

# Lambeth Equality Commission

## A Lambeth for all Residents

### Briefing Paper 5: Crime and Justice

#### Summary and Introduction

The Commission has identified four groups of residents of particular concern in relation to inequality overall. These are Black African and Caribbean, Somali, Portuguese and people with disabilities. Unfortunately the evidence we are able to collect on crime and justice from across the statutory agencies in this area allows us only a limited scope to consider these groups individually. Across the wider equalities groups we are aware of significant inequalities concerning:

- Serious youth violence and young people
- Health and disabilities
- Ethnicity
- Gender

This report presents the best available data we have on the above areas to show the significant levels of inequality in the criminal justice system, from arrest through to sentencing and offender management. There are undeniable, and heavily evidenced, links between socio-economic status, ethnicity, health outcomes, gender and age and levels of crime victimisation. Significant work has been done at both the national, regional and local level to tackle this inequality, but it must be stressed that these issues are linked to the wider inequalities present in society, and that no single agency can successfully tackle these, and the long term solution to tackling the root cause of these inequalities requires significant societal change.

The report also summarise the work the local authority does in these key areas, in terms of preventing crime, supporting the victims of crime and helping prosecute offenders. It is important to stress that the local authority is not a statutory crime and disorder agency, and the impact of our work is limited compared to the police, prison service, courts service etc.

Finally a number of questions are suggested that the commission may wish to consider in its findings.

#### The Lambeth Context: Crime and disorder

##### **Lambeth ethnicity**

Lambeth is home to nearly a third of a million people, with a population of at 318,000. Around 40% of Lambeth's population is white with a UK background. White people make up 55% of the population. Around 40% of Lambeth residents are White British or Irish, in line with inner London (43%) 15% of the population are from other white backgrounds – around 47,000 people. About two thirds of these people are from Europe outside UK & Ireland. 8% are from Central and South America, 4% from North America and the Caribbean, and 8% from Australasia.

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Black people make up around a third of the population (30.4%). Lambeth's largest non-white ethnic group is black African (11.5%), followed by black Caribbean (8.8%). Lambeth has the joint second highest proportion of black Caribbean people in London after Lewisham (10.7%) and Croydon (8.8%).

Lambeth has a small Asian population compared to many places in London. Only 8.4% of Lambeth residents are from Asian backgrounds (including Chinese), much less than the inner London Average (21%).

### **Lambeth poverty**

There are an estimated 49,000 people in poverty in Lambeth before housing costs, and 87,000 people in poverty after housing costs. A third of working age people and a quarter of people of retirement age in Lambeth are living in poverty. However, Lambeth is not one of London's most impoverished boroughs.

Lambeth is the 8th most deprived borough in London and 22nd most deprived in England. This is an improved relative position since 2010 when Lambeth was ranked as the 14th most deprived authority in England. The most deprived neighbourhoods in the borough are mostly in Brixton and Stockwell, with some in Norwood.

### **Lambeth crime data**

Crime has been falling in Lambeth for many years, although the borough still has unacceptably high rates of violent, sexual crime and drug related crime.

In recognition of those falling rates, residents have told us that level of crime is no longer the most important issue for them when considering what makes a good place to live. It has dropped from first place in 2014 to third place in order of importance for residents in the 2015 Residents Survey. Level of crime has also fallen in order of the problems that residents feel most need improving in Lambeth, from second place in 2014 to third in 2015.

When residents who said things in Lambeth have improved over the past year were asked what specifically has got better, the highest percentage (14%) said the level of crime or that it is safer or that there is more police. Equally however, when those who said things in Lambeth have got worse in the last year were asked what specifically has got worse, the highest percentage (14%) said levels of crime or ASB. It is clear that crime and safety remains a massive concern for residents but that perception of crime on the whole is improving.

SUMMARY OF CRIME IN LAMBETH (in the last 12 months unless stated)

Lambeth had on average the highest number of recorded rape and sexual offences in London

Lambeth had the third highest number of ASB calls to the police of all London Boroughs

There has been a sustained increase in violence against the person and there is significantly more recorded violence with injury in Lambeth than most similar boroughs

While Serious Youth Violence in Lambeth is showing a relatively flat trend, Lambeth does experience higher volumes of Serious Youth Violence than our most similar boroughs

The last 6 months in Lambeth have been below average in terms of recorded robbery

The long term trend for night time economy crime across Lambeth is relatively flat, with no sustained increase or decrease.

