

## REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – PCD 225

**Title: The London Knife Crime Strategy 2017**

### **Executive Summary:**

The Mayor made a commitment in both his manifesto and in the Police and Crime Plan (published March 2017) to develop and deliver a tough knife crime strategy. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has met with key stakeholders, young people and partners to discuss, workshop and agree commitments which have informed the development of the knife crime strategy.

The launch of this strategy follows an increase in knife crime offences in London - In the 12 months to March 2017, over 12,000 knife crime offences were recorded in London. This is equivalent to an increase of almost 24 per cent compared to the year before. Whilst there is not currently one agreed explanation as to what may be causing this, there is a good understanding of who our victims and offenders are, the key drivers of knife crime and our most challenging locations, which has been developed following analysis and an extensive consultation programme.

The Strategy will be launched on the 27 June 2017 and will be supported initially by a '12 weeks partner response' action plan for the three months following the Strategy launch and then subsequently by a multi-agency partnership delivery plan.

The Mayor is asked to approve the launch and publication of the knife crime strategy, including the budget which supports delivery.

£625,000 of funding has been dedicated to the delivery of new Knife Crime Strategy Commitments in the first year, 2017/18. There is an additional £6,769,193 funding which is dedicated to existing commitments that are incorporated within the Knife Crime Strategy such as Gang Exit (£500,000), Major Trauma Centres (£444,615), Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (£168,000), Victim Support Children & Young people (£360,861), and youth projects under the London Crime Prevention Fund (£5,325,717).

This decision is seeking the sign off for the £625,000 required to fund the new Knife Crime Strategy Commitments in FY 2017/18.

### **Recommendation:**

The Mayor is asked to:

- Approve the allocation of £625,000 for FY 2017/18 to support the implementation and delivery of the strategy action plan and key commitments detailed within the strategy;
- The delegation of responsibility for the finalisation of planning and contractual/grant arrangements, including relevant terms and the signing of agreements, to the Chief Executive Officer for activities up to the value of £499,000 in accordance with MOPAC's Scheme of Delegation.

**Mayor of London**

I confirm that I do not have any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the proposed decision, and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Greater London Authority. Having considered the evidence in the document the above request has my approval.

**Signature**



**Date**

11/7/12

## PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

### Decision required – supporting report

#### 1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 To tackle the increasing levels of knife crime on our streets the Mayor committed to produce and implement a new Knife Crime Strategy for London that will bring together police, partners and communities to take tough action against knife crime, reduce the availability of weapons and improve the services available to victims of knife crime and their families. This has also been reflected in the Police and Crime Plan (2017-21).
- 1.2 Throughout the last 12 months MOPAC have been talking and consulting with partners, stakeholders and the public – in particular young people - ahead of drafting this strategy to ensure it addresses the major concerns across the capital. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has led this informal consultation via individual meetings with key campaigners, stakeholders and young people through our regular programme boards alongside wider stakeholder events as listed below.
- 1.3 The MPS have also developed an internal knife crime activity framework which outlines its operational activity. This will sit alongside its programme of work to tackle guns, and will support the MOPAC knife crime strategy which will aim to bring together police, partners and communities to take tough action against knife crime, reduce the availability of weapons and improve the services available to victims of knife crime and their families.
- 1.4 The Knife Crime Challenge in London

Category	FY 2014/15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	Change vs. 14/15	% Change vs. 14/15	Change vs. 15/16	% Change vs 15/16
Knife Crime	9,691	9,744	12,122	2,431	25%	2,378	24%
Knife Crime With Injury	3,581	3,663	4,428	847	24%	765	21%
Knife Crime Injury Victims under 25 (non DA)	1,632	1,626	2,025	393	24%	399	25%
Knife Possession	2,956	3,277	4,152	1,196	40%	875	27%

- ✓ Total knife crime has increased by 24% in the last year (an increase of 2,332 on 2015/16);
- ✓ There has been an increase in the number of victims of Knife crime resulting in injury of 20.5% (752 more victims);
- ✓ Of the 4,415 total victims of knife crime with injury, 2,028 were aged under 25 and were not domestic abuse related. This is equivalent to 46% of all victims of knife crime with injury. The number of victims of knife crime with injury under 25 had also increased by 24.7% compared to the preceding year;
- ✓ When considering the rate of youth related knife crime with injury compared to the population estimate, there is less than one victim per 1,000 population of 1-24 year olds in London. This varies by borough, with Lambeth recording the highest rate relative to population of 1.5 per 1,000 youth population in the last year;
- ✓ Possession offending has also increased, with 4,021 recorded in the last year. This is an increase of 746 representing 22.8% more than in the preceding year.
- ✓ There were a total of 105 victims of homicide across London in 2016/17/. 56 of these were victims of fatal knife crime, with 49 of these victims of non-domestic abuse related offences;

- ✓ Of the victims of non-domestic abuse knife homicide, almost all were male. Just over half of these were aged under 25 years of age.

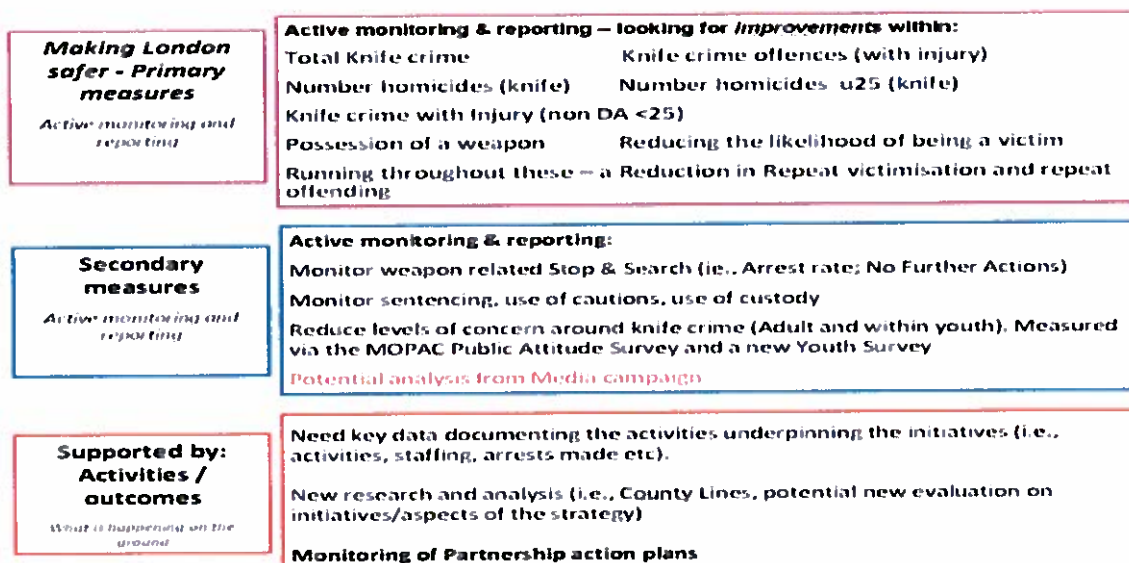
1.5 Having already had feedback from the wider public via Talk London and through the PCP Consultation, the knife crime engagement concentrated on convening delivery partners, stakeholders and young people. Our aim was to “stress test” current thinking on direction and vision within the strategy, and to ensure that delivery partners agreed their part in tackling knife crime. Consultation mechanisms included:

- ✓ Workshops – We held three workshops – one on prevention, one on intervention and one on enforcement – and asked stakeholders and delivery partners to come and feed into each topic.
- ✓ Focused roundtables – Additionally, we had several roundtables with our gangs panel, schools, young people under the care of the criminal justice service and within our secure estates; health professionals, voluntary and community sector.
- ✓ Youth engagement – We have had a particular focus on ensuring the strategy is informed by the ‘youth voice’ as such we hosted specific events to target young people, including a youth roundtable event which included 35 young people, youth ambassadors, police cadets, youth mentors from the GLA peer outreach team, Redthread service users and MPS Youth Council members. We hosted an interactive Big Talk event was hosted to engage with up to 40 young people from our communities across London. We surveyed 700 16–24 year olds in the Talk London survey in the development of the Police and Crime Plan and have conducted face to face interviews with over 400 young people from our most disproportionately affected boroughs with regards to knife crime and stop and search. Additionally we have consulted young people both within our secure estate, HMP & YOI ISIS, and young people under the supervision of the Youth Offending Service (YOS).
- ✓ Community engagement - This is where we met and shared the key points of the strategy with key stakeholders within our community including the stop and search network and SNBs. This is also where the Deputy Mayor has individually met with Borough Leaders and Commanders of our most affected boroughs, community champions/leaders and charitable trusts/organisations on an ad-hoc basis to discuss the proposed strategy. This also includes a meeting with the Police and Crime Committee. MOPAC officials have also consulted directly with stakeholders within the licencing/business sector including stakeholders from KFC, McDonalds, Trading Standards and Google.
- ✓ Participants in the consultation included: The MPS, The Crown Prosecution Service, HM Prisons and Probation Service, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, the London Community Rehabilitation Company, London Councils, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, NHS England, the London Fire Brigade, Victim Support, London Heads of Community Safety, Trading Standards, the Youth Justice Board, London Head teachers, Violence Commission, Ofsted, the London Assembly, the London Stop and Search Community Network, Stopwatch, Safer Neighbourhood Boards, City Safe Havens, New Beginnings, Ganglines, Chance UK, Growing Against Violence, London Youth, the Godwin Lawson Foundation, Groundwork, St Matthew’s Project Brixton, Hackney Quest, Bankside Residents Forum, Football Beyond Borders, Coin Street Community Builders, the Crib, Barnardos, Leaders in Community, Rugby Portobello Trust, the Safer London Foundation, the Oasis Trust, Gang Conflict Mediation, Young Lambeth, Gascoyne and Morningside Youth Clubs, the Damilola Taylor Foundation, South Central Youth, Epic Learning, Edukit, Educational Excellence, Leap Confronting Conflict, Redthread, St. Giles Trust, Catch 22, LVSC, Box Up Crime, the SOLA Foundation, the Prince’s Trust, Hyde Housing, Spark 2 Life, Hoxton Hall, Misunderstood, Lewisham Council, Transport for London, Southwark Council, Camden Council, Shout Out UK, Kiyan

Prince Foundation, Ofsted, Ben Kinsella Trust, ChildLine, Word 4 Weapons, Josh Hanson Trust, MAC UK, Parent Voice, Evolve Housing, Fight for Peace, The Flavasum Trust, Rise Empowerment, Cherry Tree Foundation, Working Chance, Gangs Line, Mother, Jags Foundation, Anti Knife UK, Inspired Futures, Lambeth Council, Enfield County School.

- 1.6 Following from the data picture and the consultation, the strategy is therefore focussed primarily on knife crime with injury, under 25 year olds and non-domestic abuse related (KIV <25, non-DA).
- 1.7 Success will be measured by a reduction in knife crime, with a focus on KIV <25, non-DA. Broader measures are outlined below.

### Measuring the knife crime strategy



## 2 Issues for consideration

- 2.1 There are a number of policy considerations following from the data analysis and consultation which have informed the strategy.
- 2.2 The knife crime strategy will address inequality by standing with communities against knife crime and supporting victims while protecting young people and offering early intervention and ways out of crime. These targeted interventions will benefit BAME communities and those most affected by knife crime. Knife crime disproportionately affects some specific groups of Londoners and targeting lawbreakers may in turn give rise to some unavoidable disproportionality in enforcement. There may also be some similar effect from more effective sentencing; however better sentencing decisions and improved rehabilitation may have a positive effect on many offenders. In addition, the Strategy aims to reduce the number of victims of knife crime with injury and increase support to them – again, young BAME males are disproportionately represented in this cohort.
- 2.3 The strategy acknowledges that there are a number of other subsets of knife related offending such as Domestic Abuse knife offences, the link with women and girls / and Child Sexual Exploitation offences and offences linked to the late night economy. These are referenced within the strategy with further detail on how MOPAC will ensure these areas also receive the required focus and resource allocation.
- 2.4 The strategy is specifically focussed on knife related offending this is despite a recorded increase in gun discharges. This decision was made because currently knife crime, whilst not a volume crime, have significantly higher volumes than gun crime. We are also aware of the use of acid in some areas

which has been identified as increasing. This is something we will continue to monitor and review alongside the PCP annual review.

- 2.5 Historically knife related offending has been viewed as a 'gang issue'. Recent data suggests that the majority of knife crime is not gang-related. Gang-flagged crime accounted for 5% of all knife crime with injury during 2016 – down from almost 9% in the preceding year. However, gang-related knife crimes are usually of a more violent nature to other knife related offending and young black and ethnic minority males are disproportionately affected by more serious and violent forms of knife crime, where an injury has resulted from the offence.
- 2.6 Statistics show that the victims of serious, gang motivated knife crime are predominantly male (92 per cent), young (80 per cent under 25 years of age) and from a BAME background. As such, when considering our responses to knife crime in London, this strategy responds to the fact that knife crime is much more than just gang related activity; focusing exclusively on gangs is not going to solve or adequately impact on our knife crime challenges in London. This Strategy also recognises that there has been a shift in offending patterns with a renewed emergence of group related offending, a group of individuals who cannot be classified as being part of an organised group or gang. These changing trends in offending behaviour and patterns will continue to be monitored and responded to, whilst never losing sight of gang related offending which continues to be a key priority.

### **3 Financial Comments**

- 3.1 £625,000 of funding has been dedicated to the delivery of new Knife Crime Strategy Commitments in the first year, 2017/18. There is an additional £6,769,193 funding which is dedicated to existing commitments that are incorporated within the Knife Crime Strategy such as Gang Exit (£500,000), Major Trauma Centres (£444,615), Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (£168,000), Victim Support Children & Young people (£360,861), and youth projects under the London Crime Prevention Fund (£5,295,717).
- 3.2 This PCD therefore requests the approval of £625,000 additional MOPAC funding to support the delivery of the strategy commitments, with a particular focus on funding for community initiatives, media campaign and associated materials, and partnership activities.

### **4 Legal Comments**

- 4.1 Decision form PCD 168: Issuing the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 approved the Police and Crime Plan including all of its commitments which included the implantation of a tough knife crime strategy. The legal comments in the aforementioned decision apply to this decision.
- 4.2 Under MOPAC's Scheme of Consent and Delegation (the "Scheme"), the deputy mayor for policing and crime has delegated authority to approve expenditure, requirement, procurements and other matters for a value for £500,000 and above. This decision form requests a delegation to the chief executive of authority to make all future decisions in relation to the knife crime strategy. Such a delegation to the chief executive is in accordance with the general power of delegation in paragraph 1.7 of the Scheme.

### **5 Equality Comments**

- 5.1 MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and

civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The equality comments in the aforementioned decision PCD 168: Issuing the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 apply to this decision.

5.2 All providers who deliver or services under the auspices of the knife crime strategy will or already have been asked to provide details of their Equalities processes as part of their tender.

5.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for the knife crime strategy is attached in appendix C:

## **6 Background/supporting papers**

APPENDIX A - Key strategy commitments

APPENDIX B - PCD 168: Issuing the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 *- on website*

APPENDIX C - Integrated Impact Assessment

APPENDIX D - The London Knife Crime Strategy *- on website*

APPENDIX E - Knife Crime Data Profile

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

**Part 1 Deferral:**

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? YES

If yes, for what reason: Not to be published before the launch

Until what date: 28 June 2017

**Part 2 Confidentiality:** Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – No

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
<b>Head of Unit:</b> The Chief Executive Officer has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓
<b>Legal Advice:</b> Legal advice is not required.	✓
<b>Financial Advice:</b> The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
<b>Equalities Advice:</b> The Acting Director of the Integrated Offender Management Programmes and Neighbourhoods has reviewed the Integrated Impact Assessment of the Knife Crime Strategy and has been consulted on this proposal. The Knife Crime Strategy proposes a quality service for all whilst focusing on tackling inequality and providing additional resource to the most vulnerable people and areas of London.	✓

**OFFICER APPROVAL****Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor of London.

Signature

*Spue Under*

Date

*12/7/17*





## APPENDIX A

### Key strategy commitments

This strategy encompasses prevention, intervention and enforcement and will provide targeted responses to address the key challenges which our communities, young people and stakeholders have expressed to us regarding knife crime. The strategy will drive forward a new and refreshed strategic focus on priority areas which will aim to provide demonstrable and long lasting impact for our most disproportionately affected communities and young people.

Knife crime is much more than just gang related activity. In 2016 just 2.4% of all knife crime was flagged by the MPS as gang related. Focusing exclusively on our gang matrixes or gang related offending will not solve or adequately impact on our knife crime challenges in London. The focus of the strategy will be on young Londoners under the age of 25 and on non-domestic abuse related knife crime. We will also provide enhanced targeted responses to our most disproportionately affected victims and offenders, young BAME males, and our most vulnerable locations, which sit within the top 10 most deprived wards in London.

