

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Reports from Executive Members – January 2024

New Chair

As you are aware the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) was seeking a new Chair and has successfully completed a recruitment and interview process.

The assessment panel comprised Stuart Priestley (Chief Community Safety Officer, RBKC), Angela Spence (CEO, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC)) and Kim Howell (outgoing Chair RBKC SNB).

As a result of that process, Ruth Daniel has been appointed as the new Chair of the RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board. Ruth is currently working at a local voluntary sector organisation and is also involved with a number of community groups in the borough.

Please join me in welcoming Ruth to the Chair role.

Kim Howell, Outgoing Chair RBKC SNB

Report from Kim Howell - MetCC Emergency Response Community Forum

The MetCC Community Forum is set up to challenge and support, and review performance, of the Police Call Centre and Emergency Response. The most recent findings (Dec 2023) indicate the following:

Emergency Response

- Calls to 999 have continued to increase with more than 200,000 each month in London as a whole. These have been answered in 11 seconds on average. Only 15% of these calls were actual emergencies. In about 81% of these, the Met were at the emergency within 15 minutes.
- Emergency response in Kensington & Chelsea was at 80%, not meeting the Met's target, which is attendance within 15 minutes for 90% of 999 call emergencies. About 95% of emergency calls were attended within 26 mins.
- However, the average response time for our BCU was a very good 9:03.
- For K&C, about 75% of Domestic Abuse emergencies were attended within 15 mins.
- Performance on emergency calls for Domestic Abuse is only 72% is within 15 minutes.

Non-Emergency Response

- Calls to 101 are over 100,000 per month. These have much less priority and the average time to answer is some 3 mins.
- About 45,000 reports are done online, and the Met is encouraging the public to report non-emergency crimes and issues online.
- Only about 60% of these calls are attended within the Met's target of 1 hour.
- For K&C this is 50%, but a poor 30% for Domestic Abuse calls.
- This needs improvement for our borough and the Met as a whole.

Report from Lucy Smith-Ryland - Stop & Search

The Kensington & Chelsea CMG Report August -October 23 follows.

There are many more searches that take place in August than at any other time in Kensington & Chelsea. This is always affected by Carnival.

Our Community Monitoring Group (CMG) continues to go well with the group concentrating hard on bringing the Met into Youth Clubs to discuss young people's experiences and ask questions. We have had meetings in 3 clubs so far, The Harrow Club, The Rugby Portobello Club and Golborne Youth Club.

These meetings have gone well and we aim to continue going around clubs with the Police to build better relations in the course of the next year.

We continue to watch Body Worn Video (BWV) which is the most important part of our function.

Kensington & Chelsea CMG Report August - October 2023



Data for the following areas is over a three month period between August 2023 to October 2023.

- Search Volumes - 1,610 searches in RBKC & Chelsea.
- Search Demographics
- More Thorough Intimate Part (MTIP) Searches
- S.60 Searches



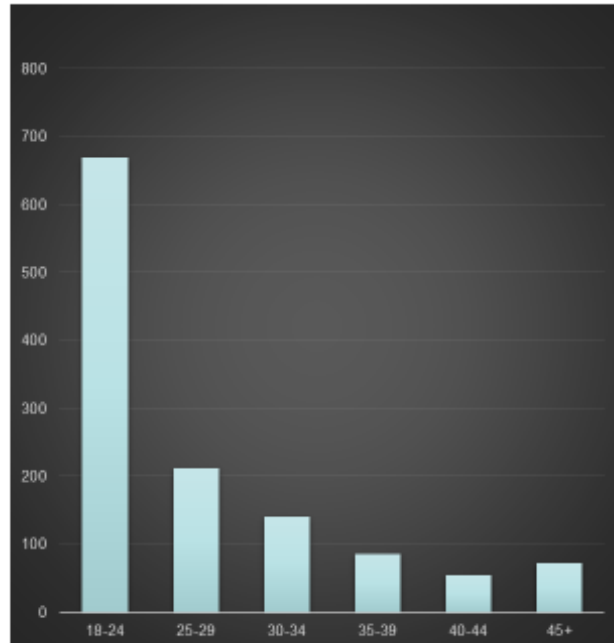
Search Volumes

Between August 2023 to October 2023 there were 1,610 searches in Kensington & Chelsea.



