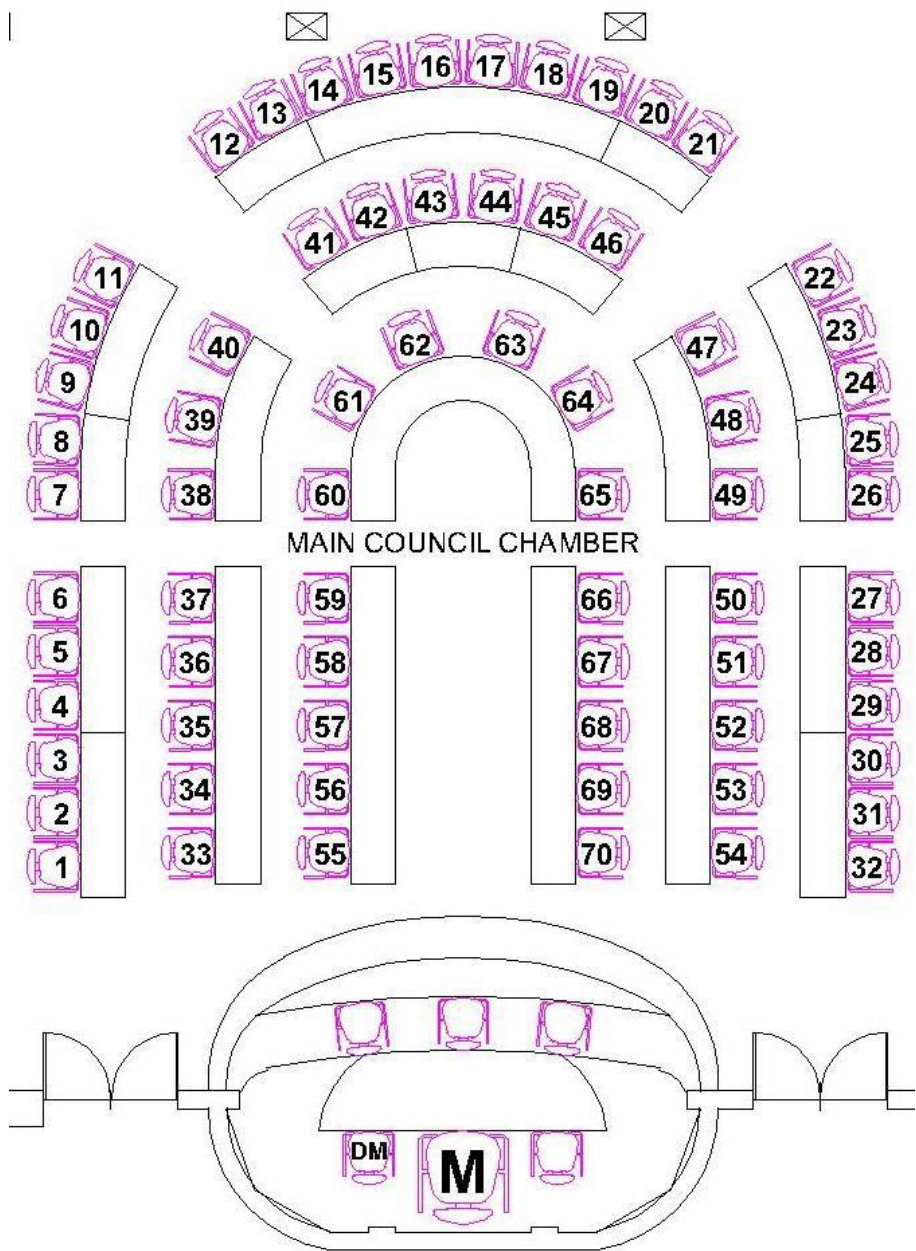




**COUNCIL
AGENDA**
for the meeting
on
30 November 2020
at
6.30 pm

1. Callton Young
2. Joy Prince
3. Stephen Mann
4. Jamie Audsley
5. Andrew Pelling
6. Pat Clouder
7. Pat Ryan
8. Caragh Skipper
9. Mary Croos
10. Robert Canning
11. Leila Ben-Hassel
12. Bernadette Khan
13. Humayun Kabir
14. Jerry Fitzpatrick
15.
16.
17. Oni Oviri
18. Steve Hollands
19. Ian Parker
20. Michael Neal
21. Luke Clancy
22. Jan Buttinger
23. Sue Bennett
24. Jeet Bains
25. Stuart Millson
26. Andy Stranack
27. Helen Redfern
28. Simon Brew
29. Gareth Streeter
30. Margaret Bird
31. Scott Roche
32. Richard Chatterjee
33. Shafi Khan
34. David Wood
35. Nina Degrads
36. Patricia Hay-Justice
37. Louisa Woodley
38. Clive Fraser
39. Patsy Cummings
40. Sean Fitzsimons
41. Felicity Flynn
42. Jane Avis
43. Karen Jewitt
44. Chris Clark
45. Toni Letts
46. Mohammed Ali
47. Badsha Quadir
48. Robert Ward
49. Steve O'Connell
50. Helen Pollard
51. Yvette Hopley
52. Mario Creatura
53. Vidhi Mohan
54. Simon Hoar
55. Alisa Flemming



56. Hamida Ali
57. Stuart Collins
58. Alison Butler
59. Tony Newman
60. Simon Hall
61. Oliver Lewis
62. Janet Campbell
63. Manju Shahul-Hameed
64. Paul Scott
65. Stuart King
66. Tim Pollard
67. Jason Cummings
68. Lynne Hale
69. Maria Gatland
70. Jason Perry
Notes etc.
M – Mayor Councillor Maddie Henson
DM – Deputy Mayor – Sherwan Chowdhury
Please note that the numbers relate to microphone numbers.
July 2020

To: To All Members of the Council

Date: 20 November 2020

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Monday, 30 November 2020 at 6.30 pm**. This meeting will be held remotely. Members of Council will be sent a link to remotely attend the meeting in due course.

PLEASE NOTE: Members of the public are welcome to remotely attend this meeting via the following link: <https://webcasting.croydon.gov.uk/meetings/11268>

JACQUELINE HARRIS BAKER
Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
London Borough of Croydon
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Annette Wiles 020 872 6000 x64877
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www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings
20 November 2020

The agenda papers for all Council meetings are available on the Council website www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings

If you require any assistance, please contact officer as detailed above.

AGENDA – PART A

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from any Members.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 60)

To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Council and Council meetings held on 28 September, 12 and 22 October 2020 as an accurate record.

3. Disclosure of Interests

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to register disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) and gifts and hospitality to the value of which exceeds £50 or multiple gifts and/or instances of hospitality with a cumulative value of £50 or more when received from a single donor within a rolling twelve month period. In addition, Members and co-opted Members are reminded that unless their disclosable pecuniary interest is registered on the register of interests or is the subject of a pending notification to the Monitoring Officer, they are required to disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests at the meeting. This should be done by completing the Disclosure of Interest form and handing it to the Democratic Services representative at the start of the meeting. The Chair will then invite Members to make their disclosure orally at the commencement of Agenda item 3. Completed disclosure forms will be provided to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion on the Register of Members' Interests.

4. Urgent Business (if any)

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

5. Announcements

To receive Announcements, if any, from the Mayor, the Leader, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer.

6. The Croydon Debate (Pages 61 - 62)

For Members to debate a Borough Petition.

- 7. Croydon Question Time (Pages 63 - 66)**

 - a) Public Questions (30 minutes)**
To receive questions from the public gallery and questions submitted by residents in advance of the meeting.
 - b) Leader and Cabinet Member Questions (105 minutes)**
To receive questions from Councillors.

- 8. Member Petitions (Pages 67 - 68)**
To receive notice of petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents.

- 9. Annual Reports (Pages 69 - 76)**
For Members to receive the following annual reports for 2019 – 2020:

 - i. Corporate Parenting Panel (to follow); and
 - ii. Health and Wellbeing Board.

- 10. Council Debate Motions**
To debate any motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

- 11. Recommendations of Cabinet to Council for decision (Pages 77 - 232)**
To consider the recommendations made by Cabinet since the last ordinary Council meeting relating to the following matters:

 - i. Developing Croydon’s new Community Safety Strategy;
 - ii. The Croydon Renewal Plan (to follow); and
 - iii. Strategic Review of Companies and other investment arrangements (to follow).

- 12. Exclusion of the Press and Public**
The following motion is to be moved and seconded where it is proposed to exclude the press and public from the remainder of a meeting:

“That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of

business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.”

PART B

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Meeting held remotely on Monday, 28 September 2020 at 6.30 pm.

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Maddie Henson (Chair);
Councillor Sherwan Chowdhury (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Hamida Ali, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Leila Ben-Hassel, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Janet Campbell, Richard Chatterjee, Luke Clancy, Chris Clark, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mary Croos, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Mario Creatura, Nina Degrads, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzsimons, Alisa Flemming, Felicity Flynn, Clive Fraser, Maria Gatland, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Patricia Hay-Justice, Simon Hoar, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Humayun Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Stuart Millson, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Oni Oviri, Ian Parker, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Robert Ward, David Wood, Louisa Woodley and Callton Young

Jacqueline Harris Baker, Executive Director – Resources (Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer), Katherine Kerswell, Interim Chief Executive and Stephen Rowan (Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny)

Apologies: Councillor Robert Canning and Badsha Quadir

PART A

At the outset of the meeting, before the formal business commenced, Madam Mayor, Councillor Henson, led Members of Council in holding a minute's silence in honour of local Police Sergeant Matt Ratana. Madam Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Newman, to comment before the minute's silence commenced. The Leader described how the loss of Sergeant Ratana was a tragedy for his family, friends and work colleagues in addition to all with whom he had played rugby. After so many years of dedicated service, what had happened was awful. The Leader described how he had visited the detention centre where Sergeant Ratana had lost his life and had witnessed the outpouring of grief, emotion and love from Croydon and beyond. It was acknowledged how this had been appreciated Sergeant Ratana's by family and friends.

Councillor Perry, the Leader of the Opposition, was also invited to address the Members of Council and echoed the Leader's words. Sergeant Ratana was described as a much respected member of the community and the Police Force with deepest condolences being expressed to his family and friends.

What had occurred was a reminder that those in the emergency services were putting their lives on the line every day.

A minute's silence was held to honour the life of Sergeant Matt Ratana.

111/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Prior to the vote on the minutes of the previous meetings, Madam Mayor informed the meeting that there were 38 Labour Members and 27 Conservative Members in attendance at that point in the meeting.

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 6 July 2020 and the Council meeting held on 13 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

112/20 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests. Members confirmed their disclosure of interest forms were accurate and up-to-date.

113/20 Urgent Business (if any)

There were no items of urgent business. However, Madam Mayor explained to the meeting that the Administration had withdrawn its requisition and therefore the meeting would no longer be considering Item 9 on the agenda.

114/20 Announcements

Madam Mayor commenced her announcements by echoing the earlier remarks made in honour of Sergeant Matt Ratana; having met with several people who had known him, Madam Mayor described how Sergeant Ratana had been a wonderful officer and a good man.

Councillor Perry was welcomed to his new role as the Leader of the Opposition. Mental health first aid training available to Councillors was highlighted. Madam Mayor described how since the last Council meeting, she had organised a series of socially distanced picnics at which readings had been provided by local authors. A tour of local food banks had been undertaken to meet volunteers who had supported Croydon's vulnerable residents during the pandemic.

The Croydon Connect project had been launched. This would encourage children to make a giant paper chain to be displayed in the Town Hall, decorated with their experiences of the pandemic. A panel discussion seeking to break down barriers to loss would be held using Facebook on 10 October 2020. Madam Mayor also announced her first fundraising event. This would be a quiz held using Zoom on 7 November 2020.

The Leader was invited by Madam Mayor to make his announcement. It was advised that he was working with leaders across London to respond to the pandemic. London, including Croydon, was on a heightened setting with a growing number of Covid cases. It was hoped that the issues experienced with the NHS Track and Trace system would be addressed. The importance of the Council's own Public Health team in this work was highlighted.

115/20 Arrangements for the Appointment to Interim Head of Paid Service

Invited by Madam Mayor, the Leader moved the recommendation in the report relating to the appointment of the Head of the Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. Councillor Perry seconded the motion.

The recommendation was put to the vote and approved unanimously. Madam Mayor expressed a warm welcome to Katherine Kerswell, the Head of the Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, on behalf of Members of Council.

116/20 Croydon Renewal Plan and amendments to the 2020/21 General Fund Budget

Madam Mayor explained to Members of Council that this item concerned the Croydon Renewal Plan, amendments to the 2020/21 General Fund Budget and the revised Capital Programme which had been recommended to Council by Cabinet. Both Groups were thanked for their work in reaching a cross-party agreement on the process for considering the item.

Presentation

The Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (and Section 151 Officer) gave a presentation to Council on the budget matters for consideration. This commenced with a review of the Council's financial circumstances. Spending by each department during 2019/20 was detailed with growth and savings/income provided. This demonstrated that the two highest spending departments were Children, Families and Education and Health, Wellbeing and Adults, with a combined budget of just under £200m. Further facts and figures were provided on the Council's budget including that this comprised spending of £177m annually on staff, £522m on contracts and supplies, total debt of £1.5bn with £26m being spent annually on servicing debt. How the Council's income was drawn from Council Tax and Business rates was outlined along with information provided on the Council's General Fund and Earmarked Reserves.

The measures being taken to address the Council's financial situation were presented including the work of the Financial Review Panel, the immediate short term measures programme, the financial report taken to Cabinet in July 2020, the work being undertaken to refresh the Medium Term Financial

Strategy (MTFS) and the conversations being had with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). It was clarified that a plan had to be submitted to MHCLG detailing the Council's funding for 2020/21 and future years.

The overspend to the end of August 2020 was stated at £50.3m representing lost income, unachieved savings, Covid related and exceptional cost on items such as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). The overspend was being addressed by £27.9m of in-year savings which had been presented to and agreed by Cabinet. This included savings arising from the reduction in staffing numbers which was expected to provide up to £15m of savings in subsequent years. However, caution was expressed with work ongoing to deliver the identified savings as some were still rated as amber and red.

This meant £22.4m of overspending remained. Risks and the limitations of the Council's financial resilience were highlighted. It was stressed that the budget gap could worsen. The £8m adjustment to the 2019/20 accounts was still to be agreed and it was noted that the auditor has raised concerns about the treatment of the accounts. It was possible that the Council's spending on Covid related costs would increase especially with the noted rise in cases happening at the time of the meeting. There might also be changes to Government legislation which would have a financial impact on the Council's budget. The example of Covid marshals was given.

It was clarified for Members of Council that the Chief Financial Officer was under a statutory obligation to issue a Section 114 Notice where the Council was incurring more costs than could be met through available funding. It was highlighted that a Section 114 Notice had not been issued because the Council was still working to bring spending in line with expenditure as had been agreed with MHCLG and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). It was highlighted that it was not an option to utilise all the Council's reserves to address the overspend. It was a requirement in law that the Council have a balanced, sustainable budget meaning spending had to be stopped urgently.

The options available to the Council at this point and their consequences were outlined. If the Government were to take control of running the Council, the Members of Council would no longer be able to make budget decisions. If the Council was to retain control it would need to stop top slicing and shift to reshaping and renewing the budget.

Seeking help from MHCLG would not provide free money. Rather the Council was requesting permission to borrow for revenue expenditure, which was normally only permitted for capital spending. This would allow the development and fulfilment of a Renewal Plan that would provide a three year timeframe during which the Council's budget could be re-profiled and balanced. An illustration of how much it would cost to repay £30m of borrowing over 40 years was provided. It was also highlighted that MHCLG could reject the Council's capitalisation direction request.

The need to make a credible approach to MHCLG meant that decisions had to be made on savings, the review of Capital Programme, the strategic review of group companies and the Renewal Plan.

Details of the Croydon Renewal Plan were shared with Members of Council. Plan A was to make a submission to MHCLG by mid-November 2020 formally requesting permission to borrow for spending on revenue items. If this request was rejected, Plan B was to achieve a further £22.4m of savings in 2020/21 and £47m of savings in 2021/22. This would require an emergency budget which if not agreed would result in the issuing of a Section 114 Notice. This would allow a period of 21 days during which a balanced budget would have to be agreed.

Introductory comments

The Leader was invited by Madam Mayor to make his introductory comments regarding the Croydon Renewal Plan and budget amendment. The Leader highlighted that whilst the costs of Covid were evident for their impact on the Council's budget, the real costs were being counted in the lives affected and taken. The work being undertaken with the support of the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Finance Review Panel (FRP) to make the strongest possible case for Croydon to MHCLG was highlighted. The aim was to ensure that Croydon retained its ability to provide frontline services, especially in response to a second wave of Covid should this happen. This would include working with Croydon's 140 Care Homes to ensure the most vulnerable were shielded and to keep schools open. The Leader expressed his desire that the Croydon Renewal Plan and budget amendment be agreed on a cross-party basis. It was hoped that party politics could be put aside and agreement reached to put Croydon first. The comparison was made with Shaun Bailey, the Conservative Party candidate for the Mayor of London, who was described as having unsuccessfully tried to argue that the budget difficulties experienced by Transport for London were not the result of Covid but as a result of the management by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. All company structures were being reviewed to ensure value for money. In response to a question regarding the budget presentation given, the Leader explained the importance of Council hearing the facts from the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (and Section 151 Officer) about the impact of Covid on the Council's budget.

Councillor Hall, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, was invited by Madam Mayor to make his introductory comments regarding the Croydon Renewal Plan and budget amendment. Councillor Hall gave tribute to the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk, her team and all Council staff who were working hard on the budget. It was explained that there was a need to take action for residents and that it was hoped the focus at the meeting would be on the opportunities for the Council rather than on party politics. Councillor Hall highlighted that the Opposition had voted in favour of the last three budgets with no alternative budget suggestions provided. There was a call for all to recognise the reality of the Council's position. It had been under-funded for a long time with the effect of austerity highlighted. This was not about

excuses, but 80% of the budget gap was directly related to Covid. It was recognised that there would have been challenges without the impact of the pandemic, but the reality of the Council's budget position would have been completely different had Covid not happened. The implementation of the staffing review had sought to minimise the number of compulsory redundancies. With regard to the Council's debt burden, this had increased by over £700m under the Conservative Administration with it being highlighted that the current Administration had acted to address the historic underfunding in Children's Services in order to bring caseloads within reasonable levels. Councillor Hall called on Members of Council to take the necessary actions in unprecedented times.

Questions

Madam Mayor explained to Members of Council that they would be able to put questions to the Leader and Councillor Hall for an hour.

Councillor Bains stated that Councillor Hall prided himself on being a qualified accountant, but suggested the truth was that the Cabinet Member had gambled with Croydon's future including through schemes such as Brick By Brick.

In response, Councillor Hall characterised Councillor Bains' comments as a personal attack and confirmed that he was a qualified accountant. Investment in assets were giving a monthly income with Brick By Brick providing much needed housing as well as a profit.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Bains accused Councillor Hall of bringing Croydon to its knees under his financial leadership. Brick By Brick had recently received a further loan. It was questioned why it had benefitted from the leniency of not having to pay back any of the loans received until all its properties were sold. If this was not the case, Councillor Hall was asked to clarify how much money had been repaid by Brick By Brick and why six of its nine directors had resigned. In response, Councillor Hall described Councillor Bains as indulging in personal attacks including calling into question the probity and professionalism of officers. The prices paid by Brick by Brick for development land had been professionally determined by officers, including the Section 151 Officer. This had been approved through the appropriate process, including at Cabinet with full transparency. It was acknowledged that Brick By Brick would be part of the group structure review.

Councillor Clark requested that Councillor Hall provide Members of Council with an update on the status of Croydon Park Hotel.

In response, Councillor Hall informed Council that the leaseholder had gone into insolvency at the start of Covid period. It was intended to use Croydon Park Hotel for Temporary and Emergency Accommodation whilst its longer term future was considered. This meanwhile use would make a contribution to Council's budget position whilst also providing a good quality solution for accommodation.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Clark asked Councillor Hall to quantify the cost saving that would be gained from using Croydon Park Hotel for Temporary and Emergency Accommodation. In response, Councillor Hall explained that this was being calculated, but it was thought that the saving would be in excess of £2m and therefore would be making a significant contribution to the debt on the hotel.

Councillor Bennett asked the Leader if social workers were being made redundant as a result of the staff headcount reduction. If so, this meant Council was failing vulnerable children as a result of the Administration's financial incompetence. Councillor Bennett asked for reassurance that Children's Services not be subject to further redundancies.

The Leader noted that this was a good question and that three years previously, in response to the Ofsted notice to improve, it was acknowledged that the service needed to replace agency and temporary staff with those on permanent contracts in order to maximise cost efficiencies. Whilst it could not be guaranteed, the aspiration was to minimise the loss of permanent staff. Whilst it was recognised that there was a limited financial envelope, it needed to be understood what this meant for the service to Croydon's children. Social worker caseload levels were recognised as good. The challenge was to make sure this could be maintained along with retaining the best permanent staff.

Councillor Bennett used her supplementary question to welcome that children were at the forefront of the Council's considerations and the commitment to protect the most vulnerable. In response, Councillor Newman noted that what support the Council should give to Children's Services was a big part of the debate that needed to be had about the budget. The pressures posed by services for UACS also needed to be managed.

Madam Mayor gave permission to Councillor Flemming, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning to also respond to the question to be able to provide more detailed information. Out of 298 members of staff in Children's Services, 47 had gone as part of the head count reduction without impact on caseloads. This meant that they remained lower than the target when the Council was going through the Ofsted monitoring process. It also meant that the permanent to temporary staff ratio was 70/30. Councillor Flemming made the offer to share further figures with Councillor Bennett.

Councillor Clouder asked Councillor Hall to clarify what the years of reductions in Government funding had meant for Croydon and Council services.

In response, Councillor Hall detailed that, as referenced in budget reports, this equated to an annual loss of £100m of funding. It was described how this had a dramatic impact on the most vulnerable and meant that the Government had forced through above inflation increases on Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept with an impact on all residents. Whilst the Administration

had tried to retain and enhance services so much more could have been done with better funding.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Clouder noted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had cancelled the Government's budget this year and asked what was being made of the of the announced emergency jobs scheme. The Leader deferred to Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed, the Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs, who explained that whilst the scheme was welcomed employers would have to make difficult decisions as it was hard to maintain employment at a third of the rate of previous capacity. With the end of the furlough scheme a rise in unemployment was anticipated in Croydon. The implementation of a 10pm curfew was affecting the hospitality sector which had made considerable investment in making premises Covid-safe. Croydon was continuing to call for sector specific schemes to provide support. Councillor Shahul-Hameed called for clarity on what was meant by Covid-safe jobs.

Councillor Oviri asked the Leader why the Council's leisure centres had only reopened in Labour held wards. This was compared with all those in Conservative wards remaining shut. Councillor Oviri noted that whilst the Council and GLL, the leisure centre operator, claimed not to have any money, there had been funds to invest in hotels and shopping malls.

In response, the Leader rejected any suggestion that decisions over whether or not to reopen leisure centres were based on politics. The Leader noted that the New Addington leisure centre was brand new which would have been a consideration. It was also noted that it was not for politicians to make such operational decisions. In the face of a potential second wave, the Leader questioned how long any leisure centres would be remaining open.

The Leader deferred to Councillor Lewis, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport who explained that the operator, GLL, had been hit by Covid and underfunding from Government. Decisions over whether or not to open had been made based on which centres were performing better and offered the greater opportunity to generate income. The desire was expressed to be in a position where all could be reopened, but that this would be based on better performance and increased economic return.

Councillor Oviri used her supplementary question to note that GLL, which operated 113 leisure centres with a turnover of £298m, had reopened 106 sites with over 40% of those that remained closed or open with restrictions, located in Croydon. It was questioned why Croydon was the only Council in London that had failed to properly open its leisure centres. In response, the Leader suggested that he would review the opening of leisure centres with Councillor Lewis.

Madam Mayor took the opportunity to remind Councillor Oviri that the Addiscombe East Ward was in fact split in its political representation.

Councillor Audsley asked the Leader what values and principles would be used to reshape the budget.

In response, the Leader described how the development of a sustainable budget needed to address inequalities. The impact of Covid was being seen to heighten inequality and given the budget was being developed in the face of a potential second wave it was even more pressing that inequalities be addressed. It was acknowledged that the Council was going to be working within a smaller financial envelope but it still needed to ensure that underlying inequalities were addressed and not further exacerbated.

Councillor Creatura noted that since taking over control in 2014, the Labour Administration had spent £15K on debt for every single hour that it had been in power. This was debt that had to be repaid by residents and reductions would be made in the services provided for the most vulnerable. It was noted that budget targets had been missed every year. The Leader was asked how budget targets would be met in 2020/21.

In response, the Leader highlighted how the Administration was responding to the pressures on the budget. The Opposition had not been opposed to the budgets presented over the last three years and had not raised questions at the point new services were opened. It was acknowledged that the Council was working within a smaller financial envelope and that at a time of significant financial pressure, it was correct that borrowing should be reviewed. The Leader hoped that the Opposition would support the budget amendments.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Creatura, stated that the Administration's track record demonstrated that it was incapable of following a budget. It was stated that MHCLG had described Croydon as one of the worst Councils for financial management and that as a result the Opposition would not be supporting the Renewal Plan and the budget amendment whilst there was no change in the Administration's leadership. Councillor Creatura questioned when the Leader would be stepping down for the good of Croydon. In response, the Leader stressed the seriousness of the Council's situation and that the Opposition should not be playing politics.

Councillor Jewitt asked the Leader to detail the additional responsibilities the Government had imposed on the Council and the resulting funding gap caused by the costs of delivery.

In response, the Leader noted that additional responsibilities had a £70m gross impact on the budget. It was recognised that some funding had been forthcoming from Government for these responsibilities. However, this had been made available in tranches and with some requiring applications to be made which had not been an ideal approach. However, this still left a budget gap of £40m which meant the Council could not wait any longer to act. The Leader described the additional responsibilities placed on the Council by Covid including school outbreak control, the work of public health, input to local testing provision as well as the responsibility of responding to local outbreaks. It was noted that lots of decisions were being taken nationally

during the pandemic, but that it would be better if councils had been involved from the outset.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Jewitt asked what the effect would be if Croydon were funded to the same level as Wandsworth. In response, the Leader confirmed that Croydon would receive £30m of additional funding if its funding were equivalent to that received by Wandsworth. The pressures on funding caused by Croydon being the largest borough in London were highlighted. A large and young population caused significant pressure on youth services. Funding for UASC was disappointing. The Leader described how in the past, including under the leadership of Councillor Fisher, there had been a cross-party approach to a fair funding solution for Croydon.

Councillor Parker asked the Leader why the amendment to the budget included fees of up to £51 for residents who wanted to responsibly dispose of bulky items.

In response, the Leader explained that Croydon had been one of a few authorities providing its bulky waste service free of charge. However, tough decisions were needed and whilst there was a desire to continue to provide the service without a charge there was a need to look to the public to contribute to the service and to continue to act responsibly.

The Leader deferred to Councillor Collins, the Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon who described how there was no choice but to start charging for the bulky waste service. The previous Conservative Administration had levied a charge for the service. It was acknowledged it would not be possible to provide a concession for vulnerable users. Rather, it was hoped that it would be possible to encourage residents to take responsibility so when purchasing a new item they would look for companies that would collect and dispose of old items whilst delivering the new. It had been an experiment to see if offering the bulky waste service free of charge would reduce fly-tipping. Councillor Collins called on the Opposition to support the Administration's request to Government for a campaign to address fly-tipping including offering incentives to businesses to remove goods being replaced.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Parker stressed that no concessions would be offered to users of the bulky waste service. The Leader was asked to envisage the situation of a single parent who could not afford to dispose of a broken fridge. In response, the Leader expressed his hope that there would always be support for exceptional cases and that the Council would look at how it could act in such circumstances. The Leader noted that Councillor Collins had an exceptional record of offering personal help.

Councillor Collins described how officers were developing imaginative solutions and that it was hoped to open a reuse shop. This would allow for some items to be repaired and others to be recycled. Councillor Collins highlighted that the Opposition had not made concessions when it charged for the bulky waste service and that it was a shame it had not asked itself the same question.

Councillor Muhammad Ali asked the Leader to confirm commitment to the sustainability agenda and carbon neutrality.

In response, the Leader reminded Members of Council how Croydon had launched its Climate Crisis Commission before the first wave of Covid and that this was being reinvigorated following the lifting of lockdown. Whilst Croydon was one of over one hundred Councils that had declared a climate emergency it was the only one to have launched a Commission. Despite the challenges caused by the Council's financial situation and Covid, it was important these were brought together whilst taking responsibility for the environment to produce a sustainable budget and services. The aspiration was to ensure that Croydon was as well placed as possible to take advantage of green jobs when the pandemic came to an end.

Councillor Bird described how residents were having their care packages reduced due to the ineptitude of the Leader who always sought to blame others. The Leader was described as not caring and that he had hit the low point of disadvantaging the sick and vulnerable.

In response, the Leader described how care packages were being looked at to ensure that the most sick and vulnerable would not experience any detriment. It had been ensured that Croydon's 140 care homes had received support that was second to none throughout the pandemic.

The Leader deferred to Councillor Campbell who expressed her thanks to social care staff for their outstanding work, stating that they deserved Council's gratitude. It was explained that the reduction in the service offered was being focused on shopping and cleaning with the Council working closely with voluntary partners to address the reduction.

Councillor Bird used her supplementary question to accuse the Leader of taking no responsibility and stating that he just needed to resign. In response, the Leader stressed that he was taking responsibility for the tough decisions, the decisions that it would be easy to abdicate when things were not going well. The Leader stressed that no service reductions would be made through choice but that he was taking responsibility and acting. The Opposition was playing obvious political games when the support of all was needed for Croydon to play its strongest hand.

Councillor Prince asked the Leader about the support being offered to the hospitality industry and raised concerns about the impact of the 10pm curfew.

The Leader deferred to Councillor Shahul-Hameed who highlighted the costs incurred by the hospitality industry in making premises Covid-safe only to have their ability to generate an income impacted by the 10pm curfew. Many had contacted the Council to gain further support. The Council had made requests to Government with information being provided to businesses and

SME (small to medium enterprise) outreach being put in place. Grant schemes were being explored including European funding for SMEs.

Councillor Chatterjee asked the Leader about the impact on the faith and community sectors of the budget amendment.

In response, the Leader acknowledged the contribution made to the borough by both the faith and community sectors, including during the first wave of the pandemic.

The Leader deferred to Councillor Hamida Ali who reinforced how support was being provided by the voluntary sector, how the Council's investment in the sector was being maintained and how the Council would continue working with the voluntary sector as partners in the future.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Chatterjee asked the Leader to clarify the reference in the budget amendment to the use of £2.2m of funding from CIL and £400k from the General Fund for the benefit of the voluntary sector. In response, Councillor Hamida Ali clarified that it was planned to continue the new funding agreement made through the community fund at the start 2020/21. Councillor Hall also emphasised that it was planned to use a meaningful proportion of CIL funding so that voluntary sector partners were not impacted by the immediate financial issues.

Councillor Fraser asked Councillor Hall about the innovative work being undertaken with the local NHS to develop joint working and how this was helping address the financial situation.

In response, Councillor Hall acknowledged the ground breaking work behind establishing the One Croydon Alliance. Working so closely with the NHS was allowing a substantial income to be gained which was being used to strengthen the budget. Joint working was also providing savings for the NHS and giving better outcomes for residents.

Councillor Hall deferred to Councillor Campbell who described how the Council and the local NHS had worked hard to have a strong, unified relationship. Whilst this had been affected by Covid, there was growing synergy between health and care with more innovation being discussed. Ideas would be brought to the table with the Health and Wellbeing Board helping to cement the relationship.

Councillor Neal asked the Leader to clearly state that parking charges would not be increased to cover the budget shortfalls and his mismanagement of the budget.

In response, Councillor Newman described how much had been done to tackle emissions including around schools. It was not planned to increase emission based parking charges beyond what was being proposed in the budget amendment for considered at the meeting.

The Leader deferred to Councillor King, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Regeneration (Job-Share) who described how there were two elements being used to determine the level of parking charges. One involved linking emissions to pay and display charges. This was a decision taken in March 2019, well before Covid. The second was part of a regular review of charges. Councillor King highlighted that it was important to be clear that the charges were part of the Council's traffic management measures.

Scrutiny

With an end to the time available to ask the Leader and Councillor Hall questions, Madam Mayor invited Councillor Fitzsimons to comment on recent budget scrutiny in his capacity as Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

Councillor Fitzsimons welcomed the opportunity to contribute to Council's consideration of the Renewal Plan and the budget amendment. It was described how it was a humbling admission that the Council's finances were not sufficiently robust to be able to deal with unrealised cost savings and the additional costs arising from Covid. It was described how Scrutiny would be holding the Administration to account on a cross-party basis. It had already called-in the finance report made to Cabinet in July 2020 for further scrutiny on the basis that it had not been sufficiently robust and was not being delivered with enough pace. The outcome of the meeting had endorsed the view that more action was needed.

Scrutiny had been concerned about the budget setting process for several years but had not been able to achieve the aspiration to subject this to review. It was evident that department budgets would have to reduce by at least 10% and the MTFs would need to be developed to be longer term and sustainable. Scrutiny had a role in ensuring the voice of residents was heard and in achieving a proper debate on the development of the budget. Whilst it was not the role of scrutiny to oppose all cuts it did have a role to play in ensuring the right decisions were taken. The review of the Capital Programme and of the approach being taken to Brick By Brick was welcomed. It was noted that whilst there had been much comment about the Council borrowing too much, both political groups had borrowed during their Administrations. Councillor Fitzsimons detailed how under the Conservative Administration between 2006 and 2014 borrowing had increased from £176m to £826m. Whilst the costs of borrowing were acknowledged this had been undertaken by the Administration to tackle the housing crisis. In conclusions, Councillor Fitzsimons committed scrutiny to an in-depth review of the in-year budget, including the MTFs along with the budget setting process. This would achieve greater transparency and allow the voices of service users to be heard.

Madam Mayor invited the Leader to move the motion in favour of the recommendations. The Leader highlighted that what mattered was taking responsibility and putting the budget onto a sustainable footing. It was

described how budget pressures in-year were a result of Covid and that this meant having difficult discussions and making difficult decisions about what services the Council would continue to provide and how this would happen. It also meant that partnerships including with the NHS and the voluntary sector were more important than ever. The Leader described a smaller Council operation based on a smaller funding envelope. This would be focused on continuing to provide public services for those that needed them most at a time when Croydon was potentially facing a second wave of the pandemic. Value for money would be at the heart of the approach to be taken. The £27.9m of savings already identified were a significant first step and would lead into the negotiation of a capitalisation directive. The Leader acknowledged that the work of the Interim Chief Executive Officer, supported by the FRP and LGA, was giving reason for cautious optimism. It was hoped that there would be a return to a cross-party approach to campaigning for fair funding for Croydon. Councillor Perry, as the new Leader of the Opposition, was called on to support a cross-party approach to MHCLG. The Leader described how responsibility had been taken for the budget but that pace had been lost over the summer. Whilst this had meant time had been lost, having additional time would not have removed any of the headline pressures on the budget. Services were needed by more and more residents. The Leader was taking responsibility for making tough decisions in the public interest. All Councillors were urged to support the recommendations coming forward.

Councillor Hall seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Jason Cummings praised the staff who had developed the budget amendment. It was explained that the Opposition had voted in support of the budget previously because some responsible suggestions had been proposed. However, the Administration did not actually deliver what it had proposed. The belated addition of £5m to the reserves was too little too late. It was agreed that Croydon had not always had fair funding but it was stressed that this should not be used as an excuse. It was described as sad that Croydon had been brought to its knees and that things did not need to have got this bad. Croydon was acknowledged as the worst council in the whole of the country despite there having been a budget surplus available when the current Administration took over. It was described how the Labour Administration had set aside the budget surplus for its political aims and priorities when this could have been added to reserves. This was the choice that the Administration had made along with deciding in 2014 to go on a spending spree. When in Opposition, Councillor Hall had complained about the Council having too much borrowing. However, since Councillor Hall had become the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Council's borrowing had increased by £15K an hour. Councillor Hall was described as playing fast and loose, making dubious investments and asset stripping the Council to fund Brick By Brick. This was not prudent and it was realised this could not continue. It would be key for MHCLG to consider that more and more savings had been proposed, but these had not been met. Councillor Jason Cummings noted that capitalisation had already been happening in order to balance the budget.

It was described how the Administration's requisition for an Extraordinary Council Meeting had been withdrawal at the last minute because the Administration did not want MHCLG hearing it blaming the budget situation on the impact of Government funding cuts and denying its own responsibility. It was highlighted that drastic action was needed. It was questioned if it was possible to trust those who had caused the current situation to then get the Council out of its financial predicament. This might have been possible if the Leader and Councillor Hall had apologised and accepted the need to make changes but they refused to accept responsibility even though the auditors were expressing concerns about £8m of last year's accounts. The Opposition would therefore not support the Renewal Plan or the budget amendment. This was not about the content of either but about having no confidence in the Council's leadership especially at a time of such a challenging budget.

Councillor Butler described how Covid had taken loved ones and had devastated many families. Covid had also had a financial impact on families, the NHS, transport, businesses and governments across the world. Local councils were paying out millions extra to protect the most vulnerable because of Covid. It was highlighted that the Government was also achieving less tax income and was having to borrow more because of Covid. The choices were clear; cut services, raise more money or borrow more. These were difficult decisions making it more important than ever to remember the Council's values – to do its best for residents and that all needed to be heard. Councillor Butler stressed that one of the greatest inequalities faced by residents was between those who did and those who did not have a home. Complying with lockdown was easy when you had a home, but too often individuals were invisible when they did not have somewhere to live. Councillor Butler remained committed to keeping homes safe and raising the number of affordable homes. The ongoing effects of austerity were noted along with the commitment to protecting frontline services as much as was possible.

Councillor Hopley expressed deep concern about the budget and the proposed amendments; the stability of the budget and the incompetence shown were worrying. The advice of respected staff members had been ignored. As had been said by the Director of Finance, Investment & Risk, it was not possible to spend money that the Council did not have. Councillor Hopley linked the departures of both the previous Section 151 and Chief Executive Officers to the budget situation. The Leader was described as taking no responsibility and that he had driven the ship of the Council into the ground whilst he tried to save himself. Councillor Hall had acted as a property mogul rather than focusing on care packages or the wages of carers. Councillor Hopley described how she was being contacted by residents including one who could no longer keep her pet because of the cuts. The situation was devastating for vulnerable and disabled residents. It was noted that the One Croydon Alliance had initially been proposed by the Conservative Group and that the Opposition would continue to offer it support whilst there were financial benefits in joint working. Councillor Hopley highlighted that numerous warnings had been given about the Council's financial situation but that these had been ignored. Support could not be given

for the Renewal Plan or the budget amendment whilst the Leader and Councillor Hall remained in their posts.

Councillor Campbell described how social care was a lifeline like the NHS, but that funding for Adult Social Care had been under pressure for several years. Whilst new funding arrangements had been promised by the Government in 2014 this had not come forward. Funding was being held together with sticking plasters and being resourced from the Adult Social Care precept and a variety of grants. Therefore it was clear that demand had increased whilst funding had not to which Covid was then added. It was clear that this situation could not continue. Councillor Campbell acknowledge her responsibility as Cabinet Member to help reshape the service. It was highlighted that lots had been learnt about the benefits of joined-up services and providing a targeted offer. These were the principles that would be used to guide the Council to live within its means and deliver services that were less complex and easier to understand. There would be investment and work with voluntary sector partners, with services being joined together. Councillor Campbell commended social workers; as many as possible would be encouraged to get involved in reshaping savings. Whilst the Council did not have the funding to do everything, it would be using this wisely to build on strengths and offer personalised control of services. Councillor Campbell expressed her agreement to the Renewal Plan and the budget amendment which were described as the first stage in renewing the offer.

Councillor Streeter described a desperate situation with Government offering the only hope. It was tragic that spending cuts were falling like a sledge hammer rather than being carefully managed. These would therefore hurt the most vulnerable. It was highlighted that the General Purposes and Audit Committee had received a warning from the Council's auditors a year ago, but there were three reasons why this had not resulted in action. Firstly, the Administration had been looking for someone else to blame. This had been placed at the door of Government despite the legacy of debt that had been left by the Labour Party when it had been in power. It was described how the local Conservative Administration had delivered a balanced budget for three years and a surplus in its final year when it was last in power. Secondly, the Administration had blamed external circumstances despite these being the same as were being dealt with by the whole of London. However, Croydon was the only council in London to have incurred debts of £1.5bn. Finally, it was not possible to be trusted to fix a problem where there was no admission to having caused the problem in the first place. There was the need for an admission and an apology.

Councillor Hall described that the Council was experiencing unprecedented times and that these needed an unprecedented response. Members of Council were reminded of the impact of 10 years of austerity, an unfair funding formula, UASC, and Government not fully funding the Council's Covid response. Councillor Hall noted his sadness that there was no recognition of what had been achieved including the expansion of school provision, hundreds of extra homes, the Legacy Youth Zone, an award winning Gateway service and the partnership with the NHS. Of the £53m budget gap, £42m

was directly related to Covid. In-year savings of £28m had already been identified which was an incredible piece of work. The commitment had been made to undertake a review of group structures. This was the correct thing to do given Covid had changed the reality in which the Council was operating. This was demonstrated by the Institute of Fiscal Studies reporting that Covid would result in an additional £3.2bn of increased social care costs. Borrowing was not for vanity projects. Rather the increase had resulted from unwinding previous financial arrangements and investing to generate more income than costs. All the Council's assets were being used to generate income. In-year overspends reflected that there had not been sufficient budget growth allowed. Councillor Hall recalled the impact of austerity when a third of the youth budget been withdrawn by the Conservative Administration. Members of Council had the choice at the meeting to approve the Renewal Plan and the budget amendment or to let decision-making be taken out of its hands. Councillor Hall called for the recommendations to be approved for the sake of residents.

Councillor Streeter raised a point of order regarding the use of inappropriate language in the chat function offered as part of the remote meeting facility. Madam Mayor asked those directly named in any such comment to raise this directly and acknowledged the point made.

Before proceeding to the vote on the Croydon Renewal Plan and amendments to the 2020/21 General Fund Budget, Madam Mayor noted that she had received a request from 11 Members of Council that a poll vote be taken on these recommendations. Councillors Newman, Butler, Collins, Hall, Hamida Ali, Flemming, Scott, King Shahul-Hameed, Campbell and Fraser confirm their request.

A poll vote was conducted by the Head of Democratic Services & Scrutiny with 40 Members voting for and 28 against.

Members voting in favour of the Croydon Renewal Plan and the amendments to the 2020/21 General Fund Budget were: Councillors Ali, Muhammad Ali, Audsley, Avis, Ben-Hassel, Butler, Campbell, Chowdhury, Clark, Clouder, Collins, Croos, Patsy Cummings, Degrad, Fitzpatrick, Fitzsimons, Flemming, Flynn, Fraser, Hall, Hay-Justice, Henson, Jewitt, Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, King, Letts, Lewis, Mann, Newman, Pelling, Prince, Ryan, Scott, Shahul-Hameed, Skipper, Wood, Woodley and Young.

Member voting against the Croydon Renewal Plan and the amendments to the 2020/21 General Fund Budget were: Councillors Bains, Bennett, Bird, Brew, Buttinger, Chatterjee, Clancy, Creatura, Jason Cummings, Gatland, Hale, Hoar, Hollands, Hopley, Millson, Mohan, Neal, O'Connell, Ovir, Parker, Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Redfern, Roche, Stranack, Streeter and Ward.

There were no abstentions. Madam Mayor noted that the recommendations were agreed:

1. Noted the latest forecast revenue budget overspend of £50.3m detailed in section 3 of appendix 1.
2. Approved the savings options of £27.9m listed in section 5 of appendix 1 to reduce the forecast overspend this year and amend the 2020/21 budget to include the additional in-year savings.
3. Agreed that a formal approach is made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek a capitalisation direction to enable the 2020/21 budget to be balanced.
4. Agreed to the development of Croydon's Renewal Plan, to deliver a sustainable balanced budget over the medium term, and to provide an update to Full Council in November 2020.
5. Noted the in-year review of the Capital Programme and agree that a review of the future Capital programme be undertaken and to provide an update to Full Council in November 2020.
6. Agreed that a strategic review of the Council's group of companies and entities be undertaken and to delegate to the Executive Director of Place the scope and terms of that review, and to provide an update to Council in November 2020.

Madam Mayor put the recommendation in the Financial Performance Report for Quarter 1 related to the Capital Programme to the vote. The recommendation was carried unanimously:

1. Approve the revised capital programme as detailed in section 9 and table 8 of Appendix 2, including the slippage from 2019/20, which reflects a substantial reduction in the original capital budget for 2020/21.

117/20 **Matter for Consideration by Council**

Madam Mayor informed Council that a requisition signed by five Members of Council had been received and that she had agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council could be held.

Madam Mayor read the requisition:

"This Council has no confidence in Councillor Tony Newman and Councillor Simon Hall and calls for their immediate resignation."

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Perry to propose the motion.

Councillor Perry explained that there was no confidence in the Leader and Councillor Hall. They had brought Croydon to the brink of bankruptcy and needed to be removed before they did more damage. It was described how they had sought to deflect and blame others. In fact, the Administration's own motion doing exactly that had been withdrawn at the last minute from the agenda for the meeting. The Leader and Councillor Hall had doubled Council debt which stood at £1.5bn and had increased by £15K for every hour they had been in charge. Their only solution to this situation was to borrow even more money.

It was highlighted that all Councils had faced the same pressures and impact from Covid, but that it was Croydon that had been found wanting and residents would be paying for years to come. Councillor Perry questioned why so much borrowing had happened, describing how this had been used for a spending spree to buy failing assets rather putting money into the Council's reserves that might have allowed the storm of Covid to be weathered.

Money had been loaned to Brick By Brick which was described as a loss making company that had failed to deliver social housing and was not making interest payments to the Council. Whilst Brick By Brick had claimed to have made a profit no accounts had been published allowing this to be verified. Brick By Brick was being funded by the Council to build on the borough's valuable green spaces which were being sold for a little as £1. Intensification was reducing space in Croydon and making it a developers' paradise. This was at a time when green spaces were needed for health and wellbeing. This was in addition to the impact of the reduction of green spaces on the environment at a time when the Leader had made a commitment to the climate change agenda.

Croydon was described as being in decline and being brought down by the Leader and Councillor Hall. Fly-tipping had increased, recycling rates had stalled, streets were dirty with ingrained mess and businesses, at a time of extra challenge, were facing having to encourage shopping in decay. The Labour Administration had seen the loss of inward investment and business rate revenues. It would be very different if the opportunities had not been squandered. Councillor Perry stated that the Leader and Councillor Hall needed to be removed from office as they could not be trusted to deliver. Their mismanagement could not be tolerated any longer. Councillor Perry stated that Croydon deserved better and called for support from across the parties for the motion.

Councillor Hale seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Fitzpatrick rejected Councillor Perry's misrepresentations. Many years ago Croydon had been banded with other outer London boroughs leading to a legacy of underfunding with subsequent Administrations labouring under this disadvantage. As a result Croydon had been asking for fair funding and for realistic funding for UASC. Under the Conservative Administration of Councillor Fisher a campaign had been launched for a fair funding deal for the borough. This had been stating the truth about Croydon's difficult financial

circumstances. Then the crash had happened, leading to austerity with local government having borne the brunt of Government cuts. Austerity had been piled on top of the inadequate funding base. Economic and demographic factors had added further pressures as populations had been priced out of central London adding to demand in Croydon. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that the sensible investments made by the Administration had not been opposed by the Conservative Group when they had been proposed. The Government had said that local government would not be out of pocket because of Covid, but this promise had not been kept. Councillor Fitzpatrick argued that the Leader and Councillor Hall had acted in good faith in difficult circumstances. The motion was the politics of the new leadership of the Opposition. Councillor Fitzpatrick rejected the motion.

Councillor Flemming described how the Council was experiencing unprecedented times. Those who had suffered or who had been lost because of Covid were held in thoughts and prayers. At a time when the Council was facing a possible second wave of Covid it was essential to pass the Renewal Plan and budget amendment with the funding reduction meaning that new ways of delivering services had to be found. It was noted that the requests to Government for fair funding had not been met, but that despite this great things had been delivered including the partnership with the South Bank University. The Legacy Youth Zone was celebrating its first birthday and had been shown to generate £5 of impact for every £1 of investment. When the budget had been set in March 2020, it had not been possible to foresee the impact Covid would have on the Council's finances. It was noted that there had been cross-party agreement of the budget when it was passed in March 2020. Councillor Flemming described how she had come into public service to support the vulnerable. The delivery of priority services was therefore key. The call was made to put residents first and deliver at pace and with precision.

Councillor Redfern described the dire financial situation and that the Leader and Councillor Hall had shown no contrition and offered no apology; they were taking no responsibility when it was no one else's fault but theirs. It was therefore questioned if there was confidence in them to get the Council out of its predicament. It was noted that borrowing had increased by £15k for every hour of the Leader and Councillor Hall's tenure. The purchase of the Croydon Park Hotel was questioned when it was always known this had financial difficulties. Equally, the Colonnades shopping mall had been purchased at a time when the retail sector was already in difficulty. Members of Council were reminded of the £42m overspend incurred during the refurbishment of Fairfield Hall. This had happened because the work had been given to Brick by Brick which had no relevant experience. The result was a venue that did not have the physical access to allow bigger and higher earning productions to be staged. The Administration was known only to look at the best case scenario when undertaking its due diligence and financial modelling. With General Reserves only equating to 10 days of expenditure the question was where would cuts fall? It was already being reported that Children's Services would be subject to cuts valued at over £1m including a review of the safeguarding function. Adult Social Care was scheduled to receive £500K of

cuts. Additionally, libraries would not be opening and environmental services were being lost. In summary, key services were being lost to clear-up the mess caused by the Leader and Councillor Hall.

Councillor Clark noted that Croydon's residents had the chance to elect the Conservative Group in 2014, 2018 and at by-elections since, but that this did not happen. The Opposition had also supported the budget in March 2020. This had been set with the aim of increasing reserves but this had been derailed by Covid. Whilst the Government had promised to fund local government to do whatever it took to fund the Covid response, this had not happened. The resulting budget gap should not be used for political gain. Members of Council needed to come together to do all that was possible to protect the most vulnerable. This was the priority for the weeks and months ahead and therefore Councillor Clark opposed the motion.

Councillor Hale stressed that residents should be able to trust the decisions made by the Leader and Councillor Hall. However, this trust had been shattered by their appalling decisions that had brought Croydon to its knees. It was described how the Council now faced the humiliation of asking the Government for a bailout. Debt of £1.5bn meant borrowing had increased by £15K for every hour the Leader and Councillor Hall had been in control. This level of borrowing was the highest of any London borough with MHCLG having described Croydon as having the worst run finances of all local authorities, putting jobs and services at risks. However, despite this becoming apparent, funding for Brick By Brick continued with it concreting over greenspaces. The sum paid to the previous Chief Executive was noted along with the unwillingness to answer the Opposition's questions on financial matters at Cabinet meetings. The petition signed by 17,000 residents calling for a referendum on a directly elected Mayor, demonstrated the lack of trust in the Council's leaders. It was the duty of all Councillors to do best for the residents of Croydon – they were their servants and stewards of the Council's resources. Councillor Hale acknowledged that she could not accept the leadership of those who refused to accept their responsibility or apologise. The Leader and Councillor Hall were called on to step down.

Before proceeding to the vote on the motion, Madam Mayor noted that she had received a request from 11 Members of Council that a poll vote be taken on these recommendations. Councillors Perry, Jason Cummings, Hale, Creatura, Streeter, Redfern, Gatland, Stranack, Hoar, Ward and Roche. Madam Mayor confirmed their request.

A poll vote was conducted by the Head of Democratic Services & Scrutiny with 28 Members voting for and 40 against.

Members voting in favour of the motion were: Councillors Bains, Bennett, Bird, Brew, Buttinger, Chatterjee, Clancy, Creatura, Jason Cummings, Gatland, Hale, Hoar, Hollands, Hopley, Millson, Mohan, Neal, O'Connell, Ovir, Parker, Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Redfern, Roche, Stranack, Streeter and Ward.

Member voting against the motion were: Councillors Ali, Muhammad Ali, Audsley, Avis, Ben-Hassel, Butler, Campbell, Chowdhury, Clark, Clouder, Collins, Croos, Patsy Cummings, Degrads, Fitzpatrick, Fitzsimons, Flemming, Flynn, Fraser, Hall, Hay-Justice, Henson, Jewitt, Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, King, Letts, Lewis, Mann, Newman, Pelling, Prince, Ryan, Scott, Shahul-Hameed, Skipper, Wood, Woodley and Young.

There were no abstentions. Madam Mayor noted that the motion had fallen

118/20 **Matter for Consideration by Council**

This item was withdrawn.

119/20 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This item was not required.

The meeting ended at 9.31 pm

Signed:

Date:

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Council

Meeting held on Monday, 12 October 2020 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Maddie Henson (Chair);
Councillor Sherwan Chowdhury (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Hamida Ali, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains,
Leila Ben-Hassel, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Alison Butler,
Jan Buttinger, Janet Campbell, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee,
Luke Clancy, Chris Clark, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mary Croos,
Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Mario Creatura, Nina Degrads,
Jerry Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzsimons, Alisa Flemming, Felicity Flynn,
Clive Fraser, Maria Gatland, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Patricia Hay-Justice,
Simon Hoar, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Humayun Kabir,
Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis,
Stephen Mann, Stuart Millson, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman,
Oni Oviri, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince,
Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed,
Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Robert Ward, David Wood, Louisa Woodley
and Callton Young

Jacqueline Harris Baker, Executive Director – Resources (Council Solicitor and
Monitoring Officer), Katherine Kerswell, Interim Chief Executive and Stephen
Rowan (Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny)

Apologies: Councillor Steve O'Connell and Ian Parker

PART A

At the outset of the meeting, before the formal business commenced, Madam Mayor (Councillor Henson), led Members of Council in congratulating officers who had been awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Rashida Baig, the Council's Head of Social Work with Families, was made MBE in recognition of her services to children's and family social work in addition to racial equality. Val Burrell-Walker, the Council's Fair Access Manager, was also made MBE in recognition of her services to education, after over 15 years supporting children into the right school, including those at risk of permanent exclusion.

Madam Mayor also notified Members of Council that following Councillor Hall's resignation, Councillor Young had been appointed as the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources. Councillor Young was welcomed to his new position.

120/20 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests. Members confirmed their disclosure of interest forms were accurate and up-to-date.

121/20 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

122/20 **Announcements**

Madam Mayor

Madam Mayor gave her announcements to the Members of Council. Councillor Bernadette Khan was congratulated on the occasion of her 60th wedding anniversary.

Along with other Councillors, Madam Mayor had participated in an online event called, "Creating Conversations: the untold stories of loss". This aimed to encourage familiarity with talking about death. Madam Mayor had also supported a Home Office community improvement project by undertaking a tree planting.

It was highlighted that the anniversary of the Battle of Market Garden had taken place, but due to Covid, 2020 was the first year in a long time that Croydon had been unable to participate in the ceremony in Arnhem. Madam Mayor had invited Burgermaster Marcouch to visit Croydon as soon as it became safe.

Madam Mayor detailed her forthcoming activities including a tour of the borough to be undertaken with Father Christmas and two fundraising events: an online chocolate tasting with Derek Terrell of Delta Chocolate and donations to Madam Mayor's charities from orders placed using a special flyer at The Vujon and Coriander Takeaway.

The Leader

Madam Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Newman, to make his announcements. The Leader welcomed Debbie Jones, the newly appointed Interim Executive Director - Children, Families and Education, to the Council on behalf of Members. Thanks were given to Councillor Hall, who had resigned from the position of Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, for the work he had done to deliver many manifesto promises.

The Leader described how the rise in Covid cases was putting pressure on London with it anticipated that there would be a move from Tier 1 to Tier 2.

This meant the Council's bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for a capitalisation direction was even more important, with lives depending on the support that the Council was able to offer to residents. Thanks were given to the Interim Chief Executive for the work being done to develop a strong bid. The Leader called for Croydon to come together to support the bid and for it to receive cross-party endorsement.

Members of Council were informed of Councillor Newman's intention to stand down from the position of Leader of the Council. This was to allow a new Leader to come forward who would propose the Croydon Renewal Plan and new budget to Council as the basis for the settlement with MHCLG, and to provide Croydon with a stable future.

123/20 **Croydon Question Time**

Public Questions

Madam Mayor explained that Croydon Question Time would commence with 30 minutes of public questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members. In accordance with advice from the Government and Public Health England, it was not possible to hold public meetings in the Town Hall. As a result, members of the public were unable to ask questions from the public gallery in the Council Chamber. Questions had been received by email until 12 noon on Friday 9 October 2020. There had been 11 public questions submitted on the subject of the Low Traffic Network (LTN) in the Upper Norwood/Crystal Palace area which Madam Mayor proceeded to put in turn to Councillor King the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration.

Madam Mayor read a question from Sonia Marinello to the meeting: "Councillor King, you have stated that once the feasibility study into Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras is complete you will be sharing information on how you could amend the LTN and the process for consulting residents on the proposed changes. Can you confirm how you will do that and whether feedback will be sought from businesses and residents of the other boroughs affected?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. The informal consultation paper was to be published in early November 2020. One of the options to be consulted on would be to replace planters with ANPR cameras and to allow residents within the boundary of the LTN access through these points. It was intended to seek the views of residents from both boroughs as well as local businesses.

Madam Mayor read a question from Roxanne Escobales to the meeting: "In what way are the LTNs in Upper Norwood Ward intended to reduce vehicle emissions?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. It was highlighted that Croydon was the London Borough with the greatest potential for both walking and cycling. Transport for London (TfL) estimated that there were just over 400,000 motorised trips (mostly using cars) made each weekday by Croydon residents which could readily be cycled and 125,000 which could be walked. Many of the journeys that were undertaken were less than two miles in length, a distance that many people could walk or cycle.

In 2018, 129,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted by vehicles on Croydon's minor roads. If it was possible to convert just one in five of those journeys from car to active travel modes then emissions caused by vehicles would reduce noticeably.

Madam Mayor read a question from Jane Chandler to the meeting: "Did Councillor King take into account the impact on bus timetables before implementing the LTN scheme on Auckland Rd/Church Rd?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. It was described how the Council had tried to take bus services into account when deciding on the LTN scheme. The introduction of the bus gate in Auckland Road was in response to concerns about bus service accessibility for route 410. This was particularly focused on older bus users, who were less able to access the detour that was established when planters were originally in place.

In respect of buses using the Triangle, it was believed that the presence of the temporary signals in Church Road had contributed significantly to the congestion that occurred at certain times and had an impact on bus reliability. These signals were due to be removed on or around 20 October 2020, and meant that buses using the Triangle would be able to keep to their timetable more easily.

TfL, which was responsible for London's bus services, urged local authorities to take swift action to implement measures such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. It wanted to see safe space provided for people to walk and cycle. Social distancing on public transport meant its capacity was much reduced. TfL was keen that people were helped to make shorter journeys by walking or using bikes rather than driving or attempting to use public transport. Local authorities across London – including Croydon - had responded to TfL's request.

Madam Mayor read a question from Jane Mitchell to the meeting: "The vulnerable and disabled are more likely to be dependent on roads for their physical and mental wellbeing because of their dependence on carers, hospice visitors, medical visits, hospital appointments, social worker visits, district nurse visits, community mental health visits, family visits and home deliveries. Did Councillor King undertake a disability impact assessment to understand the impact of the road closures on those groups before implementing the scheme?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. It was emphasised that the LTN had not prevented access to any of the roads, properties or businesses in the area by any group of people. The purpose of the LTN was to stop through traffic diverting from the Principal Road Network on to less suitable residential roads. This provided quieter and safer space to help people to choose to walk or cycle.

As part of the forthcoming consultation, Councillor King announced at the meeting, that it was hoped to hear from as many people as possible from all walks of life to understand how they believed the Council should proceed in light of their experience of the LTN.

Madam Mayor read a further question from Jane Mitchell to the meeting: "Advice from Crime Prevention agencies to women and those who feel vulnerable walking after dark is that they should avoid travelling through low traffic areas. Local polls suggest that most women (who might ordinarily walk or use public transport) do not feel safe after dark on the closed off roads of Upper Norwood / Crystal Palace. Some have significant distances to walk through dark and deserted streets if they have travelled home by train. I was attacked after dark in Croydon (Upper Norwood) some years ago and luckily my scream attracted a passing motorist who stopped and gave chase. Councillor King, what do you say to women (and others) who do not feel safe after dark on roads with little or no through traffic? Should they stay in?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question and for sharing something that can be so difficult to raise. It was explained that street lighting within Croydon was designed to comply with the British Standard for lighting the highway. Following receipt of concerns of the nature raised checks were made in the area around Warminster Road and Lancaster Road areas, and lighting levels were confirmed as being compliant.

It was explained that there was no desire to compromise the public's sense of safety on their streets, but the Council had the same aim of promoting the safety of those wishing to walk and cycle. Speeding was a criminal act that resulted in significant levels of personal injury as well as death. A great many people, especially children were deterred from walking at any time by the traffic conditions and environment within many of Croydon's streets. The Council was trying to strike a balance between those sometimes competing requirements.

Madam Mayor expressed her personal thanks to Jane Mitchell for sharing such a difficult experience.

Madam Mayor read a question from Claire Plaskasovitis to the meeting: "What evidence is there that controlling or restricting traffic flow on Belfast Road and/or Apsley Road, SE25 will encourage social distancing or promote active travel?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. A research report called *Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, Car Use and Active Travel in Outer*

London published in September 2020 concluded that the larger effects in terms of decreased car ownership and use, increased active travel were in areas where Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) had been introduced. Decreased car ownership and use was only found in such areas.

Madam Mayor read a question from Richard Mearns to the meeting: "Councillor King, you support communities coming together during COVID-19. Yet you have actively placed a wedge between communities because of your inability to realise the effect of the LTN and because you have failed to implement a proper roads strategy.

You have caused divides within communities who live on the same roads. I ask you this: if you are so focussed on communities coming together what do you say to hundreds of Croydon and Bromley neighbours - adults, children, elderly, young, rich and poor - who live on streets like Belvedere Road, Cintra Park, Patterson Road and Milestone Road? You have sent huge amounts of displaced traffic their way. You have admitted "regret" over this but have yet to take any effective action to fix your mistake. What do you say to them? Do their lungs and quality of life not matter - or is it rather that their votes don't count and they are not important to you until 2022? "

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. A major aim of the scheme was to prevent much of the through traffic that used Auckland Road, Lancaster Road and Southern Avenue as direct connections between Penge Road in the south and Annerley Hill in the north. At its worst an estimated 15,000 vehicles used these residential roads to rat run through the area. As explained on the Council's webpage, the Council had received numerous concerns over recent years about the levels and speed of traffic on Auckland Road and surrounding streets, such as Lancaster Road and Southern Avenue. Further requests for action were received early in lockdown.

The conditions described were ones experienced for many years by residents of, amongst others, Lancaster Road, Southern Avenue and Auckland Road. The Council had repeatedly communicated to Bromley Council its wish to work collectively to address the conditions described. Action could not be taken on the highway in Bromley without its agreement.

Madam Mayor read a question from Alison McNaught to the meeting: "Traders on the Triangle are reporting a loss of takings. Customers are reporting they will no longer come to the Triangle because of the traffic. Disrupted operations and deliveries, along with increased pollution started from the first week of August, when the road closures on Sylvan Hill, Stambourne Way and Fox Hill were implemented. There was also a pre-existing traffic intervention in the form of temporary traffic lights to accommodate the scaffolding on the shopfront on Church Road. How closely did the Highway Improvements Team work with Croydon's Economic Development Team in the planning of the LTNs in the Upper Norwood Ward to assess the economic impact on the local area's traders?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. The Council's LTN team had regular contact with colleagues in the Economic Development Team. This was evidenced in the decision to remove the footway widening schemes that were introduced at the Triangle during the early part of the lockdown. This was as a result of direct feedback from businesses and conversations with the Economic Development Team.

The Council was confident that the removal of the scaffold in the next few weeks would improve the situation. The consultation that had been announced would provide a further opportunity for businesses to give their views on which of the options being considered would help most.

Madam Mayor read a question from Stephen Tabberner to the meeting: "Councillor King, can you give assurances that the road closures in Upper Norwood and Crystal Palace will have a positive impact on air quality in the area, which is particularly important during this Covid 19 pandemic?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. The closures implemented by the Council were intended to give residents greater choice to adopt active/sustainable travel modes. However, the Council was unable to compel people to do so and therefore, it was with regret that it could not be guaranteed that air quality would improve.

In 2018, 129,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted by vehicles on Croydon's minor roads. If the Council was able to convert just one in five of those journeys from car to active travel modes then emissions caused by vehicles would reduce noticeably.

Trying to be a healthy weight and to improve fitness were also particularly important during the pandemic. In the forward to the Government's recently published vision for cycling and walking the Prime Minister states; "This unprecedented pandemic has also shown many of us, myself very much included, that we need to think harder about our health. We need to think harder about how we can make lifestyle changes that keep us more active and fit – the way we travel is central to this."

Madam Mayor read a question from Stuart Aitken to the meeting: "We are told that the road closures in Upper Norwood/Crystal Palace need time to 'bed in'. Can Councillor King kindly assist in explaining his understanding of the theory of traffic evaporation?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. All schemes of this nature would require a period of time for people to get used to the changes involved and time to consider changing their own approach to getting around. This hopefully means that people who would not normally choose to adopt active modes of travel may rethink their choices as roads became safer and access to walking and cycling became more attractive. It was this reduction in local traffic that gives rise to the traffic evaporation.

This Council's experience of introducing School Streets is a helpful example. It provided evidence that the overall number of journeys had reduced.

TfL's research indicates that there were just over 125,000 motorised trips (mostly car) made by Croydon residents each weekday that could be readily walked and just over 400,000 that could be cycled. This perhaps gives some indication as to the level of potential 'evaporation'.

Madam Mayor read a question from Eliska Finlay to the meeting: "Can Councillor King clarify how the Upper Norwood Crystal Palace Road closures fit with the vision guidance provided by Transport for London?"

In his response, Councillor King gave his thanks for the question. It was explained that a more detailed response would be published. However, TfL's *London Streetspace Plan – Interim Guidance to Boroughs* published in May 2020, refers London local authorities to the Department for Transport Covid related Guidance in the first instance. That Guidance states: "Local authorities in areas with high levels of public transport use should take measures to reallocate road space to people walking and cycling, both to encourage active travel and to enable social distancing during restart. Measures should be taken as swiftly as possible, and in any event within weeks, given the urgent need to change travel habits before the restart takes full effect. None of these measures are new – they are interventions that are a standard part of the traffic management toolkit, but a step-change in their roll-out is needed to ensure a green restart."

Questions to the Leader

Having been invited by Madam Mayor to ask his question, the Leader of the Opposition, **Councillor Perry**, highlighted how two weeks prior to the meeting all Labour Group Councillors had supported the Leader in a vote of no confidence. The Leader was asked to confirm when he would be standing down to allow a new leadership team to deal with the bid to MHCLG.

In response, the Leader stated it was for the Labour Group to determine the process and timeframe for selecting a new Leader. Additionally, he was ultimately answerable to the electorate.

Councillor Perry used his supplementary question to suggest that the Leader was not taking his question seriously. The Council was £1.5bn in debt, housing and shopping centres had been bought against policy and the Council's debt had increased by £15k for each hour the Leader had been in charge. Councillor Perry asked the Leader why he thought things would change when his Group had supported him unanimously two weeks previously. The Leader expressed his responsibility and stated that the best chance of gaining a MHCLG settlement was with cross-party support. The Leader described how the Prime Minister was just about to take to the airwaves. Meanwhile Test & Trace was in tatters, London Boroughs were underfunded to the tune of £1.4bn for Covid despite Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, telling

Councils to do whatever it took. Having a new Leader was about trying to put politics aside in order that the best deal from Government could be secured. The Leader called on both Groups to raise their game.

Councillor Audsley thanked the Leader for his Service and asked how the Croydon Renewal Plan would tackle inequalities.

In response the Leader expressed the importance of this question at a time when Covid was re-emerging. Whilst the collective impact of the pandemic were evident it was also clear that it was exacerbating existing inequalities. Black Lives Matter had also raised awareness of further inequalities. It was clear that the Council had to address this despite having less resource. Equality and sustainability needed to run as a thread through all the Council's future action. Equality could not be an afterthought.

In his supplementary, Councillor Audsley asked how the Council might use its wider influence to address inequality. For example, through its supply chain and the London Living Wage. In response, the Leader noted that at some point the Covid emergency would end and that the temptation for a race to the bottom should be resisted. Working conditions and initiatives such as the London Living Wage had to be maintained. It was the Council's role to lead on the economic recovery and to prevent exploitation. Whilst the Council's powers were limited, the Leader was proud of the Council's support for the London Living Wage and what it had done to prevent the use of zero hours contracts. It was acknowledged that there was more to do.

Councillor Hale asked the Leader why all those nominated by the Council to the Brick By Brick board had resigned.

In his response, the Leader explained that this was for a variety of reasons, including some that were personal. PwC had been commissioned to undertake an independent strategic review of group companies. This was to be undertaken rapidly and report within weeks and not months with the objective of achieving a stable governance structure. There was a need to wait for the outcome of the review to become available with it being noted that the Opposition had also sought for the review to happen.

In her supplementary, Councillor Hall expressed the importance that MHCLG be given all the information it needed to make a decision about supporting the Council. Concern was expressed about there being too much secrecy, especially regarding Brick By Brick. The Leader was asked if he agreed that it was inappropriate to continue in such a way. In response, the Leader reiterated that the Opposition had asked for a review of group companies and this was being conducted. However, significant demand for housing was going to remain and that this still had to be fulfilled. The Leader described how he was therefore gently pushing back at the Government's planning reforms, which would not assist and were undermining democracy.

Councillor Fraser expressed his thanks to the Leader for his service and asked about the Co-operative Council Innovation Network in addition to the role of equality and equity in shaping the Council's future.

In response, the Leader agreed and expressed his support for co-operative values. It was noted that Croydon was the first Fair Trade borough in London. It was important to look at services being delivered differently and that the co-operative model should be embraced with greater devolution to the community.

Pool 1

With the end of the time allocated for questions to the Leader, Madam Mayor signalled that she was moving to questions to the Cabinet Members in the first pool. Councillors Lewis, Flemming and Campbell were invited to make their announcements.

Councillor Lewis, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport, informed Members that the Council had been awarded two Tree Oscars. Congratulations and thanks was given to the in-house team and the community groups that had made this possible. Madam Mayor added her thanks.

Councillor Flemming, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning, added her congratulations to the officers who had been awarded MBEs. Both Rashida Baig and Val Burrell-Walker were officers within the Children's Department and both were committed to improving the lives of residents. It was stated that Council was occurring during Children's Service practice week. This was being used to look at how to drive up quality and standards to achieve the shift from good to the outstanding target. The Department was also supporting schools dealing with the impact of the pandemic, including when pupils needed to self-isolate. Councillor Flemming welcomed Debbie Jones to the role of Interim Executive Director Children, Families and Education. It was explained that work was ongoing to appoint to the role permanently.

Councillor Campbell, the Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social care, gave thanks to Kevin Oakhill, who as a representative of the autistic community was helping Croydon become an autism friendly borough. This work was being supported by Councillor Fitzpatrick, who was the Council's Autism Champion. Councillor Campbell also thanked Patricia Clark for her work looking at mental health and Black History. A handbook had been developed to look at stereotypes and to address inequalities of access to provision.

Councillor Gatland also expressed her congratulations to those officers who had been awarded MBE. Councillor Flemming was asked to explain why she had failed to control spending by the Children, Families and Education Department and therefore whether she would resign.

In response, Councillor Flemming expressed her disappointment at the question posed. It was noted that Councillor Gatland was on the Improvement Board and therefore had taken part in the Council's journey. There was first hand understanding of the underfunding of children's and adult's social care. It was explained how the costs of placements were being increased by services bidding against each other. The Council's Foster Care service had been taken back in-house and the Council was increasing the number of Foster Carers locally although specialist provision could still only be fulfilled outside of the borough. The focus was now on early intervention because it was known that outcomes were better when children remained with their families. It was being considered how to invest in the service but the first priority was to ensure children were safe.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Gatland expressed her willingness to participate in the Improvement Board and that she had welcome the Chief Executive's invitation to participate in this and provide challenge. However, further cuts were needed which would mean having to lose loyal workers when the service was on a difficult journey. Councillor Gatland feared further turmoil and the impact of this on future Ofsted inspections. In response, Councillor Flemming noted that Councillor Gatland had been invited to join the Improvement Board on her request. The impact of inadequate funding for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) on the overspend was highlighted. This had been the subject of Council Debate Motion which had sought cross-party agreement to ask for additional Government funding. Councillor Gatland was asked if she supported this and whether looking after the most vulnerable was the most important thing the Council could do as corporate parents. If so, then support should be given to writing to the Government to seek additional funding.

Councillor Ben-Hassel asked Councillor Lewis about the role of culture and arts as a driver for economic recovery. Clarification was sought on how this was being supported by the Council.

In response, Councillor Lewis highlighted that Croydon had been awarded as the 2023 London Borough of Culture. At the outset of the pandemic, the Council had moved quickly to support the borough's culture and arts organisations establishing a £135k fund with awards averaging just over £3k being allocated to local creative organisations. These were being used to support the production of content during the pandemic when it was not possible to perform in the usual way.