### We are targeting lawbreakers by:

- Ensuring that all Borough Commanders work with their Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to have in place local knife crime plans that will drive activity using Borough resources and to ensure that focused work is undertaken with communities and partnerships to ensure a coordinated response.
- Supporting the police in using all of their powers and increasing the frequency of Operation Sceptre weeks of action, providing concerted enforcement activity in knife crime hot spots, using tactics including visible patrolling; plain clothes officers; intelligence-led stop and search; and targeting known prolific knife offenders;
- Establishing a specialist MPS team of 80 officers, plain clothes and uniform, to carry out targeted crime prevention and enforcement in knife crime hot spots;
- Reviewing the MPS Gangs Matrix, which identifies the most violent gang members in London, and strengthen the identification of young people who are involved in serious violence, whether perpetrators or victims;
- Continuing to support the delivery of training for police officers and the use of intelligence-led use of stop and search which is responsive to the challenges on our streets, keeping people safe whilst also maintaining the trust and confidence of our communities;
- Strengthening the work of the MPS Trident and Area Crime Command to identify and address issues of particular vulnerability amongst young Londoners, including work on 'County Lines' drug dealing, where vulnerable people are exploited by criminals to deliver drugs to and from other areas;
- Working with the London Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), National Probation Service (NPS), Youth Justice Board (YJB), Youth Offending Services (YOS), courts and others to develop a new, targeted community sentence requirement for those convicted of knife possession which offer support to the offender to exit offending behavior.
- Making more use of electronic monitoring (where appropriate) and lobbying for GPS technology to be used on offenders serving community sentences, or released on license following a knife related offence;
- Working with the Youth Justice Board to establish how many young people under the supervision of youth offending services in London are there as a result of an offence involving a weapon, and who

might be attending the Knife Crime Prevention Programme, to establish how effective this programme is at addressing young people's use of knives and if necessary, work with partners to replace it with something better.

- Working with the MPS to ensure that simple police cautions are not considered suitable for knife crime possession offences, utilising instead conditional cautions. To support this, we will review the available enforcement measures.
- Pushing for a commitment by all relevant Criminal Justice Service partners to ensure that on the day Pre-Sentence Reports (PSR's) are completed for at least 90% of knife related offences which go through our courts;
- Pushing for a commitment by all relevant Criminal Justice Service partners to ensure that Victim Personal Statements (VPS) are included for at least 90% of knife related offences which go through the courts;
- Working with the Sentencing Council and National Police Chiefs Council to ensure appropriate sentences and sentence guidance for knife crime offences ;
- Publishing data on the commission and sentencing of knife crime offences;

#### **We are offering ways out of crime by:**

- Continuing and developing the work of the London Gang Exit Service to focus work on people involved in gangs who use weapons, including work to develop offenders' skills to improve their employability and increase their access to job opportunities.
- Extending the work of Project Chrysalis to include weapon related violence in HMP Isis and HMP YOI Feltham;
- Working with MoJ and partners to use Chrysalis as a foundation to build a violence reduction programme for London's secure estate;
- Supporting a trauma informed approach to our interventions when commissioning rehabilitation services.
- Supporting alignment with existing child and adolescent mental health services and work closely with the Greater London Authority and health partners to jointly commission better provision and lobby for more powers and budget to do so from central government
- Building on the Government's 'Through the Gate' reforms; we will look to explore opportunities presented by devolution to develop a 'prison pathfinder' to better reintegrate offenders back into society.

#### **We are keeping deadly weapons off our streets by:**

- Reviewing the adoption of the Responsible Retailers Agreement by London businesses, and reconvening national Trading Standards, local Business Crime Reduction Partnerships and regional partners and agencies to continue partnership working and information sharing on best practice on tackling the challenges around both online and instore illegal sale of knives at a pan-London level;
- Working to ensure knife retailers and their couriers/delivery companies have access to training and guidance on the law on underage sales and target enforcement efforts against those who choose not to participate in this training;
- Extending the MPS use of test purchases to include online sales, holding online retailers to account for illegal sale of knives to children;
- 'Naming and Shaming' those retailers who continue to refuse training provisions and repeatedly are identified by the police and trading standards as selling illegally to underage customers;

- Support the use of Restorative Justice with retailers to help them understand the impact of their actions/inaction;
- Working with HMCTS to raise awareness amongst Magistrates on the impact of retailers illegally selling knives;
- Evaluating the feasibility of the introduction of a Licensing Scheme for knives in England;
- Calling on Government to introduce legislation to extend the Primary Authority scheme to knives as soon as possible.

**We are preventing young people in London being involved in knife crime by:**

- Increasing the number of Safer Schools Officers, and ensuring that every school has access to one.
- Supporting the prevention work of the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) in primary schools and ensuring that information on projects which are proven to work are shared with partners.
- Working with partners to explore how we can collectively bring more resources and support into youth provision services, Pupil Referral Units (PRU's) and schools within our most challenging boroughs;
- Lobbying the Department for Education and Ofsted to develop and include mandatory requirements for schools to take effective safeguarding measures against knife crime supporting both students and parents;
- Working with schools and education partners to develop a Mayoral 'Safer Schools' standard – allowing schools to evidence that they meet best practice around student safety.
- Hosting an event with Academy chains and Governmental bodies to better understand their needs and agree a plan of action to help tackle knife crime;
- Supporting the MPS to build on the success of its Cadets scheme and encourage more young Londoners to take part;
- Working with the CitySafe scheme and retailers to cover the top 20 fast food outlets in London that are linked to serious youth violence, as well as exploring with TfL extending this to transport hubs;
- Developing a media campaign targeted towards young people and their parents, raising awareness on the dangers and consequences of knife crime; and providing reassurance and advice on what they can do if they have concerns about an individual's involvement or risk of involvement in knife crime;
- Providing prevention materials linked to the media campaign, supporting the integration of the message into the activities of schools and alternative educational providers;
- Encouraging the Law Commission to undertake a review into offensive material published online, arguing that videos that glorify knife crime and violence are harmful;
- Working with social media organisations ensure online videos which glorify knife crime are quickly taken down, including working with companies to put an end to the profits made from advertising linked to their videos;
- Working with the MPS and partners to build greater evidence on the times and places at which young people are at greatest risk of harm, such as transport hubs at school closing time, and ensuring that the police are on hand at those places;
- Establishing an ongoing youth engagement and consultative mechanism, ensuring young people continue to be consulted and involved in the delivery of this Strategy;
- We will support schools to provide a safe space for students by offering them the use of knife wands and arches in areas where knife crime is most prevalent.

**We are standing with communities, neighbourhoods& families against knife crime by:**

- Providing seed funding to community groups and anti-knife crime initiatives in priority areas in London, supporting a grass-roots response to knife crime;
- Provide a toolkit alongside the knife crime media campaign which supports schools, community organisations, faith groups and others to participate in anti-knife crime activity locally and take ownership of local solutions. We will support them to deliver this by offering workshops and training sessions;
- Making adult offenders make amends to the communities they have harmed, working with communities and the London CRC to link tougher Community Payback sanctions for those convicted of knife possession with projects based in communities most affected by knife crime.
- Pushing for a commitment by all relevant Criminal Justice Service partners for the greater use of Community Impact Statements when considering responses to knife related incidents;
- Work in partnership with the NHS and Local Authorities to continue with the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) programme;
- Continuing to fund local services in London Boroughs through the LCPF to support interventions to reduce serious youth offending and knife crime
- Delivering positive messages through up to 5,000 Police cadets who live within and are part of our diverse range of communities across London;
- Developing a plan for working with our partners and communities following serious knife related incidents, assessing the impact on the families and communities to strengthen community engagement facilitating a two dialogue for information sharing between the communities and authorities, providing assurances and positive messages across the community and appropriate signposting to local support services.
- Support anonymised reporting mechanisms between the communities and the police, such as Crimestoppers.

#### **We are supporting victims of knife crime by:**

- Improving the services available to victims of knife crime through our victims' services commissioning work and extending the support for young victims of knife crime with injury – broadening support to families.
- Increasing investment from £360,000 per annum to £1m next year, providing an up-lift in services for victims of serious crime, and allocating a further £2m to develop a new Children's and Young Persons Victims Service from 2018-2020.
- Working with partners to produce a toolkit with information and advice on what to do in the aftermath of a knife crime, aimed to help front line workers such as teachers and doctors, faith groups and community groups to recognise the signs of trauma in family members and friends affected by a knife crime and to take appropriate steps to support them.
- Ensuring that victims are aware of their rights to access a restorative justice provision;
- Continuing to fund the youth support to victims of knife and gang crime in London Major Trauma Centres, ensuring that victims of knife crime are supported at a most critical time;
- Extending this programme to key A&E departments in Boroughs that have high levels of knife crime to maximise the power and value of this 'teachable moment'.



**MOPAC**

**MAYOR OF LONDON**  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

The London Knife Crime Strategy

# INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

June 2017

## 1. Introduction

The London knife crime strategy 2017 was published on 27 June 2017. During development of the strategy a series of preliminary consultation meetings were held with different groups and stakeholders. Research was conducted, existing data sources were analysed and interested groups were consulted (details of those consulted and other research are at Appendix A). This final Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) – see Appendix B. takes into account feedback from stakeholders and takes account of the output of the consultation and research activities and makes an assessment of its impact on the following objectives:

**Crime, Safety and Security** – to contribute to safety and security and the perceptions of safety;

**Equality and Inclusion** – to make London a fair and inclusive city where every person is able to participate, reducing inequality and disadvantage and addressing the diverse needs of the population;

**Health and Health Inequalities** – to improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Londoners and to reduce health inequalities across the city and between communities; which will include an equality impact assessment against each protected characteristic.

**Social Integration** – To ensure London has socially integrated communities which are strong, resilient and free of prejudices; which will include an impact assessment on socio-economic factors.

**Economic, Competitiveness and Employment** – To maintain and strengthen London's position as a leading connected knowledge based global city and to support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, providing opportunities for all.

## 2. Aim of the knife crime strategy

The Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) is required by law to produce a plan that explains how the police, community safety partners and other criminal justice agencies will work together to reduce crime. This Police and Crime Plan (PCP) prioritises action in three areas of highest need:

- **violence against women and girls;**
- **keeping children and young people safe; and**
- **hate crime and intolerance.**

A commitment to produce a Knife Crime Strategy is made within the keeping children and young people safe section of the Police and Crime Plan.

The knife crime strategy focuses on tackling non-domestic, high harm knife crime which is perpetrated against young people, under the age of 25, targeting resources to our most



vulnerable locations and Londoners<sup>1</sup>. The most vulnerable locations are those most at risk of being affected by knife crime and home to those communities and Londoners most likely to be directly involved or impacted by knife crime.

The strategy sets out a comprehensive plan of action to tackle the immediate threat to safety posed by knife crime and what more needs to be done to get to grips with the deeper issues fueling violence and knife crime in our city.

Targeted enforcement by the MPS and partners like Trading Standards will aim to get dangerous individuals and dangerous weapons off our streets. This will include greater borough-led activity to catch knife offenders and to deter anyone thinking of carrying a knife while also targeting the online sale of knives to young people.

The strategy will redouble partnership efforts to divert young people at highest risk of offending and victimisation away from a life ruined by crime and onto a better path while supporting communities and funding for grass-roots community activities to protect their children. It will also provide for greater investment in support for the victims of knife crime, their families and wider communities.

The strategy will act in six areas as follows:

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

### **3. Policies and evidence of impact**

The safety and security of Londoners is the Mayor's number one priority. The ambition for policing and crime is to make London a safer city for all Londoners, no matter who they are or where they live.

The Police and Crime Plan is based on two clear ambitions for the MPS and all our partner agencies:

- **A safer city for everyone in London, no matter who you are or where you live.**
- **Extra protection and support for the most vulnerable people and places in London.**

The Police and Crime Plan has set out the actions we will take to deliver these. One of our core priorities for the Police and Crime Plan is to reduce the crimes that cause most harm to children

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<sup>1</sup> Measured as knife crime with injury, under 25, Non DA

and young people, such as knife crime. It commits to the production of a Knife Crime Strategy for London that will bring together police, partners and communities to take tough action against knife crime, reduce the availability of weapons and improve the services available to victims of knife crime and their families.

MOPAC is clear that the outputs from the knife crime strategy will improve the safety of all Londoners while having a greater impact on certain groups in society who are disproportionately vulnerable to and affected by knife crime.

With a specific focus upon knife crime, success will be measured at two levels. The first will seek improvements in a variety of crime measures that will make London safer (i.e., reduction in knife crime, knife crime with injury) with a focus on repeat victimization and repeat offending. To support this MOPAC will launch a new knife crime data dashboard to enable public transparency and monitoring of such data. The second will focus upon monitoring aspects such as Stop and Search, Sentencing and seeking to reduce levels of concern around knife crime in both adult and youth Londoners. A new youth survey will be established to inform this. The above will be supported by capturing the activities on the ground, documenting the successes and hardworking (i.e., activities, arrests, seizures).

## Measuring the knife crime strategy

<p><b>Making London safer - Primary measures</b></p> <p><i>Active monitoring and reporting</i></p>	<p><b>Active monitoring &amp; reporting – looking for <u>improvements</u> within:</b></p> <p>Total Knife crime                      Knife crime offences (with injury)</p> <p>Number homicides (knife)              Number homicides u25 (knife)</p> <p>Knife crime with Injury (non DA &lt;25)</p> <p>Possession of a weapon                Reducing the likelihood of being a victim</p> <p>Running throughout these – a Reduction in Repeat victimisation and repeat offending</p>
<p><b>Secondary measures</b></p> <p><i>Active monitoring and reporting</i></p>	<p><b>Active monitoring &amp; reporting:</b></p> <p>Monitor weapon related Stop &amp; Search (i.e., Arrest rate; No Further Actions)</p> <p>Monitor sentencing, use of cautions, use of custody</p> <p>Reduce levels of concern around knife crime (Adult and within youth). Measured via the MOPAC Public Attitude Survey and a new Youth Survey</p> <p>Potential analysis from Media campaign</p>
<p><b>Supported by: Activities / outcomes</b></p> <p><i>What is happening on the ground</i></p>	<p>Need key data documenting the activities underpinning the initiatives (i.e., activities, staffing, arrests made etc).</p> <p>New research and analysis (i.e., County Lines, potential new evaluation on initiatives/aspects of the strategy)</p> <p><b>Monitoring of Partnership action plans</b></p>

### Organisations consulted:

The MPS, The Crown Prosecution Service, HM Prisons and Probation Service, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, the London Community Rehabilitation Company, London Councils, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, NHS England, the London Fire Brigade, Victim Support, London Heads of Community Safety, Trading Standards, the Youth Justice Board, London Headteachers, Vicky Foxcroft MP, Ofsted, the London Assembly, the London Stop and Search Community Network, Safer Neighbourhood Boards, City Safe Havens, New Beginnings, Ganglines, Chance UK, Growing Against Violence, London Youth, the Godwin Lawson Foundation, Groundwork, St Matthew's Project Brixton, Hackney Quest, Bankside Residents Forum, Football Beyond Borders, Coin Street Community Builders, the Crib, Barnardos, Leaders in Community, Rugby Portobello Trust, the Safer London Foundation, the Oasis Trust, Gang Conflict Mediation, Young Lambeth, Gascoyne and Morningside Youth Clubs, the Damilola Taylor Foundation, South Central Youth, Epic Learning, Edukit, Educational Excellence, Leap Confronting Conflict, Redthread, St. Giles Trust, Catch 22, LVSC, Box Up Crime, the SOLA Foundation, the Prince's Trust, Hyde Housing, Spark 2 Life, Hoxton Hall.

### Research and data sources:

#### Key Points – Knife Crime Strategy Engagement

- We've consulted and surveyed hundreds of young people, professionals, and community partners to inform the strategy.
- Having already had feedback from the wider public via Talk London and through the PCP Consultation, the knife crime engagement concentrated on convening delivery partners, stakeholders and young people. Our aim was to "stress test" current thinking on direction and vision within the strategy, and to ensure that delivery partners agreed their part in tackling knife crime.
- *Workshops* – We held three workshops – one on prevention, one on intervention and one on enforcement – and asked key stakeholders and delivery partners to come and feed into each topic.
- *Focused roundtables* – Additionally, we held several roundtables with our gangs panel, schools, young people under the care of the criminal justice service and within our secure estates, health professionals, voluntary and community sector.
- *Youth engagement* – We have had a particular focus on ensuring the strategy is informed by the 'youth voice' as such we hosted specific events to target young people, including a youth roundtable event which included 35 young people, youth ambassadors, police cadets, youth mentors from the GLA peer outreach team,

Redthread service users and MPS Youth Council members. We've surveyed 400 young people in the last couple of weeks, as well as held workshops with young offenders in ISIS prison, and those on community orders, in addition to a Big Talk event with young people in February. We have also used the findings from the 700 16-24 year olds who were surveyed in the Talk London survey in the development of the Police and Crime Plan

- *Community engagement* – Further engagement where we shared the key points of the strategy with stakeholders within our community including the stop and search network and SNBs was also conducted. This is also where the Deputy Mayor individually met with Borough Leaders and Commanders of our most affected boroughs, community champions/leaders and charitable trusts/organisations on an ad-hoc basis to discuss the proposed strategy. This will also include a meeting with the Police and Crime Committee. MOPAC officials have also consulted directly with stakeholders within the licencing/business sector including stakeholders from Sainsbury's, McDonalds and Google.

