

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Reports from Executive Members – October 2024

Report from the RBKC SNB Chair Ruth Daniel

Grants and Funding for Priority Initiatives

The safer Neighbourhood Executive Board over the summer approved a series of grants to fund initiatives that meet the strategic priorities outlined by MOPAC. Four projects were awarded funding to support their efforts in tackling critical issues related to violence prevention, youth empowerment, and community well-being in Kensington and Chelsea. The total grant disbursed amounted to £15,000. These initiatives will be implemented between 1st June 2024 and 31st March 2025. Below is a summary of the projects awarded funding:

- **Barak Community Association**

This project focuses on educating vulnerable young people about the obvious and hidden dangers of violence, particularly knife crime. The project aims to empower young people by helping them identify the challenges they face and teaching them how to overcome these barriers. The project offers constructive and sustainable solutions for managing the real-life issues that at risk young people encounter daily, contributing to their personal development and safety.

- **Fit for Life Youth**

Targeting young people aged 14 and above who live or attend schools in North Kensington, this project uses football as a tool to address antisocial behaviour, knife crime, and other criminal activities. By organising one-hour football sessions, the project aims to positively influence the behaviours and subcultures that often lead to these issues. Football was chosen due to its popularity among the local youth, providing an engaging platform for both training and competitive matches.

- **Next Generation**

Next Generation is committed to empowering young people through mentorship and the development of life skills. Their project provides an intensive mentoring and business development programme, which includes weekly sessions with young people. The aim is to build confidence, support their personal growth, and encourage them to pursue their dreams, no matter the obstacles they face. This programme helps build a supportive environment that nurtures young talent, giving them the tools to improve their lives and build a brighter future.

- **WAND UK (Women's Association for Networking & Development)**

WAND UK is an independent charity that supports women and girls from isolated and excluded communities, including refugees. The project will continue to empower women and girls through training, building self-confidence, and encouraging them to actively participate in their communities. The programme promotes mental and emotional well-being by focusing on three key messages: acceptance, healthy eating, and physical activity. WAND UK aim is to inspire a stronger generation of girls who will play a key role in the future of society.

These projects represent a proactive and community-driven approach to tackling some of the most pressing issues in our borough, with a focus on youth development, crime prevention, and women's empowerment. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these initiatives will have over the coming year.

Meetings and Activities Update

Since taking on the role of Chair earlier this year, I have actively participated in various meetings and boards, contributing to key discussions aimed at improving community safety and addressing pressing issues such as anti-social behaviour (ASB), crime, and public safety across Kensington and Chelsea. Below is a summary of the key meetings and updates:

Safer Kensington Chelsea Partnership Board

I have attended several significant meetings as a member of this board:

- **23rd January 2024:** This meeting focused on collaboration with housing partners to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in their properties. We also discussed enforcement against known offenders and explored strategies to improve the outcomes of existing interventions. A 10-point plan was developed to address these issues and ensure that community voices are considered.
- **18th April 2024:** The board reviewed the **Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)** and the **Citizens Panel Making the Borough Safe** report. We discussed improving coordination in addressing ASB and ensuring that residents' concerns are effectively addressed.
- **23rd July 2024:** The focus of this meeting was community safety in North Kensington, with discussions on identifying those most at risk and providing reassurance and support. Challenges such as police resourcing issues and delays in the probation and parole systems were highlighted. Key actions included reviewing internal critical incidents and discussing funding models for independent DHR chairs.

CCTV Advisory Committee

I am a member of this committee and have been involved in meetings to review the performance and strategy of the CCTV service. Discussions have included updates on the new structures for the control room and service management improvements.

Ward Panel Meetings

I have attended multiple ward panel meetings, addressing local safety priorities:

- **Queensgate Ward Panel:** I attended two meetings, the most recent on 12th September 2024, where we discussed local safety concerns and set the ward's priorities.
- **Notting Hill Ward Panel:** Attended on 18th July 2024, the panel discussed issues specific to the Notting Hill area.
- **Stanley Ward Panel:** I also attended a Stanley Ward meeting, where we discussed local safety challenges and set actions to address community concerns.

