

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

2019/20 Annual Report

M O P A C

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

This document provides a summary of MOPAC’s key achievements in financial year 2019/20. It is published alongside all the performance reports issued quarterly during the financial year, our 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement and our 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

Foreword – Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

When the 2019/20 financial year began, no-one could have foreseen the unprecedented situation we would be in by its end. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world, country and city so profoundly that in a sense, this Annual Report feels like a look back to a time much longer ago.

In this document we review a year of continued delivery of the Mayor's [Police and Crime Plan](#) priorities – towards a better police service, a better justice service, keeping children and young people safe, tackling violence against women and girls and standing together against hatred, intolerance and extremism.

These efforts were boosted by the Mayor's investment in policing and in preventative services. During 2019/20 we welcomed the Government's belated admission that the years of cuts to policing were a serious mistake, and combined investment from City Hall and the Government which has enabled us to increase officer numbers from a 15 year low in 2017/18 back to nearly 32,000. However, the MPS continues to face funding pressures, exacerbated by the pandemic which is forecast to reduce the amount the GLA Group raises via council tax and business rates by £493m over the next two years. Furthermore, according to the Home Office's own review, the Metropolitan Police faces an annual £159m shortfall in funding from the National, International and Capital City (NICC) grant, which provides additional costs that come with policing the capital, including diplomatic protection, as well as policing major events such as protests, concerts, football matches and state visits.

Violence was again our key focus, and intensive efforts continued over the period to tackle violent crime and its causes. Through continued Mayoral investment in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and in the wider ecosystem of organisations and groups working to prevent violence, we began to see some positive indications of reductions in the terrible harm it causes during 2019/20 - notably a 15% reduction in the number of knife crimes with injury against under-25s, an 18% reduction in gun crime and a 1.5% reduction in sexual offences. The Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has progressed at pace with an ambitious agenda to tackle the underlying, long-term causes of violence, which will be described in more detail in their forthcoming Annual Report.

The commitment made to sustain the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) budget has been maintained. The total funding allocation for all elements of the LCPF for the four years 2017/18 to 2020/21 is £72,285,000. Direct funding to boroughs through the LCPF is provided to address local need and demand, and delivery decisions are driven by local priorities. Through the LCPF, significant investment continues to go into Integrated Offender Management (IOM), tackling gang crime, managing substance misuse and interventions for young people, among others.

Systemic improvements to some sections of the justice service have been delivered in earnest. The London Victim and Witness Service (LVWS) is now fully operational and providing a much-improved service to tens of thousands of victims and witnesses of crime in London. We continued to forge ahead with innovation in reducing female reoffending and using GPS tagging to help tackle knife crime. We launched a new pilot project to tackle serious violence in prisons, between inmates and against staff.

Services working to protect children and young people continued through 2019/20 to support some of the most vulnerable people in our city. From challenging the criminal exploitation of young Londoners by gangs and County Lines, to ensuring that children who have experienced sexual abuse or exploitation have a safe, child-friendly place to get support – MOPAC has helped to make a real difference to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in London.

We continued to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), crimes that cause so much harm to individuals, families and our whole society. Thanks to the Mayor's £15m VAWG fund, on top of the £44m already invested through his VAWG Strategy, in 2019/20 MOPAC was able to ensure that more victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and harmful practices across London could access specialist help before and during the pandemic.

In 2019/20 we also published the final report of the Mayor's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Programme. This report was the culmination of the most comprehensive city-wide engagement and review exercise in this policy area ever, both nationally and internationally. It presents stark evidence-based findings and includes 70 recommendations for new, renewed and improved delivery. Considering this report, the Mayor continued to lead from the front with new investment of over £1m to deliver a new London Countering Violent Extremism Programme. At the

heart of this programme is a new Shared Endeavour Fund to support grassroots civil society organisations in their fight against racism, hate, intolerance, extremism and radicalisation.

I want to end with a note of deep gratitude to everyone in the MPS, local authorities, statutory bodies, commissioned services, voluntary and community groups who have worked incredibly hard during 2019/20 to make London a safer city for all, but also through the pandemic. 2020/21 has been a hugely difficult and momentous year, with the MPS and partners responding to the pandemic, and with the global movement for change in the relations between Black communities and policing galvanised by the killing of George Floyd as he was restrained by police officers in Minnesota. Through the Mayor's Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing, we hope to accelerate progress in ensuring that all Black Londoners can have confidence in their police service. We will continue to update on progress in delivering the Action Plan throughout the year and in the Annual Report for 2020/21.

I also want to directly recognise the staff team here at MOPAC. As this Annual Report describes, the team at MOPAC punches far above its weight in serving London, whether that's providing strong and expert oversight of the MPS, commissioning services to help the most vulnerable, working with communities to prevent crime or bringing in funding from other sources to help keep London safe. It is a tribute to the skill, dedication and flexibility of our staff that throughout the pandemic we have been able to keep up all these threads of our work at a time of tremendous professional and personal challenges for everyone. The Mayor and I simply could not fulfil our duties to Londoners without them.

A better police service for London

Ensuring that the MPS is equipped to face the challenges of policing 21st century London.

More police officers for London

Due to Government cuts in police funding, the MPS has had to make £850m savings since 2010 and at the end of 2017/2018 officer numbers fell below 30,000 for the first time since 2003.

In his budget for 2019/20, the Mayor again took the difficult decision to increase the amount Londoners pay for policing in their council tax by the maximum allowable in law, and to move some of the money raised through business rates in London to help fund policing. In total, he allocated an additional £234m to the MPS. By the end of the 2019/20 financial year, officer numbers at the MPS had increased to 31,745 officers. Police civilian staff numbers, so vital to supporting the work of front-line policing, increased to 9,400 over the same period.

We welcomed the Government's subsequent recognition that cutting police funding had been a mistake, and their pledge to fund the recruitment of an additional 20,000 police officers nationally. Both the Mayor and Commissioner are seeking an extra 6,000 officers above the additional 1,300 officers the Mayor has already provided additional funding for, and the Mayor continues to press the Government for clarity on the funding they intend to provide for the years ahead.

