

Scrutiny & Overview Committee Agenda



To: Councillors Rowenna Davis (Chair), Richard Chatterjee (Vice-Chair),
Leila Ben-Hassel (Deputy Chair), Sue Bennett, Simon Fox and
Eunice O'Dame

Reserve Members: Louis Carserides, Mario Creatura, Amy Foster,
Gayle Gander, Brigitte Graham and Joseph Lee

A meeting of the **Scrutiny & Overview Committee** which you are hereby
summoned to attend, will be held on **Tuesday, 26 March 2024** at **6.30 pm** in
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX.

Katherine Kerswell
Chief Executive
London Borough of Croydon
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Simon Trevaskis
Senior Democratic Services & Governance
Officer - Scrutiny
simon.trevaskis@croydon.gov.uk
www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings
Monday, 18 March 2024

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, or you can view the
webcast both live and after the meeting has completed at
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AGENDA – PART A

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from any members of the Committee.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 18)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2024 as an accurate record.

3. Disclosure of Interests

Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) and other registrable and non-registrable interests they may have in relation to any item(s) of business on today's agenda.

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. Croydon Community Safety Partnership - Annual Review (Pages 19 - 42)

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is provided with a report updating on the key aspects of the Safer Croydon Partnership over the past year for its scrutiny. The Committee is asked to: -

1. Review and note the information provided in the report,
2. Consider its conclusions on Croydon Community Safety Partnership Review,
3. Consider whether there are any recommendations to bring to the attention of the Mayor.

6. Violence Reduction Network - Draft Strategic Assessment (Pages 43 - 102)

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is provided with a draft version of the Violence Reduction Network Strategic Assessment. The Committee is asked to: -

1. Review and note the draft Strategic Assessment for the Violence Reduction Network, and
2. Consider whether it wishes to make any comment on the

content of the draft Strategic Assessment, to be taken of in the final version.

7. Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) - Deep Dive

Report to follow.

8. Scrutiny Recommendations (Pages 103 - 106)

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to

1. Approve the recommendations made by its Sub-Committee's for submission to the Executive Mayor for his consideration.

9. Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23 (Pages 107 - 132)

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to: -

1. Note the most recent version of the Scrutiny Work Programme presented in the report.
2. Consider whether there are any other items that should be provisionally added to the work programme as a result of the discussions held during the meeting.

10. 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

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

Scrutiny & Overview Committee

Meeting held on Monday, 12 February 2024 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Rowenna Davis (Chair), Richard Chatterjee (Vice-Chair),
Leila Ben-Hassel (Deputy Chair), Sue Bennett, Simon Fox and Eunice O'Dame

Also Present: Councillor Jason Cummings – Cabinet Member for Finance

PART A

11/24 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

12/24 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of interest made at the meeting.

13/24 **Urgent Business (if any)**

Under urgent business, the Chair highlighted to the Committee that the South West London & Surrey Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) had responded to an NHS consultation on the reconfiguration of children's cancer services. The concerns of Croydon had been fed into the process by the Council's representatives on the JHOSC, Councillors Richard Chatterjee and Eunice O'Dame.

A formal response setting out these concerns had been submitted to the JHOSC before the deadline of 12pm on 12 February to confirm the issues for Croydon depending on the outcome of the NHS review to move Children's Cancer Services to either St Georges Hospital or Evelina Hospital.

14/24 **2023-24 Period 8 Financial Performance Monitoring Report**

The Committee considered a report set out in the agenda supplement that provided an overview of the latest budget position for 2023-24 up until the end of Period 8 (November 2023). This report was included on the agenda as part of the Committee's ongoing scrutiny of the delivery of 2023-24 budget.

- Councillor Jason Cummings – Cabinet Member for Finance
- Katherine Kerswell – Chief Executive
- Nick Hibberd – Corporate Director for Sustainable Communities, Economic Recovery & Regeneration
- Debbie Jones – Corporate Director for Children, Young People & Education
- Susmita Sen – Corporate Director for Housing
- Jane West - Corporate Director for Resources & Section 151 Officer,
- Simon Robson –Director for Adult Social Care Operations
- Allister Bannin - Director of Finance & Deputy Section 151 Officer
- David Courcoux - Director for Policy, Programmes & Performance
- Helen Reeves – Interim Head of Strategy & Policy

During the introduction to the report, the following points were noted: -

- The budget position at the end of Period 8 (November 2023) was predicting there would be a budget underspend at the year end, with all departmental budgets improving in comparison to the Period 7 forecast.
- There remained an overspend within the Children’s Service, but the forecasted amount had reduced from Period 7 and could be balanced against underspends elsewhere in the budget.
- Based on the current forecast, the Council would not need to use any of the £5m Corporate Contingency Fund. It was not expected that the current position would worsen and it was possible there may even be further improvement.

Following the introduction, the Committee was given the opportunity to ask questions on the information provided in the Period 8 report. The first question sought an explanation for the increase in the predicted underspend within the Adult Social Care budget. It was confirmed that the predicted underspend had increased from £1.1m to £1.3m since Period 7 due to a small reduction in placement costs. This was the result of transformation work within Adult Social Care over the past three years, which was aimed at managing the cost of placements.

As a follow-up, reassurance was sought that the transformation work was not aimed at gatekeeping the service by reducing the number of placements, which may result in vulnerable residents being unable to access the services and care they required. It was confirmed that the number of placements provided had remained consistent over the past three years. The transformation programme was aimed at ensuring the right level of care was provided, at the right time, through improving reablement services for patients after a hospital stays and having a better range of options to improve outcomes for residents needing care support. At the same time the service was managing providers to ensure there was a sustainable care market in Croydon. It was highlighted that social workers had regulated standards which meant their assessments had to be based on an individual's care needs and not the potential cost factors. The Director of Adult Social Service (or Corporate Director for Adult Social Care & Health), Annette McPartland, also had a legal duty to ensure the Council was providing safe care, which was not based on cost factors.

It was noted that the report was seeking the Mayor's approval to transfer £2.1m from the Adult Social Care budget to the Housing budget, with an explanation for this requested. It was advised that as a result of Adult Social Care receiving additional grant funding in September 2023 from the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund, it had enabled the previous allocation of £2.1m from the non-pay inflation budget to be transferred on a one-off basis to Housing to support current pressures within emergency accommodation.

As the budget was now forecasted to have an underspend, it was questioned whether, given the level of need in the borough, there would be further work to bring the budget back to a balanced position. In response it was explained that if there was an overspend had been predicted, there would an expectation that it would be managed back to a balanced position where possible. However, should there be an underspend, providing there was reassurance that services were being delivered as required, there would be no expectation that spending would increase in an effort to achieve a balanced position.

It was questioned whether there had been any work to model the worst case scenario outcome for the emergency accommodation budget. It was advised that modelling had been challenging due to a peak in the number of homelessness cases at the end of the summer, which had now returned to the expected level. Work was underway to establish whether demand would continue at its present rate or whether there would be another spike. Based on the current worst case scenario modelling, the potential overspend could be managed as a result of the underspend elsewhere in the budget and if needed the Corporate Contingency Fund. Through block booking, the service had been able to access cheaper emergency accommodation from January

2024, which would help to manage costs. Although, as the team was currently working through a back log of cases, more need may become apparent.

In response to a question about budgeting for the cost of the upcoming London Mayoral Elections in May and the General Election, which had to be held by January 2025, it was confirmed that costs relating to these elections would be recoverable from the GLA and the Cabinet Office respectively. There would be an increase cost related to electoral registration, that would need to be met by the Council, but this was likely to be relatively small.

Regarding the Council's bad debt provision, it was confirmed that it had been revised in 2019-20, and as a result was on a fairly stable footing going forward. There was not a significant amount of new bad debt expected, but it was good practice that it was reviewed and recalculated each year. The Director of Finance advised the Committee that the Council had a cautious level of bad debt provision and as such no major changes were expected.

Following the discussion of this item, the Chair thanked those in attendance for their engagement with the Committee.

Conclusions

Following its discussion of this item the Committee reached the following conclusions: -

1. The Committee welcomed the updated budget position for Period 8 which predicted there would be an overall underspend in the General Fund budget at the year end, which was an improvement on the forecasted overspend in Period 7.
2. The Committee also welcomed the reassurance given that the underspend was being delivered while the Council continued to meet its statutory obligations to the people of Croydon.
3. It was agreed that the continued overspend within the Children's Service budget would be monitored by the Children & Young People Sub-Committee.
4. It was also agreed that the work to manage the high level of demand for emergency and temporary accommodation would continue to be monitored by the Homes Sub-Committee.

The Committee considered a report on pages 21 to 32 of the agenda and in the supplementary agenda which set out the Mayor's proposed budget for 2024-25 for review. The report also included a summary of the conclusions reached by the four Scrutiny Sub-Committees from their own reviews of elements in the budget relevant to their specific remits.

- Councillor Jason Cummings – Cabinet Member for Finance
- Katherine Kerswell – Chief Executive
- Nick Hibberd – Corporate Director for Sustainable Communities, Economic Recovery & Regeneration
- Debbie Jones – Corporate Director for Children, Young People & Education
- Susmita Sen – Corporate Director for Housing
- Jane West - Corporate Director for Resources & Section 151 Officer,
- Simon Robson –Director for Adult Social Care Operations
- Allister Bannin - Director of Finance & Deputy Section 151 Officer
- David Courcoux - Director for Policy, Programmes & Performance
- Helen Reeves – Interim Head of Strategy & Policy

During the introduction to the report by the Cabinet Member and the Section 151 Officer, the following points were noted: -

- The Council was in a position of being able to put forward a balanced budget for 2024-25, which was not the case for all local authorities.
- This year's budget setting had built on the processes put in place last year, which had led to a smoother process than was previously the case.
- Since the last Committee meeting on 16 January, the previous budget gap had been closed by a combination of factors including a higher than originally forecasted allocation from the Local Government Settlement and a lower than anticipated contribution requirement for Freedom Passes.
- A proposed £1.1m saving relating to the realignment of the staffing budget for the Children, Young People & Education directorate had been removed from the budget, as it had been concluded it was not deliverable.

- As a £5m unidentified gap had remained, it had been decided to remove the £5m economic pressures budget. Although this would increase the potential risk within the budget, it could in part be mitigated by other existing contingency funds.
- The Government had recognised the financial pressure on local authorities and has suggested either using existing reserves or capitalisation as a means of managing these pressures. As the Council was not in a position to use reserves to bridge the budget gap, it had been decided that reducing the economic pressures budget was the preferred option for delivering a balanced budget.

Following the introduction, the Committee proceeded to scrutinise the Budget papers. The first question asked for more information on the £3.8m Adult Social Care Grant allocated to the Council. It was advised that the grant was split into two parts, one to support the effective flow through the hospitalisation and discharge process. The other part was to manage market pressures and improve stability within the local care market.

Regarding the removal of the proposed £1.1m saving from the realignment of the staff budget for the Children, Young People & Education directorate, it was advised that the reduction in contributions paid by the Council for the Freedom Pass scheme had more or less balanced its removal.

In response to a request for clarity about the use of Public Health funding for libraries, it was confirmed that this was a common approach for activities that delivered public health outcomes and allowed the delivery of additional schemes aimed at health and wellbeing. It clarified that Public Health funding was not being used to fund statutory library provision.

Concern was raised about the Council's debt level, with further information requested on future projections. It was advised that as of March 2023 the Council's revenue fund debt was £1.4b. It was projected that this would be £70m lower by March 2027 due to capital receipts and minimum revenue provision. After March 2027, it was currently predicted that the Council's debt level would be on an upward trend due to the ongoing need for capitalisation. However, it was expected that a solution to the Council's historic debt would be found by that point.

An update was requested on the conversations with Government to find a solution to the Council's historic debt. It was confirmed that negotiations remained ongoing, but it was not expected that the Government would agree to the £540m debt write off requested by the Council, instead other solutions were being explored. The Council was required to produce its own plan, setting out what would be achievable, taking account of the wider context of the local government sector.

As a follow-up, it was questioned whether consideration had been given to either pausing or freezing interest rates. It was confirmed that this was one of the options under discussion, amongst a range of different models being considered. The difficulty for the Government was finding a solution that could be applied to across local government, as many authorities were experiencing financial difficulties. The Government also did not want to be seen to be rewarding poor financial control. Another option under consideration was reviewing the calculation of minimum revenue provision, with work underway to explore the potential impact of this approach.

It was questioned what would happen should the Council be unable to agree a solution with the Government for its unsustainable level of debt. It was highlighted that should the Government not grant permission for capitalisation, then the need to deliver additional savings of £38m would be inherently unsafe, even if reduced over the longer term. It was noted that the Improvement & Assurance Panel agreed with the Council's assessment that it would not be able to solve its financial situation without Government support.

It was noted that permission had been requested for additional capitalisation of £9.4m, which related to a legacy concern. As such, further information to explain the concern was requested. It was advised that the additional amount was the result of a claim from a contractor relating to the 2019-20 accounts that the Council was required to settle. As the 2019-20 budget was balanced, there was nowhere to charge this new expense, so a request had been made for additional capitalisation to cover this cost. It was noted that despite the 'Opening the Books' exercise, there remained a risk that other issues may arise as work continued to closure the outstanding accounts from previous years, but this risk was reducing. It was agreed that it would be helpful to ensure the final Budget report to Council had commentary added to explain the reasons for the additional capitalisation.

In response to a follow-up question about whether the risk of the contract claim being settled in the contractor's favour had been identified in the Council's risk register, it was confirmed that it had been listed, but the claim had only recently been realised. It was confirmed that the additional capitalisation would be met from capital receipts rather than additional borrowing.

It was questioned whether the Mayor had considered requesting permission from the Government to increase council tax above the 4.99% cap, following the previous year's 15% increase. It was highlighted that the Mayor had made clear when the 15% increase was agreed last year, that it was the maximum that could be placed on residents and no further increases above the 4.99% cap would be sought. It was noted that Croydon had the highest level of council tax of any local authority in government intervention and the second highest rate in London.

As £11m had been allocated for demand pressures in 2024-25, increasing to £14m in future years, an explanation for the increase was requested. It was explained that the figure for 2024-25 was based upon carefully calculated information from each department. As there was less certainty, at this stage, for the future years a more cautious figure of £14m had been used. It was acknowledged that the removal of the £5m Economic Pressures Fund increased the risk within the budget which meant demand pressures would need to be closely monitored.

It was questioned whether there had been any best and worst case modelling of the potential demand pressures for emergency and temporary accommodation. It was advised that there had been modelling, but due to a spike in demand from courts catching up with a backlog of eviction cases following the pandemic it was challenging to accurately model demand. Although there were signs that this spike was starting to reduce, it was assumed that the level of demand would remain high, while the service was in the process of working through its own backlog. However, the service had been block-booking accommodation to help reduce the potential cost. It was confirmed that the budget for the service was based upon the mid-range of the demand assumptions.

In response to a question about the modelling of parking income, it was advised that the availability of data had improved beyond recognition to allow more accurate monitoring across the various income streams. Having reviewed fees and charges, and parking machines it was anticipated that income would increase in the forthcoming year, with data indicating that usage had stabilised. It was noted that the recently approved Parking Policy looked to find a balance between delivering income from parking and supporting the local economy.

It was questioned whether the budgeted amount of £5m was sufficient to meet demand for SEND transport. It was confirmed that there had been an approximately 14% increase in demand for home to school transport in the last year. However, the service had been able to use this data to model future demand, including inflationary costs, and account for this within the budget. £600,000 had been allocated for identified growth within the service, with transformation also being planned. In response to a question about providers, it was confirmed that a dynamic purchasing system was used with routes being awarded to the lowest bidder. This approach was being reviewed to establish whether a framework approach would be more effective.

A question was asked about the risk of increased costs from social care providers and how this had been accounted for in the budget. It was confirmed that the service had modelled potential increases by taking account of the London Living Wage and the National Living Wage which had been increased by 10%. As a follow-up, it was noted in the report that providers had

been approaching commissioners to request increases of between 9.5% to 45%, with concern raised about the possibility of a 45% increase. Reassurance was given that only one provider had requested a 45% increase and that this was an outlier, significantly above the requests made by other providers. The Council worked with the sector and the LGA to model potential increases and to increase the understanding of what the local market required to ensure its sustainability. It was highlighted that the Council received a Market Sustainability Grant from the Government to provide support with above inflation increases.

It was questioned whether the cost of placements could be successfully managed down, as required in the budget. In response, it was highlighted that the Adult Social Care team had been working on the transformation of the service for the past three years and overdelivered on savings in 2023-24, which would contribute to the target for 2024-25. It was advised that the targeted savings of £5m for 2024-25 were thought to be deliverable but would need to build on the existing good work. The savings targets of £4m per year in the subsequent two year would need to be reviewed based upon the diagnostic work of the recently commissioned strategic transformation partner.

An explanation was requested on the decision to allocate £18m in the 2024-25 budget for inflation costs, when £33m had been allocated in the 2023-24 budget. It was advised that the assumption was based upon Bank of England modelling, which had been benchmarked against other London boroughs to crosscheck. It was noted that this modelling did not take account of the possible repercussions from any global instability caused by the current problems in the Middle East.

In response to a request, transformation was defined as a fundamental change in what or how something was delivered. As a follow-up, it was questioned whether the current transformation programme would meet this definition. In response, it was highlighted that work was ongoing on a new Transformation Strategy that was scheduled to come to the Cabinet meeting on 27 March 2024. The Council had also recently employed a new Transformation Director to lead the Transformation Programme, to ensure it was more ambitious.

It was questioned why none of the transformation projects listed in the report had a red rating. It was advised that many of the projects were still at the stage of defining their scope, so it was easier to justify a green rating. Once the ambition for transformation increased with the forthcoming Transformation Strategy, it was likely there would be an increase in projects with a red rating.

It was confirmed that there was an expectation for a lessons learnt review to be held at the end of each project, with the example given of the recent role out of the NEC software in Housing, where an external company was used to facilitate the session due to the size of the project.

In response to a question about the Council's ability to deliver transformation, it was highlighted that the Programme Management Office had moved through a number of different iterations over the past couple of years as the Council built its project and programme management capabilities. It was likely to evolve again to ensure it was able to drive forward the transformation strategy. The Council had also rolled out project management software, Verto, which was helping to provide a better understanding of projects. A Project Management Improvement Group had been established with two representatives from each directorate, which was helping to break down silo working in the Council. The Committee agreed that it was likely that transformation would inform its work programme going forward and looked forward to reviewing the Digital Strategy, once available.

It was questioned what percentage of the £33m savings targeted for 2023-24 were on track for delivery and whether those not on track would be carried over to the 2024-25 budget. It was advised that based upon the current budget forecast, 88% or £31m of the 2023-24 savings were on track to be delivered in-year. It may be the case that the remaining savings could still be delivered, but until these could be evidenced, they would not be included. If there was slippage in the delivery of an identified saving, it would be carried over to the next year, if it could not be managed in-year as part of the normal budget monitoring process.

There was concern raised about the deliverability of savings within the Housing Needs service given the ongoing demand for emergency and temporary accommodation. It was advised that an aim of the restructure of the service was to bring a greater level of focus on prevention and supporting residents before they became homeless, reducing the demand for accommodation. There were other projects underway to cleanse the data used by the service, to review how long people had been housed in either emergency or temporary accommodation and clearing the backlog of homelessness applications. It was highlighted that although it would take time to see the full impact from the prevention work, the early signs were positive.

As concern was raised about the potential impact upon residents of the proposed 7.7% rent increase for council tenants, it was questioned what support was being provided for tenants. It was acknowledged that while the rental increase would not affect residents receiving housing benefit, it would have an impact upon those who were not. The Housing Revenue Account operated a hardship fund that was discretionary and targeted towards those not in receipt of benefits. There was also a project underway to utilise the functionality of the new NEC system to reach out to residents and explore with them how to maximise their income.

It was questioned whether the deferral of growth in the Highway's budget could increase the risk of repair claims. It was advised that although the

Highway's budget did not include provision for growth, the Government had allocated funding for highways improvement which would go some way towards mitigating this shortfall. All local authorities had a backlog of repairs which had to be managed and prioritised and there would be an increased risk of repair costs as a result.

It was confirmed that most of the staffing implications arising from budget savings would be related to vacant posts or ones filled by short term agency staff. Where there was an impact upon staff, redundancy would be offered, but this would be a last resort. The equalities impact would be taken into account as part of the decision making process for individual savings.

It was questioned whether the feedback received from the budget consultation had led to any changes being made to the budget presented to the Committee. It was advised that the vast majority of the feedback was consistent with previous budget engagement exercises, with a significant number of people commenting on a potential council tax increase. As it was not proposed to increase council tax above the 4.99% cap, it was concluded there was nothing to change. Overall, the consultation had helped to reinforce the decisions made in the budget and there had not been any notable changes made.

There was concern raised that the budget for the Hardship Fund, introduced as a result of last year's 15% Council rise, was being reduced from £2m to £500,000, with it questioned whether the lack of demand was due to a lack of public awareness. In response it was advised that the budget had been set at £2m last year as it was difficult to estimate the potential demand. As the budget had not been spent, it had been decided to transfer the excess to the Council Tax Support scheme, which was seeing a higher level of demand.

It was questioned whether account had been taken of the possible discontinuation by the Government of the Household Support Fund. It was advised that there was lobbying underway from local authorities to encourage its continuation, but if it was discontinued it would not be funded as there was no replacement in place.

At the conclusion of the item, the Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and the officers in attendance for their participation in the meeting and their engagement with the questions of the Committee.

Actions

Following its discussion of the 2024-25 Budget update, the Committee agreed the following actions to follow-up outside of the meeting: -

1. That the forthcoming Digital Strategy would be scheduled for review by the Committee later in the year, once available.

Conclusions

Following its discussion of the 2024-25 Budget update, the Committee reached the following conclusions: -

1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee commended the hard work of officers, the Executive Mayor and Cabinet Members in preparing the 2024-25 Budget, particularly in light of the financial challenges facing the Council and across the local government sector as a whole.
2. The provision of budget information to Scrutiny at an earlier stage, in comparison to previous years, was appreciated and helped to ensure that the Committee could effectively scrutinise the budget.
3. Despite the hard work of all involved, the Committee agreed that the Council still cannot balance its budget without Government approval for further capitalisation. Without a solution being identified to address the £38m annual shortfall in the General Fund budget, the long term sustainability and independence of the Council remains uncertain.
4. The Committee noted that, based on the information provided, the proposed savings were deliverable whilst meeting the statutory needs of its vulnerable residents, although the scale, pace and wide-ranging nature of these savings mean that they will need to be closely monitored.
5. The Committee agreed with the Section 151 Officer that removing the £5m Economic Demands Pressures Fund from the 2024-25 budget increased the level of risk, particularly in a volatile economic environment where demand for many services is increasing, but recognised that this judgement had been based on improved budget modelling processes.
6. There was recognition that the scale and pace of transformation was not where the Council wanted it to be. However, the recent recruitment of a Director of Transformation and the forthcoming Transformation Strategy were reflective of a growing ambition and appetite for transformation across the Council.
7. The Committee noted the reduction from £2m to £500,000 in funds available for the Hardship Fund, but welcomed that this amount had been reallocated to the Council Tax Support Scheme, rather than amalgamated into the wider General Fund budget.

Recommendations

Following its discussion of the 2024-25 Budget update, the Committee agreed to submit the following recommendations for the consideration of the Mayor: -

1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee recommends that further work is undertaken to raise awareness of the availability of the Hardship Scheme, targeted toward groups identified in the Equalities Impact Assessments as potentially being most affected by the proposed Council Tax increase.
2. Given it was noted that the removal of Economic Demand Pressures Fund presented a greater risk, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee recommends that an updated version of Appendix L – Financial Risks is presented as part of the budget papers for the consideration of Council. This should include potential mitigation being provided for each risk and all financial risks for 2024-25 being quantified. The Committee would also recommend that the Financial Risks document is scheduled for review by the Audit & Governance Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.
3. In the interests of transparency, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee would recommend that additional information is included in the final budget report to Council to explain the further legacy Capitalisation Direction of £9.4m for 2019-20.

16/24 **Scrutiny Recommendations**

The Committee considered a report set out on pages 33 to 42 of the agenda which presented recommendations proposed by the scrutiny sub-committees for sign-off ahead of submission to the Executive Mayor. It also presented the response of the Mayor to previous recommendations submitted by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee for consideration.

Resolved: The Scrutiny & Overview Committee agreed to: -

1. Approve the recommendations made by its Sub-Committee's for submission to the Executive Mayor for his consideration.
2. Note the response provided by Mayor to recommendations made by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.

17/24 **Scrutiny Sub-Committee Appointments**

A vacancy had arisen on the Children & Young People Sub-Committee following the resignation of Mike Bonello as a Croydon Councillor. Councillor Tamar Barrett was nominated to fill the vacancy.

