



# How to navigate the document

## Best viewing experience

This document is best viewed downloaded on a laptop or desktop computer. The interactivity will not work as well on tablets, iPads and mobile phones. You will still be able to view, scroll through and use some functionality such as hyperlinks, however the main navigation buttons on the right may be less effective.

## Right hand navigation

The buttons on the right hand side take you to the different sections of the document. The 6 ambition sections each have their own contents for you to jump to a particular area with ease. Simply click on the button on the right to take you back to that section's contents. All other sections do not have a contents page.

## Endnotes

### Example:

In Camden in 2022, there were 6,389 children or 1 in 5 (19.8%) living in poverty, up from 13.5% in 2021.<sup>1</sup>

To go to the reference of a particular Endnote, click on the number at the end of the paragraph.

Click on the number in the Endnotes to take you back to the page which the reference number is on.

### Example:

- 1 Proportion of children living in low income households (60% of median income) before and after housing costs, Local indicators of child poverty, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University for End Child Poverty (2022); Children in low income families: local area statistics, DWP (2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022>, [https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Local\\_indicators\\_of\\_child\\_poverty\\_after\\_housing\\_costs\\_2021\\_22/23523453](https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Local_indicators_of_child_poverty_after_housing_costs_2021_22/23523453).

Text which is in blue and underlined is an active link. This example is a URL hyperlink which will take you to a webpage. Others may open up another document or activate an email programme.

**Comparison group:** throughout the report, we have referred to the 'Comparison group' for simplification. This group consists of the inner London boroughs and neighbouring boroughs to Camden: Barnet, Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, Islington, Southwark, Newham, Hackney, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, City of London, Greenwich, Haringey, and Lewisham. We also compare to the London and England averages where possible.

List of chart and images  
Click on this link to bring you back to this description of the Comparison Group.

Home and next/  
previous page

Contents page

Overviews

These take  
you to  
individual  
webpages

The 6 WMC  
ambitions

# Good Life Camden

Camden’s State of the Borough report is published annually. It brings together data and evidence from quantitative and qualitative sources, and includes national level statistics, regional data, and locally collected data. It provides a **shared evidence base about the outcomes experienced by people in Camden**, and is intended for organisations, residents and the council to increase the understanding of people’s wellbeing in the borough. It is aligned to the structure of the [We Make Camden](#) vision for the borough, and uses the [Good Life Camden](#) framework to identify relevant data.

**A note on timings:** The 2026 report is published earlier than in previous years due to the local elections in May 2026. Due to the shorter timeline for producing the report, we did not include data that was not updated since the last report at the time of drafting.


**The 6 WMC ambitions**

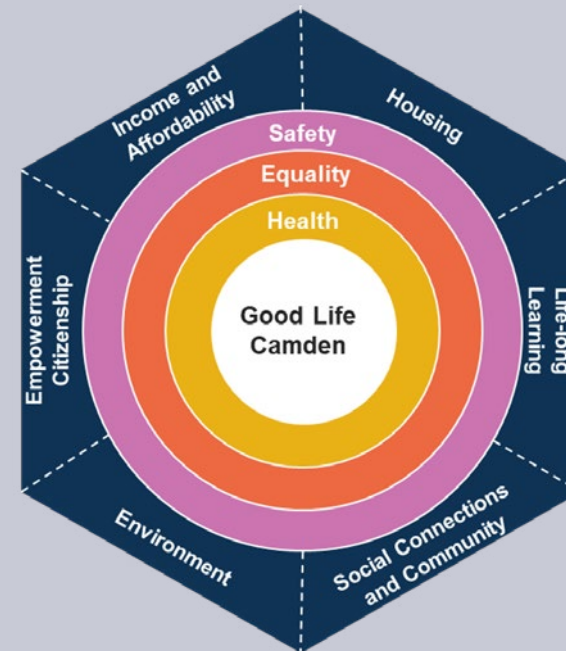
## Good Life Camden

The report focuses on the outcomes that are important for living a good life in Camden, based on the co-created [Good Life Camden](#) (GLC) framework. The GLC framework was developed with residents and staff in 2022. It breaks down the concept of living a good life into nine **themes**, which people told us are most important. These are: Safety, Equality, Health, Housing, Income and Affordability, Lifelong Learning, Social Connections and Community, and Environment. The themes of Safety, Health and Housing are identified as core cross-cutting themes. The framework also spells out the **signals** that tell us if we’re making progress against the different GLC themes (e.g. for Housing, a signal is that the quality of housing is high). The signals are underpinned by **measures**, which use data from a range of sources, such as official statistics or administrative data from schools, hospitals and transport.

In pulling together the data and evidence for the report, we started from the framework and looked for quantitative data that was available, preferably comparable across place and time. Mapping to the GLC framework also showed us where we have data gaps, whether for signals and measures (e.g. people feel safe in Camden) or in the breakdowns of averages (e.g. what is the experience of specific populations, like perceptions of safety of adults with learning disabilities).

Throughout the report, we have highlighted the relevant Good Life Camden signals where the data is presented.

