

MAYOR OF LONDON

Violence Reduction Unit

2021 Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan – Explanatory Notes

Context

The VRU have worked closely with each of the 32 London boroughs to galvanise good practice and partnership through local Community Safety Partnership Violence Reduction Action Plans. Supported by the police, these plans have moved from a focus on limited enforcement objectives to a much more expansive public health remit exploring issues around vulnerability, exploitation, and safeguarding.

The different profiles of violence in each borough (and often within different parts of the same borough) means that a one size fits all approach will not work. As such, practice needs to be shaped by the local profile of violence, service configuration and needs of local communities.

Whilst CSP work to reduce violence needs to be tailored to local need, it is important that this is balanced with the benefits of identifying and sharing good practice, challenges, innovation and emerging themes, that comes from consistency in practice across London, wherever possible.

The VRU with the Metropolitan Police and boroughs, devised a single action plan template for London to ensure consistency and a range of actions that support a public health approach to violence reduction. This enables each CSP to tailor its violence reduction work to the local violence profile, needs of communities and local service best practice.

The action plan template was updated in 2020, to reflect a broader public health approach to violence reduction, with additional emphasis on early years prevention, safeguarding, school inclusion and community involvement. The updates have been incremental and allowed boroughs to reflect on and update their existing violence reduction activity.

The VRU has reviewed the template in 2021 to ensure that the actions remain up-to-date and have a focus on violence, vulnerability and a public health multi-agency approach.

The plan template contains 7 different themes each with a set of mandatory actions as well as a menu of optional actions contained within a separate tab:

1. **Governance**- this provides an oversight of the leadership and governance of violence locally, detailing the senior leadership structure as well as collaboration between Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reduce violence

2. **Analysis and Enforcement**- understanding of how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally, including the Strategic Needs Assessment, monthly tasking meetings and using ISTV and wider public health data.
3. **Reducing Access to Weapons**- how partners are working jointly to minimise access including using Trading Standard initiatives and weapons sweeps
4. **Safeguarding and Educating Young people**- the most detailed section within the plan that contains actions that include focussing on reducing exclusions, support for children in care and care leavers, working with parents and carers and ensuring schools are safe and inclusive spaces.
5. **Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence**- ensuring that local delivery works closely with communities to reduce violence including VCS.
6. **Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability**- ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable.
7. **Positive Diversion from Violence**- recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them before or to move away from criminality.

Completing the Action Plan Template:

As a result of consultation, the Government intends to bring forward primary legislation to create a new duty on organisations to collaborate, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence.

In recognition of the important role of Community Safety Partnerships in this context, they also intend to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships.

The action plan template as updated, provides a straightforward way for a CSP to set out how the serious violence duty will be complied with and how it is being prioritised.

Local plans should now be refreshed using the revised template and submitted to the VRU mailbox VRU@london.gov.uk by **Friday 10th of December 2021 at the latest.**

The VRU held a partnership learning session on 28th of September and will also be available for individual discussion and support with each borough, through the re-fresh period.

To ensure there is consistency across all Local Authorities when completing the plans, below are some pointers as what each section should contain:

- Outcomes provided for all actions including baselines where suitable- this provides insight into what the overall aim is.
- Named leads included for all actions to ensure there is accountability and ownership of the actions.
- Start/End dates to be included to indicate length of the action. Where is this not determined estimates can be given.
- Progress of each action to date including update on outcomes.

- Comments to include any further relevant information (where suitable) e.g. if any reviews are going to be completed of the work, or the rationale as to why an action will not be undertaken
- Supporting documents can be referenced to provide further understanding/awareness and how linked to the actions e.g. strategic documents.
- RAG status of all actions to show progress to date and to indicate which actions require attention.

The local partnership plans are important evidence to support the forthcoming statutory duty and as such should be reviewed at regular intervals by the partnership.

Local Leadership

As the plans will support compliance with a statutory duty, it is important that the elected borough Leader or Mayor, Chief Executive and police BCU Commander are fully sighted on the partnership activity contained within the plan

Therefore, all three should electronically sign the below proforma and return it with the completed plan.

Local Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan Sign Off

As part of the action plan submission, please sign the below boxes to confirm that you have reviewed the local violence and vulnerability reduction action plan.

Local Authority Chief Executive

Name

Date.....

Signature.....

Leader of the Council/Elected Mayor

Name

Date.....

Signature.....

Police BCU Commander

Name

Date.....

Signature.....