

Call for Evidence: Preventing Violence and Protecting Young People

The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee has launched an investigation into preventing violence and protecting young people. It will consider the root causes of violence affecting young people in London and what the Mayor and Metropolitan Police are doing to prevent violence in communities.

Below is information about the investigation and call for evidence, as well as key questions the investigation is interested in hearing about.

Why is the Committee exploring this topic?

The London Assembly investigates issues of importance to Londoners and is the body that holds the Mayor to account.

Violence affecting young people can cause significant trauma in individuals and communities, and can impact young people's development, making them more likely to be involved in the justice system in later life.¹

The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan states that "reducing and preventing violence in all its forms is the Mayor's first priority for this term." Within this, one area of focus is on "preventing and reducing violence affecting young people."²

In 2019, the Mayor established London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), which takes an approach rooted in prevention and early intervention and has committed

to using a public health approach to tackling violence affecting young Londoners.³

The Committee is investigating this topic now ahead of the Met's publication of a Children and Young People's Strategy, which is due to be published in November 2023.⁴

This investigation will consist of two evidence gathering meetings to take place on 20 September 2023 and 31 October 2023, as well as this call for evidence.

¹ Academic Insights, [Serious youth violence and its relationship with adverse childhood experiences](#), November 2021

² Mayor of London, [Police and Crime Plan for London 2022-25](#), March 2022

³ Mayor of London, [Violence Reduction Unit](#)

⁴ MPS, [A New Met for London](#), July 2023

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Who can submit evidence?

The Committee would like to invite anyone with knowledge or experience of violence affecting young people to submit views and information to the investigation, including those working to protect young people and prevent violence, giving you the opportunity to inform the Committee's work and influence its recommendations. Therefore, **this call for evidence is open to all who would like to respond.**

Will responses be published?

Yes, in the large majority of circumstances we will publish written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it online. This is so that there is transparency about what evidence the Committee has received.

Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or to not be published (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Committee will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

What will the evidence I provide be used for?

The responses to this Call for Evidence will be used to inform the Committee's discussion with invited stakeholders at its meetings in September and October 2023 and any subsequent recommendations. These are open meetings which will

be held in City Hall, and anyone is welcome to attend as an audience member to watch the discussions. They will also be broadcast online.

Following the investigation, the Committee may produce an output in the form of a published letter or report. Information and/or quotations from submissions to this call for evidence may be used in this output, and we will ensure we cite you. We generally inform those who have submitted evidence about the outcome of the investigation in the form of link to a report or output when it is published.

Do I need to answer all the questions?

No, you are welcome to answer the questions that are most relevant to you or your organisations and for which you have the most expertise or experience. Additionally, some sections of the call for evidence are aimed at specific audiences and therefore will not be relevant to everyone.

Where can I find your privacy notice?

The London Assembly and the GLA are committed to protecting your privacy and personal data when you contact us or submit evidence. You can find the GLA's privacy notice [here](#).

How do I submit evidence?

Please send evidence by email to: scrutiny@london.gov.uk

The deadline for submission is **Friday 13 October 2023**.

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Key questions

1. What are the root causes of violence affecting young people in London?
2. What role do non-policing solutions, including projects run by youth services, community organisations and charities, play in preventing violence and protecting young people in London? How do these projects help to reduce violence affecting young people?
3. What more should schools and education providers be doing to protect children and young people at risk of violence in London?
4. What impact has London's Violence Reduction Unit had on reducing and preventing violence since it was established in 2019?
5. How well does the Met work with partner organisations to prevent and reduce violence affecting young people? What more should it be doing?
6. What actions should the Mayor be taking to build trust and confidence among young people and protect communities that are most impacted by violence?
7. What action should be taken to engage young Londoners in initiatives to protect and support young people affected by violence?

About the Committee

The Police and Crime Committee examines the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which oversees the Metropolitan Police. It also investigates key issues of importance to policing and crime reduction in London, including serious violence, frontline policing and counter-terrorism.

To read more about our previous work, [please visit our website](#).

Committee Members

- Caroline Russell AM, Chair (City Hall Greens)
- Susan Hall AM, Deputy Chairman (City Hall Conservatives)
- Marina Ahmad AM (Labour Group)
- The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM (City Hall Conservatives)
- Unmesh Desai AM (Labour Group)
- Tony Devenish AM (City Hall Conservatives)
- Len Duvall AM (Labour Group)
- Sem Moema AM (Labour Group)
- Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Liberal Democrat)
- Keith Prince AM (City Hall Conservatives)

Contact

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