Sadiq Khan's Policies to Combat Poverty and Crime in London

More talk than action?

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A study of selected policies from Sadiq Khan´s manifesto published prior to the candidate election in 2016 in practice with focus on present-day poverty and crime in London.
Abstract

This Master’s Thesis explores selected policies implemented by Sadiq Khan that is based on material from his manifesto prior to the candidate election to become Mayor of London in 2016. A distinct observation prior to the analysis was Khan’s use of the title “A Manifesto for all Londoners”, which exposes the idea that London today is not a city for everyone. The implemented strategies used in the thesis has a specific focus on young people, children and Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities groups, which concludes that present-day London is not a city for everyone. The thesis studied if Sadiq Khan has carried out any evident changes when it comes to poverty and crime in London by having the groups listed above in focus. During the analysis, however, the present thesis found that delivering strategies that combat especially crime is challenged by present-day circumstances in London.

This has required that Khan takes an approach beyond his strategies by looking at a successful approach that was carried out in Glasgow in 2005.
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1 Introduction chapter

The present Master’s Thesis explores selected policies by Sadiq Khan in practice. More precisely, the selected strategies that are explored have been delivered to combat two particular areas, namely poverty and crime in London. Poverty and crime are two complex terminologies. In light of the present thesis, however, poverty is in this thesis using the definition relative poverty by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which is defined in relation to economic status of other members of the society (n.d., section two). This illustrates my perception of the on-going poverty in London due to changes that has emerged with higher living costs, which has affected more Londoners and their economy. My thesis is also based on the definition by Oxford English Dictionary that defines crime as an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law (English Oxford Dictionaries, n.d.). The present thesis, however, studies preventative policies by Sadiq Khan in practice to combat crime.

The aim with the thesis is thus to see if the mayor has been successful in supporting his outlined policies in the manifesto with relevant implemented strategies to combat poverty and crime and if these strategies, by 2019, have been carried out. With this in mind, the present chapter will give an introduction of Sadiq Khan and his manifesto “A Manifesto for all Londoners” and thereafter introduce the present-day situation in London around poverty and crime.
1.1 Sadiq Khan and the 2016 London mayoral election

Sadiq Khan (2015) stated that:

As the son of a bus driver, as somebody who’s the son of immigrants, as somebody who was raised on a council estate, as somebody who slept on a bunk bed when he was 24, I get aspiration (Eaton, 2015, p. 33).

Sadiq Khan. Son of a bus driver. Son of immigrants. First Muslim Mayor. This is the foundation to Sadiq Khan’s entrance to the London mayoral election in 2016. Furthermore, the manifesto that Khan delivered prior to the election is based on these aspects to Khan and his personal experiences with London. But first, who is Sadiq Khan?

The Labour candidate Sadiq Khan was born in Tooting, South London, and has according to Mayor of London Assembly spent most of his life in the city (Mayor of London, n.d.). Khan graduated with a Law degree from the University of North London and his political career has consisted of being the Prospective Labour candidate for Tooting parliamentary constituency where he specialised in Human Rights. Thereafter, he served the role as Minister of State for Communities and Minister of State for Transport (n.d.).

As the introduction to this section stated, there are important aspects to Sadiq Khan that are central to include in the present thesis. Sadiq Khan grew up in a Sunni Muslim working-class family and is also a second-generation immigrant. His religious upbringing and Muslim beliefs are important to his identity and political view. In light of political view, Sadiq Khan’s standpoint is to feature openness, and the aim is for London to be an open city for everyone. Furthermore, these important aspects to Sadiq Khan’s identity were also present in the election in 2016 and was an element that was used in the election by the opponent, Zac Goldsmith, for the Conservatives.

The two candidates in 2016 mayoral election were both passionate about their interest in London, however, a difference between them was evident, namely the opponent’s religious beliefs and ethnic origin. Different religious beliefs became a part of the propaganda by Goldsmith that eventually ruined his own election campaign. One of the key points that supported this defeat was that the election campaign seemed to suggest that Goldsmith was trying to capitalise of prejudices by using terms such as “radical” and “divisive” to describe Sadiq Khan (Channel 4 News, 2016, 0:18). In media, these terms have often been associated with both extremism and terrorism and Goldsmiths campaign consequently backfired and
was described to be unpolitical. Khan won the election in May 2016 and became the first Muslim Mayor in a modern Western Country.

1.1.1 “A Manifesto for all Londoners”

Sadiq Khan’s manifesto was given the title “A Manifesto for all Londoners” and contained Khan’s declaration prior to becoming the mayor. By accepting Sadiq Khan as Mayor of London, London would have a mayor with the experience, values and vision to put London on the right track in the words of Khan (2016, p. 6). A recurring theme in the manifesto is the references to the present mayor, Boris Johnson, in 2016. These references are based upon what Sadiq Khan views as failures by Johnson. Among these failures was that the former mayor did not deliver enough affordable housing to Londoners, neglected the crucial area of mental health and left London less safe due to an increase in crime during Tori’s watch (p. 72). Khan’s manifesto, however, sets out policies that will tackle these critical points and in addition also housing crisis, unemployment and more skills training for Londoners to improve the present circumstances in London.

By giving examples of failures by the present mayor at the time of election, Sadiq Khan also strengthens the credibility to his policies because the policies are based upon these failures. In addition, Khan also used ambitious words to convince in the election. This is in particular illustrated in Khan’s statement to be the most pro-business Mayor and the greenest Mayor ever (2016, p. 5). The two examples are a good illustration of exaggeration by a politician and the use of rhetorical words to strengthen the outlined policies and the changes that will emerge with the new elected mayor.

Furthermore, Khan builds the manifesto on personal experiences and values that also are important to London. By using this as an argument, it attracts Londoners who can relate to his story in a diverse London. Also, by being a second-generation immigrant and a strong believer in religion and, in addition, a candidate to the next mayor, it reaches out to the diverse London and puts Sadiq Khan’s vision “A City for Everyone” into practice.

These illustrations are some of the elements in Sadiq Khan’s manifesto and is in my view an important part of the credibility he received during the election in 2016.

Sadiq Khan has former been an engaged State for Transport Minister and this has given him the experience to delegate and deliver polices that ensures that Londoners remains at the heart of the delivered work. In light of Khan’s manifesto, Khan also emphasized current
inequality in London and that housing is one of the causes to poverty in London (2016, p. 55). Additionally, Khan also stated that keeping Londoners, their families and communities safe will be his top priority with the current rise in crime. For that reason, the present thesis is based on Sadiq Khan’s top priorities to combat present-day poverty and crime.

1.2 Theory and method in the present Thesis

The theory in the present thesis is to see whether Sadiq Khan has delivered strategies that sets to combat poverty and crime in London. To complete the aim of the thesis, I have studied policy documents that have been published continuously by Sadiq Khan and the institution Mayor of London. This has supported my thesis with vital information and given an insight to what has been carried out at the time of writing. Furthermore, I have also used interviews and secondary sources that supports my analysis. The policy documents that are used in the present thesis is mainly primary sources and published on the web-site governed by Mayor of London, which publishes relevant information to their work. In addition, Mayor of London is the institution, which includes Sadiq Khan and his team in City Hall. Therefore, when referring to Mayor of London in this context, I am referring to the institution, unless stated otherwise.

In light of the manifesto, I am basing my analysis on five specific chapters from the manifesto when looking at delivered strategies that are used in the present thesis to see what Sadiq Khan has done to combat poverty and crime.

1.2.1 Material from the manifesto used in the present Thesis

In terms of poverty, there are four chapters that I have based the thesis on from the manifesto. These chapters tackle current housing crisis, sets to provide skills for Londoners, create a healthier and fairer city and tackle health inequalities. In terms of crime, the analysis is based on the chapter that sets to make London safer and more secure and outlines policies that Sadiq Khan views as vital in order for London to combat crime.

The first theme that the present thesis explores is policies to combat poverty. In “Homes for Londoners” in the manifesto, Sadiq Khan emphasizes that current housing crisis is the biggest yet in London and is affecting the living situation and life to many Londoners. This chapter outlines policies to build more affordable homes and promises to give Londoners the first priority to these affordable homes. In addition, Sadiq Khan emphasizes that he will
deliver more affordable houses, compared to what the Boris Johnson has delivered by 2016 (2016, p. 19). The next two chapters, “Skills for Londoners” and “a fairer and more equal city” is Sadiq Khan outlined policies to challenge inequality in London and help all Londoners achieve success (Khan, 2016). This chapter also outlines Sadiq Khan’s commitment to tackle inequality by delivering Skills for Londoners Fund that supports skills training (2016, p. 48). Furthermore, Khan outlines that he will ensure that communities have access to skills training by working with local authorities that will be better prepared for economic growth if he becomes the mayor (2016, p. 49). In addition, Khan will strive to make London a Living Wage City, which involves that Londoners wage will support that every individual can afford accommodation, food and other vital necessities. The fourth chapter that sets to tackle poverty is “Improving London’s health”. In this chapter, the most important element is that Sadiq Khan promises to deliver a Health Inequalities Strategy that will work direct on present health inequalities in London.

