



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

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VRU Knife Crime Action Plan

(VRU = Violence Reduction Unit - put together by City Hall)

Chris Stannett

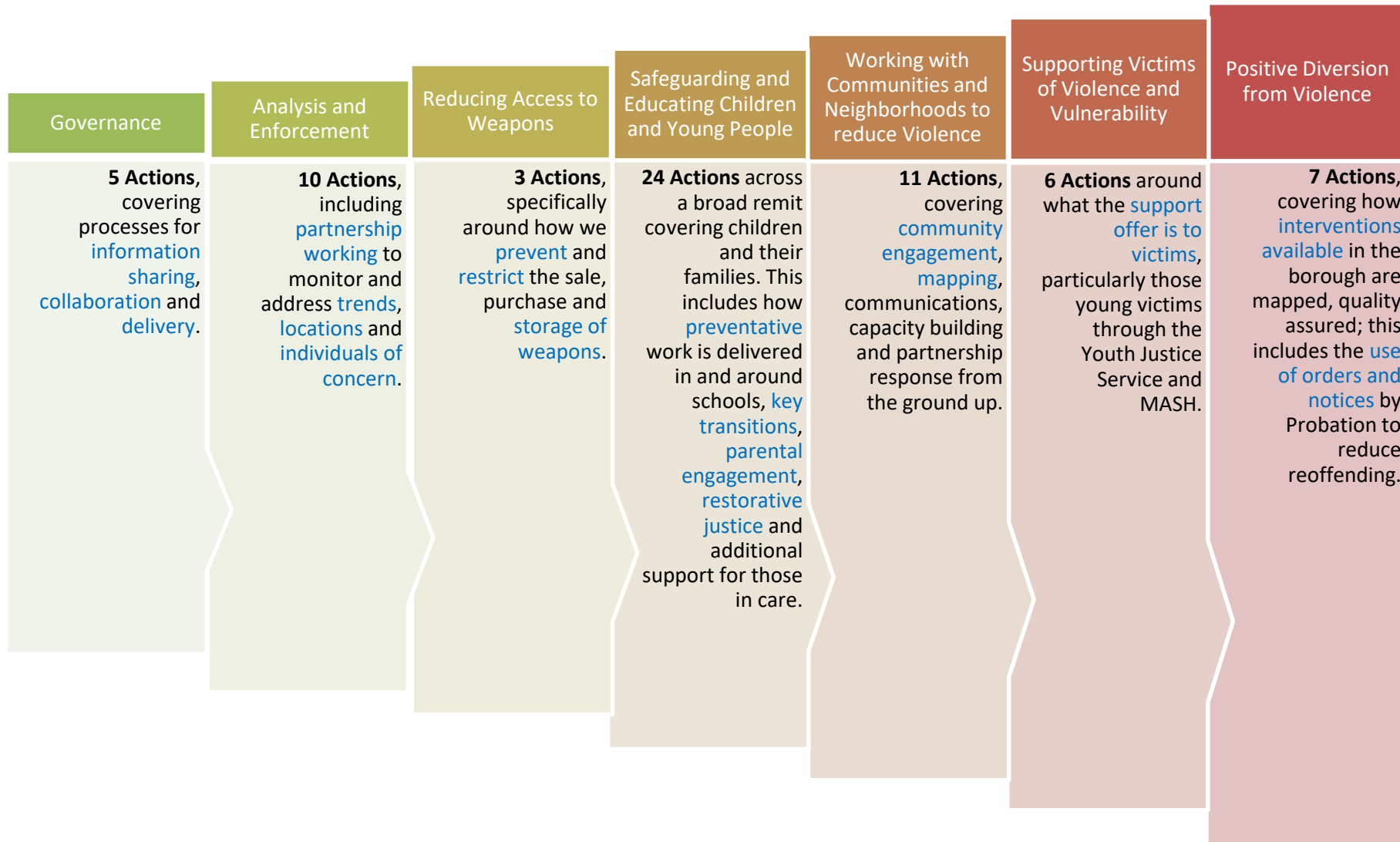
Community Safety

IOM & Serious Group Violence Lead

Every London Borough completes an Action Plan on how it was going to address knife crime in its own Borough.

The VRU will review every plan and feed back, with follow-up visits and further suggested improvements where needed.

Annually, a new template is released with new actions; this includes a number of 'Optional Actions' for suggested areas of development.



