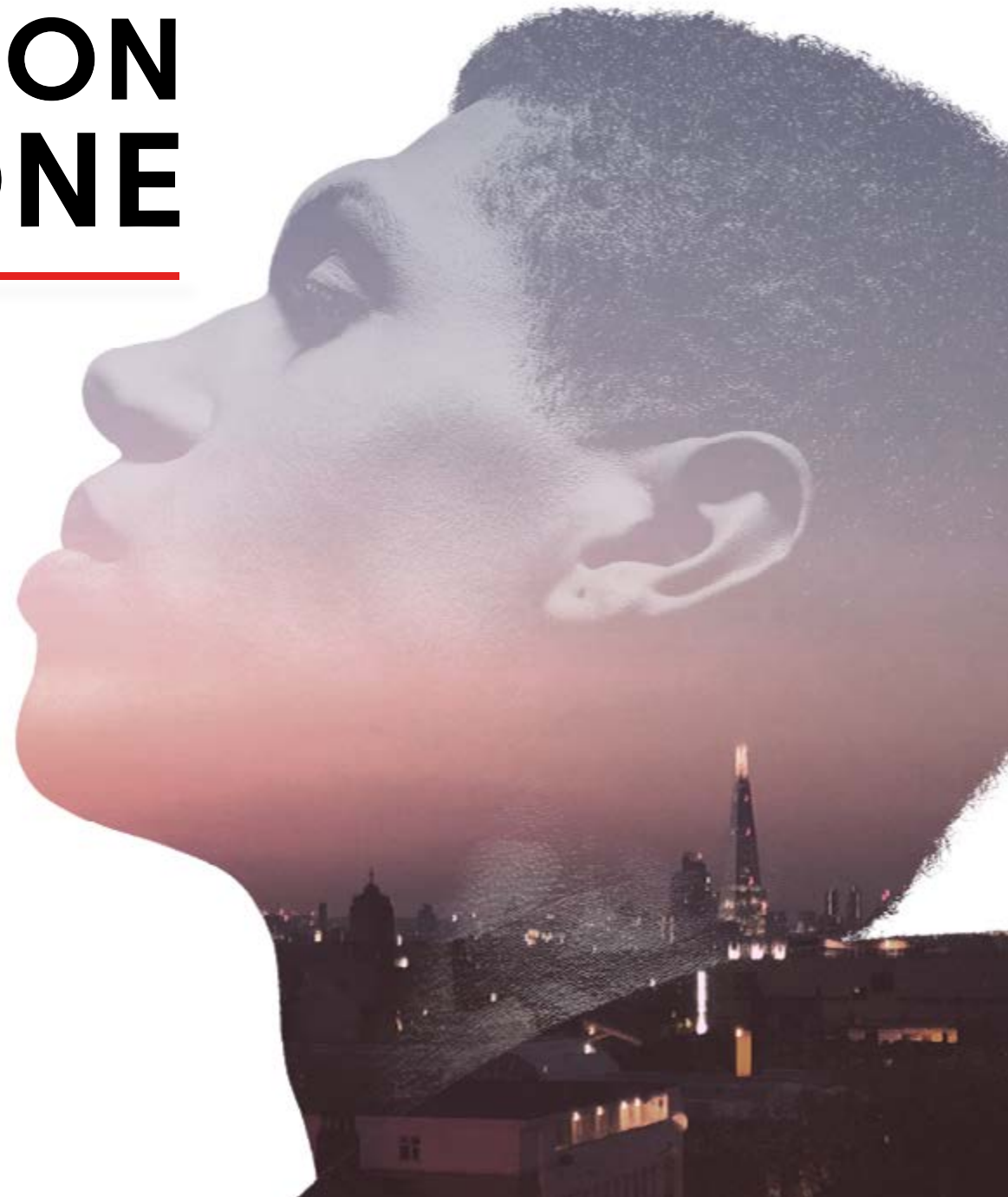


A SAFER LONDON FOR EVERYONE

People | Peers | Places

saferlondon
Strategy 2020 – 2025





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Safer London is a leading charity working with young Londoners and their families affected by violence and exploitation.

