

22 February 2018

Dear resident,

It is appalling and deeply sad that on Tuesday two young men lost their lives, in the very midst of our communities in Camden. This follows a period of increased tension and the loss of lives elsewhere in London.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with everyone who knew these young men. Camden Police are providing specialist support to the families of the victims.

We want to reassure every resident that the safety of our communities is our highest priority and we are directing all of our attention and resources to keep you safe.

Today and over the coming days you will see extra police officers on the ground in the area, providing 24-hour patrols. Additional police officers will be providing reassurance to the community, schools and youth centres. Camden Council's community presence officers and additional security officers will be working alongside the Police, patrolling the area today into next week.

Camden Council's youth service officers are visiting local Community and Youth Centres to offer advice and additional support to young people specifically. Youth clubs in the area remain open with increased staffing to support young people, allowing all youth activities to continue over the weekend. All schools in the borough have information on support available and will help our youth and social work teams to provide emotional support to children and families affected by these stabbings.

The Metropolitan Police continue to make urgent enquiries to establish the full circumstances and identify if there are any links between the two incidents. We encourage anyone who has information about the incidents or ongoing concerns to make contact with us as follows:

- If anyone is in danger call 999.
- Any witnesses, or anyone with information that may assist police, is urged to call officers via 101. To remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit the crimestoppers-uk.org website.
- If you have concerns about community tensions please contact us via 020 7974 4444 or by email communitysafety@camden.gov.uk
- If you are concerned about a young person at risk, call 020 7974 3317 (daytime) or 020 7974 4444 (out of hours)

If English is not your first language and you would like to talk further please call Somali Youth Development Resource Centre on 07958594270.

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The safety of our young people and the need to tackle the long-term causes of youth violence in Camden is our absolute priority. We have recently set up a Youth Safety Taskforce which will examine patterns of youth violence in Camden, assess the provision of youth services in Camden and see what we can learn from initiatives in other cities. As part of this, we intend to set up a community conversation meeting in your area focussed on this subject. You can read more about the Youth Safety Taskforce on our website camden.gov.uk/youthsafetytaskforce

We are absolutely committed to reducing youth violence so that everyone in our community can be kept safe, and will continue to work together and with you, our communities, to achieve this.



Councillor Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council



Keir Starmer, MP for Holborn & St Pancras



Nicholas Davies, Borough Commander for Camden and Islington