



## CABINET

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Subject Heading:**

**Serious Violence Duty Strategy**

**Cabinet Member:**

Cllr Barry Mugglestone

**SLT Lead:**

Helen Oakerbee

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**Policy context:**

***The council has a statutory duty under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to publish a Serious Violence Strategy. The Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-2025 identifies addressing serious violence as a key objective within multiple strategic priorities.***

**Financial summary:**

*There are no financial implications associated with recommending the Strategy for approval. It is envisaged the strategy will be implemented within existing budgets/grant funding available. Any issues arising will be raised through the appropriate channels as needs arise.*

**Is this a Key Decision?**

*Significant effect on two or more Wards*

**When should this matter be reviewed?**

*January 2025*

**Reviewing OSC:**

*Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee*

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

People - Things that matter for residents

X

**Cabinet, 13 December 2023**

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy X

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

**SUMMARY**

*The Serious Violence Strategy focuses on addressing serious violence, including youth violence and exploitation, weapon-enabled crime, domestic and sexual violence. A thorough Strategic Needs Assessment has been completed to drive our actions to prevent and reduce violence over the next three years.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Cabinet approve the Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-2027.

**REPORT DETAIL**

1.1 This Strategy document has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

1.2 The duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), and production of a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.

1.3 A thorough needs assessment has been completed by a multi-agency working group of analysts; a summary is included within the Serious Violence Strategy. There is no requirement under the duty that we publish the full needs assessment; this will be made available to professionals and organisations working in the borough where requested.

1.4 The needs assessment outlines the key findings, gaps and makes five recommendations for tackling violence in the borough. These, and the views of the partnership gathered through a workshop in September 2023 have driven the eight initial actions set in the strategy. These are as follows:

**Objective 1: Governance**

Embed Monitoring of the Serious Violence Strategy and Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan in the newly formed Serious Violence Working Group.

**Objective 2: Analysis and Enforcement**

Develop a targeted plan to address violence and exploitation during the 'lost hours' in Romford Town Centre. ('Lost hours' – children finishing schools and parents getting home from work 3pm-7pm)

**Objective 3: Reducing Access to Weapons**

Develop a robust new communications plan around weapon carrying

**Objective 4: Safeguarding and Educating Young People**

Maximise uptake of existing underused programmes available in Havering, including Rescue & Response, Victims Support.

**Objective 5: Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence**

Capture community voice through a new series of police-led community meetings.

**Objective 6: Supporting Victims of Violence or Vulnerability**

Review victims support offer locally and how this information is shared with partners and the public.

**Objective 7: Positive Diversion from Violence**

Review the Adolescent Safeguarding Offer in Havering

**Objective 8: Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls**

Undertake a review of the Domestic Violence MARAC in Havering

1.5 The above actions will be reviewed in 12 months, with updates incorporated and new actions set. This Strategy document forms the structure of the partnership's approach to reducing violence over the next three years; different sections of the strategy will be reviewed and revised on a range of time frames, to balance a responsive approach with long-term planning.

**2.0 Consulting with Multi Agency Partners and Stakeholders**

2.1 Numerous internal departments from the London Borough of Havering were involved in the development of the SNA and consulted through the Serious Violence Multi-Agency Workshop including:

- Public Health
- Education, admissions and inclusions
- Youth Services
- Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Services
- Children's Services: Assessment, Early Help, MASH

## **Cabinet, 13 December 2023**

- Licencing
- Trading Standards
- Enforcement
- Youth Justice Service
- Equalities
- Communications
- Local Area Coordinators

2.2 The following external partners were also consulted through the Multi-Agency Workshop.

- London Probation Service
- British Transport Police
- Change Grow Live (Local substance misuse services provider)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Havering Safer Neighbourhood Board
- Havering Women's Aid
- Local Providers of Alternative Education Provision (Koru, Olive, BEP)
- Metropolitan Police Service
- National Probation Service
- New City College
- North East London NHS Foundation Trust
- The Havering Compact
- Voluntary Sector Organisations (LifeLine Projects, Box-Up Crime, Youth Unity CIC)

2.3 Partners were asked to feed back on the findings of the needs assessment, and contribute to the development of the Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan and the Serious Violence Strategy.

2.4 Support around data collection took place during February 2023- September 2023. Further consultation was conducted through a full day Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Responses were collected through the table facilitator during the desk exercises, and these comments have been incorporated into the actions outlined in the strategy. They will also form the bulk of the content for the Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan pending the next template in Spring 2024.

2.5 A feedback form was also distributed to workshop attendees. From a total of 22 responses so far:

- 95% of participants agreed that 'The Serious Violence Workshop offered a good opportunity to learn, contribute and network'
- 91% of partners agreed that 'The presentations in the morning were a good representation of the local picture of serious violence'. 55% of partners strongly agreed with this statement.

### **3.0 Havering Serious Violence Duty – Education Authorities Consultation**

#### **Legal Requirement**

3.1 In recognition of the vital role schools play in safeguarding children and young people, educational institutions must be consulted by the specified authorities in the preparation of the strategy. The relevant educational authorities listed in Schedule 2 are:

- Governing bodies of all maintained schools
- Proprietors of all Academies and Alternative Provision
- Proprietors of non-maintained special schools
- Proprietors of independent educational institutions
- Management Committee of a PRU

#### **Consultation Process**

3.2 A consultation was opened on the Serious Violence Duty Strategy for four weeks, from 10<sup>th</sup> October-7<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This was made available to all educational authorities in the borough, as well as members of the Community Safety Partnership. A total of three responses were received; one from a Primary School Federation and two from a Secondary School Academy in the borough.

