

i-Decision

Introduction	
Type of request	EQHIA
Title	Serious Violence Strategy EQHIA
Directorate	Places
Project Manager/Responsible Officer	Chris Stannett
Conducted on	26/09/2023
Name	Chris Stannett
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EQHIA	
Type of activity	Strategy
Manager Name	Diane Egan
Manager Job Title	Community Safety and CCTV Manager
Manager service/directorate	Enforcement
Have you sought advice from the Corporate Policy & Diversity team and/or Public Health team	No
Reason for EQHIA	Does this activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon people (protected characteristics), Does the activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon any factors which determine people's health and wellbeing
There is impact on age	<p>(Positive)</p> <p>It is important to understand that someone's age will often dictate how an individual experiences or contributes towards violence and knife crime. Young children may be seen as having a lack of power, where older adults may be seen as frail. These groups may be more susceptible to victimization. Other areas such as peer influence and access to services also has a role to play.</p> <p>Recent census data show the number of children aged 18 and under has increased in Havering by 15.2% in the last decade. Greatly outpacing the</p>

4.8% in London and 3.9% in England, respectively. Havering now has a higher proportion of children aged 0-17 than 80% of local authorities in England.

Havering is ranked fairly low compared to other London boroughs for the number of violent related offences affecting under 25s. However Havering has the highest proportion of offences involving under 25's in London (50.4% of V&E cases involve at least one individual under 25)

In the Youth Justice System (YJS) Children aged 14 account for the highest number of offences - 31% of offences over the past five years. Offence type by age breaks down as follows:

11-13 Year Olds: Assault/Wounding (47%), Robbery (40%)

14 Year Olds: Robbery (45%), Assault/Wounding (33%)

15 Year Olds: Robbery (58%), Assault/Wounding (27%)

16 Year Olds: Robbery (41%), Assault/Wounding (39%), Criminal Damage (11%)

17 Year Olds: Robbery (46%), Assault/Wounding (35%)

1 in 5 offenders open to Adult probation services is 18-25, with an increasing number of them shown as open for violence, high risk of serious harm and drug offences.

According to the Crime Survey for England there were 14,032 aged 16-74 using illicit drugs in Havering. The highest proportion of users is of those aged 16-24 (21%) which equates to 5,282 people in Havering. These numbers are not reflected in users engaging with drugs services and receiving treatment. This shows a potential threat to child safety and is an unmet treatment need.

There is a constant overlap between individuals (particularly young women) who are sexually exploited, children that go missing, and nominals involved in gangs and serious group violence. As a result the

Havering Serious Group Violence Panel takes the cross-cutting nature of this work into consideration, and individuals that are regularly reported as missing or regularly linked to child sexual exploitation are discussed as an agenda item at the monthly panel meeting. As a result, the risk posed to both males and females is discussed, regardless of their role within the group.

Areas to focus on:

- More work is needed around thinking, behaviour, building better relationships (BBR) with under 25's for those on the periphery of the criminal justice system and those in it

- More work with courts and drugs services around addressing substance misuse and the underlying causes.

- Promote and engage more young people in substance treatment service.

- Need more resources for children and young people (youth services)

- More work and resources to focus on prevention of crime for young people.

- Increase in population means that there will be a greater need for more Pre-School, Primary/ Junior/ Secondary school and College places.

- Havering Serious Group violence panel takes note of young people up to the age of 25, who are either victims or perpetrators of crime and coming to attention for carrying weapons, violence, injured from an attack etc. Kept in scope and services offered to them to address underlying issues or trauma.

	<p>- WizeUp and CGL (Change, Grow, Live) is a service available for all young people and adults involved in substance misuse (Drugs or Alcohol).</p> <p>- Rescue and Response pan-London service is available for anyone under the age of 25 caught up within county lines and being exploited</p> <p>- Abianda pan-London service is available for young woman and girls affected by criminal exploitation and violence.</p>
<p>There is an impact on disability</p>	<p>(Positive)</p> <p>There is currently no sufficient data available for analysis in relation to disability and gangs.</p> <p>However it is widely recognized that there is a direct correlation between mental health and gangs. Public Health England produced “mental health needs of gang affiliated young people” 2015. Violence is an inherent part of gang culture and gang members are at increased risk of involvement in violence as both perpetrators and victims. Long-term exposure to violence is associated with psychological problems including depression, conduct disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder. Girls involved with gangs can be particularly vulnerable to mental health problems resulting from sexual and intimate partner violence.</p> <p>A study by “Coid, 2013” (comparable age group to the majority of Havering nominals on the SGV, Gangs and Knife Crime cohort) reveals that gang members are significantly more at risk of mental health problems compared to a non-violent male.</p> <p>The research found that for gang members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety disorders – 2 times higher risk • Psychosis – 4 times higher risk • Psychiatrist / mental health related admission – 8 times higher risk • Suicide attempt –13 times higher risk • Antisocial personality disorder – 57 times higher risk <p>The same study also revealed that the same males were also 16 times more likely to become drug dependent and 6 times more likely to become alcohol dependent. Possible explanations given by National Psychiatric Morbidity Survey for the overlapping of gangs membership and mental health are the same as those risk factors identified for mental health problems in childhood, which are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From low-income households • From families where parents are unemployed • From families where parents have low educational attainment • Are looked after by the local authority • Have disabilities (including learning disabilities) • From black and other ethnic minority groups • Are in the criminal justice system • Have a parent with a mental health problem • Are misusing substances • Are being abused/history of abuse <p>By understanding the points above and local authorities being aware of the effects of the risk factors on gang members. Gangs and serious group violence can be better addressed.</p>