There is a common element to these four chapters in the manifesto and that is Sadiq Khan’s promise to work with local authorities in London boroughs (2016, p. 74). This is a vital element to combat local inequalities and important to the thesis as inequality in London differ between boroughs and requires facilitated plans to solve local problems.

The other theme of the present thesis is crime. “A safer and more secure London” outlines Sadiq Khan’s vital changes that the forthcoming mayor views as important to combat crime. Khan’s outlined policies is based upon Johnson’s failures and commits to restore neighbourhood policy, work with local authorities, establish local preventative activities, implement a strategy that tackles violent crime more direct and have an important focus on those at risk to become either involved in crime or victim of crime (2016, p. 38). Furthermore, this chapter also outlines a demand after a direct strategy to combat knife crime and that City Hall needs to work closely with local authorities to succeed in building youth services and organisations that are set to help young Londoners.

The policies that are outlined in the five presented chapters is Sadiq Khan’s vision and is set to be delivered when becoming a mayor. It is important to emphasise that at the time of the election, the policies outlined in the five selected chapters were only Sadiq Khan’s vision and policies he wanted to implement if he became the mayor.

These elements from the five selected chapters also support that it is an important link between poverty and crime, which is discussed in chapter two.
That being said, in order to understand why Sadiq Khan has touched upon these specific elements in “A Manifesto for all Londoners”, it is important to study present-day situation with poverty and crime in London and which challenges Sadiq Khan meets.

1.3 Present-day poverty and crime in London

To understand poverty and crime in present-day London, we need to study the causes to why Londoners is experiencing inequalities in many aspects of their lives.

The economic growth after Second World War made London into the richest part of England and according to Khan is London also the greatest commercial center- and business capital of Europe (2016, p. 11). With this in mind, present-day London features some of the wealthiest businesses and families in the world in the same way as the city also features some of the highest levels of poverty (Mayor of London, 2017f, p. 15). It was set in 2017 that 20 per cent of the residents in England live in poverty, while in London the same survey estimated that a total of 27 per cent were living in poverty (Leeser, 2019). Whereas the positive aspects to the economic growth has made those living in wealth wealthier, the change has happened at the expense of middle- to low income earners.

An article published by London School of Economics identified in 2011 that the term “poverty” in London would in the future define more Londoners due to current changes in the city (Lupton, 2011). To support this statement, this article studied London housing prices in 2011 that were characterised by a constant increase from 1990s onwards. Moreover, the same time-period recognised that the present poverty rate in Inner London went down, whilst outer London increased (Lupton, 2011). The argument used in this article was that the current housing prices in Inner- London from 1990 onwards were unaffordable compared to those in Outer – boroughs. In such a situation, the economic changes and uneven economic growth supports Sadiq Khan’s statement with current housing situation in London is too expensive and that more Londoners are pushed into homes that are too small and rents that goes on the expense of their income in (2016, p. 19).

Despite that the article by Lupton was published in 2011, Khan also recognised in his manifesto that Londoners faces longer and more expensive commutes because they are pushed to live in Outer- London (2016, p. 19). Furthermore, the change of the term poverty has pushed more ordinary working-class Londoners out of London due to the higher costs and housing crisis in Inner- London. This has also expanded the term poverty to also include
Londoners on middle-income who are characterised to live in relative poverty due to the current costs in London. According to the Institute of Health and Care Excellence, homelessness and housing shortage have important consequences for health (Buck & Gregory, 2018). A statistic by Office for National Statistics hereinafter ONS implied that females living in Richmond Upon Thames is expected to have almost 70 years of healthy life expectancy, compared to females in Tower Hamlets that is expected to have 55 years of healthy life expectancy (ONS, 2017a). In light of the present health inequalities across boroughs in London, it is important to look into the population that lives within the boroughs with health inequalities and see if efforts are initiated to combat local health inequalities, housing crisis and poverty. Greater London Authority found that Richmond Upon Thames was one of the London boroughs registered with the least diverse population in 2011 compared to Tower Hamlets that registered from 2001 to 2011 a steady increase into a diverse population (Greater London Authority, 2017). London is a diverse city, but diversity can in situations promote inequality if local boroughs does not offer tailored programmes with language courses, workplaces with focus on social integration and equal payment.

There are many aspects to health inequalities in London. According to Khan, health inequalities in London can be measured in different health life expectancies, mental health problems and lifestyles which needs to be in focus and combated in order to secure Londoners in deprived areas (Mayor of London, 2018g, p. 38).

Also, according to Leeser, who performed a survey for London Datastore on Poverty in London, this survey indicated that from 2015/2016 after housing costs, 42 per cent of Inner London children lived in poverty and 34 per cent of the children in Outer London, which was above the average in England (Leeser, 2017, section 6). This survey confirms that children are those who are most affected by the current housing crisis that their parents experience. According to a study by the London Journal of Primary Care, the type of poverty that children experience in London is more acute and persistent compared to those in the rest of England (Farthing, 2010). This is supported by Khan’s analysis of the present-day situation where many of the children registered grow up in temporary accommodation in London and can during periods of time have less money for food, clothing and heating in their homes (2016, p. 24). Besides, living in consistent uncertainty and be associated to deprivation due to your living conditions can feature isolation. In situations where isolation is present it may also lead to people leaning towards
specific groups for inclusion, which can feature negative outcome. This also strengthens the present demand after youth-services and activities aimed at young Londoners, which disappeared due to severe cut made by the Government. This takes me over to the second main theme of the present thesis, namely crime in London.

According to Khan, approximately 62 police stations had to close during Johnson´s time as mayor due to the cuts made by the Government. This resulted in a loss of 23 per cent of the present frontline policing (2016, p. 39). In addition, a distrust in the police has risen in London. According to Mayor´s Office for Policing and Crime hereinafter MOPAC, indicated that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups hereinafter BAME in London were 2.5 times more likely to be stopped and searched, a tactic where the police examine people they think might carry a weapon, by the police than White people (Mayor of London, 2017a, 16).

London is a diverse city and according to figures by Greater London Authority, between 2001 to 2011 all ethnic groups increased in size in London and the Mixed Ethnic Groups saw a rise in 79.2 per cent over this period (GLA Intelligence, 2013, p. 6). That present-day London is a diverse city is a central element in Khan´s policies. But if the reality to many Londoners is that they experience racism and hatred, it challenges Khan´s use of terms “open” and “welcoming” to describe London in the manifesto. A focus on preventative elements in communities and social integration is a vital element to secure that every Londoner feel that the city is open to everyone.

A rise in crime requires that Khan works closely with local authorities to support community organisations that are set up to help young Londoners not to engage in gang- system and help them fulfil their potential. Furthermore, to combat crime it requires specific strategies that target the specific type of crime more direct. Finally, to combat crime, it requires that London has a Metropolitan Police Service that is available and reachable in case of an emergency. To achieve this, it requires that the mayor works closely with the Metropolitan Police Service, invests money in the police and helps individual boroughs to restore trust and confidence in the police.

“A Manifesto for all Londoners” is introduced to provide a city for all Londoners, however, this manifesto also states that it requires specific strategies that supports groups that are more vulnerable to poverty and crime and this is the focus in the present thesis.
1.4 Structure and aim of the Thesis

Sadiq Khan has been Mayor of London since 2016. The aim with the present thesis is thus to explore what has been implemented to combat poverty and crime.

Sadiq Khan’s success in the 2016 mayoral election was a triumph since Sadiq Khan represents the first Muslim mayor in a Western modernised country. His manifesto “A Manifesto for all Londoners” contained many outlined policies that sets to make London to “a city for everyone”. Despite this, by using the title “A Manifesto for all Londoners”, Khan also exposes the idea that London today is not a city for everyone. To support this interpretation, Sadiq Khan has outlined policies in the manifesto that are aimed at children and families, BAME communities in deprived areas and underrepresented communities with suitable skills to become part of London workforce, which is the focus in the present thesis. (2016, p. 73).

The structure of the present thesis is divided into two chapters excluding the introduction and conclusion. In chapter two I have studied implemented strategies that supports the outlined policies from the manifesto. These strategies that have been implemented also focuses on particular groups in London that are vulnerable to poverty and crime.

In chapter three I have performed an analysis of the implemented strategies and seen if it has been carried out any results and if it has combated present-day poverty and crime in London.

The present thesis is based upon selected implemented strategies that I consider as important to my thesis. Having said that, I am aware that poverty and crime are complex issues with numerous aspects. The sources used in the presents thesis is mainly primary sources by Mayor of London, which substantiates with an accurate picture of what has been achieved at the time of writing the thesis.
2 A Study of Delivered Strategies by Khan

In the present chapter I have studied selected implemented strategies by Sadiq Khan that is based on the five chapters from the manifesto outlined in the introduction. However, a vital element to my study of Sadiq Khan’s policies in practice was discussed by 4in10, a child charities organisation, who chose to write a response paper to the manifesto where the organisation commented on Sadiq Khan’s use of the term “all”. The response paper is called “A City for All Children” and discusses that children were an excluded group from the original manifesto. 4in10 stated that in terms of housing, the manifesto lack of secure tenancies for children and suitable housing for those living in poverty. In terms of crime, lack of recognition of young people exploited by drug trafficking, London Gangs and too much educational pressure on children and young people from early age (2016). This response paper also challenged Sadiq Khan’s use of term “affordable” and commented on that the manifesto did not define it. The observations by 4in10 has been important to my analysis in the present thesis, which has been to study implemented strategies and see whether Khan in practice has included children as part of the underrepresented area in London.