In her supplementary, Councillor Ben-Hassel asked how it was possible to make the best possible use of Fairfield Halls to support the arts and the community during the pandemic. In response, Councillor Lewis described the unprecedented nature of the pandemic and how this was having an impact on big and small organisation. The Council had worked with BH Live to put Fairfield Halls into an extended period of hibernation with further clarity awaited from the Government. It was felt that the risks were too great for it to open. However, it was still being used by the groups based there. The London

Mozart Players, which were resident at the Halls, had used it undertake a radio recording.

Councillor Bennett asked Councillor Flemming to clarify from which departments the 47 agency social workers, whose employment with the Council had been terminated, had been lost.

Councillor Flemming stated that she was not able to provide the specifics. However, Councillor Flemming had consulted with the Director of Children's Social Services and was able to confirm that that Children's Social Care workforce comprised 20% agency and 80% permanent staff. Staff reductions were only being made where there had been a decrease in demand with it being explained that the number of those in care was falling.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Bennett sought reassurance that remaining social workers would not have an unacceptable increase in caseloads. Councillor Flemming explained that whilst there had been a slight increase in the number of cases per social worker, this was still below the maximum target of 16 applied during the Ofsted monitoring period. This was included in the key data being monitored by the Children's Improvement Board to ensure quality.

Councillor Mann asked what was being done to see the return of Croydon Football Club, the Trams.

In response, Councillor Lewis expressed his regret that, due to financial implications, the Croydon Sports Arena was unable to reopen, putting Croydon Football Club at a disadvantage. However, it was hoped that the club could be accommodated at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Councillor Lewis described how he planned to work with Councillor Young to gain capital investment for the Croydon Sports Arena, making it a more sustainable site and to allow Croydon Football Club to move back into the borough.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Mann asked about Wanders Football Club which was at risk of losing its home at Virgo Fidelis School, which was under threat of closure. Councillor Lewis was asked to meet with the club to assist it in making plans for the future. Councillor Lewis described the illustrious history of Wanders FC and stated that he would be happy to attend a meeting. It was thought that there was potential for both football clubs to be accommodated at Crystal Palace National Sports Arena.

Councillor Hopley asked Councillor Campbell about the Adult Social Services Review Panel which had not meet since the beginning of the pandemic. This meant that important information could not be accessed. Councillor Campbell was asked what she was trying to hide and why this information could not be provided and discussed.

In response, Councillor Campbell expressed her disappointed at the question asked; Councillor Campbell had spoken with Councillor Hopley and explained

that information had not been provided due to a data migration issue. The Adult Social Services Review Panel had not been held due to Covid.

Councillor Hopley used her supplementary question to express her disappointment and stressed the importance of the information being available and discussed. In response, Councillor Campbell expressed her willingness to work with the Opposition at any time and that there was nothing to hide.

Councillor Clouder asked Councillor Campbell if the pandemic was increasing demand on mental health services and how services were able to meet needs.

In response, Councillor Campbell explained how some Public Health contingency funds had been ring-fenced and would be used to tackle the inequalities exacerbated by Covid; these included obesity, take-up of immunisation, substance misuse, emotional health and suicide. It was described how mental health support services were being provided through telephone and online provision with escalation where needed. The support provided by the voluntary sector was acknowledged.

Councillor Mohan asked Councillor Lewis about the promise made at the Council meeting held on 28 September 2020 to provide further information regarding the 40% of Croydon's GLL run leisure centres that had not reopened and why this contact had not been forthcoming.

In response, Councillor Lewis explained that Councillor Oviri's request had not been made to him and that he would respond to the email received on the matter. Councillor Lewis described how there were different models employed by local authorities for the provision of leisure centres. With regard to Croydon, those centres that were economically viable had been reopened. Monks Hill and Ashburton Hall had open since the last Council meeting. The economic interests of the contract and partnership with GLL had to come first and it was not possible to reopen those centres that were loss making as this would have an impact on the partnership and budget.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Mohan asked about the refurbishment and reopening of Purley Pool. In response, Councillor Lewis confirmed that there had been investment in Purley Pool but that more was needed. Whether or not this would be forthcoming would need to be determined based on consideration of the wider budget.

Pool 2

With the end of the time allocated to questions to the Cabinet Members in the first pool, Madam Mayor signalled she was moving on to questions to Cabinet Members in the second pool. Councillors Butler, Hamida Ali and Shahul-Hameed were invited to make their announcements.

Councillor Butler, the Cabinet Member for Homes & Gateway Services, described her pleasure at attending the topping out ceremony for 90 Council flats at the Taberner House site which had been named Malcolm Wicks House.

Councillor Hamida Ali, the Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon & Communities, highlighted two important events. Hate Crime Awareness Week gave access to support which was important given the rise in violence experienced during lockdown. Councillor Hamida Ali signposted the Stop Hate UK 24 hour helpline. Members of Council were encouraged to lend their support to and publicise Black History Month which was helping to learn from the past for an equal future.

Councillor Shahul-Hameed, the Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs, highlighted how the Council had won two apprenticeship awards – one for how the Council had supported apprenticeships through its supply chain and the other for the best progression by an apprentice. A young food market had also been held to support learning about cooking different foods and to give experience of street trading.

Councillor Hale referenced her question to the Leader regarding the directors of Brick By Brick. Councillor Butler was asked why none of the six directors who had resigned had been replaced.

In response, Councillor Butler noted that some director appointments had been made by the Council and some by Brick By Brick and it was for the organisation to comment on its own appointments. It was explained that most of the resignations reflected that Council officers had changed roles. For example, Lisa Taylor had stepped down to become the Council's Section 151 Officer and Shifa Mustafa's role did not align with the Brick By Brick directorship. It was reiterated that Brick By Brick and the Council's other companies were subject to an independent review. Whilst it was appropriate for the Council to resume its role on the board of Brick By Brick, the outcome of the review was awaited.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Hale expressed her concern and asked how many directors were required to support an organisation with £230m debt. Councillor Butler was asked if she still gave her support to Brick By Brick. In her response, Councillor Butler again referenced that a full and thorough review was being conducted including of governance and finance as well as looking at how the organisation operated. It was appropriate to wait for this to become available before further action was taken.

Councillor Prince asked Councillor Butler if she was pleased to see new Council houses coming through and to what extent these had benefited from external funding.

In response, Councillor Butler expressed her delight that funding from the London Mayor had come forward from the Building Council Homes for Londoners which meant it had been possible to reduce borrowing and allowed

for the stock of housing to be increased with more coming forward through Brick By Brick.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Prince asked where the next schemes coming forward for residents would be located. Councillor Butler explained that these would be available across the borough, providing opportunities for residents on the housing waiting list from the centre of the borough to the north and the south. Councillor Butler highlighted the quality of the schemes being delivered.

Councillor Hoar asked Councillor Shahul-Hameed about the £60m of Government funding available for small businesses in Croydon and the £8m of this that remained unallocated.

In response, Councillor Shahul-Hameed explained that there were a total of 3,981 small business that were eligible to claim a small business grant under the scheme of which 3,944 were in receipt of funds. In total, £53m had been distributed to 99.1% of all those businesses that qualified, with just 37 missed. These included those business that did not wish to make a claim as they did not believe that they required this funding. With regard to the discretionary business grants scheme, 598 businesses had benefited receiving up to £25k. Overall, this meant that of the funding available for businesses only £4.9m remained unallocated. Additionally, funding for businesses affected was anticipated for local lockdowns. The Economic Development Team was thanked for its hard work supporting local businesses.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Hoar expressed his relief that some of the funding allocated was getting out to local businesses. It was acknowledged that Croydon's position on funding to small businesses had improved. However, the distribution of funds was described as slow and unresponsive compared to the speed at which other Councils had distributed their funding. The Council's response was therefore another failure. In response, Councillor Shahul-Hameed stated that Councillor Hoar needed to get his figures correct and that the Council had successfully managed to distribute the funding to small businesses which was reflected in the most recent league tables.

Councillor Canning asked Councillor Butler about how the Council's award winning Gateway Service had responded to the pandemic.

In response, Councillor Butler described how the Gateway Service had been incredibly busy and had responded to a significant increase in the number of requests. This was exemplified by a threefold increase in the requests for Free School Meals. Councillor Butler highlighted that it was not the only service that had experienced an increase in demand; Croydon Adult Support, Rough Sleeping and Bereavement were all examples of services that had experienced a significant increase and had coped well.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Canning gave his thanks to officers and asked about the likely impact of Universal Credit being cut. In her

response, Council Butler highlighted that the increase to Universal Credit at the start of the lockdown in March 2020 had been welcomed. The increase acknowledged that the system of Universal Credit was not fit for purpose and not providing sufficient support given the circumstances being faced. It was therefore a shock that this was being taken away. Those on Universal Credit were already on the lowest income and the decrease would have an effect on homelessness.

Councillor Millson asked Councillor Butler about the hard fought campaign that has resulted in the first rejection of a Brick By Brick planning application. Against the Council's record of concreting over green spaces, Councillor Butler was asked to pledge not to concrete anymore of the borough.

In response, Councillor Butler expressed her disappointed that Councillor Millson and other Members of the Opposition, never spoke about the people affected. The focus on concrete failed to look at the homes desperately needed. The application had been considered by the Planning Committee which had refused to grant permission. Brick By Brick was onsite across the borough. The need for homes was also being impacted by Covid which brought stark contrast between those who did and those who did not have a home.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Millson ask if the Council's approach to home building was reckless. It was highlighted that more homes were being built than required by the local plan at the cost of greenspaces. In response, Councillor Butler stressed that no greenspaces had lost their designations and greenspaces remained protected. There had been no applications by the Council or Brick By Brick to build on any land with a designation.

Councillor Jewitt asked Councillor Hamida Ali about the increased incidence of domestic violence.

In response, Councillor Hamida Ali welcomed the opportunity to raise awareness of domestic violence. There had been a 7.4% increase in enquiries related to domestic violence and a 16% increase in the number of incidents reported regarded as high risk. Data provided to the Safer Croydon Board ranked Croydon first in London for the number of incidents and offences and fourth in terms of population. Croydon was ranked higher than the London average which placed even greater importance on the Family Justice Centre. The Council had undertaken awareness raising campaigns since the start of lockdown, with the Centre open seven days a week with longer opening hours offered twice a week.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Jewitt asked about reciprocal agreements with other boroughs to allow those who had experienced domestic violence to be moved out of the area. In her response, Councillor Hamida Ali highlighted the importance of such arrangements that allowed all survivors with a social tenancy to move to another borough to be safe. It was stressed to the meeting that other forms of domestic violence were also the

focus. This included domestic violence that was honour based and Female Genital Mutilation.

Councillor Stranack asked Councillor Hamida Ali about the safety of the community fund. The 38 charities relying on this and that had signed up to it in 2020/21 for three years were concerned about the subsequent two years of funding.

In response, Councillor Hamida Ali explained how despite the amendment to the budget agreed at Council on 28 September 2020, the funding had been guaranteed for 2020/21. Conversations were taking place with regard to the future of the community fund.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Stranack highlighted that the Councillor had not been able to confirm the future of the community fund. The situation of the Croydon Mosque & Islamic Centre was given as an illustration. Its income had reduced from £300k to £40k with Councillor Hamida Ali being asked how she was able to assist. In her response, Councillor Hamida Ali explained that she did not want to be misrepresented. She had not said no to the community fund. Rather she had acknowledged the difficulties and that discussions were ongoing with regard to the Council's budget. It was also described how the Council had provided an emergency fund during the pandemic to support the voluntary sector.

Pool 3

With the end of the time allocated to questions to the Cabinet Members in the second pool, Madam Mayor signalled she was moving on to questions to Cabinet Members in the third pool. Councillors Collins, King and Young were invited to make their announcements.

Councillor Collins, Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon, stated that a petition had been launched to get Parliament to hold a debate on having a fly-tipping campaign. The petition was supported by Clean Up Britain and the South and East London Borough Waste Partnerships.

Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, gave his thanks to his predecessor, Councillor Hall, for services to the Council. It was emphasised to Members of Council, that this was Councillor Young's first day in his role as the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources. A reminder was provided that Council had approved the budget in March 2020 with lockdown commencing 22 days later. Many public bodies had struggled to manage the impact of the pandemic such that all needed to roll sleeves up and do the work. It was described how there was now a new team in place to spearhead this work and that Councillor Young would be calling on his personal experience of leading a £900m Treasury review. Councillor Young thought it would have been remiss of him not to have stepped up to the plate.

Councillor Jason Cummings welcomed Councillor Young to his new position which it was acknowledged had been taken on at a challenging time.

It was highlighted that under Councillor Young's predecessor there had been 3 – 4 years of significant overspends and a continual failure to achieve budgeted savings. It was stressed that achieving agreed savings would be critical for the Council at such a difficult point. Councillor Young was therefore asked to explain what he was going to do differently to ensure budgeted savings were achieved.

In response, Councillor Young described how it was known what the savings were and what had to be achieved. It was explained how Councillor Young would be working with officers including the Interim Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Investment & Risk. A line by line review was to be undertaken to determine what expenditure would remain and what would be removed.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Jason Cummings described how every time savings came forward, Council was told that they would be achieved. However, this never happened. Rather Council was informed that savings had not been achieved and others were blamed for this failure. Councillor Young was asked how he was going to ensure that it would be different on this occasion. In response, Councillor Young referred to his track record. It was described how each savings option would be considered on its own merits with careful prioritisation needing to take place.

Councillor Jewitt asked Councillor Collins about his plans to expand the pet food pouch recycling scheme.

In response, Councillor Collins highlighted that the Council had been shortlist in the National Recycling Awards for 2020. As a result of the scheme, 6,000 pet food pouches had been recycled through the collection point in Morrisons, Waddon. Councillor Collins detailed the plan to use his ward budget to expand the number of collection points with volunteers being sought to deal with the despatch.

Councillor Millson welcomed Councillor Young to his new role which was acknowledged as starting during difficult circumstances. It was detailed how the Financial Consultant had attended the General Purposes and Audit Committee (GPAC) where the arrangements for financing the purchase of the Colonnades and the Croydon Park Hotel had been considered. Councillor Young was asked when he had realised their purchase had been in breach of financial regulations.

In his response, Councillor Young described how he had watched the GPAC meeting and had been surprised that the correct infrastructure had not been in place to make those decisions. As a result, there was a need to work with the auditors to make sure this was addressed. Councillor Young called for a better line of communication straight from the auditor to GPAC.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Millson described how MHCLG would want to be assured that the Council was capable of delivering as part of its consideration of whether or not to agree the request for a capitalisation

direction. At the GPAC meeting, it had also been detailed how the performance of internal audits had been deteriorating year on year over the last five year such that over half of all internal audits in 2019/20 had a limited or no outcome. Councillor Millson stressed that it was important to recognise the mistakes that had been made and that these had not only resulted because of Covid. In response, Councillor Young concurred and agreed that this would need to be addressed.

Madam Mayor permitted Councillor Hall to make a point of personal explanation. This was for Councillor Hall to state that he had confirmed with Council's Monitoring Officer that the appropriate processes had been undertaken for the purchases of the Colonnades and the Croydon Park Hotel. Councillor Hall gave his best wishes to Councillor Young for his new role and highlighted the necessity of the financial regulations work that had taken place. Councillor Young thanked Councillor Hall for the offer made to support the handover process.

Councillor Fraser asked Councillor Scott to comment on Croydon's planning performance against the annual planning target.

In response Councillor Scott highlighted that the Council was meeting housing supply targets which meant that there would be a good level of supply for five years based on the current London plan. With regard to the emerging London plan, it was explained that the Council would not have the full level of consents needed. However, it was thought that the 13,000 needed would be covered if the allocations were cut. It was stressed that there could not be any slowing down in the granting of permissions at any point given the extent of the housing crisis.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Fraser asked why, given the annual targets and pipeline process, the Government was introducing reform of the planning process. It was stressed that the planning process addressed each application and was not whipped. It was suggested that the reforms being put forward by the Government were because of the funding the Conservative Party received from developers. In response, Councillor Scott agreed and stated that the Government was trying to blame the planning system for the housing crisis when there were in excess of a million developments that had been given planning permission that had not been delivered. It was in fact the delivery system that was broken or faulty. The Government was accused of not understanding the problems or manipulating the system for its own purposes. This was illustrated by the three year delay in the development of the Purley Baptist Church site which had been caused by Government action.

Councillor Ovir highlighted the history of over and misspending that characterised the failure to control spending. Councillor Young was asked how he could be trusted to make this different.

In response, Councillor Young highlighted that there was truly a new team in control of the Council's budget. This included a new Chief Executive who recognised what was needed to get on top of the challenge. The diligence of

the approach being taken was highlighted. There was a focus on some things having to stop whilst others would have to be delivered more efficiently. Everything would have to be examined; all the facts and figures were needed in order to balance the budget in line with the statutory requirement.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Oviri called for an investigation of Councillor Young's predecessor and, given the failure of financial management, for Councillor Young himself to resign. Councillor Young characterised Councillor Oviri's comments as cheeky. Past failings were acknowledged but largely linked to Covid with London Councils underfunded by £1.4bn for their response to the pandemic. A systematic response to the Council's financial situation was required and this would not be achieved by the Cabinet Member resigning on his first day in post. Councillors were asked to show each other respect especially where they have a good track record. Councillor Young called on Councillor Oviri to reflect on her question.

Councillor Audsley asked Councillor King about the Council's ability to achieve a green recovery to the pandemic.

In response, Councillor King acknowledged the ongoing commitment to achieving a Sustainable Croydon with a paper going to the Cabinet meeting in the week following Council. This was to detail the work the Council had been doing and would continue to do to tackle the climate emergency. Councillor King brought attention to the leadership of Councillor Newman in this area and his first hand personal commitment and authority. In his supplementary question, Councillor Audsley highlighted the importance of social justice when considering the response to the climate emergency. He called for this to be prioritised by the new Leader.

Councillor Ward thanked Councillor Young for his service to children and young people through his former membership of the Scrutiny Children & Young People Sub-Committee with Councillor Young being noted as an independent thinker. Councillor Ward highlighted that Council's accounts for 2019/20 were still outstanding with it having been noted that the auditor had raised concerns about the treatment of up to £8m. Councillor Young was asked to advise Members of Council on this situation and that the accounts would be addressed as soon as possible. In response, Councillor Young noted that he was aware that there was a qualification on £8m of the 2019/20 accounts but needed to be in his new role for longer to be able to comment further. Councillor Ward was thanked for his comments regarding Councillor Young's approach which would continue. Councillor Young wanted the best for Croydon and was committed to seeing things through in his new role.

With an end to the time allocated to questions to Cabinet Members in the third pool, Madam Mayor brought Croydon Question Time to a close.

The meeting received the Scrutiny & Overview Annual Report for 2019 - 2020. Madame Mayor invited Councillor Fitzsimons in his capacity as the Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to provide an introduction to the report.

Councillor Fitzsimons thanked Council for having the opportunity to speak on the Scrutiny & Overview Annual Report for 2019 – 2020. It was highlighted that the world had gone through a challenge that had fundamentally reshaped Croydon and it was therefore right to rethink how scrutiny would operate. The Government's new guidance on the operation of the scrutiny function had informed the Governance Review and a dedicated review of scrutiny had been commissioned. Croydon was described as an authority that welcomed challenge and would reap the benefits of a governance review of its finances. It was highlighted that chairing scrutiny was shared with the Opposition and that for the most part scrutiny avoided party politics. Councillor Fitzsimons thanked those Councillors who were the scrutiny Vice Chairs as well as the Democratic Services Officers who supported scrutiny: Simon Trevaskis and Stephanie Davis. The variety of subjects covered by scrutiny during 2019 – 2020 was rehearsed; there had been call-ins on the decision to close St Andrew High School and emissions based parking charges. From March 2020, scrutiny had turned its focus to Covid. Unlike the Government, scrutiny at Croydon had identified the risk to care homes. The pandemic had an impact on the Council's finances as well as the scrutiny work programme. The Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Croydon Renewal Plan would both be a focus for scrutiny going forward. It was emphasised that with both needing to be comprehensive and deliverable at pace, Scrutiny had a role in ensuring that the voice of the local community was heard in delivering services that were needed and valued.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Ward, in his capacity as Chair of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee to provide his introduction to the report.

Councillor Ward described how he felt encouraged to read the report and gave his thanks to all the Members and officers involved in the scrutiny process with special mention going to the support provided by Democratic Services. The ground covered by scrutiny during 2019/20 was described as pleasing with effectiveness having improved and the non-partisan approach welcomed. The other scrutiny chairs were thanked for their contribution. The Children's Improvement Plan had been a feature of the work of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee with thanks being given to Rob Henderson, the previous Executive Director for Children, Families and Education, and his team. In the face of the Council's financial challenges it needed to be ensured that the gains made by the service were not lost. The Task and Finish group on exclusions being led by Councillor Fitzpatrick was focusing on getting its conclusions right and would be delivered before the end of Council year. More needed to be done to involve front line service users in the scrutiny process. This was even more important because of the potential risk to standards that may result from the Council's financial challenges.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Ben-Hassel, in her capacity as Chair of the Streets, Environment and Homes Sub-Committee to provide her introduction to the report.

Councillor Ben-Hassel described how she had been newly appointed as the Chair of the Streets, Environment and Homes Sub-Committee at the beginning of the 2019/20 municipal year. Thanks was given to officers for their support including those from Democratic Services; Stephanie Davis and Simon Trevaskis were thanked for their patience and for being prepared to go above and beyond. It was described how services had been held to account through question and answer sessions with a focus on the financial challenges. A flexible approach had been taken allowing the sub-committee to respond to issues as they evolved. Data was paramount to scrutiny to enable it to do its job. However, much of this was held in silos such that Councillor Ben-Hassel appealed for a corporate overview to be provided that would enable a monitoring framework to be established. Decision-making should be informed by data with the public and voluntary sector needing to be more involved in the work of scrutiny. There was a call for more attention to be given to corporate risk management and to the issues of individual service users. The new Members joining scrutiny were welcomed with Councillor Ben-Hassel looking forward to all working effectively together to achieve a forensic approach to their work.

Councillor Chatterjee was invited to put his question to all three Chairs of the scrutiny committees. Councillor Chatterjee asked all three chairs what they had learned from their scrutiny of the Council's finances about how they might do things differently in the future.

In his response, Councillor Ward focused specifically on the experience of the call-in that had been conducted and was mindful of the tone of communication and how this needed to be different from that used at Council or Cabinet. Councillor Ward thought he might ask different questions than he had at the time and highlighted that there was a need for these to be asked simply and straight forwardly. The issue of whether the information requested was provided was also stressed with it being noted that in some instances this was not provided or only supplied when it had lost its relevance. For those in new roles, this was something that they also needed to think about with openness and access to information being stressed as paramount.

Councillor Ben-Hassel agreed with Councillor Ward that scrutiny was an area where there was cross-party agreement. Councillor Ben-Hassel described that what she had learned from the call-in process was the need for a shift in the political culture, and for the Council to improve transparency and communication. The challenges faced by the Council needed to be better explained to residents in order to take them on the improvement journey. Councillor Ben-Hassel again emphasised the need for data to be collected at a corporate level in order that scrutiny could be more effective.

Councillor Fitzsimons endorsed the comments made by the other scrutiny chairs. Timely access to data including on performance was required. It had

been learnt from the Governance Review that that the introduction of the strong leader model had been a negative constitutional change shifting the focus away from 70 Councillors with responsibility and access to be replaced by information being drip fed to Councillors. Councillor Fitzsimons called for cultural change with scrutiny roles being seen as framed by the guidance provided by CIPFA and the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Scrutiny had two potential roles; budget and performance. But scrutiny did not go far enough with more focus needed on the in-year budget performance. It was stressed that scrutiny could only succeed if support was provided by the political leadership. Parity of esteem and legitimacy was needed to enable a culture of respect to benefit all 70 Councillor and not just those in the Cabinet and senior positions.

Councillor Audsley noted that there had been a gap of eight months between scrutiny's review of the budget in February and September 2020 and asked if this should have been consider with more frequency.

In response, Councillor Fitzsimons noted the limitations of the resources available and that scrutiny would take different actions in retrospect. It was acknowledged that budget setting needed to substantially change. Recommendations had been made about how financial governance needed to change with scrutiny's role included in these new processes.

Madam Mayor explained that no further questions had been submitted regarding the report and that therefore, this concluded Council's consideration of the report's contents.

125/20 **Governance Review implementation progress update**

The meeting received a report on the implementation of the Government Review. Madam Mayor invited the Leader to move the recommendations in the report. The Leader highlighted that how, in light the discussions already had at the meeting, these recommendations were even more important including the role of scrutiny in providing opportunity for greater challenge. Whilst the committee structure was put on a pedestal it was not without its own issues including how it gave the power to those Councillors who were responsible for setting the committee agenda. What was being proposed through the review and the recommendations in the report was a hybrid model including a reinforced scrutiny function which was the way forward.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Perry to second the recommendations in the report. Councillor Perry highlighted that he was in support and happy to second the recommendations in the report. These were described as many months in the making with thanks being given to all the colleagues involved and for the cross-party approach taken. The Governance Review had laudable aims in seeking to ensure the decision-making process worked better for residents. It was in the gift of the Administration to ensure it recommendations were implemented and worked successful which would be judged on its action. Thanks was given to Agnieszka Kutek for her support of

the panel and its work including for all the extensive research undertaken and papers written.

Prior to the vote, Madam Mayor noted that there were 41 Labour Members and 26 Conservative Members in attendance at the meeting. Madam Mayor put the motion to the vote which was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: Council **AGREED** the following recommendations:

1. Agreed to establish Cabinet Member Advisory Committees within the Constitution as detailed in appendix 1 and to note the approach to the implementation of CMAC meetings as detailed in paragraphs 5.1 - 5.17;
2. Approved the amended definition of Key Decisions as detailed in appendix 1 and paragraphs 5.18 - 5.25;
3. Approved the Forward Plan protocol attached in appendix 5 and introduce a new forward planning process for managing and publicising forthcoming decisions as detailed in paragraphs 5.26 - 5.33;
4. Approved the changes to the procedure rules for Council meetings as detailed in appendix 1 and paragraphs 5.34-5.40; and
5. Noted the updated overarching approach to the delivery of the governance review recommendations, including changes to, and impact of, the budgetary context, as detailed in the report.

126/20 Council Debate Motions

The Mayor read out the first Council Debate Motion on behalf of the Administration:

“This council is seriously concerned that the Government’s Planning White Paper will silence the voices of local people in the Planning process and reduce the ability of democratically elected councillors to require developers to improve local infrastructure and provide much needed affordable homes.”

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Clark to propose the motion. Councillor Clark stated that the UK had a housing crisis. There was a lack of affordable homes and that a Government was needed that was fit to address this by providing decent homes to live in that were net carbon neutral. The Government’s Planning White Paper was not the plan to achieve this objective. It fundamentally misdiagnosed the issues because it contained no measures to force developers to use unimplemented permissions. Councillor Clark, the Chair of the Planning Committee, wanted to give residents the opportunity to have more say and not less on planning applications. To this end, changes were planned to the Council’s constitution to allow objectors to answer questions. The Government’s White Paper showed its lack of commitment to local infrastructure by increasing from 40 to 50 homes the threshold for developer contributions to the Community Infrastructure Levy with no clear plan for replacing the local funds lost. The Government was accused of sidelining local community in exchange for the £11m of donations received from developers to the Conservative Party. *The Planning for the Future White*

Paper had been dictated by property developers with the Council Debate Motion providing all Members with the opportunity to reject its proposals.

Councillor Ben-Hassel seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Streeter to speak. Councillor Streeter stated how it had been known for many years that Croydon Labour was Blairite and friends with big business. It was described how the White Paper was the basis for a consultation with the Government looking for input and MPs debating its content. There was every indication that Ministers were listening and had acknowledged the sensitivities involved in applying the proposals suggested. It was being suggested that there was a need to treat London differently. This was compared to the operation of the planning system in Croydon where consultations were conducted with a foregone conclusion and a suburban character assassination was ongoing. The Administration was described as reluctant to listen to its own Mayor of London when it had been judged that its development targets were too high. Croydon Labour was described as having undermined trust in the planning system and that things could only get better.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Perry to speak. Councillor Perry highlighted that whilst the Administration claimed to value local views it rode rough shod over the views of residents expressed about Local Transport Neighbourhoods and at the Planning Committee. The Administration's Council Debate Motion was described as grand standing. The approach to the planning system in Croydon was described as a developers' charter and that the Administration had spent six years silencing the people of Croydon and allowing the character of the borough to be destroyed. Brick By Brick was permitted to build on the green spaces vital to counter the effects of climate change and to support health and wellbeing especially during the pandemic. The Conservative Group had already met to discuss White Paper. The group would be making its own response to the consultation as part of the democratic process and expressing its concerns. The Group would therefore be supporting the motion but would not take any lectures.

Councillor Ben-Hassel exercised her right to speak. Whilst this was an opportunity for reform, Councillor Ben-Hassel described how alarm had been raised. With the reduction in the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 monies, fewer homes would be built with less affordable homes available. Whilst sustainable and mix communities could have been the objective, the zoning approach would lead to permitted development rights and substandard schemes. The main barrier to improving the planning system was the lack of resources in local authorities. A zonal approach would mean that schemes which were policy compliant could not be refused. This would work to prevent residents from being at the centre of development. The Opposition was called on to use its influence to encourage the Government to reconsider its plans.

The motion was put to the vote and was approved unanimously.

The Mayor read out the second Council Debate Motion on behalf of the Opposition:

“This Labour Administration has consistently failed to listen to local residents, takes no notice of their views on any local issue and cannot be trusted to act in the interests of Croydon.”

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Bennett to propose the motion. Councillor Bennett described how she did this in sorrow rather than anger. The Administration had brought Croydon to its knees. There had been a refusal to listen to advisers, officers and electorate. This had led to over 10,000 residents expressing their voice by signing a petition to hold a referendum on having a directly elected Mayor. They had been asking for a democratic vote which had been denied under Covid regulations. Brick By Brick was sucking up every green space in the borough despite the impact that this would have on the wellbeing of residents. Whilst more homes were needed, hundreds of one bedroom flats were not good enough. The Administration was paying lip service to saving the planet; the traffic restrictions brought in with Local Traffic Neighbourhoods did not make sense because they concentrated traffic on the main roads with more travel caused by having to circumnavigate restricted roads. Councillor Bennett described how anger was rising but that the Administration was not listening and was not replying to emails.

Councillor Roche seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Newman to speak. The Leader stated that the Administration did listen to the people including those in the Opposition. The local elections in 2018 saw a record 41 Labour Councillors elected. Now in the mid-term period, the Conservative Group was making its attacks. The Leader acknowledged that the Administration would not get everything right and that it needed to learn including on governance. The Leader cited a range of initiatives that demonstrated the Administration listened including the Legacy Youth Zone, the fully funded Family Justice Centre, the refurbished Fairfield Halls, increased recycling rates and environmental measures including improving air quality. The Conservative Group was described as making plenty more noise but with no constructive ideas. The Leader anticipated that once the people of Croydon were listened to again through the ballot box, there would be another Labour victory.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Degradis to speak. Councillor Degradis expressed how she was unsure what the Opposition meant as she was able to give numerous examples of how the Administration was listening. This included setting up a Citizen's Assembly to listen to concerns about the climate emergency. Advice and suggestions had been gathered in response to concerns about heavy polluting vehicles that had fed into setting up Local Traffic Neighbourhoods. Further steps were envisaged to ensure all voices were heard. The Opposition's Council Debate Motion was described as dangerous rhetoric with the accusation made of political point scoring during a pandemic. Councillor Degradis called on Members of Council to unite to be able to support residents to the best of their ability and not to add to the

distress being caused by Covid. The Conservative Group was called on to support the Council on its improvement journey.

Councillor Roche exercised his right to speak and described how the operation of the Planning Committee proved the Administration did not listen to residents when it was choosing to ignore valid objections in addition to local planning policies. The Leader was choosing to ignore the thousands who had requested a referendum on a directly elected Mayor. The poor implementation of Local Traffic Neighbourhoods, which Councillor Roche had witnessed first-hand had caused chaos and damage to local business at a time when the Council should be aiding small business recovery. It was described how the implementation of the Local Traffic Neighbourhood on Stambourne Way had prevented a fire engine responding to an emergency. This was a scheme that had been implemented without any prior consultation, demonstrating that the Administration was not capable of listening. It may ask for views but these were not what it wanted.

The motion was put to the vote and fell.

127/20 **Recommendation of the Appointments Committees to Council for decision**

Madam Mayor invited the Leader, to move the recommendation referred by the Appointments Committee on 6 October 2020 related to the Pay Policy for 2020/21. The Leader moved the motion. Councillor Butler seconded the motion.

Madam Mayor moved the vote and Council unanimously agreed the recommendation in the report.

RESOLVED: Council **AGREED** the following recommendations:

1. That the Pay Policy for the year 2020/21 be updated to include the revised spot salary for the permanent position of Executive Director Children Families & Education of £147,000 p.a.

128/20 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This item was not required.

The meeting ended at 9.41 pm

Signed:

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Date:

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Meeting was held remotely on Thursday, 22 October 2020 at 6.00 pm.

MINUTES

- Present:** Councillor Maddie Henson (Chair);
Councillor Sherwan Chowdhury (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Hamida Ali, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Leila Ben-Hassel, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Janet Campbell, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Luke Clancy, Chris Clark, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mary Croos, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Mario Creatura, Nina Degrads, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Alisa Flemming, Felicity Flynn, Clive Fraser, Maria Gatland, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Patricia Hay-Justice, Simon Hoar, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Humayun Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Stuart Millson, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Oni Oviri, Ian Parker, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Robert Ward, David Wood and Callton Young
- Jacqueline Harris Baker, Executive Director – Resources (Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer), Katherine Kerswell, Interim Chief Executive and Stephen Rowan (Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny)
- Apologies:** Councillor Sean Fitzsimons, Toni Letts, Steve O'Connell, Badsha Quadir and Louisa Woodley

PART A

Before the formal business of the meeting commenced, in response to the death of Samuel Paty in Paris on 16 October 2020, Madam Mayor expressed solidarity with all those around the world who were subject to terror attacks. It was reiterated that the Council stood together with all its communities and would not let hate bring division. It was reaffirmed that there was pride in the Borough's many faiths, cultures and communities.

129/20 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests. Members confirmed their disclosure of interest forms were accurate and up-to-date.

130/20 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

131/20 **Election of the Leader**

Madam Mayor informed Council that in accordance with Article 7.3 of the Constitution, the Extraordinary Council Meeting had been called within ten working days of receiving Councillor Newman's resignation to elect a new Leader of the Council. The new Leader was to be elected for the period up until the day of the Annual Council meeting following the local elections in May 2020.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Collins to move a nomination for the election of the Leader of the Council. Councillor Collins thanked Madam Mayor and nominated Councillor Hamida Ali.

Madam Mayor invited Councillor Ben-Hassel to second the motion. Councillor Ben-Hassel thanked Madam Mayor and seconded the nomination of Councillor Hamida Ali for election as the Leader of the Council.

Madam Mayor invited all Members in favour of the motion to indicate their agreement verbally by saying yes. All Labour Group Members gave their assent.

Madam Mayor invited all Members not in favour of the motion to indicate their dissent verbally by saying no. All Conservative Group Members gave their dissent.

Before the vote was declared, Madam Mayor informed the meeting that there were 38 Labour Members and 27 Conservative Members in attendance at that point in the meeting.

On this basis Madam Mayor notified the meeting that the motion had been carried and congratulated Councillor Hamida Ali on having been elected as the Leader of the Council. Madam Mayor invited the Leader to make her first address to the Council.

In her address, the Leader described how it was an honour and privilege to be elected to lead the Council and to serve her own community. This built on the 20 years she had spent working in the public sector to advance equality. The Leader described how life chances of the local community could be supported through local and national democracy. Councillor Hamida Ali highlighted that she was the Council's first BAME Leader which was not only significant for those with the same background but also for the Borough.

Councillor Newman was recognised for his leadership during two Administrations including the aftermath of the Sandilands tram crash.

The scale of the challenge facing the Council was described as immense not just because of the pandemic but also because of the Council's financial situation. Further concerns were expected to come forward in the immediate

period following the meeting. These were expected to be shocking to staff and residents.

The Leader described her priority as being to retain local democratic control over the Borough which was not something that could be guaranteed. It was not known if the Council would be able to secure the agreement on the Croydon Renewal Plan from Government, whether a Section 114 Notice would need to be issued or if the Government would intervene.

Emphasis was placed on working together to achieve the systemic change required. It was noted that change was needed from all parties involved, including Cabinet, across the Chamber and in the officer core. It was stressed that every Member of Council had a role to play. The Leader was committed to working with all who had a stake in making Croydon an even better place for residents to live.

Keeping Croydon in local hands was described as the only way to ensure that the Borough would thrive. It was Members, with their local knowledge, who had the understanding of what was needed locally. Collective endeavour was required with all Members involved in tackling the challenges faced.

The Opposition was called on to consider what role it could play. That included achieving a fair support package from Government to enable a sustainable financial plan to be developed for the future. The Leader noted the letter received from the Leader of the Opposition. It was hoped a meeting with Councillor Perry might happen soon and for there to be a discussion of how the two political Groups might work constructively together.

The Leader announced her new Cabinet. This was noted to reflect the diversity of the Borough and be constructed in order to address the urgent challenges faced:

- i. Croydon Renewal: Councillor Stuart King
- ii. Resources & Financial Governance: Councillor Callton Young
- iii. Economic Recovery & Skills: Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed
- iv. Sustainable Croydon: Councillor Muhammad Ali
- v. Children, Young People and Learning: Councillor Alisa Flemming
- vi. Families, Health & Social Care: Councillor Janet Campbell
- vii. Homes and Gateway Services: Councillor Jane Avis
- viii. Safety, Communities and Resilience: Councillor David Wood
- ix. Culture and Regeneration: Councillor Oliver Lewis

The Leader thanked those outgoing Cabinet Members for their service to the Borough.

.....
Collectively, her Administration would be resolutely focused on the changes needed for the benefit of the Borough and its residents. It would seek to be open, responsive, self-reflective, listening and it would seek to recognise where the Council had got things wrong.

The Administration would not forget the residents it had been elected to serve right across the Borough. Residents expected differences to be put aside to focus on delivering the changes they wanted to see. Despite the challenges, the Leader expressed her belief that Croydon's best days lay ahead of it and anticipated working with the whole Council in the coming years for these better days to be realised

132/20 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This item was not required.

The meeting ended at 6.12 pm

Signed:

Date:

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 30 NOVEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	THE CROYDON DEBATE
LEAD OFFICER:	Jacqueline Harris Baker, Executive Director Resources & Monitoring Officer
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	
This report is prepared in keeping with paragraph 3.18 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council’s Constitution, one borough-wide petition and one local petition can be debated under the Croydon Debate item. A Borough-wide Petition was received and the wording is presented below at para 2.1 in the body of this report.

2. BOROUGH PETITION

- 2.1 A Borough-wide Petition was received by the Monitoring Officer as follows: *“I support the Purley and Woodcote and Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown councillors' campaign to save Purley Pool and Leisure Centre and call on Croydon Council to save them from closure”*.

As required by the Constitution, in order to be valid, it was reviewed in accordance with the provisions detailed in Part 4A, para 3.17.6 and determined to be valid.

- 2.2 The rules for debate for a Borough Petition are set out in paragraph 3.18.5(b) and are set out below:
- i. The Lead Petitioner or their representative may address the Council on the Petition for up to three minutes from the public gallery;
 - ii. A member of the Majority Group may then speak for up to three minutes;
 - iii. A member of the Opposition Group may then speak for up to three minutes;
 - iv. A second member from the Majority Group may address the Council for up to three minutes;
 - v. A second member of the Opposition Group may address the Council for up to three minutes;
 - vi. The Lead Petitioner or their representative may address the Council for a further three minutes;

- vii. A member of the Majority Group may then make a final response for up to one minute and summarise the next steps to be taken in the matter;
- viii. No further debate shall take place on the Borough Petition thereafter.

2.3 After the procedural steps stated in paragraph 2.2 have been completed, there shall be no further debate and no vote taken.

CONTACT OFFICER: Thomas Downs, Democratic Services and
Governance Officer
Ext 86166

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 30 NOVEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	CROYDON QUESTION TIME: A) PUBLIC QUESTIONS B) LEADER AND CABINET QUESTIONS
LEAD OFFICER:	Jacqueline Harris Baker, Executive Director Resources and Monitoring Officer
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	
The business reports of the Leader and Cabinet are prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the process for:
- a) public questions; and
 - b) questions to the Leader and Cabinet from Councillors.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 4A of the Constitution details the process that allows for the Leader and Cabinet Members to take oral questions. Question Time is split into two part; public questions and Councillors' questions to the Leader and Cabinet.

Public Questions

- 2.2 Public questions can be asked of the Leader or Cabinet Members on issues of policy at the Meeting as set out within the Constitution Part 4A, Sections 3.12 – 3.15. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature that cannot be answered on the evening shall be noted and shall receive a written response within three weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council's website.
- 2.3 Public Questions shall only be taken at Ordinary Council meetings and shall be allocated a total time of 30 minutes. This timeframe shall include both the questions and responses by the relevant Cabinet Members or Leader.
- 2.4 The Mayor has absolute discretion to decline to allow any question to be dealt with under this procedure on the grounds that it addresses matters that would be inappropriate to consider at the meeting, including where the questions being asked are repetitive or have already been addressed.

- 2.5 Following advice from the Government and Public Health England to enforce social distancing and prevent the spread of Coronavirus, it is not possible at the current time to hold public meetings in the Town Hall. The Coronavirus Act 2020 passed on 25 March 2020 and subsequent regulations have made it possible for Councils to hold virtual meetings. As a result, Members of the Public are unable to ask questions from the public gallery in the Council Chamber.
- 2.6 However, in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 3.15(ii), the Mayor may also accept questions from Members of the Public submitted by email to the designated email address by 12 noon on the Friday prior to an ordinary Council meeting. The Mayor will put questions received by email to the Leader or the relevant Cabinet Member and, where a number of questions are received on the same subject, the Mayor may put a summary of those questions instead.

Leader and Cabinet Questions:

- 2.7 This item is to enable Members to ask questions of the Leader and Cabinet on issues of policy. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature that cannot be answered on the evening shall be noted and shall receive a written response within three weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council's website.
- 2.8 Questions which relate to a current planning or licensing matter or any matter relating to an individual or entity in respect of which that individual or entity has a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal conferred by or under any enactment shall not be permitted. In addition, questions shall not be received or responded to where they pertain to anticipated or ongoing litigation, conciliation or mediation or any employment or personnel related issues or disputes.
- 2.9 The Leader shall be the first to respond to questions under this item and the total time allocated to questions by Members to, and responses from the Leader, shall be 15 minutes. The first two minutes of the Leader's 15 minute slot may be used by the Leader to make any announcements.
- 2.10 Cabinet Members, divided up into three 'pools' of three Members each, shall thereafter respond to questions by other Members of the Council. The total time allocated to each 'pool' of Cabinet Members shall be 30 minutes. The three Cabinet Members shall each be permitted to use two minutes of this 30 minute slot to make announcements.
- 2.11 The 'pools' for this meeting will be as follows:

Pool 1

Name	Portfolio
Jane Avis	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes & Gateway Services
David Wood	Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety & Resilience
Manju Shahul-Hameed	Cabinet Member for Economy Recovery & Skills

Pool 2

Name	Portfolio
Stuart King	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Croydon Renewal
Muhammad Ali	Cabinet Member for Sustainable Croydon
Callton Young	Cabinet Member for Resources & Financial Governance

Pool 3

Name	Portfolio
Oliver Lewis	Cabinet Member for Culture & Regeneration
Alisa Flemming	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
Janet Campbell	Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care

2.12 Representatives of political groups may give advance notice to the Council Solicitor by 12 noon on the Friday preceding an ordinary Council Meeting, the names of the first two Members of their respective political group that they wish the Mayor to call to ask a question of each Member of the Cabinet, including the Leader of the Council.

2.13 After those Members have been called, the Mayor will call Members that indicate they have a question, with a presumption of inviting questions from as many different Members as possible. Each Member asking a question will also be allowed to ask a supplementary questions.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Annette Wiles
Senior Democratic Services and Governance Officer
Council & Regulatory
Ext 64877

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For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 30 NOVEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	MEMBER PETITIONS
LEAD OFFICER:	Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: This report is prepared in keeping with paragraphs 3.26 to 3.31 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the petitions presented by Councillors at the meeting as listed in paragraph four of the report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council's Constitution up to three Members of the Council can present petitions to any ordinary meeting of the Council, with the exception of any meeting of the Council reserved for the setting of Council Tax.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows up to three Councillors to present petitions to meetings of the Full Council.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires that a petition must contain "the signatures of at least 100 local people or 50% of the local people affected by the subject" in order to be presented at a Council meeting.
- 3.3 The full petition wording of each of the three Member petitions to be received will be included in the Council agenda (see paragraph four below). The Member petitions will be received but shall not be the subject of a debate or questions at that or a subsequent Council meeting.
- 3.4 Where possible, the Cabinet Member shall provide a response at the Council meeting at which the Member's petition is received. Where a response is not

provided at the meeting, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

4. PETITIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has received notice of the following petitions to be presented to this meeting of the Council:

- a) Petition presented by **Councillor Stephen Mann** on behalf of residents:

'We the undersigned request that Croydon Council should take immediate steps to enter into full consultation with residents to transform the Harold Road Conservation Area into a low traffic neighbourhood.

Re-opening Sylvan Hill, Stambourne Way and Fox Hill to traffic so that traffic noise, pollution and accompanying problems and dangers are shared, the introduction of further speed controls, with cameras and automatic number plate recognition and strategic road closures, should all be considered so that we too might benefit from a safer, healthier environment.

Are we less important than other residents in Upper Norwood?'

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Where possible the Cabinet Member will respond to the petition at the meeting.
- 5.2 Where a more detailed response is required, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Thomas Downs
Democratic Services
0208 726 6000 (Ext: 86166)

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 30 NOVEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	ANNUAL REPORTS
LEAD OFFICER:	STEPHEN ROWAN, HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND SCRUTINY
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	
This report is prepared in keeping with paragraphs 3.42 – 3.49 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1.	RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1	The Council is asked to receive and consider the Annual Reports presented at the meeting as listed in paragraph four of the report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council’s Constitution, Council can receive Annual Reports from Committees. The Constitution also prescribes how these Annual Reports are treated by Council.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with Part 4A, paragraphs 3.56 – 3.59 of the Constitution, the overall time which may be devoted to question any other Annual Reports shall be not more than 10 minutes per report. The Chair of the relevant Committee (or in absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair) shall introduce and answer questions on the report. The Chair of the Committee shall not have more than 3 minutes speaking time to introduce the report.
- 3.2 For the remaining time available, the report will be open to questions. In the event that any recommendation in the report has not been reached when the overall time limit has expired, it shall be put immediately to the vote.
- 3.3 Any Member, except the Secunder of the Report, may ask the Chair or Vice-Chair, as appropriate, not more than two questions on each paragraph of the report.

4. ANNUAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING

- 4.1 Corporate Parenting Panel 2019 – 2020; and

4.2 Health and Wellbeing Board 2019 – 2020.

CONTACT OFFICER:	Annette Wiles Senior Democratic Services and Governance Officer – Council & Regulatory Ext. 64877
APPENDIX 1:	Corporate Parenting Panel 2019 – 2020
APPENDIX 2:	Health and Wellbeing Board 2019 – 2020
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	None

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL 30th November 2020
SUBJECT:	Annual report of the Health and Wellbeing Board 2019/20
LEAD OFFICER:	Guy Van Dichele Executive Director, Health, Wellbeing and Adults
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Louisa Woodley Chair, Croydon Health and Wellbeing Board Councillor Janet Campbell, Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care Councillor Alisa Fleming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning
WARDS	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT Health and Wellbeing is relevant to all of the Council's corporate priorities but the key priorities that the work of the Board aligns to are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives• Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential	
FINANCIAL IMPACT There is no financial impact of this report	

1. **RECOMMENDATION**

Council is asked to:

- 1.1 Receive and consider the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council's Constitution, Council can receive Annual Reports from Committees, including Overview and Scrutiny. The

Constitution also prescribes how these Annual Reports are treated by Council.

- 2.2 The report included as an appendix to this cover report summarises the work undertaken by Croydon Health and Wellbeing Board from June 2019 to May 2020. The Board had to cancel the April 2020 Health and Wellbeing Board due to the measures taken in response to COVID-19.

CONTACT OFFICER:	Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health rachel.flowers@croydon.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Health and Wellbeing Annual Report 2019-2020
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	The joint strategic needs assessment can be accessed here
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	None

Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2019/20

This report summarises the work undertaken by Croydon Health and Wellbeing Board from June 2019 to May 2020. The Board was established on 1 April 2013 as a committee of Croydon Council.

The Board had to cancel the April 2020 Health and Wellbeing Board due to the measures taken in response to COVID-19.

The report sets out the functions of the Board and gives examples of how the Board has discharged those functions.

Examples of key achievements of the Board are described, including the encouragement of greater integration and partnership working, tackling health inequalities, and increasing focus on prevention of ill health.

1. Functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 created statutory health and wellbeing boards as committees of the local authority. Their purpose, as set out in the Act, is 'to secure better health and wellbeing outcomes for the whole population, better quality of care for all patients and care users, and better value for the taxpayer'. Part 4L of the Council's Constitution provides that, the functions of the Board are:

- To encourage, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of people in Croydon, persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in Croydon to work in an integrated manner.
- To provide such advice, assistance or other support as appropriate for the purpose of encouraging partnership arrangements under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 between the Council and NHS bodies in connection with the provision of health and social care services.
- To encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health-related services (i.e. services which are not health or social care services but which may have an effect on the health of individuals) to work closely with the Board and with persons providing health and social care services.
- To exercise the functions of the Council and its partner Clinical Commissioning Groups in preparing a joint strategic needs assessment under section 116 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and a joint health and wellbeing strategy under section 116A of that Act.
- To give the Council the opinion of the Board on whether the Council is discharging its duty to have regard to the joint strategic needs assessment and joint health and wellbeing strategy in discharging the Council's functions.
- To agree the delivery plans of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

- To monitor the delivery plans in fulfilment of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- To report to Council the outcome of the Board's monitoring of the delivery plans in fulfilment of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as part of its annual report.
- To exercise such other Council functions which are delegated to the Board under the Constitution.

Councillor Louisa Woodley took over the Chair with the first meeting of the present Board on 20th June 2018

2. Croydon Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The current Health and Wellbeing Strategy is structured around the following 8 Priorities:

- Priority 1 - A better start in life
- Priority 2 - Strong, engaged, inclusive and well connected communities
- Priority 3 - Housing and the environment enable all people of Croydon to be healthy
- Priority 4 – Mental wellbeing and good mental health are seen as a driver of health
- Priority 5 – A strong local economy with quality, local jobs
- Priority 6 – Get more people more active, more often
- Priority 7 – A stronger focus on prevention
- Priority 8 – The right people, in the right place, at the right time

3. The following report (paragraphs 4-10) covers the work of Croydon Health and Wellbeing Board from June 2019 to May 2020 and links this to the Priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4. Integrated Localities Approaches

Looking at delivery against the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority 8, 'The right people, in the right place, at the right time', the Board requested and received a report on the different strands of localities working from across the community, with input from the community and voluntary sector, Croydon Council, Croydon Health Services and One Croydon. The report included perspectives and updates on the locality approach for:

- *Council's Operating Model*
- *Health and Care Locality Development – Integrated Community Networks + (ICN +)*
- *Locality approach for the Children and Young People Agenda*
- *Shift to strengths based approaches, such as Community Led Support*
- *The locality approach and the voluntary and community sector experience*
- *A Healthwatch Croydon perspective on what locality working means to the public*

5. The Health and Care Transformation Plan

The Board received and signed off the [Croydon's Health and Care Transformation Plan \(HCP\)](#) which is the delivery plan for the Board's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

6. Health Protection Forum updates

The health protection forum supports the work to deliver against the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority 1, 'a better start in life', and priority 7, 'A stronger focus on prevention'. The Board received regular Health protection updates at each meeting from the Health Protection Forum. This allows a discussion across health and social care into the health protection plans and for partners to commit to promotion and sharing the knowledge from updates internally within their organisations. Updates were received on Measles and MMR vaccination, and the annual Seasonal Flu Plan.

7. Prevention Green Paper Response

Supporting borough wide work to deliver the Health and Wellbeing strategy priority 7, 'a stronger focus on prevention', the Board worked to develop a response under the One Croydon banner to the Prevention Green Paper 2019, outlining the vision for proactive, predictive and personalised prevention to address slowing increases in life-expectancy and social gradient to health life-expectancy.

8. Croydon Health and Care Commissioning Intentions 2020/21

The Board received and commented on the Croydon Health and Care Commissioning intentions as part of its statutory duty.

9. CYP Mental Health Local Transformation Plan

Aligned to Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority 1, 'A healthy start in Life' and Priority 4, 'Mental wellbeing and good mental health are seen as a driver of health'.

The Board received and supported the progress and completion of the Children and Young People Mental Health Local Transformation Plan, including the Croydon trailblazer programme supported by multiple Board members.

10. Healthy Weight Workshop

Aligned to Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority 1, 'A better start in life', Priority 2, 'Strong, engaged, inclusive and well connected communities', and Priority 7 'A stronger focus on prevention'.

The Health and Wellbeing Board supported the Croydon Healthy Weight partnership a Healthy Weight workshop in December 2019. The workshop brought together over 60 members from organisations across Croydon, including representatives from Croydon Council, health and community bodies, schools and local businesses.

There was a joint 2 year commitment to strengthen efforts to reduce obesity rates in the borough to help support residents by making healthier choices easier through a range of actions such as seeking to reduce the number of fast food outlets,

encouraging people to exercise by walking more and exploring the borough and cooking healthier meals.

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 30 NOVEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL FOR DECISION
LEAD OFFICER:	Jacqueline Harris Baker Executive Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	
<p>The Recommendations of Cabinet referred to the Council for decision report is prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.</p>	

1.	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET HELD ON 19 October 2020</p> <p>Council is asked to approve the following recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 19 October 2020:</p> <p>Developing Croydon’s new Community Safety Strategy</p> <p>1.1. Recommends to Full Council that it agree to extend the current community safety strategy until the end of the calendar year 2021 for the reasons detailed in the report.</p>
2.	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET HELD ON 25 November 2020</p> <p>Subject to decision at the Cabinet meeting to be held on 25 November 2020, Council is expect to be asked to approve the following recommendations:</p> <p>The Croydon Renewal Plan</p> <p>2.1. The Croydon Renewal Plan, any appendices, background papers and recommendations to Council are to follow and will be published on Monday 23 November 2020.</p> <p>Strategic Review of Companies and other investment arrangements</p> <p>2.2. The Strategic Review of Companies and other investment arrangements report, any appendices, background papers and recommendations to Council are to follow and will be published on Monday 23 November 2020.</p>

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1. The Recommendations of Cabinet and Committees referred to the Council for

decision report comprises of matters of business formally undertaken by the Leader and Cabinet as well as Committees since the last ordinary meeting of the Council that require Full Council approval.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. Part 4A of the Constitution requires that Cabinet and Committees include any recommendations that it has made to Council within this report.
- 4.2. These rules do not apply to any recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
- 4.3. The Leader or Chair of the Committee making the recommendation may exercise a right to introduce the recommendation; in so doing the Leader or Chair of the Committee shall speak for a maximum of 3 minutes.
- 4.4. The recommendation shall be seconded without any further speakers and if not deferred for debate shall immediately be put to the vote.
- 4.5. Any Member supported by a seconder, may ask that a recommendation be deferred for debate and the recommendation shall immediately stand deferred.
- 4.6. In the event that any Cabinet or Committee recommendations have not been reached when the time limit for the meeting has expired, those recommendations shall immediately be put to the vote without further debate.
- 4.7. Attached at **Appendix 11.1** is the **Developing Croydon's new Community Safety Strategy** report considered at the **Cabinet** meeting held on 19 October 2020. There are no appendices to this report. The relevant appendices to this report is also included. These are **Appendix 11.1A** (Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy) and **Appendix 11.1B** (Strategic Assessment).
- 4.8. The Croydon Renewal Plan, any appendices and background papers are to follow and will be published on Monday 23 November 2020.
- 4.9. The Strategic Review of Companies and other investment arrangements report, any appendices and background papers to follow and will be published on Monday 23 November 2020.

CONTACT OFFICER: Annette Wiles,
Senior Democratic Services and Governance Officer –
Council & Regulatory
Ext. 64877

APPENDIX 9.1: Development Croydon's new Community Safety Strategy report

APPENDIX 9.1A: Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy

APPENDIX 9.1B: Strategic Assessment

APPENDIX 9.2: The Croydon Renewal Plan, any appendices and background papers are to follow and will be published on Monday 23 November 2020.

APPENDIX 9.3: The Strategic Review of Companies and other investment arrangements report, any appendices and background papers to follow and will be published on Monday 23 November 2020.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

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REPORT TO:	CABINET 19 October 2020
SUBJECT:	Developing Croydon's new Community Safety Strategy
LEAD OFFICER:	Executive Director Place – Shifa Mustafa Director of Croydon's violence reduction network – Sarah Hayward
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Hamida Ali, Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities
WARDS:	All wards
<p>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON</p> <p><i>Include here a brief statement on how the recommendations address one or more of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities:</i></p> <p><i>Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home</i></p> <p>Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022</p>	

<p>FINANCIAL IMPACT</p> <p>The development of a new strategy requires community engagement, outreach and consultation. Planned spend for in the financial year 2020/21 will now be delayed until 2021/22 meaning a small in year saving.</p> <p>The engagement proposal was in its early stages of development and so was not fully costed but unlikely to be more than £15k when it takes place.</p> <p>FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: Not a key decision</p>
--

<p>The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below</p> <p>1. RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to</p> <p>1.1 Recommend to Full Council that it agree to extend the current community safety strategy until the end of calendar year 2021 for the reasons detailed in the report</p>
--

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since 1998, Councils have been required to have a community safety partnership that oversees the development and delivery of a community safety plan or strategy. The strategy requires regular review and updating in light of evidence and trends in safety.

- 2.2 The current community safety strategy runs from 2017 to 2020. Prior to Covid, we were in the very early stages of developing the public collaboration needed to develop a new strategy. The pandemic and associated events meant that we have had to delay that work. We had originally hoped to be able to develop the strategy through autumn this year and spring next year, but it is now clear we will need to delay this work and therefore extend our current strategy to cover the full calendar year 2021.
- 2.3 We have produced the annual strategic assessment of crime in the area and so can update some of our work under the existing strategy.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The council is required to have a Community Safety Partnership Board and a plan that the board is responsible for overseeing. That plan is what we refer to here as the community safety strategy. The existing plan was developed and came in to effect in 2017 and covers the period to 2020.
- 3.2 In Summer 2019, the Council committed to taking a public health approach to violence reduction. In early 2020, the Council started to plan and develop a new community safety strategy, as a result of both the existing strategy coming to an end and to realign our community safety work with our public health approach to violence reduction. This work was paused as a result of the Covid pandemic.
- 3.3 In late May, the Council was able to focus more efforts on business as usual and started to explore how to develop a new strategy in light of ongoing restrictions and the timescales for doing so. It quickly became clear that we would need to extend the existing strategy. We had originally hoped to conclude the development work by early summer 2021.
- 3.4 However it has now become clear that this won't be possible. A particular challenge for this work is the vulnerability and excluded nature of some of the people who most need effective community safety and violence reduction work. There have also been sharp changes in some types of crime, violence and antisocial behaviour during the Covid pandemic. We need to take the time to understand which of these changes are likely to be lasting and therefore need a different level of consideration in the new strategy.
- 3.5 The current strategic priorities in The Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy 2017/2020 are:-
- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic abuse
 - Improve the safety of children and young people
 - Improve public confidence and community engagement.
 - Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
 - Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime; focus on hate crime

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The decision to extend the current strategy doesn't require formal public consultation. However we have consulted strategic partners on this approach through the Safer Croydon Partnership Board (Croydon's Community Safety Partnership).
- 4.2 Developing a new strategy will require both engagement to develop the content, priorities and a formal period of consultation on the strategy. Our normal methods of consultation, including face to face meetings and outreach have been severely impacted by the Covid pandemic and are a major reason for the delay in the developing our new strategy.

5. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 5.1 The proposal to extend the current strategy has not been to scrutiny as it is not a substantive change to current policy or priority. We do intend to fully involve scrutiny in the development of our new strategy.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There will be a small in year saving due to not completing this work in this financial year. This is cost delay rather than cost avoidance. The development of the strategy is estimated to cost £15k when it takes place will be met from the existing revenue budget.

Approved by Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and S151 Officer

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended, responsible authorities are required to work together through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which have, since 2010 been referred to as Community Safety Partnerships. The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon. In this respect Section 6 requires responsible authorities to formulate and implement a Strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in their area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area. The SCP is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of Croydon's Community Safety Strategy. The partnership comprises police, council, fire, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, community and voluntary sector organisations.
- 7.2 Regulations made under S.6 provide that the Strategy must be published and include the objectives to be pursued and the long term and short term performance targets for measuring the extent to which these objectives have been achieved.

7.3 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) imposes a duty on local authorities and police authorities to exercise their functions with regard to effect on crime and disorder. They are required to do all they can to prevent crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) & the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

7.4 The function of agreeing, amending or modifying the Community Safety Strategy is a matter reserved to Full Council under the Constitution.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

8.1 There is no HR staffing impact in this report. If any should arise these will be managed under the Council's policies and procedures.

Approved by: Jennifer Sankar, Head of HR Place, for and on behalf of Sue Moorman, HR Director.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

9.1 The decision to extend the current strategy will not have any direct equalities impacts. There are a number of equality considerations and impacts pertaining to community safety and how we respond and address these will be considered as part of the process of developing the new strategy.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

10.1 There is no environmental impact

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

11.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 says that without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of the Council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

11.2 By Section 6 of the same Act the Council and its partners are required to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area.

11.3 Therefore there are two duties. The first is to formulate and implement a crime reduction strategy. This is about crime which already exists. The second is crime

and disorder prevention. Every function shall be exercised to prevent crime and disorder.

11.4 The current strategy was based on evidence at the time and its actions and outcomes are monitored against the best available current evidence of crime trends in the borough.

11.5 Delaying the development of the new strategy will allow us to better understand the medium and longer term impacts of Covid on the borough and better reflect these trends in a new strategy.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

12.1 As explained above, the council is required to have a community safety plan but has been unable to develop a new plan as a consequence of Covid.

13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

13.1 It was considered whether we could develop a new plan to the original timetable. This was quickly rejected due to the timescales and Covid restrictions.

13.2 We also considered developing the plan from now through to next year, but the impact of Covid on the Council has meant we've now had to delay development starting until the new financial year.

14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

14.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

No

14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?

No

Approved by Sarah Hayward, Director of Violence Reduction Network

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APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT: Appendix 1 – Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy
Appendix 2 – Strategic Assessment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

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Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy 2017/2020



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Foreword

The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon, as stipulated by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The SCP is responsible for co-ordinating the development and implementation of Croydon's Community Safety Strategy. The partnership comprises police, council, fire, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, community and voluntary sector organisations.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales published September 2016, estimated 6.7 million adults aged 16 and over, were a victim of at least 1 crime and that 4.6 million offences were reported in 2016, an annual rise of 7%. However, a large proportion of the rise is considered to be due to continued improvements, in crime-recording practices and processes.

The current trend for the total number of offences is up by +3.05% (893 offences) when compared to the previous financial year although the long term picture shows that crime has fallen significantly over the last 10 years. Croydon ranks 6th by volume and 19th by rate per 1,000 populations (1 being highest) when compared with all the other London Boroughs. With regards to specific crimes the trend for acquisitive crimes such as thefts and burglaries are significantly down, however violent crimes are on the increase.

There is a correlation between areas of high deprivation and crime rates in Croydon; more crime is committed in the north of the borough, largely due to a higher population density, and more pockets of deprivation. Vulnerability is becoming increasingly concentrated within certain places and amongst certain individuals. According to the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime's (MOPAC's) Vulnerable Localities Profile, the top 10 per cent 9 of wards (63) are disproportionately impacted compared to other parts of London. On average, over 3 times more victims of burglary, robbery, sexual offences live in these top 10 per cent compared to the least vulnerable. Repeat victimisation is also a key issue; around one in 10 crimes is committed against people who have been victims of crime in the previous year. Perpetrators of other crimes, such as domestic abuse, have much higher levels of repeat victimisation.

Croydon's reputation as a place is improving, but there is more work to do. The findings from the 2016 Fear of Crime Survey confirms most residents do feel safe, but 23% feel unsafe to some degree. The results of the 2016 Crime Quiz found all of the respondents thought levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Croydon are much higher than actual reported cases. Therefore, we want to increase public confidence and reduce the fear of crime in Croydon. We believe the best way to do this is to continuously improve the way all of our local partner agencies and services work together delivering solutions to local crime and anti-social behaviour problems.

As we set out our three-year plan, we also need to consider external factors such as a growing and more diverse population, on-going financial pressures, the impact of Brexit, the threat of terrorism, and how crime is changing. For example, burglary offences are reducing but on-line fraud has nearly doubled during the past few years. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) recorded 119,426 incidents in 2011/12 but this rose to 230,406 in 2014/15 and 85% of all identity fraud now occurs online.

From March 2017, following adoption of the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan MOPAC are proposing to adopt a new method for prioritising and scrutinising local policing priorities. High harm crimes and protecting vulnerable people will be included in local priorities in every borough to ensure that the police and local partners are focused properly on these most serious and harmful offences against vulnerable people. This includes a focus on child sexual exploitation, violence against women and girls, gangs, knife crime and gun crime. The key priorities identified in the police and crime plan are:

- **A better criminal justice service for London**
- **A better police service for London**
- **Standing together against hatred and intolerance**
- **Keeping children and young people safe**
- **Tackling violence against women and girls**

MOPAC have recognised that the issues of greatest concern in one borough may be very different to those of another. Therefore, antisocial behaviour and volume crime priorities will be selected by each borough on the basis of their local assessments, crime statistics and local residents' views to result in a manageable level of priorities. The additional priorities agreed with MOPAC for Croydon are violence with injury (non-domestic abuse), ASB and burglary.

This strategy therefore supports the 2017-2021 London Police and Crime Plan and builds on a solid foundation of successful partnership working on crime and anti-social behaviour in Croydon. Given the emphasis on vulnerability and supporting victims it is even more crucial that the Safer Croydon Partnership works collaboratively with the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards to ensure that there is clear leadership and responsibility where there are issues that may overlap in to different partnership agendas. The community safety strategy presents high level priorities and actions so these will be underpinned by more detailed plans that will be developed with the relevant partnerships.

Taking into account these factors, and the findings from the 2016 Strategic Crime Assessment, public consultation as well as the views from stakeholders, during the next 3 years our strategic priorities will be:-

- **Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic abuse**
- **Improve the safety of children and young people**
- **Improve public confidence and community engagement.**
- **Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime**
- **Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime; focus on hate crime**

We have made good progress against the objectives set out in our last strategy. However, we also recognise that there is still much more to do, but we are determined to work together to make Croydon a safer place to live, work and visit.



Cllr Hamida Ali

Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice and Chair of the Safer Croydon Partnership

Croydon Facts

Croydon is London's southern-most borough and covers an area of 87 square kilometres. It is one of London's biggest local retail and commercial centres, with good rail, tram and road links, more than 120 parks and open spaces and some of London's most expensive housing.

We are just about to embark on a long term Growth Programme which is a partnership between Central Government, Croydon Council, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London. The aim is to finance and deliver an infrastructure programme, at a cost of £495m, which is essential to facilitate growth in central Croydon.

Croydon is a great place to live and work in and to visit, but we still have areas that are among the most disadvantaged in the country.

Croydon's population is changing rapidly. Over the next 25 years, 75,000 more people will be living in the borough. It has one of the largest and fastest growing black and minority ethnic populations in South London (with 100 languages spoken). The population is significantly denser in wards in the north of the borough, with a fifth of all Croydon residents living in just four northern wards.

Croydon has the largest population of 0 to 18 year olds in London at 97,200 residents (mid 2014 population estimate), which makes up 25.8% of the total population of Croydon. The number of residents aged 0-18 years will increase by approximately 8,200 residents by 2021. The Spring 2016 School Census showed there were a total of 56,565 pupils attending state funded schools in Croydon. This is an increase of 889 pupils or just under 2% compared to Spring 2015.

There were 3,701 children in need in Croydon as at 31 March 2015. This equates to 400.8 children in need for every 10,000 children, higher than London and national averages. Croydon also has the highest number of looked after children of any London borough due to the high numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) looked after by the borough. In 2015 there were 408 UASC looked after children and 385 local looked after children in Croydon.

Croydon is a safe place for most residents; the number of offences fell by over 5,000 in 10 years and is near the London average, but fear of crime is still significant. There are concerns over youth crime, violent crime including domestic abuse and sexual violence, and hate crime. We need to build trust among local people that agencies will deal with the issues that matter most to them.

Key Achievements 2014 – 2017

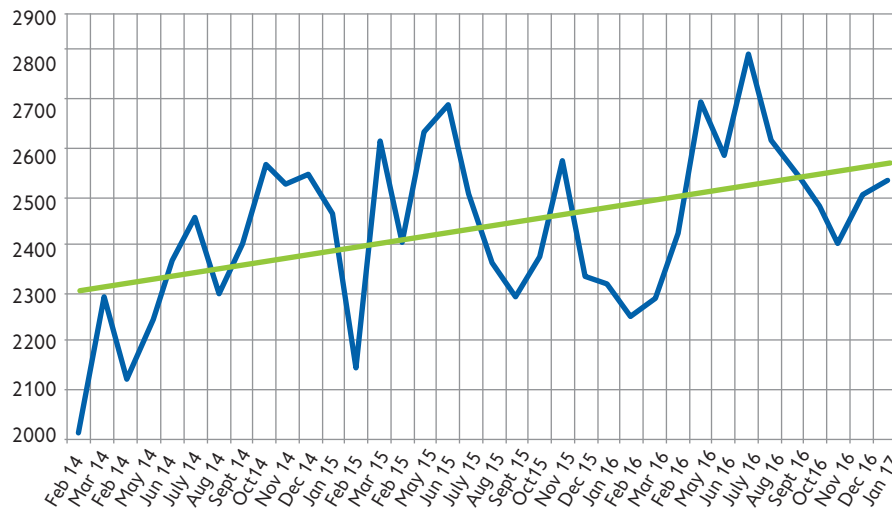
The 2014-2017 strategy set out four main objectives:

- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime
- Improve the safety of children and young people
- Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- Improve public confidence and community engagement.

Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime

Table 1 below shows the short-term trend of Total Notifiable Offences (TNO's) by financial year for the 3 year period from April 2013 to Jan 2017. The chart shows that the short-term trend is increasing.

Table 1 TNO 3 year crime trend rolling 12 months to January 2017



The current trend is up by +3.05% (893 offences) when compared to the previous financial year. Croydon ranks 6th by volume and 19th by rate per 1,000 populations (1 being highest) when compared with all the other London Boroughs.

12 months	Volume	12 months	Volume	Variance	% change
Feb 15 - Jan 16	29235	Feb 16 - Jan 17	30128	+893	+3.05%
Feb 14 - Jan 15	28257	Feb 15 - Jan 16	29235	+978	+3.36%
Feb 13 - Jan 14	28375	Feb 14 - Jan 15	28257	-118	0.41%

The table below shows Croydon police have seen 839 more incidents (29.94% increase) in the number of Violence with Injury incidents since the introduction of the MOPAC 7 performance framework in 2011/12.

MOPAC 7 crime type	Baseline 2011/12	Position at 21 st March 2017	Percentage change
MOPAC 7 total	17333	14609	-15.7%
Burglary	4492	2726	-39.3%
Criminal damage	4544	3296	-7.0%
Robbery	1834	1290	-29.7%
Theft from MV	2871	1977	-31.1%
Theft from person	795	582	-26.8%
Theft of MV	995	1097	-10.3%
Violence with injury	2802	3641	29.9%

(Source: Met Police Daily Dashboard Croydon dated 21st MARCH 2017)

The increase in VWI has not just happened in Croydon but has been seen across many boroughs for the same period. The increases may in part, be due the changes the Metropolitan Police Service made in their recording systems and that all incidents are now being more accurately recorded than previously. All other MOPAC 7 crimes have seen significant decreases since 2011/12.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

There have been increases in reports of both domestic abuse and sexual violence offences in the last year. Up to date statistics can be found on the following link <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-research/crime>

Croydon has the highest number of rapes in London. However, this could be due to an increase in reporting due to improved confidence in the police. Croydon has the largest Rape Crisis Centre in London and works closely with the Metropolitan Police Service Sapphire units to bring perpetrators to justice.

A complete review of our response to domestic abuse has been undertaken at both an operational and strategic level. There is a new governance structure and a multi-agency action plan in place to prevent and tackle domestic and sexual violence, links with the voluntary sector have been strengthened and the services available have been firmly embedded within the 'Think Family' model of intervention. An average of 12 service users are seen at the Family Justice Centre (FJC) each day and the highest ever number of high risk cases discussed at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Croydon was recorded in 2015/16 at 448 cases (a 32% year on year increase).

Outcomes:

Our partnership approach is essential to supporting the broad ranging needs of our client group. Universal services such as GPs, health visitors, schools and early years settings are joined up to the domestic abuse services through named leads, trained to help victims access pathways for support. In the past year, 94 schools and 35 GPs have nominated a lead to act as a single point of contact with the council's domestic abuse service. We have seen a 41% increase for year on year referrals as a result.

