

Strategy to meet the Serious Violence Duty

January 2024



Background

The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) was introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

In line with the duty and our ongoing work to keep Ealing's communities safe, we are committed to preventing and reducing serious violence. We do this by working together as a Safer Ealing Partnership; the council, the Police, the fire brigade, justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services) and the NHS all meet formally and collaborate to implement plans to address serious violence. The Duty presents the opportunity for a consistent focus to reduce serious violence.

The Safer Ealing Partnership (our local CSP) will be the lead partnership for implementation and ensuring compliance with the duty.



What is serious violence?

For the purposes of the Duty, and consistent with other London boroughs, we define serious violence as:

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

We will of course continue to tackle violence that falls outside of this definition.

Ealing borough demographic overview

Summary of Key Demographics of Ealing

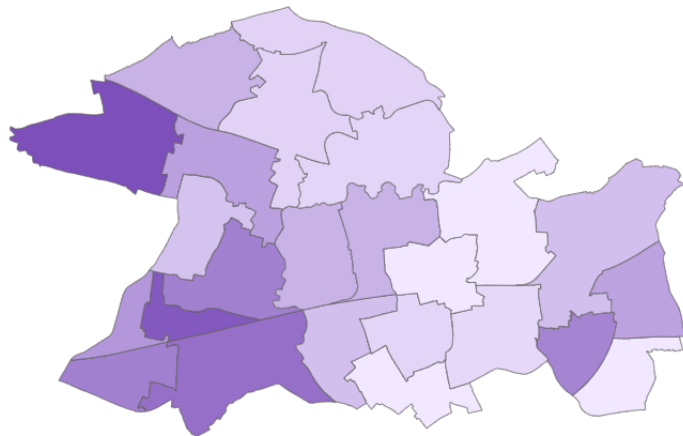
According to the latest National Census, Ealing is the third largest London borough in terms of population. The population has risen almost 20% over the last two decades from 307,300 in 2001 to 367,100 in 2021. It is projected to grow by more than 10% over the next ten years.

Ealing has a higher proportion of males and females aged 25-49 years compared to England (40% -v- 33%) and a lower proportion of persons aged 55 years and above (17% -v- 24%). In the last decade however, there has been an increase of 23% in the number of residents aged 65+.

Ealing is an ethnically diverse borough, with a population consisting of: 43% White, 30% Asian, 11% Black, 5% Mixed, and 11% Other. More than 3 in 10 residents do not describe English as their main language, with 20.8% indicating that they cannot speak English well or at all.

In terms of religion, 37.8% of residents describe themselves as Christian, 18.8% as Muslim, 7.8% as Sikh, and 7.7% as Hindu. 19% state they have no religion.

Deprivation (proportion of LSOAs in IMD Deciles 1-3)



Deprivation

While not being one of the most deprived boroughs in London, there are variations between different measures and across different geographical regions of Ealing.

Ealing is generally less deprived in domains relating to 'Education, Skills & Training' and 'Health & Disability', while it is generally more deprived in domains relating to 'Barriers to Housing & Services', 'Living Environment', and 'Income'.

As shown on the map, areas of Southall, Northolt and South Acton

What does serious violence look like in Ealing?

We have undertaken a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to understand serious violence trends in the borough. As per the definition of serious violence, the following slides will set out the assessment against the following critical areas:

- Violence and exploitation affecting under-25s
- Sexual violence
- Domestic abuse

The assessment has also considered and included the wider context which can help us understand the established and emerging serious violence trends in the borough.

Under 25 Violence (Analysis period 2021 & 2022)

IN-SCOPE SVD OFFENCES

3026

involving at least one person aged under 25

ABH	1207	39.9%
Rape and Sexual Assault	571	18.9%
GBH+	532	17.6%
Personal Robbery	526	17.4%
Threats to Kill	237	7.8%

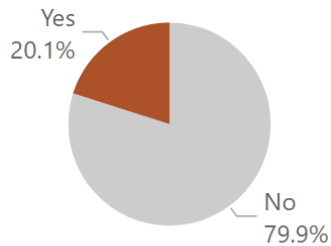
Young people were involved as suspects or victims in 37% of the total of in-scope offences (3026 of 8120 crimes). The largest crime category is Actual Bodily Harm, making up two-fifths of the total involving U25s.