What	When
Big Talk event – young people	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Trading Standards and licensing	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Secure estate workshop – young offenders in prison	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
Intervention Workshop	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
Gangs Panel Workshop	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017
Enforcement Workshop	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017
Young Offenders Workshop	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017
Prevention Workshop	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
VCS Workshop	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
Schools & Education partners	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
Health partners	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
Final Round Table	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Stop & Search Network and SNBs	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Focused – five boroughs with highest knife crime	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
PCC	xx <sup>th</sup> June 2017 [rearranged from 7 <sup>th</sup> June)
Youth survey	Ongoing

## Key Data sources

### 1) MPS Data packs

   
 Knife Sentencing  
 Slides.pptx

   
 201701 Knife Crime  
 Analysis and Research

   
 Gun Crime  
 Slides.pptx



201609 Knife  
Possession.docx

## 2) Literature review



Tackling knife  
crime\_Review of key

## 3) Surveys



Knife\_crime\_survey\_  
150617.ppt



MPS Youth Crime  
Research.pdf



Knife Crime  
Conference FINAL RE

## Appendix B

### Integrated Impact Assessment

The following assessment is based on the final Knife Crime Strategy which details the priorities that are proposed and assesses the potential impact, whether positive, negative, neutral or unknown. In conducting the assessment, and in line with the intentions of the strategy, the potential impact has been assessed as generally positive across all objectives. There are some areas where the strategy may result in unavoidable disproportionality and some areas have been identified for further engagement.

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
<b>Crime, Safety and Security</b>	1. To contribute to safety and security and the perceptions of safety	<p>The safety and security of Londoners is the Mayor's number one priority. The ambition for policing and crime is to make London a safer city for all Londoners, no matter who they are or where they live.</p> <p>Londoners are highly unlikely to be victims of knife crime, but knife crime affects our sense of community and our feelings of safety on our streets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 88% of Londoners are concerned about young people carrying and/or using knives;</li> <li>- 86% of Londoners stated that they are concerned about gangs and associated crime;</li> </ul> <p>Victims of KIV &lt;25 non DA crime.</p> <p>Knife crimes where someone is</p>	<p>In line with the findings of our research and consultation, this Strategy focuses tackling high harm KIV &lt;25 non DA crime, targeting resources to our most vulnerable locations and Londoners; to our geographical locations most at risk of being affected by knife crime and to those communities and Londoners most likely to be directly involved or impacted by knife crime.</p> <p>The strategy will target lawbreakers by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensuring that all Borough Commanders have put in place local knife crime plans that will drive activity using Borough resources and to ensure that focused work is undertaken with communities and partnerships to ensure a coordinated response.</li> <li>2. Increasing the frequency of Operation Sceptre weeks of action, providing concerted enforcement activity in knife crime hot spots, using tactics including visible patrolling; plain clothes officers; intelligence-led stop and search; and</li> </ol>	<p>The impact of the strategy will be consistent with the aim of the Police and Crime Plan – to have a positive impact on crime and safety with aim of delivering a better police service and criminal justice service to all, whilst tackling vulnerabilities that exist and improving victim's experiences of crime.</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
		<p>injured as a result are increasing. In the twelve months to March 2017 there were over 4,400 victims injured as a result of knife crime – from slight injuries to serious, life threatening wounds. This is an increase of over 750 victims compared to the preceding year, or 20.5 per cent. During this period, 47 per cent of victims of knife crime resulting in injury were aged 24 or younger. This represents over 2,000 young people and an increase on the preceding year of almost 25 per cent. BAME young males are disproportionately affected, with 6 in 10 male victims recorded as from BAME backgrounds.</p>	<p>targeting known prolific knife offenders;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Establishing a specialist MPS team of 80 officers, plain clothes and uniform, to carry out targeted crime prevention and enforcement in knife crime hot spots;</li> <li>4. Reviewing the MPS Gangs Matrix, which identifies the most violent gang members in London, to strengthen the identification of young people who are involved in serious violence, whether perpetrators or victims;</li> <li>5. Continue to support the development of training for police officers and supporting police in the use of intelligence-led stop and search which is responsive to the challenges on our streets, keeping people safe whilst also maintaining the trust and confidence of our communities;</li> <li>6. Strengthening the work of the MPS Trident and Area Crime Command through a project underway to identify and address issues of particular vulnerability amongst young Londoners, including work on 'County Lines' drug dealing, where vulnerable people are exploited by criminals to deliver drugs to and from other areas;</li> <li>7. Working with the London Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC),</li> </ol>	

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			<p>National Probation Service (NPS), Youth Justice Board (YJB), Youth Offending Services (YOS), courts and others to develop a new, targeted community sentence requirement for those convicted of knife possession which offer support to the offender to exit offending behavior.</p> <p>8. Lobbying for GPS technology to be used on offenders serving community sentences, or released on license following a knife related offence;</p> <p>9. Working with the Youth Justice Board to establish how many young people under the supervision of youth offending services in London are there as a result of an offence involving a weapon, and who might be attending the Knife Crime Prevention Programme, to establish how effective this programme is at addressing young people's use of knives and if necessary, work with partners to replace it with something better.</p> <p>10. Pushing for a commitment by all relevant Criminal Justice Service partners to ensure that on the day Pre-Sentence Reports (PSR's) are completed for at least 90% of knife related offences which go through our courts;</p> <p>11. Working with the Sentencing Council and National Police Chiefs Council to</p>	



Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			<p>ensure appropriate sentences and sentence guidance for knife crime offences</p> <p>12. Publishing data on the commission and sentencing of knife crime offences</p> <p>In addition, the strategy will find ways out of crime by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing and developing the work of the London Gang Exit Service to focus work on people involved in gangs who use weapons, including work to develop offenders' skills to improve their employability and increase their access to job opportunities.</li> <li>2. Building on the Government's 'Through the Gate' reforms; we will look to explore opportunities presented by devolution to develop a 'prison pathfinder' to better reintegrate offenders back into society.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Equality and Inclusion</b></p>	<p>2. To make London a fair and inclusive city where every person is able to participate, reducing inequality and disadvantage and addressing the diverse needs of the population</p>	<p>The evidence indicates differential experiences of policing, victim satisfaction and confidence amongst different sections of London's community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence shows that serious youth violence has increased steadily for the past three</li> </ul>	<p>The knife crime strategy will address inequality by standing with communities against knife crime and supporting victims while protecting young people and offering early intervention and ways out of crime. These targeted interventions will benefit BAME communities and those most affected by</p>	<p>The overarching ambition of this strategy is for young Londoners to feel safer, and to protect those who are vulnerable. The aim is for a positive impact on young people through the focus on bringing down knife crime and improving the relationship</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
		<p>years, with 6,600 young victims in the 12 months to September 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analysis shows that for all crime types, repeat offenders tend to be young adults with 18-24 year olds recording the highest adult reoffending rates.</li> <li>- In respect of knife crime, analysis of Metropolitan Police data for 2016 indicates that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77 per cent of victims of knife crime are male and frequently aged less than 25 years of age;</li> <li>• Half of all victims of knife crime were from BAME backgrounds.</li> <li>• For offenders, almost ninety per cent were male and of those, 61 per cent were from BAME backgrounds;</li> <li>• In 2016/17, young BAME males were frequently the victims of non-domestic abuse related fatal knife crime, with almost half of all victims of non-domestic knife homicide being black males aged</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>knife crime. Knife crime disproportionately affects some Londoners and targeting lawbreakers may in turn give rise to some unavoidable disproportionality in enforcement. There may also be some similar effect from more effective sentencing; however better sentencing decisions and improved rehabilitation may have a positive effect on many offenders. In addition, the Strategy aims to reduce the number of victims of knife crime with injury and increase support to them – again, young BAME males are disproportionately represented in this cohort.</p> <p>The strategy will further address issues of inequality and transparency by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reviewing the MPS the Gangs Matrix, which maps gang membership to strengthen the identification of young people who are at risk of serious violence, whether perpetrators or victims.</li> <li>- Lobbying for the use of GPS technology to be used on offenders service a community sentences, or released on license following a knife related offence; lobbying for secondary legislation if required;</li> <li>- Publishing data on the commission and sentencing of knife crime</li> </ul>	<p>of trust between communities and the police.</p> <p>Where disability is manifested as mental health issues, a more holistic approach to health including mental health will help to prevent escalation of behaviour. Other impacts affecting the disabled community may be determined following further engagement.</p> <p>The strategy provides opportunities to reduce the harm to BAME communities and individuals through its interventions. Given that the BAME community is disproportionately affected by knife crime, this will be a positive effect.</p> <p>Young men will most benefit from a reduction in knife crime and this strategy will contribute towards reducing the risk to young women and girls through the work of partners and through the link to the Mayor's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.</p> <p>The impact on the LGBT+ community and in terms of</p>

2 43% of all knife crime victims in 2016 were aged under 25

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>between 15 and 24 years of age;</li> <li>In 2016/17 there were 105 homicides across the capital, of these, 56 were identified as being fatal knife crimes. This includes seven which were domestic abuse related. The remaining 49 victims were almost exclusively male.</li> <li>A third of all female victims of homicide were victims of fatal knife crime in the last year. For male victims this was much higher, with 60 per cent of all male victims of homicides being victims of fatal knife crime.</li> <li>In respect of Trust &amp; Confidence Feedback from young people gathered as part of the knife crime strategy highlights that there are challenges with our relationships between communities and police</li> <li>A sizeable minority (28.8% of BAME respondents) either disagreed or strongly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>offences</li> <li>Working with the Youth Justice Board to establish how many young people under the supervision of youth offending services in London are there as a result of an offence involving a weapon, and who might be attending the Knife Crime Prevention Programme, to establish how effective this programme is at addressing young people's use of knives and if necessary, work with partners to replace it with something better.</li> <li>Ensuring that victims are aware of their rights to access a restorative justice provision;</li> <li>We will increase investment from £360,000 per annum to £1m next year, providing an up-lift in services for victims of serious crime, and allocate a further £2m to develop a new Children's and Young Persons Victims Service from 2018-2020.</li> <li>Continuing to support the development of training and cultural competence for police officers and the continuation of intelligence-led use of stop and search which is responsive to the challenges on our streets, keeping people safe whilst also maintaining the trust and confidence of our communities;</li> </ul>	<p>religion and belief will need to be determined following further engagement.</p>	

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
	<p>disagreed with the question 'How confident are you that police use their stop and search powers fairly?'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 88% of Londoners who took part in the Public Attitude Survey agreed that the MPS is an organisation they can trust. 69% of Londoners believed that the police do a good job and 31% were worried about crime in their local area.</li> <li>- This is not just down to perceptions, the data speaks for itself. Knife enabled crime has increased in England and Wales over the last year by 14%. In comparison, the MPS recorded an 11% increase compared to 2015. And although crime has increased in London by 3.9%, this is at a lesser rate than the England and Wales average of 9.6%.</li> <li>- For all crime types, apart from burglary, London has seen a reduction when compared to national England and Wales figures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will provide consistent local oversight of Stop and Searches which take place in London; we will continue to support the Community Monitoring Network (CMN), the MOPAC forum that draws together the local stop and search Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) from each London Borough.</li> <li>- Providing seed funding to community groups and anti-knife crime initiatives in priority areas in London, supporting a grass-roots response to knife crime;</li> <li>- Reviewing our approach to working with our partners and communities following knife related incidents, assessing the impact on the families and communities to strengthen community engagement facilitating a two dialogue for information sharing between the communities and authorities, providing assurances and positive messages across the community and appropriate signposting to local support services.</li> <li>- Support anonymised reporting mechanisms between the communities and the police.</li> <li>- Establishing an ongoing youth engagement and consultative mechanism, ensuring young people continue to be consulted and involved in the delivery of this</li> </ul>		

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			<p><b>Strategy;</b></p> <p>All the interventions detailed in the strategy will have an effect on males involved in knife crime whether as offenders or victims.</p> <p>Across all our commissioning for this Strategy, we will take a trauma-informed and culturally competent approach, and we will be ensuring that service users and young people are engaged.</p>	
<p><b>Social Integration</b></p>	<p>3. To ensure London has socially integrated communities which are strong, resilient and free of prejudice</p> <p>Also includes an assessment on socio-economic factors</p>	<p>The evidence indicates that some areas of London are more vulnerable than others to crime, victimisation and offending. The evidence also indicates differential experiences of policing, victim satisfaction and confidence amongst different sections of London's community – BAME, women, young people, boys/men, people with physical and mental health disabilities (see above).</p>	<p>The London knife crime strategy will require each borough to have a local knife crime plan, led by the MPS, and involving partner organisations.</p> <p>The strategy will support communities affected by knife crime by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing seed funding to community groups and anti-knife crime initiatives in priority areas in London, supporting a grass-roots response to knife crime;</li> <li>2. Provide a toolkit alongside the knife crime media campaign which supports schools, community organisations, faith groups and others to participate in anti-knife crime activity locally and take ownership of local solutions.</li> <li>3. Making adult offenders make amends</li> </ol>	<p>The strategy will have a positive impact through greater investment in support for the victims of knife crime, their families and wider communities. Local knife crime plans will ensure that focused work is undertaken with communities and partnerships to ensure a positive impact and a greater focus on community engagement and community impact.</p> <p>The strategy recognizes that certain commitments and areas in London are disproportionately affected by knife crime.</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			<p>to the communities they have harmed, working with communities and the London CRC to link tougher Community Payback sanctions for those convicted of knife possession with projects based in communities most affected by knife crime.</p> <p>4. Continuing to fund local services in London Boroughs through the LCPF to support interventions to reduce serious youth offending and knife crime</p> <p>5. Delivering positive messages through up to 5,000 Police cadets who live within and are part of our diverse range of communities across London;</p> <p>6. Reviewing our approach to working with our partners and communities following knife related incidents, assessing the impact on the families and communities to strengthen community engagement facilitating a two dialogue for information sharing between the communities and authorities, providing assurances and positive messages across the community and appropriate signposting to local support services.</p> <p>7. Support anonymised reporting mechanisms between the communities and the police.</p> <p>8. Establishing an ongoing youth engagement and consultative mechanism, ensuring young people</p>	<p>We know that 75 per cent of victims of knife crime are male and frequently aged less than 25 years of age. We also know that almost half of all victims of knife crime are from BAME backgrounds.</p> <p>90 per cent of our offenders are male and of those, 62 per cent were from BAME backgrounds.</p> <p>Even more concerning is that where an injury has occurred we know that BAME young males are disproportionately affected, with 6 in 10 male victims recorded as from BAME backgrounds.</p> <p>There is an overlap between victims of knife crime and offenders. Many knife offenders have themselves been victims of knife crime. Our top 10 most deprived wards are also disproportionately affected.</p> <p>The Knife crime strategy recognises this and has been structured to provide targeted responses and interventions to</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			<p>continue to be consulted and involved in the delivery of this Strategy;</p>	<p>support our most disproportionately affected locations and communities. Supporting victims and empowering communities and supporting the delivery of community led solutions and delivering interventions at critical points which are tailored to meet the challenges faced by our young citizens who are most likely to commit a knife related offence; focusing on the importance of offering real opportunities to exit offending behaviour whilst coming down hard on those who habitually carry knives for no other reason than to cause harm and distress.</p>
<p><b>Health and Health Inequalities</b></p>	<p>4. To improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Londoners and to reduce health inequalities across the City and between communities.</p>	<p>The evidence indicates that people with mental ill health are more vulnerable to victimisation and to entering the criminal justice system. Many knife crime perpetrators have support needs around mental health, drugs and alcohol, education and employability.</p>	<p>The strategy will respond to increasing demands to establish a holistic approach between stakeholders across agency's including the MPS, LFB, education and health services to provide effective youth services and community support for our young people.</p> <p>We will continue to work in partnership with the NHS to continue with the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) programme</p> <p>We will extend our support of youth provision currently provided for our four</p>	<p>A more holistic approach to health issues including mental health will help to prevent escalation of behaviour. Better commissioning of rehabilitation services is expected to lead to stronger alignment with mental health services for young people.</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
<b>Economic Competitiveness and Employment</b>	5. To maintain and strengthen London's position as a leading	The Police and Crime Plan recognises that local businesses have specific needs and an	<p>Major Trauma Centres (MTCs); into A&amp;E departments which are disproportionately impacted by knife related injuries, providing specialist youth services for victims of serious youth violence. These services, directed towards young people at this time, present a 'teachable moment' and an opportunity to introduce a series of interventions and support packages to prevent the escalation of any further offending behaviour. They will also ensure that other issues faced by young people involved in knife crime, such as mental health support needs will be addressed holistically. Over 800 young people across London who have suffered serious violence have been supported by the service to date. 8% of these were under the age of 18 and not known to any agencies prior to their admission. Approximately 80% of the young people worked with are male and around two-thirds had been stabbed with a knife.</p> <p>The strategy will support a trauma informed approach to our interventions when commissioning which support alignment with existing child and adolescent mental health services and work closely with the Health Service to jointly commission better provision.</p>	
			Businesses will have a key role to play in delivery of the strategy. The strategy will reduce access to deadly weapons on our	The impact of the strategy must be seen as part of an ongoing partnership with business.



Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
	<p>connected knowledge based global city and to support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, providing opportunities for all</p>	<p>important contribution to make to the safety, prosperity and wellbeing of communities. The knife crime strategy recognises that disrupting the availability of knives to children and young people is essential. This can be achieved by helping businesses be more aware of their responsibilities in relation to the sale of age restricted products including knives to young people.</p>	<p>streets by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reviewing the adoption of the Responsible Retailers Agreement by London businesses, and reconvening national Trading Standards, local Business Crime Reduction Partnerships and regional partners and agencies to continue partnership working and information sharing on best practice on tackling the challenges around both online and instore illegal sale of knives at a pan-London level;</li> <li>- Working to ensure knife retailers have access to training and guidance on the law on underage sales and target enforcement efforts against those who choose not to participate in this training;</li> <li>- Extending the MPS use of test purchases to include online sales, holding online retailers to account for illegal sale of knives to children;</li> <li>- 'Naming and Shaming' those retailers who continue to refuse training provisions and repeatedly are identified by the police and trading standards as selling illegally to underage customers;</li> <li>- Working with HMCTS to raise awareness amongst Magistrates on the impact of retailers illegally selling knives;</li> <li>- Evaluating the feasibility of the</li> </ul>	<p>Increasing partnership activity through schemes such as the Responsible Retailers Agreement and targeted BCRPs will add to the positive impact of existing cooperation and partnership with business.</p>

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
			introduction of a Licensing Scheme for knives in England.	

The following assessment has been conducted to determine whether the proposed priorities within the strategy would have any negative impact on any protective characteristics. In conducting the assessment, and in line with the intentions of the strategy, the potential impact has been assessed as positive across all objectives. There are, however, some gaps in data for some areas and mitigations have been identified to work towards improving this.

Topic	Context	Policy	Impact
Age	<p>The evidence indicates that young people are disproportionately impacted by crime as both victims and offenders.</p> <p>Evidence shows that serious youth violence has increased steadily for the past three years, with 6,600 young victims in the 12 months to September 2016. The number of knife crimes with injury committed against Londoners under the age of 25 is, at 1,782 offences in the year to September, the highest level since 2012.</p> <p>Children and young people are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of crime and to becoming offenders themselves. The causes of this are deep rooted and complex. Prevention is key to protecting young people and reducing crime over the long-term - the evidence is clear that when young people are victimised, they are subsequently at much higher risk of both offending themselves and re-victimisation.<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>The Police and Crime Plan includes a specific priority on keeping young people and children safe, concentrating on high harm offenders through the knife crime strategy and gangs matrix work.</p> <p>Consultation on the Plan led to a clear commitment around partnership working and engaging with young people. In addition, a number of respondents spoke of the need for young people to be involved in developing the knife crime strategy. The Plan set out clear commitments around engaging with young people, and specifically on developing the knife crime strategy – as part of the pre-engagement for the Plan and beyond, the Deputy Mayor has personally engaged with young people through the Knife Crime Summit and recent Big Talk knife crime event to talk about ways to tackle knife crime in the capital.</p> <p>The strategy acts on feedback received from young people about the lack of awareness of the consequences of knife crime; we have asked the Sentencing Council to also consider the role that they could play in raising awareness amongst young people regarding the consequences of</p>	<p>The overarching ambition of this strategy is for young Londoners to feel safer, and to protect those who are vulnerable. The aim is for a positive impact on young people through the focus on bringing down knife crime and improving the relationship of trust between communities and the police.</p> <p>The strategy will contribute towards reducing the risk to young women and girls through the work of partners and through</p>

<sup>3</sup> Jennings et al (2011) quoted in Offending and Victimisation, Pathways and Interventions; Draft Literature Review for YJB Victims Reference Group, 1 September 2016

<p>Analysis shows that for all crime types, repeat offenders tend to be young adults with 18-24 year olds recording the highest adult reoffending rates at 32.2% per offenders. They are also the largest cohort of offenders at over 26,000 individuals. These career criminals cause immense harm in our City. We know that different cohorts of prolific offenders have unique needs that must be addressed if we are to tackle the causes of their offending.</p> <p>In respect of knife crime, analysis of Metropolitan Police data for 2016 indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 77 per cent of victims of knife crime are male and frequently aged less than 25 years of age<sup>4</sup>;</li> <li>- In 2016/17, young BAME males were frequently the victims of non-domestic abuse related fatal knife crime, with almost half of all victims of non-domestic knife homicide being black males aged between 15 and 24 years of age;</li> </ul> <p>Feedback from young people gathered as part of the knife crime strategy highlights that there has been a breakdown in relationships between communities and police, coupled with increased levels of violence on our streets, have resulted in a level of mistrust amongst our young people and a lack of confidence in the ability of frontline services to protect them from the dangers they see around them.</p>	<p>knife crime and what further consultation could take place with young people regarding sentencing guidelines in the future.</p> <p>An ongoing youth engagement and consultative mechanism will be established, ensuring young people continue to be consulted and involved in the delivery of the strategy. Governance will be provided by the Children and Young People Board.</p> <p>The strategy will prevent young people in London being involved in knife crime and involve them in becoming part of the solution by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the number of Safer Schools Officers</li> <li>- Supporting the prevention work of the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) in primary schools and ensuring that information on projects which are proven to work are shared with partners.</li> <li>- Lobbying Ofsted to develop and include mandatory requirements for schools to take effective safeguarding measures against knife crime supporting both students and parents;</li> <li>- Working with schools and education partners to develop a Mayoral 'Safer Schools' standard – allowing schools to evidence that they meet best practice around student safety.</li> <li>- Hosting an event with Academy Trust Chairs, board members and Governmental bodies to understand their needs and agree a plan of action to help tackle knife crime;</li> <li>- Supporting the MPS to build on the success of its Cadets scheme and encourage more young Londoners to take part;</li> <li>- Support the extension of the CitySafe scheme across</li> </ul>	<p>supporting and aligning with the Mayor's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.</p> <p>An associated impact of the strategy will be the exploration of future commissioning of services to support victims of CSE by MOPAC, NHSE and other partners.</p>
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<sup>4</sup> 43% of all knife crime victims in 2016 were aged under 25

<p>Findings from the MOPACs' Public Attitude Survey (FY 16/17) indicate that 19.7% of Londoners perceive knife crime to be a problem in their local area. Within this there is borough variation – Waltham Forest has the highest perceived concern (34.9% view as a problem), while Bromley has the lowest (4.8% view as a problem).<sup>5</sup> Younger respondents (under 25) are most likely to feel that knife crime is a problem in their area, while those over 65 are least likely to feel it is a problem.</p> <p>MOPAC and NHS England (London) commissioned a Needs Assessment of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation published in 2016 which aimed to establish the level of CSE in London and the scale of the need for support services. Whilst the Needs Assessment did not identify the use of knives as a major issue in relation to CSE. It was also reported during the consultation for the development of this strategy that there are increasing concerns with regards to the link between peer on peer sexual violence and the increased carrying and use of knives, putting young women at even greater risk.</p>	<p>London.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing a media campaign targeted towards young people and their parents, raising awareness on the dangers and consequences of knife crime; and providing reassurance and advice on what they can do if they have concerns about an individual's involvement or risk of involvement in knife crime;</li> <li>- Providing prevention materials linked to the media campaign, integrating the message into the activities of schools and alternative educational providers;</li> <li>- Encouraging the Law Commission to undertake a review into offensive material published online, arguing that videos that glorify knife crime and violence are harmful;</li> <li>- Working with social media organisations to target online videos which glorify knife crime, including working with companies to put an end to the profits made from advertising linked to their videos;</li> <li>- Working with the MPS and partners to build greater evidence on the times and places at which young people are at greatest risk of harm, such as transport hubs at school closing time, and ensuring that the police are on hand at those places;</li> <li>- Establishing an ongoing youth engagement and consultative mechanism, ensuring young people continue to be consulted and involved in the delivery of this Strategy;</li> <li>- We will support schools to provide a safe space for students by offering them the use of knife wands in areas where knife crime is most prevalent.</li> <li>- Extending the work of Project Chrysalis to include weapon related violence in HMP ISIS and HMP YO1 Feltham;</li> </ul>
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<sup>5</sup> The MOPAC Public Attitude Survey is a large scale representative survey of London, interviewing 12,800 Londoners per annum.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working with MoJ and partners to use Chrysalis as a foundation to build a violence reduction programme for London's secure estate;</li> <li>- Supporting a trauma informed approach to our interventions when commissioning rehabilitation services. Supporting alignment with existing child and adolescent mental health services and work closely with the Greater London Authority and health partners to jointly commission better provision and lobby for more powers and budget to do so from central government</li> </ul> <p>MOPAC and NHSE, along with partners, are using the findings from this strategy's consultations and the Needs Assessment to explore future commissioning of services to support victims of CSE.</p>	
Disability	<p>No relevant data or specific impact identified in relation to this group. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered through the strategy.</p> <p>The evidence indicates that people with mental ill health are more vulnerable to victimisation and to entering the criminal justice system. Many knife crime perpetrators have support needs around mental health, drugs and alcohol, education and employability.</p>	<p>The strategy will support a trauma informed approach to our interventions when commissioning which support alignment with existing child and adolescent mental health services and work closely with the Health Service to jointly commission better provision. There is currently a data gap in respect of our understanding of the impacts of knife crime on members of this community. MOPAC will seek to address this through engagement and consultation with community representatives.</p>	<p>A more holistic approach to health issues including mental health will help to prevent escalation of behaviour. Other impacts will be determined following further engagement.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>No relevant data or specific impact identified in relation to this group. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered through the strategy.</p>	<p>There is currently a data gap in respect of our understanding of the impacts of knife crime on members of the transgender community. This is not an area where we will consult further on unless advised during our ongoing consultation processes.</p>	
Marriage and	<p>No relevant data or specific impact identified</p>	<p>There is currently a data gap in respect of our</p>	

civil partnership	in relation to this group. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered across the Plan.	understanding of the impacts of knife crime on members of this group. However it is not expected that members of this group will be affected differently from others.	
Pregnancy and maternity	No relevant data or specific impact identified in relation to this group. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered across the Plan.	There is currently a data gap in respect of our understanding of the impacts of knife crime on this group. However it is not expected that members of this group will be affected differently from others.	
Race	<p>Analysis of Metropolitan Police data for 2016 indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Half of all victims of knife crime were from BAME backgrounds;</li> <li>- For offenders, almost ninety per cent were male and of those, 61 per cent were from BAME backgrounds;</li> <li>- In 2016/17, young BAME males were frequently the victims of non-domestic abuse related fatal knife crime, with almost half of all victims of non-domestic knife homicide being black males aged between 15 and 24 years of age;</li> <li>- Despite gang motivated knife crime decreasing, the profile for victims of this offending presents a concerning picture, with statistics showing that victims are predominantly male (92 per cent), young (80 per cent under 25 years of age) and from a BAME background;</li> </ul> <p>This strategy also recognises that there has been a shift in offending patterns with a renewed emergence of group related offending, a group of individuals who cannot be classified as being part of an organised group or gang. However, it is important to</p>	<p>The knife crime strategy will address inequality by standing with communities against knife crime and supporting victims while protecting young people and offering early intervention and ways out of crime. These targeted interventions will benefit BAME communities and those most affected by knife crime.</p> <p>Targeting lawbreakers may give rise to some unavoidable disproportionality given the known make-up of the target cohort this there may also be some similar effect from harsher sentencing; however better sentencing decisions and improved rehabilitation may have a positive effect on many offenders.</p> <p>The strategy will further address issues of inequality and transparency by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reviewing the MPS Gangs Matrix, which identifies the most violent gang members in London, to strengthen the identification of young people who are involved in serious violence, whether perpetrators or victims;</li> <li>- Lobbying for the use of GPS technology to be used on offenders service a community sentences, or released on license following a knife related offence; lobbying for secondary legislation if required;</li> <li>- Publishing data on the commission and sentencing of knife crime offences</li> </ul>	<p>The strategy provides opportunities to reduce the harm to BAME communities and individuals through its interventions. Given that the BAME community is disproportionately affected by knife crime, this will be a positive effect.</p> <p>The effect of intrusive tactics such as stop and search and school searches need to be better understood; they are intended to have a positive effect in removing knives from the street and reducing crime.</p> <p>We will continue to support ongoing engagement with our communities around</p>

<p>acknowledge that when gangs are involved in knife related offending, this is usually of a more violent nature to other knife related offending and that young black and ethnic minority males are disproportionately affected by more serious and violent forms of knife crime, where an injury has resulted from the offence.</p> <p>Whereas a majority (68.3% of BAME respondents) agreed or strongly agreed to the question 'To what extent do you agree that police should conduct Stop &amp; Search?' a sizeable minority (28.8% of BAME respondents) either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the question 'How confident are you that police use their stop and search powers fairly?'<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>The strategy supports the intelligence-led use of Stop and Search in the fight against knife crime. Stop and Search is a vital tool for our police, and it can save lives.</p> <p>Over 31 per cent of all stops and searches carried out by the MPS result in a positive outcome, up from 13 per cent in 2012 – showing that officers are making better use of intelligence to target their stops more effectively. Illegal objects are found in 27 per cent of searches, and over 3,000 arrests are made for weapons each year from stop and search alone.</p> <p>The Met publishes monthly data on stop and search which the Community Monitoring Network and local Community Monitoring Groups can review such as volumes, arrest rates, proportionality and complaints. The MPS have also introduced a Stops Dashboard which provides more localised and detailed reports for community scrutiny.</p> <p>In addition, to provide consistent local oversight of Stop and Searches which take place in London, we will continue to support the Community Monitoring Network (CMN), the MOPAC forum that draws together the local stop and search Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) from each London Borough. The CMGs are made up of independent volunteers who scrutinise and hold the police to account on the use of Stop and Search powers in their areas.</p> <p>Balancing support for greater professional judgement in the use of Stop and Search is greater accountability. Body-worn video, which will be rolled out across the MPS by the end of 2017, provides a new level of accountability and transparency for all parties involved in a stop and search, and is already demonstrating real value, reducing complaints, providing better evidence for court cases and</p>	<p>Stop and Search to understand and mitigate any adverse impact. This will be built on to support the development of training and cultural competence for police officers and the continuation of intelligence-led use of stop and search which is responsive to the challenges on our streets, keeping people safe whilst also maintaining the trust and confidence of our communities;</p>
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	supporting officer training.		
Religion and belief	No relevant data or specific impact identified in relation to this group. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered across the Plan.	There is currently a data gap in respect of our understanding of the impacts of knife crime on members of this group. MOPAC will seek to address this through engagement and consultation with community representatives.	The impact will need to be determined following further engagement.
Sex	<p>We know from data that in the year to September 2016, just over three out of four victims of Domestic Abuse and Violence were female.</p> <p>Knife related offending is not exclusively street based, with over 600 domestic abuse violence with injury offences recorded as knife related in the last year. This was, however, a small proportion of the total domestic abuse violence resulting in injury (less than three per cent).</p> <p>77 per cent of victims of knife crime are male and frequently aged less than 25 years of age<sup>7</sup>;</p> <p>In 2016/17, young BAME males were frequently the victims of non-domestic abuse related fatal knife crime, with almost half of all victims of non-domestic knife homicide being black males aged between 15 and 24 years of age;</p>	<p>All the interventions detailed in the strategy will have a mainly positive effect on males involved in knife crime whether as offenders or victims.</p> <p>The Mayor's Violence Against Women Strategy will address acts of violence and harm perpetrated in the context of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG which may involve knife crime.</p> <p>This strategy targets girls and young women who carry and use knives alongside their male counterparts. However there are significant proportions of knife crime which affect women and girls in the context of abuse and violence within the home and interpersonal relationships. The Mayor's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy will address acts of violence and harm perpetrated in the context of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG which may involve knife crime.</p> <p>This strategy also acknowledges the criminal exploitation and violence that is part of County Lines. This includes girls and young people coerced into carrying knives and other criminal activities on behalf of the Gang. As part of</p>	<p>All the interventions detailed in the strategy will have a mainly positive effect on males involved in knife crime whether as offenders or victims.</p> <p>The strategy will contribute towards reducing the risk to young women and girls through the work of partners and through the Mayor's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.</p>