Provision of support from the drugs and alcohol worker at FJC empowers vulnerable women who may otherwise not seek support at a mixed gender environment for fear of additional risk. As a result, more women with substance misuse issues are accessing support for domestic abuse issues. A thriving women's support group now meets weekly at the centre as a result of this provision.

By working closely with the police, the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) provides immediate support when taken along to domestic abuse call-outs. This was a scheme piloted in 2016 and has led to an IDVA being posted to the Police community safety unit on a full time basis, to support practice within the police station.

An IDVA at Croydon University Hospital, working primarily in the emergency department and maternity ward, completes assessments onsite when pregnant women or those in A&E disclose domestic abuse. Advice is therefore accessed sooner as individuals often lose the impetus to report or seek support once they leave the hospital. In addition to this we have 3 IDVA's embedded within Children's Centres in the Borough.

Coordinated action in partnership with statutory agencies and primary care providers has helped to ensure that those affected by domestic abuse but socially isolated can be reached and helped. A flexible approach has meant that support has been offered at GP surgeries and schools where a perpetrator is most likely to allow their victim to go without excessive monitoring. Through the helpline and forums that support professionals, the reach of the Family Justice Centre has extended beyond the building it occupies enabling more people to access support when affected by domestic abuse.

Improve the safety of children and young people

A Youth Crime Prevention Plan has been implemented and is overseen by the Youth Crime Board. This sets out a range of partnership actions to deliver against the following aims:

- Helping young people change their lives to make Croydon a safer place
- To reduce levels of offending and anti-social behaviour by young people
- To disrupt and reduce gang activity
- To disrupt and reduce the number of vulnerable young people involved in "County Lines" drug dealing

- To adopt a “think family” approach building on the strengths of families and reduces risk factors
- To ensure appropriate plans are in place to safeguard young people who may be vulnerable to violence, sexual exploitation, gangs, bullying and domestic abuse
- To tackle the causes of Serious Youth Violence
- To deter Children and Young People from carrying and potentially using or being a victim of knife crime

There are many projects supporting vulnerable young victims and perpetrators of crime. This includes the Safer London Foundation who deliver workshops and engage with young people at risk of sexual exploitation; RASASC have been working in Croydon schools, colleges and PRU'S, delivering workshops around Consent, Sexual Violence, Myths, Gender stereotypes and providing referral information to young people; the gangs multi agency team targeting those at risk and involved in gang related crime; council and voluntary and community sector based youth services as well as the Youth Offending Service (YOS) itself.

Outcomes:

Reduction in the number of young people enter the criminal justice system for the first time

On target. YOS has continued to have a relatively stable number of first time entrant's with a reduction from 221 to 208 young people. In the last 12 months, the YOS and police have diverted 247 young people from prosecution with a 14% re-offending rate for this group.

Reductions in the numbers of young people re-offending

Good progress has been made with the re-offending rate which has, over the last 12 months, reduced from 47% to 43% but this remains a risk area in terms of performance as it is subject to unpredictable changes in performance.

Improved identification and targeting of young people involved in gang activity and are provided opportunities and support to exit gangs

30 young people involved in gang activity have been provided opportunities and support to exit gangs as part of a holistic approach across partner agencies with a focus on identification, diversion and enforcement leading to improved life chances.

To reduce the number of victims of youth crime

The YOS contacted 498 victims in 2015/16, around 80% made contact to seek information, advice and support and engage in a restorative process.

Improved partnership working to protect young people at risk violence, sexual exploitation, gangs, bullying and domestic abuse

The Gangs Manager attends the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Joint Agency Group (JAG) and Missing Persons Panel to ensure intelligence and operational information is being shared appropriately with each of these multi-agency groups.

Active engagement is also in place, to ensure young people are contributing to solutions in regard to crime issues of concern to them.

Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime

The partnership has improved the information and intelligence sharing around repeat ASB incidents, in relation to victims and locations. This has resulted in an increase in enforcement activity and a reduction of nearly 20% in the number of ASB reports.

- Around 1,000 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued each year for the last two years;
- Prosecuted over 150 people as part of the Don't Mess With Croydon campaign (launched 2014)

- Carried out over 2,000 Duty of Care visits on shops across the borough to ensure they are disposing of trade waste correctly
- Around 200 Croydon residents have volunteered to become Community Champions and have removed tonnes of waste from problem areas over the last two years during the 100 community events that have taken place
- The council successfully applied for a three-year injunction to give police enforcement powers over the racing, known as the Croydon Cruise that took place on a weekly basis in Imperial Way. All persons were forbidden from participating in a Car Cruise within the area. In addition, speed humps were installed at the location. The combination of the two interventions has effectively stopped this from taking place, having been a persistent issue at this location for many years.

Improve public confidence and community engagement

The new policing model has seen a total restructure of the way police operate at neighbourhood level, improving its response to local issues and the way that it engages with the community. The borough is currently performing well in terms of treating everyone fairly; however, improvements should be focussed toward raising awareness of the local policing team function, as well as methods of contacting the local policing team.

The SCP has continued to publicise its work and engage with the public to get their perceptions on crime and ASB in the borough. However, we continue to experience negative perceptions in relation to crime and ASB. The most recent surveys are summarised later in the strategy.

A Safer Croydon Communications plan was delivered – ‘Taking Pride in Croydon’ with the following aims:

1. Increase awareness of the work being done to combat crime, based on the 10-point plan. The aim? To challenge perceptions and align people’s thinking with the reality that Croydon is a safe place to live, work and visit.
2. Engage with communities on a targeted localised basis with messages that will inform, help them feel safer and promote civic pride.
3. Build stronger relationships with local press and media organisations.

In addition, specific communications plans have been developed to focus on knife crime, hate crime and DASV, which has delivered a number, campaigns including White Ribbon borough accreditation and focused communications on coercion and control and messages for friends and family on how they can identify and support victims.

Other issues

- SCP has continued to improve its multi-agency approach to the reduction of offending by tackling prolific and priority offenders and identified gang members, incorporating a risk based case management process.
- Safety and security on the transport network remains a strategic priority for the borough with a number of partnership projects underway including Operation Safeway, which is a high profile tactic of engaging with drivers at the most vulnerable junctions, providing education and enforcement where appropriate. The Council and Police Safer Transport Team have also worked in partnership to utilise the various speed detection devices at key locations around the Borough. In addition Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) work together to run Community Roadwatch - a road safety initiative that aims to reduce speeding in residential areas. If local residents want to take part they can contact their local MPS Safer Transport team, which can be located through the Met Police website.
- Body worn cameras initiative piloted by Croydon police, now being rolled out to all other London Boroughs is proving to be an extremely effective tool in prevention and detection of crime.

Strategic Assessment 2016

The Strategic Assessment interprets and presents the summary findings of an intelligence analysis of data provided by the police, the council and partner agencies. The product identifies current and possible future issues from sound evidence and robust analysis. Its purpose is to help inform the SCP's work programme for the coming year and beyond.

The partnership takes a problem solving approach by analysing data from a combined victim, offender and location perspective.

The diagram below demonstrates problem solving crime prevention theory at its simplest. By addressing or removing one of the three components the chances of a crime occurring are reduced or removed altogether.

Using this approach helps the SCP to:

- Both target and work with offenders and potential offenders to stop and divert them from committing crime
- Provide support, advice and protection to victims, repeat victims and potential victims of crime
- Identify problem locations and reduce the opportunities for crime to occur.



Police Recorded Crime Summary

Table 3 below shows the volume variance and percentage change for the main crime types committed, when comparing the financial 2015/16 year with the previous strategic assessment produced in 2012/13 financial year.

There were 16,809 offences recorded in the financial year 2015/16; 744 offences less than in the financial year 2012/13 a 4% reduction.

Crime type	2012/13	2015/16	Vol. variance	% change
Assault with injury (non DV)	1084	996	-88	-8%
Violence with injury	2739	3389	+650	+24%
Serious youth violence	318	286	-32	-10%
Common assault	1556	2486	+930	+60%
Gun crime	115	67	-48	-42%
Knife crime	607	389	-218	-36%
Domestic violence	2432	3737	+1305	+54%
Racist and religious crime	314	515	+201	+64%
Residential burglary	2909	1687	-1231	-42%
Theft of motor vehicle	921	694	-227	-25%
Theft from motor vehicle	2681	1996	+685	-26%
Personal robbery	1877	567	-1310	+70%
Total	17553	16809	-744	4%



To reflect the current position and provide a complete picture the latest crime figures to 20th March 2017 are provided below.

Table 4 Recorded Crime

Crime category	Offences previous rolling 12 months	Offences current rolling 12 months	Offences % change
TNO	28998	30675	5.8%
Burglary dwelling	1730	1826	5.5%
Criminal damage	3122	3296	5.6%
Robbery - person property	646	1207	86.8%
Robbery - mobile phone	273	519	90.1%
Theft from motor vehicle	1993	1977	-0.8%
Theft of motor vehicle	905	1097	21.2%
Theft person	529	582	10.0%
Theft – mobile phone	330	298	-9.7%
Violence with injury domestic abuse	1234	1311	6.2%
Violence with injury non domestic abuse	2173	2330	7.2%
non domestic abuse	2173	2330	7.2%
Sexual offences - rape	304	335	10.2%
Sexual offences - other	435	483	11.0%
Gun crime	80	105	31.3%
Lethal-barreled gun discharge	8	7	-12.5%
Knife crime	338	658	94.7%
Knife crime victims (U25 non DA)	61	100	63.9%

Key Findings

Offence profile

- All violent crimes have seen increases in the last year.
- Racist and religious hate crime has seen an increase
- Gun crime and knife crime saw reductions up until 15/16 but have then seen large increases in the last year.
- Residential burglary, and personal robbery have seen a marked reductions up until 15/16 with a small increase in 16/17
- Theft of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle have both seen reductions up to 15/16 with increases in 16/17.
- Robbery saw a 70% reduction between 12/13 and 15/16 but has then seen a large increase in 2016/17
- Domestic abuse continues to see an upward trend across London. In the rolling year to December 2016 there were 3800 domestic abuse offences recorded. Croydon is ranked 7th highest for domestic abuse, with 21 incidents per 1,000 population in the rolling year to December 2016
- Fly tipping has also increased and is a concern for the public; however this may be a consequence of our successful 'Don't Mess With Croydon Campaign resulting in more people being aware of the problem
- The current trend shows that anti-social behaviour has dropped significantly over the last few years but has seen a small increase in the last year

Victims

- There were 10,698 victims of crime in Croydon. Of those victims, there were slightly more females than males
- The peak age range for victims are aged 20 to 24, the most vulnerable age group are aged 15 to 34.

Offenders

- There were 2783 offenders of those there were more male offenders than female
- The offenders most likely to commit offences of violence are aged 15 to 29. Offenders aged 15 to 19 are most likely to commit knife crime offences.
- Offenders most likely to commit offences of violence are aged 15 to 29

Locations

- Croydon town centre is the key crime hot spot together with the northern wards, primarily due to their large population and transport links.

Time and day

- Across the week the peak time for all offences is from 3pm to 7pm and 8pm to 1am, and the peak days for crime are Sunday and Saturday

Road Safety

Since 2000, there has been a general long term downward trend in collision

and casualty rates for all road users. Casualty data for 2016 is not currently available and are unlikely to be finalised for use by Local Authorities until around April 2017. As such, 2015 is the latest full year for which data is available at time of writing.

The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions in Croydon during 2015 is at an all-time low, having dropped from the previous record low of 71 in 2014, to 65 in 2015. The three year rolling average has fallen to 69.0, and is below the target figure of 87.8 for the year 2020.

The Metropolitan Police service and Croydon Council are committed to reducing the number of road traffic collisions and subsequent casualties and will continue to work together to address issues of speeding and provide physical solutions or enforcement action where there are high numbers of recorded collisions, complaints or high degrees of non-compliance. We will also work in partnership to explore opportunities to reduce the illegal use of mobile phones, distracted and inattentive driving and drink and drugged driving.

Public Engagement summary

The Safer Croydon Partnership undertook two separate engagement exercises in 2016 to gauge views on crime and safety. This included the annual crime survey as well as a crime quiz to test people's assumptions on how much crime actually takes place in the Borough.

The findings are drawn from an on-line survey, which started on 19 September and ended 20th November 2016. There was a sample size of 567 respondents but only people over 18 years were questioned. Respondents were also self-selecting in that they chose to complete the questionnaire, which means it cannot be representative of all views. However, they do provide a helpful steer on local opinions.

- The previous survey (2013) had 581 respondents, the top 5 crimes of most concern at that time were:
 - violent crime
 - anti-social behaviour
 - youth crime
 - robbery
 - burglary
- In this survey the top 5 crimes of most concern are:
 - anti-social behaviour
 - burglary
 - fly-tipping
 - people dealing or using drugs
 - violent crime.
- In the previous survey, 386 respondents thought anti-social behaviour in Croydon town centre is a problem; this time 104 neither agreed nor disagreed, 377 agreed anti-social behaviour in Croydon town centre is a problem and 46 did not answer the question.

- In the previous survey 359 respondents, thought crime in Croydon town centre is a problem; this time 161 neither agreed nor disagreed, 323 agreed crime in Croydon town centre is a problem, and 58 did not answer the question.
- In the previous survey, 107 respondents thought Croydon town centre is a safe place for people; this time 165 agreed crime in Croydon town centre is a safe place for people to visit.
- In the previous survey 388 respondents thought the number of police patrols including Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers (NEO's) had increased or not changed in the last 12 months; this time 150 neither agreed nor disagreed, 230 agreed the number of patrols had increased or not changed and 43 did not answer the question.
- Respondents living in Croydon were asked if crime in their local area has increased or decreased in the last year. This question was not asked in the previous survey. 58 did not answer the question, 63 did not live in Croydon, 41 said it had decreased and 255 said it had increased, with 147 respondents saying it had stayed the same.
- In the previous survey, respondents identified the following top 5 crimes in their local area as a problem: graffiti, abandoned vehicles, vehicle related nuisance, noise nuisance and nuisance behaviour. In this survey, fly tipping, burglary, drugs (dealing and using) street drinking and theft were identified as the top 5 local crimes.
- In the previous survey the top 5 comments identified the following issues as a concern:
 - more police patrols
 - praise for the police, council and SCP
 - fear of crime
 - lack of police resources
 - fly tipping.

- In this survey the top 5 comments identified the following issues as a concern:
 - more visible policing in the borough, especially in the Town Centre at night
 - more CCTV coverage for the borough
 - tougher sanctions on fly tipping, littering and spitting
 - more wardens patrolling housing estates
 - tackling ASB in local neighbourhoods.

The SCP note that although crime and anti-social behaviour are reducing, the fear of crime remains a concern for residents; the findings from the 2016 Crime Quiz below evidence the perception of crime is far greater than the reality.

2016 Croydon Crime Quiz findings

A quiz was developed to test people's perceptions of crime and ASB in the Borough. A total of 423 replies were received. Overall, all of the respondents thought levels of crime and ASB in Croydon are much higher than they actually are. Of particular interest:

We asked respondents to think about the number of specific crimes e.g. burglary, robbery, vehicle theft, that take place on average each day in Croydon. The majority of respondents thought the figure was far higher than it actually is.

We asked respondents to think about how many young people (10 to 17) came to the attention of the youth offending service during 2014/15. All of the 353 respondents overestimated the figure. This would indicate public perception of young people and their involvement in crime and ASB is extremely negative.

We asked respondents to rank Croydon compared with other London boroughs, again the majority thought Croydon's crime rate was much higher than it actually is.

Conclusions

Given the wide range of data sets that have been used, the views of the public and the impact of crime on individuals and local communities this matrix has been specifically designed to assist with the decision-making process to identify the strategic objectives for the new 2017/2020 Community Safety Strategy.

The matrix assesses each crime and anti-social behaviour type under 8 different categories as follows:

Volume variance and percentage change for the main crime types

Categories	Definition
Volume	Total number of incidents for the period
Individual impact	The potential vulnerability of and risk and harm to individuals
Community Impact	The potential risk and harm to communities/ groups
Environmental impact	The potential risk and harm to public places, retail and residential areas
Public confidence	Whether the public perceived the council and police to be dealing with the things that matter to them, high public confidence in the police and council would have a level of 0 (very low) or 1 (low)
Agency lead	The agency leading
Partnership Capacity	Current level of resources available to tackle the problem
Financial	Having sufficient financial resources in order to be able to operate efficiently and sufficiently well to tackle and reduce crime and ASB

Level of impact	Level of risk
5	Very high risk
4	High risk
3	Medium risk
2	Low risk
1	Very low risk

Levels 1, 2 and 3

Ordinary risk or low/medium risk of harm, sufficient resources and capacity available to tackle the issue/crime.

Levels 4 and 5

Increased potential risk of harm, high or very high risk of harm to individuals and places needing active involvement of more than one agency, low public confidence and potential for negative media reporting.

Table 7. Crime Matrix

Based on all the data gathered for the 2016 Community Safety Strategic Assessment, feedback from public consultation, and input from all partner agencies the SCP's strategic priorities for 2017-2020 are:

- **Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic abuse**
- **Improve the safety of children and young people**
- **Improve public confidence and community engagement**
- **Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime**
- **Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime; focus on hate crime**

In addition the SCP will prioritise child sexual exploitation, violence against women and girls, knife crime and gun crime. MOPAC has set out these priorities to ensure the police and local partners are focused properly on these most serious and harmful offences against vulnerable people across London.

Crime Matrix

Impact categories	Volume	Individual Impact	Community Impact	Environmental Impact	Public Confidence	Total	Safer Croydon Partnership Priority	Police and Crime Plan Priority	Total	Grand total
Crime										
Violence crime	Level of impact									
Assault with injury (non DV)	4	4	4	3	5	20	3	3	6	26
Violence with injury	3	5	4	2	5	19	5	4	9	28
Serious youth violence	5	5	5	2	5	22	5	5	10	32
Gun crime	3	5	5	3	5	21	3	3	6	27
Knife crime	4	5	5	3	5	22	5	5	10	32
Domestic violence	5	5	3	2	5	20	5	5	10	30
Common Assault	5	3	4	3	5	20	3	3	6	26
racist & religious crime	3	5	3	2	5	18	4	4	8	26
Total impact categories level	32	37	33	20	40		33	32		
Acquisitive crime										
Residential burglary	4	3	4	2	5	18	2	3	5	23
Theft of motor vehicle	3	3	2	1	3	12	2	3	5	17
Theft from motor vehicle	2	3	2	1	3	11	2	3	4	16
Personal robbery	5	5	5	2	5	22	5	5	10	32
Total impact categories level	14	14	13	6	16		11	14		
Anti-social behaviour										
Reported to the police										
Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour	5	5	5	4	5	24	4	3	7	31
Begging vagrancy	4	3	5	5	3	20	4	2	6	26
Street drinking	3	3	4	3	4	17	4	2	6	23
Vehicle nuisance inappropriate use	4	3	5	5	2	19	5	5	10	29
Littering/drugs paraphernalia	2	2	4	5	3	16	4	2	6	22
Animal problems	2	3	2	2	3	12	1	1	2	14
Prostitution	2	2	2	2	3	11	1	1	2	13
Total impact categories level	22	21	27	26	23		23	16		
Reported to the council										
Fly tipping	5	4	5	5	5	24	5	1	6	30
Harassment/abuse/assault	3	3	3	3	3	15	5	3	8	23
Noise						0	2	1	3	3
Graffiti	5	5	5	5	5	25	4	1	5	30
Total impact categories level	13	12	13	13	13		16	6		

Delivery Framework

The current delivery structure is set out below although this will be kept under review to ensure that it is fit for purpose and delivering successfully against the partnerships priorities:

THE SAFER CROYDON PARTNERSHIP BOARD (SCPB)

The Safer Croydon Partnership Board meets five times a year and is responsible for all community safety matters across the borough. This group provides strategic leadership and makes decisions regarding resources, performance management and future developments. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety is the Chair of the Board. The key responsible authorities include council, police, health, probation, and fire. Members of partner agencies are at a level senior enough to ensure decisions are made and resources are deployed. In addition, the Safer Croydon Board has representation from the voluntary sector as well as local residents.

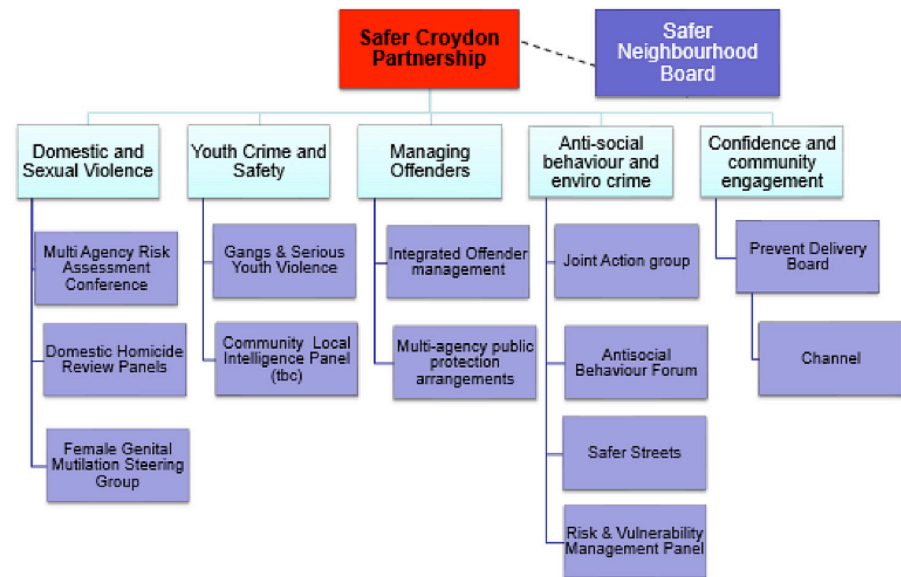
Youth Crime and Safety Board

The Youth Crime and Safety Board has a dual role in acting as the statutory governance board for the Youth Offending Service as well as the strategic board overseeing the delivery of the Youth Crime prevention Plan requires a partnership approach to ensure preventative measures are put into place across all partner agencies. It includes key statutory partners with a number of different council teams involved as well as representation from the voluntary and community sector.

Joint Action Group (JAG)

The JAG is a multi-agency problem solving group tackling anti-social behaviour. Member agencies include, Police Neighbourhood Cluster Inspectors, Youth Offending Services, Youth Outreach, Substance Misuse Outreach Services (for individuals displaying anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol and/or drugs) Croydon Connected (multi-agency gang team) Noise Team, Council and Police ASB Team, Safer Transport Teams, Fire Service, UK Border Agency and Neighbourhood Watch.

Each problem location identified is dealt with by a dedicated team responsible for pulling together short term action plans based on problem solving techniques. These are monitored by the JAG and the Police Borough Tasking Group. On-going hot spot areas, for example the Town Centre, remain as core agenda items.



Integrated Offender Management Group

A multi-agency response to reduce re-offending; by targeting the top 40 most problematic offenders the IOM framework helps to address the problems behind an offender's behaviour by effective information sharing across a range of partner agencies and jointly providing the right intervention at the right time.

Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Group

Oversee the delivery of the Croydon Connected Gangs Strategy. This group has a weekly case management meeting and a stakeholder forum reporting into it.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASV)

This group exists to have a strategic oversight of multi-agency responses to domestic abuse within Croydon, working in partnership to provide scrutiny to progress on the delivery of the DASV strategy and ensure the multi-agency management of domestic abuse is victim focused, efficient and effective.

The group brings together managers from key agencies and services whose remit has a direct impact on the domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy. Members are committed to effective partnership working based on trust and open communication and are aware of and understand the organisational frameworks within which colleagues in different agencies work.

Town Centre Group

This has been established to develop both strategic and operational plans to tackle crime and ASB in the town centre, working closely with local businesses, schools colleges as well as pubs and clubs.

Children's Safeguarding Board (CSCB)

The CSCB is responsible for scrutinising safeguarding arrangements across the borough. The CSCB is an independent body and challenges and holds to account the organisations working with children and young people in Croydon. The Children and Families Partnership and the CSCB work together to ensure that children and young people in Croydon

are safe. Further information about the CSCB is available at <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/childproctsafe/cscb/infocscboard>

Adults Safeguarding Board

The Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB) following the Care Act is now a statutory body with the following functions:

- Assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act
- Prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- Provide a timely and proportionate response when abuse or neglect has occurred.
- The SAB must take the lead for adult safeguarding across its locality and oversee and co-ordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies. It must also concern itself with a range of matters which can contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect such as the:
 - Safety of patients in local health services
 - Quality of local care and support services
 - Effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding offenders

It fully supports such priorities as Hate Crime & Domestic Abuse and is a part of the Cross cutting domestic abuse group. Other areas of importance to the Board include Prevent

Local Strategic Partnership

The Safer Croydon Partnership reports in to the LSP as the overarching partnership for the Borough. The LSP and its sub-groups is currently under review at the time of writing this strategy so it is likely that there will changes to the existing governance arrangements once this is completed.

Case Management

There are also many other case management forums that link into the partnership agenda including MARAC, MAPPA, MASE, Channel Panel, ASB Forum, Channel Panel, IOM panel and Gangs panel that look at specific individuals and put in place plans to reduce offending or victimisation/vulnerability.

Priority 1: Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon with a focus on violent crime and domestic and sexual violence

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV)

Our approach to tackling DASV involves a combination of partnership approaches that include mobilising the professional and community network, building capacity and capability, shared leadership perspective that drives forward the strategic partnership priorities as well as a client facing service delivered from the specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence service, the Family Justice Centre.

At the Family Justice Centre, victims receive a multi-agency assessment of their needs to avoid the frustrating process of repeating their story to get the help they need from multiple agencies. The centre is open to the public five days a week which allows access to support from services victims might otherwise be reluctant to approach or find challenging to engage with. This is achieved through a multi-disciplinary approach delivered by Independent Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Advocates (IDVAs), drugs and alcohol worker, housing officer, legal advisors, specialist domestic abuse social worker, health professionals, the police as well as tapping in to information systems from probation and children's social care to ensure victims/ survivors receive rapid and holistic responses.

Rape Crisis South London (RASASC) offer a confidential service to female survivors who have experienced sexual violence, at any time in their lives, from age 5 upwards in an anonymous building close to the centre of Croydon. The office is open week days from 10am to 6pm and for appointments up to 9pm, offering a holistic service which includes long term specialist therapy to facilitate recovery, the Rape Crisis Sexual Violence Helpline open every day of the year, Independent Sexual Violence Advocates who provide information about reporting to the police and support survivors who have reported through the process to the trial itself. Outreach Service working with female survivors involved in sex work, homeless women and ex-offenders, Prevention Training about sexual violence, consent, gender and myths to professionals & workshops in schools and colleges, free therapeutic massages for clients and female self defence training.

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE - KEY ACTIONS

Set up a Volunteer Coordinator programme to train community members to act as an extension to the professional network and these volunteers to act as community connectors, supporting those who had experienced abuse and have roots within their community
Increase MARAC referrals and reduce numbers of repeats offences
Deliver multi-agency training in DASV
Actively participate in FGM champions network
Ensure the voice of the victim is reflected in assessments and plans.
Ensure the voice of children and young people impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence is heard and that subsequent plans reflect their views.
Regularly consult with service users to inform practice
Build upon the launch of the local authority's domestic abuse and sexual violence HR policy by integrating information on DASV in the induction process, establishing work based ambassadors and supporting other organisations to do the same
Sign up Croydon schools to have DASV as an integral part of their safeguarding responsibility
Establish leadership for domestic abuse and sexual violence within GPs to enable early identification of need and effective referral to support
Utilise existing structures MASH, MARAC and MAPPA to disrupt perpetrators and manage high risk cases
Increase the use of injunctive and bail measures including DVPOs and establish a mechanism for measuring effectiveness.

Priority 1 continued...

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE - KEY ACTIONS

Work on capacity and capability of courts to ensure positive outcomes and experiences for victims i.e. family court, DV court, family drug and alcohol courts

Maintain specialist services for DASV ensuring professionals are well trained and have specialist knowledge and skills to be working with victims and perpetrators of DASV

Establish a referral process for sexual violence survivors to receive specialist ISVA support from reporting through to and including a Crown Court trial

Upskill Croydon professionals to identify sexual violence and supporting survivors of sexual violence through specialist training and workshops

Establish streamlined referral pathways for survivors of sexual violence to specialist organisations to help recovery

Establish streamlined referral pathways for survivors of sexual violence to specialist organisations to help recovery

Priority 1 continued...

Violent Crime (non-domestic abuse)

A violent crime is a crime where the offender uses, or threatens to use, violent force upon the victim. The police record violent crime as either 'violence against the person', 'most serious violence' or 'serious youth violence'.

Violent crime is a key concern with 4 of the top 5 crimes identified in the Strategic Assessment, linked to violence.

VIOLENT CRIME - KEY ACTIONS

Reduce the harm caused by gang activity through the multi-agency gangs team

Maintain a visible police and partner presence in hotspots to provide reassurance, improve confidence and reduce offences

Undertake a review of the Council's Licensing Policy to take into account the growth and regeneration of the town centre and the desire to put on my events and continue to ensure that licensed premises operate safely

Establish Working group on use of offensive weapons to provide recommendations to schools

Deliver Gangs awareness training to relevant partner agencies

Engage 100% of young people involved in gangs in 1:1 interventions so that they:

- are referred into needs-led Education, Training and Employment (ETE) provision
- are referred into diversionary activities
- are referred into relevant mainstream services including drug/ alcohol, Social Care, CAMHS/Adult Services, Housing, Functional Family Therapy and Troubled Families

Establish structures to ensure joint agency response to targeting of prolific gang and robbery offenders with appropriate civil enforcement interventions

Ensure all young people charged for knife crime receive a weapons awareness programme

Increase work to identify vulnerable people being drawn into county lines – which is the setting up of drug markets across the south of England by London drug dealers

Targeted, intelligence based use of Stop & Search to tackle knife possession

Priority 1 continued...

Reduce re-offending

A high volume of crime is committed by offenders described as ‘prolific or priority offenders’. Providing appropriate monitoring and supervision, and working together with offenders to tackle drug and alcohol abuse, improving their basic skills, tackling their offending behaviour and improving the chances of them getting a job has proven to help break the cycle of offending.

REDUCING RE-OFFENDING – KEY ACTIONS

Manage the small amount of offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of crime. To reduce the numbers of prolific offenders re-offending after 12 months.

Improve the interventions we have in place against the seven pathways of reoffending:

Improve the interventions we have in place against the seven pathways of reoffending:

1. Accommodation
2. Education, training and employment
3. Health
4. Drugs and alcohol misuse
5. Finance, benefit and debt
6. Children and families
7. Attitudes, thinking and behaviour

Tackle the social exclusion of offenders and their families by providing additional support and guidance through mentors.

Establish structures to ensure joint agency response to targeting of prolific offenders with appropriate civil enforcement interventions

Continued work by the Jigsaw team in managing Violent and Sexual Offender Register (VISOR) nominals to prevent re-offending and ensure use of sanctions for non-compliance

Priority 2: Safety of children and young people

Priorities for improving the safety of children and young people include:

- Early intervention and prevention.
- Reducing re-offending
- To reduce levels of offending by young people in particular knife crime
- To disrupt and reduce gang activity
- To ensure young people are safe as possible from violence, sexual exploitation, gangs, bullying and domestic abuse

There are a number of related priorities running through the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board Business plan that link to the community safety strategy priorities. These include CSE, DASV, harmful sexual behaviour, radicalisation, gangs, knife crime and female genital mutilation. The community safety strategy presents high level priorities and actions so these will be underpinned by more detailed plans that will be developed with the relevant partnerships.

The Youth Engagement team respond to community, council or police led hotspot issues around youth crime, ASB and violence to signpost young people to the correct support structures and Early Help council offer.

The Youth Engagement Team mobile vehicle is a community reassurance tool for young people and their families to safely access council staff and the wider community, voluntary and faith sector youth providers. The team particularly focus their work around the Town Centre and other community locations where children and young people gather. The Youth Locality Networks are community based and develop specific locality responses to issues passed through the JAG or police neighbourhood meetings relating to children and young people, those interventions are responsive and flexible to meet the needs of communities.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – KEY ACTIONS

Deliver YOS Triage/Out of Court Disposals programme to identify young people suitable for diversion from the criminal justice system and reduce the number of first time entrants.

Joint agency approach to ensure that when young people are sentenced to custody there is a resettlement plan in place when released from custody.

Safer Schools Partnerships to establish up to 21 Safer Schools Partnerships in Croydon to ensure more targeted support for those schools requiring closer police involvement.

Produce 3 specialist resources (knife, gangs, and town centre) for use in schools and youth provision across Croydon. This will be aimed at all pupils in secondary schools. The resource will allow for two 45 minute workshops that will fit in to schools timetables. This will include safety messages for young people in the town centre, which has seen several knife crime incidents recently.

Deliver 100 workshops over the space of a year, to approximately 2000-3000 pupils.

To contact all identified young victims of crime referred to the YOS to offer them relevant support as well as the opportunity to engage in direct or indirect restorative interventions

To obtain feedback from victims who we have made contact with in relation to the service they have received

Improved interrogation of digital and social media to identify the risks children are exposed to and who they may be at risk from

Seek to maximise intelligence being captured on police systems officers re CSE and safeguarding to ensure appropriate tasking

Priority 2 continued...

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – KEY ACTIONS

Continued improvement in sharing of multi-agency information, making greater use of MASH triaging and enhancing multi agency decision making at an early stage

To ensure a continued multi agency focus on child sexual exploitation to raise awareness of the issue, identify and provide support to victims and enforcement of perpetrators including increased use of Child Abduction Warning Notices and targeting of CSE perpetrators for other criminality

Continued partnership work re missing children to establish push / pull factors and develop trigger plans accordingly
Improve information capture during debriefing of missing children

Street-Based service to engage young people at risk of getting involved in crime and ASB, with a particular focus on the town centre

To reduce the numbers of young people re-offending after 12 months.

Ensure joint agency response to young people involved in gangs and robberies and the use of appropriate civil enforcement interventions

To ensure that there is a co-ordinated and safeguarding focus within schools, police and Council to “County lines” drug dealing in order to identify children at risk and ensure a comprehensive safeguarding and risk management response

Increase the proportion of young people under YOS supervision participating in education, training or employment and living suitable accommodation

Priority 3: Improving public confidence and community engagement

Increasing awareness of the role and work undertaken by the police and council in tackling crime and ASB is perceived to be key to improving public confidence. This is particularly important with respect to Neighbourhood Policing and understanding the role of the local council. The key is to provide local communities with information to improve their understanding of what is being done locally to respond to their crime and ASB concerns. Recorded crime data is after all, affected by the public's confidence and enthusiasm to report crime.

TO BUILD TRUST AND CONFIDENCE – KEY ACTIONS

Increase awareness of the work being done to combat crime and to challenge perceptions and align people's thinking with the reality that Croydon is a safe place to live, work and visit through a sustained communications plan.

Develop a campaign focussed on knife crime to raise awareness of the issue for both young people and parents and professionals

Engage with communities and explore closer working with enforcement partners on a targeted localised basis to increase visibility, improve relationships and develop messages that will inform, help them feel safer and promote civic pride.

Build stronger relationships with local press and media organisations and be proactive in releasing positive news stories

Develop targeted communications for under reported crimes, such as hate crime, DASV, CSE etc. to encourage victims to come forward and get support

Work with the Safer Neighbourhood Board on monitoring police performance and confidence, to oversee the use of stop and search and to support them to effectively engage with young people and develop structure and processes that allow young people to participate meaningfully

Develop a communications plan to systematically engage all Croydon practitioners and the wider public on the DASV agenda

Continue to promote civic pride through the clean and green street champion scheme and increase the number of champions and community projects they are involved in.

Priority 3 continued...

TO BUILD TRUST AND CONFIDENCE – KEY ACTIONS

Work in partnership with the community to monitor road deaths and identify ways to reduce them through schemes as Operation Safeway, Community Roadwatch, use of speed display signs and ANPR systems as well as physical traffic calming measures and targeted enforcement.

Work in partnership with the GLA to develop and deliver Vision Zero for London, a new approach to reducing road danger, setting a greater level of ambition for reducing death and serious injury on our roads.

Work with Neighbourhood Watch to increase the number of watches and explore new ways that they can support their members

Continue to build trust and confidence through a programme of community events, engagement activities and by supporting community networks and relations.

Build relationships with communities using their local asset-base to set up new activities to promote their area, creating opportunities within these relationships to understand how communities prevent crime and support victims

Priority 4: Anti-social behaviour and environmental crime

These include those ‘quality of life’ measures that go a long way to indicate if an area looks and feels safe. Anti-social behaviour causes significant harm to individuals and communities; it can increase the fear of crime and impact on the quality of life for those affected. It also costs individuals, businesses and communities’ money through higher insurance and security costs and fewer local amenities due to the high cost of graffiti removal and repairing damage caused by vandalism.

Key issues include:

- Drug and Alcohol related antisocial behaviour and crime
- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
- Street drinking and begging
- Vehicle nuisance
- Fly tipping
- Arson

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – KEY ACTIONS

London Fire Brigade to continue to work in partnership to deliver Crossfire programme in schools, Fire Cadets and Home Fire Safety Visits

Work in partnership to tackle the specific issues caused in the Town Centre and, in particular, the issues that can be caused by the large numbers of young people congregating after school

Work in partnership with BIDs, businesses and the community to identify and address issues in our district centres across the borough.

Review all of the current public space legislation including four Drinking Ban Zones, Dog Control Orders in all parks and open spaces and 1 x Gating Order in preparation for the new Public Space Protection Orders.

Continue to deliver Don’t Mess with Croydon – Take Pride campaign to raise awareness of a range of environmental issues and to get people to take more responsibility for their local area through enforcement, encouragement and education

Continue to increase enforcement of environmental offences through Fixed Penalty Notices, Prosecutions and the seizure of vehicles.

Improve the look and feel of our high streets through the roll out of time banded waste collection in 19 locations

Priority 4 continued...

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – KEY ACTIONS

Focus on vehicle nuisance and in particular moped related theft and anti-social behaviour

Deliver the Safer Streets programme to target street drinking through providing access to support and treatment and in enforcement of individuals where appropriate.

Ensure the full range of powers are used to prevent ASB and funding including the use of civil orders such as Criminal Behaviour Orders and Injunctions and Community Protection Notices

Priority 5: Improve support and reduce vulnerability for all victims of crime; focus on hate crime

Some communities are at higher risk of becoming victims of crime, or of being exploited by others to commit criminal acts. According to the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime's (MOPAC's) Vulnerable Localities Profile, the top 10 per cent of wards (63) are disproportionately impacted compared to other parts of London. On average, over 3 times more victims of burglary, robbery, sexual offences live in these top 10 per cent compared to the least vulnerable.

Unfortunately, hate crime is a daily problem for some people who are victimised by a small minority because of who they are. There is no place for hatred and intolerance in our communities. Hate crime is not only distressing for those who experience it, but it makes victims of whole communities. The best way to reduce hate crime is to encourage greater social integration, bringing communities together and celebrating their contribution to society. Hate crimes are still underreported so we must also do all that we can to give communities confidence to report issues and make it as easy and supportive as we can to enable them to do so.

At the furthest extreme of hatred and intolerance is terrorism. Radical groups of all backgrounds continue to target our communities in their efforts to radicalise others. The first line of defence against radicalisation is strong, integrated communities. Safeguarding has always been central to counter-radicalisation strategies such as in the Government's national Prevent programme and it is vital that partners and our communities work together to identify people at risk.

TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CRIME – KEY ACTIONS

Croydon Voluntary Action to set up and support a community-led activity base that brings people affected by hate crime together, allowing them to decide how to define their vision of safety and ways of supporting both fellow victims and people at risk of hate crime

Engage local stakeholders - including businesses, schools, GPs, pharmacies, faith-based organisations and charities, as well as the Police – in developing the activity base and building around it an action plan to tackle hate crime

To contact and engage all identified victims of crime by the children and young people referred to the YOS to inform them about sentencing outcomes/OOC disposals, offer them relevant support as well as the opportunity to engage in direct or indirect restorative interventions
To obtain feedback from victims who we have made contact with in relation to the service they have received

Deliver a pilot in collaboration with MOPAC to test a new, whole-school approach to protecting children and young people, providing information and support on safety to teachers and pupils from Year 6 onwards and making personal safety part of everyday learning

Educate, inform and challenge young people about healthy relationships, abuse and consent including engaging men and boys in challenging DASV

Priority 5 continued...

TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CRIME – KEY ACTIONS

Victim Support to work with up to 800 children and young people who have been victims of crime and/or bullying by offering advice, practical and emotional support and information through either individual casework or school and community-based engagement initiatives.

Deliver the Empower project to support victims at risk of child sexual exploitation. Support up to 20 young women on a 1 to 1 basis and deliver 4 x10 week group work programmes, (2 young women and 2 young men) in schools discussing areas such as sex and the law, consent, gender, sexuality, media and stereotypes, peer pressure and conflict negotiation.

Continue to work with Croydon Community Against Trafficking to identify locations where traffickers operate and to support victims. Ensure trafficking is linked to work around County Lines

Continue to raise the profile of Prevent and Channel including the delivery of Operation Dovetail and the delivery of training to front line professionals

Violence Reduction Network

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2019

Delivering for Croydon

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Executive Summary

This report provides analysis on crime and ASB in the borough, specifically violence. The data analysed is for the calendar year 2019 and it should be noted that recent impacts of Covid-19 are not included in the main data set.

Croydon has seen crime rise year-on-year in the last three years with violence representing the largest proportion of all crime in the borough at almost 30%. Violence has reflected this year-on-year increase with a 7% increase in 2019 compared to 2018 and a 12% increase in 2019 compared to two years before. It has been the second highest borough in London for the number of violent offences in the last three years. This report looks at the specific crime types which make up violence and recommend what can be done to reduce these specific crimes and, therefore, overall violence.

The types of analysis conducted in this report include statistical analysis, hotspot analysis, temporal analysis and suspect and victim analysis to name a few. Other types of analysis are also conducted and proposed to be fully implemented into the intelligence process. All of these types of analysis are done to identify patterns and trends to provide strategic direction for the Safer Croydon Partnership in reducing crime, particularly violence, in the borough.

The key findings of this report are the following:

- **The increase in all violence in the borough is significantly due to an increase in violence without injury:** it can be assumed that an increase in violence in the borough means there is an increase in people receiving serious physical harm. However, for the last three years around 60% of all violence is categorised as violence without injury. The increase in overall violence in the borough is significantly due to the rise in violence without injury offences.
- **Domestic abuse is a main factor towards the increase in all violence in the borough:** a third of all violence in the borough is domestic abuse and it has seen a similar year-on-year increase to overall violence. In terms of volume of offences, Croydon is ranked first in the past three years for domestic abuse and even if calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents (where Croydon has the second highest household population in London), the borough is ranked seventh, which is still relatively high.
- **There is a high volume of non-domestic violence with injury offences:** Though the increase in the past year has been relatively small, the volume of offences is high compared to other boroughs with Croydon being ranked the third highest in London. The temporal and victim and suspect analysis shows the increase is strongly linked to both youth violence and alcohol-related violence.
- **The involvement of young females in violence:** violence remains to predominantly involve males but the data shows that a significant proportion of female victims and suspects involve those of a younger age. For non-domestic violence with injury (VWI), over a quarter of all female suspects were aged 10-17 and over a fifth of all victims were in the same age category – the largest proportion of all female victims and suspects. Also, even though victims of youth violence are predominantly overrepresented by males, victims aged 14 and 19 years old were overrepresented by females. All those aged 1 to 19 years old treated by the London Ambulance Service also show females were overrepresented of those aged 15 and 16 years old. A significant proportion of victims and suspects involved in youth violence also pose an emerging problem.
- **There are common hotspots of all crime, particularly violence:** Croydon town centre is the primary hotspot for most crime and, specifically, all violent crime types. There are other common hotspots too including Thornton Heath High Street, South Norwood High Street, Purley High Street and parts of London Road.
- **Other types of violence-related data reveals other hotspots:** police crime data is primarily used to identify hotspots of violence. However the use of other types of data, specifically LAS, A & E and weapon sweeps data, reveals other hotspots not initially identified.
- **Youth violence continues to be a factor towards all violence in the borough:** this includes both youth violence and serious youth violence. Even though both types have seen a year-on-year decrease, the borough's ranking for volume of offences is still high (2nd for YV and 5th for SYV). The temporal analysis also shows strong links to other violent types including non-DA VWI and knife crime. The suspect data of youth violence also shows a significant proportion of offences that are linked to domestic abuse which have not been 'flagged' as such, especially females.

- **Knife Crime and SYV are significantly made up of personal robbery offences:** even though there has been a small increase in personal robbery last year compared to 2018, the rate is lower than the London average and Croydon's ranking (both volume and crime rate) is at its lowest in the last three years. Yet despite this, half of all knife crime and 40% of SYV involves personal robbery.
- **There is a significant decrease in self-referrals and those being sign-posted to the FJC:** even though direct referrals have seen an increase of 15% in 2019 compared to 2018, there has been a 12% decrease in self-referrals and those sign-posted to the FJC by an agency is down by a third.
- **There is a common demographic of victims and suspects of violence:** They are highly represented and overrepresented in a demographic including coming from large poor, most likely single parent families with very low income or claiming benefits due to mainly being unemployed. Many families struggle financially with loan repayment or house payments. Many live in overcrowded properties where a high number of children are present. They live in areas where residents feel it is highly affected by crime and vandalism. There is an increased probability they suffer from a range of health issues, both physical and mental. The communities they reside within are made up of residents from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.
- **Particular events and experiences in a young person's life contribute to them being involved in SYV:** life course analysis of a small sample of high risk perpetrators of SYV support the detailed analysis provided in the Vulnerable Adolescents Review¹ that significant events in a young person's life lead to being at risk of being involved in certain types of crime, whether as a victim or perpetrator (or in many cases, both). The brief life course analysis provided in this report showed a wide pattern of life events including domestic abuse, child neglect, older siblings involved in ASB and crime to name but a few.
- **Including crime harm provides more context to violence:** crime count can tell us the amount of crime by type is occurring and what time, where, who to etc. but it doesn't tell us how much harm is being committed. This report uses the Cambridge Crime Harm Index to provide an example of the different picture of overall violence including the identification of new hotspots. Analysis also states that only 2% of victims of domestic abuse in the borough were subject to over 50% of all harm in 2019.
- **Other crime types are significantly increasing:** these crimes include the following:
 - *Sexual offences:* offences are up by 8% compared to 2018 and up by almost a fifth compared to 2017. The borough is also ranked 8th which is highest in three years.
 - *Hate crime:* even though the borough has a lower crime rate compared to the London average, offences are up by over a quarter compared to 2018. The borough is still ranked 8th which is its highest in three years.
 - *Vehicle crime:* overall vehicle crime is up by over a fifth but it's theft from motor vehicle which is mainly contributing to this increase. Theft from motor vehicle is up by over a quarter compared to 2018 and up by over a half compared to 2017. Croydon is ranked 6th in London which is its highest in three years.
 - *Residential burglary:* even though there has only been a small increase of 0.3% compared to 2018, there has been a 10% increase compared to 2017. The borough is also ranked 8th which is its highest in three years.
 - *Shoplifting:* offences are up by almost a quarter compared to 2018. The borough is also ranked 8th which is its highest in three years.
 - *Business robbery:* offences are up by a third compared to 2018 and up by over 40% compared to 2017. The borough is also ranked 4th which is its highest in three years.
 - *Anti-social behaviour:* ASB calls are up by over 10% compared to 2018. Even though the rate is lower than the London average and Croydon's ranking is relatively low and static over the last three years, there has been an increase in rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour and/or nuisance neighbours by over a fifth. The Council's ASB team has also seen a harassment/abuse or assault increase by over 40% compared to 2018. These measures are both clear indicators of violence.

¹ Croydon's Vulnerable Adolescent Review can be found here: <https://croydonlcsb.org.uk/2019/02/croydon-vulnerable-adolescent-review-report-2019/>

The key findings show many types of violence are interlinked with each other as well as other types of crime and ASB. However, there are also isolated challenges of specific types of violence which the borough must tackle. From these findings this report provides the following recommendations:

- 1. Domestic abuse should be at the core of the VRN's approach to reducing violence.** There are several reasons for this: the large proportion of overall violence being domestic abuse, the severity and impact on those subject to the abuse and it is common a factor in the lives of those being involved in other types of violence, mainly youth violence and serious youth violence. The significant impact and crossover domestic abuse has on overall violence in the borough makes it vital to centralise it in the VRN's strategy.
- 2. Increase awareness of the FJC.** The decrease in self-referrals and agencies sign-posting to the FJC shows that a much wider and improved strategy in increasing awareness of the FJC is required, therefore to ultimately reach more of those at risk of domestic abuse and to ensure they are in safer and secure environments.
- 3. Both youth violence and SYV to be priorities of the VRN.** Even though there has been a decrease in both types of violence (albeit with SYV only slightly in the last year), the borough is still ranked highly for volume of offences and the analysis has shown they are both significant drivers of other types of violence e.g. Non-DA VWI.
- 4. A focus on knife-enabled personal robbery.** The direct links knife-enabled personal robbery has on overall knife crime and SYV shows that in order to reduce knife crime and SYV in the borough, the VRN should focus on reducing knife-enabled personal robbery. Then in turn both knife crime and SYV will notably fall too.
- 5. A greater focus on young females and violence.** It is easy and understandable that the VRN's approach to reducing violence, especially among young people, is focused on males due to the statistics. However, there is emerging evidence that young females are becoming involved in violence, both as victims and perpetrators. Therefore, it is key that greater attention is paid to young females at risk of violence and interventions are devised and delivered to suit them so to prevent them from causing and receiving harm.
- 6. Implement the Cambridge Crime Harm Index.** Whether to divert, disrupt or enforce, measures and interventions based on crime count can lack knowledge, focus and direction. By providing a greater focus on harm there is greater context provided on violence. Therefore, this provides greater intelligence, insight and clarity on violence being committed in the borough and also supplies a greater evidence base in coordinating specific priorities and initiatives in preventing violence. This report provides greater detail on how the Cambridge Crime Harm Index can be implemented and used in the VRN's work.
- 7. Use micro-hotspots and the strategy of targeting, testing and tracking.** This report details the necessity in targeting specific areas within a hotspot – known as micro-places or micro-hotspots. Micro-hotspots have been proven to be effective in reducing crime in the areas where there is a high crime concentration and therefore reducing crime in the hotspot. Using this approach on Croydon town centre is detailed in this report and emphasises that it will only be effective by targeting the area, testing specific interventions in that area and, most importantly, continuously tracking the specific tasks are being carried out in the area.
- 8. Improve our understanding of the demographic links to violence:** The analysis provided by the Acorn system shows there is a clear demographic of victims and suspects highly represented and overrepresented compared to the rest of the borough. These demographic characteristics should be considered and discussed throughout the intelligence gathering, coordinating and decision-making process.
- 9. Other data sources are required to provide a clearer picture of violence.** There is a clear reliance on police crime data for performance measurement and analysis of violence. Relying and focusing on one data source restricts the perception of violence in the borough and therefore can be misleading. Attention is focused elsewhere then if a wider range of data sources are used, greater clarity is given as well as other factors of violence are identified. An example of this is using LAS, A & E and weapon sweeps data to uncover other hotspots of violence not identified by police crime data.
- 10. Other crimes and ASB should also be prioritised.** Sexual offences, ASB and hate crime should remain priorities for the SCP, which are all types or indicators of violence. Residential burglary, theft from motor vehicle, shoplifting and business robbery should also be considered to be priorities for the SCP due to the significant increases there has been in the borough. However, as these are mostly acquisitive crimes it is possibly more relevant for these crimes to be recommended as priorities for the police in the borough.

Introduction

The aim of this report is to identify the key factors in the rise in crime in the borough, specifically violence. From the key findings of this report, it is reinforced that the evidence-based public health approach currently adopted by the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is continued and enhanced in order to significantly reduce violence in the borough. Therefore, for this approach to be effective, it is emphasised that it must be data-driven at every stage.

What does this report mean by 'Violence'?

This report is split mainly into two main sections. The first section is on violence and the second section is on other major crimes. 'Violence' can cover a wide range of offences and many research documents differ in what offence types are included and excluded under 'violence'. This report focuses on the broad violent crime category used by the Home Office which is Violence against the Person, and then looks at the specific violent crime types that make up the majority of these offences: Violence with Injury (Non-Domestic), Domestic Abuse, Knife Crime, Youth Violence and Serious Youth Violence. Gun crime is also examined but to a lesser extent due to data limitations.

It can be argued that other crime types should also be included under 'violence', for example, personal robbery, sexual offences and hate crime. However, firstly, a significant number of personal robbery offences involve a young person being a victim and/or a weapon being used or imitated. These types of offences are both included in the definitions of knife crime, youth violence and serious youth violence, which are used in this report. Secondly, a significant number of sexual offences are included in the definitions of knife crime, domestic abuse, youth violence and serious youth violence. However, due to the complexities and seriousness of sexual offences including historical crimes, this report recognises it cannot provide the detailed examination of data required to give thorough and reliable analysis. Thirdly, reliable analysis of hate crime requires data from a wider range of sources which are currently being explored.

There are other high priority crime activities which this report also recognises are heavily linked to violence, specifically gang crime and county lines. These types of crime are looked at in great depth in collaboration with the Council's Gangs Team and other relevant departments in a yearly report, which due to its confidential nature is a restricted document.

The Cost of Violence

The tragic human consequences that comes from violence are obvious and unmatched. Alongside the tragic loss of life and misery experienced by families and communities are high economic consequences. These consequences are in three main cost areas:

- Costs in anticipation of violence e.g. CCTV.
- Costs as a consequence of violence e.g. physical and emotional harm to the victim, health services required, victim services etc.
- Costs in response to crime e.g. costs to the police and criminal justice system.

To put the cost of violence into context with most other major crime types in the borough, by using Home Office figures, calculations show that in 2019 overall violence made up almost 60% of the cost of crime in the borough, costing almost £110 million²:

Major Crime Type	Cost (£) 2015/16 prices	% Total Cost
Arson and Criminal Damage	4,036,420	2%
Burglary	22,224,800	12%
Robbery	13,666,760	7%
Sexual Offences	22,740,560	12%
Theft	2,361,180	1%
Vehicle	14,742,450	8%
Violence Against the Person	109,643,900	58%
Total	189,416,070	100%

² Calculated based on Heeks et al. (2018) *The economic and social costs of crime*. Home Office: London. Costs are calculated by multiplying the number of offences in the borough from MetStats by the unit cost. Note that only certain crime major types have unit costs provided so therefore they have only been calculated. Criminal damage costs have been calculated at an individual level rather than business to maintain consistency as the statistics cannot be broken down by individual and business.

By examining violence against the person into its major types, based violence statistics in the borough in 2019, the costs were the following:

Violence Type	Number of recorded offences	Unit Cost (£) 2015/16 prices	Total Cost (£) 2015/16 prices
Homicide	7	3,217,740	22,524,180
Violence with Injury	3,540	14,050	49,737,000
Violence without Injury	6,304	5,930	37,382,720
Total	9,851	3,237,720	109,643,900

Excluding homicide where the unit cost far outweighs other violent types, the unit cost of violence with injury is almost 2.5 times higher than violence without injury. Also even though the number of violence without injury offences were almost 2 times higher than violence with injury, the total cost of violence with injury is significantly higher (over 30%) than violence without injury. This reinforces the need for a focus on crime *harm* rather than *count*, which is detailed further in this report.

Borough Demographics

A detailed profile of the demographics of the borough is provided at the Croydon Observatory³. There are key demographics of the borough which are useful when reading this report including:

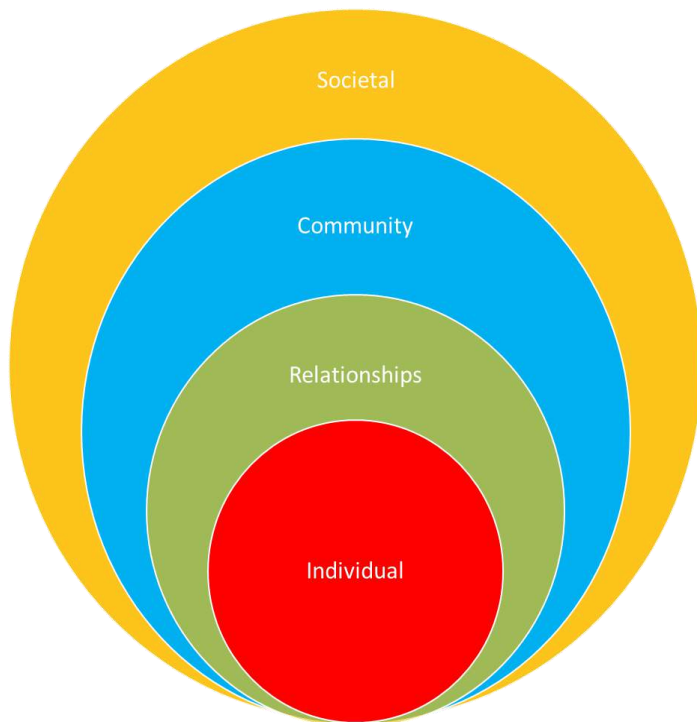
- According to housing-led projections of residents provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA), Croydon has the second highest resident population in London of almost 384,000 residents in 2019.
- Using housing-led projections of residents provided by the GLA, with a resident population of those aged 1-19 being just over 94,000 in 2019, Croydon has the highest number of residents of this age range in London.
- Croydon has a diverse population with a higher proportion of residents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds than the national average according to both the 2011 Census and GLA housing-led projections.
- According to local area migration indicators in 2018 from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) 17.1% of the borough's population is made up of non-UK residents.
- According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019, out of the 220 lower super output areas (LSOA) in the borough, one is in the top 5% most deprived in the country. Five LSOAs are in the top 10% most deprived in the country.
- For the crime domain of the IMD, three of the 220 LSOAs are in the top 5% of the most deprived in the country. Twelve LSOAs are in the top 10% most deprived in the country.

³ The Croydon Observatory can be found at <https://www.croydonobservatory.org/>

The Public Health Approach to Reducing Violence

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) has been formed in Croydon to specifically reduce violence in the borough with a focus on the most prevalent types of violence. The VRN's plan in reducing violence is built around the public health approach, which is used by the London-wide Violence Reduction Unit set up by the Mayor of London in late 2018 and was originally established by Police Scotland in 2005 and is shown to be very successful in reducing violence⁴.

The public health approach⁵ involves a holistic view of both violence and coercion. It adopts an ecological framework based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels:



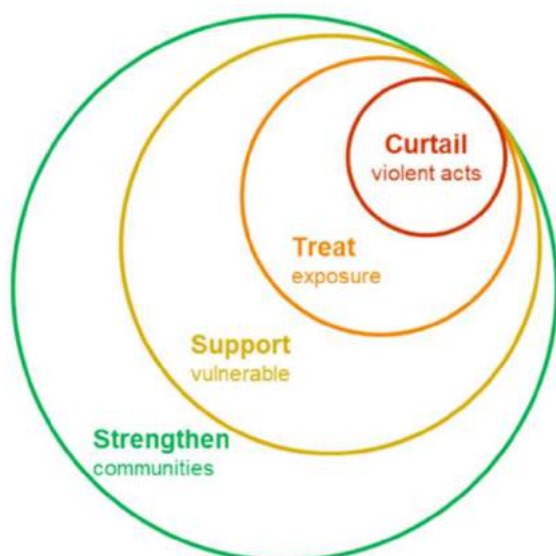
These include economic and social policies that maintain socioeconomic inequalities between people, the availability of weapons, and social and cultural norms such as parental dominance over children and cultural norms that endorse violence as an acceptable method to resolve.

The contexts in which social relationships occur, such as schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces, also influence violence. Risk factors here may include the level of unemployment, population density, mobility and the existence of a local drug or gun trade.

Family, friends, intimate partners and peers may influence the risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. For example, having violent friends may influence whether a young person engages in or becomes a victim of violence.

Personal history and biological factors influence how individuals behave and increase their likelihood of becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence including being a victim of child maltreatment, psychological or personality disorders, alcohol and/or substance abuse

A more practical way of showing how the VRN adopts this ecological framework in reducing violence is by embedding the following core actions in its approach:



Curtail violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action.

Treat those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread.

Support those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors.

Strengthen community resilience through a universal approach.

⁴ BBC News (2019) – How Scotland stemmed the tide of knife crime <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-45572691>

⁵ Local Government Association (2018) – Public Health Approaches to Reducing Violence <https://www.local.gov.uk/public-health-approaches-reducing-violence>

To achieve this there has to be a whole borough and networked approach to tackling violence involving a wide range of relevant partners. It is vital that evidence is at the heart of how the VRN will operate and that both victims and perpetrators are worked with. It is also important that the approach continually evolves and adapts to the changing nature of violence.

Violence against the Person (VAP)

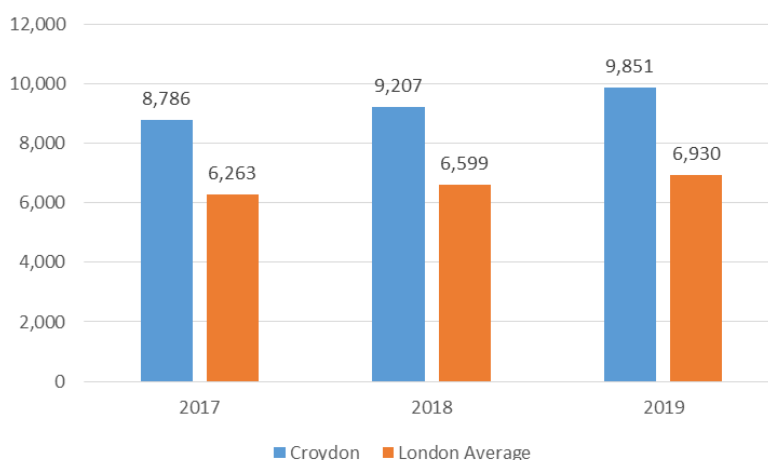
Definition

- The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) defines Violence against the Person (VAP) as that which 'includes a range of offences from minor offences such as harassment and common assault, to serious offences such as murder, actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm'⁶.

Statistics

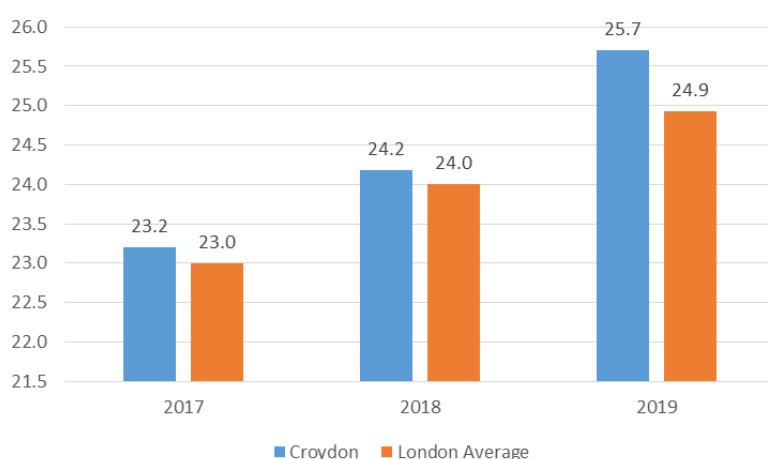
- There was a total of 9,851 VAP offences in 2019, an increase of 7.0% (644 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 9,207 offences recorded. This is a larger percentage increase compared to the London average⁷ where there was a 5.0% increase (331 offences) from 6,599 offences in 2018 to 6,930 offences in 2019. By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 12.1% increase (1,065 offences) in Croydon. Again, this is a larger percentage increase compared to the London average where there was a 10.7% increase (667 offences).

VAP statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 of residents, the rate of offences in the borough has risen year-on-year from 23.2 in 2017 to 24.2 in 2018 to 25.7 in 2019. The London average has also seen a year-on-year increase from 23.0 in 2017 to 24.0 in 2018 to 24.9 in 2019.

VAP crime rate per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Even though there has been an increase of offences in the borough, Croydon's ranking has remained the same in the last three years (2nd). By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking has also remained the same in the last three years (17th).

⁶ Metropolitan Police Service: Crime Type Definitions <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/crime-type-definitions/>

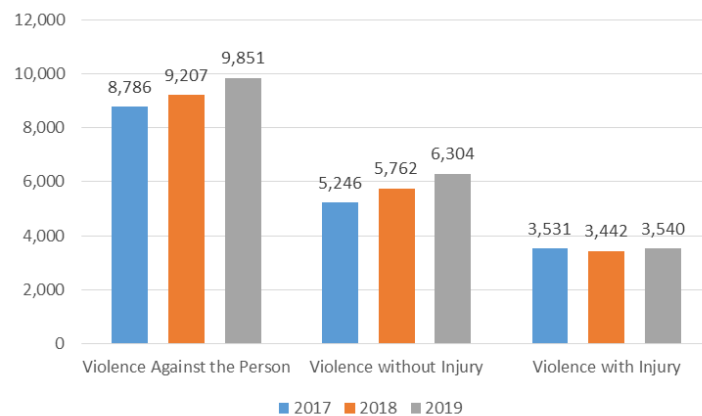
⁷ The 'London average' is defined in this report as the mean average borough in London.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and the highest crime rate.

	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	2	17
2018	2	17
2019	2	17

- VAP is made up of three sub categories: violence with injury, violence without injury and homicide. Violence without injury has a similar trend to VAP where it has been increasing year-on-year, whereas after a decrease in 2018, Violence with Injury saw a rise in 2019. Violence without injury made up 64.0% of all VAP offences.
- In 2019 there was a 9.4% increase in violence without injury compared to 2018 and a 20.2% increase compared to 2017. For violence with injury there was a 2.8% increase compared to 2018 and a 0.3% increase compared to 2017. In Croydon there were nine homicides in 2017, three in 2018 and seven in 2019.

VAP offences and the sub-categories Violence without Injury and Violence with Injury in Croydon in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.

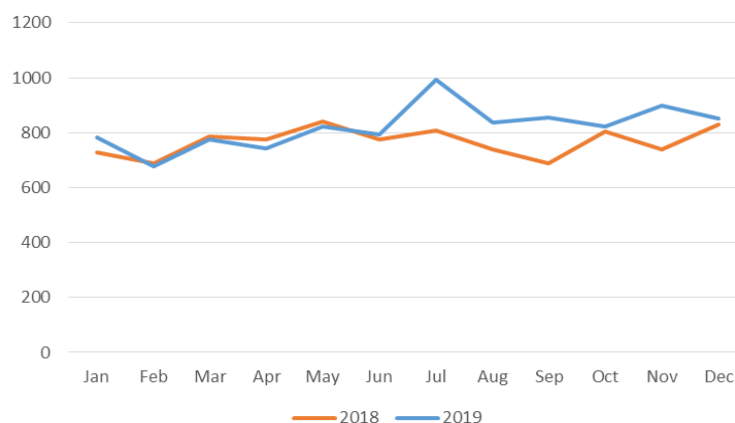


- The majority of VAP offences are made up of Common Assault (31.0%), ABH (24.1%) and Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety (14.8%). In regards to the third crime type, the majority of these crimes are due to threats or malicious posts made on social media or via texting/online messaging.
- 33.7% of all VAP offences were flagged as domestic abuse (DA).
- 17.4% of all VAP offences were alcohol-related and 15.0% of all non-DA offences were alcohol-related.
- The use of social media or online messaging was used in 15.1% of all offences⁸.

Temporal Analysis

- In 2019 the peak months for VAP were July and November. The peak months in 2018 were May and December. There is a similar trend in both 2018 and 2019 for the first six months of the year.

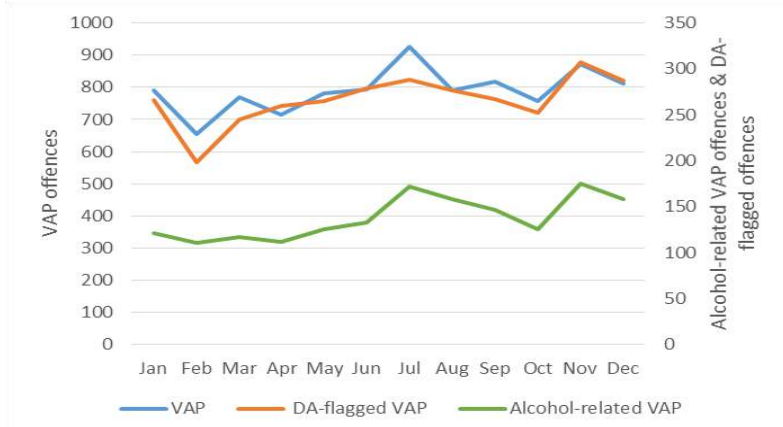
VAP offences committed by month in Croydon in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



⁸ To extract crimes where the use of social media and online messaging is used, a query is manually built with the use of 'wildcards' i.e. words or a set of words associated with social media and online messaging which are stated in the crime report. As well as the alcohol flags already on CRIS, the use of 'wildcards' are also used for alcohol-related crimes due to the unreliability of the use of alcohol flags.

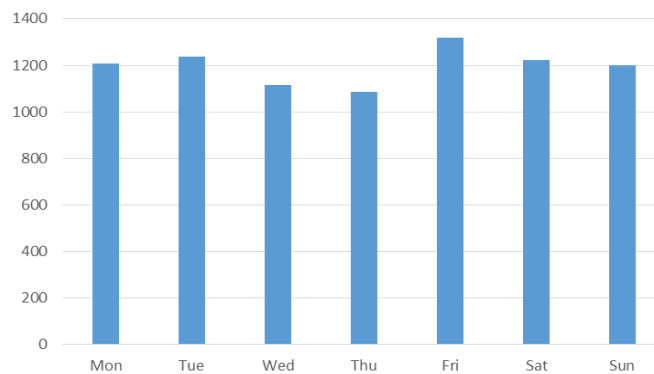
- The large increase in offences in July and November is linked to alcohol-related offences as well as domestic abuse flagged offences.

VAP, DA-flagged VAP and alcohol-related VAP offences by month in Croydon in 2019 taken from CRIS.



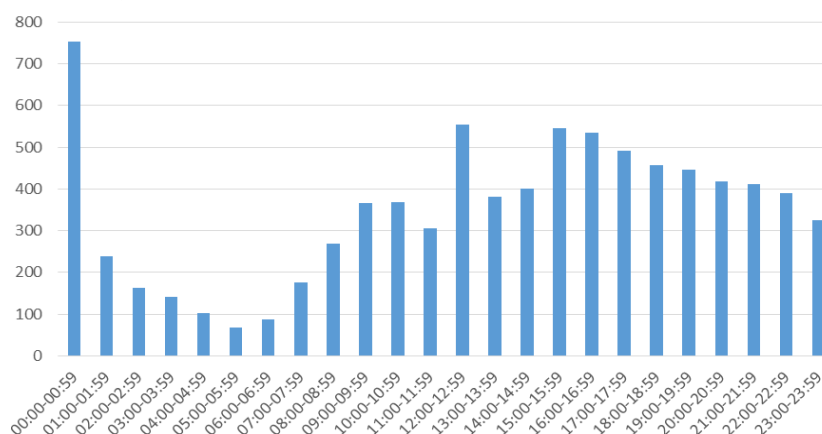
- Offences are fairly consistent throughout the week with the peak days being Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.
- Friday and Saturday correlates with the night-time economy where VAP offences on these days peak from 18:00 to midnight. The rise in offences on Tuesday correlates with the ‘after-school’ hours of between 15:00 and 19:00.

VAP offences committed by day of the week in Croydon in 2019 taken from CRIS.



- The peak time for VAP offences was between 00:00 and 01:00 and between 12:00 and 13:00. However, it must be noted that many offences that involve electronic communication (e.g. harassment on social media or via texting) that midnight (00:00) and midday (12:00) are the default time(s) it will be recorded as. This is because these types of offences can occur over a period of time and therefore a specific time cannot be provided.
- Other times where a high volume of offences were committed were between 15:00 and 17:00, which correlate with the ‘after-school’ hours and is reflected by Youth Violence and Serious Youth Violence offences.
- On Friday and Saturday there is also a link to the night-time economy with an increase in offences between 18:00 and 00:00.