Before the appointment was agreed, the Vice-Chair of the Committee extended his thanks to Mike Bonello for his insightful input while a member of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee.

Resolved: That Councillor Tamar Barrett be appointed as a member of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee for the remainders of the municipal year.

18/24 **Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24**

The Committee considered a report set out on pages 43 to 66 of the agenda which presented the most recent version of the work programme for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees.

Resolved: The Scrutiny & Overview Committee agreed to note the most recent version of the Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24.

19/24 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This motion was not required.

The meeting ended at 9.48 pm

Signed:

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Date:

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	26 March 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Croydon Community Safety Partnership Annual Review	
LEAD OFFICER:	Kristian Aspinall - Director of Culture & Community Safety	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Ola Kolade - Cabinet Member for Community Safety	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1. SUMMARY

1.1. Attached This report provides the Scrutiny & Overview Committee with an update on key aspects of the Safer Croydon Partnership, including:

- The current legal duties and structure of the partnership.
- Significant accomplishments against the priorities of the partnership.
- An update from each statutory partner and Public Health on their operational delivery, including case studies where possible.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to: -

1. Review and note the information provided in the report,
2. Consider its conclusions on Croydon Community Safety Partnership Review,
3. Consider whether there are any recommendations to bring to the attention of the Mayor.

3. CROYDON COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW

- 3.1. The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) is the statutory 'Community Safety Partnership' (CSP) for the London Borough of Croydon.
- 3.2. The core members of the Partnership are the five 'responsible authorities' that have a statutory duty outlined under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to maintain a CSP for the borough and to collaborate in identifying the priorities for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending. The partners are jointly responsible for the work of the Partnership.
- 3.3. The five 'responsible authorities' are:
- the Council
 - the Police
 - the London Fire service
 - the local Integrated Care Board (ICB), and
 - the local Probation services
- 3.4. The Mayor of London fulfils the role of Police & Crime Commissioner for London Boroughs, and the CSP works closely with the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime and the London Violence Reduction Unit to identify and deliver its priorities.
- 3.5. The Safer Croydon Partnership Executive is a formally constituted body as outlined in the council's constitution, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety. As well as the responsible bodies, the board also includes the Shadow Cabinet member for Community Safety as a voting member, and officers in attendance include the Director of Culture & Community Safety, Director of Public Health, and the Head of the Violence Reduction Network.
- 3.6. Beneath the Executive sit several key partnership boards responsible for delivering the identified priorities of the partnership, including:
- 1) The Community Safety Engagement Board, established in 2022 to provide greater community input and scrutiny to the work of the partnership. Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, and open to all residents and third sector groups.
 - 2) The borough's Substance Misuse Partnership Board, to oversee the borough's substance misuse program and funding. Co-chaired by the Director of Public Health and the Director of Culture & Community Safety.

- 3) The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board, to oversee the work of the partnership in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls. Chaired by the boroughs Integrated Care Board]
- 4) The borough's Youth Justice Partnership feeds into the SCP Executive, which acts as a "critical friend" and key governance element as outlined in legislation.

4. MAIN JOINT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023/24

Refresh of the partnership

- 4.1. Following a review requested by the Executive Mayor of Croydon, the partnership was refreshed to make several key changes to better focus our work to reduce crime and disorder including:
 - 1) Reducing the Executive Board to the core statutory partners only, to allow for swift decision making and a focus on the legal duties of the partnership.
 - 2) Focussing the partnerships priorities to three key elements from the Community Safety Strategy 2022-24:
 - a. Violence Against women and Girls
 - b. Violence against young people
 - c. Anti-social behaviour in hot-spot areas
 - 3) Creation of a new **Community Safety Engagement Board** to allow any member of the public, including third sector groups, to both scrutinise the work of the partnership but also to input in and help co-develop the borough's delivery plans
 - 4) Supporting the borough's Safer Neighbourhood Board to resume in person meetings, to allow the community to hold the Police to account

Design and delivery of the borough's first Youth Safety Delivery Plan

- 4.2. This is the borough's first multi-agency delivery plan to tackle violence against young people on our streets. It is a three-year plan that works across the partnership to make our borough safer for young people, and focusses on the key themes of:
 - o **Prevention** - how do we stop children and young people being made vulnerable.
 - o **Intervention** - what we do to help vulnerable children and young people.
 - o **Disruption** - how we tackle gangs and criminal exploitation of children and young people.
 - o **Diversions** - our positive offer for children and young people in borough.

Funding for outreach and engagement for Young People

- 4.3. Across 23/24, the partnership has funded local voluntary sector agencies to deliver engagement and diversion work across hot spot areas, including Croydon Town Centre, Shrublands, New Addington and Thornton Heath. This included work in Church Street where large numbers of young people were congregating and committed ASB, to effectively engage with young people and reduce the risk of violence significantly.

Responding to Critical Incidents

- 4.4. Following any serious incident, the partnership works with trusted local community partners to support the ongoing investigation, provide community reassurance, and direct support for affected families and friends. During the last year we have significantly streamlined how we respond to incidents, to allow for very rapid deployment of resources following an incident - within 24 hours of an incident taking place additional resources have been deployed into an area to support the community. Whilst we would prefer to never have to respond in this way, by being faster and working with already established partners we can help mitigate the impacts of a critical incident and reduce the risk of any further violence.

5. METROPOLITAN POLICE UPDATE

Strategic Overview

- 5.1. The “New Met for London” plan was launched in July 2023 in support of the MPS mission of less crime, more trust & high standards. This is a two-year plan to cut crime, rebuild trust & reflect the diversity of London. The plan focusses on solid community crime-fighting, culture change & fixing the foundations of the Met. The plan recognises the urgent need to get the basics right, deliver a solid local policing service to communities & to build trust by officers upholding the highest standards of professionalism. The New Met for London plan was published in response to the review of the MPS conducted by Baroness Casey where she highlighted a number of areas where improvement was urgently required. Several engagement events have been held across the borough to introduce the NMFL plan to communities and gather feedback on how it can be shaped and implemented locally.

Key Priority areas for Croydon Police

- 5.2. Notwithstanding that policing teams will be tasked on a micro level through the well-established ward panel processes to respond to local concerns, the key overarching priorities for Croydon Police are preventing violent crime & reducing robbery offences. While other emerging crime issues will be responded to through our established tasking processes, we know that the issues of violent crime & robbery are very real and long-standing concerns for the communities of Croydon. Integral to these priorities is a determination to be better in our work to prevent violence against women & girls and the criminal and sexual exploitation of children.

Croydon Town Centre

- 5.3. A priority area for Croydon Police is providing an effective policing service to the Town Centre. This reflects significant community concern regarding crime & safety in Croydon Town Centre. We recognise that the issues affecting crime in the Town Centre are complex and in many cases there are deep rooted socio-economic issues and themes such as substance misuse and mental health. There are good working relationships with a variety of partners including the BID & Local Authority.
- 5.4. Key activities include:
- A dedicated Town Centre Team (1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants, 21 Constables) with a focus towards providing a visible policing presence, working alongside partners & tackling anti-social behaviour & violence.

An important aspect of their role is enforcement of the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO.)

- Specific operations which over the last 12 months have included: Op Zoedone, Op Zenzura, Operation Nightingale, Operation Mooka & Operation Vigilant. Operation Zoedone alone resulted in the arrest of 10 suspect robbery offenders including a number in Purley where a spike in offending had been noted.
- Deployment of dedicated youth engagement / safer schools officers at key times and locations to provide positive interaction but also ensure safety of young people travelling to/from school through town centre transport hubs.
- Use of new technology such as Live Facial Recognition. Following community engagement, Croydon was the first borough outside Westminster to utilise LFR technology to precisely target wanted offenders in known crime hotspots. Total arrests exceeded 60 wanted persons across five deployments of this tactic in the Town Centre. Some fugitives had been wanted for 5+ years. Arrests were made for a variety of offences including robbery, assault, domestic abuse & drugs offences.

Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG)

5.5. The MPS published their VAWG Action Plan in December 2023 and work is actively underway here in Croydon along the three strands of building trust & confidence, relentless pursuit of perpetrators & ensuring safer spaces:

- The Strengthening Public Protection programme has been launched which will seek to put 500 more officers in to key roles investigating domestic abuse, child protection & serious sexual offences – this recognises in recent years the exponential rise in demand has not been matched by the required level of resourcing.
- New approaches (such as V100) which looks at the most harmful and high risk male perpetrators of violence across London & ensures proper local grip and oversight to effectively mitigate the risk they pose to women & girls.
- Increasing our use of statutory powers such as civil orders and enforcement of powers in support of safer spaces such as the PSPO.
- Ensuring that a meaningful police presence is provided at key hotspots where women & girls have told us they do not feel safe. We are also making use of the StreetSafe product to ensure a feedback channel whereby the police & Local Authority can then take joint action. We also have the “walk and talk” initiative overseen by the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

- Establishment of a BCU VAWG oversight board, chaired by the BCU Commander.

Protecting young people

5.6. Croydon has a significant U18 population, and with approximately one third of recorded crime in Croydon involving violence, the protection of young people is a clear community concern.

- A dedicated “safer schools” unit. Comprising of 20 constables, led by a dedicated Inspector. This team attaches a dedicated policing resource to 22 secondary schools and pupil referral units across the borough. The work of these officers is focussed on positive engagement, prevention, early intervention and solutions that wherever possible avoid criminalising children.
- Weapons based prevention activities – for example conducting highly visible knife arch operations in schools & colleges across Croydon. We are also conducting weapons sweeps across the borough on a weekly basis.
- Use of stop & search powers where it is lawful & justified. Ensuring that officers conduct themselves professionally and that there are clear routes of accountability to uphold procedural justice principles. Use of S&S powers is scrutinised by the Police Encounter Panel at monthly meetings.
- Working closely with other statutory partners – attending key boards including Youth Justice Board & Gangs + Serious Violence Groups. We work in close partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit & members of the local authority attend the monthly police tactical tasking group to ensure a joined up approach with good joint situational awareness.
- Use of diversionary activities including a well established police cadets unit and specific projects such as “beyond the court” – promoting better social cohesion between young girls and the police.

Response to emergencies & calls for service

5.7. Croydon is one of the largest boroughs geographically and receives somewhere in the region of 2,700 calls for service on any given month. For Croydon - on average - the response times to an emergency call is 10m:58s against a national target of 15 minutes. The average response time to a priority non-emergency call is 52m:45s against a national target of 60 minutes.

Strongest Ever Neighbourhood Policing

- 5.8. This remains a key feature of the New Met for London Plan – recognising that good community policing, where crime is prevented and a long-term problem-solving approach is implemented will reduce demand & lead to improved trust and confidence in the Met. In Croydon, we have seen the number of Sergeants working in local neighbourhood policing doubled. This now means that the highest demand wards (Fairfield & Broad Green) now have each a dedicated Sergeant to really drive the local policing activity.
- 5.9. Local neighbourhood teams will drive proactive crime fighting activity. It is essential they are responsive to the concerns and intelligence provided by local communities. In this performance year, Croydon has seen an 8.6% reduction in burglary, 23% reduction in theft from motor vehicle but has seen a 22.5% increase in robbery, which remains a key focus of policing activity across the entire borough.

6. CROYDON COUNCIL UPDATE

Violence Reduction Network Overview

- 6.1. The council's Violence Reduction Network fulfils the role of Community Safety within Croydon Council and leads on strategic and operational crime reduction (outside of the statutory duties of Children's and Adult's Safeguarding).
- 6.2. The service is made up of several small teams focussing on the key priorities of the council alongside delivering the statutory duties of the partnership. Following budget reductions through 2020 to 2022, the service is comparatively small compared to other council's and has the lowest spend per head amongst its nearest neighbours. **Anti-social Behaviour**

What do we do?

- 6.3. The team deal with high-risk cases from across the entire partnership, as the final point of escalation from other services and partners. The team investigate reports of ASB such as excessive household noise, drunk and disorderly behaviour, drug using and taking in properties, loud music, verbal and racial abuse, cuckooing (where a vulnerable person's flat is taken over by drug dealers), harassment and intimidation, ASB caused by people vulnerable due to substance and alcohol abuse and mental health, threats of violence and actual violence.
- 6.4. The team acts by using Community Protection Notices (CPN), Injunction, Premises Closure Orders, Public Space Protection Order (PSPOs), Possession Action, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC).

Data:

Measure	April 2023 to March 2024
Total number of cases currently open to the ASB team.	55
Number of injunctions	6
Number of Premises Closures	11
Number of possession orders applied for	17
Number of CPNWs issued	4
Number of ABCs signed	6

Case Study: A resident stored a large trailer at a block of flats. The trailer caused an obstruction and took up parking spaces that were for the use of other residents. When asked to remove the trailer, the resident was not co-operative. In November 2023, the Council served the resident with a Community Protection Notice Warning requiring them to remove the trailer within a given time frame. The resident complied and the complaints of ASB regarding the issue ceased.

Case Study: For several years, residents complained about anti-social behaviour at a property. The perpetrator was accused of shouting, screaming and banging on walls throughout the night keeping residents awake. When one neighbour asked the perpetrator to reduce the noise, they received threats to kill. There was also evidence of drug dealing and drug taking at the property. The Council made an application to the Magistrates Court for a Premises Closure Order. The Court considered evidence from the Council and witnesses and a full Closure Order was granted and later extended to 2024. The Council will now seek possession of the property.

Case Study: A property was regularly coming to the attention of the Council due to serious anti-social behaviour. The behaviours included aggression towards residents, verbal and racial abuse of residents, noise disturbance at all hours of the day and at night into the early hours of the morning. A fire was also started in the property which could have endangered lives. Police and the London Fire Brigade received regular calls to the property. Residents reported the abuse of drugs and alcohol in the property and one resident described the property as “a pub”. Following a call for action from several residents and a full investigation into the issues, the Council sought a Premises Closure Order at the property to give immediate reprieve to the residents and began legal action for possession of the property. The Court considered the evidence and granted a full 3 month Closure Order which has been extended. A Closure Order prohibits any person from entering the property until the Order has expired. Several residents thanked the Council for the action taken. The Council provided full support for the tenant during and after this action.

CCTV Service

What do we do?

- 6.5. The CCTV Control Room (Intelligence Hub) is based at Strand House, Thornton Heath and staffed 24/7, 365 days a year. The CCTV team monitor 94 permanent networked colour CCTV cameras of various designs with Pan, Tilt & Zoom facility. This includes CCTV based on Housing land. Oversee the management and installation of the deployable cameras that can be moved across the borough depending on crime hotspots and partnership

requests. The main partner to use the facilities provided are the Metropolitan Police. Police forces as well as the National Crime Agency have carried out surveillance operations from the Control Room. The Police regularly download footage from the control room and use it as part of their investigation. During covid access was restricted and the team are currently refreshing the "Protocol for CCTV Access".

- 6.6. The team also provides the Council's Out of Hours Emergency Telephony Service which signposts residents with an Emergency need that cannot wait until the next working day.

Data

- 282: Number of incidents the team have assisted with Police investigations.
- 370: CCTV reviews for Police where the service has received a written request but unfortunately there has been an unsuccessful result.
- Over 2000 "Police radio call-assistance given "communications

Case Study: A call was received by the team regarding a group of shoplifters who were operating in the Town Centre and had just stolen from a local shop. Using the description provided by the Police, the team identified the suspects from the description provided. The images were relayed to the Police control room and information was updated as the suspects made their way through the town centre.

As a result the Police identified how the suspects intended to leave the area on a bus and the Police were on scene just after the suspects made their way off the bus and were arrested.

Case Study: Call came out on radio of a group of males that had thrown a machete into a garden. The Police were called and the team identified the suspects running away, images were pushed to the police. Suspect was arrested and machete recovered.

Family Justice Service (FJS)

What do we do?_

- 6.7. The FJC is a centrally located resource offering a multi-disciplinary approach to services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their children. The service seeks to offer victims wrap around support and to prevent individuals having to go from agency to agency, telling their story repeatedly, in order to access the support they need.
- 6.8. The FJC also lead on the statutory requirement of commissioning domestic violence homicide reviews (DHRs). The team lead on the coordination of

Modern-Day Slavery (MDS) that involve adults as well as transitional safeguarding from children social care to adult social care.

Data

- 1,296 – April 2023 to January 2024 – Referrals to FJS from partners and residents
- 756 – MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referrals to discuss high harm, high risk to victim/survivors.

Case Study: Due to Croydon being the pilot site for delivering the Drive programme since 2018 and assisting in its roll across the South BCU (Croydon, Bromley and Sutton) in 2021, the Home Office has selected the south BCU to pilot the DAPN/O (domestic abuse protection Notice/order). Croydon will be instrumental in shaping these orders and assist in the roll out pan London.

Prevent

What do we do?_

- 6.9. The Prevent team are responsible for implementing the UK Government's Prevent strand of Counter Terrorism (CONTEST). Prevent is a statutory duty on the public sector and revolves around three main objectives:
- Ideology: Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from it
 - Individuals: Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and given appropriate advice and support
 - Institutions: Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address
- 6.10. The team lead on the coordination of PROTECT agenda where the primary focus is to improve protective security and preparedness measures in publicly accessible locations.
- 6.11. The team supports the Director of Culture & Community Safety as the statutory chair of the Chanel process, the monthly multi-agency preventative group that aims to stop people becoming radicalised. Data from this group is restricted due to Home Office and national security requirements.

Training Data

Output	Audience	No. of sessions	No. of attendees
WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent)	Practitioners	19	800
Briefings	Practitioners	2	40
Bespoke Workshops	Practitioners	16	375
Student Workshops	Students	13	454

- 6.12. WRAP - (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) is a training programme that discusses the statutory duty of Prevent, extremism and radicalisation, the indicators of concern and where to go to for support. This training is intended for professionals and practitioners with a safeguarding role.
- 6.13. Briefings – Professionals who have already received WRAP training may instead opt for a shorter briefing to serve as a refresher and provide up to date information on local contexts and issues that are important to be aware of.
- 6.14. Practitioner Workshops – These are bespoke workshops for practitioners to deep dive into specific topics within the field of extremism and radicalisation.
- 6.15. Student workshops – These workshops are delivered to students (both at primary and secondary level) in an age-appropriate way to raise awareness of the dangers of extremism and intolerance, and the support they can access if they are concerned.

Case Study: We have secured funding for 7 different projects this financial year, covering target audiences in schools, professionals, community engagement, foster carers and more. The projects were asked to deliver workshops and training to raise awareness of extremism and the support available for concerns to build a more resilient Croydon to the hate and intolerance of extremist messaging.

Performance and Intelligence

What do we do?_

- 6.16. The team carries out the statutory requirements for the Safer Croydon Partnership such as supporting and running the executive, producing and

monitor the partnership plan that has regard for MOPAC's policing plan priorities and producing an annual strategic assessment.

- 6.17. The team also oversees funding streams provided by the VRN (LCPF, VRU) and co-ordinates work on Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

Data

New Addington

- 6.18. Working closely with local schools in the New Addington area, the Youth Engagement service and the Local Policing team. 46 Outreach sessions were delivered to target young people in the area as well as 34 Mentoring sessions held. This resulted in 25 sport based engagement sessions being held. In total 448 young people engaged with the service.

Town Centre

- 6.19. The funding helped to provide 84 outreach sessions being delivered between May and November 2023 in the Town Centre. Where a total of 268 Males and 238 females were engaged with. The purpose of the outreach work was the support young people a risk as they travelled through the Town Centre and congregated in the area.

Thornton Heath

- 6.20. 32 Outreach sessions delivered across the area: targeting the High Street and the local park. Working closely with the Local Policing team and youth engagement service. 265 young people were engaged with through the programme.

7. HEALTH RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY SAFETY AGENDA.

Staff support

- 7.1. The CHS Safeguarding (SG) Team consists of Children's, Adults, Maternity, Children Looked After Advisors and Named Professionals. The SG Team provides a duty line for support and advice, Monday to Friday (9-5pm). The advisors are responsive and attend clinical areas where a need is identified. The SG Adult (SGA) team and Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (HIDVA) attend the Emergency Department ward round twice daily, and Acute Medical Unit twice weekly to support review of patients and supporting with advice where SG or Domestic abuse concerns arise. There is also a SG Children's advisor present within the Children's Emergency Department supporting staff and patients. The SG team provide SG supervision to staff and services (acute and community) this supports regular case discussion, reflection and advice and support.
- 7.2. Red Thread are present in ED and offer continuing to staff and young people who are involved in, or on the periphery of, serious youth violence.

DASV

- 7.3. The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) support worker is funded by a charity, the DASV worker started in November 2023 and the contract will end after a year. The DASV is currently recruiting Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) Champions, the champions receive introductory training and a resource pack to support them being an advocate within their team to raise the profile of the DVA support available. The DASV has developed a DVA Champion badge, this is in progress, the aim will be for staff to wear the badge as a means to communicate with patients non-verbally that they are a safe person to approach for support. The DASV is working closely with Occupational Health, exploring the support available to CHS staff that may be experiencing DVA. Some bespoke training sessions are being arranged for Managers in how to recognise, support and refer.

Hospital Independent Domestic Abuse and Violence Advocate (HIDVA)

- 7.4. The HIDVA is employed by the Family Justice Service (FJS) and works within Croydon University Hospital and closely with the CHS SG Team. The HIDVA is contacted by staff and patients for support, since starting in post in July 2023 151 referrals have been supported.

Iris Programme

- 7.5. SWL ICB has secured funding for the Identification and Referral to Improve (IRIS) programme in GP practices across Croydon. As part of the IRIS

training offer, two advocate educators and a clinical lead are supporting the GP practices.

Meetings

7.6. The Safeguarding Adult Team (SGA) attend the CHS High Intensity User Group, this is a panel that reviews patients who are frequent attenders at the Emergency Department, these patients often have complex needs and DVA and SG concerns are identified and referred onward.

7.7. The SGA team attend:

- **Risk Vulnerability Management Panel Meeting** intermittently where CHS patients have been referred for discussion. This is a multi-agency high risk support panel.
- **Channel Panel**, supporting with research and channel reviews. The SG Named Nurse for Maternity and HIDVA attend the Vulnerable Women's Meeting monthly.
- **CHS Mental Health Group**, and **Right Care Right Person (RCRP) task and finish group**. This is an internal group that looks at themes, trends, activities and improving processes/practice to support this demographic of patients.
- **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board**
- **Complex Adolescents Panel (CAP)** attended by CHS safeguarding team.
- The SGA, HIDVA and Safeguarding Children's (SGC) Team attend the weekly **Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**, supporting with research, review and actions where required.
- **The crossing pathways national meeting**. ICB Designated professionals are engaged with national DASV forums.

Awareness weeks/days

7.8. The SGA team led on Safeguarding Adults Awareness week in November 2023, this included advertisement internally and externally (social media), bespoke training, and leading a public and staff facing stall within the hospital with the HIDVA and guests (fire brigade). CHS promoted White Ribbon Day on the 25th of November on social media raising the profile of the HIDVA and DVA role within CHS. The Calabash service (FGM) led a stall in Croydon Hospital foyer the week of 4/2/24. The ICB promoted the 16 days of Action against Domestic Abuse.

Training

- 7.9. The SG Level 3 training includes slides on Prevent, DVA and FGM. The HIDVA provides training to the junior doctors, ward staff (including emergency department), and services requesting.

SG presenting at Croydon Cares

- 7.10. A session was presented by a guest speaker on the 20th October 2023 on Prevent. The DASV will be presenting a session on DVA and the champion role on the 6th of April 2024. Red Thread (Youth work in health settings) will be presenting a session on their service on the 5th April 2024.

Children Looked After Team

- 7.11. Screening and identification of risk of criminal exploitation and domestic violence is achieved through review health assessments, with specific questions on CSE and DV embedded in the review and ongoing work with young people. Partnership working and ongoing liaison with Youth Justice Service Health Worker, as well as liaison with Redthread ensures that protective measures and adequate liaison is introduced whenever early signs of violence, DV and CCE are present. Named Nurse for CLA attends Transitional Safeguarding Panel, so that early information sharing with community partners such as social care and police is ensured. Close cooperation and liaison between CLA Team, Social Care and CHS Safeguarding Children Team following SCT attendance at Complex Adolescent Panel meetings supports further early identification and safety measures being placed for CLA most vulnerable to violence and DV.

Maternity Safeguarding Team

- 7.12. Screening and identification of risk of domestic Abuse is reviewed at the initial booking appointment with midwifery services. Routine enquiry is also occurs at other times during the pregnancy when appropriate to do so. If any concerns are highlighted, referrals are made to the Vulnerable Women's Meeting (VWM), Children's social care and the HIDVA. The maternity safeguarding team chair a monthly multi-agency meeting which is attended by the HIDVA and other agencies. In this meeting vulnerable pregnant women/families are discussed, actions are set and updates are given.

