

# Serious youth violence and knife crime plan

2018/19





## Foreword from Hammersmith & Fulham Council

---

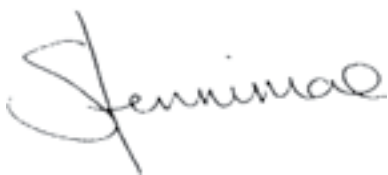
We do not accept that crime and violence is a foregone conclusion for any young person in Hammersmith & Fulham, regardless of their circumstances. As a council, we are redoubling partnership efforts to divert young people at risk of offending away from a life impacted by crime. The government has slashed police funding and, as we prioritise the safety of our residents, we have stepped in and funded the largest-ever number of council-funded police officers.

We need a thoughtful, joined-up approach both to crime and to its causes. Our policies on the local economy, education and social inclusion are designed to crack down on the causes of crime.

Through this action plan, we set out a comprehensive plan of partnership activity to tackle the immediate threat to safety posed by knife crime in Hammersmith & Fulham.

In this Action Plan we set out how we will support communities as they stand up against knife crime. We will provide effective help for young people who are involved in gangs, or at risk of becoming gang members. We will identify pathways for young people to steer them away from criminality, alongside taking enforcement action with partners to get dangerous individuals and weapons off our streets. We will work with the third sector and community to tackle knife crime, gang, and youth violence. We will go on investing more on crime prevention and in CCTV.

I am grateful to everyone who has taken part in the development of this action plan. It is clear there is much to do but we are committed to making a difference and I look forward to working together to deliver change.



**Councillor Sue Fennimore**  
Deputy Leader.

## Introduction

---

Reducing knife crime related injuries and community concerns around knife crime is a key priority for us, our partners and Community.

We recognise that in addition to catching knife offenders and deterring young persons from carrying knives, victims of knife crime, their families, and our wider community need support.

This Action Plan underpins both the Mayor of London's ambition to "drive knife crime out of London" through his 2017 'London Knife Crime Strategy', and our own 2017 'H&F Vision' to create a borough for residents that is "safe, clean and green."

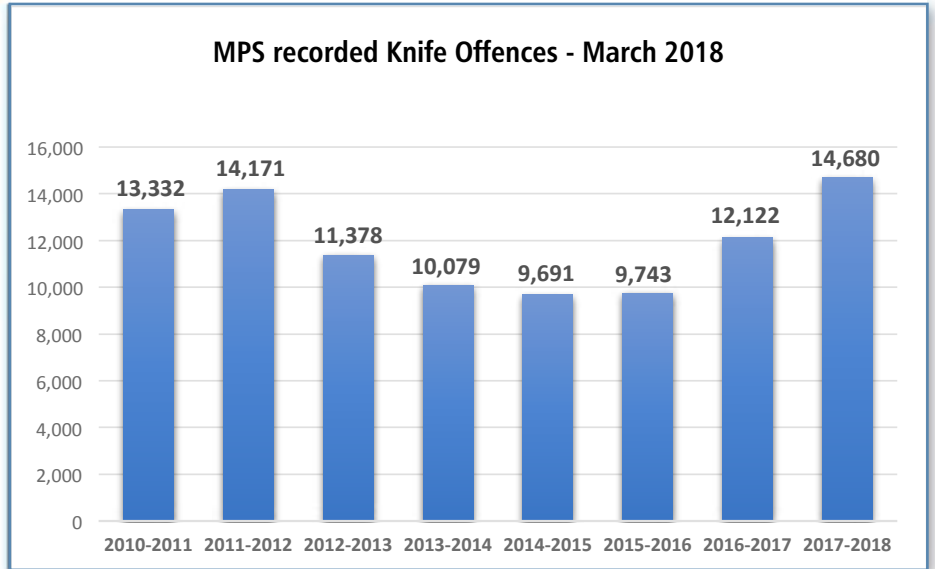
The intersections between gang-related crime and knife-related crime are further outlined in our Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation Partnership Strategy (2016-2021).

This action plan will be used to monitor all the activities that we undertake with our partners to reduce knife crime in the borough.

Between March 2017 and March 2018 there were 14,680 knife crime offences, which is an increase of 21% when compared to the previous year (March 2016 – March 2017).

## Knife crime - the London picture

Knife crime is on the rise across the country. In 2016/17, London accounted for approximately three in ten recorded knife offences nationally. In the period March 2016 to March 2017 12,122 knife offences were recorded in London.

