.
- Age of offender.

Where a decision is made to question or arrest the offender they will be usually required to attend a police station.

Once all the evidence has been gathered the police (maybe in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service) will make a decision on the appropriate disposal of the matter. Such disposal can run in parallel with any action the school may have taken or is considering.

The disposal will consider the following options:

- Take no further action.
- Warn the suspect in accordance with the Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and referral to Youth Offending Service for a triage / youth caution / youth conditional caution - where diversionary support for perpetrator can be offered.
- Charge to Court.

The final decision will be based upon the learner's previous offending history, details of the specific incident and any other mitigating circumstances. The issue of exclusion from school will remain the decision of the school's Headteacher.

3.1 Non-arrest decision

Where a decision is agreed upon not to arrest or prosecute an offender then in all cases the school will facilitate an internal restorative justice conference to be run by the school and which can be supported by Safer Schools officers.

See Appendix 3: Bladed Articles and Offensive Weapons Guideline Consultation Youths (P57 - these are used by courts to assess the seriousness of the offence).

3.2 Offences available for Weapon offences (also see Appendix 4)

Offence	Gravity score	Aggravating factors
Possession of Offensive Weapon for 16 – 17 year olds	4	Method of use Concern caused to member(s) of the public Degree of danger
Possession of Offensive Weapon for 10 – 15 year olds	3	Circumstances of possession Concern caused to member(s) of the public Degree of danger
Possession of a sharp pointed blade for 16 – 17 year olds	4	
Possession of a sharp pointed blade for 10 – 15 year olds	3	Circumstances of possession Concern caused to member(s) of the public
Threatening with article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises Section 142 LASPO Act 2012 For 16 – 17 year olds	4	Minimum of 4 months DTO so must charge
Threatening with article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises Section 142 LASPO Act 2012 For 16 – 17 year olds	4	

4. Support from Lewisham Police

Lewisham police are willing to advise and support any school to educate learners, through assemblies and PHSE, on the dangers and consequences of violent behaviour and carrying offensive weapons. Support can also be given in detecting weapons in schools. See **Appendix 3 for the list of Safer Schools Officers.**

4.1 Presentations

There are a range of presentations that change from time to time and which are available from the Safer Schools officers.

4.2 Search Arches - an effective tool

The use of arches on a random basis acts as a deterrent and may prevent escalation of previous incidents. Safer Schools officers or Safer Neighbourhood officers can act as an advisor/ support and deal with any offences found.

Lewisham police are able to provide extra hand held search 'wands' to facilitate searching.

Pre agreements will enable staff to be trained and allow the deployment of the arch at the earliest possible time.

It is the role of the school to inform pupils and parents of the possibility of the powers under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 being exercised.

The use of these arches should be considered to assist in sending out the joint prevention message. The knife arch have been deployed across the Borough by police teams in public places and has been widely utilised by Safer Transport on the bus networks.

5. Other agency support

5.1 New Woodlands Outreach Service

This is aimed at targeting learners who are considered to be most at risk of exclusion in Lewisham secondary schools. This is working with the entire year 6 cohort in different schools across the borough. This is a workshop offering the four main areas of transition:

1. What's the difference
2. Expectations
3. Keeping safe
4. Getting it right

5.2 Abbey Manor College

The majority of children and young people who committed a weapons offence will be referred to Abbey Manor College. It is expected that learners who are permanently excluded from school are given the opportunity to reengage in full time education after a period of rehabilitation in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit. Learners who are ready for excluded are referred to the Lewisham Fair Access Panel.

Readiness for reintegration would be based on the following:

- Learner's progress at Abbey Manor College – attendance, punctuality and academic progress.
- The learner does not commit any further weapon offences whilst at Abbey Manor College – in school or out of school.
- There are no further arrests and any YOS Order is complete.
- The learner has a clear understanding of the consequences of the weapons offence for themselves and any victim.
- There is a collaborative programme of 'offensive weapons awareness' provided to the learner by YOS or the police.
- The learner has completed a programme of restorative justice in order to encourage a 'fresh start'.

- A risk assessment and an Education Psychologist's report should be completed.
- There is no guarantee of a second chance if the learner reoffends or does not meet the school's behaviour policy.

These principles would apply where a child or young person is placed in other Alternative Provision.

5.3 Youth Offenders Service

Trauma informed offensive weapon awareness:

- Support for young people register with the Lewisham Youth Offenders Service.
- Target on offensive weapons possession for those who have been charged.
- Four to six week engagement phase – building relationships, assessing trauma, assessing risk, safety and wellbeing.
- Programme will cover peer on peer abuse, context and environment, self-image, group dynamic, letter to self, impact of violent offending on staff (Vicarious Trauma).

6. Other resources

6.1 MOPAC Resources

- Toolkit : Talking to Young people about knife crime . Launched in [Nov 17](#) but refreshed.
- The toolkit contains existing resources and initiatives that have been specially developed, including:

- * campaign material templates

- * lesson plans<[- * inspirational activities](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_sites_default_files_knife-2Dcrime-2Deducational-2Dtoolkit-2Dlesson-2Dplans.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHk_SQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUIw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEOf3jnT9rYktNd_OvvJSy1r2ID4&s=Nazka22MjowD-anYGpkUsIV76pkLtyZ5bfN3vUodGQg&e=>

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- * links to free courses, training and useful contact details

- * information about the London Needs You Alive campaign and details of the other things we're doing to combat knife crime.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london-needs-you-alive-toolkit3.pdf><[#### Summer Activities locator for young people](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_sites_default_files_london-2Dneeds-2Dyou-2Dalive-2Dtoolkit3.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHk_SQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUIw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEOf3jnT9rYktNd_OvvJSy1r2ID4&s=cFvucdgka8ZbeaMTkn78Je_2Wi626MXJFZpl2Ily1jk&e=></p>
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This could be widely used including with young people working with YOS Teams