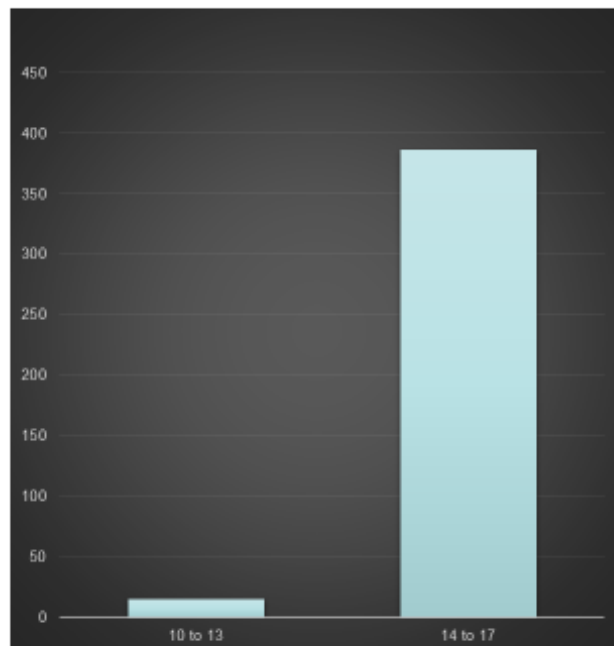
Age Range

The largest age group to be searched was those between 18-24 accounting for 40.9% of searches.



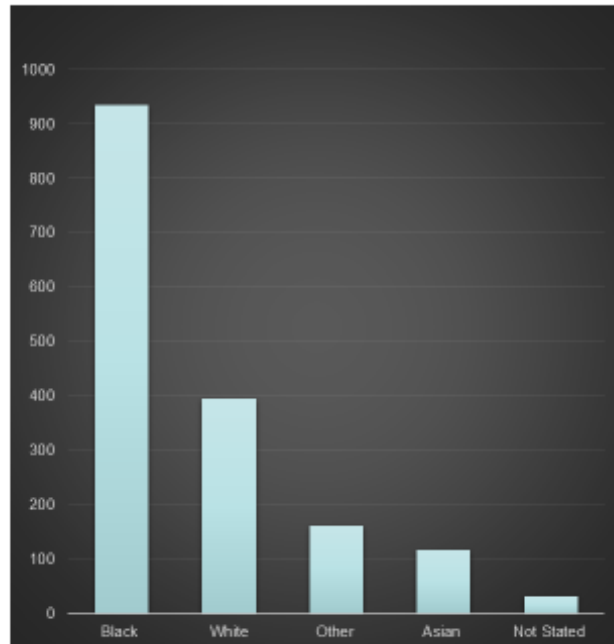
Age 10-14

Those aged between 14 to 17 accounted for 23.6% of overall searches.



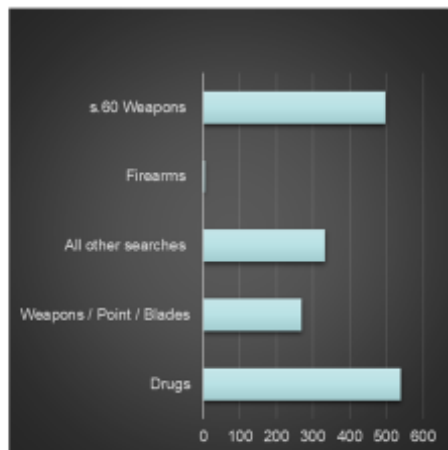
Stops by Ethnic Appearance

Black people were subject to the most searches accounting for 57.1% of all searches. White people accounted for 24.1% of searches.

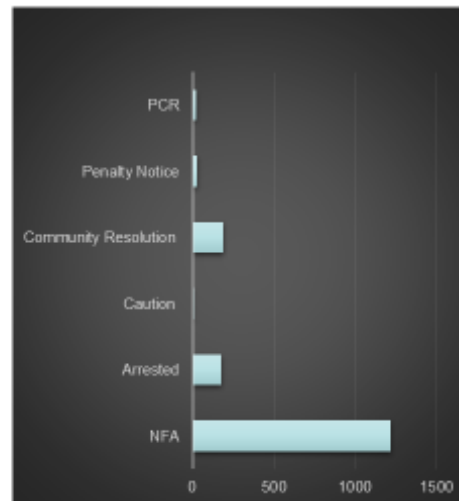


Outcome

Stop Reason



The largest reason for searches was for drugs accounting for 32.8% searches.

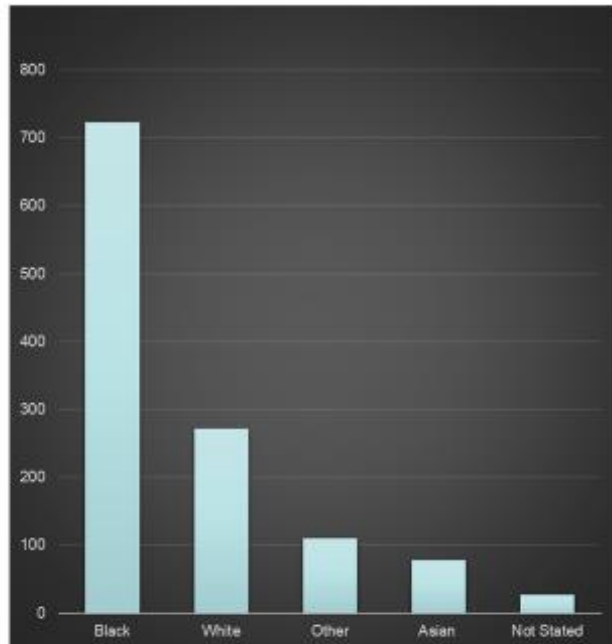


74.6% of searches resulted in NFA.



