

3. The Place to Feel Safe In and Proud Of



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Context

Feeling safe is the starting point for feeling you belong. Our vision for 2050 is a borough where everyone is safe and feels safe, where streets are clean and green, and where our parks, playgrounds and open spaces are loved and used by everyone. Residents have told us that crime and anti-social behaviour are among the most important issues facing the borough, and that our parks and green spaces are among the things they value most. This theme sets out what we will do over the next four years to act on both.

Over recent years, we have strengthened our approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, bringing partners, communities and young people together to turn our commitment into practical action. In 2024, we launched the Serious Violence Strategy, building on the Safer Greenwich Partnership and working with partners including the Metropolitan Police, NHS and National Probation Service. The Strategy focuses on prevention and early intervention, taking a public health approach to understanding the local causes and drivers of serious violence. Alongside

this, the Let's Live #KnifeFree campaign has worked with young people, communities and the police to raise awareness of knife crime, signpost support and encourage people to make the decision to drop the knife. The campaign has helped drive practical action, including the introduction of weapon surrender bins across the borough. In 2025/26, 662 weapons were taken off our streets through this work.

This is important progress, but serious violence still causes devastating impacts to young people and families in our borough. In Greenwich there have been 438 knife offences in the past 18 months (2025 – 2026) and three teenage boys were tragically murdered through serious violence. All of these incidents underline the importance of our prevention work, and the need to embed positive change. Impactful change often depends on reaching young people early, which is why we support violence-prevention programmes in schools together with mentoring, sports, self-defence and trauma support for those affected by serious violence – helping to steer

young people away from harm and towards positive opportunities. We will continue to listen to young people and communities, work closely with our partners, and focus on education with children and young people to achieve lasting behavioural change.

Around one in four women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. In 2024/25 there were 3,496 domestic abuse offences in Greenwich reported to the Police, which is a 13% decrease from the previous year. However, the rate of domestic abuse offences in Greenwich remains above the London average and is the seventh highest of the 32 London boroughs. We must enact meaningful change to address why domestic abuse is disproportionately higher in Greenwich, as it is essential that women and girls feel safe at home, and in our communities. The Working Together to End Male Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy will be vital in making this change and sets out seven key strategic priorities for 2025 to 2029. Building on extensive work already underway in the borough, the Strategy focuses on prevention, addressing the root causes of sexism and male violence, and a focus

on male accountability and cultural change. It is also important that men and boys get the support they need and are empowered to challenge harmful attitudes and become active partners in ending violence against women and girls. Access to positive male role models is vital in this, helping to model healthy relationships and shape attitudes from an early age.

We have continued to invest and enhance our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB), responding to residents' concerns through targeted investment in community safety. In a 2025 resident poll, crime and ASB were identified as the most important issues facing the borough. There were 6,414 recorded ASB incidents in 2024/25, and rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour accounted for 60% of them. In response, we have expanded our team of Community Safety Enforcement Officers, installed new CCTV and strengthened our Integrated Enforcement model to deliver smarter, locally driven enforcement.

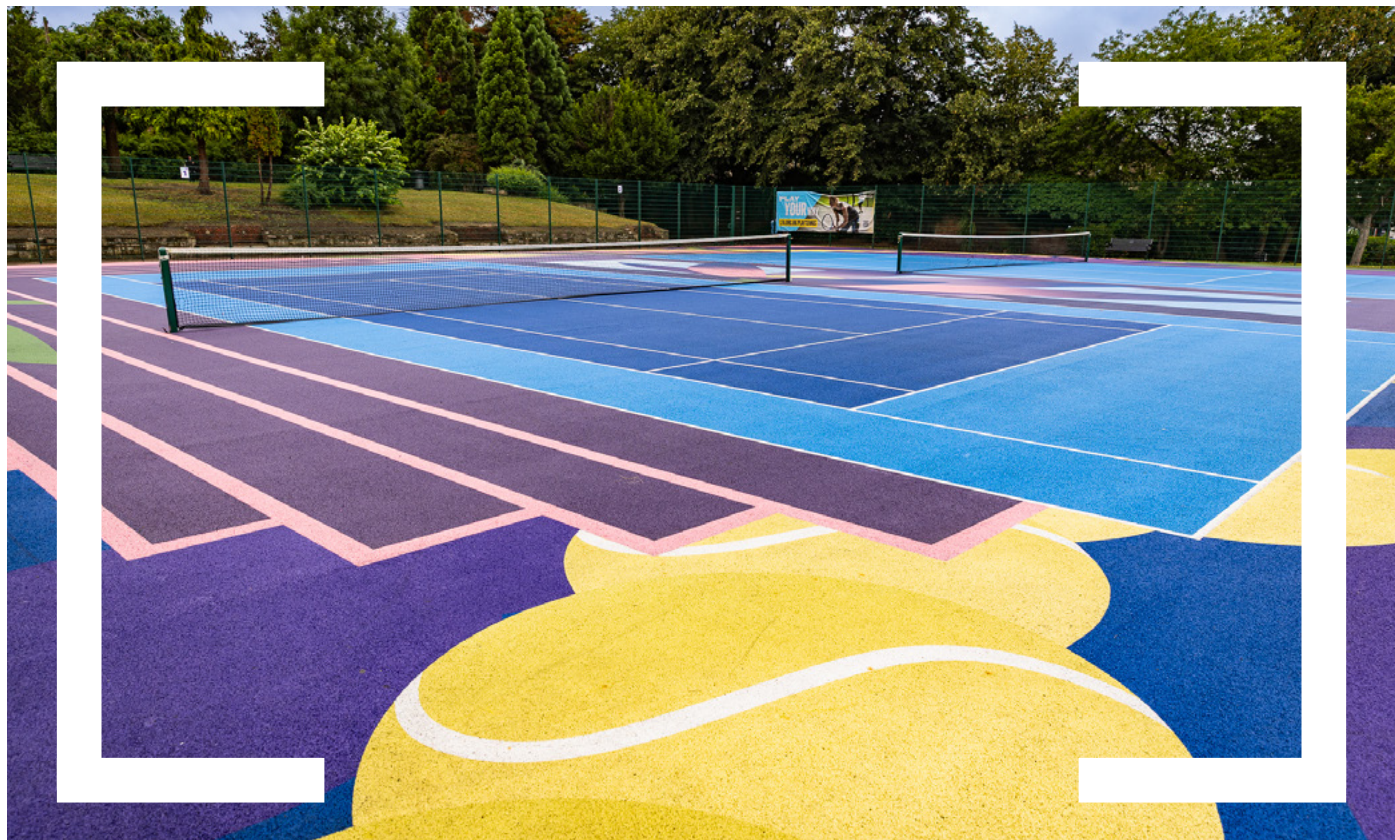
We will not tolerate those who harass and intimidate others in our town centres and public squares, at the expense of