	<p>Programmes such as home visiting, parenting programmes, preschool programmes and school-based social and emotional development programmes can protect children from the risk factors for gang involvement and poor mental health, including parental stress, exposure to violence and behavioural problems.</p> <p>A strong, collaborative approach that co-ordinates services across a wide range of organisations. Health services, local authorities, schools, criminal justice agencies and communities all have an important role to play in promoting healthy social and emotional development in children and young people.</p>
<p>There is an impact on sex</p>	<p>(Positive)</p> <p>Understanding how different sexes and genders are affected by Violence, Domestic violence and knife crime is important for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. It has been widely researched that sexes are disproportionately affected by violence, For Example Women and girls tend to experience higher rates of Domestic violence and be victims of intimate partner violence. Men on the other hand maybe be more likely to be involved in violent knife crime related offences.</p> <p>There are further power dynamics to consider, gender inequalities and societal norms can contribute to the perpetration and victimization of individuals. Traditional gender roles, expectations and attitudes towards masculinity and femininity can influence the prevalence and nature of violence.</p> <p>For Youth Justice Service (YJS) the most common offences amongst males are assault/ wounding (49%) and robbery (31%) and sexual offences 11%). Female offences were split between Assault/ wounding (75%) and Robbery (25%).</p> <p>Adult probations services show that 92% of their caseload is male, with 8% listed as female. This is also similar to that of the IOM (Integrated Offender Management) Cohort. Where you are looking at a 90% male 10% female ratio.</p> <p>82% of DV Victims in Havering are female, and 18% are male. There is also a tendency to under report DV. We have no evidence at the moment as to how the under reporting of DV would be split between male/female. Both numbers would be expected to increase.</p> <p>Going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refresh VAWG Strategy and look into a needs assessment and problem profile - IDVA Service (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) - Weekly DV MARAC - Havering Woman's Aid - Perpetrator programmes - Parenting Programmes - Clares Law Disclosures - Relationship Counselling
<p>There is an impact on ethnicity</p>	<p>(Neutral)</p> <p>Understanding the role of ethnicity and race is important as it does impact on</p>

	<p>violence, knife crime and domestic violence. Recognizing that there may be disparities in victimization, where some racial groups will experience higher rates of violence compared to others. Socioeconomic factors of ethnic groups need to be considered, factors which include being affected by poverty, having limited access to resources and opportunities etc. all have an effect. It should be further noted that discrimination and bias plays a big role. Racism, xenophobia and ethnic profiling can lead to an increased vulnerability as individuals will not want to access supportive resources or even seek justice.</p> <p>Ethnic Diversity is accelerating in Havering, however White British remains the most common ethnic group (66.5%), followed by Asian (10.7%), Other White (8.8%), Black (8.2%), Mixed (3.7%) and Other (2%)</p> <p>The general shape of the cohort when reviewing ethnicity has remained static for the past three years. Individuals from White backgrounds account for 50% of offences on average. Individuals from Black backgrounds have decreased over the past three years, to a low of 19% of the cohort in 2022 compared to 38% of the cohort in 2020. While this is a reduction relative to the cohort, this is still disproportionate to the number of individuals from black backgrounds living in Havering.</p> <p>With adult offenders, the data provided by Probation unfortunately is not able to differentiate between Havering and Barking & Dagenham. Whilst both boroughs demographics differ the main headlines suggest that according to rough borough profiles, the Black demographic is over represented at 30%, whilst the white demographic is under represented at 26%.</p> <p>The majority of DV enquiries for 2021 & 2022 are for victims of White ethnicity at over 70%. The proportion of DV enquiries for victims with an Asian ethnicity increased from 6.8% in 2021 to 14.5% in 2022 whereas those with a black ethnicity decreased from 8.5% in 2021 to 3.6% in 2022.</p> <p>Going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding cultural difference, and having services which cater for this. le from relationship advice through to cultural practices. - Be mindful that rapid changes in diversity could lead to an increase in victims of racist abuse (both children and adults) - Explore the reasons for a drop in black victims of DV. Possible need to increase the promotion of DV reporting within black communities in Havering.
<p>There is an impact on religion/ faith</p>	<p>(Neutral)</p> <p>There is currently no sufficient data available for analysis in relation to this protected Characteristic. However any intervention would be developed on a needs-led basis. Any identified issues or needs required by a person's faith or belief system would be respected and considered on an individual basis.</p> <p>It should be noted that religion and faith can play a significant role in reducing violence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moral and Ethical Guidance: Religious teachings often promote compassion, kindness and non-violence, providing a moral framework for individuals to follow.