#### **Responses**

1	Anonymous	Appendix 2 figures and data is helpful to look at the contextual safeguarding risks in Havering. Appendix 1 risk and protective factors data is useful. Can more work be done in schools in Havering to support the roll out of this strategy? Will SSO be delivering more staff/students workshops around community awareness? (SSO – Safer Schools Officer)
2	Anonymous	We have a high number of MARFs so it is important that the support from agencies is ready and accessible (MARF – Multi Agency Referral Form)
3	Anonymous	I agree with the strategy and the actions and objectives to reduce violence within our communities. Violence has a negative impact on the development of our pupils and effects the whole family if they have been exposed to violence.

#### **Changes Due to Consultation Responses**

3.3 No substantial changes have been made to the strategy following this consultation. Consideration will be given to how the strategy will be presented to schools as per response one. It is hoped that development of an improved directory of services as per action six of the strategy itself will improve access to information as per response two.

## **REASONS AND OPTIONS**

The Council and other statutory partners have a responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to address crime and disorder within the borough. As of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, there are now additional obligations under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to publish a Serious Violence Strategy to meet the Serious Violence Duty.

### **Reasons for the decision:**

There is a requirement that a strategy is completed and published by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

This is the first Serious Violence Strategy published under the duty. It sets out the plans and actions that the partnership aspires to as a result of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, an analysis of serious violence in the borough over the last two years. The Strategy also ensures that we are compliant with the Government agenda and that we maximise all available resources available to the borough.

### **Other options considered:**

Not to complete a strategy. This was considered but rejected given the legal requirement to comply with the serious violence duty, as well the increasing risks and public interest in reducing violence.

## **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

### **Financial implications and risks:**

- 1.1. There are no financial implications arising from recommending the strategy for approval and/or from its approval. Whilst implementation of the strategy will have financial implications the expectation is that this will be met from within existing resources. Any issues arising would be addressed through the Council's usual budget monitoring processes.
- 1.2. Funding for violence reduction in Havering comes from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) through the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).
- 1.3. Any funding received will be governed and coordinated by the Community Safety Partnership via the newly formed Violence Reduction Strategic Group. Current funding arrangements are detailed in the following table.

**Cabinet, 13 December 2023**

Source of fund	Description of activity	Funding breakdown (if possible)	2023-2024	2024-2025
MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-25	Violence Reduction Analyst Provision	Provision of a Violence Reduction Analyst	45,000	45,000
Havering Council	IDVA provision	Provision of a Full Time IDVA	45,000	45,000
MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-25	IDVA provision	Provision of 2 full time IDVAs	85,000	85,000
MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-25	Serious Youth Violence Mentoring Service	Commissioned Mentoring Service, ages 11-25	60,000	60,000
Probation Service	Serious Youth Violence Mentoring Service	Commissioned Mentoring Service, ages 11-25	10,000	10,000
MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit Funding	Night Marshalls Service	Commissioned Night Marshalls Service, Romford Town Centre	50,000	50,000
Business Improvement District	Street Triage Service	Commissioned First Aid/Triage Service, Romford Town Centre	50,000	50,000
MOPAC Serious Violence Duty Funding	Serious Violence Analytic and Project Support	Provision of serious violence analytics and project support	20,232.36	19,260.43
MOPAC Serious Violence duty Funding	Youth Diversion Projects: Detached Work	Funded diversionary projects, Romford and Harold Hill	19,496.51	9,888.45
Safer Neighbourhood Board	Switch Futures: Young Voices Project	Funded Engagement Project, capturing youth voice around safety	2,950	-
Safer Neighbourhood Board	Crime Prevention Materials	Funded crime prevention materials for distribution across Havering	4,461	-

**Legal implications and risks:**

Under section 8 of the Police, Crime and Sentencing Act 2022 (PCSA) the Local Authority, the Police, Probation, the Youth Offending Service, the ICB and the Fire and Rescue Service have duties to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.



This includes a duty to plan together to exercise their functions so as to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

In particular, they must-

- (a) identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area,
- (b) identify the causes of serious violence in the area, so far as it is possible to do so, and
- (c) prepare and implement a strategy for exercising their functions to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

The Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-2025 seeks to comply with the duty to prepare a strategy.

The PCSA also includes a duty to consult on the Strategy with relevant bodies, which in the case of Havering relates only to all educational institutions in the area. The Strategy was consulted upon in line with the legislation with the three responses set out in the Report. None of these responses makes any representations about amending the strategy. There are therefore minimal risks in adopting the Strategy as recommended.

**Human Resources implications and risks:**

There are no HR implications in this decision.

**Equalities implications and risks:**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are: age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

The associated EqHIA is attached to this report - Appendix 2

## **Health and Wellbeing implications and Risks**

*Violence is one of the wider determinants of poor health and wellbeing, affecting all life stages. Exposure, exploitation and engagement in serious violence during childhood and adolescence not only has severe and immediate health consequences, in the form of physical harm and the exacerbation of mental illness, but the resulting emotional trauma, disengagement from education and learning, and involvement in criminal activities that have long-term impacts. By diverting children and young people from serious violence, there is greater potential to avoid those negative consequences. Violence Strategy is not limited to visible violence and tackles domestic violence and violence against women and girls. The strategy also develops a public health approach that understands and addresses the root causes of serious violence by increasing opportunities for training, employment, education, housing and health.*

*A further breakdown on health implications and socioeconomic can be found within the Equality and Health Impact Assessment – Appendix 2*

## **Environmental and Climate Change Implications and Risks**

There is no real impact expected from the Serious Violence Strategy on the environment or climate.

To help minimise carbon emissions, workers/ staff will be encouraged to use public transport where possible.

## **APPENDICES**

***Appendix 1 - Serious Violence Strategy***

***Appendix 2 - Serious Violence Equality and Health Impact Assessment***

***Appendix 3 - Serious Violence Strategy Education Consultation***