In the present chapter I also recognise if Sadiq Khan has put emphasis on children in the selected strategies that have been implemented.

2.1.1 Strategy to combat housing crisis

Housing crisis is according to Khan a complex issue that needs to be in focus in order for London to achieve prosperity, growth and fairness (2016, p. 19). A survey by Trust for London, which is an independent charitable foundation that aim to tackle poverty and inequality, identified that only 5 per cent of the bottom 50 per cent of the households own their property in London compared to the 10 per cent at the top where over half of them owns their apartment (Tinson, 27 % of Londoners in poverty, section 7). This article also included a statement by Khan that emphasized that in the worst cases with housing, it can affect social cohesion, cause poor health and plunge residents into poverty (Christou, 2018, The extent of London housing crisis. section 5). As Sadiq Khan stated in the manifesto that “many of the houses built in London are too often not the properties London needs” (2016, p. 19), this article also discussed the amount of housing that exists in London but are not liveable due to the housing costs. According to this article, 65 per cent of already existing accommodation in London needs to turn affordable in order to meet the demand in London (Christou, 2018).
In coherence with Sadiq Khan´s emphasis in the manifesto that housing crisis is London´s biggest issue (2016, p. 19), Christou considered housing crisis as a common problem Greater London experiences and it requires specific strategies that can combat further inequality among Londoners. According to Khan, one of the challenges with current housing crisis is that between 1997 to 2016 the number of jobs grew by 1.6 million in London (Mayor of London, 2018a, p. 28). During this period the population also increased with 25 per cent (2018a). Although the population increased and London continued with an economic growth, the Housing Strategy by Sadiq Khan identified that the city failed to build and provide with the right housing amount that would meet the requirement, both economically and availability (Mayor of London, 2018f)

Sadiq Khan delivered London Housing Strategy in 2018. This strategy contains direct effort that will be carried out in order to make more housing affordable to Londoners. Furthermore, Sadiq Khan also defines the term “affordable”, which 4in10 missed in the manifesto. The Housing Strategy concluded that the affordable homes that will be built, meets the requirement to those on low to middle income. These Londoners will also have the first priority on the new houses. In addition, the mayor has focused on BAME communities where the rate of overcrowding is higher (2018f, p. 148). Overcrowding can affect the wellbeing and health to those in these situations and Sadiq Khan states that direct action with more affordable home in these areas are vital (2018f, p. 148).

According to Khan, inequality and housing crisis are a result of the economic growth in London (2016, p. 19). In a situation where families are pushed to live overcrowded due to prices, it can affect their well-being. Another important element to combat inequality by Khan is the initiative to introduce proper skills training and provide a diverse London with proper skills for London workforce. This is also crucial in order to reassure that every Londoner have the same opportunity to work. Despite this, the housing costs has challenged the term poverty and many Londoners with regular income are also associated with poverty due to the current costs in London. Skills for Londoners, however, is a strategy aimed at providing underrepresented areas in London workforce with suitable skills that benefits the city.
2.1.2 Strategy to combat unemployment and inequality

Sadiq Khan’s vision in “Skills for Londoners” is based on the chapters “Skills for Londoners” and “A fairer and more equal city” in the manifesto and aims to make London skills system the envy of the world (2018g, p. 7). This is an ambitious target and is set to be achieved through three different priorities. These priorities include to provide Londoners with suitable skills training that meet the needs in London’s economy and deliver a strategy city-wide with technical skills (2018g, p. 8-9). Relevant to the present thesis is the mayor’s vision to help underrepresented areas in London workforce with right skills to become a part of the workforce. This will be carried out by supporting targeted employment and skills provision for the most disadvantaged groups and a devolution through the Adult Education Budget, which aims to increase the number and diversity of adult learners. City Hall will promote productivity and make the best use of current skills and ensure that everyone has access to information to support learners and employers to make informed decisions (2018g, p. 8). In view of this specific strategy, the strategy validates the need to work with partners in order to develop a strategic approach to navigate challenges that employers in London meet (2018g, p. 30).

Skills training and employment is a vital element to help more Londoners receive a job and combat inequalities, however, poverty is a complex issue that is rooted in many causes. Consequently, many Londoners living in poverty might be exposed to other inequalities that are present in London. As an example, for those living in deprived areas in London may also lack access to work and education. In situations where Londoners do not have these vital elements, some may feel secluded. That being said, overcrowding and unemployment is a key point to present health inequalities in London and has required a Health Inequalities strategy, which was implemented 2018.

2.1.3 Strategy to combat poverty health inequalities

The Health Inequalities Strategy aims to help Londoners have a healthier and wealthier life and is based on Sadiq Khan’s vision in the chapter “Improving London’s health” in the manifesto.

This strategy has focus on the health of children. To substantiate that health of children is poorer in London, Sadiq Khan used statistics to show the inequalities across London boroughs and children in the city. According to the survey performed by Public Health
England, sponsored by Department of Health and Social Care, there are evidential differences among young Londoners in different boroughs in the city (Public Health England, 2016). For instance, 8 per cent of the children between the age 10-11 are severely obese in the borough of Barking and Dagenham compared to 2 per cent in Richmond Upon Thames (Public Health England, 2016). The Health Inequalities Strategy aims to improve children’s health by approaching schools and educate children to combat child obesity with focus on deprived areas that are registered with more obesity among young people. This element is a direct approach towards children, which supports the aim of 4in10 and confirms that children are in focus in the implemented strategies. The second priority in this strategy discusses vital elements to combat mental health. Public Health England stated that 1 in 4 people with mental health issues received help in London in 2015 compared to 3 out of 4 with heart disease (Public Health England, 2015). Furthermore, this was also a crucial area that Johnson neglected during his time as mayor according to Khan (2016, p. 72). Therefore, Sadiq Khan commits to initiate Thrive LDN through London Health Board, which is a direct approach to combat mental health and remove present stigma around mental health issues. In this case, Sadiq Khan will approach local authorities and help them implement local action. Khan along with public, private and voluntarily sectors will also work together in order to promote positive health in London and make more people aware of the help they can seek in the community.

The three last priorities in Health Inequalities Strategy are linked together and is Sadiq Khan´s vision to combat bad air quality and establish healthy communities in order to achieve healthy living. The present thesis, however, has focused on healthy communities and healthy living. Sadiq Khan will promote healthy communities, work with local authorities and encourage social integration and better health. In doing so, healthy living will be carried out through the changes that emerges in the community. The present thesis has performed a case study in a specific borough where it has been carried out (2018j).

The strategies above involve direct initiatives that have been implemented or will be implemented and it is directed at causes to why Londoners live in poverty. Londoners who might live in poverty are easier exposed to other inequalities in the city. This is a crucial point to the present thesis as the three selected chapters studies what has been carried out to help underrepresented areas in London. The other theme of the present thesis is crime, and in this case, I have studied two different strategies that Sadiq Khan has delivered.
2.1.4 Strategy to combat general crime in London

“A Safer City for All Londoners” also referred to as Police and Crime Plan was implemented in 2017 and is based on the policies in “a safer and more secure London” in the manifesto. First and foremost, in the forewords, Sadiq Khan establishes that safety is his highest priority as Mayor of London (2017a, p. 5). The priorities in this strategy is to improve real neighbourhood policing, keep children and young people safe, violence against women and girls, and tackle hate crime (2017a, p. 6-7). Khan promises to deliver more ward officers and secure trust in neighbourhoods, more preventative effort to young people and secure young Londoners from getting involved in crime, bring together partners from across London and safeguard women and improve support systems to those who have been victim of assault.

In light of the present thesis, the thesis has focused on Sadiq Khan’s work that supports his vision to keep young people and children safe. In this case, the Police and Crime plan commits to fund services that are supporting to young people and have more specialist schools’ officers that has focus on prevention (2017a, p. 81). To safeguard children who either are at risk to be victim or involved of crime, this strategy outlines vital work with NHS England and Clinical Commissions that collects information to help identify those at risk (2017a, p. 83). In addition, an important approach that is outlined in this strategy is listening to young Londoners (p. 84). This is an in-depth method by the mayor to see what causes that young people either are involved or caught up in crime. This is also a crucial element to the response paper by 4in10 and proves that Sadiq Khan has included children as a priority in numerous aspects of his policies that aims to be carried out.

Moreover, knife crime has been on the rise in London and according to a statistic by the UK Government, it was registered in 2016 that knife crime across London and Wales rose by 14 per cent, compared to 11 per cent in London (UK Government, 2019). In Sadiq Khan’s manifesto, Khan stated that with the rise in more violent knife crime, it is important to implement a tough knife crime strategy that takes action to combat violent gang activities, drugs and repercussion to those who causes crime (2016, p. 42).

