COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN 2020-2024

Date of adoption: 17/11/2020
Effective date: 17/11/2020

City of
Canada Bay

Acknowledgement of Country:

The City of Canada Bay acknowledges the Wangal clan, one of the 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of this land.

Council pays respect to Elders past and present and extends this respect to all Aboriginal people living in or visiting the City of Canada Bay.

Our Commitment

The City of Canada Bay Council is an equal employment opportunity employer and is committed to a safe workplace. The City of Canada Bay Council is a child safe organisation that recognises and advocates for the rights of children and young people.

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Executive Summary

Community safety is an essential part of a liveable city, a concept whereby members of the community feel free to participate in everyday life without fear. Community safety is influenced by our perceptions as well as incidents of crime. Measures that increase safety contribute strongly to health and wellbeing and a higher quality of life.

Our community has consistently expressed that they feel safe with over 96 per cent of respondents in our recent survey indicating they feel safe when out and about and during the day and at home. Over 84 per cent indicate they feel safe out and about in the evenings and at night. This is reflected in the low recorded crime rates within Canada Bay compared to other areas within Greater Sydney. Council is determined to maintain and improve safety in our area, acknowledging that there is always room for further improvement.

Council has garnered considerable knowledge of local issues and concerns that has been informed by an understanding our community, perceptions of safety, recorded crime rates, as well as consultation undertaken with residents, businesses, communities and stakeholders. Through a continued partnership with key agencies such as the NSW Police, we can actively work to maintain a high level of community safety and crime prevention.

This plan adopts two approaches to keep our community safe and deter incidents of crime:

- situational crime prevention where design and changes to the physical environment limit opportunities for opportunistic crime; and
- social crime prevention focussing on building strong neighbourhoods, and raising awareness within the community to improve safety.

It is also important to acknowledge, consider and plan for implications arising from unexpected events that impact on our community such as the current global health pandemic. Actions are therefore also included to build community resilience and support local authorities should future short term or unforeseen circumstances arise.

The priority area for action to reduce crime is to:

- Reduce identity and online fraud;

The priority areas for action to improve community safety are:

- Reduce stealing from motor vehicles
- Reduce crime through environmental design
- Improve road and pedestrian safety
- Improve lighting
- Child Safety
- Work collaboratively and keep up to date
- Increase social harmony through local connections
- Increase feelings of safety, particularly at night.

This plan will be implemented over five years with its progress tracked half yearly.

1. Introduction

1.1 What is Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Community safety in the City of Canada Bay is about the need to create a safe and liveable place for people to work, live and visit. The feelings of safety identified by the community, may not necessarily relate to recorded crime rates, however any issues identified by community, Council and other stakeholders need be acknowledged and addressed so that all members of our community feel safe to participate in everyday life and are able to achieve a higher quality of living.

Crime prevention refers to strategies and actions that are designed to prevent opportunities and conditions that enable crime to occur. There are a number of approaches to minimise crime. This plan recognises the role of local government in influencing community safety and utilises situational crime prevention where design and changes to the physical environment can limit opportunities for crime; and the social crime prevention approach focussing on building strong neighbourhoods, and raising awareness to improve safety.

1.2 Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of this Plan is to:

- ensure the safety of our community and deter incidents of crime;
- continue the positive work and outcomes achieved in our area to date; and
- enable the plan to be endorsed by the Attorney General to be a safer community compact and be eligible for grants to help implement the plan.

1.3 Planning and Statutory Context - Relevant Policies

This plan is informed by following legislation and policies:

- **National Crime Prevention Framework** developed by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), Australia's national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice, which outlines the most effective approaches to crime prevention. The Framework describes a range of possible roles and functions for all levels of government for the effective delivery of crime prevention activity in Australia.
- **Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997** provides for the Attorney General to support local governments undertaking crime prevention activity in NSW. Part 4 of the Act identifies local government as the lead agency for identifying and implementing local crime prevention strategies in NSW. This includes supporting the development of evidence-based strategies designed to reduce crime.
- **The Children's Guardian Act 2019** requires the Children's Guardian to guide organisations to create safer environments for children including establishing the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Working with Children's Checks and the promotion and regulation of Child Safe Organisations and services.
- **Your future 2030** is the Community Strategic plan for the future of the City of Canada Bay. Under the goal that all residents have full access to high-quality services that facilitate inclusion and participation in community life, the Plan includes a strategy to implement a range of community safety programs to make the physical environment safer, raise awareness of safety and minimise crime.

1.4 Development of the Plan

The following steps were followed in the preparation of this Plan:

1. Review relevant policies, existing strategies and their implementation;
2. Develop an understanding of our community through research and analysis of demographic data including Australian Bureau of Statistics and crime data;
3. Undertake consultation to gather community feedback through surveys, focus groups and workshops; and
4. Identify Key Crime Prevention Priorities and develop an Action Plan.

Identified actions are not the sole responsibility of Council and we will work collaboratively with the local community to implement the Plan. Key stakeholders include police from the Burwood Local Area Command, local service providers, businesses, schools, community groups and residents.

It will be Council's responsibility to monitor the implementation of this Plan. Strategies from the Plan will be incorporated into Council's Delivery Plan and reported upon half yearly.

1.5 Crime Prevention Approaches

Understanding the causes of crime is critical to its prevention. Some common causes include:

- Risk factors – such as childhood neglect, alcohol and other drug abuse and offending peers are associated with greater involvement in crime in some people.
- Opportunities – valuable items and lifestyle choices may lead to family homes and motor vehicles left unattended for long periods during the day and portable technologies like mobile phones, laptops and GPS are left visible allowing for increased opportunities for crime to occur.
- Survival –crimes are committed for survival such as stealing and sale of items to generate an income and alcohol and other drug dependence might be circumstances that push some people to resort to crime to fund their habits.
- Excitement and enjoyment – there will be crimes that are committed for excitement, enjoyment and thrill of the rush for example graffiti and the malicious damage of property.
- Power and status – offences like assault (including domestic assault) might be caused by the need for power or to maintain status. Alcohol (and other drugs) can also play a role in these offences.

Ultimately, each offender will have different motivations influenced both by their past and the particular situation they are in.

Efforts to prevent crime should tackle, where possible, the many different types of crime and the different reasons for engaging in crime. It is important to respond to the unique needs and issues in our local government area by understanding the community profile, crime statistics and community responses to feelings of safety. Types of crime prevention are often categorised in the following way:

- Developmental crime prevention (early intervention) – we now know that experiences early in life can have long-term consequences, including increasing the likelihood of becoming involved in crime. By improving the quality of child care, increasing support to parents and families experiencing difficulties and through good education, involvement in crime can be prevented in the future.
- Social crime prevention – building strong neighbourhoods and communities can help to prevent crime. Neighbourhoods where people know each other and communities that have a shared commitment to maintaining the

physical environment are less likely to experience crime. People in these neighbourhoods keep an eye out for each other and are more willing to intervene in behaviours that could lead to crimes.

