



Community & Children's Services

Date: FRIDAY, 30 MAY 2025

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 3, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Enquiries: safer.city@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs8m3HA41jl>

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Public Reports

1. WELCOME

2. APOLOGIES

3. INTRODUCTIONS

4. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES **Pages 05-11**

To approve the non-public minutes of the previous SCP Strategy Board meeting held on 07th February 2025.

5. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS **Pages 12-18**

The Partners are asked to note the outstanding actions.

5.1. PACE Consultation Response to action **Pages 19-22**
04/09/24 – Item 5.1 in the tracker.

6. SCP DRAFT STRATEGY 2025-2029 **Pages 23-50**

Report of City Corporations Community Safety Manager.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Presentation of City Corporations Strategy Officer.

8. SERIOUS VIOLENCE UPDATE **Pages 51-59**

Report of City Corporations Policy Officer – Town Clerk's.

9. DELIVERY PLAN AND GROUPS - **Pages 60-64
New Chairs for delivery groups**

Report of City Corporations Director of Community & Children's Services.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY IN THE CITY **Pages 65-70**

Report of the City Corporations Assistant Director Partnerships & Commissioning.

11. HOME OFFICE GRANT

Verbal update from the City Corporations Policy Officer – Town Clerk's.

12. CASTLE BAYNARD -

Rough Sleeping & Encampments

Verbal update from the City Corporations Assistant Director Partnerships & Commissioning.

13. PARTNER UPDATES

13.1. Our Safer City

Pages 71-75

13.2. LFB City of London Activities

Pages 76-81

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY BOARD MEETING



Friday 7th February 2025

Minutes of the meeting held at the Guildhall at 2-4pm

Attendees in Person

Gavin Stedman (GS)	Director of Port Health and Public Protection
Valeria Cadena (VC)	Community Safety Manager
Simon Cribbens (SC)	Asst Director Community and Children's Services
Don Randall (DR)	Crime Prevention Association
Jen Beckermann (JB)	Executive Director Private Secretary to CPR
Richard Waight (RW)	CoL Police
Rachel Talmage (RT)	CoLC Head of Services Children's Social Care
Charley Matthews (CM)	City Outreach Manager – Thamesreach

Attendees Online

Judith Finlay (JF)	Chair, Director of Community & Children's Services
Helen Isaacs (HI)	CS Local Policing
Charles Smart (CS)	Policy Officer
Richard Riley (RR)	Director of City of London Police Authority Team
Zoe Dhami (ZD)	Strategy Officer
Paul Hewitt (PH)	Chief Operating Officer - City BIDs - Primera
Amanda Wolf (AW)	CoL Police
Sheena Etches (SE)	CoLC Funding Manager
Patrick Brooks (PB)	London Ambulance Service
James Chapman (JC)	Fire Commander for City of London Fire Brigade
Sharon Smith (SS)	Snr Probation Officer – Hackney (deputy for Stepanie Salmon)
Ian Hughes (IH)	Director of City Operations in Environment
Sandra Baah (SB)	Regional Manager for Catch 22
Simon Young (SY)	Principal Public Health Specialist for Hackney

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gavin Stedman (chairing) started the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Each attendee introduced themselves and their roles.

No apologies were noted.

2. Minutes and Actions of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved without any amendments. The board then proceeded to discuss the actions from the previous meetings. Each action item was reviewed, and updates were provided on the progress made. This included a detailed discussion on the status of various initiatives and the steps taken to address the action items.

Actions discussed included:

- Information Sharing Agreement: Some signatures are still outstanding.
- Vulnerability Consultation: No update received
- Rough Sleeping Policy: Approved by Community and Children's Services and going to the Police Authority Board.
- Strategic assessment and future risks group: Strategic assessment completed, future risks group to be set up by March 2025.
- Communications across the Partnership: Ongoing discussions, focus on current channels and partner involvement.

3. Election of New Chair and Deputy Chair

Judith Finlay was elected as the new Chair of the Safer City Partnership. Helen Isaac was elected as the Deputy Chair.

4. New Strategy

4.1 Strategic Needs Assessment

Valeria Cadena reported on the Strategic Needs Assessment and some headline findings. The strategic assessment has been drafted and shared with the SCP. The assessment provides a comprehensive analysis of crime trends, community safety initiatives, and emerging challenges. It highlights successes while setting priorities for future action.

The City of London remains one of the safest areas in the country, with an effective crime rate of 0.0016 crimes per person per month.

Despite an overall rise in crime volumes (12% higher than 2018/19), the SCP has maintained a positive outcome rate of 20%, significantly surpassing the national average of 9%.

Proactive measures have been taken to tackle theft, which constitutes 61% of all crimes in the City. Specific categories like bicycle theft have seen reductions, and risks in high-footfall areas, particularly in the night-time economy, have been mitigated.

4.2 Consultation & Draft Strategy Update

Zoe Dhami presented the first draft of the new Safer City Partnership Strategy. The strategy focuses on four key areas: serious crime, antisocial behaviour, violence against women and girls (VAWG), and acquisitive crime. Zoe highlighted the importance of aligning the strategy with the current needs and challenges faced by the community.

The board engaged in a detailed discussion on whether the strategy should be aspirational or realistic. There was a consensus on adopting a hybrid approach, balancing aspirational goals with realistic actions. This approach would ensure that the strategy remains ambitious while being grounded in achievable objectives.

The discussion also emphasised the importance of data and intelligence-led actions. The board recognised the need for a central data repository and a dedicated analyst to enhance data sharing and analysis. This would enable more informed decision-making and improve the effectiveness of the partnership's initiatives.

The board also discussed the importance of upskilling staff and promoting multidisciplinary team meetings. These measures would enhance collaboration and ensure that the partnership can effectively address complex issues.

Funding considerations were another critical aspect of the discussion. The board debated whether the strategy should prioritise only actions that are currently funded or include aspirational actions as opportunities for development if additional resources become available. The consensus was to include both, ensuring that the strategy reflects the collective ambition while remaining realistic about deliverability.

The delivery and cross-partnership working were highlighted as essential components of the strategy. The board discussed the need for realistic and achievable actions that do not overburden the capacity of the organisations involved.

There was also a discussion on the importance of collaborative mechanisms and stronger oversight to monitor contributions and address any gaps in delivery.

Further Consultation: Continue consultations with delivery groups to finalise the actions and contributions for the new strategy.

Draft Finalisation: Refine the draft strategy based on feedback from the board and further consultations.

Sign-Off: Ensure that the Partnership signs off on the final strategy before it is published.

Next steps: Prepare and publish a final draft for public consultation to gather broader input and feedback.

5. POCA (Proceeds of Crime Act) funding

5.1 Current Position and Allocations:

- The SCP POCA fund had reserves of £301,073.75 at the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year.
- Four grant awards have been approved by the SCP, supporting activities such as raising awareness and support for victims of violence against women and girls, tackling nuisance cycling, taxi marshalling to prevent Serious Violence and VAWG in the night-time economy, and stewarding at New Year's Eve to ensure a safe environment.
- It was suggested that handling of the whole SCP POCA programme by the Central Grants Unit was being investigated and could free up capacity for the Community Safety Team (CST).
- The board discussed the need to secure further allocations and whose responsibility it would be to ensure this.

5.2 Expression of Interest for POCA Funding:

- An expression of interest was presented for a bid for £80,000 from the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding to support work on rough sleeping and antisocial behaviour. The bid aims to address the negative impacts of rough sleeping, particularly around encampments and the safety of those environments. The funding would provide for a role for 12 months, operational resources, and discretionary hotel costs for individuals without recourse to public funds.
- The proposal included funding for a coordinating officer role, storage, removal, and cleansing, as well as discretionary temporary accommodation for those without recourse.
- The board discussed the sustainability of funding and the need for a long-term plan. Helen Isaac raised concerns about the feasibility of using POCA funds for resource funding and the importance of having a plan for funding beyond the initial 12 months. Simon acknowledged these concerns and explained that the funding would be used to prove the need and make a case for long-term funding.

6. Community safety

6.1 Rough Sleeping Policy

Simon Cribbens provided an update on the policy and protocol developed to tackle the negative impacts of rough sleeping. It aims to address the negative impacts, such as anti-social behaviour, while ensuring the welfare and support of individuals who are homeless.

It has been developed in collaboration with the City of London Police. It was approved by the Community and Children's Services Committee and will be presented to the Police Authority Board for approval on 12 February 2025.

6.2 Community Safety Team Review

A Review of partnership working between the Community Safety Team and the City of London Police was reported. It recommends a larger Community Safety Team delivering more functions. This will require additional resources if the City Corporation wishes to deliver in this way. A report is to be presented to the Senior Leadership Team in February 2025 to consider.

A review of the Partnership between the Community Safety Team and the City of London Police was undertaken. The review recommends expanding the Community Safety Team to deliver more functions, which will require additional resources if the City Corporation wishes to proceed in this manner. A report is scheduled to be presented to the Senior Leadership Team in February 2025 for consideration.

Simon Cribbens discussed the current model of the Community Safety Team and the need for additional resources. A report was commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of the current model and explore potential improvements. The findings highlighted the necessity for a more operationally focused team with clearly defined roles.

Simon emphasised the importance of having a clear strategy and prioritising resources. He explained that the current model relies heavily on coordination and advisory functions, but there is a need for a more proactive approach. The board discussed the risks associated with the current model, including the impact of staff absences and the increasing demands on the team.

7. Partner Updates

Sandra Baah presented on the County Lines Support and Rescue Service:

- The Service is funded by the Home Office and provides one-to-one specialist support to young people aged under 25 who are victims of county lines exploitation in London, West Midlands, Merseyside, and Greater Manchester.
- Referrals are primarily received through Local Authorities, Police, NHS, and Probation Services, but voluntary and community services working with complex and vulnerable client groups are also encouraged to refer.

Don Randall provided an update on the Crime Prevention Association's activities and funding:

- He highlighted the success of the taxi marshalling initiative, which has facilitated nearly 20,000 journeys and served over 35,000 passengers, with 50% being women and 30% being single women. The East City BID and Aldgate BIDs have agreed to fund the taxi marshalling going forward, starting from 1st April, extending the service hours from 9pm to 1am.
- Safe Havens have been used effectively in recent incidents near London Bridge and Charing Cross.

- The CoLCPA expressed gratitude for the CILNF funding received and the rigorous evaluation process and support from the Grants Unit.

Sharon Smith (Probation Service) expressed interest in collaborating with Sandra Baah and the County Lines Support and Rescue Service. She highlighted the importance of providing information and support to probation officers and suggested organizing presentations and training sessions for staff.

James Chapman (London Fire Brigade) provided updates on planned exercises at the Guild Hall and ongoing work related to lithium-ion battery safety, flooding, and wildfires. He mentioned the new AFA policy, which has changed the attendance protocol for automatic fire alarms in office buildings during weekdays.

8. Any Other Business

Charles Smart mentioned the Future Threats and Demand Group. This group will make a detailed assessment of potential threats and mitigations associated with increased footfall ambitions under the City of London Corporation's Destination City programme. The group will work closely with various partners to ensure a comprehensive approach to mitigating potential risks

9. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be a Public Meeting, on the **30th May 2025**.

Safer City Partnership Strategic Board (SCPSB) Actions Tracker

RAG Rating **Red** = Problems/no progress: **Amber** = In Progress: **Green** = Completed

No.	Meeting Date Agenda Item	Action	Lead Person	RAG	Status/Narrative
1	07/02/25 Item 4.2	Acquisitive Crime Identify and propose a chair for the new Acquisitive Crime Group	Helen Isaac	Green	It has been agreed that relevant partners will be invited to the existing Acquisitive Crime meeting chaired by Ch Insp Paul Southam to avoid duplication of meetings on this area.
2	07/02/25 Item 5.1	Replenishing POCA Funds Investigate potential sources for replenishing POCA funding and report back to the group.	Richard Riley		No update provided.
3	07/02/25 Item 6	Community Safety Team Review Present the Community Safety Team review findings to the Senior Leadership Team and develop a proposal for additional resources.	Judith Finlay/Simon Cribbens	Amber	Update will be provided by Simon as on Agenda Item 7.
4	07/02/25 Item 7	County Lines Service Partners to contact Sandra Baah for her to deliver individual presentation to their teams and forums.	Partners	Amber	Rachel Talmage has completed this action on the 27/02 when Sandra presented to the City of London MACE. This action is ongoing.
5	07/02/25 Item 7	Youth Justice Board Engagement Amanda Wolf to add Catch 22 service to the Youth Justice Board agenda and promote parent and carer webinars.	Amanda Wolf		

6	05/11/2024 Item 4a.	GS to go back to the relevant teams to ensure there is a good data package that can be transferred.	Gavin Stedman		GS has pulled together to look at the current data and in what format it can be transferred across to help with data analytics. This includes all of GS's portfolio of services and Ian Hughes' team as well and wider if needed. Meeting due to take place next week (W/C 10/02/25).
7	05/11/24 Item 4b.	When the Strategic Assessment paper is finalised and ready for the Scrutiny Committee, CS to circulate to this group. VC to help co-ordinate.	Charles Smart		The Strategic Assessment document has been completed by Charles, Valeria and Zoe, and can be shared in the future Scrutiny Committee.
8	05/11/24 Item 8	VC to contact those who haven't signed the Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) document and chase for signatures.	Valeria Cadena		Final reminder sent 13/05/25 Emails have been sent on various occasions to all relevant parties to sign the document. Some signatures still outstanding and emails have been sent over the past eight months. The LFB and the NHS need to sign. A final request was made for those who have not yet signed the document to please sign it. VC will share the list with GS of those who have not yet signed so the requests can be targeted. If no more signatures are received the document will be published with the signatures currently signed in the document.