Proportionally, 49% of all personal robbery offences and 51% of all in-scope rape and sexual assaults involved at least one young person.

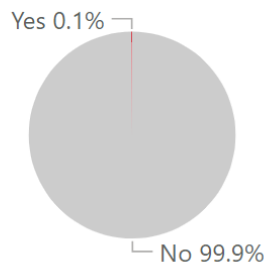
There was no clear trend in offences across the 2-year analysis period, but wider information relating to all violence with injury indicates that this has been rising in the last year both in Ealing and across London.

For all violence with injury, Ealing ranks 9th of 32 boroughs on volume and 18th on rate per 1000.

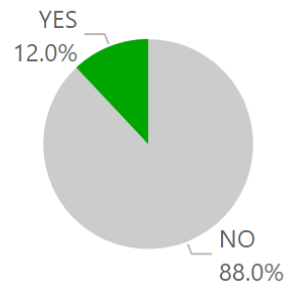
Domestic Abuse



Gang Flag Applied?



Any Knife Involvement?



A fifth of the violent offences involving someone aged under 25 were recorded as being domestic abuse incidents.

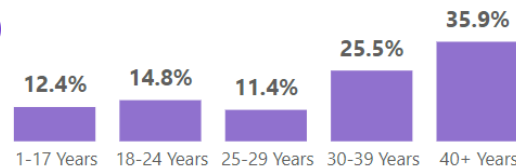
Only 3 offences during the two-year period were flagged as being gang-related.

12% of the offences (363) involved a knife being used, threatened or intimidated, including 101 offences with an injury. 12 offences (0.4%) involved a gun.

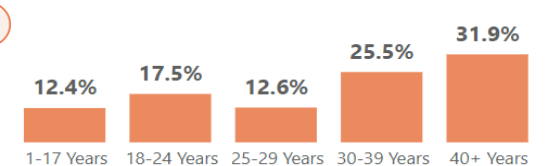
INSIGHT

While the SVD places the focus on violent crime that involves younger people, overall the U25s in Ealing make up only 27% of victims and 30% of suspects.

