

City of London Safer City Partnership

Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction - A Partnership Strategy.....	3
Safer City Partnership Priorities	4
Priority 1 – Serious Violence Duty	4
Priority 2 – Violence Against Women and Girls	4
Priority 3 – Acquisitive Crime	5
Priority 4 – Safer Public Spaces	6
Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	6
Strategic Principles and Application.....	7
Principle 1: Effective and accountable partnerships.....	7
Principle 2: Evidenced and intelligence-led action	8
Principle 3: Prevention-focused interventions.....	8
Governance and Implementation.....	9
Accountability	9
Diversified resources	9
Delivering the Strategy.....	9
Communication and engagement.....	10
How consultation shaped this strategy	10
Conclusion	10
APPENDIX A: Strategy on a page	11
APPENDIX B: Partnership work case studies.....	12
APPENDIX C: SCP Strategy 2022 – 2025 Achievements	14

Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029

Executive Summary

The Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025–2029 sets out a clear and practical plan to make the City of London a safer and more welcoming place for everyone who lives, works, or spends time here. Building on what has worked well in the past, the strategy also looks ahead to tackle new and emerging challenges.

The strategy focuses on our top priorities:

- reducing violence against women and girls
- safer public spaces
- serious violence, and
- acquisitive crime.

Our response and work in relation to these priorities will be taken forward by dedicated multi-agency subgroups - defining and delivering specific actions and clear goals to help us measure progress.

Our progress will be enabled by the principles of the Safer City Partnership: working together, using evidence to guide decisions, being inclusive, and always looking for ways to improve. These principles help ensure that our efforts are effective, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our communities.

This strategy is underpinned by a shared commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI). We recognise that safety and the perception of safety are not experienced equally across communities.

The Safer City Partnership Board will oversee the delivery of this strategy. It brings together both statutory and non-statutory partners. This joined-up approach is essential—no single organisation can do it alone. By working in partnership, we can share knowledge, coordinate our efforts, and make a bigger impact.

The strategy aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, boost public confidence in safety measures, and build stronger, more resilient communities. Regular use of data and evaluation will help us stay on track and adapt as needed.

Keeping our communities safe is a shared responsibility. This strategy reflects our commitment to working together to create a City where everyone feels secure and supported.

Introduction - A Partnership Strategy

The Safer City Partnership is committed to making the City of London a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for everyone—whether you live here, work here, study, or are just visiting. By working together, we tackle crime, reduce disorder, and support those who are most vulnerable. Our joint efforts will benefit the whole community.

This strategy provides a shared framework that reflects the contributions and priorities of all our partners. It recognises the vital role each organisation plays in keeping the City safe—whether through early intervention, public protection, or prevention. It also helps align our work across sectors, encourages shared ownership of the 2025–2029 strategy, and strengthens how we coordinate frontline services across the Square Mile.

It is also underpinned by commitment to equalities that reflects the City Corporation’s Equality Objectives 2024–2029 and the shared commitment of our partnership to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI).

The Safer City Partnership brings together a range of statutory members and non-statutory partners, each offering unique expertise. Statutory partners include:

- **City of London Corporation** – Leading on community engagement and service delivery
- **City of London Police** – Providing enforcement and intelligence
- **NHS North East London Integrated Care Board** – Tackling health-related vulnerabilities
- **National Probation Service – London** – Supporting rehabilitation and reducing reoffending
- **London Fire Brigade** – Contributing to safety planning and emergency response

Beyond these core members, we work closely with a wide network of partners (including the City of London Crime Prevention Association and representatives from Square Mile Business Improvement Districts). Together, we form a strong, united front to address the City’s community safety challenges.

A condensed version of this Strategy, providing a single-page view of our approach, can be found at Appendix A. You can find examples of our work - demonstrating the strength this partnership approach in action - in our case studies (Appendix B).

This Strategy underpins the operational activity taking place across the City until 2029. Examples of key deliverables have been collated and will provide the basis for measuring the success of the Strategy.

Our previous strategy (2022–2025) laid the groundwork for this collaborative approach. It focused on improving joint responses to crime and vulnerability, delivering better outcomes for victims, and creating safer, more inclusive spaces across the City. That strategy helped drive targeted action on key issues like anti-social behaviour, serious violence, violence against women and girls, hate crime, reoffending, and safeguarding. For highlights of what we achieved during that period, see Appendix C.