<https://www.london.gov.uk/our-london/><[#### LAs /Partners can add their own activities at:](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_our-2Dlondon_&d=DwMFaQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHk_SQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUIw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEOf3jnT9rYktNd_OvvJSy1r2ID4&s=vHiOCnZzEUQ13Y6fo6wRi2DGHft-qHiFhvyZ6vHbAIM&e=></p>
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https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/our-london-summer-activities/add-your-event?utm_source=GLA&utm_medium=internal&utm_campaign=OurLondonSummer<[7](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_what-2Dwe-2Ddo_education-2Dand-2Dyouth_our-2Dlondon-2Dsummer-2Dactivities_add-2Dyour-2Devent-3Futm-5Fsource-</p>
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[3DGLA-26utm-5Fmedium-3Dinternal-26utm-5Fcampaign-3DOurLondonSummer&d=DwMFaQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHkSQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUIw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEoF3jnT9rYktNd_OvwJSy1r2ID4&s=3fBsNT4AM7_mUxtthdo-GWjxMFRXEQ62SdWc23fzAg&e=>](https://www.gov.uk/government/campaigns/3DGLA-26utm-5Fmedium-3Dinternal-26utm-5Fcampaign-3DOurLondonSummer&d=DwMFaQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHkSQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUIw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEoF3jnT9rYktNd_OvwJSy1r2ID4&s=3fBsNT4AM7_mUxtthdo-GWjxMFRXEQ62SdWc23fzAg&e=>)

7. Statement of intent

The intention is to send out a unified message across the borough.

Signed:	Secondary school:	Dated:
Signed:	Primary school:	Dated:
Signed:	Children and Young People:	Dated:
Signed:	Safer Lewisham Partnership:	Dated:

For this policy to be successful in protecting students, staff and the public in our communities, it will need to be implemented by all schools and services.



SAFER LEWISHAM PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017-2018



Executive Summary

Each year council officers, with partners are committed to conducting a strategic assessment, which includes consultation with local residents. This informs the development of our Safer Lewisham Annual Plan and sets out the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership. We will of course focus on all crimes, however this year from 2017 to 2018 the main priority is violence in all of its forms, such as working with partners to reduce peer on peer violence and gender based violence.

I consider this to be a relevant and accurate analysis of our main priority for Safer Lewisham Annual Plan. It is certainly not right for young people to feel unsafe, threaten, bullied or attacked by their peers, or even to witness such a crime. It is unacceptable that young people are harmed or even worse lose their lives due to knife crime. The unnecessary loss and pain for the family, friends and the community can be catastrophic. This is why tackling violence is a priority for our borough.

Every person is unique and has a special purpose in life, to grow, to learn and to achieve. No one should be treated differently or discriminated against on any grounds, and this is no different with gender. Crimes against females, or indeed any person who has experienced Domestic Violence, Rape or FGM practices should not and must not be ignored. Victims continue to need support and encouragement to speak out and push forward for justice to be served. Lewisham is a victims-focused borough that continues to support women to become survivors from all forms of violence and abuse. We and our partners strive to work well for our residents.

In the last year we have achieved much in the area of crime prevention and reduction, yet we still have more to do. I am confident as we continue to work closely together, developing trusting joint partnerships and support with our residents, we will see a further reduction of crime in Lewisham.

Cllr Janet Daby
Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Chair of Safer Lewisham Partnership

About This Document

- i. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) (In Lewisham, the Safer Lewisham Partnership) to develop a three year Crime and Disorder Strategy which sets out how crime and Anti-Social Behaviour will be tackled – the borough will adopt the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 as the strategy to meet this requirement for the next 4 years.
- ii. An additional responsibility is also placed on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment to ensure emerging community safety trends are captured, and priorities are refreshed where necessary. There is also a statutory responsibility on the partnership to reduce reoffending and to be accountable for addressing PREVENT under The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act.
- iii. This Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment.

The accompanying Strategic Action Plan sets out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved.

THE SAFER LEWISHAM PLAN

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2018

PART 1

Our Aim: A Safer Lewisham

Lewisham's Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-20 set the Local Strategic Partnership a goal of making Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn. Delivering on this depends on our success in creating a climate where 'people feel safe and live free from crime, anti-social behaviour and abuse'

Through effective partnership working and effective engagement with communities the Safer Lewisham Partnership works to bring about a consistent reduction in the number of victim based offences, and to improve the quality of life of its residents. To do this successfully we aim to deliver a strategy which is strategically relevant, robustly delivered and responsive to the needs of local communities.

The Safer Lewisham Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment, and through consultation with residents.

The MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 will be adopted as the Boroughs 4 Year Strategy and this will form the framework for Partnership activity.

The Safer Lewisham Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment. The following **relevant Plans** set out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved. These include:

- The Violence Against Women and Girls Action Strategy 2017-2021
- Local assessment profiles : Peer on Peer abuse, Serious youth Violence, Domestic Abuse under 25
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- Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice – Local response – Feb 17

The Borough in Profile

The GLA demographic projections indicated a population of around 300,000 in 2016 with a projected rise to over 311,000 in 2020. In the short-medium term Lewisham's population will become younger with the average age decreasing from 34.8 in 2015 to 34 in 2020. During this period the population of children in Lewisham aged less than 15 years (currently 9.4% of the population) is expected to increase by 15.9%. This trend reflects the higher birth/migration rates of the capital and is a demographic factor which needs to be factored into planning around crime and disorder priorities.

The largest migrant populations by country of birth are Jamaica and Nigeria, both comprising 3.5% of the population in 2016. In recent years migration rates have been relatively low in comparison with the rest of London and much of its consists of EU migration from member states such as Spain, Italy and Romania who were the largest contributing countries in 2014.

Lewisham's economy is heavily centred on the public sector with only Greenwich having a higher percentage of its workforce in this sector and has one of the lowest percentages employed in banking and finance sectors in the capital.

Despite improvements in several key poverty indicators Lewisham remains one of the most deprived boroughs in the capital with the second highest youth unemployment and teenage pregnancy rate in London. On the latest available figures 20.4% of children live in out of work households.

As with many inner city boroughs these indicators of poverty co-exist with areas of regeneration. Lewisham is in relative terms an affordable borough, with a much lower median house price than most parts of London and excellent transport links to the city. Approximately 55% of adults have a degree or equivalent education attainment. The borough’s workforce is primarily a commuter one, and has particularly high rate of residential mobility.