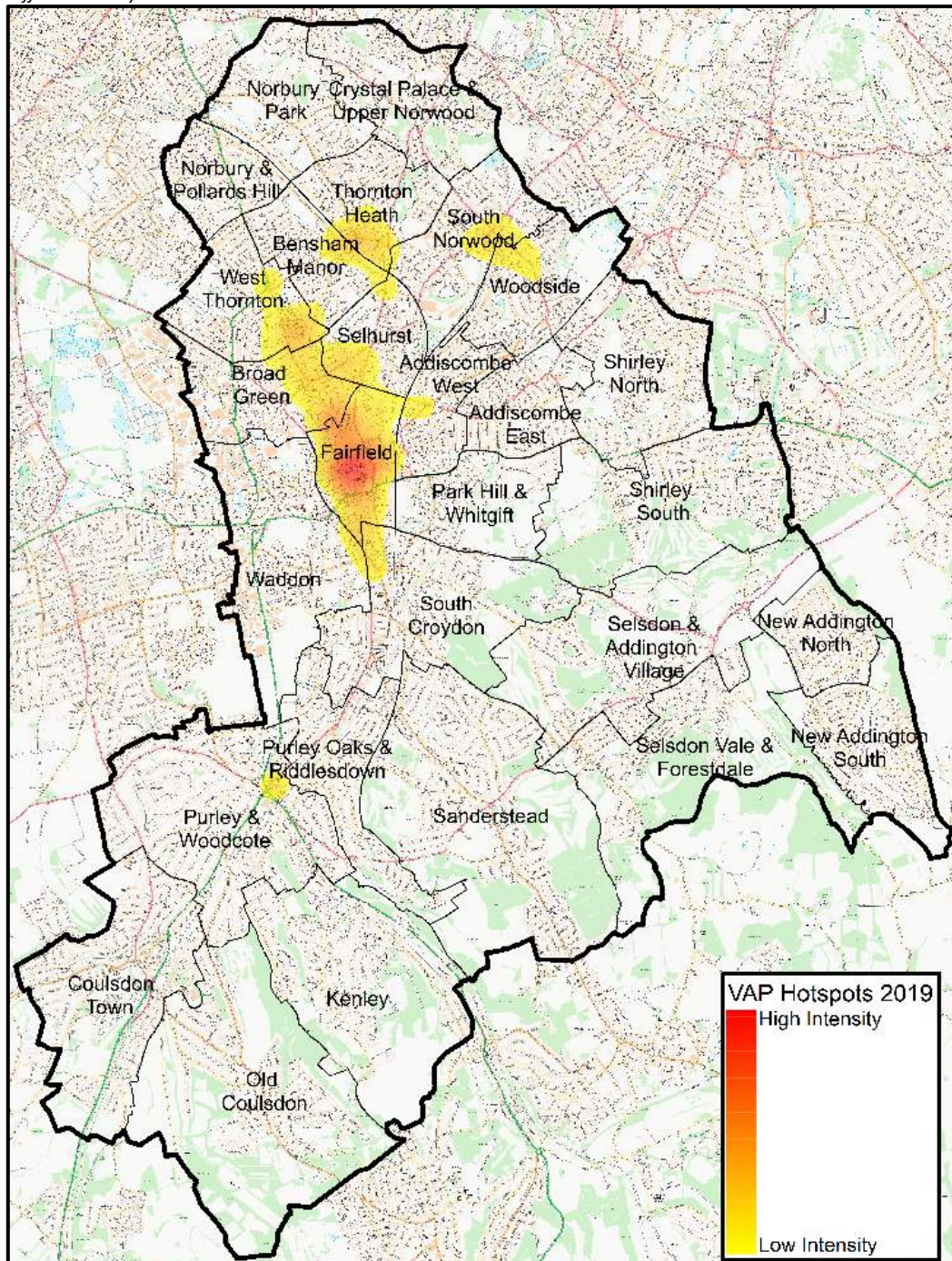
VAP offences committed in Croydon in 2019 by hour taken from CRIS.



Hotspots

- The primary hotspot for VAP is Croydon Town Centre with 17.4% of all mapped VAP offences being committed in this area.
- Secondary hotspots are in and around Thornton Heath High Street, South Norwood High Street and Purley High Street.
- Where the location type was recorded, 20.6% of offences were committed in the street, 17.5% were committed in a flat/maisonette and 10.5% were committed in a terraced property.

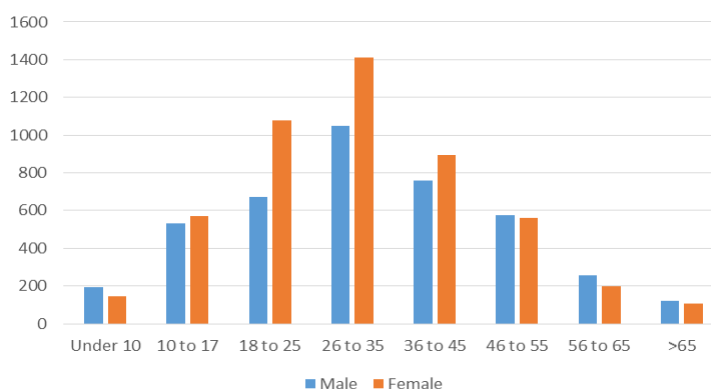
Hotspot map of VAP offences in Croydon in 2019.



Victim Profile

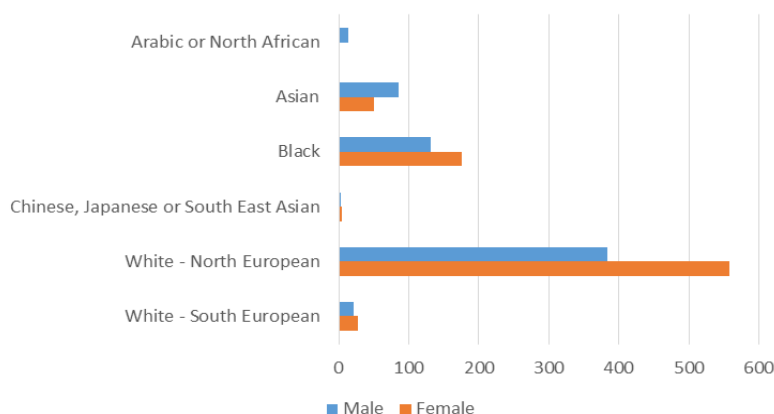
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 54.4% of victims were female and 45.6% were male.
- 27.0% of all victims were aged 26 to 35 years old, 19.2% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 18.1% were aged 36 to 45 years old⁹.
- 28.5% of all female victims were aged 26 to 35 years old, 21.7% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 18.0% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- 54.9% of females aged 18 to 25 years old and 56.3% of females aged 26 to 35 years old were involved in offences flagged as domestic abuse.
- 25.2% of all male victims were aged 26 to 35 years old, 18.2% were aged 36 to 45 years old and 16.2% were aged 18 to 25 years old.
- 20.1% of male victims and 20.0% of female victims aged 26 to 35 years old were subject to alcohol-related VAP offences.

Victims of VAP in Croydon in 2019 by age and gender from the MPS' Crime Reporting Information System (CRIS).



- **The ethnic appearance types used throughout this document are those provided and used by the police.**
- Of those victims where gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 64.7% were White - North European and 21.1% were Black¹⁰.
- 50.1% of female victims were White - North European, 34.4% were Black and 9.9% were Asian.
- 45.8% of male victims were White - North European, 31.8% were Black and 16.0% were Asian.

Victims of VAP in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- Out of all victims where their home address was identified, 84.3% lived in the borough.
- Out of the victims who did not live in the borough, 11.5% lived in Lambeth, 10.8% lived in Bromley, 10.1% lived in Sutton and 9.2% lived in Merton.

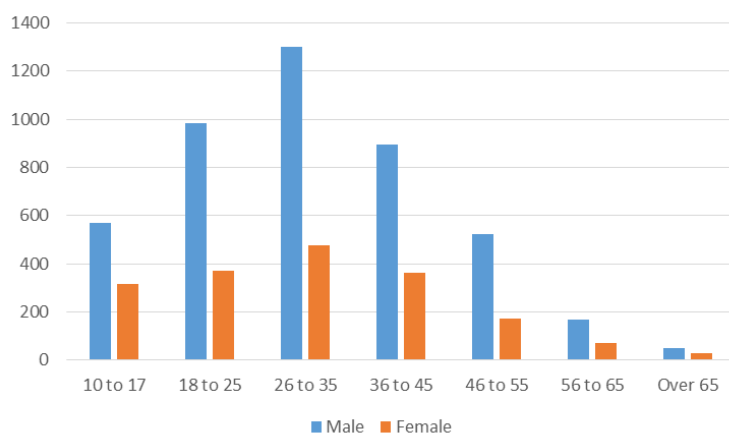
⁹ The written commentary of the breakdown of age and ethnic appearance in this document only details the highest proportions represented which make up the majority of the victims or suspects. The charts and graphs show the full breakdown.

¹⁰ The ethnic appearance categories (also known as identity codes) used are from the MPS' CRIS reporting system. Seven categories are available to choose from including 'Unknown'. The descriptors for each IC code are referenced here <http://policeauthority.org/metropolitan/publications/briefings/2007/0703/index.html>

Suspect Profile

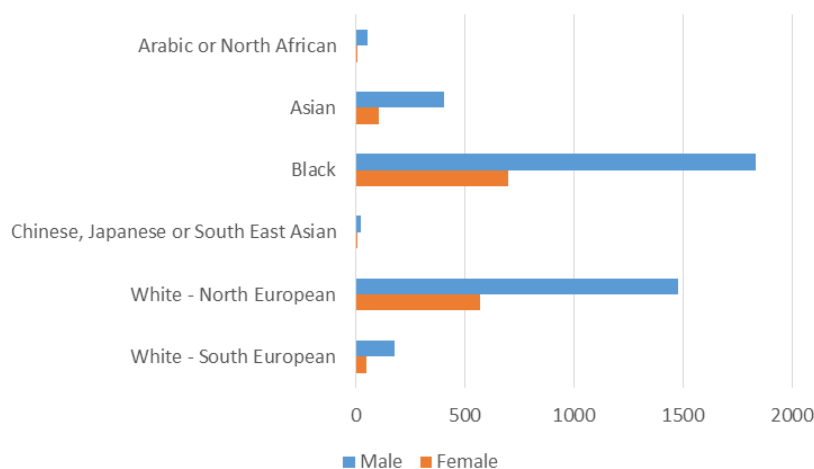
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 71.5% of the suspects were male and 28.5% were female.
- Where the suspect age was recorded, 28.3% were aged from 26 to 35 years old, 21.5% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 20.0% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- 29.0% of all male suspects were aged 26 to 35 years old, 21.9% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 20.0% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- 26.5% of all female suspects were aged 26 to 35 years old, 20.7% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 20.1% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- 50.5% of all male suspects aged 26 to 35 years old, 50.2% of those aged 36 to 45 years old, 47.1% of those aged 46 to 55 years and 37.6% of those aged 18 to 25 years old were involved in offences flagged as domestic abuse.
- 35.1% of all female suspects aged 18 to 25 years old, 33.1% of those aged 46 to 55 years old, 33.0% of those aged 36 to 45 years old and 32.7% of those aged 26 to 35 years old were involved in offences flagged as domestic abuse.
- 22.5% of suspects aged 26 to 35 years old were involved in alcohol-related VAP offences. 24.8% of males in the same age category were involved in alcohol-related VAP offences.

Suspects of VAP in Croydon in 2019 by gender and age from CRIS.



- Where the suspect's ethnic appearance and gender were recorded, 46.8% of suspects were recorded as Black. This was followed by 37.8% who were White - North European. This is reflected when specifically looking at ethnic appearance by gender.

Suspects of VAP in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- Out of all suspects where their home address was identified, 80.3% lived in the borough.
- Out of the suspects who did not live in the borough, 16.5% lived in Lambeth, 9.9% lived in Bromley, 8.8% lived in Merton, 8.4% lived in Lewisham and 8.3% lived in Sutton.

Non-Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury (VWI)

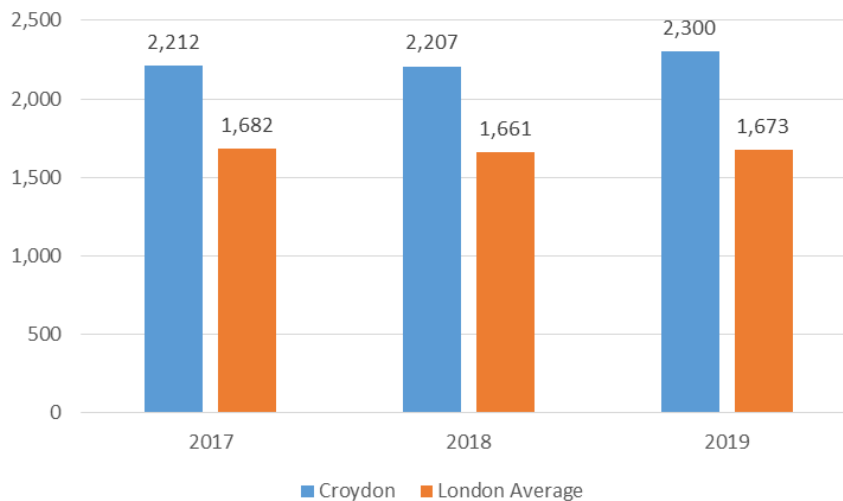
Definition

- The Office of National Statistics (ONS) defines Violence with Injury (VWI) as 'consisting of wounding and assault with minor injury'¹¹. The MPS use a definition which closely replicates the broad one given by the ONS. The MPS statistics and crimes in this analysis do not include any domestic abuse flagged offences.

Statistics

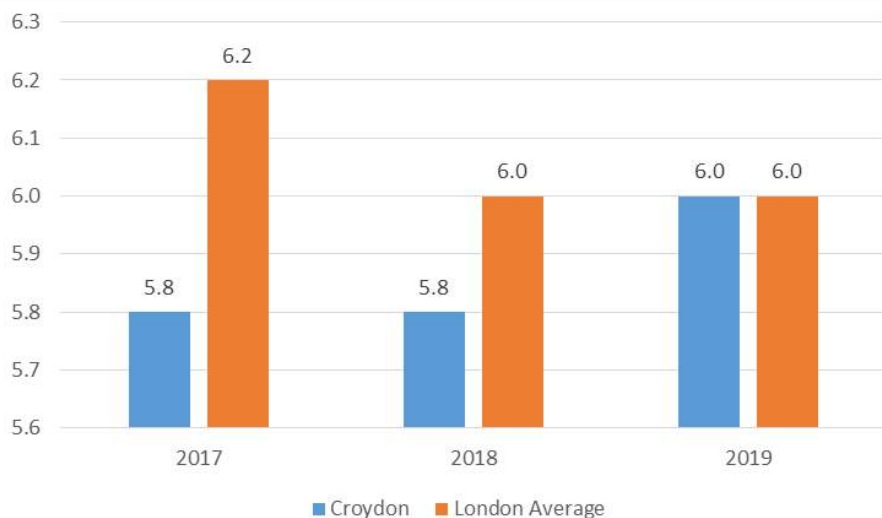
- There was a total of 2,300 VWI offences in 2019, an increase of 4.2% (93 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 2,207 offences recorded. This is a larger percentage increase compared to the London average where there was a 0.7% increase (12 offences) from 1,661 offences in 2018 to 1,673 offences in 2019. By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 4.0% increase (88 offences) in Croydon. In comparison, there was a decrease of 0.5% (9 offences) in the London Average.

Non-DA VWI statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 of residents, the rate of offences in the borough has risen from 5.8 in 2017 and 2018 to 6.0 in 2019. The London average has seen a decrease from 6.2 in 2017 to 6.0 in 2018 and 2019.

Non-DA VWI crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



¹¹ Office of National Statistics: 'The nature of violent crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2018'

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/thenatureofviolentcrimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018>

- Croydon’s ranking has risen year-on-year from 2017 with its ranking in 2019 being 3rd. However, Croydon’s ranking for offences per 1,000 residents was much lower at 18th for 2017 and 2018 and it rose one place to 17th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and the highest crime rate.

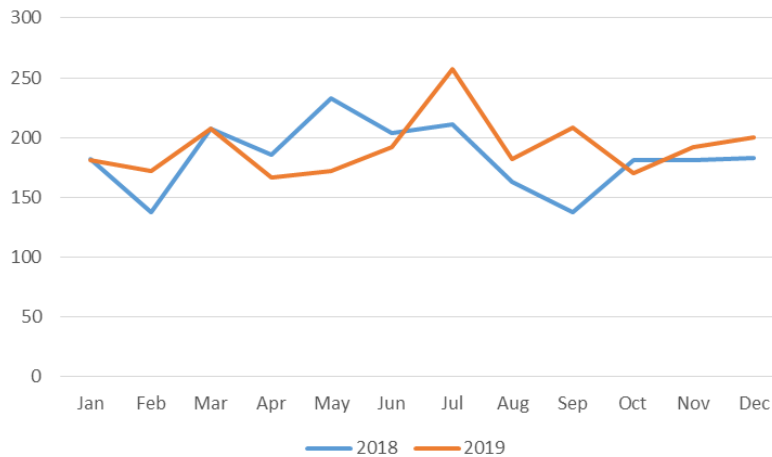
Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	7	18
2018	5	18
2019	3	17

- The majority of Non-DA VWI offences were made up of Actual Bodily Harm (59.3%) and Grievous Bodily Harm (35.3%).
- 17.9% of offences were alcohol-related.

Temporal Analysis

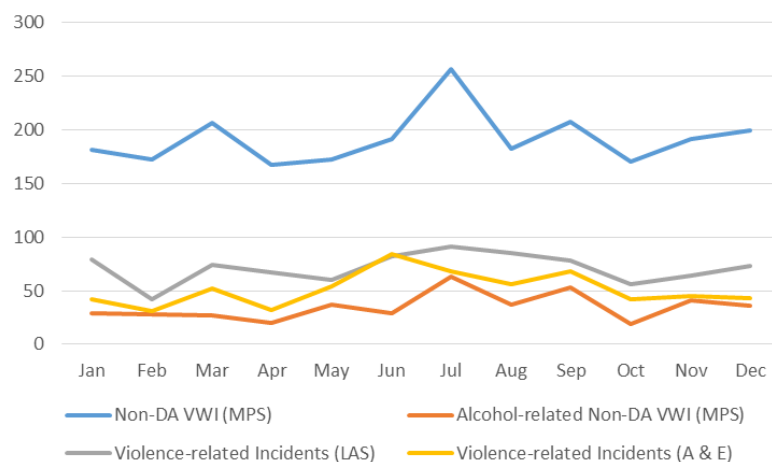
- In 2019 the peak months for Non-DA VWI were March, July, September and December. The peak months in 2018 were May and July. There is a similar pattern in both 2018 and 2019 from January to May. Offences also sharply decrease in August.

Non-DA VWI offences committed by month in Croydon in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



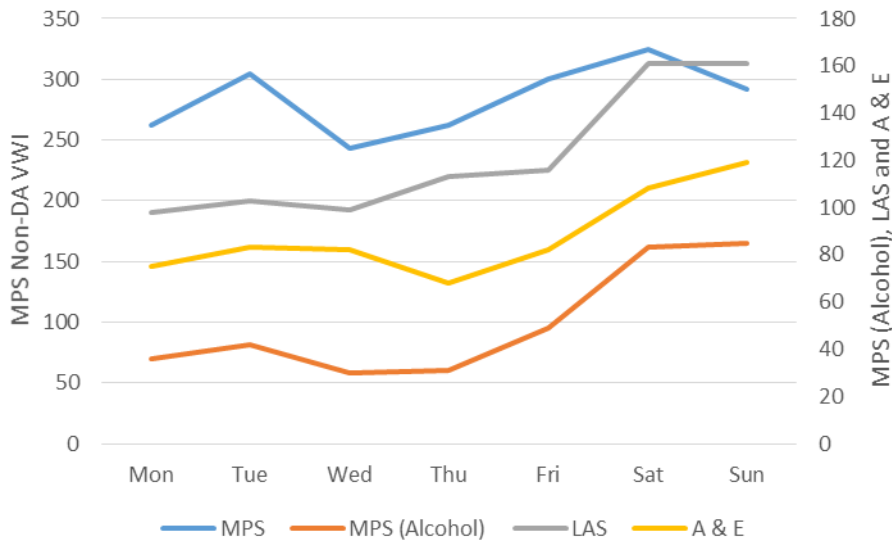
- By comparing Non-DA VWI offences to alcohol-related Non-DA VWI offences, violence-related incidents from the LAS and A & E, there is a pattern of March, July and September being the peak months (shown by at least three out of the four measures).
- LAS and MPS data also showed December to be a peak month. A & E data showed June to be a peak month.

Non-DA VWI offences from MetStats, alcohol-related Non-DA VWI offences from CRIS and LAS and A & E violence-related incidents from SafeStats by month in Croydon in 2019.



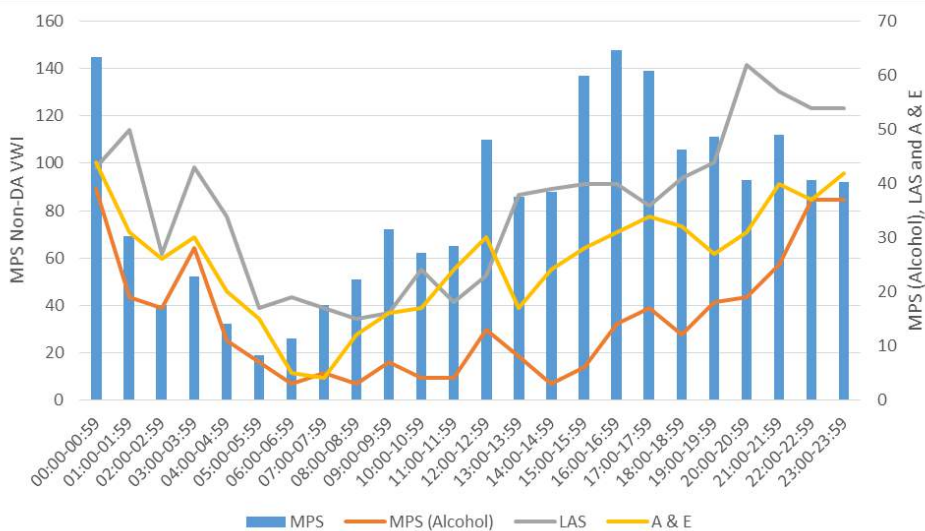
- Offences are fairly consistent throughout the week with the peak days being Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.
- The large volume of offences on Tuesday partly correlates with the 'after-school' hours where over a fifth of offences (22.4%) on this day occur between 15:00 and 17:00.
- On Friday and Saturday, a significant proportion of offences are linked with the night-time economy with them occurring on Friday being committed between 18:00 and 00:00, Saturday between 00:00 and 05:00 and between 18:00 and 00:00.
- There is also a peak time on Sunday with offences being committed between 00:00 and 04:00.
- There is a clear trend of offences and incidents peaking on the weekend. However, alcohol-related Non-DV VWI offences, LAS and A & E violence-related incidents show Sunday is also a peak day. Even though this peak can be explained by incidents and alcohol-related offences occurring in the 'early hours' of Sunday, there is also a high number of incidents between 20:00 and 23:00 on Sunday evening.

Non-DA VWI offences from MetStats, alcohol-related Non-DA VWI offences from CRIS and LAS and A&E violence-related incidents from SafeStats by day of the week in Croydon in 2019.



- The peak time for offences is between 00:00 and 01:00 and between 15:00 and 18:00. Alcohol-related Non-DA VWI, LAS and A & E violence-related data mostly correlate with these times as well as showing peaks between 03:00 and 04:00 and 20:00 and 00:00.

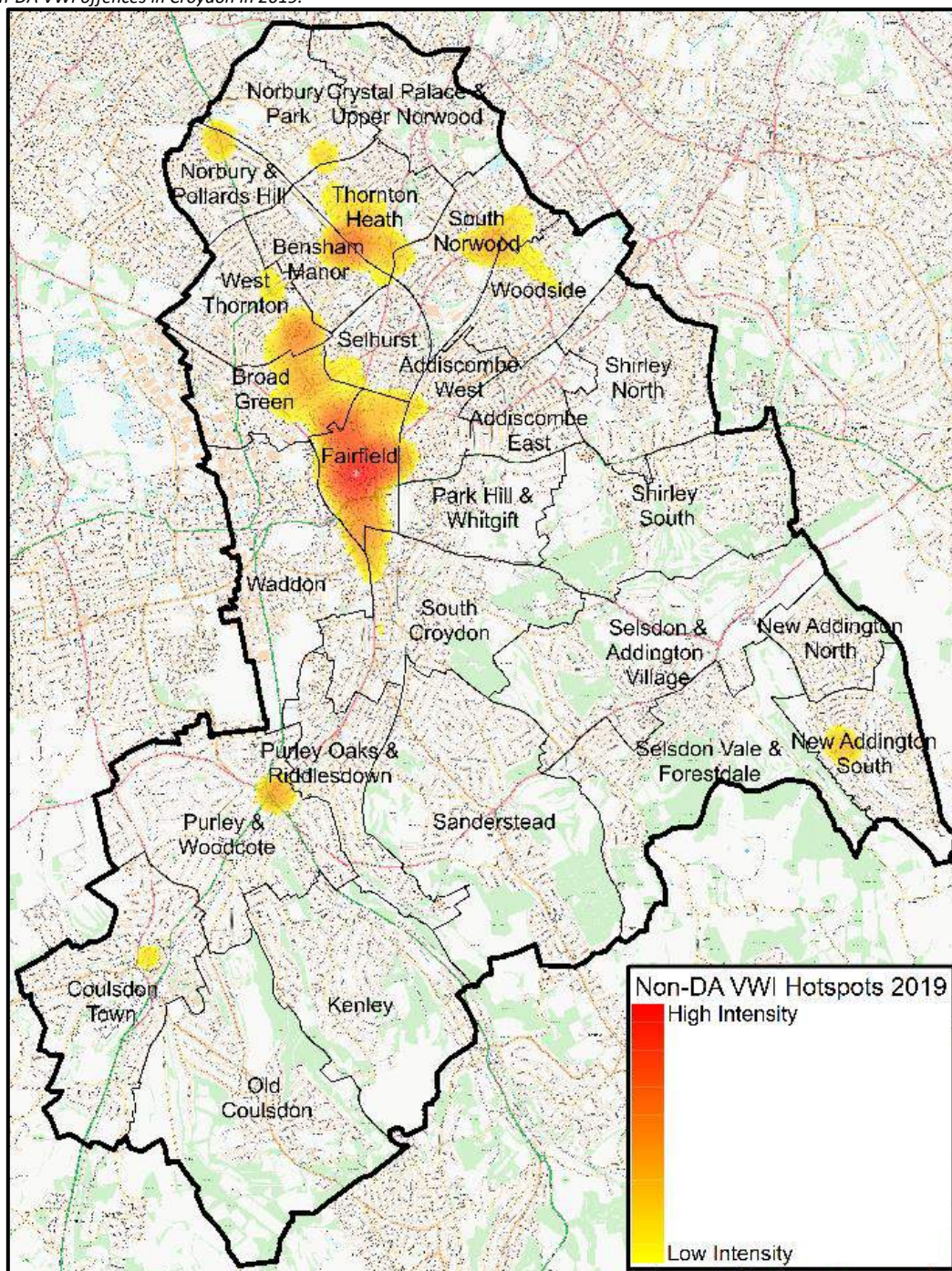
Non-DA VWI offences from MetStats, alcohol-related Non-DA VWI offences from CRIS and LAS and A & E violence-related incidents from SafeStats by hour in Croydon in 2019.



Hotspots

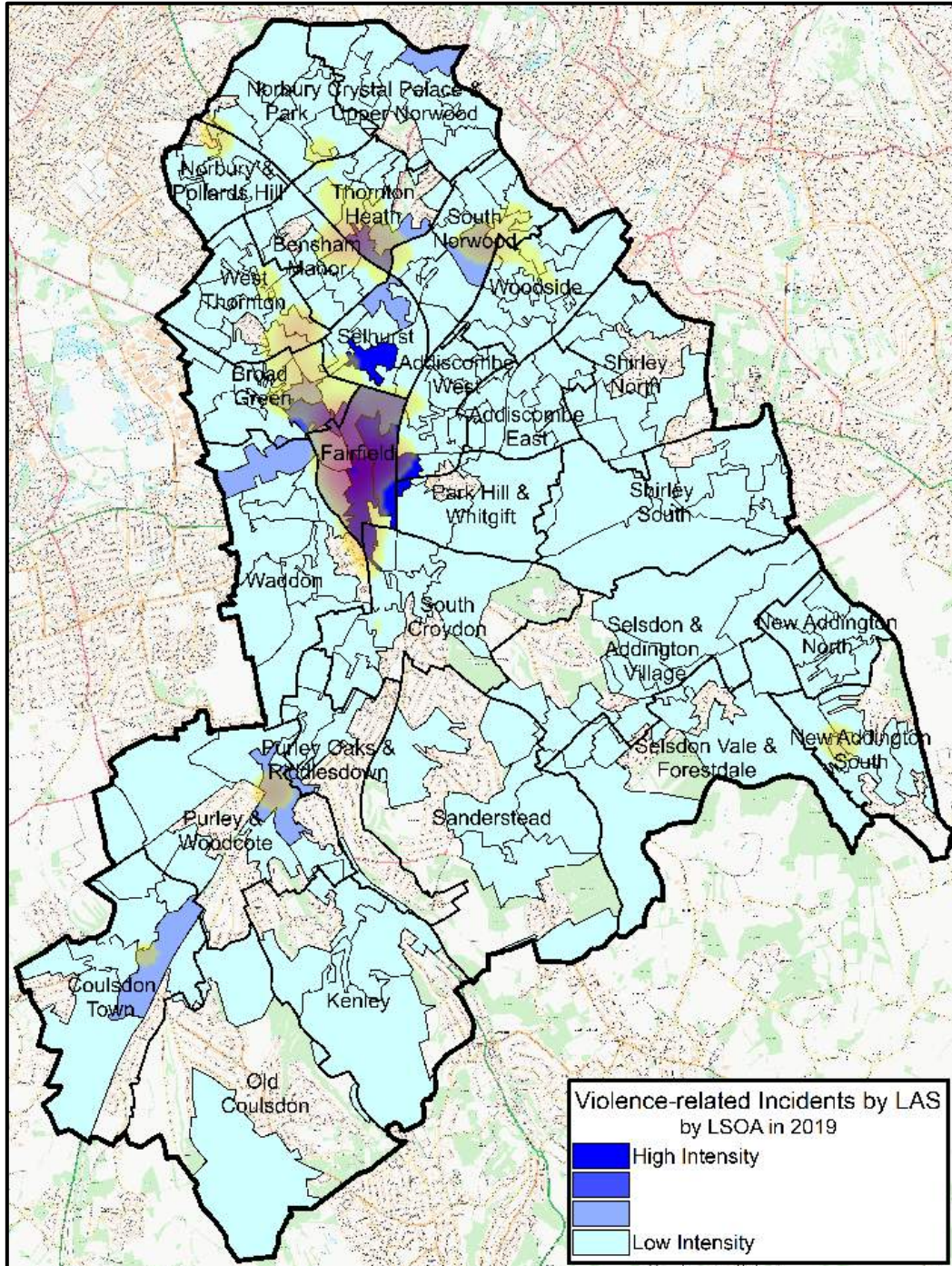
- The primary hotspot for Non-DA VWI is Croydon Town Centre with a third (33.4%) of all mapped Non-DA VWI offences being committed in this area.
- Secondary hotspots are predominantly areas where there is high footfall including high streets, a night-time economy and where there are transport links specifically, in and around Thornton Heath High Street, in and around South Norwood High Street, around Norbury train station, in and around Purley High Street, in and around Central Parade in New Addington, in and around Mayday Hospital on London Road, parts of the area in and around Green Lane in Thornton Heath and in and around Brighton Road near Coulsdon Town train station.
- Where the location type was recorded, over a third (37.0%) occurred in the street.

Hotspot map of Non-DA VWI offences in Croydon in 2019.



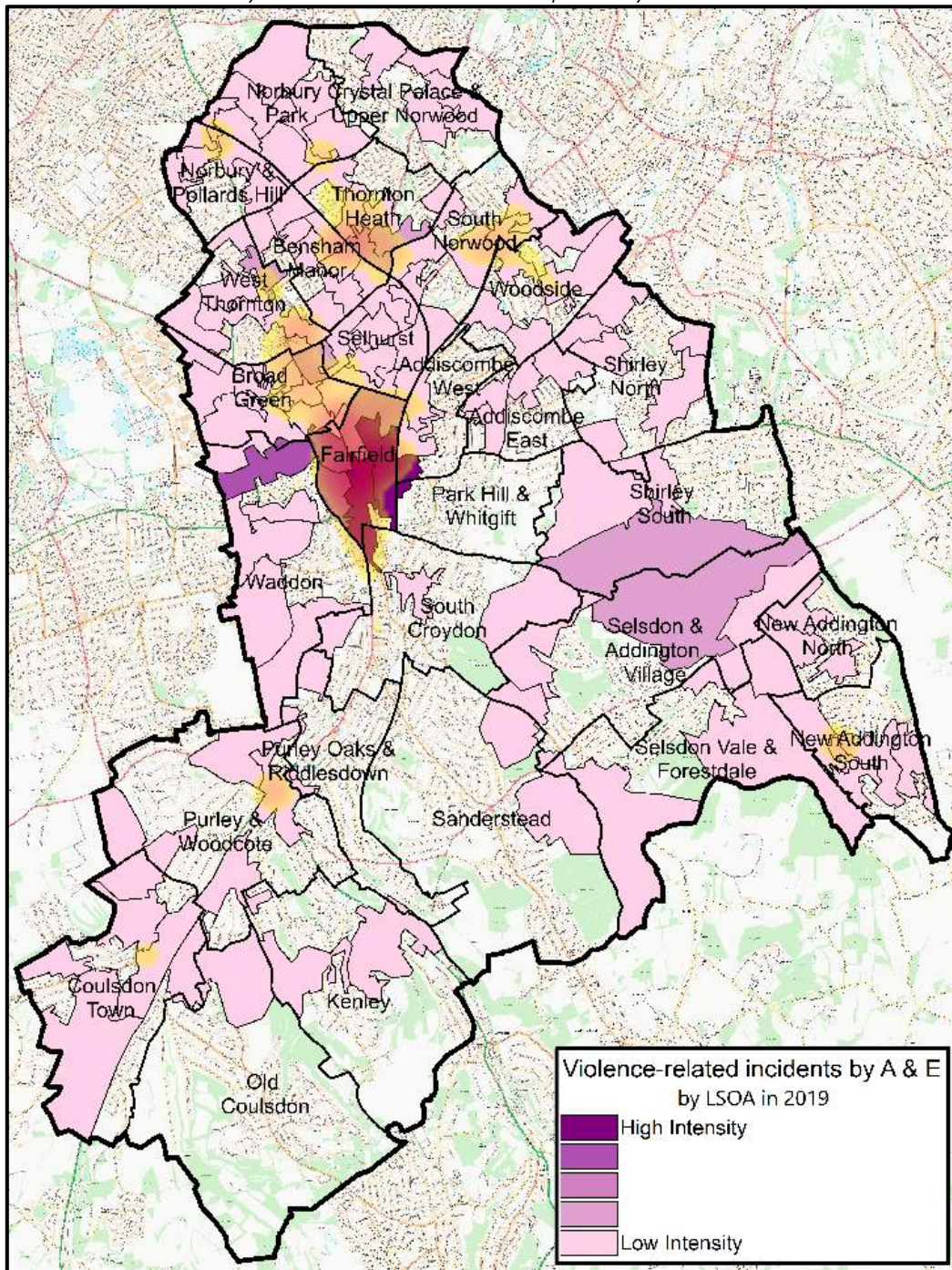
- LAS data shows that the majority of LSOAs where the highest number of violence-related LAS incidents have occurred are reflected by the Non-DA VWI hotspot areas. These are Fairfield, Broad Green, Waddon, Selhurst, Thornton Heath, Coulsdon Town, Purley & Woodcote and South Norwood wards.
- There is also a significant proportion of offences in an LSOA in the Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood Ward. This is an area with high footfall and night-time economy and the incident date and times reflect that shown by overall Non-DA VWI offences.
- LAS data also shows parts of Selhurst ward as hotspots not shown by the Non-DA VWI hotspots.

Thematic map of LAS violence-related incidents by LSOA overlaid with Non-DA VWI hotspots in Croydon in 2019.



- A & E data also shows hotspots within Shirley South and Selsdon and Addington Village wards. However, these represent a high number of individuals receiving injuries from a very small number of violent incidents.

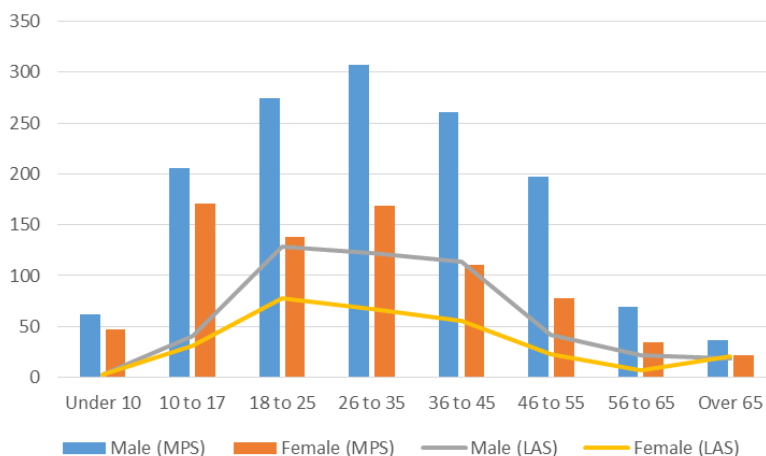
Thematic map of A & E violence-related incidents by LSOA overlaid with Non-DA VWI hotspots in Croydon in 2019.



Victim Profile

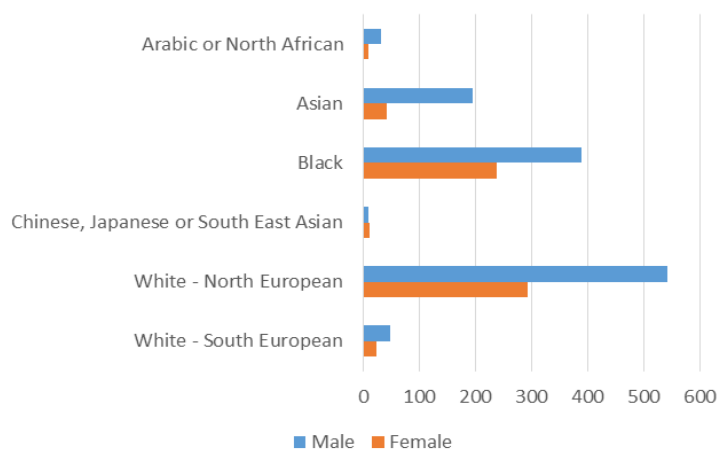
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 64.8% of victims were male and 35.2% were female.
- Violence-related LAS incidents recorded 63.2% of victims who were male and 36.8% who were female.
- 21.8% of all victims were 26 to 35 years old, 18.9% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 17.3% were aged 10 to 17 years old.
- LAS recorded 26.6% of all victims were aged 18 to 25 years old, 24.3% were aged 26 to 35 years old and 21.9% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- 21.7% of all male victims were aged 26 to 35 years old, 19.4% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 18.5% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- LAS recorded 26.2% of all male victims were aged 18 to 25 years old, 24.8% were aged 26 to 35 years old and 23.2% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- 22.2% of all female victims were aged 10 to 17 years old, 22.0% were aged 26 to 35 years old and 17.9% were aged 18 to 25 years old.
- LAS recorded 27.3% of all female victims were aged 18 to 25 years old, 23.4% were aged 26 to 35 years old and 19.6% were aged 36 to 45 years old.
- 18.4% of all victims were subject to alcohol-related Non-DA VWI offences.
- 26.3% of male victims aged 18 to 25 years and 26.1% of male victims aged 26 to 35 years old were subject to alcohol-related Non-DA VWI offences.

Victims of Non-DA VWI (MPS) and individuals treated as a result of violence-related incidents (LAS) by age and gender in Croydon in 2019.



- Of those victims where gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 45.6% were White - North European and 34.2% were Black. This is closely reflected when broken down by gender.
- 50.6% of all victims aged 10 to 17 years old were Black, 45.1% of all victims aged 18 to 25 years old were White - North European and 51.7% of victims aged 26 to 35 years old were White - North European. This is reflected by gender.

Victims of Non-DA VWI in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- Out of all victims where their home address was identified, 80.4% lived in the borough
- Out of those victims that lived outside of the borough, almost half lived in neighbouring boroughs including 12.3% lived in Lambeth, 12.1% lived in Bromley, 11.6% lived in Merton and 10.3% lived in Sutton.
- By using the Acorn system, which is a segmentation tool which categorises the UK population into demographic types, we can determine which types victims are over-represented compared to the whole borough¹²
- Out of the victims where their home postcodes were identified mapped, the highest proportion were ‘Educated young people in flats and tenements’ at 12.4%. This type is briefly described as singles or young couples renting flats often found in urban cosmopolitan areas. Most incomes are below average due to young people being at the earlier stages of their career. The number claiming benefits is going to be higher than average.¹³
- The second highest proportion were ‘Low Income Terraces’ at 10.3%, which can be briefly described as areas usually found in towns and cities and are a mix of right to buy owners, private renters and socially rented housing. The residents are most likely to be younger with a high proportion of single parents and families, some with many children. These areas are diverse including people from African, Caribbean and Eastern European backgrounds. Incomes are significantly lower than the average with a high proportion claiming benefits.
- The third highest proportion were ‘Owner occupied terraces, average income’ at 10.1%, which is briefly described as typically found in towns and urban areas where it is home to a mix of working families and children. Likely large size of the families living here would mean accommodation is short of space. Unemployment is relatively low where family incomes are around or above the national average.

Acorn types where VWI Non-DA victims represented the highest proportions (from left to right).



- The type which showed the largest overrepresentation of victims of Non-DA VWI in comparison to the borough’s total population was ‘Poorer families, many children, terraced housing’, which victims were overrepresented by over 200% more than the total population. This type is briefly described as poor families in low rise estates where there are as many single parent families as traditional two parent families. There are many school age children and families are larger than average. Accommodation is crowded and many residents consider suffer from vandalism and crime. Long-term unemployment is high with many claiming benefits. There are also some residents who suffer health issues both mental and physical.
- The second largest type of victims being overrepresented by more than 150% than the borough’s population was ‘Deprived and ethnically diverse in flats’. This type is briefly described as areas where it is common for younger people with many children will be living. There are possibly higher concentrations of couples with young children, single parents, single people and students. Around a quarter are of African and Caribbean descent as

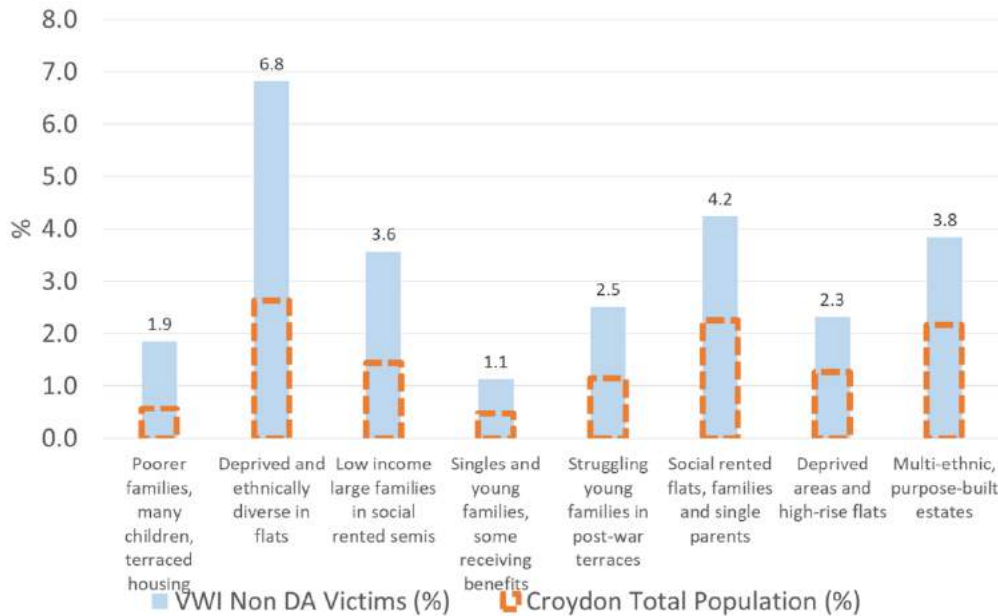
¹² Acorn analyses demographic data, social factors, population and consumer behaviour in order to provide precise information and an understanding of different types of people. It segments households, postcodes and neighbourhoods into 6 categories, 18 groups and 62 types. This report focuses on types.

¹³ This type’s description and all other types are described in full detail in the guide on Acorn which can be found at www.acorn.caci.co.uk

well as others from other ethnic backgrounds. People here live in smaller flats, which are mostly rented from the council or a housing association. The large number of children living in these properties make them the most overcrowded homes in the UK. Unemployment is high with many claiming benefits. Residents are also three times more likely to feel there are issues of crime and vandalism in their area.

- The third largest type of victims being overrepresented by 140% was ‘Low Income large families in social rented semis’. This type is briefly described as large families who mostly live in semi-detached or terraced council housing. Many families have three or more children and there is a large number of single parents. Unemployment is double the national average and many claim benefits, whereas those who work are in very low income jobs.

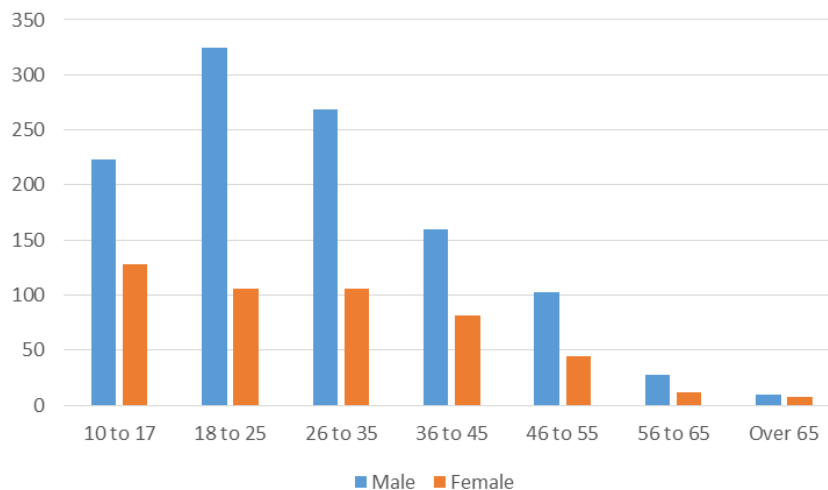
Acorn types where VWI Non-DA victims showed the largest overrepresentation in comparison to Croydon’s total population (from left to right).



Suspect Profile

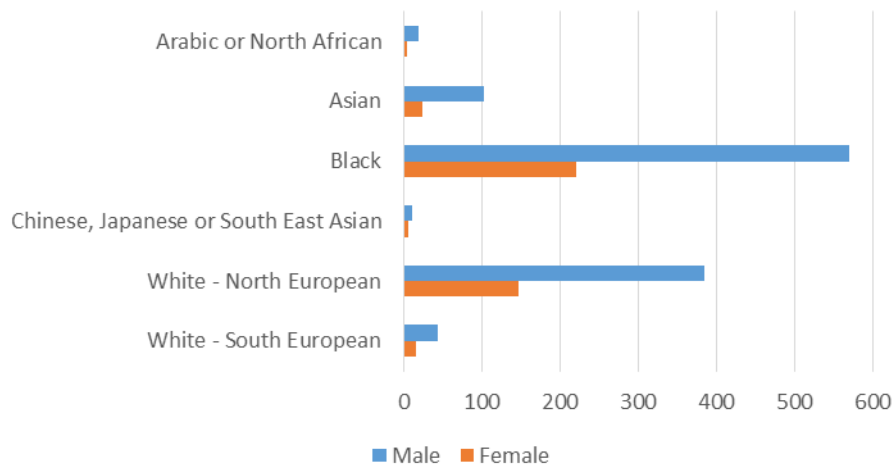
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 71.3% of the suspects were male and 28.7% were female.
- Where the suspect age was recorded, 26.9% were aged from 18 to 25 years old, 23.4% were aged 26 to 35 years old and 21.9% were aged 10 to 17 years old.
- 29.1% of all male suspects were aged 18 to 25 years old, 24.1% were aged 26 to 35 years old and 19.9% were aged 10 to 17 years old.
- 26.4% of all female suspects were aged 10 to 17 years old, 21.9% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 21.9% were aged 26 to 35 years old.
- 26.2% of male suspects each aged 18 to 25 years old, 21.7% of male suspects aged 26 to 35 and 29.4% of male suspects aged 36 to 45 years old were involved in alcohol-related offences.

Suspects of Non-DA VWI in Croydon in 2019 by gender and age from CRIS.



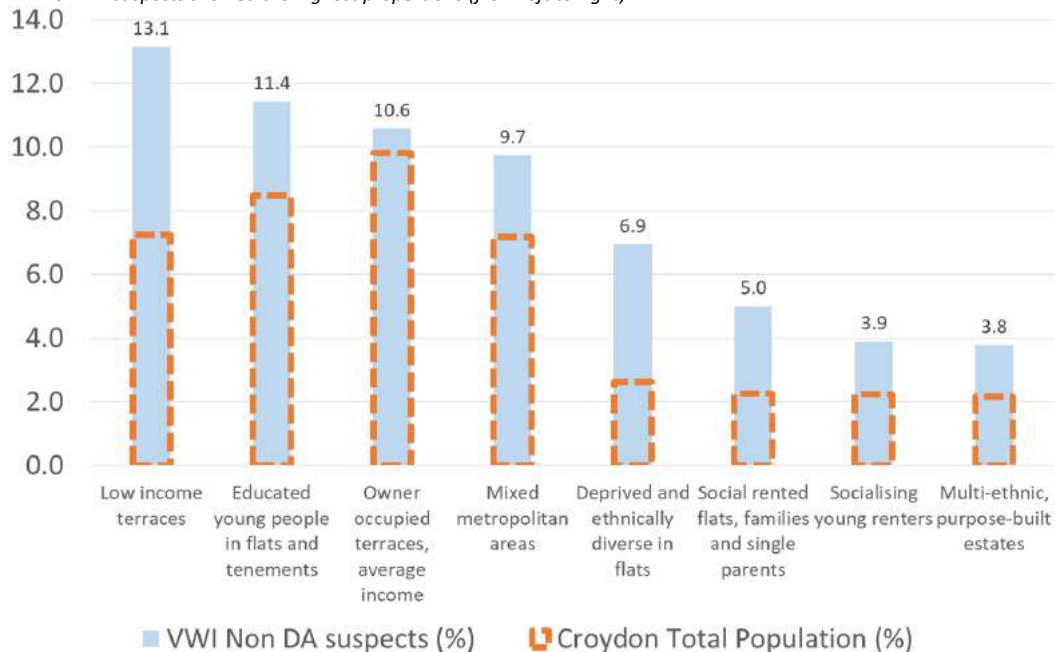
- Where the suspect's gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 51.3% were Black and 34.3% were White - North European. This is similar when ethnic appearance is broken down by gender.

Suspects of Non-DA VWI in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



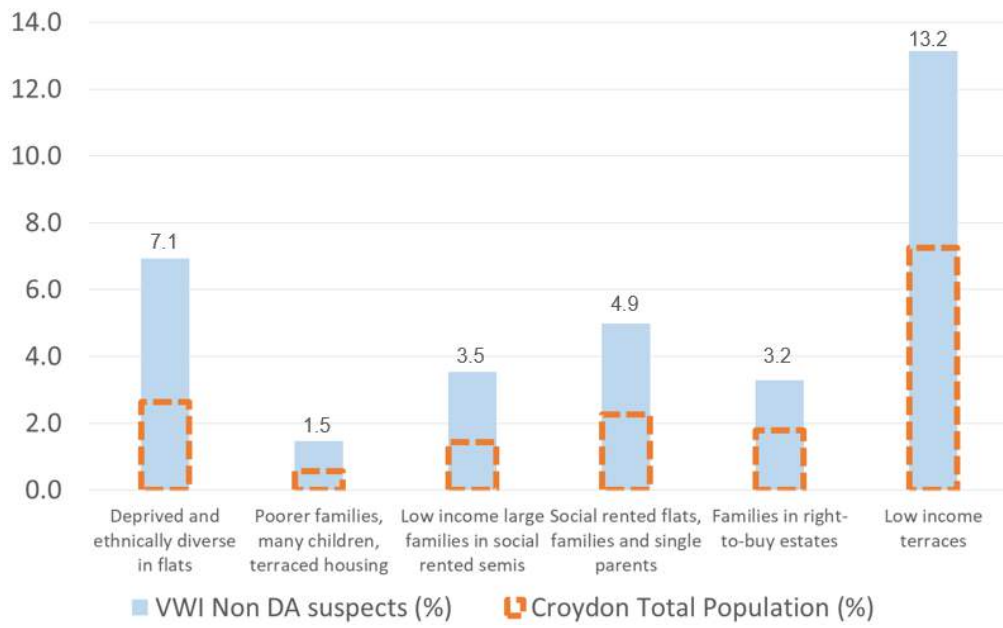
- 41.4% of suspects recorded had a specific relationship with the victim. Out of these suspects, 28.6% were recorded as an 'acquaintance of the victim'. This is followed by 9.4% of suspects attending the same school as the victim and 9.3% of suspects who were a neighbour of the victim.
- Out of all suspects where their home address was identified, 82.2% lived in the borough
- Out of those victims that lived outside of the borough 16.2% lived in Lambeth, 11.9% lived in Merton, 9.7% lived in Lewisham, 8.1% lived in Bromley, 8.1% lived in Sutton and 7.0% lived in Southwark.
- Using the Acorn tool, out of the suspects where their home postcodes were identified and mapped, the highest proportion were 'Low income terraces' at 13.1%. The second highest was 'Educated young people in flats and tenements' with 11.4% and the third highest was 'Owner occupied terraces, average income' with 10.6%.

Acorn types where VWI Non-DA suspects showed the highest proportions (from left to right).



- The type which showed the largest overrepresentation of suspects of Non-DA VWI in comparison to the borough's total population was 'Deprived and ethnically diverse in flats', which victims were overrepresented by over 150% more than the total population. The second largest type of victims being overrepresented by more than 100% than the borough's population was 'Poorer families, many children, terraced housing'. The third largest type was 'Low income large families in social rented semis' with more than 100%.

Acorn types where VWI Non-DA suspects showed the highest difference in comparison to Croydon's total population (from left to right).



Domestic Abuse (DA)

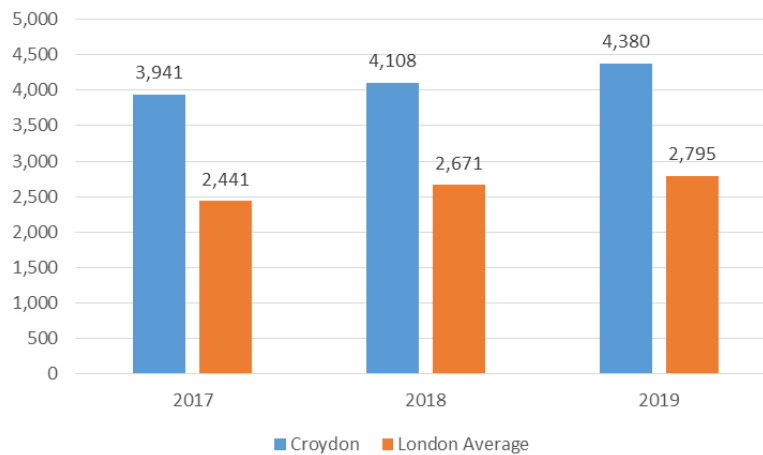
Definition

- This report uses the national definition of Domestic Abuse. This defines Domestic Abuse as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members¹⁴ regardless of gender or sexuality. A Domestic Abuse crime is any Domestic Abuse incident that constitutes a criminal offence¹⁵

Statistics

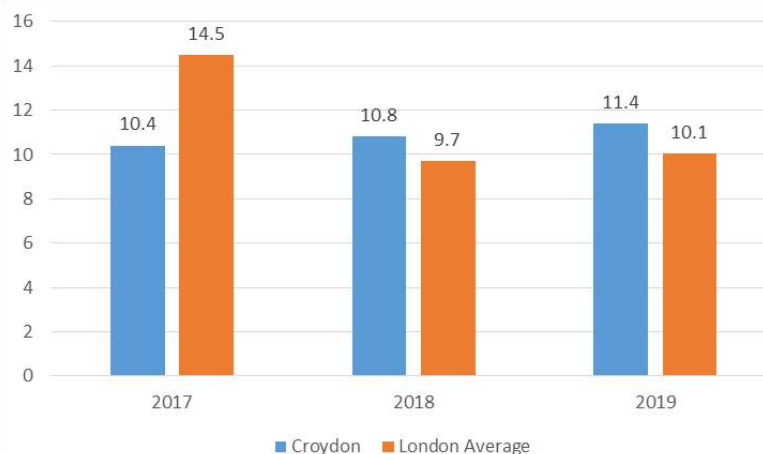
- There was a total of 4,380 recorded DA offences in 2019, an increase of 6.6% (272 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 4,108 offences recorded. In the same period there has been an increase in the London average where there was a 4.6% increase (124 offences) from 2,671 offences in 2018 to 2,795 offences in 2019. By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been an 11.1% increase in offences in Croydon (439 offences). In comparison, there was a larger percentage increase in the London average of 14.5% (354 offences).

DA statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 of residents, the rate of offences in the borough has seen a year-on-year increase from 10.4 in 2017, to 10.8 in 2018 to 11.4 in 2019. The London average has seen a decrease from 14.5 in 2017 to 9.7 in 2018 and then an increase to 10.1 in 2019.

DA crime rate per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



¹⁴ Family members are defined as; mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step-family (National Police Chiefs Council/NPCC).

¹⁵ Metropolitan Police Service – What is Domestic Abuse? <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/what-is-domestic-abuse/>

- Croydon’s volume in ranking in the past three years has been 1st. By going by the ranking per 1,000 residents, Croydon ranked 6th in 2017 and then dropped to 10th in 2018 but then rose to 7th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and the highest crime rate.

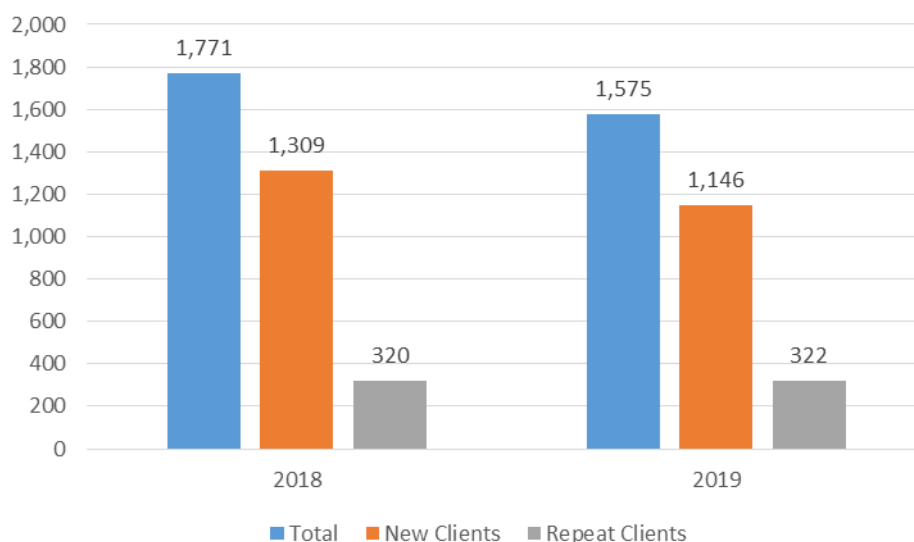
Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	1	6
2018	1	10
2019	1	7

- The majority of offences were made up of Common Assault (25.4%), ABH (24.0%) and Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety (10.4%), GBH/wounding (7.0%) and Harassment (6.4%).
- 24.8% of DA offences were alcohol-related.
- The use of social media or online messaging was used in 19.6% of all offences.

FJC Statistics

- The FJC (formerly Family Justice Centre) is a council-run service within the Violence Reduction Network which provide support and guidance to those who are a victim of Domestic Abuse, whether that is by a partner, ex-partner, family member or acquaintance.
- In 2019 there were 1,575 clients that were referred to the FJC in 2019, which is an 11.1% decrease compared to 2018 where there were a total of 1,771 clients that were referred.
- Out of those cases where it was stated whether they were new or repeat clients (this was stated for 92.0% of all clients in 2018 and 93.2% in 2019), in 2019 78.1% were new referrals and 21.9% were repeat referrals. In 2018, 80.4% were new referrals and 19.6% were repeat referrals.
- There were 1,146 who were new clients in 2019, which is a 12.5% decrease is compared to 2018 where there were 1,309 new clients referred.
- In 2019 there were 322 repeat clients, which is a 0.6% increase compared to 2018 where there were 320 repeat clients.

Referrals made to the FJC in 2018 and 2019 categorised by total, new clients and repeat clients. Note that total figure also includes those where it was not recorded whether they were new or repeat clients.



- For each client the question can be asked ‘how did they find out about the FJC?’ where the answer to this questions was recorded on 94.8% of the cases in 2018 and on 95.0% of the cases in 2019.
- There are three answers to this question to choose from. The first is a direct referral which is an internal referral e.g. from within the council including children’s social care, housing etc. The second is a self-referral where those involved in the domestic abuse have directly contacted the FJC for support. The third type of referral is by a signposting agency e.g. a referral from outside partner agencies e.g. the police, voluntary organisations etc.

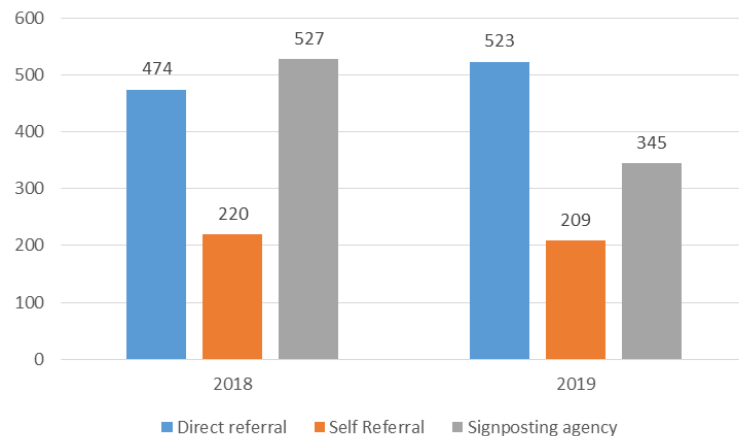
- Out of these cases, 690 clients were directly referred in 2019, which is a 14.6% increase compared to 2018 where 602 clients had been directly referred.
- For clients that were self-referred, there were 363 in 2019 which is a 12.1% decrease compared to 2018 where 413 clients were self-referred.
- There were 444 clients that were signposted by an agency in 2019, which is a decrease of 33.1% compared to 2018 where there were 664 clients signposted.

How all clients were referred to the FJC in 2018 and 2019.



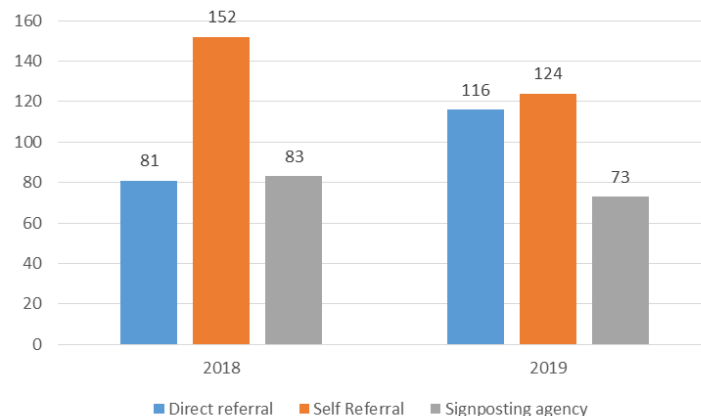
- For new clients referred to the FJC in 2018 and 2019, there was a 10.3% increase in direct referrals in 2019 compared to 2018, a 5.0% decrease in self-referrals and a 34.5% decrease in clients being signposted by an agency.

How new clients were referred to the FJC in 2018 and 2019.



- For repeat clients referred to the FJC in 2018 and 2019, there was a 43.2% increase in direct referrals in 2019 compared to 2018, an 18.4% decrease in self-referrals and a 12.0% decrease in clients being signposted by an agency.

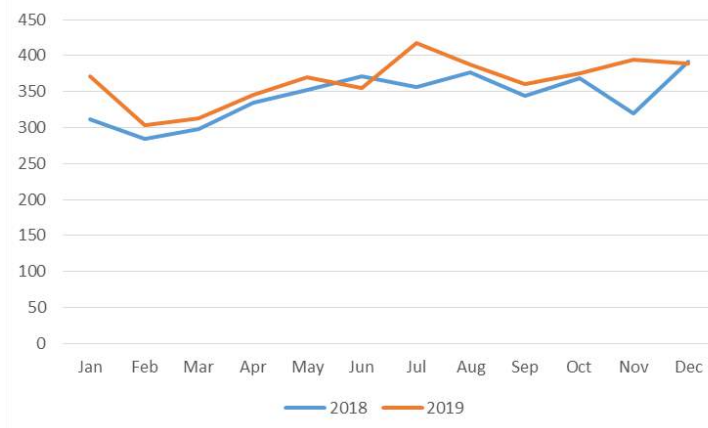
How repeat clients were referred to the FJC in 2018 and 2019.



Temporal Analysis

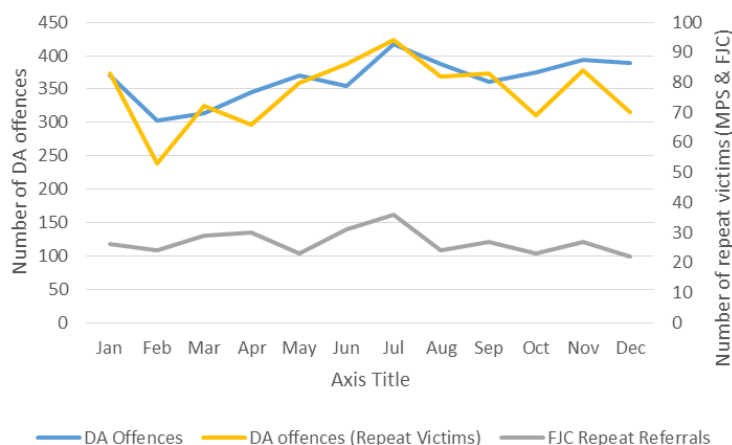
- Offences in 2018 and 2019 are fairly consistent throughout the year. In 2019 the peak months for DA were July, November and December. The peak months in 2018 were December, August and June. There is a similar pattern in both 2018 and 2019 from January where offences decrease in February, increase in March and continue to rise into May. There is a similar pattern from August where offences decrease in September but rise in October.

DA offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



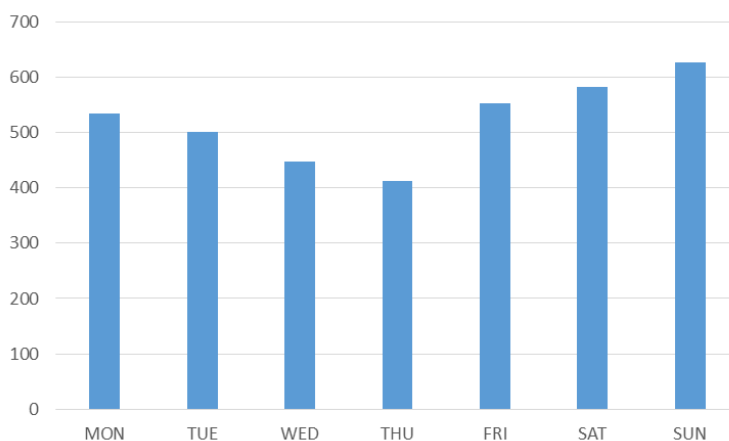
- By comparing the number of DA offences in 2019 by month to the number of repeat victims within these offences and repeat referrals to the FJC, there is a pattern between the number in repeat referrals and repeat victims in DA offences to the peak number of DA offences in July and November.

DA offences from MetStats, DA offences involving repeat victims from CRIS and repeat referrals made to the FJC by month in Croydon in 2019.



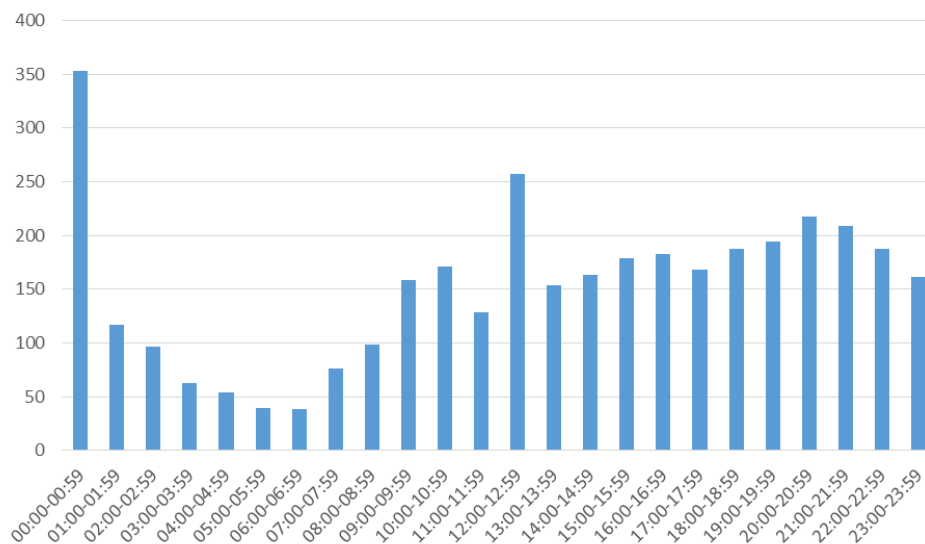
- The peak days for offences are on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, making up almost half of all offences throughout the week (48.2%).

DA offences by day of the week in Croydon in 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences are shown between 00:00 and 01:00 and between 12:00 and 13:00. However, it must be noted that the majority of these offences involve offences that have occurred over a range of time e.g. malicious communication has been made a number of times over the phone, text, online messaging etc. In these cases, the default time to put on a crime report (as no specific time can or has been specified) is 12:00 or 00:00, therefore causing a disproportionate number of offences around these times.
- Outside of these times, the peak times for offences are between 18:00 and 23:00 hours, which correlate with the peak days of Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Offences also increase between the hours between 15:00 and 17:00. Even though this could be presumed to be linked with 'after-school' hours, almost half of offences (48.6%) occurring between these times are on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

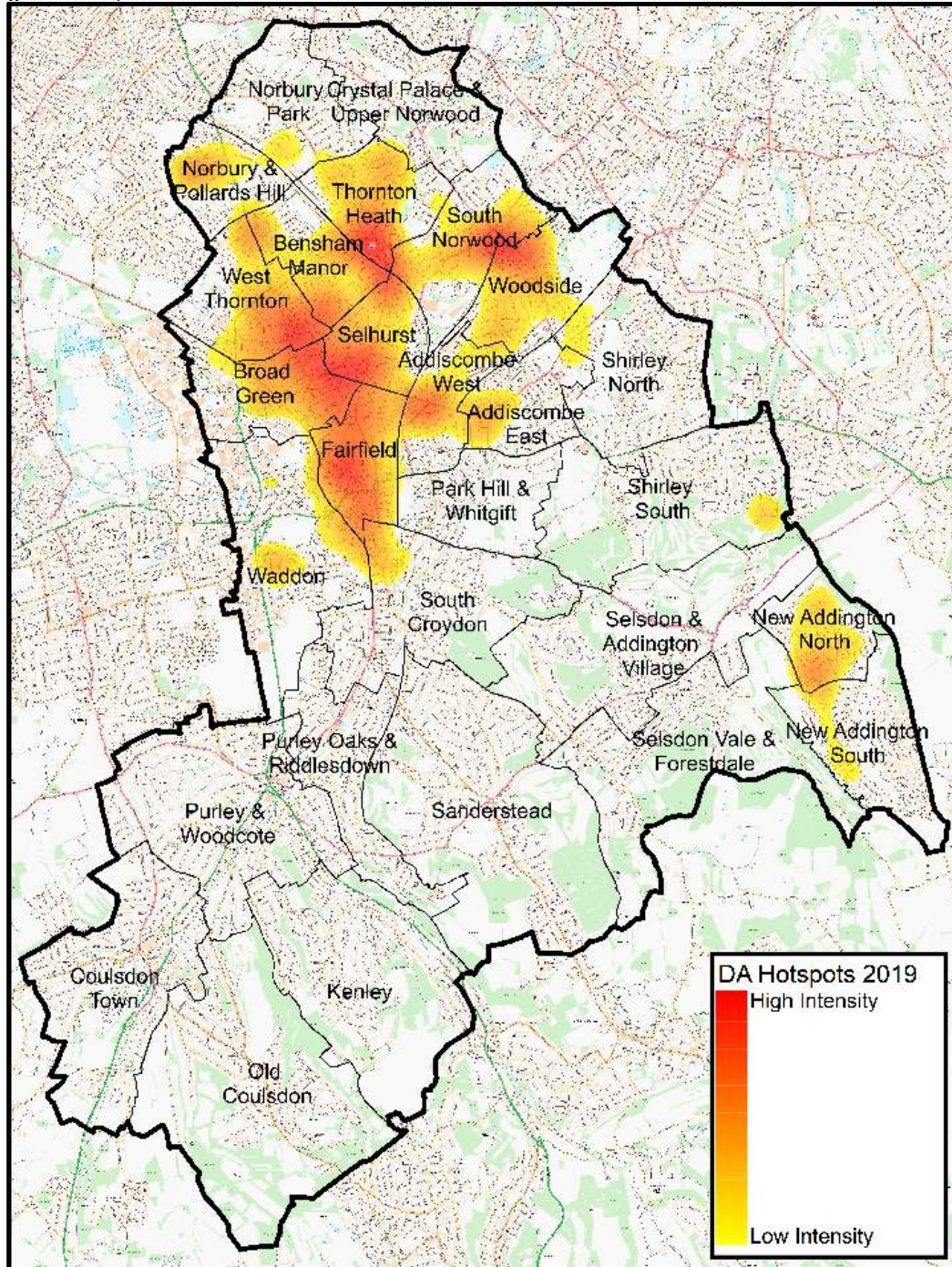
DA offences committed in Croydon in 2019 by hour taken from CRIS.