Ward Panel Chairs Meeting – South Kensington

Recently, I attended the recently formed Ward Panel Chairs Meeting for South Kensington, chaired by Inspector Craig Baker. Majority of the ward chairs for South Kensington were present. Discussions centred on improving ward panel meetings and addressing community issues. Inspector Baker discussed the ward split from 18 to 9 for better management and stressed the need for more collaborative working. The meeting also covered the 26,000

outstanding suspects and plans for days of action to address this. We also discussed the importance of accurate data sharing and the effectiveness of CCTV. A data pack was circulated to provide additional insights.

CMG (Community Monitoring Group) Meeting

I am a member of the CMG Community Monitoring Group; that monitor the Metropolitan Police use of Stop and Search powers. The CMG meeting on 12th August gave young people the opportunity to share their experiences with stop and search procedures. We discussed how to educate youth about their rights during stop and search and provide them with guidance on how to navigate these encounters.

MetCC Steering Group and Community Forum

As a member of the MetCC Steering Group and Community Forum, I have participated in reviewing police call centre performance and emergency response services. Recent meetings have focused on structural changes within the group and how these changes will impact our work moving forward.

Recruitment for Vice-Chair and Executive Board Member

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen the leadership team, we are currently recruiting for a new Vice-Chair and an additional Executive Board member. I am pleased to announce my nomination of **Lucy Smith Ryland for the Vice-Chair role**. Lucy brings extensive experience and strong leadership abilities, which I believe will greatly benefit the board. Additionally, other board members are welcome to put themselves forward for the vice-Chair position and the new Executive Board member role, as we continue to enhance our team and the important work we do.

These meetings and initiatives continue to provide valuable insights and opportunities to address key safety concerns in our community. I am committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure the safety and well-being of residents across Kensington and Chelsea.

Report from Lucy Smith-Ryland - Stop & Search

Numbers for Stop and Search have continued to be down. They increased in August as they always do at carnival. A section 60 was put in place by midday on Sunday of Carnival and sadly as we all know there was the usual share of tragedy with knife crime. I enclose figures.

This year I monitored Stop & Search within the confines of The Safe Space that was created for young people under 18 to seek refuge. It proved to be successful. There was less graffiti this year thanks to good Police presence in the days leading up to Carnival and general bad weather. However as many of you will have noticed many signs were affected by it.

We continue to take our meetings to Youth Clubs to try and enhance the relationship between young people and the Police and provide a platform for young people to say how they feel and the Met to explain. This continues to be an exercise which is beneficial to both sides and opens up some interesting subjects with restorative outcomes.

I would like to take the opportunity to say that although we have sadly had several local stabbings in the borough recently, The Met were not only there in good time for all incidents but successful arrests have been made of the perpetrators in all incidences.

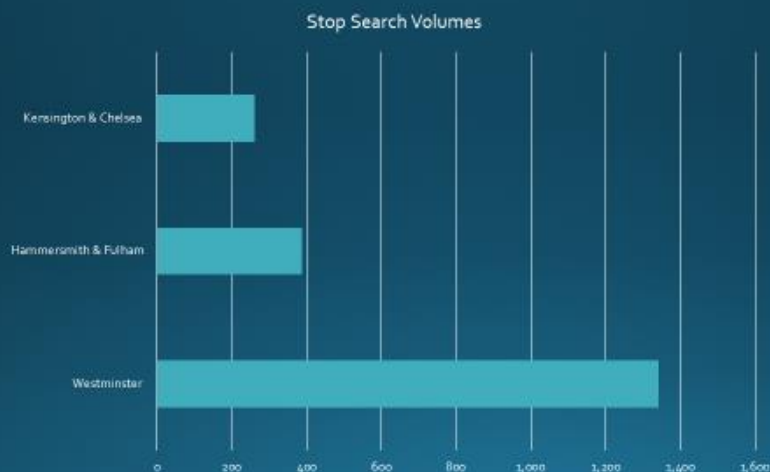
Topics to discuss

Data focuses on the following areas for Central West BCU
June 1st to July 31st 2024.

- Search volumes
- Search Demographics
- More Thorough Intimate Part (MTIP) Searches
- Supervision rate

Search Volumes

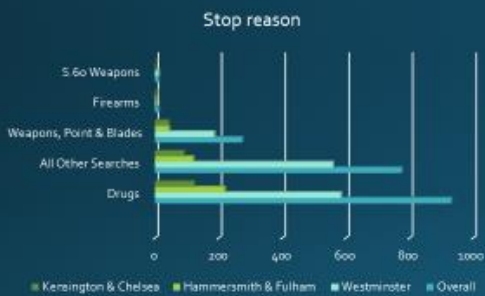
There were 2,002 stop and searches in Central West between June 1st and July 31st 2024. This accounted for 11.2% of all searches in the MPS during that period.