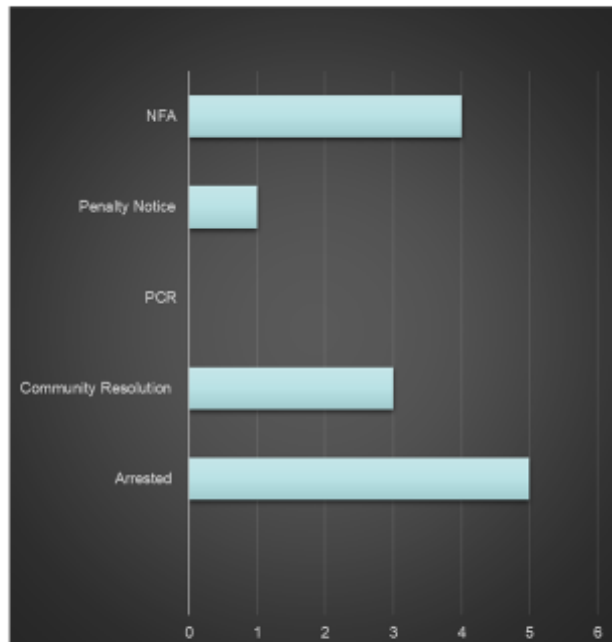
NFA

Black people had the most NFAs following searches accounting for 59.8%.

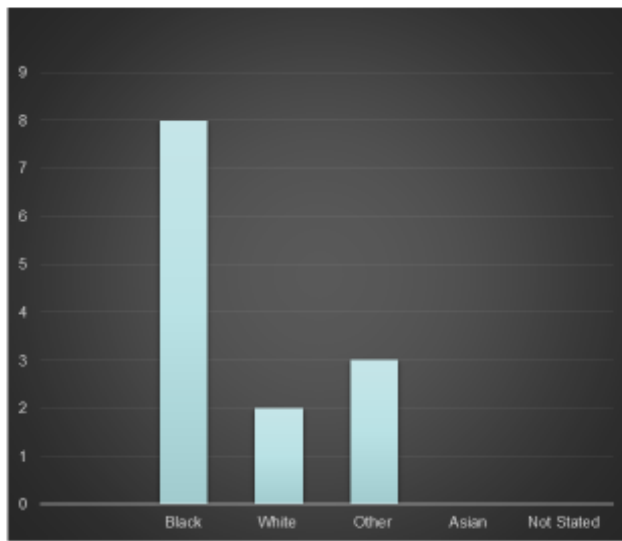


MTIP Outcome

There were 13 MTIP searches between August to October 2023. 38.5% of MTIP searches resulted in arrests, accounting for the largest outcome.



MTIP Ethnic Appearance

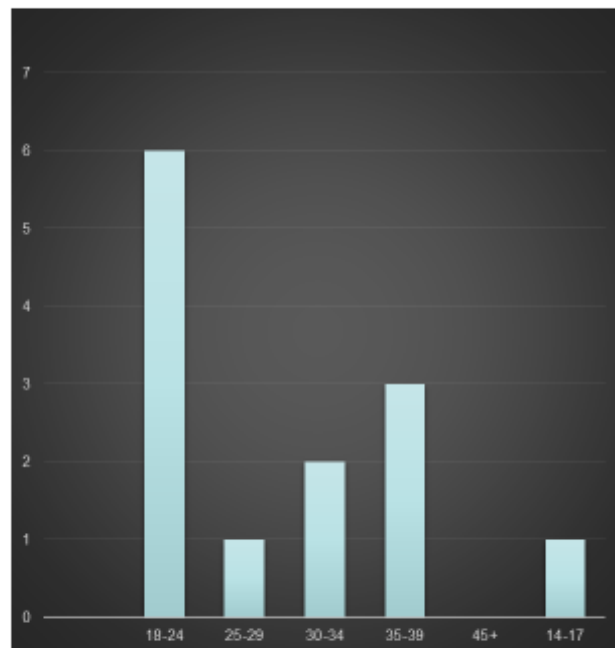


Black people were subject to the most MTIP searches accounting for 61.5%.



MTIP Age

Those aged between 18-24 were subject to the most MTIP searches accounting for 46.2%.