Safer City Partnership Priorities

The Safer City Partnership has identified four priority areas that are of critical importance. These areas have been determined based on insights from a strategic assessment of issues, partner and community engagement events such as panels and City Question Time, as well as the statutory duties outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. As such, these priorities reflect the shared work and responsibilities of partners across the Safer City Partnership, with responsibilities and delivery shared by partners.

The priorities have been developed with reference to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, ensuring the priorities identified are grounded in available evidence and align with statutory needs for community safety.

Each of the strategy's Priorities is led by a multi-agency subgroup of statutory and non-statutory partners that will define and deliver a discrete action plan. These action plans set out specific operational activities led by relevant partners across the City of London.

Priority 1 – Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty, introduced under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, places a legal obligation on Authorities to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence in their areas. The approach is intended to be preventative and evidence-led, with flexibility for local adaptation depending on the nature and scale of violence in each area.

The City of London has, through the Safer City Partnership, developed a Serious Violence Duty Strategy (original strategy [here](#) and 2025 refresh [here](#)) that sets out the action that will target threats and vulnerabilities to reduce serious violence in the Square Mile.

Under this strategy, the Safer City Partnership will focus on reducing violence in the night-time economy, reducing sexual and domestic violence, and identifying and mitigating threats and risks from a changing City. The strategy documents linked above set out governance, reporting and performance monitoring arrangements, collaborative work with local partners, and how this work will be co-ordinated by the Partnership.

We will deliver to this priority by:

- Conducting built environment reviews in high-risk areas

- Conduct a risk and threat assessment of serious violence affecting homeless communities
- Provide training for all agencies on new relevant legislation, including the AntiSocial Behaviour and Crime Act 2025
- Funding a trial of the Circles Programme, targeting behavioural change in sexual offenders
- Providing training and support to hotels on vulnerability and exploitation

Priority 2 – Violence Against Women and Girls

Due to the relatively small number of residents, reported incidents of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse (DA) against residents are low. This is countered by the extremely high transient and worker footfall, resulting in incidents of misogyny and sexual harm occurring within the City of London area to those who live elsewhere.

These unique circumstances require a strong partnership model to ensure anyone experiencing sexual violence, harm or misogyny is supported both within the City of London and by their own Local Authority. It also requires the Partnership to take steps to reduce harm originating with those living or working in the locality.

By co-ordinating a swift and sensitive response to reported incidents through robust governance, ensuring effective communication both within the Square Mile and with external Boroughs and partners, and delivering training and tools to partners and businesses the Partnership aims to reduce the occurrences of, and harm caused by VAWG and DA.

We will deliver to this priority by:

- Strengthening community and partner awareness through a co-ordinated communications and engagement plan to promote services, understanding, risks, issues and behaviour change, and engage businesses through the work of City of London Crime Prevention Association
- Promoting and delivering training to professionals and community partners, to businesses, licensed premises and hotels - such as WAVE and Ask for Angela - to help staff recognise and respond to vulnerabilities
- Improving the collection, sharing and assessment of data to deliver targeted and intelligence-led interventions

Priority 3 – Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime accounts for a significant share of crime in the City of London. Theft and burglary figures reflect the highly transient nature of the population. The SCP recognizes

such incidents can erode perceptions of safety and public trust, and we are committed to working in partnership to reduce these incidents and the harm associated with them.

An Intelligence-led approach, as outlined in the Policing Plan 2025 and with a strong partnership focus, will look to address these issues. The SCP will receive reports as to the progress against the Policing Plan, and will support the resourcing and delivery of effective communication and partnership projects

We will deliver to this priority by:

- Conducting intelligence-led operations in acquisitive crime hotspots
- Developing processes for reporting retail crime offences with retailers and partners
- Raising public awareness about acquisitive crime and encouraging people to be more vigilant
- Delivering planned awareness campaigns targeting specific recurring issues or communities, such as students returning, festive celebrations and phone snatching

Priority 4 – Safer Public Spaces

Creating safer public spaces means recognising, addressing and removing opportunities for anti-social behaviour. Antisocial behaviour (ASB) remains a national focus due to the disruption it causes to individuals and communities. The Safer City Partnership aligns to the national approach to targeting ASB, through multi-agency working, intelligence-led case management, and proportionate use of the legal tools and powers available to partners. Safe and resilient public spaces help instil confidence in the City of London as a safe and prosperous place to live and work.