**Look out for these**  **throughout the report, presenting the relevant Good Life Camden signal in each section.**



# Safe and Strong Communities

Camden actively tackles injustice and inequality, creating safe, strong and open communities where everyone can contribute



## Contents

### Social connections and community:

- People feel part of their neighbourhood, trust their neighbours and can ask them for help
- People interact with people from different communities and are tolerant and inclusive
- There are things to do and places to go to meet people and strengthen relationships **6**

Community Centres and Libraries act as connecting hubs for local communities **6**

In Camden, 37% of residents have visited a library in the last 12 months, one of the highest shares of residents visiting libraries **9**

### Safety: Everyone in Camden feels safe **11**

Among the London boroughs, crime rate in Camden continues to be one of the highest, second only to Westminster **11**

The rate of Hate Crime per 1,000 people in Camden was 4.3 in 2024/25, with only Westminster surpassing this rate **13**

### Safety: People are safe in their homes **14**

While the rate of domestic abuse offences in Camden is one of the lowest among London boroughs, violence against women and girls (VAWG) was recorded at 9.8% higher than the average for London boroughs in 2024 **14**

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

## Key Insights

**37% of adults in Camden visited a library in the last year, the highest percentage in Inner London**



“  
*I enjoy attending local events and activities at my local community centres [...] however, as I am the main carer for my husband who is housebound, I don't have the time to go as often as I would like.*

*My husband and I live alone and I don't like being at home all the time, it can feel lonely. I like to go to the centres to talk to people, to do exercise classes and get help with filling out forms.*

”  
 -66, Female

**Crime rate is second highest in London at 173 offences per 1,000 residents**



**Theft is the largest category of crime in the borough**

“  
*I was walking down and just before I went there [...] two boys on a cycle grabbed a phone from somebody and ran off.*

”  
 -35, Female

“  
*I wouldn't get my phone out because it might just disappear out my hands.*

”  
 -82, Female

**The rate of Domestic Abuse is lower than other London boroughs, but Violence Against Women and Girls is 9.8% higher than the London average**

Camden

29 offences per 1,000 residents

London

26 offences per 1,000 residents

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

**“ We’re quite lucky because it’s very diverse and it’s normal just to learn about someone else’s culture, speak to someone from a different background”**

(46, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre).

Camden’s diversity is acknowledged as an asset by many residents and strengthens their sense of belonging, as one resident noted they:

**“ don’t feel like you are the only one, this is very important, because you can relate to everyone with some sort of things, religion, ethnicity or being a man, lots of things, it’s good to have this diversity”**

(34, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre).

Many residents link this diversity directly to a sense of community and everyday connection. As one resident noted:

**“ I have been a Camden resident for 10 years and I feel like I belong to a community which is very diverse, there are residents from many different backgrounds, cultures and faiths”**

(NA, Female, Regent’s Roots Festival).

Another resident described how local spaces and relationships deepen this sense of belonging:

**“ Living in Camden for the past 10 years, it’s a friendly area to live in. Plenty of community centres, good relationships with neighbours – this all contributes to a sense of belonging to a community. Lots of parks/outdoor spaces to walk, sit and for children to play”**

(47, Female, Regent’s Roots Festival).

Through community organisations, festivals and local groups, diversity

becomes something people actively share and experience together.

Good Life Camden ☺

### Social connections and community:

- ◆ People feel part of their neighbourhood, trust their neighbours and can ask them for help
- ◆ People interact with people from different communities and are tolerant and inclusive
- ◆ There are things to do and places to go to meet people and strengthen relationships

### Community Centres and Libraries act as connecting hubs for local communities

Beyond the diverse community that people cherish in Camden, our shared public infrastructure, such as community centres and libraries, help strengthen and support the diverse communities.

These places bring people together through events and activities that are:

**“ Open to all demographics and [...] everyone is welcome”**

(61, Female, Camden Mela 2025).

They range from cultural and religious celebrations, such as:

**“ Easter or Eid, so I can meet other people from all walks of life”**

(64, Male, Regent’s Roots Festival), to other activities that cater to more specific needs.

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

For example, one regular visitor described how vital these spaces are for carers:

**“ I am the main carer for my husband who is housebound, I don't have the time to go [to community centres] as often as I would like. My husband and I live alone and I don't like being at home all the time, it can feel lonely. I like to go to the centres to talk to people, to do exercise classes and get help with filling out forms”**

(66, Female, Regent's Roots Festival).

Community and voluntary sector organisations play a central role in sustaining social connections. For some residents, specific organisations have transformed how connected they feel:

**“ There is a good community in Camden, you can meet with different neighbours, it is very diverse. From the time I moved here, 30 years ago, it is a friendly place. The Third Age Project have really increased my sense of community in Camden”**

(70+, Female, Regent's Roots Festival). Others highlight how community centres offer both routine and relationships:

**“ This place [community centre] is wonderful for that. I've met so many friends [...] I come twice a week [...] I live on my own, but I'm never lonely”**

(82, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre).

These spaces provide not only activities, but also the informal social infrastructure that helps people feel less isolated. They also act as bridges between residents, the council and other services.

One participant reflected that:

**“ There seems to be good conduits between Camden Council and third sector organisations. If you contact the council and they don't have something specific, they signpost you to the right voluntary group. And the reverse happens too. That pipeline is really important so people don't get lost”**

(34-44, Female, Focus group with representatives of the LGBTQ+ community in Camden).

Another noted that:

**“ Indirectly, through funding voluntary sector organisations, there's a lot of support [...] those services are crucial and heavily reliant on Camden's support. With all the pressures on councils, it's vital they keep backing these groups”**

(35-44, Male, Focus group with representatives of the LGBTQ+ community in Camden).

This underlines the importance of VCSEs as part of Camden's wider wellbeing system.