Stop Reason & Result

The largest reason for searches was drugs accounting for 46.9% of searches.

63.9% of searches across the BCU resulted in NFA.



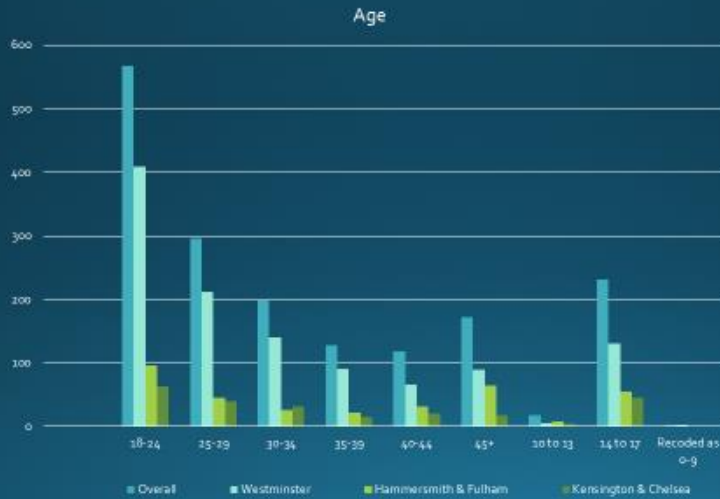
Positive outcome reason

There 708 positive outcomes.



Age

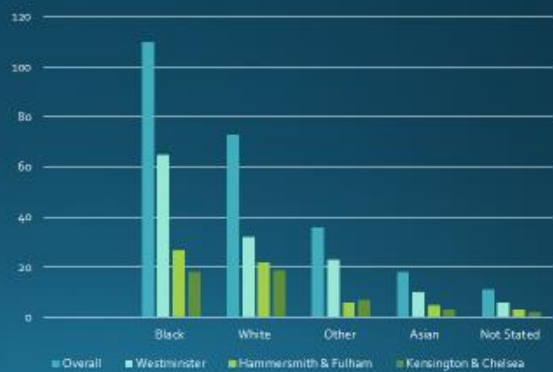
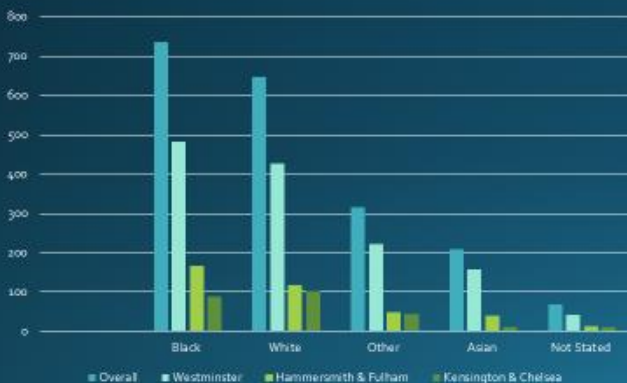
The largest age group to be stop and searched was 18-24yrs accounting for 28.53% . Young people accounted for 12.56%.



Ethnic Appearance

Black people were subject to the most stop searches accounting for 36.97%. White people accounted for 32.55% of searches.

When measuring searches on young people, Black young people were subject to the most stop searches accounting for 44.35%.