- Situational crime prevention – we regularly take precautions to prevent crime. Locking house and car doors, placing valuables in safe places and lighting the outside of homes are just some simple measures to reduce the opportunities for crime. More sophisticated situational measures can include the design of buildings to increase opportunities for surveillance, the design of streets and parks to reduce places for offenders to hide and through the installation of fences to limit access to particular locations. By increasing the risks of detection, increasing the effort required in committing an offence and reducing the rewards associated with offending, crime can be prevented. Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) have been identified as a priority area of this Plan.

- Criminal justice crime prevention – the criminal justice system has an important but limited role in the prevention of crime. Police, courts and prisons have been shown to have a limited overall impact on crime. If the opportunities continue to exist for highly motivated offenders, then the criminal justice system will only play a small role in stopping crime.

Where possible, it is best to have a mixture of approaches reflecting each of these forms of prevention. It is in combination that the greatest crime prevention results are achieved.

2. Community Consultation

2.1 Community Satisfaction Research

In February and March 2019 Council engaged Micromex to undertake a community *satisfaction* survey to examine community attitudes and perceptions towards future services and facilities provided by Council and included questions on the community's satisfaction and performance in relation to safety. The telephone survey of 610 residents revealed that:

• Canada Bay Council has a community safety satisfaction score of 95% exceeding the LGA metropolitan benchmark of 85%. Community safety was identified to be in the top 5 for importance.

• 99% of residents felt safe during the day compared to 84% after dark. Males feel significantly safer after dark compared to females (73%). 77% of residents aged over 65 years, the lowest percentage of all age groups surveyed, felt safe during the dark.

• 96% of 18-24 year olds reported feeling safe during the day, compared to 99 -100% in all other age groups.

• 89-90% reported feeling safe after dark in Rhodes, Rhodes East, Liberty Grove, Concord West, Mortlake, Breakfast Point, Cabarita, Abbotsford, Wareemba, Canada Bay, Five Dock and Rodd Point; compared to 76-78% in Concord, North Strathfield, Strathfield, Chiswick, Drummoyne and Russell Lea areas.

2.2 Community Perception Survey

In November and December 2019, Council sought the community's *perception of safety* through online and paper surveys, a popup session and community forum. A total of 154 responses were received from the survey. The community perception revealed that:

Safety

• Over 96% of respondents feel safe at home and out and about during the day.

• At night, more than 98% feel safe at home, with over 83% feeling safe out and about at night.
The demographic groups reported feeling unsafe out and about at night include:

  ◦ 14% of all female respondents;

  ◦ 33% of respondents older than 65 years and

  ◦ 21% of respondents who speak a language other than English (21%).

  ◦ It should be acknowledged that all respondents identifying as living with a disability and separately all 18-24 year old respondents feel unsafe, however this was based on a very small sample size.

Top areas of concern

• The safety issues identified by the community are not the same as the main issues identified through the recorded crime statistics (refer to Section 5). This may be due to the fact that our area is a low crime area. The top three areas of safety concern are:

  ◦ Road safety (73%) – in particular around Mortlake, Cabarita, Rhodes, North Strathfield, Drummoyne, Five Dock, Concord, Concord West;

  ◦ Lack of lighting (55%) – around North Strathfield, Rhodes, Concord West, Concord, Five Dock/Wareemba, Drummoyne, Cabarita; and

Top areas of concern	
Road Safety	73%
Lack of Lighting	55%
Break and Enter	53%

◦ Break and enter (53%) – including steal from basements and motor vehicles.

Reporting Incidents

- 61% of respondents reported a crime when they witnessed one or were a victim of one.
- Reasons for not reporting a crime include:
    ◦ Someone else reported the crime, the crime stopped or was dealt with
    ◦ Unsure who to report to or did not have time to report;
    ◦ Did not think anything will be done as a result or could not identify the person involved.

Themes

- The following themes emerged in feedback provided by participants regarding how to improve public safety and reduce crime in the City of Canada Bay:
    ◦ Road safety such as more pedestrian crossings, lower speed limits and speed humps (88 suggestions)
    ◦ Improved lighting in streets and public spaces (42 suggestions)
    ◦ Better management of anti-social behaviour, including more activities for young people (22 suggestions)
    ◦ Greater police presence (12 suggestions)
    ◦ Greater security including CCTV footage (13 suggestions)

Figure 1: Themes to improve safety

2.3 The Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse

The Royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse 2017 documented 8,000 national stories from the public who had experienced abuse within an institution. The repercussions of this was the recommendations of the final report including the implementation of the Child Safe Standards within all organisations within the country including local councils.

Three percent off all children and young people in Australia aged between 0 and 17 years, have received Child Protection Services within their life time (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020).

The City of Canada Bay is a Child Safe Community that recognises and advocates for the rights of children and young people. Council can contribute by ensuring our policies and procedures aim to reduce the likelihood of harm to children, to increase the likelihood of identifying and reporting harm and respond appropriately to disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm.

On 20 October 2020, Council adopted the Child and Young Person Protection Policy. To further the level of safety, particularly for children and young people in the local area, this plan utilises social crime prevention strategies to improve social cohesion, connection and engagement, as well ensuring Council contribute to the safety of children across its services and create safe environments.

2.4 Summary

The vast majority of people in the community feel safe in Canada Bay as confirmed by both the community satisfaction research and community perception survey. Our area rates highly in terms of safety satisfaction when benchmarked against other metropolitan local government areas.

The City of Canada Bay is determined to continue to improve and maintain safety in our area, acknowledging that there is always room for further improvement. The safety issues identified by the community are not the same as the main issues identified through recorded crime statistics for our area. Nevertheless, safety issues identified by the community need to be addressed and there are Actions that can be implemented to maintain the level of safety and to increase the public perception of safety.

Although not statistically significant, there is a proportion of our population who feel less safe than the rest of the community, especially when out and about at night. Actions are needed to improve safety in our area in particular for women, people older than 65 years, and our multicultural community.

Our community has expressed concerns relating to road safety, lack of lighting and break and enter including stealing from basements and from motor vehicles. Ideas to improve public safety and reduce crime in our area include better management of antisocial behaviour, providing more activities to engage young people, increasing community awareness of safety issues, engagement and social cohesion, all of which contribute to increasing community safety.

The engagement revealed that while the majority of the respondents reported crime when they witnessed one, or were a victim of crime, some respondents did not. It is important to report crimes and safety concerns as this can assist Police in understanding issues, identify places of concern, collect evidence and inform how to focus their resources. Some of the reasons for not reporting a crime include being unsure whom to report the incident to and not having the time to report.

3. Our Community

Understanding key aspects of our local government area is an important background to any understanding of safety and crime. By understanding our community, Council can tailor responses to effectively address safety issues that are relevant for the community.

In 2018, the estimated residential population of the City of Canada Bay local government area (LGA) was 95,159 (.idprofile, nd). The population is forecast to increase to approximately 120,000 by 2036, an increase of 26%.

Our area has a population with a diverse range in age, ethnicity, languages spoken and income. While on balance, across the entire local government area (LGA), we share similar characteristics to our adjoining areas and Greater Sydney, there are areas with distinct characteristics such as the suburbs of Strathfield and Rhodes, where residents are generally younger (28 and 29 years old respectively) compared to the median age of 36 years in the LGA and more ethnically and linguistically diverse. These areas coincide with areas of higher density development within the area. In contrast, suburbs such as Cabarita and Abbotsford generally have an older population (48 and 44 years old respectively) with a population that is less ethnically and linguistically diverse.