### Learning from: The Gospel Oak Living Room

The [Gospel Oak Living Room](#) (GOLR) programme is a community project hosted in five locations around Lismore Circus, Gospel Oak. It was initiated by local residents and organisers and runs as a partnership between Cooperation Town, three TRAs (Tenants and Residents Association) and St Martin's church. The GOLR offers neighbours a place to meet, socialise and build community links, while enjoying free freshly cooked meals. Meals are prepared daily by chefs from [Refugee Community Kitchen](#) and include fresh dishes from around the world. Many guests take food home to share with their families or eat later on. Outside of mealtimes, guests can enjoy

fresh fruit and healthy snacks. The project has had 13,000 visits since its inception in 2023.

The GOLR provides a safe space for anyone in the community to come and spend time without the need to sign up or pay. Guests share the issues that impact their lives - from housing problems to digital barriers, loneliness to lack of community facilities, personal mental health struggles to wider community challenges - and work together to find solutions. Past initiatives have included joining food co-operatives, a free community laundrette, Christmas meals, a free therapy project, a Menopause Cafe, art activities, and a rota to check in on elderly neighbours.

The Living Room is particularly popular with local guests over 65 as well as with young parents and pre-school children, bringing an inter-generational energy to the sessions. Guests who want to, can eat and play together in a calm, creative environment where everyone is able to join in. Many of the activities are informed by guests' interests and are co-designed with them.

Living Room guests had positive things to say about the programme, including:

**“ The Living Room is amazing – a cosy place to relax. The coordinators are helpful. Great environment. Place for everyone to come together.”**

Others said:

**“ I enjoy the company”, “Gets you out of the house”, “before I came to the Living Room, I was shy and did not speak to many people, other than my family. Coming to the Living Room has helped me come out of my shell and I am more social now”, “I discovered a whole community of people who support one another. We are able to talk about our problems while listening to other people.”**

However, not everyone feels equally connected. Some residents describe strong ties only with immediate neighbours and less with the wider community:

**“ We know our immediate neighbours, we are connected to them but not connected with the wider community”**

(40+, Female, Regent’s Roots Festival).

Local organisations often encounter people in exactly these situations:

**“ A lot of people who come to our groups are experiencing loneliness and isolation, partly because of a safety thing, but partly they don’t get the opportunity to get to know the neighbours anymore”**

(34-44, Female, Focus group with representatives of the LGBTQ+ community in Camden).

This suggests that while Camden’s community infrastructure is strong, there remain gaps in reach, awareness and confidence to participate.

A resident at Regent’s Roots Festival described the value of local community connections as well as the barriers she still faces in accessing support:

**“ I have been living in Camden for 14 years. I attend activities at my local community centres and feel supported by neighbours on the estate [...] it’s good for me to have people to talk to. It’s difficult to access services in the borough due to language and communication barriers”**

(63, Female, Regent’s Roots Festival).

For newer residents and people seeking asylum, community connections and VCSE activity are also a critical source of stability and welcome.

One asylum seeker explained how council-supported community projects changed her daily life:

**“I am in a community [...] every week I have an activity. It's like giving our life a life again, and [it's] joyful, it's changed everything. When staying in a room during the whole day, it's not easy, the four walls is not easy”.**

(38, Female, Focus group with asylum seekers living in Camden).

She further described how Community Champions made her feel supported:

**“We feel very like home, we do many activities and people include you to help them make a new project”.**

These experiences show how community infrastructure and VCSE partnerships can support safety, belonging and mental wellbeing for people who might otherwise be isolated.

### Learning from: The Community Association for West Hampstead

The [Community Association for West Hampstead](#) aims to enhance the lives, health, and well-being of local people, with a particular focus on those most in need, including younger and older individuals. It brings people together to create an enjoyable, inclusive and sustainable place to live.

In the summer of 2025, the Association ran a survey to help them understand what people value and the benefits they gain from attending the centre. They were also interested to learn what people want them to focus on in the future. 129 people responded, with just under half of the respondents being 60 years old or older, and 85%

of the respondents were female. Over 65% of respondents visit the centre weekly, demonstrating its strong role as a routine community hub. Their findings were:

- What people value: The centre is appreciated for its welcoming, inclusive atmosphere, opportunities for social connection, health and wellbeing benefits, creative outlets, and quality teaching. Its proximity and affordability also encourage people to take part.
- Benefits gained: Participants report improved physical health, mental wellbeing, reduced loneliness, and new skills, with social connections as the most crucial benefit.
- Future priorities: Highest demand for fitness, wellbeing, arts and crafts, learning and culture, and social gatherings. There is growing interest in programmes for children, teens and families, as well as some appetite for spiritual and environmental initiatives.

### In Camden, 37% of residents have visited a library in the last 12 months, one of the highest shares of residents visiting libraries

Traditionally, libraries are places to borrow books and access digital resources, but both local and national evidence suggest that local libraries act as neighbourhood spaces that encourage community cohesion and reduce isolation. A [recent UK-wide study](#) by Better Libraries<sup>1</sup> notes that almost one in five people (18%) say their local library has helped reduce loneliness, rising to 22% among those over 55, and 15% say they've made a new friend in a library, rising to 32% among 25–34-year-olds. A further 1 in 10 say they've found emotional support or a sense of belonging, rising to 23% in the millennial age group.