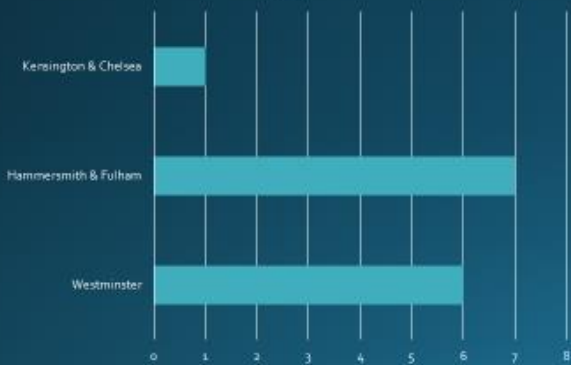


MTIP

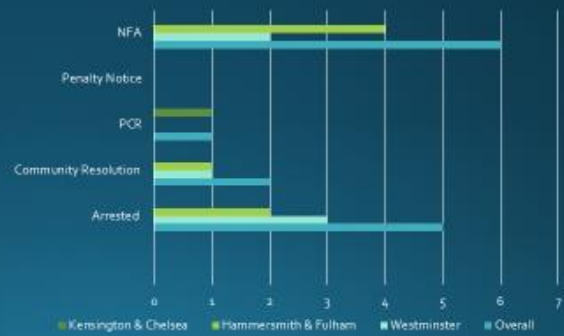
There were 112 MTIP searches between 1st June to 31st July 2024. Westminster accounted for second highest MTIP searches with 14.

In terms of MTIP outcome; 57.14% resulted in a positive outcome.

MTIP



Outcome

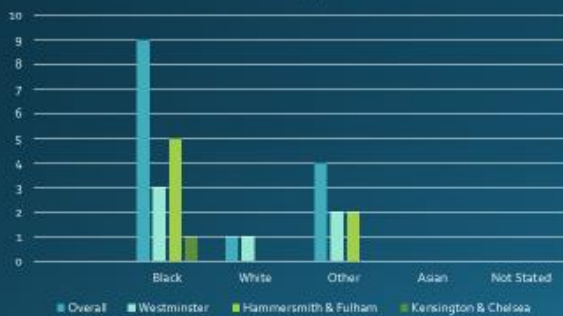


MTIP

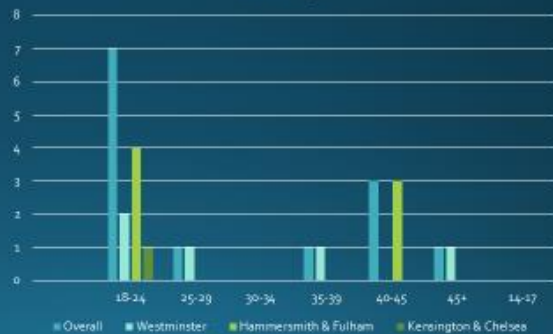
Black people accounted for 64.3% of MTIP searches.

100% of MTIP searches were on those aged 18+.

MTIP Ethnic appearance

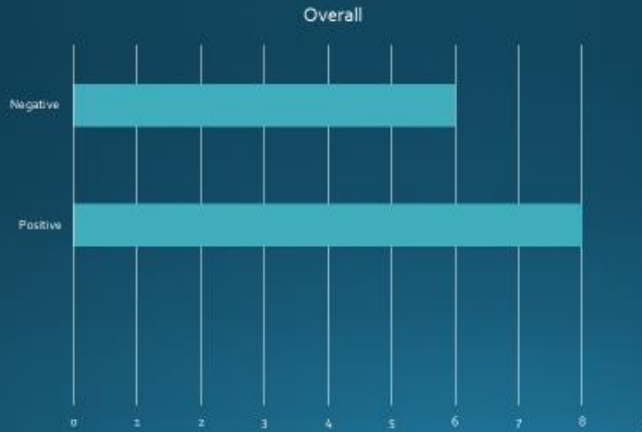


MTIP Age



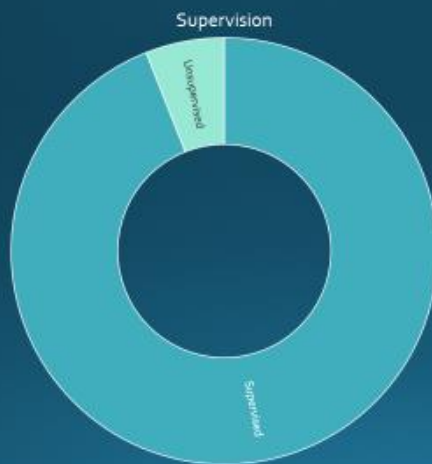
MTIP Outcome Overall

57.14% of MTIP searches resulted in a positive outcome.



Supervision

94% of searches were supervised between June and July.



Report from Vassiliki Stavrou – Independent Custody Visiting Panel (ICV)

The ICV panel have seen a few new panel members join so we have returned to weekly visits. No major issues have been identified during recent visits.

