

# Grenfell **Community Assembly**

Community Safety



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA



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# **Grenfell Community Assembly**

**Theme: Community Safety**

**Notes for Assembly held:  
22 February 2022  
5:30-8:00pm**

**Venue: Al-Manaar 244 Acklam Road, London W10 5YG**

## **What is the Grenfell Community Assembly?**

The Grenfell Community Assembly was established in 2019 to ensure that issues affecting the Grenfell community are openly discussed, and to create a forum where statutory and non-statutory partners can respond to local concerns.

The Assembly is a forum that brings people together to:

- Engage in productive dialogue (including encouraging communication between the community, the Council, and its partners, as well as facilitating dialogue between different residents)
- Bring, receive, and refine ideas that lead to practical change and help to address local issues for residents
- Create a safe and constructive space within which the Council and its partners can engage with residents and the wider community

This was the seventh Grenfell Community Assembly (GCA) held by the Council and it focused on themes around community safety. The last Assembly focused on health and wellbeing and took place in September 2021.

## **Why did we focus on community safety?**

The theme of community safety was voted for by North Kensington residents via our GCA participant survey that was held throughout June and July 2021. Additionally, this theme has been voted (generally coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> place) for in all previous GCA participant surveys as a requested theme to be discussed in this arena. Community safety is a significant subject of interest and concern for the local community, not only within the context of the Grenfell tragedy but also in light of the more recent influence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **Ground rules for the event**

At the beginning of the meeting, Grenfell Community Manager and GCA event facilitator Kevin Ramsey welcomed attendees and asked participants to engage in:

1. Open conversations and respectful dialogue, giving all attendees a chance to express their views
2. Active and reflective listening so participants could develop a better understanding of what is going on in the area and how other local people feel
3. Embracing different points of view and recognising differences in opinion
4. Contributing towards the development of solutions to problems and making the most of this opportunity to have their say
5. Focused attention, with mobile devices turned off to avoid disruption

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*Assembly Agenda*

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<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
6pm	Welcome from Councillor Ann Cyron, Lead Member for Communities, and Councillor Emma Will, Lead Member for Community Safety, Culture and Leisure
6:10pm	Welcome from the event facilitator for this evening: Kevin Ramsey, RBKC's Grenfell Community Manager
6:20pm	An introduction to community safety from Stuart Priestley, RBKC's Chief Community Safety Officer and Elise Gellatley, Chief Inspector for Neighbourhoods at the Met Police
6:20-6:45pm	<p>Round one of table discussions</p> <p><b>Table 1</b> Serious youth violence Facilitator - Stacie Smith, Senior Community Safety Officer, RBKC</p> <p><b>Table 2</b> Violence against women and girls Facilitator - Shabana Kausar, VAWG Strategic Lead, RBKC</p> <p><b>Table 3</b> Modern slavery Facilitator - Charlotte Jamison, Modern Slavery Exploitation Coordinator, RBKC</p> <p><b>Table 4</b> Anti-social behaviour Facilitator - Rachel Merriman, Senior Community Safety Officer, RBKC</p> <p><b>Table 5</b> Hate crime Facilitator - Lorna Platt, Senior Community Safety Officer, RBKC</p> <p><b>Table 6</b> General community safety Facilitator - Stuart Priestley, Chief Community Safety Officer, RBKC</p>
6:45-7:10pm	<p>Round two of table discussions</p> <p>Subjects and facilitators – as above</p>
7:10-7:30pm	Feedback from both discussions
7.30-7.45pm	Next steps and closing remarks

### *Who was involved on the night?*

RBKC's Grenfell Community Team Manager, Kevin Ramsey, facilitated the Assembly, with introductions from Lead Member for Communities Councillor; Ann Cyron, and Lead Member for Community Safety, Culture and Leisure; Councillor Emma Will. RBKC's Chief Community Safety Officer; Stuart Priestley also offered a brief introduction, along with the Met Police's Chief Inspector of Neighbourhoods; Elise Gellatley.

