

# Newham's Safety Partnership Strategy

Consultation Results 2025



# Introduction

To support the development of Newham's Safety Partnership Strategy, a borough-wide survey was carried out to gather views from residents, staff, partners and local organisations. The consultation was widely promoted to ensure broad and inclusive participation.

The survey was shared across key stakeholders including council services, police, health, probation, the voluntary sector and community networks. It was regularly promoted through a wide range of channels, including:

- Newham Bulletin (sent to over 32,000 residents)
- Councillor and partner networks
- Staff newsletters and Community Neighbourhood letters
- X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook
- Met Police forums
- Safer Business Network
- Neighbourhood Watch groups
- Voluntary, Community, and Faith Sector newsletter
- VAWG sector via commissioned services
- Youth Safety and Community Events

In addition, enforcement officers handed out over 500 printed leaflets in town centres and high streets to encourage further participation. While the estimated reach of the consultation was over 50,000 people, we received 107 survey responses.

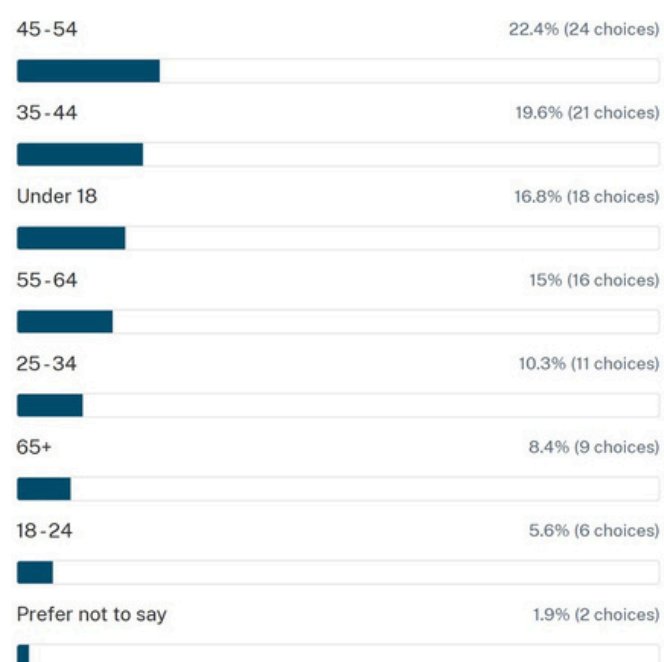
The feedback collected will help shape the final Newham Safety Partnership Strategy, ensuring it reflects the real priorities, concerns and experiences of those who live and work in Newham.

# Survey Questions and Responses

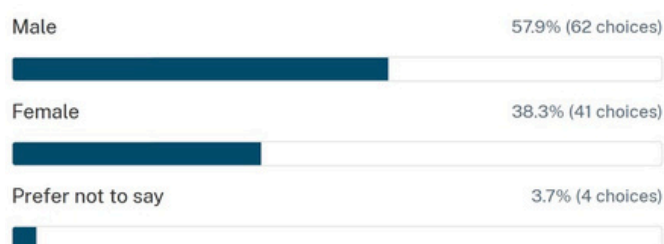
Residents were asked the following questions as part of the consultation.

This document summarises the key themes and responses provided.