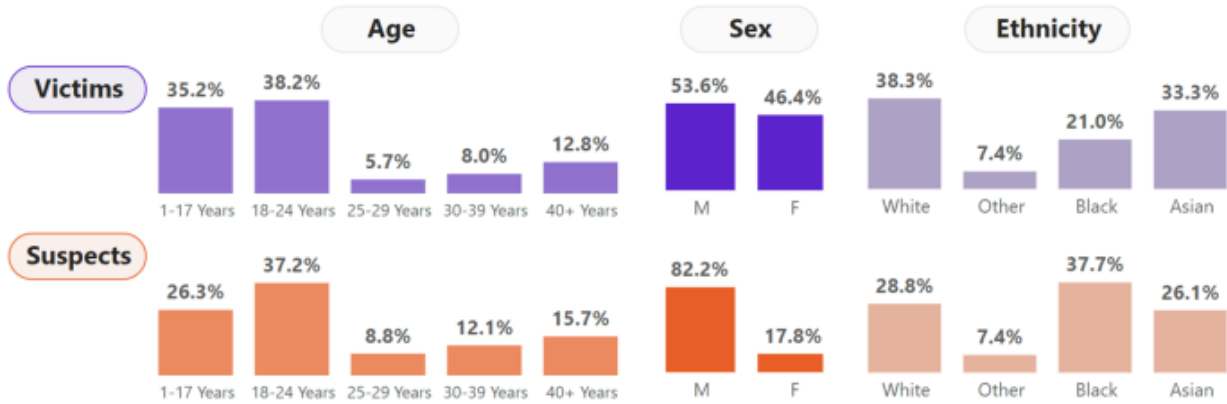
Victims



Suspects



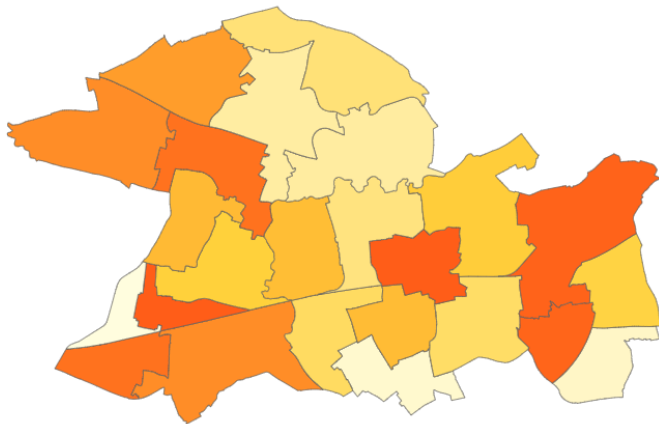
Under 25 Violence (Continued)



In violent incidents involving under 25s, males made up over 80% of suspects, but were only slightly more likely to be victims than females.

More suspects were aged 18-24 than under 18, while victims were more evenly split between the two age categories.

For both victims and particularly suspects, black individuals were over-represented compared to borough demographics.



The wards with the highest volume of offences tend to be those that include larger, busier town centres with multiple transport links, including Ealing, Southall, Acton and Greenford.

Time of Day	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	% by Time
00:00 - 02:59	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%	1.3%	1.5%	2.6%	2.6%	13.4%
03:00 - 05:59	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.6%	1.0%	1.0%	3.8%
06:00 - 08:59	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	4.3%
09:00 - 11:59	1.5%	1.2%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%	0.9%	7.9%
12:00 - 14:59	2.3%	2.1%	2.2%	1.8%	1.6%	1.8%	2.3%	14.0%
15:00 - 17:59	3.3%	3.8%	3.0%	3.5%	3.7%	2.4%	2.6%	22.5%
18:00 - 20:59	2.9%	2.6%	2.8%	3.1%	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	18.5%
21:00 - 23:59	1.9%	2.0%	2.5%	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%	15.5%
% by Day	14.9%	14.4%	14.2%	13.8%	14.2%	14.1%	14.4%	100.0%

There is no overall peak day trend for offending.

Offences occur mostly between 12:00 and 02:59, peaking between 15:00 and 17:59. This peak is more pronounced from Monday to Friday.

INSIGHT

855 offences featured both a victim and a suspect aged under 25, including 194 personal robberies (over 18% of the borough total).

INSIGHT

Robbery is the only offence type which tends to involve multiple suspects; there is a concentration of these offences in central Ealing.

Domestic Abuse (Analysis period 2021 & 2022)

IN-SCOPE SVD OFFENCES

2306

Domestic Abuse

ABH	1192	51.7%
GBH+	417	18.1%
Threats to Kill	399	17.3%
Rape and Sexual Assault	294	12.7%
Personal Robbery	25	1.1%

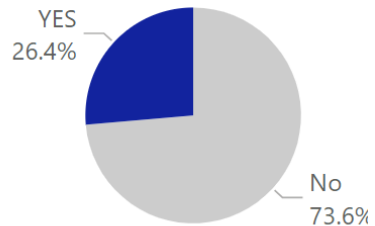
The scope of the Serious Violence Duty means that it includes only 19.4% of all incidents/offences flagged as Domestic Abuse (2306 out of 11893 crimes).

Over half of in-scope DA offences were classified as Actual Bodily Harm.

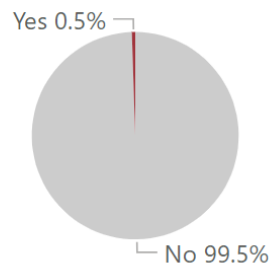
There was no clear trend in the volume of offences across the 2-year analysis period. The longer-term trend for all domestic abuse violence with injury offences shows no directional trend in Ealing and a slight fall across the MPS during the last five years, but early signs of a potential increase in the last few months.

Looking at all DA violence with injury, Ealing ranks 8th of 32 boroughs on volume and 14th on rate per 1000.

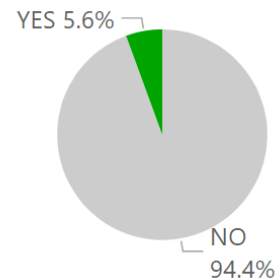
Any Party U25?