**TOTAL NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES (TNO)** is a count of all offences which are statutorily notifiable to the Home Office

\*Due to lag in how data is published TNOs do not currently reflect that Lambeth volume of sexual offences moved from 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in 14/15 to highest in 15/16

Major	Minor	Offences 2013/14	Offences 2014/15	Offences 2015/16	% Change from 2013/14	Rank out of 32 London boroughs (volume)	2015/16 rate per 1000s Population <sup>39</sup>	Rank out of 32 London boroughs (Rate per 1000s Population) <sup>38</sup>
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	Murder	5	3	3	-40%	6	0.009	19
	Wounding/GBH	1044	1156	1280	23%	1	3.975	3
	Assault with Injury	1918	2299	2341	22%	1	7.270	2
	Common Assault	1862	2569	2902	56%	2	9.012	5
	Offensive Weapon	232	276	307	32%	1	0.953	1
	Harassment	1942	2894	3337	72%	1	10.363	8
	Other Violence	340	371	476	40%	2	1.478	5
SEXUAL OFFENCES	Rape	227	289	289	27%	2	0.898	2
	Other Sexual	330	469	584	77%	1	1.814	2
ROBBERY	Personal Property	2148	1220	1075	-50%	6	3.339	9
	Business Property	108	88	103	-5%	1	0.320	2
BURGLARY	Burglary in a Dwellings	2509	1831	1730	-31%	6	5.373	12
	Burglary in other Buildings	1288	1001	927	-28%	10	2.879	14
THEFT AND HANDLING	Theft/Taking of M/V	811	872	820	1%	8	2.547	16
	Theft from M/V	2308	1995	2077	-10%	5	6.450	9
	M/V Interference & Tampering	152	379	551	263%	2	1.711	4
	Theft from Shops	896	1316	1473	64%	12	4.575	18
	Theft from Person	3132	2014	2084	-33%	5	6.472	6
	Theft/Taking of Pedal Cycles	1267	1085	1042	-18%	6	3.236	8
	Other Theft	5216	4876	5244	1%	3	16.286	5
	Handling Stolen Goods	111	91	64	-42%	5	0.199	10
FRAUD AND FORGERY	Fraud Counted per Victim	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Other Fraud & Forgery	51	42	58	14%	2	0.180	2
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	Criminal Damage to a Dwelling	686	674	585	-15%	5	1.817	9
	Criminal Damage to Other Buildings	293	341	348	19%	3	1.081	4
	Criminal Damage to M/V	954	947	1062	11%	3	3.298	7
	Other Criminal Damage	496	589	644	30%	2	2.000	5
	Arson Offences	N/A	85	74	N/A	17	0.230	22
DRUGS	Drug Trafficking	214	236	243	14%	1	0.755	2
	Possession of Drugs	1879	2375	2421	29%	1	7.519	2
	Other Drug Offences	22	34	46	109%	1	0.143	1
OTHER NOTIFIABLE	Going Equipped	28	35	35	25%	3	0.109	3
	Other Notifiable	454	569	600	32%	3	1.863	7
Total Notifiable Offences		32923	33021	34825	6%	2	108.152	6

## **National Criminal Justice System**

The criminal justice system, overseen by the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office, is intended to cut crime, protect the public and punish offenders. It encompasses the functions of the police, prosecution, courts and judiciary, prisons, youth justice services and probation. It involves the detection of crime, bringing criminals to justice, and carrying out the orders of the court, such as collecting fines, providing rehabilitation, supervising community orders and providing custodial sentences.