Reflection of 2016/ 2017

The Safer Lewisham Partnership set the following 4 priorities in March 2016:

- ✚ Peer on peer abuse – under 25 year olds in relation to serious youth and group violence with particular focus on knife enabled crime, child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.
- ✚ All strands of violence against women and girls with particular focus on Domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and FGM. This includes male victims within the defined strands of human trafficking, sexual violence, prostitution, domestic violence, stalking, forced marriage, ‘honour’-based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM).
- ✚ Focus on work in relation to identified geographical hotspots, premises and people of interest and using regulatory and enforcement provisions across the partnership and community as appropriate. This includes business crime and community safety related issues that impact on local residents. This links with work under the strands of Organised Crime including drugs as a driver for violence, firearms, human trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation, Economic crime and cybercrime.
- ✚ Better understand, respond, monitor and reach out to specified groups in relation to a multi-agency approach to hate crime

Priority 1 - Peer on peer abuse

We said we would take the following action:

- ✚ All agencies taking a proactive approach to identifying those at risk of and those involved in peer on peer abuse. This includes a targeted approach to provide help if they want it, or enforcement if they do not take the help.
- ✚ All partners working collectively to look at environmental and geographical risks and take action to reduce these.
- ✚ Campaign and related work to ensure all Lewisham residents are aware of the issues, the risk indicators and what to do for support and help. Developing a single message and a joint Adult Community Response.

Serious youth violence has increased slightly (2.7%) though at a lesser rate than for the capital. (251-258 offences)	Youth Violence, a wider group of violent offences against young people has declined (1.2%, 731 – 722 offences)	Knife Crime with injury (u25), has decreased against the general trend, (1%, 81-72 offences)
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Partnership enforcement and environmental operation: a proactive partnership approach to tackling an increase in street robberies in a geographical location which contributed towards approximately 60% of the net increase in robbery as a whole.

A local partnership approach was applied to the problem and involved mapping key neighbourhood vulnerabilities including the presence of large numbers of vulnerable adults who were providing a market for dealers. Competition between local youths was partially attributable to competition over sales and the Local Authority implemented a focused deterrence approach targeting trap houses where drugs were being manufactured after the cuckooing of local addicts. Solving such a complex problem involved a delicate interplay of safeguarding and enforcement functions.

Overall possession orders were served on properties and a list of individuals were collated for Criminal Behaviour Orders, applications prohibiting entry to the area and attaching non-association requirements for key individuals. A mapping of physical estate vulnerabilities was also undertaken and access points were blocked off, as well as SNT patrols increased in the area. The Serious youth Violence team also worked with the RSLs in the area in a comprehensive knife sweep.

In December the robbery volume declined by over 90%

Community Trauma Work

Work is being developed between statutory partner agencies and community groups to consider a community led approach to tackling serious youth violence. This has included piloting a Parent led support group for parents in the north of the Borough. This work will start to tackle the issues of community trauma, lack of trust in organisations and build a ‘trusted adult’ model within the community. In addition, the use of restorative justice approaches within the community and within key schools in the location will embed a culture of support and community healing.

A communities of Practice approach has been adopted to enable members of the Community with professionals in the area to understand the issues collectively, work together to implement actions and to support each other in moving forward. This work will continue, embedding this ethos and community led model in the geographical area.

Priority 2 - Violence against women and girls

We said we would take the following action:

- ✚ Work closely with enforcement agencies in aligning a greater victim support ethos at all processes through the Criminal Justice system
- ✚ Campaign and related work to ensure all Lewisham residents are aware of the issues, the risk indicators and what to do to for support and help
- ✚ Support and develop the Child House Model in relation to improving services, support and a single investigative approach for young victims of sexual violence.

There has been a significant rise in rates of sexual violence (11.9%) and rape (20.8%), (rates of underreporting are as high as 90% on some estimates)	Domestic Abuse Violence With Injury offences have risen (9.9%)	All domestic abuse has seen a slight reduction of 1.8%
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Positive Women’s Conference

Women from the Muslim community wanted to raise awareness of domestic violence and provide information on how women specifically can stay safe and receive help and support if they are suffering from such abuse. These Muslim women wanted a conference which provided information on access to vital statutory and community services. It was ensured that all meetings prior to the conference were confidential and the women’s cultural needs were understood. It was important to acknowledge the sensitive nature of the conference and maintain partnership working to help create community cohesion and address domestic violence within Lewisham.

The conference explored what services were available to women seeking support with domestic abuse and or sexual violence and how to access these safely – those services represented included the NHS, Police, Community support services, Immigration and Sexual Health. Over 60 women attended.

Priority 3 - Identified geographical hotspots, premises and people of interest - Organised Crime

We said we would take the following action:

- ✚ Multi agency Partnership activity to reduce crime and fear of crime in identified areas
- ✚ Developing a business crime partnership approach to areas of greatest victimisation.
- ✚ Developing the work and understanding of risk and vulnerability linked to County lines and drug dealing to prevent further young people being recruited to this organised crime. This work will seek to reduce overall violence linked to drugs in Lewisham and linked to Lewisham individuals.
- ✚ Multi agency partnership activity specifically targeting known premises of concern i.e. Brothels, licensed premises, rogue landlords, using an approach which supports the victims involved.
- ✚ Developing a pan London approach to a local approach to tackling organised and serious crime

Robbery Total has reduced from 769 in Jan 2016 to 760 in January 2017	Robbery Business has risen by 1 incident in this time, from 77 to 78	93% of people said that they felt Very or Fairly safe during the day 57% of people said they felt Very or Fairly safe at night (residents survey Feb 2017)
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Banking Protocol

The Lewisham Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service have been heavily involved with the MPS Falcon and Sterling Teams from SC&O7 and London Trading Standards in preparing a more holistic response to organised rogue traders and other scammers and fraudsters by local police and local authority law enforcers. Lewisham CERS have joined a pilot whereby when police receive a 999 or 101 call to a suspected fraud in action, participating local authorities will provide a rapid response as this is an area where enforcement legislation often overlaps between police and council enforcement.

The Banking Protocol is a national initiative between the banking/financial industry and law enforcement. In London the MPS Falcon prevention team have developed a corporate immediate response protocol for Borough Operation Command (BOCU) Response Officers. In Lewisham the initiative includes a local authority rapid response.