2.1.5 Strategy to combat violent knife crime

The Knife Crime strategy was delivered in 2017. This strategy introduces vital elements that supports the mayor’s commitment to tackle present knife crime. First, this strategy identified that young BAME males were frequently victims of non-domestic abuse related to knife
crime. The resources outlined in the knife crime strategy aims to support young people and children and work with local authorities. This strategy also identified that many of the victims and offenders were aged between 15 to 24 years old (Mayor of London, 2017b, p. 11). With this work, Mayor of London commits to work with school programmes, youth services and plans to carry out new organisations that aims to keep young people safe. Another argument that emerges in this strategy is Khan’s vision that the police can prevent the crime first-hand before the actual crime, hence the stop and search method.

In this strategy, the mayor is open to the use of “stop and search” and trusts that the police, with their judgement and exercise will use the method where there is a concern. Furthermore, to support the acceptance of the “stop and search” method, this strategy performed a survey commissioned to the Knife Crime Strategy. This survey substantiated that 58 per cent of young people and young adults agreed that increased stop and search would reduce crime compared to the 28 per cent who disagreed (2017b, p. 31). In light of Knife Crime Strategy, this strategy suggests that “stop and search” is a vital tool for the police to use to prevent crime in early-stage. In addition to work with Metropolitan Police Service, Khan also commits to working with local authorities who knows the circumstances first hand (Khan, 2016).

In order to see Khan’s practice in a borough, I have performed a case study in the borough Barking and Dagenham. The choice of Barking and Dagenham is due to Sadiq Khan’s use of the borough to illustrate lower life expectancy and deprivation in his strategies (Mayor of London, 2018j) (Mayor of London, 2018f).

### 2.2 Barking and Dagenham

According to a survey by London’s Poverty Profile commissioned by the borough Barking and Dagenham in 2017 registered this borough in London with the third highest score in Index of multiple deprivation in London (LBBD, 2017). The same data, that is based on Trust for London and the New Policy Institute, also indicated that this borough has the fourth highest score in health deprivation. Barking and Dagenham has also been used in the Health Inequalities Strategy by Mayor of London to illustrate a borough with lower healthy life expectancy and more obesity among children in the city (2018j, p. 17). Poverty is the result from a web of social, economic and political factors (LBBD, 2015b). According to this survey used by London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, it recognises that the focus in the community needs to be put on the children who lives in deprived homes in order to break
this continued circle. Although the survey by Trust for London and New Policy Institute included general cheaper living costs in Barking and Dagenham, high unemployment rate and renters claiming housing benefit has made it tough for residents in the borough to hold onto permanent accommodation (LBBD, 2015b, p. 2). Barking and Dagenham along with other boroughs have persistent poverty, however, the choice of this borough is because it shows Khan’s polices in practice particularly well.

The five strategies in chapter two have been implemented in London and is important to the two themes of the present thesis. This chapter also concludes that Khan has been consequent and included children and young people in numerous aspects in the strategies he aims to carry out. This chapter studied selected strategies that have been implemented. In the next chapter, on the other hand, I have performed an analysis on selected policies by Sadiq Khan that have either been implemented or carried in coherence with poverty and crime.
3 Sadiq Khan´s Policies in Practice

In this chapter I have completed an analysis on what Sadiq Khan has done so-far with focus on present-day poverty and crime. This chapter focuses on specific implemented strategies by Khan and provides evidence on what has been carried out.

3.1.1 Sadiq Khan tackling Housing Crisis

In the manifesto, Sadiq Khan emphasized that one of his policies was to provide London with more homes and that 50 per cent of these homes needed to be so-called affordable homes (2016, p. 19). Marcus McPhillips, a Senior Policy Officer in Greater London Authority housing team, however, performed a survey commissioned by Greater London Authority that registered that among all the new tenure homes built in 2016 and 2017, only 17 per cent were characterised as affordable housing (2018, p. 6)1. This survey was based on “new residential unit, any loss or gain of residential units through change of use or conversion of existing dwelling and houses that would include seven or more bedrooms” (McPhillips, 2018, p. 3). Sadiq Khan stated that in order to keep Londoners in London, it is important that Londoners have access to affordable homes in Greater London (Mayor of London, 2018f, p. 118) On the contrary, McPhillips found that most of the total completion that had been done and located was located in Outer- boroughs of London where 45 per cent to 51 per cent have been finished the last five years, compared to 42 per cent in inner-boroughs (McPhillips, 2018, p. 4). That more affordable homes are located in Outer- London can either be the result of economic disadvantages in Inner- boroughs, which forces more Londoners to move to Outer- boroughs nor the capacity and free land to build affordable homes within the Inner-boroughs, which again adds to the issue that more people are pushed away from Inner-London due to the housing costs.

London compared to England has in average much higher housing costs. This was also registered by HM Land Registry, a non-ministerial department that measures UK costs, that identified that between 2010 to 2016 housing prices went from 300,000 pounds to 460,000 pounds (HM Land Registry, 2019). A crucial element to Sadiq Khan´s housing prices has been to stabilise housing costs and turn these into affordable living costs. Current housing

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1 At the time of submitting this dissertation, this particular source has, unfortunately, been removed, and I have not been able to trace it again or received a response on the e-mail I sent to Marcus McPhillips, Senior Policy Officer (May 15th).
costs in London (at the time of writing) has according to House Price Index been around the same costs since 2016, and in contrast to the costs in 2010, this is challenging Sadiq Khan’s term of affordable homes in London (HM Land Registry, 2019).

On the one hand, it must be included that the Housing Strategy was first introduced in 2018 and by the time this was implemented, it had not been registered any evident changes in the first two years into Khan’s time as mayor. One the other hand, a vital element that supports Khan’s direct interest in establishing more affordable home in London after McPhillips survey was published, was accomplished when Khan secured £ 4,8 billion from the UK Government in order to achieve more affordable homes that supports current demand in London (mayor of London, 2018f, p. 5). Therefore, in practice, this funding supports the outlined ambition by Khan and will help build more affordable homes by the year 2022 (2018f, p.9). Despite that many of these housings are not yet built, the City Hall registered that 12, 500 more affordable homes were built in 2017, which is registered to be the highest number of affordable homes built yet (2018f, p.5). Also, Sadiq Khan has delivered the scheme “one stop shop” with the aim to give Londoners equal access to affordable homes through one platform. This project secures that Londoners on middle to low income have first priority on affordable homes and prevents that new housings are sold to overseas investors that will increase housing prices.

With this in mind, it can be argued that Sadiq Khan’s housing effort is a successful project on Mayor of London’s part as the housing projects are on-going and it aims to be affordable to Londoners living in relative poverty. Moreover, this practice is also a good illustration of Sadiq Khan’s polices carried out because, despite that the housings are not completed at the time of writing the present thesis, it is a priority, it is under construction and it aims to support Londoners with focus on them with economic difficulties. Additionally, the mayor delivered Skills for Londoners that sets to provide Londoners with proper skills training and is an important initiative that commits to help every Londoner out in London workforce and strengthen London’s economy.

3.1.2 Sadiq Khan effort to combat Inequality in London

With this in mind, Young Londoners Fund was delivered in 2018 and serve to illustrate Khan’s approach to support young people particularly well. In this particular case, Mayor of
London supports young Londoners with further focus on deprived areas and BAME communities with more youth services and activities. To give an illustration, the Young Londoners Fund was carried out in 2018 and gives local projects aimed at young people the opportunity to apply for funding support, which covers local projects that facilitates the demand in the borough. This approach gives local authorities the opportunity to establish local services aimed at young people in the community (2018j, p. 58). This Fund consists of three purposes which includes aspirational and positive activities to help support young people, give new options to children and young people most at risk of taking the wrong path and improve coordination and capacity of London´s youth offer to more can access services (2018j, p. 58).

Little Bridge is one of the organisations that illustrates Khan´s ambitions with Young Londoners Fund particularly well and is supported by Young Londoners Fund. This organisation is located online, free of charge and accessible to everyone (Little Bridge, n.d.). The aim with this programme is for BAME communities and others to improve their English skills and in addition become involved in a community with likeminded people. Furthermore, this organisation sets to provide suitable skills to young learners to be better qualified to school and work. Although Little Bridge is supported by Mayor of London, however, it does not give any indication how involved Sadiq Khan is beyond Young Londoners Fund. What the organisation does state, is that the organisation has been successful in helping children with diverse background learn English (Little Bridge, n.d.). This success is a central element to Khan´s policies with Young Londoners Fund and help Londoners to be better qualified for London schools and work. Also, this confirms that funding is a central element in order for organisations to achieve results and provide young learners with facilitated help. This also shows that Khan´s concrete position as Mayor of London is to provide support and funding to organisations that covers his outlined policies in practice.