Tackling serious violence

Violent crime remained the top priority for the MPS in 2019/20. In the period between the launch of the Violent Crime Task Force, funded by the Mayor of London, in April 2018, and the end of March 2020, the command carried out 15,843 weapons sweeps, recovered 1,647 knives, 1,097 offensive weapons and arrested 9,694 suspects. Over the same period, wider activity across the MPS targeting violence has seen 73,706 weapon sweeps carried out, 5,493 knives recovered along with 2,784 offensive weapons¹.

Thanks to their efforts, and those of the entire partnership working together against violence, in 2019/20 we saw a 15% reduction in the number of victims of knife crime with injury aged under 25 and an 18% reduction in gun crime in London.

¹ Metropolitan Police Service

Policing in the early stages of a pandemic

As the Covid-19 pandemic began to gather momentum and the first cases started to appear in the United Kingdom in late January 2020, the MPS played a central role in the city-wide response overseen by the Mayor – supporting the lockdown measures while continuing to tackle crime. Throughout the pandemic, the Commissioner made clear that while the challenges presented by the pandemic are significant, 'our brave, dedicated and professional officers will be out on our streets, supporting communities and keeping people safe.'. To support the MPS in working as safely as possible, more than £8m was spent to provide additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for officers, ensuring that suitable masks, gloves and cleaning products were available.

On 26th March 2020, as part of the nationwide lockdown, the MPS and police forces around the country were granted new powers to:

- Close licensed premises and those serving food or drink and prohibit or restrict events and gatherings;
- Force an infected individual to attend or return to hospital and detain potentially infected people;
- Fine or arrest a person who leaves their place of residence without a reasonable excuse.

Throughout the pandemic, the MPS has taken the '4 E's' approach to policing – engaging, explaining, encouraging and in the last resort, enforcing, the new laws. With crime falling significantly during lockdown, the MPS also seized on the opportunity to step up proactive operations targeting the most dangerous individuals and groups in London, activity that continues into 2020/21.

Protecting London against terrorism

Sadly, terrorists again targeted London in 2019/20. In September 2019, an attack on a prison rehabilitation conference resulted in the tragic deaths of two attendees, Jack Merritt and Saskia Jones, and injuries to three other attendees before police officers shot the attacker dead. In February 2020, two people were stabbed in Streatham by a lone attacker before he was shot dead by police. We pay tribute to the victims of these horrific attacks and to the bravery of bystanders and the police who confronted the attackers – both of whom were wearing fake explosive vests.

The MPS continues to work closely with the security services, local authorities and other partners to identify and prevent terror attacks, foiling 25 attacks since March 2017. MOPAC continues to run the London CONTEST Board, created in 2014 in collaboration with London Councils. The aim of the London CONTEST Board - which is chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime - is to provide a strategic lead in addressing London's threat, risks and vulnerabilities in relation to counter-terrorism. The board looks across the CONTEST strategy, encompassing Protect, Prepare, Pursue and Prevent. City Hall will continue to convene central government, local authorities, police, education, health and other public sector partners who will continue to meet at a strategic level through the London CONTEST Board to identify pan-London risks, barriers to delivery and share good practice.

Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy

Significant investment continues in making sure that the officers and staff of the MPS have the professional workforce, hardware, software and facilities they need to deliver an effective and efficient service in a global, digital city at a time of considerable funding pressures.

Highlights of 2019/20 included:

- In September 2019, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, opened the fourth annual police and crime 'hackathon', at which 50 tech enthusiasts came together to discuss and develop ideas around the topic 'Investigations: from crime scene to case file'. The initiative is led by Police Rewired, a community group. The projects discussed are open source, so all the new projects that choose to be a part of Police Rewired are open to the public for scrutiny and participation.
- In November 2019, the MPS launched Operation CAPP (Coding Academy Python and Pandas). This is a six-week intensive course teaching officers and staff in intelligence-related roles the Python programming language. The Operation is supported by mentors from the Special Constabulary and Met Volunteers, with knowledge ranging from government agencies to computer science.
- The MPS has been a leader in using body-worn video technology to improve the accountability and transparency of officers' interactions with members of the public, and investment continues to make the most of this technology. In February 2020 improved

body-worn video cameras began rolling out across the MPS, following feedback on their use over the last three years. The new devices include improved features such as longer battery life, better low-light performance, wider angle lens, increased number of microphones and wind noise reduction technology.

Progress has also continued towards building a police service that represents London's diverse communities. At the end of 2019/20, 28 per cent of MPS officers were women and 15% were BAME. Recognising the need for greater and faster progress on recruiting BAME and particularly Black officers, the Mayor has brought forward further action in his Action Plan on Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing, published in late 2020. This Action Plan was developed following a series of consultations with more than 400 individuals and groups that either work with or within Black communities. The work was undertaken in response to concerns raised about the disproportionate use of police powers, including stop and search, the use of force and Taser. Communities told the MPS and City Hall that they wanted to see increased transparency in police actions, decisions and communications; a police service that better reflects the city it serves; and improved community monitoring and involvement in reviewing the disproportionate use of police powers and complaints.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) conducted its latest [Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy \(PEEL\) inspection](#) of the MPS during 2018, and in September 2019 released its findings. The Inspectorate graded the MPS' efficiency and effectiveness as good (the previous inspection found that the MPS had required improvement in this area) and graded the MPS' treatment of the public and its workforce as good.