#### **Attendance**

A total of 35 residents attended on the night. This figure is based on registration records from Eventbrite and drop in attendance forms completed at the event. You can find a breakdown of those who attended below.

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Total number</b>
Residents (excluding the groups listed below)	35
Kensington and Chelsea Council staff (who may or may not be residents of the borough)	23
Met Police (who may or may not be residents of the borough)	9
Voluntary and community sector staff (who may or may be residents of the borough)	5
Kensington and Chelsea Council Councillors (all are residents but not included in the statistics above)	3
Those manning community stalls (who may or may not be residents of the borough)	5

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### *Table discussions*

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This section contains a summary of participant feedback from the Assembly, as well as answers to the key questions raised. It does not include any personal or identifiable data of the Assembly participants, and we have not published any sensitive information, nor any names of individuals that may have been put forward during the table discussions.

We have included detailed feedback notes of the comments and views expressed by individual residents contributing to roundtable discussions. During the discussions, participants were provided with the opportunity to raise concerns they have about their local area, and to highlight other Community Safety issues, including perceived gaps in the Council's resourcing and current provision.

It is important to note that this does not mean these comments were endorsed by all attendees or residents at the GCA, but they do reflect some of the issues raised at the event.

## Table One: Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

### Identified Key Themes:

- Attendees pointed out the lack of funding for youth services and youth programmes, and how the lack of youth services on offer increase the risk of SYV
- The group wanted more youth services to be available and for more funding to be allocated. They also wanted to stop the closure of youth services across the borough
- It was raised that the Council, Met Police, and service providers need to be less reactive and more preventative in the measures and services provided to young people
- The issue of institutional racism within the Met Police was raised, and how that impacts trust in the Police among young residents, specifically Black residents
- There was a call for a culture change within the Met Police to rebuild trust between them and young people
- Building trust and greater relationships with the Met Police is crucial to reducing SYV. At the moment, young people and their families don't feel like they can trust the Met Police and therefore do not feel confident reporting issues or crimes
- There were discussions around the need for an overall improvement of the educational system to benefit young people and stop them from getting caught up in SYV
- There was also a call for increased investment for young people, as well as informal education for young adults
- The term 'serious youth violence' suggests it is an issue just for teenagers, labelling young people as the problem. Violent adult offenders are also a big concern; it is not just young people
- Those at the table pointed out that something changes when young boys go into secondary school. The table outlined that young boys from stable families begin to get involved in gangs/SYV when they go to secondary school, and we need to understand what causes this
- One potential reason given by the table was that youth services are often designed for younger people, so when boys get to secondary school age, they outgrow the offer that youth services provide
- One of the solutions that was suggested was for youth services and clubs to create tailored sessions for teenagers with their direct input to try and keep them interested in participating. The sessions need to appeal to the young people otherwise they will not be used by those in need
- The table made it clear that this should not be to the detriment of youth services for younger children and that youth services should be available for all ages
- It was raised that the digital age we now live in has made it more difficult for families to speak with their children and understand what is going on in their lives
- Residents also raised that mentors and role models in the community, particularly at youth clubs, need to give direction to young people
- There is also a need for programmes that help parents, as well as children, to understand how to help young people and "bridge the gap". One of the examples given was social media training
- The group highlighted the importance of accountability and transparency at youth clubs and groups so parents can trust that mentors at youth clubs are helping young people and care about them. Parents want to have a closer relationship with service providers for young people in their communities
- The issue of bullying was raised and how this can escalate into violence, or how victims can feel like they have to join gangs to feel safe and be accepted

- The importance of building trust with the Met Police was highlighted
- Emphasis was also placed on the importance of early intervention to prevent young people joining gangs as it becomes very challenging to change their situation once they are involved in them