There is an increasingly larger percentage of residents who have recently arrived (24.5%) than the Greater Sydney average (21.4%). 40.8% of our residents speak a language other than English. 7.1% not proficient in English. As a result there is an increasing culturally and ethnically diverse community.

Generally, our residents are highly educated and employed as professionals (33%) and managers (18.4%). Only 5% of the population are unemployed. This is similar to the composition of the population in 2011.

In 2036, the largest household type will be couples with children, however the number of couples without children is expected to continue to rise. Twenty percent of households with children are living in apartments. The dominant age group will continue to be between 25 and 34, however there will also be growth in the number of people aged 55 and over with a 75% increase in the number of people aged 75 and over.

Major projects such as the planned urban transformation of the Parramatta Road Corridor, continuing redevelopment of the Rhodes Peninsula and future opportunities arising from the locations of Sydney Metro West stations in our area, are expected to accommodate the growth and needs of our new residents. This will lead to an estimated 13% increase in people living in apartments by 2036.

	2018		2036
Population	95,159	➡	120,000
Apartments	50.7%	➡	63.8%

4. Safety Profile

This safety profile provides an overview and discussion of the two key concerns raised by our community during consultation:

- Road and pedestrian safety; and
- Lighting.

4.1 Road and Pedestrian Safety

Road safety is an issue for all residents and visitors to the City of Canada Bay. 73% of respondents to the community perception survey indicated they were concerned or very concerned about road and pedestrian safety.

Council has been working on improving road and pedestrian safety through a number of programs and projects including:

- Road resurfacing and pavement renewal programs including improvements to traffic management such as new pedestrian refuges, and new and upgraded pedestrian crossings.
- Footpath and kerb and gutter renewals.
- Speed reduction campaigns in targeted streets.

Statistically, Canada Bay ranks as one of the safest local government areas in terms of road safety. Data from Transport NSW Centre for Road Safety (2018) reveals:

- The total number of crashes (225) and casualties (170) in Canada Bay in 2018 were lower than in 2017 and both have been declining over the last 5 years.
- In 2018, 60% of the crashes occurred at intersections. This is higher than the Sydney Region (54%) and NSW (46%).
- The percentage of crashes where speed (6%) and fatigue (5%) was a contributing factor is lower than the Sydney Region and NSW.
- Similar to the Sydney Region and NSW, Canada Bay has the highest percentage of casualties amongst motor vehicle drivers (65%), with similar percentages to Sydney Region and NSW for the other types of users being motor vehicle passengers (13%), motor cycle rider (11%), cyclists (5%) and pedestrians (7%).
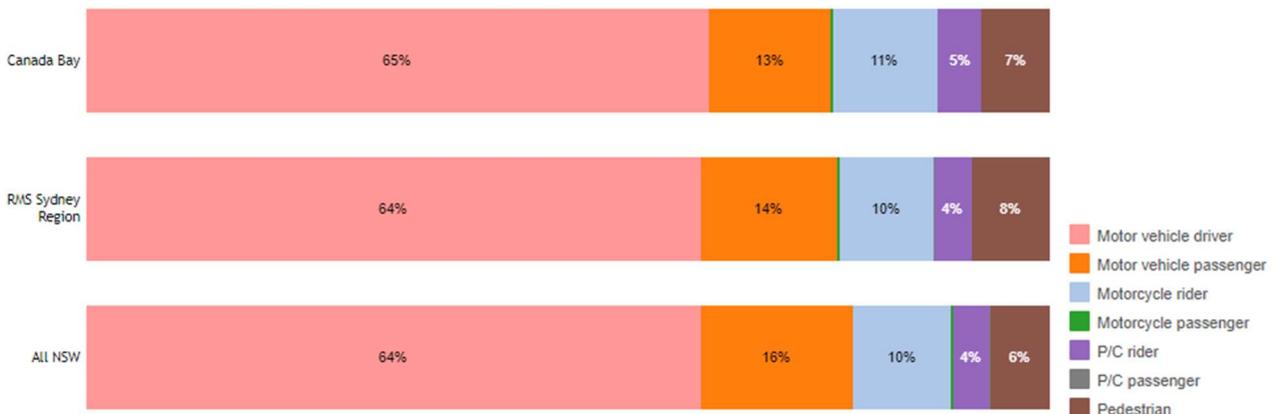

Figure 2: Casualties in Canada Bay compared to Sydney Region and NSW, Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety, 2018

Road safety and pedestrian concerns were raised around Mortlake, Cabarita, Rhodes, North Strathfield, Drummoyne, Five Dock, Concord, Concord West in the community perception survey. Issues raised relate to the need to:

- review traffic management given population growth as traffic conditions were not considered to have changed including insufficient signage and heavy traffic;
- improve road safety by:
  - slowing down vehicle speeds as some roads have become a speedway with vehicles driving over the speed limit;
  - minimising dangerous driving, including vehicles travelling the wrong way on a one way street and vehicles driving over pedestrian crossings;
- improve the pedestrian environment by providing:
  - New crossing near schools;
  - Level footpaths on both sides of a street to prevent injury or falls on uneven surfaces;
  - managing electric bikes and scooters on pedestrian paths especially with the increase in food delivery services.

While there are areas and concerns attributed to feeling less safe, they generally do not reflect the crash and casualty statistics or speeding data. Given the importance of road and pedestrian safety and the relevance for our community, Council will develop a road safety plan, pedestrian access and mobility plan, undertake public awareness and education programs as well as investigate any issues raised in relation to road and pedestrian safety and encourage and promote the pedestrian experience.

4.2 Lack of lighting

A number of residents feel less safe at night. A lack of lighting was frequently provided as a reason for this. Just over 55% of respondents to the community perception survey indicated they were concerned or very concerned about a lack of lighting.

Lighting improvements are identified as a need around Concord, North Strathfield including near the station, Rhodes, Concord West, Cabarita, Five Dock, Wareemba and Drummoyne.

There are a number of research studies that provide findings to help understand the perception of safety and lighting. It is noted that perceptions can be subjective and consultation with the community and trials may be appropriate.

Research from Monash University's XYX Lab, indicates that while there is perception that more lighting increases safety, brighter spaces are not necessarily safer places. This might be because very brightly lit places drop away to very dark areas. When this happens, it takes time for eyes to adjust to the different lighting, which could make people feel vulnerable to attacks. Research also found warmer light made women feel safer than cooler lighting conditions. The more a light's colour deviated from natural daylight, the less safe women felt (Marchant 2019).

A lighting research group at the University of Sheffield, UK found that while increasing the brightness (illuminance) correlated with improved feelings of safety, how evenly spread out the light was (uniformity) was more important for making people feel safe. (Uttley, J, Monteiro, A.L, Fotios, S, 2018)

The use of LED lighting, not only minimises energy consumption but is considered to produce better quality light due to its uniformity. LED lights help to increase the level of safety as light is directed onto the road and users rather than spilling out horizontally. Along with movement sensors, these lights can increase perceptions of safety as they illuminate and alert presence when movements are detected.