That being said, Sadiq Khan is central in the case of providing funding, and this is a crucial element to Sadiq Khan´s policies as the investment determines how the resources invested in will succeed with their ambitions. Also, Young Londoners Fund is a crucial element to Sadiq Khan´s commitment in giving local authorities more independence to support local causes and provide more youth services that have been missed due to the cuts by the Government. Furthermore, Young Londoners Fund is also an approach that supports young people in London, which also benefits the aim of 4in10.
London registered nevertheless in May 2016 that 5.8 per cent of the population were unemployed compared to England that registered 4.9 per cent (ONS, 2019). Important to Sadiq Khan´s manifesto is to help underrepresented areas in London workforce with suitable skills. Another approach that gives an illustration of Sadiq Khan´s effort to combat poverty is Khan´s initiative with Skills for Londoners.

First and foremost, the forewords in Skills for Londoners is Sadiq Khan´s recognising that he is the first mayor to deliver a skills strategy (2018g). Additionally, Khan states that his upbringing and diverse background makes him suited to deliver a successful strategy that will carry out skills training for every Londoner (2018g, p. 6). Sadiq Khan is talented in conveying his ambitions and put himself in the shoes of other Londoners, however, Skills for Londoners is only a strategy and it is not substantiated with material that supports that Khan has provided Londoners with skills up to 2018. Besides, it rather illustrates Khan´s ambition that will be implemented and evident material that all Londoners will be provided with, namely “skills” in the future. This strategy by Sadiq Khan aims to, in the future, to provide Londoners with proper skills training and equal opportunities when entering London workforce. Although many of the elements in Skills for Londoners cannot be retraced yet, in accordance with Young Londoners Fund, the Skills for Londoners Fund was also introduced.

Skills for Londoners Fund along with Young Londoners Fund illustrates Khan´s position particularly well since the mayor is responsible for providing funding. Skills for Londoners Fund, however, supports underrepresented areas in the workforce with focus on BAME communities. It has since it was introduced supported several projects according to Greater London Authority (Mayor of London, n.d.5), however, local integrated skills Hub in Bromley and a curriculum, teaching and learning investment in Havering are two projects relevant to the present thesis (Mayor of London, n.d.5). The two programmes are relevant to the present thesis in particular due to the common aim to support underrepresented areas with suitable skills training. Furthermore, these projects are created by local authorities, located in diverse boroughs and delivers facilitated tools after local requirements. These two projects also substantiate the importance of having projects that facilitates the circumstances, however, what does not occur in these programmes supported by Skills for Londoners Fund, is how involved Sadiq Khan is in the project he supports with funding nor how the projects measure the outcome. Although Khan´s participation in the projects does not occur, this initiative can be argued as one of the better
initiatives by Khan to support underrepresented areas and provide local authorities with funding that can combat local poverty.

A crucial point is that Sadiq Khan used his manifesto to substantiate that he was the mayor for all Londoners and would be present, however, the organisations used as examples in the presented thesis and are supported Khan’s funding does not give any indication on if the mayor is involved outside of funding. Although Khan’s position as mayor is to subsidize with funding, Khan also indicated in the manifesto that he would be present in the project, however, this has been difficult to measure.

In light of providing skills for Londoners, a project that is on-going is the Adult Education Budget devolution which is Khan’s future investment in order for London to achieve the best Skills System in the world. Adult Education Budget is in principle driven by the Government, Sadiq Khan received further responsibility for the Adult Education Budget by the Government in 2019, which gives Sadiq Khan can thereafter use the budget to suited projects (Mayor of London, 2019). In light of Adult Education Budget, Sadiq Khan’s aim is to implement a devolution with tailored adult education and skills provision that will help local authorities with facilitated programs in the future. Although this devolution is not present at the time of writing the thesis, the aim of the Budget substantiates my theme in the thesis and sets to work towards more equality in London workforce and substantiate underrepresented areas. Although it is not carried out, it supports Khan’s argument in giving Londoners more skills training and is an act that is based on providing suitable skills and support underrepresented areas in the workforce.

A crucial element to Sadiq Khan’s manifesto with skills training and equality in London workforce is the commitment to London Living Wage. In practice, however, this has proven to be difficult to implement. In this case, Sadiq Khan is championing the benefits with using London Living Wage, however, Skills for Londoners emphasized that proportions of employee earning below London Living Wage has increased in each borough by 2017 (2018g, p.14). Furthermore, Khan is committed to encourage London Living Wage, and his role is to promote the benefits with this wage rather than direct implementation of this practice in London workforce. To substantiate that the approach with London Living Wage is vital, Sadiq Khan has chosen to use City Hall as an example. City Hall uses London Living Wage to pay all interns and apprentices and sets an example for London workers with how this wage system works in practice (Mayor of London, n.d.1). Furthermore, Khan’s outlined policies in the manifesto had the aim to strive and make London a Living Wage city, though,
in practice it has proven to be more difficult to approach. There has not been any evident material that supports if London Living Wage has been carried out nor if the method with using City Hall as an example have affected different work places. That being said, using City Hall is a good illustration to London workforce that London Living Wage works, and in the future, it may perhaps be carried out in more workplaces. Although London Living Wage is an approach to support equal payment and combat relative poverty, the consequences of unequal payment, housing costs and unemployment has proven to affect the health to Londoners.

3.1.3 Sadiq Khan tackling Health Inequalities

In the Housing strategy, Sadiq Khan used overcrowding as a key to health inequalities. Furthermore, the Institute for Health Equity identified that overcrowding is linked to both mental and physical health issues and disproportionately affecting lower income families (Institute for Health Equity ref in: 2018j, p. 114).

In practice, Sadiq Khan promoted Thrive LDN through London Health Board that aims to uncover stigma around mental health and spread awareness (2018j, p. 71). According to Thrive LDN, it is set to improve mental health and wellbeing of all Londoners (Thrive LDN, 2017a, section 2). Thrive LDN is an important example of Sadiq Khan´s policies carried out. A better illustration of the organisation is seen in the campaign “Are we OK London?” This campaign was performed with the aim to start a conversation about mental health and provide more Londoners with necessary support and openness. The outcome of the campaign was that it reached out to 12 million people and gained an insight to personal experiences in the related subject mental health (Thrive LDN, 2017b). By doing so, the campaign opened up a conversation in the public in London concerning mental health and also promoted that it is OK to talk about mental health. Thrive LDN is supported by Khan, however, it is difficult to find how involved Khan is in the present research by the organisation. Also, despite that the aim of the campaign promotes that London is an open city and is inviting to an open talk around mental health, it does, however, not give an indication on whether the campaign has been successful in opening the conversation completely.

That being said, this example is a good illustration of the mayor´s policies carried out because Khan has taken an initiative to support a crucial element that affects many Londoners. Although there is no evidence that mental health issues are combated nor if it will
be combated, this is an example that substantiates Khan´s commitment to improve health inequalities in London. By supporting an organisation that is committed to combat mental health, and in addition support projects with the aim to open the conversation around mental health issues, Sadiq Khan has been successful in delivering and carry out policies aimed at specific health issues in London. In addition, as the thesis also has identified, this is a huge part of the everyday life to many Londoners living in poverty and has required more openness and a direct effort.

The Office for National Statistics published a survey to measure the wellbeing of Londoners in 2016 that registered 7.41 out of 10 experienced life satisfaction in London (ONS, 2017a). Life satisfaction in this survey involved happiness, feelings of worth and anxiety. The same survey registered in 2017 that 7.46 out of 10 experienced life satisfaction, which is an increase one year after Thrive LDN was delivered (ONS, 2017a). It is hard to say whether there has been any improvement concerning mental health because stigma around mental health can prevent Londoners to speak up or be honest in a survey like this. In addition, the Housing Strategy stated that improving housing crisis, provide more skills training and more affordable homes for Londoners will also improve the physical and mental health of Londoners (Mayor of London, 2018f). Therefore, if the case is that more affordable homes, more skills to Londoners and better health needs to accomplished first, it is difficult to decide if a single project aimed at tackling mental health problems will alone be enough to combat mental health, when this is known to be a complex issue.