the residents, families and visitors who have every right to enjoy them. We will make full use of the enforcement powers available to us to tackle those who break the rules, and work closely with the Police and other integrated enforcement bodies to crack down on this behaviour.

As well as tackling anti-social behaviour to ensure our residents feel safer, we also want our residents to feel proud of their environment and local area. Fly-tipping by criminal offenders is a significant problem in the borough and results in our public spaces and neighbourhoods being unclean and appearing neglected. It costs over £800,000 of taxpayers' money a year and, since 2021, 3,218 tonnes of fly-tipping has been collected and cleaned. As this remains an ongoing concern, we have invested £5 million through our Getting Things Done programme to improve monitoring, investigating and clearance of fly tips and increase fines

for those who are caught and prosecuted. This investment aims to encourage long-term behavioural change and make our streets cleaner and safer places to live.

Greenwich has a large network of parks, playgrounds and sports facilities, and these spaces mean a lot to our residents. They improve physical and mental health by supporting physical activity and access to nature, alleviating stress and stimulating social connection and cohesion. We know continued investment is needed to ensure they remain well-used and loved, particularly by young people and families, while providing spaces that bring communities together and protecting them for generations to come. We will also invest in community centres and support community-led improvements that enable residents to shape and improve their local areas, with the hope of fostering a sense of pride and belonging.



3.1 People are safe from serious violence and exploitation

What this means

- We will work as one Safer Greenwich Partnership to reduce the number of children and young people drawn into serious violence — as victims or perpetrators — and to protect residents from criminal and sexual exploitation.
- We will make sure women and girls are safe and feel safe in the borough. That means naming male violence for what it is, intervening early with those at risk of causing harm as well as those at risk of experiencing it, holding perpetrators to account, safeguarding the places where risk is highest, and working with men and boys as allies to challenge the misogyny that sustains it — so the burden of safety no longer falls on women and girls, and violence is treated as a problem to prevent, not just police.



Commitments

Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls

- Building on our landmark Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy by delivering the actions within it including:
- Deepening our understanding of the links between domestic abuse and serious violence, and using our award-winning film Red to help teachers, youth workers, police, parents and communities spot the signs of grooming and exploitation earlier

Serious Violence

- Serious violence has taken too many young lives in Greenwich, and every death leaves a family in pain and a community shaken. We will act on every recommendation and every lesson from those deaths. We will change how agencies share information and, crucially, how we listen to what a child is telling us, building that learning into NextGen Greenwich, our next Serious Violence Strategy, and the training we give every member of staff who works with children at risk. No family should have to endure this loss

Education and Behaviour Change

- Funding a set of interventions and education programmes in primary and secondary schools, targeted at men and boys to address toxic masculinity and misogynistic attitudes, whilst building knowledge on consent and healthy relationships
- Continue work to problem-solve hotspot locations for women's and girls' safety in public spaces



Indicators (7)

Youth offenders: first time entrants to youth justice system. (Borough Indicator)

Youth offenders: first time entrants to youth justice system (rate per 100,000 aged 10-17)

Youth offenders: % of youth offenders reoffending. (Borough Indicator)

The proportion of young offenders who go on to commit another offence within 12 months of the first