Sexual Safety Charter

- 7.13. NHSE launched the Sexual Safety Charter for health colleagues in 2023.
- 7.14. All health organisations have been asked to commit to developing a charter. SWLICB and Croydon Health Services have both commenced work which is

being led by Organisational Development and Human Resources colleagues are currently working on an action plan.

Case Study: A father with five children contacted AR&A to seek help with their 14 year-old non-binary child who has been acting out, getting angry and being physically aggressive at home and school. They had received detention and suspension from classes in school.

Dad works part-time (online) from home and his partner is currently waiting for a decision around her right to remain in the UK. Dad is the only one contributing consistently to the family purse, trying to stabilise the family.

The young person had been having difficulty with their behaviour before the close of the summer term. At a meeting at school in June, Dad attended and the young person agreed and signed a contract with the school together with Dad. This gave the young person a chance to think about their behaviour. However, they didn't adhere to the agreed rules and was put into seclusion most days till the end of term.

During the summer holidays, Dad contacted A&RA seeking help/support for his 14 year old as he was not coping at home. Working with the parent, I suggested firstly, to think about mentoring, suggesting Project 4 Youth Empowerment, and secondly, that the young person register for counselling with CDI.

The parent had a conversation with their child and agreed to both options. They signed up for mentoring/P4YE and was assessed for counselling with CDI. During the summer P4YE started to engage with the 14 year-old who fed back at our meeting that they enjoyed the mentoring. The parent kept in contact with A&RA and the question arose about Mum attending a meeting at school in September. Contrary to expectation (because she had never attended school meetings before), on the day, Mum attended.

During the meeting, a video demonstrated the 14 year-olds behaviour in the summer term and the reaction on Mum's face showed all, as she had no clue about her child's behaviour. Following a lengthy discussion, school allowed the young person back into school as long as they attended counselling and continued the work with P4YE.

Since Autumn the young person has gone from strength to strength at home, completed the mentoring, is not at risk of exclusion at school and has stuck with their counsellor at CDI.

8. Probation Services

- 8.1. Following the Probation unification in June 2021, Croydon was established as a single Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) to strengthen partnership working and focus on service delivery, with our key stakeholders to reduce crime. It is one of 18 Probation Delivery Units across London making up the London Probation Region. Our focus is on delivering a service to protect the public and reduce reoffending. To protect our communities, we provide assessments and support and challenge those that we work with to change their lives and move away from crime. We do this using a four – pillar approach: -
- Supervision
 - Monitoring and control
 - Intervention and treatment
 - Victim safety
- 8.2. As a PDU we are clear that whilst we have an important role in the activities to reduce reoffending and manage risk, we cannot do this without the support of our partners. Croydon PDU continues to build relationships with our partners to ensure that we deliver an effective service. Some of the ways that we do this is through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements and Integrated Offender Management.
- 8.3. Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) – two Level 2 Panels per month with ad hoc Level 3 and standalone panels to be responsive to risk.
- 8.4. MAPPA is a set of arrangements through which the Police, Probation and Prison Services work together with other agencies to manage the risks posed by those convicted of violent, sexual and terrorism offences who are living in the community. We involve a number of other agencies under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority. These include Children's Services, Adult Social Services, Health Trusts and Authorities, Youth Offending Teams, Local Housing Authorities, Job Centre Plus and certain registered social landlords and electronic monitoring providers.
- 8.5. The agencies involved in MAPPA in Croydon are working closely together to ensure that resources are best directed to protect the public and to reduce reoffending.
- 8.6. All MAPPA managed individuals are assessed to establish the level of risk of harm they pose and to whom. Risk management plans are devised for each

individual to manage those risks. These set out the action that need to be taken to minimise the risk. Some measures that can be considered are:

- Ensuring individuals have suitable accommodation, which can include requiring them to reside at a probation run Approved Premises on release.
- Placing controls on the individual's behaviour through strict licence conditions which can include not to have contact with a named individual or not to enter a defined exclusion zone.
- Intensive supervision by a probation officer and/or community public protection police
- Ensure the individual attends identified accredited programmes, structured interventions and other interventions (such as drug and alcohol programmes) aimed at reducing further offending.

8.7. All individuals supervised by probation must comply with the conditions of their order or licence. Any failure to do so will result in action being taken. For those on licence, this could mean a return to prison and for those on community orders a return to court.

Case Study: RT is a young man currently in custody. He is associated with Serious Group Violence and has ADHD. He was previously known to YOS.

Previous release from custody have failed and he has not remained in the community long. This has been assessed as due to the lack of adequate support systems.

Discussed at MAPPA pre-release. In attendance was Leaving care, Gangs worker, Gangs police, PP, and statutory panel members.

Risk Management Plan devised includes

- Leaving care identifying several accommodation options prior to release – suitability to be checked
- Mental health supporting with how to manage/support his ADHD (mother doesn't believe in medication which has impacted his behaviour and decisions in the past)
- Licence conditions discussed to identify what is proportionate and will support the management of risk.
- Partners have supported in identifying the relevant interventions that may help on his release (MH, ETE, support in resettling into the community)

Case remains at MAPPA Level 2, but a more robust release plan and risk management plan will be in place with the aim of resettling him and working with him in the community to reduce his reoffending and the risk that he poses.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) – Panels held monthly.

- 8.8. IOM focuses on priority acquisitive offences, particularly Robbery and Burglary offences and identifies persistent offenders in the local community who also pose a risk of violent re-offending and harm.
- 8.9. The following criteria is used to identify those that should be part of the IOM cohort –
- 8.10. Those who have a 2-year reconviction score (OGRs) of 75%+ or 50%+ with a robbery or burglary offence in the past 2 years that they were in the community and an OVP (violence predictor score) of 30% plus.

IOM Category

- Fixed -applies to eligibility criteria above.
 - Flex – other cases identified by Probation Practitioners(PP) with a lower OVP and OGRs score, but the borough decides to take them onto IOM – In Croydon this has been applied to the younger cohort of individuals where there are concerns around group violence, it provides discretion locally.
 - Free – other cases not subject to statutory supervision.
- 8.11. Croydon IOM panel meets monthly – Probation Practitioners attend to present their cases. Other agencies present at Croydon IOM – IOM Police Officers, Substance Misuse Service (CGL), CFO Hub, DWP, Representative from Anti- Social Behaviour Team, Croydon, Housing, Mental Health Practitioner from Together, IOM SPOC London Prisons.
- 8.12. IOM adopts a person-centred approach, Probation and other agencies work together to address the causes of criminal behaviour and reducing incidents of offending behaviour. IOM nominals are told that they have been placed on the scheme and that there will be more intensive supervision of cases via multi agency approach up to 3 appointments per week with a combination of partners including their PP and IOM Police Officer.
- 8.13. IOM also enables sharing of information daily between the Police and Probation which assists in identifying any new incidences of offending behaviour/coming to notice of Police which assists in the risk management of cases in the community.

Case Study: AB being released from Prison, evidence of poor compliance with Probation previously and interventions – case was discussed prior to release at IOM panel to consider how best to support compliance and engagement on release. Agreed that IOM Police would meet AB at prison gates and take him to initial appointment with his Probation Practitioner (PP) and then assist in transporting him to the identified release accommodation outside of borough.

AB was also subject to GPS tag for additional monitoring on release.

Joint appointments with Probation and IOM Police following release were set up with AB at the probation office. CGL were also in attendance at the office to offer additional support in relation to substance misuse.

Daily intelligence sharing between Police and Probation identified that AB was frequenting properties of vulnerable individuals, in the company of other known drug users, due to concerns about potential risks to individuals and associates, PP was able to use this evidence to vary his licence to include a non-association condition with named individuals and exclusion for the identified address – this assisted in reducing risk of harm and offending.

A few days later the Probation Practitioner was alerted to a further incident at the address which he was now excluded from. As a result of the information received from the intelligence shared, swift enforcement action was taken recalling AB to prison thereby, reducing risks of further offending and harm.

9. Public Health

9.1. Although not a separate statutory partner, Public Health play a critical role in tackling Crime and Disorder in Croydon. Croydon Public health team have worked closely with colleagues in Community Safety and the wider Safer Croydon Partnership, adopting a public health approach to tackling violence. This has meant taking a holistic and wider determinants view of crime and community Safety. This report summarises the work of public health on community safety agenda, grouped by priorities identified in the Community Safety Strategy for 2022-2024:

1. Tackle domestic abuse

- a. **IDVA**: Public Health used some of its grant to support work on Domestic Abuse and Family Justice Centre. The grant has provided funding for six independent domestic violence advocates (3 community, 1 hospital, 1 NRPF and 1 police) to provide specialist support to vulnerable individuals and their families who experience domestic abuse or sexual violence.

2. Protect young people from violence and exploitation

- a. **Youth offer**: Public health is supporting the development of a needs analysis to support the council's work to coordinate and maintain oversight and facilitate collaboration to deliver the Youth offer.
- b. **Outreach Violence Prevention**: Public health is supporting the Croydon Outreach Violence Prevention Grants Program by supporting the assessment of bids from VCS organisations to ensure appropriate organisations are funded to provide effective outreach and produce tangible outcomes for young people in Croydon.
- c. **School survey**: Public health is running a longitudinal health and wellbeing survey of school aged children and young people over ten years since 2023. This anonymous survey includes questions about respondents' feelings about gangs, bullying, sexual harassment and safety.

3. Tackle disproportionality in the criminal justice system

- a. **Youth Justice service health worker**: Public health is part funding (up to 50%) the position of a Youth Justice Service Health worker to support young people in the criminal justice system to access health and wellbeing services appropriate for their assessed needs.

4. Strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services, focusing on Hate Crime, and build trust in the partnership
 - a. **DPH report on LGBT+**: This year's Director of Public Health report focuses on the health experiences and inequalities within Croydon's Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans and Queer, Questioning, Plus (LGBTQ+) community. The report highlights the safety concern and hate crimes experienced by LGBT+ people and made series of recommendations including those aimed at promoting social cohesion and sense of belonging.
 - b. **Creating a Trauma Informed Borough**: Public health has engaged a specialist and renowned Trauma Informed organisation, J3MS, to deliver on a range of objectives to make Croydon a Trauma Informed Borough. This includes delivery of training sessions on Trauma-informed practice aimed at increasing practitioners' awareness of how trauma can negatively impact on individuals and communities, along with coping mechanisms.
 - c. **School health and wellbeing adviser**: Public health has provided funding for School health and wellbeing advisers to undertake a Train the trainer course on consent, violence and harassment to then be delivered in secondary schools across Croydon.
5. Focus on high priority neighbourhoods
 - a. **Substance misuse**: Public health are currently reviewing the offer to young people needing support with substance misuse and how this can be strengthened to enable more under 18 year olds to receive treatment

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	26 March 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Violence Reduction Network - Draft Strategic Assessment	
LEAD OFFICER:	Kristian Aspinall - Director of Culture & Community Safety	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Ola Kolade - Cabinet Member for Community Safety	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1. VIOENCE REDUCTION NETWORK - DRAFT STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

- 1.1. Attached at Appendix 1 to this cover report is draft version of the Strategic Assessment for the Violence Reduction Network, provided for the review of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to: -
1. Review and note the draft Strategic Assessment for the Violence Reduction Network, and
 2. Consider whether it wishes to make any comment on the content of the draft Strategic Assessment, to be taken of in the final version.

CONTACT OFFICER:

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Appendix 1: Violence Reduction Network – Draft Strategic Assessment

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Violence Reduction Network

Strategic Assessment 2023

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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

This detailed report examines crime, disorder, and community safety in the London Borough of Croydon from April 2022 to September 2023. The focus is on understanding the types of crimes, their frequency, and emerging safety issues in the borough.

The main goal is to provide a strong foundation for the next year of work by the partnership and meet its legal obligation as required by the Serious Violence Duty.

Crime Rate

On a year-to-year comparison (January 2022/December 2022 with January 2023/December 2023), Croydon experienced a slight increase of 0.9% in overall crime, compared to a 6.5% increase in across London as a whole.

During the assessed period from April 2022 to September 2023 the volume of offences were 59,989, with a crime rate of 154.4 per 1,000 people residing in the Borough.

These numbers rank Croydon as 18th in crime rate per 1,000 people and 6th in crime volume among the London Boroughs.

Crime Types

Violence against the person was the most prominent offence in the Borough, with 11,575 incidents of Violence without Injury, 5,514 incidents of Violence with Injury and 10 homicides. Violence against the person saw an increase of 1.3%, compared to a 4.5% increase across London. Theft was the second most prominent offence with 9,980 incidents. Theft incidents increased by 12.4% in 2023, compared to a 19.4% increase across London. There were 1,688 incidents of Robbery of Personally Property. Robberies have had an alarming increase of 23.8 percent in 2023, compared to an 18.8% increase across London.

Executive Summary

Knife crime

Knife crime saw an increase of 24.5% during 2023, compared to a 17.2% increase across London. During the assessed period Croydon recorded 1,086 offences of knife crime with a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 people.

These statistics rank Croydon as 8th in crime rate per 1,000 people and 4th in crime volume among the rest of London Boroughs.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Domestic Abuse saw a decrease of 2.0% during 2023, compared to an increase of 1.1% across London. During the assessed period 7,589 incidents of domestic abuse were recorded with a rate of 19.5 per 1,000 people.

Croydon was ranked 6th in rate per 1,000 people and 1st in crime volume among the rest of London Boroughs.

Sexual offences saw a decrease of 4.0% during 2023, compared to a decrease of 2.8% across London. During the assessed period 1,870 incidents of sexual violence were recorded with a rate of 4.8 per 1,000 people.

Croydon was ranked 8th in crime rate per 1,000 people and 2nd in crime volume among the rest of the London Boroughs.

Locations

While Croydon Town Centre (*including the High Street, shopping centres and North End*) maintained its status as a primary hotspot, noteworthy shifts were observed. West Croydon Station continued to be a high-crime area, but emerging concerns pointed towards Thornton Heath and Purley as new violence and crime hotspots.

Safer Croydon Partnership

Safer Croydon Partnership

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 the police, council, fire, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, and community and voluntary sector organisations. It works with other boards on Croydon's Local Strategic Partnership on crime and safety matters, in particular the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Adults Safeguarding Board.

The strategic priorities that were set out in the Safer Croydon Partnership Strategy 2022 – 2024: were:

1. *Tackle domestic abuse*
2. *Protect young people from violence and exploitation*
3. *Tackle disproportionality in the criminal justice system*
4. *Strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services, focusing on Hate Crime, and build trust in the partnership*
5. *Focus on high priority neighbourhoods.*

1: ([05a Appendix 1 - Community Safety Strategy.pdf \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#))

Serious Violence Duty

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is part of the Government's broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence. The key strands being a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Responsible authorities (also known as "duty holders") who are subject to the Duty include: local authorities, the police, youth offending teams, Integrated Care System, Probation, and the fire service.

The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The duty also requires the responsible authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their serious violence strategy.

The agreed definition of serious violence is the following:

Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.

In addition to the Serious Violence Duty Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act has been amended to make preventing and reducing Serious Violence a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

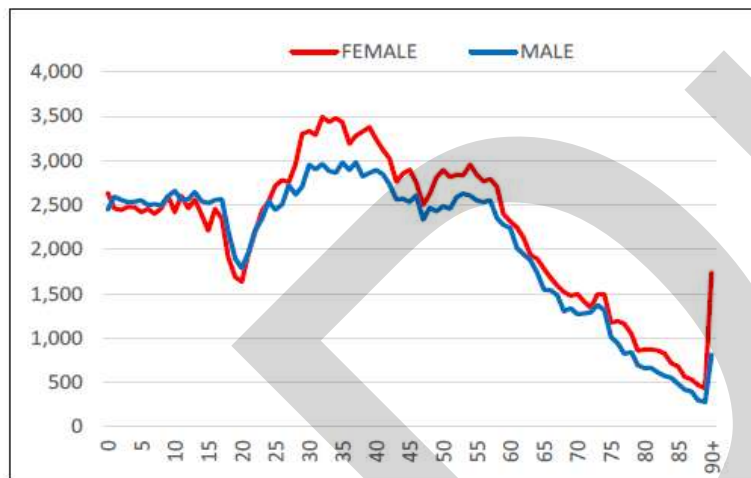
The commencement of the Serious Violence Duty was the 31 of January 2023.

Croydon Profile

Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

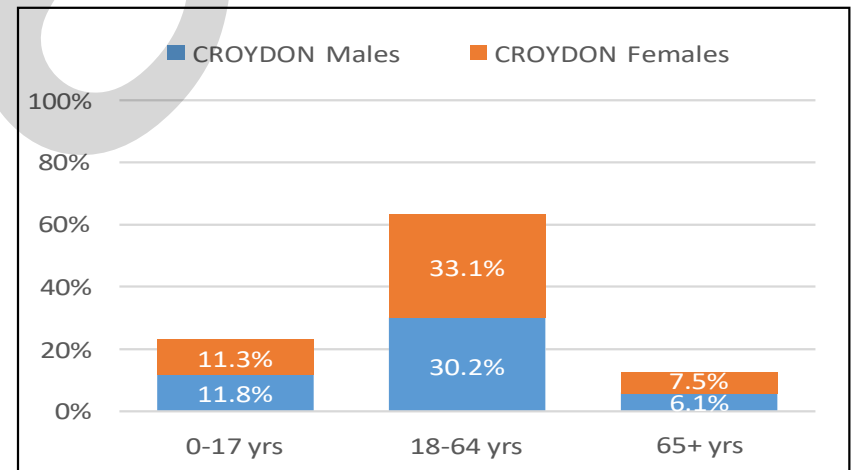
Age and Sex Profile in Croydon (Census 2021)

- Roughly 1 in 4 Croydon residents (23.1%) are aged between 0-17 years.
- Croydon has a smaller proportion of male residents compared to females in the 1-22 year age group.
- All other ages have more females than males.
- The highest difference is in those residents aged 90+ years where there are twice as many females (1,739) as males (817).



Croydon Age and Gender Profile (Census 2021)

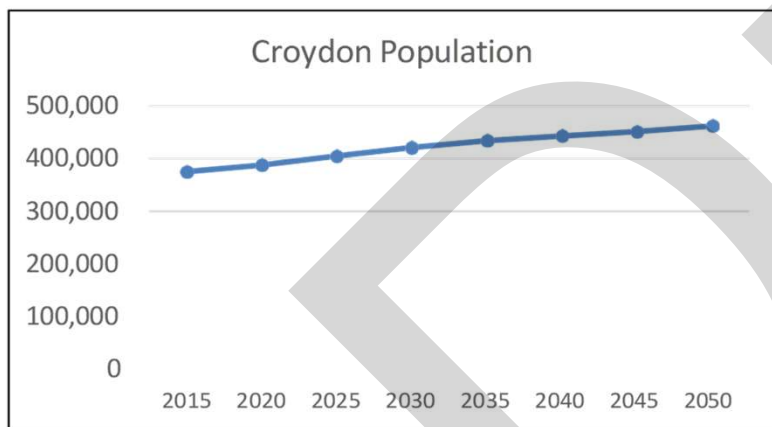
- Higher proportion of males compared to females in the 0-17 years age band in Croydon.
- There is a higher proportion of females to males in the 18-64 years age band.
- The 65 years plus age group makes up 13.6% of the total population in Croydon compared to the average for London of 11.9%



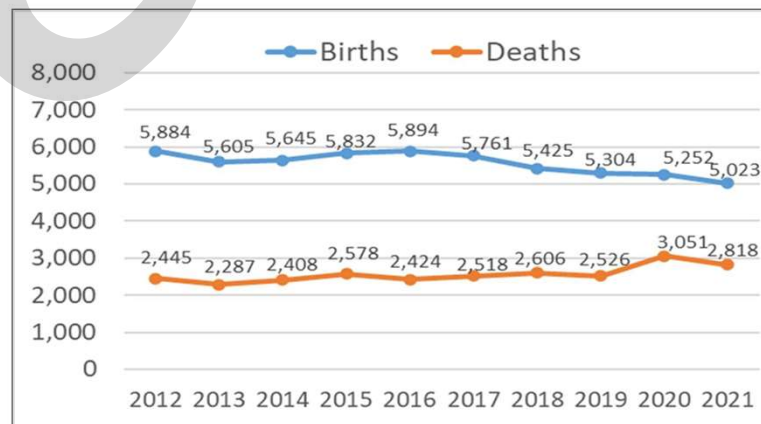
Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

- Croydon is the largest of all the London boroughs in terms of population, with approximately 390,800 residents (ONS Census 2021).
- Nearly a quarter of Croydon's population (23.1%) are aged 17 years and under compared to the average for London of 21.6%.
- In Croydon, 63.3% of its residents are in the 18-64 years age band compared to 66.6% in the same age band in London.
- Croydon has a higher proportion (13.6%) of residents 65 years or over compared to the average for London which is 11.9%.
- Croydon's population is growing. The borough population recorded in Census 2001 was 330,587 and in the 2011 Census it had increased to 363,378.
- Census 2021 estimates 390,800 Croydon residents and this is expected to increase to just under 500,000 by 2050.

Projected population growth in Croydon



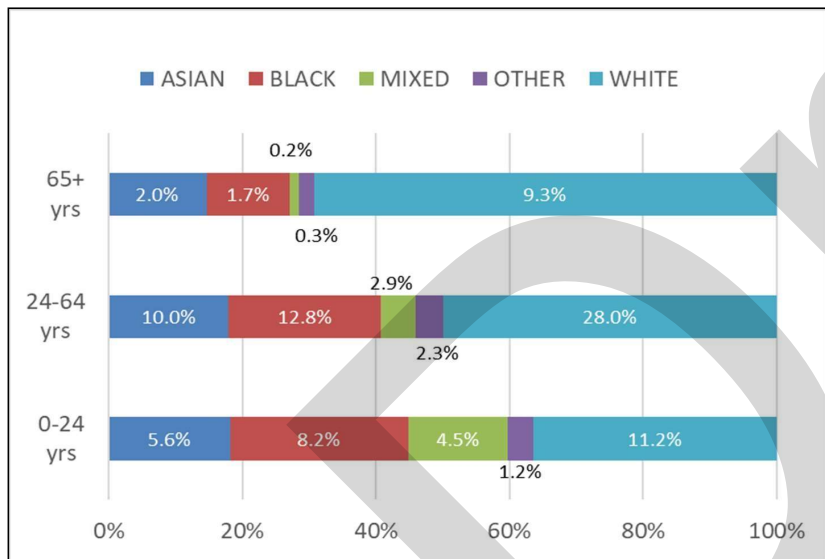
Births and Deaths in Croydon over the last 10 years



Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

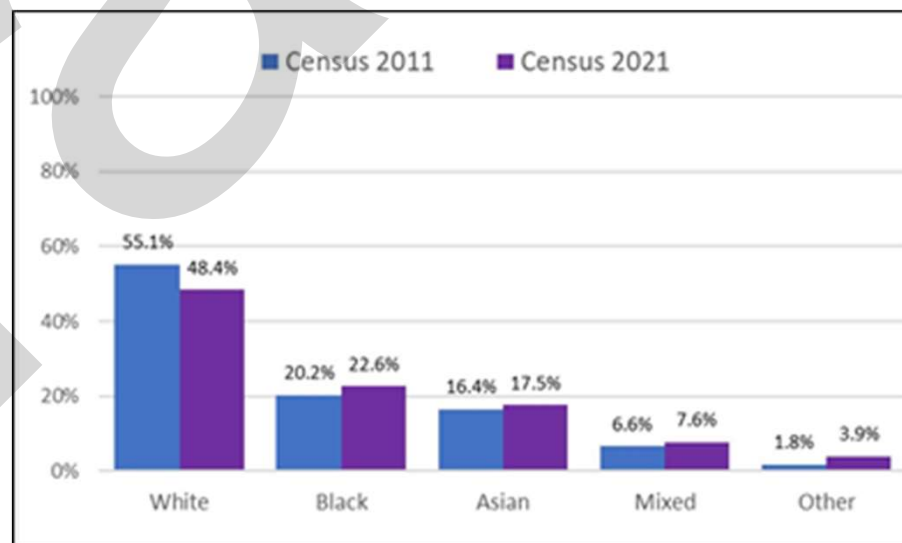
Ethnic group by age

Like other London boroughs, Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from the Non-White communities compared to the national average. The Census 2021 data shows that there was more diversity in the younger age group population in Croydon.