9	04/09/24 Item 5.1	<p>Vulnerability Consultation Rory McCallum to provide a copy of the response received by the Independent Chair of the safeguarding partnership, from the Government to check if there are any implications for the Safer City Partnership.</p>	Rory McCallum		<p>PACE Consultation Response circulated with SCP Papers.</p> <p>A consultation on proposed amendments to PACE Codes of Practice A and C (strip searches) was held under the former government and ran between April and June 24. At the time, Jim Gamble QPM submitted a consultation response in his capacity as the Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner of the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP). This response was widely circulated to partner agencies to encourage their engagement in the consultation, with members of the CHSCP Executive and the City of London Safeguarding Children Board being sighted on the details.</p> <p>Whilst there was no formal response to the consultation under the former government, the new government's manifesto committed to introducing new legal safeguards for children in relation to strip searching by police. In this context, the Home Office has been working on developing proposals to deliver on this commitment with new protections also extending to vulnerable adults. It is understood that the aim of the Home Office is to introduce a first tranche of measures, via amendments to the relevant PACE Codes, by mid-2025.</p>
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10	04/09/24 Item 6.1	In the light of some ASB issues associated with those sleeping on the streets, a clearly defined strategic approach is needed on how this is to be taken forward. IH to bring an update back to the SCP meeting.	Ian Hughes		SC has been doing a lot of work with members and further update was provided in the meeting of 5/11/24. Some work is still needed and work will be progressed after the members meeting on the 18/11/24. This policy has been to the Community and Children's Services where it's been approved and it's going to the Police Authority Board next week (W/C 10/02/25). SC has collaborated closely with the police.
11	04/09/24 Item 8.1_2	Serious Violence: Judith Finlay to co-sponsor the future risk if the Corporation's response is needed in getting the data right and decide whether there is a need to refresh our information sharing agreement with Partners.	Charles Smart		Charles to provide an update on this action in Agenda Item 4. There were 2 parts to this action and the first part was completed with the strategic assessment being completed and sent to CST. Charles confirmed that the Future Risks Group still hasn't met. There has been some helpful prompting from the Destination City Team. Charles to ensure ToR and invitees are right so no support or further action required from anyone in this group but will continue working on this in the background, so this action remains in progress.
12	04/09/24 Item 8.1_1	Serious Violence: Judith Finlay to co-sponsor the future risk if the Corporation's response is needed in getting the data right and decide whether there is a need to refresh our information sharing agreement with Partners.	Judith Finlay / Simon Cribbens / Richard Riley		CS has drafted a strategic assessment but is struggling to complete it. The basic components are in place, but the right data is needed to progress it. SC to progress with CST. RR to liaise with CS after the meeting to discuss with JF. Charles Smart confirmed that the strategic assessment has been drafted and passed to CST so this can be closed.

13	04/09/24 Item 9.1	DR to provide quarterly updates on the work of Prevent VAWG and DA Consortium to be circulated to all parties.	Don Randall		Quarterly update was provided. This is ongoing.
14	04/09/24 Item 9.2	Gavin Stedman to think about communications across the Partnership and make sure it's right in a communications plan.	Gavin Stedman / Simon Cribbens		GS to discuss with SC to form part of the wider plan. Useful conversations have been had. The focus now is how to use current channels and Partner involvement to consult on the draft SCP strategy. Some wider communication planning to do but this needs to be paused at the moment and there is no capacity in the team to progress beyond the obvious needs around specific campaigns and consultation engagement.
15	04/09/24 Item 11.1	Strategy Timeline Engagement Paul Hewitt offered to work with CoL, to help find ways of developing the strategy to gain increased responses and better engagement, possibly through the organising of events.	Paul Hewitt		GS and VC to discuss with licensing and Mark Gettleson. GS working with Ian Hughes and Andrew Green to pull the information together. Work is ongoing, so this action can be closed.
16	14/05/24 Item 2.1	VC to set up a meeting to discuss the data efforts.	Valeria Cadena		VC confirmed that they have been working with the BIDs looking at the data, with the intention to submit that data to this meeting, but there were some uncertainty as to the accuracy of the data, so it will be available for the next meeting. Valeria has had discussions with Gavin on other methods of consultation using certain practices

					and work is being on on the data. This action can be closed.
17	14/05/24 Item 9.0	PH to update the SCP Board on the amalgamation of Safer Paths Initiative and Safe Havens.	Paul Hewitt/Don Randall		PH suggests closing this action and bring it back to the list if or when it is being progressed. DR confirmed that there are ongoing discussions with the City BID's as to how this will work in conjunction with our other initiatives. DR confirmed that work is ongoing as various teams are working together but it hasn't come to fruition as yet. This will remain as an outstanding action with further updates. Paul and Don are still working on this.
18	29/01/2024 Item 7.3A	VC to set up a meeting with partners to discuss data and collaboration efforts.	Valeria Cadena		<p>I've had meetings with both the BIDs and CPA. Both organizations can provide different types of data products, but they can only work from public data. This public data often doesn't match the data held by the police, which results in certain limitations. Unfortunately, they cannot access primary data due to confidentiality restrictions.</p> <p>Despite these challenges, the BIDs will still produce general crime data, and the CPA will provide VAWG data.</p>

19	29/01/24 Item 7.3B	RR to provide Chair with a plan on how to obtain more comprehensive data from wider SCP partners ahead of the next SCPSB meeting.	Richard Riley		RR reported capacity issues, with regards to the whole issue of data collection and sharing. This action will remain open until a set of proposals is submitted about the level of data across the Partnerships. The vehicle which would show that would be the strategic assessment, of which there is currently an outline draft. This is working progress, and the action needs to be kept open on the agenda. There is a need for analytical support, and whilst discussions are ongoing with CoLP and CoLC, a solution has not yet been found.
20	29/01/24 Item 8.1	SC asked all partners to look into their own existing engagement opportunities.	ALL Simon Cribbens		SC confirmed that this relates to the development of the Partnerships' next strategy which needs to be informed by public consultation, while avoiding saturating or duplicating existing consultations. He reported that they have a good grip on their priorities in the communities.



Sent via email to:

Home Office

pacereview@homeoffice.gov.uk

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3rd Floor, Hackney Service Centre
1 Hillman Street,
Hackney
E8 1DY
chscp@hackney.gov.uk

07 June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Consultation response

In my capacity as the Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership, I write to set out my comments on the proposed revisions to PACE Code A and PACE Code C.

1. Introduce a new requirement for police custody officers to consult an officer of at least the rank of inspector prior to authorising an EIP search of a child or vulnerable person in custody.

- I agree with this change. Strengthening the authorisation process for EIP searches of a child or vulnerable person in custody is likely to provide additional safeguards for them. Stronger management oversight and a need for officers to justify their rationale to seniors is also likely to mitigate the risk of poor decision making.

2. Clarify that where more than outer clothing is removed from a detainee in police custody, for retention of evidence or because the custody officer considers the detainee may use their clothing to harm themselves, the procedure shall be subject to the same safeguards as apply to a strip search for concealed items. This proposal is intended to ensure clear and unambiguous compliance with the ruling in Davies vs Chief Constable of Merseyside, which held that strip search safeguards should apply where clothing is removed out of concern for detainee welfare.

- I agree with the proposed clarification covering this issue.

3. Clarify that if any time an officer has reason to suspect that a person may be under 18, in the absence of clear evidence to dispel that suspicion they shall be treated as a child for the purpose of the Code and any other Code.

- I agree with this proposal. Introducing this requirement will help to reinforce a child and safeguarding first approach to practice.

4. Introduce a new requirement to notify a parent/guardian of an EIP search and its outcome as soon as practicable, prioritising doing so before the search takes place if practicable. Where this is not possible (e.g., when a parent/carer cannot be identified) this should be recorded.

- I agree with the requirement to notify parents / guardians, but there should be a sharper emphasis on this being undertaken prior to an EIP taking place on a child in custody.

- However, the proposed wording using the term '*practicable*' is too subjective. The wording should be strengthened to require officers to notify parents / guardians in advance of an EIP unless:
 - There are circumstances in which parents / guardians cannot be contacted.
 - It cannot be reasonably expected that officers contact the parents / guardian.
 - Contacting the parents / guardian would place a child at risk.

5. Clarify in the PACE Codes the potentially traumatic impact of EIP search on children. This will cover the officer's duty to give due regard to safeguarding needs, to take appropriate action to ensure the child's dignity, rights and welfare are primary considerations, and to seek and give due regard to the child's preferences around considerations such as the location of the search and the notification of a parent or guardian.

- I agree with the clarification concerning the potentially traumatic impact of an EIP search on children. I also agree that emphasis should be made about a child's safeguarding needs, dignity, rights and welfare. However, the PACE codes should be more explicit beyond an officer needing to give '*due regard*' to safeguarding needs.
- They should make clear that officers must prioritise the safeguarding needs of a child and that they must take appropriate action to ensure a child's dignity and rights are protected and that their welfare is promoted. Due regard is too subjective. Stating that officer must act in a certain way removes any ambiguity.
- I also disagree with the wording about giving due regard to a child's preference such as the location of a search and the notification of a parent or guardian. To explain, if the threshold for an EIP search has been met, then this should only be in exceptional circumstances i.e. those that are urgent and where there is a risk of serious harm to the child or someone else. Introducing requirements that appear to suggest the process of and EIP is then subject to a degree of negotiation is contradictory.

As outlined in my response to the proposals covering PACE Code A, my firm view is that [Additional Recommendation 7 of the Child Q](#) update report (page 52) remains relevant and the location of all EIPs should be at a police station.

For all children under 18, their parents / carers should be notified in advance of an EIP unless:

- There are circumstances in which parents / guardians cannot be contacted.
- It cannot be reasonably expected that officers contact the parents / guardian.
- Contacting the parents / guardian would place a child at risk.

6. Introduce a new requirement to notify an officer of the rank of at least superintendent as soon as practicable following any urgent EIP search of a child or vulnerable adult, where no appropriate adult was present.

- Agreed.

7. Require that a safeguarding referral should be made whenever a EIP search or an intimate search of a child takes place.

- I agree to this requirement, although the terminology of a 'safeguarding referral' should be changed to a '*referral to local authority children's social care*'.

8. Clarify that appropriate adults of the opposite sex may only be present during strip search if known to the detainee, and the detainee agrees.

- Agreed.

Home Office summary of proposed amendments to PACE CODE A

9. Introducing a new requirement that any search of a child or vulnerable person involving the exposure of intimate parts (EIP), conducted under stop and search powers, must be authorised by an officer of at least the rank of inspector.

- Agreed. Strengthening the authorisation process for EIP searches of a child or vulnerable person conducted under stop and search powers is likely to provide additional safeguards for them. Stronger management oversight and a need for officers to justify their rationale to seniors is also likely to mitigate the risk of poor decision making.

10. Replicate as far as possible Code C guidance on the conduct of a strip search in Code A.

I agree that Code A should mirror Code C guidance where relevant.

- Code A should similarly reflect that if any time an officer has reason to suspect that a person may be under 18, in the absence of clear evidence to dispel that suspicion they shall be treated as a child.
- Code A should also emphasise that officers must prioritise the safeguarding needs of a child and that they must take appropriate action to ensure a child's dignity and rights are protected and that their welfare is promoted.
- With regards to introducing a new requirement to notify a parent/guardian of an EIP search and its outcome as soon as practicable (prioritising doing so before the search takes place if practicable), Additional Recommendation 7 of the Child Q update report has relevance from a stop and search perspective.

This sets out the following: *Where, in the exceptional circumstances that police officers have reasonable grounds to undertake an MTIP [EIP] search of a child, they should consider arresting the child and conducting the search in a police station. This will ensure supervision takes place, authorisation is confirmed, an appropriate adult or parent / carer is present and monitoring of the process is stringently applied.*

By accepting this additional recommendation, the time and space for proper processes to be followed is likely to be created. This includes parents / guardians being notified and appropriate adults being engaged in advance of an EIP taking place.

This would avoid the need for officers to make subjective decisions on what is 'practicable' or not whilst in the community and engaging under stop and search powers. Indeed, given the reality of day-to-day policing and the work/time pressures facing officers, many are likely to conclude that it is not going to be *practicable* to notify parents prior to an EIP search. In this respect, I do not see the proposed changes as they relate to Code A making any material difference to practice on the ground.

Implementing Additional Recommendation 7 of the Child Q update report and introducing a requirement to arrest a child where the exceptional circumstances for an EIP has been met will provide better safeguards (as set out under the revised Code C).

Kind regards,



Jim Gamble, QPM
Independent Safeguarding Children Commissioner
CHSCP

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committees: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Safer City Partnership	Dated: 29 May 2025 30 May 2025
Subject: Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025 - 2029	Public report: CDSC For Information SCP For decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • Delivers SCP statutory duties 	Vibrant Thriving Destination Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	
Report of: Judith Finlay – Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	
Report author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager, Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

The Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy for 2025-2029 outlines a comprehensive approach to ensuring the City of London remains a safe and welcoming place for all. This strategy focuses on addressing crime, disorder, and vulnerabilities through collaborative efforts that benefit residents, workers, learners, and visitors alike. This strategy delivers the statutory requirement established in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 section 6.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report – Crime and Disorder Scrutiny committee
- Approve the 2025 – 2029 Strategy – Safer City Partnership

Main Report

Background

1. The vision of the SCP is to keep the Square Mile as a safe place for people to live, learn, work, and visit. The primary objective is to prevent and tackle crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in the City of London through multi-agency action. This involves addressing immediate impacts and supporting vulnerable groups—whether victims, offenders, or both—to maintain a safe and secure environment
2. The strategic underpinning of this approach was formalised by the introduction of 'Community Safety Partnerships' in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to bring together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour (ASB) in their communities.
3. A Community Safety Partnership is made up of representatives from the police, local authority, and the fire, health and probation services (known as responsible authorities) who appoint co-operating and participating bodies to deliver the strategy in the local level. It works on the principle that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and antisocial behaviour. In the City of London, the partnership is known as the Safer City Partnership (SCP).