Themes: What you said	Outcome: How we have responded
<p>There has been 30 young people who have been murdered in London in the last 12 months. It's a very serious issue and the community would like to know what the statistics are for RBKC.</p>	<p>→</p> <p>No young people have been murdered in RBKC in the last 12 months.</p> <p>However, a young resident from RBKC was murdered outside of the borough in October 2021.</p>
<p>Attendees pointed out the lack of funding for youth services and youth programmes, and how the lack of youth services on offer increases the risk of serious youth violence.</p> <p>How does the Council's plan to make funding available for youth services?</p>	<p>→</p> <p>The Council currently commissions a robust youth offer, as set out below:</p> <p>Youth clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven local youth clubs are currently being commissioned to deliver engaging activities in the evenings and at weekends for children and young people aged 11 - 19. These youth clubs also often run workshops, events and activities that help to educate young people about staying safe and tackling youth violence. These include:</li> <li>• Harrow Club</li> <li>• Rugby Portobello Trust</li> <li>• Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust</li> <li>• Earls Court Youth Club</li> <li>• Al-Manaar Youth Club</li> <li>• The North Hub and the South Hub</li> </ul> <p>Youth Hubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Hubs are run by Council staff and have been established to bring together organisations working with young people to collaboratively identify and address the needs of young people in the area. One of the priorities for members of the Youth Hub Partnership is serious youth violence and partners plan their activities accordingly</li> <li>• Youth Hubs are based in the north (Lancaster Road) and south (Chelsea Worlds End) of the borough</li> <li>• Hubs offer activities during the day from Monday to Friday each week that are coordinated with local organisations to support young people</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hubs also maintain the Hub Partnership Network that brings together services and organisations to meet local need</li> </ul> <p>Water sports and outdoor education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sports and outdoor activities are delivered by London Sports Trust at the Canalside Activity Centre in the north of the borough and Cremorne Riverside Centre in the south</li> <li>• Cremorne is open six months of the year due to tidal safety</li> <li>• Activities from both sites include kayaking, canoeing, raft building and team challenges</li> <li>• London Sports Trust also runs weekly sessions during term time, as well as holiday activities, weekend day trips and seasonal residentials and expedition experiences</li> </ul> <p>London Youth Games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Youth Games are delivered and coordinated by London Sports Trust. This is a programme of events, competitions and trials with schools, clubs and leisure centres offering competitive sports opportunities for young people</li> </ul> <p>Community-based sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Sports Trust also delivers community-based sports which is run from various locations, including on local estates, youth clubs, and neighbourhoods across North Kensington</li> <li>• These sessions include a variety of mainstream sports, as well as taster sessions from a range of less mainstream sports chosen by young people. They also provide a pathway towards the London Youth Games</li> </ul> <p>Young K&amp;C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council and John Lyons established Young K&amp;C - a membership organisation that has over 40 members working with young people</li> <li>• The key focus of Young K&amp;C is to support organisations to develop capacity, generate income, provide advice and information, as well as work in partnership with businesses and</li> </ul>
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	<p>public sector partners to facilitate and broker funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young K&amp;C is a strategic partner and works with its members to address serious youth violence</li> </ul> <p>Within the Council, these services are available and form part of the youth offer:</p> <p>The Detached and Outreach Team in Early Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help tackle serious youth violence, the Detached and Outreach Team delivers targeted street-based engagement (detached work) with young people. This includes providing meaningful programmes and activities and assisting young people to access support and opportunities</li> <li>• The service is aimed at young people aged 11 – 19 who may be vulnerable to exploitation and crime. The service will work directly with young people, their parents, and the communities in which they live</li> </ul> <p>Targeted Prevention Team (TPT) in Early Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The TPT provides support for young people that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). It delivers regular one-to-one support using life coaching to help young people gain skills, grow in confidence, and overcome barriers to accessing employment or training</li> <li>• The TPT works closely with schools and colleges, as well as local employers to give young people access to a wide variety of opportunities</li> <li>• It also supports young people at high risk of becoming NEET during their transition from post-16 learning and follows up with them once they secure an education or employment opportunity to ensure they can sustain their placement</li> </ul> <p>Family Hubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s centres and Early Help Family Support Teams are now integrated into two Family Hubs - North and South</li> <li>• In RBKC, our Family Hubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide and co-ordinate access to universal and targeted family support within a range of welcoming and accessible settings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support families to be resilient, self-reliant, and independent while offering help when they need it in a timely and appropriate way</li> <li>- Lay the foundation for future integration across the community and voluntary sector, as well as collaborating with our partner agencies</li> </ul> <p>Youth Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of the Youth Council is to coordinate the youth voice across the borough and ensure that young people have a say and can meaningfully influence decisions that affect them</li> <li>• The current Youth Council and Youth Mayor were elected in May 2020</li> </ul>
<p>What are the rates of serious youth violence in RBKC?</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>In the last three years, there have been 87 young people under the age of 25 injured by a knife</p> <p>The impact of youth violence and exploitation extends beyond the number of stabbings, but there is no single statistic that provides an understanding of the level of harm caused. On some occasions, incidents can go unreported and are therefore not included in local statistics. Inconsistent data recording also has an impact on the information that is used to understand youth violence locally, across London, and across England as a whole.</p> <p>For more data on youth violence and exploitation in RBKC, please read the new RBKC Strategy on our website by following this link: <a href="https://www.rbkc.gov.uk">Document (rbkc.gov.uk)</a></p>
<p>Is it possible to tailor certain youth club sessions to secondary school students to keep them interested in attending?</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>In 2019, we consulted over 1000 young people and carers across the borough. As a result, we completely recommissioned our youth provision – expanding the locations we operated from, the type of provision and the number of providers.</p> <p>The Council created two youth hubs in the north and south of the borough to give way to new providers and spaces. Providers such as Harrow Club offer services for older teenagers, including late night sessions that are regularly attended.</p> <p>The Council also have a Detached Team to support young people through community outreach into youth and NEET opportunities.</p>