<sup>7</sup> 43% of all knife crime victims in 2016 were aged under 25



<p>Girls may be being criminally exploited and being made to carry knives because they are less likely to be stopped and searched</p> <p>Despite gang motivated knife crime decreasing, the profile for our victims of this offending presents a concerning picture, with statistics showing that victims are predominantly male (92 per cent), young (80 per cent under 25 years of age) and from a BAME background.</p> <p>In 2016/17 there were 105 homicides across the capital, of these, 56 were identified as being fatal knife crimes. This includes seven which were domestic abuse related. The remaining 49 victims were almost exclusively male. A third of all female victims of homicide were victims of fatal knife crime in the last year. For male victims this was much higher, with 60 per cent of all male victims of homicides being victims of fatal knife crime.</p> <p>In December 2016, the Femicide Census Report, published by Women's Aid analysed trends in women killed through intimate partner violence over seven years. The findings demonstrated that women who experience domestic abuse are at a significantly higher risk to knife crime and, sadly, often within their own homes<sup>8</sup></p> <p>MOPAC and NHS England (London) commissioned a Needs Assessment of Child</p>	<p>our work, MOPAC will be looking to develop, in partnership with key delivery agencies inside and outside of London, a comprehensive approach aimed at reducing the harm to vulnerable individuals and ensuring that those responsible for harm face the consequences of their actions, including coming face to face with the harm they have caused through a restorative justice process.</p> <p>MOPAC ensures that services to address SYV, knife and gang crime are available to women and girls. They can access the support mentioned above through London Gang Exit and support in Major Trauma Centres.</p> <p>Whilst ninety per cent of knife crime offenders are male, 10% are female and interventions and activity delivered through the strategy recognise the role of women and girls as offenders as well as victims.</p>	
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<sup>8</sup> Ingala Smith, Karen, 2016, REDEFINING AN ISOLATED INCIDENT, Femicide Census

	<p>Sexual Abuse and Exploitation published in 2016 which aimed to establish the level of CSE in London and the scale of the need for support services. Whilst the Needs Assessment did not identify the use of knives as a major issue in relation to CSE. It was also reported during the consultation for the development of this strategy that there are increasing concerns with regards to the link between peer on peer sexual violence and the increased carrying and use of knives, putting young women at even greater risk</p>		
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>No relevant data or specific impact identified in relation to this group. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered across the Plan.</p> <p>One in six lesbian, gay and bi people have experienced a homophobic or biphobic hate crime or incident over the last three years<sup>9</sup></p>	<p>There is currently a data gap in respect of our understanding of the impacts of knife crime on members of the LGBT+ community. This is not an area where we will consult further on unless advised during our ongoing consultation processes.</p>	

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/media/lgbt-facts-and-figures>



# Knife Crime definitions

Police recorded knife crime is a measure identifying offences that satisfy *both* of the following criteria:

1. The offence is a confirmed classification relating to one of the following Home Office Offence Groupings: Murder, Manslaughter, Attempted murder, Assault, Threats to kill, sexual assaults (including rape), robbery
2. A feature code identifying weapon usage (countable as knife crime) has been added to the crime report – these are

**Knife or other sharp instrument used to injure**

**Any knife or other sharp instrument used as a threat**

**Knife or other sharp instrument intimidated – victim convinced weapon present**

Knife crime with injury is a subset of the above only where the feature code **Knife or other sharp instrument used to injure** is present

**Knife possession** is separate from knife crime and includes specific home office classifications such as **Having an article with blade or point** and **Possession of offensive weapon**

**Gang flagged offences are only those that have been identified by the police as occurring due specifically to the activities of a street gang**

# Knife Crime - background

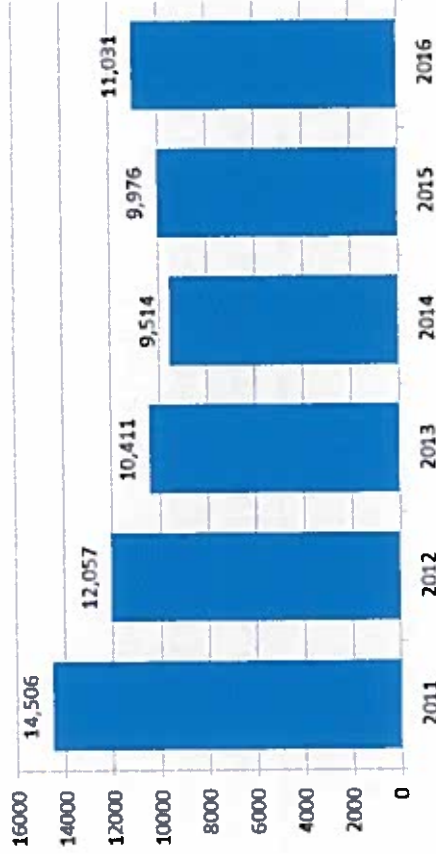
- Knife carriers frequently present a range of underlying vulnerabilities. Those from low socio-economic backgrounds, affected by poverty and poor living conditions, and experiencing feelings of social isolation and poor self-esteem are more likely to be involved in knife crime, either as an offender or a victim. (Foster, 2013; YJB, 2013; McVie, 2010; Myers et al., 1997; Eades et al., 2007; Silvestri et al., 2009).
- Exposure to crime through living in areas of high levels of violence is related to weapon carrying. Youth who reported high levels of exposure to community violence were significantly more likely to carry weapons (Sieger et al., 2004; Patchin et al., 2006).
- Those with difficult family relationships (in particular, with parents) are more likely to carry weapons (Lipsey & Durzon, 1999)
- Other predictors include: substance abuse (Kingery et al., 1999; McVie, 2010), impulsivity (Silvestri et al., 2009; McVie, 2010) and aggressiveness (Webster, Gainer & Champion, 1993).
- Gang membership has been strongly associated with knife crime and shown to predict weapon carrying (Kingery et al., 1999).
- Previous survey data has pointed to a greater likelihood of carrying knives among gang members compared to non-gang members (Youth Justice Board 2004; Bennett and Holloway, 2004; Sharp, Aldridge & Medina, 2006; Squires et al., 2008, McVie, 2010)
- However, more recently it has been suggested that the majority of knife crime is no longer gang-related (The Guardian, 2016).
- Acquisition of status and fear of crime (with knives being viewed as a source of protection) have been identified as reasons why young people carry knives (Foster, 2013; YJB, 2013; McVie, 2010)
- Broadhurst et al. (2008) found that young people in schools report carrying weapons for protection – seen as more important than getting caught.
- Carrying a knife is often a rational choice based on fear of experiencing violent victimisation. Early engagement in knife carrying exacerbates the risk of becoming a persistent offender (Foster, 2013; YJB, 2013; McVie, 2010).



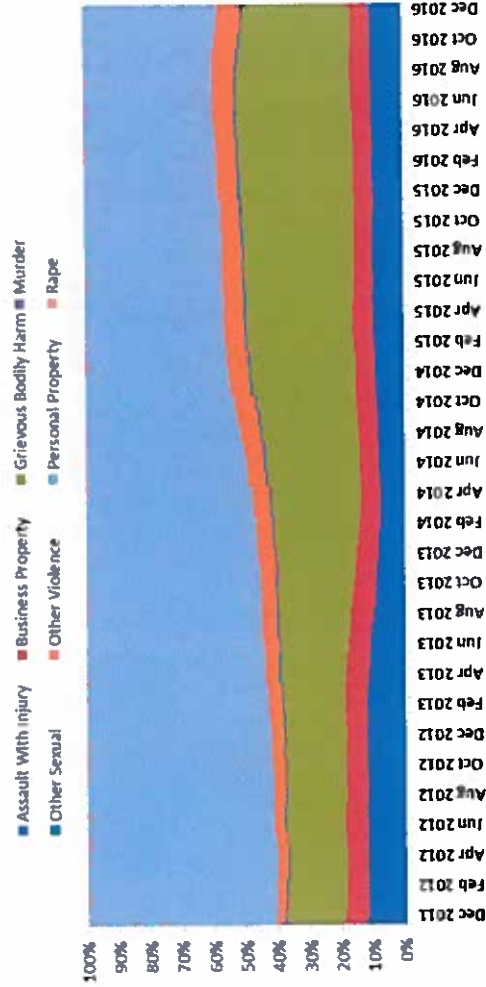
# Knife Crime - Overview

London has recorded an increase of 11% (over 1,000 more offences) in knife crime over 2016. This equates to around 919 offences of Knife crime per month, approx. 90 more offences per month on average than 2015.

Knife Crime Offences

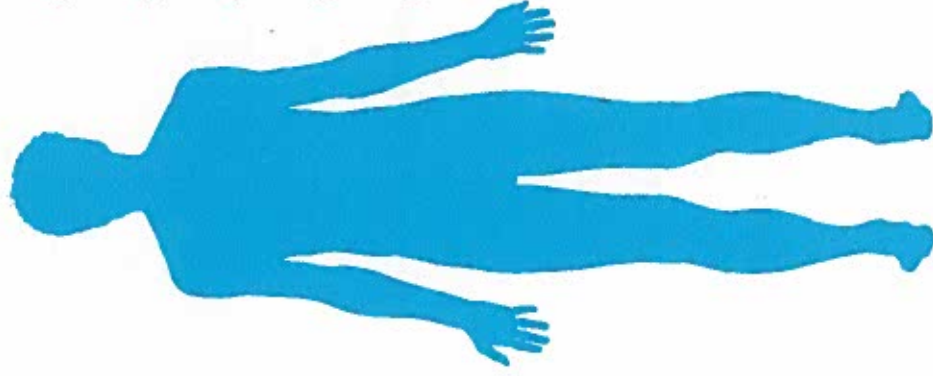


Minor offence category as a proportion of all Knife crime - Rolling 12



Robbery – Personal Property (42%) and GBH (34%) offences continue to be the highest recorded categories of Knife crime. With no significant change within the crime type distribution..

# Knife Crime – Victim profile

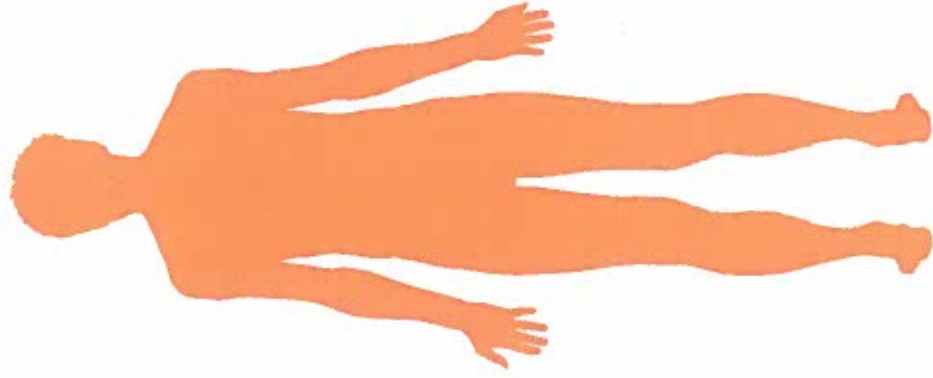


- **77% male**
- **43% under 25**
- **20% aged between 16 and 20 years old**
- **49% BAME, 44% White**
- **44% recorded no injury**

Nearly 60% of victims of knife crime are under 30 years of age with over 75% male. Almost half of all injuries recorded were classed as either no injury or threats only – no significant change from the previous year.



# Knife Crime– Offender profile



- **90% male**
- **25% aged 11-17**
- **61% BAME**

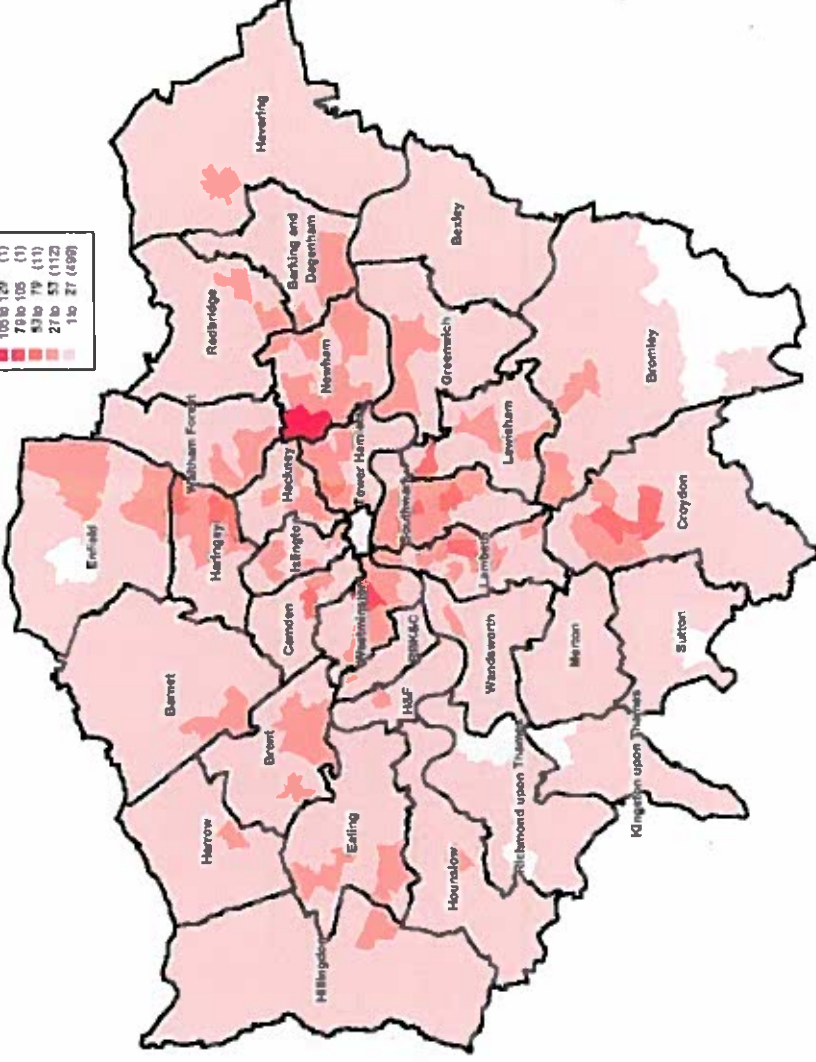
Over half of all knife crime offenders are under 25 years of age with a quarter under 18.  
Nine out of ten offenders are male with nearly two thirds being BAME.

# Knife Crime – Where it happens

OCU Name	Knife Crime Offs.
Southwark	742
Newham	670
Lambeth	584
Haringey	579
Tower Hamlets	569
Croydon	568
Westminster	483
Hackney	475
Brent	448
Lewisham	441
Ealing	420
Enfield	397
Islington	394
Redbridge	330
Waltham Forest	326
Barking and Dagenham	324
Barnet	313
Camden	296
Greenwich	291
Hounslow	285
Hillingdon	275
Wandsworth	260
Bromley	235
Hammersmith and Fulham	194
Kingston and Chelsea	183
Berkley	179
Havering	174
Harrow	172
Merton	176
Subton	91
Kingston upon Thames	81
Richmond upon Thames	68

Knife crime offences  
CY2016

- 100 to 129 (1)
- 70 to 100 (1)
- 50 to 70 (11)
- 27 to 50 (112)
- 1 to 27 (699)



Southwark is currently experiencing the highest volume of knife crime within London followed by Newham and Lambeth; Stratford and New Town (Newham) is currently the highest volume ward in London for Knife crime. The top 10% most vulnerable wards are recorded over three times the number of knife crime offences on average compared to the 10% least vulnerable.





# Knife crime with injury



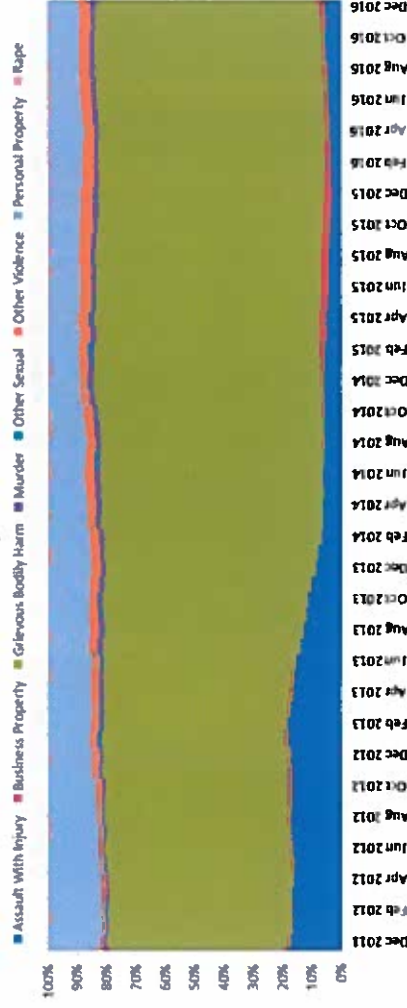
# Knife Crime with Injury (Non Domestic) - Overview

London has recorded a reduction of 5.1% in knife crime with injury (Non DA); meaning over 100 less victims during the most recent calendar year. This equates to around 176 victims of Knife crime with injury per month, approx. Ten fewer victims per month on average than the previous year.