Current Position – Priority Areas

4. The SCP Strategy 2022 – 2025 has come to an end, with many positive outcomes, partnership work and initiatives identified in the current strategy document. Based on insights from the strategic assessment produced in 2024, public consultation pre and post strategy and statutory duties, the SCP has identified four key focus areas for the Strategy 2025 - 2029
 - 4.1. **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)** The leisure industry and night-time economy (NTE) in the City create environments where opportunistic VAWG incidents can occur. Although the overall incidence rate of VAWG in the City remains low, it is a serious issue that requires targeted preventative and supportive measures.
 - 4.2. **Serious Violence (SV)** Local authorities are required to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence as part of The Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The impact of serious violence, though relatively low in comparison to other areas, is profound and often linked to the NTE.
 - 4.3. **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** ASB disrupts community cohesion and quality of life. Issues like noise disturbances, public disorder, and environmental offenses necessitate community-driven and multi-agency solutions.

- 4.4. **Acquisitive Crime (AC)** Acquisitive crime, particularly theft, accounts for a significant proportion of crime in the City of London. Addressing environmental prevention, deterrence, and multi-agency working will be essential.

SCP Strategy Overarching Principles

5. The SCP strategy is structured around three overarching principles that will be applied across the work of the delivery groups and SCP partners:

- 5.1. **Effective and Accountable Partnerships** The SCP aims to build strong, transparent, and inclusive partnerships capable of tackling complex and cross-cutting issues. This includes regular engagement between strategic leads, clear public-facing accountability, and strengthening the visibility of partner roles

- 5.2. **Evidenced and Intelligence-Led Action** By prioritising evidence and intelligence-led approaches, the SCP aims to target interventions more effectively and monitor trends over time. This ensures that partnership resources are directed where they can have the most impact.

- 5.3. **Prevention-Focused Interventions** Addressing the root causes of crime requires proactive measures and community engagement. The SCP champions a preventative approach—acting early to reduce risk, change behaviours, and promote safer environments.

Strategic Alignment

6. The SCP Strategy aligns with the City of London Police's Policing Plan 2025–2028. Both share a common commitment to keeping the City safe, inclusive, and resilient, with a particular focus on prevention, victim support, and community engagement. The SCP contributes directly to the delivery of the Policing Plan by supporting vulnerable groups, using shared data and evidence to inform problem-solving, and amplifying the voice of communities through engagement and partnership accountability.

Governance and Implementation

7. The SCP will use project management frameworks to delineate responsibilities and ensure efficient coordination. Regular update reports to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will review performance, focusing on outcomes and holding members accountable. The SCP will also explore additional funding

streams and integrate funding discussions into partnership reviews to ensure the long-term viability of key initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

8. The SCP will conduct regular evaluations against SMART objectives, involving all statutory members. Clear metrics for success will be developed, tied to each strategic priority, such as reductions in crime rates, increased public confidence, and improved community engagement. Annual progress reports will be shared with the SCP Board, public stakeholders, and co-opted participants.

Communication and Engagement

9. The SCP is committed to ensuring that this strategy and associated materials are accessible and inclusive. Public-facing materials will include a clear commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring transparency and reinforcing the shared ambition to serve and reflect the needs of all City communities.

Public Consultation

10. To ensure the strategy is shaped by those who live, work, and operate in the Square Mile, two separated consultations were carried out. The first one joined with the City Police to get the views of the public on safety in the City and understand their priorities.
11. The second consultation was specific to the SCP Draft Strategy conducted in Spring 2025. The consultation aimed to gather views from a broad cross-section of the community—including residents, workers, businesses, and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations—on the proposed strategic priorities and actions set out in the draft strategy. The feedback received highlighted key themes such as the need for more visible policing, improved lighting, and clearer communication. The SCP has incorporated this feedback into the final strategy to ensure it resonates with local experiences and addresses community concerns effectively.

Next steps

12. The SCP Strategy will be delivered by a management framework and Strategy Implementation Groups, please see paper report on SCP delivery plans and groups.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. *Strategic implications* – the proposal deliver to the Corporate Plan 2024-2029

14. *Financial implications* – none

15. *Resource implications* – A resourcing plan for the 5-year strategy will be developed taking into account core budgets and opportunities to seek external grant funding.

16. *Legal implications* – The SCP Strategy 2025-2029 delivers our statutory commitment to prepare and deliver local strategies to prevent and reduce crime, established in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

17. *Risk implications* – none

18. *Equalities implications* – The strategy is underpinned by the City Corporation’s Equality Objectives 2024–2029 and a shared commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion. The SCP recognises that safety and the perception of safety are not experienced equally across communities. Through this strategy, the SCP will work to ensure that all residents, workers, and visitors—regardless of identity, background, or circumstance—feel seen, heard, and safe.

19. Climate implications – none.

20. Security implications – none.

Conclusion

21. The Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029 provides a clear roadmap for fostering safety, inclusion, and resilience in the City of London. By focusing on prevention, collaboration, and intelligence-led actions, this strategy aims to create a safer, more secure environment for all who live, work, and visit the City of London

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025 – 2029
- Appendix 2 – Consultation Feedback Report

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DRAFT: Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029

The Safer City Partnership works to ensure the City of London is a safe and welcoming place for all. The partnership focuses on addressing crime, disorder, and vulnerabilities through collaborative efforts that benefit the entire community—residents, workers, learners, and visitors alike.

The Safer City Partnership is made up of statutory members, each bringing unique expertise to its work:

- The City of London Corporation: Leading on community engagement and service provision.
- The City of London Police: Responsible for enforcement and intelligence.
- NHS North East London Integrated Care Board: Addressing health-related vulnerabilities.
- The National Probation Service - London: Supporting offender rehabilitation.
- London Fire Brigade: Contributing to safety planning and response.

In addition to its statutory members, the Safer City Partnership works closely with a wide range of delivery partners including the British Transport Police, London Ambulance Service, East London Foundation Trust, The Guinness Partnership, City and Hackney Public Health, the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults and Children Partnerships, Victim Support, the City of London Crime Prevention Association, the Safer Business Network, and the City's Business Improvement Districts.

This strategy provides a shared framework that reflects the contribution and interests of these members and partners, recognising their crucial role in community safety, early intervention, public protection, and prevention. It supports alignment across sectors, ensures collective ownership of the principles, and strengthens the coordination of frontline delivery in the Square Mile.

The 2022–2025 Safer City Partnership Strategy set the foundation for this collaborative approach. It focused on strengthening joint responses to crime and vulnerability, improving outcomes for victims, and building safer, more inclusive spaces across the City of London. Delivered in partnership with statutory and delivery partners, the strategy supported targeted action on key themes including anti-social behaviour, serious violence, violence against women and girls, hate crime, reoffending, and safeguarding. The infographic below highlights some of the key achievements from that period.

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS 2022–2025 – AT A GLANCE

TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) AND CRIME

- Delivered a city-wide ASB and neighbourhood crime implementation plan.
- Strengthened police collaboration through initiatives like Operation Luscombe.
- Introduced and expanded ParkGuard CSAS powers for community reassurance.
- Ran Safe Street campaigns and targeted resident communications.
- Improved resident engagement by refreshing Cluster Panels.
- Reformed the Community Multi-Agency Assessment Conference (CCM) for place-based ASB referrals.
- Upgraded City surveillance with 4K digital cameras.

REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

- Delivered the VAWG Action Plan with measurable outcomes.
- Launched a quarterly VAWG Forum to drive coordination.
- Expanded Safe Haven Spaces to 35+ venues, including all Corporation buildings.
- Delivered impactful public campaigns and support services, including taxi marshals and counselling.
- Led Operation Reframe with the police and key stakeholders.
- Delivered WAVE and Ask Angela training across hospitality venues.
- Reviewed and implemented the Sanctuary Scheme for domestic abuse victims at risk of homelessness.

ADDRESSING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

- Published the first Serious Violence Strategy under SCP leadership.
- Strengthened links with the business and voluntary sectors (e.g., Safer Business Network).
- Used Operation Reframe as a joint action hub.
- Improved multi-agency intelligence sharing to disrupt violence.
- Delivered Operation Vigilant, boosting NTE patrols and training officers to prevent sexual offences.

TACKLING DISCRIMINATION AND HATE CRIME

- Launched dedicated hate crime reporting tools and a public webpage.
- Hosted Victim Support drop-in sessions to raise awareness among staff.
- Ran public hate crime awareness campaigns.
- Promoted hate crime awareness through events like the Licensing Forum.
- Introduced a new risk assessment model to ensure robust and victim-centred investigations.

REDUCING REOFFENDING

- Established the Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group with Hackney.
- Strengthened joint working with probation and MAPPA partners.
- Piloted diversion pathways (e.g., Divert London) to address perpetrator behaviour and reduce repeat offending.

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- Fully integrated into the City and Hackney Safeguarding Partnerships.
- Produced specialist resources to support professionals in safeguarding cases (e.g. CSE).
- Improved referral pathways and response times.
- Delivered Operation MakeSafe in hotels and trained staff on risks including drink spiking and exploitation.
- Held joint strategic sessions between CoLP and safeguarding leads.

Safer City Partnership Vision

To keep Square Mile as a safe place for people to live, learn, work and visit.

Objective

Prevent and tackle crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in the City of London through multi-agency action, addressing immediate impacts and supporting vulnerable groups—whether victims, offenders, or both—to maintain a safe and secure environment.

Focus Areas

The Safer City Partnership has identified four key focus areas that are of critical importance. These areas have been determined based on insights from the strategic assessment, and statutory duties outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The strategic assessment highlights patterns, trends, and vulnerabilities in the City of London, ensuring that these focus areas are grounded in available evidence and align with statutory requirements for community safety.

1. Violence Against Women and Girls:

- The City's leisure industry and night-time economy (NTE) creates environments where opportunistic Violence Against Women and Girls incidents can occur, often influenced by behaviours such as alcohol consumption associated with the NTE. While the overall incidence rate of Violence Against Women and Girls in the City of London remains low, it is still a serious and pressing issue that requires targeted preventative and supportive measures.

2. Serious Violence:

- As part of The Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 local authorities are required to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. Though relatively low in comparison to other areas, the impact of serious violence is profound. Many incidents are linked to the NTE, requiring a focus on prevention, deterrence, and targeted interventions. Although this is one of the focus areas within this strategy, it has also been prepared as a standing alone item.

3. Anti-Social Behaviour:

- Anti-Social Behaviour disrupts community cohesion and quality of life. Issues like noise disturbances, public disorder, and environmental offenses necessitate community-driven and multi-agency solutions.

4. Acquisitive Crime:

- a. Accounting for a significant proportion of crime in the City of London, it can undermine trust and safety. Theft remains the highest contributing part of acquisitive crime with some burglary. Addressing environmental prevention, deterrence and multi-agency working will be essential.

How This Strategy Aligns with Focus Area Action Plans

Each of the four focus areas of the Safer City Partnership listed above has its own discrete multi-agency action plan. These action plans set out specific, operational activities led by relevant partners across the City of London.

This overarching Safer City Partnership strategy does not duplicate those detailed plans. Instead, it provides a strategic framework that identifies where and how the Safer City Partnership's three principles—Effective and Accountable Partnerships, Evidenced and Intelligence-Led Action, and Prevention-Focused Interventions—will support, enable or enhance delivery of those actions.

The alignment tables within this strategy clearly show which actions from each focus area will be championed through the Safer City Partnership's collective efforts and governance structures.

Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This strategy is underpinned by the City Corporation's Equality Objectives 2024–2029 and our shared commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI). We recognise that safety and the perception of safety are not experienced equally across communities. Through this strategy, the Safer City Partnership will work to ensure that all residents, workers, and visitors—regardless of identity, background or circumstance—feel seen, heard, and safe. The Safer City Partnership will continue to engage with the EEDI team and draw on their expertise to strengthen inclusive practice across our work, ensuring that our engagement, data use, and delivery are accessible, representative, and responsive to the diverse needs of our communities.

How Consultation Shaped This Strategy

This strategy has had two separated consultations. The first one join with the City Police to get the views of the public on safety in the city and understand their priorities. The second consultation was specific to the SCP draft strategy conducted in spring 2025. Input gathered from across the City's communities helped test the strategy's principles and identify opportunities to strengthen alignment, clarify responsibilities, and improve delivery. The feedback received informed refinements to the final strategy, ensuring it reflects local insight, supports better coordination between partners, and places greater emphasis on transparency, inclusion, and community confidence.

Strategic Principles

The strategy is structured around three overarching principles that will be applied across the work of the delivery groups and Safer City Partnership partners.

Introduction to Principles

Prevention is a cornerstone of effective crime reduction and community safety. By proactively addressing the root causes of crime, we not only reduce immediate risks but also create the foundations for long-term security and resilience. This preventive focus is complemented by evidence-driven approaches and strong, accountable partnerships, which together amplify the impact of our efforts. These principles are in line with the Community Safety Partnerships review (2023)¹, which sought to improve transparency, accountability, and effectiveness, making it easier for them to serve the needs of their communities in tackling crime, disorder, and antisocial behaviour.

Further, the principles were developed from public consultation and align with the City of London Corporation’s Corporate Plan 2024–2029, particularly its outcomes of providing excellent services, fostering diverse and engaged communities, and ensuring the City of London remains a safe and thriving destination.

Strategic Alignment with the City of London Policing Plan 2025–2028

This strategy has been developed in alignment with the City of London Police’s Policing Plan 2025–2028. Both share a common commitment to keeping the City safe, inclusive, and resilient, with a particular focus on prevention, victim support, and community engagement.

The Safer City Partnership contributes directly to the delivery of the Policing Plan by:

- Supporting vulnerable groups and enhancing public confidence via targeted outreach and joint campaigns.
- Using shared data and evidence to inform intelligence-led problem solving.
- Amplifying the voice of communities through engagement, scrutiny, and partnership accountability.