Overseeing the MPS on behalf of Londoners

One of the Mayor's key responsibilities is ensuring that the MPS delivers an efficient and effective service that Londoners have trust and confidence in. While the Mayor is doing everything in his power to support the work of the MPS, equally he is using his position to ensure that the MPS operates to the standards of professionalism and fairness that the public expect. In 2019/20 we continued to hold the MPS to account on behalf of Londoners, on issues including use of force, police performance, information governance and finance. Highlights included:

Overhauling the MPS Gangs Violence Matrix

[In December 2018, the Mayor published a wide-ranging review of the MPS Gangs Violence Matrix](#), which recommended a comprehensive overhaul of the database to restore trust in its use and ensure it is used both lawfully and proportionately. The review, which fulfilled a commitment in the Mayor's Manifesto and his Police and Crime Plan, included detailed analysis of more than 7,000 people who have been on the Gangs Violence Matrix, together with surveys of frontline local authority staff and those in communities directly affected by violence. It made nine recommendations to make the Matrix more transparent and bring it into line with data protection legislation. As a result of this review, by February 2020:

- The overall population of the Matrix had decreased by 31 per cent to 2,676 people;
- 490 individuals with a 'green harm' banding, including those deemed as having a zero-harm score – reflecting the lowest risk of an individual committing or being a victim of violence – have been removed from the Matrix because there was no longer evidence that they were affiliated with a criminal gang;
- The proportion of BAME Londoners on the Matrix decreased from 89 per cent in 2018 to 79 per cent in 2019. The number of people of a Black African Caribbean background added to the database dropped from 82.8 per cent in 2018 to 66 per cent;
- The proportion of under-18s reached the lowest-ever point in the Matrix's history, with a decrease from 14 per cent in 2018 to 6 per cent in 2019. There has also been a reduction in the proportion of under-25s from 72 per cent in 2018 to 64 per cent in 2019.

In addition, clearer agreements are being put in place to limit organisations that have access to Matrix data, in order to help address concerns that inclusion on the Matrix could unfairly impact on engagement with local authorities, social services or probation services, impacting on issues like access to housing allowance from their local authority.

Independent Custody Visiting

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme is an important element of MOPAC's ongoing oversight of custody provision and is important for maintaining trust and confidence in the police. MOPAC has by far the largest custody visiting scheme in the UK, with 224 volunteers attending

police custody centres unannounced to inspect conditions and ensure that detainees are being treated in a fair, ethical and lawful way. A total of 990 visits were made to custody suites across London in the year 2019/20 - 99% of all scheduled visits (994). 10,264 people were detained in custody at the time ICV visits were conducted, of which 4,412 were unavailable for interview and 1,191 detainees did not wish to receive a visit. In total, 4,661 detainees were interviewed by ICVs, representing 45% of all detainees in custody at the time the ICV visits were conducted.

A better justice service for London

Working to ensure that criminals face justice and that victims and witnesses of crime are supported.

Much of the criminal justice service in London – including the Crown Prosecution Service, courts and prisons – remains accountable to central Government, rather than the Mayor. However, the Mayor has secured agreement for increased responsibility over some additional parts of the justice service to be devolved to City Hall, work that is ongoing. To drive forward with improvements for victims of crime and reduce reoffending, the Mayor is working in partnership with justice agencies, work co-ordinated through the London Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). This section describes some of the achievements of the partnership in 2019/20.

London's Independent Victims' Commissioner – a voice for victims

Claire Waxman, independent Victims' Commissioner for London, continued to press for improvements in service for victims of crime in London during 2019/20. Building on her far-reaching [review of compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice](#) in London, Claire has worked with consultants to develop an action plan taking forward the recommendations in the review and co-ordinating commitment from partners. Shortly before lockdown, Claire conducted engagement with partners through an 'accelerator event'. This work also looked specifically at one of the most significant recommendations of the VCOP Review – that a network of local, integrated, multi-agency Victim Care Units is needed, to own the relationship between the criminal justice service and victims of crime.

In July 2019, Claire published the [London Rape Review](#), conducted by Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the University of West London. It looked at 501 allegations of rape made across London in April 2016, providing the clearest picture to date of reported rape in the capital and the reasons why so few cases result in conviction.

The findings of the review included:

- 84 per cent of allegations were classified as a crime by the police;
- Only six per cent of allegations reached trial, with three per cent resulting in a conviction;
- 58 per cent of victims withdrew the allegation;
- Police 'No Further Action' (NFA) was second most common form of attrition at 29%;
- Seven per cent of cases were perpetrated by a stranger;

- Almost three in five offences took place in a private or domestic setting, with 28 per cent of all allegations relating to domestic abuse;
- The average length of time from the date of reporting to the trial outcome is 18 months.

In response to the review and to move its recommendations forward into action, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime convened a public Justice Matters meeting. This session brought together delivery partners to discuss the recommendations and sought to develop an action plan on how to address systemic issues identified in this report, including delays and timeliness in rape cases; disclosure and the intrusive access to victim personal data; barriers to accessing information; and support for victims. In February 2020, Claire announced future research into the seizure of rape victims' mobile phones by police. The research is being carried out by MOPAC and will look at 450 cases, 150 from three time points since 2017 - a time period when police and CPS disclosure practices have changed. It will look at the frequency of disclosure requests, their impact on victims and the outcome of the case. Officers investigating rape and victims will be interviewed.

Throughout the year, Claire continued to engage with victims of crime, with justice agencies and policymakers, including briefing MPs on their duties under the Victims' Code of Practice, and convening round tables with Black and male victims of crime. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Claire has advised and supported the city-wide efforts to ensure that victims services remained operational and accessible, and to minimise the impact on the justice process.

Integrated services for victims and witnesses of crime

The new, integrated [London Victims and Witness Service](#) (LVWS) became fully operational during 2019/20. Developed through consultation with key audiences including service users, statutory criminal justice agencies and support service providers, the range of support provided by the service includes:

- Support for adult victims of crime;
- Specialist support for victims and survivors of domestic violence;
- Access to Restorative Justice;
- Pre-trial support for witnesses;
- Support for victims and witnesses of major crime incidents.

In 2019/20, the LVWS supported more than 72,000 victims of crime in London and more than 2,100 witnesses.

To further boost the accessibility of support services, in 2019/20 [My Support Space](#) was launched. Providing support, information and tools to help victims to come to terms with their experiences and move forward, My Support Space is a free, safe, secure and confidential online space where victims can choose how they want to be supported after crime.