Knife Crime w/Injury (non DA)

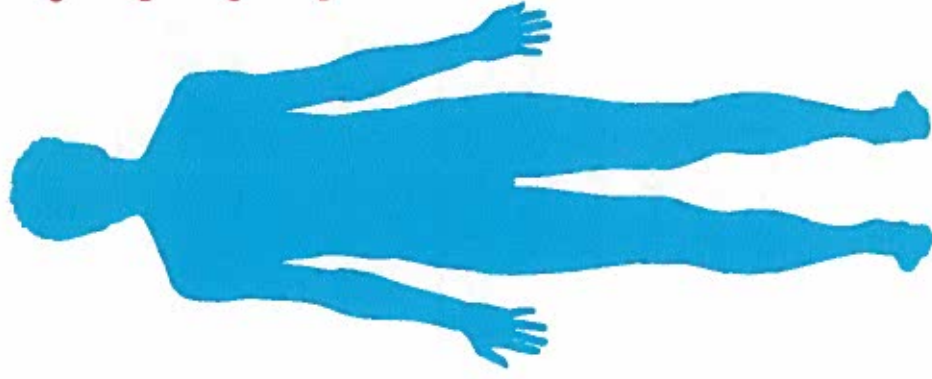


Minor Offence Category as a proportion of all Knife crime with Injury (non DA) - Rolling 12



GBH (77%) and Robbery – Personal Property (10%) continue to be the highest recorded category for Knife crime with injury (Non DA). However both have recorded decreases over the most recent CY. Assault with Injury offences have increased by 57% however this only equates to 42 more victims over the most recent year.

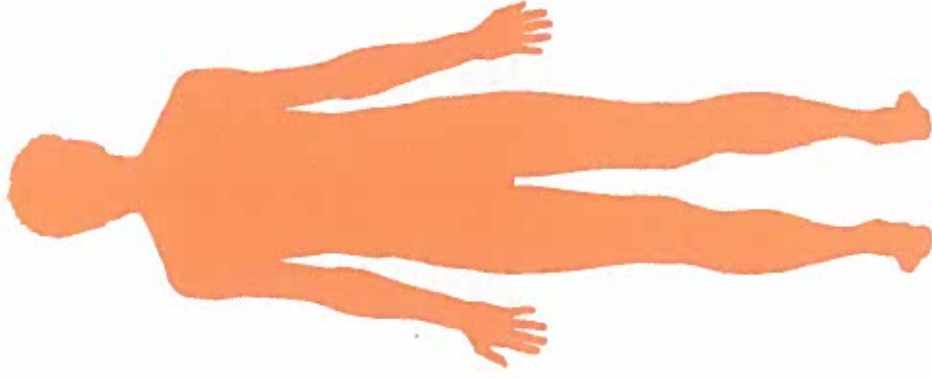
# Knife Crime with Injury (Non DA) – Victim profile



- **78% male**
- **32% aged 17-24**
- **57% BAME**
- **62% recorded a minor/moderate injury**

Over half of victims of knife crime with injury are under 30 years of age with over three quarters male. A majority of victims are BAME and this has increased as a proportion over the last year (+3%). Most of the injuries recorded were classed as minor or moderate however 28% were serious – no significant change from the previous year.

# Knife Crime with Injury (Non DA) – Offender profile



- **83% male**
- **35% aged 17-24**
- **58% BAME**

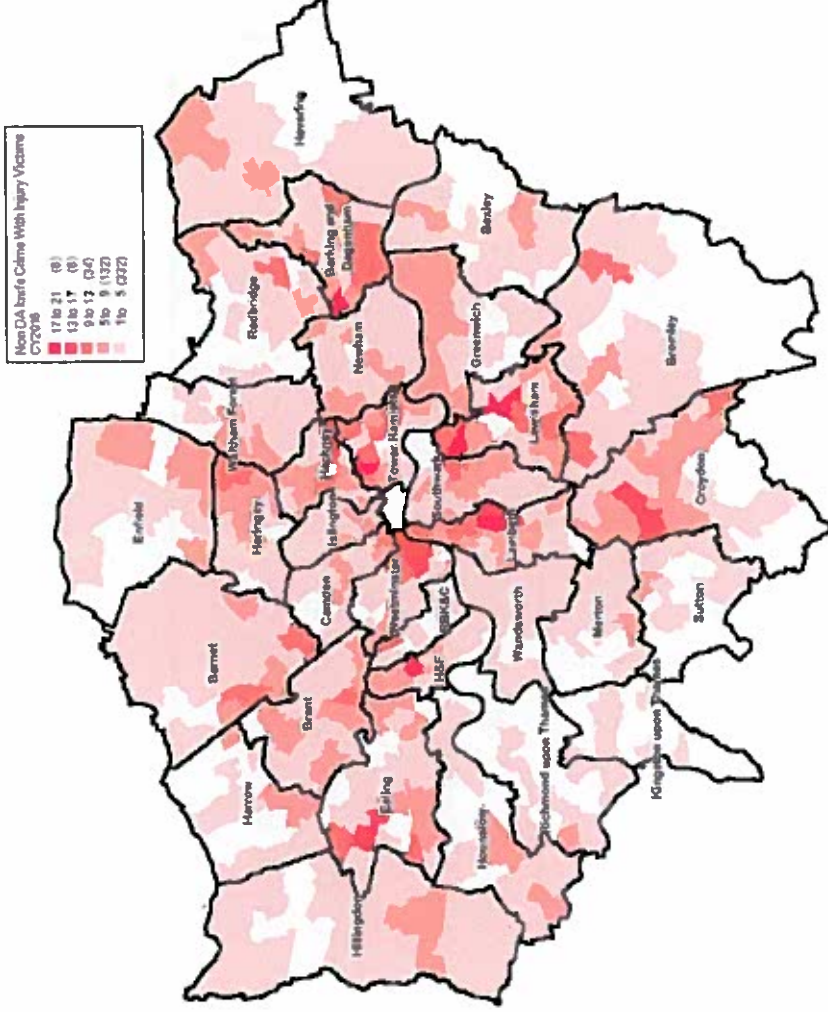
Over one in three offenders are aged just 17 to 24 years of age with nearly half of offenders being under 30 years of age.

A large majority of non domestic knife crime with injury offenders are male and the largest proportion of offenders are BAME.

# Knife Crime With Injury (Non DA) –

## Where it happens

Ward Name	Knife Crime With Injury (Non-DA)
Tower Hamlets	146
Lambeth	138
Hackney	123
Lewisham	118
Barking & Dagenham	101
Croydon	100
Haringey	92
Ealing	91
Southwark	83
Brent	81
Barnet	76
Westminster	71
Greenwich	66
Camden	64
Hammersmith & Fulham	64
Newham	64
Bromley	60
Waltham Forest	53
Billingham	53
Hounslow	50
Hillingdon	50
Enfield	50
Wandsworth	44
Kensington & Chelsea	43
Redbridge	43
Havering	42
Harrow	35
Bexley	34
Merton	31
Sutton	19
Richmond upon Thames	15
Kingston upon Thames	13

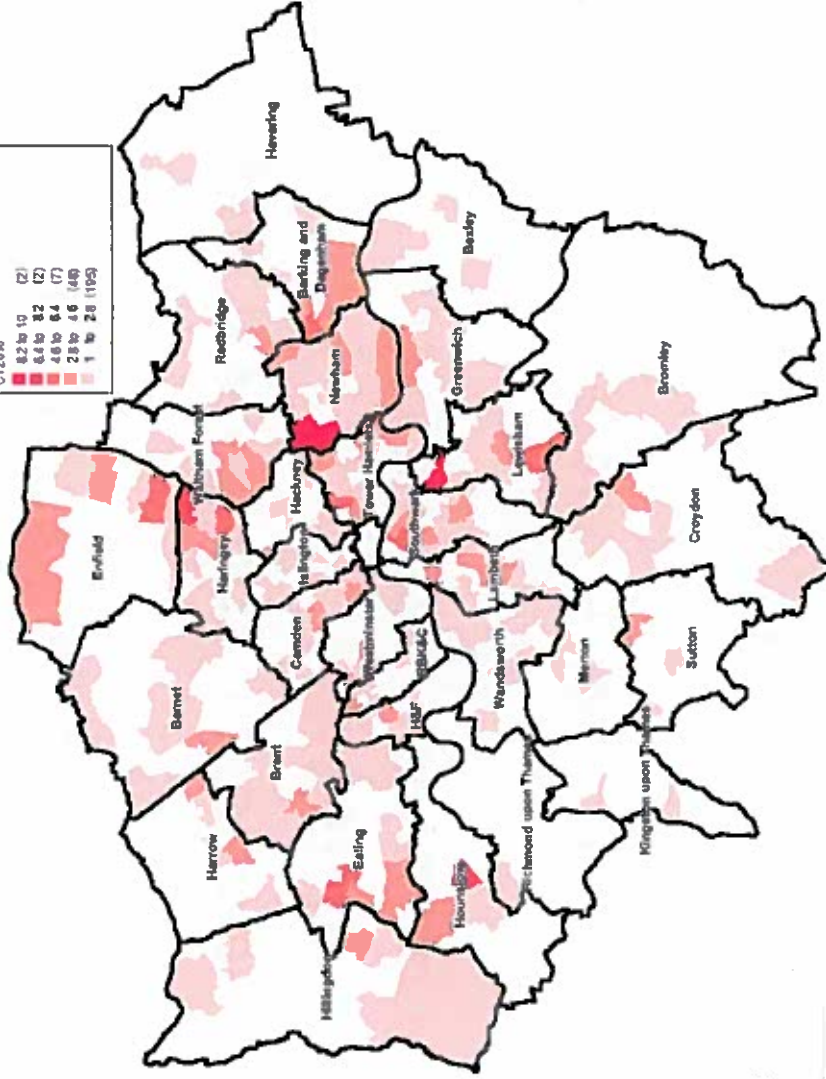


Tower Hamlets recorded the highest number of non-domestic knife crime with injury offences during 2016; closely followed by Lambeth and Hackney. The wards of Coldharbour in Lambeth and St Peter's in Tower Hamlets are currently the highest volume within London. For this offence type you are six times more likely to be a victim within the top 10% most vulnerable wards than the bottom 10%.

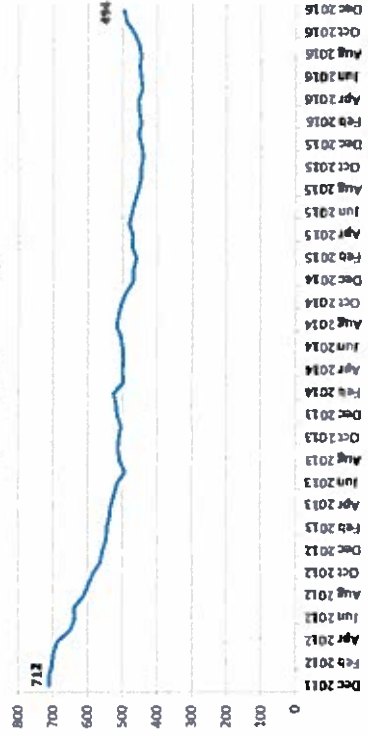


# Knife Crime with Injury - Personal Robbery

DCU Borough	Knife Crime with Injury Per 100,000 BHs
Newham	36
Haringey	32
Tower Hamlets	27
London Borough of Westminster	26
Southwark	26
Brent	22
Ealing	22
Lambeth	21
Barking and Dagenham	19
Camden	19
Enfield	19
Hounslow	19
Croydon	17
Waltham Forest	17
Redbridge	16
Waltham Forest	16
Greenwich	15
Hillingdon	14
Waltham Forest	14
Waltham Forest	14
Barnet	13
Hackney	13
Hillingdon	13
Harrow	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	9
Kingston and Chelsea	8
Bromley	7
Bexley	6
Sutton	6
Merton	4
City of London	2
Kingston upon Thames	2
Richmond upon Thames	1



Knife Crime With Injury - Personal Robbery Offences  
(Rolling 12 month)



- Knife crime with injury personal robbery offences have increased by 11% in 2016; however offences are still much lower 2012.
- Newham has recorded the highest number of offences with a particular concentration in Stratford and New Town.

# Half of all homicide victims are killed with knives

In 2016 there were a total of 108 victims of homicide in London. This is a reduction of 12 compared to 2015.

- 52% of all homicides were committed with a knife or bladed article
- One in five knife homicides were related to domestic abuse
- Non-domestic knife homicide victims were almost exclusively male (98%)
- BAME = 71% of non-domestic abuse fatal knife crime victims
- One in four were young black males (aged 16-20 years of age)

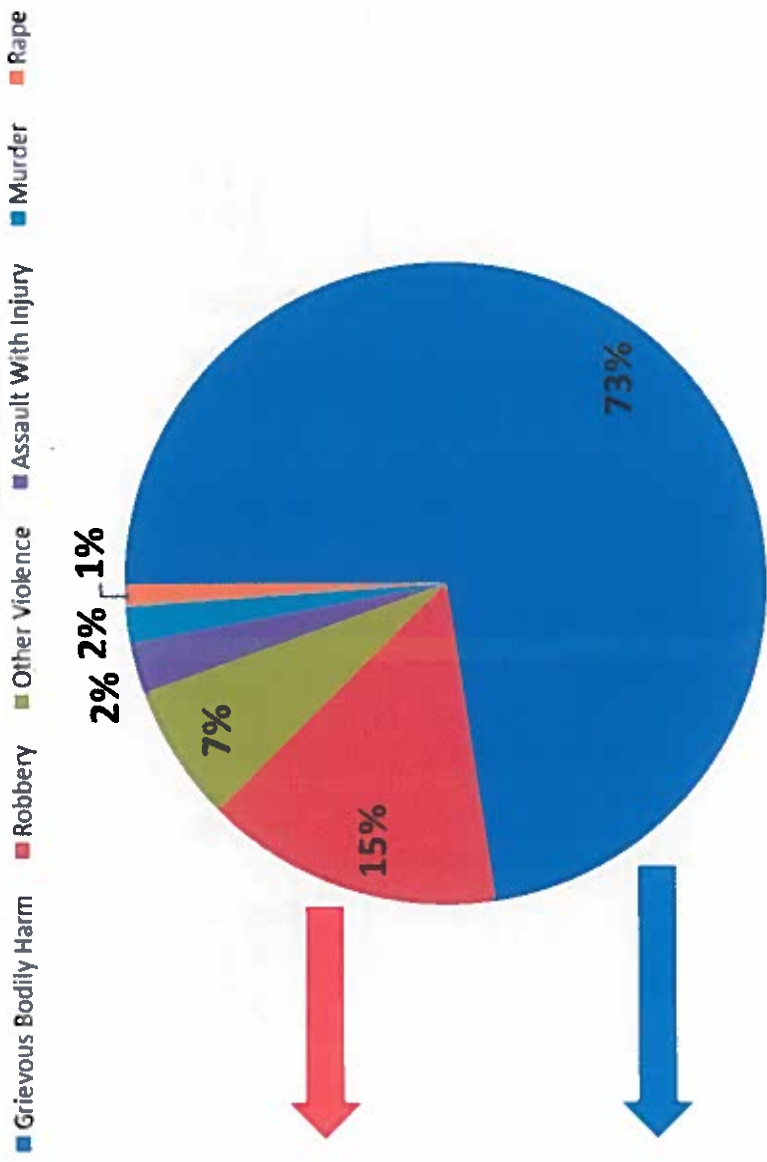


# A small proportion of London's knife crime is related to gangs yet is more violent

During 2016 2.4% (~260) of all knife crime was flagged by the MPS as related to gangs. This was 4% of the total in 2015. Gang flagged crime accounted for 5% of all knife crime with injury during 2016 – down from almost 9% in the preceding year.