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

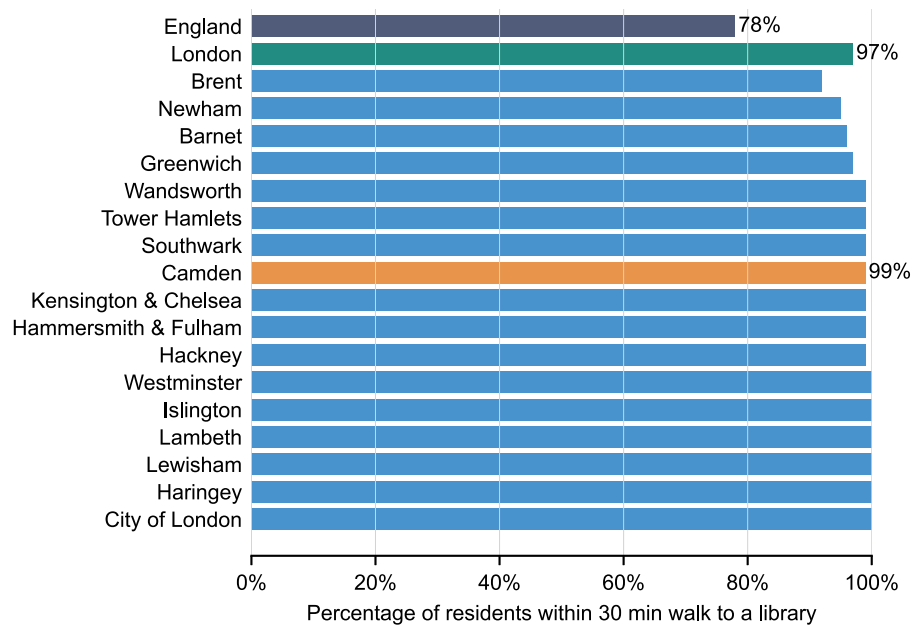
However, awareness of what libraries offer is not universal. One parent reflected:

**“ Some parents, they don’t know that your child can have a library card, and they can borrow books [...] and you can return them when you’re ready. I knew because I went to the library. So people should know, children [can] go [to a] library, you don’t need to buy books anymore”**

(34, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre).

Camden has a total of 12 libraries (3 of which are community-run) ([as per Arts Council England data](#)) and almost all (99%) of Camden residents live within a 30-minute walk of their nearest library. These libraries hosted more than 2,793 events during 2024/25.

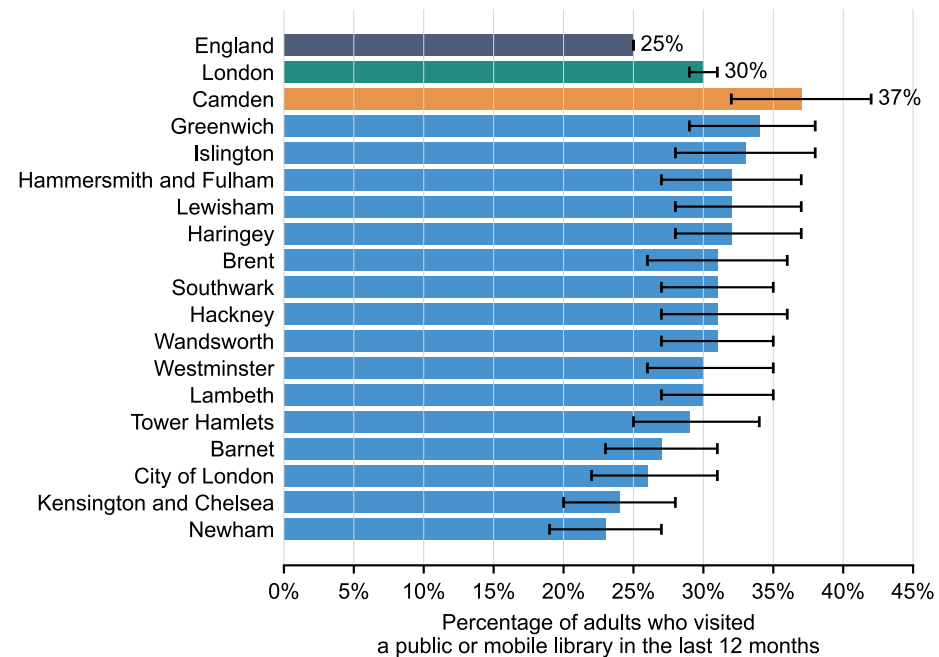
**Figure 3.1: Share of residents living within a 30-minute walk to a library**



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2024

In 2023/24, 37% of adults in Camden reported visiting a public library building or mobile library in the last 12 months.<sup>2</sup> This percentage is higher than any of the other inner London boroughs (ranging between 23% to 34%) and considerably higher than average for England (25%). However, the total number of physical visits to a library site in Camden (approximately 700,000 in 2023/23) is one of the lowest among the inner London boroughs, second only to Kensington and Chelsea (approximately 59,000). The physical visits have increased 15% in 2023/24 and a further increase of 8.5% to 942,757 in 2024/25.

**Figure 3.2: Percentage of adults who visited a public or mobile library in the last 12 months, 2023/24**



Source: Department for Culture, Media, and Sport 2023/24

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

**Borough of sanctuary**

As part of a city with high levels of international migration and population churn, Camden’s population is always changing, including refugees and asylum seekers. In recent years, as part of the UK government’s Homes for Ukraine scheme, Camden residents have welcomed 1,024 Ukrainian refugees as guests in their homes. This peaked between July-November 2022 when an average of 610 Ukrainian guests were living in Camden, hosted across an average of 350 households. In the most recent 3-month period, Camden hosted an average of 135 Ukrainian guests each month, across an average of 90 households. Among guests who have moved on from the scheme, 50% have chosen to remain in the UK (this figure is as of May 2025). Camden is also resettling 120 households (97 Afghan households and 23 Ukrainian households) in 2025, as part of the government’s Local Authority Housing Fund, which has enabled delivery of additional affordable housing capacity without creating pressure elsewhere in our housing system.