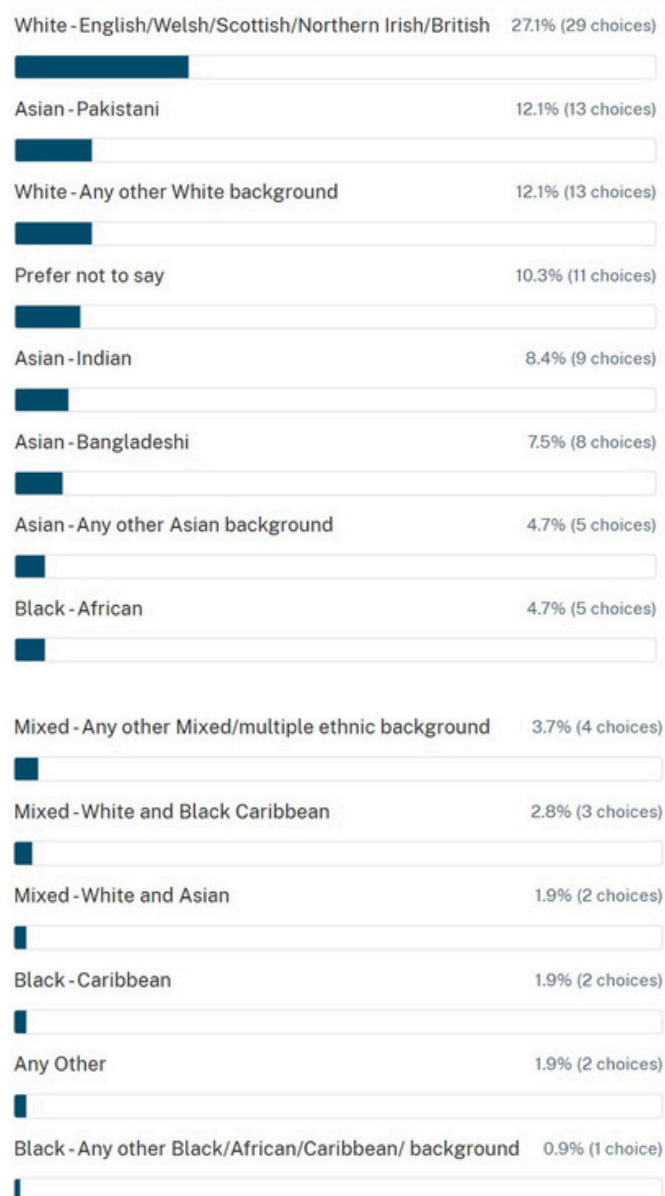
## What is your age group?



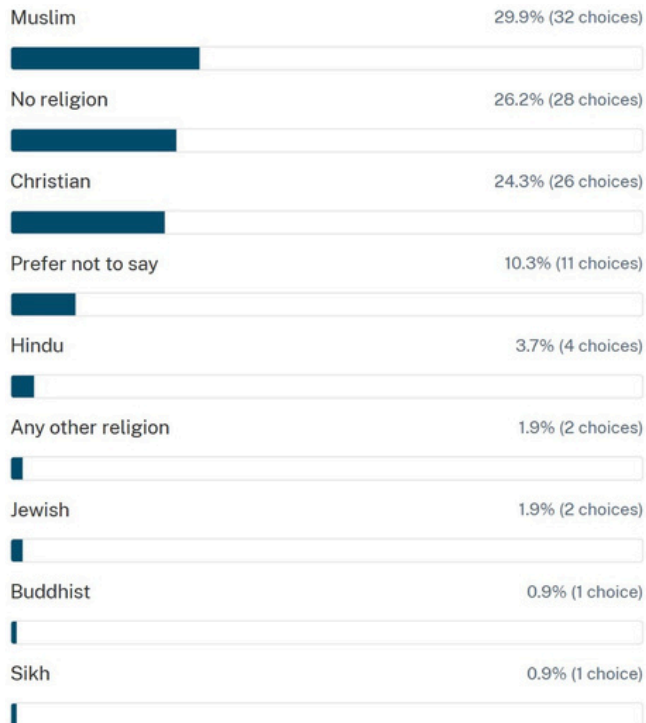
## What is your gender?