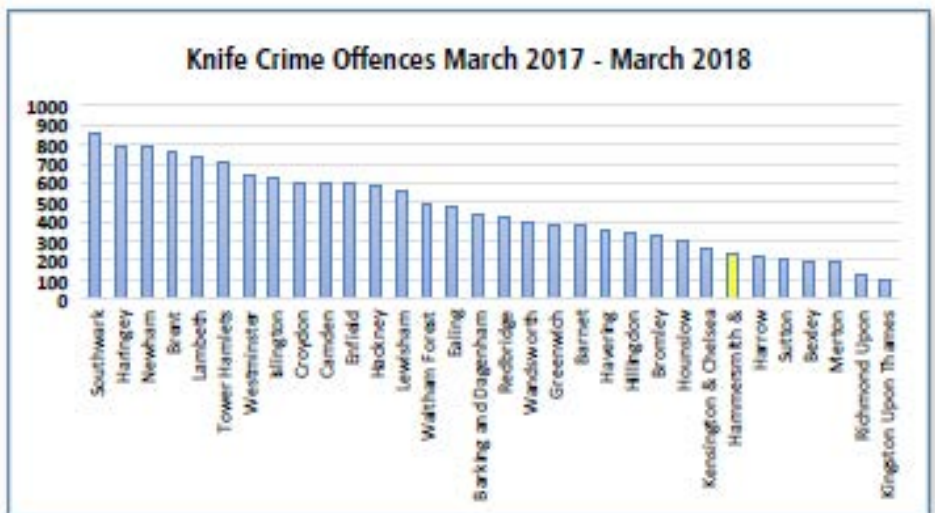


## Knife crime - Hammersmith & Fulham

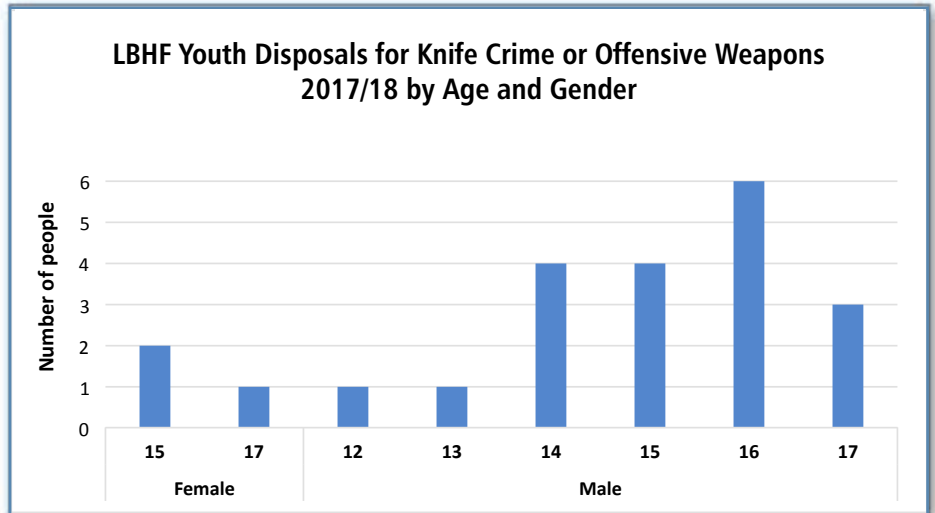
In Hammersmith & Fulham, between March 2017 and March 2018, there were 235 knife crime offences. Between March 2016 – March 2017, there were 234 knife crime offences, which is an increase of 0.4 % (or 1 offence) over the past 12 months.

Since 2016 Hammersmith & Fulham has seen a slight increase in incidents involving violence and weapons, and even though we have relatively low levels of knife crime when compared to other London boroughs, any increase is unacceptable.