Hotspots

- The primary hotspots are in areas where there is high footfall and are densely populated including Croydon Town Centre, in and around Thornton Heath High Street, and in and around South Norwood High Street. Other areas where there are primary hotspots are parts of Broad Green, Selhurst and West Thornton wards.
- Secondary hotspots are in Waddon, Norbury & Pollards Hill, Norbury Park Addiscombe West, Addiscombe East, Woodside, Shirley North, Shirley South, New Addington North and New Addington South wards.

Hotspot map of DA offences in Croydon in 2019

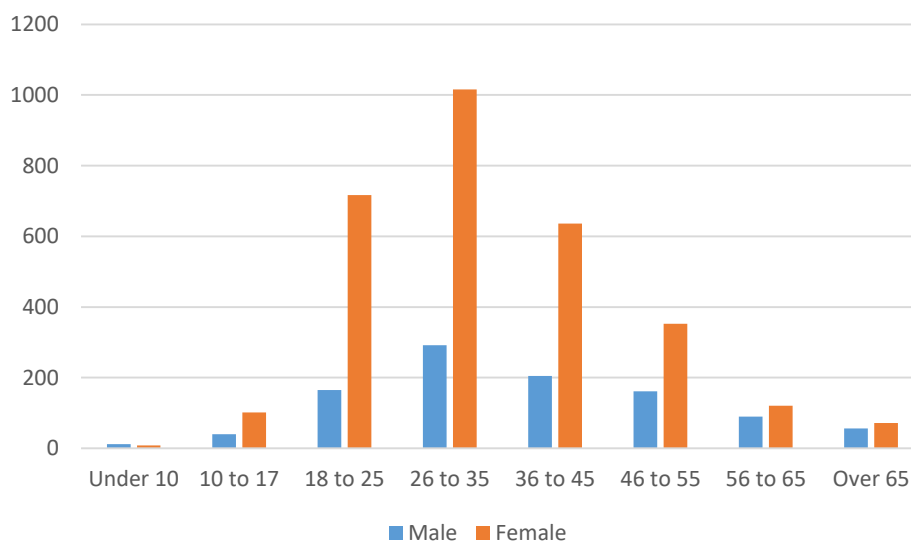


- A location type was given for 81.7% of the crimes recorded. Out of these crimes, 31.0% of crimes were committed in a flat/maisonette, 18.3% were committed in a terraced house, 11.7% were committed in a semi-detached house, 11.1% were committed in a house/bungalow, 10.2% were committed in the street, 5.8% were committed in a council-owned property and 3.8% were committed in a detached house.

Victim Profile

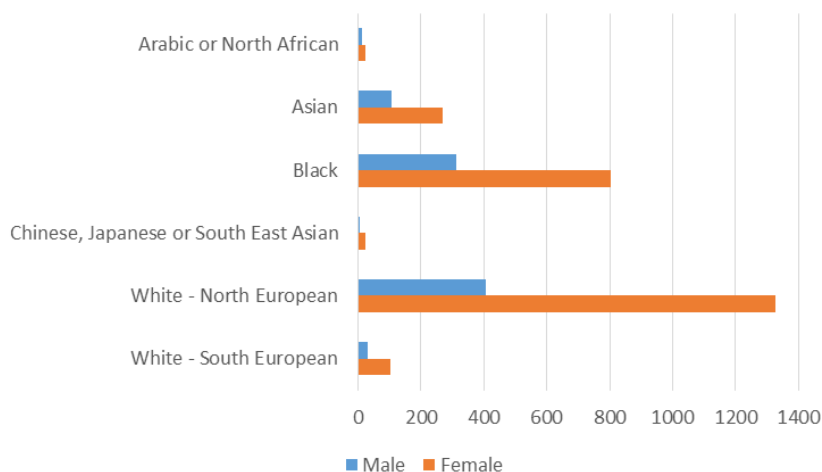
- Out of the victims where gender was recorded, 74.7% of victims were female and 25.3% were male.
- 32.3% of victims were aged 26 to 35 years old, 21.8% were aged 18 to 25 years old, 20.8% were aged 36 to 45 years old and 12.7% were aged 46 to 55 years old.
- 33.6% of female victims were aged 26 to 35 years old, 23.7% were aged 18 to 25 years old, 21.0% were aged 36 to 45 years old and 11.7% were aged 46 to 55 years old.
- 28.6% of male were aged 26 to 35 years old, 20.1% were aged 36 to 45 years old, 16.2% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 15.8% were aged 46 to 55 years old.
- FJC data recorded 96.1% of referrals in 2019 were female and 3.9% were male.
- Out of all referrals where age was recorded 38.3% were aged 26 to 35 years old, 24.9% were aged 36 to 45 years old, 19.0% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 11.5% were aged 46 to 55 years old. When broken down by gender the figures closely reflect this.

Victims of DA in Croydon in 2019 by age and gender from CRIS.



- Of those victims where gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 50.7% of victims were White - North European, 32.6% were Black and 11.0% were Asian.
- 52.1% of female victims were White - North European, 31.5% were Black and 10.5% were Asian.
- 46.6% of male victims were White - North European 35.6% were Black and 12.2% were Asian.
- These figures are closely reflected by the FJC data.

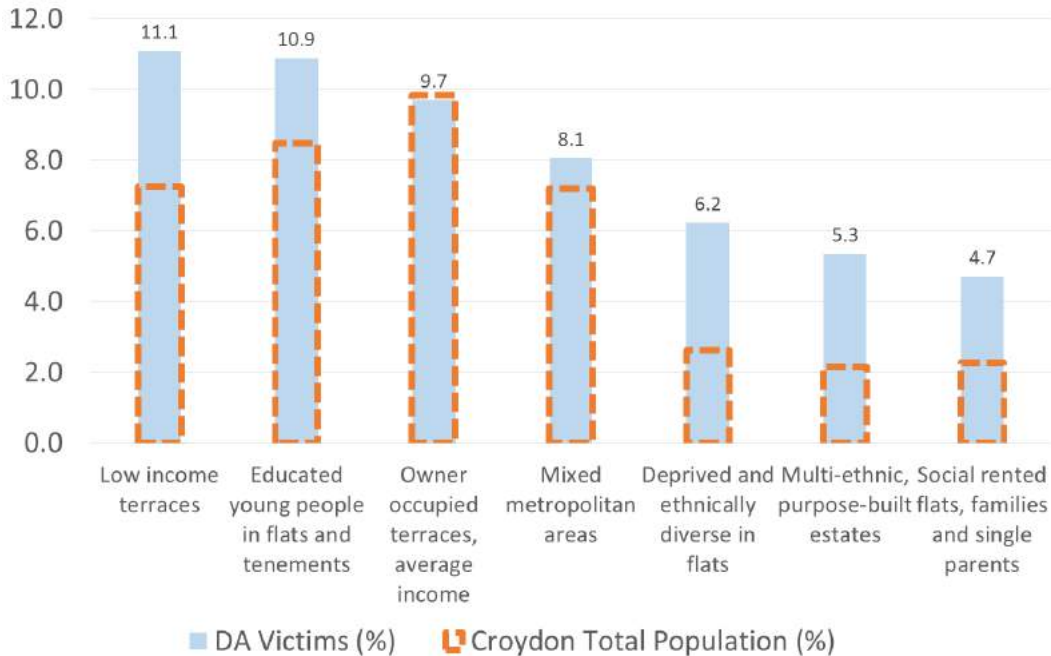
Victims of DA in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- Out of all victims where their home address was identified, 86.9% lived in the borough

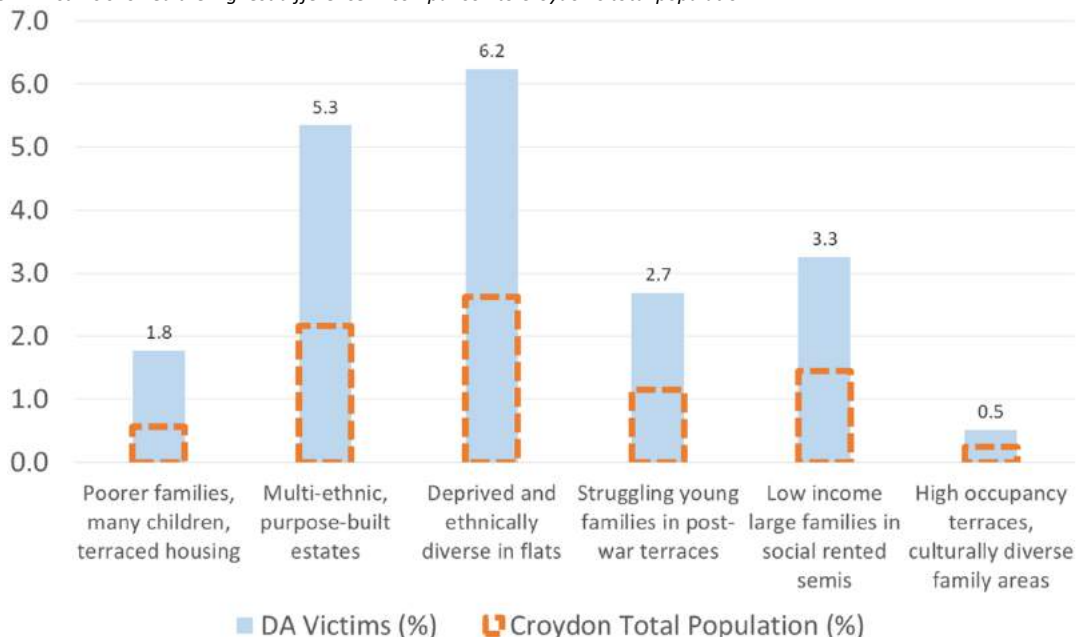
- Out of those victims that lived outside of the borough, 10.1% lived in Bromley, 9.7% lived in Lambeth, 8.0% lived in Merton, 6.8% lived in Sutton, 6.0% lived in Lewisham and 5.2% lived in Southwark.
- 27.1% of all victims were repeat victims.
- Using the Acorn tool, out of the victims where their home postcodes were identified and mapped, the highest proportion were 'Low income terraces' with 11.1%. The second highest proportion were 'Educated young people in flats and tenements' with 10.9%. The third highest were 'Owner occupied terraces, average income' with 9.7%.

Acorn types where DA victims represented the highest proportions (from left to right).



- The type which showed the largest overrepresentation between the victims of Non-DA VWI and the borough's total population was 'Poorer families, many children, terraced housing', which victims were overrepresented by over 260% more than the total population.
- The second largest type of victims being overrepresented by more than 130% than the borough's population was 'Multi-ethnic, purpose-built estates'. The third highest type of victims being overrepresented by more than 120% than the borough's population was 'Deprived and ethnically diverse in flats'.

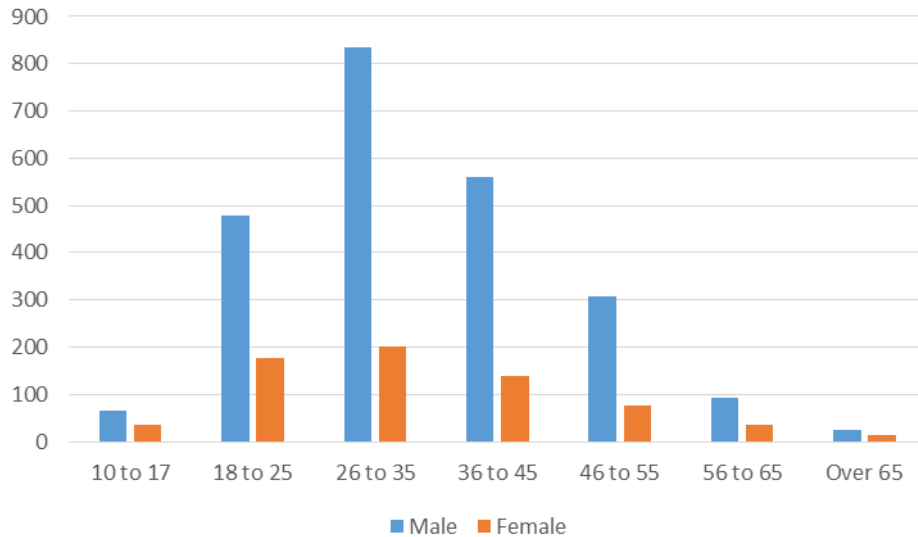
Acorn types where DA victims showed the highest difference in comparison to Croydon's total population



Suspect Profile

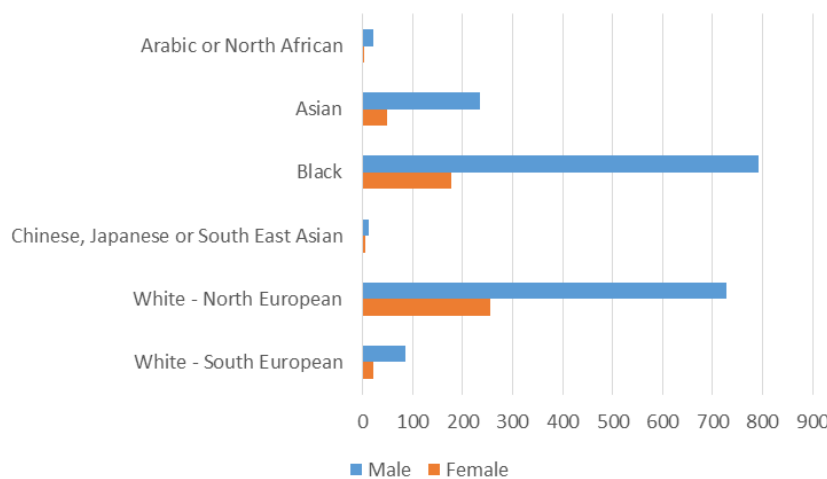
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 77.4% were male and 22.6% were female.
- 34.0% of suspects were aged 26 to 35 years old, 22.9% were aged 36 to 45 years old, 21.6% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 12.6% were aged 46 to 55 years old.
- 35.3% of male suspects were aged 26 to 35 years old, 23.7% were aged 36 to 45 years old and 20.3% were aged 18 to 25 years old.
- 29.5% of female suspects were aged 26 to 35 years old 26.1% were aged 18 to 25 years old and 20.4% were aged 36 to 45 years old.

Suspects of DA offences in Croydon in 2019 by gender and age from CRIS.



- Where the suspect’s ethnic appearance and age were recorded, 41.2% were White - North European, 40.6% were Black and 11.9% were Asian.
- 42.3% of male suspects were Black, 38.8% were White - North European and 12.6% were Asian.
- 49.8% of female suspects were White - North European, 34.8% were Black and 9.6% were Asian.

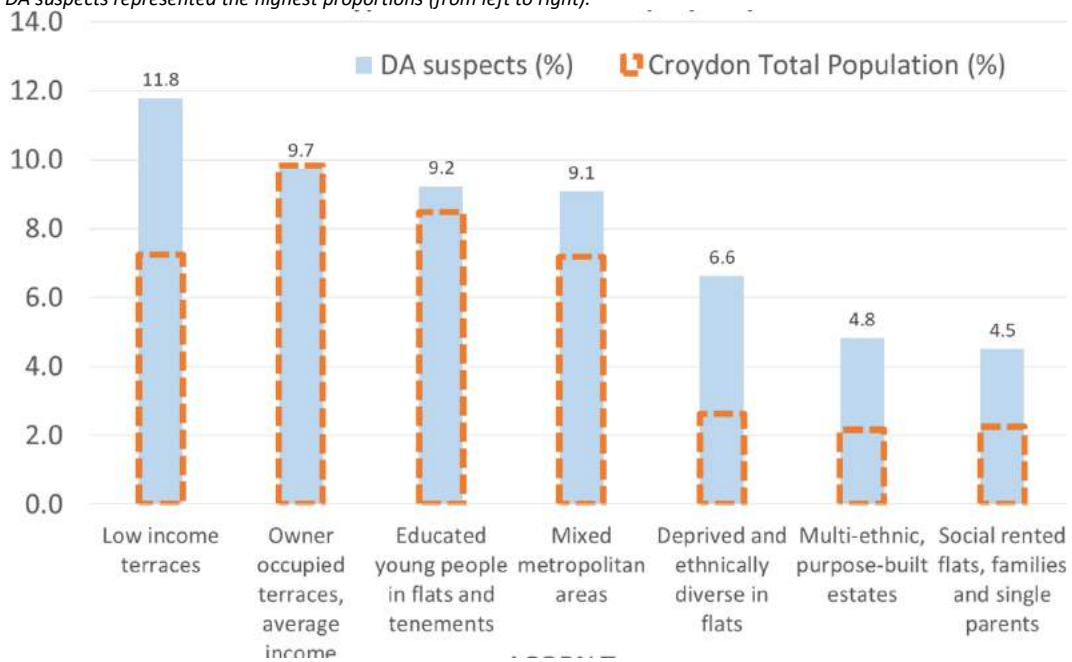
Suspects of DA in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- 86.9% of suspects had a type of relationship with the victim. Out of these suspects, 27.2% were an ex-boyfriend of the victim, 18.5% was the boyfriend of the victim, 9.3% was the husband of the victim, 6.7% was the ex-girlfriend of the victim and 6.4% was the son of the victim.
- Out of all suspects where their home address was identified, 78.8% lived in the borough.
- Out of those suspects that lived outside of the borough, 16.3% lived in Lambeth, 11.0% lived in Bromley, 7.9% lived in Merton, 7.9% lived in Sutton and 7.5% lived in Lewisham.
- 20.0% of all suspects were repeat suspects, meaning they committed at least two or more domestic abuse offence in 2019.

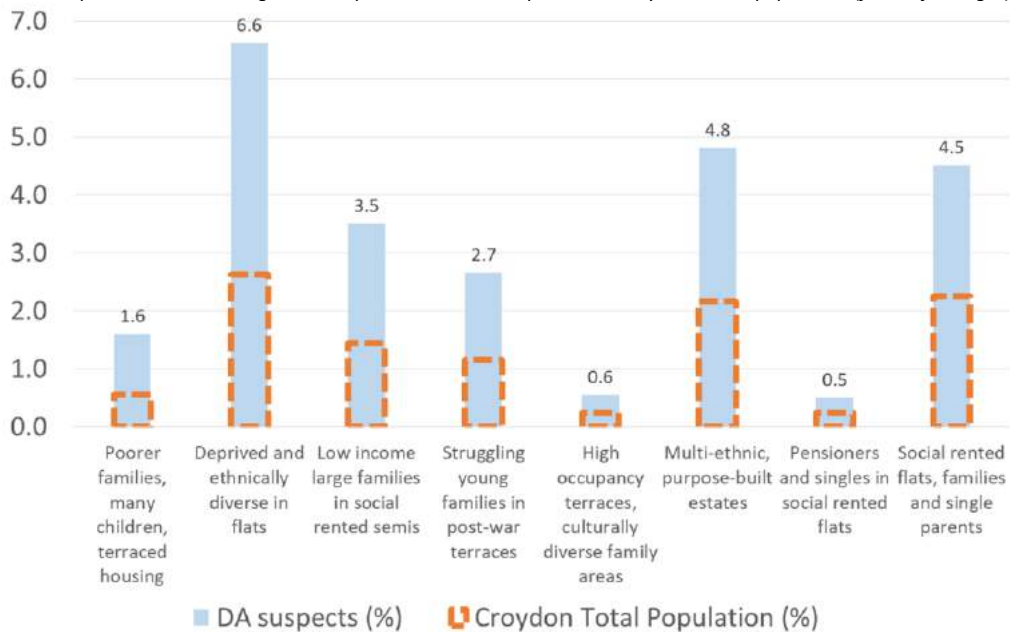
- Using the Acorn tool, out of the suspects where their home postcodes were identified and mapped, the highest proportion were 'Low income terraces' at 11.8%. The second highest was 'Owner occupied terraces, average income' with 9.7% and the third highest was 'Educated young people in flats and tenements' with 9.2%.

Acorn types where DA suspects represented the highest proportions (from left to right).



- The type which showed the largest overrepresentation between the suspects of Non-DA VWI and the borough's total population was 'Poorer families, many children, terraced housing' which victims were overrepresented by over 160% more than the total population. The second largest type of victims being overrepresented by more than 140% than the borough's population was 'Deprived and ethnically diverse in flats'. The third largest type was 'Low income large families in social rented semis' with more than 130% than the borough's population.

Acorn types where DA suspects showed the largest overrepresentation in comparison to Croydon's total population (from left to right).



Knife Crime

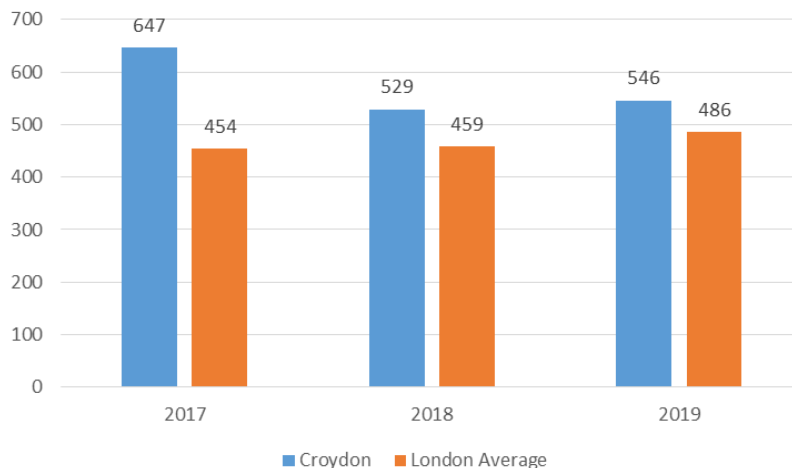
Definition

- The MPS and the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) defines Knife Crime (in accordance with the Home Office) as any offences that satisfies the following criteria:
 - Is classified as an offence of homicide, attempted murder, assault with intent to cause harm, assault with injury, threats to kill, sexual offences (including rape) and robbery;
 - Where a knife or sharp instrument has been used to injure, used as a threat, or the victim was convinced a knife was present during the offence.

Statistics

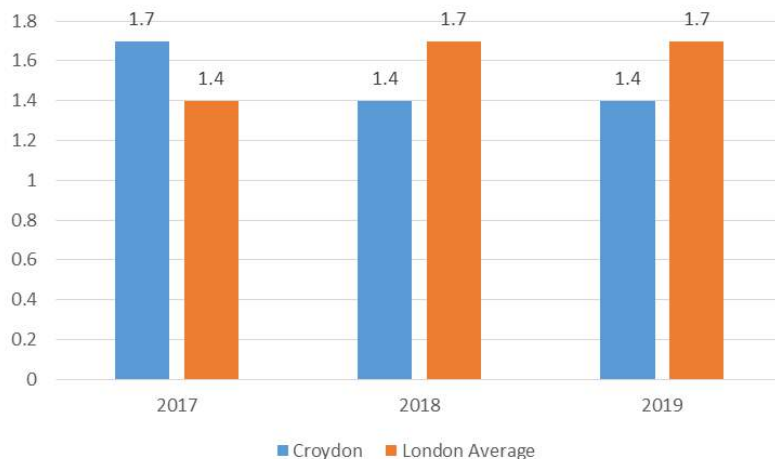
- There was a total of 546 knife crime offences in 2019, an increase of 3.2% (17 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 529 offences. This is a smaller percentage increase compared to the London average where there was a 6.0% increase (28 offences) from 459 in 2018 to 486 in 2019. By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 15.6% decrease in Croydon (101 offences). In comparison, there has been an increase of 7.1% (32 offences) in the London average.

Knife Crime statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 of residents, the rate of offences in the borough has fallen from 1.7 in 2017 to 1.4 in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019. The London average has seen an increase from 1.4 in 2017 to 1.7 in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019.

Knife Crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking has fallen from 7th in 2017 to 13th in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019. Croydon's ranking for offences per 1,000 residents was much lower at 15th in 2017 and it had fallen to 19th in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and the highest crime rate.

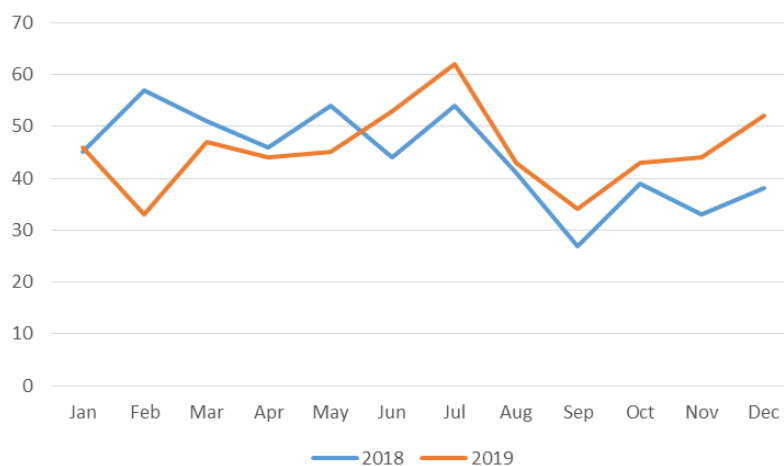
Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	7	15
2018	13	19
2019	13	19

- The majority of knife crime offences in Croydon in 2019 are made up of Personal Robbery (49.3%) followed by GBH with Intent (17.8%), GBH/Serious Wounding (12.2%), ABH (8.6%) and Threat to Kill (5.2%).
- 14.3% of knife crime offences were flagged as Domestic Abuse.
- 16.1% of knife crime offences were alcohol-related.
- The use of social media or online messaging was used in 9.4% of knife crime offences.

Temporal Analysis

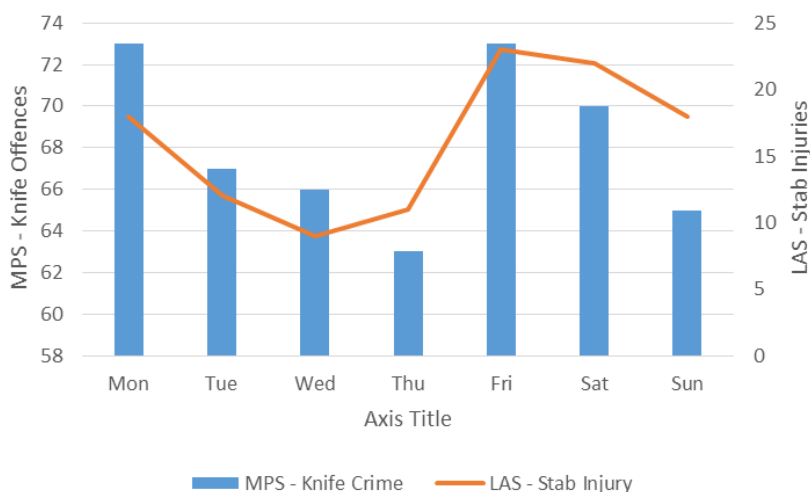
- In 2019 the peak months for Non-DA VWI were June, July and December. The peak months in 2018 were February, May and July. There is a similar pattern in both 2018 and 2019 where offences sharply increase in July and then rapidly decrease continuously in August and September before increase in October. Offences also increase in December.
- The high number of offences in June, July and December correlate with the high number of offences in SYV and YV in the borough where a high number of victims of Knife Crime are aged 1-19.

Knife Crime offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



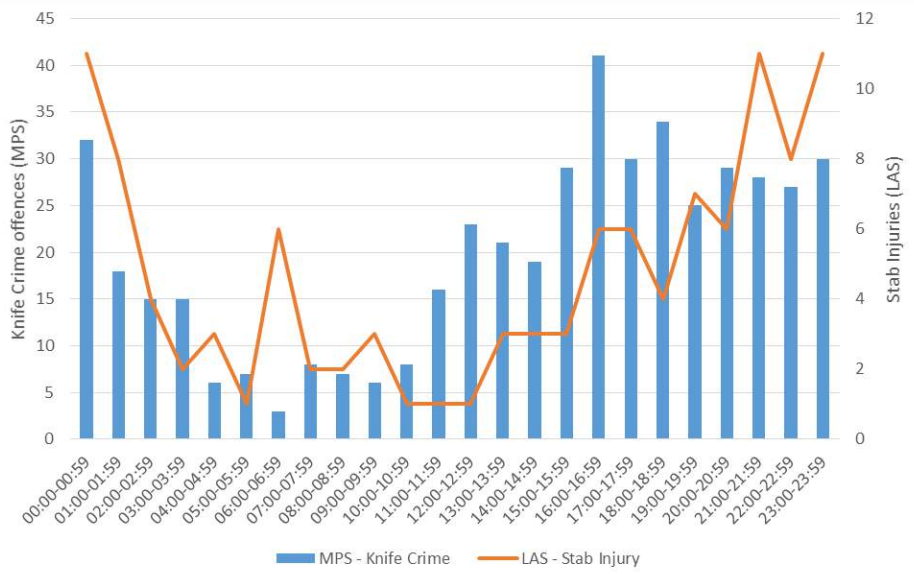
- Offences are fairly consistent throughout the week with the peak days being Monday, Friday and Saturday.
- Stab injuries reported by the LAS show the peak days as being Friday and Saturday.

Knife Crime offences from CRIS and stab injuries reported by LAS from SafeStats by day of the week in Croydon in 2019.



- The peak time for Knife Crime offences was from 16:00 to 19:00, which correlates with ‘after-school’ hours. Times are from 20:00 to 01:00 which correlate with the night-time economy.
- Stab injuries reported by LAS showed peak time being from 06:00 to 07:00, 16:00 to 17:00 and 19:00 to 01:00.

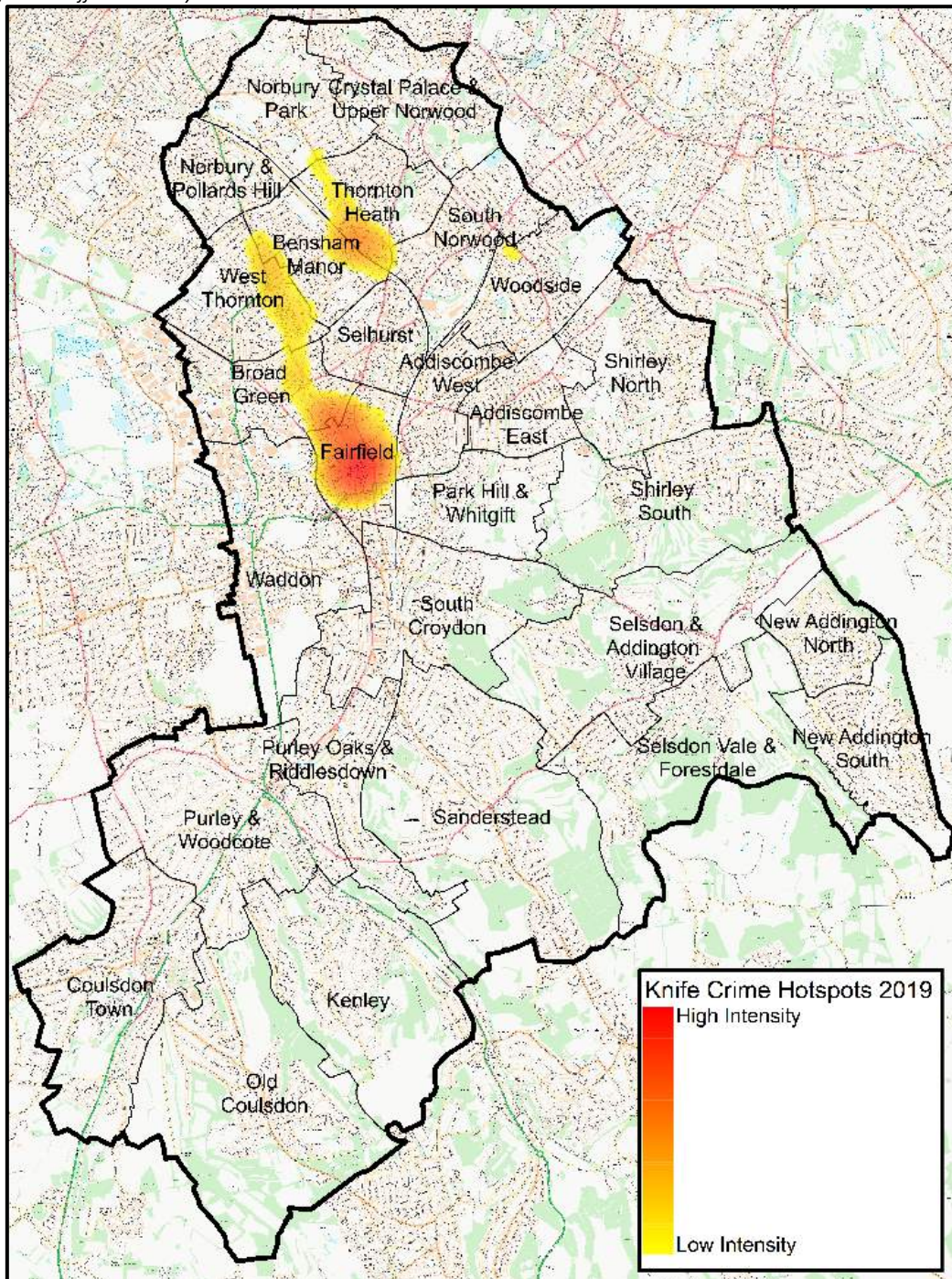
Knife Crime offences from CRIS and stab injuries recorded by the LAS from SafeStats by hour committed in Croydon in 2019.



Hotspots

- The primary hotspot for SYV is Croydon Town Centre with almost a fifth (18.7%) of all mapped knife crime offences being committed in this area.
- Secondary hotspots are predominantly areas where there is high footfall including London Road, in and around Thornton Heath High Street and Green Lane and South Norwood High Street.

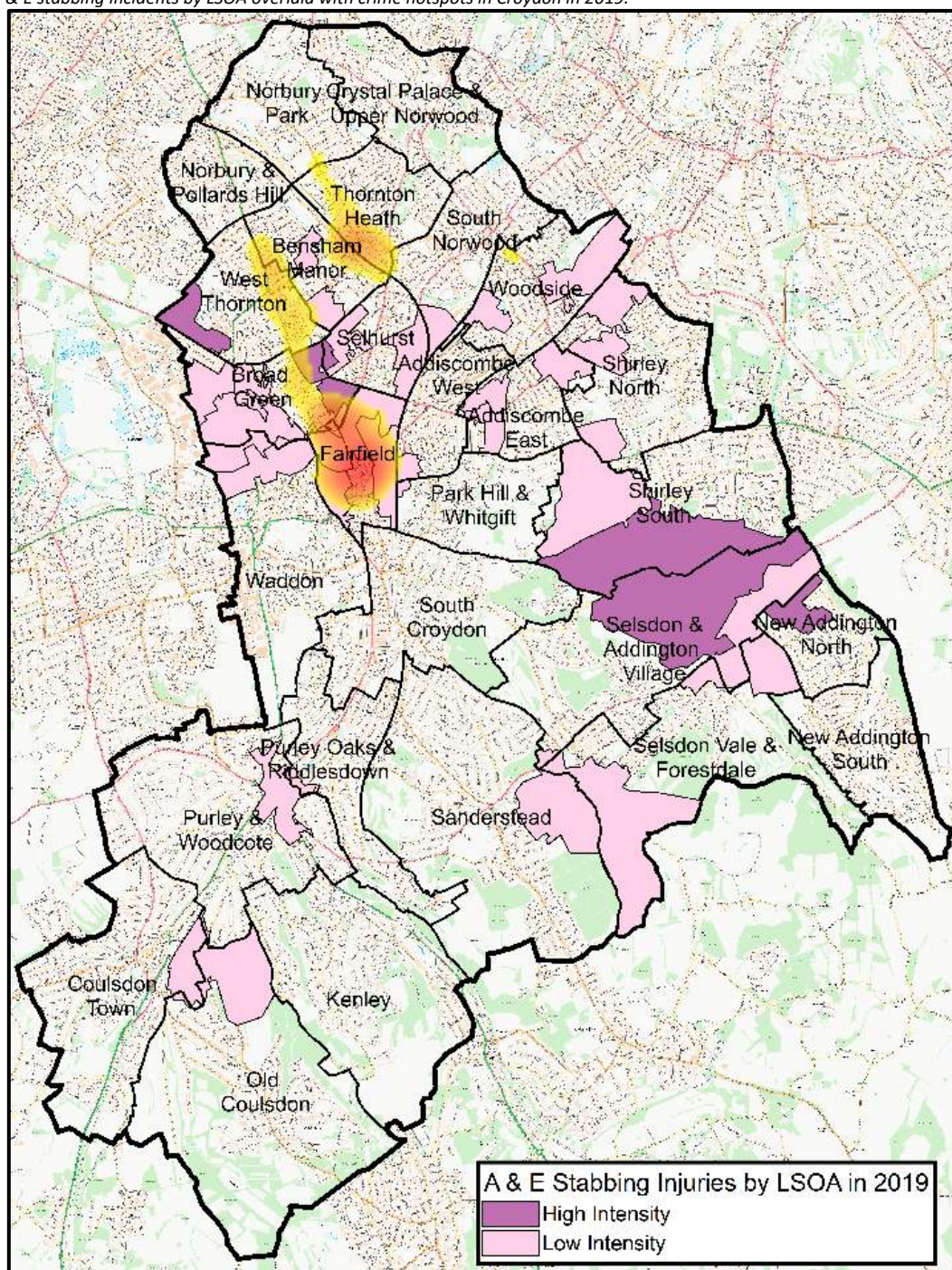
Hotspot map of Knife Crime offences in Croydon in 2019.



- Where the location type was recorded (88.8% of all offences), 50.5% occurred in the street followed by 9.9% occurring in a flat/maisonette and 5.2% occurring in terraced properties.

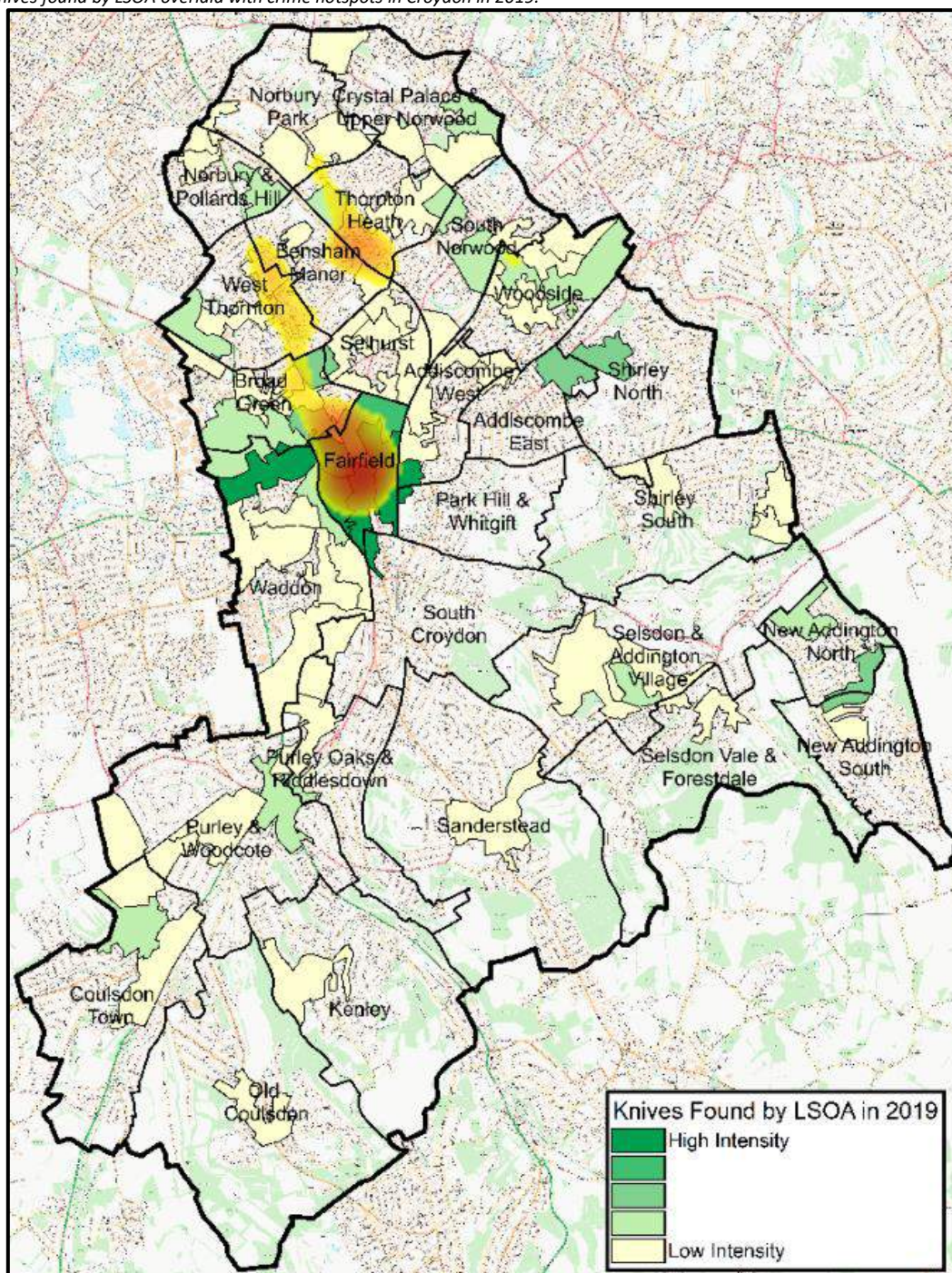
- By mapping A & E stabbing incidents by LSOA, other areas of concern appear outside of the crime hotspots including parts of West Thornton, Shirley South, Selsdon and Addington Village (which as stated in the Non-DA VWI section, this is represented by one incident involved several victims) and New Addington North wards.

Thematic map of A & E stabbing incidents by LSOA overlaid with crime hotspots in Croydon in 2019.



- By mapping knives found and recorded by the MPS by LSOA, other primary hotspots not shown by knife crime data include parts of Waddon, Addiscombe East, Shirley North, New Addington North and New Addington South wards.

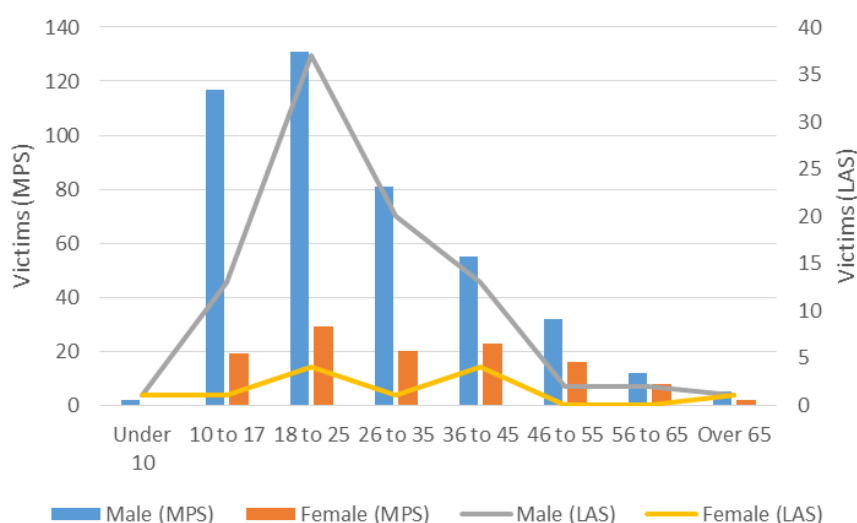
Thematic map of knives found by LSOA overlaid with crime hotspots in Croydon in 2019.



Victim Profile

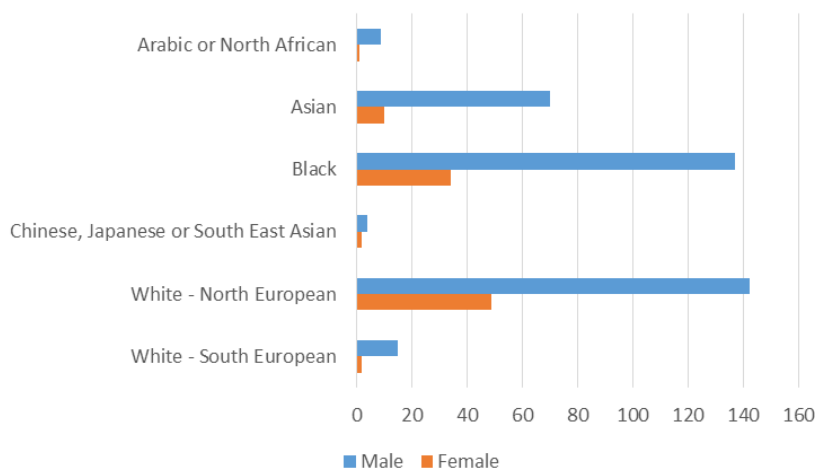
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 78.8% of victims were male and 21.2% were female.
- Violence-related LAS incidents recorded 88.1% of victims who were male and 11.9% who were female.
- 29.0% of victims were aged 18 to 25 years old followed by 24.6% of those aged 10 to 17 years old and 18.3% of those aged 26 to 35 years old.
- LAS incidents recorded the 40.6% of those treated for were aged 18 to 25 years old followed 20.8% of those aged 26 to 35 years old and 16.8% of those aged between 36 to 45 years old.
- 30.1% of male victims were aged between 18 and 25 years old. LAS incidents recorded 41.2% of males were aged between 18 and 25 years old.
- 24.8% of female victims were aged between 18 and 25 years old. LAS incidents recorded 33.3% of female victims were aged between 18 and 25 years old.
- LAS incidents also recorded 33.3% of female victims were aged 36 and 45 years old – the joint highest proportion of female victims. MPS recorded 19.7% of female victims were aged between 36 and 45 years old – the second highest proportion of female victims.

Victims of Knife Crime (MPS) and individuals treated as a result of stabbing injuries (LAS) in Croydon in 2019 by age and gender.



- Of those victims where gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 34.6% of victims were White - North European followed by 31.0% of victims recorded as Black.

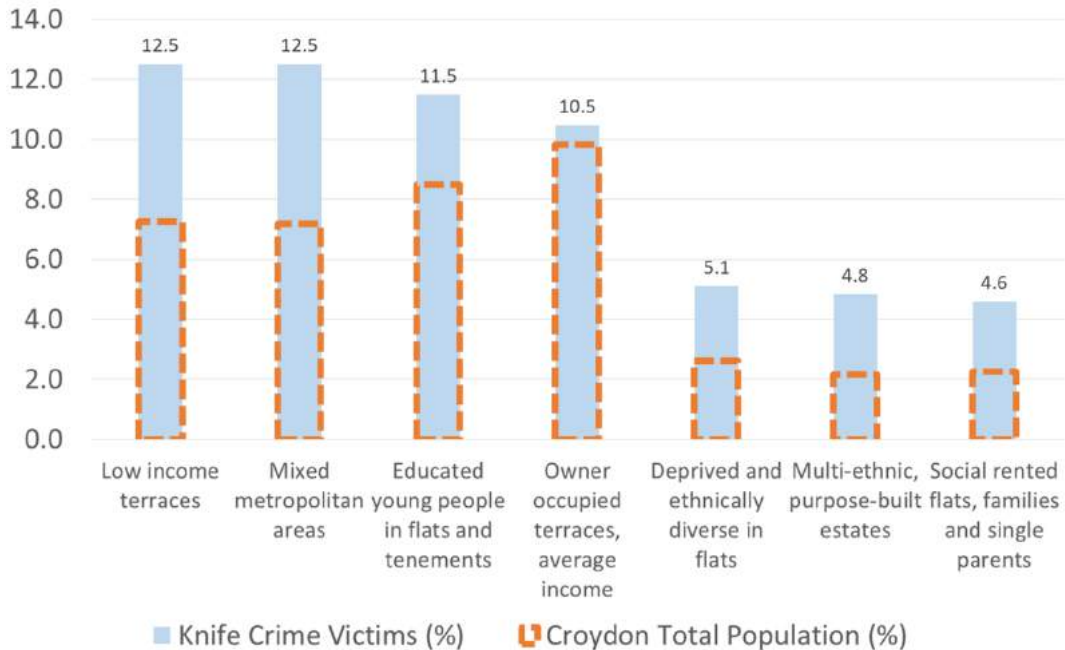
Victims of Knife Crime in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- Out of all victims where their home address was identified, 78.1% lived in the borough.
- Out of those victims that lived outside of the borough, almost half lived in neighbouring boroughs including 15.0% lived in Merton, 12.4% lived in Lambeth, 12.4% lived in Sutton and 8.0% lived in Bromley.

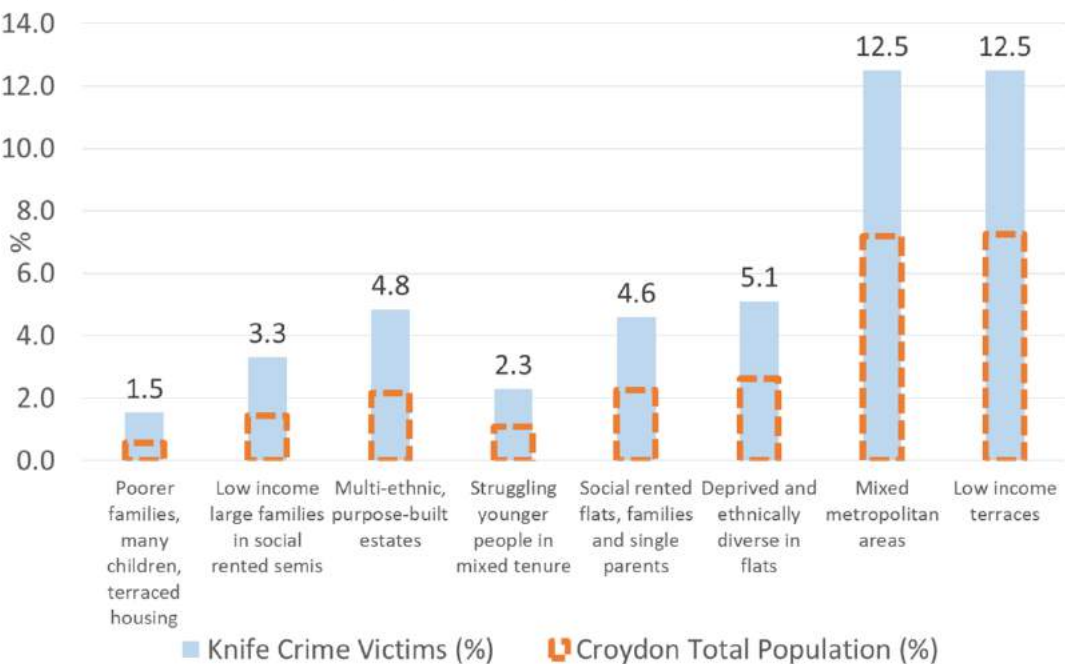
- By using the Acorn system, out of the victims where their home postcodes were identified mapped, the highest proportion were 'Low income terraces' with 12.5%. The second highest proportion were 'Mixed metropolitan areas' with 12.5% and the third highest proportion were 'Educated young people in flats and tenements' with 11.5%.

Acorn types where knife crime victims showed the highest proportions (from left to right).



- The type which showed the largest overrepresentation between the victims of knife crime and the borough's total population was 'Poorer families, many children, terraced housing', which victims were overrepresented by 200% more than the total population.
- The second highest type of victims being overrepresented by 120% more than the borough's population were 'Low income large families in social rented semis'. The third highest type of victims being overrepresented by over 110% more than the borough's population were "Multi-ethnic purpose-built estates'.

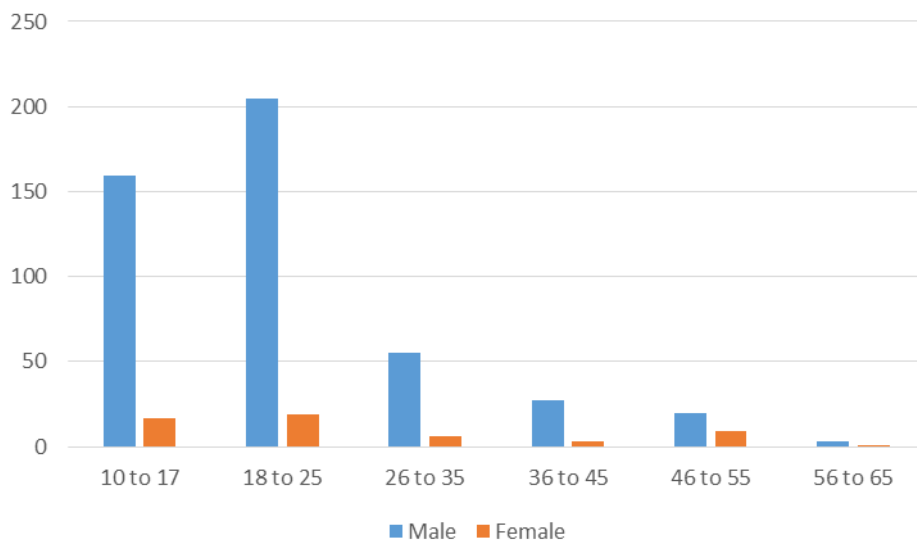
Acorn types where knife crime victims showed the largest overrepresentation in comparison to Croydon's total population (from left to right).



Suspect Profile

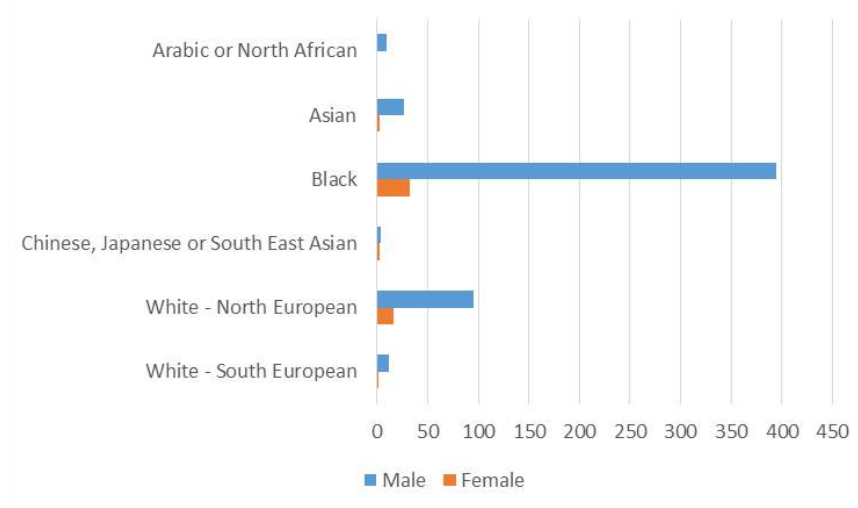
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 90.9% of the suspects were male and 9.1% were female.
- Where the suspect age was recorded, 42.7% were aged from 18 to 25 years old, 33.6% were aged 10 to 17 years old and 11.6% were aged 26 to 35 years old.
- 43.7% of male suspects were aged 18 to 25 years old followed by 33.9% of those aged 10 to 17 years old then 11.7% of those aged 26 to 35 years old.
- 34.5% of female suspects were aged 18 to 25 years old followed by 30.9% of those aged 10 to 17 years old and then 11.6% of those aged 26 to 35 years old.

Suspects of Knife Crime in Croydon in 2019 by gender and age from CRIS.



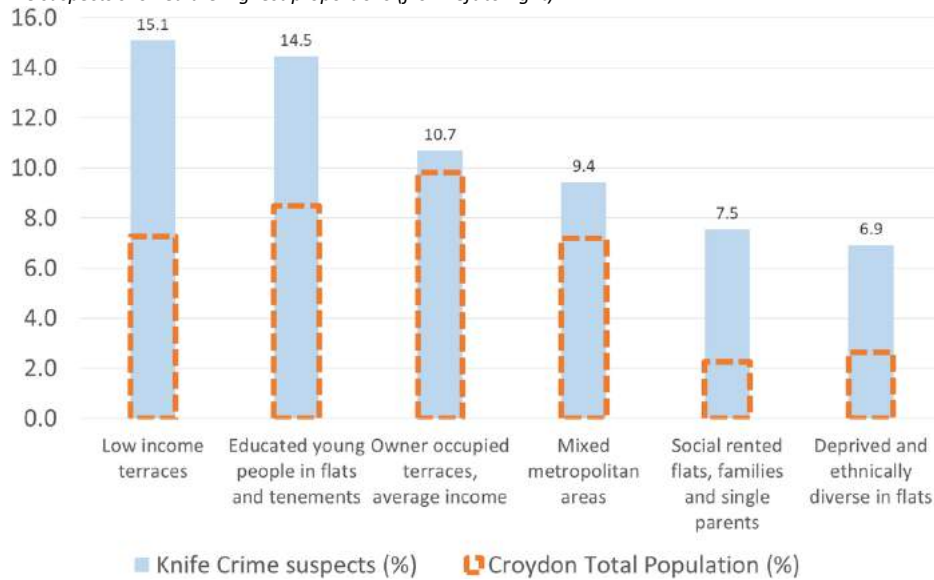
- Where the suspect’s ethnic appearance is recorded, 71.9% were recorded as Black followed by 18.7% recorded as White - North European.

Suspects of Knife Crime in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



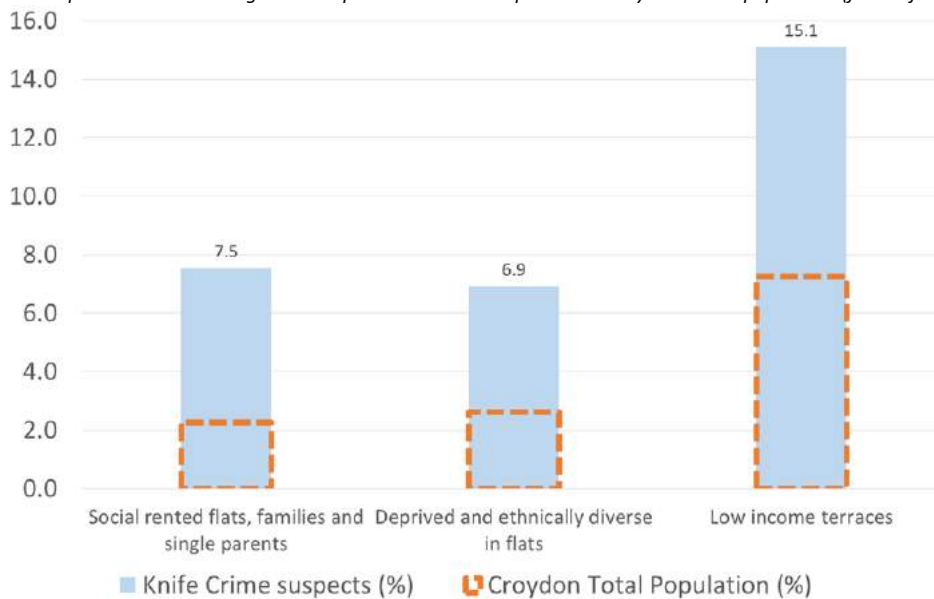
- 22.3% of suspects were recorded as having a specific relationship with the victim. Out of these suspects, 35.7% were recorded as an ‘acquaintance of the victim’. This is followed by 9.4% of suspects being the boyfriend of the victim, 7.6% of suspects being the ex-boyfriend of the victim and 7.0% of suspects being the neighbour of the victim.
- Out of all suspects where their home address was identified, 76.2% lived in the borough.
- Out of those victims that lived outside of the borough, 17.6% lived in Merton, 11.8% in Lambeth, 11.8% in Sutton and 7.8% lived in Southwark.
- Using the Acorn tool, out of the suspects where their home postcodes were identified and mapped, the highest proportion were ‘Low income terraces’ at 15.1%. The second highest was ‘Educated young people in flats and tenements’ with 14.5% and the third highest was ‘Owner occupied terraces, average income’ with 10.7%.

Acorn types where knife crime suspects showed the highest proportions (from left to right).



- The type which showed the largest overrepresentation of the suspects of knife crime compared to the borough’s total population was ‘Social rented flats, families and single parents’, which victims were overrepresented by over 240% more than the total population. The second highest type of victims being overrepresented by more than 170% than the borough’s population was ‘Deprived and ethnically diverse in flats’. The third highest type was ‘Low income terraces’ with more than 100%.

Acorn types where knife crime suspects showed the largest overrepresentation in comparison to Croydon’s total population (from left to right).



Youth Violence (YV)

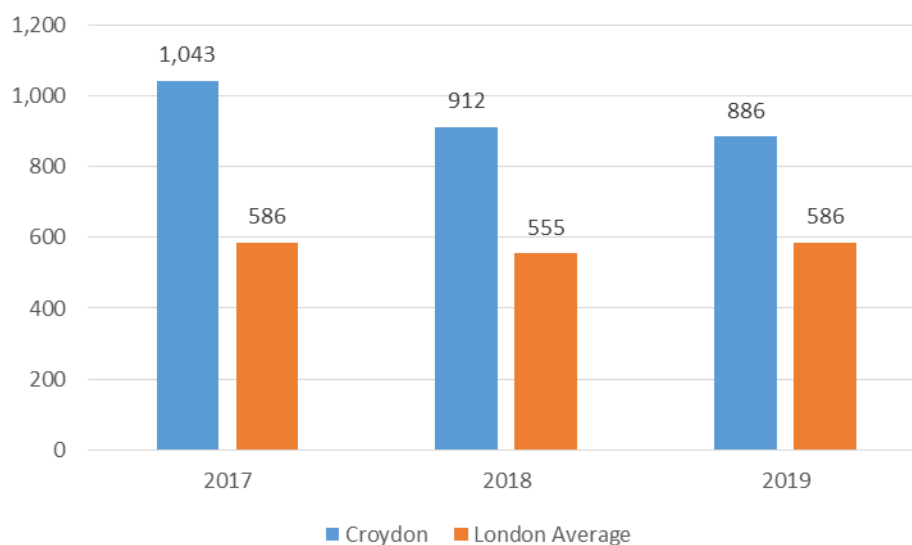
Definition

- This report uses the MPS' definition of YV. YV is defined by the MPS as 'a count of victims for any offence of Assault with Injury, Most Serious Violence or Gun Crime or Knife Crime, where the victim is aged 1-19.'

Statistics

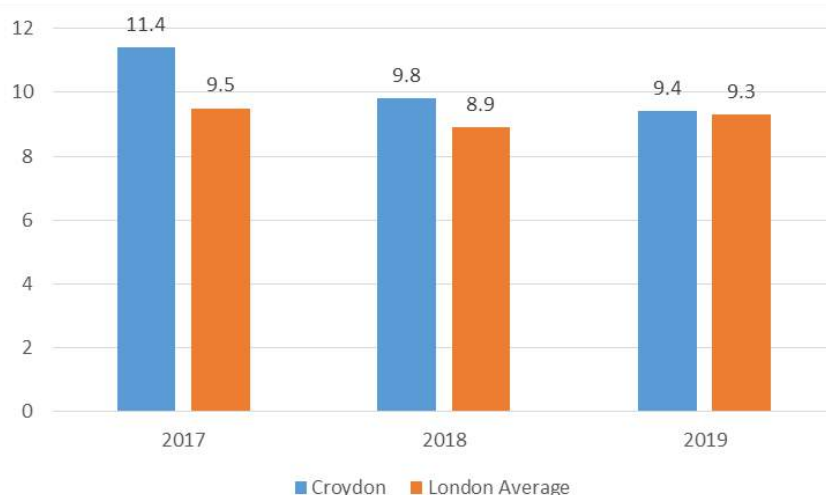
- There was a total of 886 YV offences in 2019, a decrease of 2.9% (26 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 912 victims recorded. In the same period there was an increase in the London average of 5.6% (31 offences) from 555 offences in 2018 to 586 offences in 2019. By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 15.1% decrease (157 offences) in offences in Croydon. In comparison, there was a zero change for the London average.

YV statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 of residents aged 1-19, the rate of offences in the borough has decrease from 11.4 in 2017, to 9.8 in 2018 to 9.4 in 2019. The London average has seen a decrease from 9.5 in 2017 to 8.9 in 2018 and then an increase to 9.3 in 2019.

YV crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents aged 1 to 19 from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking has fallen from 2017 and 2018, where it was ranked 1st, to being ranked 2nd in 2019. However, Croydon's ranking for offences per 1,000 residents aged 1-19 has fallen year-on-year from 8th in 2017 to 12th in 2018 to 14th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents aged 1-19 (using Housing-led projections of residents aged 1 to 19 from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and the highest crime rate.

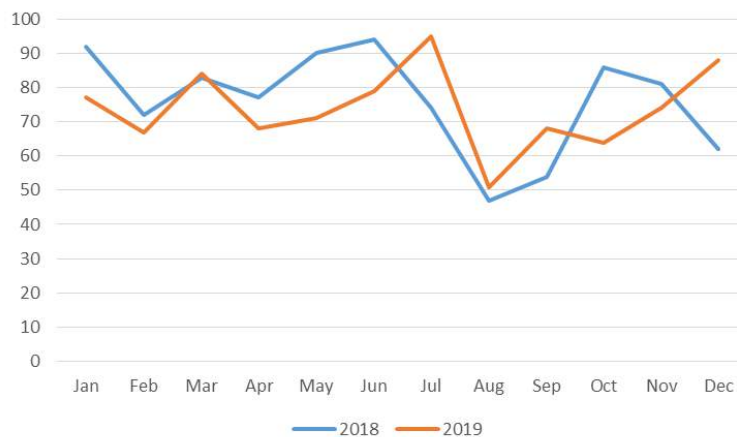
Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	1	8
2018	1	12
2019	2	14

- The majority of YV offences were made up of ABH & Minor Wounding (57.2%). GBH/Serious Wounding (16.9%) and Personal Robbery (16.1%) also made up a significant proportion of offences.
- 18.0% of all YV offences involved a weapon other than a firearm used and 0.8% of offences involved a firearm.
- 15.6% of all YV offences were Domestic-related.
- The use of social media or online messaging was used in 12.4% of all YV offences.
- 10.9% of all YV offences were alcohol-related.

Temporal Analysis

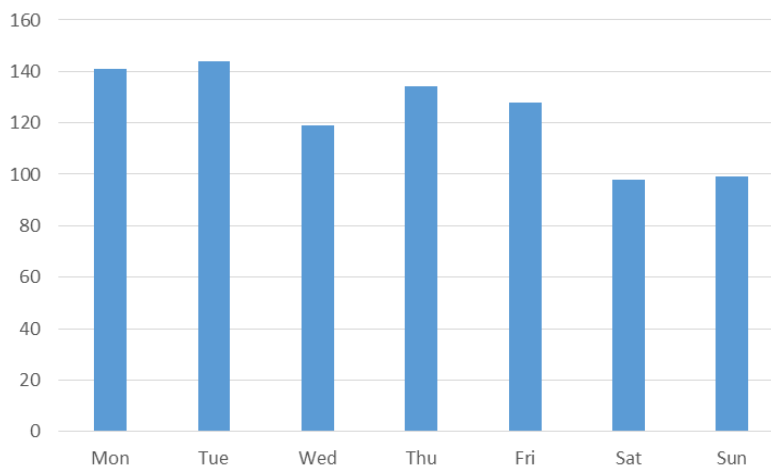
- In 2019 the peak months for YV were March, July and December. The peak months in 2018 were January, May and June. There is a similar pattern in both 2018 and 2019 from January where offences decrease in February, increase in March and then fall in April. Offences then rise throughout May and June. Offences also sharply decrease in August, which correlates with the school summer holidays.
- The decreases in February and April can also be linked with the half-term and Easter holidays during these months.

YV offences committed by month in Croydon in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



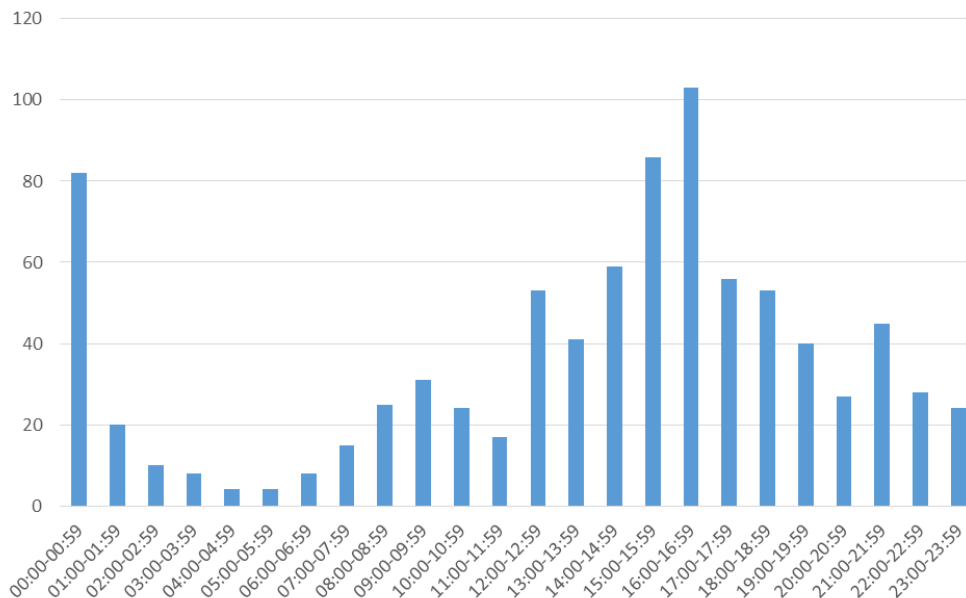
- Offences are fairly consistent throughout the weekdays with the peak days being Monday and Tuesday.

YV offences in by day of the week in Croydon in 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak time for YV offences was between 14:00 and 17:00 which partly correlates with ‘after-school’ hours.
- There is also a high number of offences which apparently occur between midnight and 01:00. However, it must be noted that many of these offences involve children turning up to school and reporting to teachers they have been hit at home by a family member and so once it is reported to police no specific time of the offence is established and midnight is the ‘default’ time on the crime report.
- On Monday a third of offences (33.3%) which occur on this day are committed between 14:00 and 17:00. On Tuesdays over a quarter of all offences (28.5%) which occur on this day are committed during the same time.

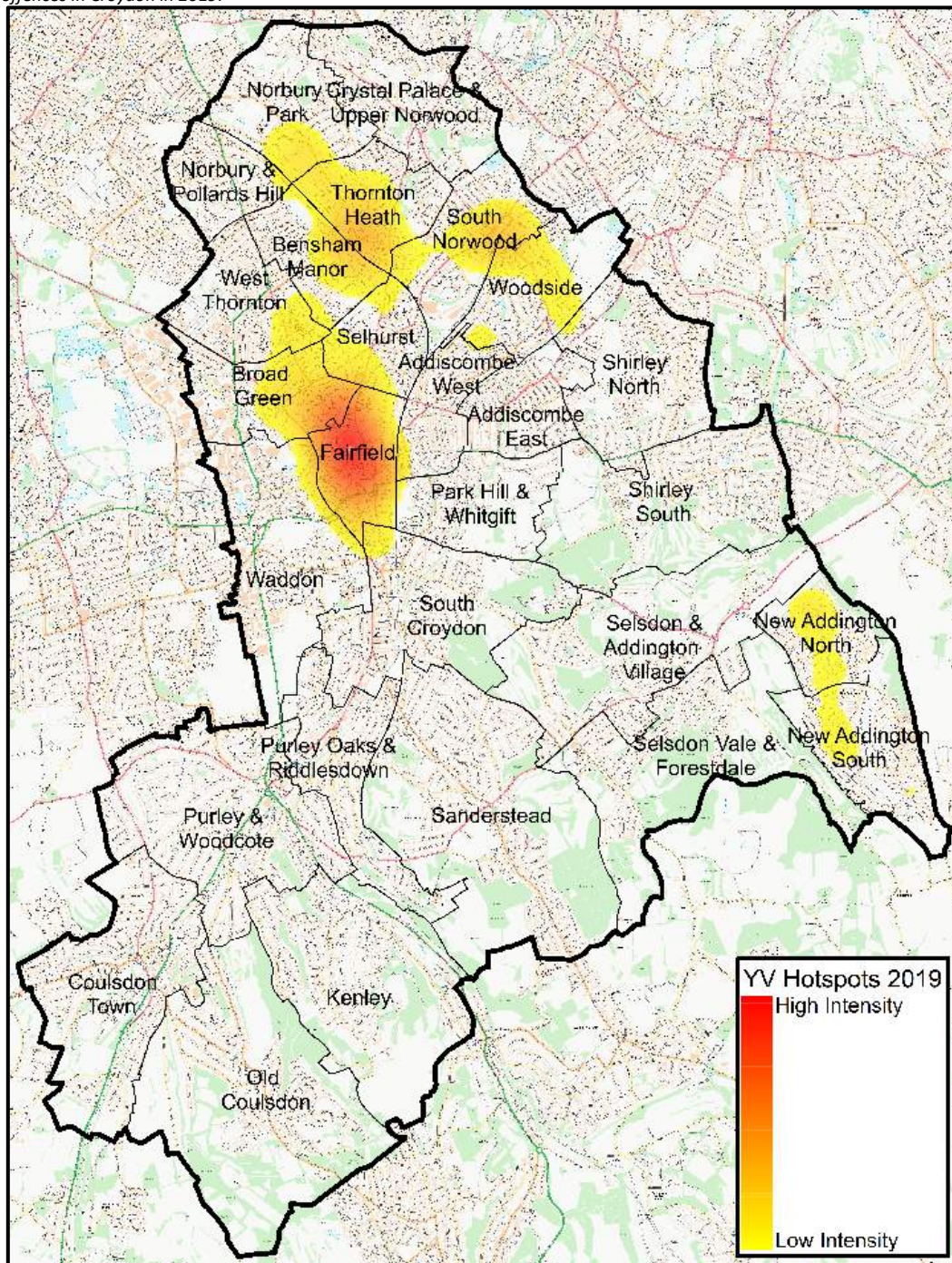
YV offences committed in Croydon in 2019 by time of the day taken from CRIS.