The initiative also enhances the response by banks, building societies and other financial service providers, to suspicious activity, encouraging the rapid call to police (and local authority where such protocols exist), the securing of evidence such as CCTV, physical evidence e.g. documents with potential forensic opportunities, vehicle registration marks and description. Also to raise staff's awareness of what may be suspicious activity such as unusual or large amounts being withdrawn, or apparently vulnerable customers being accompanied by 'strangers'.

Priority 4 - Hate crime

We said we would take the following action:

- ✚ A detailed assessment of the current understanding of the issue including Community Characteristics, Incidents, Victims, perpetrators, Locations and Times, Current Responses.
- ✚ Training in our collective response to hate crime.
- ✚ Reflecting and reviewing our response to the needs of victims of hate crime.
- ✚ Increasing our support and enforcement based on people and places of note identified via our local assessment.
- ✚ Increase public awareness of hate crimes and educate groups about strategies to reduce their vulnerability to hate crimes.
- ✚ Review, develop and publicise specific initiatives that have been undertaken to encourage and/or improve the reporting of hate-crime victimisations including on-line apps, and third party reporting sites.
- ✚ Collaborate with educational institutions work with students, staff, and the public about hate crimes and hate groups' recruitment tactics and emphasise community cohesion, integration and tolerance.

Racist and religious hate crime increased by 11.6% (454 – 514 crimes)	Homophobic crime reduced by 9.1% (87-79 crimes)	Anti semitic increased by 83% (1-6 crimes). Islamophobic crime reduced by 30.5% (36-25 crimes)
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Lewisham’s **Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Sites** network has been revisited, re-established and the reporting sites are currently being retrained to receive and deal with reports from the community

Lewisham’s Third Party Reporting scheme aims to deliver a coordinated response to hate crime by bringing together key agencies to work in partnership to ensure victims and witnesses have access to support and protection, and offenders are brought to justice which will help create a safer and more cohesive community.

The aims of third party reporting of hate crime are:

- To support and encourage increased reporting of hate crime and hate incidents to establish a better understanding of the needs of different communities and target resources effectively.
- To enable victims and witnesses of hate crime incidents to make reports at independent community locations, where they feel safe and comfortable.
- To improve information sharing between partner agencies and promote joint working to increase community safety.
- To send a clear message across all communities that hate crime is unacceptable, that victims will be supported and protected and perpetrators will be held to account.

Launch of Hate crime App:

Safer Lewisham Partners are working to use new and innovative initiatives to enable victims to report hate crime. In 2016 Lewisham championed the MOPAC-supported hate crime reporting smart phone application **‘Self Evident’**, promoting it at Lewisham People’s Day, through the Safer Neighbourhood Board, the Safer Lewisham Business Forum and a range of youth, vulnerable adult, housing and faith for a across the borough.

Lewisham is hoping to increase the public use of this, both as a method of reporting a crime and as a tool to gather evidence.

This reporting avenue is also being promoted to and through Lewisham Council staff, the Lewisham Council website and to partners across a range of services.

<https://www.witnessconfident.org/self-evident-app>

Current profile:

Over the last twelve months the borough’s performance has largely mirrored trends which have been occurring nationwide, the most notable of which is a general stabilisation or marginal reduction of acquisitive crime, coupled with a sustained increase in violent and sexual offences. Burglary, already at a historic low in the borough has continued to decrease, as has Motor Vehicle crime. Similarly theft offences have decreased by an incremental margin. Whilst much national attention has focused on a spike in hate crime, racially and religiously aggravated hate crime declined significantly by 9% with no major community tensions recorded by police.

Number of Offences	12 months to January 17 (year)		12 months to January 16 (year)	
	Lewisham	Met Total	Lewisham	Met Total
Total Crimes	24,635	763,410	24,556	737,948
Homicide	6	104	4	116
Violence Against the Person (Total)	8,849	234,930	8,590	223,172
Rape	273	6,314	226	5,466
Other Sexual	418	11,181	391	10,480
Robbery (Total)	838	23,062	846	21,731
Robbery (Person)	760	21,416	769	20,004
Robbery (Business)	78	1,646	77	1,727
Burglary (Total)	2,065	68,737	2,151	70,373
Burglary Residential	1,413	43,036	1,453	44,421
Burglary Non-Residential	652	25,701	698	25,952
Gun Crime	87	2,385	87	1,851
Motor Vehicle Crime	2,295	79,164	2,425	71,979
Domestic Crime	3,115	74,389	3,171	73,101
Racist & Religious Hate Crime	514	16,836	454	14,255
Homophobic Crime	79	2,034	87	1,825
Anti-Semitic Crime	6	514	1	462
Islamophobic Crime	25	1,204	36	1,070

When considering trends the following crime types impact significantly on the Boroughs total notifiable offences –

Non Domestic Violence With Injury offences have been increasing on the borough since April 2016, and in five of the last seven months volumes have been higher than the 3 year average.

This equates to 7.6% of Total Notifiable Offences.

Common Assault offences have shown a significant upward trend on the borough, following a trend of steady increases since November 2013. The borough has recorded offence volume higher than the 3 year average in six of the last seven months. This equates to 9.8% of Total Notifiable Offences.

Lewisham is currently in the top 4 London boroughs for Domestic Abuse and equates to 12.6% of Total Notifiable Offences. The borough is also in the top 10 for Total Sexual Offences and Knife Crime. All of the rankings for these high harm crimes have remained consistent.

There were a total of 1,718 **CSE** enquiries recorded on the MPS crime system in 2016 (up from 1,675 at the end of FY 2015/16). Eight in ten enquiries are deemed to be within the lowest risk category.

Lewisham accounted for 44 enquiries, or 3% of the total (ranking the borough 19th out of 32 for volume). 25% of these cases were categorised as medium or high risk.

Residents' voice

Through a borough wide survey undertaken 201 people responded. The following areas were identified:

Burglary 29.5% Knife Crime 27.5% Robbery 6.5% Drug or Alcohol Related 7.5%

When asked the specific question of if they were a young person or the parent/carer of a young person, what concerns them most today, the responses highlighted

Street Robbery 24% Street violence 16% Cyber Bullying 15%

Through a Public Attitude Survey conducted in relation to the Police, Lewisham is currently recording 79% victim satisfaction (ranked 13th in London) and 68% 'good job' confidence levels for residents of the borough (21st of the 32 London boroughs).