Number of crimes per 1,000 people: Homicide, Violence with Injury, Violence without Injury. (Borough Indicator)

Number of crimes per 1,000 people: Rape, Other sexual offences. (Borough Indicator)

Percentage of repeat incident of VAWG victims during a defined period of 12 months (Borough Indicator)

VAWG stands for Violence Against Women and Girls. This is the proportion of victims who experience another incident within a year of their first one

Percentage of high-risk MARAC cases reduced within a defined period of 12 months (Borough Indicator)

MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a meeting where different services share information on the highest-risk domestic abuse cases to agree how to protect the victim. This measure is the proportion of those highest-risk cases where the level of risk to the victim had gone down within a year

Percentage of improvement of identified high harm problem premises (Borough Indicator)

Problem premises are properties identified as causing serious harm, such as homes taken over by criminals for illegal activity (cuckooing), or other addresses linked to repeated crime or exploitation. This measure is the proportion of these identified properties where the situation has been resolved or improved.

3.2 Fewer people experience anti-social behaviour and residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods

What this means

- We will tackle anti-social behaviour quickly, combining firm, fair enforcement with action to design out the problems that let it take hold — from better-lit streets to safer, more welcoming town centres and public spaces.
- We will ensure that residents feel safe and confident in their neighbourhoods, by day and after dark, and able to move around and enjoy their community without fear.

Commitments

Community Safety Enforcement

- Recruiting more community safety enforcement officers to patrol our town centres, so people feel safe and confident visiting at night
- Renew our Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), giving the council the power to take enforcement action against anti-social behaviour — including foul or abusive language, threatening or intimidating behaviour, and the consumption of alcohol or psychoactive substances
- We are investing in new CCTV and expanding our coverage so that residents are safe on our estates and around our neighbourhoods

Indicators (5)

Number of anti-social behaviour offences per quarter (Borough Indicator)

Number of crimes per 1,000 people: Theft from Person, Shoplifting, Bicycle Theft, Other Theft (Borough Indicator)

Percentage of statutory nuisance cases resolved in the agreed intervention period (Council Indicator)

Statutory nuisances are problems like noise, odour, or pests that the council has a legal duty to act on. This measure is the proportion of these cases resolved within the timeframe the council has committed to

Proportion of premises returning to the high harm or problem premises panel within 6 months of exiting (Borough Indicator)

The proportion of properties that were previously dealt with as a high harm or problem premises case, but ended up back on the panel again within six months

Tenant Satisfaction Measures - satisfaction with anti-social behaviour case handling (Council Indicator)

How satisfied council tenants are with the way their reports of anti-social behaviour were handled, based on Greenwich’s tenant satisfaction survey

3.3 Public spaces are clean, attractive and a source of pride

What this means

- We will keep the borough clean by targeting our efforts where they are needed most and taking firm action against fly-tipping and those who damage our environment.
- We will invest in our parks, playgrounds, sports facilities and community centres to ensure they are welcoming and vibrant – working alongside residents who share our pride in the place we live.

Commitments

Cleaner Streets

- As part of our work to reduce reducing fly-tipping we will make it easier to get rid of unwanted items, while using new technology to identify and prosecute fly-tippers
- Implement improvements to our bulky waste service including cutting the fee to £5 and making it a responsive, reliable and cost-effective service

Parks, Playgrounds and Sports Facilities

- We will refurbish East Greenwich Pleasance Playground, install disabled access at Plumstead Common Bowls, and refurbish the boardwalk in Sutcliffe Park nature reserve
- We are rethinking the future of our Adventure Play Centres (APCs) to create more accessible and sustainable play opportunities for children and young people
- As part of the planning for the Thamesmead new town, we will explore options to establish a new leisure centre and library in Thamesmead
- We will build on the play offer in the borough by investing in sports facilities, playgrounds and multi-use game facilities across the borough

Community Investment

- Through our Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund, we will continue to support local projects across the borough, with £1 million allocated to deliver community-led improvements that respond to local priorities and create lasting benefits , giving real power to local communities
- We will roll out multi use community hubs across the borough including the pilot community hub in Coldharbour where local services can be delivered
- We will review our community spaces to ensure that they meet the needs of local communities and the groups such as the Caribbean Social Forum that use them and that they are in good condition and financially sustainable

Taking back control of our high streets

- We will use new government powers over vape shops, adult gaming centres and betting shops to clean up our high streets as well as stepping up enforcement against illegal vapes and cigarettes and pressing for the strongest penalties for those who target children



Indicators (4)

Percentage of people who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (Borough Indicator)

Based on the government’s Community and Engagement Survey

Rate of fly-tipping enforcement actions per incident (Borough Indicator)

The proportion of fly-tipping incidents that resulted in enforcement action, such as a warning, fine, or prosecution

Fly tipping incidents per 1000 people (Borough Indicator)

Missed bins per 100,000 collected (Council Indicator)

The number of bin collections that were missed, shown as a rate per 100,000 collections carried out



Photo by
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