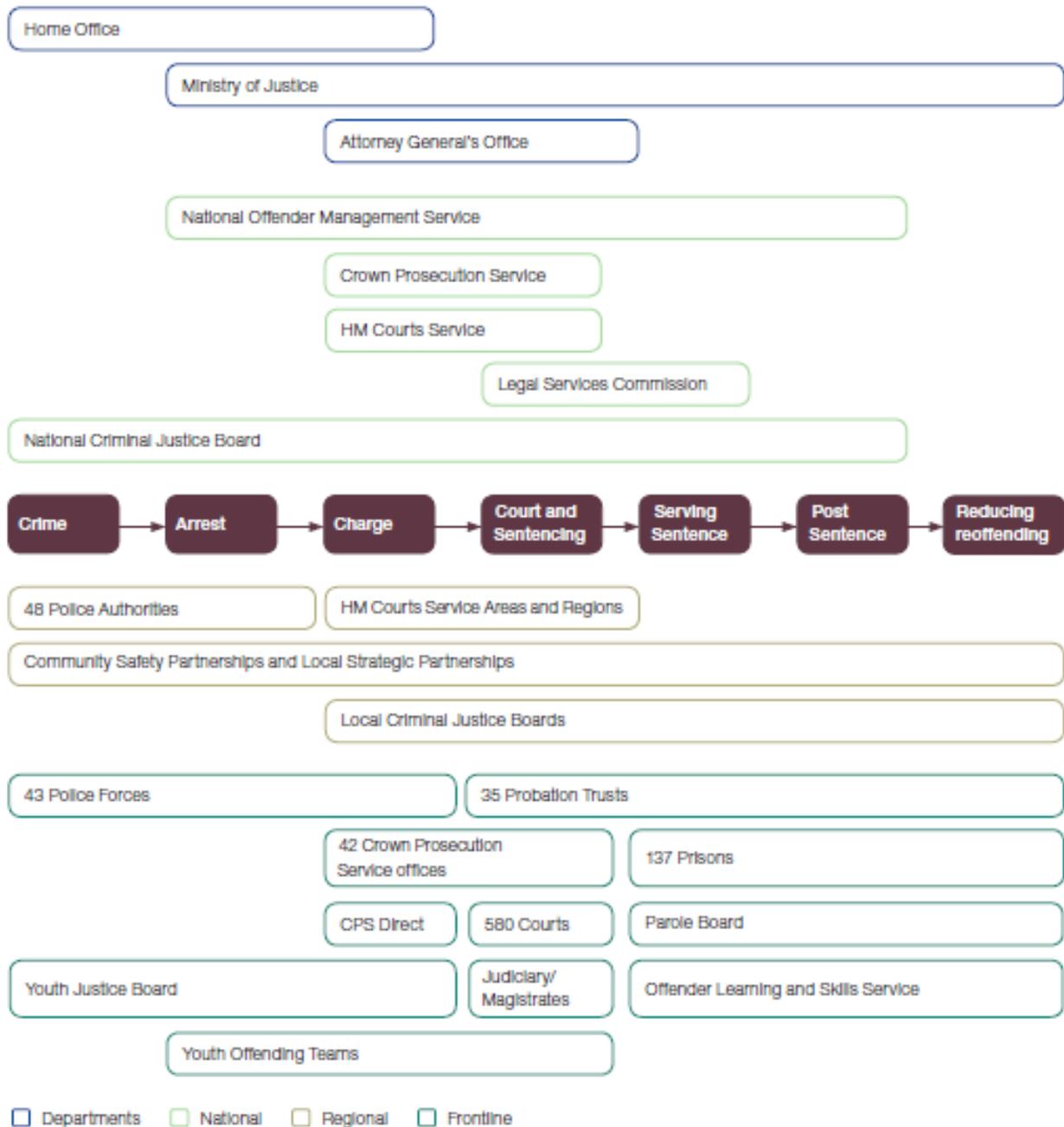
A National Audit Office Report in 2010 found:

- Governance and management arrangements in the criminal justice system are complex, and changes to one part of the system can have unexpected consequences for others.
- Delivery partners need to be working well together at national and local level, focusing on how best to achieve the overall objectives of the criminal justice system, rather than optimising the performance of their own organisations.
- Information flows within the criminal justice system can hinder the most efficient passage of cases, and may not always provide sufficient information to inform future planning.

The image below, although not updated to include Police and Crime Commissioners which oversee Police Authorities, gives an indication of the complexity and diversity of partners that make up the criminal justice system. It is important to note that the Local Authorities role in this system is within the "Community Safety Partnerships", and not as a lead agency.

N.B. Community Safety Partnerships are the legally required partnerships located in each borough that bring together the statutory bodies of Police, Probation, Health, Fire Brigade and Local Council to tackle crime and disorder. They provide a strategic overview and co-ordination function for crime and disorder in a borough.

## Key organisations involved in the criminal justice system



### NOTE

- 1 The Youth Justice Board is a national organisation and has an operational function in that it commissions youth custodial places. Under proposals being brought forward within the Public Bodies Bill, the Youth Justice Board will be abolished and its functions brought within the Ministry of Justice.

## The role of the London Mayor

The Mayor of London has responsibility for policing and crime in London, outside of the functions reserved by the Home Office (mostly national security & counter terrorism). The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) set the Metropolitan Police priorities and budgets, and fund activities across London to tackle crime and disorder.

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The Mayor has recently launched the new draft Crime and Policing plan for consultation, which aims to improve how crime and disorder services work in London. The new plan focusses on local priorities, and places greater emphasis on high impact crimes such as youth violence and knife crime. This consultation runs until March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, and the Safer Lambeth Partnership will be submitting a response on behalf of the statutory partners. We would welcome the commissions input into this formal response.

As part of this consultation the Mayor has identified a number of inequalities present in London:

- For every 100 white women handed custodial sentences at Crown Courts for drug offences, 227 black women were sentenced to custody. For black men, this figure is 141 for every 100 white men.
- Of those convicted at Magistrates' Court for sexual offences, 208 black men and 193 Asian men received custodial sentences for every 100 white men.
- BAME men were more than 16% more likely than white men to be remanded in custody;
- 41% of youth prisoners are from minorities backgrounds, compared with 25% ten years ago;

### **The Lammy Review**

David Lammy MP is undertaking a review of racial bias and BAME representation in the criminal justice system. Analysis commissioned in his review has found that:

- Among those born in the UK, a majority (51%) from BAME backgrounds believe that 'the Criminal Justice System discriminates against particular groups or individuals'. This compares with 35% of the White population born in the UK.
- BAME communities are over-represented in our prisons: approximately 25% of prisoners are from a BAME background, compared with 13% of the wider population.
- Over 40% of those in secure youth institutions are from BAME backgrounds – up significantly from 25% a decade ago
- Some groups are heavily over-represented in prison – for example, 12% of prisoners are Black compared with just 3% of the wider population.
- Within broad categories such as 'Black' or 'Asian' there is also considerable diversity. Some groups, such as the Muslim population, do not fall within one ethnic category – but we know that the number of Muslims in our prisons has nearly doubled in the last decade.
- Other groups, such as Gypsies and Travellers, represent less visible minorities but nevertheless are substantially over-represented.
- Arrest rates are generally higher for the BAME population in comparison to the white population
- Black boys were just under three times more likely than white boys to be arrested, while black men were more than three times more likely to be arrested than white men.