Addressing female reoffending

A lack of a women's prisons in London means women offenders are taken further away from their families and support networks when they go to prison making the process of rehabilitation more difficult. Women entering custody are at high risk of losing their existing accommodation and having significantly worse employment outcomes than men once they leave.

Research shows that women are more likely than men to be sent to prison for a first-time offence and that short sentences are counter-productive, with women being more likely to reoffend following a short-term prison sentence for a low-level offence such theft or criminal damage. In addition, women in the criminal justice service are highly likely to have been victims of serious crime themselves - more than half of women in prison report having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child and more than half have experienced domestic violence.

In July 2019, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, set out a new vision for transforming how the criminal justice service works with female offenders in London. A key commitment in the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan, the ambitious Blueprint for a Whole System Approach to Women in Contact with the Criminal Justice System, aims to tackle the root causes of offending, prevent reoffending and ensure that women have the support they need after leaving prison. The Blueprint will ensure women are connected with trauma-informed, gender-specific support services around mental health, domestic and sexual abuse, education, training and employment, parenting skills and financial management - to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place, help women to build supportive relationships and to ensure a smooth transition into safe accommodation when leaving prison. A number of organisations are currently working together to deliver the Blueprint, including the Prison Reform Trust, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS England, the National Probation Service, the London

Community Rehabilitation Company, London Councils, Lambeth Council, Women in Prison, Advance and Hibiscus. Access to these services was provided to 2,870 female offenders in 2019/20, with 697 engaged in specialist one-to-one support.

In support of this work, in September 2019 MOPAC launched an innovative pilot programme to reduce female reoffending rates through targeted intervention to help them onto a more positive path. The pilot works with women who have committed lower-level, non-violent offences to reduce the likelihood of reoffending after their sentence. This means that instead of serving a custodial sentence, women and girls are referred to specialist support services. This new approach is being piloted over two years in Camden, Islington, Lambeth and Southwark, working with women who have committed lower-level offences, such as theft and shoplifting, and has been designed to target the factors that can influence reoffending rates amongst women such as mental health, relationships and financial security.

The Mayor has also invested funding to pilot the national Community Sentence Treatment Requirement (CSTR) protocol for women in South London. This pilot addresses the commissioning gap for services to support primary Mental Health Treatment Requirements and, through close partnership working, increases the appropriate use of all types of CSTR, including alcohol and drug treatment. These sentences provide further opportunity for women's needs to be met and have been found to be more effective at reducing reoffending than short custodial sentences.

New investment to reduce violence in London's prisons

Assaults in prisons reached a record high during 2019, increasing by 11 per cent across the country, to more than 30,000 incidents of assault and more than 3,900 serious assaults – incidents that result in major injury or hospital treatment. Assaults on prison staff are also continuing to rise to record highs, with more than 10,000 attacks on staff in the past year². In September 2019, the Mayor announced a package of new measures to help tackle these devastating crimes. The new 'Prison Pathfinder' programme – combining enforcement and targeted interventions – is a key part of the Mayor's public health approach to violence reduction.

² MoJ: Safety in Custody Statistics, July 2019 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/820627/safety-in-custody-q1-2019.pdf

The programme works to address the causes of violence in prisons and drive them down, as well as addressing the long-term problems that increase the levels of violence from certain high-risk individuals. It includes a MOPAC-funded scheme introduced at HMP Isis in October 2019 followed by additional investment from London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to roll out the programme at HMP Wormwood Scrubs.

In HMP Isis, the two-year programme includes an increased police presence to tackle violence in prison and targeted interventions to support mental health, relationships and build employment skills. In HMP Wormwood Scrubs, the new funding is providing gang screening for all new prisoners and interventions to reduce gang membership by delivering one-to-one sessions for prisoners to help them challenge gang affiliation. In addition, the funding is providing a mediation service for conflicts between prisoners which aims to help individuals understand and address the driving factors behind their violence and cut the number of assaults.

Across both prisons, the Prison Pathfinder is based on a trauma-informed model, using an understanding of an individual's past experience of violence to reduce the future risk they may pose to others. The programme is also working specifically with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic prisoners aged 18-29 to provide specialist support to tackle the underlying causes of violence. In 2019/20, 192 offenders were engaged by the Prison Pathfinder programme to address violence and its underlying causes.

Innovating to reduce reoffending

In 2019/20 MOPAC continued to innovate in the use of GPS tagging to reduce reoffending in London. In May 2019, the Mayor announced an additional investment of £700,000 to expand a pilot programme tagging knife crime offenders to 24 boroughs across the capital.

The pilot aims to reduce reoffending, improve rehabilitation and enable the enforcement of conditions imposed at prison release through giving probation practitioners access to location data, for example in relation to an exclusion zone linked to risk of re-offending or to monitor attendance at locations linked to rehabilitation. It also allows for location data to be shared with the MPS to improve crime detection. Those deemed at greatest risk of reoffending also have their movements automatically checked against the location of reported crimes to support crime detection and increase deterrence. In 2019/20, 177 offenders were tagged as part of the pilot.

Keeping children and young people safe

Ensuring that London's children and young people can grow up and thrive in safety.

The public health approach to tackling violence

In 2018/19, the Mayor created England's first [Violence Reduction Unit](#) (VRU), to identify and tackle the real long-term drivers of violence. The VRU works with communities and young people, convening and aligning the policies and priorities of public sector partners, building a coalition for positive change. In its first full year of operations, the VRU focused on building a base of data and evidence with which to inform and guide its work. This has included work with the Information Commissioner's Office to break down organisational barriers to information sharing and the January 2020 publication of the first ever capital-wide assessment of violence alongside an analysis of the reviews of homicides. In light of the findings of this report, the Mayor has pressed the government to establish a mechanism for funded statutory reviews to take place for all homicides.

The VRU are to publish a separate Annual Report later this year on their work and achievements in 2019/20.

