



# Community Safety Division: What we offer

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The Council, the police, probation, health, housing associations, housing landlords, Transport for London, schools and residents have a key role to play in tackling crime and anti-social behavior (ASB) and in helping everyone feel safer. This briefing describes what to expect from Tower Hamlets Council's Community Safety Division, in relation to this issue, and what we as a local authority expect from residents.

Public services are under huge long-term financial pressures. We have a limited amount of resource and putting them to their best possible use has never been more important. Working in partnership with other organisations and with residents will be crucial if we are to effectively tackle crime and ASB in Tower Hamlets. In total we spend over £6.4million as a Council supporting residents to feel safer in their neighbourhood and tackling anti-social behavior. These services are non-statutory i.e. there is no legal requirement for the Council to deliver these services.

## 1. We work in partnership to tackle the root causes of crime and ASB

- ✓ We provide education and awareness raising activities to prevent crime and ASB. Our 'No Place for Hate' campaign is an example of this.
- ✓ We work with our partners to tackle the underlying causes of crime and ASB, including drug and alcohol misuse.

## 2. We prevent crime and intervene early

- ✓ We offer advice and support to design out crime from the local area.
- ✓ We commission outreach, treatment and recovery support for those with drug or alcohol problems.
- ✓ We provide specialist outreach to estates and run programmes for young people through our Community Safety Response team.

## 3. We respond quickly and effectively when incidents occur with partner services

- ✓ We deploy our Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers to provide a reassuring presence and help the police.
- ✓ We prepare for and respond to major emergencies, including fires and floods, working with first responders including the London Fire Brigade, police and London Ambulance Service.
- ✓ We help keep people informed of progress and next steps when incidents occur through the community tension monitoring group.

## 4. We work very closely with the Police to disrupt, detect and investigate crime

- ✓ We operate CCTV around the borough.
- ✓ We fund additional police officers to tackle local crime issues (referred to as the 'Partnership Task Force').
- ✓ We share intelligence and pool resources with the police and partners to tackle local priorities at a local level. Operation Continuum, which disrupts the drugs trade, is an example.

## 5. We work closely with residents to tackle crime and safety issues

- ✓ We manage and coordinate a response to local ward issues and cases of ASB working with all our partners.
- ✓ We use all our council enforcement powers to tackle ASB, support victims and bring perpetrators to justice, issuing injunctions against those causing ASB and closing down illegal raves and drugs addresses.
- ✓ Our Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers work closely with the Homeless and Street Outreach team in the council.
- ✓ We support the local police and work with local residents conducting community weapon sweeps to take knives off the street.
- ✓ We research where and when people feel unsafe and where ASB is happening, and deploy resources accordingly.

- ✓ We listen to residents and work to tackle issues together. This is reflected through our Neighbourhood Management work in the North West of Tower Hamlets and the action days planned across the borough.
- ✓ All local Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels have a dedicated council officer to work with and support them
- ✓ We regularly send out information so people know the action we are taking to tackle crime and ASB, including our quarterly community safety newsletter. [Sign up here](#) for more information.
- ✓ We celebrate success, such as the achievements of domestic abuse survivors and those who have overcome addictions.

## 6. We support victims and help people 'break the cycle'

- ✓ We fund domestic abuse refuges and provide specialist support to victims of domestic abuse.
- ✓ We support victims of knife crime who present at the Royal London Hospital working with their major trauma team.
- ✓ We support people to break the cycle of substance misuse, offending or abuse.
- ✓ We safeguard and support people who are vulnerable to radicalisation.
- ✓ For complex cases involving vulnerable people or the criminal exploitation of young people, we work closely with adult social care, children's social care and partners to agree the best way forward.

## What can you do?

As a local resident, here's what you can do to tackle crime and ASB in Tower Hamlets:

### 1. Take action to prevent crime

There are practical steps everyone can take to help prevent crime, from keeping valuables out of sight to protecting your personal information. The [Crimestoppers](#) website is a good source of information on this.

### 2. Report crime and ASB

In an emergency, always dial 999. To report crime, ASB or safety concerns that are not an emergency, the place to go depends on the situation (although there is no 'wrong door'). The council website has more information on who to contact in what situation by. More information can be found on our [ASB webpage](#). We encourage everyone to report crime and ASB as **we can only tackle what we know is happening**.

### 3. Take care of your neighbourhood and think about your own impact

From putting litter in the bin to keeping noise and music levels down, everyone has a responsibility to their neighbours and community.

### 4. Look out for those around you

If you see something that you are concerned about or doesn't seem right, say something. The council website tells you who to contact if you see a child, young person or vulnerable adult who may be a victim of abuse or exploited; or if you are worried about someone's safety as a result of [homelessness](#) or [substance abuse](#).

### 5. Work with us & get involved

There are a range of ways you can actively work with us and the police to tackle crime and ASB. Joining your local Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel is a great starting point and a useful way to find out more.

### 6. Use the 'Community Trigger'

The 'Community Trigger' enables residents to ask the council – and all our partners - to review our response to an ASB complaint. You can use the Community Trigger if you have reported three separate incidents within six months and no action has been taken. More information can be found on the council's [Community Trigger](#) webpage.