Honour-Based Abuse



Any Knife Involvement?



Over a quarter of the borough's domestic abuse offences involved at least one party aged under 25 years.

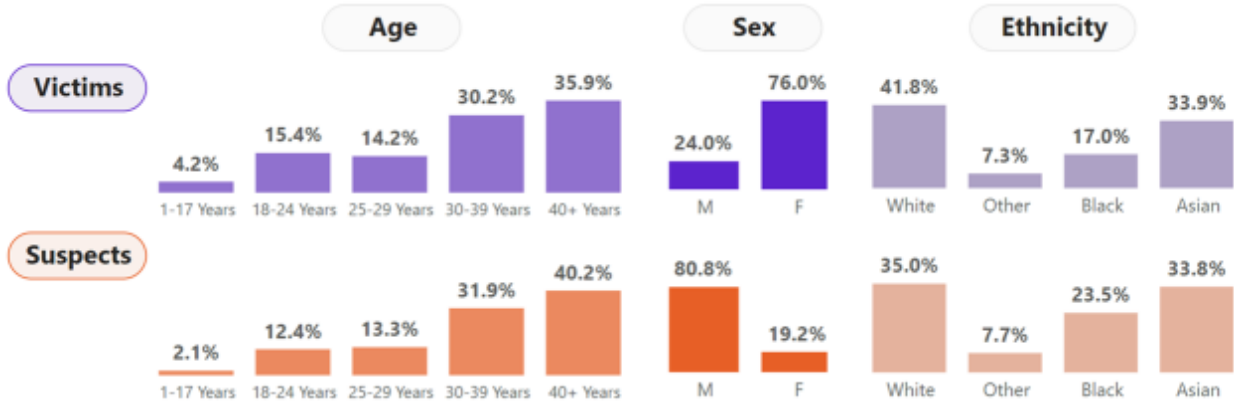
There were 12 offences (0.5%) recorded as being honour-based abuse.

5.6% of the offences (129) involved a knife being used, threatened or intimidated, including 41 offences where injury was caused by a knife.

OPPORTUNITY

Although the SVD does not specifically include less serious offences or incidents within its scope, there is a potential opportunity here for targeted intervention and support which might reduce the risk of escalation to a more harmful offence in the future. Some kind of 'early warning' trigger which highlighted parties involved in multiple minor or non-crime domestic incidents could be worth exploring.

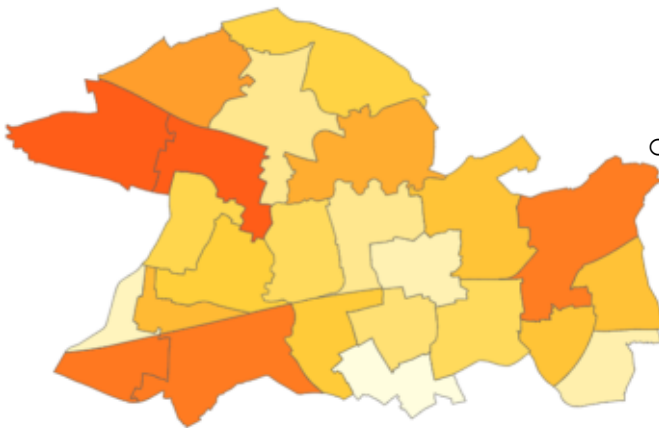
Domestic Abuse (Continued)



Domestic Abuse offences tend to involve older parties, with the majority of victims and suspects aged 30 or older.

The majority of offences feature male suspects (more than 80% of all suspects) and female victims (more than 75% of all victims).

Across age and ethnicity categories, there is a tendency towards homogeneity with victim and suspect demographics often the same.



The wards with the highest volume of Domestic Abuse offences are Northolt West End, Greenford Broadway, Southall Green, Norwood Green and North Acton.