Providing positive opportunities for young Londoners

In August 2019, the Mayor joined Tottenham Hotspur striker and England captain Harry Kane to launch a three-year partnership between City Hall, the MPS and the Premier League to enable more young Londoners to participate in the [Premier League Kicks](#) programme.

Premier League Kicks was launched 13 years ago with the aim of inspiring children and young people to achieve their potential and improve their well-being. Aimed at eight-to-18-year-olds, Kicks gives participants access to free football sessions and workshops that support and educate. Fifteen Premier League and English Football League Club community organisations in London can apply for funding to deliver the project at local facilities and pitches, with the project aiming to deliver at more than 150 locations across the capital and to engage more than 25,000 young people over the next three years.

MOPAC supports the programme to provide positive, constructive activities for young Londoners, as part of the public health approach to tackling violence and providing young Londoners with positive opportunities in target areas. This includes workshops and mentoring for those

most in need, such as young people who attend Pupil Referral Units in London. The project continues to help build positive relationships between young people and the police, with MPS officers regularly attending the London sessions.

In February 2020, the Mayor announced a further £16.4million investment in community projects providing positive activities for young Londoners, particularly those at risk of getting caught up in violent crime. The latest investment in a further 74 community projects in high-crime areas will help almost 40,000 more young Londoners across the capital over the next three years as part of the Mayor's £70 million [Young Londoners Fund](#), which was launched in 2018. This will bring the total number of young people to be supported through the Fund to more than 110,000. In all, City Hall's investment is now supporting 200 charities, local authorities, schools and youth clubs to provide a range of education, sport, cultural and other activities for young Londoners.

Interventions with young people caught up in violence

Supported by MOPAC funding, Safer London delivers one-on-one support to young Londoners aged 16 to 24 who are affected by violence or who are gang-involved, whether they are at risk themselves or a risk to others in their community. Safer London offers specialist services that focus on the needs of the young Londoner, including mental wellbeing and housing advocacy support. Anyone can refer a young Londoner for this specialist help - as long as they are willing and motivated to engage. In 2019/20, 76 at-risk young Londoners received more than six months' support from this service, which has proven results – 84% of those referred have reduced or ceased involvement with gangs altogether.

MOPAC also provides £552k per year to support Safer London's Empower programme, which provides specialist Young People's Advocates (YPA) to support girls and young women who are involved in, or at risk of, gang involvement and/or at risk of sexual violence and exploitation. By working closely with council teams, the YPA are able to identify and have children referred to them, arrange to meet the young people and then gradually help them address the problems they face. In 2019/20, the Empower programme provided one-to-one support to 118 at-risk young people.

In October 2019, the Mayor announced record investment to increase the number of youth workers in hospitals across the city and help steer young people away from violence. Evidence from our existing work in Major Trauma Centres indicates that in many cases, young people being admitted for serious injuries will have been seen in A&E in the past for more minor injuries. Basing youth workers in hospital Accident & Emergency departments lets them intervene much earlier and engage with young people before the level of violence they experience can escalate to serious – or fatal – injury. An additional £4 million funding from the Mayor is enabling teams of youth workers to be based in five new Accident & Emergency hospitals in areas with high levels of young victims of violent crime - Newham General Hospital in Plaistow, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich, Croydon University Hospital, University Hospital Lewisham and Whittington Hospital, covering Islington and Haringey. This investment is also providing an increase in the number of specialist youth workers already based in London’s four Major Trauma Centres – Kings, St George’s, St Marys and the Royal London hospitals.

The Mayor’s funding will continue to invest in youth workers in A&E departments at North Middlesex University Hospital in Enfield and St Thomas Hospital in Lambeth, as well as providing contributory funding for the first time to youth workers who are currently working in Homerton A&E in Hackney. This funding means that City Hall is now funding more than half of all the youth worker posts in London hospitals.

In 2019/20, specialist youth workers funded by the Mayor intervened with 762 young people admitted to hospital with violence related injuries.

Protecting young Londoners from County Lines

In September 2019, MOPAC published ground-breaking new research that, for the first time, lifted the lid on the true scale of the impact of so-called County Lines – a term for criminal gangs that prey on young people to help supply drugs across the country using mobile phone networks. It revealed that there are more than 4,000 young people involved in lines operating out of London and across the country.

The first-year assessment of the MOPAC-funded Rescue and Response service found that London is the highest exporting area for County Lines, with 15 per cent of all activity originating from the capital and driving gang-related violence and the criminal exploitation of vulnerable young people.³

In 2018 the Mayor invested £3 million in the three-year Rescue and Response programme to work to better understand, target and respond to County Lines. The programme is led by a coalition of London boroughs – Brent, Lewisham, Islington and Tower Hamlets – that help coordinate support across London for young people up to the age of 25.

Rescue and Response has three delivery partners, supported by analysts and partnership coordinators that help manage referrals, that identify and provide interventions and ongoing support for a vulnerable young person. All three are at capacity and have referrals on a waiting list. St Giles Trust provides one-to-one support for young men, manage an out-of-hours support phone line and a rescue service to bring home young Londoners exploited in counties and begin supporting them as soon as possible, Abianda offers support for young women involved in County Lines, while Safer London helps young people impacted or affected by gangs.

Rescue and Response is making a real difference to some of the most highly vulnerable and exploited young people in London. In 2019/20, 219 at-risk young people were referred to the Rescue and Response service for assistance. Of those referred, 65% had either reduced or ended altogether their involvement with County Lines gangs by September 2020.

Specialist support for young victims and witnesses of crime

MOPAC commissions Victim Support to run the Children & Young People's Victim and Witness Support Service, which provides practical and emotional support to young victims and witnesses of crime in London. In 2019/20, MOPAC significantly increased funding to the Service in order to provide four new priority elements:

³ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/rescue_and_response_county_lines_project_strategic_assessment_2019.pdf

- Practical and emotional trauma-informed support for young victims and witnesses of serious youth violence through the co-location, within key local services, of Youth Advocates in the ten boroughs most impacted in 2018 (Brent, Camden, Croydon, Enfield, Haringey, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest);
- Pre-trial support for young witnesses of crime;
- A dedicated team to support children living with a parent (where the parent is being supported by Victim Support) who is experiencing domestic abuse
- Bespoke support for young people bereaved by homicide in collaboration with the Homicide Service.