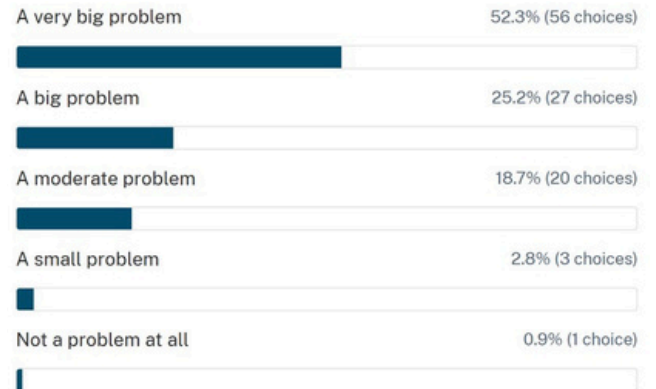
## What is your ethnicity?



## What is your religion?



## To what extent do you think crime and community safety are an issue in Newham?



## Do you agree with the priorities outlined in the draft strategy?



## If no, please explain why?

A number of respondents expressed concerns about current approaches and called for more visible enforcement and action.

The key themes raised include:

**Limited Police Visibility and Enforcement:** Many respondents noted the absence of police on residential streets and busy high streets, which they believe contributes to open drug dealing, alcohol misuse, anti-social behaviour, and public urination. There is a strong feeling that reports to both the police and the council are often ignored or not taken seriously.

**Concerns about Council Leadership and Transparency:** Some respondents raised issues about how resources are prioritised and called for greater openness, and the perception that certain communities, particularly women and vulnerable groups, are not being treated fairly. Some felt that efforts were more focused on ticking boxes than delivering real outcomes.

**Overcrowding and Concerns About Specific Groups:** A number of comments linked crime and disorder in areas such as Green Street and East Ham High Street to challenges associated with overcrowded housing and perceptions of certain groups, with concerns about loitering and intimidating behaviour.

**Problems on the High Street:** Betting shops, gaming centres and other local establishments were frequently mentioned as hotspots for crime and nuisance behaviour. Respondents want stronger enforcement, better patrolling, and high streets that feel safer and more family-friendly.

**Lack of Focus in the Strategy:** Some felt the draft strategy tried to cover too many areas without clear priorities, leading to a risk that nothing would be addressed effectively. Respondents asked for a sharper focus on issues like robbery, drug use, and ASB, rather than broader topics such as modern slavery which they feel are less visible in the local area.

Other points raised included:

- Requests for more green spaces, safer roads with speed cameras, and community venues to enhance wellbeing.
- Concerns that current measures to protect women and girls are not working, and that safety strategies should include all genders.
- Frustration about limited community involvement and the lack of support for local grassroots groups.

In summary, residents want a more focused and practical approach to tackling crime and ASB, with greater police visibility, improved council accountability, and stronger efforts to make public spaces safer and more welcoming.

## What do you think would have the greatest impact on improving safety for you or your community?

#1	Increased police presence	#2.2 average
#2	Tackling anti-social behaviour including environmental crime such as fly tipping	#3.1 average
#3	Environmental improvements such as better lighting or CCTV	#3.2 average
#4	Stronger enforcement against offenders	#4.1 average
#5	Support for vulnerable groups such as those with drugs and mental health issues or who are homeless	#4.2 average
#6	More youth engagement programmes	#4.3 average

## Do you have any specific ideas or suggestions to improve safety in Newham or your local area?

**Increased Police Presence and Enforcement:** Many called for more visible policing on high streets, around transport hubs, and in areas known for anti-social behaviour. Respondents also asked for stronger action against repeat offenders, particularly those involved in drug dealing, street drinking, anti-social driving, and fly-tipping.

**More CCTV and Use of Technology:** There was strong support for additional CCTV across the borough, with some suggesting facial recognition technology to deter and identify individuals involved in crime.

**Better Street Lighting:** Improved lighting in streets, alleyways, and parks was seen as an important way to reduce fear and increase safety, especially during evening hours.

**Youth Engagement and Positive Activities:** A significant number of responses emphasised the need for more youth services, including youth zones, sports facilities, and free activities. These were seen as key to reducing youth involvement in crime and offering meaningful alternatives.