In light of children´s health, Sadiq Khan´s initiative to combat child obesity with focus on deprived areas gives a good illustration of a successful approach. Child obesity has been an issue among young people in London. In 2016, a measure by Department of Health registered 38.1 per cent of children aged between 4 to 11 were obese in London (DofH, 2018). This measure also identified that obesity was most common in deprived areas of London. Compared to the illustration with Khan´s direct initiative with Thrive LDN, in this case, I have chosen to use an example that illustrates Khan´s commitment to support already existing organisations. Sadiq Khan has continued to work with Healthy Schools London, which has been delivered by a small team in Greater London Authority since 2013 to combat child obesity with focus on deprived areas (2019c). The crucial elements to this scheme are that more than 2,000 London schools were in 2018 signed up to the programme (2018j, p. 53).
The aim of the scheme is to promote healthy living and educate young people to live a healthy lifestyle, in addition, it is also a vital element to combat child poverty and support young people with healthy meals. Furthermore, Sadiq Khan’s new initiative within the scheme is to support already joined up schools to achieve bronze, silver or gold awards because the aim of the scheme is to reach different levels and receive rewards. Bronze is that the joined-up schools have completed the online whole school health and wellbeing review. Silver is an analysis of the students’ needs and further identify new actions that are important to maintain success and gold is when the school has made a further impact on the community with the scheme and maintained good health (Mayor of London, 2018c). This scheme had 2106 (at the time of writing) schools registered in 2019, whereas 244 of these schools have accomplished level gold (2018c). Also, number of children being obese in London decreased slightly to 37.67 per cent, which indicates a small, but important impact. As the theme of the present thesis is poverty, Sadiq Khan also called upon the Government to revisit the evidence on free school meals as part of the strategy to tackle child obesity and child poverty (Mayor of London, 2018j, p. 123). Sadiq Khan’s initiative to support an existing project also validates that there are measures in London that worked before Khan became mayor and that these are important to his policies. Healthy Schools London also illustrates an initiative that is directed at young children and starts from an early age. The scheme provides students with knowledge and the opportunity to affect their surroundings, which is an important element in understanding why health is important and how this also needs to be a focus to combat present poverty.

That being said, an objection that Sadiq Khan made in the Health Inequalities Strategy is that inequalities between boroughs are better prevented through local initiatives. The borough Barking and Dagenham serve to illustrate some of Sadiq Khan’s policies in practice particularly well. Therefore, I have performed a more in-depth analysis of this borough to see what polices that have been implemented to improve current circumstances around poverty in this specific borough.

3.2 A Case Study of Barking and Dagenham

The borough Barking and Dagenham demonstrates Sadiq Khan’s polices in practice in three distinct projects that tackles poverty. A key thing to discuss in Barking and Dagenham is local health inequalities in this borough, which Sadiq Khan identified in a statistic by Public
Health England that children in Barking and Dagenham are 8 per cent severely obese by the age of 10-11 (Public Health England, 2016).

This borough is registered with 66 schools and among these schools, 56 of the schools were registered in Healthy Schools London (LBBD, n.d.1) (2018j, p. 53). This borough has also taken an approach beyond this scheme in addition to support more young people in deprivation. Barking and Dagenham illustrates local initiatives particularly well with their approach to families on low income or received Child Benefit. Families who might be in this situation can anonymously claim free school meals through a scheme provided by the London borough of Barking and Dagenham (n.d.1). This initiative by local authorities substantiates that Khan’s call for the Government to revisit evidence on free school meals is a necessary approach and will help in the process to tackle child poverty (2018j, p. 107). In addition, Barking and Dagenham’s initiative by local authorities is undoubtedly a vital resource to combat child poverty and support families in poverty. In addition, this also reduces present inequalities in school since the scheme is anonymous.

Another crucial point is the health and care system in this borough. Barking and Dagenham was also used by Sadiq Khan to illustrate a poorer borough in healthy life expectancy where men in this borough are identified to have 58 years compared to Richmond Upon Thames with 70 years in the Health Inequalities Strategy (ONS, 2017b).

To combat local health issues and prevent deprivation to affect the health of Londoners, the Health and Care devolution was introduced in Barking and Dagenham along with Redbridge and Havering. This devolution is an important project where Barking and Dagenham has been chosen as one of the pilot boroughs. In this devolution, however, Will Tuckley, who chairs London Health and Care Devolution Programme states that Khan’s position in this devolution is to give political oversight, leadership and provide a solid platform aimed at important strategic discussion where Londoners have remained the heart of the work (2017, p. introduction). Furthermore, Mayor of London in the Health and Care Devolution consists of Sadiq Khan and Dr. Tom Coffey, who is Mayoral Health Advisor (Tuckley, 2017). This Devolution is a crucial element to Sadiq Khan’s ambitions carried out in practice. Health and Care Devolution provides more facilitated and compact health and care that is costumed to the local area. This also supports Sadiq Khan’s theory that local authorities know local issues best (2016, p. 49).

Moreover, Barking and Dagenham along with Redbridge and Havering gave a statement one year into the devolution’s presence that it has demonstrated to have a function by galvanising
local plans and take action of potential and existing arrangements that have been fully explored (Integrated Care Coalition, 2017, p. 3).

The third local project carried out in practice in this borough is a project aimed at tackling housing crisis. Sadiq Khan’s polices is carried out in the Barking Riverside project. This particular project is a combined project with the aim to provide more affordable homes in a specific area, build new schools, a combined health and care leisure and employment skills training (Mayor of London, 2018e). In coherence with Khan’s policies, these housings will be affordable. This is demonstrated in shared ownership where families are able to pay a percentage of the listed price and thereafter the rest in down payment (HM Government, n.d.). This also gives more Londoners the opportunity to own their own place despite low income. Barking Riverside is a good example that Khan has supported. This project will also provide an area associated with deprivation with more facilitated projects, which may help the borough to grow out of deprivation and have more local work opportunities that are facilitated to the local borough close.

To conclude, the three projects above in Barking and Dagenham substantiates Sadiq Khan’s vision and policies in practice. The statement by London Borough Barking and Dagenham about Health and Care Devolution also gives an indication on how this practice has worked to support the borough. In terms of healthy children, this borough also illustrates a successful initiative by the borough with providing free school meals anonymously to families who might be in a tough situation and this will contribute to an improvement of the general health to children. Furthermore, it is difficult to determine that the single project like Barking Riverside will change the borough and improve the situation to those living in poverty, which is the aim. On the other hand, Managing Director of Be First, an organisation which aims to accelerate regeneration in the borough where no one is left behind, argued that this project will establish more affordable homes and workplaces in the future, which again improves local health conditions and is an important element that will support the borough’s growth (Mayor of London, 2018e). This will also benefit children in the borough with facilitated schools and organisations that supports the most vulnerable.

Also, that this borough provided a statement on the Health and Care Devolution and that it is working substantiates the necessity after local facilitated programmes. Also, Barking and Dagenham is a good example of Khan’s policies carried out in practice and that borough is more aware about current situations and needs to be a part of the local decisions.
3.3 Sadiq Khan’s Policies in Practice to Combat Crime

The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee published an article in 2018 that referred to the present situation in London as the “epidemic of violent crime” (Mayor of London, n.d.2). Sadiq Khan has implemented policies that set to combat crime in general, and this section explores how Sadiq Khan has responded to the particular crime challenge.

3.3.1 Sadiq Khan and the Metropolitan Police Service

The Police and Crime Plan stated that MOPAC will deliver three top priorities and also a better police service and criminal justice service in London. In practice, Sadiq Khan delivered 529 new dedicated ward officers, which was an effort to re-establish real neighbourhood policing (Mayor of London, 2017e). The same press release that announced this, however, also confirmed that the on-going rise in more complex crime is present.

According to Crime Data Dashboard by the Metropolitan Police Service, London registered 61,000 offences in March 2016, while in the same month, 3 years later, the same survey registered approximately 78,000 offences (Metropolitan Police, n.d.). With this in mind, one of the areas that provides the best analysis of Sadiq Khan’s effort and change of policies since becoming mayor is Khan’s viewpoint in the use of “stop and search” method by the Metropolitan Police.

First, in the manifesto, Sadiq Khan conveyed that this measure would only be used in evidence-based situations by the police (Khan, 2016). Khan also emphasized that wrong use of stop and search can additionally harm the trust in the police and lose the effect as a preventative resource. To record that this measure would be used in evidence-based approaches, Sadiq Khan committed to deliver more body worn cameras by the police. The cameras, in this case, are an important tool that supports the Metropolitan Police in the use of stop and search as an evidence-based method because it is recorded. In 2017, body-worn video cameras were rolled out (2017a, p. 47)

Despite this commitment, in the Police and Crime plan in 2017, the mayor, however, committed to support the police in an “intelligence-led” use of stop and search in the fight against knife crime (2017a, p. 93). This is a crucial point that illustrates the change of perception Khan has in the use of stop and search method as it goes from an “evidence-based” point of view to an “intelligence-led” point of view. As the introduction to the section
of crime stated, present-day crime is severe, and it can be argued that these challenges have also challenged Khan’s implemented policies due to severe circumstances. The Metropolitan Police recorded that in April 2017 a number of 9830 stop and searches were performed. The same survey identified that 20,874 stop and searches were performed two years later in the same month (Metropolitan Police Service, 2019).

This survey concludes that it has been an increase in the use of the stop and search during Sadiq Khan’s time. In light of the stop and searches performed during the time period of 2017 to 2019, Metropolitan Police Service identified that the boroughs Lambeth, Westminster and Southwark had most stop and searches. According to a survey by Office for National Statistics on Ethnic Groups by Boroughs, these three boroughs had registered approximately among 30 per cent to 45 per cent of the population from a BAME community in 2017 (ONS, 2018). That these boroughs represent diverse London boroughs and more stop and searches than any other boroughs are important and takes me over to the next argument that that must be included when discussing the use of stop and search, namely that it cannot be used indiscriminately (Khan, 2016, p. 42).