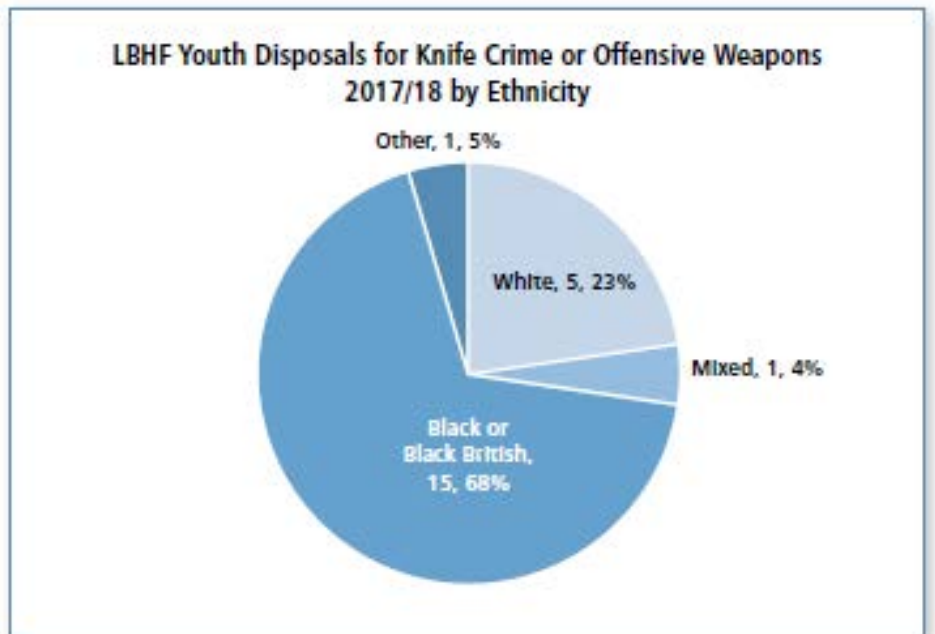
In 2017/18, according to Youth Offending Team (YOT) data, 22 young people received statutory and out of court disposals in relation to knife crime or offensive weapon offences.



In 2017/18, the majority of incidents involving knives in H&F were committed by young people, under 18, who were actively involved in, or on the periphery of gang activity.



In 2017/18, the majority of young people arrested, charged and found guilty of knife crime in H&F were young people of either black or black British ethnicity.



## Developing and delivering this action plan

---

This Action Plan has been developed with partner agencies. Participants in the consultation process include:

H&F Community Safety Team, H&F Licensing Team, H&F Trading Standards Team, H&F Youth Offending Team, H&F Family Assist Team, H&F Antisocial Behaviour Team, H&F Neighbourhood Wardens Team, Street Doctors, St Giles Trust, Access to Sport, Let Me Play, London Sports Trust, Women & Girls Network, H&F Police, H&F Police Safer Schools Team and H&F Community Safety Partnership.

The key themes of our action plan are:

- 1 Standing with communities, neighbourhoods, and families against crime**
- 2 Protecting and educating young people**
- 3 Keeping deadly weapons off our streets**
- 4 Offering ways out of crime**
- 5 Targeting lawbreakers**
- 6 Supporting victims**

This Action Plan will be reviewed annually in conjunction with Hammersmith & Fulham Councils Corporate Vision, Hammersmith & Fulham Councils Ending Gang Violence & Exploitation Partnership Strategy, The London Knife Crime Strategy, and the Home Office's Serious Violence Strategy.

Theme	Objectives	Action	Lead	Outcome	Rag
<b>Standing with communities, neighbourhoods and families against knife crime</b>	Develop and deliver anti-knife crime initiatives that work with youths caught up in knife crime.	Deliver weapons awareness workshops to vulnerable young people, specifically those who have received an out of court disposal or a statutory court order for possession of a knife or offensive weapon.  The sessions will focus on legislation, social perceptions, exploitation, the impact of knife crime injuries, and first aid.	<b>Family Assist</b> <b>Youth Offending Team</b> <b>Police</b> <b>Street Doctors</b>	2 sessions delivered (Spring/Autumn). Each session attended by 10 at risk young people.  Young people understand the consequences of involvement in knife crime.	
	Increase engagement with hard to reach, high risk young people.	Provide 3 funded full time Police Officers to sit within the council's Youth Offending Team and support the work of the YOT in engaging young people at the risk of, or already within, the criminal justice system.  Provide 1 funded full time Gangs Outreach Police Officer to support and divert young people from crime.	<b>H&amp;F Council</b> <b>H&amp;F Police</b> <b>Youth Offending Team</b> <b>Violence Impact Project</b>	Increased engagement and early intervention.  30 hours a week outreach delivered.	
		<b>Violence Impact Project (VIP)</b> - commission outreach services commissioned to work with high risk young people.	<b>H&amp;F Family Services</b>		
	Engage with community groups concerned about knife crime.	Youth Offending Team to attend meetings with 3rd Sector organisations and community groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Education Forum</li> <li>• Somali Women's Network</li> <li>• Leaf Education</li> </ul>	<b>Youth Offending Team</b>	Parents are engaged in the partnership's approach to preventing knife crime and feel supported to safeguard their children from knife crime and exploitation.	
	Enable communities to provide their experience of street encounters, especially around stop and search, directly to the borough Police.	Stop and Search Monitoring Committee will meet on a quarterly basis to monitor police activity, and feedback findings to the Community Safety Partnership. YOT to sit on the committee.  Consult with Independent Advisory Group, Neighbourhood Watch, and Key Individual Networks.	<b>H&amp;F Police</b> <b>Stop and Search Monitoring Committee</b>	Public involvement facilitated to help shape effective policing, particularly around stop and search.  Four Stop and Search Monitoring committee meetings held annually.  More young people identified by YOT to join Stop and Search Committee.	