- Looking at all those defendants at Crown Court, the paper found black men and women more likely to receive custodial sentences than the white group. This was not the case for every offence type, but was particularly the case for drugs offences, which are high in volume.
- Prison is also an area of some concern. The statistical analysis found that black men were more likely than white men to be placed in high security prisons for some offence groups. As you will know, this can restrict access to opportunities like work experience on day release
- Men in prisons from ethnic minority backgrounds are also less likely than white prisoners to report having a prison job or access to offending behaviour programmes.

Mr Lammy MP also plans to look more closely at a number of vulnerable groups, including children in care, and individuals with learning difficulties or mental health problems. We already know that these groups are at risk of entering the justice system, but initial evidence suggests that ethnic minorities may also be over-represented within these vulnerable groups

### **Data quality**

Data quality and evidence is a significant issue facing any detailed analysis of inequality in the CJS. Each of the agencies responsible for separate sections of the CJS uses different data systems and collects different data. In addition, with the numerous reductions in funding over the last 5 years many agencies no longer have access to the quality and quantity of analytical support that was previously available. Finally, several agencies involved such as the Crown Prosecution Service and Courts service don't have local links, and so we are unable to access their data at all despite the importance of their role in the CJS. All of these issues combined means that extracting and presenting data on inequality is difficult, time consuming and in some cases impossible.

## **Serious Violence and Young People**

The prevalence of youth violence and criminality in parts of our borough has a significantly disproportionate impact on those it affects. Gang violence also predominantly affects young adults in the borough. It adversely damages our communities, particularly the young men and boys growing up in those neighbourhoods. Analysis of crime data and patterns within the Lambeth Violence Needs Assessment 2015 (LVNA) suggests that most victims of serious youth violence are male, African Caribbean, and aged between 17 and 19 years old which coincides with the peak age for victims of knife crime. Perpetrators tend to have a similar profile.

### **Crime statistics: Victims**

In knife offences the victim tends to be male, Black Caribbean and between the ages of 16 to 25 years old. 31% of total knife crime offences had a victim who was aged 19 or under.

Violence Against the Person (VAP) is overwhelmingly a crime type involving young adults in Lambeth: 21-35 years constitutes the peak age range for all Violence Against the Person, harassment, common assault and assault with injury offences.

21-30 years is the peak age range for personal robbery and rape (21-25 for women). However, some types of violence demonstrate a lower age profile: key ages for serious wounding are 16-25 years (male); for gang violence, 16-20; for other sexual offences, 11-15 and 21-25 years.

### **Crime statistics: Offenders**

Peak age for violent offending is generally in the 26-30 range – this is the case for VAP and its key components (harassment, common assault, assault with injury). However, there are some significant exceptions:

- (a) all VAP – peak age range for African-Caribbean suspects is 16-20;
- (b) serious wounding – peak age range is 16-20;
- (c) knife crime – peak age range is 14-25; of those charged, a third were 15 to 17 years old;
- (d) gun crime – peak age range is 16-20; of those charged, 41% were 16-20 years old;
- (e) robbery – peak age range of suspects is 15-25; of those charged, the peak age is 13 to 17.
- (f) other sexual offences – the only offence category that has older age groups (41-45 and 51-55) strongly represented among suspects.

Generally, the older you are, the less likely you are to be a victim of violent crime.

### **Health data**

Analysis of health data from St Thomas' and Kings College Hospitals and London Ambulance call-outs provides additional insight into levels of serious youth violence in the borough. Health data offers another perspective on levels of violence compared to crime data, as whilst not all crimes are reported almost all injuries are treated. For ambulance call-outs for violent incidents, 63% were for males and 13% were for victims in the 10 to 19 age group – the highest rate of call-outs (ie. per 1000 pop.) for any single age group. This pattern is repeated for hospital admissions for violence: 83% were males and the highest rate per 1000 pop. was for the 10-19 age group. This shows a clear disproportionality in terms of the people going to hospital to be treated for violence.

### **Youth offending Service**

The Lambeth Youth Offending Service is the statutory partnership body responsible for the management of all young offenders in the borough. As the service has no control over the clients referred into it (as all young offenders in Lambeth are required to attend), the data from the YOS is a reflection of the crime and offending data presented earlier. Between April 15 and March 16, approximately 531 (86% male) youth offenders were referred to the Lambeth Youth Offending Service 657 times, and the majority of offenders between age of 15-18 (84%). 61% of total YOS caseload are black.