PAS Question	Overall Result %	London Ranking
Do you know how to contact your local policing team?	37.8	17
Local information provision	43.4	16
Police are dealing with the things that matter to people in this community	77.9	12
Police can be relied on to be there when you need them	77.1	22
The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	72.6	27
The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people	76.9	18

The borough is currently performing well in terms of dealing with the things that matter to the local community.

A focus on the inequalities observed towards victim satisfaction and public perception, for Lewisham, there is a strong White / BAME gap around perceptions towards the police (i.e., there is more than an 7.1% difference in terms of whether the police treat everyone fairly– White 75.4%, BAME 68.3%) will require focus.

PART 2

In setting the **17-18 priorities** a number of aspects have been taken into consideration. These include:

- Forthcoming changes to the London Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021
- Regional work being undertaken in respect of the London Landscape – future projections in respect of harm and vulnerability and any regional and sub-regional commissioning across agencies
- Reviews in respect of disproportionality and cohesion including Baroness Young, MP David Lamey, and Dame Louise Casey
- Inspection outcomes that relate to all partners within the Partnership
- Information from our local strategic needs assessment and local residents survey
- Lewisham’s local assessment profiles including Serious Youth Violence, and Child Sexual Exploitation and Domestic abuse for under 25 year olds

The Borough partners and residents have identified the following as being essential for our collective approach:

- Reduction in harm and vulnerability being critical as part of an overall prevention, intervention and enforcement strategy
- Clear focus on reducing violence in all its forms
- Focusing on redesigning and delivering services that supports and provides a victim centric approach. Seeking to ensure that all contact and outcomes by all agencies puts victims at the forefront. Reducing fear, harm and Revictimisation is critical.
- Considering contextual analysis and location risks.
- Improving confidence and satisfaction in police, local authorities and public services.

The Partnership will continue to deliver and focus on Police and Crime Commissioners identified areas within the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 which include:

- A better police service
- A Criminal Justice System for London
- Keeping children and young people safe
- VAWG
- Hate crime and counter terrorism

Why the focus on Violence?

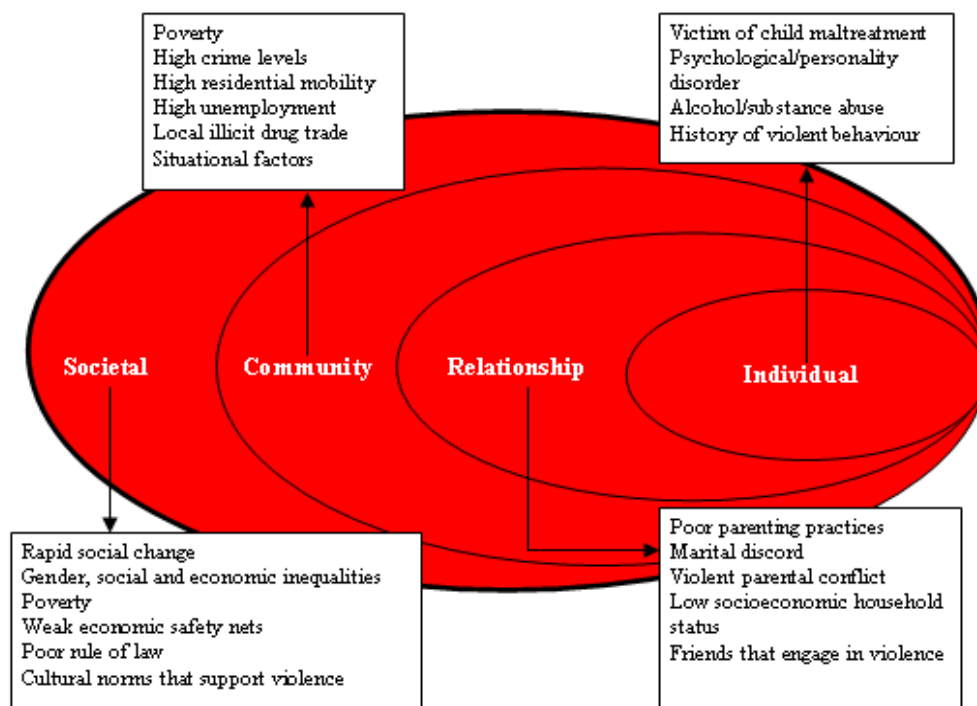
The following research and evidence base identifies critical aspects of Lewisham that impact on the local picture of Violence.

The ecological framework is based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels—the individual, the relationship, the community, and the societal.

- At the **individual level**, personal history and biological factors influence how individuals behave and increase their likelihood of becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence. Among these factors are being a victim of child maltreatment, psychological or personality disorders, alcohol and/or substance abuse and a history of behaving aggressively or having experienced abuse.
- Personal **relationships** such as family, friends, intimate partners and peers may influence the risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. For example, having violent friends may influence whether a young person engages in or becomes a victim of violence.
- **Community** contexts in which social relationships occur, such as schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces, also influence violence. Risk factors here may include the level of unemployment, population density, mobility and the existence of a local drug or gun trade.
- **Societal** factors influence whether violence is encouraged or inhibited. These include economic and social policies that maintain socioeconomic inequalities between people, the availability of weapons, and social and cultural norms such as those around male dominance over women, parental dominance over children and cultural norms that endorse violence as an acceptable method to resolve conflicts.

The ecological framework treats the interaction between factors at the different levels with equal importance to the influence of factors within a single level.

The ecological framework: examples of risk factors at each level



The costs of violent crime both in terms of the emotional damage to individuals, and communities are well known. Violence impacts on mental wellbeing and deters individuals from using public spaces, in ways which undermine social cohesion. Under such conditions public confidence in the Local Authority and police is likely to be adversely affected, and the perceptions of anti-social behaviour are likely to have a self-fulfilling effect.