Good Life Camden [↗](#)

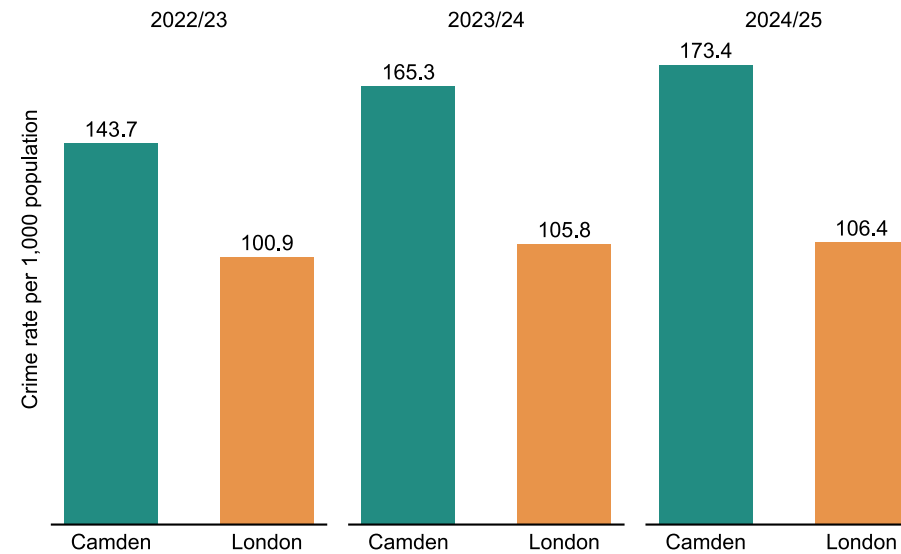
**Safety: Everyone in Camden feels safe**

**Among the London boroughs, crime rate in Camden continues to be one of the highest, second only to Westminster**

Camden is a busy inner London borough, with many entertainment, retail and transport venues bringing people from around the world. Unfortunately, these characteristics also attract criminal activity. Similar to previous years, the crime rate in Camden (173.4 per 1,000 population)

is the second highest in London, second only to Westminster (343.6) and significantly higher than the average for London (106.4). The year-on-year trajectory shows the rate of increase in the crime rate for the borough is higher than the average increase for London.

**Figure 3.3: Crime rate - offences per 1,000 population, 2022-2025**

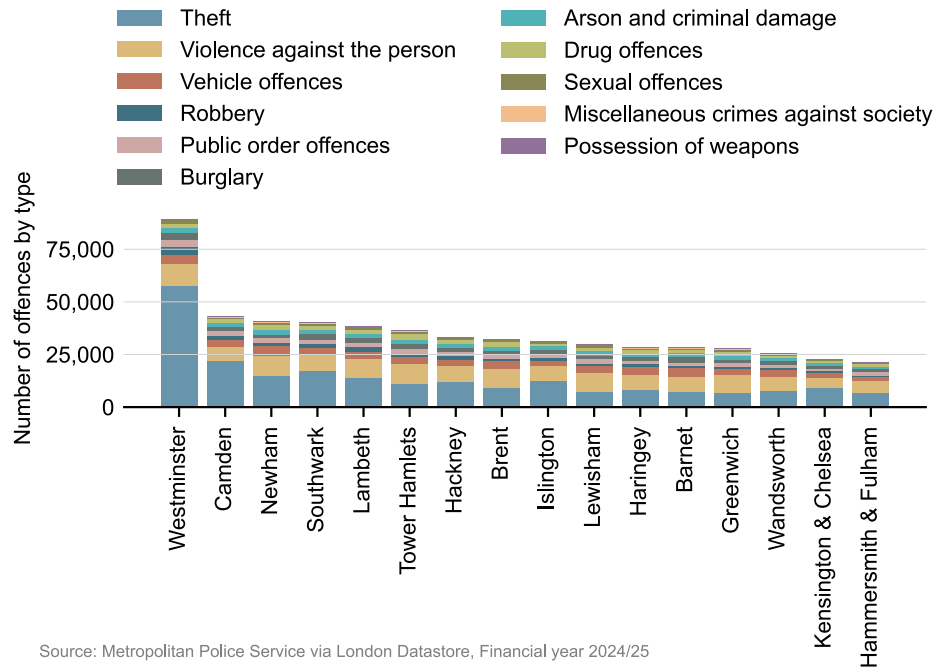


Source: Crime data dashboard - Metropolitan police, ONS Police Recorded Crime, Financial years 2022/23 – 2024/25

Like other London boroughs, theft is the largest category of crime offences in the borough. This also contributes significantly to the increase in crime rate with a year-on-year increase of more than 10%. This high rate is probably reflective of the high footfall around tourist attractions, transit hubs and night-time economy. The other two categories with a more than 10% increase are drug offences and sexual offences.

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

Figure 3.4: Number of offences by type, 2024/25



Residents in different parts of the borough have shared concerns about safety, especially as crime rates are going up. They mention specific crimes like phones being stolen and knife attacks.