### **Why are young people more likely to victims or perpetrators of Serious Violence?**

Application of the public health model and the available evidence base, suggests an accumulation of risk factors which lead to greater predisposition towards violence in Lambeth's communities. Key risk factors in the Lambeth context include:

- (1) Early adverse life experiences
- (2) Severe behavioural problems in childhood
- (3) Peer relationships and gangs
- (4) Deprivation and income inequality
- (5) Alcohol and drugs
- (6) Cultural and social norms supportive of violence
- (7) Disability
- (8) Mental health disorders
- (9) Brain injury

## Health and Disabilities

### Disability

People with disability are more vulnerable to violence because of dependence, exclusion, and other factors. In addition, they are vulnerable to neglect or abuse within institutional settings.

Children and adults with mental health problems or intellectual disability are more likely to be at risk of violence. Disabled children are three times more likely to suffer physical/sexual violence than non-disabled children.

*(Lambeth Violence Needs Assessment, 2015)*

#### **In Lambeth**

Around 2,000 children are estimated to have some form of disability in Lambeth with the commonest disorder being communication disorders, moderate to severe learning disability, and autism. (JSNA 2013)

### Mental health

Poor mental health is associated with violence:

- Children of a mother with depression are five times more likely to have conduct disorder compared to children whose mother is not depressed, and conduct disorder is a risk factor for adult violent behaviour.
- Mental health disorders are highly prevalent among male and female members of gangs

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- Adults with psychiatric disorders are at increased risk of being victims of violence.
- There is considerable evidence to show that traumatic brain injury is a risk factor for violence.

27% (253) of Lambeth's NPS Probation Case load (912) had a mental health treatment requirement imposed by the court as part of a community sentence, aimed at addressing mental health issues linked to offending behaviour.

Camberwell Green Magistrates Court liaison and diversion service identified that 78% (of 191) had a mental health need.

According to the Prison Reform Trust – 62% of male and 57% of female sentenced prisoners have a personality disorder.

People with mental illness are more likely to be unemployed, in unsuitable accommodation, living on their own and socially isolated. They are also more vulnerable to financial or sexual exploitation. (*Centre for mental health, social inclusion statement*).

### **In Lambeth**

- There are high rates of common mental illness in young people in Lambeth. Hospital admissions due to depression are showing a rise especially in ages 14 and above (CAMHS Needs' Assessment, 2013).
- Applying national prevalence rates to the local populations suggests that 3,537 children aged 5-16 years in Lambeth are likely to have a mental disorder. As Lambeth has higher rates of risks factors than the national average these estimates are likely to be on the low side. Previous local needs assessments were able to use an ONS model which incorporated risk factors to produce ward level estimates of prevalence of mental health disorders. This model is no longer available.
- Young people who use the YOS have high rates of depression, anxiety, and previous referral to mental health services. In a recent study, 60% of YOS clients reported experiencing and/or suffering from mental health problems.
- Using the YOS screening tools, 78% were found to have psychological problems. Parental risk factors were also very common, including witnessing violence, suffering a significant bereavement, experiencing abuse, and having a family member involved in criminal activity. (YOS Needs Assessment, 2013)

### **Camberwell Green Magistrates Court – Liaison and Diversion Service**

Liaison and diversion services are designed to improve the health and justice outcomes for adults and children who come into contact with the youth and criminal justice systems where a range of complex needs are identified as factors in their offending behaviour.

- Of 191 clients screened by the liaison and diversion service at Camberwell Green Magistrates court between June 2015 and May 2016 73% (140) were male.
- 78% of those screened had a mental health need

- 50% had a substance misuse need
- 45% had an alcohol misuse need.
- 45% of those screened were white, 30.9% black, 6% Asian.

### The Lambeth Drug and Alcohol Treatment System

This service provides integrated treatment to people in Lambeth with substance misuse difficulties. The aim of treatment is to help people move towards recovery from problematic drug and alcohol use, and build a more satisfying life.

#### Ethnicity Breakdown of the drug and alcohol treatment system in Lambeth

Ethnicity	No.	%
White British	814	41.0%
Other White	439	22.1%
Other Black	216	10.9%
Caribbean	140	7.0%
White Irish	101	5.1%
Other	64	3.2%
White & Black Caribbean	63	3.2%
African	32	1.6%
Unknown	32	1.6%
Other Asian	19	1.0%
Not stated	16	0.8%
Indian	12	0.6%
White & Black African	11	0.6%
Other Mixed	8	0.4%
White & Asian	6	0.3%
Pakistani	6	0.3%
Chinese	4	0.2%
Bangladeshi	3	0.2%
Total	1986	100%