In assessing the human and financial costs it is also vital to note that over half of the boroughs Child Protection caseloads have been flagged for domestic violence, and the effects on children raised in such environments has been exhaustively documented by Public Health experts. Childhood exposure to peer and parental violence is a key predictor of future violent behaviour and is also intimately connected with a range of other negative health outcomes⁴

Across England, emergency hospital admission rates for violence are around five times higher in the most deprived communities than the most affluent. While violence in all deprivation groups peaks in late adolescence and young adulthood, the ratio of violence from richest to poorest is greatest in childhood and mid-adulthood (when adults are often parenting). In concentrating resources on a comprehensive violence reduction strategy, the partnership aims to alleviate these social costs and improve cohesion within the borough.

Violence:

In the area of **violent crime** the evidence of an increase is clear; total crime in the borough increased by 673 offences of which 577 can be accounted for by an increase in violent offences. Whilst it should be borne in mind that these are relatively small rises and that changes in police recording practices may still be having a continuing impact, there are reasonable grounds for assuming high harm offences are increasing. Violence with injury is less significant and this crime group has risen significantly over the last twelve months. It should be borne in mind that contrary to popular perceptions these rises are *not fuelled by younger people* where trends in serious youth violence, knife crime with injury and youth violence point to a stationary or decreasing levels. Nevertheless there is continuing evidence that large numbers of young people in particular are carrying knives, and there is clear evidence, confirmed by proxy indicators like aggravated burglary, that much of the violence is connected with drug dealing.

⁴ The Adverse Childhood Experiences study in the USA, remains one of the most cited studies and documents

Much of this rise, ultimately, is attributable to a rise in domestic violence offences which make up approximately a third of total Violence with Injury offences. Similarly the rise in rape and sexual violence is significant though care must be exercised when dealing with relatively low volume offences. (The Corston Report indicated, non-reporting in rape cases may be as high as 90% and presents such a scale of under recording that would make a decrease a matter for concern)⁵.

Cumulatively the evidence of static property crime and rising volume of violent offences leads the partnership to believe a targeted focus on volume violent offences is appropriate

This focus is justified by

- i) Analysis of crime trends and an assessment of harm
- ii) Convergence with the London Mayors Offices Police and Crime Plan focus of risk, harm and vulnerability.
- iii) Options for enhanced multi-agency working and the availability of robust performance indicators to measure progress and hold the partnership accountable

We aim to

- Prevent adults and young people from using or engaging in or becoming victims of violence in public or private spaces
- Intervene by providing appropriate and widely available services to help people who have problems with violence and for their victims and families.
- Take robust enforcement action against those committing or enabling violence in public or private spaces. Underpinning this approach is the need to provide public reassurance and confidence that actions are being successfully taken

PART 3

In setting this single priority it is important to note that all other crime and concerns will still be addressed through our usual Partnership business. If other trends emerge in the year these will be assessed and action taken as required. The findings and actions from the disproportionality work will support and shape the delivery of this priority.

VIOLENCE

Gender based Violence

All strands of violence against women and girls within the defined strands of human trafficking, sexual violence, prostitution, domestic violence, stalking, forced marriage, 'honour'-based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). A specific and stated focus will be placed on male victims of Domestic Violence, sexual violence and trafficking linked to drugs dealing.

What will be done?

- ✚ Increased referrals to all agencies against the strands of gender based violence.
- ✚ Whole Borough awareness raising and briefings to improve understanding and knowledge across this agenda.
- ✚ Everyone taking an active stance of zero tolerance to gender based violence.
- ✚ Targeted practice in respect of the distinctions between intimate partner violence, familial violence and male victims.

Peer on Peer Abuse/ Violence

Focus on young people under Peer on Peer Abuse. This will include work in relation to identified serious youth violence, drugs markets, knives, firearms, trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation, and cyber-crime. Particular focus on contextual violence and risk, harm and vulnerability will be essential.

⁵ The IPCC investigation into the gaming of rape figures by an MPS Sapphire Unit in 2013 highlights some of the risks

What will be done?

- ✚ A whole borough active stance on a zero tolerance approach to drug dealing in the community.
- ✚ Universal education offer within Secondary schools.
- ✚ Continued campaign and communications strategy for professionals and residents.
- ✚ Focused deterrence approach which ensures swift action by all in respect of peer on peer abuse.
- ✚ Implementation of a trauma informed model across services recognising the strong associations between victims, perpetrators, trauma, childhood conduct disorders, and violent behaviour – increasing the level of people within the children’s workforce economy trained.

All other Violence

- Examples include:
- aggravated burglary
 - Common assaults
 - Violence with injury
 - Hate crime where violence is a feature

What will be done?

- ✚ Through regular assessment, where other crime is identified requiring a different response this will be directed through a Partnership problem solving approach and agreed action
- ✚ Drivers of violence will be identified and appropriated action taken I.e. alcohol

How will changes be measured across the Partnership?

- ✚ A reduction in Serious youth Violence
- ✚ A reduction in violence with injury
- ✚ Reduction in young people receiving custodial sentences and reoffending where Serious youth Violence offences have occurred
- ✚ Reduce the number of knife crimes by volume and of repeat victims
- ✚ Reduce the number of gun crimes
- ✚ Reduction in Non-Domestic Violence- Violence with injury
- ✚ Reduction in Common assault
- ✚ Reduction in aggravated burglary
- ✚ Reduction in violent injuries identified via the LAS and Hospital A and E data

- ✚ Encourage more victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and sexual violence to come forward and report
- ✚ More domestic abuse victims to come forward
- ✚ Reduction in repeat victimisation of VAWG offences

Lewisham MOPAC set local priorities for performance monitoring:

- Non Domestic Violence
- Common Assault
- ASB

PART FOUR

Finance and Resources

There have been a number of significant changes in the funding and resourcing for all aspects of the Criminal Justice system both locally and regionally. Mayor of London is the Police and Crime Commissioner, and he delegates this portfolio to Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime - MOPAC. MOPAC not only holds the Met Police to account for delivering its priorities, but it also has overarching responsibilities for crime reduction in the capital and has significant powers to commission services. All partners are committed to working collaboratively and to support funding applications where appropriate to continue the support required to deliver on the areas identified as priorities for 2017-18.