- The panel are now able to use the language line tablets that are available in custody to speak to detainees whose first language is not English.
- The panel have highlighted to custody managers that access to shower/wash facilities isn't always consistently offered to detainees.
- Charing cross is currently housing Hammersmith custody in the downstairs area whilst maintenance work is ongoing.
- The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) released information in March regarding ten nationwide recommendations to the Home Office, National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing after drawing on evidence from several IOPC investigations that looked at police searches of children involving the exposure of intimate parts (EIP). This has been shared with ICVs.

MOPAC are working closely with the MPS to work towards a Child First approach to police custody, with a particular focus on tackling disproportionality. This includes the roll out of animations for children in police custody about their rights and the processes they should expect in custody. Further to this, MOPAC funded guidance and information for children and families on the use of Out of Court Resolutions is also being rolled out in police custody to facilitate the use of Out of Court options wherever possible. Work is also underway to develop a pilot looking at the impact of Child First training for defence solicitors and custody sergeants in supporting the earliest possible action to ensure that children are not held in custody for any longer than is necessary. This is due to be piloted in two custody suites between September 2024 and February 2025.

Report from Caryl Harris – Ward Co-ordinator

The RBKC Wards Safer Neighbourhood Report

Since July 2022, when Sir Mark Rowley took over the role of Commissioner for the Met Police, he made his overall focus and commitment to increasing support in policing our Local Neighbourhoods in all Greater London Boroughs. His priority in these past two years, is an increase of our Dedicated Ward Officer teams in our eighteen wards across RBKC and a more co-operative method across all the DWO teams.

It is certainly noticeable how more focused our Neighbourhood Policing teams are at our quarterly meetings with the emphasis more on local sourcing of intelligence taking a priority over national statistics.

Also, with more dedicated ward officers co-joining on inter-ward activities, it proves the point that no matter where you live within the Borough, many of the criminal problems are 'shared' between every ward no matter where you live in Kensington & Chelsea.

Darker streets increase the fear amongst women of an attack. Small groups of young people, in supermarket car parks, small paved precincts or shop doorways appear threatening especially to the more vulnerable in our community. And electric bikes and e-

scooters are both a hazard when ridden on pavements or just left in a heap blocking pathways (even in parks).

Another useful change has been the co-joining in operations between wards who share resources to combat the offenders by a joint operation in say, a Stop&Search operation, a knife sweep or a Delivery Bike Stop.

Not only have the teams grown in numbers but also in more flexible hours addressing concerns in specific areas. Especially across those identified “hotspots” where in each ward across the Borough - and at the times when the residents have noted, these local crimes tend to increase.

Our most recent and highly successful change has been the split between North and South Ward Teams under the direction of Inspector Charlie Legge in the North and Inspector Grieg Baker-Doyle in the South. This original and innovative division has definitely focused the Ward Panel’s overall thinking and is a great improvement for both the residents who make up ward panel membership, and the Dedicated Ward Officers. Particularly useful was the introduction by Inspector Legge in holding regular (monthly) meetings with just the 8 or 9 Chairs of each Ward in the north of the Borough, which has now been adopted by the South.

These extra meetings provide an open-forum when every chair can contribute exchange and share their experiences and results, on selecting their ward panel members, using the quarterly meetings more usefully and propose ideas and thoughts that help coordination and communications between their neighbourhood and the larger ward communities.

I greatly look forward to attending each quarterly meeting of every ward.

Report from Stuart Priestley – RBKC Chief Community Safety Officer

1 Purpose

1.1 Board members views are sought on the Community Safety Services review approach and new ways of working.

For Comment

2 Community Safety Services

2.1 Safety is a key concern of residents, and they have asked the Council to prioritise actions which increase their safety. This is reflected in the Council Plan with Safer being one of the Council’s three priority themes.

2.2 The Council’s Community Safety Services (CSS), organogram at Appendix, was first established in 1999 to support the Council and its partners deliver the statutory requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The size, scope, priorities and functions of the Council’s Community Safety Services have gone through many iterations in the period since. The CREST Transformation Review 2024 saw the Parks Police and Community Wardens transfer to the Transport and Regulatory Services Department from CSS in recent years. The core functions of the CCS are:

- community safety **strategy** development, delivery and assurance
- **commissioning** (and assurance) of community safety services drawing funding from the Council and regional and central government
- development of the Council’s community safety **policies**

- management of the **statutory community safety duties** of the Council and its partners
- to identify, **manage and mitigate the risks of harm** from individuals in the contexts of antisocial behaviour and hate crime, youth violence and exploitation, violence against women and girls, modern slavery, burglary and terrorism.
- **CCTV** policy and management
- managing the strategic and operational crime and antisocial behaviour **problem solving and tasking processes** to ensure that the most pressing concerns are responded to in the most effective way.