The Safer City Partnership will place increased emphasis on improving public awareness of the extensive work already underway across the Partnership. The focus will be on promoting existing programmes, clarifying organisational responsibilities, and improving access to information across organisations.

Principles

1. Effective and Accountable Partnerships:

- a. Foster effective and accountable partnerships that bring additional value and impact in securing a safer City of London. Collaborative efforts should leverage the unique capacities of each organisation to maximise impact.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-safety-partnerships-review-and-antisocial-behaviour-powers/outcome/community-safety-partnerships-review-and-antisocial-behaviour-powers-government-response>

2. Evidenced and Intelligence-Led Action:

- a. Drive decisions and interventions through robust evidence and intelligence-led approaches to ensure targeted, effective outcomes.

3. Prevention-Focused Interventions:

- a. Emphasise prevention-focused measures to address vulnerabilities, reduce risks, and foster inclusive and safe communities.

Principle 1: Effective and Accountable Partnerships

Why This Principle?

The Safer City Partnership's first principle is to build strong, transparent, and inclusive partnerships that are capable of tackling complex and cross-cutting issues. This includes regular engagement between strategic leads, clear public-facing accountability, and strengthening the visibility of partner roles.

Recognising the current pressures on capacity and resources, this work will focus on using existing functions more effectively and working closely with the Corporate Strategy and Performance Campaigns and Engagement team to maximise impact.

To support this, the Safer City Partnership will now apply this partnership lens to the actions set out below from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Violence, Acquisitive Crime and Violence Against Women and Girls delivery plans. These are not Safer City Partnership -led actions, but by aligning with this strategic principle, the Safer City Partnership will add value—through coordination, oversight, shared engagement channels, and governance structures. This approach will help ensure that the right partners are connected, responsibilities are clear, and communities feel better informed and involved.

The Safer City Partnership will support delivery of the following actions through:

- Holding regular communications sessions with focus area leads to align messages and promote joint work
- Using existing outreach networks to support community-based delivery, particularly for vulnerable groups
- Ensuring clearer communication about the roles of Safer City Partnership, City Corporation and City Police
- Promoting shared public engagement opportunities, such as 'Question Time'
- Improving signposting for residents, businesses and community groups not already linked into formal channels
- Providing public-facing updates through the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee and related channels

Inclusion sits at the heart of effective partnership working. The Safer City Partnership will ensure that engagement and decision-making structures reflect the diversity of the City of London’s communities. This includes working with staff networks, service providers, and community groups to elevate underrepresented voices and ensure that all partners have equitable access to contribute to Safer City Partnership work.

CRIME FOCUS AREA	ACTION	REASON FOR INCLUSION
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Raise internal awareness of the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CCM) that provides support to vulnerable victims of Anti-Social Behaviour and explore multi agency opportunities to manage situational Anti-Social Behaviour	Improves multi-agency support and coordination for vulnerable individuals and hotspot Anti-Social Behaviour.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Provide training for all agencies on the new Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime Act 2025	Ensures consistent, informed response to Anti-Social Behaviour across partner organisations.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Review Anti-Social Behaviour management processes at the Barbican Estate	Improves clarity, accountability, and resident engagement in Anti-Social Behaviour resolution.
ACQUISITIVE CRIME	Develop a partnership approach to the issuing of Smart DNA sprays to the retail community as part of the wider retail crime strategy in the City of London	Enhances collective capability through multi-agency collaboration and increases deterrence through coordinated tools and messaging
ACQUISITIVE CRIME	Develop processes for reporting retail crime offences with retailers and partners	Builds clarity and consistency in reporting pathways and improves partnership response to shoplifting and business-targeted theft.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Engage with internal staff networks to raise awareness of VAWG/DA.	Supports a whole-system organisational culture change and ongoing staff engagement.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Promote city & hackney safeguarding children partnership training, including VAWG/DA.	Increases frontline awareness and consistency across services.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Encourage businesses and licensed premises to offer training to help staff recognise vulnerabilities and support customers.	Builds sector-specific awareness and accountability to tackle VAWG in public spaces.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE/ VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Fund a business engagement officer in the Safer Business Network (SBN).	Supports multi-agency partnership on business and public safety engagement, with reporting to SCP's VAWG group.

Principle 2: Evidenced and Intelligence-Led Action

Why This Principle?

Fragmented, inconsistent or partial data can hinder effective decision-making and resource allocation. By prioritising evidence and intelligence-led approaches, the Safer City Partnership aims to target interventions more effectively and monitor trends over time. An intelligence-led approach ensures that partnership resources are directed where they can have the most impact.

However, what can be achieved under this principle will be dependent on both funding opportunities and the successful recruitment/resourcing of a dedicated Safer City Partnership Analyst role to coordinate intelligence gathering, data presentation, and shared insight.

The actions in the table below have been drawn from across the partnership's focus area action plans. By applying this Safer City Partnership principle to those actions, the Safer City Partnership will ensure they are supported by evidence, tracked through appropriate data, and aligned with emerging risk. This will also help maximise transparency and accountability for how decisions are made and where activity is focused.

The Safer City Partnership will support delivery of the following actions through:

- Creating a centralised data repository accessible to key partners dependant on available resources
- Reviewing and enhancing current data sharing agreements
- Using analytics tools such as dashboards, mapping and forecasting to guide decision-making
- Encouraging partners to share operational data and community insight consistently
- Commissioning shared intelligence products that support cross-partner activity
- Embedding performance tracking into the governance of thematic action groups

The Safer City Partnership is committed to ensuring that data used to inform decisions reflects the lived realities of all communities. Where possible, we will work with partners to disaggregate data by protected characteristics, ensuring we can identify and address any disproportionate impacts or unmet needs. We will also make better use of qualitative insight from diverse groups to shape interventions that are inclusive and effective.

CRIME FOCUS AREA	ACTION	REASON FOR INCLUSION
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Monitor the use of CSAS powers delegated to Parkguard to ensure appropriate and proportional use	Promotes transparency and intelligence-led use of enforcement powers.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Review effectiveness of increased Cleansing resources specifically targeted at nighttime and Anti-Social Behaviour issues	Supports evidence-based resource deployment in response to environmental Anti-Social Behaviour issues.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Monitor the Operation Luscombe review implementation	Strengthens accountability and performance of joint enforcement and support approaches.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Feed concerns and information to the Secure City operating model for CCTV coverage in the Square Mile	Improves situational awareness and prevention through enhanced surveillance planning.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Develop a combined data set between the City of London Police & City of London Corporation which will provide a full picture of Anti-Social Behaviour in the City	Enables intelligence-led response and partnership action based on comprehensive data.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE	Conduct analysis of lighting and CCTV coverage in violent crime hotspots	Uses hotspot evidence to guide crime prevention through design.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE	Deliver specific recommendations to Destination City programme on pedestrian route safety	Informs evidence-based design decisions to mitigate violence.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE	Conduct a risk and threat assessment of serious violence affecting homeless communities	Responds to identified vulnerability trend with targeted analysis.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Compile data-focused assessments to support intelligence-led decisions.	Supports consistent monitoring and insight to shape prevention and support services.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Increase use and sharing of data through group member contributions.	Enhances the Violence Against Women and Girls data picture through multi-agency collaboration.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE/ VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Fund a part-time analyst in safer business network to map city crime data.	Provides VAWG data inputs to SCP and VAWG delivery group.
ACQUISITIVE CRIME	Conduct police and partner operations in identified hot spots to deter criminal activities	Enables targeted activity based on data, trends and geographic profiling of offending locations.

Principle 3: Prevention-Focused Interventions

Why This Principle?

Addressing the root causes of crime requires proactive measures and community engagement. Inclusive and prevention-focused strategies build trust and resilience, reducing opportunities for crime and fostering safer communities. Effective prevention also includes behaviour change approaches that incorporate dedicated communication and engagement resources and the ability to implement accompanying actions, such as training and environmental improvements.

The Safer City Partnership’s third principle is to champion this preventative approach—acting early to reduce risk, change behaviours, and promote safer environments. This includes investing in public education, targeted support services, place-based design improvements, and building staff and community capacity to recognise and respond to risk.

The actions below have been drawn from across the partnership’s focus area action plans. By applying the Safer City Partnership’s prevention lens to these actions, we will increase their visibility, ensure they are supported by wider communications and engagement activity, and promote a consistent message across the system. This approach also helps ensure that the partnership’s investment in prevention is joined-up, proportionate, and aligned with community need.

The Safer City Partnership will support delivery of the following actions through:

- Coordinating tailored behaviour change campaigns for key audiences
- Supporting communications and engagement activity through shared channels
- Highlighting situational crime prevention needs, such as lighting or CCTV
- Promoting clear, accessible pathways to support for victims and vulnerable individuals
- Providing or championing training for Night-Time Economy and frontline staff
- Partnering with commissioned services to deliver targeted early interventions

Prevention must be inclusive to be effective. The Safer City Partnership will ensure that campaigns, training, and early interventions are designed and delivered in ways that reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of our communities. This includes promoting accessible formats, using plain language, and collaborating with trusted voices to engage communities who may face additional barriers to accessing support or safety-related information.

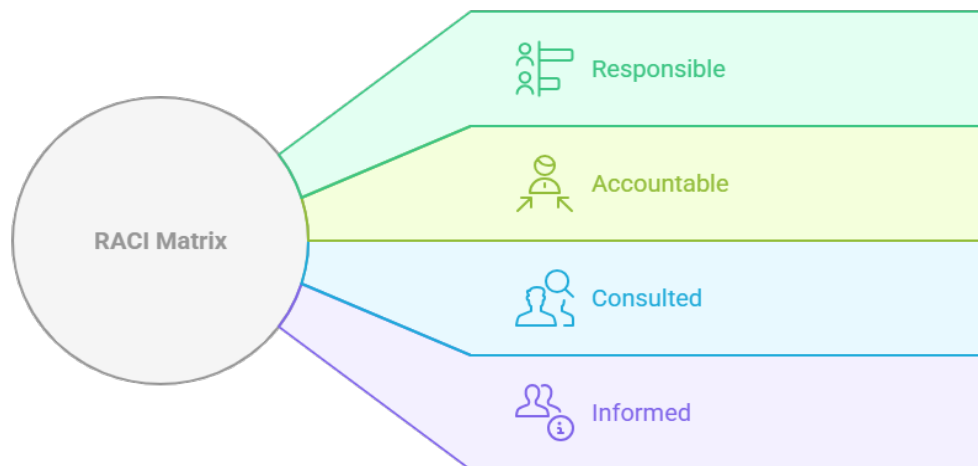
CRIME FOCUS AREA	ACTION	REASON FOR INCLUSION
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Raise awareness of unacceptable behaviour, and the consequences of perpetrating Anti-Social Behaviour including in the NTE	Supports prevention and behaviour change through education and communication campaigns.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Develop a combined, forward-looking Communications Plan	Improves consistent public messaging to prevent Anti-Social Behaviour and increase awareness.
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Provide clear guidance for the partnership response to Anti-Social Behaviour caused by people rough sleeping in the Square Mile...	Clarifies multi-agency response to Anti-Social Behaviour related to rough sleeping, balancing enforcement and support.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE	Fund trial of Circles programme for behavioural change in sexual offenders	Targets prevention by addressing perpetrator behaviour directly.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE	Review domestic abuse screening coverage in City healthcare settings	Improves early identification of risk and intervention opportunities.
SERIOUS VIOLENCE/ VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Provide training and support to hotels on vulnerability and exploitation.	Critical to addressing risks in accommodation settings; reported to VAWG group.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Promote the City's Independent Sexual Violence Advocate offer and reduce wait times.	Increases early access to specialist sexual violence support and reduces unmet need.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Deliver community engagement sessions to promote VAWG/DA services.	Improves community understanding and access to local VAWG services.
VIOLENCE AGAINST	Deliver campaigns to raise awareness of sexual harassment and abuse in the city.	Direct public communication aligns with behaviour change and early prevention.

WOMEN AND GIRLS		
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Promote the WAVE / ask for Angela e-learning to businesses and licensed premises.	Directly supports public safety and prevention in the nighttime economy.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	Promote IDVA independent domestic violence advocate provision internally (City of London Corporation & City of London Police) so staff know where to refer victims.	Ensures those responding to VAWG can offer swift, correct referral support.
ACQUISITIVE CRIME	Raising public awareness about acquisitive crime and encouraging people to be more vigilant	Supports behaviour change by encouraging proactive public safety habits and increasing guardianship.
ACQUISITIVE CRIME	Marking streets with stencils to remind people to keep an eye on their phones and property when they're not paying attention	Delivers environmental cues to disrupt opportunistic theft and improve situational awareness.
ACQUISITIVE CRIME	Campaigning to promote awareness in September when universities and people return to the city for their studies	Aligns crime prevention messages with periods of increased risk and ensures campaigns are seasonally and contextually targeted.

Governance and Implementation

Accountability

- **Project Management Frameworks:** Use tools like RACI matrices to delineate responsibilities and ensure efficient coordination. This ensures tasks are clearly allocated and progress is tracked.



- **Scrutiny and Oversight:** Regular update report to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review performance, focusing on outcomes and holding members accountable. Regular updates will also be taken to bodies with membership that will support the Safer City Partnership in achieving its outcomes. These include: Integrated Care Board, City of London Health and Wellbeing Board, Department of Community and Children’s Services Committee, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

Funding, Resources and Skill Sets

- **Diversified Funding:** Explore additional funding streams such as grants, government programs, and contributions from Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). Focus areas include prevention initiatives and technology upgrades (e.g., resources for data collection and analysis).
- **Sustainability Planning:** Integrate funding discussions into partnership reviews to ensure long-term viability of key initiatives.
- **Skills required:** Communication, Engagement, Design, Data Analysis (Excel, Power BI, AI).
- **Resource Allocation:** Resources available to or coordinated by the Safer City Partnership will be utilised to deliver against the principles and actions outlined in the strategy. This may include resources contributed by partners, such as those involved in housing interventions, emergency response, or community networks.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Performance Reviews:** Conduct regular evaluations against SMART objectives, involving all statutory members. This includes quarterly progress assessments and adjustments based on emerging data trends.
- **Outcome Metrics:** Develop clear metrics for success tied to each strategic principle, such as reductions in crime rates, increased public confidence, and improved community engagement.
- **Annual Reporting:** Produce comprehensive progress reports to be shared with the Safer City Partnership Board, public stakeholders, and co-opted participants. Reports should highlight achievements, challenges, and planned next steps.
- **Feedback Integration:** Use community and stakeholder feedback to refine strategies, ensuring the partnership remains responsive to evolving needs.
- **EEDI:** The Safer City Partnership will track whether actions are reaching and benefiting all groups, particularly those most at risk or marginalised. Community feedback, lived experience, and frontline insight will be used alongside quantitative data to understand impact. Any significant service change or newly commissioned activity will be assessed using the City Corporation’s Equality Impact Assessment process to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and best practice in inclusive service design.