The main reasons for these worries are things people see around them, such as antisocial behaviour, drug use, gangs, homelessness, and not enough police presence or CCTV cameras on the streets. These issues affect different groups in different ways and can make it harder for people to move around freely.

For example, a parent said,

**“ [I] don’t let my children out in the area unsupervised as it is unsafe, there are kids on bikes roaming around, many rough sleepers, anti-social behaviours [...]. This makes me feel worried”**  
(38, Female, Camden Mela 2025).

Some residents described how concerns about crime and safety directly affect their day-to-day lives and freedom of movement, particularly for families. One asylum-seeking parent explained,

**“ I don’t let my children go out alone. We have to go with them everywhere because we are afraid somebody will harm them”**  
(46, Female, Focus group with asylum seekers living in Camden). She further commented on the constant sense of vigilance this creates:

**“ All the time we have the fear somebody will snatch our bag [...] even when we take money from the bank, we are very careful”**  
Other residents describe witnessing criminal offences and the impact of the experiences and perceptions of personal safety:

**“ I was walking down and just before I went there, I believe two boys on a cycle grabbed a phone from somebody and ran off”**  
(35, Female, Focus group at Harmood Children’s Centre and Family Hub)

**“ I wouldn’t get my phone out because it might just disappear out my hands.”**  
(82, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre). Similarly, another woman noted that:

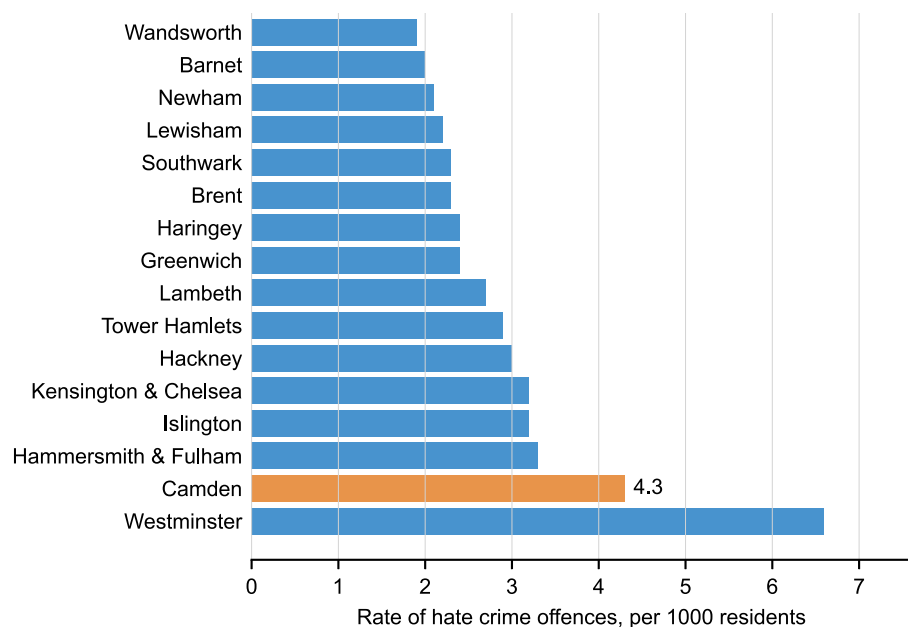
**“ I remember those two women who were attacked on the bus in Camden, and it’s always in the back of your mind that something like that could happen.”**  
(65-74, Female, Focus group with representatives of the LGBTQ+ community in Camden).

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

**The rate of Hate Crime per 1,000 people in Camden was 4.3 in 2024/25, with only Westminster surpassing this rate**

A hate crime is defined as any incident that is perceived by the victim or any other person to be racist, homophobic, transphobic or due to a person’s religion, belief, gender identity or disability. When a hate crime is recorded by police, it can have multiple flags added to it to identify the category of hate crime: racist, religious, transphobic, homophobic, Islamophobic disability hate and antisemitic. A single offence can have multiple flags, which means that the sum of flags (types of hate crime) will be more than the total number of offences, depending on how these were recorded.

**Figure 3.5: Hate crime offences per 1,000 population, total, 2024/25**



Source: Metropolitan Police Service via London Datastore, FY 2024/25

In Camden in 2024/25, there were 1,065 hate crime offences, a rate of 4.3 per 1,000 people, one of the highest rates in the comparison group and second only to Westminster, where a rate of 6.6 offences per 1,000 people was recorded. It is important to consider that the rates reflect the number of offences per 1,000 residents, but in areas where there are many visitors coming through for various reasons, the rate will be much higher (like in the case of total crime rates, where many of the theft offences are likely occur around busy areas such as the big stations and Camden Town, rather than experienced by local residents).

The number of flags associated with hate crimes for individual categories in Camden (excluding flags which could lead to double counting) were: 153 homophobic, 135 antisemitic, 48 Islamophobic, 25 transphobic and 18 disability hate crimes. Other flags recorded in Camden which could include double counting (i.e. a crime can be recorded as antisemitic, faith and racist) were: Racist and religious crime – 901, Racist crime – 754, Faith crime – 202.

As the methodology for recording hate crimes has changed, these figures are no longer comparable to previous years.