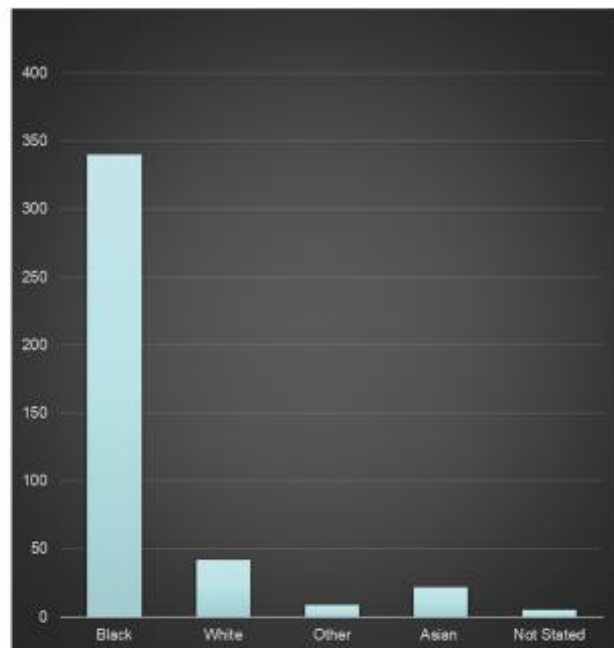
S.60

- There were 497 s.60 searches, accounting for 30.9% of overall searches.
- 84.1% of searches resulted in NFA.
- Those aged between 18-24 were subject to the most searches, accounting for 52.1% searches. 27.4% of searches were on young people aged between 14-17.
- 80.7% of searches were on Black people.



S.60 NFA

Black people had the most NFAs following s.60 searches accounting for 81.3%.



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

1. Charing cross remains the main custody suite.
2. The ICV panel have recently had new panel members join after a period of being under resource. More panel members are welcome from Kensington and Chelsea.
3. Recruitment for custody nurses across London is ongoing and at Charing Cross there is a custody nurse on site 24 hrs/day.
4. The ICV Chairs and Vice Chairs have had meetings with Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) to highlight some issues relating to the ICV scheme regarding the volunteer experience and communication from MOPAC.
5. The Independent Custody Visitors Association (ICVA) has worked with the Sussex Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on a project to establish a new referral pathway for those in police custody in England and Wales. All women entering custody aged 40 and over will be asked at the point of being booked into custody if they would like to speak to someone from healthcare regarding peri-menopause, menopause or post-menopause symptoms. If the detainee accepts this offer, they will then see a healthcare practitioner to discuss their individual needs and a care plan can be produced for their time in police custody. This care plan could include entitlements around physical comfort such as access to additional blankets, access to more frequent showers, cool drinking water and might include memory aids such as pen and paper, distraction items to assist with stress and anxiety reduction. This could trigger the PACE vulnerability safeguard of the detainee getting an appropriate adult.
6. There are works about to start on interview rooms across the Met. Some neighbouring custody suites may use the downstairs of Charing cross custody whilst this work is ongoing.

Report from Caryl Harris - RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel Meetings/ Jan 2023 - Feb 2024

For the past 6 or is it 7 years - or perhaps it's more? I have been representing the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea at our 18 Ward Panel Residents/DWO quarterly meetings around the Borough.

For those residents who are, perhaps, unaware of these really useful and productive meetings, we meet four times a year - at either a police station (Royalty or Earl's Court Road) or at a local community centre, local business office, a public house upstairs room, or in a kind resident's home. (and we get biscuits).

Your local Dedicated Ward Officers for the 18 Wards in RBKC attend, together with interested and contributing local ward residents. We discuss in detail the last three months of local policing activities in their ward. Each meeting follows a similar

format, with the chair (normally a resident) and the police running through the recent crime statistics on their ward for the past three months. These Stats are usually focused upon the crimes (tagged as Priorities) that are most prevalent in each ward and these are frequently similar crimes across the other wards in the Borough. They also show Hot Spots where more crimes are committed. Really helpful intelligence.

For example, theft from vehicles, which is often due to the same mistake we all make, of leaving something valuable on show in the car like a posh carrier bag, or mobile phone. Theft from cars is usually an 'opportunistic crime' and a driver in a hurry perhaps on their way to an appointment forgets in the rush to hide their briefcase or handbag. They happen everywhere but more often near any busy high street or station.

Every ward, at the end of their quarterly meeting elects democratically, their PRIORITIES and these identified crimes often are shared by many other wards too. Robbery from a house, ASB, robbery from person (particularly around Harrods with expensive handbags and watches) begging and even bird-feeding. Recently, shoplifting has had a surge with perpetrators just walking out of the shop with their stolen goods. Unsafe pavements due to e-bikes and e-scooters riding on them, or just left obstructing the pedestrians, is a priority in almost all 18 wards.