42% of all knife crime was robbery in 2016, yet gang related crime is much less so

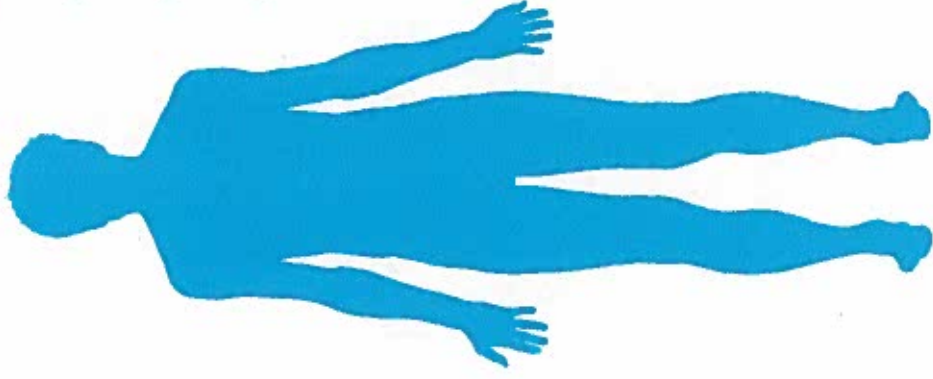
For all knife crime GBH accounted for 34% of the total – over half the proportion seen in gang offending



Classification of gang flagged knife crime 2016

## Gang related knife crime – Victim Profile

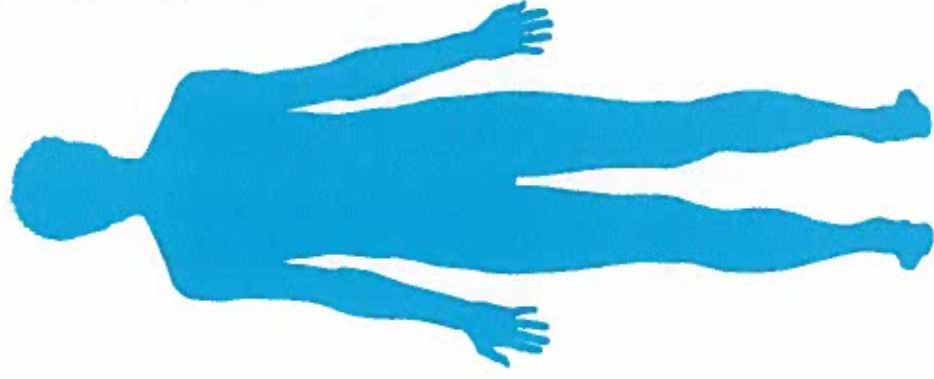
- 92% male
- 80% aged under 25 (49% aged 16-20)
- 77% BAME
- Young BAME men (16-20 years old) account for over a third of all victims of gang knife crime



**As the number of gang related offences are so low and that often the victim is unwilling to provide police with suspect details a suspect profile is not possible**

# Gang related knife crime w/injury – Victim Profile

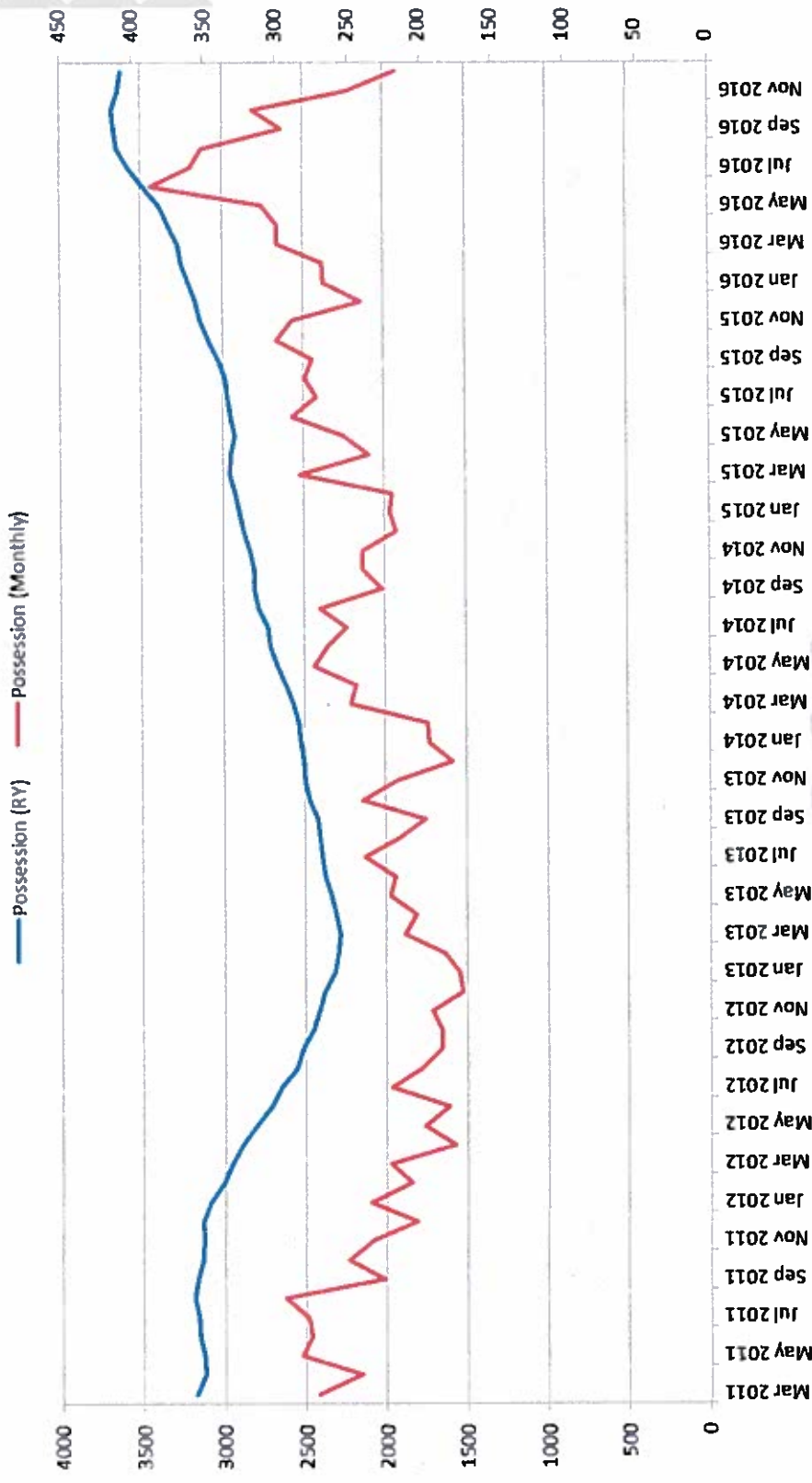
- 97% male
- 87% aged under 25 (54% aged 16-20)
- 80% BAME
- Young BAME men (16-20 years old) account for 41% of all victims



**As the number of gang related offences are so low and that often the victim is unwilling to provide police with suspect details a suspect profile is not possible**



# Possession of Knife offences have increased over the long term

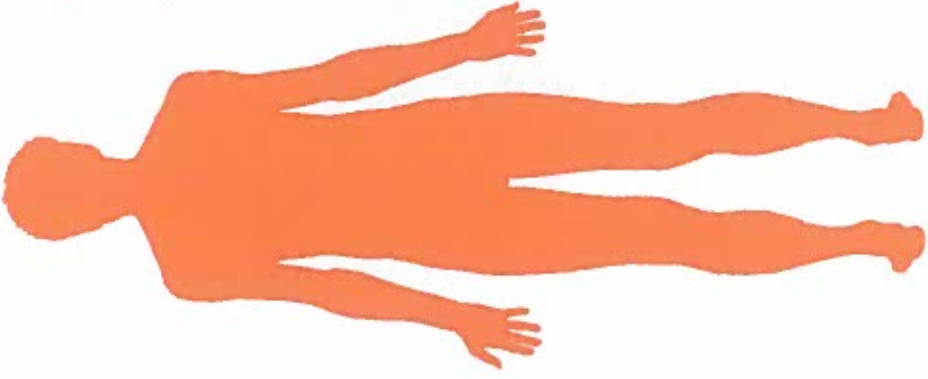


- There has been a sustained and confirmed upward trend ( $r^2 = 97\%$ ) in possession of knife offences (rolling 12) since March 2013. The level at the end of 2016 was 58% higher than the low recorded in 2012/13
- Compared to the end of 2015, knife possession in 2016 was 14.5% higher
- Both possession of bladed articles and other weapons have increased

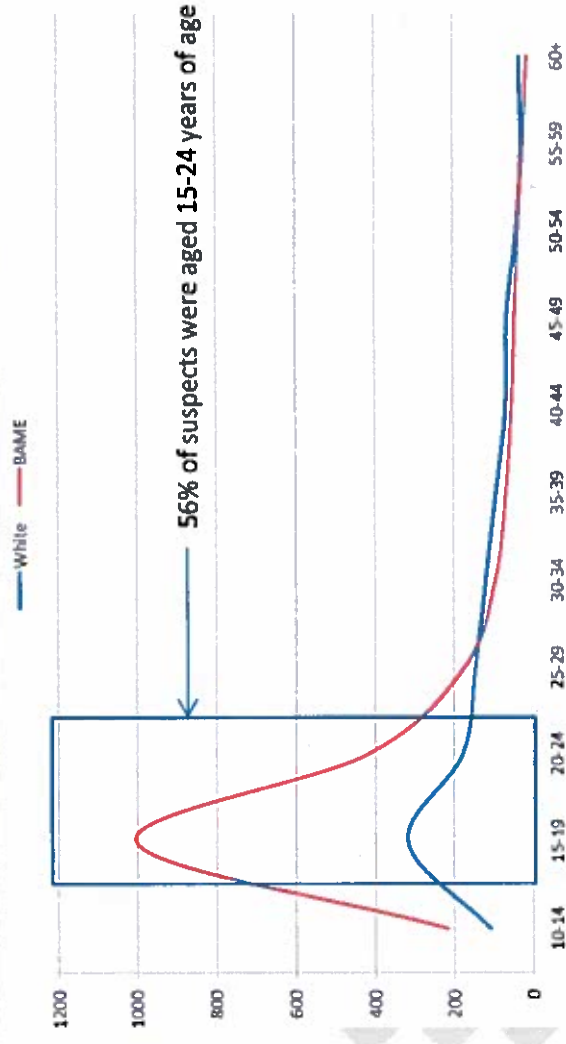


# Possession of Knife – Suspect Profile

- 88% male
- 67% aged under 25
- 58% black, 26% white

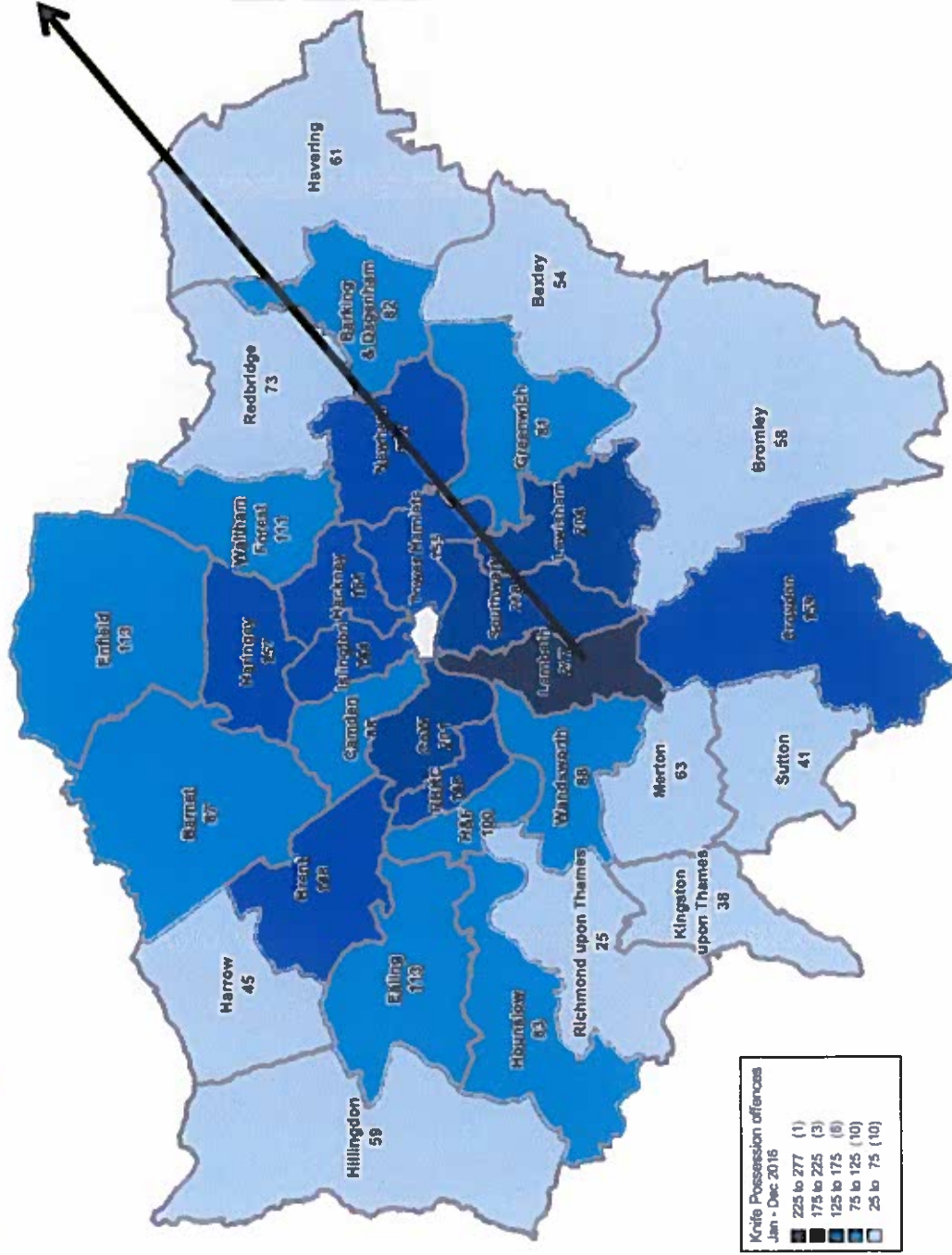


30% of all suspects were black males aged under 25 in 2016. 13% were white males of the same age range. This is the same proportions as in 2015



# Possession of Knife offences are recorded in inner London

Lambeth accounted for 8% of all possession offences last year (227)  
Coldharbour ward (Brixton town centre) accounted for almost one in five of all offences on this borough. This may indicate that police activity is a generator of this type of offence



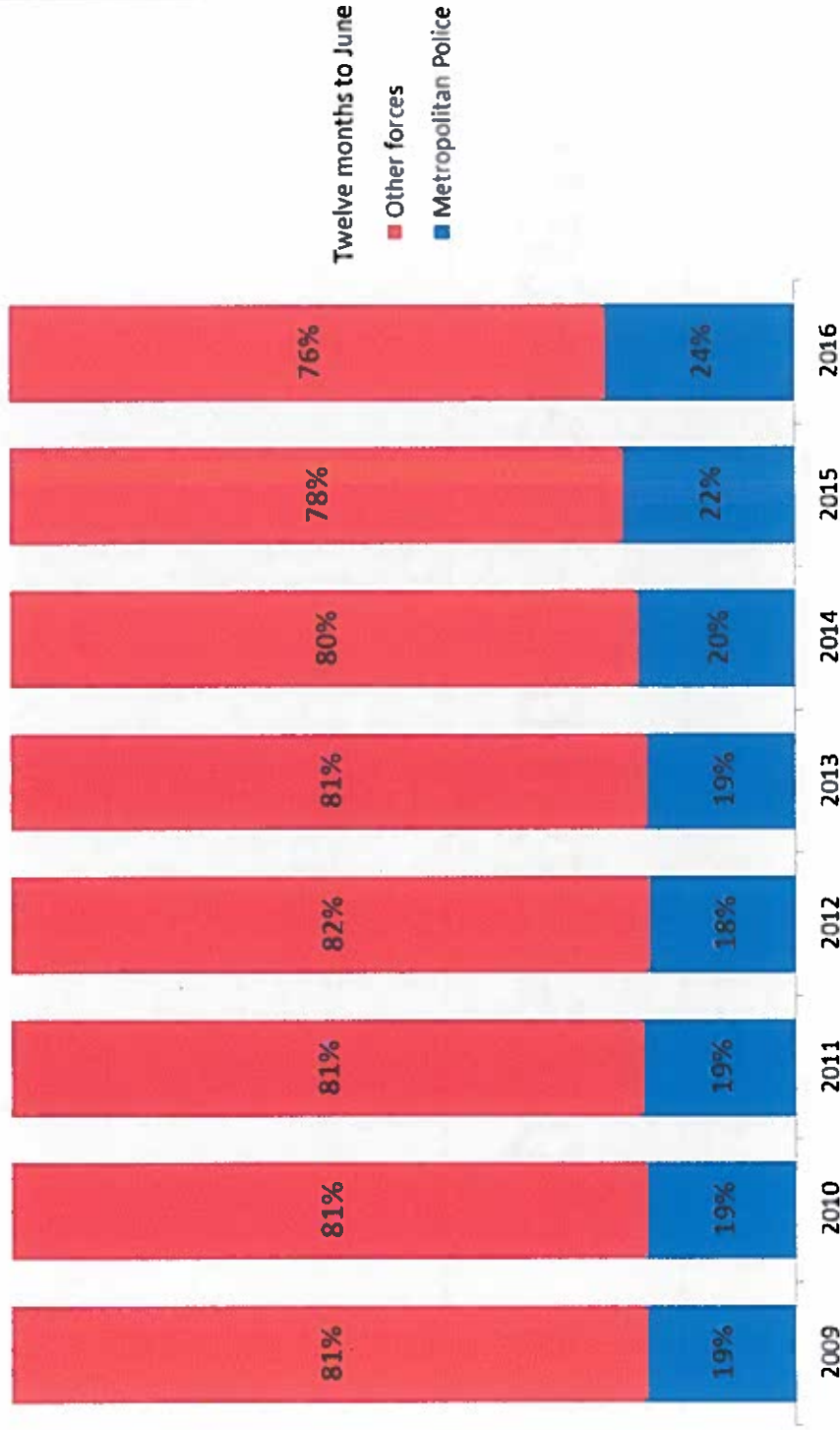
Knife Possession offences  
Jan - Dec 2016  
225 to 277 (1)  
175 to 225 (3)  
125 to 175 (6)  
75 to 125 (10)  
25 to 75 (10)