“The plan demonstrates in detail a **very strong sense of partnership leadership, innovative practice and **investment in joint work** to reduce violence. There is also a commendable **willingness to challenge existing good practice** to drive further improvement.”**

Highlighted good practice:

- Good analysis of the violence profile of the borough, including robbery and the town Centre.
- Tri-borough collaboration and analysis.
- Effective use of Business Improvement Districts
- Comprehensive community cohesion strategy
- Effective Youth Council
- All age criteria for MASH.
- Equalities impact of programmes implemented are assessed and considered to ensure diverse needs of young people, families and communities are responded to contextually, with potential negative impact fully understood.



Governance	Analysis and Enforcement	Reducing Access to Weapons	Safeguarding and Educating Children and Young People	Working with Communities and Neighborhoods to reduce Violence	Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability	Positive Diversion from Violence
All criteria covered. Comprehensive set of actions and progress.	Comprehensive set of actions which are concise and up to date. Panel is aware of Havering having a well-respected analytical capability .	Actions well set out around knife amnesty/ sweeps and test purchase. Concise but informative updates. Good use of BCRPs* to reduce crime in Town Centre *Business Crime Reduction Panel	Comprehensive range of actions detailing schools lead as well as Police and Community Safety. Noted our investment in Adolescent Safeguarding and interested in the innovation of the cocoon ..	Good set of actions and updates. Noted the Community Cohesion Strategy, range of community briefings, community tensions are monitored, joint Council and Police communication forum. Effective liaison with Businesses & Stop and Search Monitoring	Interesting work incl. having a dedicated victims worker and CAHMS worker based in the YOS. Interesting discussion re. funding youth workers in A and E at Queens Hospital . Could benefit from some additional Opportunities to support victims and the cross over between victims and offenders .	Action plan articulates commissioning of 'Spark to life' and use of London Gangs Exit Service. This reads more as a list of organisations working in the Borough rather than the actual activity .

Standing With Communities

NEW ACTION

Work with communities and other partners in hyper local areas to develop capacity building to support incident response in the community, through robust partnership approach, and to **increase trust and collaboration** between local communities, stakeholders, key local institutions, and statutory partners. (e.g VRU My Ends, VRU Capacity building programme)

NEW ACTION

Involve young people within local violence prevention work, through both established forums such as youth councils/parliaments, youth Independent Advisory Groups and informal grassroots pathways including through social media platforms.

NEW ACTION

Develop a **communications plan which engages communities** in the programme, and **supports a reduction in fear of crime** through providing honest and positive **messages about achievements** and reduces risk of stigma and discrimination.

We have successfully bid into the VRU Capacity Building Fund, to focus on the Harold Hill area:

The project incorporates the following local area based activities and programming:

- Provision of **enhanced detached youth work offer in local parks and spaces**
- **Door-to-door outreach** and engagement with residents
- Hosting community **workshops**
- Recruiting and **training adult residents to become community champions** through understanding trauma and contextual safeguarding courses,
- Support to local education providers through **training** and targeted group work;
- Training young people and Parent Champions to support the delivery of the above sessions and embed learning within communities post-funding;
- Establishing a **Rapid Response Plan** with the **Harold Hill Community Response Group**

We have several forums that feed into local violence prevention work, including a well-established **youth parliament**, and **a new youth advisory panel for the Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Group**.

As part of the IASS, **young people sit on interview panels for new frontline staff**.

The Safer Spaces mapping project around personal safety is launching across the borough; as part of these, we will be engaging young people specifically and will be able to review where they do/don't feel safe in Havering, to target activity.

Monthly meetings are held with Communications Team. We plan to develop a refreshed comms plan for the year, based on the new Community Safety Plan. **Issue/event-specific plans are developed around key areas of work, these are in place for the next quarter**, including Autumn Nights, the VAWG Virtual Conference, the 12 Days of Christmas. **Additional work is needed around violence and the local offer for young people.**

Work is taking place with the **Safer Neighbourhood Board to restart physical community engagement post-COVID**, increasing contact with residents face to face through events, public meetings and door to door.

Governance

NEW ACTION:

Implement **daily violence assessment meeting** attended by police BCU, relevant Local Authority colleagues and Probation

Partnership meetings to review incidents of serious violence across the BCU take place three times a week; the terms of reference place a focus on serious youth violence, and discussions are ongoing as to the best way to use this time.