Our services are person centred and strengths based. We are committed to learning, innovating, and delivering high quality, evidence-based support.

By working alongside young Londoners, their families and peers, as well as the places where they spend their time, we can create a safer London not just for them – but for everyone.

OUR VALUES

Changemakers

We bring creativity, passion and innovation to make a lasting difference.

Inclusive

All that we do recognises and values the diverse experiences of young Londoners.

Trusted

People trust us because we have a track record of consistent, high quality delivery.

Courageous

We are brave, unafraid to challenge, and committed to empowering young people to stay safe and happy.

Collaborative

We stand with individuals and organisations who share our vision.

I am very proud of the work Safer London is doing to support young Londoners who, more than ever before, are finding their lives restricted by widening inequality and social injustice.

These are two of the underlying drivers for increased violence and exploitation especially amongst younger people at all levels of society.

Through our intervention and prevention work we've already reached thousands of young Londoners affected by violence and exploitation and their families.

But we know that we need to do more, and in the next five years we will go further working alongside more young Londoners, as well as their families, friends and communities, in order that they have the future they deserve.

To do this we are focusing our delivery of work around three themes: **People**, **Peers** and **Places**.

This means that we will continue our work with young Londoners and their families, but will also expand this out to their peer networks, as well as working directly with the places where they live and spend their time.

We will expand our prevention work in education settings and communities, deliver more one on one support, and will provide a platform for young Londoners to fundamentally shape what we do, ensuring that their expertise is central to the solution.

Too often the responsibility for society's problems is laid at the feet of the young. This is not right – for too long we have been creating a narrative in which young people are positioned as the problem, whereas in fact the real problem is the context which we as a society have created and within which our children are attempting to grow and thrive.

Our strategy, which aims to change this, is ambitious and rightly so, but we know that we will achieve our vision with the support of our Trustees, staff, volunteers, commissioners and donors. We're looking forward to embarking on this journey together.

If you want to join us and help us achieve our vision please get in touch. Together we can explore how you can support us and the young Londoners we serve.

Sherry Peck,
Chief Executive

GET IN TOUCH!

Email us at info@saferlondon.org.uk with general enquiries.

If you want to discuss partnerships or working together drop us a message at bd@saferlondon.org.uk.

STAY CONNECTED!!

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WHO WE ARE & WHY WE EXIST

Our Vision is a world where all young Londoners can thrive, free from exposure to violence and exploitation.

The need to do more to safeguard young people from violence and exploitation is widely recognised.

This is evidenced through initiatives such as the establishment of Violence Reduction Units both in London and across the country.

As the only London-wide charity dedicated to preventing violence and exploitation, Safer London has been unable to meet the demand for our services.

We work tirelessly to provide needs-led and intensive support to young Londoners and their families every year. We're committed to learning, innovating, and delivering high quality, evidence-based support.

With a footprint in every London borough, we build trusting, professional partnerships with statutory, charitable and community partners to embed our approaches and work towards achieving our Vision.

The issues in London are complex. One thing is clear - we must listen to young Londoners and include them in conversations. They must be part of the solution and not be seen as the problem.

We asked the young Londoners we work with to tell us what the issues in London are - from their perspectives.

“ I feel like there's enough opportunities, but they're not the right opportunities. The older generations created opportunities, but it's not what us young people like. The older generation are trying to raise us in their own way - how they were brought up. This is a new generation, so everything has changed ”

“ I don't really feel like we're listened to. Are voices aren't heard. All the time media and the police are telling us what the problems are and the reasons for the problems. But if you came down to our neighbours and asked us what the reason are, I think we would give a completely different answer. I feel like we need more voices of kids that are actually growing up in the situation. The youth are the ones that need to be heard as they are the ones going through it. ”

“ In my opinion I believe it's violence, such as knife crime. Loads of young people are dying for stupid reasons such as postcode wars. Silly things that could just be stopped. ”

“ Housing. I've seen a rapid industrialisation and urbanisation where I live. You can see the disparity in the quality of housing. ”



60%
Increase in hospital admissions for assaults with a sharp object

32%
Increase in violence against the person offences, which include homicide,

4000
the number of young Londoners being coerced or groomed into County Lines drug-trafficking activity.