Communication and Engagement

The Safer City Partnership is committed to ensuring that this strategy and associated materials are accessible and inclusive. We will work to ensure that content is available in plain language and appropriate formats, and that messages are tested through engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders. Our public-facing materials will include a clear commitment to equity, equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring transparency and reinforcing our shared ambition to be a partnership that serves and reflects the needs of all City communities. The Safer City Partnership will also strengthen collaboration with the Corporate Strategy and Performance Campaigns and Engagement team to embed inclusive design and messaging into communications and ensure that all communities are reached and represented. The Safer City Partnership also recognises the expertise of the Corporation's EEDI team and will continue to draw on their guidance to embed inclusive practice across all areas of work.

Conclusion

The Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029 provides a clear roadmap for fostering safety, inclusion, and resilience in the City of London. By focusing on prevention, collaboration, and intelligence-led actions, this strategy aims to create a safer, more secure environment for all who live, work, and visit the City of London.

Safer City Partnership Draft Strategy 2025–2029: Consultation Feedback Report

Introduction

1. This report summarises the feedback received through the public and stakeholder consultation on the draft Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy 2025–2029. The consultation aimed to gather views from a broad cross-section of the community—including residents, workers, businesses, and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations—on the proposed strategic priorities and actions set out in the draft strategy.
2. The SCP strategy outlines a multi-agency approach to tackling crime, anti-social behaviour, and vulnerabilities in the City of London, and is aligned with the City of London Police’s Policing Plan 2025–2029. Recognising the importance of community insight, the consultation was designed to test whether the strategy’s priorities resonated with local experiences, and to identify opportunities for further alignment, clarity, and action.
3. This report presents the key themes that emerged from the consultation, including both city-wide priorities—such as the need for more visible policing, improved lighting, and clearer communication—and group-specific concerns from residents, workers, and business representatives. It also outlines how the SCP will respond to the feedback, ensuring the final strategy is shaped by those who live, work, and operate in the Square Mile.

Consultation Approach

4. The SCP public consultation launched on **13th March 2025** via an online engagement page. Feedback was sought from residents, workers, businesses, and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. The consultation was promoted through a wide range of channels—including direct emails, drop-in events, and public information points—to ensure broad accessibility and engagement. While the response rate was low, with only 12 online submissions and no in-person contributions, this is not considered reflective of the consultation method itself, which was robust. The reasons for low participation may warrant further exploration ahead of future strategy consultations. Consultation included:

- **Businesses:** Shared with Safer Business Network, BIDs (through Primera) and Don Randall Associates.
- **Residents:** Consultation link shared through a resident email mailout on **1st and 2nd April**. This included invitations to attend two resident drop-in sessions:
 - Golden Lane Community Centre: 17th April 2025, 10:00 – 12:00
 - Portsoken Community Centre: 24th April 2025, 10:00 – 12:00
- **VCS Groups:** Consultation shared via Hackney CVS's VCSquared bulletin, with additional drop-in sessions promoted:
 - Portsoken: Tuesday 1st April, 10:00 – 12:00
 - Golden Lane: Wednesday 16th April, 10:00 – 12:00
- **Flyers with QR Codes** to the consultation page were distributed at:
 - City Information Centre
 - Guildhall Art Gallery
 - Billingsgate Roman House & Baths

Summary of Feedback Received

5. Feedback was collected from three key groups: residents, workers, and business representatives. (See a fuller breakdown on the feedback with quotes at the bottom of this report). The main themes raised were:

6. Residents:

- Requests for **more visible policing**, especially in estates and areas affected by nightlife.
- Concerns about **reduced feelings of safety**, with specific examples of break-ins and theft.
- Calls for **better engagement with residents not part of formal associations**.
- Support for **CCTV expansion and improved lighting**.
- Desire for **clearer communication** and ongoing updates from SCP and City Police.

7. **Workers:**

- Emphasis on **transport safety**, especially during evening commutes.
- Support for **awareness campaigns** and visible signage about where to get help.
- Requests for better coordination between **Police, SCP, and businesses**.
- Interest in **crime prevention training** for workers in hospitality and retail.
- Suggestions including **broken windows theory** to address visible disorder early.

8. **Businesses:**

- Support for a **more visible policing presence**.
- Call for **business inclusion in city-wide prevention efforts**.
- Requests for a **city-wide Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP)**.
- Support for use of **CSAS accredited wardens**.
- Need for **better communication about crime trends and SCP initiatives**.
- Appreciation for SCP's efforts to tackle shoplifting and fraud.

9. These themes reflect a city-wide desire for greater visibility, transparency, and community-centred safety planning. They also highlight the role of the SCP in filling gaps not covered directly by the Police Plan, particularly around **engagement, inclusion, and messaging**.

How the Consultation Feedback Has Been Used

Clarified Roles: SCP vs. Police Plan vs. Joint Work

10. The table below has been used to understand what actions are currently being undertaken, or could be undertaken as part of the SCP Strategy.

Feedback Theme	Lead Responsibility	Joint Working	Related Action/Notes
Visible police presence and patrols	City of London Police	SCP supports with community priorities	Expanding via hotspot policing and additional government funding for neighbourhood police officers.
CCTV and improved lighting	City of London Corporation	Police support through hotspot analysis	Measure in Serious Violence Strategy refresh to review CCTV coverage across identified crime hotspots. Includes recommendations to the Destination City Programme on incorporating safety considerations—such as lighting and CCTV—into the design of new pedestrian walkways. In parallel, the Corporation recently invested £16 million in a new CCTV network as part of the Secure City Programme
CSAS-accredited wardens	SCP/City of London Police	SCP evaluates Parkguard service	CSAS accreditation secured for Parkguard, expanded patrols under hotspot policing grant already in train
BCRP coordination and support	City of London Police	To be included within SCP approach	City Police already developing plans for a City-wide BCRP with City BIDs
Broken Windows Theory¹ (situational prevention)	SCP	Police endorse where relevant	SCP integrates into environmental strategy (e.g. CPTED); Police to identify disorder trends for targeted action
Public communication	SCP	Police assist with amplification	SCP leads on content, branding and scheduling; Police distribute through

¹ *The Broken Windows Theory, proposed by James Q. Wilson and George Kelling, posits that visible signs of disorder and neglect, such as broken windows, graffiti, and litter, can signal a lack of social control and encourage further crime and antisocial behaviour. The theory suggests that addressing these minor issues promptly can prevent a decline into more serious crime.*

and safety messaging			patrols, newsletters, and public engagement platforms
Victim support services	SCP	Police, Community and VCS	Police deliver direct services via Victims Strategy; SCP ensures community and VCS pathways are aligned and promoted
Engagement with 'unaffiliated' residents	City of London Police	City of London Corporation	Significant recent CoLP work on resident & community engagement involving Corporation
Transport hub and night-time economy safety	City of London Police	British Transport Police	Hotspot response grant heavily focused on NTE safety in place; transport safety should involve British Transport Police for tube/train incidents occurring in the City
Crime trend monitoring and data sharing	Joint	Joint dashboard and analysis coordination	Ideal to have shared dashboards/visualisations but analytical capacity in SCP remains a significant barrier

Actions taken forward into SCP Strategy 2025 - 2028

11. Much of the work highlighted through the consultation is already well underway, including initiatives around CCTV (via the Safe City programme), improved lighting, and community engagement. As such, the priority for the Safer City Partnership is not to introduce new actions, but to significantly enhance public awareness of these efforts. By focusing on transparent and proactive communication, we aim to ensure that the public is not only safer but also better informed about the work being done to protect and support them.

Communication and Engagement

12. These actions focus on promoting transparency, clarifying roles, and connecting people with services and events already available.

► Promote Existing Engagement Opportunities

- **Enhance promotion of current forums and include clear ways to engage** - such as *Question Time*, where the Corporation and Police take questions from the public—so residents and workers know when and how to engage.

“More meetings.”

“Attend and consult via resident association meetings.”

- **Improve visibility and accessibility of engagement routes for ‘fringe’ residents and non-traditional stakeholders**, including those outside estate structures (e.g. short-term renters, faith groups, small businesses).

“Us ‘fringe’ residents who don’t belong to a group, association or estate...”

“Just keep more in touch... and more bold moves...”

► Increase Public Awareness of Existing Initiatives

- **Publicise the Safe City CCTV programme**, a joint Corporation–Police initiative enhancing coverage in crime hotspots and provide clear messaging on what improvements are being made.

“Needs to be more CCTV in the streets...”

- **Promote appropriate Corporation feedback channels**, and share information about how lighting is being considered in pedestrian and urban design plans (e.g. via Destination City).

“Make sure all bus stops are well lit...”

- **Raise visibility of existing safety campaigns** (e.g. theft, ASB, and VAWG prevention), ensuring public messaging is clear, consistent, and well-branded.

“Make the safety initiatives prominent...”

“The sticker on Leadenhall St pavement re phone theft occurring – really good/bold.”

- **Clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of SCP, City of London Corporation, and City Police** through accessible signage, web content, and printed materials.

“Could explain what the corporation does versus the police...”

► Improve Communication around Victim and Community Services

- **Promote awareness of existing victim support services**, particularly those delivered through the community and voluntary sector, ensuring pathways for reporting and accessing help are well publicised.

“Supporting victims to report crimes and information on how to do this.”

Narrative Feedback Summaries with Quotes

Residents (3 responses)

- **Visibility and policing:** “More visible police presence (patrols on foot).” / “More policemen on the street.”
- **Decline in safety:** “Over the last couple of years [we] have felt less safe...” / “Pubs/bars on our road (Creechurch Lane) are now regularly broken into/robbed.” / “Supermarkets on Fenchurch/Houndsditch have had to install security screening...”
- **CCTV and lighting:** “Needs to be more CCTV in the streets rather than just relying on buildings’ own security systems...”
- **Communication and engagement:** “Just keep more in touch... and more bold moves...” / “More meetings.” / “Attend and consult via resident association meetings.”
- **Inclusion:** “Us ‘fringe’ residents who don’t belong to a group, association or estate... plus hotel and apart-hotel operators, Airbnb et al, churches... Lime bikes operators et al...”
- **Prevention campaigns:** “The sticker on Leadenhall St pavement re phone theft occurring – really good/bold. Should be promoted.”

Workers (8 responses)

- **Public safety and visibility:** “Make sure all bus stops are well lit...” / “As a visitor... I would not have known where to go for help if I had problems... something should have been displayed in the station on exit...”
- **Prevention campaigns and messaging:** “Make the safety initiatives prominent for people travelling into the City...”
- **Role clarity:** “Could explain what the corporation does versus the police and other organisations.” / “Better communication.”

- **Strategic suggestions:** “A city wide BCRP to coordinate activity.” / “Target hardening to prevent crime, broken windows theory.” / “Continued joint campaigns with the police.”
- **Victim support:** “Supporting victims to report crimes and information on how to do this.”

Businesses (1 response)

- **Strategy endorsement:** “Good to see continued support to prevention of violence against women and girls (Our Safer City).”
- **Awareness and communication:** “Be good to invite businesses in to share what's happening across the City as 'awareness' remains a challenge.” / “Better communication about safety trends and emerging risks.”
- **Partnerships and prevention:** “More visible police presence (patrols on foot)” / “Training and support for businesses and VCS staff on safety and crime prevention.” / “Stronger coordination between SCP, businesses, and VCS organisations.” / “A BCRP, maybe CSAS accredited wardens.”