Monthly Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group (or local equivalent) to include Violence Intelligence Briefing, tasking of partnership services to **target offenders and hotspot locations**; maintain and or **review Events Tracker** to identify and **manage events of risk**, monitor and **review community tensions** and community feedback

TTCG continues to be a useful resource for productive partnership between police and council on key issues on a monthly basis; there has been challenges with emerging issues/council-identified concerns which, when left unresolved, have developed into significant issues. **Romford appears as a hotspot location for key crimes including violence and VAWG, but is not discussed in detail.**

Analysis and Enforcement

Analysis to support targeted enforcement - Strategic Assessment to include **Serious Youth Violence**, Knife and gun enabled crime

Analyst access to MPS systems is still suspended across London, severely limiting our work, including the next Strategic Assessment.

Positive Diversion from Violence

Develop a local schedule of **intervention options taking account of available services**, including these in the VRU Diversion Directory. Include referral to the Your Choice CBT programme, where that is an appropriate option

NEW ACTION

Partnership support for Police applications for post-conviction Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO's) for repeat knife offenders, in order to create better levers for change, by **including positive requirements** in sentences and orders to support the opportunity for change.

NEW ACTION

Probation Service bespoke license conditions for violent offenders should include opportunities for **ETE, housing** and to complete **interventions** within the new probation model **specifically related to reducing the risk of violence, weapon offending and improved personal well-being**.

New programmes available in the borough:

Men and Masculinities – an accredited 24 week perpetrators Programme, delivered by Cranstoun to **deepen men's understanding of themselves and their relationships**. It is **free** and accessible **for any perpetrator** who is aware that their relationships have become distressing and damaged by their **substance misuse, abusive behaviour, violence or issues of coercive control**.

GPS Tagging

to **identify and respond to patterns of domestic abuse at an earlier stage for families**, this includes **access to alternative** accommodation for the abusive parent where required, ensuring that child and adult victim-survivors remain safe at home with space for action.

Positive requirements are implemented well for IOM nominals, as are CBOs. In other areas we do not see CBOs used as consistently (gangs, YJS); this is likely due to court delays as well as lack of resources to complete them. Council teams can provide evidence but are not trained to write CBO applications.

Knife crime tagging has now ended; However, GPS tagging can still be used with relevant violent offenders. Probation service uses the EPF2 tool to identify and imposed appropriate licence conditions on those leaving custody.

Positive Diversion from Violence

NEW ACTION

Use the **new London IOM framework**, which focuses partner agencies on **persistent, violent offenders** who pose at least a **medium risk of violent reoffending as the core/fixed IOM cohort**

The Havering IOM has a very proactive multi agency team which is supported by a wide verity of stakeholders. **Recent pan London referral criteria changes will enable more violent offenders are considered for the scheme.** Anyone with a Violence Score (OVP) of +30% and a reoffending score (OGRS) of +75% will be considered for the scheme. There is flexibility to take on persistent offenders outside of the stated criteria if a solid evidence based argument can be made. The changes should enable more youth-adult transition cases linked to serious youth violence. **Going forward the council and partners should consider letting 18-25s' on the IOM to have access to their existing mentoring services or build this into commissioning contracts of new mentoring services.**

Whilst information sharing is good, the introduction of the ECINS pilot should improve this further, allowing stakeholders to exchange information on one platform. Training is taking place in October, with a rollout starting in November.

NEW ACTION

Co-ordination between **Probation and other partners to ensure robust pre-release plans**, in order to provide support for a **positive transition** from secured estate **back into the community.**

Planning meetings with housing take place 6 months prior to release, around homeless prevention. Prison visits from probation officers and social workers, beginning 6 months prior to release. **Closer work between DWP, probation and prisons is taking place around access to Universal Credit, employment, training post-release.**

The probation service unified in June 2021 bringing together the CRC and NPS into one organisation. Pre release work continues with work to improve the timeframe of when this occurs, especially for longer term prisoners.

Commissioned rehabilitation service and through the gate services are in place to assist with pre release planning especially in terms of duty to refer to housing. **Funding was provided to improve the through the gate provision with drug treatment however, the communications in this area still require work.**

Statutory functions such as MAPPA are in place to assist with unified approach to release planning of high and very high harm offenders.

Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability

NEW ACTION

Provide **front line staff within partner agencies with trauma and attachment training**, in order **to support practitioners working with young people to understand the 'Trauma Informed Approach'**. This approach informs staff of how trauma in early life may affect current behaviour.

NEW ACTION

Ensure there is a **robust mechanism to identify and manage any risk when young people move to different areas** by including effective handover between agencies.

