

Easter Half-Term Community Safety Plan

30th March – 10th April

We continue to see a strong reduction in serious violence, including knife-related injuries, across the borough. While this mirrors wider London trends, we are also exploring whether local activity, such as our seasonal planning approach, may be contributing to this positive direction of travel. We are not presenting this as a direct cause-and-effect relationship, but rather as one of several hypotheses around local activity to tackle serious violence.

As part of this, the Community Safety Team has developed a **targeted Easter half-term engagement and reassurance plan** (30 March–10 April). School holidays typically bring increased footfall in town centres, parks and transport hubs, which can shift local risk patterns.

The plan focuses on **visible presence, proactive engagement and coordinated partnership activity** in areas that experience higher levels of activity during holiday periods.

Recent data highlights a small number of wards where issues such as **theft, drug-related ASB, robbery, VAWG concerns, and bike theft** are more concentrated. The Easter plan responds to these trends through **targeted outreach, business engagement and safety messaging**.

Overall, this forms part of our broader, year-round approach to **prevention, reassurance and early intervention**, supporting the continued reduction in serious violence across Waltham Forest.

Key Engagement Pillars

Our Easter half-term plan is built around four core strands of activity to support young people, engage residents and strengthen our partnership response.

1. Youth & Resident Engagement Pop-Ups in key locations to:

- Share safety and crime-prevention messages
- Promote local youth activities
- Provide reporting advice
- Gather real-time community feedback

2. StreetBase Peer outreach to:

- Hear directly from young people about safety concerns
- Identify emerging issues (ASB, robbery, personal safety)
- Signpost to youth services and positive activities

3. Business Engagement, targeted visits in higher-risk commercial areas to:

- Strengthen reporting pathways
- Share prevention advice
- Capture business concerns
- Distribute youth engagement materials

4. Joint Patrols with Police and ASB teams to:

- Provide visible reassurance
- Respond quickly to emerging risks
- Improve real-time intelligence sharing

Timetable of events

Date	Activity/Event	Location	Lead Partner	Target Group	Time
31 st March Monday	Joint Patrol Lea Bridge	South	VRCs and SNT	Residents	3pm to 5pm
31 st March Monday	Business Engagement @ Leytonstone	South	VRCs	Business in the high street	12pm to 2pm
31 st March Tuesday	StreetBase Engagement	North	Streetbase	Youth Peer Engagement	12pm to 3pm
31 st March Tuesday	Community Drop in @ Leyton Leisure Centre	South	VRCs	Residents	12pm to 2pm
1 st April Wednesday	Jubilee Park Pop Up	South	VRCs and SNT	Residents	3pm to 5pm
2 nd April Thursday	Community Drop in @ Walthamstow Library	Central	VRCs and VAWG	Residents	12pm to 2pm
2 nd April Thursday	Business Engagement @ Sainsburys and Tesco	North/Chingford	VRCs	Businesses	3pm to 5pm
2 nd April Thursday	Joint Patrol @ Wood Street	Central	VRCs and SNT	Residents	3pm to 5pm
3 rd April Friday	StreetBase engagement	South	StreetBase	Youth peer engagement	12pm to 2pm
3 rd April Friday	EVA @cathall road (junction with merchant road)	south	VRC	N/A	3pm to 5pm

Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of the Easter half-term plan will be monitored through several mechanisms:

- **Daily incident monitoring** through police, ASB and safeguarding reports to identify emerging issues
- **Engagement logs** capturing participation levels during pop-ups, patrols and outreach activity
- **Resident and youth feedback** collected during engagements to understand perceptions of safety
- **Environmental and CCTV reviews** where appropriate to identify environmental risks or patterns of activity

Date	Activity/Event	Location	Lead Partner	Target Group	Time
6 th April Monday	St James Park Joint Patrol/ Pop up	Central	VRCs and SNT	Residents	3pm to 5pm
6 th April Monday	Business Engagement @ Leytonstone	South	VRCs	Business in the high street	12pm to 2pm
7 th April Tuesday	EVA @Ridgeway Park	North	VRC	N/A	12pm to 2pm
8 th April Wednesday	Travel Hubs Check in- Walthamstow Central	Central	VRCs and SNT	Residents	2pm to 4pm
8 th April Wednesday	Community Drop in @ Queens Road Family Hub	Central	VRC	Residents	11am to 1pm
8 th April Wednesday	Travel Hubs Check in- Leytonstone	South	VRC	Resident	2pm to 4pm
9 th April Thursday	Pop up @ Ridgeway Park	North/Chingford	VRCs	Residents	1pm to 3pm
10 th April Friday	Travel hubs check in – Higham’s park -Chingford	North/Chingford	VRCs	N/A	3pm to 5pm

- A **post-delivery narrative outcomes report** summarising engagement levels, key themes and recommendations for future holiday periods