Hotspots

- The primary hotspot for YV is Croydon Town Centre with 15.8% of all mapped offences being committed in this area.
- A third of all YV offences (33.3%) in Croydon Town Centre committed during the peak times of between 15:00 and 17:00 were committed within 100m of West Croydon train station.
- Secondary hotspots were in and around Thornton Heath High Street leading up into Norbury Park ward, in and around High Street in South Norwood and into Woodside ward and parts of New Addington North and New Addington South. Parts of Broad Green, West Thornton, Selhurst and Bensham Manor wards also had a high number of offences.

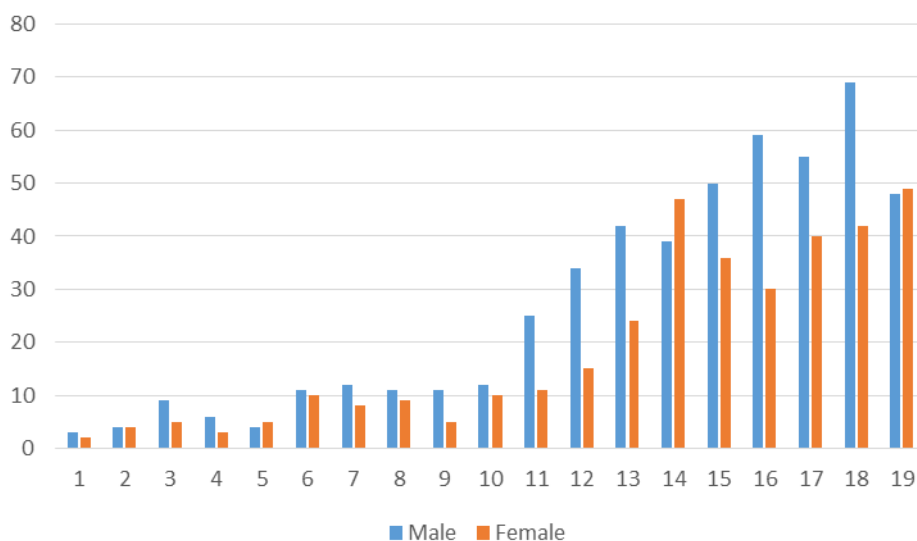
Hotspot map of YV offences in Croydon in 2019.



Victim Profile

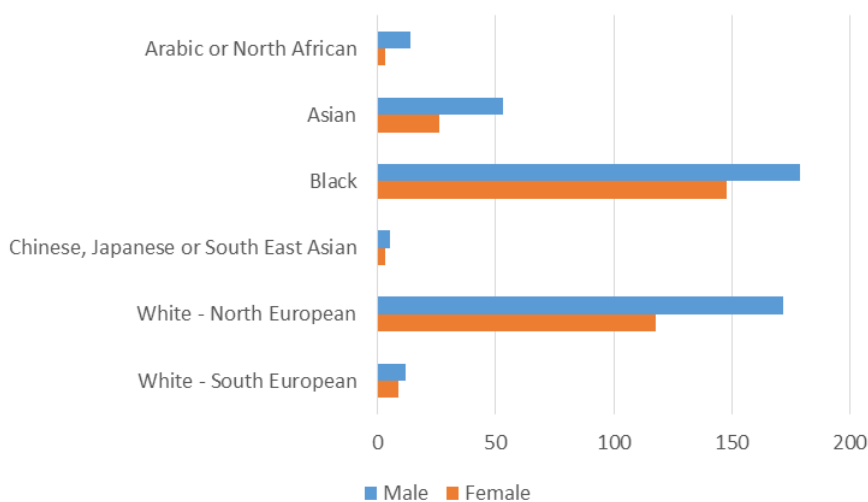
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 58.7% of victims were male and 41.3% were female.
- The highest proportion of male victims were aged 18 (13.7%) followed by those aged 16 (11.7%) and then those aged 17 (10.9%).
- The highest proportion of female victims were aged 19 (13.8%) followed by those aged 14 (13.2%) and then those aged 18 (11.8%).
- The proportion of male victims was higher than female victims apart from age 14 where 54.7% of victims were female and age 19 where 50.5% of victims were female.
- 61.2% of female victims aged 19 and 57.1% of female victims aged 18 were flagged as domestic abuse.
- For female victims aged 14, 4.3% were flagged as Domestic-related, however when going through each crime report it was found that actually 29.8% of these victims should have been flagged as domestic-related.

Victims of YV by age and gender in Croydon in 2019 from CRIS.



- Of those victims where age and ethnic appearance were recorded, the highest proportion of victims were Black (44.1%) followed by those recorded as White - North European (39.1%) and then those recorded as Asian (10.6%).
- The highest proportion of male victims were Black (41.1%) followed by White - North European (39.4%).
- The highest proportion of female victims were Black (48.2%) followed by White - North European (38.4%).

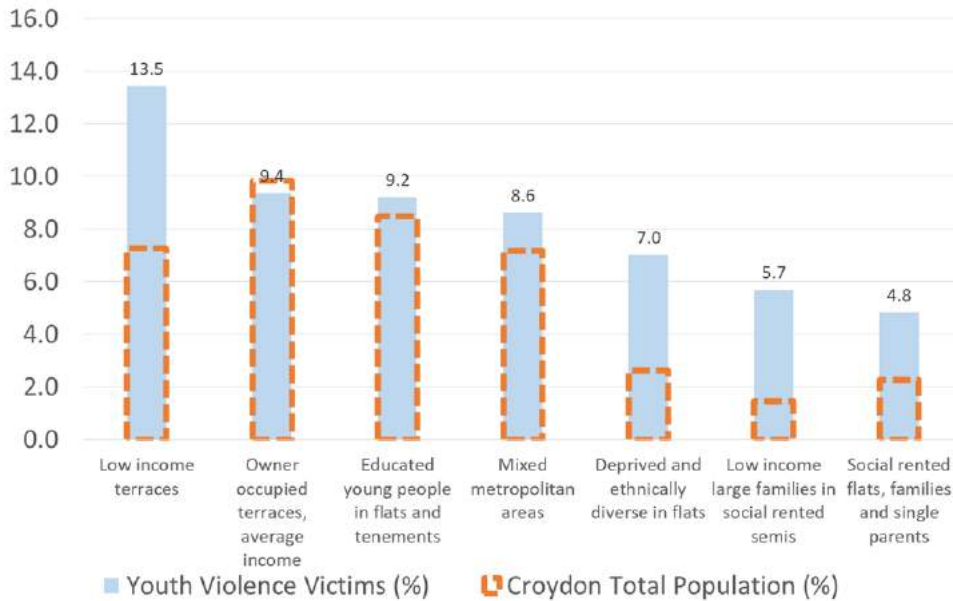
Victims of YV victims in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- Out of all victims where their home address was identified, 84.4% lived in the borough

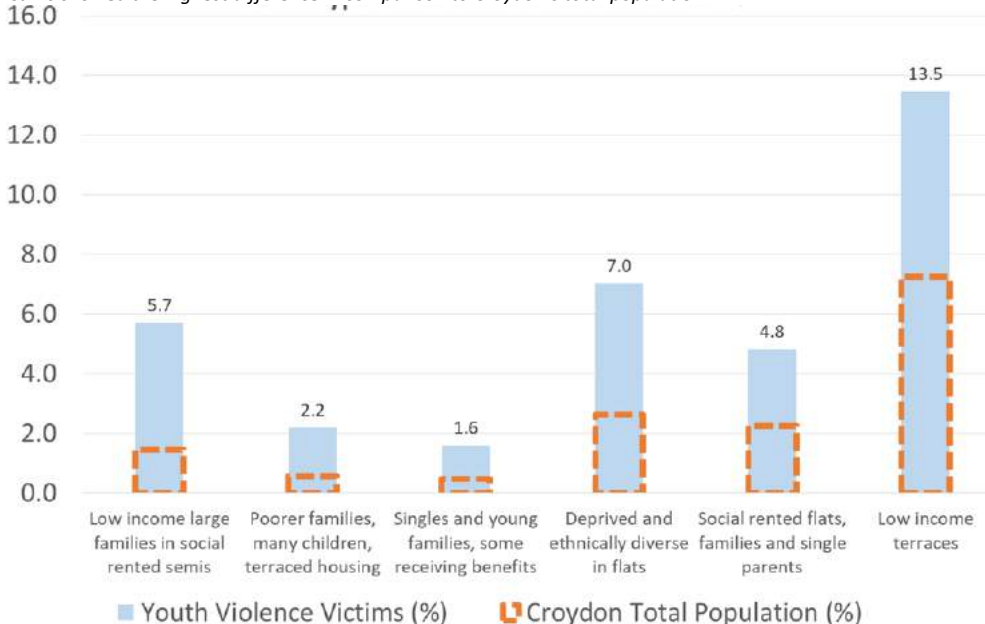
- Out of those victims that lived outside of the borough, over half lived in neighbouring boroughs or boroughs geographically close including 15.0% lived in Lambeth, 15.0% lived in Sutton, 10.2% lived in Bromley, 9.4% lived in Lewisham and 9.4% lived in Merton.
- Out of the victims where their home postcodes were identified mapped, the highest proportion were 'Low income terraces' with 13.5%. The second highest proportion was 'Owner occupied terraces, average income' with 9.4% and the third highest was "Educated young people in flats and tenements" with 9.2%.

Acorn types where YV victims showed the highest proportions



- The type which showed the largest proportion difference between the victims of Non-DA VWI and the borough's total population was 'Low income large families in social rented semi', which victims were overrepresented by over 300% more than the total population. The second highest was 'Poorer families, many children, terraced housing' and the third was 'Singles and young families, some receiving benefits'.

Acorn types where YV victims showed the highest difference in comparison to Croydon's total population

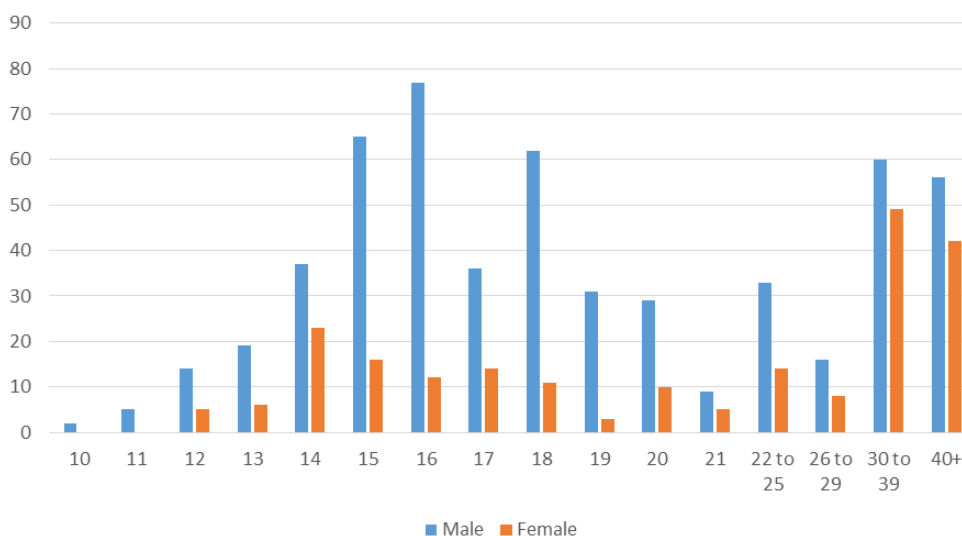


Suspect Profile

- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 71.6% of the suspects were male and 28.4% were female.
- Where the suspect age was recorded, the highest proportion were aged 16 years old (11.5%) followed by those aged 15 years old (10.5%) and then those aged 18 years old (9.4%).

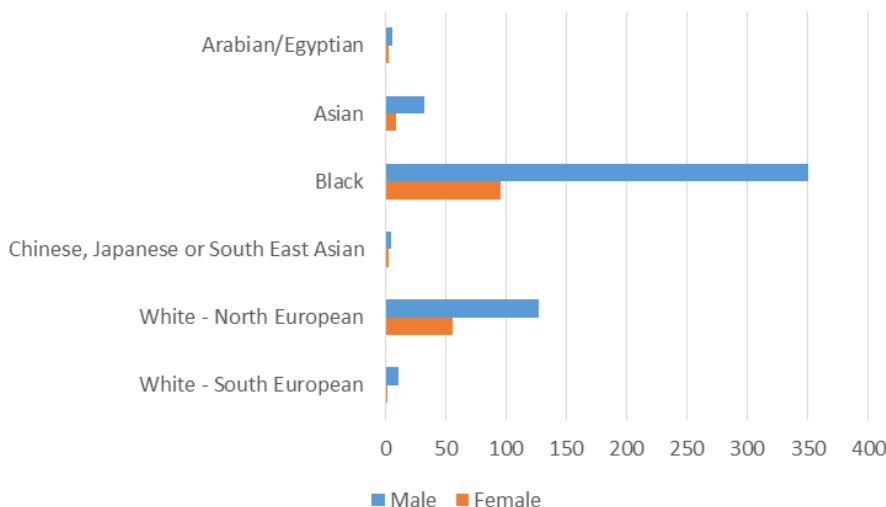
- The highest proportion of male suspects were aged 16 years old (13.8%) followed by those aged 15 years old (11.7%) and then those aged 18 years old (11.1%).
- The highest proportion of female suspects were aged 36 to 40 years old (12.8%) followed by those aged 14 years old and those aged 31 to 35 years old (10.6% each). The older age range of suspects highlights the high number of offences which are domestic abuse and have not been flagged as such.

Suspects of YV offences in Croydon in 2019 by gender and age from CRIS.



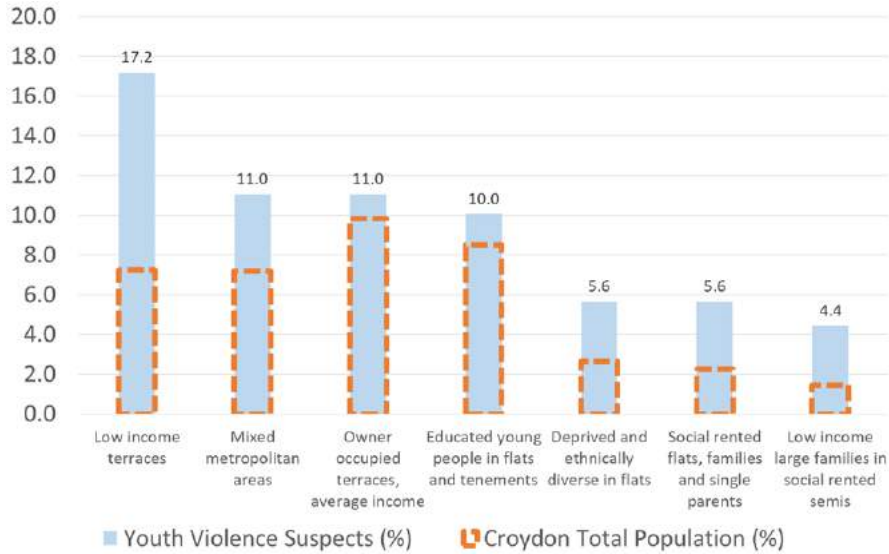
- Where the suspect’s ethnic appearance is recorded, 63.7% were Black followed by 26.2% being White - North European. This is similar when ethnic appearance is broken down by gender.

Suspects of YV in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



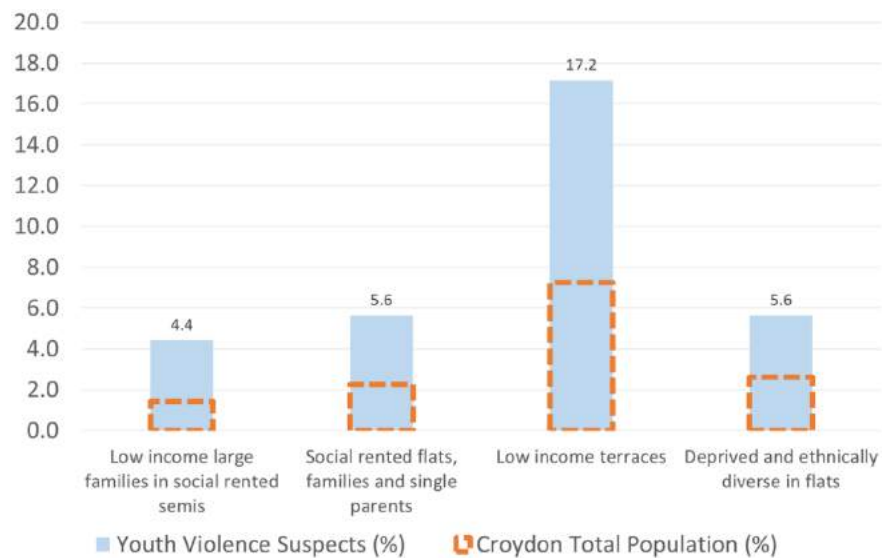
- Almost half of suspects had a type of relationship with the victim (48.5%). Out of these suspects, 17.7% of suspects attend the same school as the victim, followed by 16.3% of suspects being an acquaintance of the victim.
- The next highest proportions of relationship types highlight the magnitude of domestic abuse of YV offences with 14.4% of suspects being the mother of the victim, 11.5% being the father of the victim, 5.3% being the boyfriend of the victim, 4.9% being the brother of the victim and 4.0% being the ex-boyfriend of the victim.
- Out of all suspects where their home address was identified, 84.5% lived in the borough.
- Out of those suspects that lived outside of the borough, 18.7% lived in Lambeth, 12.0% lived in Merton, 9.3% lived in Sutton and 8.0% lived in Tandridge.
- Using the Acorn tool, out of the suspects where their home postcodes were identified and mapped, the highest proportion were ‘Low income terraces’ at 17.2%. The second highest was ‘Mixed metropolitan areas’ with 11.0% and the third highest was ‘Owner occupied terraces, average income’ with 11.0%.

Acorn types where YV suspects showed the highest proportions



- The type which showed the largest proportion difference between the suspects and the borough’s total population was ‘Low income large families in social rented semis’. The second largest proportion was ‘Social rented flats, families and single parents’ and the third highest was ‘Low income terraces’.

Acorn types where YV suspects showed the highest difference in comparison to Croydon’s total population



Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

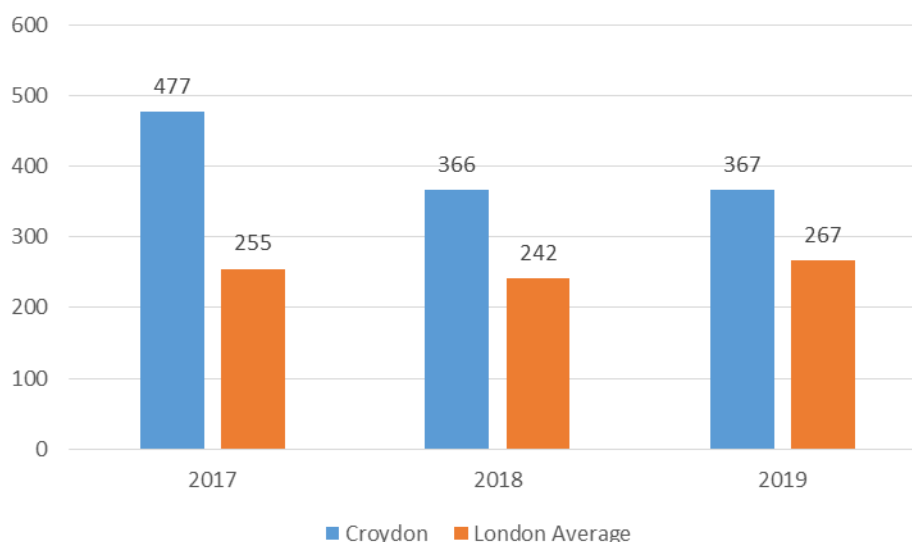
Definition

- This report uses the MPS' definition of SYV. SYV is defined by the MPS as 'any offence of most serious violence or weapon enabled crime, where the victim is aged 1-19'.

Statistics

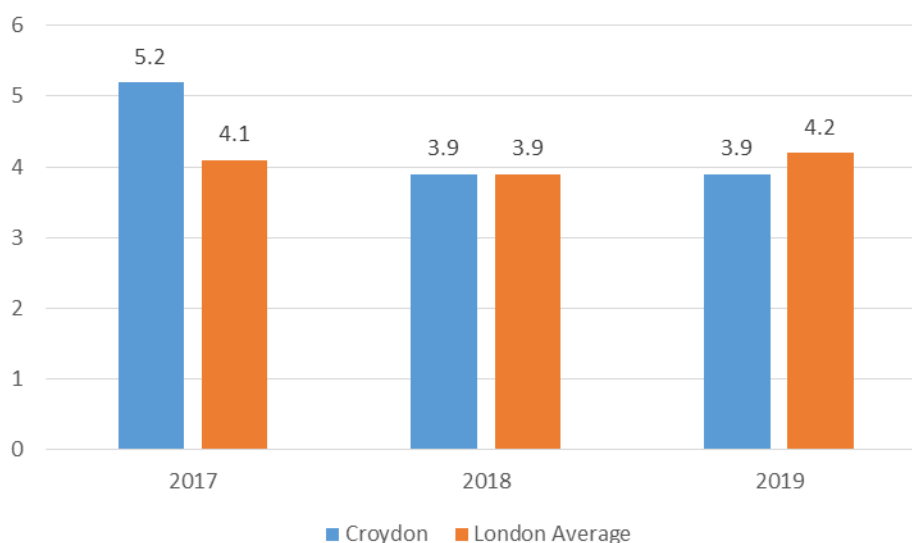
- There was a total of 367 SYV victims in 2019, an increase of 0.3% (1 victim) compared to 2018 where there were 366 victims recorded. In the same period there was an increase London average of 10.4% increase (25 victims). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 23.1% decrease in Croydon (110 victims). In comparison, there has been an increase of 4.6% (12 victims) in the London average.

SYV statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents aged 1-19, the rate of offences in the borough has fallen from 5.2 in 2017 to 3.9 in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019. The London average has seen a decrease from 4.1 in 2017 to 3.9 in 2018 where it has increased to 4.2 in 2019.

SYV crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents aged 1 to 19 from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Even though there has been a slight increase of offences in the borough, Croydon's ranking has dropped two places to 5th in 2019. By comparing rankings to 2017 it has dropped four places where it was ranked first. By

calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents aged 1-19, the borough's ranking has also dropped one place to 15th in 2019 and eight places when compared to 2017.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents aged 1 to 19 from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	1	7
2018	3	14
2019	5	15

Breakdown of Offence Type

- The largest proportion of offences committed in 2019 were GBH/Serious Wounding (40.8%) followed by Personal Robbery (39.9%) and GBH with Intent (13.5%).
- Out of all offences 10.6% were alcohol-related, 8.3% were flagged as domestic abuse, 1.7% of offences involved a firearm and 39.3% were classified where an 'other weapon' was used.
- The use of social media or online messaging was used in 13.8% of all SYV offences.

Temporal Analysis

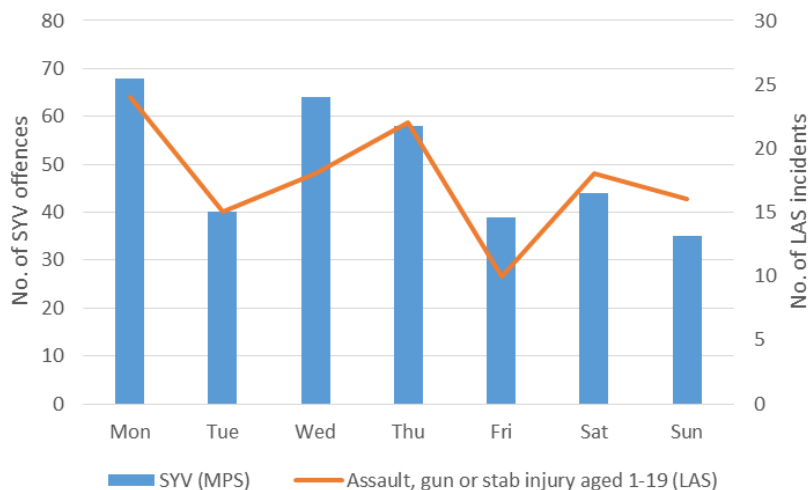
- In 2019 the peak months for SYV were January, June and December. January was reflected as a peak month in 2018. There is a similar pattern in both 2018 and 2019 where offences decrease significantly in August, which is when the school summer holidays happen. There is also a similar pattern where offences increase (more so in 2018 than 2019) when the autumn term starts in September.
- The high number of offences in January 2019 correlate with the beginning of spring term in schools and pupils being targeted for robberies as well as being involved in school fights.
- The rise of offences in June again correlate with the beginning of school after the summer half-term.
- The rise in offences in December is significantly linked to older victims (specifically 18 years old) where they were targets of serious violence.

SYV offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



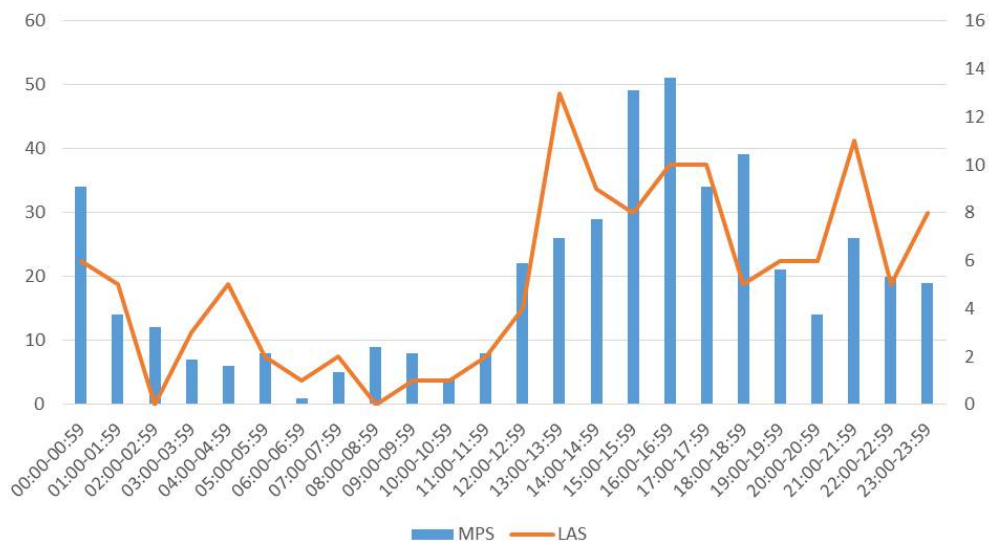
- The peak days for SYV offences were Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. LAS data on assaults, stab or gun injury aged 1-19 show the peak day of Monday is reflected followed by Thursday.
- Recorded LAS incidents follow a very similar weekly trend to SYV offences recorded by the MPS.

SYV offences committed in Croydon in 2019 by day of the week taken from CRIS and LAS incidents in Croydon in 2019 of individuals aged 1-19 who have received an assault, stab or gunshot injury taken from SafeStats.



- The peak time for SYV offences was between 1500 and 1900 hours.
- Other times where a high volume of offences were committed were between 1300 and 1500 hours, 2100 and 2200 hours and between 0000 hours and 0100 hours. These times are also reflected by the LAS data.

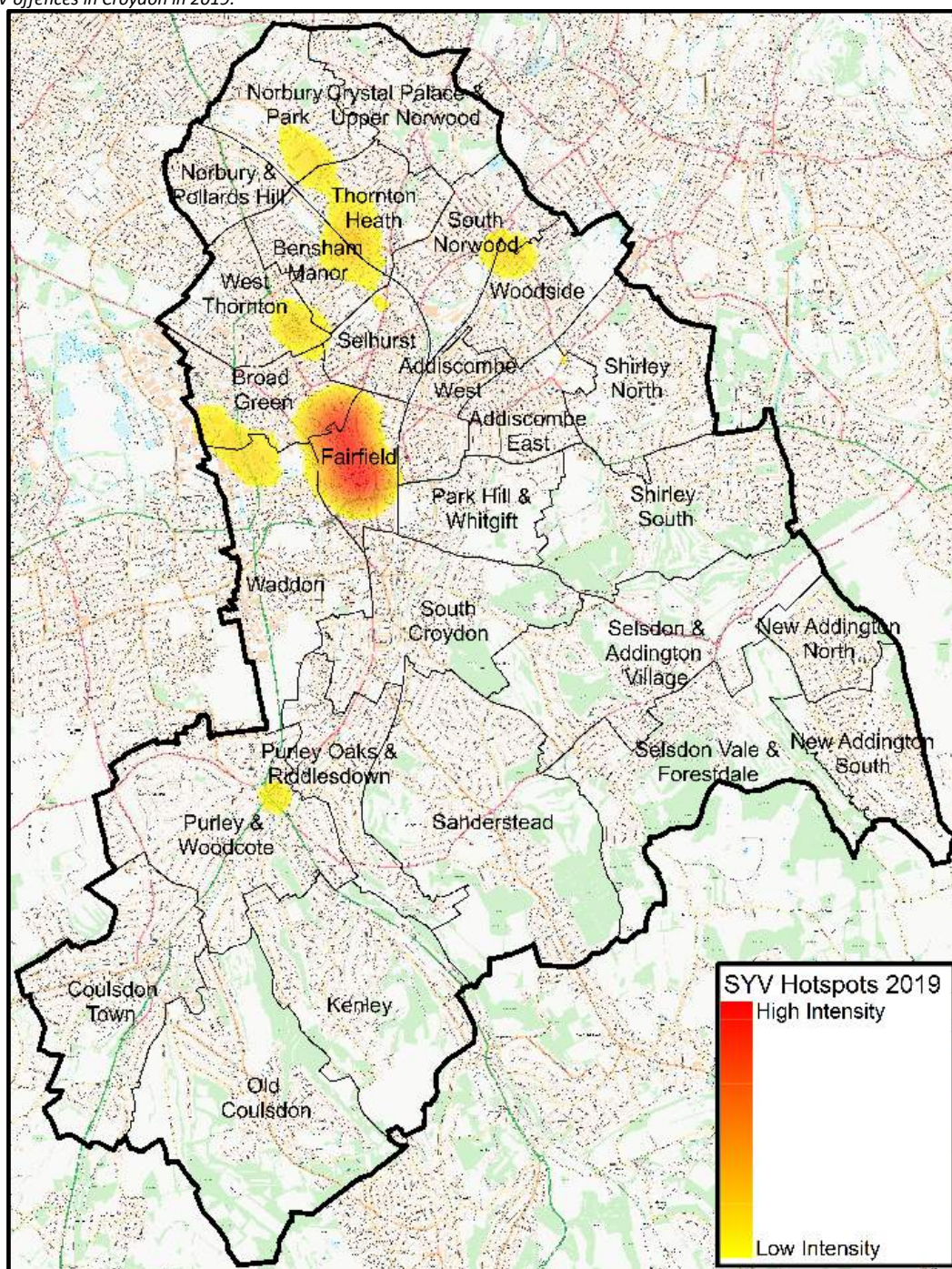
SYV offences committed in Croydon in 2019 by time of the day taken from CRIS and LAS incidents in Croydon in 2019 of individuals aged 1-19 who have received an assault, stab or gunshot injury taken from SafeStats.



Hotspots

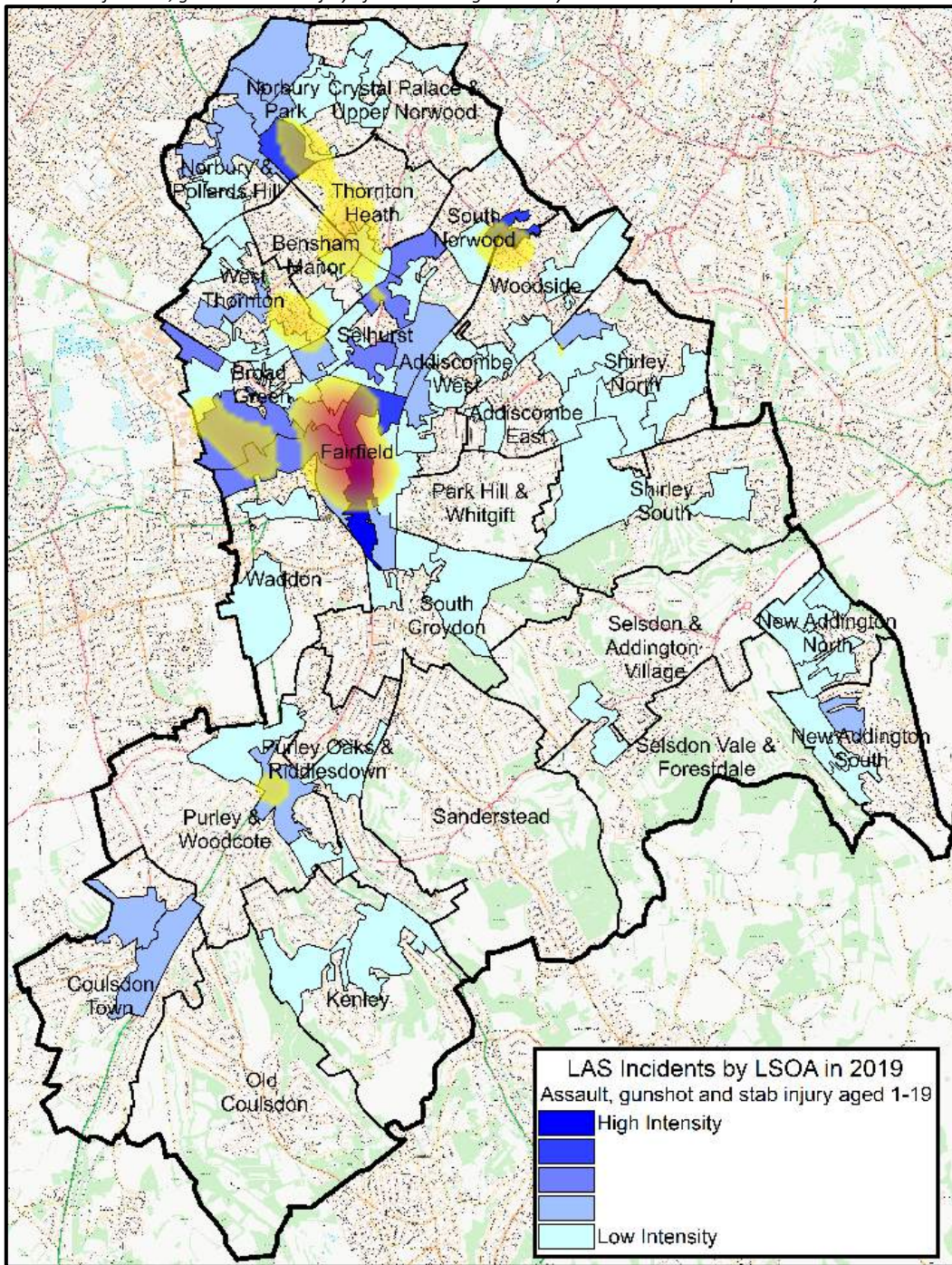
- The primary hotspot for SYV is Croydon Town Centre with a fifth (20%) of all mapped SYV offences being committed in this area.
- Other hotspots are in Waddon and Broad Green wards (specifically in and around Valley retail park), in and around Thornton Heath High Street leading up Green Lane into Norbury Park ward, in and around South Norwood High Street, in and around Addiscombe Road/Long Lane, in and around Fieldway in New Addington and in and around Purley High Street.

Hotspot map of SYV offences in Croydon in 2019.



- The primary LSOAs for LAS incidents are in Fairfield, Broad Green, Selhurst, Norbury Park and South Norwood wards.
- The map shows that the majority of LSOAs where the highest number of LAS incidents have occurred are reflected by the SYV hotspot areas. However there are also areas in Broad Green, Selhurst and Thornton Heath not identified by SYV crime data.

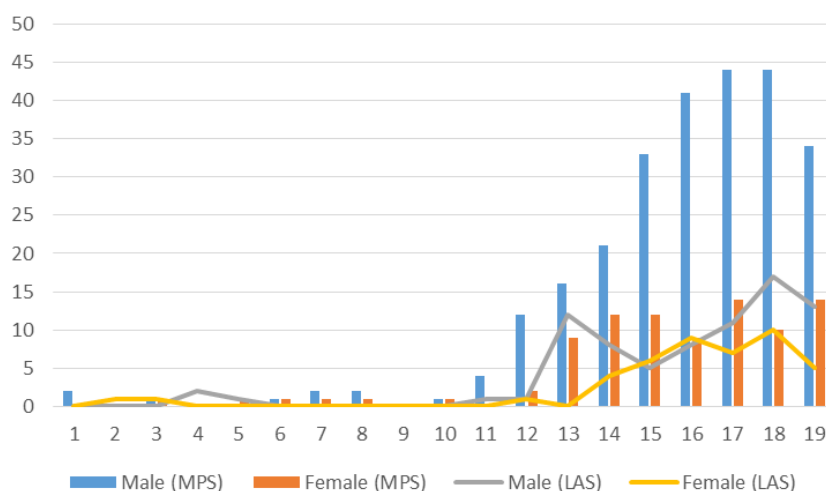
Thematic map of LAS incidents of assault, gunshot or stab injury of individuals aged 1-19 by LSOA and crime hotspots in Croydon in 2019.



Victim Profile

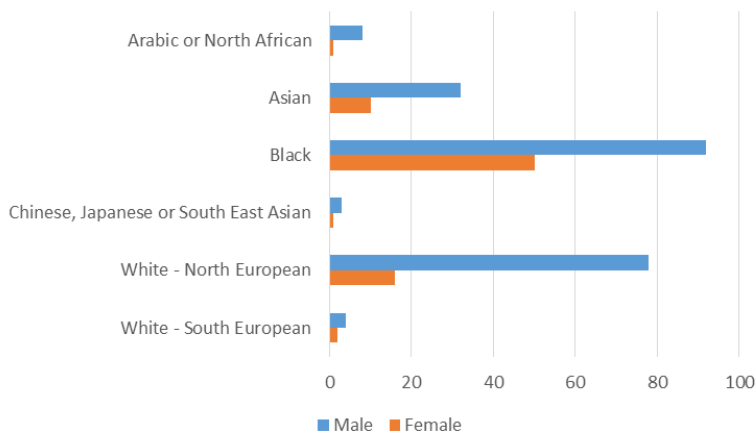
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 74.6% of victims were male and 25.4% were female.
- LAS data shows 64% of victims were male and 36% were female.
- The highest proportion of male victims were aged either 17 or 18 years old (17.1% each) followed by those aged 16 years old (15.8%) and then those aged 19 years old (13.2%).
- The highest proportion of female victims were aged either 17 or 19 years old (31.8% each) followed by those aged 14 or 15 years old (13.6%).
- LAS data shows the age for the highest number of incidents involving either male or female victims was aged 18 years old (22%).
- The highest proportion of males recorded by LAS were 18 years old (21.5%) followed by those aged 19 years old (16.5%) and then those aged 13 years old (15.2%).
- The highest proportion of females recorded by LAS were 18 years old (22.7%) followed by those aged 16 years old (20.5%) and then those aged 17 years old (15.9%).

Victims of SYV in Croydon in 2019 by age and gender from CRIS. LAS incidents in Croydon in 2019 involving individuals aged 1-19 who received treatment for assault, gunshot or stab injury – taken from SafeStats.



- Almost half of all victims 47.8% of victims were Black followed by 31.6% who were White - North European.
- Of those victims where gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 42.4% of male victims were Black, 35.6% were White - North European and 14.7% were Asian.
- Of those victims where gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 62.5% of female victims were Black, 20.0% were White - North European and 12.5% were Asian.

Victims of SYV in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.

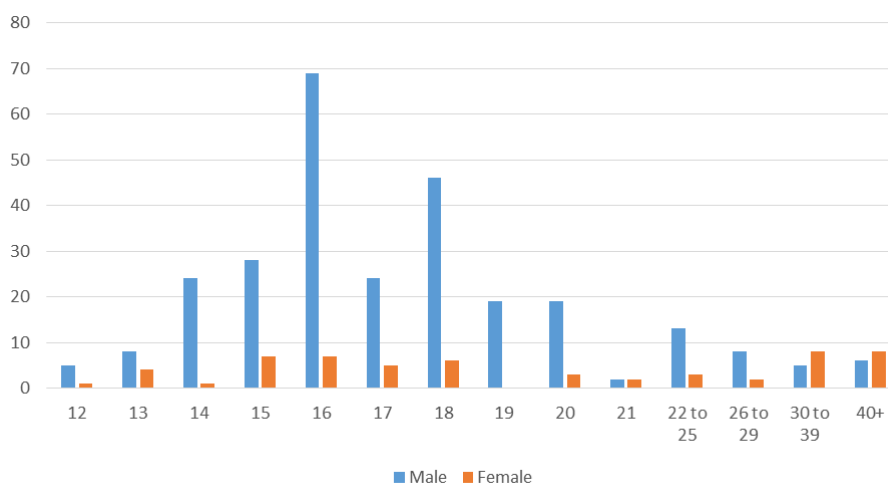


- Out of all the victims where their home addresses could be mapped, 80.2% of them lived in the borough.
- Out of those who lived outside of the borough, 18.5% lived in Sutton, 16.9% lived in Lambeth, 12.3% lived in Lewisham, 9.2% lived in Merton and 6.2% lived in Bromley.

Suspect Profile

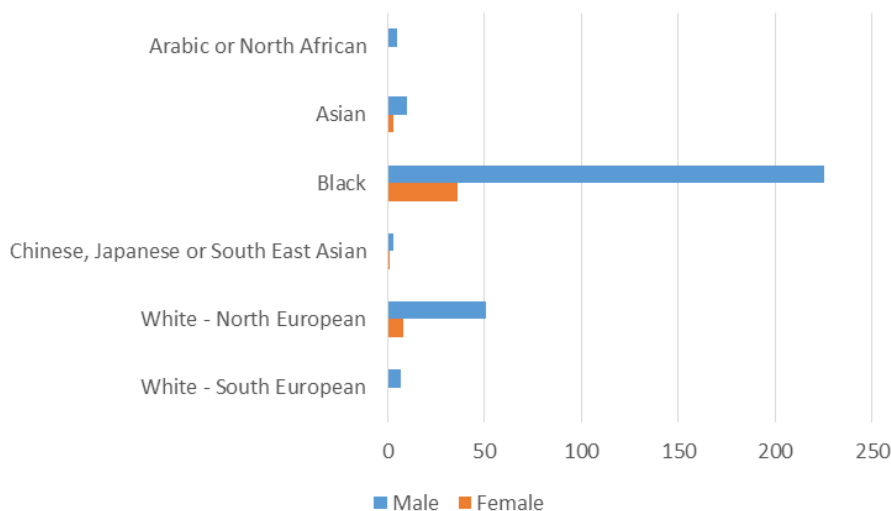
- Out of the crimes where gender was recorded, 82.5% of the suspects were male and 17.5% were female.
- Where the suspect age was recorded, the highest proportion were aged 16 years old (22.5%) followed by those aged 18 years old (15.4%) then those aged 15 years old (10.4%).
- The highest proportion of male victims were aged 16 years old (24.7%) followed by those aged 18 years old (16.5%) then those aged 15 years old (10.0%).
- The highest proportion of female victims were 40 plus (15.2%) followed by those aged 30 to 39 and 40 plus (13.6% each), which the majority were flagged as domestic-abuse. The third highest proportions were those aged 15 and 16 years old (11.9%).

Suspects of SYV in Croydon in 2019 by gender and age from CRIS.



- Where the suspect's gender and ethnic appearance were recorded, 74.8% of suspects were recorded as Black followed by 16.9% recorded as White - North European. Figures closely reflect this when broken down by gender.

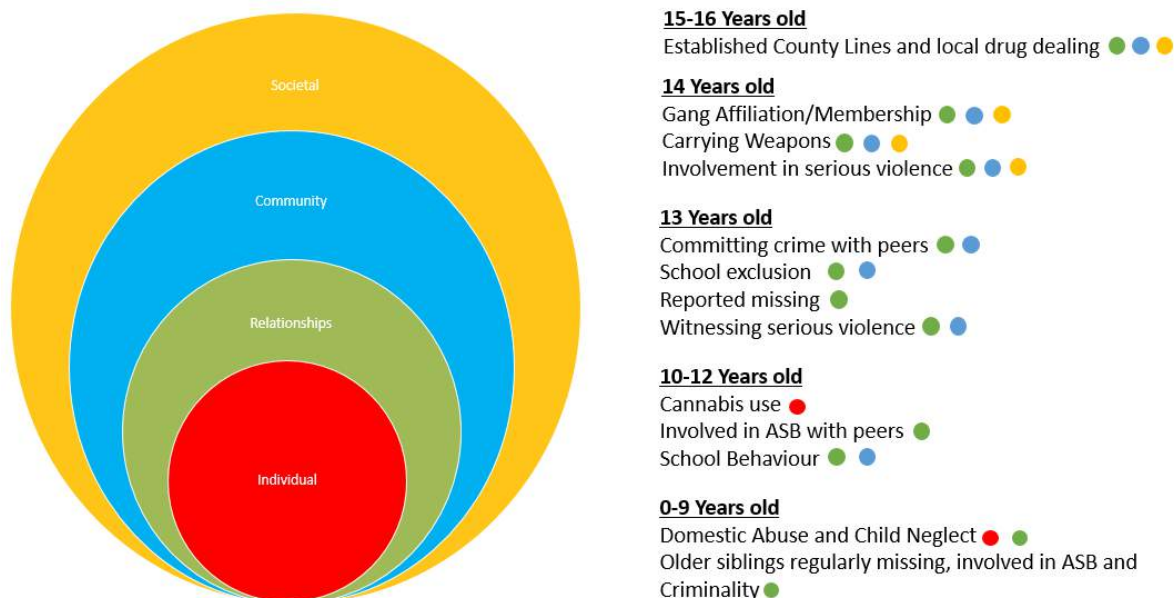
Suspects of SYV in Croydon in 2019 by gender and ethnic appearance from CRIS.



- 53.3% of all male suspects were involved in personal robbery offences. The main types of property targeted in personal robbery offences are mobile phones and air pods.
- 40.6% of all male suspects were involved in GBH offences.
- 78.8% of all female suspects were involved in GBH offences.
- Out of all suspects where their homes addresses were mapped, 76.0% lived in the borough. Out of the suspects who lived outside of the borough, 18.9% lived in Lambeth, 10.8% lived in Bromley and 10.8% lived in Merton.
- The common demographics of victims and suspects of SYV reflected those involved in youth violence.

Life course Analysis

For a small sample of high risk SYV offenders¹⁶, a brief life course analysis was conducted to identify any common events or factors which contributed to them becoming perpetrators (and in some cases victims) of SYV. Information was retrieved from a wide range of sources from police to the youth offending service and children's social care. From this analysis, in accordance with the ecological framework of the public health approach, the following common events and themes were identified and which level of the framework they fall under:



In the first 9 years of their lives the individuals in the sample experienced domestic abuse, especially from parents, as well as child neglect too, which ranged from parents leaving them at home alone for long periods of time to parents not realising where their children were when picked up by the authorities e.g. when police have approached them outside late at night and taken them home. Those with older siblings – which most of them had – were also heavily being reported missing and were also involved in ASB and crime, with the severity of crime determined by their age i.e. the older they were the more serious the crime they were committing.

Between the ages of 10 and 12 years old there was a clearly formed regular use of cannabis. As well as this they were involved in minor ASB with their peers (e.g. congregating in parks, public spaces and outside properties smoking cannabis and making noise) as well as their behaviour in school declining.

By the age of 13 they are committing crime regularly involving personal robbery, shoplifting and possession of cannabis. They also witnessing serious violence on a regular basis both amongst their peers and family members. They are being excluded from school although it must be noted that, on a strategic level, analysis of school exclusions in 2019 found no direct link to the increase in youth violence or serious youth violence. They are also regularly being reported missing but with no clear indication to where they have been.

By the age of 14 there is a clear gang affiliation or membership of all the individuals in the sample. As a result of this (but not exclusive to) they are carrying weapons on a regular basis. From witnessing serious violence they are now involved in it, whether that is as a victim or a perpetrator.

At 15 and 16 years old there is a clear focus and motivation to make money by an illegal means, which mainly involves drug dealing. They are not only dealing locally but are also involved in county lines which can mean they are being fully exploited on a regular basis. The drugs they are dealing can range, especially due to location, where they are more likely to deal cannabis locally whereas when doing county lines they are involved in dealing Class A drugs from cocaine and crack to heroin.

Although brief, this life course analysis can be used to identify the early signs of being involved in SYV, therefore providing suitable interventions, but also give an idea of what future the young person can lead to having if no relevant and effective intervention is given at the right time.

¹⁶ A sample of ten high risk and prolific offenders of SYV chosen. Information on each were extracted from police, YOS and children's social care databases.

Gun Crime

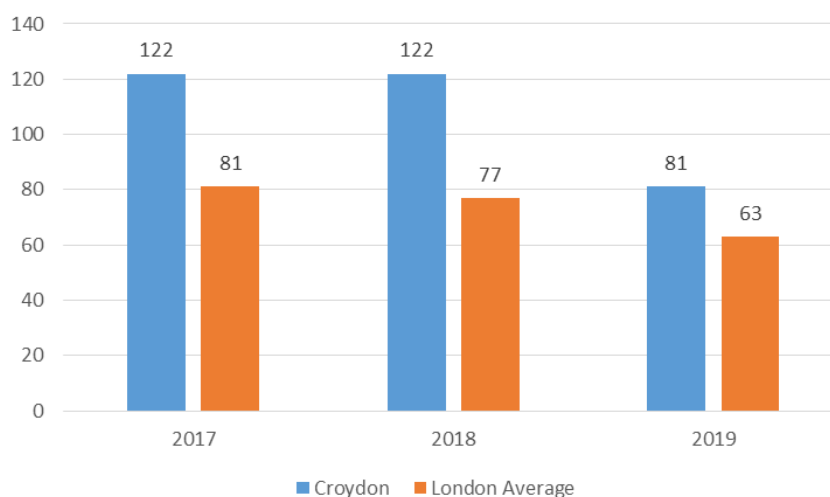
Definition

- This report uses the Homes Office definition of Gun Crime, which is used by the College of Policing and is defined as the following: “Gun crime is crime (violence against the person, robbery, burglary and sexual offences) in which guns are taken to be involved in an offence. A gun is taken to be involved in an offence if it is fired, used as a blunt instrument, or used as a threat. Where the victim is convinced of the presence of a firearm, even if it is concealed, and there is evidence of the suspect’s intention to create this impression, then the incident counts. Both real, and fake firearms, and air weapons are counted within this category”¹⁷

Statistics

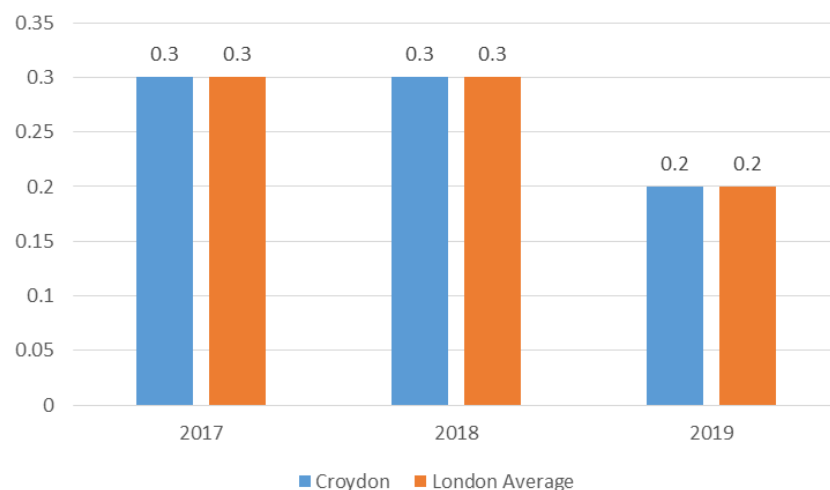
- There was a total of 81 gun crime offences in 2019, a decrease of 33.6% (41 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 122 offences recorded. This is a large percentage decrease compared to the London average where there was an 18.2% decrease (14 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there was the same percentage and volume decrease in Croydon. In comparison, there has been a decrease of 22.2% (18 offences) in the London average.

Gun crime statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents the rate of offences in the borough has fallen from 0.3 in 2017 and 2018 to 0.2 in 2019. This is reflected in the London average.

Gun crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



¹⁷ College of Policing <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/gun-crime/>

- Croydon's ranking has dropped five places to 10th in 2019 from 5th in 2018. By comparing rankings to 2017 it has dropped three places where it was ranked 7th. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking has also dropped four places to 16th in 2019 and three places when compared to 2017.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	7	13
2018	5	12
2019	10	16

As gun crime is largely police-generated e.g. warrants executed, operation-led etc. and due to the low volume of offences it is difficult to provide reliable temporal, hotspot and victim and offender analysis. Therefore, this report will not contain further analysis but a more detailed analysis of gun crime will be conducted in the gangs and SYV review, which due to its confidential nature is a restricted report.

Using the Cambridge Crime Harm Index to Measure and Analyse Violence

Introduction

The Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI) is based on the principle that not all crimes are equal. Therefore, the current common process of summing up all crimes by the count of offences and measuring performance in this way is at the very least misleading. This leaves a demand for a meaningful measure of crime to classify each crime type according to how harmful it is, relative to all other crimes. This is what the CCHI looks to answer by multiplying each crime event in each crime category by the number of days in prison that crime of that category would attract if one offender were to be convicted of committing it¹⁸.

This measure would not be used to replace a crime count report but rather to supplement it, therefore giving a different picture of crime. This report will demonstrate the use of the CCHI on VAP and highlight the different results compared to using crime count. In turn, using the CCHI will increase the effective use and impact of risk assessments, resource allocation and accountability when looking at violence in the borough.

Using the CCCHI on types of violence

By comparing the first ten offence types of VAP by crime count to the first ten calculated by CCHI, there is a significant difference in what types of crimes make up the majority of all VAP. The top three crimes calculated by count which make up around 70% of all VAP are Common Assault, ABH & Minor Wounding and Sending letters etc. to cause distress or anxiety. In contrast the top three crimes calculated by CCHI, which also make up around 70% of all VAP offences, consist of GBH with Intent, GBH/Wounding on a Constable and Murder, therefore providing greater emphasis and exposure on more serious crimes and, therefore, crimes which result in greater *harm*. Also it must be highlighted that under crime count the top crime (Common Assault) doesn't even make up a third of all VAP offences whereas by CCHI the top crime (GBH with Intent) makes up over half of all VAP offences. Therefore, the CCHI could be used to redirect and/or fund more resources in tackling the more serious harmful crime of GBH with Intent.

Top 10 offences which make up the majority of VAP offences calculated by Crime Count and CCHI.

Crime Count		
Rank	Offence	%
1	Common Assault	31.1%
2	ABH & Minor Wounding	24.1%
3	Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	14.8%
4	GBH/Wounding	9.4%
5	Harassment	5.6%
6	GBH with Intent	2.5%
7	Making Threats to Kill	2.4%
8	Cruelty/Neglect of Children	1.8%
9	ABH on a Constable	1.2%
10	Assault of a Constable	1.1%

Cambridge Crime Harm Index		
Rank	Offence	%
1	GBH with Intent	55.6%
2	GBH/Wounding on a Constable	7.1%
3	Murder (Persons aged 1 and over)	5.5%
4	ABH & Minor Wounding	4.1%
5	Require person to do forced/compulsory Labour	3.3%
6	GBH/Wounding	3.0%
7	Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	2.5%
8	Murder (of Infants under 1 year of age)	2.2%
9	Possess firearm to endanger life	2.1%
10	Attempted Murder	2.0%

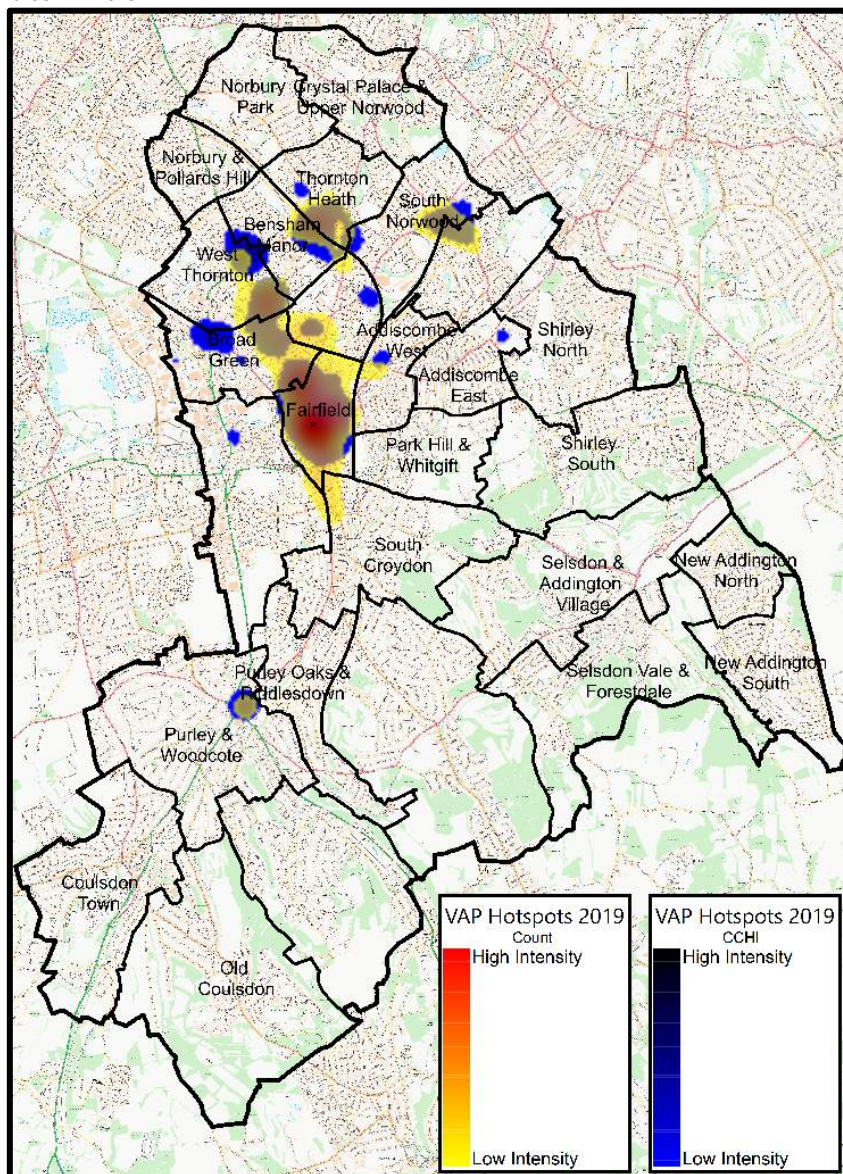
¹⁸ Sherman L. Neyroud P W. Neyroud E. (2016) The Cambridge Crime Harm Index: Measuring Total Harm from Crime Based on Sentencing Guidelines *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice, Volume 10, Issue 3, September 2016, Pages 171–183, <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/paw003>*

Hotspots vs 'Harm spots'

Research on comparing hotspots to 'harm spots' has provided several key findings including harm being three times more concentrated in space than crime count calculated hotspots and around a quarter of hotspots and harm spots are in the same areas¹⁹. Therefore, calculating 'harm spots' by CCHI provides the main benefit of showing areas of high harm not detected by crime count, which can result in targetting resources in those areas.

By taking VAP hotspots as an example, the below map shows hotspot areas by crime count and harm spots by CCHI where they have both been calculated in the same way (same search radius, cell size etc.). By overlaying the crime count hotspots over the CCHI harm spots, the majority of primary hotspots overlay primary harm spots in the same areas, however the CCHI show other areas not initially identified and are a lot more specific in some cases, which is crucial for tasking resources e.g. police or NSO patrols or outreach services.

VAP Hotspots by Crime Count and CCHI in 2019.



Through the generation of CCHI hotspots to supplement tasking reports, it will not only assist in tasking resources to other areas not identified by crime count but uncover areas which, statistically, contain high harm crimes. By providing interventions in these areas, this will increase the likelihood of serious violent crimes not being committed and ultimately increase the safety of the community. This may also result in reducing other associated activity including gang crime and anti-social behaviour.

¹⁹ Weinborn C. Ariel B. Sherman L. (2015). Hotspots vs. Harmspots: Shifting the Focus from Counts to Harm in the Criminology of Place.' Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.06.009>

Benefits

Generally, using CCHI provides more clarity for evidence-based initiatives, therefore it ensures the partnership is using its limited resources to maximum effect. The examples highlighted above are only a small number of a wide range of benefits which the use and implementation of CCHI in intelligence and analysis can bring in reducing all crime, specifically violence, in the borough. The CCHI would be broken down by crime type under violence against the person to give a consistent focus and measure across the partnership e.g. serious youth violence, domestic abuse, knife crime etc.

There are many other benefits that have been highlighted including recidivism analysis and identifying possible escalation in the frequency and severity in domestic abuse as well as the significant proportion of unique and offender units (dyads) that account for all domestic abuse harm²⁰. In regards to domestic abuse, applying the CCHI in Croydon showed that 2% of domestic abuse victims in 2019 were subject to over half of overall harm²¹. This in turn can be used to direct specific resources most suited to these victims and aim to reduce overall harm of all of those potentially at risk of suffering domestic abuse. This highlights, as Sherman et al. (2016) state, that the use of CCHI would potentially move the motivation of treating crimes and victims as a mere 'tick' to a greater focus on making life better for victims or at the very least reduce serious harm.

²⁰ Bland M. Ariel B. (2015). Targeting Escalation in Reported Domestic Abuse Evidence from 36,000 Callouts International Criminal Justice Review 25 (1): 30 – 53 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1057567715574382>

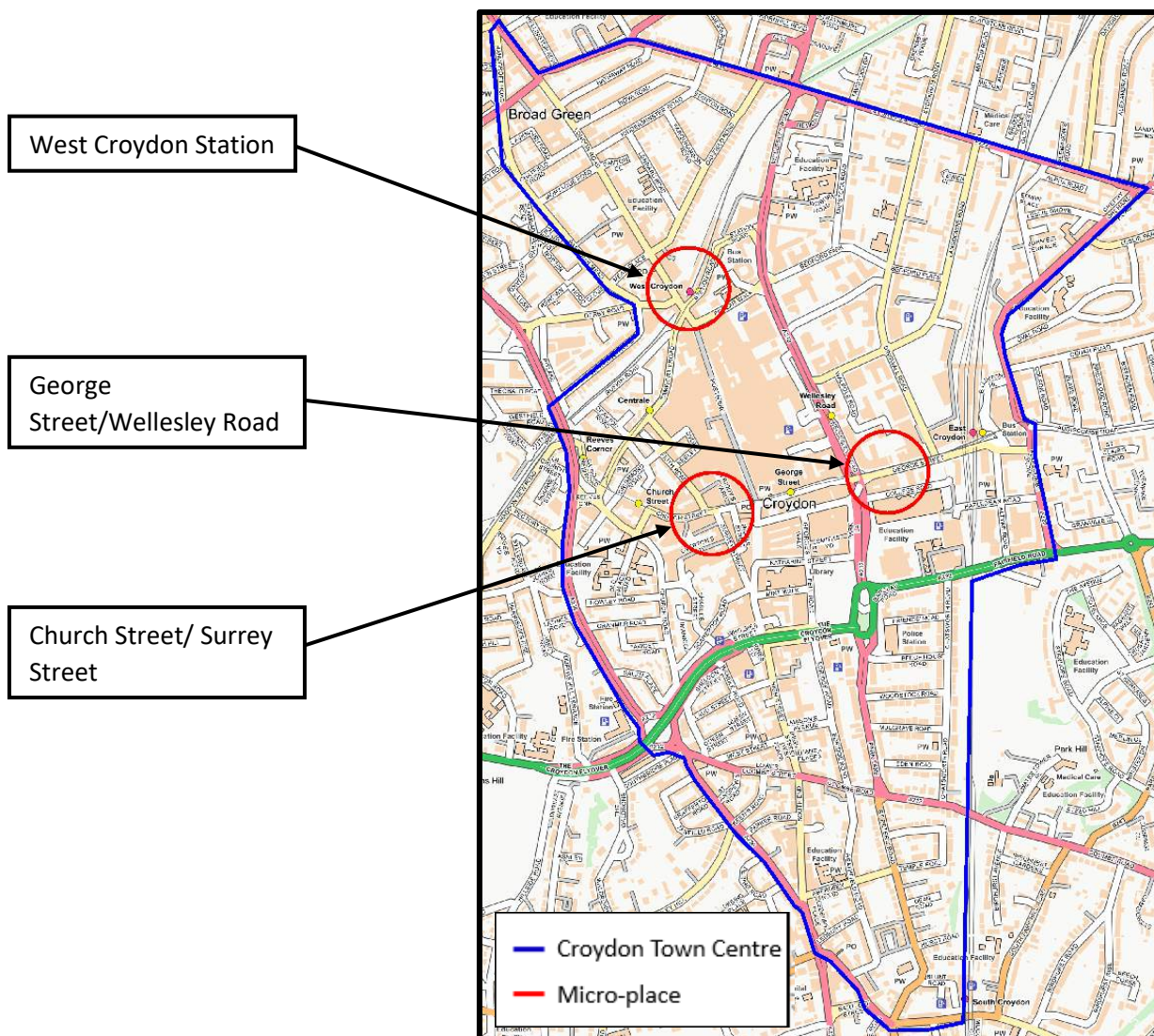
²¹ This did not include murder. This also only included victims where full details (forename, surname and DOB) were recorded.

Micro-hotspots and Targetting, Testing and Tracking

All hotspots maps in this report show at least one of the primary hotspots to be Croydon town centre. This is not surprising where it has a higher footfall compared to the rest of the borough. However, the town centre only represents 2.7% of the borough's total geographical area and yet it accounts for almost a fifth of all violence in the borough. For more specific violent types of crime the proportion is even higher including a third of all Non-DA VWI is committed in the town centre.

As the town centre is a prevalent primary hotspot across most crime types, it requires for it to be looked at as a separate area from the rest of the borough altogether and so further hotspot analysis is required. Therefore, identifying 'micro-places' or 'micro-hotspots' is required to identify which areas within the town centre have the highest concentration of violent crime. Research has shown that a proportion of micro-hotspots can account from 25% to 50% of all crime²². This type of analysis has been widely used²³ and reinforced the common recommendation that this type of analysis should be used when coordinating interventions to reduce crime e.g. police patrols.

By looking further into the town centre, further hotspot analysis was carried out on personal robbery and all types of violent crime highlighted in this report (excluding domestic abuse and gun crime). Three common areas – or micro-hotspots – were identified as areas of high concentration of violent crime and personal robbery in the town centre. Each crime/incident was extracted within a 100 metre radius of the centre from each of these micro-hotspots.



²² Weisburd, D. (2015). The law of crime concentration and the criminology of place. *Criminology*, 53(2), 133–157

²³ Hardyns, W. Snaphann, T. Pawels, L. (2019). Crime concentrations and micro places: An empirical test of the "law of crime concentration at places" in Belgium, *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology* (Sage Publications Ltd.). Sep2019, Vol. 52 Issue 3, p390-410. 21p.

The centre of each of the three micro-places identified were West Croydon train station, George street near the junction with Wellesley Road and Church Street at the junction with Surrey Street. From the crimes extracted from each of these areas, the key findings were the following:

1. VAP: All three micro-places accounted for over a fifth (22.3%) of all VAP offences in the town centre with between 7% to 8% being committed in each of these areas.
2. Violence recorded by A & E: Almost a third (32%) of all violence in the town centre recorded by A & E occurred in these three micro-places.
3. Personal Robbery: Almost a third (29.7%) of all robbery offences in the town centre occurred in these three micro-places. Specifically, West Croydon Station was the micro-place where a significant proportion of offences were committed representing 13.0% of all robberies in the town centre.
4. Non-DA VWI: Almost a third (29.7%) of all Non-DA VWI offences in the town centre occurred in these three micro-places, with crimes spread evenly across these areas.
5. Knife Crime: A quarter (25.6%) of all knife crime offences in the town centre were committed in two of these micro-places – West Croydon station and Church Street.
6. SYV: West Croydon station was a key micro-place with almost a quarter (23.4%) of all offences occurring in this area.
7. Youth Violence: Almost a quarter (23.9%) of all youth violence offences occurred in two micro-places – West Croydon station and Church Street – with West Croydon Station specifically accounting for a large proportion (17.1%).
8. Offences during the peak ‘after-school’ hours were more likely to be committed in the West Croydon station micro-place. In the evening offences were likely to be committed in the other two micro-places.

The “Triple-T” Strategy – Targetting, Testing and Tracking

For any new method or approach which is explored, used and implemented in order to reduce crime must be evidence-based, which in itself is a method of making decisions about “what works”. This objective is reached by following what it is known as the “triple-T” strategy²⁴, which will be demonstrated by applying the micro-place analysis above. The “triple-T” strategy is the following:

1. Targetting: Apply evidence from best available data to target resources on crime problems. Crime data has been used to identify the primary hotspots of Croydon town centre and then further used to identify the micro-places within the hotspot.
2. Testing: Having identified the problem areas, review and test methods to determine the most effective response to reduce the problems, threats and harm. Methods which can be recommended to be used in these micro-places can be police patrols during peak days and times and other interventions e.g. youth outreach resources to be directed in the West Croydon station micro-place during the peak ‘after-school’ hours.
3. Tracking: Generate and use internal evidence to track delivery-evaluation. The new data generated by tracking informs the basis for new research and more reliable evidence of “what works”. It is imperative that actions which have been tasked are actually carried out. Therefore, along with manual returns provided by individuals/teams tasked, further methods should be used to ensure actions are met and accountability is upheld e.g. the use of CCTV in the micro-places to confirm police patrols and/or outreach services are carrying out the specific actions tasked.

With this strategy applied to the town centre, a more effective evidenced-based approach is built and can then be applied to other parts of the borough where there is a high crime concentration e.g. Thornton Heath, South Norwood and Purley. It is important that this is used at a strategic, tactical and operational level so that information and knowledge is regularly and consistently shared and transparency and accountability is present throughout.

²⁴ Sherman, L. (2013). The Rise of Evidence-Based Policing: Targeting, Testing, and Tracking. *Crime and Justice*. 42. 377-451.

Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs)

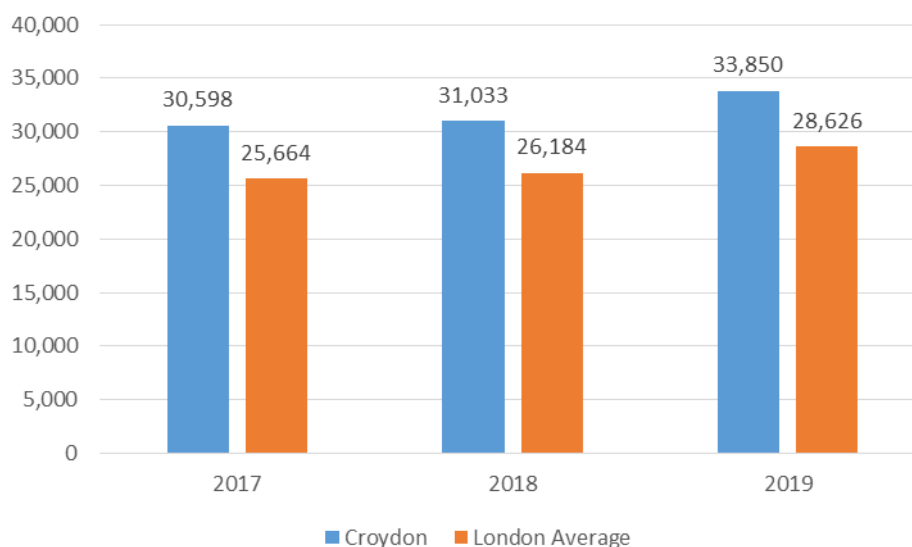
Definition

- Total notifiable offences are all offences which are statutorily notifiable to the Home Office.

Statistics

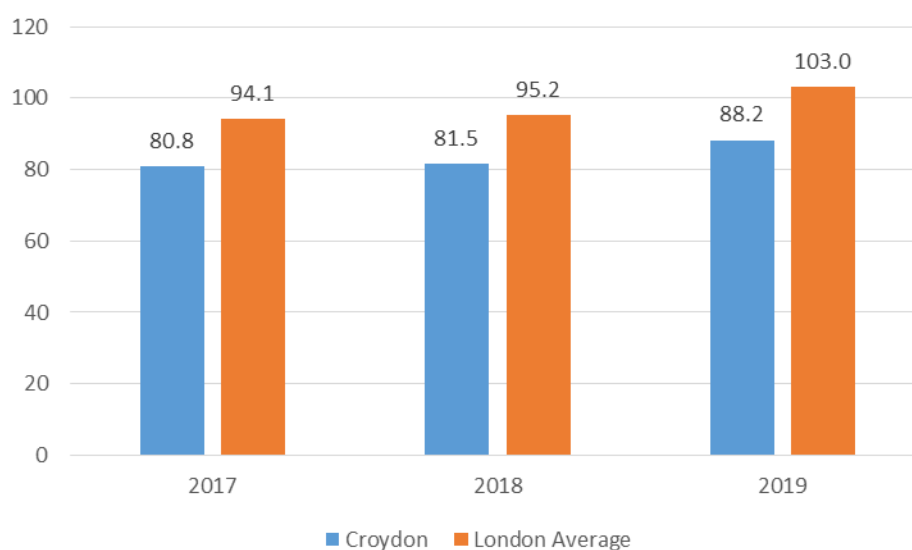
- There was a total of 33,850 TNOs in 2019, an increase of 9.1% (2,817 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 31,033 offences recorded. This is a slightly smaller percentage increase compared to the London average where there was a 9.3% increase (2,442 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 10.6% increase in Croydon (3,252 offences). In comparison, there has been an increase of 11.5% (2,962 offences) in the London average.