The meetings take around 60-90 minutes and are invaluable in providing local 'intel' for your Ward Officers so please, if you do have an hour to spare - just four times a year, please do look up online your local DWO Team and find out when their next quarterly meeting is happening.

Currently, as well as my attendance at every ward meeting (and I am now up to 318 attendances -approximately) I do try to attend every meeting if I can and the fact that I am still happy volunteering for this role, means I do get a return on the investment.

For me the most valuable 'learning' is the unique position I am in whereby I get a true "overview" of the valuable contribution these ward partnerships contribute to our Safer Neighbourhoods Projects. From my vantage point, I see and record every repeated scenario from every meeting, which helps clarify the trends that are happening in many of the wards. These trends may unfold over three, and possibly six months, but there is no doubt, that a new priority in Queen's Gate Ward in January (like E-Bikes (Dot and Tier) left all over our pavements causing accidents and obstructions) will soon become their priority in May in Goldborne Ward.

As some of you know, we are developing a new APP/desktop platform, that we hope will be fully funded shortly and be available to everyone living in RBKC.

Every month the App will automatically update to show every Ward resident their Local Dedicated Ward Team with their name number and photograph. There will be an email address if a resident want to make an observation or comment (But it is NOT a reporting a crime App – only use 999/101 for this). All updated Ward statistics and hotspots for your Ward priorates will be there. Plus a New News Board, information on up-and coming ward activities and meetings plus GOOD NEWS outcomes. But above all else, the Police's Twitter "X" feed from their body-cams will

be there for everyone to see - fed directly into the APP so you will be always able to see your DWO Team on the beat in your area.

Finally fulfilling that constant question and a Ward Priority **“Where are our Police on the Streets”**

Report from Stuart Priestly - The Council’s Chief Community Safety Officer

COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICES

The Council is committed to improving the safety of its residents by listening to their lived experiences, concerns and wishes and acting on those to improve their lives.

Residents have told us that safety, including safety from crime and antisocial behaviour, is a key concern for them. “Listening to resident’s voices” and “improving safety” were the top two concerns of the Grenfell bereaved, survivors and residents engaged in the Grenfell Legacy Conversation in 2023.

The Council and its partners, by working together, and ensuring resident voices are heard and their views respected and responded to, can deliver sustainable and effective change in tackling crime, antisocial behaviour and increasing feelings of safety.

The Council’s Community Safety Services work across Council departments, with residents, stakeholders, police and partners, to make the borough a safer place to live, work and study.

This report provides an overview of the Council’s Community Safety Services priorities and work programmes.

FOR INFORMATION

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.2 The Council has several responsibilities and statutory duties in respect of engaging with, and listening to, residents and responding to their community safety needs and wishes.

1.3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and subsequent legislation, requires the Council and its partners to fulfil a number of statutory functions in respect of crime and antisocial behaviour. In summary, these are to:

- Establish a strategic Community Safety Partnership
- Engage and consult with communities about their community safety priorities.
- Establish systems and processes for sharing information to ensure effective partnership safeguarding and strategic response to crime and disorder.

- Analyse data and produce a Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Plan.
- Set out how the Partnership will monitor and report on delivery of the Community Safety Plan.
- Commission and assure domestic violence homicide reviews.
- Produce a Serious Violence Partnership Strategic Assessment and Strategy having undertaken resident and stakeholder engagement and an analysis of relevant local data.

1.4 The Council's commitments and investments in building a safer borough stretch far beyond that which is required in law. The Council, via its Council Plan, has committed to building a safer borough for all and has pledged to "Work with the Police and communities to improve safety in the borough and to support the Police to minimise and prevent crime"¹.

2.1 MAIN REPORT

2.2 With over 50 different nationalities living the borough and over 80 different languages spoken the Royal Borough is one of the most diverse places in the country. The borough is also economically diverse. Kensington and Chelsea features among the top 10% of UK local economies in the UK Prosperity Index² and has the highest average house price in the country³. At the same time 23% of Kensington and Chelsea neighbourhoods are among the 20% most income-deprived in England and Wales⁴.

2.3 All of the residents in Kensington and Chelsea deserve to feel safe. This means safe in their homes as well as when out and about in their communities. There are disparities across the geography, age and socio-economic status of residents in the ways in which they experience crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime. Crime maps at Annex 1 show how some wards are disproportionately affected by crime and some types of crime. Further, crime is going up in Kensington and Chelsea at a higher rate than the London average. The Safer K and C Board are working with the police to understand why this is the case and to both support and to hold them to account for tackling this.

2.4 The results from the 2023 Citizen Panel Survey below provides an illustration of how residents experiences of crime and feelings of safety are dispersed.