Croydon's Broad Ethnic group profile

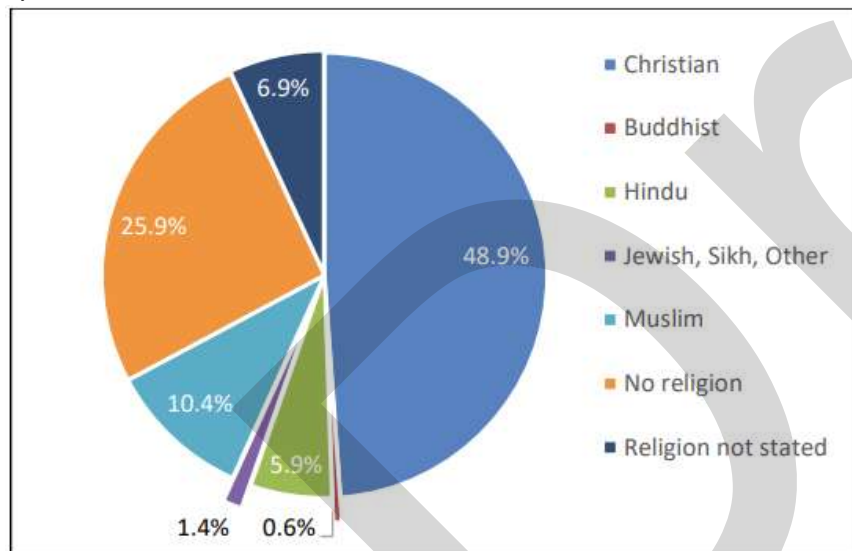
Over the 10 year period from 2011 to 2021, there has been a 6.7% reduction in the number of residents from the White communities living in Croydon. The proportion of residents from the Black communities has increased by 2.5% and from the Asian communities by 1.1%. Residents identifying as "Other" have increased by 2.1% and the proportion of residents of "Mixed" ethnic origin has increased by 1% over the 10 years.



Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

Religion of Croydon residents

Just under half (48.9%) of Croydon respondents for the Census 2021 stated they were “Christian” compared to 56.4% for the Census 2011. About 1 in 4 (25.9%) stated that they had no religion compared to 1 in 5 (20.0%) for Census 2011. Croydon people following the Muslim religion are the second biggest religious group, after Christians, increasing from 8.1% to 10.4% over the 10 years to March 2021.



Children and Social Care

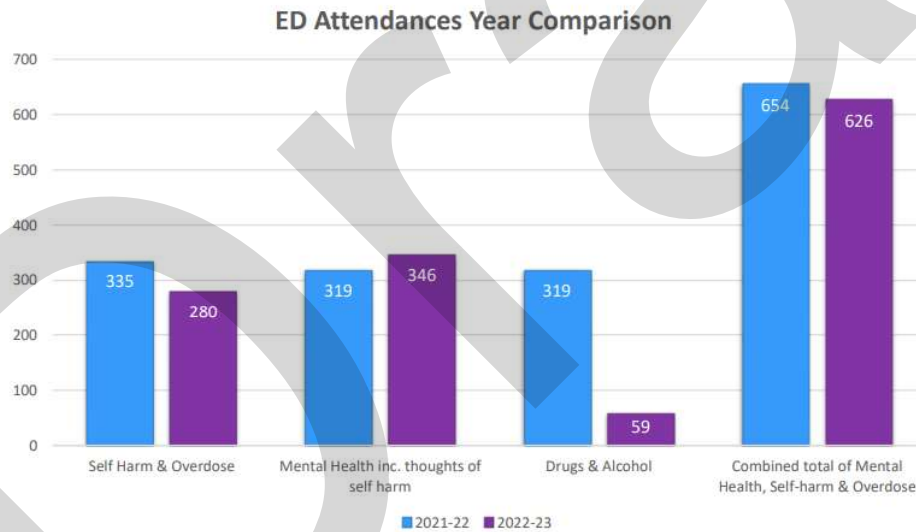
The Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) regularly reviews data and performance figures. The CSCP supports the delivery of safe multi-disciplinary practice in the borough. Benefiting significantly from highly experienced and competent leaders, the partnership demonstrates a capability to identify and focus on those issues relevant to the needs of local children and young people.



Children and Social Care

There has been a decrease in children attending the emergency department in Croydon due to mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm, overdose, and issues related to drugs and alcohol. Children facing mental health challenges require timely and specialized interventions to address the root causes of distress and promote their overall well-being.

The Safer Croydon Partnership recognises the important of collaborating with mental health professionals, schools and community organisations to enhance mental health resources for children. By fostering a supportive environment that encourages open dialogue, education, and early intervention, Croydon aims to create a community where children feel empowered to seek help and receive the necessary support.



Children and Social Care

The most common reason for a child being in need in Croydon is 'abuse or neglect' and 'absent parenting'. The Croydon Children in Need rate is consistently higher than the regional and national rates every year. As at 31 March 2022, the rate was 365 children in need for every 10,000 children. This is a reduction on the previous rate of 388 per 10,000 children.

Figure 1 shows that the rate of child protection referrals to children's social care has been decreasing every year since 2018. The latest year figure for 2022 is 365 per 10,000 children compared to 388 per 10,000 children in the previous year. Despite the downward trend, the rate remains higher than Croydon's statistical neighbours and the national average.

The number of section 47 enquiries, investigations undertaken where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, has been rising in Croydon since 2014. Figure 2 shows that the rate of section 47 referrals in Croydon was above Croydon's statistical neighbours and England rates from 2018 to 2020. The latest Croydon rate for 2022 is 180 per 10,000 children which is the same as Croydon's statistical neighbours but lower than the national average of 188 per 10,000 children.

Figure 1 – Rate of referrals to children social care services per 10,000 children

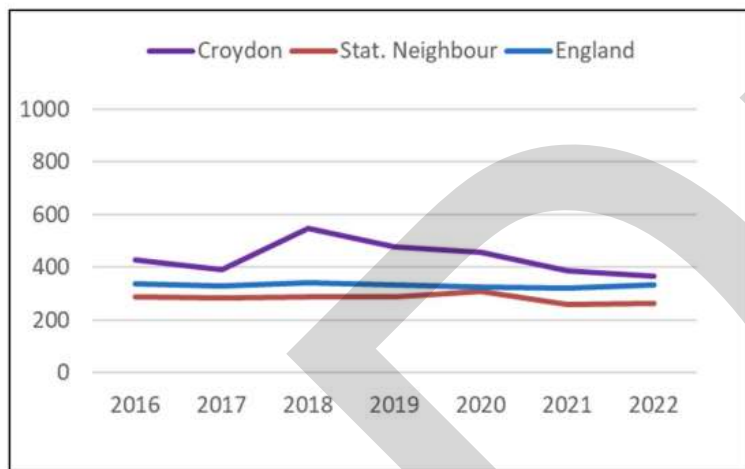
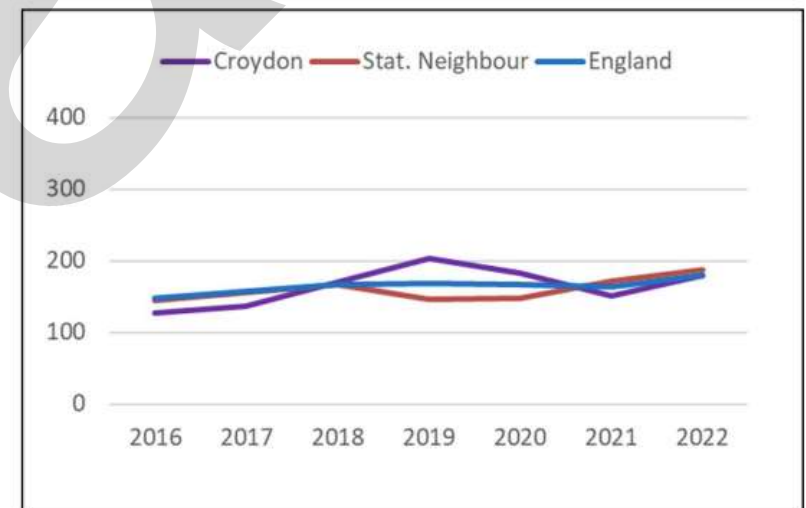


Figure 2 – Rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 children



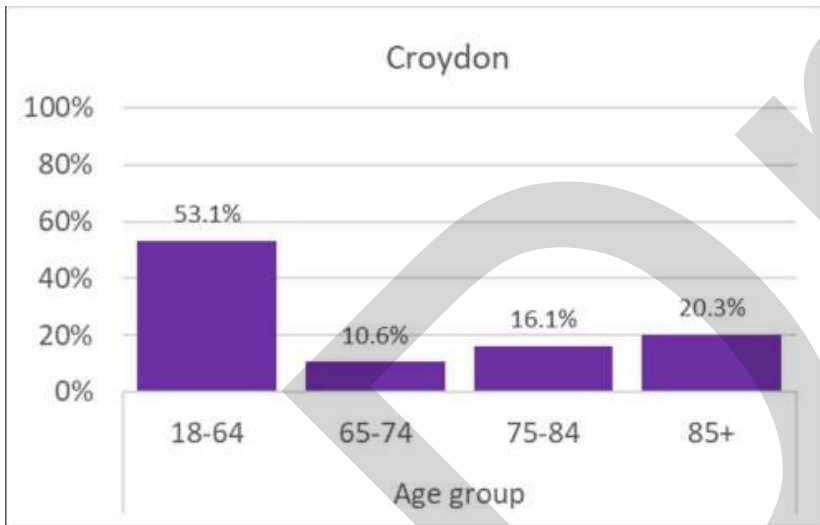
Adults in Social Care

According to the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) in 2021/2022, there were 2,244 individuals in Croydon involved in all types of safeguarding enquiries. This is slightly more than in 2020/2021 when there were 2,232 individuals involved in safeguarding concerns.

There were 597 individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries. The table below breaks down the age group of individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries 2021/2022.

The data shows that during 2021/2022, there were 12,233 new clients accessing the adult social care system in Croydon, a total that has risen every year.

The table below shows the number of requests for support received from new clients in Croydon from 2017/2018 - 2021/2022.



Substance Misuse

A total of 1585 Croydon adults were in specialist drug and/or alcohol treatment in Croydon.

Two in every three adults in treatment were male (67%).

58% (n. 915) were new presentations to treatment in the year.

Almost half of all adults in treatment (42%) were opiate users, the majority of these were already in treatment at the beginning of the year.

There were more alcohol-only adults entering treatment in the year than there were opiate users.

Of those in treatment, over two thirds (67%) had a white ethnic background, proportionately higher than the general adult population of Croydon but smaller than the national average in treatment.

Overall, Croydon had proportionately more people from non-white ethnic groups in treatment compared to England.

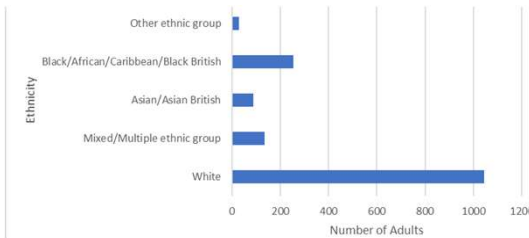
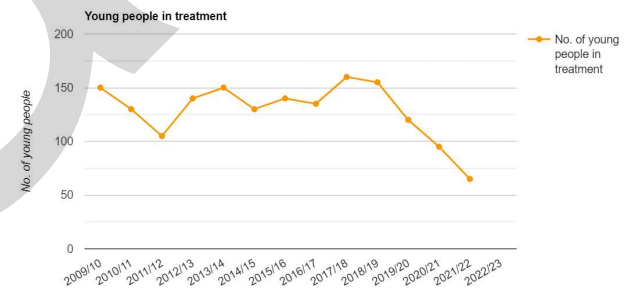
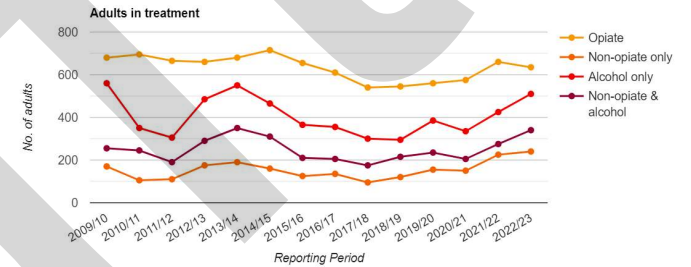
Young People

A total of 65 children and young people from Croydon were accessing specialist drug and alcohol services.

31% were aged 14-15 and 62% were aged 16-17.

The majority were accessing services for cannabis, alcohol and/or nicotine.

29% of all those in treatment came through the criminal justice route; this is similar to the London average of 31%.



Hospital Presentations

The majority (67.7%) of the cases presented at hospital were males.

Under 18s contributed approximately 56% of the referrals.

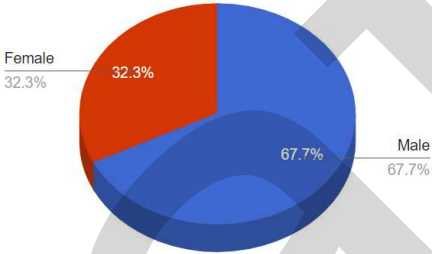
The primary reasons for hospital presentations included 'assault with a body part' and 'assault with a weapon', highlighting a notable proportion of violent incidents.

Breaking down hospital presentation reasons by age range, our data show that assault with a body part is more common in the 22-25 age group.

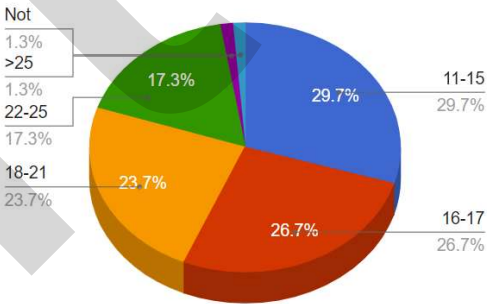
Assault with a body part is more prevalent among males, while mental health-related presentations are more evenly distributed between female and male.

The 'streets' are the most common location of incident followed by home. This emphasises the importance of addressing safety concerns in public spaces.

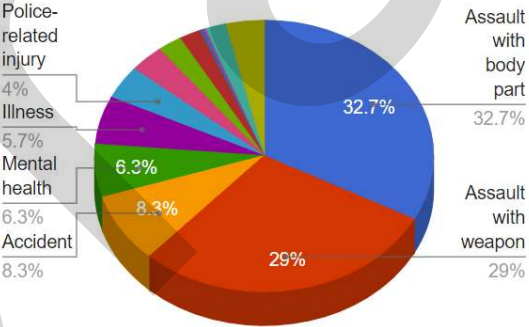
Gender



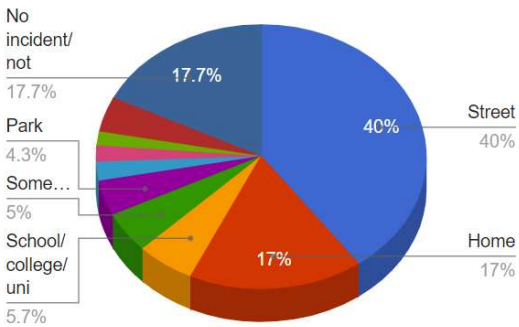
Age range



Reason for hospital presentation



Location of incidents



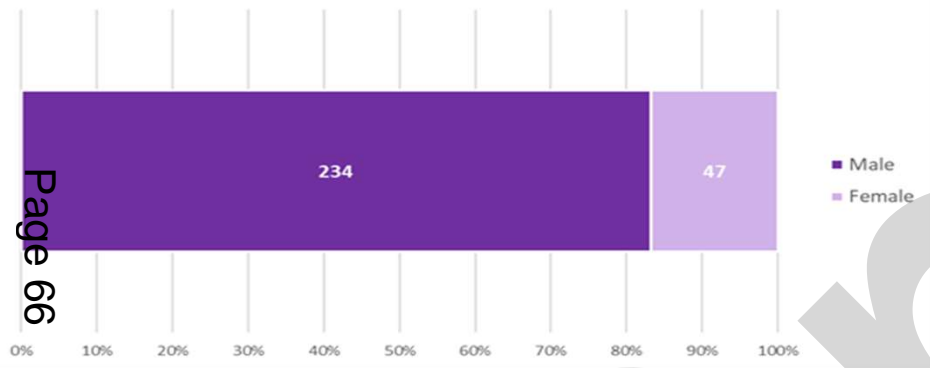
Service Profile

Youth Justice Service

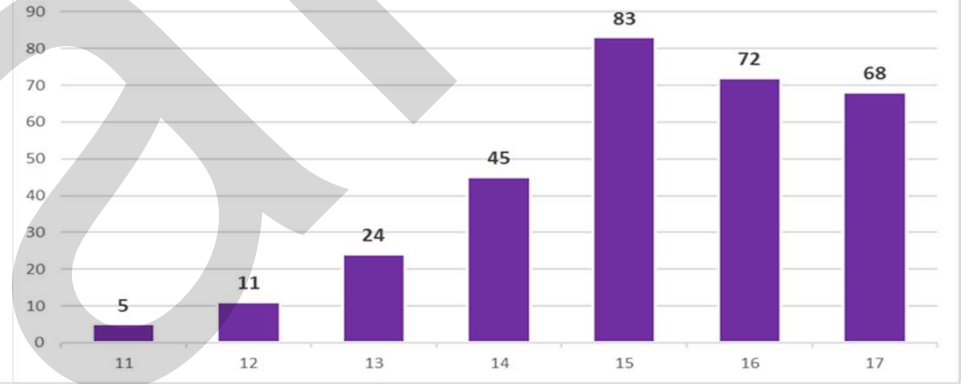
Disproportionality - The YJS continues to see an overrepresentation of 'black or black British' males, albeit there was a reduction during this period. Girls remain to be less representative within the cohort but are often younger in age when engaging with the service (13-14 whereby the average age for males 15-17). The YJS has devised a Disproportionately Action Plan which details how this can proactively the address the issue.

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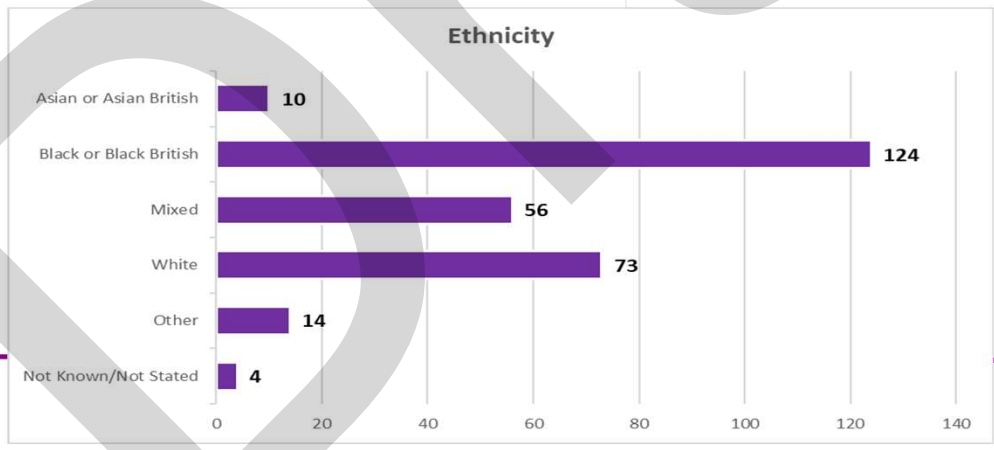
Gender



Age



Ethnicity

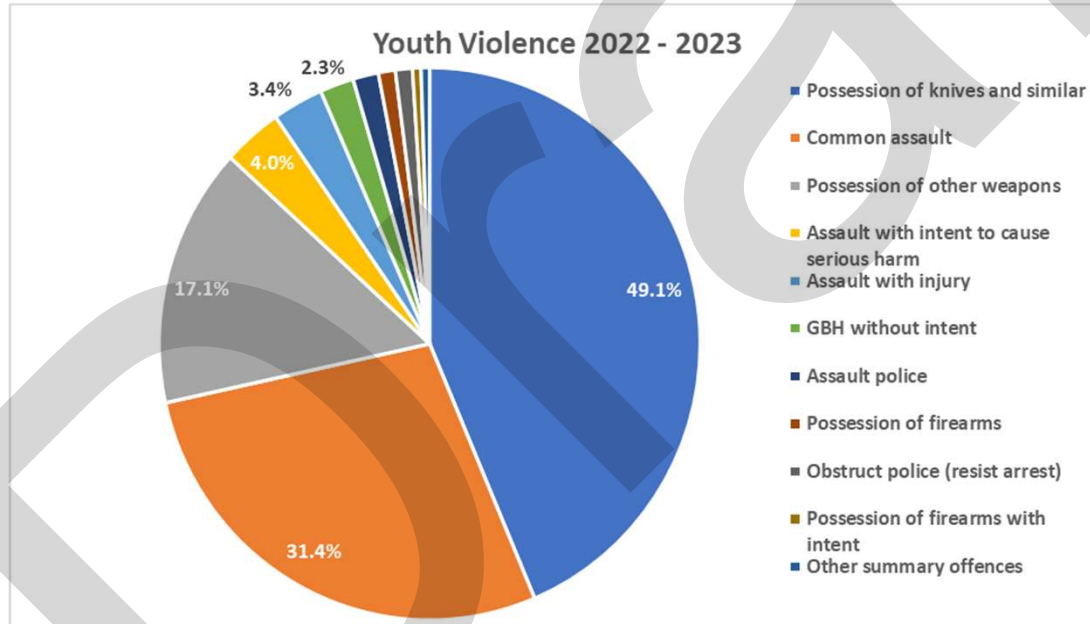


Youth Justice Service

The 'possession of knives and similar' with 'possession of other weapons', alongside 'common assault' constitutes to approximately 97% of Youth Violence Offences involving individuals known to the service.

The Safer Croydon Partnership recognizes that addressing these specific offences requires a targeted approach that considers socio-economic factors, educational opportunities, and community engagement.

The Safer Croydon Partnership has undertaken initiatives to engage with local communities, schools, and families to provide educational programs and mentorship opportunities aimed at diverting young individuals away from the path of violence.

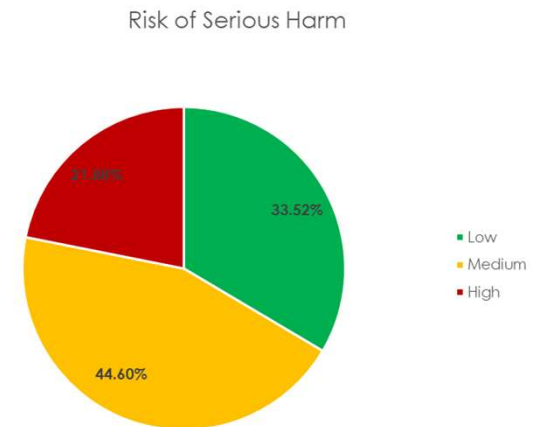
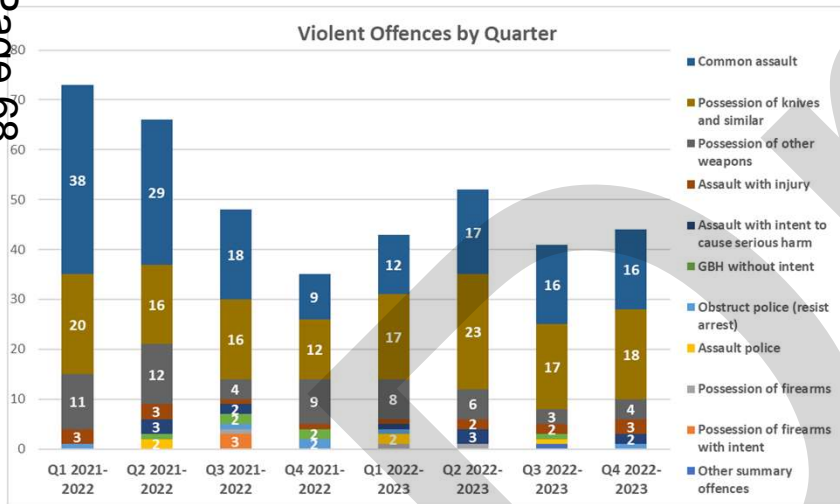


Youth Justice Service

In the context of violence offences, 'common assault' also exhibit prevalence in Croydon as it can also be seen by quarterly breakdown. These incidents may be rooted in various factors, including interpersonal conflicts, peer influence, or socio-economic disparities. The Safer Croydon Partnership prioritizes community-led interventions and outreach programs that foster positive relationships, mentorship, and skill-building among the youth.

The risk of serious harm within the Youth Justice Service in Croydon is the assessment of the potential threats or dangers faced by young individuals involved in the justice system. This risk evaluation considers various factors to determine the likelihood of serious harm, including harm to themselves or others. Common elements in this assessment may include: Criminal Behaviour, History of Violence, Mental Health, Substance misuse, Family and Environmental Factors, Educational Engagement, Peer Influence and Protective Factors. As can be seen in the chart, approximately 65% of the individuals involved in YJS are considered to be of medium and high risk.