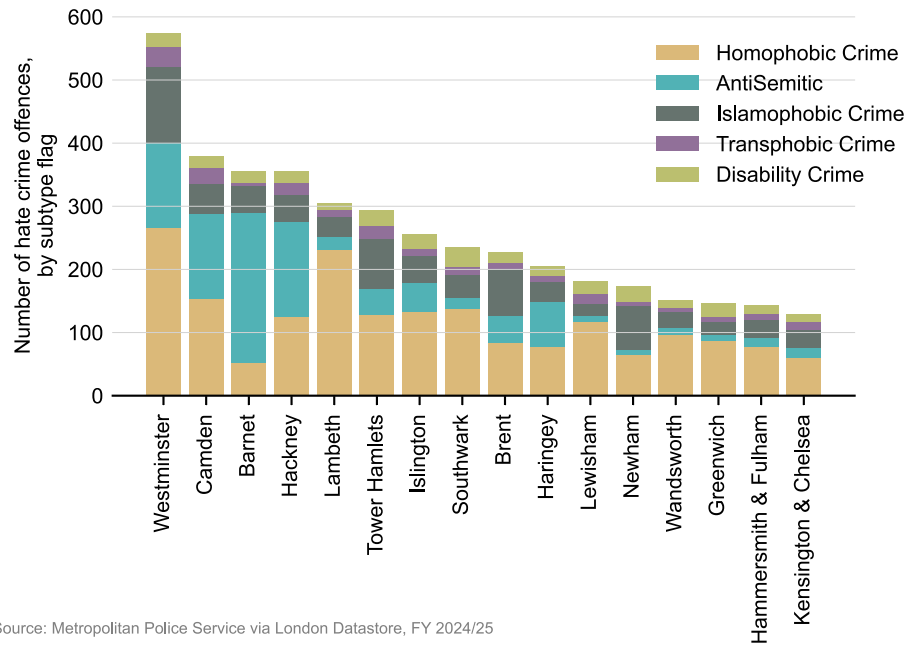
For some residents, recent events have revived older fears about racism and targeted hostility. One woman reflected:

*“ We experienced racism in 70s and then we were safe since the 80s. But now, just very recently what’s been happening in the recent weeks, it’s the first time I’m feeling very vulnerable when I go out and I keep telling my kids, they’re grown up now, please come home early”*

(50, Female, Focus group at Cooperation Town).

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

Figure 3.6: Hate crime types (flags) recorded, 2024/25



Source: Metropolitan Police Service via London Datastore, FY 2024/25

the majority of victims being female according to the SNA, placing Camden among those with the lowest rates for this type of offence among London boroughs. However, the SNA notes the historic under-reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence offences, estimated to be 26% under-reported as of 2014.

As part of its Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Needs Assessment, Camden Council identified a significantly higher rate of VAWG offences at 29 offences per 1,000 female residents. This is 9.8% higher than the average for London boroughs and is 11<sup>th</sup> highest across London. From 2020 to 2023, there was an 8.2% increase in VAWG offences in Camden, significantly above the rest of London, which saw a 5.7% increase.

Domestic abuse which makes up 36% of all VAWG crimes, after which sexual violence (18%) and stalking and harassment (24%) contribute significantly to high VAWG rates in Camden. Compared with the London average, rates of sexual violence are approximately 40% higher, and rates of stalking and harassment are 18% higher. Like domestic abuse, under-reporting for these offences hinders the understanding of scale of other VAWG crimes too.

This prevalence of VAWG and domestic abuse has its imprint across council services. Roughly one in four cases for Adult Social Care safeguarding cases involving women were linked to Violence Against Women and Girls, one in five homelessness applications, and nearly two in five (a proportion that has more than doubled since 2019) housing register applications from women concern domestic abuse. This interaction between Domestic abuse and broader forms of VAWG and Camden’s housing pathways underscore the role of housing both as a pathway out of abuse and as a point where risk is identified and managed. The research on women in Camden’s Adult Pathway further highlights the acute vulnerability of those experiencing homelessness. Women in this pathway face some of the highest levels of VAWG in the borough: 80% had experienced violence within the past three

Good Life Camden [↗](#)

**Safety: People are safe in their homes**

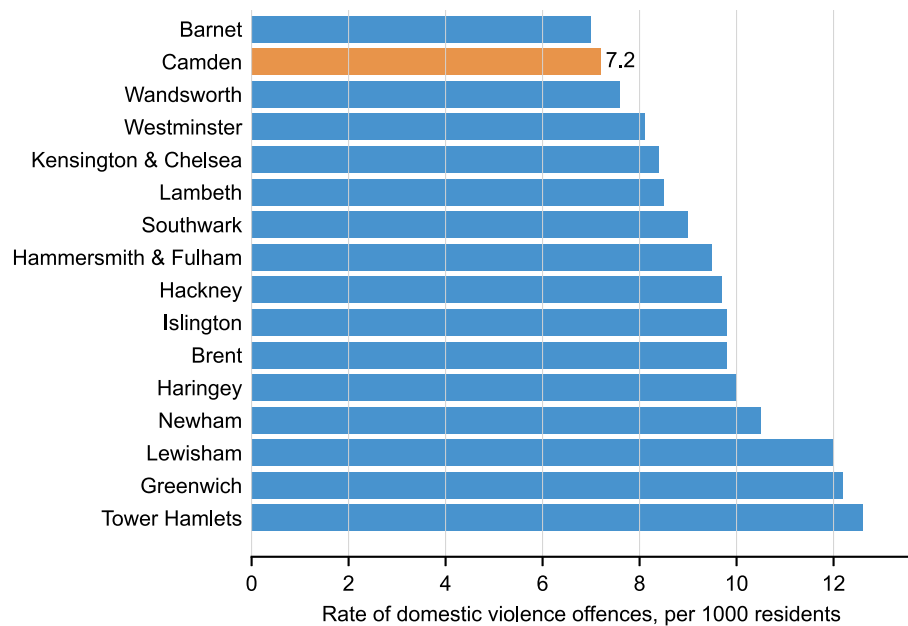
**While the rate of domestic abuse offences in Camden is one of the lowest among London boroughs, violence against women and girls (VAWG) was recorded at 9.8% higher than the average for London boroughs in 2024**