We will deliver this priority by:

- Developing opportunities for policing and local authority services to co-locate, to build closer working relationships and to allow for swifter problem-solving.
- Developing sensitive and proportionate responses to ASB related to street homelessness encampments and hotspots
- Designing and delivering consistent messaging across the Square Mile regarding acceptable behaviour and reporting pathways

Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This strategy is underpinned by the City Corporation's Equality Objectives 2024–2029 and our shared commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI). We recognise that safety and the perception of safety are not experienced equally across communities.

Through this strategy, the Safer City Partnership will work to make sure that all residents, workers, and visitors—regardless of identity, background or circumstance—feel seen, heard, and safe.

The Safer City Partnership will:

- continue to engage with the EEDI team and draw on their expertise to strengthen inclusive practice across our work, ensuring that our involvement, data use, and service provision are accessible, representative, and responsive to the diverse needs of our communities.
- make sure that involvement and decision-making structures reflect the City's diversity and include underrepresented voices
- work with partners to disaggregate data and gather qualitative insight to understand and respond to the diverse experiences of City communities.
- make sure that campaigns, training and interventions are designed with accessibility, inclusion, and representation in mind, and are provided in ways that reflect the City's diversity.

Strategic Principles and Application

The delivery of this Strategy is guided by three Principles:

- effective and accountable
- evidence and intelligence led
- prevention focussed

These Principles will be applied across the work of the existing Safer City Partnership groups and Safer City Partnership partners. See Appendix B for examples of this in action.

These principles are in line with the outcomes from the Home Office's national '*Community Safety Partnerships Review (2023)*', which sought to improve transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

They echo the ambition of the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan 2024–2029 to provide excellent services, fostering diverse and engaged communities, and ensuring the City of London remains a safe and thriving destination, and the vision of the City of London Policy Plan to provide a trusted and inclusive police service, keeping the City of London safe.

"Addressing safety challenges through strong, effective partnerships."

Principle 1: Effective and accountable partnerships

The Safer City Partnership applies this principle across all four of the strategy's priorities and their related action plans, supporting partners through governance, coordination, oversight, and public involvement. The partnership will add value by clarifying responsibilities, connecting partners, and strengthening communication.

Key Enablers

- Coordinating messaging and joint involvement with focus area leads
- Using existing outreach networks to support providers
- Clarifying roles across SCP, City Corporation, and City Police
- Promoting shared public involvement activities
- Providing regular updates to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Principle 2: Evidenced and intelligence-led action

The Safer City Partnership is strengthening its intelligence-led provision by embedding analytical functions across its partnership structure. Notably, a part-time analyst via Proceeds of Crime Act funding has been placed within the Safer Business Network, tasked with mapping VAWG-related crime data and supporting quarterly reporting to the VAWG Delivery Group. Their work supports the development of targeted training, resource allocation, and the identification of high-risk locations or times.

In parallel, the Community Safety Team is developing a complete Anti-Social Behaviour Data Exchange Protocol, which aligns data from the City of London Police, Housing Teams, Port Health, Licensing, City Operations, and Homelessness Services. This integrated dataset will enable better trend analysis, identify unmet needs, and support a multi-agency response to patterns of vulnerability and harm across the Square Mile.

Key Enablers

- Creating a shared data repository for key partners
- Reviewing and enhancing data sharing agreements
- Using mapping and analytics tools to support decision-making
- Embedding performance tracking in thematic action groups
- Commissioning shared intelligence products across focus areas

Principle 3: Prevention-focused interventions

The Safer City Partnership will champion this principle by increasing the visibility of prevention actions, coordinating communications, and aligning partner efforts to maximise public effect. It will support the success of prevention work and interventions through system-wide alignment.