In 2019/20, 2,390 young victims of crime and 213 young witnesses were supported by the service.

The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse - the UK's first 'Child House' – has provided specialist support to more child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation during 2019/20. [The Lighthouse](#) offers early support to children after the trauma of sexual abuse, increases the length of time support is provided to children and families, gathers more effective evidence from interviews and supports a speedier progress in investigations and court cases. In 2019/20 the Lighthouse received 350 referrals from across the five London boroughs it covers, mainly via social care, police and other professionals.

The Lighthouse has been funded through £8 million of joint investment by MOPAC, the Home Office, NHS England and the Department for Education, with more than £1m of additional funds from a partnership between Morgan Stanley and the NSPCC to support the delivery of further services. The health and wellbeing services are being provided by University College Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, Solace and the NSPCC. In 2019, MOPAC also secured a further £250,000 from the Department for Education to further support the work of The Lighthouse in 2020/21.

Tackling violence against women and girls

Delivering the Mayor's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls and ensure that vital services have the resources they need.

Delivering the Mayor's VAWG Strategy 2018-22

In March 2018, the Mayor published his [comprehensive Strategy](#) for tackling violence against women and girls in London, following extensive city-wide consultation. The Strategy – backed with £44m investment from City Hall - sets out a holistic approach to tackling VAWG, incorporating prevention activities, greater activity to target perpetrators, and improving support for victims and survivors of these crimes. In 2018/19, work began to deliver its commitments. Progress has continued throughout 2019/20, boosted by an additional £15m investment from the Mayor to support vital services for victims and survivors of VAWG left “creaking at the seams” due to years of Government funding cuts and the increased demand for support for women and girls who have been the victims of violence in the capital.

Specialist support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse

Through the Mayor's investment in the integrated [London Victim and Witness Service](#) (LVWS), the number of Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) posts in London has increased from 40.5 to 45.5 IDVAs are now-located in key locations such as hospitals, police stations and witness care units across the capital. LVWS handled 38,932 DV cases in 2019/20, of which 17,249 (44.3%) took up the offer of support.

More than £7 million from the Mayor's VAWG Fund was allocated in 2019/20 to fund services providing additional specialist support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. All of the projects supported are accessible to victims regardless of which borough they live in, so they are not faced with a postcode lottery when seeking vital support.

This includes a new £1.8m Pan-London Young Women and Girls Integrated Service project, to support total and sustainable recovery for young women and girls affected by violence. The project aims to work with young women and girls who are experiencing intersectional disadvantage – a combination of factors which increase the risk of them coming to harm. The Service works with young women and girls at every level of risk, and a counselling service complements the advocacy work. The project also delivers extensive VAWG prevention work across London, as well as outreach through resilience building programmes. The project will directly support 1400 young women and girls and deliver prevention and community engagement to over 1,600 people. Eleven different agencies are working together to deliver this service, including WGN, Solace, Nia, IKWRO, Advance, Ashiana, Imkaan, SBS, Jewish Women's Aid, Galop, and Respond.

A further £1.5m from the VAWG Fund is supporting the Ascent Advice Plus Project, supporting victims of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG. The project offers a comprehensive advice service, long term casework and family legal support, delivered by Solace Women's Aid in partnership with a range of specialist organisations. The project began in October 2019 and is expected to work with 7,000 women up to March 2022.

Southall Black Sisters has received £1.9m from the VAWG Fund for its London Holistic Advocacy Wrap Around Service project, which has a focus on accommodation support to women with No Recourse to Public Funds. The project also provides wraparound support to trafficked women with the intention of preventing women from entering prostitution. The project has a strong advocacy focus which includes legal, immigration, housing and language support. The reach is pan London, with multi agency identification training also part of the project. The project is expected to support around 900 women, with five specialist agencies delivering the services as part of a consortium.

Whole Systems Approach

In 2019/20, MOPAC began work to develop and implement a Whole Systems Approach to tackling domestic abuse in London, which looks at how to improve the community response for victims. This work, which will provide vital insights for - and integration in - ongoing efforts to tackle domestic abuse, includes:

- Developing a Target Operating Model to improve and standardise the response across statutory agencies in London so provide the best response when they may interact with victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- An in-depth analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) to uncover the trends and gaps in our knowledge to inform best practice responses to avoid people being killed through domestic abuse. MOPAC now holds the largest repository of published DHRs in the country.

Tackling perpetrators of domestic abuse

[Drive](#) is an intensive, coordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse perpetrators to change their behaviour. The Drive programme focuses on increasing victim safety, working alongside IDVAS and adding to complement existing interventions. Drive focuses on the ex/partners of victims referred to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). This group are priority (high-harm or serial) perpetrators as they carry the greatest risk of serious harm and often engage poorly in available services. By the end of 2019/20, the London Drive site had received 170 referrals, with 81% of perpetrators engaging with the programme – a real step forward in ensuring that perpetrator behaviour can be dealt with and the victim/survivor protected.

The Drive pilot concluded in March 2020, but a £364k MOPAC commitment, thanks to the Mayor’s VAWG Fund, will sustain the Drive project in London beyond this. In addition, in January 2020, MOPAC was one of more than 70 signatories to Drive’s Call to Action centred around the need for a national strategy on tackling perpetrators of domestic abuse and changing the question from “Why doesn’t she leave?” to “Why doesn’t he stop?”.