**Improved Communication and Trust:** Many respondents expressed frustration at the lack of response from the council and police when reporting issues. There were calls for more transparency, clearer updates, and better collaboration between agencies and residents.

Other points raised included:

- Tackling fly-tipping through rapid response teams and dedicated enforcement.
- Addressing problems linked to HMOs and rented properties that contribute to ASB.
- Encouraging community involvement, civic pride, and cleaner public spaces.



A few respondents suggested more extreme measures, such as deportation for offenders, while others focused on early intervention and prevention. Some mentioned specific local issues like blocked pavements, loitering at bus stops, and nuisance behaviour on East Ham High Street.

In summary, residents want more visible enforcement and surveillance, improved environmental safety, stronger youth support, targeted action on local issues, and better communication from authorities.

### **Is there anything missing from the draft strategy that you expected to see?**

Most respondents felt the draft strategy was broadly sufficient and did not raise major omissions. However, among those who did suggest additions or express concerns, several key themes emerged:

**Clearer Council Action and Accountability:** A number of respondents wanted more detail on what would be delivered and how progress would be monitored. They called for stronger leadership, less reliance on residents to solve problems, and more visible follow-through on commitments.

**Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:** Several comments pointed to gaps in how the strategy addressed specific issues such as drug dealing, fly-tipping, robbery, theft, nitrous oxide use in vehicles, speeding, and loud exhausts. There were also concerns about the lack of out-of-hours enforcement for noise and ASB.

**Policing and Enforcement Powers:** There were repeated calls for more visible police presence and stronger enforcement powers to tackle persistent problems on the streets, particularly in areas known for repeat offences.

**Cleanliness and Environmental Concerns:** Respondents raised concerns about litter, fly-tipping, dog fouling, spitting, public urination, and alcohol-related mess. These were seen as ongoing quality-of-life issues not fully addressed in the draft.

**Community Cohesion and Inclusion:** Some respondents felt there should be a greater focus on reducing discrimination and hate crime, improving community relations, and involving young people more actively in shaping local solutions. There were also suggestions for increasing visible role models and civic pride initiatives.



**Focus on Local Areas:** A few respondents felt some areas, such as Forest Gate, were being overlooked compared to Stratford or East Ham. Others called for regeneration efforts including more green spaces, pedestrian zones, better shopping options, and improved public transport.

**Support for Vulnerable Groups:** Some responses highlighted the need to better protect young girls, address childhood sexual abuse, and support victims of crime more clearly within the strategy.

Other points included:

- Calls for closer working with transport authorities on vehicle-related safety.
- Suggestions to restrict betting shops and support the local economy through high street improvements.

In summary, while most were content with the draft, others wanted a clearer outline of council responsibilities, stronger enforcement against crime and ASB, better attention to local issues, and more inclusive engagement with communities and vulnerable groups.

## **What do you think could be the main challenges in successfully implementing Newham's safety partnership strategy?**

Respondents identified several potential challenges to successfully implementing Newham's safety strategy. The main themes raised include:

**Lack of Funding and Poor Resource Management:** Many respondents felt that limited budgets, along with inefficient use of existing resources, would make it difficult to deliver on the strategy. Concerns were raised about money being spent on the wrong things, lack of prioritisation, and ineffective project delivery.

**Insufficient Enforcement and Police Visibility:** A commonly raised issue was the lack of visible policing and consistent enforcement. Respondents felt that without a stronger on-the-ground presence, the strategy's goals would not be achieved.

**Council Inaction and Lack of Follow-Through:** Some respondents raised concerns about transparency and leadership, highlighting the importance of strong accountability. Many felt their concerns were often reported but not addressed, leading to frustration and a perception that authorities are not genuinely committed to change.

**Community Engagement and Trust:** Respondents stressed the importance of involving residents in shaping and delivering safety improvements. Poor communication, lack of transparency, and a history of unmet promises were mentioned as barriers to building trust.