Key Enablers

- Coordinating behaviour change campaigns with key partners
- Supporting public involvement through shared channels
- Highlighting needs for environmental improvements such as lighting and CCTV
- Providing or promoting relevant training for front-line and NTE staff
- Partnering with commissioned services to provide early interventions

Governance and Implementation

Accountability

The Safer City Partnership will oversee regular update reports to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review performance, focus on results and hold partners accountable. Regular updates will also be made to bodies with membership that will support the Safer City Partnership in achieving its results. These include the Police Authority Board, Integrated Care Board, City of London Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community and Children's Services Committee, and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

Diversified resources

The Safer City Partnership will seek - and prioritise the use of - additional funding streams, such as grant funding and government funding programmes, to support the delivery of the strategy's priorities. It will also work with wider partners such as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and the City of London Crime Prevention Association to align their resources and activity to enhance impact and outcome.

Delivering the Strategy

Each Safer City Partnership sub-group will be responsible for translating the priorities of this strategy into detailed operational plans.

These plans will:

- Identify specific actions from this strategy relevant to their focus area.
- Set clear milestones, outputs, and outcome measures.
- Apply the principles of partnership, prevention, and intelligence-led action.
- Outline how performance will be monitored and reported to the SCP Board.

Progress updates will be provided by the Steering Groups to the Community Safety Steering Group, and then to the Safer City Partnership quarterly. A shared reporting template will be introduced to support consistency and transparency across providers and sub-groups.

Sub-groups will complete progress reports to be shared with the Safer City Partnership Board, public partners, and co-opted participants. Reports should highlight achievements, challenges, and describe the next steps.

The Safer City Partnership will track whether actions are reaching and benefiting all groups, particularly those most at risk or marginalised. Community feedback, lived experience, and frontline insight will be used alongside quantitative data to understand effect. Any significant service change or newly commissioned activity will be assessed using the City

Corporation's Equality Impact Assessment process to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and best practice in inclusive service design.

Communication and engagement

The Safer City Partnership is committed to ensuring that this strategy and associated materials are accessible and inclusive. We will work to make sure that content is available in plain language and appropriate formats, and that messages are tested through involvement with a diverse range of partners.

Our public-facing materials will include a clear commitment to equity, equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring transparency and reinforcing our shared ambition to be a partnership that serves and reflects the needs of all City communities. The Safer City Partnership will also strengthen collaboration with the Corporate Strategy and Performance Campaigns and Engagement team to embed inclusive design and messaging into communications and make sure that all communities are reached and represented.

The Safer City Partnership also recognises the expertise of the Corporation's EEDI team and will continue to draw on their guidance to embed inclusive practice across all areas of work.

How consultation shaped this strategy

This strategy has been shaped by public and stakeholder consultation carried out in spring 2025. Input gathered from across the City's communities helped test the strategy's priorities and identify opportunities to strengthen alignment, clarify responsibilities, and improve service provision.

The feedback received informed refinements to the final strategy, ensuring it reflects local insight, supports better coordination between partners, and places greater emphasis on transparency, inclusion, and community confidence.

Conclusion

This Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029 provides a clear roadmap for fostering safety, inclusion, and resilience in the City of London. By focusing on prevention, collaboration, and intelligence-led actions, this strategy aims to create a safer, more secure environment for all who live, work, and visit the City of London.

APPENDIX A: Strategy on a page

(This page currently under design)

APPENDIX B: Partnership work case studies

Safe Havens for Night-Time Safety

Business and charity collaboration to support vulnerable people in distress

The City of London Police and Our Safer City established over 50 accredited Safe Haven venues in the Square Mile. Staff at these locations—ranging from pubs and offices to libraries and cultural venues—are trained to support people experiencing fear, harassment or vulnerability, and can offer refuge, phone charging, and help accessing emergency services.

The scheme, supported through POCA funding and SCP grants, complements City-wide efforts to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and reduce harm in the night-time economy. Participating venues display the Safe Haven logo and are connected to police awareness campaigns and the Safe Havens app.

VAWG Business Engagement Officer

Embedding prevention in workplace culture

This role exemplifies SCP's commitment to embedding prevention across City systems—including the workplace—by equipping local businesses to act as frontline responders to risk and vulnerability.

With SCP funding via the City of London Crime Prevention Association, a dedicated Business Engagement Officer was recruited by the Safer Business Network to lead on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) outreach. The role supports delivery of WAVE, Ask for Angela, and bystander awareness training across the City's business community.

Between October 2023 and April 2025, the officer engaged over 380 businesses and delivered training to 366 individuals. In addition to promoting the Safe Havens network, they coordinate data sharing and lead public awareness surveys to inform strategic response. This partnership ensures businesses remain active stakeholders in preventing harassment, violence and exploitation in the Square Mile.