# Knife Possession Sentencing

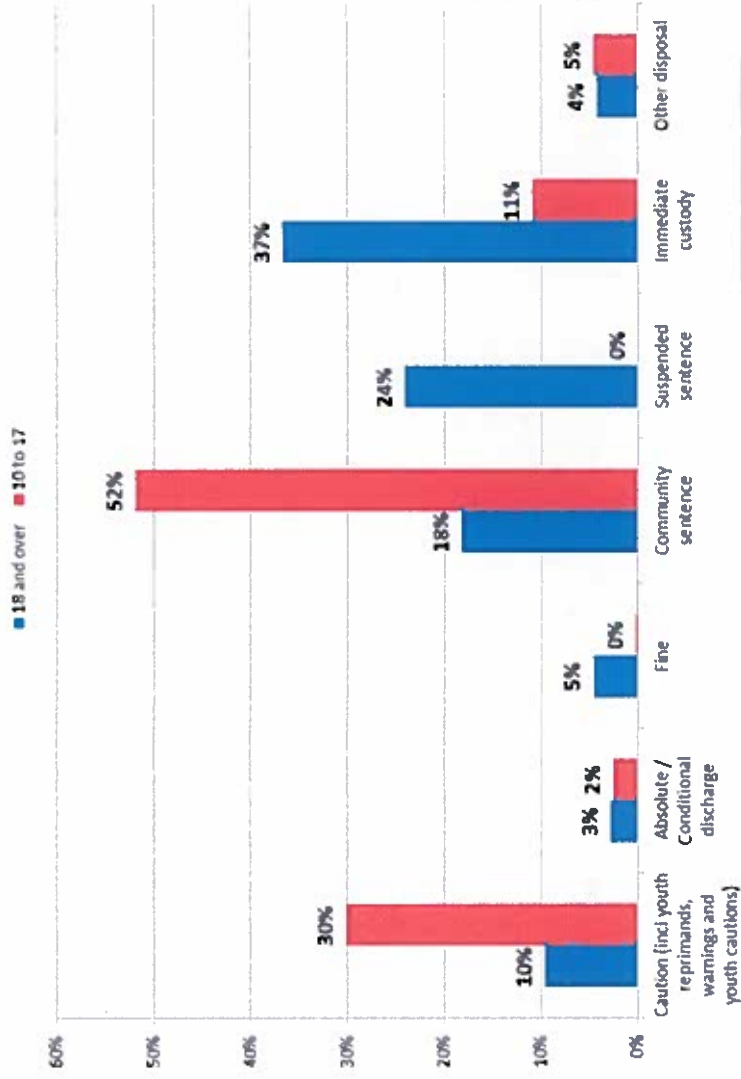


## The MPS area accounts for 24% of all knife possession offences resulting in a caution or sentence



- Over the last eight years, the proportion of all knife possession offences in England and Wales that result in either a caution or sentence that also occurred in the MPS area increased
- The next highest (West Yorkshire) accounts for just 6%

# Possession of Knife offences – caution or sentence by age group

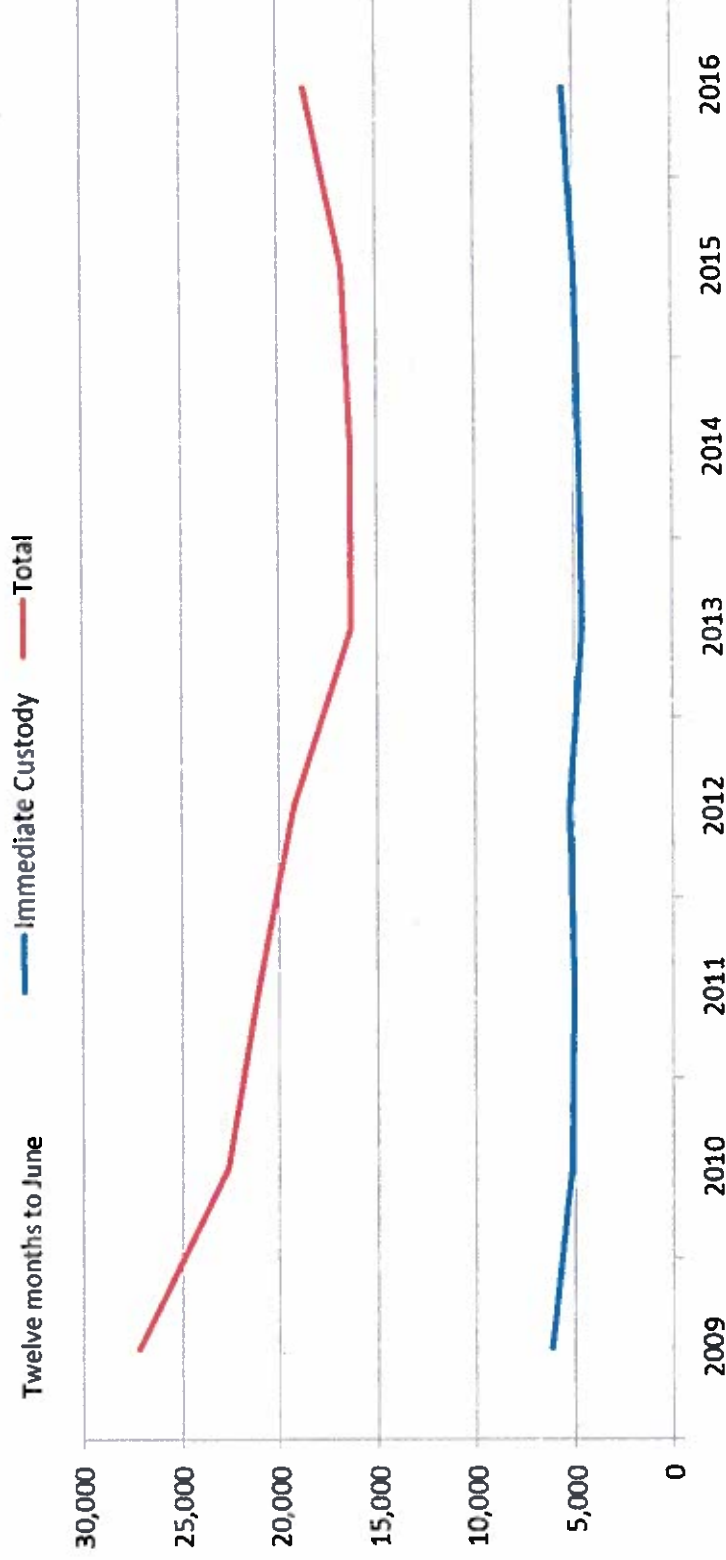


In the year to June 2016 for E&W:

- Youths were far less likely to receive an immediate custodial sentence (11% compared to 37% for adults)
- Over half of youths received community sentences
- Cautions were also used more frequently for youths than adults

# The proportion of knife possession offences resulting in immediate custody has increased

## Knife possession offences resulting in a caution or sentence (E&W)

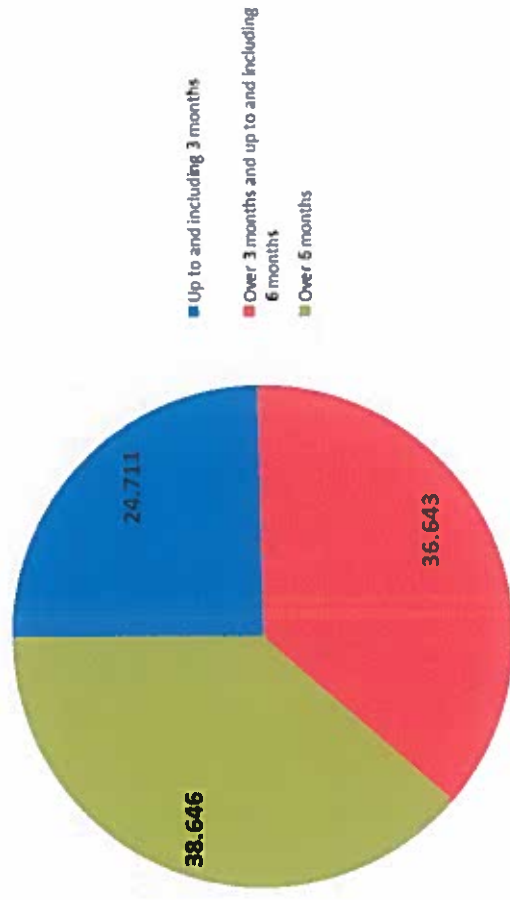


- Although the number of offences resulting in a caution or sentence has decreased considerably since year to June 2009 those resulting in immediate custody has remained fairly constant
- This equates to 30% of all offences resulting in immediate custody in the year to June 2016 compared to 23% in the period to June 2009

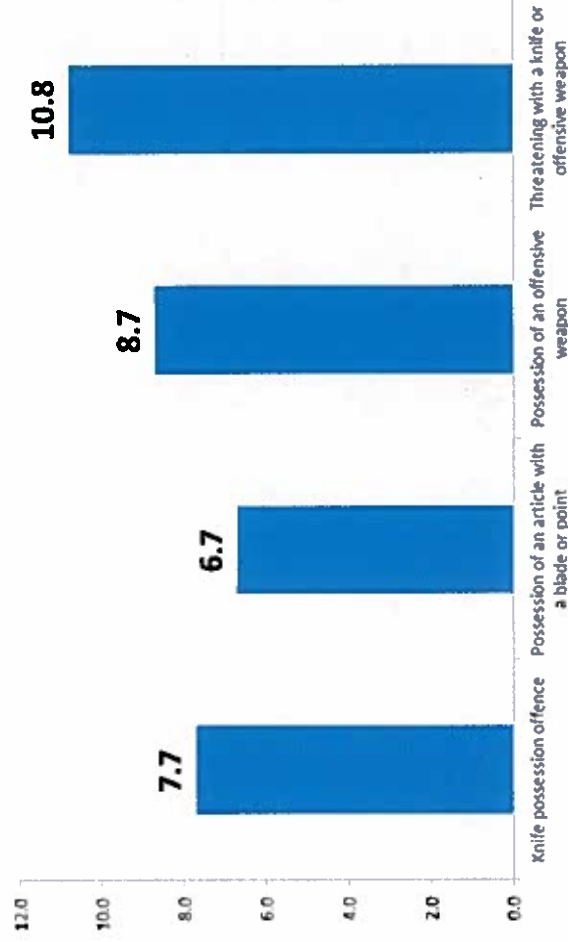
# 39% of offences resulting in immediate custody receive over six months

- Over three quarters of offences resulting in immediate custody receive at least three months
- 39% receive six months or more

% Immediate custody sentence length

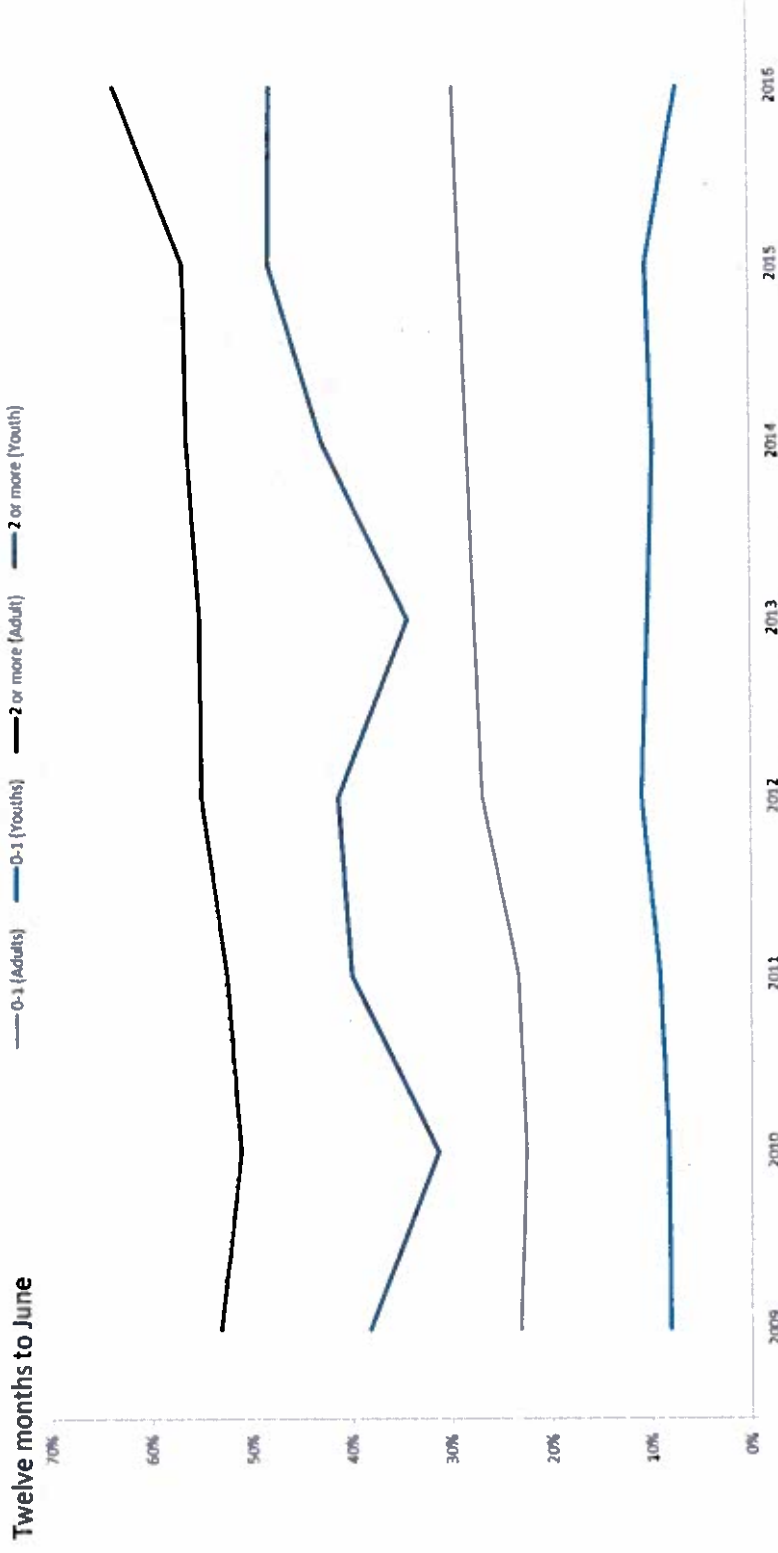


Average sentence length in months (twelve months to June 2016)



- The average immediate sentence length for offences depends on the type of crime
- This ranged from 6.7 months for possession of a bladed article to 10.8 months for threatening with a knife or offensive weapon

# Offenders with more than two previous convictions for knife offences are more likely to receive immediate custody



- For both adults and youths, who have two or more previous cautions or convictions for knife possession, the proportion receiving immediate custody has increased
- In the year to June 2016, adults with two or more sanctions received immediate custody in 64% of cases. For youths this was 48%
- As expected, those with one or no previous convictions are less likely to receive an immediate custodial sentence





# Tackling Knife Crime



# Education based approaches show most promise in tackling knife crime

- ✓ **Education based approaches** demonstrating the dangers of carrying a weapon and making available resources and services to support vulnerable young people.
- ✓ **Skills based programmes** that aim to develop ability to control behaviour and participate in prosocial activities.
- ✓ **Family focused programmes** (home visits, parent training, family therapy) have been shown to work in preventing gang involvement and youth violence.
- ✓ **Who delivers education programmes is crucial** – preferably those who can engage well with young people and have direct experience of knife crime, either as a perpetrator, victim, family, or community member.

(McVie, 2010; Foster, 2013; Eades et al, 2007; Golding and McClory, 2008; Kinsella, 2011)

❓ **The media and knife crime amnesties** have a role to play in awareness raising; however, **only when delivered alongside wider educational measures.**

✗ **Knife crime amnesties have proved ineffective alone.** They do not address underlying causes and – given the ready availability of knives – have a limited effect.

(Foster, 2013; Sethi et al, 2010; Bannister et al, 2010; Eades et al, 2007)

✗ **There is no evidence for schemes such as ‘boot camps’ or other shock incarceration programmes** (e.g. Scared Straight). These ‘deterrence and discipline’ style interventions have been recognised as ineffective or potentially harmful.

(O’Connor and Waddell, 2015)

# A multi agency approach to tackling interpersonal violence

- ✓ **Addressing knife crime through partnership working** - balanced between enforcement, education, social service and community based practitioners, and determined by underlying social and economic issues – rather than purely criminal justice responses. (Foster, 2013; Eades et al, 2007; McMahon, 2013)
- ✓ **Fostering good relationships with the police** - if young people feel unprotected by the police this may lead to them feeling they need to protect themselves – possibly through carrying a weapon (Foster, 2013).
- ✓ **Tackling wider issues of interpersonal violence** - knives are a weapon of choice (perhaps due to ease of availability), however this may change. Approaches should focus on tackling interpersonal violence against the socio-economic backdrop in which it takes place - rather than the knife itself.
- ✓ **A public health rather than purely criminal justice approach** - that focuses on creating positive change, addressing underlying vulnerabilities, reducing risk factors, and strengthening protective factors (e.g. prosocial attitudes, stable family structure, academic achievement, low economic deprivation) **earlier in life**, rather than measures that seek to reduce violent behaviour once it has already emerged.

(Foster, 2013; Eades et al, 2007; Sethi et al, 2010; Cordis Bright, 2015; Williams et al, 2014; Golding and McClory, 2008; McVie, 2010)

## Knife Crime – Future research/gaps

- What are the age and relationships between victims and suspects? Is knife crime predominantly peer on peer?
- Is there escalation in knife offending? Do offenders start using knives at certain point in their criminal career?
- Criminal career analysis of repeat knife offenders