Serious violence sub-group and hotspot response 2025/26 update

May 2025

Summary

- **Serious Violence Duty 2024/25** – our initial strategy is (more or less) complete
- **Serious Violence Duty 2025/26** – we have completed and published an annual ‘refresh’ with updated analysis and more actions
- **Hotspot response grant 2025/26** - we have again received £1 million grant funding for this, and are now transitioning (over Apr-Jun) to a new ‘problem-oriented’ approach

2024/25 SV Duty strategy summary

- Published January 2024
- Three priorities agreed from initial strategic needs assessment:
 - a) Reduce violence in night-time economy (NTE)
 - b) Reduce sexual and domestic violence
 - c) Proactively identify and mitigate threats and risks from a changing City
(plus enabling measures on data sharing, analysis, information gathering)
- **21** measures, of which **16** delivered, **1** in progress, **3** deferred or discontinued, **2** are ongoing work delivered by others – see *next slide*

2024/25 SV Duty strategy – delivery overview

- **Delivered** measures include a new **Taxi Marshalling** scheme, expanded use of **'Touch DNA'** to better identify perpetrators, Corporation becoming a **'Beacon' member of Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse**, and a **review of drink-spiking** in the City
- **In progress** measure is establishing a **'future demand group'** to identify upcoming threats and issues – this has now met for first time with plan to meet every several months
- **Deferred or discontinued** measures – improved **sharing of health data** and an assessment of **uniformed presence in NTE** are now in 2025/26 refresh, while exploring implementation of **'PIPA' behavioural change programme** for domestic abuse perpetrators has been discontinued (and, partly, superseded by new partnership with Hackney Domestic Abuse Intervention service)
- **Ongoing work by others** are City Police's **implementation of the national Op Soteria programme** to improve investigation of rape and sexual assault offences (progressing in line with nationally-set timescales) and **review of Violence Against Women and Girls capabilities** (awaiting response to submission to national policing inspector HMICFRS)

NB – a detailed summary of delivery to date for every measure has been published as an annex to 2025/26 strategy refresh

2025/26 SV Duty strategy summary

- Published May 2025
- Updated analysis – *see next slide* – confirms the three priorities of initial strategy remain right
- **9** new actions, with a more explicit focus on *partnership* activity (i.e. joint delivery)
- Also, no ‘policing-only’ actions this time – these are in 2025-28 Policing Plan
- No change to governance and oversight – monthly meetings of SV sub-group chaired by police authority and City Police leads, reporting to Safer City Partnership

2025/26 SV Duty strategy updated analysis

Figure 1 – Serious violence volumes by year – March 2019 to February 2025

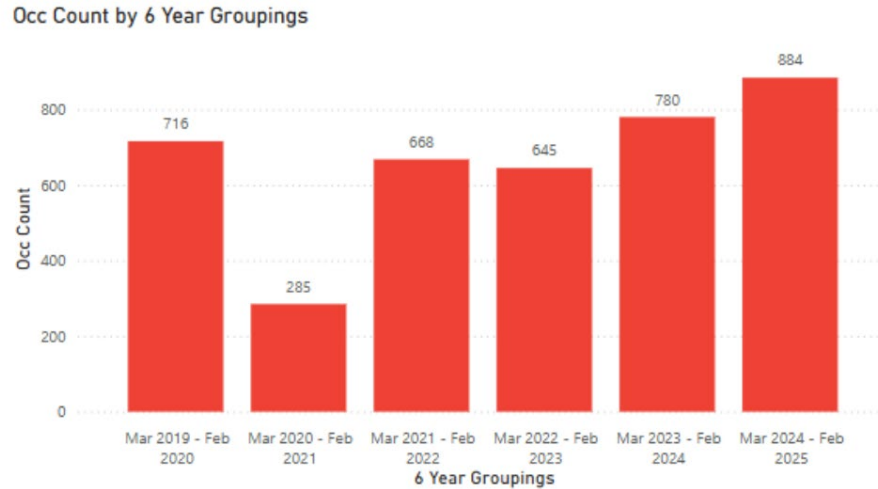
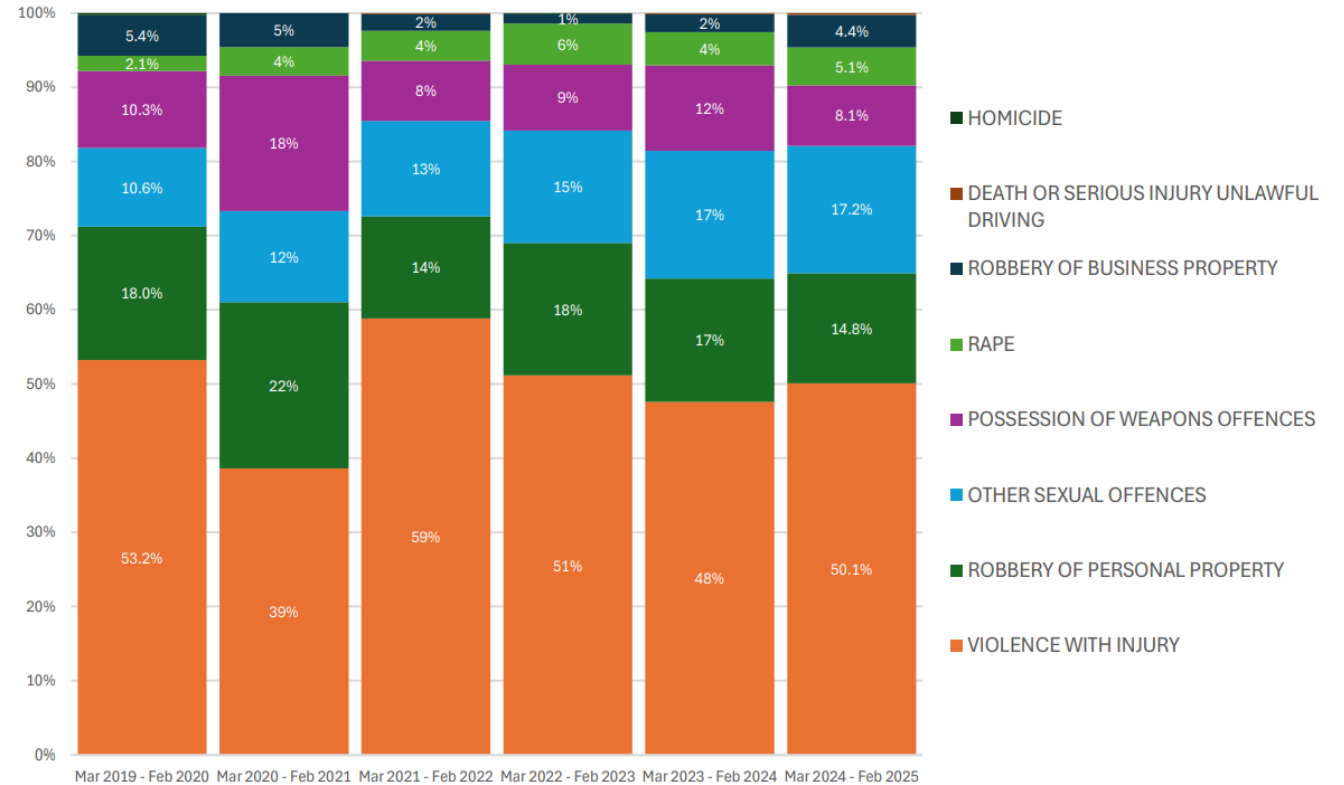


Figure 3 – Shares of serious violence by offence category – March 2019 to February 2025



In very brief summary = Serious violence is rising but remains low in volume and as a proportion of crime. The types of serious violence are largely unchanged (mainly violence with injury) but sexual offending continues to rise and business robberies have risen too. Serious violence occurs largely in night-time-economy hours and locations. Positive outcome rates (i.e. conviction or other ‘disposal’) for many types of serious violence have improved significantly year-on-year.

2025/26 SV Duty new measures

Enabling measures	Seek to improve sharing of ambulance callout and hospital admissions data
Reduce violence in NTE	Review uniformed presence in City's NTE and evaluate 2024/25 hotspot policing impacts
	Commission updated research on City's licensing landscape
	Analyse lighting and CCTV coverage in violent crime hotspots
Reduce sexual and domestic violence	Aim to fund a trial of <i>Circles</i> behavioural change programme for sexual offenders
	Review coverage of domestic abuse screening in City healthcare settings
Threats from changing City	Make detailed assessment of threats and mitigations of higher footfall under Destination City programme
	Deliver specific recommendations on designing pedestrian walkways to reduce violence to DC programme
	Conduct brief risk & threat assessment of serious violence affecting homeless and rough-sleeping communities

Hotspot response grant 2025/26 – new approach

<i>We will target these problems...</i>	<i>...in these (ward) hotspots</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violence in the NTE• Sexual offending• Rough-sleeping-and-begging-related crime and ASB• Robbery of personal property including snatch thefts• Retail-related ASB and business robbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bishopsgate• Tower• Castle Baynard• Farringdon Within• Portsoken• Bread• Cheap

- £810k will fund multiple initiatives and activities targeting the above problems – mainly City Police, but with continued funding for Parkguard community safety patrolling too
- £190k will fund project analytical activity (dedicated analyst support, training, and new tools)
- At present (Apr-Jun) we are in ‘transition’ from 2024/25 to 2025/26 initiatives and approach – so above will be operational from 1 July

Hotspot response 2025/26 – more on new approach

- Officers receiving new problem-solving training have been assigned to each ‘problem’ to analyse it in detail – this can unlock more ways to use grant funding
- New tech will, in time, automatically track patrol activity in hotspots
- Provisionally, a new 0.5 FTE officer will provide dedicated oversight and project management
- Governance will be reviewed – may no longer be done jointly with SV Duty delivery

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committees: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Safer City Partnership	Dated: 29 May 2025 30 May 2025
Subject: Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025 – 2029: Delivery Plan and Groups	Public report: CDSC For Information SCP For decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • Delivers SCP statutory duties 	Vibrant Thriving Destination Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	
Report of: Judith Finlay – Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services and Helen Isaac, City Police Chief Superintendent	
Report author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager, Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

The Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy for 2025 - 2029 outlines a comprehensive approach to ensuring the City of London remains a safe and welcoming place for all. This document explains how the strategy will be delivered and details the various delivery groups involved.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report – Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee
- Approve the 2025 – 2029 Strategy – Safer City Partnership

Main Report

Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy for 2025 - 2029 will be the main instrument used by the Safer City Partnership Strategy Board to address crime, disorder, and vulnerabilities through collaborative efforts that benefit all communities in the Square Mile. This document explains how the strategy will be delivered and details the various multi-agency delivery groups involved in this pivotal collaborative work.

Delivery Mechanisms

2. The SCP Strategy will be delivered through a coordinated approach involving multiple delivery groups, each focusing on specific areas of the strategy. The key components of the delivery mechanism include:
 - 2.1. **Strategic Assessments and Partnership Plans:** The SCP Strategy Board is responsible for preparing strategic assessments and implementing partnership plans. These plans will be based on data-driven insights and community feedback to address the most pressing safety concerns. These assessments will also guide the ongoing work and therefore contribute to changes and modifications of actions included in the plans.
 - 2.2. **Information Sharing:** Effective information sharing between Responsible Authorities and Co-operating or Participating Persons is crucial for the successful delivery of the strategy. This ensures that all stakeholders are informed and can collaborate effectively.
 - 2.3. **Quarterly Monitoring and Reporting:** The SCP Strategy Board will hold quarterly forums to monitor progress, address challenges, and ensure that the strategy remains on track. These forums will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review performance and make necessary adjustments.

Delivery Groups

3. The SCP Strategy is structured around three overarching priorities that will be applied across the work of the delivery groups and SCP Partners: The SCP Strategy will be implemented through four key delivery groups, each with specific responsibilities and objectives. The delivery groups will be chaired by officers in senior positions such as the Corporation Directors or Assistant Directors and/or City Police Chief Inspector or above. This will provide reasonable level of authority to make decisions into plans and operations. The key delivery groups include:
 - 3.1. **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Delivery Group:** This group focuses on addressing issues related to anti-social behaviour, such as noise disturbances, public disorder, and environmental offences. It aims to implement community-driven and multi-agency solutions to enhance community cohesion and quality of life. This group meets bi-monthly, and it's chaired by Ian Hughes Director of City Operations.

- 3.2. **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Delivery Group:** This group focuses on addressing issues related to violence against women and girls including domestic abuse. It meets quarterly and aligns its efforts with other relevant strategies to ensure a comprehensive approach. The chair of the meeting is Rachel Talmage, Head of Children Social Care, and the deputy chair is Caroline Hay, City Police Chief Inspector.
- 3.3. **Serious Violence (SV) Delivery Group:** This group is dedicated to preventing and reducing serious violence through proactive measures, including education, outreach, and enforcement. It works closely with schools, community centres, and law enforcement agencies. It's chaired by the City Police Chief Inspector Lorenzo Conigliaro and meets monthly.
- 3.4. **Acquisitive Crime (AC) Delivery Group:** This group addresses issues related to acquisitive crime, particularly theft. It focuses on environmental prevention, deterrence, and multi-agency working to reduce the incidence of acquisitive crime in the City of London. This will be a new group and therefore actions in the delivery plans are still being discussed. It will be chaired by the City Police Chief Inspector Paul Southam.

SCP Strategy Overarching Principles

4. The SCP Strategy is structured around three overarching principles that will be applied across the work of the delivery groups and SCP partners:
 - 4.1. **Effective and Accountable Partnerships:** The SCP aims to build strong, transparent, and inclusive partnerships capable of tackling complex and cross-cutting issues. This includes regular engagement between strategic leads, clear public-facing accountability, and strengthening the visibility of partner roles.
 - 4.2. **Evidenced and Intelligence-Led Action:** By prioritising evidence and intelligence-led approaches, the SCP aims to target interventions more effectively and monitor trends over time. This ensures that partnership resources are directed where they can have the most impact.
 - 4.3. **Prevention-Focused Interventions:** Addressing the root causes of crime requires proactive measures and community engagement. The SCP champions a preventative approach—acting early to reduce risk, change behaviours, and promote safer environments.

Strategic Alignment

5. The SCP Strategy aligns with the City of London Police's Policing Plan 2025–2028. Both share a common commitment to keeping the City safe, inclusive, and resilient, with a particular focus on prevention, victim support, and community engagement. The SCP contributes directly to the delivery of the Policing Plan by supporting vulnerable groups,

using shared data and evidence to inform problem-solving, and amplifying the voice of communities through engagement and partnership accountability.

Governance and Implementation

6. The SCP will use project management frameworks to delineate responsibilities and ensure efficient coordination. Regular update reports to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will review performance, focusing on outcomes and holding members accountable. The SCP will also explore additional funding streams and integrate funding discussions into partnership reviews to ensure the long-term viability of key initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

7. The SCP will conduct regular evaluations against SMART objectives, involving all statutory members. Clear metrics for success will be developed, tied to each strategic priority, such as reductions in crime rates, increased public confidence, and improved community engagement. Annual progress reports will be shared with the SCP Board, public stakeholders, and co-opted participants.