Resources across the partnership have reduced significantly and all agencies are seeing large scale transformation. The changing landscape will impact on deliverability and will need to be reviewed and monitored regularly and closely by the Safer Lewisham Partnership.

To deliver this plan the ability to undertake detailed analytical products is essential. This is a significant risk to the Partnerships ability to review performance regularly and understand the impact of the work.

Further copies of the Plan can be obtained on request to the Crime Reduction and Supporting People Services within the Council.

If you would like the information in the document translated into a different language, provided in large print or in Braille or the spoken word, please contact us on:

Tel No: 0208 314 9569

Post: Crime Reduction and Supporting People Division
London Borough of Lewisham, Lawrence House, Catford Road, SE6 4RU

In developing this plan, there has been a series of consultation processes as well as collation of data from a range of sources. These have included an on-line Crime Survey. We would welcome any feedback, suggestions or proposals from individuals or organisations.

For practical advice in relation to community safety and crime prevention, please visit the website:

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

Call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 to give information about a crime

For information on your local Safer Neighbourhood Teams please visit:

<http://www.met.police.uk/teams/lewisham/index.php>

Appendix 2

School powers to search and screen pupils for offensive weapons¹

Schools in England have powers to search and screen pupils and confiscate prohibited items. The Department for Education released Departmental Advice entitled Searching, screening and confiscation in February 2014. This advice applies to all schools in England.

What is a “prohibited item”?

- Prohibited items include:
- knives or weapons;
- alcohol;
- illegal drugs;
- stolen items;
- tobacco and cigarette papers;
- fireworks;
- corrosive substances;
- pornographic images;
- any article that a member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence or injure a person or damage property; and
- any item which a school policy specifies as banned and able to be searched for.

Schools should clearly state in their behaviour policy which items are prohibited. The headteacher must publicise this policy in writing to staff, pupils and parents annually. Maintained schools must do so in accordance with section 89 Education and Inspections Act 2006. Academy schools must do so in accordance with the School Behaviour (Determination and Publicising of Measures in Academies) Regulations 2012 Offensive Weapons.

Screening pupils at school

Schools can force pupils to be screened by a walk through or hand-held metal detector whether or not they suspect the pupil of having a weapon and without that pupil's consent. Any member of staff can screen pupils. This type of screening without physical contact differs from the power to search pupils, as explained below.

If a pupil refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to allow the pupil on to the premises. This will be treated as an unauthorised absence and not an exclusion. For more information on unauthorised absences see our information page on School attendance and absence.

Searching pupils with consent

School staff can search pupils with their consent for any item. The consent does not have to be in writing. If a member of staff suspects that a pupil has a prohibited item and the pupil refuses to agree to be searched then the school can punish the pupil in accordance with their school policy.

A headteacher or a member of staff authorised by the headteacher can carry out the search for prohibited items where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. The member of staff must be the same sex as the pupil and another member of staff should act as a witness. However, a search can be carried out by a member of staff who is of the opposite sex to the pupil and without a witness where the staff member reasonably believes that there is a risk of serious harm to a person if such a search is not carried out immediately and it is not reasonably practicable to call another member of staff. In such cases, staff should take into account the increased expectation of privacy for older pupils.

What are reasonable grounds for suspicion?

Members of staff must decide in each case what constitutes reasonable grounds for suspicion. For example, they may have heard other pupils talking about the item or notice a pupil behaving in a suspicious manner. The school can rely on CCTV footage to help reach their decision. These powers apply regardless of whether any prohibited item is found on the pupil.

Where can searches be carried out?

Searches without consent can only be carried out on the school premises or, if elsewhere, where the member of staff has lawful control of the pupil e.g. on school trips in England or in training settings.

What requirements are there during the search?

The extent of search

Pupils can only be required to remove 'outer clothing'. 'Outer clothing' means clothing that is not worn next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear. Outer clothing includes hats, shoes, boots, gloves and scarves. The power to search without consent permits a personal search involving the removal of outer clothing and searching of pockets. Staff cannot carry out an intimate search; this can only be carried out by the police.

Searching a pupil's possessions

A pupil's possessions can only be searched with the pupil and another member of staff present unless there is a risk of serious harm to a person if the search is not carried out immediately and it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff. 'Possessions' mean any goods over which the pupil has or appears to have control including desks, lockers and bags.

Searching lockers and desks

Schools can search lockers and desks with the pupil's consent. Schools can make it a precondition of having a desk or locker that pupils will agree to a search whether or not the pupil is present. If a pupil refuses to allow the search then schools can still carry out the search for prohibited items.

Use of force

When conducting a search for any prohibited item as listed above on this page, members of staff can use such force as is reasonable, given the circumstances and where there is a risk to pupils, perpetrator, staff or premises. However force cannot be used to search for items solely banned under school rules.

When can a school confiscate items?

Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006* gives schools power to discipline pupils which enables a member of staff to confiscate, keep or dispose of pupil's property as a disciplinary measure where it is reasonable to do so. Staff have a defence to any complaint provided they act within their legal powers. The law protects members of staff from liability for any loss of or damage to any confiscated item (see prohibited items above), provided that they have acted lawfully.

* http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/pdfs/ukpga_20060040_en.pdf

Items confiscated pursuant to a 'with consent' search.

Staff can use their discretion to confiscate, keep or destroy any item found provided it is reasonable in the circumstances. If any item is thought to be a weapon it must be passed to the police.

Items confiscated pursuant to a 'without consent' search.

A member of staff can seize anything that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item or is evidence in relation to an offence.

Is there a duty to inform parents about a search?

There is no obligation on schools to inform or seek the consent of parents before a search. It is good practice, and a Lewisham recommendation, for schools to inform a pupil's parents/guardians where alcohol, illegal or harmful substances are found (unless there are safeguarding concerns) although there is no legal requirement to do so.

Schools do not have to make or keep a record of a search. It would be good practice and a Lewisham recommendation to keep a record of any searches to create an audit trail for any potential complaints. Any complaints about screening or searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure. See our information page on Complaints to schools for more details on how to do this.