The goal of assessing the risk of serious harm within the Youth Justice Service is to tailor interventions and support services to address the specific needs of each young person, reduce the risk factors, and promote positive outcomes for their well-being and rehabilitation. The assessment process is dynamic and ongoing, adapting to changes in the individual's circumstances and progress within the justice system



Youth Justice Service

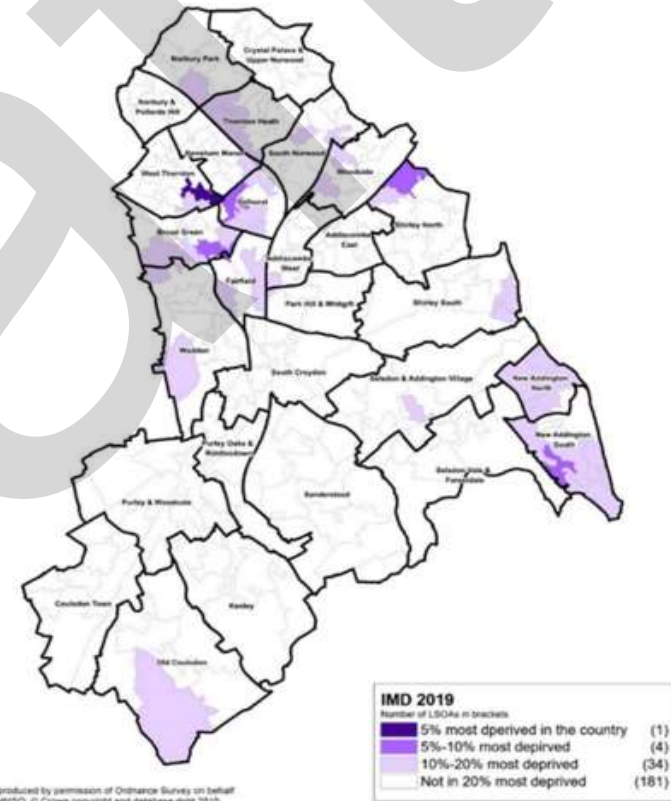
Youth offences are directly linked with areas of deprivation across the Borough.

The map shows that 12 of Croydon's 220 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the top 10% most deprived in the country and in fact there are three areas in the wards of Fairfield and Selhurst that are in the top 5% most deprived LSOAs in the country.

The most deprived areas in Croydon correspond with those with the highest youth offending rates. Croydon is 18th most deprived out of 33 London boroughs.

The table indicates where the individuals who are engaging with the service reside.

Indices of Deprivation 2019
Croydon Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)

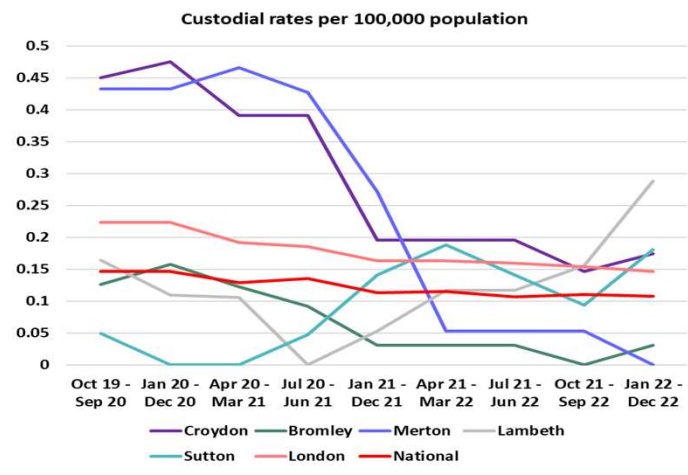
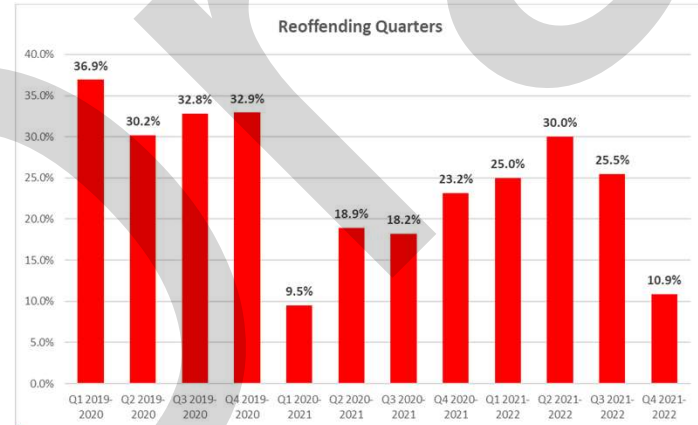
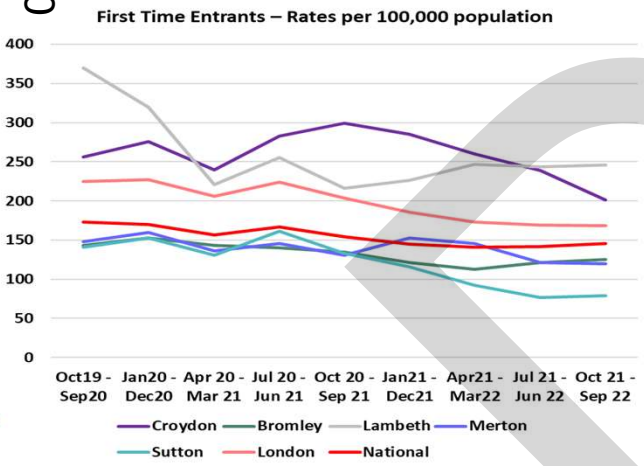


Youth Justice Service

1. First Time Entrants: Whilst Croydon Youth Justice Service remains to have high numbers of First Time Entrants in comparison to neighbouring boroughs the numbers have significantly reduced and the trajectory is to be in line with the London average. Contextually, Croydon has a much larger youth population than other boroughs, so this is a promising and positive picture. Whilst in part the reduction can be attributed to COVID 19 pandemic and the introduction of Community Resolutions as well as efforts being made to continue to divert young people away from the criminal justice system through a number of projects and community sector interventions.

2. Re-offending rates – re-offending has also seen a reduction since 2020. Notably, less young people have come through the system, however the YJS continues to evaluate and modify its interventions and services to assist young people in this area. It uses evidence-based approaches as detailed in research to increase protective factors for desistance to reduce recidivism.

3. Custodial rate - Custody rates have seen a decline within the Borough. What remains however is a national picture of the overrepresentation of certain groups in custody and for Croydon this is the case. The graph below shows a welcomed reduction of the use of custody. Currently, all children subject to custody (remanded or sentenced) had been accused or convicted of serious offences, reflective of the borough's priorities.

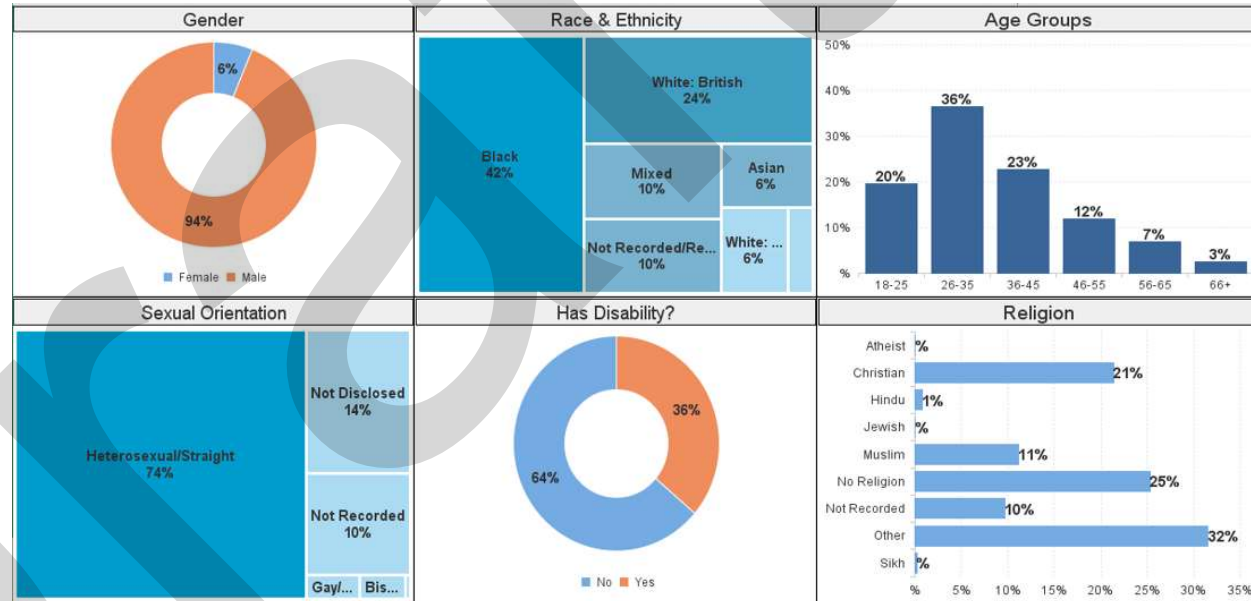


National Probation Service (NPS)

The current individuals engaging with the National Probation Service have the following characteristics:

- 94% male, 6% female
- 42% black, 24% white, 10% mixed heritage
- 20% 18-25yo, 36% 26-35yo, 23% 36-45yo
- 74% heterosexual (although it should be noted that 14% of the caseload have not disclosed their sexuality)
- 84% no disability
- 21% no religion, 21% Christian, 32% other.

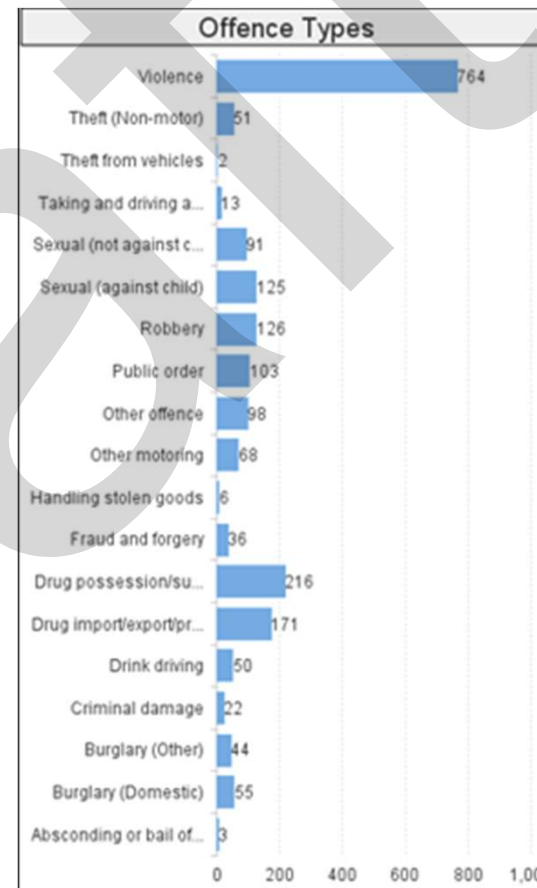
Again, this is interconnected with the Youth Justice Service landscape, the prevalence of Black and minority ethnic males engaging with the Probation service is directly linked with deprived and densely populated areas of Croydon which source high volumes of criminality.



Probation landscape

The probation landscape in Croydon reflects a unique set of challenges, notably evident in the disproportionate occurrence of violence within its statistics. Violence stands out as a significant contributor to reported offences. This underscores the important role of strategies aimed at curbing violence in driving an overall reduction in crime within the probation setting.

By focusing on violence reduction strategies, Croydon aims to create a safer environment for its residents.



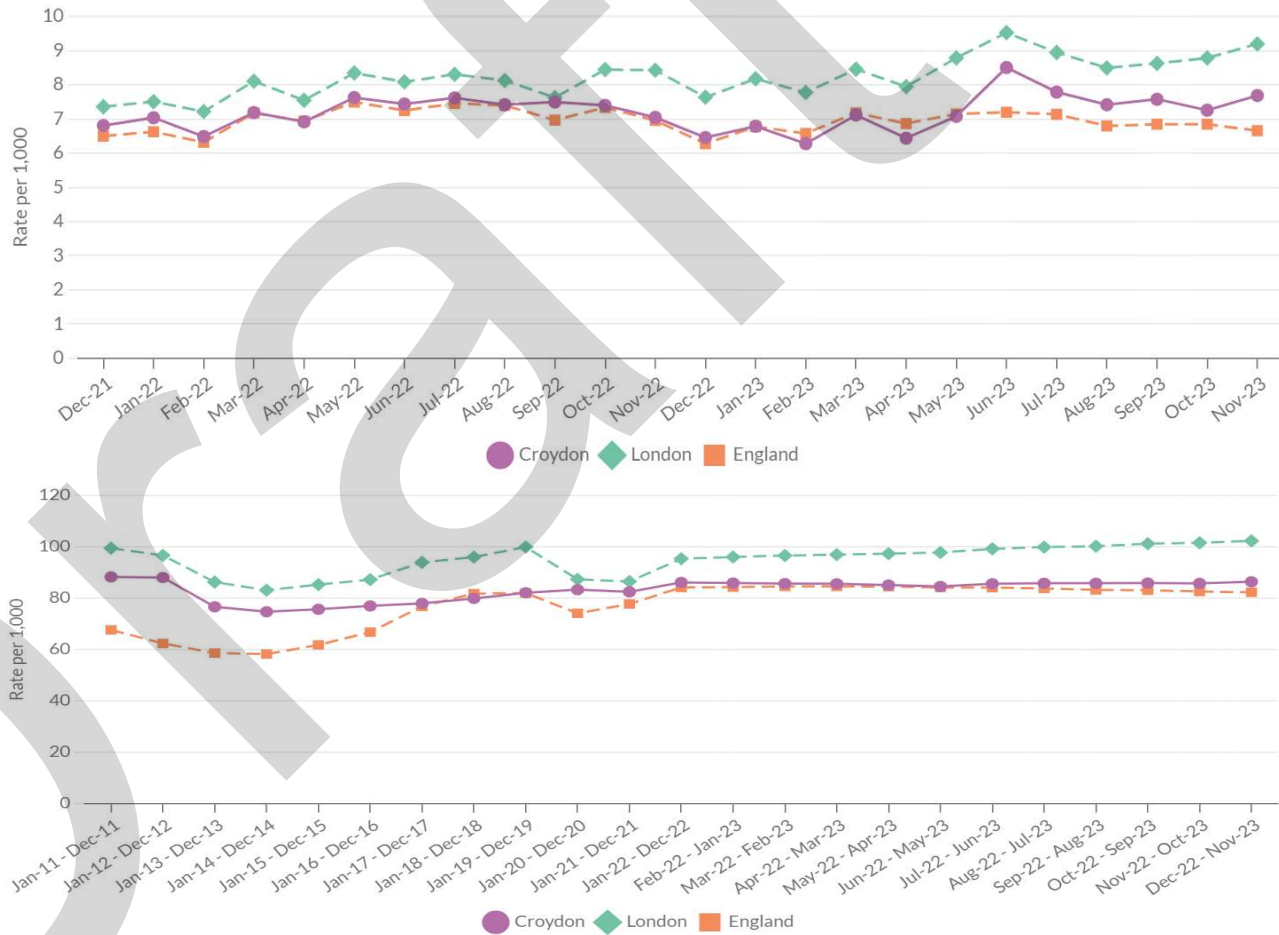
Overall Crime Profile

Comparison to London

Croydon has shown resilience and positive trends in managing its **crime rates** in comparison to other London boroughs. Despite facing challenges like any urban area, Croydon has consistently demonstrated a commitment to community safety and crime reduction. When examining crime rates in various categories, Croydon often fares well in comparison to other boroughs, showcasing a steady rate below London average. That is a result of implementing proactive measures to address specific crime concerns, contributing to a safer environment for the communities.

The charts demonstrating Croydon's overall crime rates compared to London, and a rolling 12-month comparison to London.

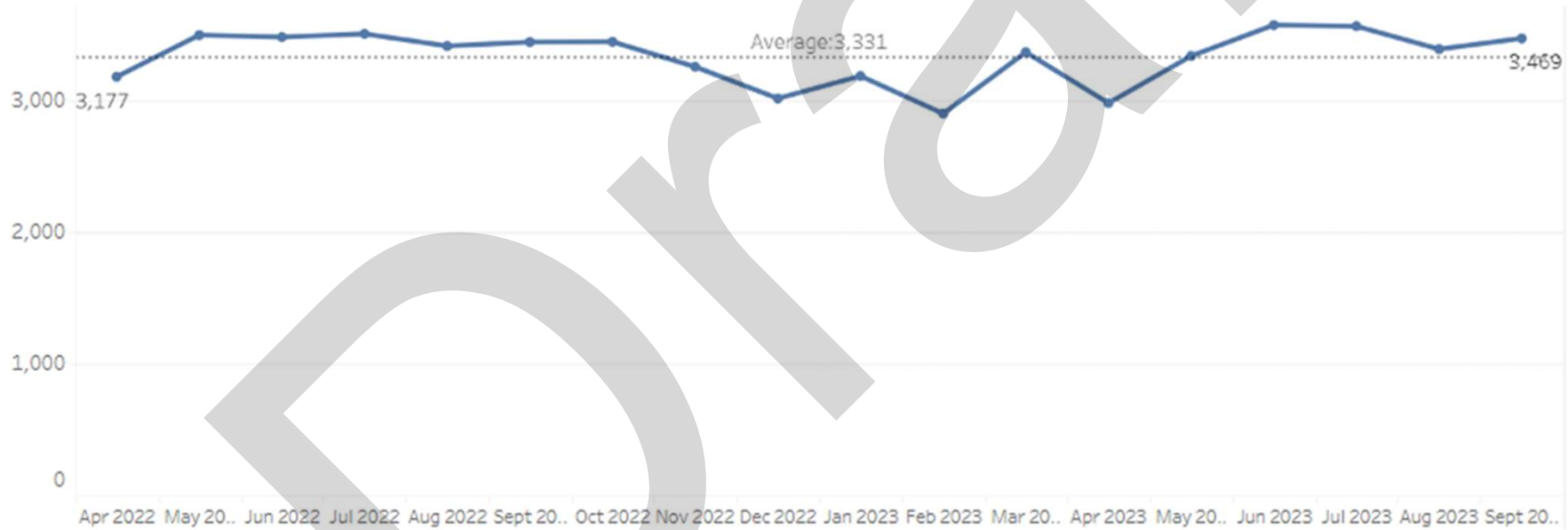
Croydon's crime rate per 1,000 residents is lower than the London average.



Summary of offences

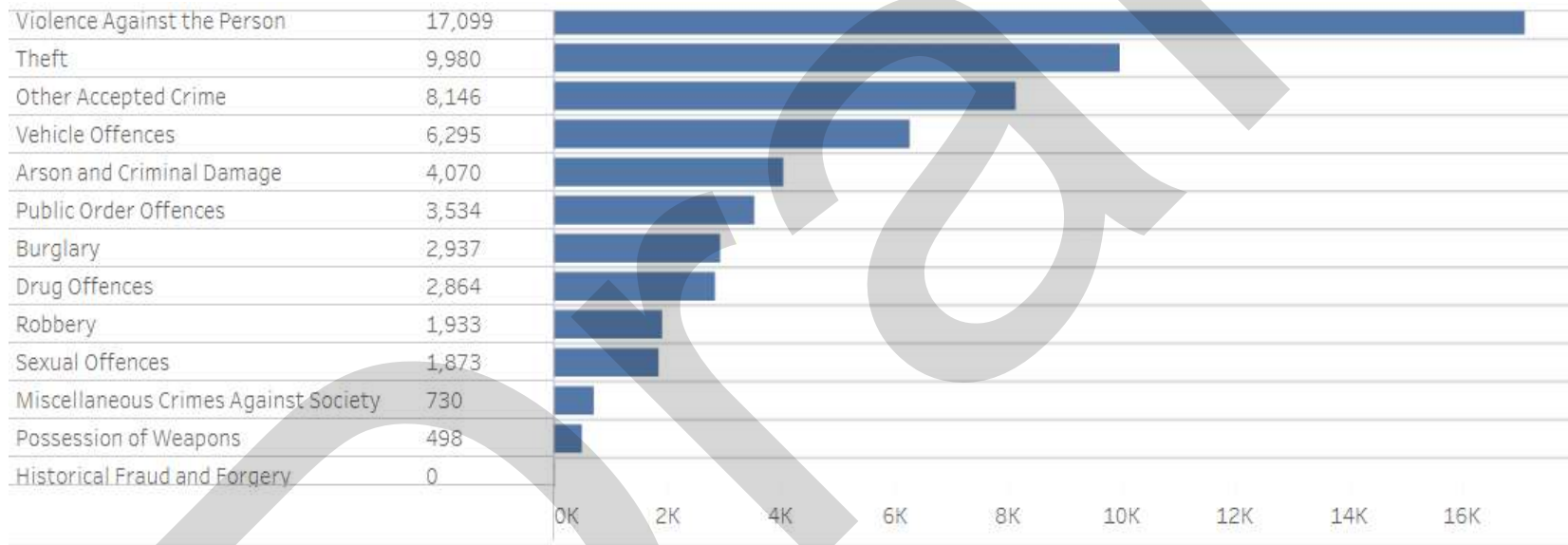
Between April 2022 and September 2023, 59,959 offences were recorded in Croydon, averaging 3,331 recorded crimes per month. That translates to a rate of 154.3 offences per 1,000 population. While Croydon recorded the 6th highest count of crimes among the London Boroughs, it is ranked 18th in rate of offences per 1,000 population. That should always be taken into account as Croydon always shows a higher volume of crime as a result of being the highest populated borough in London.

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Offences breakdown

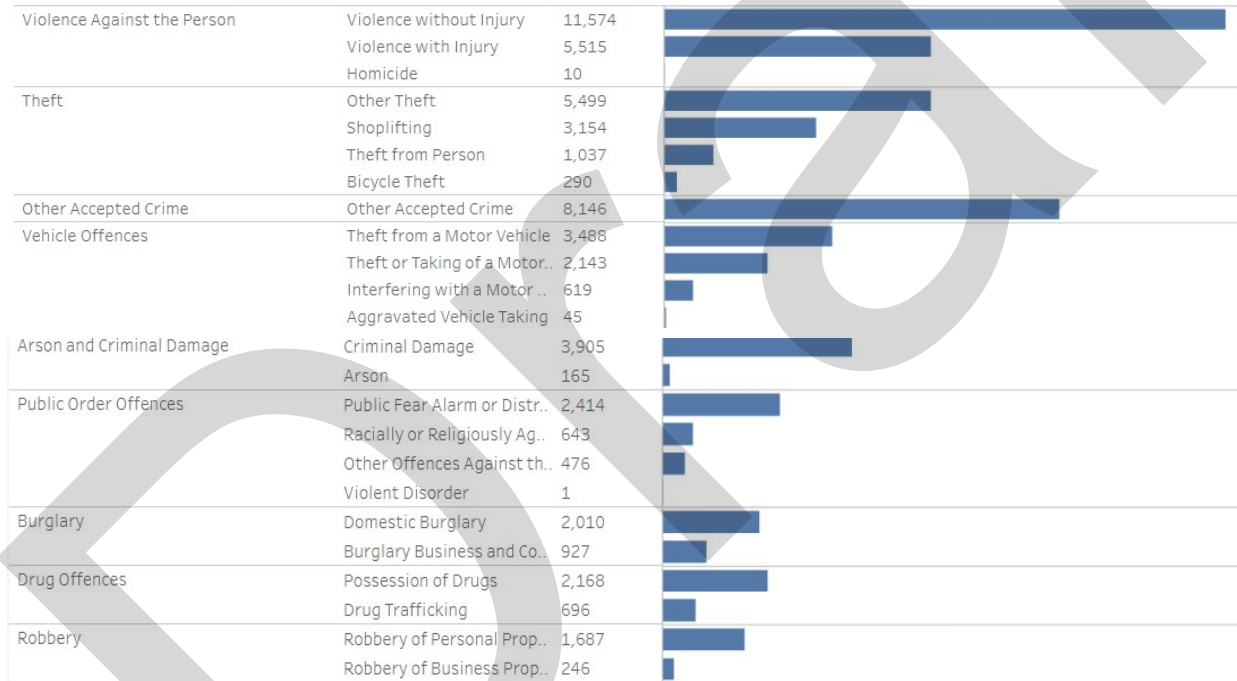
Violence against the person and theft emerge as the most prominent offences within the assessed period. The statistics reveal a pressing need to address and mitigate the impact of these crimes on the local community.



Offences breakdown

Within the 17,099 reported incidents of violence against the person in Croydon, 5,515 resulted in injuries.

Within those, Croydon faced the tragic loss of 10 lives due to homicides. Each homicide represents not just a statistic but a profound tragedy, affecting families, friends, and the broader community. These cases demand meticulous investigation and a multi-faceted response, addressing both the immediate consequences and the systemic factors contributing to such devastating outcomes. Collaborative efforts between police, community organisations, and support services are crucial to prevent further loss of life and addressing the root causes that may lead to violence as evident by the CSCP Serious Youth Violence Thematic Review¹ and Domestic Homicide Reviews².