Theme	Objectives	Action	Lead	Outcome	Rag
Protecting and educating young people	Give young people a voice and involve them in the decision-making process.	Consult with the <b>H&amp;F Youth Council</b> on tackling knife crime and how best young people can make themselves safer.	<b>H&amp;F Youth Council</b>	Consultation facilitated to feed into knife crime strategy, with any recommendations incorporated in to the annual plan.	
	Safeguard, protect and divert vulnerable young people away from gang criminality.	Safeguarding Process - ensure partners are familiar with the safeguarding process, and work collaboratively and holistically to protect and divert young people from violence and gang criminality.  Ensure any concerns about harm/risk to young people are reported through the Initial Consultation and Advice Team. This front door allows information to flow through to the Contacts & Assessment Team, and for an appropriate onward referral to be made.	<b>H&amp;F Council</b> <b>H&amp;F Police</b>	Effective referrals to Family Support Service or Adolescent Service.  Concerns discussed in the appropriate forums.  Effective support for vulnerable young people transitioning from Childrens to Adults Services.	
	To engage young people in diversionary activities	Work with <b>Safe Camp</b> , a sports camp for young people and children, to engage young people in a range of activities and sport including workshops on the consequences of carrying knives.	<b>H&amp;F Police</b> <b>Access to Sport</b> <b>Let Me play</b> <b>London Sports Trust</b>	Deliver Safe Camp throughout the school holidays.  Reduction in first time knife crime offenders on borough.	
		Deliver the <b>BMX Clever</b> outreach programme to Pupil Referral Units and groups with behavioural issues.	<b>Access to Sport</b>	Deliver the BMX outreach programme at the Bridge AP Academy in 2018.  Identify new youth groups and young people to work with.	
	To educate schools on Violence Against Women and Girls, and advise them how to integrate support into different aspects of their provision.	Commission the <b>Women and Girls Network</b> to deliver advocacy and educational provision to teachers and youth services in the borough.	<b>Women and Girls Network</b>	Provide young women with safe spaces, and consult them on key issues such as knife crime.  1 AP/YOT setting per year - 50 psycho-educational workshop sessions delivered each year reaching 10 young women and 40 young men.	
	Raise awareness of knife crime among young people.	Deliver knife crime awareness workshops in primary and secondary schools.	<b>H&amp;F Police</b> <b>Safer Schools Team</b>	At least one session delivered in every primary and secondary schools in the borough.	



Theme	Objectives	Action	Lead	Outcome	Rag
<p><b>Protecting and educating young people</b> continued</p>	<p>Develop anti-knife crime initiatives that engage young people and those most at risk of being involved in violence.</p>	<p>Commission <b>Street Doctors</b> to deliver lifesaving skills sessions in H&amp;F. These sessions aim to discourage young people from carrying weapons, giving them the information they need to dissuade their peers from doing so. Street Doctor volunteers will teach young people two practical and interactive modules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first module explores the medical consequences of violence, including carrying weapons, and seeks to address the factors linked to violence.</li> <li>• The second session is practical; young people are taught vital first aid skills and what to do in a medical emergency.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Street Doctors</b></p>	<p>20 life-saving skills sessions delivered to a total of 200 young people throughout the year.</p>	
	<p>Improve the identification and response to the exploitation of young people by organised criminals, specifically through County Lines.</p>	<p>Work with the <b>Out There Response and Rescue Service</b> - a pan-London project led by Brent &amp; Lewisham and delivered across all 32 boroughs.</p> <p>The project has 3 elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response &amp; Rescue - an immediate 24/7 rescue and response service</li> <li>• Intelligence Development - to inform prevention and focus resources on those most in need and on the cusp of exploitation</li> <li>• Breaking the Cycle - upskilling front line professionals to better identify and divert young people away from this exploitation at the earliest possible stage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Out There Response &amp; Rescue</b> <b>H&amp;F Council</b></p>	<p>Specific outcomes for the full 3 year project across London include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 600 young people worked with via interventions</li> <li>• Reduction in their recorded criminal behaviour</li> <li>• Increase in number of young people identified as being exploited</li> <li>• Better understanding of the problem and networks</li> <li>• Increase in number of young people identified as being at risk</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of the risk for young women associated with county lines/ gangs</li> <li>• 400 front line workers trained across London</li> <li>• Improved links between London and regional services.</li> </ul>	