It is a point to note that the ethnicity breakdown for clients in the drug and treatment system does not reflect that of the wider criminal justice system in Lambeth, and that white Lambeth residents are overrepresented in the data and black Caribbean underrepresented compared to the population levels in the borough. It is worth considering whether this:

- Reflects an actual ethnic imbalance in terms of the groups of people suffering from drug and alcohol misuse, i.e. white people are more likely to have substance misuse issues
- Or that certain ethnic groups face barriers (cultural, economic or social) in accessing treatment and therefore are underrepresented in substance misuse services because they are not accessing the service

## Ethnicity

As highlighted in the serious violence and young people section of the report, the Lambeth Violence Needs Assessment 2015 suggests that most victims of serious youth violence are male, African Caribbean, and aged between 17 and 19 years old which coincides with the peak age for victims of knife crime. Perpetrators tend to have a similar profile.

Although African, Caribbean, Black and Mixed Race individuals make up about 34% of Lambeth's population, this group accounts for 39% of victims of all violence against the person; 69% of victims of most serious youth violence; 50% of victims of youth knife crime; 43% of victims of gun offences and 73% of victims of gang related violence against the person.

There is significant disproportionality with respect to Black African and Caribbean people as victims of violent crime. African, Caribbean, Black and Mixed Race British make up about 34% (male, 16% and female, 18%) 53 of Lambeth's population. However, this group (identified by IC3 flag in CRIS) are, for example:

- 39% of victims of all violence against the person;
- 69% of victims of youth most serious violence;
- 50% of victims of youth knife crime;
- 43% of victims of gun offences;
- 73% of victims of gang related violence against the person.

The position of African and Caribbean women as victims of violence is of particular concern. This group makes up approximately 35% of Lambeth's female population, but constitute:

- 45% of female victims of all violence against the person;
- 44% of female victims of assault with injury;
- 50% of female victims of most serious violence;
- 85% of female victims of youth most serious violence;
- 49% of female victims of gun crime;
- 67% of female victims of youth knife crime and youth gun crime.

There is similar disproportionality with respect to African, Caribbean, Black and Mixed Race people as offenders as for victims. Individuals from these groups were identified as:

- 52% of suspects for all violence against the person;
- 52% of suspects for assault with injury and 49% of those charged;
- 47% of suspects for serious wounding and 55% of those charged;
- 56% of suspects for youth most serious violence and 72% of those charged;
- 74% of suspects for knife crime and 75% of those charged;
- 73% of suspects for gun offences and 87% of those charged;
- 67% of suspects for personal robbery and 80% of those charged.

## **Socio-Economic Deprivation**

3 of the 4 wards comprising of over 50% BME ethnicities feature within the 4 most deprived wards overall in Lambeth: Coldharbour, Vassall and Tulse Hill. Coldharbour is the only ward with over 60% BME population and it is the most deprived ward in Lambeth.

We know that deprivation is a strong risk factor for violence. This is thought to reflect an accumulation of risk factors for violence in more deprived areas, such as teenage parenting, single parent families, and substance abuse. Evidence for this association can be found in analyses of rates of emergency hospital admission for violence which are around five times higher for residents of the most deprived communities.

The association between income inequality and violent crime is not as clear. Some research suggests that inequality is more important for predicting violence than poverty. However, violent crime is falling in many countries despite increases in income inequality. This remains a debated issue nationally and internationally, with research supporting both arguments.

## **Gender**

Gender is a key inequality in terms of crime and justice. This inequality and imbalance stretches across the entirety of the crime and disorder spectrum from the initial crime, through to the experiences of men and women in the criminal justice system. This was highlighted in the Corston report outlining the experiences of women in the justice system (*Corston Report, 2007*).

## **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains a critical issue in Lambeth. In 2014/15 there were 8,099 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. This represents a significant increase of 28% when compared to 2010/11. In terms of criminal offences, domestic violence has increased by 52% and rape has increased by 39% over the same period. Lambeth now has the second highest rate for both 'other sexual offences' with a 40% increase and serious sexual offences with a 34% increase in London. Note that VAWG offences do include men as the victims of the crime, although they generally make up a very small percentage of the overall victims. In Lambeth, it is estimated that 8% of the female population has experienced, or is at risk of experiencing, FGM.

95% of referrals to GAIA (our support centre for those experiencing gender based violence) in 14/15 were female (1643). 31% (541) were aged 30-39; 28% (486) were aged 20-29. 31% (538) were black or black British; 29.9% (517) were white or white British. From January to December 2015 the GAIA centre received a total of 1431 new referrals. These were 1374 female referrals, 57 male referrals and their 797 children.

## **Gender Inequality data**

The data shows a significant difference in the inequalities present in the crime and justice system. Men are more likely to be subject to serious wounding, knife and gun crime and robbery. Women are more likely to be subject to intimate partner violence, rape and sexual violence.