In view of BAME Londoners are 2.5 times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people (2017a, p. 16), the survey by the Metropolitan Police that identified where most stop and searchers was carried out, also identified that between the twelve months from May 2018 to April 2019 approximately 77,668 of the people that were stopped and searched came from a Black Community while White measured 67,796. That more BAME Londoners are stopped and search contradicts Sadiq Khan’s commitment to combat hatred and racism because there is no measure that identifies that stop and search has been because of a legit concern nor if it has been performed indiscriminately. That body-worn cameras are present, however, is more a validation to the police when performing this method. The general use of stop and search is much discussed and despite that Metropolitan Police wear cameras to support their searches, it is still questionable.

In light of BAME in London more likely to be stopped and searched, which is been known to be a public controversy (Waddington, Stenson & Don, 2004, p. 889), an article on Race, and Police Stop and Search stated that a disproportional stop and searchers can be the result of different racial or ethnic groups who are disproportionately present or absent in public spaces when a stop and search is held and therefore the result is an unrepresentative number (p. 893).
In light of the present thesis, the areas with most performed stop and search are diverse areas, however, the presence of BAME Londoners or White Londoners at the time of stop and searches were not identified in this specific survey and it can therefore not be used as an argument in this case. Also, the increase in the use of stop and search has met criticism among other Labour party members. Diane Abbott, Labour´s Shadow Home Secretary, stated in an interview with The Guardian that she rejects the tactic with stop and search to prevent crime and rather states that the cuts made by the Government in the Metropolitan Police is to blame for the crime (Gayle, 2018). In addition, Abbott also disagrees with the theory by Waddington, Stenson and Don (2004) about availability, when stop and search is an easy method to use and can therefore be used on the bases of racial profiling (Gayle, 2018).

The increase in the use of stop and search contradicts Sadiq Khan´s crucial point to stop racism first and foremost as Khan stated in his manifesto that this could harm the general trust in the police, when in reality, this method is registered to be more used during his time as mayor. If the case is that more BAME Londoners are stopped, which the survey by Metropolitan Police confirmed, it can be argued that this is a discriminatory method. In addition, if more BAME Londoners are more exposed and vulnerable to be stopped and searched than white Londoners, then the increase in this method also confirms that the present-day situation is challenging Sadiq Khan´s policies as he goes back on his initial words.

3.3.2 Preventative measures carried out
The Health Inequalities Strategy stated that young people who are associated with deprivation and poverty are often in more risk of exclusion or involvement in crime (Mayor of London, 2018j, p. 58). Another area that shows a good analysis of what Sadiq Khan is doing present-day to help children and young people at risk to crime or involved in crime is illustrated in two specific initiatives. This is illustrated in Sadiq Khan´s response to cuts to youth services in London, namely Young Londoners Fund and the London Gang Exit Service. The latter is initiated by MOPAC and takes action to support those who have been involved in crime. Sadiq Khan´s initiative in the two presented services is an important element that features vital tools to support young Londoners.
Young Londoners Fund has been introduced in chapter three of the thesis, however, “Stepping Stones toolkit” serves to illustrate Sadiq Khan’s policies carried out in particular and is a forward-looking project that is supported by Young Londoners Fund.

Stepping Stones Toolkit was carried out in three pilot schools from 2016 to 2017 with the aim to support vulnerable students who are at risk to exclusion. The schools that were chosen to the pilot project was chosen on the bases that they measured free school meal rates above 60 per cent and were located in areas with other risk factors (OPM Group, 2018, p. 2). In the manifesto, Khan emphasized that he will improve present-day school with eligible provision and advice officers to keep Londoners in school and help transition and Stepping Stones is a crucial element that supports Khan’s policies (2016, p. 49). This project provides peer mentors to students at risk that encourages and helps students and individual learning needs in tailored ways and is a resourceful method that give students the opportunity to help each other (OPM Group, 2018, p. 9).

The evaluation of the project identified that among the three selected pilot schools, two of the selected schools saw an improvement in Maths and English (2018, p. 11). Khan’s position with Stepping Stones Toolkit, however, is that he has helped support 15 more schools to participate in this Toolkit through Young Londoners Fund, which again has contributed to that students at these 15 schools have received more facilitated help. The evidence provided by OPM Group, which is an independent employ-owned research and consultancy organisation, also validated that Stepping Stones Toolkit is an important resource that Khan is supporting and more London schools with vulnerable students must implement this Toolkit. The funding through Young Londoners Fund additionally helps with a smoother school transition and Khan’s initiative with Young Londoners Fund has been important in order to support this.

This funding also gives local organisations and schools the opportunity to apply during different intakes a year. Stepping Stones Toolkit, however, is an initiative that Khan has supported and secured through Young Londoners Fund so that more schools have had the opportunity to take advantage of this facilitated scheme. This scheme also aims to prevent students from falling behind or in cases become involved in London Gangs or gang-related environment, which takes us to the next initiative.
In light of Sadiq Khan’s commissioned work with London Community Rehabilitation Company, London Gang Exit is a rehabilitation programme aimed at those who have been involved in Gangs or needs suitable resources to step out from London Gangs. Sadiq Khan announced in 2018 on twitter that Mayor of London invested £2m in the London Gang Exit Programme to substantiate the importance of this service (Khan, 2018a).

The role of Sadiq Khan and provide funding is vital. In other words, the outcome of services that combats crime or supports vulnerable young people out of crime is depended on the funding and resources they have available to achieve results. Mayor of London also used London Gang Exit as an example in the Knife Crime Strategy to give evidence on a present-day successful service by the mayor. In light of this particular service, this strategy stated that 75 per cent of London Gang Exit clients engaged afterwards in gang exit activity and also reduced or ceased involvement in gangs (Mayor of London, 2017b, p. 43).

This result is a crucial point to the service and also a rhetorical method used by Khan to strengthen credibility in his services by providing evidence that supports a successful initiative by him. In light of Sadiq Khan’s approach to tackle London Gangs, this is done in context with the on-going violent knife crime in London, which has proven to challenge Khan’s delivered policies.

### 3.3.3 Sadiq Khan and violent Knife Crime

Mayor of London presented an analysis by Metropolitan Police crime data that indicated that 75 per cent of victims of knife crime from 2016 to 2017 were male and frequently aged less than 25 years of age (MP ref in: Mayor of London, 2017b, p. 11). That more young people are either victim or involved in crime challenges Sadiq Khan’s policies in present-day London because the policies must be facilitated to the present circumstances in London.

First, Sadiq Khan stated in the forewords in the Knife Crime strategy that the present knife crime situation in London is severe, however, the same foreword also portrayed Sadiq Khan’s political challenges. Khan is emphasizing that present-day crime is the result of the cuts by the Government, which has provided the Metropolitan Police Service with hardship (2017b, p.7). The same introduction was also used in Khan’s foreword in the Police and Crime Plan. Whether if this reference is a reflection to why present implemented policies by Khan are not working is difficult to state, however, it gives the sense of a vague excuse on Khan’s behalf that indicates that these policies will regardless be challenged due the cuts made by the Government.
In light of knife crime, Khan first committed to combat knife crime in the manifesto and stated that he would deliver a knife crime strategy, which was implemented in 2017. A similar approach to Young Londoners Fund and Stepping Stones Programme has been introduced by Khan with the title “London Needs You Alive. Don’t Carry a Knife”. This is a toolkit aimed at young Londoners and provides helpers and activities directed at young people who are involved in crime.

In view of the title to the project and suggested toolkit that is a part of the project, I was sceptic to the concept in how this was preventative method and how it would work in practice to combat knife crime. In contact with Tony Hawker, a member in MOPAC Enquires, I received an e-mail outlined with instructive information about the “London Needs You Alive” campaign. In this information, it became obvious that to substantiate the aim of the project, which clearly is to keep Londoners alive, this campaign uses rhetorical instruments (personal communication, May 20, 2019). This is done by using young Londoners that exposes personal experiences with knife related incidents and how these stories affected their well-being and life. That Khan is using young people to convey their lived stories with knife related incidents, indicates that Khan has listened to young people and is using them as an element to combat crime, which was a crucial point in the Knife Crime Strategy. On the one hand, the rhetorical instruments used in this approach might appeal to young people who might find themselves in a similar situation to those interviewed or have been in similar situations.

On the other hand, one thing that becomes obvious is that this toolkit does not give any indication in how it will measure the effects of the aim in the present campaign. In addition, in the e-mail by the London Needs You Alive Team, the Toolkit to the project contained of abstracts and drawings with the logo “London Needs You Alive”. Instead of including “don’t carry a knife”, the drawings rather build on the ambitions to young people, which is implemented after the words “I carry”. This crucial element in the toolkit is an important instrument to shed light on self-love and forces young people to acknowledge their ambitions and worth, which are important to London. Furthermore, this project also uses social media to approach young Londoners. It encourages Londoners to use the hashtag #LondonNeedsYouAlive in social media, so that like-minded people can find each other and work together to combat violent knife crime, which I would assume is the goal by using this approach in social media.
In the view of this project, it is difficult to argue that this single project will make an impact that is successful in regard to combat violent knife crime among young people and children. Also, as stated, this campaign is built on good intentions and includes appealing elements with real stories, but it does not give any indication on how this toolkit alone will measure that it is in fact keeping “Londoners alive”.