3 Why are we undertaking this Review?

3.1 The Lead Member for Community Safety has requested that the CSS refocus delivery towards an increased community presence, profile and visibility in support of more direct work with residents to listen to and address their community safety concerns. This request is informed by the views of residents and councillors.

3.2 CSS already undertake a range of activities and actions with residents in support of listening and responding to their community safety concerns. This includes supporting the resident led and chaired CCTV Advisory Group, supporting the Youth Violence Parent Champions, delivering the It Takes a Village programme with young people, parents and partners, facilitating the VCS Violence Reduction Network, supporting the resident led Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) and the Independent Advisory Group (IAG), facilitating the Prevent Advisory Group, attending many police ward panels, resident associations and other community meetings and groups.

3.3 These approaches were used in summer 2024 following a number of violent incidents in north Kensington. CSS officers engaged with residents, in partnership with police and housing colleagues, in the communities most affected by providing “pop up” community engagement stalls and others measures. Residents were very appreciative of this approach came forward with concerns and issues and requested more of this activity.

3.4 The Community Safety Services Review provides an opportunity to recalibrate and amplify delivery of community safety outcomes for residents and communities towards a model where residents know about CSS, how to access them and trust that by reporting their concerns positive outcomes will be achieved. Further, that those residents and communities most impacted by crime and antisocial behaviour are engaged and supported as part of the solution to the issues. Through a revised model it is hoped that the following outcomes can be delivered:

- **Increased Visibility:** People should know who community safety are, what they do, and where to find them.
- **Enhanced Knowledge:** Clarifying the "who, what, how, and where" of Community Safety.
- **Greater Trust and Credibility:** Building stronger relationships with residents and partners.
- **Improving outcomes:** Demonstrably impacting crime and ASB and increasing feelings of safety.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Collaborating more effectively with all stakeholders to deliver better outcomes.

- Managing resources effectively: Ensuring we maximise outcomes for limited resources and have longer term strategies to manage change.

4 Strategic and Statutory Considerations

4.1 Safer is a core theme of the Council Plan and has the following commitments:

- Work with police and communities to improve safety, minimise and prevent crime and tackle graffiti and noise
- Respond to emergencies and keeping residents safe

4.2 The Council Plan Action Plan includes the following commitment:

- Work with Police and partners to focus on the following areas in the Community Safety Plan:
 - Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Youth violence and exploitation
 - Drug related offending

4.3 The community safety related statutory functions for the Council and its partners focus upon:

- The Community Safety Partnership, engagement with residents, analysis of data and publication of a Community Safety Plan and Violence Reduction Plan
- The commissioning and assurance of Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Delivering the Prevent Duty.

4.4 The Council and its partners have several published Community Safety Strategies and Plans covering Youth Violence, VAWG, Modern Slavery and Exploitation, CCTV and the Statutory Community Safety Plan. These will expire over the next 18 months and need to be revised.

4.5 The review will need to account for the Statutory responsibilities and ensure service flexibility to respond to any changing priorities which come from the revision of plans and strategies.

5 Approach

5.1 It is intended to complete the review via a report to Joint Leadership Team in January.

5.2 The approach is still in draft format but will involve the development of a draft Community Safety Services New Ways of Working report which will be consultation with:

- Safer K and C Board
- Safer K and C Partnership organisations
- Safer Neighbourhood Board
- Police Independent Advisory Group
- Social Council