TNO statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough has risen from 80.8 in 2017 to 81.5 in 2018 and to 88.2 in 2019. The London average has seen an increase from 94.1 in 2017 to 95.2 in 2018 and to 103.0 in 2019.

TNOs crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents aged 1 to 19 from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking has risen by one place from 9th in 2017 to 8th in 2018 where it has remained in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 20th in 2017 where it dropped one place in 2018 to 21st where it rose again one place back to 20th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	9	20
2018	8	21
2019	8	20

Breakdown of Offence Type

- The largest proportion of offences committed in 2019 were Violence against the Person accounting for 29.1% of all offences in the borough. The second highest proportion was Theft (17.7%) and third highest was Vehicle crime (15.1%).
- By comparing 2019 to 2018 there has been significant percentage increases in Drug offences (41.9%), Vehicle crime (20.9%) and Public Order offences (20.6%). There has also been a significant volume increase in Violence against the Person (644 offences).
- There has been decreases in three major crime types in borough: Arson and Criminal Damage (-4.2%), Miscellaneous Crimes against Society (-0.4%) – which include a large variety of offences from Handling Stolen Goods to Perverting the Course of Justice – and Possession of Weapons (-1.6%).

TNOs broken down by Major Crime Type in Croydon in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.

Major Crime Type	2018	2019	+/-	% +/-
Arson and Criminal Damage	2,568	2,461	-107	-4.2%
Burglary	2,809	2,827	18	0.6%
Drugs	1,691	2,399	708	41.9%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	459	457	-2	-0.4%
Possession of Weapons	385	379	-6	-1.6%
Public Order	1,768	2,132	364	20.6%
Robbery	1,099	1,167	68	6.2%
Sexual Offences	976	1,050	74	7.6%
Theft	5,841	6,013	172	2.9%
Vehicle	4,230	5,114	884	20.9%
Violence Against the Person	9,207	9,851	644	7.0%
Total	31,033	33,850	2,817	9.1%

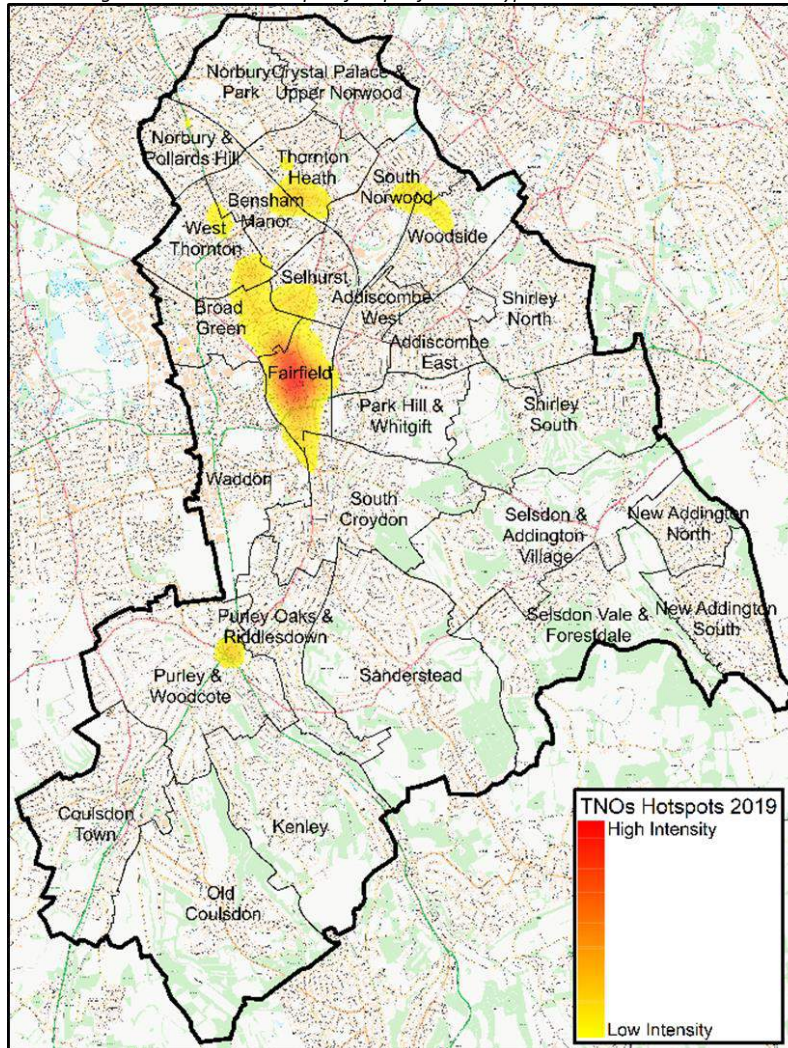
- This report provides an analytical overview of each major crime type in the borough excluding 'Miscellaneous Crime against Society' due to the extensive range of crimes it covers.
- A number of the major crime types in this report is further broken down to the crime types which make up all or the majority of the volume of offences e.g. under 'Vehicle' the analysis is broken down to 'Theft from motor vehicle' and 'Theft/taking of motor vehicle'.

Hotspots

The primary hotspot for all TNOs is Croydon Town Centre with secondary hotspots leading up London Road from the town centre in to Broad Green and West Thornton wards, in and around Thornton Heath High Street, in and around High Street in South Norwood and in and around Purley High Street. There is also a small secondary hotspot at the top of London Road in Norbury.

Most of the crime types and ASB detailed further in this report reflect the same hotspots, particularly Croydon Town Centre. Other hotspots for specific crime types are detailed below.

Hotspot map of TNOs in Croydon in 2019 along with other noted hotspots for specific crime types.



Residential Burglary (other specific hotspots)

- In and around West Thornton Road (West Thornton Ward)
- In and around Lower Addiscombe Road (Addiscombe East Ward)
- In and around Whitworth Road (South Norwood Ward)
- In and around Whitehorse Road (Selhurst Ward)
- In and around Parchmore Road (Thornton Heath)

Non-Residential Burglary (other specific hotspots)

- Mayday Hospital (West Thornton Ward)
- Portland Road (Woodside Ward)
- Lower Addiscombe Road (Addiscombe East Ward)

Theft from Motor Vehicle (other specific hotspots)

- Valley Retail Park (Broad Green Ward)
- In the area of London Road at the junction with Handcroft Road (Broad Green Ward)
- In the area of Brigstock Road the junction with Bensham Lane (Bensham Manor Ward)
- In and around Mersham Road (Thornton Heath Ward)

Theft of Motor Vehicle (other specific hotspots)

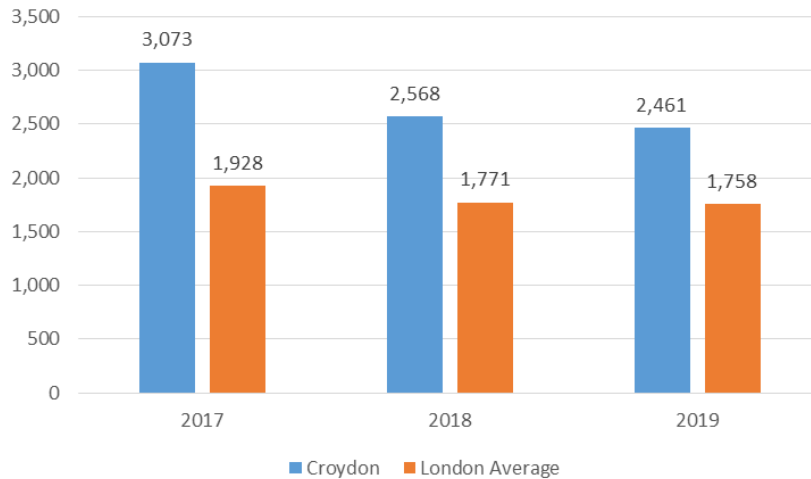
- In the area of London Road at the junction with Norbury Crescent and Craignish Avenue (Norbury & Pollards Hill Ward)
- In the area of Parchmore Road and Bensham Grove (Thornton Heath)

Arson & Criminal Damage

Statistics

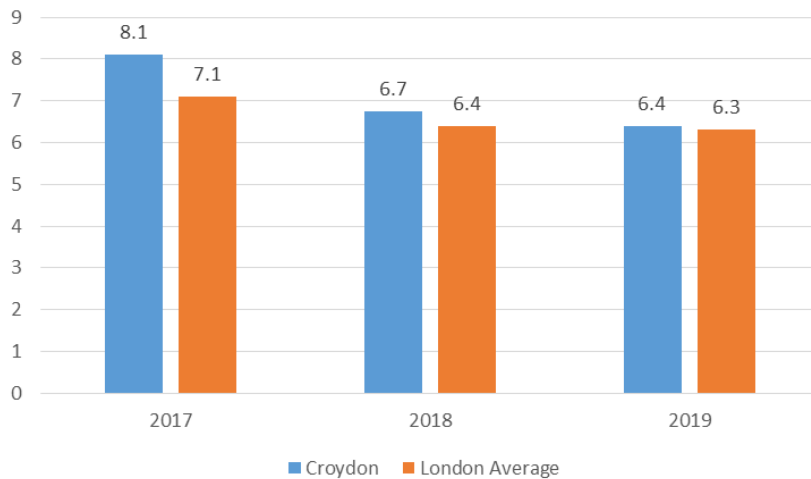
- There was a total of 2,461 arson and criminal damage offences in 2019, a decrease of 4.2% (107 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 2,568 offences recorded. This is a larger percentage increase compared to the London average where there was a 0.7% decrease (-13 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 19.9% decrease in Croydon (-612 offences). In comparison, there has been an 8.8% decrease (170 offences) in the London average.

Arson & Criminal Damage statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough has risen from 8.1 in 2017 to 6.7 in 2018 and to 6.4 in 2019. The London average has seen a decrease from 7.1 in 2017 to 6.4 in 2018 and to 6.3 in 2019.

Arson & Criminal Damage crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking has remained at first place for the past three years. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 5th in 2017 where it dropped eight places in 2018 to 13th where it dropped another two places to 15th in 2019.

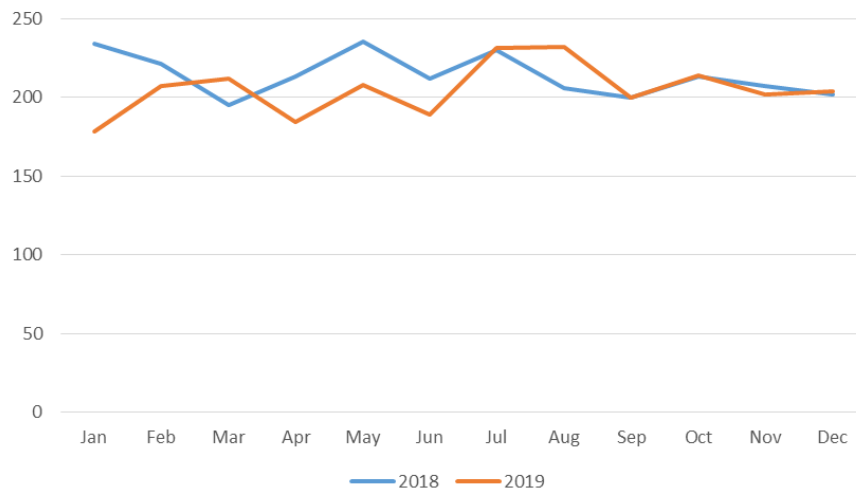
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	1	5
2018	1	13
2019	1	15

Temporal Analysis

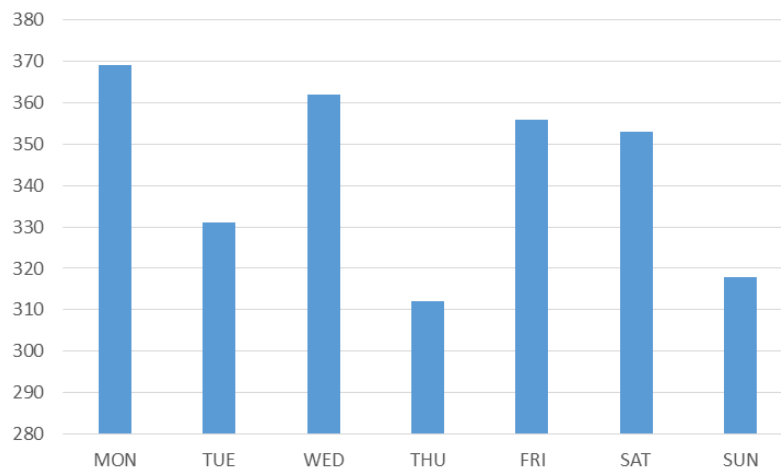
- In 2019 the peak months were August (232), July (231) and October (214). In 2018 the peak months were May (235) and January (234).

Arson & Criminal Damage offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



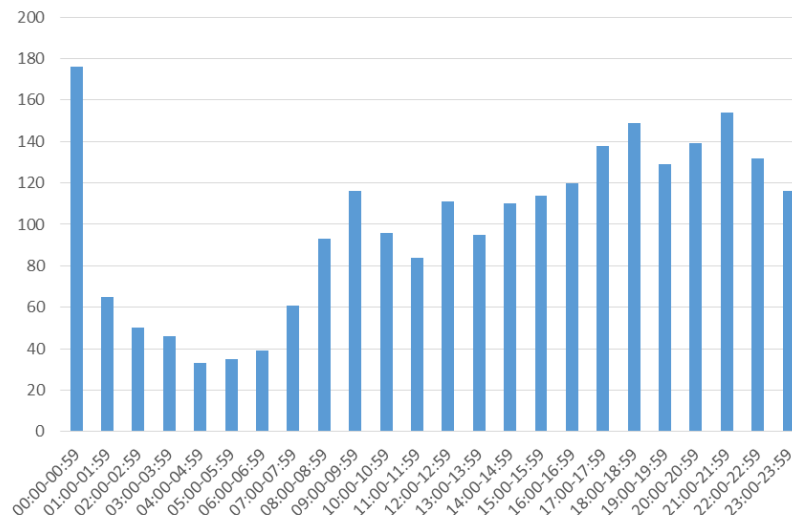
- The peak days for offences were Monday followed by Wednesday and then Friday.

Arson & Criminal Damage offences committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 00:00 and 00:59 and between 21:00 and 21:59. Offences predominantly take place in the evening from 17:00.

Arson & Criminal Damage offences committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

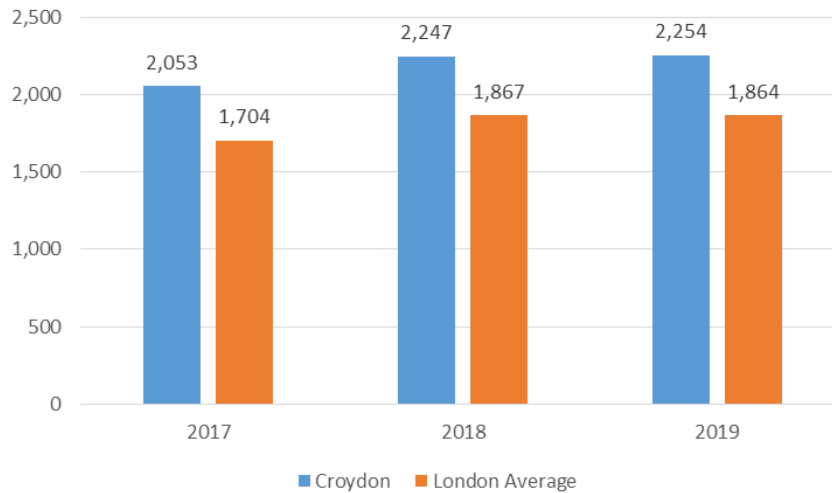


Burglary - Residential

Statistics

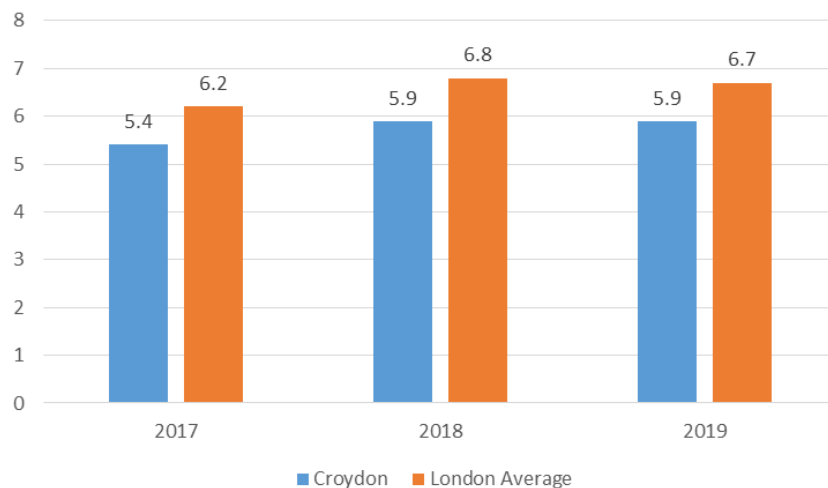
- There was a total of 2,254 residential burglary offences in 2019, an increase of 0.3% (7 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 2,247 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 0.2% decrease (-3 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 9.8% increase in Croydon (201 offences). In comparison, there has been a 9.4% increase (160 offences) in the London average.

Residential Burglary statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough has risen from 5.4 in 2017 to 5.9 in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019. The London average has seen an increase from 6.2 in 2017 to 6.8 in 2018 and it has slightly decreased to 6.7 in 2019.

Residential burglary crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking dropped two places from 7th in 2017 to 9th in 2018 where it rose one place to 8th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 28th in 2017 where it rose three places in 2018 to 25th where it rose another place to 24th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

	Ranking	
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	7	28
2018	9	25
2019	8	24

Temporal Analysis

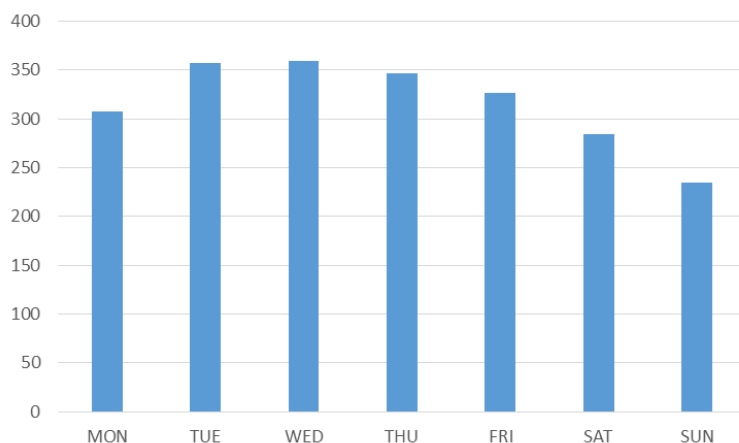
- In 2019 the peak months were October (248), March (214) and November (212). In 2018 the peak months were February (219), November (219) and January (211).

Residential Burglary offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



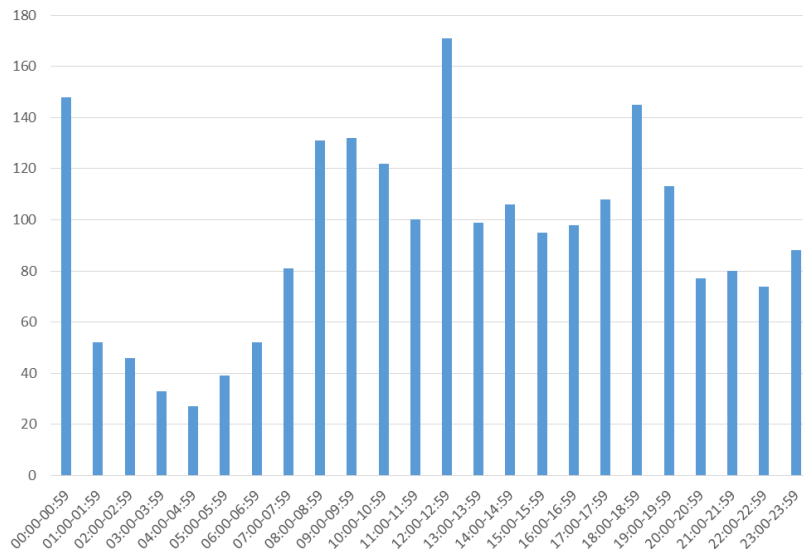
- The peak days for offences were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Residential Burglary offences committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 12:00 and 12:59 and between 00:00 and 00:59. However, this could be the default reporting time for the offence due to the victim not knowing when the offence occurring as they were most likely not present.

Residential burglary offences committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

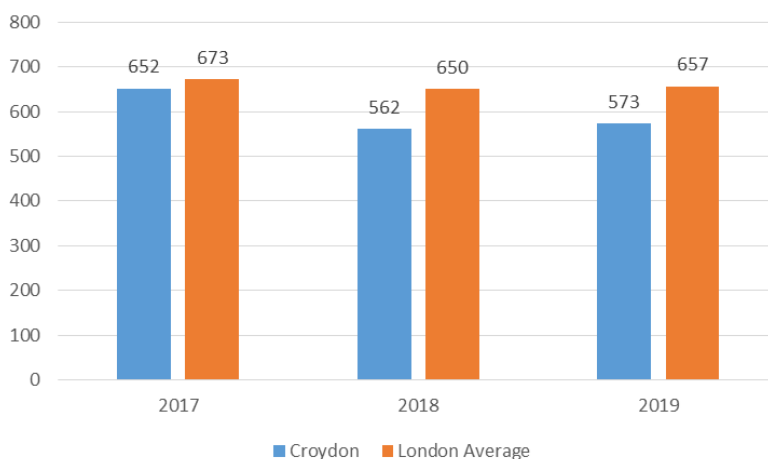


Burglary – Business and Community

Statistics

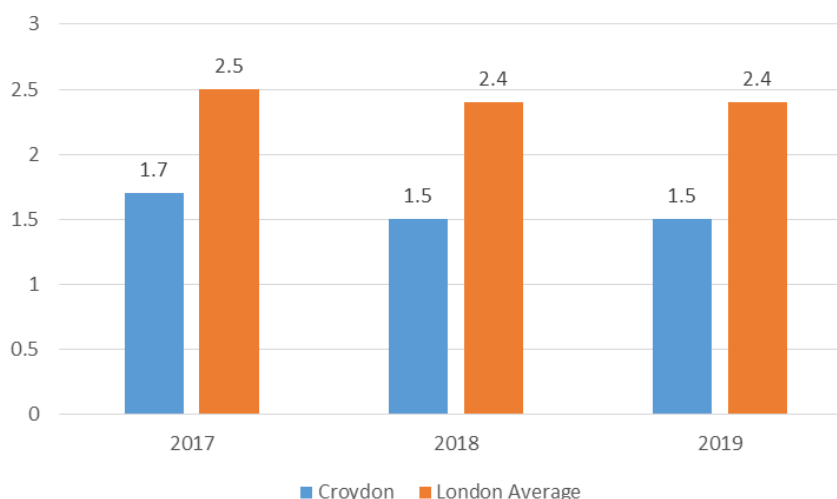
- There was a total of 573 offences in 2019, an increase of 2.0% (11 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 562 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 1.1% increase (7 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 12.1% decrease in Croydon (-79 offences). In comparison, there has been a 2.4% decrease (-16 offences) in the London average.

Burglary – Business and Community statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough has dropped from 1.7 in 2017 to 1.5 in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019. The London average has seen a decrease from 2.5 in 2017 to 2.4 in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019.

Burglary – Business and Community crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking dropped five places from 11th in 2017 to 16th in 2018 where it dropped another place to 17th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 26th in 2017 where it rose one place in 2018 to 25th where it dropped one place to 26th in 2019.

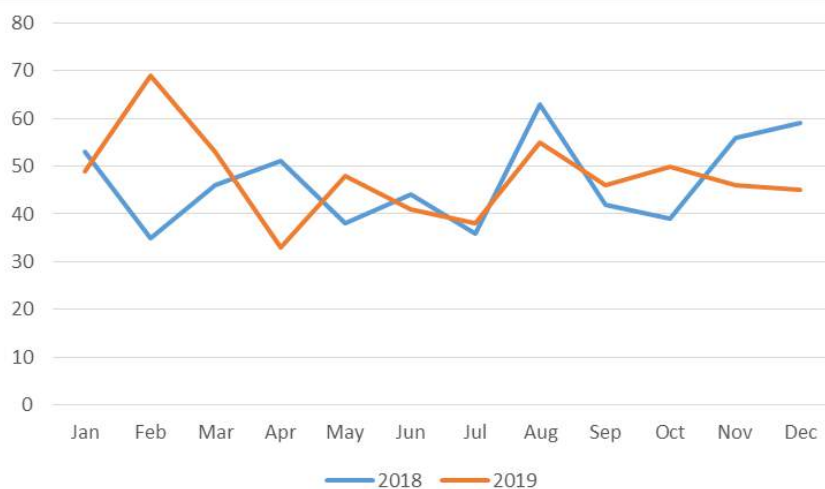
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	11	26
2018	16	25
2019	17	26

Temporal Analysis

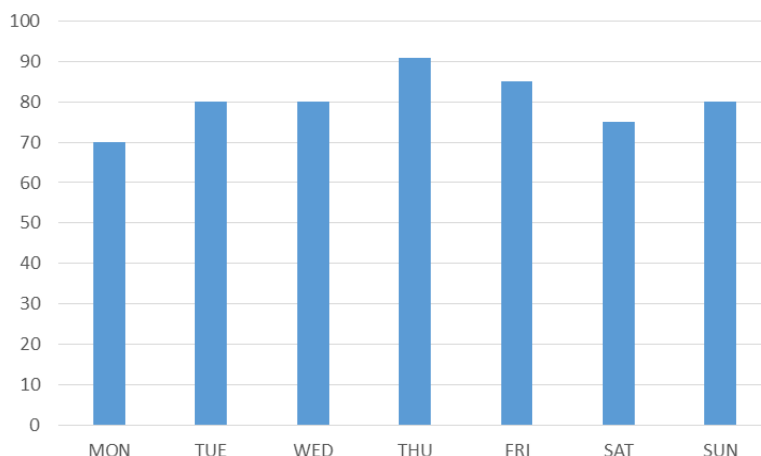
- In 2019 the peak months were February (69), August (55) and October (50). The peak months in 2018 were August (63), December (59) and November (56).

Burglary – Business and Community offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



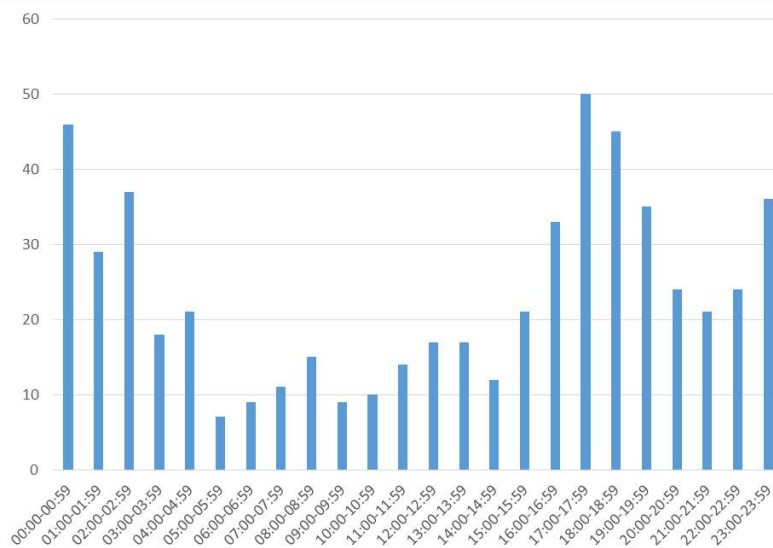
- The peak days for offences were Thursday and Friday.

Burglary – Business and Community offences committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 17:00 and 18:59 and between 00:00 and 00:59. However, the latter time could be the default reporting time for the offence due to the victim not knowing when the offence occurring as they were most likely not present.

Burglary – Business and Community offences committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

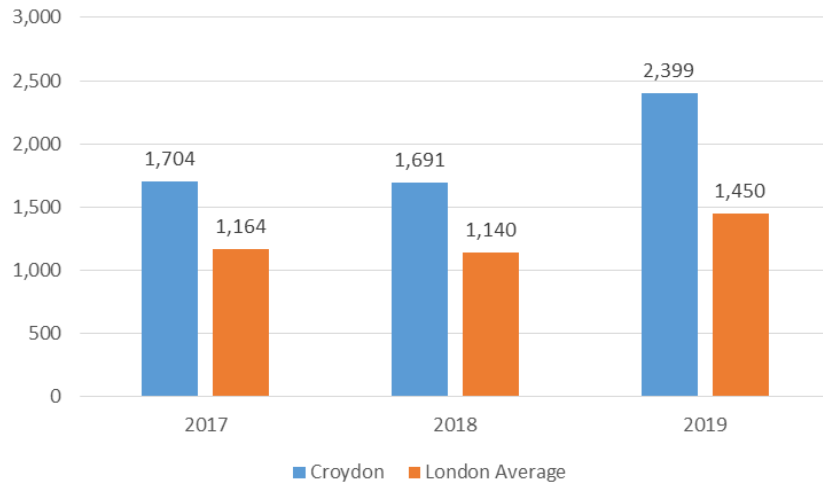


Drugs

Statistics

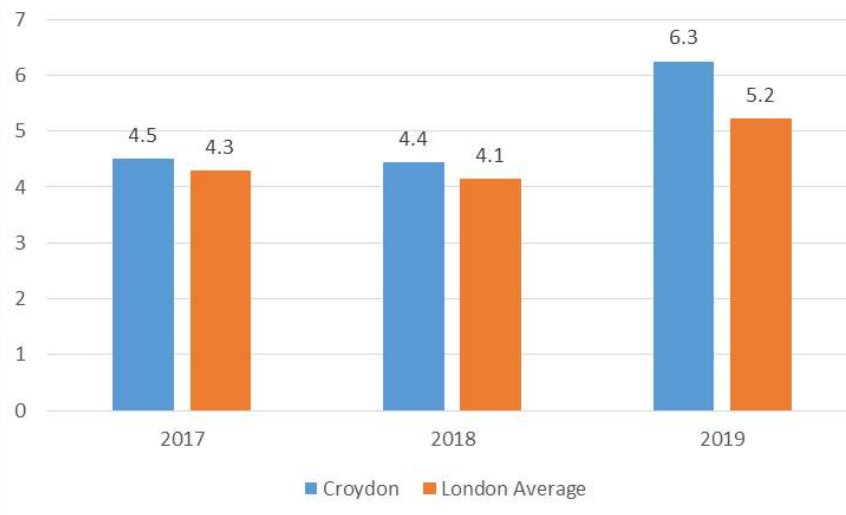
- There was a total of 2,399 drug offences in 2019, an increase of 41.9% (708 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 1,691 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 27.2% increase (310 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 40.8% increase in Croydon (695 offences). In comparison, there has been a 24.6% increase (286 offences) in the London average.

Drugs statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough dropped from 4.5 in 2017 to 4.4 in 2018 but it then increased to 6.3 in 2019. The London average saw a decrease from 4.3 in 2017 to 4.1 in 2018 but it then increased to 5.2 in 2019.

Drugs offences crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking dropped one place from 6th in 2017 to 7th in 2018 where it rose three places to 4th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 14th in 2017 and in 2018 but then rose 5 places to 9th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

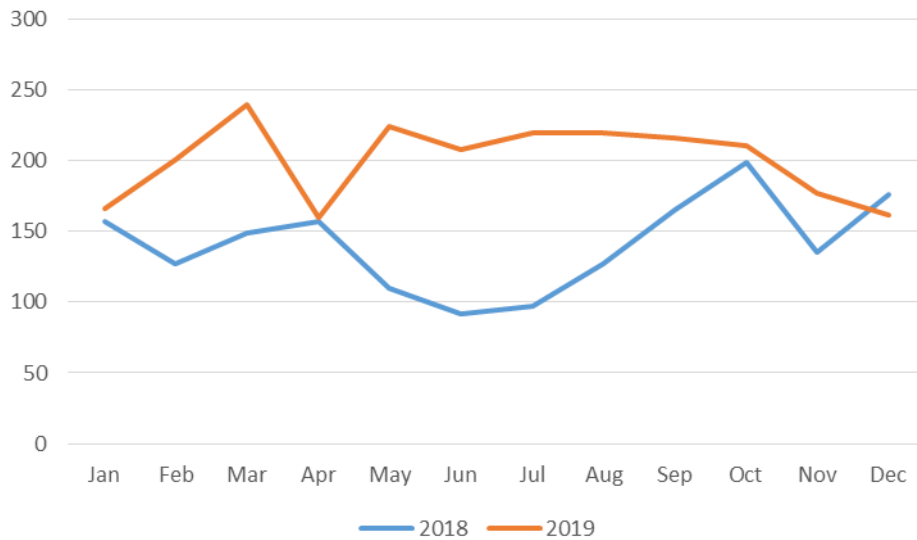
Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	6	14
2018	7	14
2019	4	9

- It must be noted that offences are significantly driven by stop and searches and, for example, where a serious violent incident has occurred and the police enforce a Section 60²⁵ to search those who are possibly carrying weapons, which increases the use of stop and search and in turn increases the number of individuals found carrying drugs. This must be taken into consideration when looking at all statistics on drugs offences.

Temporal Analysis

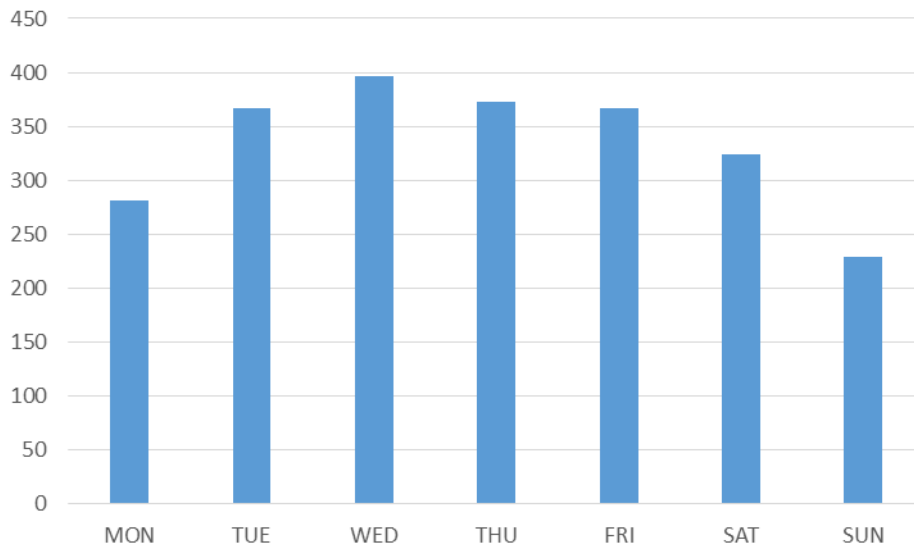
- In 2019 the peak months were March (239), May (224), July (219) and August (219). The peak months in 2018 were October (199) and December (176).
- At least one section 60 was carried out in March and May 2019 which partially explains the rise in offences in these months.

Drugs offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



- The peak days for offences were Wednesday followed by Thursday then Tuesday and Friday.

Drugs offences committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

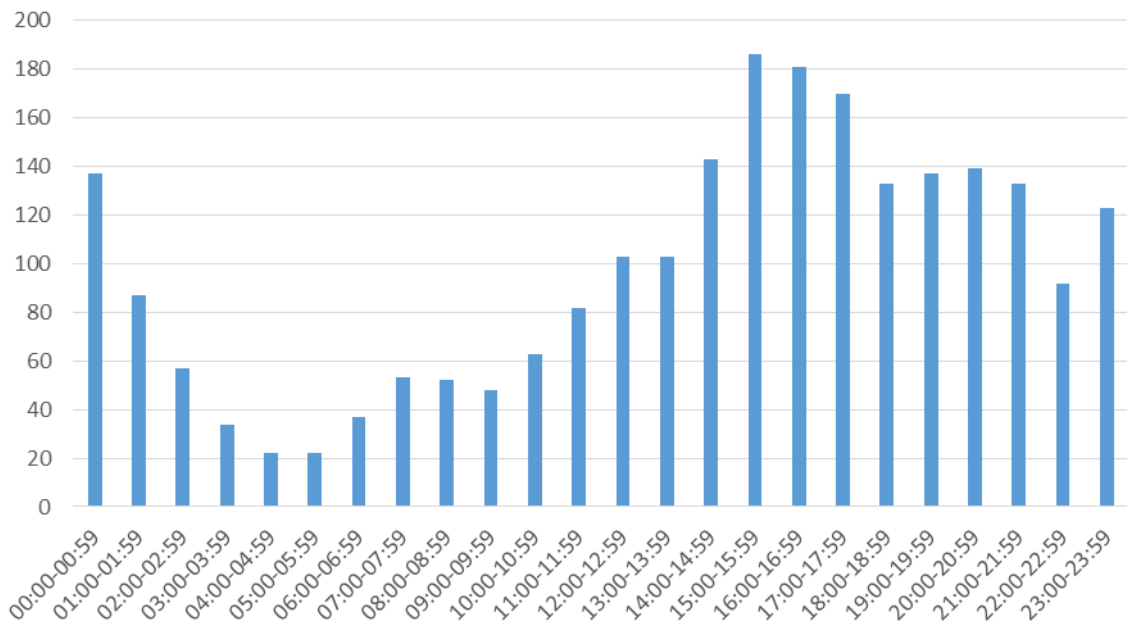


- The peak times for offences were between 15:00 and 17:59. This correlates with the ‘after-school’ hours where young people are more likely to be stopped and searched due to a range of factors predominantly searches

²⁵ Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (s.60) gives police the right to search people in a defined area during a specific time period when they believe, with good reason, that: serious violence will take place and it is necessary to use this power to prevent such violence; or that a person is carrying a dangerous object or offensive weapon; or that an incident involving serious violence has taken place and a dangerous instrument or offensive weapon used in the incident is being carried in the locality <https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/central/advice/met/stop-and-search/section-60-stop-and-search.PDF>

conducted under section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or an incident of serious youth violence has occurred and a section 60 has been enforced.

Drugs offences committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

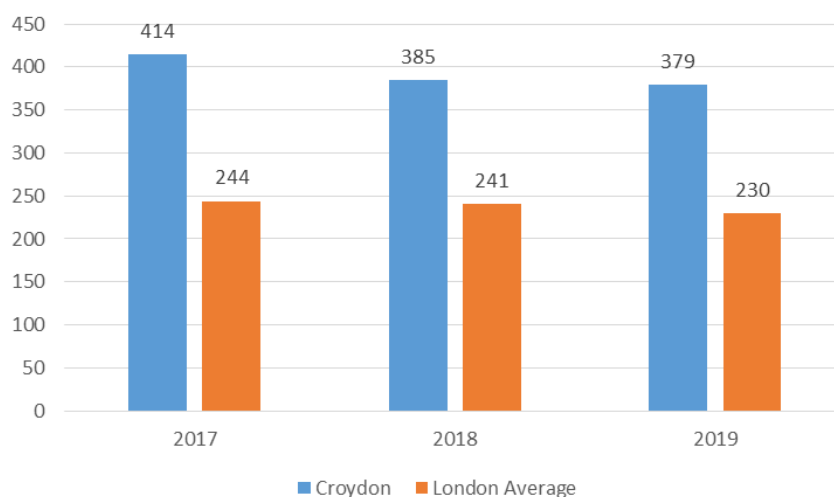


Possession of Weapons

Statistics

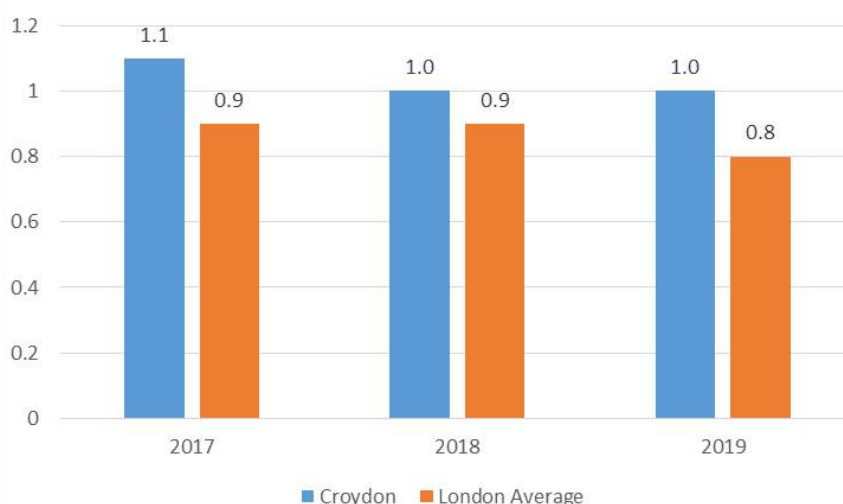
- There was a total of 379 offences in 2019, a decrease of 1.6% (-6 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 385 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 4.6% decrease (-11 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been an 8.5% decrease in Croydon (-35 offences). In comparison, there has been a 5.7% decrease (-14 offences) in the London average.

Possession of weapons statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough has dropped from 1.1 in 2017 to 1.0 in 2018 where it has remained the same in 2019. The London average has seen a decrease from 0.9 in 2017 and 2018 to 0.8 in 2019.

Possession of weapons crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking rose one place from 5th in 2017 to 4th in 2018 where it rose another place to 3rd in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 9th in 2017 where it dropped two places in 2018 to 11th where it rose one place to 10th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

	Ranking	
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	5	9
2018	4	11
2019	3	10

Temporal Analysis

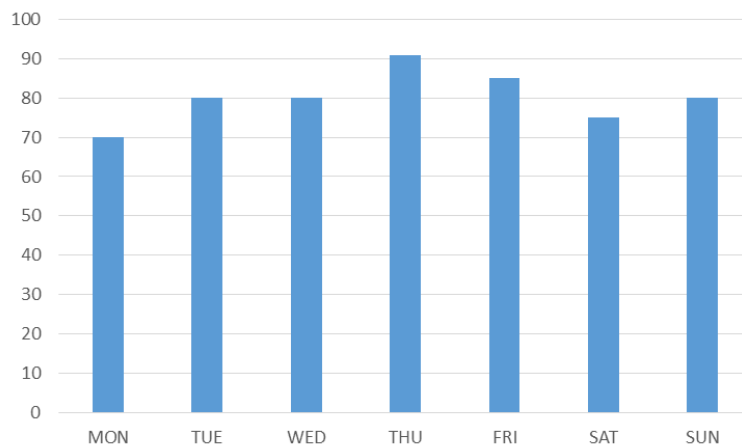
- In 2019 the peak months were March (52), August (38) and October (37). The peak months in 2018 were April (44), December (38) and May (36).

Possession of weapons offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



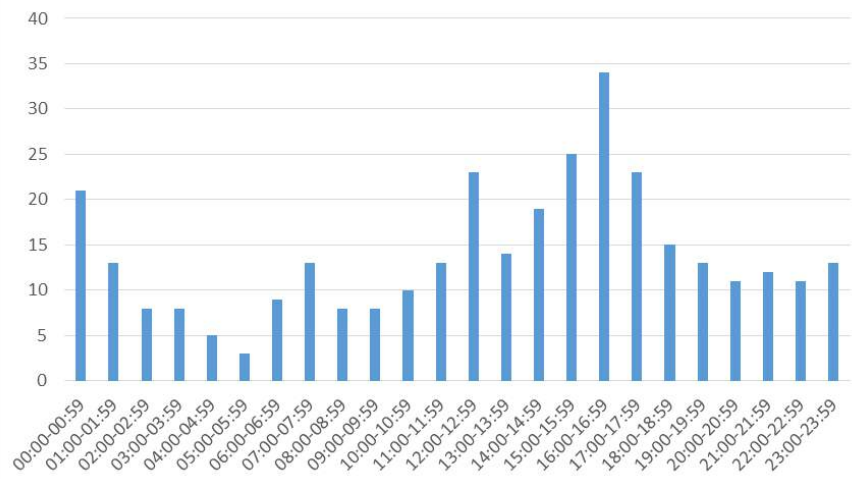
- The peak days for offences were Thursday and Friday.

Possession of weapons offences committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 15:00 and 17:59, specifically between 16:00 and 16:59. This correlates with the 'after-school' hours where young people are more likely to be stopped and searched due to a range of factors predominantly searches conducted under section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or an incident of serious youth violence has occurred and a section 60 has been enforced.

Possession of weapons offences committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

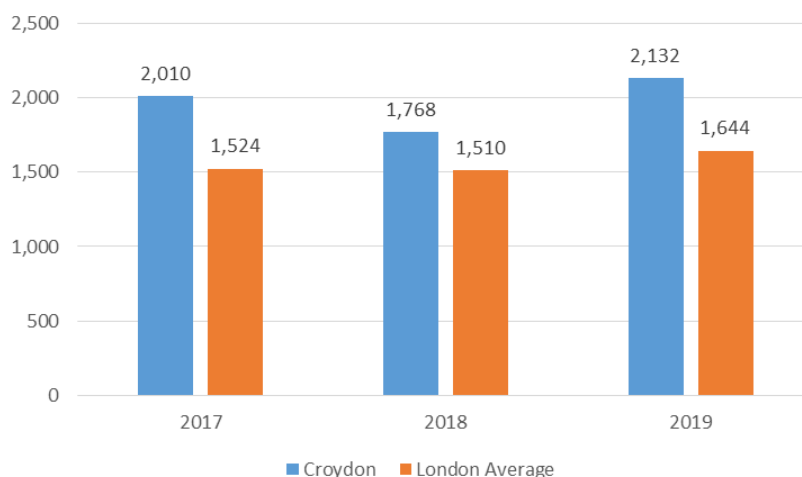


Public Order Offences

Statistics

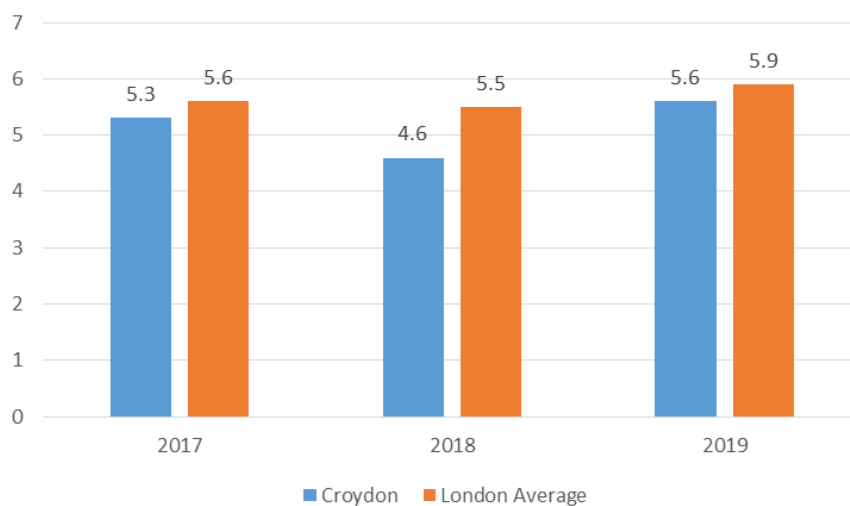
- There was a total of 2,132 offences in 2019, an increase of 20.6% (364 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 1,768 offences recorded. For the London average there was an 8.9% increase (134 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 6.1% increase in Croydon (122 offences). In comparison, there has been a 7.9% increase (120 offences) in the London average.

Public order statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough dropped from 5.3 in 2017 to 4.6 in 2018 where it then increased to 5.6 in 2019. The London average had seen a decrease from 5.6 in 2017 to 5.5 in 2018 but it then increased to 5.9 in 2019.

Public order crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking dropped four places from 4th in 2017 to 8th in 2018 where it rose four places back to 4th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 14th in 2017 where it dropped seven places in 2018 to 21st where it rose five places to 16th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

	Ranking	
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	4	14
2018	8	21
2019	4	16

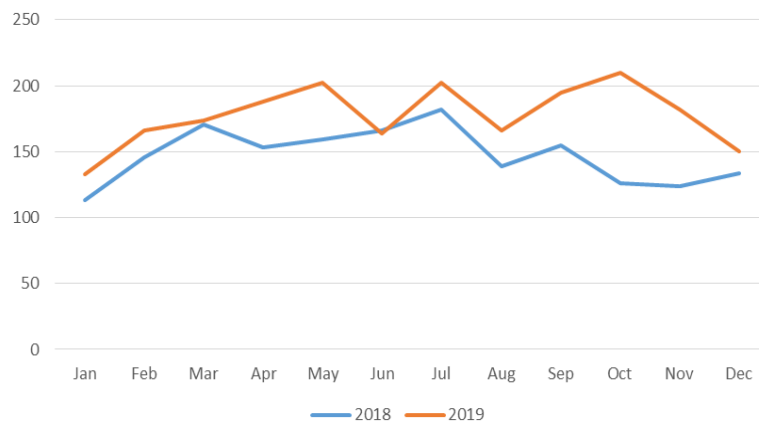
Crime Breakdown

Public order offences cover a wide range of offences but the types that made up the majority of offences in 2019 were 31.0% being Public Order Offence Section 4a (causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress), 28.5% being Public Order Offence Section 4 (fear of provocation of violence) and 17.5% being racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment alarm or distress.

Temporal Analysis

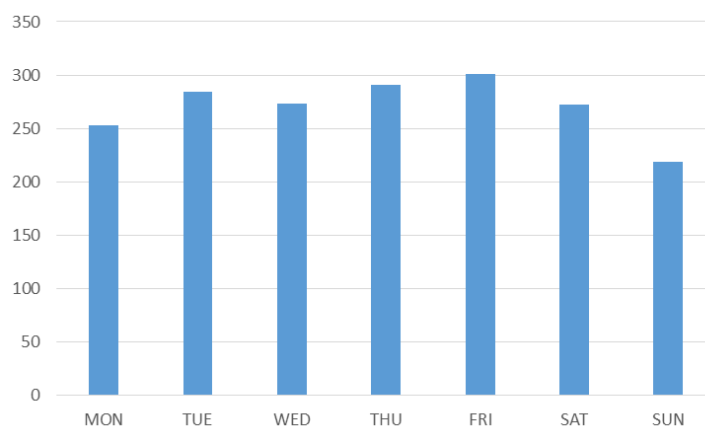
- In 2019 the peak months were October (210), July (202) and May (202). The peak months in 2018 were July (182), March (171) and June (166).

Public order offences committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



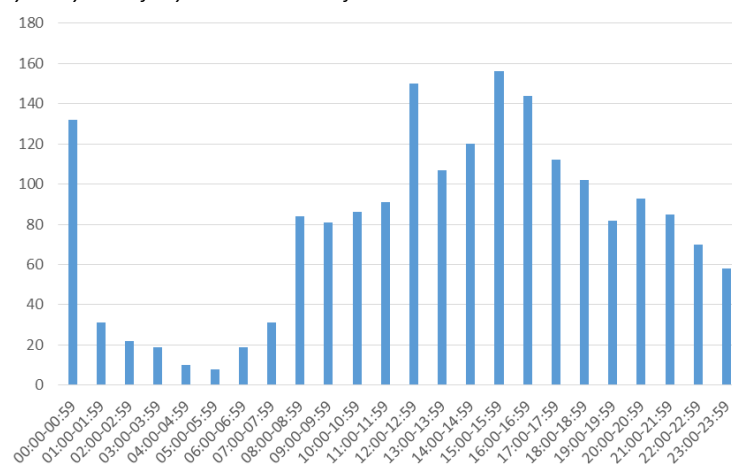
- Offences are fairly consistent throughout the week with the peak days being Friday, Thursday and Tuesday.

Public order offences committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 12:00 and 12:59, 15:00 and 16:59 and between 00:00 and 00:59.

Public order offences committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

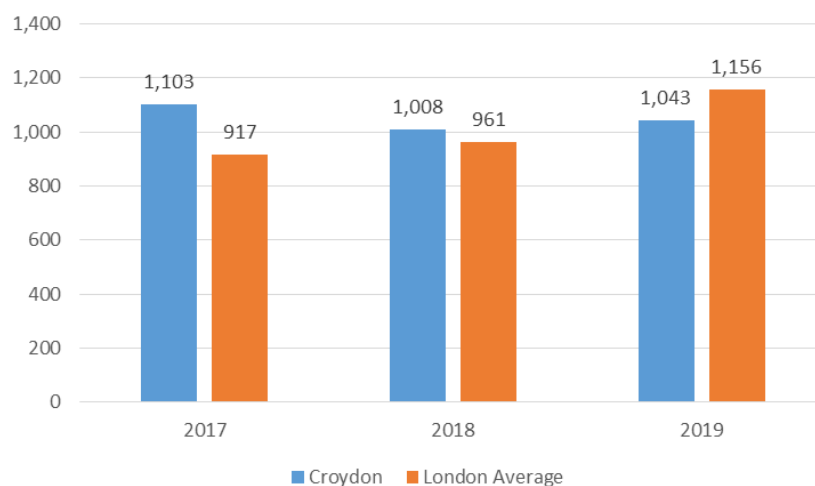


Personal Robbery

Statistics

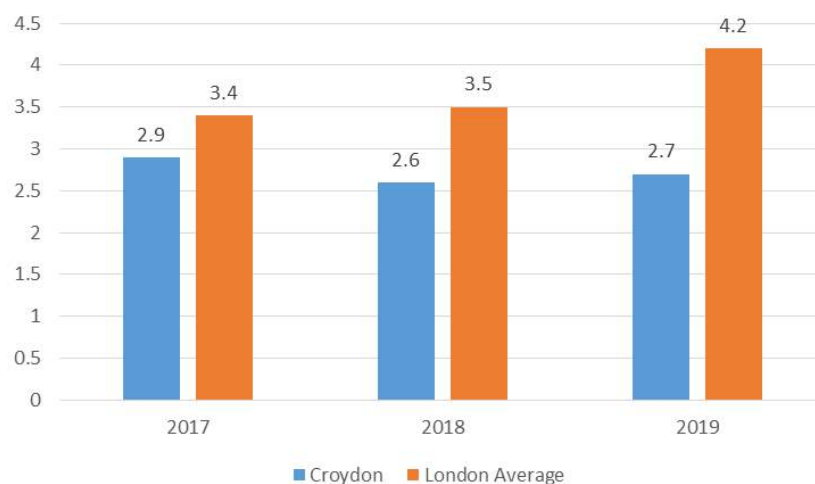
- There was a total of 1,043 personal robbery offences in 2019, an increase of 3.5% (35 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 1,008 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 20.3% increase (195 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 5.4% decrease in Croydon (-60 offences). In comparison, there has been a 26.1% increase (239 offences) in the London average.

Personal robbery statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough dropped from 2.9 in 2017 to 2.6 in 2018 where it then increased to 2.7 in 2019. The London average had seen an increase from 3.4 in 2017 to 3.5 in 2018 and then to 4.2 in 2019.

Personal robbery crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking dropped one place from 11th in 2017 to 12th in 2018 where it dropped three places to 15th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents, the borough's ranking was 15th in 2017 where it dropped three places in 2018 to 18th where it dropped another three places to 21st in 2019.

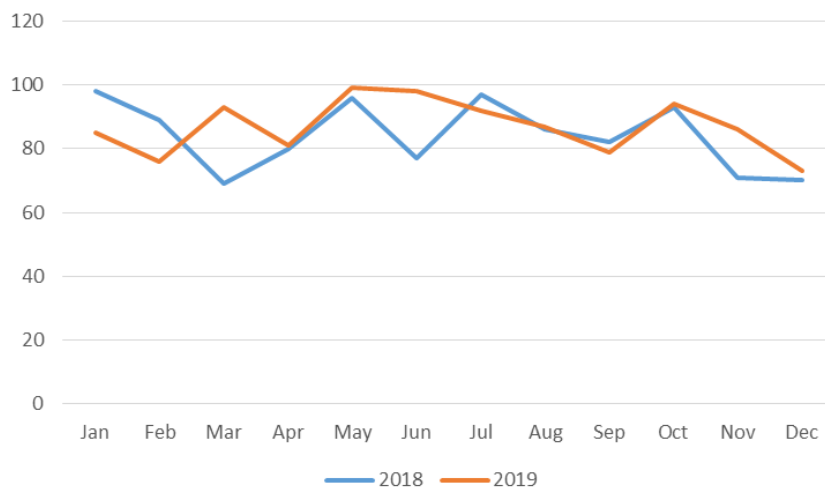
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	11	15
2018	12	18
2019	15	21

Temporal Analysis

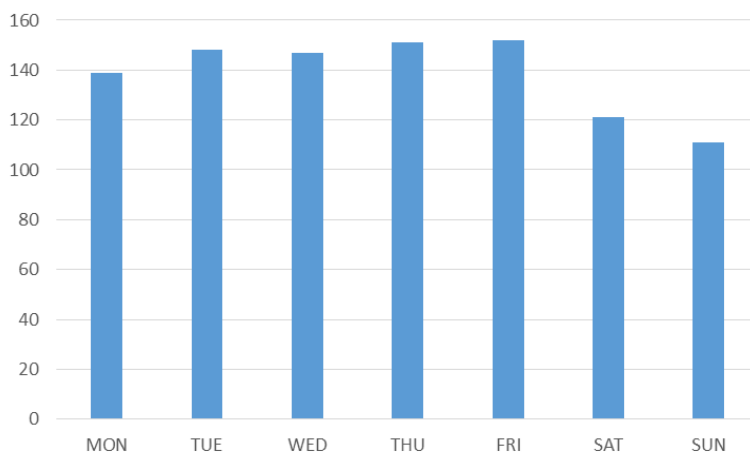
- In 2019 the peak months were May (99), June (98) and October (94). The peak months in 2018 were January (98), July (97) and May (96).

Personal robbery committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



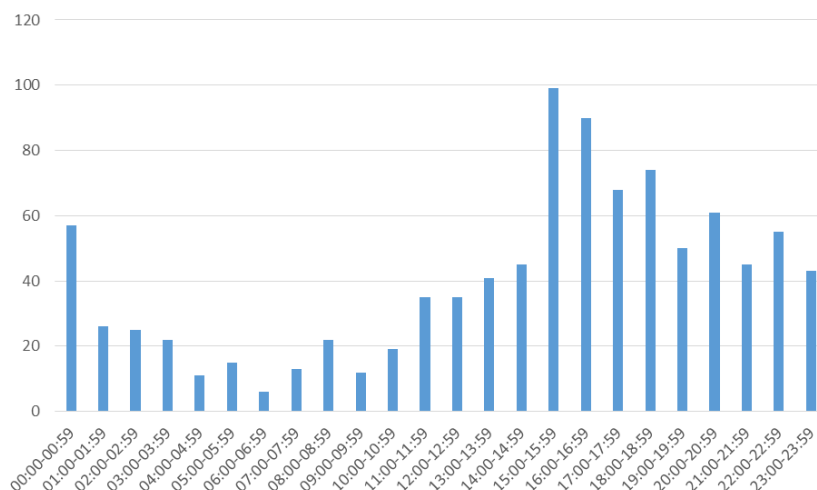
- Offences are fairly consistent throughout the week, particularly weekdays, with the peak days being Friday, Thursday and Tuesday.

Personal robbery committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 15:00 and 16:59, which correlates with the 'after-school' hours where young people are highly likely to be victims and suspects of personal robbery.

Personal robbery committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

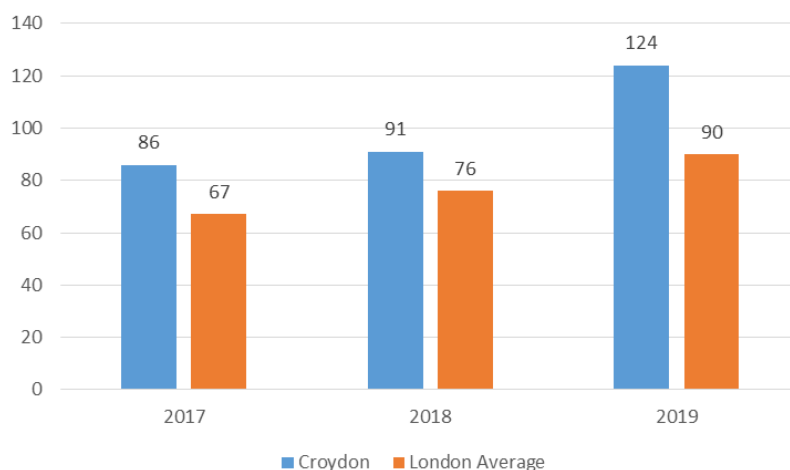


Business Robbery

Statistics

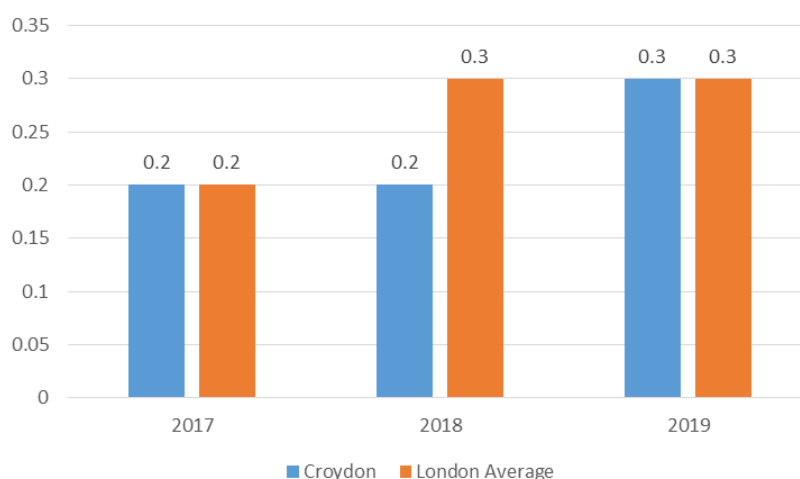
- There was a total of 124 business robbery offences in 2019, an increase of 36.3% (33 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 91 offences recorded. For the London average there was an 18.5% increase (14 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 44.2% increase in Croydon (38 offences). In comparison, there has been a 34.5% increase (23 offences) in the London average.

Business robbery statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough was the same in 2017 and 2018 at 0.2 where it then increased to 0.3 in 2019. The London average had seen an increase from 0.2 in 2017 to 0.3 in 2018 where it remained in 2019.

Business robbery crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking dropped one place from 9th in 2017 to 10th in 2018 where it rose six places to 4th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 16th in 2017 where it dropped three places in 2018 to 19th where it rose five places to 14th in 2019.

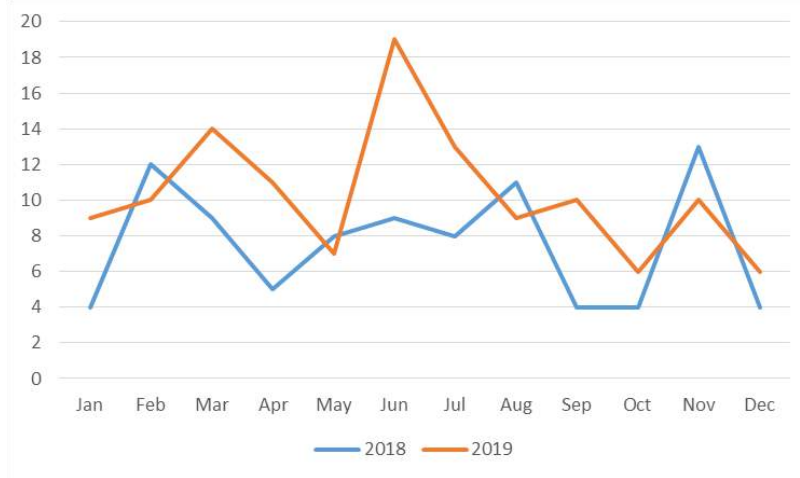
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	9	16
2018	10	19
2019	4	14

Temporal Analysis

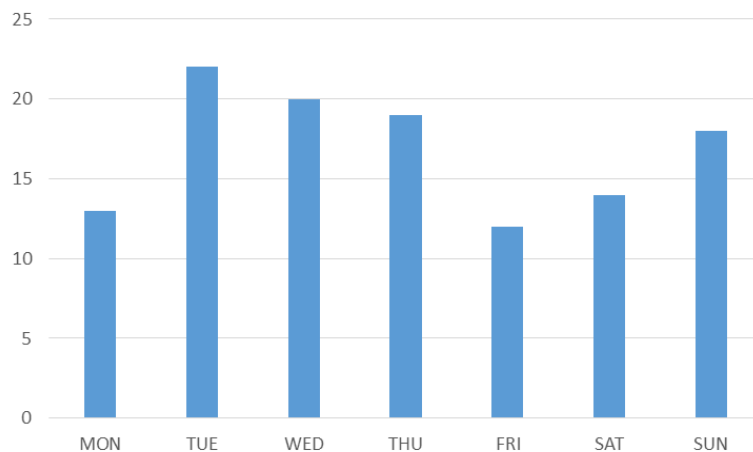
- In 2019 the peak months were June (19), March (14) and July (13). The peak months in 2018 were November (13), February (12) and August (11).

Business robbery committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



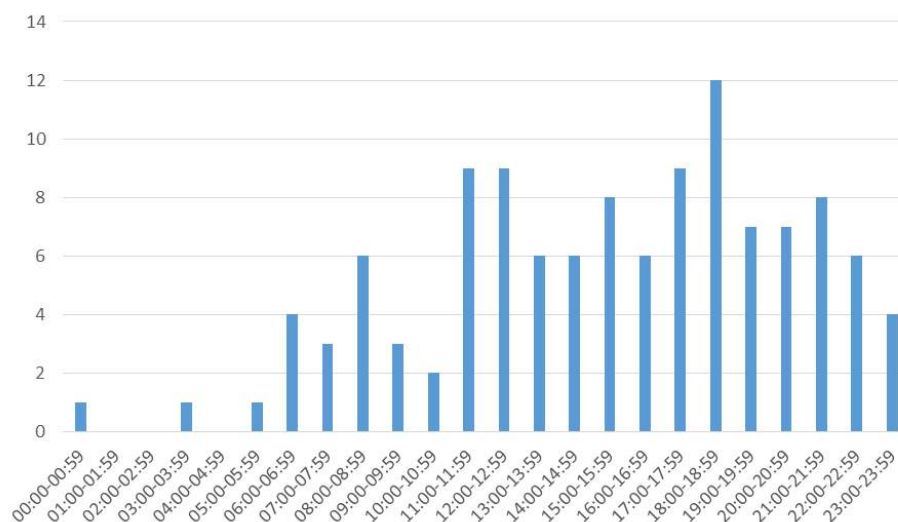
- The peak days for offences were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Business robbery committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 17:00 and 18:59, more specifically between 18:00 and 18:59 and between 11:00 and 12:59.

Business robbery committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

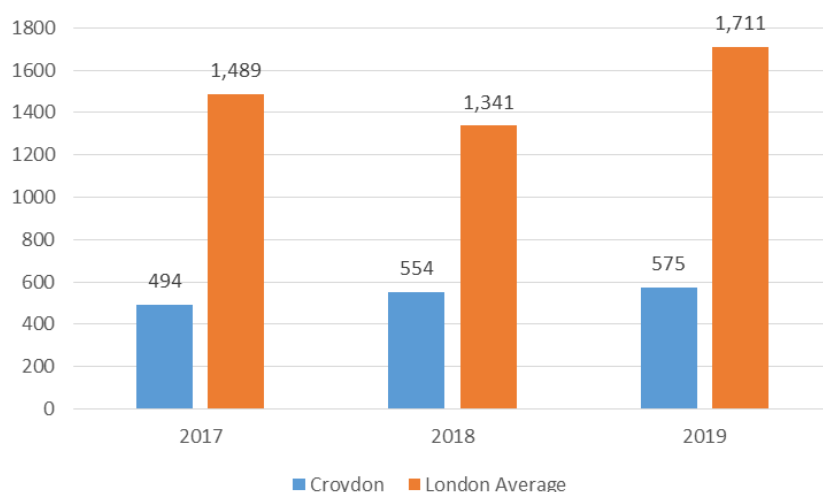


Theft from Person

Statistics

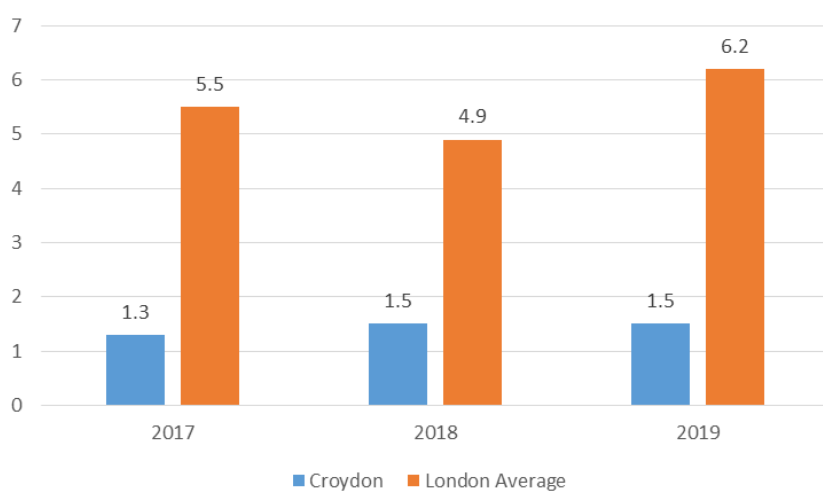
- There was a total of 575 theft from person offences in 2019, an increase of 3.8% (21 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 554 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 27.6% increase (370 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 16.4% increase in Croydon (81 offences). In comparison, there has been a 14.9% increase (222 offences) in the London average.

Theft from person statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough was 1.3 in 2017 and it increased to 1.5 in 2018 where it remained the same in 2019. The London average had seen a decrease from 5.5 in 2017 to 4.9 in 2018 where it then increased to 6.2 in 2019.

Theft from person crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking rose two places from 21st in 2017 to 19th in 2018 where it dropped five places to 24th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 25th in 2017 and 2018 where it dropped three places to 27th in 2019.

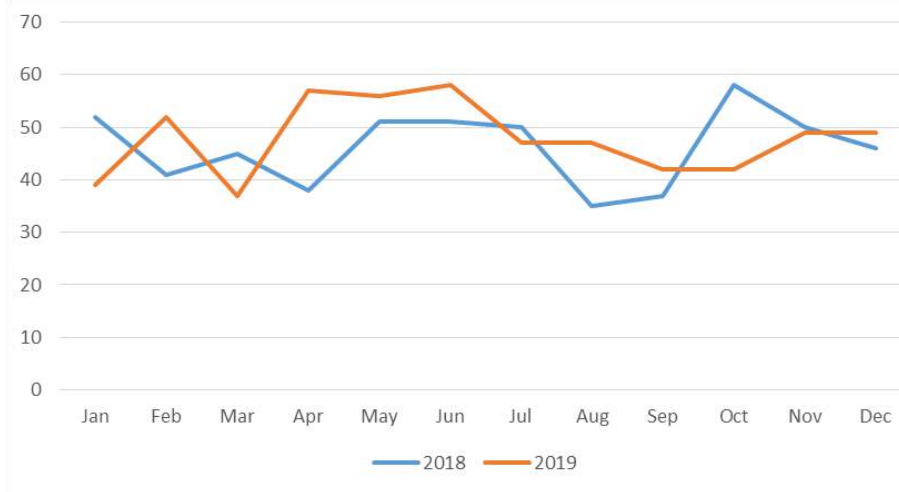
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	21	25
2018	19	25
2019	24	27

Temporal Analysis

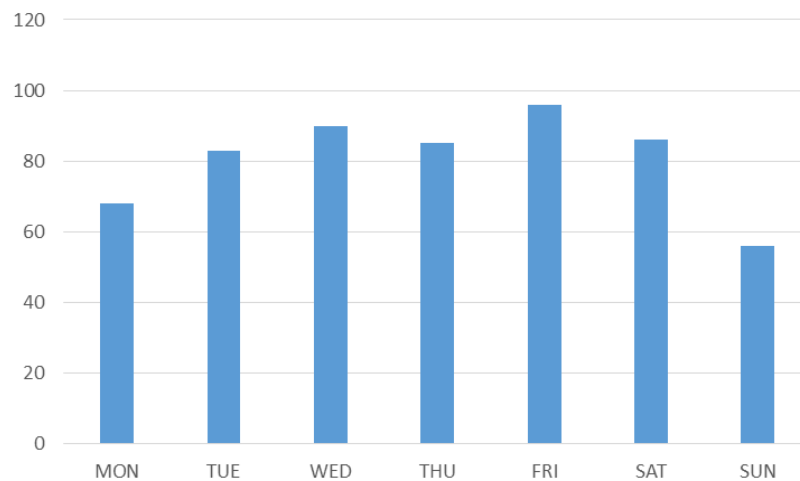
- In 2019 the peak months were June (58), April (57) and May (56). The peak months in 2018 were October (58), January (52), May (51) and June (51).