1: [17_cscp_thematic_review_serious_youth_violence_full_document.pdf \(croydonlcsb.org.uk\)](#)

2: [Why do we carry out Domestic Homicide Reviews? | Croydon Council](#)

Offence Profile

Serious Youth Violence

Crime Volume		
	Croydon	London Average
Year 1	315	188
Year 2	371	217
Year 3	531	259
Year 3 to Year 2 Difference	160	41
Year 3 to Year 2 % Difference	43.1%	19.0%
Year 3 to Year 1 Difference	216	71
Year 3 to Year 1 % Difference	68.6%	37.5%

Volume Ranking (Out of 32 boroughs – 1st being the borough with highest number of offences)

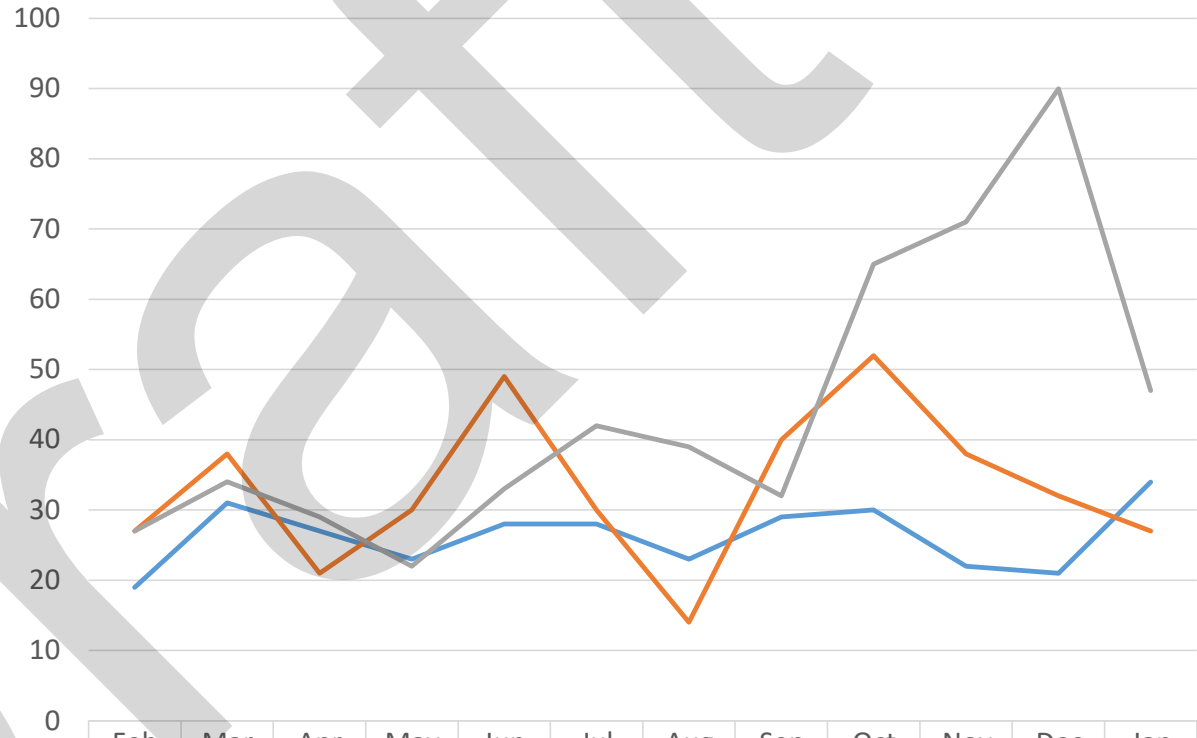
Year 1 = 2nd
 Year 2 = 1st
 Year 3 = 1st

Crime Rate		
	Croydon	London Average
Year 1	2.81	2.35
Year 2	3.55	2.72
Year 3	5.02	3.20
Year 3 to Year 2 Difference	1.47	0.49
Year 3 to Year 2 % Difference	41.4%	17.9%
Year 3 to Year 1 Difference	2.21	0.86
Year 3 to Year 1 % Difference	78.6%	36.5%

Crime Rate Ranking – Rate of offences per 1,000 residents (Out of 32 boroughs – 1st being the borough with highest number of offences)

Year 1 = 7th
 Year 2 = 5th
 Year 3 = 3rd

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Year 1 (Feb 21 - Jan 21)	19	31	27	23	28	28	23	29	30	22	21	34
Year 2 (Feb 22 - Jan 22)	27	38	21	30	49	30	14	40	52	38	32	27
Year 3 (Feb 23 - Jan 23)	27	34	29	22	33	42	39	32	65	71	90	47



Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

80% of the victims are male, with an increasing trend for female victims, approximately 2% annually during the last 3 years. White Europeans accounted for the highest total percentage of victims (45.70%), followed by Afro-Caribbeans (37.58%). Afro-Caribbeans accounted for the highest percentage of victims within their ethnicity (49.65%), followed by White Europeans (56.41%).

Gender: The victim data skews heavily male, with 65% male victims compared to 48% of Croydon's population being male. This suggests young men are disproportionately affected by serious youth violence relative to their share of the population.

Age: 27% of victimization occurred among 18-24 year olds, while this age group accounts for only 5.5% of Croydon's population. This indicates serious youth violence disproportionately impacts 18-24 year olds.

Ethnicity: The victim data shows high representations of Afro-Caribbeans (37.6% of victims ages 1-17) and White Europeans (43.7% of victims ages 1-17). In Croydon, 22.6% are Black African/Caribbean and 48.4% are White. This suggests young Black/African/Caribbeans may be over-represented as victims relative to their share of Croydon's population.

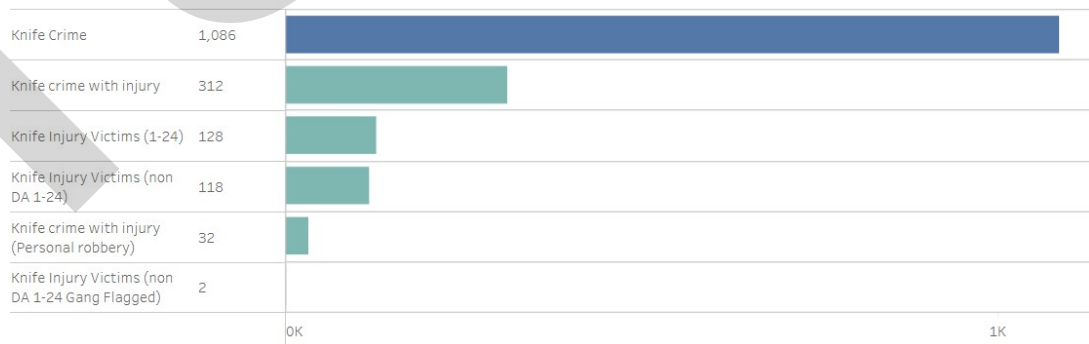
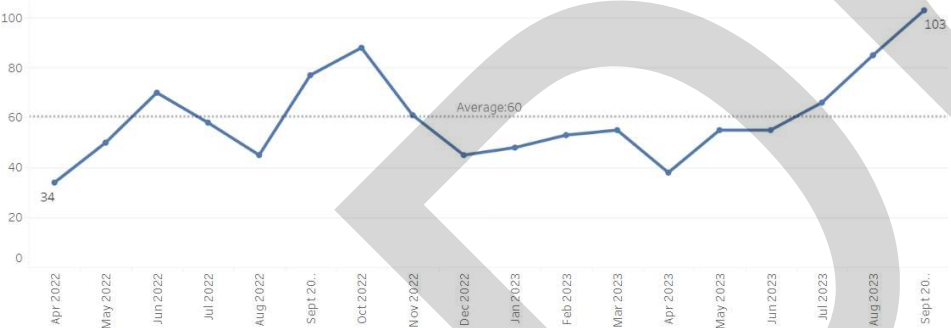
In summary, the data indicates serious youth violence inordinately impacts young men, those aged 18-24, and potentially Black/African/Caribbean groups compared to their demographic profiles in Croydon.

Knife crime

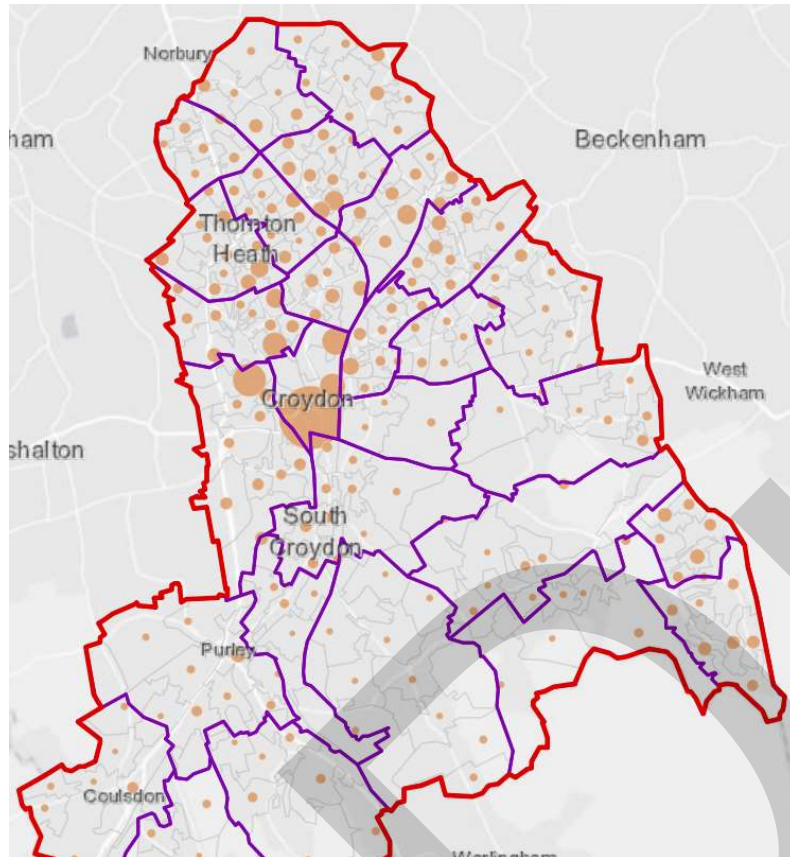
Over the span of April 2022 to September 2023, a total of 1,086 knife-related incidents have been reported, with 312 of them resulting in injuries. This translates to an average of 60 incidents per month, highlighting the persistent nature of this issue. An increasing trend occurs from April to October each year, highlighting the need for targeted interventions during these months.

Knife crime went up by 24.5% during 2023. During the assessed period Croydon recorded 1,086 offences of knife crime with a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 people.

These statistics rank Croydon as 8th in crime rate per 1,000 people and 4th in crime volume among the rest of London Boroughs.



Knife crime



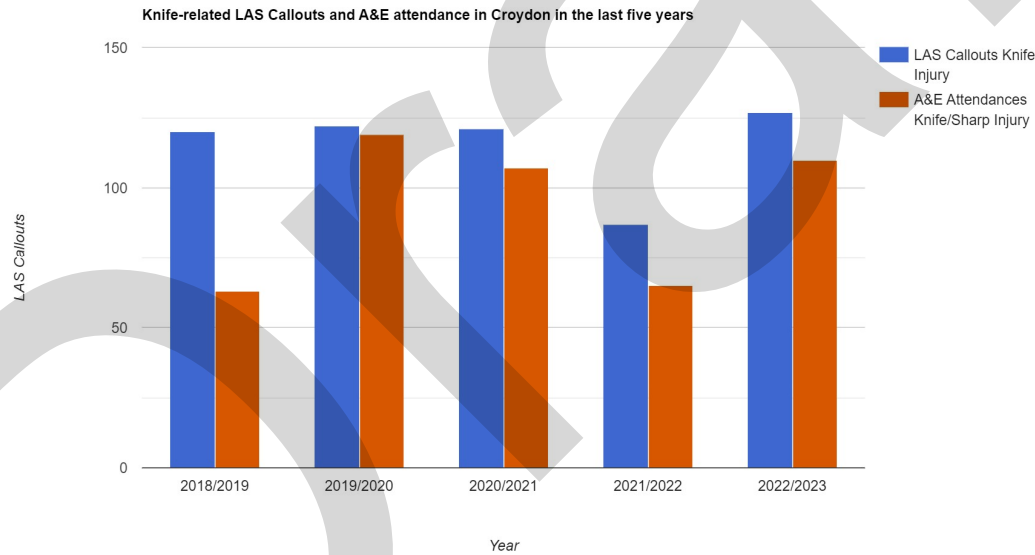
Knife crime remains a key concern in Croydon. The borough has identified specific hotspots where incidents of knife crime are more concentrated, with notable areas including West Croydon, the Town Centre, and parts of the northern and eastern wards, such as New Addington and the Shrublands area.

The Safer Croydon Partnership continues to monitor and adapt its strategies, recognizing the need for sustained collaboration between law enforcement, community organisations, and residents to create lasting solutions and ensure the safety of Croydon's residents.

London Ambulance Service (LAS) and A&E attendances

The number of incidents attended by the London Ambulance Service (along with the A&E attendances) for knife/sharp injuries showed a decrease in 2021/22 but increase in 2022/23.

The increase in knife injuries aligns with the overarching pattern of increased youth violence.

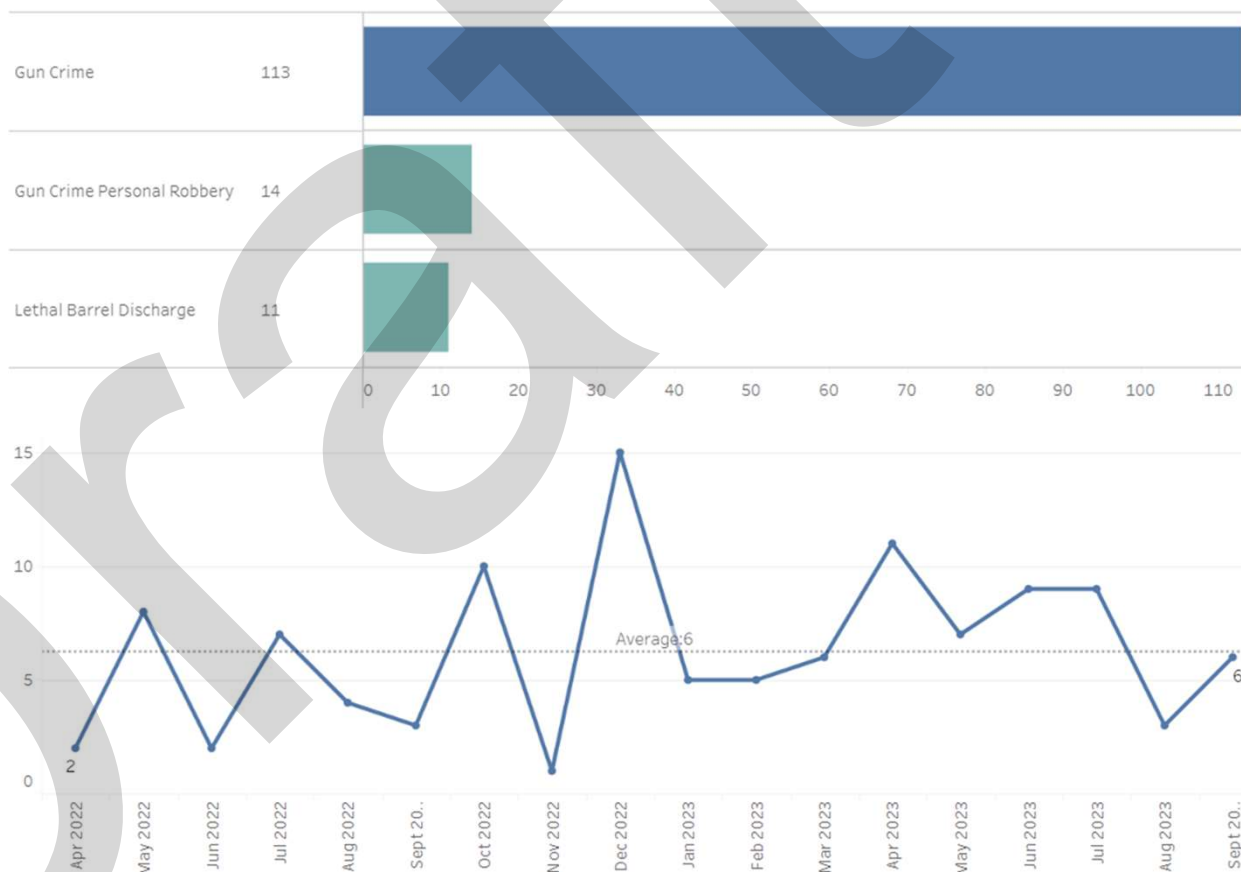


Gun crime

There has been 113 gun crime offences, equating to approximately 0.3 offences for every 1,000 people in the borough.

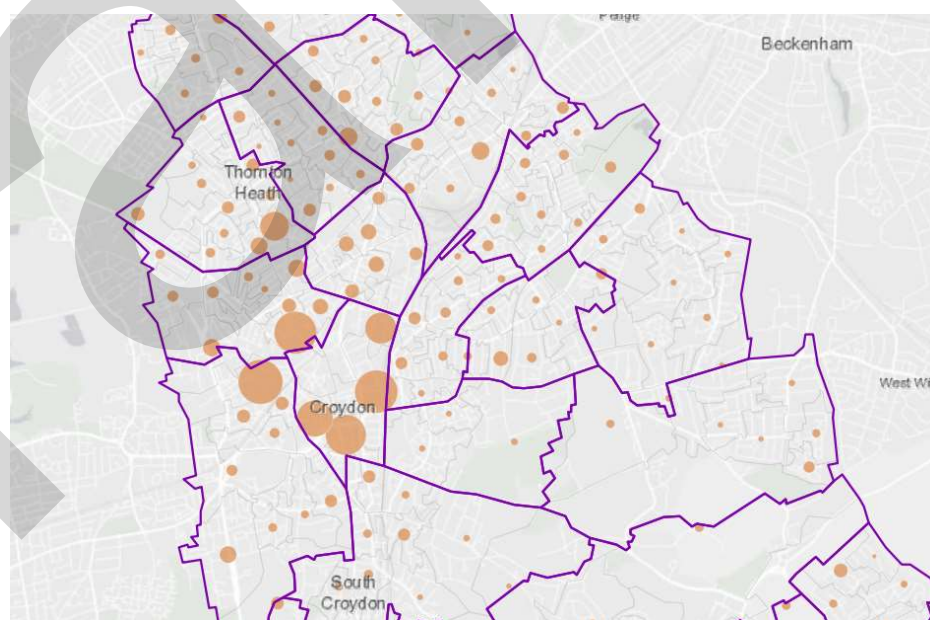
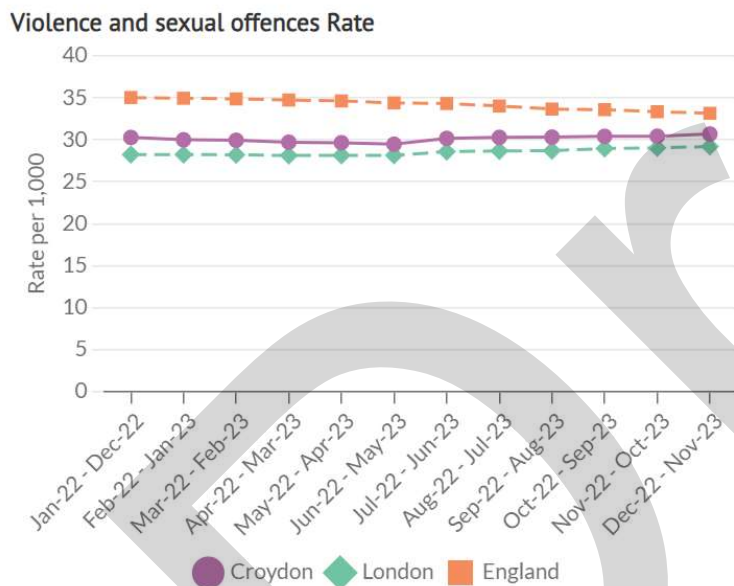
Croydon is ranked 8th in crime rate per 1,000 people and 5th in crime volume among the London Boroughs.

The link between gun crime and youth violence is intricate and multifaceted. The statistics indicate that out of the 113 gun crime offences, 14 were specifically classified as related to 'personal robbery'. This highlights the intersection of gun crime with other offences, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies that address not only the presence of firearms but also the broader issues contributing to criminal behaviour.



Violence and Sexual Offences

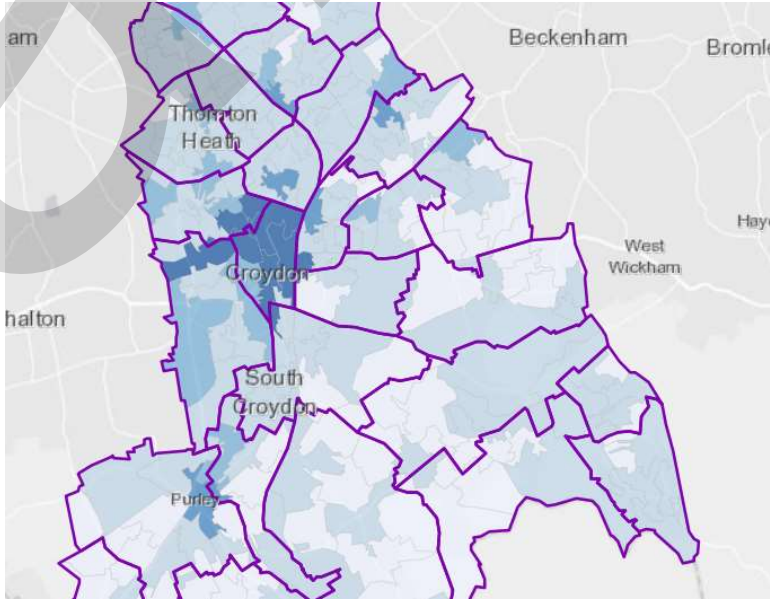
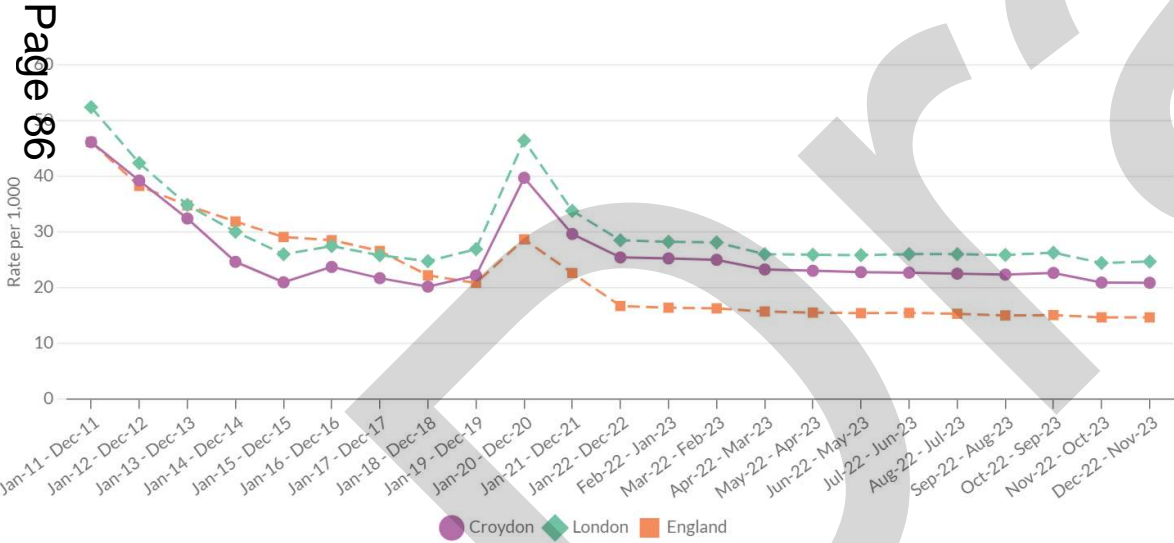
Whilst the Boroughs rates show that it is above the London average, it is lower than the average in England. The vast majority of the offences have taken place in low LSOA areas of the borough which are densely populated. As it can be seen in the hotspot map: the Town Centre, North End and Selhurst are the areas with the highest number of recorded offences followed by Thornton Heath.



Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) mainly affects the Town Centre extending to North End and West Croydon Station. Thornton Heath and Purley are emerging hotspots and are under close observation. Croydon’s rates have been maintained below London’s average following successful measures as the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), while another PSPO is being set up for Thornton Heath and surrounding areas.

Efforts to combat ASB in Croydon should focus on community engagement and education. Building trust between residents and local authorities fosters a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining a safe environment.