Communication and Engagement

8. The SCP is committed to ensuring that this strategy and associated materials are accessible and inclusive. Public-facing materials will include a clear commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring transparency and reinforcing the shared ambition to serve and reflect the needs of all City communities.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. *Strategic implications* – the proposal delivered to the Corporate Plan 2024-2029
10. *Financial implications* – TBC
11. *Resource implications* – A resourcing plan for the 5-year strategy will be developed taking into account core budgets and opportunities to seek external grant funding.
12. *Legal implications* – The SCP Strategy 2025-2029 delivers our statutory commitment to prepare and deliver local strategies to prevent and reduce crime, established in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
13. *Risk implications* – none
14. *Equalities implications* – The Strategy is underpinned by the City Corporation's Equality Objectives 2024–2029 and a shared commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion. The SCP recognises that safety and the perception of safety are not experienced equally across communities. Through this strategy, the SCP will work to ensure that all residents, workers, and visitors—regardless of identity, background, or circumstances - feel seen, heard, and safe.

15. Climate implications – none.

16. Security implications – none.

Conclusion

17. The Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025 - 2029 provides a clear roadmap for fostering safety, inclusion, and resilience in the City of London. By focusing on prevention, collaboration, and intelligence-led actions, this strategy aims to create a safer, more secure environment for all who live, work, and visit the City of London.

Appendices

- None

Valeria Cadena

Community Safety Manager

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City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committees: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Safer City Partnership	Dated: 29 May 2025 30 May 2025
Subject: Community Safety delivery in the City of London	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	Vibrant Thriving Destination Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes
If so, how much?	£tbc
What is the source of Funding?	tbc
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	No – but this process is in train
Report of: Judith Finlay – Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	
Report author: Simon Cribbens – Assistant Director, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report describes the need for an expanded and changed Community Safety function within the City Corporation to respond to changing demands and context, and to mitigate the strategic and operational constraints of the current model. It proposes a direction of travel, in which an expanded function strengthens the ability of the City Corporation to fulfil its partnership working with the City of London Police to tackle crime and disorder.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Community Safety is a partnership approach to reduce crime and disorder in local communities, requiring both strategic and operational input from partners – notably the local authority and local police.
2. The strategic underpinning of this approach was formalised by the introduction of 'Community Safety Partnerships' in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to bring together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour (ASB) in their communities.
3. A Community Safety Partnership is made up of representatives from the police, local authority, and the fire, health and probation services (known as responsible authorities). It works on the principle that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and antisocial behaviour. In the City of London the partnership is known as the Safer City Partnership (SCP).
4. Local authorities are the key drivers and co-ordinators of these local strategies and carry a range of legal duties in this area. Almost every local authority in England and Wales will deliver its community safety responsibilities through a dedicated Community Safety Team (CST). The size and role of such teams will vary depending on local drivers and priorities. Roles include facilitating the statutory strategic partnership, devising complex multi-agency plans and strategies, commissioning of the local strategic assessment of crime and disorder, engaging communities, and providing an operational response to a broad variety of issues from ASB to preventing serious violence.
5. Local authorities have a range of powers – such as Community Protection Notices and Public Space Protection Orders - that enable them to operate alongside or in co-ordination with the police to tackle issues such as ASB.
6. As with any other local authority, the City Corporation must comply with a broad range of statutory functions both in terms of its provision of a Community Safety Partnership and a variety of other legislation including, but not limited to, Prevent, Serious Violence and Domestic Abuse.

Current Position

7. The City Corporation spends £0.43m annually on Community Safety and has the smallest community safety function in London. The average local authority spend in the capital on Community Safety is £2.7m. This reflects the unique characteristics of the City of London, with a very small resident population and large daytime working population. The City is also unique in London in having its own police force and Police Authority Board.
8. The Square Mile does not share the scale and breadth of issues experienced in other London local authority areas. However, many of the crime and disorder issues facing the City are common across local authorities with significant business districts and night-time economies - including theft, aggressive begging, alcohol-related crime and disorder, and violence against women and girls.

9. The current resourcing and established structure of the City Corporation's CST (one manager, three community safety officers and administrative support) reflects a historic approach which focusses on the strategic and co-ordinating roles and functions. The operational response to issues such as ASB has rested with the police, or those services within the City Corporation that exercise specific powers such as those in relation to noise, licencing and ASB on housing estates.
10. The CST sits within the Department of Community and Children's Services, but works across and delivers alongside services in other departments – particularly City Operations, Port Health and Public Protection and the Police Authority Board.
11. The Community Safety function is being delivered in a changing context. There has been a significant and continuing growth in the nighttime economy with which much of the City's ASB and crime and disorder is associated. The City has also seen a significant increase in encampments of rough sleeping – with which there are also associated ASB issues.
12. In this changing environment there has been a growing expectation on the team to respond more tactically and operationally. The constraints of the current model – and the limitation that imposes on the team - have caused frustration with partners, notably the City of London Police.
13. Changing demand and needs has not been met with changed resource. Therefore, the CST has been unable to deliver to the level it wishes to, and that would best meet community and partner needs. It presents the risk that the City Corporation could fall short of meeting all its statutory duties, or providing adequate protection or prevention in some crime and disorder issues.
14. There has also been a growing focus, including by central Government, on the issue of reducing violence, and violence against women and girls in particular. These are priorities under the current SCP strategy. There is a good deal of activity in this space in the City. But the crime figures are going in the wrong direction (the City Police reported to the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance (Police) Committee in February 2025 that violent crime in the City has increased by an average of 9% each quarter since Q3 2022/23, with violence against women and girls increasing by an average of 3% per quarter over the same period. Volumes of rape and other sexual offences are currently 38% higher than the high crime year of 2019/20.
15. It remains the case that compared with other areas of the country, the City is a safe place – and is not blighted by some of types of crime (such a knife crime) which other local authorities experience. The City's small population and low levels of crime and disorder have mitigated this risk. However, there is need for the City Corporation – through its CST – to play a fuller part in contributing to a truly effective partnership approach with the City Police to ensure that the City remains safe, and that residents, workers and visitors feel safe.

16. In response to the challenges set out, a review of the CST's partnership working with the City Police was commissioned to identify how the CST can effectively fulfil its statutory and operational responsibilities while maintaining a productive partnership with the City Police.

Review of partnership working with City of London Police

17. The review was undertaken by a specialist community safety consultant who had previous knowledge and experience of the city's community safety delivery.

18. In its summary the report concludes that:

The City Corporation needs to consider its preferred direction for the CST. If the expectation upon the CST is to remain – that is, to fulfil the entirety of the strategic and operational tasks incumbent upon any London local authority – then the Corporation must resource the CST adequately. This is not just a matter of funding additional posts, but to invest in the training and support of existing staff and processes to ensure they are able to deliver the entirety of the required functionality.

19. The report highlights three key areas of development.

Operational response to issues of ASB: *Operational activity, in particular around ASB, is causing the most friction between partners as the team is expected to have similar resourcing levels to other community safety teams in London and the surrounding area. Currently, this is not the case.*

Analytical capacity: *The lack of analytical capacity is a severe issue for the CST and wider partnership. The CST has had limited access to analytical products and unlike other City and COLP partners. As a result, there is no analytical resource to influence strategic commissioning, partnership activity, or problem solving, and little in the way of evaluation or performance management as a result.*

Engagement: *Engagement with business and residential communities by the CST is lacking due to the capacity issues outlined above, and there is a need for better collaboration to address crime and disorder issues, both in terms of a short-term tactical response, and in long term strategic planning to address future risks.*

20. The report concludes that the CST's operational delivery is challenged by a lack of resources; as a result, there is a focus on strategic work rather than actual delivery. It notes that:

There is a case to be made for the CST to become a purely strategic function, supporting the SCP, administering subgroups, and commissioning services through both direction setting and procurement; and leaving operational activity to either be administered by the City of London Police or by another department

within the City Corporation, although this might fragment the City Corporation's approach to an even greater extent.

21. However, the report recommends an enlarged CST that resources both strategic and operational activity.

Proposals and next steps

22. A report to the City Corporation's Senior Leadership Team in March set out the case for developing the Community Safety function - and therefore the CST - to enable it to meet operational and strategic needs, and strengthen its capacity to work with key partners, especially the City of London Police. The report – and the approach it recommends – received strong support.
23. The CST also successfully bid for Proceeds of Crime Act funding to secure an additional one-year post. This role will focus on ASB associated with hotspots and encampments of street homeless people – and other street based ASB issues. The officer – who has already joined the team – will work closely with colleagues across the City Corporation and the City Police.
24. Officers will work with the Chamberlain and Members to seek additional resourcing to respond to the recommendations of the review and deliver the ambition of the CST to work more closely with the City Police. It is estimated that recommended level of resourcing could cost £220,000 per annum. However, this figure is indicative, and further work will be necessary to define the exact requirements.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. *Strategic implications* – the proposal deliver to the Corporate Plan 2024-2029 and the Safer City Partnership Strategy.
26. *Financial implications* – it is estimated that additional roles and functions within the CST could cost £220,000.
27. *Resource implications* – an expanded CST role may require greater support from the City Corporation's legal team and communications team.
28. *Legal implications* – increased capacity, and closer working with the City Police, will strengthen the City Corporation's ability to meet its legal duties. The City Corporation must comply with a broad range of statutory functions both in terms of its provision of a Community Safety Partnership and a variety of other legislation including, but not limited to, Prevent, Serious Violence and Domestic Abuse.
29. *Risk implications* – The under-resourcing of the CST creates a risk – both to the community and the City Corporation – that the City Corporation may fail to meet

its statutory duties, or provide adequate protection or prevention in some crime and disorder issues. These both present a reputational risk.

30. *Equalities implications* – effective community safety provides a positive impact on people protected by existing equality legislation, some of whom are overrepresented among those impact by crime and disorder.

31. Climate implications – none.

32. Security implications – none.

Conclusion

33. This report emphasizes the need for an expanded and changed Community Safety function within the City Corporation to respond to evolving demands and context. It highlights the importance of strengthening the partnership with the City of London Police to tackle crime and disorder effectively. The report recommends an enlarged Community Safety Team (CST) that resources both strategic and operational activities to ensure the City Corporation can fulfil its statutory duties and provide adequate protection and prevention in crime and disorder issues

Appendices

- None

Simon Cribbens

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PROGRESS REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 13.1

Report Date
12/05/25



540

Business Engagements



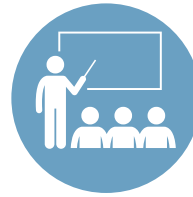
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Safe Havens City



144

Safe Havens GLA



486

People Trained



285

WAVE and Ask For Angela Venues

Highlights of recent progress

Our mission is to prevent violence against women and girls and domestic abuse, forming alliances with relevant public and private companies to create a framework which can ultimately be adopted nationally.

Our recent progress highlights include:

- Gaining two awards: Security Partnering Initiative of the Year at the Security and Fire Excellence Awards and Outstanding Security Partnership category at the Outstanding Security Performance Awards.
- Hosting a number of training and awareness events to share preventative messages within the City.
- Strengthening our board with Shital V a specialist trainer and consultant in safeguarding and domestic abuse and a director from a leading hospitality firm.

For our next steps, following our latest surveys and data analysis, we are:

- Developing and delivering awareness, training and education with our partners and propose to develop a one stop shop for VAWG related training on our website. For example: Solace, Safer Business Network, Mitie, TCC and Stamp out Spiking.
- Enhancing the awareness of our initiatives, particularly those aimed at a younger audience. We are in the process of surveying people to understand the best ways to communicate with them. We have also developed partnerships on communications with our key partners to join up the comms efforts
- Targeting hotspot areas to develop Safe Havens
- Engaging with City of London Corporation and partners with findings of the 2024 survey and other analytical data.



Awareness-raising events and engagement

- Destination City event at Guildhall – May 2025 – approx 100 attendees and speakers from all strands of Our Safer City Partnership.
- Greene King event – 2025 – 80 attendees – a thank you event for all involved.
- Launch event at Howden – September 2024 – approx 100 attendees.
- Partner patrols with City of London Police and high visibility security presence provided by City Security Council to engage with Night Time Economy as part of Operation Reframe, including test purchasing of Safe Havens, anti spiking measures and Ask for Angela for due diligence.
- Our Chairman and board members regularly speak at related events about Our Safer City, our partners and initiatives.

Training

- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - BE-LADS
- 36 people attended the training on the 27 March 2025
- 80% learnt a lot, 60% exceeded their expectations

WAVE and Ask for Angela

- 65 attended training in March/April
- “This training will affect how I deal with vulnerability ”
- “I learnt so much, especially spiking”
- “Safe Havens are a must, I have been out so many times and my phone has died”

City Safe Haven Pipeline

Seven potential City locations are in the pipeline. Additionally, we are working with CIS Security, East City BIDs and BNP Paribas with the intention of bringing onboard a number of new safe havens. It should be noted that many City locations are complex and extensive, with multiple bars, restaurants and locations, so these require significant training and liaison.

Analysis Tool

In partnership, we have developed an analytical tool to understand the flow and movement of people socialising in the night time economy within the City of London. We have been working with the City of London Corporation and City of London Police to maximise the use of this tool and its datasets to identify relevant hotspots for Safe Haven and Ask for Angela locations.

Steering Groups

We are inviting businesses, partners and community members to join one of our upcoming Steering Groups to focus on our offering and provide insight, feedback and how we can improve it.

Thanks to Lilly

We would like to thank Lilly Prior, Safer Business Network for all her support and effort and welcome Jude Slater to SBN and the Our Safer City partnership.



Taxi Marshalls



Stats

24,570 Journeys

44,587 Total passengers

50.07% Female passengers

33.72% Lone female passengers

197 Disabled passengers

A black cab marshalling scheme is available at Liverpool Street station, on Liverpool St on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 9pm to 1am.

The taxi marshalling scheme provides a safe place to wait for a black cab. The marshals, who are licensed black cab drivers, manage and control the queue, prevent conflicts, and encourage black cabs to attend this location at night.

A snapshot of survey results is as follows.

- **811** responses
- **98%** Feel Safer because of Taxi Marshals.
- **95%** Feel Taxi Marshalling is helpful in getting a taxi to their destination

485 verbatim responses recent examples below:

"We need their help and makes me feel safe as a woman in a big city taking taxis."