Time of Day	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	% by Time
00:00 - 02:59	2.3%	1.8%	2.3%	1.5%	1.6%	2.1%	2.4%	13.9%
03:00 - 05:59	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	1.7%	4.3%
06:00 - 08:59	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	1.3%	0.8%	5.0%
09:00 - 11:59	2.1%	1.4%	1.2%	1.1%	1.4%	1.4%	1.7%	10.2%
12:00 - 14:59	1.8%	2.3%	1.3%	1.8%	2.3%	2.2%	2.7%	14.4%
15:00 - 17:59	2.4%	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%	2.5%	2.5%	2.6%	15.7%
18:00 - 20:59	2.7%	2.4%	2.6%	2.7%	3.1%	2.5%	2.5%	18.3%
21:00 - 23:59	2.7%	2.4%	2.5%	1.8%	2.5%	2.6%	3.6%	18.3%
% by Day	15.2%	13.2%	12.6%	11.7%	14.2%	15.2%	18.0%	100.0%

Offences are highest on Sunday, and are slightly lower during the Tuesday to Thursday period.

Offence levels increase through the day, peaking from 18:00 to 23:59.

INSIGHT
Almost two-thirds of suspects were either the current or former partner of the victim; a further 24% were direct family members.

INSIGHT
There is a strong correlation between areas with higher levels of deprivation and rates of recorded domestic abuse offences.

Sexual Violence (Analysis Period 2021 & 2022)

IN-SCOPE SVD OFFENCES

1129

Rape and Sexual Assault

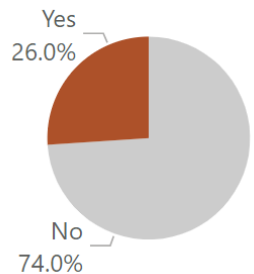
Sexual assault on a Female aged 13 and over	426	37.73%
Rape of a Female aged 16 and over	386	34.19%
Sexual Assault on a Female Child under 13	98	8.68%
Sexual Assault on a Male aged 13 and over	49	4.34%
Rape of a Female Child under 16	45	3.99%
Sexual Assault on a Male child under 13	33	2.92%
Assault on a female by penetration.	31	2.75%
Rape of a Female Child under 13	29	2.57%

Over 70% of in-scope offences were either sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over, or rape of a female aged 16 or over. A further 19% of offences involved the rape of someone aged under 16, or the sexual assault of someone aged under 13. (The table left shows offences contributing more than 2% of the total.)

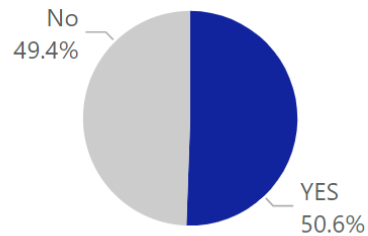
There was a general upward trend in the volume of recorded offences across the 2-year analysis period.

Looking at the longer-term trend, using the closest indicative measure (all rape offences), there has been an increase in reported/recorded offences in Ealing and across the MPS over the last five years, although figures up to Autumn 2023 suggest this increase may be levelling off.

Domestic Abuse



Any Party U25?



Looking at all rape offences, Ealing ranks 9th of 32 boroughs on volume and 18th on rate per 1000.

Over half of the sexual offences involved at least one person aged under 25.

Over a quarter of the borough's sexual offences were categorised as incidents of domestic abuse.

More than 7 in 10 sexual violence crimes with a DA flag were rape offences, whereas for non-DA offences this ratio is only around 2 in 10.