Theme	Objectives	Action	Lead	Outcome	Rag
<b>Offering ways out of crime</b>	To engage disadvantaged young people and support them moving into education, training, and sustainable employment.	Commission St Giles Trust to support high risk young people on a one-to-one basis, and deliver group sessions.	<b>H&amp;F Council St Giles Trust</b>	Engage 1,500 young people between 2015-2018.	
	Prevent reoffending	Support offenders in custody pre-release to prevent them from re-offending ( <b>Youth Offending Service</b> ). Provision includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x full time Resettlement worker managed within the H&amp;F Youth Offending Service, who works directly with young people and their families to help reintegration.</li> <li>• The recruitment, training, coordination, and supervision of mentors/volunteers</li> </ul>	<b>H&amp;F Council Youth Offending Team</b>	Reduce reoffending rates.	
<b>Keeping deadly weapons off our streets</b>	Target those who supply and give access to knives and offensive weapons.	<b>Trading Standards</b> to conduct a minimum of 30 visits to retailers to introduce our knives and strong acid campaign	<b>H&amp;F Council</b>	Reduction in % of businesses selling knives and strong acids to underage youths from the baseline (in underage test purchases conducted in 2017, knives were sold at 11% of their attempted test purchase locations).	
		Conduct 30 visits to audit procedures used at businesses that sell knives.	<b>H&amp;F Police Licensing Team</b>		
		Offer training to retailers on avoiding underage sales, the safe storage of knives and strong acids, and minimising confrontation. Follow up visits to all businesses to assess impact of the training.			
	Conduct 'challenge 25' test purchases at businesses selling knives and strong acids. Undertake bi-monthly operations as part of Op Sceptre, with 30 visits conducted throughout the course of the year.				
Share and utilise partnership intelligence on knife crime hotspots.	Work with the Police and our communities to identify knife crime hotspots and carry out joint weapons sweeps of problem areas.	<b>H&amp;F Police H&amp;F NWS</b>	Reduction of knives in the public realm.		

Theme	Objectives	Action	Lead	Outcome	Rag
Supporting victim	Provision of specialist youth services for victims of serious youth violence.	Making the most of the <b>Teachable Moment</b> - support the provision of youth workers in major trauma centres and A&E departments, to engage with victims of gang and knife crime when they present with injuries.	<b>Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime Red Thread</b>	Ensure victims of knife crime engage with services that can offer help, and the Criminal Justice Service in general.	
	Provision of enhanced support for victims of knife crime.	Ensure referrals result in support plans, gang exit strategies, appropriate signposting and advocacy.	<b>Victim Support</b>	Enhanced support and management of risk for victims of knife crime.	
Targeting lawbreakers	Target those who carry and use knives, but also the supply, access and importation of weapons.	<b>Operation Sceptre</b> - the policing response to knife crime across London. Includes a range of enforcement action such as weapons sweeps, intelligence lead stop and search, test purchase operations in businesses that sell knives, and proactive patrols.	<b>H&amp;F Police H&amp;F Council</b>	A reduction in knives and police identified habitual knife carriers  Reduction in crime, an increased high visibility police presence, and an increase in public confidence.	
		Use Impact Zones to tackle Knife Crime, Violence Against the Person, Drugs offences, Robbery, and Antisocial Behaviour. Use predictive mapping for these offences, with patrol patterns reflecting this mapping.			
		Work with partners, groups, and communities to tackle gang criminality and prevent offending under Operation Trident.	<b>H&amp;F Police</b>		
		Regular refresher training for officers on knife crime, habitual knife carrier tactics and intelligence gathering.			
		Use GPS tagging for habitual knife carriers, and knife enabled crime offenders when the option is available.			
		Conduct regular checks on all habitual knife carriers			
	Utilise accurate partnership intelligence and offence mapping to support intelligence led operations.	Map localities of concern, most vulnerable and repeat offenders, and associations between repeat offenders.  Increase focus on knife crime and monitor outcomes of all knife crime offences.	<b>H&amp;F Police H&amp;F Council</b>		
Work in partnership with local organisations to raise knife crime awareness among young people.	Police Safer Schools Team to deliver knife crime awareness workshops to youth organisations in the borough.	<b>H&amp;F Police Safer Schools Team</b>	A reduction in the number of young people falling into knife crime for the first time.		