Council is currently working with Ausgrid to upgrade all of the street lights to new technology LED lights. Council has also recently piloted a trial on variable smart sensor lighting in parks and neighbourhoods which could be also be considered in other areas.

4.3 Global pandemic, local impacts

At the time of preparation of this plan in 2020, a global health pandemic has been impacting on Australia and at a local level in our community. Measures to contain and slow the spread of the corona virus (Covid-19) in order to improve health outcomes for all Australians has led to the closure of non-essential services, gatherings and travel. For essential services and activities, limits and physical separation are placed on members of the community. Australians are asked to stay at home as much as possible.

The full extent of the impact is not yet known, however there are economic and social impacts that may arise from these measures. The potential impacts may lead to both positive and negative consequences including more passive surveillance in residential areas, spending more time locally, as well as health, wellbeing and inequity impacts.

It is important to acknowledge, consider and plan for safety implications arising from events that impact on our community locally. To further the level of community safety in the local area, this plan utilises social crime prevention strategies to improve social cohesion, connection and engagement in order to increase the resilience of our community as well as actions to support local authorities should future short term or unforeseen circumstances arise.

The concerns relating to global health response at a local level are addressed through Council's local emergency management operation plan, business continuation plan and Council's response in relation to engagement and outreach.

5. Crime Profile

Gaining a comprehensive understanding of crime in the area is central to the development of this Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. This crime profile provides an analysis of recorded crime for offences in the City of Canada Bay and has been compiled to provide the basis for identifying the key crime problems in the area. Information for the profile has been drawn from official recorded crime statistics from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

This crime profile follows the Guidelines for developing a crime prevention strategy published by the NSW Department of Justice and represents an overview of current crime data highlighting crimes in our area that:

- have the greatest number of reported incidents;
- have increasing long term trends; and
- are ranked higher than other areas in NSW.

Transport regulatory offences have been excluded from the crime profile as they are not considered relevant to this Plan. Transport regulatory offences take place on the rail network, for example, travelling without a valid ticket, smoking, drinking or using offensive language. As the offence takes place on the train or railway land, it is outside the control of the Council.

5.1 What are the most common offences?

The top five most common offences over the last 5 years to December 2019 are fraud, steal from motor vehicle, malicious damage to property, break and enter dwelling and other theft (see Figure 3).

In the year to December 2019 the five most common offenses were fraud[1], steal from motor vehicle[2], malicious damage to property[3], break and enter dwelling[4] and other theft[5].

MOST COMMON OFFENCES

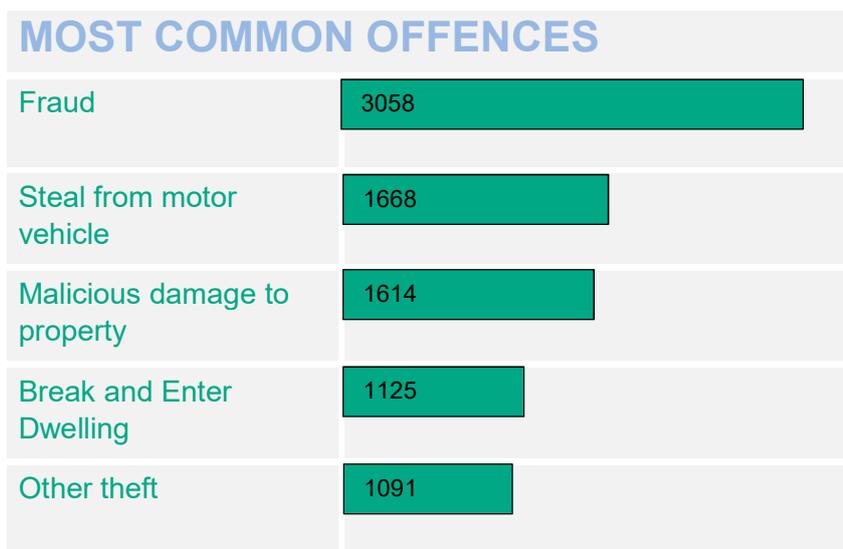|	
Fraud	3058
Steal from motor vehicle	1668
Malicious damage to property	1614
Break and Enter Dwelling	1125
Other theft	1091

Figure 3: Most common offence in Canada Bay LGA between January 2015 and December 2019

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic Research

1 Fraud: Inducing a course of action, by deceit or other dishonest conduct, with the intent to obtain money or other benefit or to evade a liability. The making, use or possession of a forged financial instrument with an intention to obtain

an advantage. Includes over 15 police incident categories some of which are deception, possess false instrument, fail to pay, embezzlement, computer crime, and corrupt payment (receive/pay).

[2] **Steal from motor vehicle**: Unlawful taking of parts or contents from another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission. Includes the police incident category of 'steal from motor vehicle'.

[3] **Malicious damage to property**: Wilful and unlawful destruction, damage or defacement of public or private property or the pollution of property or a definable entity held in common by the community (ANZSOC, 2011). Includes the police incident categories of graffiti, malicious damage to property, public place - damage fountain/wall and public place - damage shrine/monument.

[4] **Break and enter**: Unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence where the entry is either forced or unforced. Break and enter can occur in dwellings or non-dwellings. Dwellings include residential premises such as houses, home units or villas. Non-dwellings include premises where people do not usually reside such as retail premises, wholesale premises, educational premises, industrial premises, recreational premises. Includes the police incident categories of break, enter and steal, break, enter intent to steal, break, enter and commit other felony, break, enter intent to commit other felony. Excludes incidents of steal from dwelling where entry was lawfully gained (eg. stealing from a house to which the offender has been invited). These are under the 'Theft' category 'Steal from dwelling'.

[5] **Other theft**: Includes the police incident categories of steal from marine vessels, steal vessels, other stealing occurring somewhere other than a residential dwelling (for example, at temporary accommodation, business/commercial premises, in outdoor/public places)

5.2 What are the trends?

City of Canada Bay is statistically a low crime area. Despite significant population growth, BOCSAR statistics show that crime overall in the City of Canada Bay has been stable or decreasing over the five year period from January 2015 to December 2019.

The exception to the trend are increased stealing from a retail store over the last 2 and 5 years and an increase in harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance, as well as trespassing in the last 2 years (see Figure 4). Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences slightly increased in the last 5 years but is stable over the last 2 years.

Break and enter dwelling, steal from dwelling offences and steal from motor vehicle have decreased over the last 5 years.