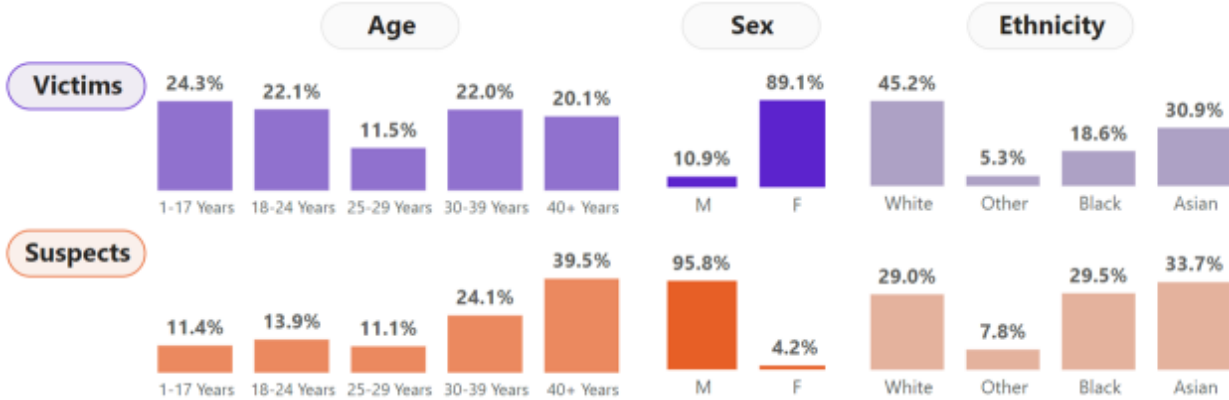
INSIGHT/OPPORTUNITY

The data suggests there may be a relatively large number of unreported 'lower' level sexual offences occurring within domestic abuse settings. This could be an opportunity to provide help and support at an early stage which could have a protective impact on people

Rape of a Female aged 16 and over
(as a proportion of all in-scope Sexual Violence)

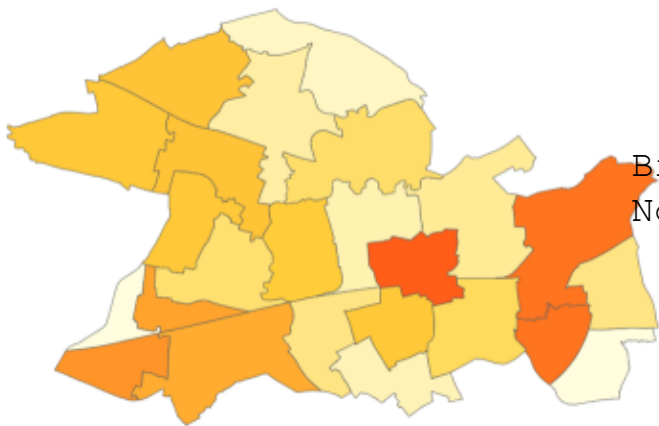
Domestic Abuse	Not Domestic Abuse
71.8%	21.0%

Sexual Violence (Continued)



Suspects tend to be older. 57% of victims are aged under 30 years, while 64% of suspects are aged 30 years or older. There are far fewer suspects aged under 25 than victims.

The vast majority of offenders are males (more than 95%), while the vast majority of victims are female (almost 90%).



The ward with the highest volume of Sexual Violence offences is Ealing Broadway, followed by North Acton and South Acton; Southall Green, Southall Broadway, and Norwood Green also experienced higher offence levels.

Victims and suspects tend to be demographically

Time of Day	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	% by Time
00:00 - 02:59	2.8%	2.8%	2.5%	2.0%	2.6%	4.9%	2.4%	20.0%
03:00 - 05:59	1.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%	6.0%
06:00 - 08:59	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	6.1%
09:00 - 11:59	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%	1.3%	0.8%	1.1%	9.4%
12:00 - 14:59	2.9%	2.1%	2.1%	1.9%	1.9%	2.9%	2.5%	16.3%
15:00 - 17:59	2.3%	2.1%	2.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.5%	14.7%
18:00 - 20:59	2.9%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	2.4%	1.7%	2.0%	14.2%
21:00 - 23:59	2.0%	1.9%	1.7%	1.9%	2.9%	2.3%	0.8%	13.4%
% by Day	16.3%	13.4%	13.8%	12.3%	15.0%	16.6%	12.7%	100.0%

Sexual Violence offences were highest on Friday, Saturday and Monday, Offences tended to occur between 12:00 and 02:59, peaking between midnight and 3am.

INSIGHT

The clear peak level of offences at any point during the week is between 00:00 and 02:59 in the early hours of Saturday morning, indicating a potential link to the night time economy.

INSIGHT

A third of suspects were not recorded as being known to the victim. 22.7% were the current/former partner of the victim, 17.6% were described as a friend, acquaintance or schoolmate, and 12.3% were a family member.