Based on the findings from the London Violence Reduction Unit’s Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)<sup>3</sup>, Camden is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in London for incidents classified as ‘Rape’ and 6<sup>th</sup> for ‘Other sexual offences.’ The rate of domestic abuse in Camden stands at 7.2 per 1,000 people, with

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

years, and more than half were subject to five or more types of abuse. It also reveals that the majority of women in Camden’s Adult Pathway are experiencing multiple disadvantage (co-occurring and mutually reinforcing experiences of disadvantage, i.e., substance use, mental health needs, homelessness and VAWG). Despite this, engagement with specialist VAWG services remains low. Only a small proportion of women had accessed specialist support, including from Camden Safety Net or multiple-disadvantage teams, even though women supported by DVA Navigators were experiencing, on average, over seven types of abuse. The insights underscore that VAWG/DVA is both a leading cause of homelessness, and also a consequence of it (risk of increased and repeat victimisation once homeless).

**Figure 3.7: Rate of domestic violence offences per 1,000 population**



Source: Metropolitan Police Service via London Datastore, FY 2024/25

Within Camden, the highest rates of VAWG offences are concentrated around Camden Town (73.4 per 1,000 female residents) and are marked as physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour and stalking and harassment, with the predominance being harassment. Several factors contribute to this high rate, including the night-time economy, major transport hubs and large tourist attractions. These factors contribute to this high rate but covers reporting by non-Camden residents as well.

**Learning from: Focus group with asylum seekers living in Camden**

In August 2025, Camden Council held a focus group with asylum seekers living in the borough, including participants who had been in the UK for between 11 months and two years and who had arrived from Mauritius, Azerbaijan, Iran and Pakistan. The discussion explored their early experiences of life in Camden. Participants described the borough as lively, diverse and culturally rich, helping many of them feel more at home in the UK, while also highlighting challenges around safety, stigma and navigating services. Camden’s diversity was especially valued, with one participant explaining,

*“ I feel connected in Camden [...] it’s not like I see only white people, I see Black people, Muslim, Indian [...] we are all in the community. I don’t feel like I am in a foreign country [...] I feel very connected quickly”*  
(38, Female).

Access to services also played an important role in shaping their experiences. Attendees praised Camden Council and local organisations for the support provided, saying,

*“ If we have any health issues, they solve [them] [...] we have access to GP, hospital, library [...] many events they manage*

**The 6 WMC ambitions**

*[...] we feel like somebody is doing something for us, we are important for them"*

(46, Female).

Community connection emerged as another protective factor. Several participants described how community centres and local activities helped reduce isolation and offered structure and joy in daily life.

One attendee reflected on feeling included and heard:

*“ This community gave us the opportunity [...] they take care of our ideas”*

(38, Female).

A younger participant, however, noted that she sometimes struggled to find opportunities to socialise or take part in activities:

*“ I don't go to school in Camden, so I don't really have friends here. I like doing a lot of activity, like playing basketball or sports, but since I came here, I didn't really have the opportunity to do it, I don't have friends to ask about it”*

(19, Female).

Alongside these positives, some participants described challenges and anxieties connected to safety and stigma. Some spoke of feeling watched when entering the building they live in, with one saying,

*“ When I'm inside [the temporary accommodation], it's okay [...] but when I come back, it's like people watching who is an asylum seeker [...] that's very scary for me”*

(38, Female).

Others raised concerns about drug use and risks for children, saying that they did not feel safe:

*“ I don't let my children go alone”*

(46, Female).

Together, these insights show how asylum seekers experience Camden as both a welcoming and supportive place, while also facing challenges that shape their daily lives and sense of security.

**The 6 WMC  
ambitions**

## Endnotes

- 1 [Better Libraries Data Shows Just How Much We Love Our Libraries - And The Value they Bring | LoveReading](#)
- 2 The official statistics consider both public library building and mobile libraries but there are no mobile libraries in Camden.
- 3 [Serious Violence in London, London's Violence Reduction Unit, April 2025](#)

**The 6 WMC  
ambitions**

## Figure Contents

### Safe and Strong Communities

---

<b>Figure 3.1:</b> Share of residents living within a 30-minute walk to a library	<b>10</b>
<b>Figure 3.2:</b> Percentage of adults who visited a public or mobile library in the last 12 months, 2023/24	<b>10</b>
<b>Figure 3.3:</b> Crime rate - offences per 1,000 population, 2022-2025	<b>11</b>
<b>Figure 3.4:</b> Number of offences by type, 2024/25	<b>12</b>
<b>Figure 3.5:</b> Hate crime offences per 1,000 population, total, 2024/25	<b>13</b>
<b>Figure 3.6:</b> Hate crime types (flags) recorded, 2024/25	<b>14</b>
<b>Figure 3.7:</b> Rate of domestic violence offences per 1,000 population	<b>15</b>

**The 6 WMC  
ambitions**