2.5 Citizen Panel Survey 2023

¹ The Council Plan 2023-2027

² <https://www.guildfordsociety.org.uk/UK-Prosperity-Index-2021-web.pdf>

³ <https://www.twindig.com/market-views/london-house-prices>

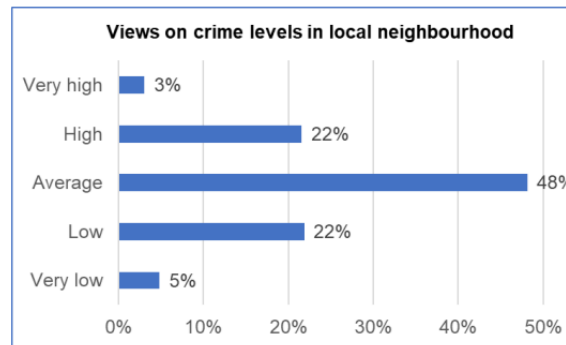
⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Crime levels in your neighbourhood

Just under half of Panel members (48 per cent) felt that the crime levels in their neighbourhood were average. Twenty two per cent felt that they were high and three per cent very high. Twenty two per cent felt they were low and five per cent very low.

Demographic differences (these percentages are high/very high combined)

- Female Panel members were more likely to think crime levels were high/very high (32 per cent) than male Panel members (16 per cent).
- Those under 60 were more likely to think crime levels were high/very high (28 per cent) than those aged 60 and over (21 per cent).
- White Panel members were more likely to think crime levels were high/very high (26 per cent) than ethnically diverse Panel members (19 per cent).
- Both those living in the centre and the north of the borough (both 26 per cent) were more likely to agree that crime levels are high/very high than those living in the south (20 per cent).



Base: 334 (all responses)



2.6 What this means for Community Safety Services is that one size does not fit all. That it is vital that we engage, listen, and respond to the concerns of our residents at a neighbourhood level. An example of this is the youth violence diversionary work the Council, voluntary sector and police undertake in north Kensington. Working collaboratively, and at grass roots level, partners work to provide sports-based engagement for young people. Positive behaviours, anti-crime and violence work and employment support is provided alongside support to divert young people from crime. This work is tailored to the specific needs of the young people in the neighbourhood and supports tackling violence, antisocial behaviour and unemployment.

2.7 There are many Council services which deliver significant and explicit functions in the delivery of community safety outcomes. The work undertaken to safeguard children and adults from harm and that of the Youth Offending Service and Noise Nuisance and Street Enforcement Teams are examples. The Council's Community Safety Services work with residents, all Council services and statutory, voluntary and community sector partners in the delivery of its community safety programmes. For the purposes of this report the focus will be upon the Council's Community Safety Services.

2.8 The Council's Community Safety Services work with residents and resident groups, businesses, local voluntary and community sectors, Council services, police, London Fire Brigade, London Probation Service, Health providers and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to facilitate a joined-up response to local community safety issues within resources and policy and legislative frameworks. In doing so they have to balance the views and wishes of residents, available

resources and assets, the requirements and restrictions of legislation and policy, analysis of local need and the efficacy of interventions and activities.

2.9 It is the police and not the Council who hold primacy in the prevention and detection of crime. The Council's Community Safety Services support the police in their efforts and work to reduce and prevent crime and identify and support victims/survivors to recover and thrive. They also work to identify those vulnerable to being drawn into crime and offending and intervene to support them to access support and divert away from an offending lifestyle.

2.10 The work of the Youth Violence Reduction Service within Community Safety Services is an example. This service works with residents, voluntary and community organisations, police and partners to identify those young people and young adults at most risk of violent offending. These young people have often experienced childhood trauma as well as being victims and perpetrators of serious violence and the trauma that this brings. The service works in a child centred way, drawing on evidenced based learning (such as the public health model of violence and contextual safeguarding) to reduce the violence and offending of the most vulnerable and at risk (of harm from violence) young people and young adults in the borough. Their work has been recognised by Ofsted as particularly effective. They work closely with neighbouring borough counterparts to coordinate services and interventions and reduce risk and harm, working within legislation, policy and resources. Whilst knife crime with injury offences have reduced in Kensington and Chelsea (down 7.3% compared to a 3.1% increase in London in 2023 on the previous year) there can still be significant increases in violence in communities such as that which occurred in north Kensington in Autumn 2023 and featured multiple stabbings, shootings and sadly a homicide. The Council and its partners remain ambitious to do more to keep its young residents safe from harm from violence.