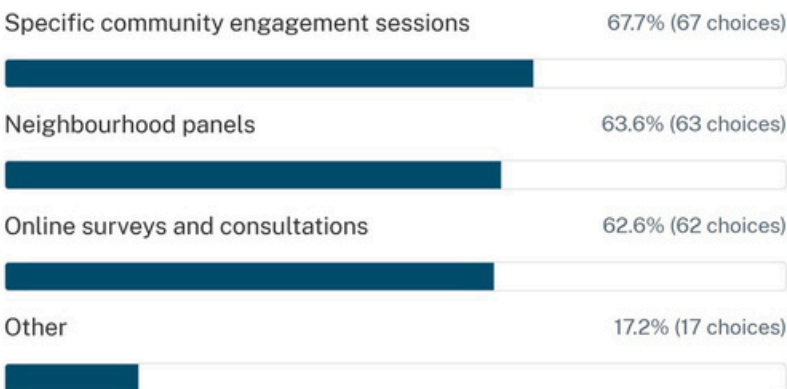
**Limited Capacity and Inter-Agency Coordination:** Concerns were raised about whether the council and its partners have the staff or systems in place to deliver lasting change. Some felt key services are already overstretched, and that poor coordination between agencies weakens the response to local issues.

In summary, the most commonly mentioned challenges were around funding and resource use, visible enforcement, council accountability, community involvement, and capacity to deliver.

### Should residents continue to be involved in the implementation of the strategy?



### If yes, how should this engagement take place?



## Other responses

Most respondents supported continued resident involvement in the implementation of Newham's safety strategy. Key suggestions for how this should take place include:

**Neighbourhood Panels and Community Meetings:** Many called for regular local forums where residents can meet with council officers, police, and partners to discuss safety concerns and monitor progress. These were seen as important for building trust and ensuring accountability.

**Online Surveys and Consultations:** Respondents supported ongoing use of digital platforms to gather feedback from a wider audience, especially those who may not attend in-person events.

**Street-Based Engagement:** Suggestions included pop-up surveys, street surgeries, and community walks, allowing officers and councillors to hear from residents directly in their local areas.

**Youth Engagement:** There was a strong call to involve young people more directly through in-school programmes, youth forums, and tailored consultation events. Respondents felt this would help ensure the voices of younger residents are heard and reflected in the strategy.

**Inclusive and Accessible Methods:** Several respondents emphasised the need to reach underrepresented groups, with suggestions such as postal surveys, faith-based engagement (e.g. at mosques, churches, temples), and events in different community languages.

**Genuine Two-Way Communication:** Many stressed the importance of meaningful engagement, where residents feel listened to and see real action as a result. There were concerns that previous forums were often used to talk at residents rather than involve them in decision-making.

In summary, respondents want a mix of face-to-face and online engagement, with genuine opportunities to shape decisions, stronger inclusion of young people and diverse communities, and clear feedback on how their input leads to real change.

## Is there anything else you would like to share that hasn't been covered in this survey?

Most respondents did not have anything further to add beyond what was covered in the survey. However, among those who did provide additional comments, a number of key themes emerged:

**Frustration with Council Response and Past Consultations:** Several respondents questioned whether resident feedback has always led to visible change. There were concerns about repeated consultations that result in little or no visible change. Some called for council staff to be more engaged, respectful, and honest about what can realistically be delivered.

**Lack of Meaningful Resident Involvement:** A few respondents felt there should be clearer and more consistent ways for residents to contribute to council decision-making. Some felt their voices are ignored, with limited opportunities to influence local priorities.

**Ongoing Crime and ASB Issues:** Additional concerns were raised about persistent issues like drug dealing, anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, and the general decline of local streets. There was continued criticism of the police and council for failing to take effective action on these problems.