	<p>Young K&amp;C has also heralded greater connections, funding, marketing, and training opportunities across the local sector.</p> <p>Young people also attend the Youth Hub forum and have a say in decisions that affect them, including the types of activities that take place throughout the sessions.</p>
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## Table Two: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

### Identified Key Themes:

We heard from a resident who runs a charity that helps women from different ethnic minority backgrounds who are experiencing domestic violence and sexual exploitation. They outlined the following issues they experienced while trying to access services in the borough:

- Difficulties with referrals
- Clients sometimes facing a six-week wait for assessment
- Residents being turned away from services for being from different communities
- Lack of funding
- 15 cases of domestic violence a day being referred to the charity during lockdown
- Limitations faced for not having English as their first language. This made it harder for women to access information and many of them did not understand immigration rules
- Women having no recourse to public funds or personal documentation (in some cases the abuser is in control of immigration status documentation like passport, travel documents, ID, driving licences, proof of address etc.)
- There not being enough support services in North Kensington
- Young people accessing social media and being groomed online, leading to unhealthy relationships
- Men speaking for women, which is why it's important to have culturally sensitive and appropriate services and materials to reach women in these circumstances
- Funding needing to be put towards supporting conversations and training for young people around what constitutes as healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Young people are also being exposed to abusive and coercive behaviour at home and do not understand warning signs
- Concerns around local police stations closing and there not being enough physical police presence on streets
- A need for educational groups for older women to raise awareness of domestic violence and exploitation
- Issues around these subjects being considered taboo, which needs to be changed

Other residents identified the following themes:

- Cultural awareness services needed for women and girls going through domestic violence and sexual exploitation
- Education around the British culture for ethnic minorities to help them understand their rights in the UK
- More accessible funding to support isolated groups
- Easier access to support for smaller organisations helping these groups of women
- A clearer referral route
- Increase the education offer during and after school hours, recognising vulnerable children and families at risk