Cycle Medics in the Night-Time Economy

Business-funded medics reduce pressure on emergency services

In partnership with the Eastern City BID, City of London Police, and NHS providers, the Safer City Partnership co-funded the deployment of cycle medics in high-footfall night-time areas. Operating Thursday to Saturday nights, the medics support intoxicated or injured individuals and relieve pressure on frontline services.

Between November and December 2023, the team supported **136 individuals**, preventing an estimated **58 ambulance call-outs**. A new two-year commitment ensures continued deployment of medics on Thursday nights and during peak periods, enhancing visible safety while building trust with the public and licensed venues.

Building Bridges – Cross-Borough Safety in Action

Strategic alignment through cross-boundary intelligence and joint operations

The Safer City Partnership has enhanced its evidence-led approach through formal collaboration with neighbouring boroughs and enforcement partners. A standout example is the Building Bridges initiative (2023–2025), funded by the Home Office’s Safer Streets Fund. This project brought together the City of London Corporation, Westminster, Southwark, and Lambeth Councils, alongside the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London Police, HMRC, and the Safer Business Network, to tackle organised crime and anti-social behaviour across eight of London’s busiest bridges.

Key impacts include:

- **58 arrests and 47 prosecutions** of unlicensed traders and repeat offenders
- Creation of **London’s first cross-borough public–private data sharing agreement**
- Deployment of joint patrols and six **multi-agency ‘days of action’**
- **230+ frontline staff** trained in safeguarding, ASB response, and enforcement
- Targeted use of **forensic property marking** to deter moped-enabled phone thefts

The initiative demonstrates the power of **intelligence-led, multi-borough collaboration** in tackling persistent urban crime and maintaining public confidence in high-risk spaces. It also reinforces the SCP’s role in convening partners to share learning, align strategies, and coordinate responses beyond the Square Mile.

APPENDIX C: SCP Strategy 2022 – 2025 Achievements

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS 2022–2025 – AT A GLANCE	
TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) AND CRIME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered a city-wide ASB and neighbourhood crime implementation plan. • Strengthened police collaboration through initiatives like Operation Luscombe. • Introduced and expanded ParkGuard CSAS powers for community reassurance. • Ran Safe Street campaigns and targeted resident communications. • Improved resident engagement by refreshing Cluster Panels. • Reformed the Community Multi-Agency Assessment Conference (CCM) for place-based ASB referrals. • Upgraded City surveillance with 4K digital cameras. 	REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered the VAWG Action Plan with measurable outcomes. • Launched a quarterly VAWG Forum to drive coordination. • Expanded Safe Haven Spaces to 35+ venues, including all Corporation buildings. • Delivered impactful public campaigns and support services, including taxi marshals and counselling. • Led Operation Reframe with the police and key stakeholders. • Delivered WAVE and Ask Angela training across hospitality venues. • Reviewed and implemented the Sanctuary Scheme for domestic abuse victims at risk of homelessness.
ADDRESSING SERIOUS VIOLENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published the first Serious Violence Strategy under SCP leadership. • Strengthened links with the business and voluntary sectors (e.g., Safer Business Network). • Used Operation Reframe as a joint action hub. • Improved multi-agency intelligence sharing to disrupt violence. • Delivered Operation Vigilant, boosting NTE patrols and training officers to prevent sexual offences. 	TACKLING DISCRIMINATION AND HATE CRIME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched dedicated hate crime reporting tools and a public webpage. • Hosted Victim Support drop-in sessions to raise awareness among staff. • Ran public hate crime awareness campaigns. • Promoted hate crime awareness through events like the Licensing Forum. • Introduced a new risk assessment model to ensure robust and victim-centred investigations.
REDUCING REOFFENDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established the Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group with Hackney. • Strengthened joint working with probation and MAPPA partners. • Piloted diversion pathways (e.g., Divert London) to address perpetrator behaviour and reduce repeat offending. 	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully integrated into the City and Hackney Safeguarding Partnerships. • Produced specialist resources to support professionals in safeguarding cases (e.g. CSE). • Improved referral pathways and response times. • Delivered Operation MakeSafe in hotels and trained staff on risks including drink spiking and exploitation. • Held joint strategic sessions between CoLP and safeguarding leads.