**Suggestions for Safety and Community Cohesion:** Some respondents suggested practical ideas such as more neighbourhood watch schemes, road safety improvements like speed bumps, and general awareness about personal safety. There were also suggestions to better engage underrepresented groups and tackle organised crime in the borough.

**Support for Vulnerable Groups and Youth:** Individual responses mentioned the need for better support for children with special educational needs (including delays in EHCPs), as well as more positive youth spaces and activities like study groups.

Other comments included:

- Calls for more welcoming community spaces like cafés rather than fast food outlets.
- A suggestion to better support international students living in the borough.
- Concerns about inaccurate or misleading data in council reporting.

In summary, while most respondents had no additional comments, those who did focused on the need for better council responsiveness, stronger community involvement, continued action on crime and ASB, and better services for young people and vulnerable groups.

## Full summary

Respondents overwhelmingly view crime and community safety as a significant or very significant problem in Newham, with only a handful seeing it as a moderate or small issue. The most frequently mentioned priorities and solutions are:

**1. Increased Police Presence** Nearly every respondent, regardless of age or background, calls for more visible and active policing, particularly on high streets, in residential areas, and around trouble spots like betting shops and transport hubs. Many feel the current police presence is inadequate or non-existent.

**2. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Environmental Crime** Fly tipping, street drinking, drug use/dealing, public urination/defecation, and general ASB are repeatedly cited as major issues. Respondents want stronger enforcement, more penalties for offenders, and targeted action against specific problems like nitrous oxide use and betting shop-related crime.

**3. Environmental Improvements (Lighting, CCTV)** Better street lighting and expanded CCTV coverage are widely supported as deterrents and tools for detection. Some suggest facial recognition technology and more monitoring staff.

**4. Stronger Enforcement Against Offenders** Respondents express frustration at a perceived lack of consequences for offenders and want stricter enforcement, more prosecutions, and tougher penalties. Some call for specific measures like deportation or benefit withdrawal for repeat offenders.

**5. Youth Engagement Programmes** There is strong support for more youth services, youth zones, sports facilities, and engagement projects to prevent crime and provide positive alternatives. Some suggest opening youth zones at weekends or offering free outdoor activities.

**6. Support for Vulnerable Groups** Many highlight the need for better support for people with drug or mental health issues and those who are homeless, seeing this as both a social good and a way to reduce crime.

**7. Community Engagement** Most respondents want residents to continue being involved in strategy implementation through online surveys, community sessions, neighbourhood panels, and other forms of consultation. However, several express skepticism about whether their input is genuinely considered or acted upon. Some call for more transparent communication from the council and police about actions taken.

## Challenges identified

**Lack of Funding/Resources** - Many see insufficient funding as a key barrier to effective action.

**Poor Enforcement/Follow-through** - Respondents highlighted a perception that follow-up on reports could be improved.

**Concerns About Transparency and Priorities** - Several respondents raised issues about transparency and called for clearer communication on how decisions are made and resources are prioritised.

**Lack of Real Resident Voice** - Some respondents felt that consultations could be more interactive and that resident concerns should be more clearly addressed.

**Coordination Between Agencies** - Poor communication between council departments, police, and other agencies is seen as a barrier to effective action.

**Cultural/Social Issues** - A few mention challenges related to cultural attitudes or integration.

## Other Notable Suggestions

- Use AI and data to target CCTV placement
- Focus on regeneration through arts and culture and better public spaces
- Address specific issues like nitrous oxide use in cars, public spitting and urination, and unlicensed properties
- Improve communication with victims and provide feedback on reported issues
- Encourage local pride and community volunteering

## Summary

Residents want visible policing, real enforcement against ASB and environmental crime especially fly tipping, better lighting and CCTV, more youth engagement, and support for vulnerable groups. They expressed concerns about the level of follow-up on issues and emphasised the importance of genuine involvement in shaping solutions. Funding, enforcement, council performance and agency coordination are seen as the main barriers to success.