- Preventative training for professionals and all people who come into contact with young people and families
- Funding for targeted outreach sessions for youth clubs and local communities
- Creating a women and girls network for young people
- Using social media positively to attract and engage with young people around these topics
- More avenues to report crimes of this nature, with dedicated spaces located around the borough
- Easier access to services and support
- Community meetings and forums for women and girls
- Targeted parenting groups
- Education settings
- Commissioning or funding for more training and awareness
- More digital support services
- More access to advice
- Groups for older community members around domestic violence and exploitation
- Awareness and clear referral pathways

### **Feedback from the facilitator**

- Referral through the Angelou organisation which provides free support and advice for those affected by domestic violence
- Awareness being raised using digital services
- Training local GPs to recognise domestic violence
- Accident and emergency information posters on how to deal with domestic violence
- Educating students in schools and colleges
- Displaying information about where to find support in supermarkets
- Girls and women exploitation support sessions are being rolled out in schools across 12 weeks.

### **Table Three: Modern Slavery**

#### **Identified Key Themes:**

- One attendee on the table requested for the meeting to not be called the Grenfell Community Assembly. This is to help include others in the community because it's not just those impacted by the Grenfell tragedy who need to talk about the issues raised during the Assemblies
- Women who come forward to organisations, like The Space for support, often feel embarrassed to talk about modern slavery and their experiences
- The system does not work fast enough to support those experiencing modern slavery
- More physical space is needed to support residents experiencing modern slavery. The first point of contact is so important for victims to build trust and feel safe
- Without sight of diverse cultures and communities, it is hard to know what is happening regarding modern day slavery across the borough
- It would be good to support more local people to come forward and look deeper into helping people know it is ok to speak out
- Communication needs to be improved between police and the organisations supporting victims
- More plain clothes officers are needed for people to engage with and to recognise signs of modern slavery
- The community needs more anonymous reporting mechanisms

- There also needs to be more community awareness and understanding of what modern slavery is and how to recognise it
- We need to consider that people are likely to be in denial and embarrassed to come forward
- A light touch non-statutory assessment of victims of modern slavery could be useful to be less intimidating than current reporting mechanisms
- There needs to be a bigger awareness of people who have their homes taken over by drug gangs (known as cuckooing)

Themes: What you said	Outcome: How we have responded
<p>During the discussions, it was raised that women who feel embarrassed to talk about modern slavery and their experiences are often the ones to access the support available. However, the system does not work fast enough to support and protect them. How can the Council address this?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">➔</p> <p>The Council's Moderns Slavery Services Coordinator has offered to deliver Modern Slavery training at the Space and at North Kensington Community Kitchen.</p> <p>The Council recognises that the Government's National Referral Mechanism presents challenges for victims. Officers will continue to work in partnership with the police and local charities to ensure that victims can access support.</p>
<p>Are there any safe houses for victims of modern slavery in the borough?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">➔</p> <p>Yes. Safe houses are accessible via both the National Referral Mechanism and via local charities.</p>

**Table Four: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

**Identified Key Themes:**

- Young people hanging around the streets is not necessarily anti-social behaviour
- Children and young people need opportunities to socialise, and it is wrong to class it as anti-social behaviour
- Young people are victimised by public bodies, such as the Met Police and the Council
- Anti-social behaviour means different things to different people. One person felt there should be one standard definition so we can be clear about when something is or isn't classed as anti-social
- Racism also means that people can be stigmatised as behaving anti-socially
- Concern over the lack of places and activities for young people causing part of the problem
- People gathering in or outside residential blocks often causes anti-social behaviour, including smoking cigarettes, taking drugs, drinking alcohol, littering, spitting, urinating, and making a lot of noise
- This can make residents feel unsafe, intimidated, and trapped in their property
- These people often gain access to the buildings by tailgating residents or breaking in through broken doors and garages
- One resident indicated that they do report this to the police, but they can take up to two hours to respond and by that time the offenders have usually left
- Suggestions from residents to improve this included:

- More CCTV
- Better lighting
- The Council to work with other social landlords to improve safety on residential blocks
- The Council, as a landlord, to be more pro-active in tackling anti-social behaviour
- Residents reported cars speeding up and down Freston Road and gathering. They felt some form of illegal activity was taking place
- A resident felt more needed to be done to understand mental health, as some anti-social behaviour is linked to this
- Use of cycles, e-scooters, and mopeds on pavements a big issue in North Kensington, and are particularly dangerous to elderly people or those with prams
- Takeaway delivery drivers often use the pavement as a quick way to reach properties on bicycles and mopeds and can be abusive when approached while they wait outside takeaways
- Bicycles and e-scooters can be particularly difficult to see in blind spots
- Raised pavements make cycling an issue in North Kensington
- Abandoned hire bicycles can also cause problems for residents, blocking pavements and making it difficult to pass
- It was noted that the Met Police do undertake pro-active exercises to try and combat these problems, including issuing fines and seizing e-scooters
- Residents noted the following locations to be of particular concern:
  - Clarendon Road and Walmer Road
  - Trellick Triangle
  - Hippodrome Mews
  - Verity Close

Themes: What you said	Outcome: How we have responded
<p>What can the Council do about adults and young people gathering in or around residential blocks causing anti-social behaviour?</p> <p>Locations identified included Dixon Close (owned by Kensington and Chelsea Council), Waynflete Square, Freston Road and Lockton Street.</p> <p>Can the Council work with other social landlords to improve safety on residential blocks?</p>	<p>→</p> <p>Housing Management and the police have regular meetings to share information to identify individuals who are causing ASB on our estates. If the individuals are known, as a partnership we will look at what tools and powers we can utilise to resolve these issues. An example of this is that we obtained a partial closure order in Waynflete Sq to prohibit non-residents attending the property and block. Following this housing management obtained a possession order from the court.</p> <p>The Council's target hardening scheme secures the homes of vulnerable tenants against repeat criminal victimisation. The service also works to improve security in public spaces by designing out crime opportunities where this is possible. The Council has previously worked with L&amp;Q (London Quadrant) at Waynflete Square, installing a CCTV system within the last 18 months.</p>
<p>How can the Council be more proactive in tackling anti-social behaviour?</p>	<p>→</p> <p>The Council will extend the number of Community Wardens patrolling the borough streets from 14 to 18.</p> <p>The Council will also look at ways in which its existing CCTV system can be extended and improved.</p> <p>Partnership work lies at the centre of the Council's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and the Council will continue to work with the police, other agencies, and residents to find ways to address anti-social behaviour and crime.</p>
<p>Residents were concerned that anti-social behaviour from young people might increase when The Curve community centre closes and there is less for them to do in the local area.</p> <p>What is the Council's plan for the young people who were using the centre? The Council wanting to wash their hands off the need for these services, space and accessibility are an ongoing issue</p>	<p>→</p> <p>The Council will be supporting youth and sport providers with a nine-month transition plan that will see the majority of youth activities relocated to Freston Road from 1 April 2022. Alternative locations for the youth activities not delivered from Freston Road will be confirmed by the end of the March.</p>

<p>Residents reported cars speeding up and down Freston Road and congregating. Has this been reported to the Council and its Community Safety Team?</p> <p>What is being done to prevent harm to residents - particularly young children, the elderly and vulnerable residents?</p>		<p>The Council's Community Safety and Highways Teams have not had any reports of speeding cars on Freston Road. We have passed this matter on to the police for their attention.</p>
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## Table Five: Hate crime