Appendix 3

Factors to consider when assessing an offensive weapons incident in school

Mitigating Factors (-)	Aggravating Factors (+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous good character and/or exemplary conduct • Genuine mistake or misunderstanding (eg did not remember the knife was in the offenders possession) • Vulnerability of the offender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mental disorder or learning disability ○ Particularly young or immature pupil ○ Offender is or was at time of offence suffering from significant mental or physical ill-health and offence is not likely to be repeated ○ A permanent exclusion might exacerbate any physical or mental ill-health • Participated in incident due to peer pressure/bullying • Offender was influenced by others more criminally sophisticated • Provocation from victim or victim's group and offender reacted impulsively • Little or no planning • Co-operation with the school • Unstable upbringing including but not limited to numerous are placements, exposure to drug and alcohol abuse, lack of attendance at school, lack of familial presence or support, victim of neglect and/or abuse, exposure to familial criminal behaviour • Determination and/or demonstration of steps taken to address incident • The offence is minor and offender has put right harm or loss caused; has expressed regret; offered reparation or compensation • The offence is so old that the relevance of any response is minimised, i.e. there has been a long delay between the offence occurring and the point of decision making – Unless the offence is serious; the offender contributed to the delay; the offence only recently came to light; or the complexity of the offence has contributed to long investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapon used or violence threatened • Evidence of planning/premeditation • Pupil in a group or gang or offence was committed by a group • Offender was ringleader/organiser • Established evidence of community/wider impact • Deliberate humiliation of victim, including but not limited to filming of the incident, deliberately committing the incident before a group of peers with the intent of causing additional distress or circulating details/photos/videos etc of the incident on social media or within peer groups • Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability), deliberately put in considerable fear or suffered personal attack, damage or disturbance • Offence motivated by discrimination against victim's racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, gender, political views or sexual preference • Steps taken to prevent the victim reporting or obtaining assistance and/or from assisting or supporting in the resolution of the incident • Incident committed with intent to commit a sexual offence • Location of the incident (eg public ie incident is known within the school and/or the wider school community • Attempts to conceal/dispose of evidence • Failure to respond to warnings about behaviour • There are grounds for believing the offence is likely to be repeated or continued – e.g. by a history of recurring conduct

In law for 10-15 year olds, possession only of an offensive weapon usually results in a Youth Caution or a Youth Conditional Caution. The young person can be charged but this is only likely if the circumstances of the possession eg the degree of danger and the concern caused to pupils and staff warrant a charge.

This chimes well with many schools response to possession which can be to facilitate a managed move for a first possession of a knife.

Threatening with a blade or offensive weapon in public or at school normally results in a charge for 10-15 year olds, and again schools would normally permanently exclude for such an incident.

With offensive weapons, as with any major incident that puts a child at risk of permanent exclusion, it is good practice to consider the impact of any decision on the child, and, as is in sentence guidance, schools should also consider the welfare of the child (see mitigating factors, vulnerability of 'offender').

The fact that a sentence threshold is crossed does not necessarily mean that is the sentence that should be imposed.

When sentencing, new draft guidelines will require courts to assess the seriousness of the offence by considering the following non-exhaustive mitigating and aggravating factors.

Appendix 4 References

1. <http://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/school-powers-to-search-and-screen-pupils/>
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/pdfs/ukpga_20060040_en.pdf
2. ACPO Youth Offender Case Disposal Gravity Factor Matrix (March 2013)
<http://cps.gov.uk/legal/assets/uploads/files/Gravity%20Matrix%20May09.pdf>
3. Draft Sentencing Guidelines on bladed articles and offensive weapons (March 2017)
<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmjust/1028/1028.pdf>
4. <https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Draft-guideline-Bladed-articles-and-offensive-weapons-guideline.pdf>

Appendix 3

Name of School	Safer Schools Officer Contact 1	Safer Schools Officer Contact 2	SNT Ward
Abbey Manor College (Broadoak Campus)	PC Paul Stride 238PL	PS Steve Marks 60PL	Lee Green
Abbey Manor College (John Evelyn Campus)	PC Paul Stride 238PL	PS Steve Marks 60PL	Crofton Park
Addey and Stanhope Secondary School	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	Brockley
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	PC Diane Vincent 588PL	PC Ian White 198PL	Whitefoot
Brent Knoll	PC Aaron Bawden 889PL	PC Paul Ramsay 919PL	Perry Vale
Christ the King College	PC April Ryan 349PL	PC Paul Stride 238PL	Blackheath
Christ the King College (Aquinas)	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	Telegraph Hill
Conisborough College	PC Ian White 198PL	PC Diane Vincent 588PL	Whitefoot
Deptford Green Secondary School	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	New Cross
Drumbeat (Brockley Site)	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	Telegraph Hill
Drumbeat (Downham Site)	PC Ian White 198PL	PC Diane Vincent 588PL	Whitefoot
Forest Hill Secondary School	PC Aaron Bawden 889PL	PC Paul Ramsay 919PL	Perry Vale
Greenvale School	PC Ian White 198PL	PC Diane Vincent 588PL	Whitefoot
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	Telegraph Hill
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	PC Ian White 198PL	PC Diane Vincent 588PL	Downham
Lewisham Southwark College (Deptford Campus)	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	New Cross
Lewisham Southwark College (Lewisham Way Campus)	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	Brockley
Marathon Science School	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	PC Gary Arterton 752PL	Evelyn
New Woodlands	PC Ian White 198PL	PC Diane Vincent 588PL	Downham
Prendergast Hilly Fields College	PC Paul Ramsay 919PL	PC Aaron Bawden 889PL	Ladywell
Prendergast Ladywell School	PC Paul Ramsay 919PL	PC Aaron Bawden 889PL	Crofton Park
Prendergast Vale College	PC Malcolm Inch 842PL	PC April Ryan 349PL	Lewisham Central
Sedgehill School	PC Diane Vincent 588PL	PC Ian White 198PL	Bellingham
St Dunstan's College	PC Paul Ramsay 919PL	PC Aaron Bawden 889PL	Rushey Green
St Matthew Academy	PC April Ryan 349PL	PC Paul Stride 238PL	Blackheath
Sydenham High School	PC Aaron Bawden 889PL	PC Paul Ramsay 919PL	Sydenham
Sydenham School	PC Aaron Bawden 889PL	PC Paul Ramsay 919PL	Forest Hill
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