Addressing stalking behaviours and supporting victims

In May 2018, a multi-agency specialist unit dedicated to tackling stalking was launched by the MPS in partnership with Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust (BEH) and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. The Stalking Threat Assessment Centre (STAC) offers a range of services from different agencies, all working together to combat stalking and protect victims. A team of expert police officers, alongside mental health specialists and victim advocates, based at the centre investigate high risk stalking allegations. They offer expert advice to local borough officers in relation to stalking allegations, identifying risks, and assisting with management plans to protect the victim and public from the stalker. In 2019/20, 258 cases were referred to STAC, with 81 receiving multi-agency intervention to address fixation and obsessive behaviour. An additional £672k from the Mayor’s VAWG Fund has been allocated to ensure that STAC can continue its work in the year ahead.

Alongside this investment, the London Stalking Support Service project in Vauxhall has received £776,000 from the Mayor’s VAWG Fund to provide advocacy and trauma informed support for victims of stalking.

Run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, the London Stalking Support Service's advisors offer advocacy to victims with complex cases, who may require extra support in ensuring that their voice is heard at every stage in the justice process and that their rights are upheld, whether this be in securing safe accommodation or working with police to ensure proper investigation and charging of stalking. A number of advocates are also trained to provide trauma-informed psychological support – vital in helping victims to recover from the lasting trauma and harm caused by stalking.

Protecting and supporting victims and survivors of rape and sexual assault

In 2018, due to funding pressures, London's Rape Crisis Centres were forced to close their waiting lists to new referrals. This is unacceptable, and as part of the Mayor's £15m investment, in 2019/20 a £760,000 emergency fund was provided to enable Rape Crisis Centres in London to reopen their waiting lists. The four London Rape Crisis Centres (RCCs) – providing medical examination, counselling services and Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) support to women who have been raped or sexually assaulted - received a combined total of 3,111 referrals in 2019/2020.

The new funding provides capacity for an additional 700 victims/survivors to receive support and has reduced waiting times - on average it takes between a few weeks and six months from the point of assessment to the point of receiving counselling. Previous waiting list times could be as much as nine months to a year. Between September 2019 and February 2020, the number of survivors receiving ISVA support has also increased by 44% when compared to the same time period the year before.

The [London Survivors Gateway](#), in which £1.5million has been invested to date, provides information on what help is available for both male and female victims of sexual violence and offers specialist support to access these services and navigate the next steps. The Gateway supported 1,645 victims and survivors in 2019/20, with 326 survivors with complex needs supported by an ISVA.

Ending harmful practices

MOPAC has invested £200,000 to support Councils to provide training for around 1,000 frontline professionals that encounter women and girls who have either experienced or are at risk of harmful practices. It focuses on early identification and prevention, safeguarding and support, and community engagement. Demand for this training has been exceptional, and in 2019/20 1,800 professionals attended these sessions. In addition, through the Mayor's VAWG Fund, in January 2020 the Prevention & Action through Community Engagement and Training service started work. The service offers pan-London support to BAME women and girls affected by harmful practices, 'honour' based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence – including FGM.

In March 2020, the Mayor launched a pioneering new campaign targeted at communities most affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). 'FGM Stops Here' aims to challenge the attitudes and acceptability of FGM within affected communities in London. It is fronted by four London women who have each been directly affected by FGM. In a series of videos, they share their personal stories of realisation that FGM is wrong, and the moment they decided to stand up against it. The campaign was developed with the support of an expert advisory group including representatives from campaign groups, communities, healthcare and policing. FGM Stops Here has been well received within communities and, with the videos receiving nearly 160,000 views, has had a reach far exceeding the campaign's initial targets.

Supporting men and boys

While the overwhelming disproportionality in victimisation for crimes such as domestic abuse and sexual assault means that our focus must be on women and girls, we recognise and continue to take action in support of men and boys who have experienced these crimes. Many of MOPAC's VAWG Funded support services are accessible men and boys as well as women and girls. MOPAC also funds specialist support services specifically for male victims. These services include:

- The three London Sexual Assault Referral Centres, to which MOPAC contributes £2.165 million annually, and which support both male and female victims of sexual violence;
- The London Survivors Gateway provides information on what help is available for both male and female victims of sexual violence and offers support to access these services;

- An annual grant to Survivors UK, increased to £73,000 in 2019/20, to provide specialist support to male victims of sexual violence;
- The LCPF Co-Commissioning Fund project 'Specialist Support to LGBT and Male Survivors of Sexual Violence', which is delivering a step change in provision for LGBT and male survivors of sexual violence in London with a total grant of £787,108 across financial years 2018/19 – 2020/21.

Standing together against hatred, intolerance and extremism

Working with communities and partner organisations to ensure that hatred and extremism have no place in London.

Countering Violent Extremism

In June 2019, at a Summit of European Capital City Mayors, the Mayor launched the final report from his Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Programme. The report – the culmination of the most extensive city-wide consultation, engagement, review and research exercise ever conducted in this policy area, found that:

- Two-thirds of Londoners see strong, integrated communities as effective in reducing the risk of extremism, hate crime and terrorism. Evidence indicates that government cuts to youth and community services alongside English language courses are putting at risk efforts to support all communities in becoming resilient to extremism and better safeguarding vulnerable Londoners.
- Communities and civil society groups are our greatest asset in countering hate, intolerance and extremism. However, a lack of support, resources and information is holding back communities from standing up to extremism.
- While 66 per cent of Londoners would want to tell the police if they were worried about someone being exploited towards extremism, research also showed 64 per cent would not know how to seek help from the authorities highlighting important awareness gaps and potential missed opportunities to better safeguard vulnerable Londoners from radicalisation.
- Previous research found a quarter of Londoners experienced or witnessed views promoting, endorsing or supporting extremism over the last 12 months. Tech companies and the government should reduce the ability of those intending to spread hate online and increase awareness for the public to refer content when it appears.
- After a full and frank assessment of existing counter-radicalisation delivery the Programme found that the Government's Prevent Strategy reassures some but causes fear and concern in others. The delivery of this Strategy must be independently reviewed, and improvements made immediately.