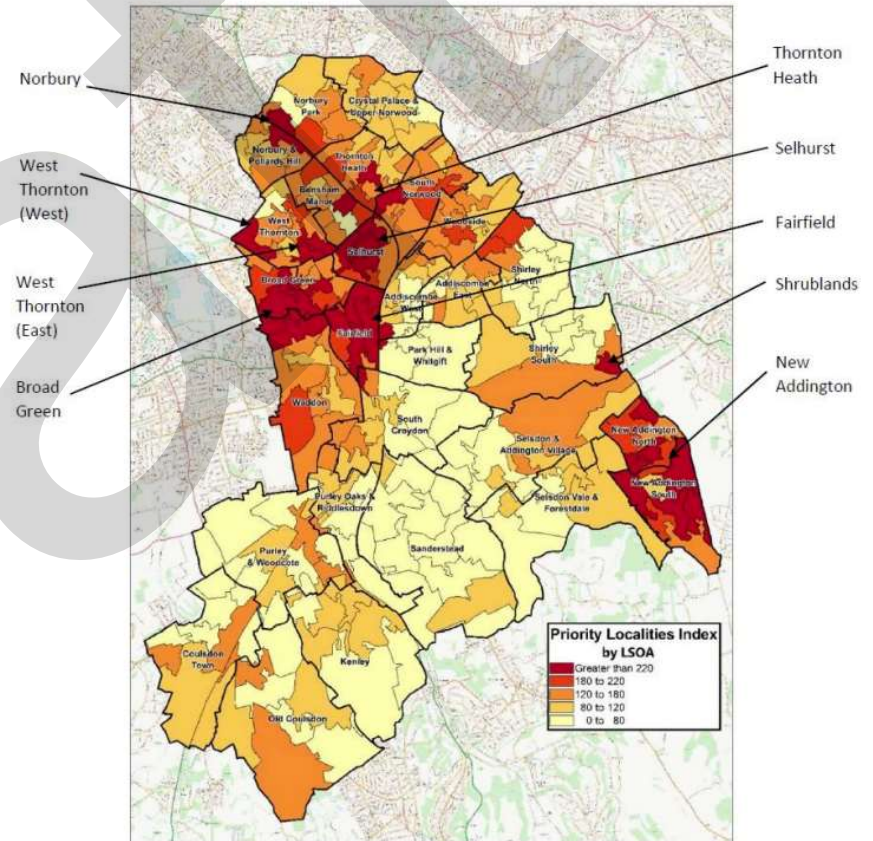
Offenders

Offenders: 20% of crime suspects in Croydon are classified as repeat offenders, belonging in 0-24 age group.

Repeat offenders are responsible for more than 40% of crime in Croydon. In specific types of violence including domestic abuse, knife crime and serious youth violence, repeat offenders are responsible for approximately 50% of all offences committed.

The homes of suspects and repeat suspects are highly concentrated in the Priority Localities Index areas. A focus on high harm suspects will provide a more manageable, resource-focused and intensive approach to reducing serious crime the borough.

A small group of people in Croydon, less than 10% of all offenders, causes half of the serious harm in the borough. These individuals are involved in severe crimes like violence, sexual offenses, robbery, and arson. They are responsible for a significant portion of serious harm, including domestic abuse, youth violence, and violent incidents. When we look at repeat offenders who cause a lot of harm, we find common issues like drug use, mental health problems, and alcohol.



Victims

Most adults who become victims of crime are between 18 and 45 years old, and a significant number of them experience domestic violence within this age range.

For young people aged 10 to 17, almost one-fifth of all harm from crimes is linked to knife-related incidents.

A small group of people, around 9% of all victims, end up being victims of 20% of the total crimes and cause 31% of the harm caused by crimes. This group often faces repeat victimization in areas like domestic violence, hate crime (mostly between neighbors due to increased interaction during lockdown), and alcohol-related crime.

Focusing on helping victims who suffer 50% of the harm caused by crime, instead of those accounting for 50% of the total crimes, would make better use of limited resources, as this group is much smaller (95% smaller). High-harm victims experience serious violence, including domestic abuse, non-domestic violence with injury, serious youth violence, sexual offenses, and arson. However, they are not typically victims of hate crime. Identifying and supporting these high-harm victims is crucial for more effective resource allocation.

VAWG Profile - Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse

Croydon recorded 7,584 domestic abuse offences reported.

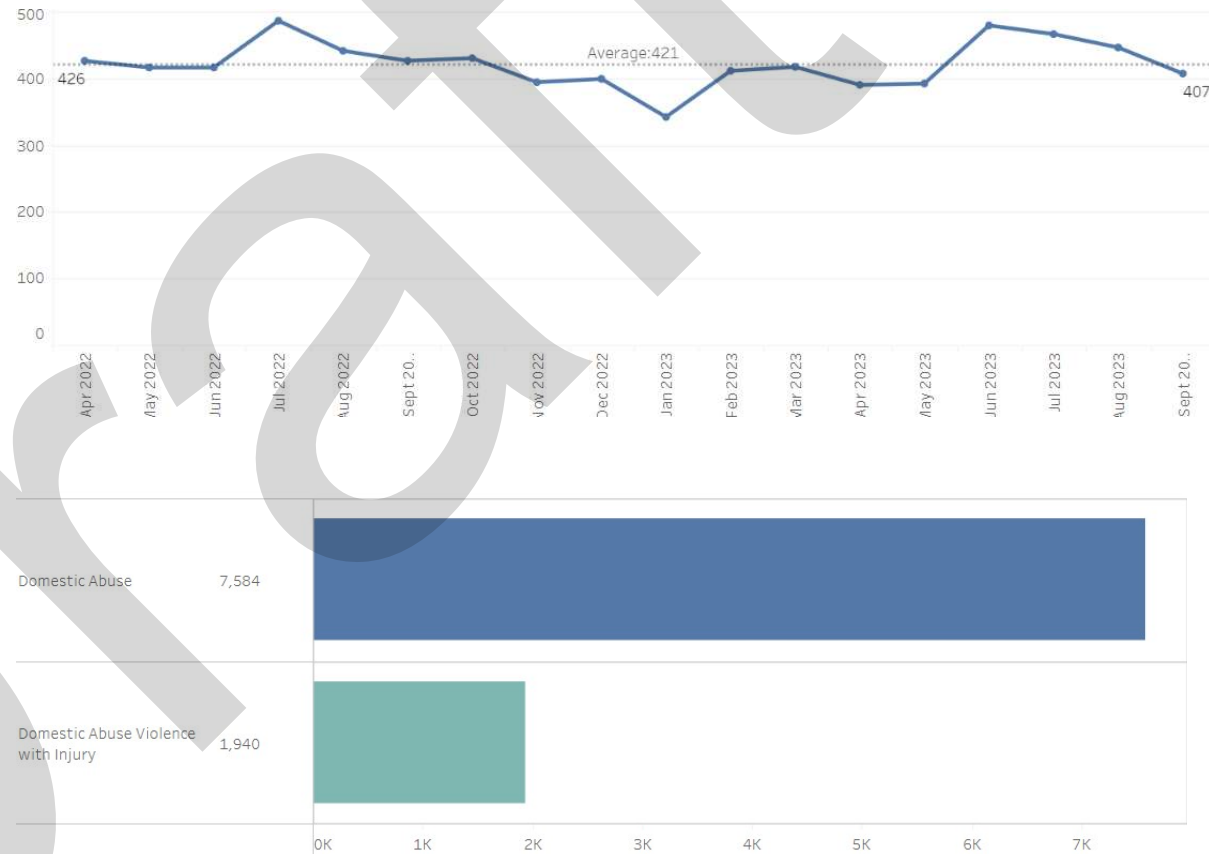
This translates to a rate of 19.5 offences for every 1,000 people living in Croydon.

These numbers make Croydon ranking first in volume and sixth in rate among all the London Boroughs.

In addition, from those offences 1,940 were recorded as Domestic Abuse including Violence with injury.

This equates to 5.0 offences per 1,000 people and ranking Croydon as 4th in crime rate and 1st in crime volume among the other London boroughs.

The term "Domestic Abuse Violence with injury" means that, out of these incidents, 1,940 cases involved physical harm. This alarming number shows that there's a need to address the root causes of domestic abuse in our community.



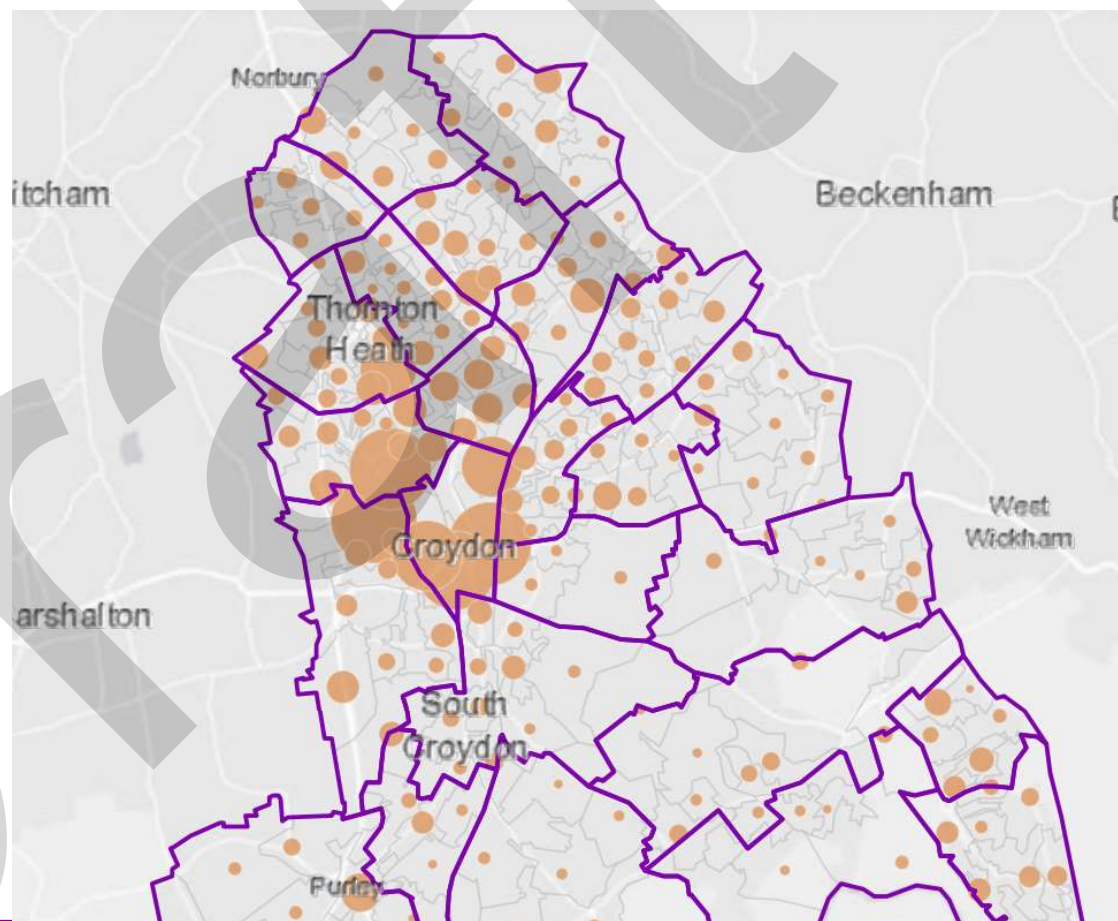
Locations

In Croydon, along with the Metropolitan Police data, the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Family Justice Service (FJS) referrals provide valuable insights into the locations most affected by domestic abuse.

MARAC and FJS referral statistics highlight the prevalence of domestic abuse cases throughout the borough. These referrals serve as crucial indicators of areas where individuals may be particularly vulnerable.

Examining MARAC referrals reveals specific locations where the need for intervention and support is heightened. MARAC focuses on cases with high levels of risk, ensuring that resources are directed towards those in immediate danger.

Family Justice Service referrals contribute to a comprehensive understanding of domestic abuse trends. These referrals encompass a broader spectrum, including cases that may not yet be classified as high risk but still require support and intervention.



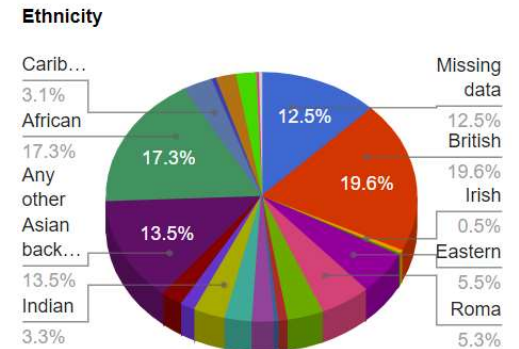
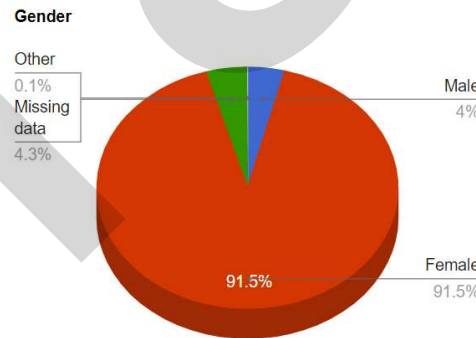
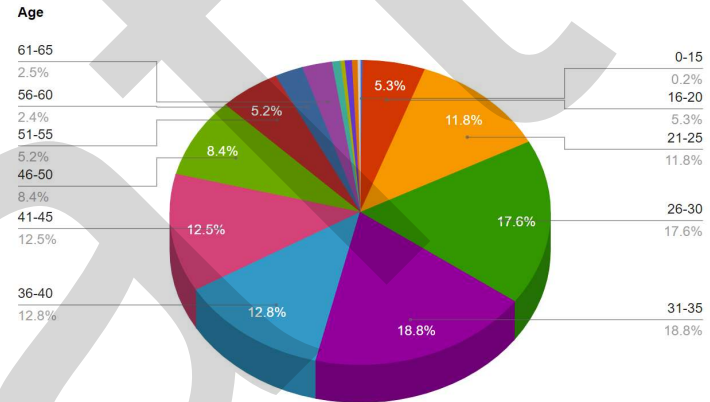
Victims/Survivors

The FJS received 1,296 referrals from April 2023 to January 2024.

AGE: A notable proportion falls within the age range of 26 to 35, including individuals in their late twenties to mid-thirties, constituting 35.53% of the recorded data. There is a substantial representation of individuals aged 36 to 50, collectively making up 32.95% of the dataset. The younger age brackets, from 16 to 25, contribute significantly, comprising 34.71% of the total.

The gender distribution data underscores a predominant representation of females, constituting 91.53% of the dataset. These numbers are in accordance with the overall London statistics confirming that Domestic Abuse is a problem which is predominantly affecting women.

Among the identified ethnicities, British constitutes the largest group at 19.65%, followed by Caribbean at 17.29%, and African at 13.53%.



VAWG Profile – Sexual Violence

Sexual Violence

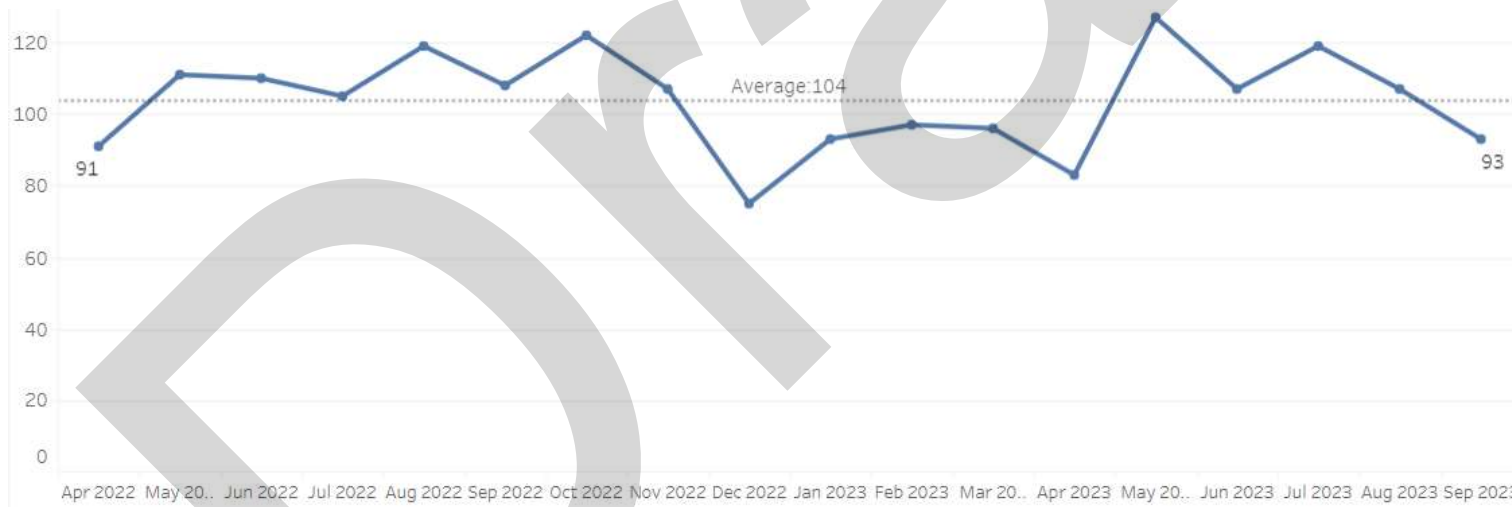
Throughout the assessed period, 1,870 sexual offences were recorded in the borough, echoing at a rate of 4.8 offences per 1,000 people.

From those, 762 incidents were recorded as rape, encapsulating a rate of 2.0 per 1,000 people.

These figures position Croydon as 8th in crime rate per 1,000 people and 2nd in crime volume among the other London boroughs.

A significant portion of these offences have a starting point online, highlighting the intricate relationship between technology and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Delving into demographics is complex—victims spanning diverse backgrounds and age groups, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of this violence. Simultaneously, understanding the demographics of perpetrators becomes imperative for developing effective preventive strategies.

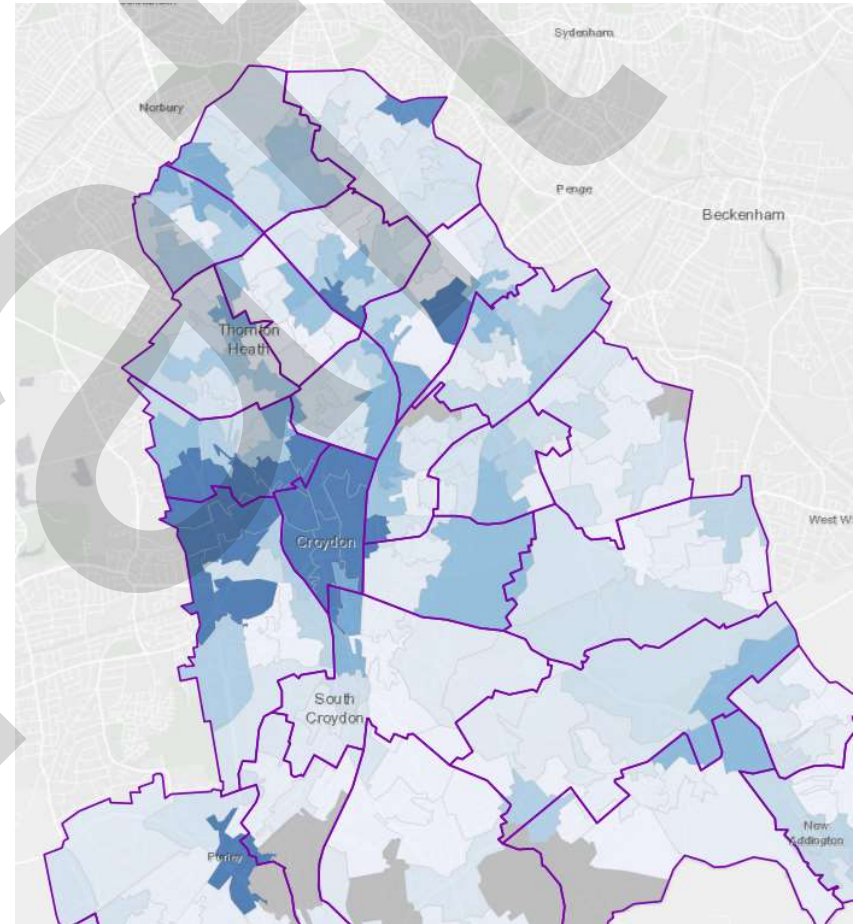


Locations

Public transport hubs often emerge as locations where sexual harassment incidents occur. The bustling nature of these areas, including train and bus stations, creates an environment where harassers may exploit crowded conditions and anonymity. Understanding this dynamic enables targeted awareness campaigns and increased security measures.

The night economy, encompassing entertainment districts, bars, and clubs, presents an increased risk of sexual harassment. Factors such as crowded venues, alcohol consumption, and reduced visibility contribute to an environment where perpetrators may take advantage.

Spatial analysis of reported incidents unveils specific locations with higher prevalence rates. These include the East and West Croydon stations, an extended ratio of the town centre and Purley as an emerging sexual harassment hotspot.



Public transport profile

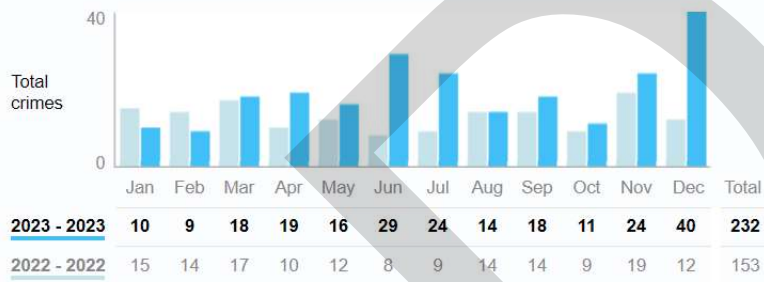
The British Transport Police (BTP) play a pivotal role in ensuring safety and security within train and tram stations within Croydon. A closer examination of incident data reveals distinct patterns at two key stations—East Croydon and West Croydon.

East Croydon Station, as one of the busiest transport hubs in the area, witnessed 264 incidents during the reporting period. The majority of these incidents encompassed violent crimes and instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB). This web of incidents extends beyond the confines of the station, including on-train situations. There is a clear pattern between the offences landscape in the areas surrounding the station and the offences committed within the station or inside the trains.

West Croydon station had 41 recorded incidents. While a lesser number compared to its eastern counterpart, again the majority of these incidents involve violent crimes and ASB. Notably, West Croydon has managed to avoid the surge in incidents witnessed around North End and London Road. T

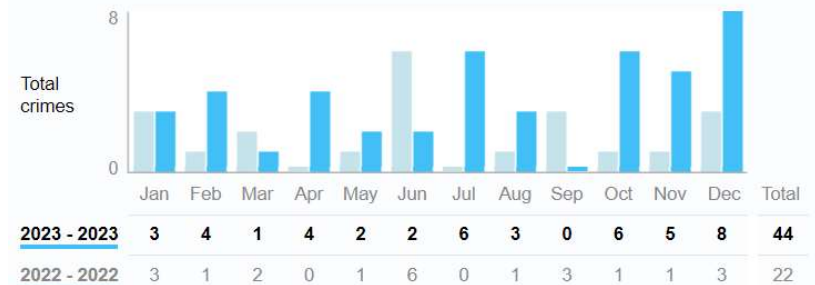
East Croydon Station

▲ The number of crimes & ASB offences per 100,000 passengers has **increased from 1.26 to 1.91** comparing Jan 2023-Dec 2023 with the same period a year earlier



West Croydon Station

▲ The number of crimes & ASB offences per 100,000 passengers has **increased from 0.86 to 1.72** comparing Jan 2023-Dec 2023 with the same period a year earlier



Work of the Safer Croydon Partnership

Delivery Plans

Youth Safety Action Plan

The Mayor's Business Plan 2022 – 2026, Outcome 4 centres on "Croydon being a cleaner, safer, and healthier place, a borough we're proud to call home". A key priority is to tackle anti-social behaviour, knife crime and violence against women and girls so that Croydon feels safer. As part of this, the mayor has committed to delivering a Youth Safety Delivery Plan that focuses on keeping children and young people safe on the streets of Croydon. The plan will crucially be delivered by working in partnership with children, young people, and young adults, communities and families, and the voluntary sector.

The draft Action Plan was taken to cabinet in September 2023: [Appendix A 2023-08-07 Youth Safety Delivery Plan FINAL.pdf \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#)

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Action Plan

The Safer Croydon Partnership will develop a high-level three-year plan to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). The plan will set out a clear multi-agency, long-term approach to tackling and preventing VAWG and to take our work to the next level by actively involving a greater number of people and partners in our solutions to reduce violence against women and girls. It will include a delivery plan that is focused on outcomes.