Theft from person committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



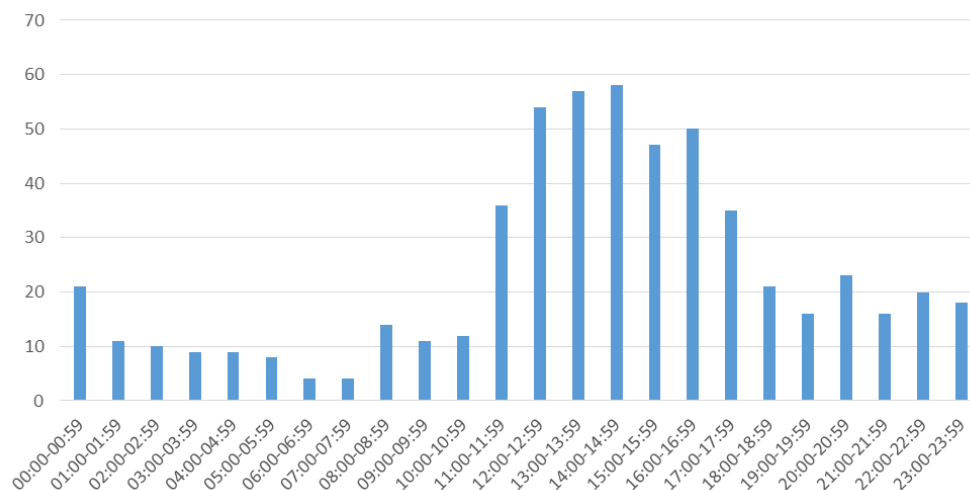
- Offences are fairly consistent throughout the week with the peak days for offences being Wednesday and Friday.

Theft from person committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 12:00 and 14:59. The offences during these times significantly involve those victims being targeted while shopping or eating and drinking in restaurants and pubs.

Theft from person committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

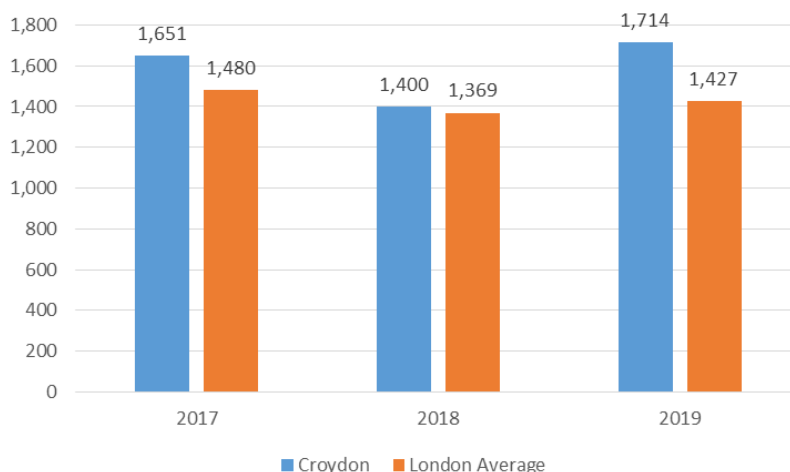


Shoplifting

Statistics

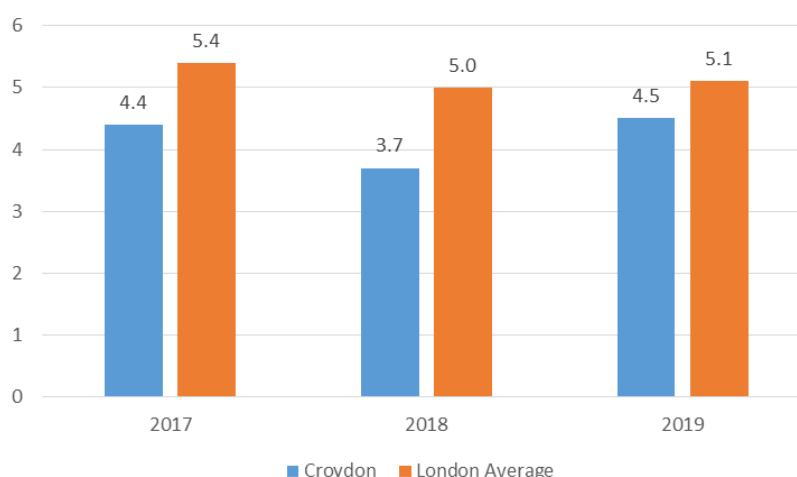
- There was a total of 1,714 shoplifting offences in 2019, an increase of 22.4% (314 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 1,400 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 4.2% increase (57 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 3.8% increase in Croydon (63 offences). In comparison, there has been a 3.6% decrease (-53 offences) in the London average.

Shoplifting statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough was 4.4 in 2017 and it decreased to 3.7 in 2018 and then increased to 4.5 in 2019. The London average had seen a decrease from 5.4 in 2017 to 5.0 in 2018 where it then increased to 5.1 in 2019.

Shoplifting crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking was 9th in 2017 where it dropped two places to 11th in 2018 and then rose two places to 8th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 23rd in 2017 and then it dropped three places to 26th in 2018 and then rose ten places to 16th in 2019.

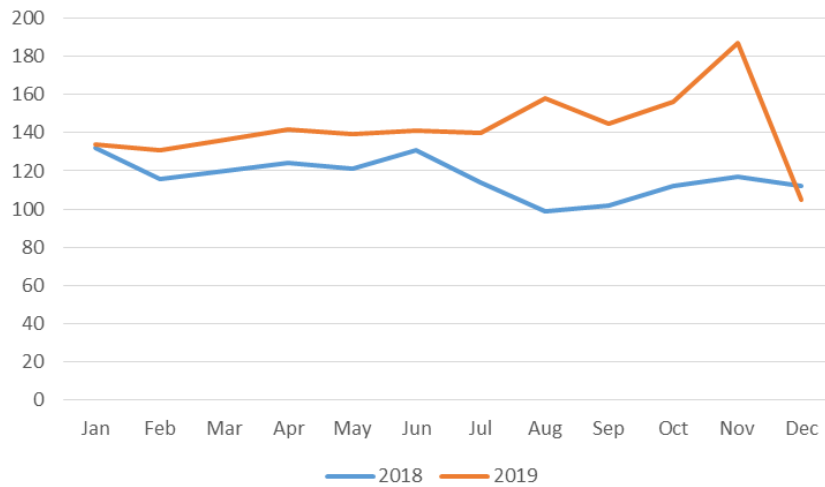
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	9	23
2018	11	26
2019	8	16

Temporal Analysis

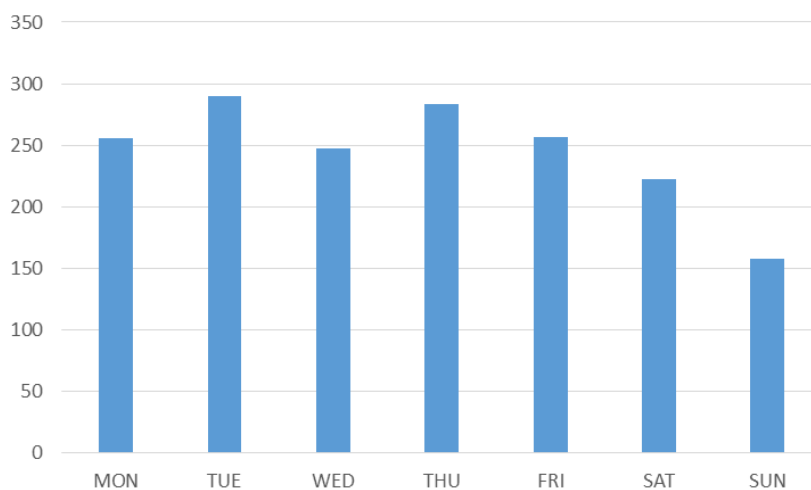
- In 2019 the peak month was November (187) followed by August (158) and then October (156). The peak months in 2018 were January (132) and June (131).

Shoplifting committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



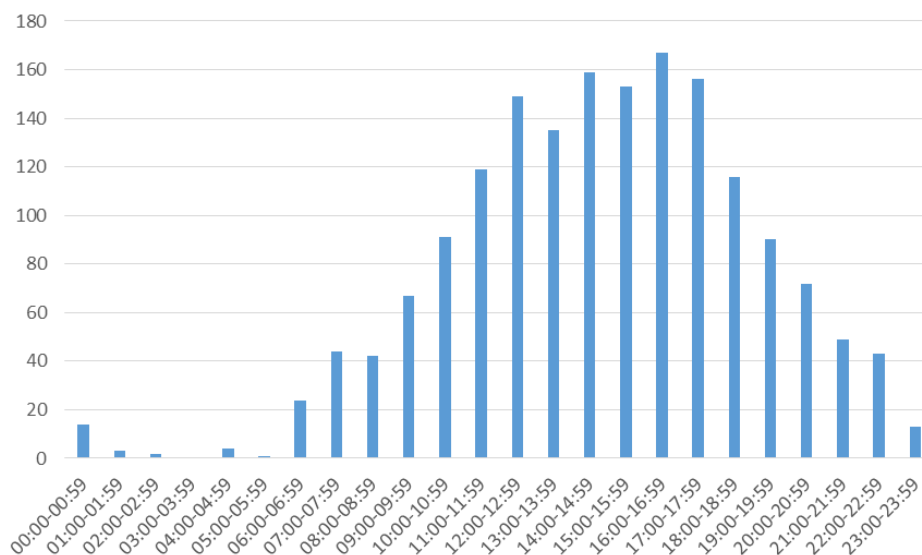
- The peak days for offences were Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Shoplifting committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak time for offences was between 14:00 and 17:59. There was also a peak time between 12:00 and 12:59.

Shoplifting committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

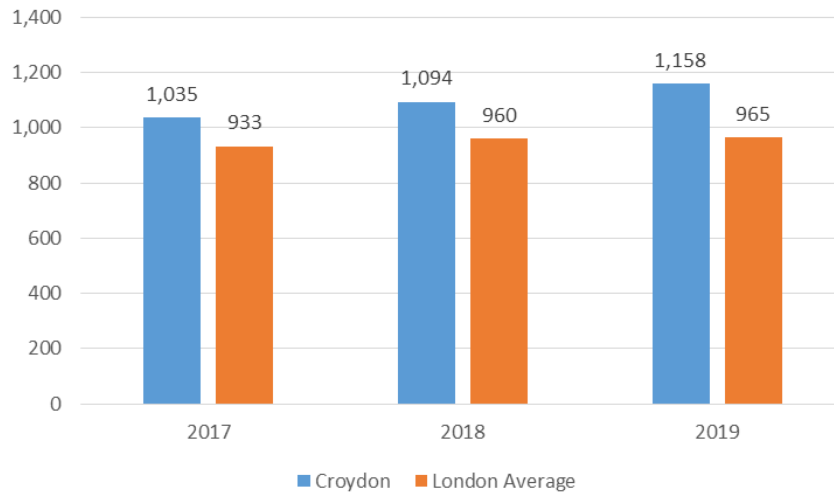


Theft of Motor Vehicle

Statistics

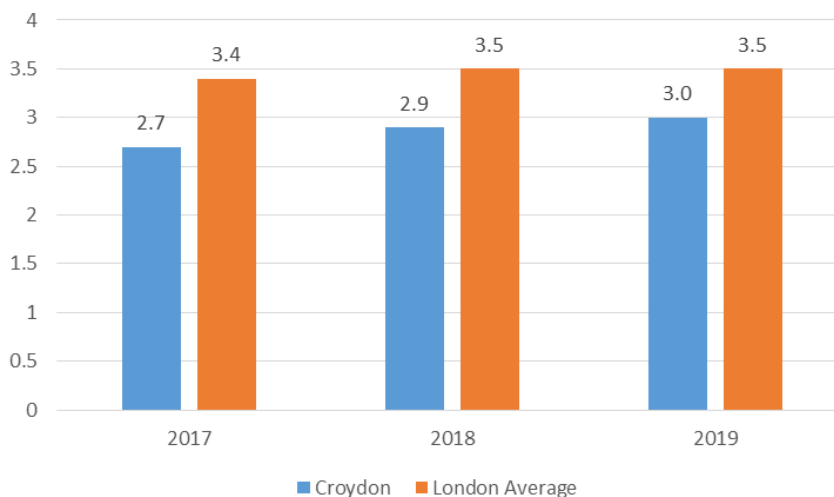
- There was a total of 1,158 theft of motor vehicle offences in 2019, an increase of 5.9% (64 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 1,094 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 0.5% increase (5 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been an 11.9% increase in Croydon (123 offences). In comparison, there has been a 3.4% increase (32 offences) in the London average.

Theft of motor vehicle statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough was 2.7 in 2017 and it increased to 2.9 in 2018 and then increased to 3.0 in 2019. The London average had seen an increase from 3.4 in 2017 to 3.5 in 2018 where it remained the same in 2019.

Theft of motor vehicle crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking was 12th in 2017 where it remained the same 2018 and then rose two places to 10th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 26th in 2017 and then it rose two places to 24th in 2018 and then rose one place to 23rd in 2019.

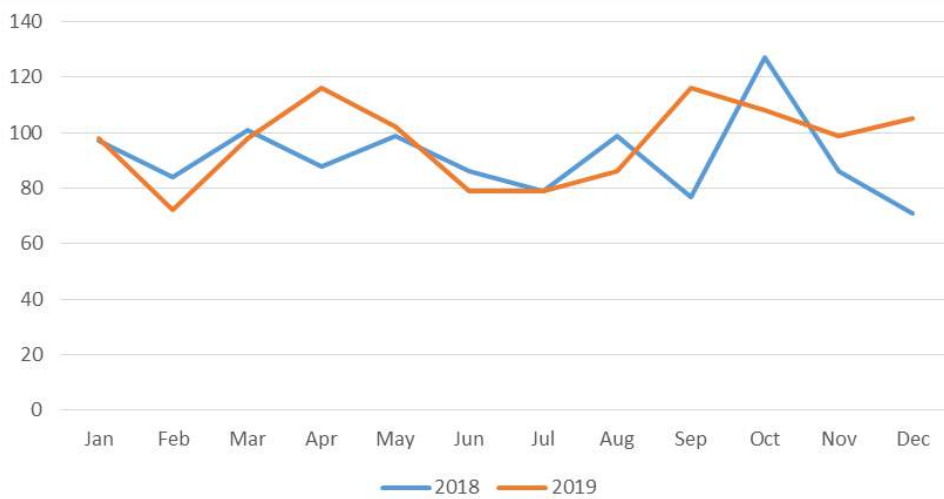
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	12	26
2018	12	24
2019	10	23

Temporal Analysis

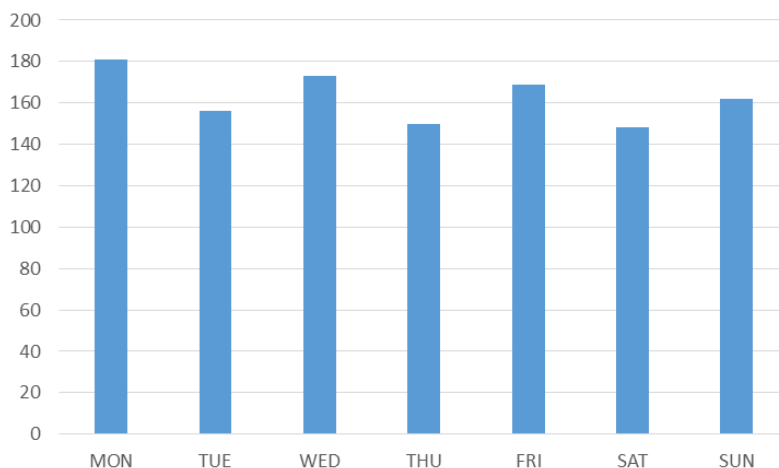
- In 2019 the peak months were April and September. The peak months in 2018 March, May, August and especially October.

Theft of motor vehicle committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



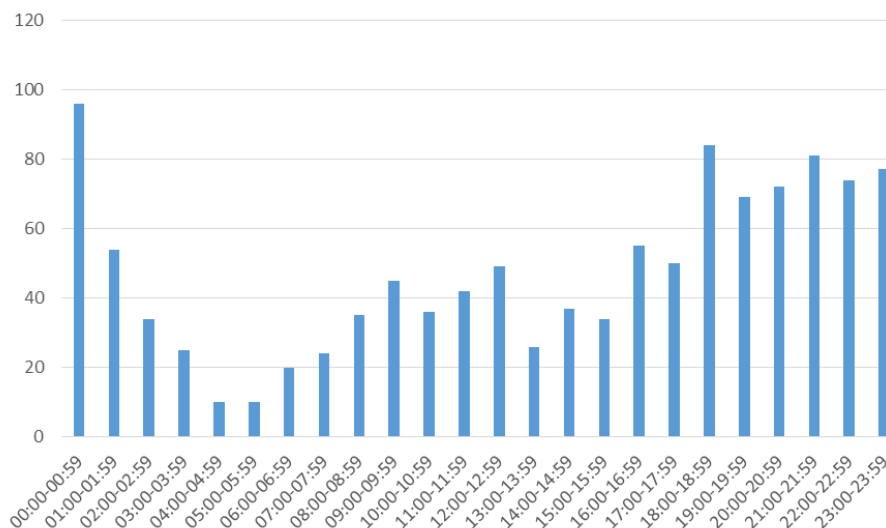
- The peak days for offences were Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Theft of motor vehicle committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak time for offences was between 00:00 and 00:59. However, it is most likely the default time of midnight is recorded because of the likelihood the victim would not know when their vehicle was stolen. The peak times are also in the evenings from 18:00 onwards.

Theft of motor vehicle committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

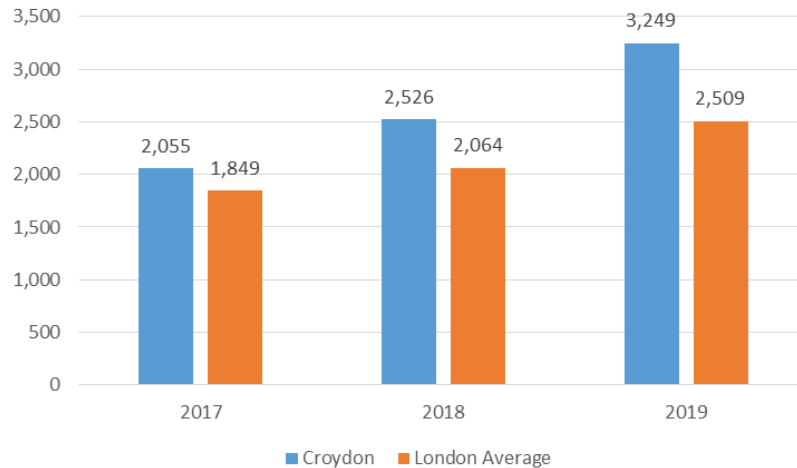


Theft from Motor Vehicle

Statistics

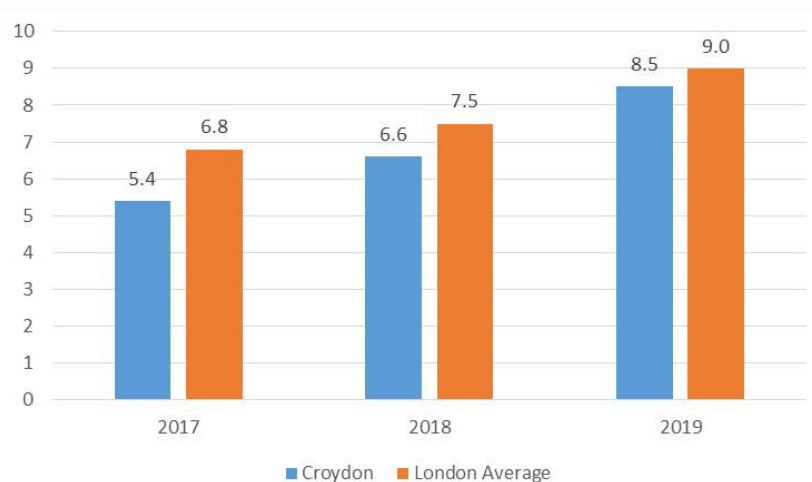
- There was a total of 3,249 theft from motor vehicle offences in 2019, an increase of 28.6% (723 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 2,526 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 21.5% increase (445 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 51.8% increase in Croydon (1,194 offences). In comparison, there has been a 35.7 % increase (660 offences) in the London average.

Theft from motor vehicle statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough was 5.4 in 2017 and it increased to 6.6 in 2018 and then increased to 8.5 in 2019. The London average had seen an increase from 6.8 in 2017 to 7.5 in 2018 and it then increased to 9.0 in 2019.

Theft from motor vehicle crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking was 13th in 2017 where it rose five places to 8th and then rose two places to 6th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 23rd in 2017 and then it rose one place to 22nd in 2018 and then rose six places to 16th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

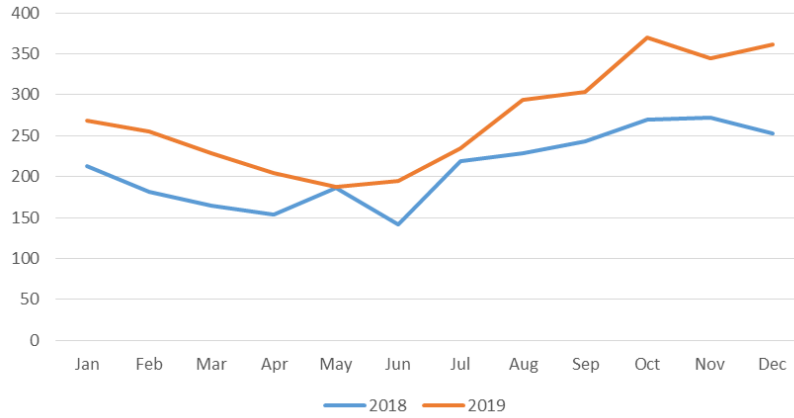
	Ranking	
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	13	23
2018	8	22
2019	6	16

- The most common type of property stolen from motor vehicles were catalytic converters (13.2%). Out of these vehicles, 50.8% were by Toyota (mostly Prius and Auris models), 31.0% were made by Honda (mainly the Jazz model) and 13.2% were made by Lexus (mainly the RX 400 model). The second highest proportion of property stolen were motor vehicles registration plates (10.4%). Out of the vehicles targeted, 48.4% were saloons followed by 17.8% were hatchbacks.

Temporal Analysis

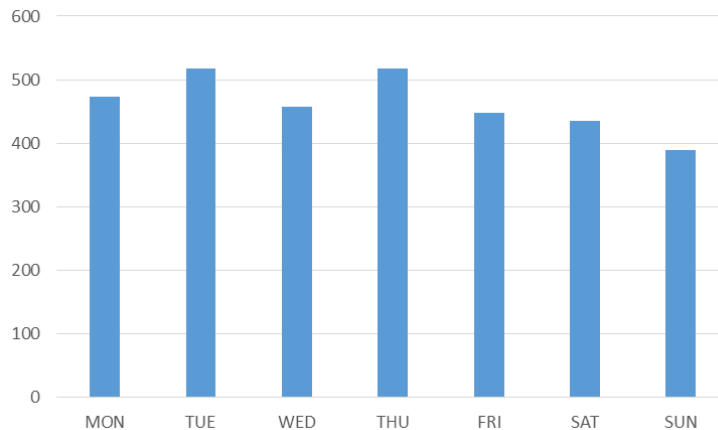
- In 2019 the peak months were October, November and December. These were also the peak months in 2018.

Theft from motor vehicle committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



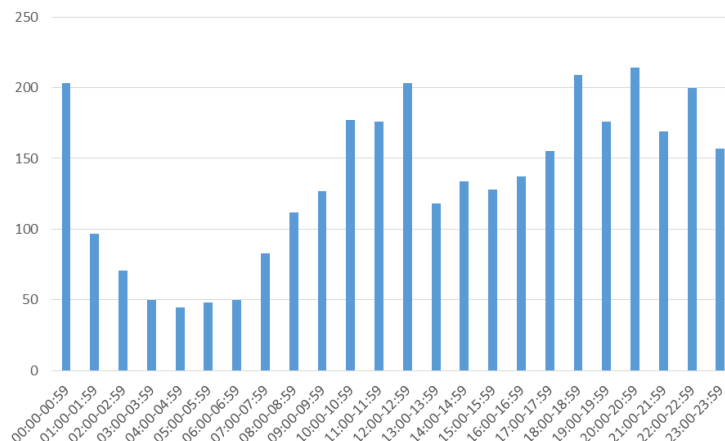
- The peak days for offences were Tuesday and Thursday.

Theft from motor vehicle committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak time for offences were between 00:00 and 00:59 and between 12:00 and 12:59. However, it is most likely the default time of midnight is recorded because of the likelihood the victim would not know when their vehicle was stolen. The peak times are also in the evenings from 18:00 to 22:59. There was also a peak time between 10:00 and 11:59.

Theft from motor vehicle committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

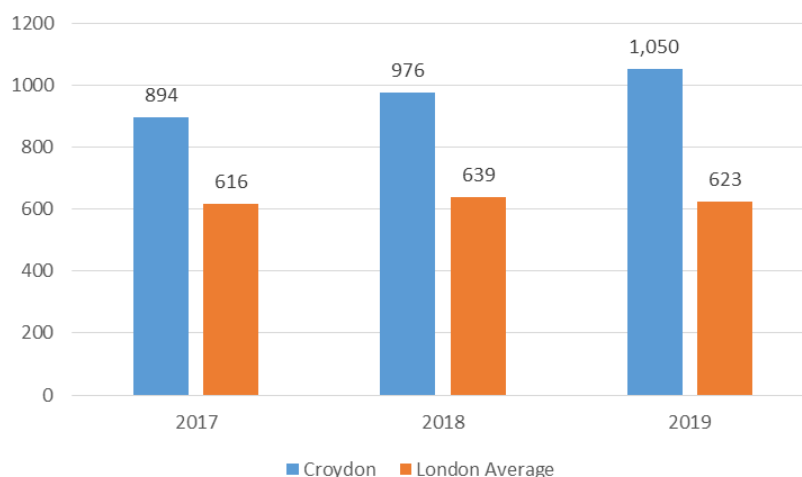


Sexual Offences

Statistics

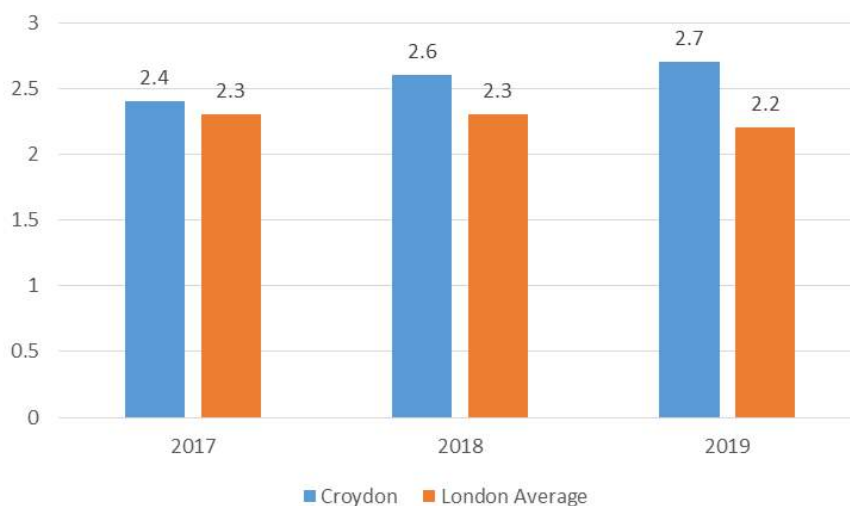
- There was a total of 1,050 sexual offences in 2019, an increase of 7.6% (74 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 976 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 2.5% decrease (-16 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 17.4% increase in Croydon (156 offences). In comparison, there has been a 1.2% increase (7 offences) in the London average.

Theft from motor vehicle statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough was 2.4 in 2017 and it increased to 2.6 in 2018 and then increased to 2.7 in 2019. The London average had seen an increase from 2.4 in 2017 to 2.6 in 2018 and it then increased to 2.7 in 2019.

Theft from motor vehicle crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking was 3rd in 2017 where remained in 2018 and then rose one place to 2nd in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 13th in 2017 and then it rose one place to 12th in 2018 and then rose four places to 8th in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

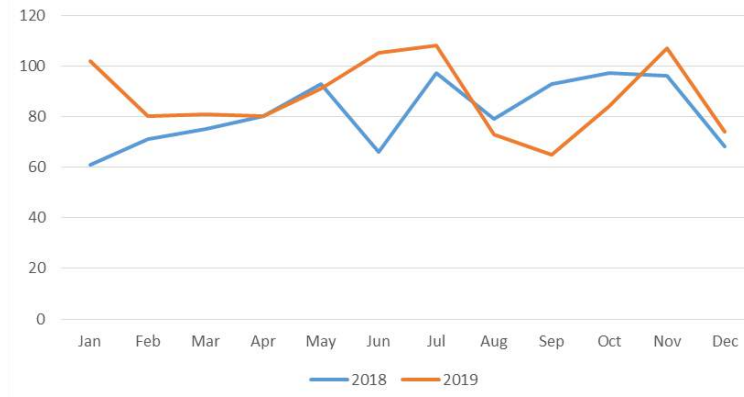
	Ranking	
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	3	13
2018	3	12
2019	2	8

- The highest proportion of offences were rape of a female aged 16 years old or over (31.0%) followed by sexual assault on a female aged 13 or over (23.7%) and then exposure (8.5%).
- 15.2% of offences were flagged as domestic abuse.

Temporal Analysis

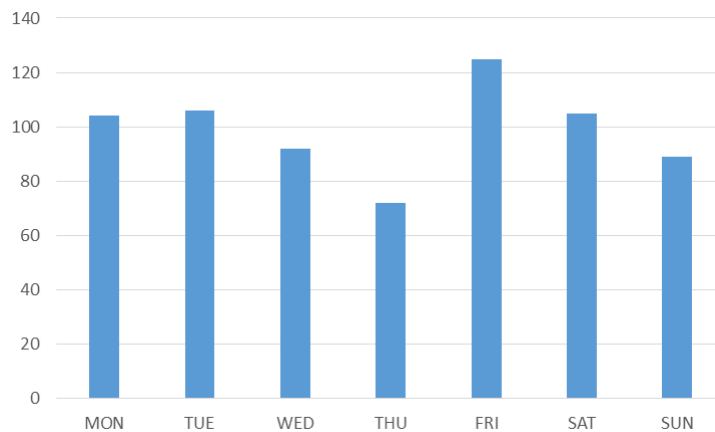
- In 2019 the peak months were June, July and November. The peak months in 2018 were July, October and November.

Theft from motor vehicle committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



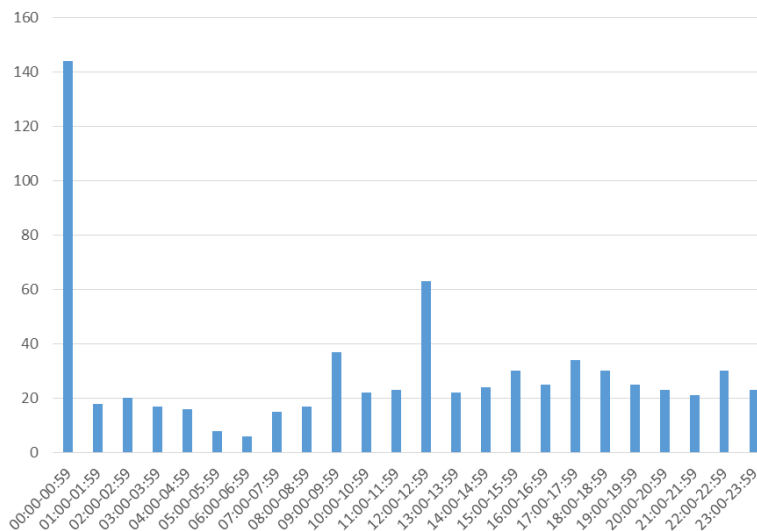
- The peak day for offences was Friday.

Theft from motor vehicle committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak time for offences were between 00:00 and 00:59 and between 12:00 and 12:59. However, it is most likely the default time of midnight is recorded because of the likelihood the victim can not specify the exact time due to the circumstances of the offence.

Theft from motor vehicle committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

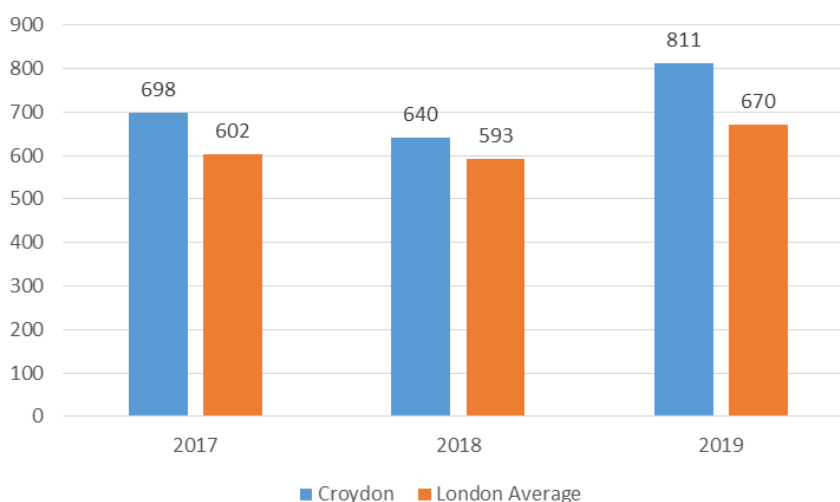


Hate Crime

Statistics

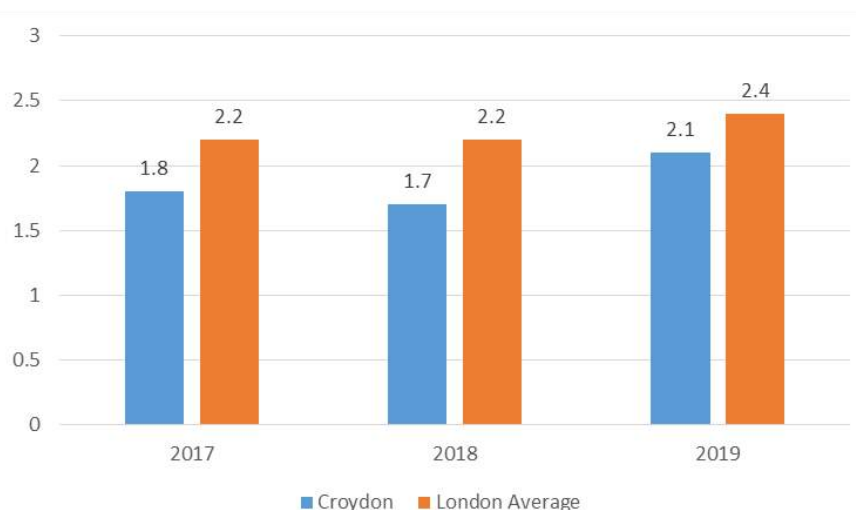
- There was a total of 811 sexual offences in 2019, an increase of 26.7% (171 offences) compared to 2018 where there were 640 offences recorded. For the London average there was a 13.1% decrease (77 offences). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 16.2% increase in Croydon (113 offences). In comparison, there has been an 11.3% increase (68 offences) in the London average.

Hate crime statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the crime rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of offences in the borough was 1.8 in 2017 and it decreased to 1.7 in 2018 and then increased to 2.1 in 2019. In 2017 and 2018 the rate was at 2.2 where it increased to 2.4 in 2019.

Hate crime rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- Croydon's ranking was 10th in 2017 where it then dropped three places to 13th in 2018 and it then rose five places to 8th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 20th in 2017 and then it dropped one place to 21st in 2018 and then rose four places to 17th in 2019.

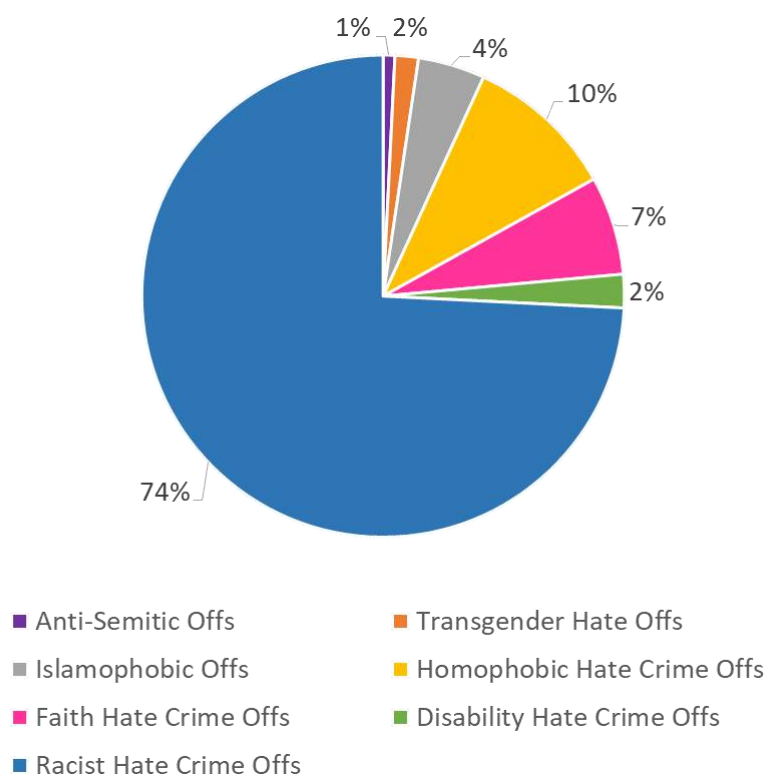
Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

	Ranking	
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	10	20
2018	13	21
2019	8	17

Crime Breakdown

- In 2019 the largest proportion of hate crimes were Racist Hate Crime offences (74%). This is followed by Homophobic Hate Crime offences (10%) and then Faith Hate Crime offences (7%)²⁶.

Breakdown of Hate Crime offences by type in Croydon in 2019 from MetStats.



- By comparing 2019 to 2018 there has been an increase in all types of hate crime with Racist Hate Crime offences having the largest volume increase followed by Homophobic Hate Crime offences.
- 20.8% of hate crimes involved neighbour disputes²⁷.

Breakdown of Hate Crime offences by type in Croydon in 2019 from MetStats.

Hate Crime Type	2018	2019	+/-	% +/-
Anti-Semitic Offs	6	7	1	16.7%
Disability Hate Crime Offs	16	20	4	25.0%
Faith Hate Crime Offs	53	59	6	11.3%
Homophobic Hate Crime Offs	61	90	29	47.5%
Islamophobic Offs	36	40	4	11.1%
Racist Hate Crime Offs	534	664	130	24.3%
Transgender Hate Offs	6	14	8	133.3%
Total	712	894	182	25.6%

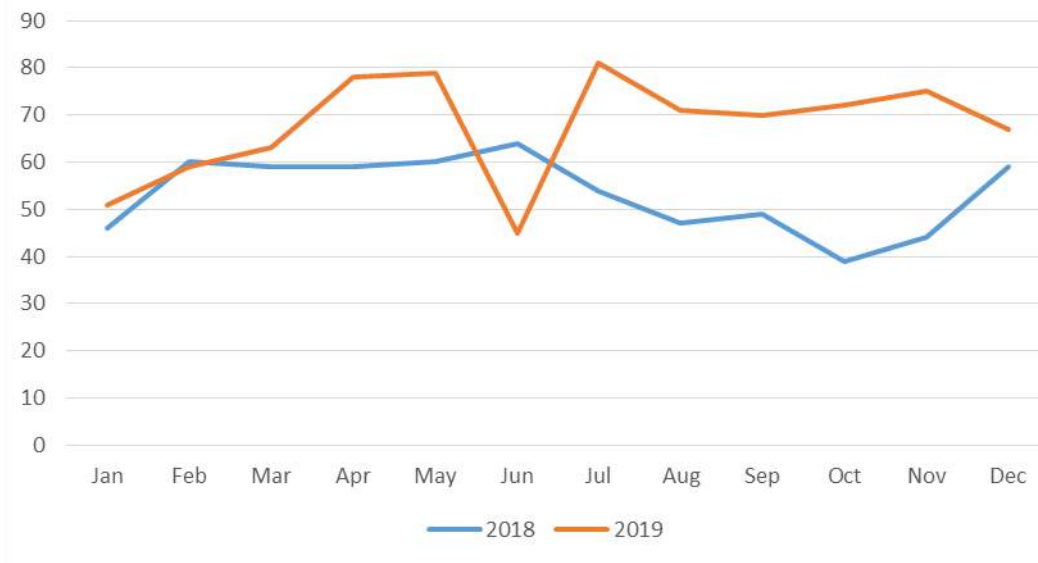
²⁶ It must be noted that the figures shown here are different to the total number of hate crime offences due to the total figure includes TNOs **only**. Also the total figure only includes crimes where only one hate crime flag is used so there is no double counting. For example, there may be one crime which was flagged as a racist **and** faith hate crime, therefore, in the breakdown of offences this is counted twice (one racist hate crime offence and one faith hate crime offence). However, in the total figure of hate crime offences this is only counted as one hate crime flagged offence.

²⁷ This is approximate due to extracting crimes involving neighbours was done by building a query where 'wildcards' are used e.g. words or a set of words associated with neighbour disputes.

Temporal Analysis

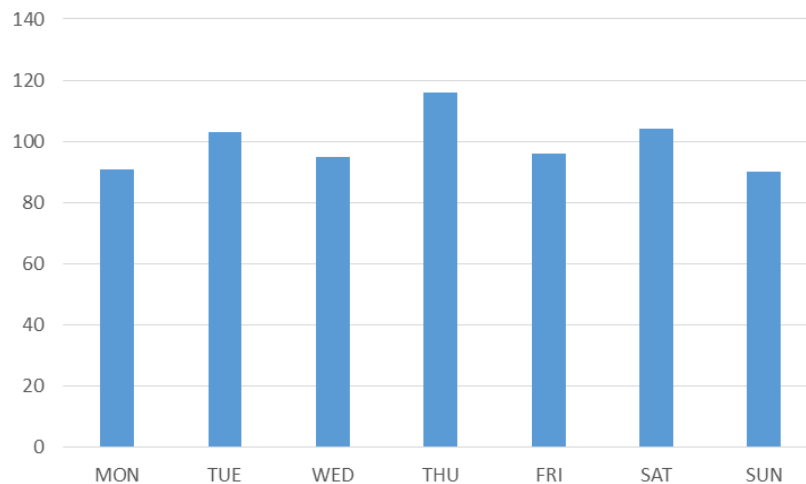
- In 2019 the peak months were April, May and July. The peak months in 2018 were February, June and December.

Hate crime committed in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



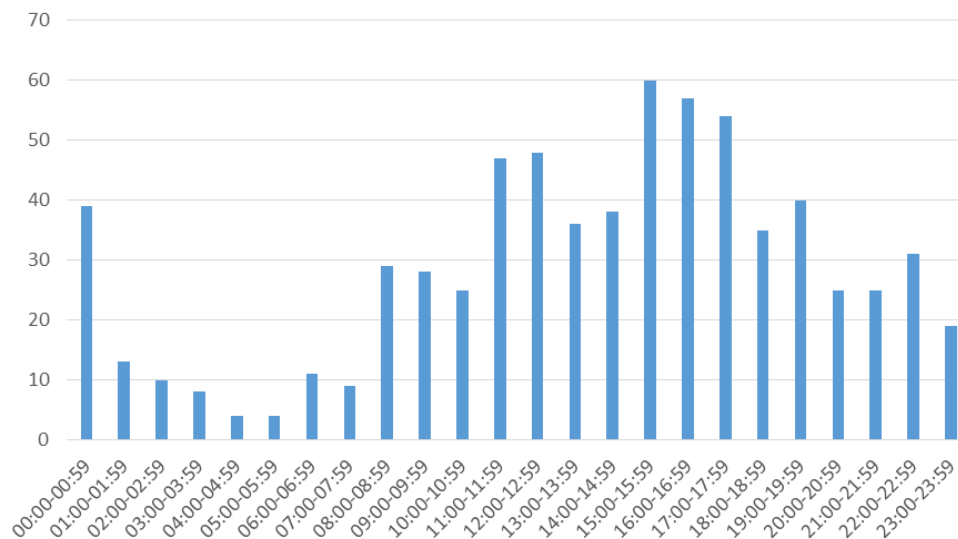
- The peak day for offences were Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Hate crime committed in Croydon by day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.



- The peak times for offences were between 11:00 and 12:59 and between 15:00 and 17:59.

Hate crime committed in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from CRIS.

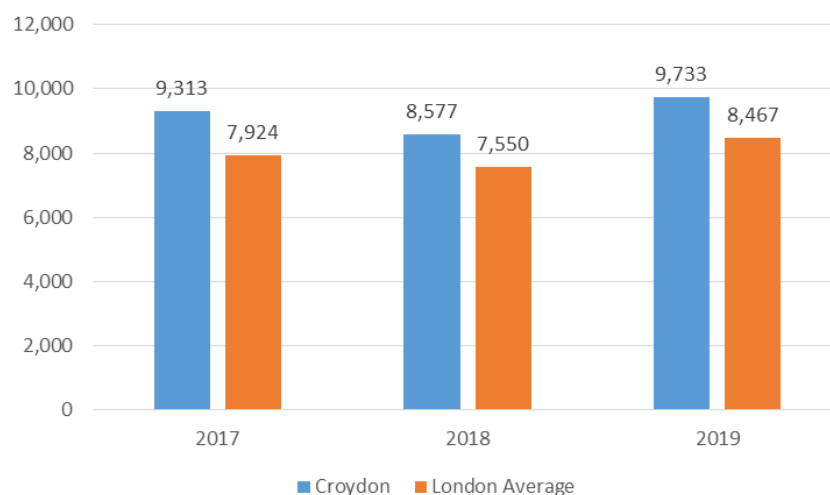


Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

Statistics

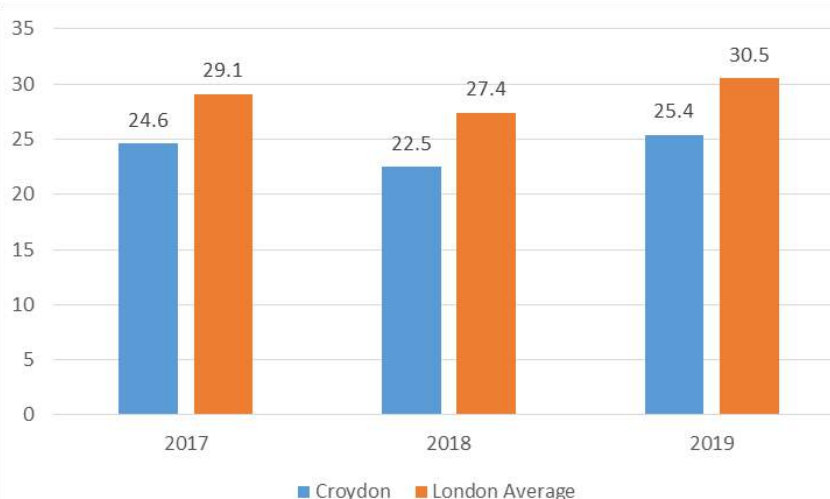
- There was a total of 9,733 ASB calls in 2019, an increase of 13.5% (1,156 calls) compared to 2018 where there were 8,577 calls recorded. For the London average there was a 12.1% increase (917 calls). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 4.5% increase in Croydon (420 calls). In comparison, there has been a 6.9% increase (543 calls) in the London average.

ASB statistics in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



- When calculating the rate per 1,000 residents, the rate of ASB calls in the borough was 24.6 in 2017 and it decreased to 22.5 in 2018 and then increased to 25.4 in 2019. The London average had seen a decrease from 29.1 in 2017 to 27.4 in 2018 and it then increased to 30.5 in 2019.

ASB call rate (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) in Croydon and the London Average in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from MetStats.



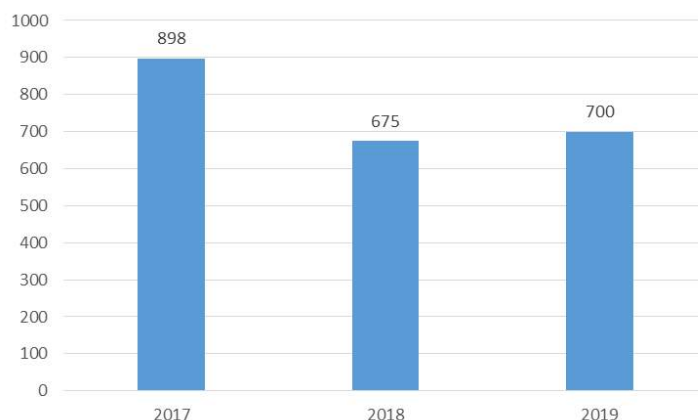
- Croydon's ranking was 10th in 2017 where it then dropped two places in 2018 to 12th and then rose one place to 11th in 2019. By calculating the rate of offences per 1,000 residents, the borough's ranking was 22nd in 2017 where it remained in 2018 and it then rose one place to 21st in 2019.

Rankings by volume and per 1,000 residents (using Housing-led projections of residents from the Greater London Authority) for Croydon and the London Average in 2018 and 2019 from MetStats. Ranking is out of 32 boroughs with the number 1 borough being the borough with the highest number of offences and crime rate.

Ranking		
	Croydon (Volume)	Croydon (per 1,000)
2017	10	22
2018	12	22
2019	11	21

- The number of incidents recorded on the Council's ASB system shows in 2019 there were 700 incidents recorded, which is an increase of 3.7% (25 incidents). By comparing 2019 to 2017 there has been a 22.0% decrease in Croydon (-198 calls).

ASB incidents in Croydon in 2017, 2018 and 2019 recorded on the Council's ASB system.



Breakdown of ASB

- The MPS identify three main types of ASB calls – Environmental, Nuisance and Personal²⁸. In 2019 Nuisance made up 85.7% of all ASB calls in the borough followed by 11.7% of calls which were Personal and then 2.6% of calls which were environmental.
- By comparing 2019 to 2018, there has been an increase of 17.1% in Nuisance calls but an 18.3% decrease in Environmental calls and a 0.5% decrease in Personal calls.

ASB call types in Croydon in 2019 from MetStats.

ASB Type	2018	2019	+/-	% +/-
Environmental	312	255	-57	-18.3%
Nuisance	7,123	8,342	1,219	17.1%
Personal	1,142	1,136	-6	-0.5%
Total	8,577	9,733	1,156	13.5%

- The majority of calls are also categorised (though this is not mandatory) to provide more of a description of the type of call received. Out of those that were, in 2019 the highest proportion of calls were categorised as 'Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour' (54.6%) followed by calls categorised as 'Rowdy/Nuisance Neighbours' (16.8%). By comparing 2019 to 2018 the highest volume increases were for both of these categories.

ASB call categories in Croydon in 2019 from MetStats

ASB Category	2018	2019	+/-	% +/-
Animal Problems	16	23	7	43.8%
Begging / Vagrancy	368	413	45	12.2%
Fireworks	75	83	8	10.7%
Littering / Drugs Paraphernalia	37	74	37	100.0%
Noise	519	479	-40	-7.7%
Prostitution Related Activity	34	23	-11	-32.4%
Rowdy / Nuisance Neighbours	1,198	1,461	263	22.0%
Rowdy Or Inconsiderate Behaviour	3,868	4,748	880	22.8%
Street Drinking	33	30	-3	-9.1%
Trespass	227	215	-12	-5.3%
Veh Abandoned - Not stolen	186	230	44	23.7%
Veh Nuisance / Inappropriate Use	921	917	-4	-0.4%
Total	7,482	8,696	1,214	16.2%

²⁸ 'Personal' is designed to identify ASB incidents that the caller, call-handler or anyone else perceives as either deliberately targeted at an individual or group or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large.

'Nuisance' captures those incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims.

'Environmental' deals with the interface between people and places. It includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings including natural, built and social environments. This category is about encouraging reasonable behaviour whilst managing and protecting the various environments so that people can enjoy their own private spaces as well as shared or public spaces.

- The Council's ASB Team record the type of ASB incident they receive. In 2019, the largest proportion of ASB recorded was 'Noise' (25.4%) followed 'Harassment/Abuse/Assault' (14.9%) and then 'Drugs/Solvent abuse' (9.7%).
- By comparing 2019 to 2018 the biggest volume increase has been 'Harassment/Abuse/Assault' (31 incidents).

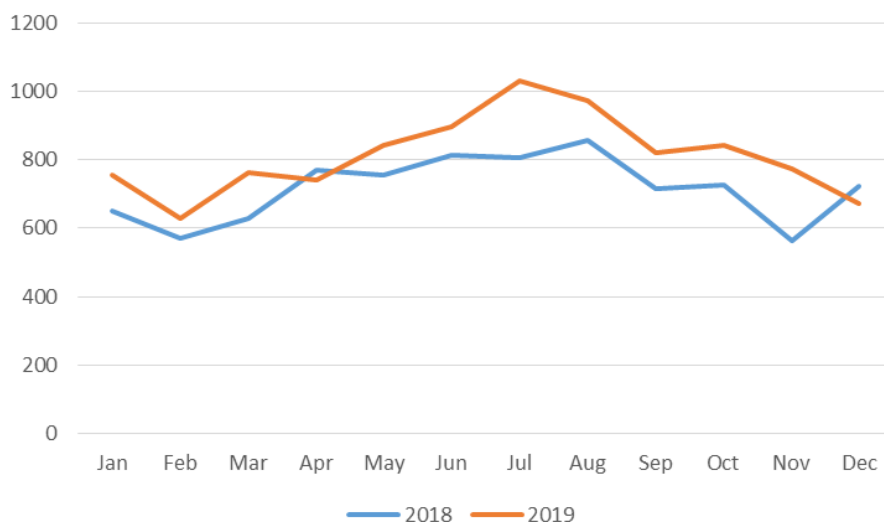
ASB incidents by type in Croydon in 2018 and 2019 recorded on the Council's ASB system.

ASB Incident Type	2018	2019	+/-	% +/-
Animal Problem	13	18	5	38.5%
Congregation of adults / children	40	34	-6	-15.0%
Criminal behaviour	33	31	-2	-6.1%
Domestic Violence / Abuse	12	7	-5	-41.7%
Drink / Alcohol abuse	38	34	-4	-10.5%
Drug Dealing	23	28	5	21.7%
Drugs / Solvent abuse	63	68	5	7.9%
Garden	35	46	11	31.4%
Graffiti	1	1	0	0.0%
Harassment / Abuse / Assault	73	104	31	42.5%
Neighbour Dispute	57	49	-8	-14.0%
Noise	179	178	-1	-0.6%
Nuisance - animals	6	9	3	50.0%
Nuisance - vehicles	3	10	7	233.3%
Property issue	30	15	-15	-50.0%
Prostitution / Sexual Acts / Kerb crawling	4	4	0	0.0%
Rubbish / Fly Tipping	35	39	4	11.4%
Threat of serious assault	4	1	-3	-75.0%
Vandalism to property	26	24	-2	-7.7%
Total	675	700	25	3.7%

Temporal Analysis

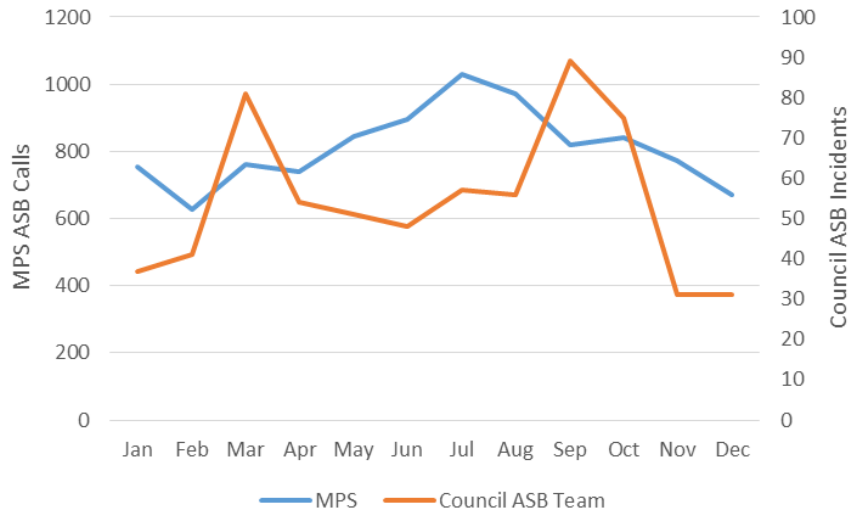
- In 2019 the peak months were July and August. The peak months in 2018 were June and August. And the overall trend correlate with the summer months where the hot weather increases the chances of people being outside, therefore, for example, causing noise or nuisance to their neighbours.

MPS ASB calls in Croydon by month in 2018 and 2019 taken from MetStats.



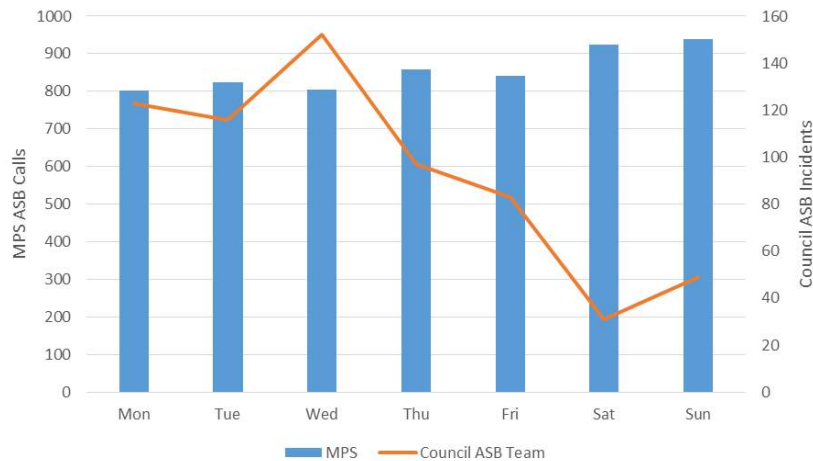
- By comparing the number of ASB calls to the MPS with the number of incidents recorded to the Council's ASB team shows that there is not a similar trend. The peak months for the Council's ASB team was March and September. In March the peak was significantly due to neighbour disputes and in September they were significantly due to rubbish and fly-tipping as well as other incidents which were categorised as criminal behaviour (e.g. drug dealing).

MPS ASB calls and ASB incidents recorded on the Council's ASB system in Croydon in 2019.



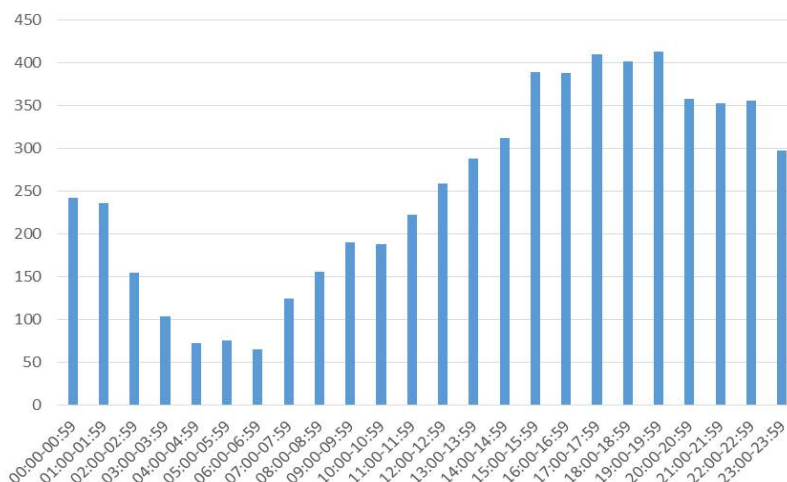
- The peak days for ASB calls recorded by the MPS shows the peak days as being Saturday and Sunday. However, the incidents recorded by the Council's ASB team shows a contrast where the peak day is Wednesday (the same day the MPS recorded the lowest number of calls) and the days where they recorded the lowest number of incidents was Saturday and Sunday.

MPS ASB incidents from DARIS and ASB incidents recorded on the Council's ASB system by day in Croydon in 2019.



- The peak time for offences were between 00:00 and 00:59 and between 12:00 and 12:59. However, it is most likely the default time of midnight is recorded because of the likelihood the victim can not specify the exact time due to the circumstances of the offence.

MPS ASB incidents in Croydon by time of day in 2018 and 2019 from DARIS.



Covid-19 and its impact on Crime and ASB

The Covid-19 outbreak has created a global health crisis which has brought human tragedy and has had a substantive impact on the economy. The outbreak has resulted in government decisions being made which directly affect the way society lives in the short, medium and long term. These decisions have included social distancing rules and a 'partial' lockdown where people can only leave their homes for specific reasons.

One of the main effects of the outbreak is on crime and ASB. There has been much coverage in the reduction of most crime nationally but also a significant rise in other types of crime, especially domestic abuse²⁹. As well as this, there has also been a national rise in ASB³⁰. However, it is important to examine the impact Covid-19 has had on crime and ASB in Croydon specifically so we can anticipate and coordinate our approach in minimising the effects throughout the pandemic.

On 23rd March 2020 the government announced a 'partial' lockdown nationwide. The data examined in this report covers the five week period from 23rd March 2020 to 26th April 2020, which is titled the 'current period'.

Comparisons to the previous five weeks is titled the 'Previous period'. The current period is also compared to the same period last year which is titled the 'Previous period-last year'.

By comparing the current period to the last period, there has been a 26.8% decrease in total notifiable offences (TNOs). By comparing the current period to the previous period-last year there has been a decrease of 15.2%. A breakdown of crimes is provided below:

Total Notifiable Offences							
Crime Type	Previous Period - Last year	Previous Period	Current Period	Current Period to Previous Period		Current Period to Previous period - Last Year	
				+/-	% Diff	+/-	% Diff
Violence Against the Person Offs	869	1016	889	-127	-12.5%	20	2.3%
Sexual Offences Offs	91	88	79	-9	-10.2%	-12	-13.2%
Theft Offs	613	561	292	-269	-48.0%	-321	-52.4%
Arson and Criminal Damage Offs	228	241	215	-26	-10.8%	-13	-5.7%
Drug Offs	221	264	290	26	9.8%	69	31.2%
Possession of Weapons Offs	468	487	519	32	6.6%	51	10.9%
Public Order Offs	201	228	139	-89	-39.0%	-62	-30.8%
Misc Crimes Against Society Offs	48	47	44	-3	-6.4%	-4	-8.3%
Robbery of Business Property Offs	9	17	11	-6	-35.3%	2	22.2%
Robbery of Personal Property Offs	96	101	32	-69	-68.3%	-64	-66.7%
Burglary - Residential Offs	199	227	123	-104	-45.8%	-76	-38.2%
Burglary - Business and Community Offs	38	69	50	-19	-27.5%	12	31.6%
Theft from MV Offs	231	466	224	-242	-51.9%	-7	-3.0%
Theft or Taking of MV Offs	124	124	97	-27	-21.8%	-27	-21.8%

The only increases in the current period compared to the previous period are in drug offences and possession of weapon offences, which are known to be generated by stop and searches conducted by the Police. Compared to the previous period-last year there have also been increases in violence against the person, robbery of business property and non-residential burglary. There are also other crime measures can be compared:

Other Crime Measures							
Crime Type	Previous Period - Last year	Previous Period	Current Period	Current Period to		Current Period to	
				+/-	% Diff	+/-	% Diff
Hate Crime Incidents Excluding DA	77	90	53	-37	-41.1%	-24	-31.2%
Hate Crime Offs Excluding DA	81	93	59	-34	-36.6%	-22	-27.2%
Domestic Abuse Hate Crime Offs	391	428	437	9	2.1%	46	11.8%
Domestic Abuse Incidents	665	705	765	60	8.5%	100	15.0%
Serious Youth Violence	35	35	12	-23	-65.7%	-23	-65.7%
Youth Violence	73	76	42	-34	-44.7%	-31	-42.5%
Non Domestic Abuse VWI Offs	200	193	150	-43	-22.3%	-50	-25.0%
Gun Crime Offs	10	4	3	-1	-25.0%	-7	-70.0%
Knife Crime Offs	52	45	22	-23	-51.1%	-30	-57.7%
Moped Enabled Crime Offs	2	9	2	-7	-77.8%	0	0.0%

²⁹ Refuge Charity. Refuge sees online traffic to its National Domestic Abuse Helpline website rise by 700%. Published 9th April 2020 (cited 30th April 2020). Available from: <https://www.refuge.org.uk/refuge-sees-700-increase-in-website-visits/>

³⁰ BBC. Coronavirus lockdown: Anti-social behaviour on rise but overall crime falls. Published 15th April 2020 (cited 30th April 2020). Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52298016>

These figures show the only increases both in the current period compared to both the previous periods are in domestic abuse. Most other crime measures have seen significantly large reductions.

Covid-19-flagged offences

The MPS have also introduced a Covid-19 flag which should be used on the crime reporting system to reflect any crime connected with the virus. This can range from hate crimes to fraud to any other offence the officer believes would not have occurred if not for the virus. In the current period there have been 95 offences with the Covid-19 flag applied to it. Out of these, almost a quarter (23.2%) were common assault, where there have been incidents involving coughing and spitting on or in the direction of the victim. The second highest proportion were domestic incidents (14.7%). The third highest proportion were assault on a constable (8.4%), which again mainly involved suspects spitting or coughing in the direction of police officers.

Missing children

There were 246 missing episodes by Croydon young people recorded on the Council's Children's Services System in the partial lockdown period from 23rd March to 29th April 2020. Out of these:

- 186 missing episodes for Child Looked-After (CLA) missing from placement (76%).
- 60 missing from home episodes (24%).
- 20% reduction in the number of missing episodes compared to same period last year (307 missing episodes from March 23rd 2019 to 29th April 2019).

A further breakdown of the young people going missing during the partial lockdown period shows the following:

- 101 children reported missing at least once since lockdown started.
- 32 repeat missing children since 23rd March 2020 (3+ missing episodes in period). These children account for 66% of all missing episodes recorded during the period (164 out of 246 missing episodes).
- 24 children have had their first ever reported missing episode since lockdown began.
- 44 children with at least one missing episode since lockdown started lasting for a period of 3 days or longer.

Anti-social behaviour

By comparing the current period to the last period, there has been a 212.4% increase in anti-social behaviour CAD calls. By comparing the current period to the previous period-last year there has been an increase of 215.5%. A breakdown of anti-social behaviour is provided below:

ASB Category	Previous Period - Last year	Previous Period	Current Period	Current Period to Previous Period		Current Period to Previous Period - Last Year	
				+/-	% Diff	+/-	% Diff
ASB Environmental	24	31	243	212	683.9%	219	912.5%
ASB Nuisance	752	778	2,433	1,655	212.7%	1,681	223.5%
ASB Personal	120	96	151	55	57.3%	31	25.8%

The extremely large increases in anti-social behaviour calls are directly linked to the governments enforced social distancing measures where members of the public are reporting groups congregating in parks, streets and in neighbours' gardens. Neighbours are also causing much more noise either from inside their properties or outside where they are also eating, drinking and playing music loudly. In some cases there are also reports of drug use, mainly cannabis.

Shops have also been reported for not enforcing social distancing measures. Shops are also reporting ASB themselves where customers are refusing to leave and/or being abusive to staff. A further breakdown of the type of ASB incidents occurring are shown in the following table³¹:

³¹ Not every ASB call requires a 'type' to be assigned to it therefore calls which didn't have been removed.

ASB Type	Previous Period - Last year	Previous Period	Current Period	Current Period to Previous Period		Current Period to Previous Period - Last Year	
				+/-	% Diff	+/-	% Diff
Animal Problems	3	0	3	3	N/A	0	0.0%
Begging / Vagrancy	39	39	50	11	28.2%	11	28.2%
Fireworks	0	1	1	0	0.0%	1	N/A
Littering / Drugs Paraphernalia	3	9	9	0	0.0%	6	200.0%
Noise	34	26	71	45	173.1%	37	108.8%
Prostitution Related Activity	2	1	5	4	400.0%	3	150.0%
Rowdy / Nuisance Neighbours	132	92	449	357	388.0%	317	240.2%
Rowdy Or Inconsiderate Behaviour	422	499	1,638	1,139	228.3%	1,216	288.2%
Street Drinking	3	1	2	1	100.0%	-1	-33.3%
Trespass	27	24	26	2	8.3%	-1	-3.7%
Vehicle Abandoned - Not stolen	22	28	8	-20	-71.4%	-14	-63.6%
Vehicle Nuisance / Inappropriate Use	98	84	109	25	29.8%	11	11.2%

The largest volume increases are for 'Rowdy/Nuisance Neighbours' and for 'Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour'. Again, these are largely linked to the consequences of social distancing measures and neighbours being at home more causing noise. It must be noted that the rise in 'Rowdy/Nuisance Neighbours' and 'Noise' can be indicative of a rise in domestic abuse where a neighbour has reported screaming and/or shouting from next door which is never reported by those residing in the property where it is occurring.

Predicted impact in the future on crime and ASB

It is inevitable that as soon as partial lockdown measures are relaxed or completely removed that crime and ASB will sharply increase. However, it is vital that there is a focus on what types of crime and ASB this will directly affect so that appropriate measures can be put into place to limit the impact as much as possible.

The effects of the partial lockdown on households have led to an increase in domestic abuse, which will further strain the short, medium and long-term relationships of intimate partners and family members, which can lead to further abuse. Also, even when the victim has been moved to a safer location, further measures have to be in place so they do not suffer from further abuse e.g. harassment and stalking. Young people who are involved in domestic abuse may go missing from the home a lot more and, in the more medium to long-term, it has been proven that they may go on to be involved in crime, especially serious violence.

There have been numerous reports of the drugs market being severely disrupted and more drug dealers being arrested during the partial lockdown. It should be anticipated that as partial lockdown measures are relaxed that drug markets will resume and therefore an expected rise in young people going missing through county lines.

When young people are phased into returning to school the temporal analysis of youth violence, SYV and personal robbery shows that there is a strong anticipation there will be a sharp increase in offences. Also with young people mostly being inside for a long period of time, this may also lead to an increase in social media which is known to be a catalyst and trigger for serious youth violence³².

ASB has sharply increased during the partial lockdown period and is predicted to go up as long as these measures are in place. Temporal analysis shows that ASB inevitably increases over the summer months, especially with a predicted higher consumption of alcohol, people being outside and, therefore, more noise is likely to be reported. An increase in complaints about neighbours will strain relationships and could lead to crimes being committed e.g. hate crime. As well as this, as explained above, the rise in 'noise' or 'rowdy/nuisance neighbours' can be indicative of domestic abuse occurring in the property.

Shops may also continue to experience disorder due to people not adhering to the social distancing measures as well as a surge in certain types of crime including shoplifting.

³² Irwin-Rogers K. Pinkey, C. (2017) Social Media as a Catalyst and Trigger for Youth Violence <https://www.catch-22.org.uk/social-media-as-a-catalyst-and-trigger-for-youth-violence/>

Summary and Conclusions

The seriousness and extent which violence exists within society at a national and local level is a public health concern. There is no single way in tackling and preventing violence and it requires a strategic and coordinated multi-agency approach to ultimately have an impact on a large scale to reduce violence in Croydon. The complexities and wide range of factors that enable violence to grow within the community highlights the necessity for a holistic framework in dealing with the needs and issues of individuals, households and groups at risk of violence.

Violence can take many forms. It can be assumed that violence just involves physical harm. However, as this report shows, around 60% of overall violence in the borough is categorised as violence without injury. This doesn't downplay the seriousness of violence but rather highlights the expansive ways which it presents itself.

There are several common key themes and factors of violence identified in this report. Firstly, the magnitude of which domestic abuse is present in the community and how it is a key driver in other forms of violence shows that it should be at the core of the VRN's approach in tackling violence. Not only does it have a direct detrimental effect on those subject to abuse but on a wider scale it makes up a third of all violence, is a common factor in a young person's life who becomes a high risk of SYV and has shown to significantly contribute to a high number of victims of youth violence in the borough, especially amongst females. It must be emphasised that this is also only from what we know from the data and, therefore, the true extent of the problem is likely to be far greater.

The high volume of Non-DA VWI also poses a significant problem and it can be reduced by tackling the types of crimes that heavily contribute to the number of these offences, mainly youth violence and SYV. Again, the emerging problem of young females involved cannot go unnoticed.

Another common theme which is present throughout violence in the borough is the demographic of victims and suspects. They are highly represented and overrepresented in a demographic including coming from large poor, most likely single parent families with very low income or claiming benefits due to mainly being unemployed. There is a likelihood they live in overcrowded properties where a high number of children are present. They live in areas where residents feel it is highly affected by crime and vandalism. There is an increased probability they suffer from a range of health issues, both physical and mental. The communities they reside within are made up of residents from a variety ethnic backgrounds. These are just some of the factors that must be taken into consideration when working with individuals, families and communities who are at high risk of violence.

In regards to SYV, there are common key indicators throughout a young person's life which should be highlighted at the earliest opportunity and incorporated into the decision-making process, such as domestic abuse, child neglect, older siblings involved in crime and ASB, school behaviour and cannabis use. Identifying these as early and quickly as possible is key in the prevention of violence.

Data, intelligence and analysis plays a major part in tackling violence. This requires information sharing to be expanded so that the evidence base is strengthened and initiatives are more informed, coordinated and focused. This report not only highlights where the use of other data sources is invaluable but also the gaps which exist. Other innovative methods of intelligence and analysis are also required to provide more context and identify problems and the extent of those problems, for instance the implementation of the Cambridge Crime Harm Index to measure and analyse the harm committed and received. The approach of using micro-hotspots can also help to tackle the recurring hotbed of crime, especially violence, in the town centre.

There are also other crimes types which are types or indicative of violence as well offences which are of major concern. Sexual offences and hate crime continues to rise and so does ASB, which is a clear indicator of violence. All are recommended to remain as priorities for the SCP. Then there are also increases in volume of other crimes that cause concern including residential burglary, theft from motor vehicle and shoplifting. Then there are the issues posed by the outbreak of Covid-19 which have been highlighted.

There are many challenges for the VRN and the SCP to reduce violence, other crime and ASB in the borough. This report assists in providing a strategic overview of the work that is required. However, for it to be proven effective there needs to be a continued commitment to communicate, collaborate and coordinate interventions from all partner agencies.

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