The wider context in Ealing

Pupil suspensions and exclusions have increased year-on-year as we have emerged from the disrupted pandemic period. In Secondary schools in 2022/23, there were 58 permanent exclusions and 1767 fixed-term suspensions. The most common reasons were persistent or general disruptive behaviour, and physical assault against a pupil.

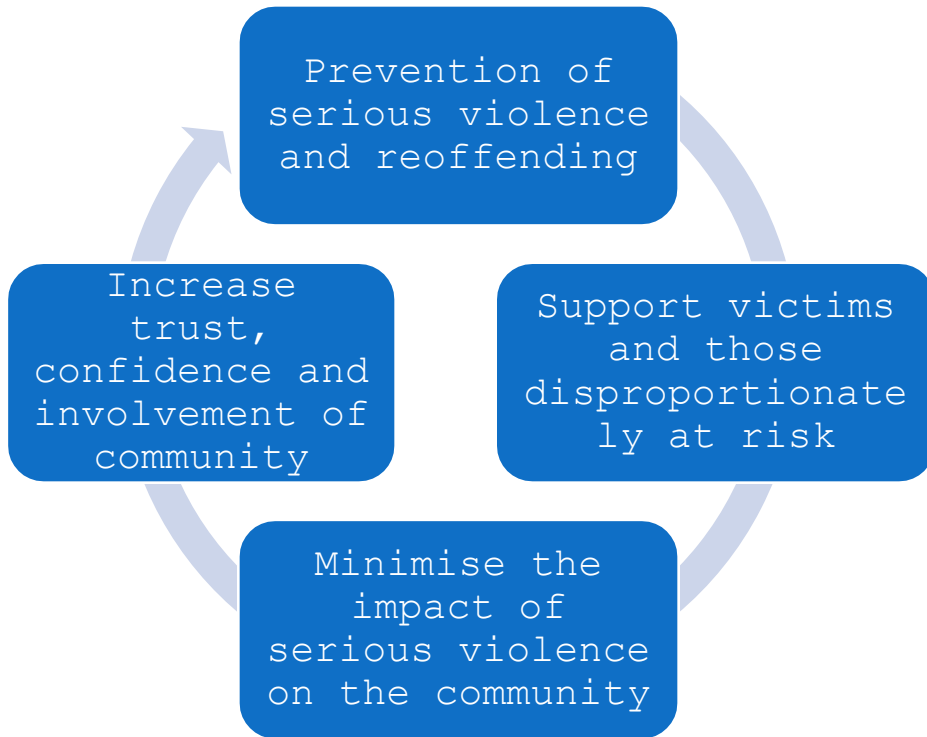
The local substance misuse landscape in Ealing is a complex picture. Ealing has a substantial opiate misuse population, with the highest prevalence and majority of those in treatment being in the 35-64 age group. The estimated prevalence of problematic alcohol users is higher in the borough than in London or the country as a whole, and the unmet need is relatively high. Ealing also has the highest rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions of any London borough. Overall numbers in treatment had been falling in the post-pandemic period (when fewer people than normal were discharged) but has recently started to increase again.

The population on probation in Ealing is predominantly male (94%) with a proportionally higher representation of black ethnicity (28%) as compared to the borough's overall demographics. Over three-quarters of the population is aged 45 or under, with those aged 26-35 being the single highest age bracket (32%). The majority of offences were either violence-related (37%) or related to illegal drugs (21%).

In terms of contextual safeguarding and children known to social care, there were 2400 children in need in the borough in 2022/23 and 297 children looked after, which represented a decrease of 9.5% on the previous year. 70 of 257 vulnerability screening tool completions in the last year included a concern regarding serious youth violence, but this is rarely the only concern and often crosses over with other issues such as exploitation and gang association/affiliation.

In relation to youth offending and youth justice, 38% (20 of 53) of the YJS open caseload are open to social care as either looked after children or children in need. In the 19 months to October 2023, 360 offences were committed by 136 young persons. There is a long-term trend with fewer young people being arrested now as compared to ten years ago.