Furthermore, the severe increase in violent crime in general has required that Sadiq Khan takes an approach beyond delivered strategies and acts. In other words, this has required that Sadiq Khan goes beyond his policies and takes it upon to implement a strategy that has been viewed as a successful approach in Glasgow, namely Violence Reduction Unit.

### 3.3.4 New Public Health Approach with Violence Reduction Unit?

The aim with this Unit is thus to reduce violence by taking a public health approach (Mayor of London, 2018i). A Public Health Approach is when violent knife crime is treated like a disease. Moreover, this approach goes beyond outlined policies in the two strategies that combat crime and was studied in chapter two. On the one hand, elements of Violence Reduction Unit are also reflected in the present chapter of the thesis. For instance, take action by early- life experiences, which is Sadiq Khan´s aim with Young Londoners Fund and the Stepping Stones toolkit. (Mayor of London, 2018i). On the other hand, the crucial elements to Violence Reduction Unit requires that Sadiq Khan´s approach will start with a direct initiative in the Accident and Emergency room with victims and offenders, and thereafter offer services outside the hospital for individuals to break the cycle of violence. Violence Reduction Unit works as a first-hand prevention to support the victims of crime or caught up in crime (n.d.). Although this strategy involves vital elements that Sadiq Khan commits to use, it also comes with challenges. First and foremost, it was reported in Glasgow that the number of violent crimes halved within ten years from 2005 (Violence Reduction Unit, n.d.). This challenges Khan´s priority to make Londoners feel safe today if it will take almost ten years to reduce crime risks. Keeping Londoners safe was Sadiq Khan´s top priority in the Police and Crime Plan. Khan has also been vocal about this commitment on the Mayor of London profile on twitter, however, in present-day London, it will take time to carry out any noticeable results (Khan, 2018b). This has evoked criticism and comments among Londoners who are more concerned about the present-day safety to Londoners to this date. That being
said, the criticism of Sadiq Khan´s policies are present, and Londoners have questioned if Khan is an evasive mayor.

### 3.3.5 Criticism of Sadiq Khan´s effort on violent Knife Crime

An interview with Good Morning Britain in 2018, a breakfast programme on British Television, illustrates the criticism of Sadiq Khan´s policies in particular. Sadiq Khan was confronted by Piers Morgan, supporter of the Conservatives John Major and Margrethe Thatcher according to Independent² (Selby2015), that Khan´s approach to tackle on-going knife crime is not working. In this interview, Morgan along with Susanna Reid implied that Khan´s policies consists of a lot of talk, and Londoners have yet to see action be taken and the current approach has been a failure (Good Morning Britain, 2018, 02:05). Although the host might support another political standpoint then Khan, this interview gives an insight to Sadiq Khan´s commitment to combat crime.

My interpretation of Sadiq Khan´s response in this interview is perceived as vague. This is apparent in Khan´s use of other cities in United Kingdom to illustrate that London is not the only city with on-going knife crime, in addition, this rhetorical articulation also suggests that Khan is minimising current problems by giving examples of other cities, when in fact, London is the city that Khan serves and hence the focus in this interview (2018, 08:40). In addition, Khan is also expressing his position as a mayor in this interview which is to give Metropolitan Police the resources they need, support and backing.

In view of using other cities in England to substantiate that knife crime is not only a local problem and also comment that his position as mayor is to provide funding and support to the Metropolitan Police, might be perceived as evasive by the mayor.

This also substantiates my theory that Khan sometimes comes across as evasive because he is not fully committing to the responsibility to tackle the current situation nor admitting that it has been tough on his policies and therefore harder to implement any resourceful material. This is also the case with “Keeping Londoners Alive”, which is a good initiative with the right intention, however, it lacks resources that will substantiate and prove the outcome of this Toolkit and in addition an explanation in how this strategy will work beyond promoting “London Needs You Alive”.

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² A Political Independent Online Newspaper (Selby, 2015)
The newspaper Telegraph, which is rumoured to be a Conservative oriented newspaper (Curtis, n.d), published an article that was directed at Sadiq Khan’s political appearance around current spade of knife crime. Smith, the author, stated that Sadiq Khan has not physically performed anything that tackles present knife crime (2019). Furthermore, this article also takes into account that with more stop and searches performed in London, the Metropolitan Police is the ones who receives the consequences of more stop and search used and not Khan who in fact has given the permission, but hides in the shadow (Smith, 2019). In light of the article published in the Telegraph, it is difficult to determine whether this opinion is a sincere opinion from a worried Londoner or if the article is published from a political Conservative viewpoint, however, it is an interesting article to the observations that I have made during my research work to the present thesis.

Sadiq Khan proved to be an ambitious mayor through the outlined policies in the manifesto prior to the election. During the work on the present thesis, however, I have been surprised to see that my own perception of Sadiq Khan change. The first Muslim Mayor in the world’s most leading city in economy, culture and diversity is a tremendous achievement. Also, delivering a manifesto that is based upon the opportunities that the city provided for him is an appealing element to many Londoners who might find themselves in similar situation at the time-being. However, my perception is that the policies that Khan outlined were thorough but not prepared to present-day challenges. In practice, the present circumstances around crime has challenged his policies and instead of stating this, he comes across as evasive when referring to the cuts by the Government.

It must be included that to implement strategies that will combat both poverty and crime, will in reality not give results overnight, however, the money that is distributed by Mayor of London has been in the spotlight and questioned whether or not the present mayor distributes the resources correct in regard to the present issues in London.

Despite that the rise in crime has challenged Sadiq Khan’s credibility as Mayor, there are, however, still vital policies that Sadiq Khan has delivered, which will tackle some of the present-day issues in London.
4 Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to explore whether selected policies to combat poverty and crime based on Khan´s manifesto have been carried out by 2019. To support this, I have studied policy documents published by the institution Mayor of London in coherence with Sadiq Khan´s manifesto.

Chapter one introduced Sadiq Khan and the elements from “A Manifesto for All Londoners” that I viewed as important in the research to the present thesis. Chapter two studied selected strategies that Mayor of London has implemented with elements that supports my aim of the thesis. Chapter three is where my analysis and the aim of the present thesis comes through. From this analysis I have formed two different views in regard to Sadiq Khan´s polices and his time as mayor (at the time of writing).

My first view is that Khan´s initiatives with housing projects aimed to be affordable and effort to combat health inequalities illustrates his greatest achievements to combat poverty. Sadiq Khan gave a definition of the term affordability, which supported the aim to 4in10 with affordability. Sadiq Khan has also invested in more affordable homes that are currently under construction and are intended for those living on middle- to low income, which is secured through the one-stop scheme. Thrive LDN also serves to illustrate Sadiq Khan´s vision in practice particularly well and has opened a conversation around mental health. As interpreted in chapter three, however, it is debateable whether a single project like Thrive LDN will combat mental health, but Sadiq Khan´s effort to focus on factors that are elements to why many Londoners are experiencing mental health issues is a crucial approach. Also, Barking and Dagenham initiative with Health and Care Devolution and the successful results puts Khan´s vision with more facilitated help into practice and is an important start in London to tackle health issues in boroughs by carrying out facilitated health and care.

My second view and a crucial element that has emerged during the research to the thesis is my own change of perception of Sadiq Khan himself. Khan has in particular situations proved to be an evasive mayor in his policies. In terms of the severe present-day crime in London, Khan´s continued references to London Government as the source to the severe crime in coherence with his change of perception in
“stop and search” are to me an example of the challenges that have affected Khan’s policies. Instead of taking responsibility that current policies are not working, Khan comes across as evasive by blaming other elements. Moreover, by additionally using other cities to illustrate that they have the same present severe crime due to similar cuts, is to my interpretation a denial on Khan’s part instead of taking responsibility that the present policies by him are not working. Also, Khan’s personal connection with London is present in the strategies delivered, however, in context with the theme in the thesis and the present-day challenges in London, Sadiq Khan’s personal experiences fades out because the challenges requires strategies beyond personal experiences.

I cannot state that any of the implemented strategies that I have based my analysis on have combated either poverty or crime by 2019. It can also be argued that the strategies are too ambitious and due to the present-day challenges, it is hard to carry out any action. In addition, many of the elements used in the analysis in the present thesis is supported by the mayor, however, it is difficult to find how involved Sadiq Khan is in the projects he supports beyond funding. At the time of writing the present thesis, however, Sadiq Khan is still Mayor of London and many of the implemented strategies are set to be carried out within a number of years. On the one hand, combat poverty and crime are a long-term aim to achieve and the findings in the present thesis seem to suggest and substantiate that poverty and crime are complex issues and it takes time to carry out noticeable results. The present thesis also substantiates that delivering policies to combat poverty and crime is difficult due to unpredictable changes that emerges in a city. On the other hand, Khan’s latest initiative, Violence Reduction Unit, is to my interpretation a good approach to combat the present severe crime in London in the long term.


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