The Havering Adolescent Safeguarding Team offer training and 1:1 case consultations to professionals, to support them to understand the trauma-informed approach.

Mentors on the council mentoring service recently received trauma-informed training as part of their CPD.

Exporting young people: where an individual is open to social care or YJS, the case worker will inform the new area that the young person is being moved there, and pass on any information requested.

Where young people are coming into borough, **the information shared and handover varies significantly depending on the location**; this has previously been identified as a blockage through MACE. Community Safety have met with Lambeth and other partners over a specific piece of work being completed in this area.

Protecting & Educating

NEW ACTION:

A clear partnership response to identifying, assessing and responding to extra-familial harm is documented within a safeguarding partnership strategy; tools to effectively deliver the strategy are available to practitioners and professionals as recommended by Ofsted.

NEW ACTION:

Adoption/promotion of initiatives (such as a school watch) to promote safe journeys to/from school for children and young people.

The Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy Board is now in place and meets quarterly, chaired by Robert South. There is a partnership Action Plan that is reviewed at each meeting and updated accordingly. A new Contextual Safeguarding Risks and Vulnerability Indicators Tool has been developed, to be embedded in LCS/EHM for internal purposes and then a digital version on our webpage for external partners. Once it is working and checked – this will roll out with some training. The aim of the new tool is to replace out of date risk tools, and create a standardised tool that helps professionals identify exploitation risks, with clear pathways for support.

Safer Schools Officers are deployed to hotspots areas after school, to ensure safe journeys; this is largely focused on Romford Town Centre as a key transport hub and area young people look to socialise after school. Many schools have been reluctant to sign up to a school watch, due to the fact there are some areas of it they do not feel comfortable with (eg students patrolling routes to / from school) however the majority of schools do have some sort of after school plan with teachers being posted outside school.

No School Watch for the colleges is in place but they work closely with Safer Schools Officers and NPT to police the local routes at college leaving times. Practical and Personal safety is covered by progress coaches during 1:1s. In colleges, the Community Liaison SPOC attends community meetings, feeds back any issues or safety concerns linked to the college and these are acted on to try and reduce tensions and issues in the community..

NEW ACTION:

Work to ensure locations such as parks, shopping centres, fast food outlets etc are safe places for children and young people.

Our detached outreach team continue to focus on parks, shopping centres and fast food outlets that have been identified as locations of concern through local intelligence; we also successfully applied to the Serious Incident Fund to increase detached outreach provision around one specific park, following an uptick in SYV activity.

Discussions are ongoing for a new dedicated youth space in Romford Town Centre.

The current refresh of CCTV systems and stock includes a review of camera locations; this will include locations of concern for young people's safety, as identified through local intelligence and in direct consultation with young people through our panels and the Safer Streets Map.

Protecting & Educating – New Actions

NEW ACTION:

Recognising the key role of **parents** and **carers**, and the extensive evidence on benefits of parental support and **education**, clear socio-education offer on local risks and themes relating to youth violence (in particular, **grooming, exploitation and healthy relationships**) as part of an effective prevention offer for young people

NEW ACTION:

Supporting **the transition from Primary to Secondary School**, through programmes that introduce year 6 pupils to their new school and provide mentoring and pastoral support (e.g. Stepping Stones)

NEW ACTION:

Local safeguarding partnerships coordinate efforts to ensure local **Early Help processes and referral pathways**, and everyone's role within them, are clear and easily accessible to parents/carers, schools, PRUs and college staff.

NEW ACTION:

Demonstrable consideration by safeguarding and the community safety partnership of **parental engagement** approach; active strategies for engagement, including socio-education offer, across key partners especially education settings.

NEW ACTION:

Support key transition stages in a young person life that can increase their vulnerability (changing schools, returning to education from young offenders institution; leaving care)

NEW ACTION:

Bespoke **support for students in PRU's/AP**, including mentoring and transition back into mainstream education or on to further education, training, employment (e.g VRU PRU mentoring scheme)

Analysis and Enforcement – New Actions

NEW ACTION:

Police tactical plan to be maintained to record, monitor and review key police tactical interventions and activity in support of the Violent Crime Task Force and local Violence Suppression Unit.

NEW ACTION:

Conduct analysis to understand the **disproportionate impact of violence** within local communities and groups

NEW ACTION:

Contact & utilise the expertise of Local Council & Police **Licensing** Teams in order to mitigate risk around venues associated with violence.