More women than men are victims of harassment, common assault and assault with injury for every age group from 11 to 35 years. Significantly more men than women are victims of serious wounding in every single age group. For personal robbery, 72% of victims are male, but sexual offences are overwhelmingly against women – 92% of rapes and 90% of other sexual offences. Gender breakdowns for key violent crime categories include:

	Female	Male
All Violence Against the Person	49	50
Harassment	55	45
Common Assault	52	48
Assault with Injury	51	48
Serious Wounding	18	82
Knife Crime	27	73
Gun Crime	26	74
Robbery (person)	28	72
Sexual Offences	91	9

The LVNA concludes that there is gender disproportionality for key categories: for women – sexual offences, harassment; for men – robbery, weapons offences, serious wounding. Serious violence for men is more likely to be assault (wounding/GBH), for women more likely to be sexual assault/rape.

London Ambulance data shows that over the three year period from 2010-11 to 2012-13, almost two thirds of call outs for violence were for men (63%).

### **Gender of perpetrators**

Perpetrators of violent crime are overwhelmingly male: 78% of those charged for common assault, 83% for assault with injury, 87% for serious wounding, 91% for knife crimes, 97% for gun crimes, 91% for robbery and 98% for sexual offences. Note that under UK law rape can only be committed by a man – a lesser offense, “sexual assault by penetration” is recorded if the offender is a woman. It is telling how violence becomes ‘more’ male as it becomes more serious.

In 2013/14 majority of suspects for gang related offences were between 16 and 25 (77%), male (85%) and of African Caribbean ethnicity (73%)

In June 2015 the Lambeth National Probation Service had 912 offenders on the caseload – 97.5% were male.

In June 15 the London Community Rehabilitation Company had 1295 offenders on caseload, 87.5% (1133) were male.

Of 191 clients screened by the liaison and diversion service at Camberwell Green Magistrates court between June 2014 and May 2015 73% (140) were male.

### **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

FGM is a uniquely gender based crime whose victims are often young girls from specific communities. Working with the Lambeth Children's Safeguarding Board, and in light of the national focus, we have increased reporting and recording in the borough. Between April 2014 and January 2015, 13 FGM incidents were reported to police in Lambeth, accounting for 19% of all incidents reported in London. From 2012-2015 the Gaia Centre supported 26 women who had experienced FGM.

The number of recorded cases recorded by our health services have seen significant increases. During July 2015 and December 2016 there were 2,701 newly recorded cases of FGM reported by healthcare providers in England; with 50% (1,353) being recorded in London. Of these 6% (78) were for women in Lambeth and Lambeth had the 5th highest number of cases in London after Southwark, Brent, Ealing and Enfield during this period.

### **Conclusions: inequality areas**

Inequality is present across the crime and disorder spectrum, in a wide range of areas. From the initial victims and offenders of crime, to the journey of an offender through the criminal justice system, different groups are likely to have a difference experience that significantly impacts on their health, well-being and long term outcomes.

Many of these inequalities are linked – for example, black Caribbean residents are also more likely to live in areas of deprivation than other groups, and suffer higher levels of unmet mental health needs. It is not possible to identify one key factor which influences these inequalities – they are intrinsically linked, and often one contributes to another.

This is reflected in the need for longer term, wider solutions to reducing inequality in the crime and justice system. Ultimately, we know from our work on violence that the causes of violence are often linked to early year's experiences and other factors. The inequality in terms of victims and offenders in the criminal justice system is a reflection and end-product of the inequality present in society. The Lambeth Violence Needs Assessment clearly identified the need for early intervention and a public health based approach if we were to successfully prevent violence occurring in the first place.

### **Action: What we currently do**

As outlined in 1.9, Lambeth Council is not a statutory agency responsible for the criminal justice system in Lambeth. However, we are a lead member of the Safer Lambeth Partnership, and have a significant role to play in trying to prevent crime, reducing crime where we can and supporting the victims of crime. In terms of resource investment, the funding available to the council is significantly smaller than the level of resource investment from police, probation and other statutory agencies in the borough, so we have chosen to focus our crime prevention work across three key areas – gangs and youth violence, violence against women and girls, and reducing re-offending (linked to substance misuse).

## **Youth & gang violence**

Lambeth's Gang Violence Reduction Unit was refreshed in March 2016, and aims to reduce the levels of gang violence in the borough both in terms of the number of victims and offenders in Lambeth. It consists of three key elements:

1. Multi-agency case and risk management - a timely multi-agency risk management plan is developed for those who have been identified as being at high risk of gang or group violence, either as victims or perpetrators,
2. Mediated contacts with gang members – through home visits, prison visits and the use of custom notifications and call-ins,
3. 'Help if you want it' - targeted support and help as an incentive and opportunity to exit gang involvement is made available to individuals identified at 1.