RECORDED INCIDENTS
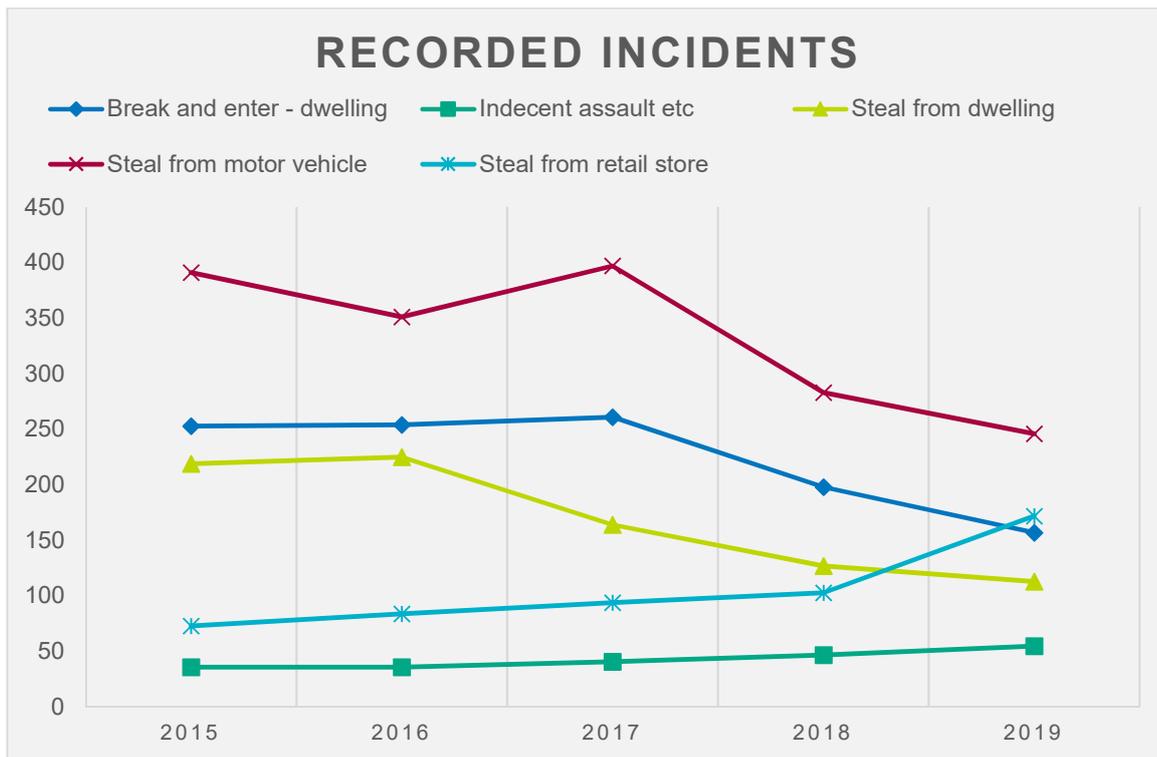
Figure 4: Selected crime trends

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic Research

5.3 How does it compare with other areas in NSW?

The City of Canada Bay is consistently reported in the BOCSAR statistics as being a low crime area. Calculating the rate of crime per 100,000 people and comparing to 120 other local government areas in NSW, Canada Bay does not rank high in any major offences, except fraud, which is higher than the NSW average ranking (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: LGA rank of selected crimes 2019

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic Research

5.4 Summary

We are fortunate in Canada Bay to be in a very low crime area compared to other council areas in New South Wales. The analysis of crime data indicates that the trend for most of the major crime categories have remained steady or have been decreasing over the last five years.

Our most frequent crime is fraud, which includes identity theft, credit card theft and scams. When considering the prevalence of this crime per resident, Canada Bay ranks 36 out of 120 local government areas. The trend for Fraud in the past 5 years is stable. Crime prevention measures against fraud in particular need to be considered.

Stealing from motor vehicle, malicious damage to property and break and enter into dwellings have relatively high volumes in the Canada Bay area. When considered against other areas of New South Wales, the number of incidences are not significant given that we are amongst the lowest ranked local government area for these crimes. These particular crimes are decreasing in our local government area.

Stealing from retail store has been increasing both in two and five year trends, reflecting the trend Australia wide. Because the recorded incidents are low and is not identified as a frequent offence in the area, any increase in a few incidents would indicate high growth and create an upward trend. It is important to note that stealing from retail store does not occur frequently or at a higher rate than other areas in New South Wales.

As with all crime statistics, they should be monitored to ensure that increases in the number of incidents do not increase over time to become a significant statistic.

Crime Category	Volume	Trend (2 and 5 years)	LGA rank
Fraud	High		High
Steal from motor vehicle	Moderate		
Malicious damage to property	Moderate		
Break and Enter Dwelling	Moderate		
Steal from retail store		Increasing	

Figure 6: Summary of Crime Profile

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic Research

6. Community Safety and Crime Prevention Priorities

A number of priorities have been identified reflecting community feedback and local crime data. The priorities identified reflect the very low percentages of crime in our area; however Council is committed to addressing community concerns, ensuring that the level of safety is maintained or even further reduced.

6.1 Approach

The crime prevention approaches of this plan are:

- **Situational crime prevention** – Locking house and car doors, placing valuables in safe places and lighting the outside of homes are just some simple measures to reduce the opportunities for crime. More sophisticated situational measures can include the design of buildings to increase opportunities for surveillance, the design of streets and parks to reduce places for offenders to hide and through the installation of fences to limit access to particular locations. By increasing the risks of detection, increasing the effort required in committing an offence and reducing the rewards associated with offending, crime can be prevented. Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) have been identified as a priority area of this Plan.
- **Social crime prevention** – building strong neighbourhoods and communities can help to prevent crime. Neighbourhoods where people know each other and communities that have a shared commitment to maintaining the physical environment are less likely to experience crime. People in these neighbourhoods keep an eye out for each other and are more willing to intervene in behaviours that could lead to crimes.

6.2 Strategy

The three strategies of the plan are to:

- Reduce incidents of crime;
- Maintain and improve the safety of our area
- Increase social cohesion, connections and engagement

6.3 Priority Areas

Based on research and consultation, the priority areas will be to:

- Reduce identity and online fraud
- Reduce stealing from motor vehicles
- Child safety
- Reduce crime through environmental design
- Work collaboratively and keep up to date
- Improve road and pedestrian safety
- Increase social harmony through local connections
- Improve lighting
- Increase feelings of safety, particularly at night

7. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation

The implementation of this plan will be resourced and reported on six monthly through Council's integrated planning and reporting framework.

Councils with endorsed safer community compacts will be required to report every six months to the Attorney General on the status of each action in the crime prevention strategy.

8. Action Plan 2020-2024

Reduce identity and online fraud

Rationale

Fraud is the most frequent crime in Canada Bay. Fraud involves obtaining money or other benefit by being deceitful or dishonest. This can include: stealing mail to obtain identification to pose as another person, open bank accounts or applying for credit cards; online hacking and scams to obtain personal information.

NSW Police data shows that the majority of fraud offences recorded for Canada Bay relate to identity theft and scams. While the trend for fraud crimes has been stable over the last 5 years, it is identified by the Police to be a growing problem in NSW, especially due to new technologies, services and changes in online behaviour. This type of crime can contribute to significant financial losses and psychological harm. Identity fraud can may be conducted online and also facilitate other crimes.

Recent estimates by the Attorney-General's Department indicate that identity crime costs Australia upwards of $1.6 billion each year, with the majority (around $900m) lost by individuals through credit card fraud, identity theft and scams. (source: Australian Federal Police, https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/fraud/identity-crime)

Council already has guidelines for mailbox design in high density areas to improve mail security and to deter identity theft for Rhodes and Strathfield. Police records indicate that there is a recent rise in unauthorised credit card transactions, forging of documents and scams involving payment without delivery of service or goods particularly in Five Dock and Concord areas. It is important to be aware of the methods to safeguard our identity and information including awareness of ATM copy scanners, proper disposal of documents containing personal information including bills and avoiding overflowing letter boxes.