- Young K and C
- VCS providers

5.3 Board members may have suggestions for others who may be included in scope.

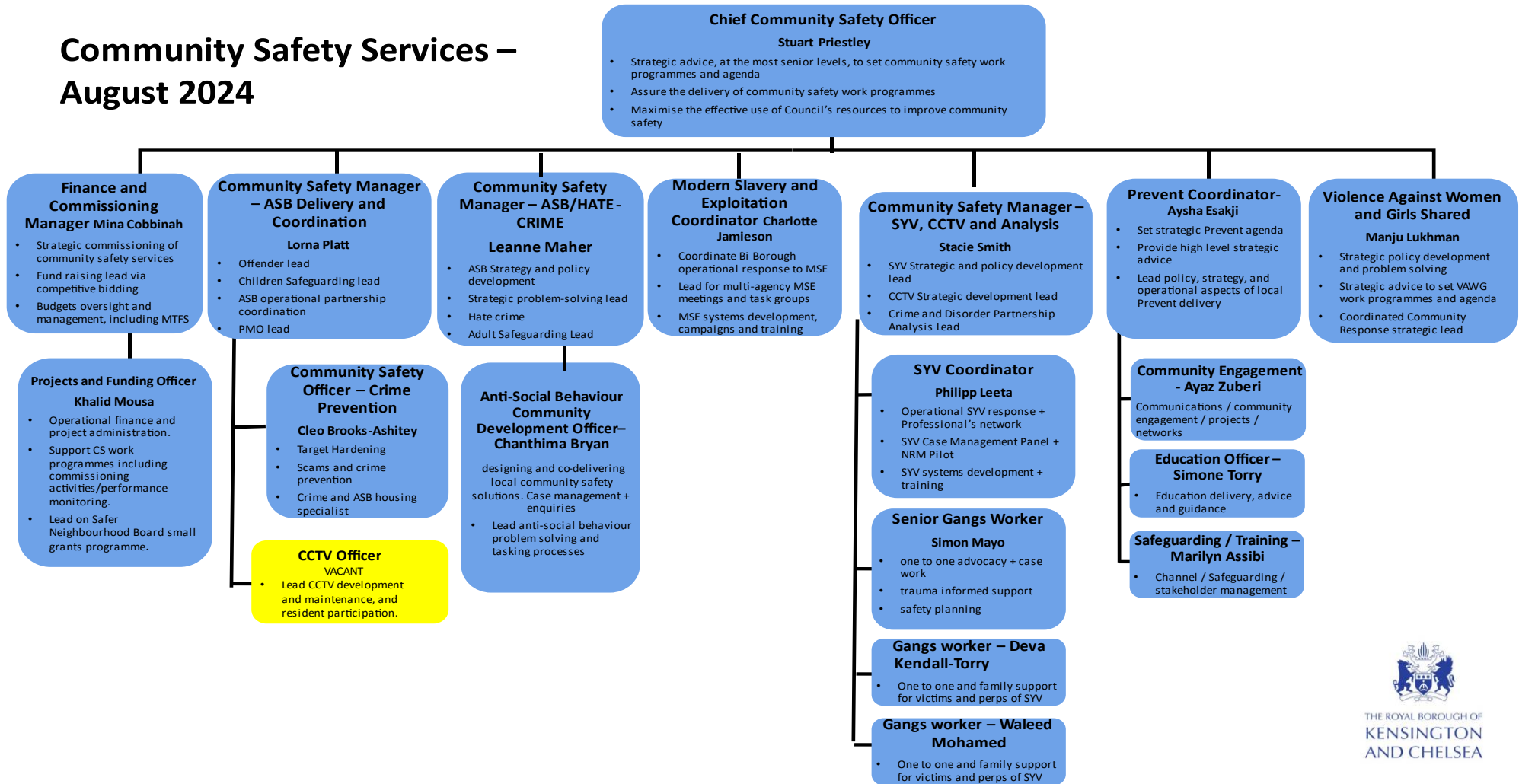
5.4 A workshop was held with staff from Community Safety Services to initiate conversations about what might be included in a New Ways of Working Report and draft ten-point plan was produced. This is:

1. Stronger and more effective relationships with the VCS
2. Develop a network of resident collaborations / influencers who can support local problem solving, policy and strategy development and who can support community engagement and communication activities following critical incidents
3. Work in community settings as a default.
4. Develop a resident / community led problem solving model
5. That the Community Safety Services work to the highest competency standards (including cultural competency) and are victim/survivor centred and resident-led
6. Produce disseminate a clear set of communications that describe what we do, how to access our services to all communities but with an extra focus on those communities who most need our services.
7. To improve and enhance our data driven / resident led approach.
8. Develop and implement a stakeholder engagement and collaboration process.
9. Clarify the remit and accountabilities of Community Safety Services
10. Deliver a comprehensive community engagement programme of events each month

5.4 This should be considered as an initial draft of what might inform the scope and ways of working for a future Community Safety Services.

5.5 Board members views are sought on the Community Safety Services review approach and new ways of working.

Community Safety Services – August 2024



ENDS