Our SVD strategic objectives



A consistent approach across other strategies

Council Plan

- Tackling inequality and crime
- Thriving communities
- A fairer start

MVAWG Strategy

- Prevention
- Support for victims/survivors
- Developing a community coordinated response
- Holding perpetrators to account

MOPAC Crime & Police Plan

- Reducing and preventing violence
- Increasing trust and confidence
- Better supporting victims
- Protecting people from exploitation and harm

MPS VAWG Plan

- Building trust and confidence
- Relentless pursuit of perpetrators
- Safer Spaces

Youth Plan






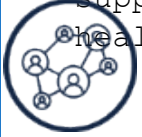


- Ensure every CYP can be inspired to fulfil their potential in a safe and supported environment across Ealing

How will we prevent and reduce serious violence?

Objective	Further explanation
Prevention of serious violence and reoffending	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention through education and access to a range of diversionary activities and opportunities alongside targeted interventions to those at most risk of committing violence.• Predicting, preventing and breaking patterns of violent behaviour and supporting repeat offenders to move away from crime.
Support victims and those disproportionately at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring those vulnerable to, at-risk of or affected by serious violence receive coordinated, high quality support and interventions.• Raising awareness of services available and reducing the barriers to support
Minimise the impact of serious violence on the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the impact of serious violence on communities by co-ordinating and scaling up partnership response to contain violence, better regulate spaces/places and provide reassurance.
Increase trust, confidence and involvement of communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing public trust in the CSP and reducing gaps in confidence between different groups through meaningful engagement• Empowering communities to strengthen their own resilience, building knowledge and capacity in the community to lead and collaborate on preventing serious violence.

Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

The partnership has agreed a range of activity to reduce the risks of violence and vulnerability, in support of the strategic objectives. These are set out within a Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan with over 60 actions set across eight different themes.

 <h3>Governance</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversight of local violence reduction governance/ leadership Definition of Senior Leadership Structure Interoperability between boards to support a public health approach 	 <h3>Analysis and Enforcement</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally Strategic Needs Assessment Monthly tasking meetings 	 <h3>Reducing Access to weapons</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to understand how partners are working jointly to minimize access to weapons Trading Standard Initiatives Weapons Sweeps 	 <h3>Safeguarding and Educating Young people</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing exclusions Contextual safeguarding Support for children in care and care leavers Cooperation with parents and carers 	 <h3>Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate and coordinate local training offer Public health approach to VAWG Maintain up to date list of local support services Working in partnership to address perpetrators
 <h3>Strengthening Neighbourhoods</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring close cooperation between local authorities and VCS Targeting problematic spaces to prevent violent crime and enable positive use 	 <h3>Supporting Victims of violence and vulnerability</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring coordinated referral and support to victims and those who are most vulnerable to being exploited 	 <h3>Positive Diversion from Violence</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing targeted early interventions to ensure that children and young people are helped to move away from criminality 		

Actions under these themes will be linked to our 4 strategic objectives. As well as cross-cutting actions surrounding governance, intelligence sharing, communication and engagement.



Building on current position

Opportunities

- The duty needs to be further embedded across the partnership. Partners generally feel they are already working collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence however, more clarity is needed on roles and responsibilities.
- New SEP structure and creation of working sub-groups will need to provide effective ownership and oversight of the violence reduction actions across the 4 strategic objectives. With short-term progress and updates monitored at quarterly meetings.
- Long term progress and the Duty requirement to refresh the SNA and strategy annually can be incorporated into the annual scrutiny process with an accompanying community safety report shared publicly.
- The production of a broader community safety strategy to incorporate insights and activity from multiple plans. This broader strategy would need to recognise that the perception of safety is influenced by concerns beyond the focus of this strategy on serious violence.

Gaps

- Development of a violence reduction engagement and communications plan which sets out opportunities for community participation and supports activity to improve trust and confidence while also reducing the fear of crime through honest and positive messages about achievements (and reduces risk of stigma and discrimination.)
- Improving information-sharing protocols between partners to effectively produce future SNAs and enable preventative action. Even services within the council do not understand their data sharing duties - where resourcing to do this work is an issue, it should be collectively resolved.
- The scope of the SVD means that it includes only 19.4% of all incidents/offences flagged as Domestic Abuse (2306 out of 11893 crimes.) A needs assessment focused on these out-of-scope crimes can enable joint identification of vulnerability and early intervention opportunities.