Additionally, as a result of the recent worldwide health pandemic, online learning, working from home, recreation and social use of the internet has increased significantly. Along with this has been an increase in online scams and online hacking as scammers exploit consumers online. Common scams include emails and phone calls impersonating local authorities, and businesses such as travel agents and telecommunications companies; and misinformation sent by text, social media and email.

Objective

- Raise awareness and educate the community on how to protect themselves against fraud including mail theft, identity theft and scammers
- Promote secure mailbox design across the LGA

Lead agency and partners

Council, Burwood Police Area Command

Expected outcome

Awareness of identity theft and scams are increased leading to a drop in the number of incidences of fraud in our area.

Performance measures

Community engagement activities undertaken and information is made available online.

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
1.1	Promote resources and raise public awareness to help residents from falling victim to fraud including: • Ways to minimise mail theft	Council (Strategic Planning, Community Services, Media and Communications), Burwood PAC, Chambers of Commerce	2020-2024	Council Operational funds Partnership with Police	Deliver at least two pop up sessions* and social media posts per year to educate residents about fraud

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
	• Safe disposal of documents containing personal information • Ways to reduce online hacking and stealing of information from users • Ways to spot a scam (scamwatch.gov.au)				(* subject to restrictions on non-essential gatherings)
1.2	Provide online information, links to factsheets and resources to help protect against fraud	Council (Media and Communications, Strategic Planning), Burwood PAC	2020-2024	Council Operational funds	Links to useful online resources on Council's website
1.3	Review Council's Development Control Plan to guide mailboxes across the local government area to be located within secure entries and ideally fitted with non-master key locks	Council (Strategic Planning)	2020-2021	Council Operational funds	DCP amended

Rationale   Stealing from motor vehicles is often an opportunistic crime. Vehicles become a target when there are unsecured valuables and personal items are visible in vehicles.

Safety campaigns and blitzes as well as education has continued to decrease stealing from motor vehicles in our area. There has been a 10.9% reduction of theft from motor vehicles in the past 5 years. The majority of stealing occurs in outdoor or public areas. Council, the Police and community members can all help to continue to raise awareness of motor vehicle security by ensuring opportunities leading to stealing from motor vehicles are minimised. We can do this by remembering to keep our belongings secure and out of view.

Passive surveillance and lighting also play a role in reducing stealing from motor vehicles. This plan also addresses these issues by ensure our environments are activated and designed with safety in mind as well as working with Ausgrid to upgrade our street lights to new technology LED lights which produce better quality light to help increase safety.

Objective   • Continue to raise awareness and educate the community on how to reduce opportunities that lead to stealing from motor vehicles.

Lead agency and partners   Burwood Police Area Command, Council

Expected outcome   Increased awareness of theft from motor vehicle, leading to greater motor vehicle security and absence of visible personal items in the car.

Performance measures   Maintain or lower rate of offence (258.5 per 100,000 residents) leading to a continued decline in theft from motor vehicle, source: BOCSAR 2019 data.

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
2.1	Work with NSW Police Crime Prevention Officers on educating residents to protect themselves against theft from motor vehicles for example, during crime prevention week	Council (Strategic Planning, Media and Communications), Burwood Police Area Command	2020-2024	Council Operational funds Partnership with Police	At least one event every year to educate residents about theft from motor vehicles

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
2.2	Promote resources to the community relating to protecting against theft from motor vehicles including resources available in local community languages	Council (Media and Communications), Burwood Police Area Command	2020-2024	Council Operational funds	At least one promotion conducted every year to educate residents about theft from motor vehicles
2.3	Provide online information, links to factsheets and resources to help protect against stealing from motor vehicles	Council (Media and Communications, Strategic Planning), Burwood Police Area Command	2020-2024	Council Operational funds	Links to useful online resources on Council's website
2.4	Investigate identified problem areas and deliver suitable solutions to improve safety, where appropriate.	Council (Roads and Traffic); Burwood Police Area Command	Ongoing 2020-2024	Council Operational funds	All requests lodged through Council have been investigated and responded to

Reduce crime through environmental design

Rationale

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are a set of principles used to reduce opportunities for crime by designing and changing the environment to increase passive surveillance, providing clear site lines, using walkways, fences, landscaping to guide and direct movement, and providing a sense of ownership of space by clear designation of public and private space.

The City of Canada Bay Development Control Plan contains safety and security controls to guide new development in achieving desirable outcomes.

CPTED principles should also be followed when designing public spaces and events.

Objective

- Continue to ensure CPTED principles are applied when planning for new facilities, developments, areas and events.

Lead agency and partners

Council, Burwood Police Area Command

Expected outcome

The design of new facilities, developments, places and areas considers ways to reduce crime risks through CPTED principles.

Performance measures

Maintain or lower rate of offence for the three most frequent offences over the last 5 years (Fraud 595.8 per 100,000 residents; Steal from motor vehicle 258.5 per 100,000 residents; and malicious damage 305.8 per 100,000 residents) (source: BOCSAR 2019 data)

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
3.1	Continue to consider and implement CPTED principles in assessing new development	Council (Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Major	2021-2024	Council Operational funds	CPTED design principles included in DA checklist

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
	proposals, when preparing plans and Council projects	Projects, Parks and Recreation, Place Management)			Brief for Council projects and plans of management to include considerations of CPTED principles Include CPTED audits as part of ongoing place audits.
3.2	Review CPTED guidelines in the Development Control Plan	Council (Strategic Planning)	2021-2022	Council Operational funds	Council's CPTED guidelines in the Development Control Plan reviewed
3.3	Conduct CPTED training for Council staff to raise awareness of design principles when approving and installing new structures and designing places and projects	Council (Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Place Management, Open Space Planning, Community Services, Major Projects, Building and Properties)	2021-2024	Funding required	Apply for funding if available and organise training for staff to raise awareness
3.4	Continue to refer relevant development applications, such as public carparks, licenced premises, public buildings, and apartments with more than 50 units or greater than 10 storeys to Burwood Police Area Command for comment.	Council (Statutory Planning), Burwood Police Area Command	2020-2024	Council Operational funds	Development applications are referred to Burwood Police Area Command for comment

Improve road and pedestrian safety

Rationale

Unsafe driving practices such as speeding and an unsafe pedestrian environment have been identified by community members as a concern.

73% of respondents raised safety concerns particularly around Mortlake, Cabarita, Rhodes, North Strathfield, Drummoyne, Five Dock, Concord, Concord West relating to: speeding vehicles; lack of footpaths, pedestrian crossings and visible signage; and road rules not being followed.

Crash and casualty statistics from the Centre for Road Safety reveal that there has been a decline in the number of crashes resulting in injuries within Canada Bay over the last 5 years. Speeding and fatigue are not significant causes of pedestrian causalities involved in a crash. 28% of the crash and casualty statistics in our area were attributed by residents operating the motor vehicle, a large percentage of which occur at intersections.