68%
Rise in domestic abuse offences in London between from 2011 and 2018

1 in 20
children and young people have been victims of sexual abuse or exploitation.

4

Violence in London is geographically concentrated. Many forms of violence are heavily clustered in a tiny proportion of neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods that experience high levels of violence are also likely to have higher levels of deprivation.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Over the next five years we will work collaboratively with young Londoners, involving them in the shaping of our services and providing a platform for their voices to be heard.

Working alongside young Londoners, their families and communities, we'll share our knowledge and expertise allowing them to identify their strengths and abilities.

We'll deliver our work through three key themes

PEOPLE



We'll provide trusted individual relational support to ensure more young Londoners will feel safer, be safer, and have positive futures.

PEERS



We'll enable young Londoners to support and be supported by their peers.

PLACES



We'll work directly in the community to ensure that the places and spaces where young Londoners spend their time are safe and positive.

We believe **people**, **peers** and **places** all have their own abilities and assets. We'll work alongside them to identify their strengths and enable them to find the solutions which work best for them.



OUR THEMES



Peers

Young Londoners & their peers

Embed learning from research to ensure our support values the role of peer relationships.

Develop new peer group interventions programs.

Explore the viability of peer-to-peer support in local communities.

Build pathways for young Londoners to influence everything we do at Safer London.



People

Young Londoners & their families

Develop a new 'one front door' approach to taking referrals.

One cohesive service for young Londoners.

Ensure all our delivery staff work in a trauma responsive

Our services and delivery will be shaped by young Londoners.



Places

Housing & communities

Support young Londoners and their families to be safe in their homes.

Work with partners to improve the safety of spaces and places where young Londoners spend their time.

Expand knowledge and empower individuals and groups to keep themselves and their communities safe.

Establish working partnerships with community and faith organisations.

Trauma Responsive

Person Centred

Trusting Relationship

Co-production

Contextual Safeguarding

Non-judgemental

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A SAFER LONDON FOR EVERYONE

OUR VALUES

Changemakers
Inclusive
Trusted
Courageous
Collaborative



Funding



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion



Providing a voice



Data & Impact



Staff & Volunteers



Digital

OUR STRATEGIC ENABLERS

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: PEOPLE – YOUNG LONDONERS & FAMILIES



OUR GOAL

We'll provide trusted, individual, relational support to ensure more young londoners will feel safer, be safer, and have positive futures.

Young Londoners are full of ambition and aspiration. But too many of them today are living in a world that presents limited positive life opportunities.

Many of our programmes arose from the need identified across London for an organisation that could reach out to young people who live here. There was a need to help bridge them into the right support and develop the knowledge, skills and capability to have more agency in their lives.

Our support is centred around trusted relationships. our staff are relatable and credible. They work with young Londoners and the people important in their lives to deliver high quality, innovative and evidence based support.

OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: PEOPLE



Young Londoners and their families should have a single point of access to Safer London. We will develop a 'one front door' approach to taking referrals, helping us to better identify needs and trends.



We want one cohesive service for young Londoners. We will learn from each other and where something works, we will replicate it. In-house subject experts in areas such as housing and emotional wellbeing will ensure our team and all young Londoners can access specialist support.



We want to work in a trauma responsive way. Safer London will support our team to continually develop and create mechanisms for shared learning across the organisation.



Our services and delivery will be shaped by young Londoners. We will work with them to review, assess and develop our offer.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: PEERS – YOUNG LONDONERS & PEERS



OUR GOAL

We'll enable young Londoners to support and be supported by their peers.

In recent years there has been much more research around how the adolescent brain functions. This has started to provide the science which underpins how much young people are influenced by the views and actions of their peers.

This emerging evidence supports the observations of our own staff, that in some contexts messages delivered by peers are likely to have more influence than those delivered by professionals.

We work in education settings and communities with young Londoners to support and empower them to speak up, recognise, acknowledge, and call-out unacceptable behaviours. Our work with them can lead to an increased confidence and skill set to challenge their peers, professionals, communities and decision makers to positively shape and influence the world around them.

OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: PEERS



We will embed learning from research to make sure one-to-one support identifies and values the role of peers in safeguarding and support.



We want to be responsive to the needs of peer groups. We will develop and pilot new peer group interventions by empowering active bystanders to challenge attitudes, beliefs, and cultural norms.



We know the important role communities play in keeping young Londoners safe. We want to explore how we can deliver peer-to-peer support embedded in local communities.



Young Londoners must influence the work we do. We will build pathways so that those who have used our services can progress into roles which influence delivery, development and decision making.



OUR GOAL

We'll work directly in the community to ensure that the places and spaces where young Londoners spend their time are safe and positive.

The places where young Londoners spend their time impacts on their safety, whether this is where they live, where they spend their leisure time, their school/education setting, the businesses they visit, or the ways that they travel around the city and beyond.

Contextual safeguarding is an approach based on developing an understanding and response to young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

This recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, peer groups, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. This makes the approach relevant to all of our work.

OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: PLACES



Young Londoners and their families should feel safe in their homes. We will work with families, housing providers and community partners to make this a reality for more people. Where the only option is to move, we will help secure accommodation and ensure resettlement support is in place



We want the places where young Londoners spend their time to be safe. We will work with partners including academic experts and community stakeholders to make this happen. Using contextual safeguarding approaches, we will have a model for referring unsafe places and develop a range of effective interventions.



Through training and knowledge sharing we want to empower individuals and groups to keep themselves and their communities safe. We will work with partners to develop effective ways to keep young Londoners safe in the places they live their lives.



We want to work in partnership with community and faith organisations who demonstrate generous leadership to build sustainable capacity. Support will grow real local responses to violence and exploitation that are identity and trauma informed.

HOW WE'LL GET THERE

Our Strategic Enablers

Funding

Our services are in demand.

To continue to meet this need we'll focus on increasing our income sustainably.

We'll develop and build on existing relationships and look to increase our funding from Trusts and Foundations, corporate supporters and individual donors.



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

We want to reflect the communities we serve.

We know diversity is key to achieving impact. We'll strive to ensure that all our services are accessible to any young Londoners that need them.



Providing a voice

Young Londoners must influence the work we do at Safer London.

They will shape us, work with us and inform the development of services.

Their influence will be at all levels – determining their own personal support plans, being employed by Safer London, sitting on our Board.



Data & Impact

We'll develop sector leading measurement and evaluation tools to assess the impact we have.

We'll be responsive – adapting to new needs, developing our services, and evaluating quickly to scale up what works and change things that don't.



Staff & Volunteers

Staff training, learning opportunities, supervision, and working conditions will continue be strengths of Safer London.

We aim to be a sector example.

Students, volunteers and placements will make excellent contributions to developing what we do.



Digital

We won't shy away from digital approaches.

We'll use technology to support the highest levels of collaborative working.

We'll become more efficient, and let our front-line staff work in a flexible way so they can spend as much time as possible with those we're seeking to support.



Our Strategic Objectives

A SAFER LONDON FOR EVERYONE

HOW WE KNOW WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Evaluating our impact and the difference we're making allows us to acknowledge our successes, as well as recognise our shortcomings.

It informs our decisions around improving our services and support for young Londoners, their families peers and communities.

To ensure we are effectively measuring our impact we will develop a Theory of Change for our all areas of our work: **People, Peers** and **Places**. These will be complemented by new outcome measurement tools.

Together these will enable us to not only achieve the best possible outcome for young Londoners, their peers, families and communities, but also allow us to measure the impact of our work with them.

Alongside this we will implement a new case recording system to improve our ability to learn from the data we collect about the interactions we have with young Londoners and their families.

By designing, testing and establishing a long-term data capture and measurement approach, we'll seek to be as intelligent as we can about the impact of our work.



saferlondon

Working alongside young Londoners,
their families, peers and communities
affected by violence and exploitation

Safer London is a registered charity in England and Wales No. 1109444;
and a company limited by guarantee No. 5190766.