In September 2022, the Mayor of Croydon made a commitment of Intent to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). [Tackling Violence against Women and Children - Statement of Intent - Report - MJP amends.pdf \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#)

Voice of the Community

PSPO Thornton Heath and Surrounding areas

The PSPO Cabinet report approved by Cabinet in May 2023, stated that the Council would conduct a formal 6-week consultation to enable Croydon's residents and visitors to feedback on a PSPO covering a geographical area in and around Thornton Heath. As a result of the consultation, there were 551 respondents to the consultation with 78% strongly agreed with the need for a PSPO in Thornton Heath and its surrounding area. Only 11% strongly disagreed.

PSPO Town Centre

Following the PSPO Cabinet report that was taken to Cabinet in July 2022, it was agreed that the Council would conduct a formal 6-week consultation to allow residents and visitors the opportunity to provide their comments and feedback on a PSPO covering a geographical area, in and around the Town Centre. There was a total of 1,390 respondents to the survey. 2.2 Over 80% of respondents "definitely agree" with a PSPO in the town centre. 90% of respondents either "definitely agree" or "somewhat agree" with a PSPO.

Community Engagement Board

In April 2023, the Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) launched a new Community Safety Engagement Board (CSEB) to listen to and collaborate with residents and community groups on community safety initiatives. The CSEB has provided a platform for communities across Croydon to engage with the council, police, fire brigade, probation, and health services – the agencies that make up the SCP – to work together to tackle crime and disorder issues. Additionally, the CSEB will aim to increase awareness of the SCP's work to tackle crime and disorder across Croydon, helping to reassure residents and improve public confidence in community safety initiatives.

Recommendations

Recommendations

Community Partnership

The collaboration that has taken place amongst the community groups, faith organisations, residents, businesses as well as the members of the Safer Croydon Partnership should continue and potentially look to increase.

Knife Crime

Knife crime is a priority for the Safer Croydon Partnership and this should remain. The residents and the communities of the borough have sadly seen the impact this has had and further action is required to protect Croydon's residents.

VAWG

There is a high level of Domestic Abuse in Croydon and the Safer Croydon Partnership must ensure that they priorities addressing DASV.

Hotspot Locations

The areas identified in the Community Safety Strategy still remain the hotspot locations. The SCP must be flexible in considering the emergence of other seasonal areas.

School Work

Schools play a vital role in the prevention and detection of crime. Greater collaboration is required between the Safer Croydon Partnership, schools and community groups to ensure young people receive the support they need whilst at school and travelling throughout the borough.

Funding

The SCP has seen the benefit of funding to supplement existing work. Further multi-agency bids should be explored to improve pre-existing resources.

These recommendations aim to create a multifaceted approach, addressing the complexities of sexual violence in Croydon through proactive policing, community engagement, victim support, and targeted education. Collaborative efforts among various agencies and stakeholders will be crucial to achieving lasting impact in fostering a safer and more resilient community.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny and Overview Committee
DATE	26 March 2024
REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Recommendations
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis – Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer - Scrutiny
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Councillor Rowenna Davis – Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee
ORIGIN OF ITEM:	The Scrutiny & Overview Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution requires recommendations from Scrutiny Sub-Committee's to be submitted to the Committee for its comment and consideration, before approving their submission to the appropriate decision maker.
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the recommendations made by its Sub-Committee's for submission to the Executive Mayor for his consideration.
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	Public

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report sets out for the consideration of the Committee the recommendations arising from recent meetings of its Sub-Committee. These are presented in accordance with the Council's Constitution for approval by the Committee for submission to the appropriate decision maker.

2 APPENDICES

- 2.1. Appendix 1: Recommendations from Scrutiny Sub-Committees

3 SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Paragraph 1.5 (iii & iv) of Part 4E – Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution sets out the requirement that recommendations made by Scrutiny Sub-Committees should be submitted for the consideration of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, to approve their submission to the relevant decision maker.

- 3.2 The exception to this requirement is for specific powers delegated to Sub-Committee relating to the scrutiny of Health Services and the duties and functions of the Council as an Education Authority. For these matters, the relevant Sub-Committee can make direct recommendations.
- 3.3 Set out in Appendix 1 is the recommendation arising from the meeting of the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 30 January 2024.
- 3.4 The Committee is asked to review these recommendations and confirm its approval for them to be submitted to the next available meeting of the Cabinet for consideration by the Mayor.

Appendix 1 – Recommendations arising from Streets & Environment Sub-Committee, 30 January 2024

Item: Local Development Scheme Projects and Infrastructure Funding Statement Update (not including the Local Plan Review)

Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Political Lead	Officer Lead
SE.17.23/24	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Council consider ways to engage residents to determine their views on where they would like to see Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spent in the borough, and for stronger communication with residents around CIL schemes such as the 'On Street Secure Cycle Hangers'.	Cllr Jeet Bains	Heather Cheesbrough

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	26 March 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer - Scrutiny	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Rowenna Davis - Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	In accordance with paragraph 6.7 (vi) of Part 4E - Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules, in the Council's Constitution, the Committee should receive an update on the work programme at each meeting.	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A	

1. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

- 1.1. This report sets out for the information of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee the most recent version of the work programmes for the Committee and its Sub-Committees.
- 1.2. This follows on from a report considered by the Committee at its meeting on 25 July 2023, which agreed that the financial sustainability of the Council would be a key focus. It was also agreed that the following principles would be used as the basis for the work programme:-
1. **The Public's Money.** Scrutiny wants reassurance that taxpayers' money is put to best use. At a time when the Council is making cuts to balance the books, it has no money to waste. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, every pound of public money should be valued. Scrutiny will aim to look at the impact of any financial decisions on the public and the Council's finances, including knock-on effects. We will aim to research best practice and to provide suggestions as well as criticism.
 2. **The Public's Services.** Scrutiny wants reassurance that services are improving. This is about leadership, culture and organisation as much as it is about budgets.

We will seek reassurance that even in difficult financial circumstances, we are still meeting our duty of care to the most vulnerable. Scrutiny will listen and learn from the public's experiences of service performance to guide its work on Croydon's transformation.

3. **The Public's Voice.** Scrutiny wants to make sure that the Council is transparent, open and engaging with the people it exists to serve. Scrutiny will monitor the planned improvements in governance for Croydon's local democracy, as well as inviting public voices into the Scrutiny process itself. The Mayor was elected on a mandate to "listen to Croydon" and Scrutiny will hold the executive to account for this pledge.

- 1.3. Any changes made to the work programme during the year, should reflect these agreed priorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to: -

1. To note the most recent version of the Work Programme.
2. Consider whether there are any other items that should be provisionally added to the work programme as a result of the discussions held during the meeting.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Setting a work programme to guide Scrutiny throughout the year is a requirement in the Council's Constitution and considered to be best practice. Adjustments can be made to the work programme throughout the year and are agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs, in line with the arrangements in the Constitution, and an update provided at each Committee meeting.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. It is a requirement in the Council's Constitution for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to have a clearly defined work programme for itself and its sub-committees at the start of each municipal year.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Each of the sub-committee's has had the opportunity to review their respective work programmes at each meeting. Scrutiny Chairs will also meet regularly with officers to review the programme.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 6.1 This report contributes to priority 1: The Council balances its books, listens to residents and delivers good sustainable services.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee

The below table sets out the working version of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee work programme. The items have been scheduled following discussion with officers and may be subject to change depending on any new emerging priorities taking precedent.

Meeting Date	Item	Scope	Directorate & Lead Officer
22 May 2023	Annual Asset Disposal Strategy		
	Waste & Street Cleansing Contract		
	Month 11 2023-23 FPM Report		
6 June 2023	Executive Mayor of Croydon – Scrutiny Update	The Mayor to provide an overview of his key achievements over the past year and outline his priorities for the year ahead to include: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How they will be delivered - The main risks to delivery and how these are being managed. 	Assistant Chief Executive Directorate David Courcoux
	Scrutiny Work Programme & Annual Report	The Committee to agree the work programme for itself and its Sub-Committees for the year ahead and agree the Scrutiny Annual Report for submission to Council.	Resources Simon Trevaskis
25 July 2023	Month 2 2023-24 FPM Report	This report is provided for the Committee to seek assurance on the delivery of 2023-24 budget.	Allister Bannin Resources

	Equalities Strategy	Pre-decision discussion on the principles for the forthcoming refresh of the Council's Equalities Strategy.	David Courcoux Assistant Chief Executive
26 September 2023	People & Cultural Transformation Strategy	The Committee has requested to review the action plan created to guide the delivery of the Strategy, along with the performance measures that will be used to determine the success of the strategy. The report will also include a specific focus on measures to improve recruitment and retention at the Council.	Dean Shoesmith Assistant Chief Executive
	Mayor Business Plan 2022-26 quarterly performance report	This report is provided for the Committee to review and comment upon the proposed performance indicators to be used to monitor the delivery of the Mayor's Business Plan.	Caroline Bruce Assistant Chief Executive
	P3 financial performance report	This report is provided for the Committee to seek assurance on the delivery of 2023-24 budget.	Allister Bannin Resources
6 October 2023	The Colonnades, 619 Purley Way, Croydon, CR0 4RQ - Asset Disposal	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the asset disposal decision.	Huw Rhys-Lewis Resources
24 October 2023	Annual Complaints Report	The Committee will be presented with the Annual Complaints report for the Council for its information	Kim Hyland Assistant Chief Executive
	The Redevelopment of Purley High Street Carpark and Leisure Centre	To consider the Cabinet report on the Redevelopment of Purley High Street Carpark and Leisure Centre	Huw Rhys-Lewis Resources

	MTFS & Budget Proposals	To scrutinise the updated MTFS and Budget Proposals of the Administration, as set out in 25 October 2023 Cabinet report.	Jane West Resources
	P4 financial performance report	This report is provided for the Committee to seek assurance on the delivery of 2023-24 budget.	Allister Bannin Resources
21 November 2023	Exit Strategy	To consider the Improvement & Assurance Panel's Exit Strategy for Croydon	Katherine Kerswell Chief Executive
	Crime & Disorder Item	To review the Community Safety Strategic Assessment	Christopher Rowney SCRE
	Disposals- second tranche	To scrutinise the updated MTFS and Budget Proposals of the Administration, as set out in 25 October 2023 Cabinet report.	Huw Rhys-Lewis Resources
	P5 financial performance report	This report is provided for the Committee to seek assurance on the delivery of 2023-24 budget.	Allister Bannin Resources
16 January 2024	Budget Setting Update	To receive a presentation from the S151 Officer on the progress made with setting the 2024-25 Budget.	Jane West Resources
	Capital Programme & Capital Strategy	To review the capital programme and capital strategy as part of the budget scrutiny process.	Allister Bannin Resources
	Quarterly Procurement Plan Update	To review the latest quarterly procurement plan update.	Scott Funnell Resources
	P7 financial performance report	This report is provided for the Committee to seek assurance on the delivery of 2023-24 budget.	Allister Bannin Resources

12 February 2024	Final Budget Scrutiny Session	To review the final Budget Report ahead of finalising Scrutiny's views on the budget proposals.	Jane West Resources
	P8 financial performance report	This report is provided for the Committee to seek assurance on the delivery of 2023-24 budget.	Allister Bannin Resources
26 March 2024	Review of Community Safety Partnership	To undertake the Committee's annual review of Community Safety Strategic Assessment for Croydon, including a deep dive on the work to reduce violence against women and girls.	Kristian Aspinall/Christopher Rowney SCRER
22 April 2024	Customer Service Journey	To review the customer journey through across the Council	
	Community & Voluntary Sector	To review the progress made with resetting the Council's relationship with the Community & Voluntary Sector.	
	Scrutiny Work Programme 2024-25	To outline the principle that will underpin the Scrutiny Work Programme across 2024-2025.	

Items of Interest

The following items haven't been scheduled into the work programme but are highlighted areas of further scrutiny during the year ahead.

Unallocated Items	Notes
Climate Change Scrutiny	
Town Centre	To review plans for the town centre

Electoral Administration	To review plans for the delivery of 2024 London Mayoral Elections
Libraries Item	
Transformation Item	

Children & Young People Sub-Committee

The below table sets out the working version of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee work programme. The items have been scheduled following discussion with officers and may be subject to change depending on any new emerging priorities taking precedent.

Meeting Date	Item	Scope	Directorate & Lead Officer
27 June 2023	Update on Antenatal and Health Visiting Visits	To receive an update on Antenatal and Health Visiting.	Children, Young People, Education and Health Jane McAllister
	Cabinet Report - Maintained Nursery Schools Report	To receive the upcoming June Cabinet Report outlining the current position in relation to Croydon's Maintained Nursery Schools and options for the future provision of this in Croydon. The report sets out why this is required as a result of decreasing funding for Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) and the impact that this is having on the budget situation for all of the Council's MNS settings.	Children, Young People, Education and Health Shelley Davies
10 October 2023	Youth Justice Plan 23/24	To scrutinise the Council's statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24.	Children, Young People & Education Róisín Madden
	Youth Safety Delivery Plan	To scrutinise the Cabinet report scheduled for September 2023, looking at the Council's work over the previous 12 month period to deliver on the Mayor's commitment to making Croydon's streets safer for young people,	Children, Young People & Education

		the plan for the next three years of action, and the commitments to partnership working with the voluntary sector and community to tackle violence.	Debbie Jones
14 November 2023	Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2022-23	<p>The Children & Young People Sub-Committee is asked to: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-2023 2. Consider whether there are any considerations or concerns it may wish to submit to the Cabinet as to whether the Annual Report provides sufficient reassurance on the performance and effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership. 3. Consider whether the Sub-Committee has any comments or suggestions on the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-2024 ahead of its development in the following year. 	<p>Children, Young People & Education</p> <p>Debbie Jones</p>
23 January 2024	Budget Scrutiny Challenge	<p>The Children & Young People Sub-Committee is asked to review the information provided on identified budget proposals (2024-28 SAV CYPE 003, 2024-28 SAV CYPE 001) and reach a conclusion on the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the savings deliverable, sustainable and not an unacceptable risk. 2. Is the impact on service users and the wider community understood. 3. Have all reasonable alternative options been explored and do no better options exist. 	<p>Children, Young People & Education</p> <p>Debbie Jones</p>

	Cabinet Report - Education Estates Strategy	For the Sub-Committee to consider whether there are any considerations or concerns it may wish to submit to the Cabinet during its consideration of the Strategy.	Children, Young People & Education Shelley Davies
19 March 2024	Update on Health Visiting	To receive an update on Antenatal and Health Visiting on the KPI trends since the last update in June 2023, as well as information on changes and improvements in the service. (Report & 5 minute Presentation)	Children, Young People, Education and Health Croydon Health Services/Kerry Crichlow
	Education Standards 2023	For the Sub-Committee to receive the summarised performance of children and young people in Croydon schools for the academic year 22/23.	Children, Young People & Education Shelley Davies

Standing Items:

Early Help, Children's Social Care and Education Dashboard & Health Visiting KPI Data - To receive the Early Help, Children's Social Care and Education Dashboard and quarterly Health Visiting KPI Data.

Items of Interest

The following items haven't been scheduled into the work programme but are highlighted as potential items of interest to be scheduled during the year ahead.

Unallocated Items	Notes
Recruitment and Retention	<p>To review Staff Caseloads, AYSE Caseload Sharing and the number of supervisions carried out.</p> <p>To receive a breakdown of vacancies and caseloads by individual teams and to look at London Councils best practise for recruitment and retention.</p> <p>To undertake direct engagement with social workers</p> <p>To look at how feedback from exit interviews can be incorporated into retention strategies</p>
Apprenticeships & Youth Unemployment	To look at the offer of available apprenticeships in the borough and data on youth unemployment.
OFSTED Reports	To review any OFSTED reports as and when they are available.
Delivery of Early Years Strategy	To review the delivery and implementation plan of the Early Years Strategy
SEND Strategy	To review the implementation of the SEND Strategy
Surplus Schools Places	To review the Surplus Schools Places report
Free School Meal offer in Croydon	To scrutinise the provision of free school meals in the borough through the Mayor of London scheme.

Cabinet Report – Maintained Nursery Schools	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the next Cabinet Report on Maintained Nursery Schools, following officers' consideration of sustainable future models.
Youth Justice Plan 24/25	To scrutinise the Council's statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.
Cabinet Paper - Family Hubs Transformation Programme update	For the Sub-Committee to receive the upcoming Cabinet Paper concerning the Family Hubs Transformation Programme for pre-decision scrutiny.

Homes Sub-Committee

The below table sets out the working version of the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee work programme. The items have been scheduled following discussion with officers and may be subject to change depending on any new emerging priorities taking precedent.

Meeting Date	Item	Scope	Directorate & Lead Officer
24 July 2023	Housing Transformation Programme	To receive an update on the delivery of the Housing Transformation Programme	Lara Ashley
	Housing Strategy	Pre-Decision – To have an early discussion on the principles underlying the forthcoming Housing Strategy	Lara Ashley
	Mobilisation of the Responsive Repairs Contracts	To receive an update on the de-mobilisation/mobilisation of the response repair contracts.	Jerry Austin
23 October 2023	Update on the Development of the HRA Business Plan	To provide the Sub-Committee with the opportunity to comment on the principles underlying the development of the forthcoming Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. This will include an update on the Asset Management Strategy and rent increases	
	Residents Engagement Strategy	To provide the Sub-Committee with the opportunity to feed into the develop of the Residents Engagement Strategy.	
	Housing Strategy	To review the proposed Housing Strategy ahead of its consideration by Cabinet and Full Council.	

29 January 2024	HRA Business Plan & Budget 2023-24		
	Temporary/Emergency Accommodation Budget Deep Dive		
	Housing Finance Update	To receive financial update on the latest position of the Housing General Fund and Housing revenue Account budgets.	
16 April 2024	Homelessness Strategy		
	Review of the Culture Change	To review the culture change workstreams within the Housing Transformation Programme.	
	Housing Finance Update	To receive financial update on the latest position of the Housing General Fund and Housing revenue Account budgets.	

Areas to schedule

The following items haven't been scheduled into the work programme but have been previously identified as areas of scrutiny to be scheduled during the year ahead.

Unallocated Items	Notes
Regina Road	
Update on the implementation of NEC system	Potential briefing

Update on savings delivery	Standard item on each agenda.
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Health & Social Care Sub-Committee

The below table sets out the working version of the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee work programme. The items have been scheduled following discussion with officers and may be subject to change depending on any new emerging priorities taking precedent.

Meeting Date	Item	Scope	Directorate & Lead Officer
20 June 2023	Front Runner Pilot Scheme	The Health & Social Care Sub-Committee is presented with a report on the Discharge Integration Frontrunner programme, which aims to bring together transformation efforts from across Croydon to develop an effective, integrated system across hospital, social and community care.	Adults Richard Eyre
	HSC Work Programme	To discuss areas of scrutiny for inclusion in the Sub-Committee work programme in 2023-24	
3 October 2023	Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual Report	To review and comment upon the Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board annual report ahead of its consideration by the Mayor in Cabinet	Adult Safeguarding Denise Snow
	Transformation Update	To receive an update on the delivery of the three-year transformation programme in Adult Social Care.	Adults Richard Eyre
30 January 2024	ASC Budget deep-dive	The Health and Social Care Sub-Committee is asked to review the information provided on budget proposals.	Adults Richard Eyre

	ASC Transformation	Discussion on the new Transformation Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we transition from the existing operational model to the new one? • How the programme fits into the budget? • Update on the procurement of the delivery partner. 	
12 March 2024	CQC Assurance	To receive an update on the CQC Assurance process.	Adults Richard Eyre

Areas to schedule

The following items haven't been scheduled into the work programme but have been previously identified as areas of scrutiny to be scheduled during the year ahead.

Unallocated Items	Notes
A review of the cost of out of borough placements	Arising from the discussion on mental health provision in the borough
Commissioning for Community Sexual Health Services	To feed into the commissioning process of community sexual health services by the Public Health team.
Dementia Strategy	
CAMHS & SLAM	A review of the mental health services available for young people focusing on the transition between services.
Menopausal Health Services	To review the availability of menopausal services in the borough

Integrated Care System	To review the impact of the new ICS approach to services in the borough.
Dental Services	To review the provision of dental services in the borough.
Prostate Cancer Services	

Streets & Environment

The below table sets out the working version of the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee work programme.

Meeting Date	Item	Scope	Directorate & Lead Officer
11 July 2023	Pre-Decision: Parking Policy Transformation Project	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the upcoming Cabinet report covering the Parking Policy Transformation Project.	Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery Steve Iles
	Consultation on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	To receive a presentation on the forthcoming consultation on updating the Council's Flood Risk Plan, so that the Sub-Committee can provide feedback and input into its development.	Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery Nick Hibberd
1 November 2023	Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2028	To receive a presentation on the Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2028 to allow the Sub-Committee to provide early feedback in advance of the full report to Cabinet in December 2023.	Sustainable Communities

			Regeneration & Economic Recovery Nick Hibberd
	Cleaner Croydon	To receive an update on the Council's work on the Mayor's priority for delivering 'Cleaner Croydon'. The Sub-Committee will also receive feedback on its recommendations concerning the Waste & Recycling Contract.	Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery Karen Agbabiaka
	Local Plan Review	For the Sub-Committee to receive a detailed presentation on the review of the Local Plan 2023/24, to facilitate Members to influence the content of the Local Plan Review ahead of its journey on to Cabinet and Council.	Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery Steve Dennington
30 January 2024	Budget Scrutiny Challenge	<p>The Sub-Committee is asked to review the information provided on three budget proposals (identified below) and reach a conclusion on the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the savings/growth deliverable, sustainable and not an unacceptable risk. 2. Is the impact on service users and the wider community understood. 3. Have all reasonable alternative options been explored and do no better options exist. 	Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery Nick Hibberd

		<p>Areas for deep dives in the above report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024-28 SAV SCRER 002 - Fees and charges - Changes to parking policy – (<i>Information on process being followed to achieve these savings</i>) • 2024-28 GRO SCRER 003 - SEND Transport – Student Number Cost Driver • 2024-28 SAV SCRER 006 - Deferral of growth in highways maintenance 	
	Local Development Scheme and Infrastructure Funding Statement	To scrutinise any outstanding Local Plan issues not covered in the November Sub-Committee, the Local Development Scheme and Infrastructure Funding Statement.	<p>Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery</p> <p>Heather Cheesbrough, Steve Dennington</p>
2 April 2024	Parking Policy & Tariffs	For the Sub-Committee to receive a report detailing the proposed changes to Parking Tariffs proposed in the upcoming TRO consultation.	<p>Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery</p> <p>Jayne Rusbatch</p>

	Air Quality Action Plan Update	For the Sub-Committee to receive the draft Air Quality Action Plan 2024-29 for more in depth scrutiny following the initial presentation in November 2023.	Sustainable Communities Regeneration & Economic Recovery Michael Goddard
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Standing Items:

Work Programme Item	Notes
Financial Monitoring for SCRER	Standing Item tracking progress with the delivery of 2023/24 Budget using the latest Cabinet Financial Performance report (To review by exception).

Items of Interest

The following items haven't been scheduled into the work programme but are highlighted as potential items of interest to be scheduled during the year ahead.

Unallocated Items	Scrutiny Officer Notes
Environment Bill Responsibilities	To review the additional responsibilities that will fall upon the Council following the adoption of the Environment Bill.
Implications of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill	To review the possible implications of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill
Protection of green spaces and parks	To look at the protection of parks and green spaces in the borough (use of trusts, etc.).

Clean Water and Sewage (Thames Water)	To look at the water quality in the borough and the risks of contamination from sewerage.
Public Transport, Active Transport, Road Safety & School Streets	To look at the strategy for Transport, Active Transport, Healthy Streets & School Streets in the borough, alongside Road Fatalities & Speed Limits
Transformation of Independent Travel	To review the transformation of the Independent Travel Service – End of 2023/24.
Climate Action Plan/Vision Zero	To scrutinise the Council's plans around Climate Change and achieving Vision Zero.
Enforcement Policy & Planning Enforcement (Provisional June 2024)	To inform the Sub-Committee on the Enforcement powers available to the Council, as well as information on how enforcement is being undertaken and resourced.
Bus Shelters (Provisional June 2024) & Street Lighting	Further scoping needed
Cleaner Croydon/Blitz Clean Update	To receive an update on work towards achieving the Mayor's priority for delivering 'Cleaner Croydon', and to monitor whether the blitz clean programme was successful and having a sustained impact on district centres, alongside data on the number of businesses and residents engaged during the cleans.
Climate Change Action Plan	To review and provide feedback on the Council's Climate Action Plan & Biodiversity Strategy
Waste Procurement Award – June/July 2024	For the Sub-Committee to conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the Waste Procurement Award with particular regard to Contract Management, Monitoring & KPIs.

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