While there are areas and concerns attributed to feeling less safe, they generally do not reflect the crash and casualty statistics or speeding data. Notwithstanding this, concerns should be

Objective	reported and investigated ensuring measures to improve conditions are considered, where necessary.	
	• Encourage safe driving practices across the City	
	• Improve road infrastructure to create a safe pedestrian environment	
Lead agency and partners	Council, Transport for NSW	
Expected outcome	Residents feel safer on the road and as a pedestrian.	
Performance measures	Pedestrians feel safer in areas where traffic control measures or crossing upgrades are completed. (Baseline data: Community Safety Perception Survey 2019, Measure: future survey)	

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
4.1	Prepare a Road Safety Strategy	Council (Roads and Traffic), Transport for NSW	2020-2024	Council Operational funds	Road Safety Strategy prepared.
4.2	Prepare a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan	Council (Roads and Traffic)	2021	Council Operational funds	Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan prepared
4.3	Undertake public awareness and education programs to encourage safe driving practices	Council (Roads and Traffic)	Ongoing 2020-2024	Council Operational funds	At least two events conducted every year to encourage safe driving
4.4	Investigate identified problem areas for speeding as they arise and install traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing or upgrades where appropriate.	Council (Roads and Traffic)	Ongoing 2020-2024	Council Operational funds	All requests lodged through Council has been investigated and responded to.
4.5	Continue to prioritise the pedestrian experience in future plans for local centres and plans of management	Council (Strategic Planning, Place Management, Roads and Traffic)	Ongoing 2020-2024	Council Operational funds	All plans prioritise the pedestrian experience

Rationale	A number of residents feel less safe at night. A lack of lighting was frequently provided as a reason for this. Members of the community should feel safe at night without fear to participate in their chosen night time activities.
	Lighting improvements are identified as a need around Concord, North Strathfield including near the station, Rhodes, Concord West, Cabarita, Five Dock, Wareemba and Drummoyne.
	There are a number of research studies that provide findings to help understand the perception of safety and lighting. It is noted that perceptions are subjective and consultation with the community and trials may be appropriate.
	The use of LED lighting, not only minimises energy consumption but are considered to produce better quality light due to its uniformity. LED lights help to increase the level of safety as light is directed onto the road and users rather than spilling out horizontally. Along with movement sensors, these lights can increase perceptions of safety as they illuminate and alert presence when movements are detected. Council is currently working with Ausgrid to upgrade all of the street lights to new technology LED lights. Council has recently piloted a trial on variable smart sensor lighting in parks and neighbourhoods which could be also be considered in other areas.

Objective
- Investigate areas identified as unsafe due to lack of lighting
- Consider safety when investigating new lighting technology and techniques in our area

Lead agency and partners Council, Transport for NSW
Expected outcome
Performance measures Increase in percentage of respondents who feel safe out and about at night (83%) (Source: Community Safety Perception Survey 2019, Measure: future survey)

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
5.1	Investigate identified problem areas for lighting as they arise and deliver suitable solutions to improve safety, where appropriate.	Council (Roads and Traffic, Parks and Recreation), Transport for NSW	Ongoing 2020-2024	Council Operational funds	All requests lodged through Council has been investigated and responded to
5.2	Prepare and implement a lighting guideline to coordinate lighting solutions including the use of smart lighting and safety considerations across the City	Council (Strategic Asset Services and Innovation, partnering with Place Management)	2020-2024	Funding required	Apply for funding if available and prepare a lighting strategy/plan
5.3	Liaise with NSW Police Crime Prevention Officers in preparing Plans of Management	Council (Parks and Recreation; Burwood Police Area Command)	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational funds	Liaise with Burwood Police Area Command in the development of Plans of Management.

Child safety

Rationale

The Royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse 2017 documented 8,000 national stories from the public who had experienced abuse within an institution. The repercussions of this was the recommendations of the final report including the implementation of the Child Safe Standards within all organisations within the country including local councils.

Three percent off all children and young people in Australia aged between 0 and 17 years, have received Child Protection Services within their life time (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020).

The City of Canada Bay is a Child Safe Community that recognises and advocates for the rights of children and young people. Council can contribute by ensuring our policies and procedures aim to reduce the likelihood of harm to children, to increase the likelihood of identifying and reporting harm and respond appropriately to disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm.

On 20 October 2020, Council endorsed the Child and Young Person Protection Policy. To further the level of safety, particularly for children and young people in the local area, this plan utilises social crime prevention strategies to improve social cohesion, connection and engagement, as well ensuring Council contribute to the safety of children across its services and create safe environments.

Objective
- reduce the likelihood of harm to children

Lead agency and partners
Council

Expected outcome
Children and young people are safe.

Performance measures
100% Council staff have had Child Protection training; embedding child safe Standards across policy and practice; incident handled in a timely manner in accordance with The Child Safety Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
7.6	Implement the Child Safe Standards and regularly review Council's Child and Young Person Protection Policy	Council (Library and Community Services)	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational Funds and Funding Required	Yearly Review of the Child and Young Person Protection Policy, Standards Embedded into Risk Assessments, Policies and Procedures for all Council Services.

Work collaboratively and keep up to date

Rationale

Council needs to work collaboratively with the Police, non-government organisations, and government agencies to keep up to date on any crime or safety issues in the community. As this community safety and crime prevention plan addresses longer term trends, it is important know that when unexpected safety issues arise, they can be responded to quickly.

Whilst the majority of the community indicated that they reported crime when they witnessed it, or were a victim of crime, some respondents did not report incidents. This was largely due to a lack of awareness of their options for reporting. It is important to report crimes and safety concerns as this can assist Police and Council in understanding issues, identify places of concern, collect evidence and inform how to focus their resources.

Objective

- Support the Burwood/Canada Bay Liquor Licensing Accord
- Attend community safety precinct meeting organised by Burwood Police Area Command
- Review Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan periodically (every 5 years)
- Raise awareness on how to report crime

Lead agency and partners

Council, Burwood Police Area Command, Liquor Licencing Accord

Expected outcome

Council is aware of and shares community safety concerns and work collaboratively to solve safety issues. The community is aware of how to report a crime or safety concern so that they can be addressed appropriately.

Performance measures

Council regularly attends Burwood/Canada Bay Liquor Licensing Accord; Community Safety Precinct Meetings and reviews the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan every 5 years.

The Community feels they know how to raise concerns on safety and report crime. (Baseline data source: Community Safety Survey 2019; Measure: future survey).

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
6.1	Follow up on the Burwood/Canada Bay Liquor Licensing Accord meetings and attend where possible	Council (Community Services)	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational funds	Confirm schedule for the Burwood/Canada Bay Liquor Licensing Accord meetings.
6.2	Attend quarterly community safety precinct meetings organised by Burwood Police Area Command	Council, Burwood Police Area Command	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational funds	Attend quarterly community safety precinct meetings.
6.3	Work with Burwood Police Area Command to address issues that may arise between reviews.	Council, Burwood Police Area Command	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational funds	Maintain relationship with Burwood Police Area Command to address issues.
6.4	Review and update the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan periodically	Council (Strategic Planning, Community Services)	2024	Council Operational funds	Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan reviewed.
6.5	Design and deliver a community awareness program on how to report crime and safety issues such as inoperative street lighting, graffiti and rubbish dumping; including, Snap Send Solve app	Council (Community Services, Strategic Planning, Media and Communications)	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational funds and Funding required	Resource produced providing information on where to report crime and safety issues and in local community languages if available

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
	and the NSW Police Community Portal. If possible, provide information in local community languages.				Yearly social media posts to raise awareness

Increase social harmony through local connections

Rationale

Community safety increases when the risk of becoming involved in crime or being victimised is reduced with high levels of social connections and cohesion. Social connections refer to access to other people and the support network of individuals whilst social cohesion relates to the harmony of the community as a whole and how tolerant we are of others.