### Identified Key Themes:

- Under-reporting of hate crime in the borough was mentioned a lot (as it had historically been amalgamated into general anti-social behaviour statistics) and questions were raised about how we might address this
- Hate crime centred around disability is very under-represented
- How can the Council encourage residents to report incidents? It needs to build awareness and educate people about hate crime
- Several residents kindly shared their experiences to highlight how hate crime takes place on a regular basis and often goes unnoticed. One resident, for instance, said that he only remembered the recent experience he had as the discussion took place because it had become so normalised
- A lot of the experiences raised by attendees seem to have taken place on public transport with the number 52 bus being particularly prominent. Incidents had also taken place in local service centres such as the Post Office
- Residents discussed examples where it was difficult to know when to intervene or how to intervene safely without escalating the situation. This was especially relevant to women or vulnerable residents
- Residents spoke about both real and perceived fear that is perpetuated by the media reporting on crimes against women that often take place at night across London. This is also compounded by other identifiers, such as being a woman of faith in modest clothing. The media plays a part in the narratives of perceived fear, and this leaves particular groups vulnerable. For instance, young boys hanging around are usually linked to criminal behaviour which leaves this group vulnerable to aggression. This led to questions around how we can best mitigate media messaging around certain groups
- Residents mentioned that some people have a lack of understanding that different ethnicities are also classed as British, and they had experienced bias because of this
- Residents agreed there was a lack of clarity around what constitutes as a hate crime, and this is part of the reason these crimes are often under-reported
- Residents felt this sort of crime bubbles under the surface. It is important to raise awareness of hate crime and what it is
- Residents said that schools are a good place to build more awareness, as well as educating students about inclusion. It was felt that for some, school may be the only place where we can break the cycle of misunderstanding or inheriting views that are passed on from family members or friends
- Residents also raised the need for an induction for staff in new roles that includes conversations around hate crime and how to report it. The facilitator mentioned that this could also be looked at for RBKC staff
- One resident suggested that after a crime is committed by a perpetrator with a specific identifier – such as ethnicity or faith - communities with similar identifiers are more



vulnerable to hate crime as a result. When this happens, the suggestion was to reach out to the community to offer messages of support and solidarity. It was also highlighted that hate crime often attacks core parts of a resident's identity

- Residents mentioned that we should be using multiple channels to raise awareness of hate crime within the community, such as community radio stations and newspapers. There is also an opportunity to think outside the box in terms of building awareness while also using our traditional channels
- Creating more literature around hate crime awareness from the Council and the police and sharing it more widely seemed to be an emerging theme in both discussions
- We should be encouraging people to speak out during hate crime incidents and make them feel empowered to do so safely
- The Council needs to advertise victim support services more widely and could use spaces like buses to do this
- The Met Police could increase police presence on bus routes, including the number 52 bus
- The Council could create training assets for employers to include in staff inductions to explain what hate crime is, where to report it and how to create a positive work culture. This training pack could also be made accessible on our website and be sent directly to organisations and businesses in the borough
- Short and snappy messaging could be issued around critical thinking skills to mitigate some of the effects of media narratives. This could include a 'check your bias's campaign with a photo of someone perceived as a threat, and the actual background and story of that person
- We need to encourage people to step up and feel empowered in doing so safely. We could create a fact sheet around how to ask for help, how to de-escalate a situation, what support is available etc.

## **Table Six: General community safety**

### **Identified Key Themes:**

- Many problems we have in the community relate to young people and the confrontations they have with police
- Where are young people able to go in North Kensington? Many centres and community spaces are now closed or have been sold
- There is no communication between the Council and young people when it comes to Community Safety issues
- Youth violence is a symptom of life dissatisfaction and to prevent this we need more youth clubs
- Local clubs, such as football clubs for younger children, struggle to find space to operate within the borough because locations like the Westway are always overbooked
- Unless we address the root causes of youth crime, we will always have problems with it
- We need to utilise and allocate resources better and we need community involvement to do so effectively
- 'Prevention is better than cure' - we should work to prevent youth crime rather than having to reduce it later down the line
- Community watch groups are not a solution
- Parents worry more about the safety of their children than they worry about academic achievement
- Access to existing space is an issue