2.11 The Council and its partners, via the Safer K and C Board (the statutory Community Safety Partnership), have agreed to focus upon the following priority crime types:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Youth Violence and Exploitation
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Drug Related Offending

2.12 Analysis of the issues, residents and stakeholder views and commitments for action are detailed in:

- Community Safety Plan
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy
- Modern Slavery Strategy
- Serious Violence Strategy

- CCTV Strategy

2.13 The Council's community safety plans and strategies can be found on the Council's [webpages](#)⁵. The Serious Violence Strategy was agreed by the Council's Leadership Team in January 2024 and can be found in the [Leadership Team papers](#).

2.14 All of the plans and strategies have SMART action plans aligned to the specific commitments in the strategy/plan. These link back to what residents have told the Council and its partners are important to them and want to see addressed. Interventions and services are based upon analysis of local need and are evidenced based. All have Key Performance Indicators founded upon a robust theory of change. These are assured via a number of governance meetings sitting beneath and reporting to the Safer K and C Partnership Board.

2.15 The Council Plan Action Plan commits the Council to "2.4 Work with Police and partners to focus on the following areas in the Community Safety Plan: Violence against women and girls, Anti-social behaviour, Youth violence and exploitation and Drug related offending". Current performance has been assessed as Green – progressing well. Recent headlines from this work include: the publication of the Council's first Serious Violence Strategy, the delivery of an innovative data-led project to identify and engage victims of modern slavery, the commencement of a consultation for a Public Spaces Protection Order in Earl's Court to tackle antisocial behaviour. In the coming months the Safer K and C Board will develop an action plan to strengthen responses to antisocial behaviour across the borough capitalising on the newly established Council Street Enforcement Team and additional neighbourhood police resources, submit a Violence and Vulnerability Plan to the Home Office describing local actions and partnerships, and deliver a programme of violence against women and girls awareness raising activities to coincide with International Women's Day on the 8 March.

2.16 In addition to the community safety priorities detailed at 2.11, the Council's Community Safety Services also lead programmes of work focussed upon tackling:

- Hate Crime
- Modern Slavery
- Terrorism, including the Prevent Team
- Adult Offending
- Target Hardening properties and to reduce repeat victimisation and designing out crime and
- Managing and developing the Council's public realm CCTV camera network.

2.17 The Council's Parks Police work to ensure that the Council's parks and open spaces remain safe and welcoming places for everyone. The Parks Police fall under the purview of Community Safety Services

⁵ <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety>

2.18 A significant proportion of the work of the Community Safety Services is reactive and focusses upon problem solving issues, with partners, raised by residents, stakeholders and Councillors.

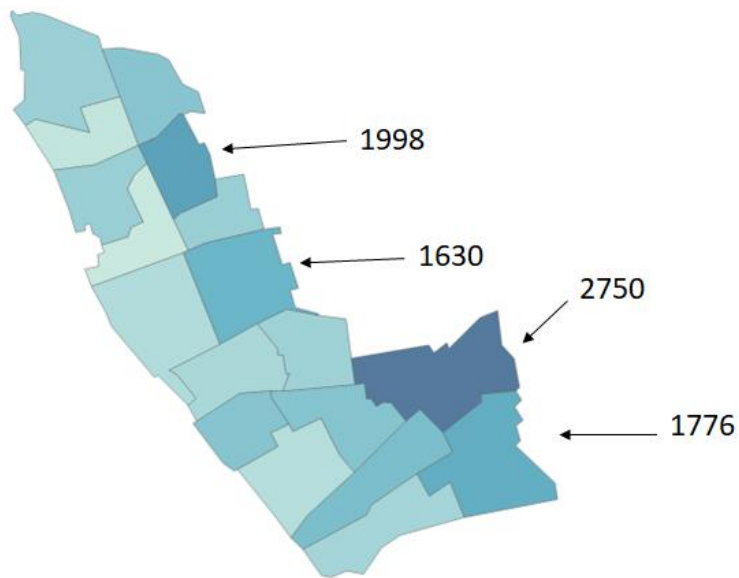
2.19 The Council's Community Safety Services commission a number of services from the voluntary and community sectors to deliver activities and services in the borough which support the delivery of the Council and its partners' community safety priorities and commitments. These services are funded via a mixture of council funding and funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Violence Reduction Unit. The themes are:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Youth Violence and Exploitation
- Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime

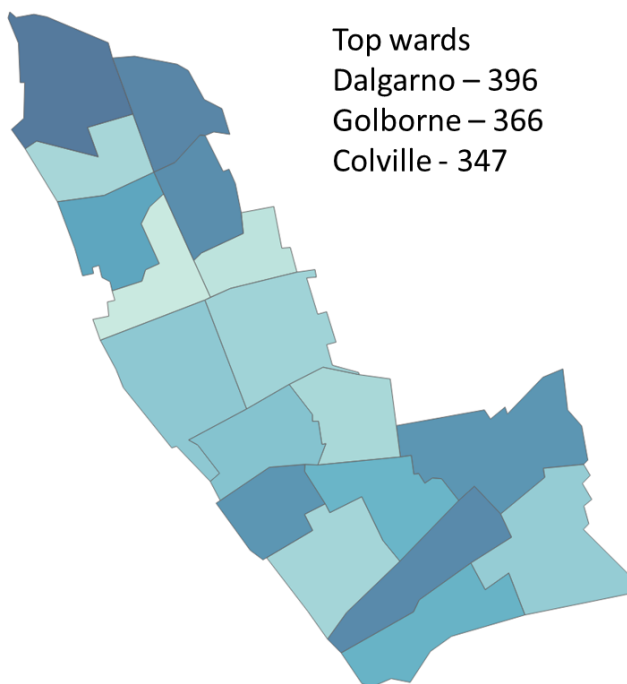
2.20 Community Safety Services administer a small grants programme to support grass roots community organisations to deliver community safety outcomes across the borough. In the current financial year this has seen funding allocated to 19 organisations to deliver a range of projects and activities. All organisations have Grant Agreements that include targets and key deliverables which are managed by Community Safety Services. Officers undertake site visits for the majority of projects to engage with the service users/ providers and to better understand resident needs, concerns and wishes as well as the efficacy of the projects being delivered.

Annex 1- Reported Crime Maps

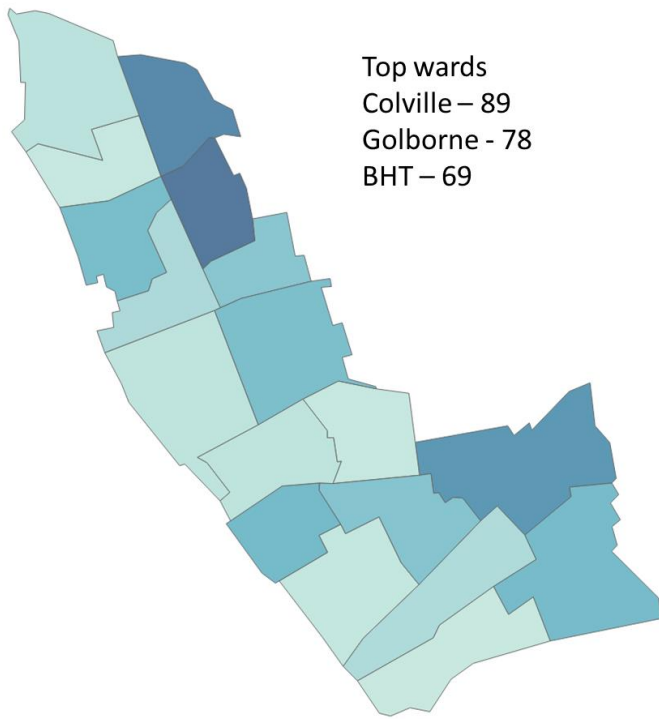
Total reported crime 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023. Total Offences 25,314 an 11.5% increase compared to previous year. By comparison London experienced a 6.5% increase over the same period.



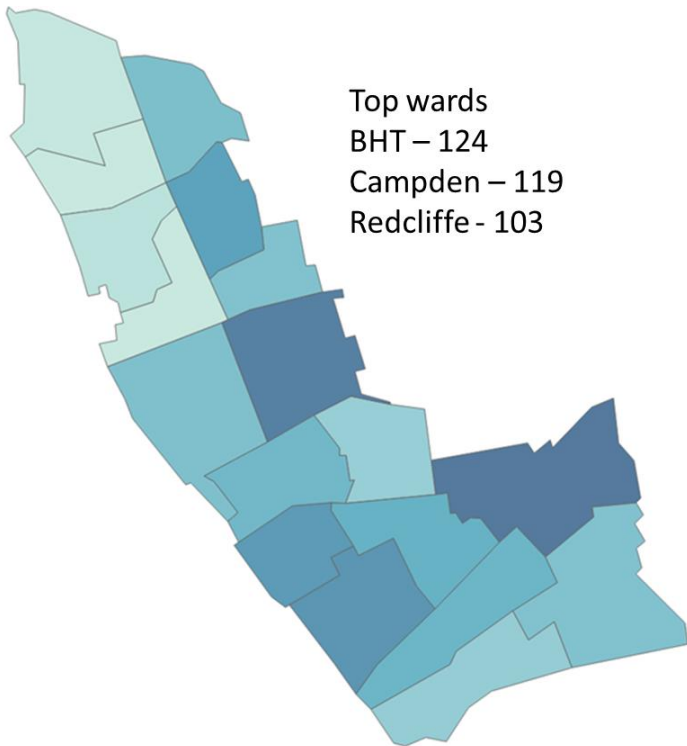
All Violence Against the Person 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023.



Robbery 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023



Burglary 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023



ENDS