The Mayor is determined to lead from the front in tackling extremism and in light of this report, committed new investment totalling more than £1 million to fund a new London CVE Programme. This Mayoralty has invested more than any other to deliver a city-wide response to hate, intolerance and extremism. At the heart of this new programme is the Mayor's Shared Endeavour Fund which was launched in January 2020. Recognising the continued pace and scale of this challenge, Google.org matched the Mayor's investment, creating a £800,000 fund which will support grass roots civil society groups to deliver vital projects that:

- Directly counter and / or offers positive alternatives to the promotion of hateful, intolerant and extremist messages and content (both online and offline);
- Raise awareness of and increases resilience to the dangers of hate, intolerance, extremism and radicalisation (particularly in relation to vulnerable people);
- Encourage and empower others to stand up to hate, intolerance and extremism (both online and offline).

Alongside the launch of the new Fund, the Mayor also launched a new network of civil society groups who wish to stand up to hate and extremism. Members of this network can benefit from free capacity-building opportunities and best practice information sharing.

In 2019/20, the CVE Programme also:

- Ran the first ever CVE-themed Mayor's Civic Challenge which asked London's tech sector to come up with innovative technological solutions to supporting the public to refer potential online terrorist material to the MPS. The winner of this challenge, Raven Science, will be given £40,000 to create and pilot a new public referral tool that anyone can download. This will allow anonymous referrals to be made directly to the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) in the MPS, capture all the content at source, use leading AI to analyse it and also allow direct referrals from some encrypted platforms.
- Reacted to tragic terrorist attacks in Halle, Pittsburgh, Christchurch and Sri-Lanka by delivering multiple seminars to London's multi-faith community on practical steps to keeping their premises and worshippers safe, amplified opportunities for London places of worship to apply for Government funding to pay for physical security measures and successfully lobbied Government to make this process simpler and increase funding.
- Used the convening power of City Hall to deliver a Right-Wing Extremism conference for London counter extremism stakeholders and practitioners and held the first ever youth conference on countering radicalisation in collaboration with the MPS.
- Facilitated Counter-Terrorism briefings for City Hall leaders and awareness raising workshops for City Hall officials on safeguarding from radicalisation.
- Presented at the EU Cities Against Radicalisation Network and also at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) radicalisation conference in Berlin, Germany.

London continues to face a real threat from violent extremism, tragically demonstrated by terrorist attacks at Fishmongers Hall and Streatham in late 2019. The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime are determined to continue to do everything in their power to tackle this threat and ensure that extremism cannot take root in any of London's communities.

Investing in services for victims of hate crime

In October 2019 the Mayor announced an additional £500,000 investment to tackle the growing threat of hate crime in the capital, including new support for communities that have experienced hate crime following the 2016 Brexit referendum. There was a 'spike' in hate crime incidents following the EU referendum in July 2016, with the number of incidents almost doubling to 547 in the week following the referendum result. There have also been spikes in hate crime following UK and international terrorist attacks, with sharp increases in incidents reported in June 2017 and March 2019, following the London Bridge and Christchurch, New Zealand terror attacks.

The new investment doubles the funding City Hall has allocated for the hate crime victim advocacy service delivered by [Community Alliance To Combat Hate \(CATCH\)](#), enabling the organisation to support around 900 victims to 'navigate' the criminal justice system, and to help them to improve their safety; and funding grassroots community organisations that help people to stand up to hate and intolerance.

The services funded by MOPAC continue to make a real difference for victims of hate crime. In 2019/20, 663 victims of hate crime were supported by CATCH, of which 77% were satisfied; 68% reported reduced risk and improved feelings of safety; and 78% feeling more confident about engaging with the criminal justice process. MOPAC has also provided funding through the London Crime Prevention Fund for projects to tackle hate crime and support victims.

Standing together against hate and intolerance

MOPAC runs the London Hate Crime Board chaired by Claire Waxman, London's Independent Victim's Commissioner. This board meets quarterly and brings together partners from other criminal justice agencies, and senior leaders from specialist NGOs to oversee the work of both MOPAC and the MPS in tackling hate crime and supporting its victims. This board reports to the London Crime Reduction Board.

Throughout 2019/20, the Board monitored hate crime trends and provided a forum for communities to share concerns. In March 2020, the Board heard and acted on emerging concerns relating to race hate offences against London's Chinese communities as the Covid pandemic began to spread. A Covid Community Forum was established, holding weekly meetings into 2020 to ensure that reassurance and support was in place for the Chinese community during this difficult time.

In 2019 MOPAC continued its support to National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW) in London, providing funding and support to a range of activities across the capital to raise awareness of hate crime and resources available to support victims. Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, spoke at the annual Service of Hope and Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the week and to remember the victims of hate crime in London and across the country.

Working with international partners

MOPAC has continued to represent London on the international Strong Cities Network (SCN). Launched at the United Nations in September 2015, the Network brings together mayors, municipal-level policy makers and practitioners united in building social cohesion and community resilience to counter violent extremism in all its forms. Led by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and comprised of more than 140 cities across 45 countries, the SCN builds collaboration between mayors, political actors and frontline teams to tackle polarisation, hate and violence in local communities in every major global region. The network catalyses, inspires and multiplies community-centric approaches and action to counter violent extremism through peer learning and expert training. It operates with a set of fundamental principles, agreed by all members, that protect and promote human rights and civil liberties in all aspects of its work to prevent violent extremism.

Further information

MOPAC publishes a quarterly update on its performance against the Police and Crime Plan priorities, together with data on the performance of the MPS in keeping London safe. You can read the quarterly reports for 2019/20 here:

[Quarter 1 2019/20](#)

[Quarter 2 2019/20](#)

[Quarter 3 2019/20](#)

[Quarter 4 2019/20](#)

MOPAC also publishes a wide variety of regularly updated data on policing and crime in London, which can be accessed via our [interactive dashboards](#).

MOPAC publishes an [Annual Governance Statement](#), setting out how the organisation carries out its statutory duties, how it has improved over the year and areas for improvement in the year ahead.