Being 'out and about' opens up opportunities for incidental interactions – the day to day meeting and greeting of people who live, work and travel in the same spaces at the same times. These interactions increase perceptions of safety through connections and decrease feelings of loneliness and isolation. Similarly participating and being involved in local activities provide an avenue to meet new people in the local area who share a similar interest and may increase a sense of belonging. When local social connections develop, people keep an eye out for each other, may understand the usual patterns of behaviour of an individual and can provide support and comfort.

Social connections are particularly important in building community resilience and providing support to endure times of crisis and stress, including during the current health pandemic. Requirements to isolate and practice physical distancing, restrictions on travel, changes in employment, recreation and social activities, can lead to potential financial, mental health and wellbeing impacts as well as widening inequalities. A recent survey of NSW residents in March 2020 reveal that 43% have experienced increased mental health issues including stress and anxiety particularly for people under 50, females, employed residents and households with children (Micromex Research, 2020). Members of the community are more vulnerable if they do not have the social connections and networks that help build resilience to navigate through these challenging and uncertain times.

Examples of benefits may include: walking past your neighbour or friends house and seeing or hearing activity when you know they are on holidays; detecting an unusual emotional response or behaviour that may indicate stress in their life and having someone there to be able to provide social support; raising awareness through discussions and precautions leading to better protecting themselves against being a victim of crime. Social connections as well as being engaged and participating in local activities can also lead to an increased sense of belonging and attachment to a place or area meaning people may be more willing to intervene in behaviours in others that can lead to crime.

It is acknowledged that while there are wider benefits of social connections, this plan focusses only on the community safety aspects and benefits it provides. This plan precedes a social sustainability plan which would provide a coordinated approach and wider social considerations of impacts and social outcomes to ensure the welfare of the community.

Objective
- improve social connections by:
  - increasing incidental and social meetings
  - raising awareness and participating in programs, projects and campaigns
  - raising awareness of the importance of mental health
- build trust and sense of belonging
-

Lead agency and partners   Council, Community organisations

Expected outcome   Residents feel socially connected and a sense of belonging within their community.

Performance measures   Maintain or increase in percentage of residents who feel safe (Day 96%, Night 83%). (Baseline data source: Community Safety Survey 2019; Measure: future survey).

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding	Milestones
7.1	Continue to deliver community development programs to improve social cohesion and sense of belonging, for example: - seniors wellbeing ballroom dancing classes - skateboard workshops - dog walking groups - local shared history opportunities	Council (Community Services; Place Management; Parks and Recreation)	2020-2024	Council Operational funds	Deliver at least one activity per year for: - people older than 65 years - young people - women - multicultural communities
7.2	Participate and promote initiatives such as Feel good (February), Harmony day (March), Neighbour day (March), R U Ok day (September), Social September (September),	Council (Media and Communications)	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational funds	At least two promotions per year.
7.3	Raise awareness of the importance of mental health and deliver workshops and initiatives regularly throughout the LGA, particularly for our culturally diverse communities. If possible, provide information or activity in local community languages.	Council (Community Services; Media and Communications)	2020-2024	Council Operational funds and funding required	Deliver at least one activity per year, particularly for – culturally diverse communities in a community language if funding available
7.4	Release regular good news stories from the neighbourhoods relating to community cohesion, connections, sense of belonging and engagement online and in relevant Council newsletters.	Council (Media and Communications)	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Council Operational funds	At least one per year.
7.5	Building trust and sense of belonging, particularly with the culturally diverse community by providing safety information or sessions in community languages	Council (Community Services, Place Management, Media and Communications)	2020-2024 (Ongoing)	Funding required	Safety information provided or sessions in community languages.

Increase feelings of safety, particularly at night

Rationale

A proportion of our population feel less safe than the rest of the community, especially when out and about at night. In particular women, people older than 65 years and our multicultural community.

Our survey found that almost 90% of the respondents who felt unsafe out and about at night were women. This statistic is consistent with Sydney wide research by Plan International indicating that 90% of women and girls in Sydney feel unsafe after dark (Truu, 2020). "A city that works well for women in terms of their sense of safety… is a city that works for everyone" (Truu, 2020). The data collected by the research reveals that the few unsafe areas marked in the Canada Bay area relate to men calling out from vehicles, staring or leering and gathering of young people at night.

In addition to delivering on the action identified in the other priorities in this Plan such as improving lighting, design of public areas, and increasing social harmony and connection, Council can contribute to increasing feelings of safety by investigating and further understanding any issues that arise as well as investigate options to activate the city in the evening and at night time.

In times of crisis as households face increasing financial and other pressures, such as, in the recent worldwide health pandemic, the characteristics of domestic and family violence is made more pronounced by the household isolation providing the opportunity to further isolate, monitor, control and coerce victims. There has already been an increase of domestic and family violence cases during the corona virus lockdown (Duncan, 2020). Domestic and family violence is often underreported and despite a fall in reporting of incidents over the phone (Talwar, 2020), it is predicted that more victims are likely to come forward as a safer distance from their perpetrator can be achieved when physical isolation and restrictions end. It is important to ensure that our community is aware of the services that are available should they or someone they know require help and support.

Objective

- further understand safety issues in our area in particular for women, people older than 65 years, and our multicultural community
- investigate options to activate and improve safety in the evenings

Lead agency and partners Council, Community organisations

Expected outcome Residents feel safer at night

Performance measures

Maintain or increase in percentage of residents who feel safe (Day 96%, Night 83%).

(Baseline data source: Community Safety Survey 2019; Measure: future survey).

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding required	Milestones
8.1	Investigate and organise Community Audits with NSW Police and community members to assess and improve safety as necessary.	Council; Burwood Police Area Command	2020-2024 (Ongoing - as necessary)	Council Operational funds	Community audits conducted.
8.2	Further research and understand safety issues experienced by our residents in the evening and night time including locations, times and ways to improve safety	Council (Strategic Planning, Community Services)	2020-2024	Funding required	Apply for funding if available and complete research

No.	Action	Agencies Responsible	Time frames	Funding required	Milestones
8.3	Investigate opportunities to activate our city in the evenings	Council (Place Management)	2020	Council Operational funds	Complete Evening Economy and Activation Framework
8.4	Work in partnership with local organisations to investigate the opportunities to provide evening and night time recreation and social activities and spaces particularly for youths around Rhodes and Five Dock	Council (Place Management, Community Services)	2020-2024	Council Operational funds, partnership and funding required.	Opportunities considered and consulted with the community.
8.5	Raise awareness of domestic and family violence	Council (Community Services, Media and Communications)	2020-2024	Council Operational funds	At least one promotion per year

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