A key element of the service is the provision of our Gang Exit programme delivered by St Giles Trust. This provides intensive one to one support to gang members who have been assessed as being at high risk of violence either as a victim or perpetrator. The purpose of the service intervention is to address individual need to reduce offending behaviour and support gang exit. The focus is on accommodation, education, training and employment, health, drugs and alcohol, finance, benefit and debt, children and families, and attitude, thinking and behaviour (known as the seven pathways to reduce reoffending developed by the National Offender Management Service). Additionally in response to the involvement of young women and girls in gangs, the service has been providing an outreach service within youth centres in gang affected areas. The service provider contributes a full time family intervention worker and part time young women and girls worker in kind.

The Safer Lambeth Partnership has agreed that Serious Youth Violence is one of its four priorities for the next three years, and has begun work to bring together statutory and third-sector groups working in this area to better co-ordinate referrals and share information. At the same time, the Lambeth Children's Safeguarding Board has established a Task and Finish group to look at the wider issues facing "children at risk", including youth violence, to ensure that we are delivering the best possible outcomes in this area and making the best use of data and services available across both statutory and third sector.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls**

Lambeth is now recognised across the country as a leader in offering a coordinated response to VAWG. Through clear and committed leadership, and prioritising our resources, we have continued to innovate and provide our communities with services and support that are widely recognised as best practice. Our principle service is the Gaia Centre; which supports the victims of all forms of gender based violence including FGM. This service has specialist workers to support young girls aged 13 to 16 who experience VAWG, and also supports adult male victims.

We also fund the Beth centre, a unified offending service for all female offenders in Lambeth and those at risk of being involved in the criminal justice system. This includes all women leaving prison, all serving a Probation community sentence, a selected cohort of those arrested or at risk of offending and women involved in prostitution. The model integrates the work of the Probation service and the voluntary sector providing an end to end service for women. This is one of the first services of its kind.

### **Re-offending and treatment**

Our Assessment and Referral service provides early intervention support to those who have been arrested in Lambeth and where drugs and /or alcohol has been identified as a driver for their offending. The service is based at Brixton police custody suite (the busiest in London) and ensures that all offenders who test positive for Class A drug use on arrest are then (via a referral from the Police) supported to engage in treatment services. If they do not engage in an assessment then they are subject to breach proceedings. The service also supports male offenders released from prison back into the borough to engage in community based drug treatment and recovery.

The Integrated Offender Management service (IOM) provides enhanced support to prolific offenders who are identified as high risk of re-offending, and who have a history of committing the highest volumes of crime (mostly theft/burglary/drugs possession). Resettlement and rehabilitation support is focused on housing, improved physical and mental health, as well as access to debt and benefits advice, education, training and employment. The service also co-ordinates a community based Hub where service users can access a range of support from local statutory and voluntary sector providers.

### **Lambeth youth offending service**

As highlighted in the youth violence section, the YOS has no control over the clients that it works with. The disproportionality in the YOS client base is a reflection of the wider system issues surrounding equalities, particularly in terms of disadvantaging young BME people. This group is overrepresented in the national youth offending system, not just Lambeth's.

The YOS is currently focussed on continual improvement, following the poor inspection results in 2012 and 2015. Ensuring that all young people get a good quality of service is the YOS current key priority. Future plans for the service include using the Youth Justice Boards disproportionality and re-offending toolkits to better understand and deliver successful outcomes for specific groups that are disproportionately represented in the YOS, once the service is delivering acceptable outcomes for all its clients.

### **Hate crime**

Although hate crime levels have risen across London as a whole (16,083 over the last 12 months compared to 13,802 the year before across London), in Lambeth we are fortunate that levels have remained roughly the same as the previous year and we have not seen a similar rise. The Metropolitan Police publish monthly breakdowns of hate crime into 4 main groups – Racist and religious, Homophobic, Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic. Data on disability hate crime is not currently released at the local level.

Although not one of the four main priorities for the Safer Lambeth Partnership, we recognise that hate has a significant impact on its victims and our communities, and work with our partners to help support victims and bring offenders to justice. We have a specialist case management system to identify high risk victims of repeat hate crime to make sure they are supported and the crime tackled. We also maintain a hate crime blog and twitter feed to help victims report crimes to the police and third sector organisations.

## Points to consider

1. How far does the information in this paper cover what you understand to be the main crime and justice inequalities in Lambeth?
2. The tracking of inequality across the criminal justice system is difficult, if not impossible, due to the different systems and processes used by all the agencies involved. What could be done to improve our understanding of inequality in crime and justice?
3. Due to the numerous layers of oversight and governance of the criminal justice system, from the national government down, there is no single place where inequality in the crime and justice system is examined. How might we better gain a holistic understanding of inequality in crime and justice?
4. How could the victims of crime better participate in the criminal justice system particularly where the victims are disproportionately affected?
5. Long term solutions to preventing crime require systemic social change that lies outside the remit of the statutory crime and disorder bodies. How could the commission influence national government to prioritising preventative crime services?
6. The Lammy review is specifically looking at racial inequality across the national criminal justice system – how could the commission use the data so far provided by the review, and is there a role for the commission for feeding into David Lammy MP’s work?