- Community safety is very important to the community
- Everyone is talking about crime in our community, and the Grenfell tragedy added to this even further
- There is no single solution – resolutions need to be found through a partnership between the community and the Council
- There's too much overcrowding in homes and facilities which is why creating more space is so important
- There is less money to address what needs addressing. That has a knock-on effect. The Met Police has fewer resources too
- Many in our communities do not feel safe and do not have local spaces to utilise
- The police are not visible within the community and there is no respect for them
- One resident stated: 'I get nervous about walking home because of my personal safety, I have been mugged more than five times'
- What is community safety like for our communities?
  - We do not have relationships with our local police
  - North London police officers sometimes patrol West London estates
  - There is no buy-in or affiliation between the police and the community
  - Police do not understand the local community
- The solution is to invest in more young people. We have had lower investment which means there is now more serious youth violence.
- How will our communities address the fact that young people carry knives? Young people say they do this to keep themselves safe at the Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and on the estates because they do not trust the police
- Parents do what they can to keep their kids and young people indoors but that does not help community cohesion
- It's hard to keep young people at youth clubs. The Council needs to provide transport home otherwise parents will not send their children because they are worried about their safety when travelling
- The Council need to have more conversations with young people to ask them what they want and need. It needs to have some Community Assemblies targeted towards younger people young people are missing out due to the lack of resourcing, lack of space, and because they are not safe in the community
- Sometimes parents offend alongside their children if the offence brings in money for the family
- Affiliation is very important for young people but if they are not getting it from clubs and the community it can push them towards joining gangs
- We need:
  - Training for young people
  - Employment skills for young people
  - More community cohesion and safe spaces for young people
- The Council needs to make more services available for the youth to use
- The community does not feel listened to, or that they are part of the solution
- Access to existing space is an issue for the community to use
- We need politicians to commit to:
  - Engagement with the community around Council politics
  - Improving the fact that communities do not feel they have a voice
  - Improving the fact that communities don't feel their views are represented
- A collective response is needed from the Council, the Met Police, our communities and from our young people
- We need an honest consultation with young people about how to move forward and prevent crime

## Feedback from the facilitator

- I understand that the requirement for more community spaces is a key outcome
- Crime is traumatising and enhanced in communities affected by the Grenfell tragedy
- I am hearing it feels like there are fewer physical spaces for conversations in the community and specifically for young people to use
- There are local challenges for us in RBKC due to density of housing and population
- I hear we have an increased need for public spaces and for conversations like this one

Themes: What you said	Outcome: How we have responded
<p>What funding is there for Community Safety?</p>	<p>➔ For the period 2022-23 the Council's Community Safety Team will commission a range of projects and services which reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and support victim to recover to the value of £486,300. These services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services to support victims of these crimes</li> <li>• Services which reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and hate crime</li> <li>• Target Hardening and crime prevention security measures to victims of crime, including Sanctuary for vulnerable residents impacted by hate crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, and youth violence</li> <li>• Services to tackle youth violence with a focus on knife crime and criminal exploitation for drug supply</li> </ul> <p>A small grants scheme will also be established via the Safer Neighbourhood Board- application process will be launched in April 2022.</p>

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### *Acknowledgements*

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The Council would like to thank everyone that participated in the Grenfell Community Assembly, particularly residents who spoke passionately about the Community Safety issues affecting them and feedback key points from the roundtable discussions.

We would also like to thank our partner organisations - the Met Police and the Safer Neighbourhood Team - which deliver community safety services for sharing their insights and facilitating discussions on the evening.

We hope that this document aids an understanding of feedback from the meeting and the response formulated by the Council and its partner agencies, as well as encouraging more residents to take part in future Grenfell Community Assemblies. Thank you.