"Great experience. It made my journey home easier and safer, so thank you."

"The experience I had with a taxi marshal was really reassuring and made me feel a lot better about travelling on my own."

"They were so friendly and helpful. Made my late journey home from the office totally safe."

"As a woman... It felt good to have someone on the street safeguarding and making sure women were able to get home safely."

Latest Perception Surveys

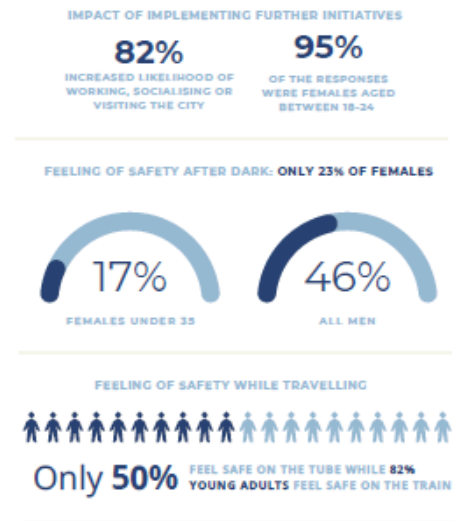
We conducted our second survey in autumn 2024 with over 500 responses of which 77% were female. The survey has the larger proportion of younger respondents with 38% under 34. Responses were broadly similar to our 2023 survey. We are conducting our next survey in summer 2025.

Asks

- Raise awareness of non-acceptable behaviour
- Increase lighting in badly lit areas
- Visible police presence (after dark)
- Regular and reliable public transport
- Enhanced CCTV

Findings

- Implementing further P-VAWG initiatives would mean 82% would feel safer working, socialising, living or visiting the City.
- Educating men in acceptable behaviour is a strong message
- Hotspot areas for concerns are Liverpool St, Bishopsgate and Bank
- Many females do not feel safe after dark (and only 46% of men)



Feeling of safety while travelling

82% of young adults feel safe on the train
50% feel safe or very safe by tube

Awareness of P-VAWG & DA - Our Safer City activity

65% aware of Ask for Angela	25% aware of more than one Initiative
14% aware of the Safe Haven app	24% not aware of any of the activity
7% aware of Op Reframe.	23% aware of Safe Havens and Taxi Marshalling

Training - 72% have had no training relating to preventing violence against women and girls and domestic abuse.

New legislation - Less than 5% feel fully briefed on legislative changes relating to this topic.

Destination City Survey Results 7th May 2025

How do you like to be communicated to?

Respondents replied- Email, Newsletter, Face- Face, What's app

What is your preferred training method?

Webinar 4.1, Face to Face 4.0, Briefing 3.9 and eLearning 3.4

What Social Media Platforms do you interact with?

LinkedIn, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram most popular.

Does your business have a domestic abuse policy?

39 people responded. 20-Yes, 10-No and 9 didn't know.

Have you received sexual harassment training through work?

38 people responded. 2 said scheduled, 18 -No, 16-yes and 2 said yes but need further training.

What else could we consider?

Live training, improve social media, education for young people, greater use of technology to identify and respond to VAWG, and focus groups.

Phase one – getting the basics in place

We have established and implemented the following:

- Marketing strategy and brand guidelines to ensure consistency of message and branding
- Quarterly communications plan
- Website (oursafecity.co.uk)
- LinkedIn company page and Instagram profile
- Bi-weekly newsletter

Phase two – expanding awareness

Our four key communication objectives are:

- Grow the community around Our Safer City
- Support the safety and security of women and girls by promoting the consortium initiatives:
- Raise the profile of the consortium, its initiatives, events, its partners, and particularly its supporters.
- Start to challenge and influence men

Our progress towards these objectives last quarter:

LinkedIn

- **750 followers** (98 followers joined in last quarter)
- Approximately **40 posts** during quarter, achieving **16, 243 impressions**
- Weekly post on one of the initiatives or providing advice/information
- Bi-weekly post spotlighting one of our partners
- Weekly re-posts of partner posts
- At end of quarter, planning campaign to increase followers

Instagram - Soft launch, weekly posts

Email newsletter

Newsletter launched in April with **353 subscribers** invited and retained
First two emails achieved **35%** open rate and **6%** click rate

Website

Regularly updated with partner logos and links, related blogs and updates on initiatives

Set up Google Analytics on website

Website visitors: average **265 per month**

Partner and Media Engagement

Communication contacts for partner organisations identified and regular contact established to amplify messages

Infographics, reports and proposals prepared where needed

Articles published in related publications

Summer Partners Newsletter from LFB City of London Borough Commander James Chapman.

Dear Partners,

Please find below the latest news regarding LFB and local LFB City of London activities. You will note there are links to our external LFB website which contains useful information.

Within this message I have provided information on:

- [London Fire Commissioner's retirement](#)
- [Our Community Risk Management Plan \(CRMP\)](#)
- [New Automatic Fire Alarm \(AFA\) policy](#)
- [Extreme weather](#)
- [Partnership working](#)
- [Incidents](#)
- [Key safety advice to share](#)
- [LFB Hot Topic latest initiatives](#)

[London Fire Commissioner's retirement](#)

- London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe KFSM, has advised Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, of his **intention to retire** after five years in the role.
- The Greater London Authority (GLA) has **begun a formal process to identify and appoint a successor**, and more information will be made available over the coming months.
- The Commissioner's last day in office will be confirmed in due course.

[Our Community Risk Management Plan \(CRMP\)](#)

- A key commitment in the CRMP is for each borough to have its own **Borough Risk Management Plan**. These have been published on the Brigade [website](#).
- Fire stations are developing their own plans to support the delivery of the wider Borough Risk Management Plans, and all departments have produced their own plans.
- We have published strategies for all six of the services we offer to the public.
- We have published our updated Assessment of Risk 2024.
- LFB will be working with communities across every borough to update the BRMPs to reflect the risks that each borough faces and how we are working together to improve safety.

New Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) policy

- **LFB no longer attends AFAs between daytime hours of 07:00 – 20:30** in most non-residential properties.
- **There are exemptions to this change in our attendance**, including all buildings with sleeping accommodation, schools, listed heritage buildings, hospitals, residential care homes and COMAH sites.
- LFB will **continue to always attend when called to a fire by a member of the public** and to any AFA between 20:30-07:00.
- For more information about the policy, including advice for business owners and responsible people, see our [AFA FAQs](#).

Extreme weather

- **Extreme weather**, Long periods of hot, dry weather means it only takes a spark to cause a wildfire.
- LFB is **committed to operational learning and investment**
- LFB need partner agencies to take action to reduce the other seasonal risks such as [flooding](#) and [wildfires](#). **Please can I ask partners to be ready for our requests for action, including share information with the public.**

London Fire Brigade is **preparing for extreme weather**. This could result in risks to the public from Grass and Wildfires, extreme cold, snow, flooding, and drowning.

Partnership working

Heritage Exercise at the Guildhall

- Salvage Exercise at the City of London Guildhall Art Gallery.

Scenario Fire above the National Art Gallery, Smoke logging and water percolating through into the Gallery.

The London Fire Brigade and The City's Emergency Planning Team, practice key response procedures to ensure that Heritage is safeguarded during an emergency.

Observed by specialist insurers and Pan London 40 museums and collections who took part in training before the exercise with Historic England and the LFB Heritage team.

Incidents

Fire at mixed-use building – City of London

28/03/2025 14:28 The City of London Fire at commercial property

Four fire engines and around 25 firefighters tackled a fire at a mixed-use building on Bishopsgate in the City of London.

Half of the ground-floor frontage and part of the first floor were damaged by fire. There were no reports of any injuries.

The Brigade's Control Officers were called at 14:28 and mobilised four fire engines and around 25 firefighters from Dowgate, Shadwell, Bethnal Green and Soho fire stations to the scene. The fire was under control by 1843.

The fire is believed to have been caused by an electrical fault.

LFB supporting London Marathon operational response

Key safety advice to share within your Borough

- There is a free [Home Fire Safety Checker on the LFB website](#).
- Our [#ChargeSafe campaign](#) promotes safer use of e-bikes and e-scooters.

LFB Hot Topic latest initiatives

New Home Fire Safety Visit Strategy

LFB are changing our approach to Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) with us moving to a new strategy on 3 April 2023. This will allow us to allocate the majority of our safety advice resources to the most vulnerable Londoners.

LFB carry out HFSVs across London. We come out to your home, or the home of someone you care for, to provide personalised advice about fire safety.

- We also provide an [online checker](#) which will give you tailored advice to keep your home safe. This is free and easy use.
- Full details can be found on our website Home Fire Safety [Here](#)

As valued community partners, there are two things you can do to help:

- You can help us identify and refer people who are at high risk who would most benefit from a Home Fire Safety Visit

- You can play a vital role in helping us reach a large audience with our messaging about our online Home Fire Safety Checker

There are a number of factors that LFB uses to categorise whether an individual is at higher risk. These fall into three categories:

- Increased risk of fire – This can be due to behaviours such as smoking. This also includes characteristics identified from LFB's data from past incidents such as living alone, over 60 years old or in receipt of formal care (informal, formal or both)
- Less able to react – This could be someone who has a hearing impairment or a mental health condition. It could also be someone without a working smoke alarm.
- Less able to escape – This could be a user of mobility aids, or someone who is chair/bed bound. It could also be someone who has a blocked escape route which would impede them leaving their home.

If you think someone might be high risk based on the information above, please refer them to us for a HFSV.

If you work with anyone who may fall into the high-risk category, we encourage you to refer them for a HFSV as soon as possible by calling 0800 028 4428

They will be asked a series of triage questions to determine the risk. This will determine how quickly they receive a HFSV from a local crew.

This will be 4 hours for very high risk, 7 days for high risk, and 1 month for medium risk. Those who fall into a lower risk category will be directed the online checker which will provide fire safety advice tailored for their homes.

On line HFSV checker

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-checker/>

e-bike safety #Chargesafe

Fires involving lithium batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in London. A significant proportion of these incidents involve an e bike or e scooter, and that number is increasing. Whilst e scooters and e bikes are still a great way to get around, damaged and faulty batteries are the real risk. We have launched our [ChargeSafe](#) campaign to make the public aware of the danger e bikes and e scooter batteries can pose, and how they can reduce the risk of fire. Your support will help us ensure that London's communities are aware of the risks they may face, and the actions they can take to address this.

A significant proportion of these incidents involve an e bike or e scooter. There's been a 60% increase in e-bike and e-scooter fires in 2023 so far.

On average the London Fire Brigade have been called to an e-bike or e-scooter fire once every two days. Always use the correct charger for your battery, and make sure to buy from a reputable seller.

London's seen a significant increase in e-bike and e-scooter fires in 2023. If you're planning to convert your bicycle to an e-bike, get a professional to carry out the conversion.

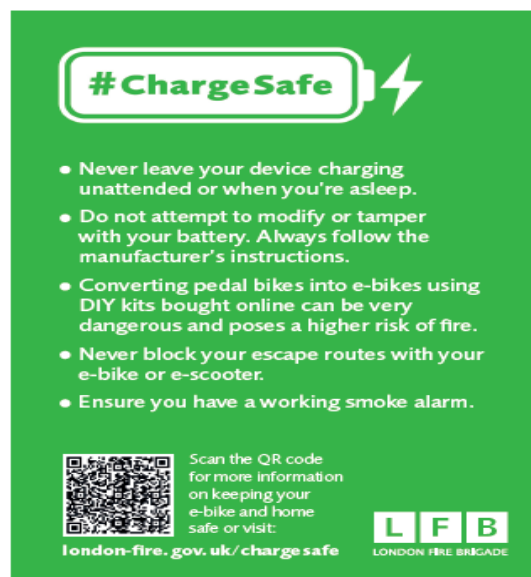
Never charge your e-bike or scooter in a fire escape route. Charge and store these items in a safe location if possible, such as a garage or a shed.

Stay safe and

- Don't charge your batteries by your front door or any other escape route
- Never charge your batteries overnight
- Only buy your batteries and charger from a reputable seller

Below are a sample of the leaflets we have, please let me know if you would like a PDF copy.



A green rectangular graphic with a white border. At the top, it features the hashtag "# ChargeSafe" in white text inside a white rounded rectangle, followed by a white lightning bolt icon. Below this, there is a list of six safety tips in white text. At the bottom left, there is a QR code. To the right of the QR code, there is a small white text box with a QR code icon and the text "Scan the QR code for more information on keeping your e-bike and home safe or visit:". At the bottom right, there is the LFB logo (London Fire Brigade) in white, consisting of the letters "LFB" in a bold font above the words "LONDON FIRE BRIGADE" in a smaller font. Below the QR code, the URL "london-fire.gov.uk/charge safe" is written in white.

ChargeSafe

- Never leave your device charging unattended or when you're asleep.
- Do not attempt to modify or tamper with your battery. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Converting pedal bikes into e-bikes using DIY kits bought online can be very dangerous and poses a higher risk of fire.
- Never block your escape routes with your e-bike or e-scooter.
- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm.

Scan the QR code for more information on keeping your e-bike and home safe or visit:

[london-fire.gov.uk/charge safe](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/charge safe)

LFB
LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Learn more about the dangers of these batteries at www.london-fire.gov.uk/ChargeSafe

Useful links

- <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/lithium-batteries/>
- <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-checker/>
- <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/lithium-batteries/charging-electric-bike-and-electric-scooter-lithium-batteries/>
- www.london-fire.gov.uk/ChargeSafe
- [Flooding | London Fire Brigade \(london-fire.gov.uk\)](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/flooding)
- <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/afa-policy>
- [Your London Fire Brigade](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/your-london-fire-brigade)
- [Grass and Wildfires](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/grass-and-wildfires)
- [Key safety advice on candles](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/key-safety-advice-on-candles)

Thank you

James Chapman
Borough Commander (Fire) City of London