2. **Community Support:** Religious institutions often serve as community hubs, offering support networks and resources for individuals and families in need. They can provide counselling, outreach programs and safe spaces for those affected by violence, helping to address the underlying issues and prevent future occurrences.
3. **Education and Awareness:** Many religious organisations prioritize educating their congregation/ followers about the consequences of violence and the importance of healthy relationships. By spreading awareness and emphasizing the value of peaceful interactions, they can contribute to reducing violence amongst youth and within the household.
4. **Restorative Justice:** Some religious traditions focus on forgiveness, reconciliation and restorative justice practices. By promoting alternatives to punitive measures, such as mediation and conflict resolution, religious communities can help address the root causes of violence and facilitate healing and growth for both the victims and perpetrators.

It is also important to be mindful of all perspectives and how religion or faith may have negative effects. Below are some point to consider:

1. **Gender roles and hierarchy:** Some religious teachings reinforce traditional gender roles and hierarchies, which can perpetuate inequality and contribute to domestic violence. For example, some religious texts may condone practices that limit women's autonomy and perpetuate beliefs in male superiority, leading to a power imbalance in relationships or the home.
2. **Discrimination and exclusion:** Religious beliefs and doctrines can sometimes be used to marginalize or exclude individuals or groups based on their personal characteristics (gender, sexual orientation, or economic status). This marginalisation can lead to feelings of resentment and injustice. Potentially fuelling violence or radicalisation amongst certain individuals.
3. **Views on punishment and discipline:** Some religious teachings may promoted harsh and punitive disciplinary methods, which could potentially influence the attitudes and behaviours of individuals involved in domestic violence. If individuals believe that violence is an acceptable form of punishments or control, it may increase the likelihood of abusive behaviour in the home.
4. **Stigmatization and shame:** Religious communities may impose strict moral codes and expectation, which can contribute to a culture of stigma and shame surrounding topics such as premarital sex, homosexuality or divorce. This can make it difficult for individuals experiencing violence or abusive relationships to seek help or support from their religious communities, further perpetuating the cycle of violence.
5. **Interpretation and Extremism:** In some cases, religious ideologies can be misinterpreted or manipulated to condone extremist beliefs or behaviours, which may include violence. Radicalization within religious

	<p>communities can pose a significant risk, particularly among vulnerable or impressionable youth who may be susceptible to extremist ideologies.</p> <p>It is important to note that these negative effects do not represent all religious beliefs and the majority promote peace, equality and support for victims of violence as mentioned above.</p> <p>Havering has an active faith based community, where the leaders from all different faiths groups come together to share best practice.</p> <p>Havering council jointly with the police and other partners regularly monitor extremism, radicalisation, hate crime etc. Individuals involved are worked with to de-escalate tensions, re-educate and re-integrate back into society.</p>
<p>There is an impact on sexual orientation</p>	<p>(Neutral)</p> <p>Any identified issues or needs pertaining to a person’s sexual orientation would be respected and considered on an individual basis. However, Gay or Bi-sexuality in the context of gangs is likely to generate stigma and distain, and can add mental pressure and have additional negativity on individuals who identify as such.</p> <p>Sexual orientation plays a significant role in shaping lived experiences of individuals, including their vulnerability to violence and their barriers they may face in accessing support. Some key points to consider are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased risk: Research suggests that LGBTQ+ youth may experience higher rates of violence compared to their heterosexual counterparts. This includes bullying, physical assaults and hate crimes. These experiences can result in negative mental health outcomes and higher risks of engaging in violence themselves. 2. Discrimination and stigma: Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia within society can contribute to an environment that fosters violence against LGBTQ+ individuals. The fear of rejection, discrimination and isolation may lead some youth to resort to aggression as a way to cope and protect themselves 3. Family Acceptance: LGBTQ+ youth who lack support or face rejection from their families tend to be at a higher risk of experiencing violence. Domestic violence rates can also be higher within same sex relationships, mainly due to societal stigma, internalized homophobia and a lack of understanding or acceptance. 4. Barriers to reporting: LGBTQ+ youth may face unique barriers when reporting incidents of violence or seeking support. These barriers may include mistrust in the criminal justice system, fear of discrimination, or limited access to LGBTQ+ friendly services that genuinely understand their needs. <p>It is important to understand all the barriers people face in order to reduce violence. Havering actively promotes FFLAG (Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), this is a national voluntary organisation and registered charity. They are dedicated to supporting parents and their children.</p>

<p>There is an impact on marriage/civil partnership</p>	<p>(Neutral)</p> <p>A young person may be adversely affected by being brought up in a family where the marriage/ relationship is broken , breaking down, domestic violence is taking place etc. In Havering the majority of domestic abuse takes place within relationships; 70% of suspects knew their victims as current or former spouses/ partner. Ex-boyfriends are the most common perpetrators.</p> <p>Understanding power dynamics: within intimate relationships it is important to understand the power dynamics and how this can influence control, coercion (persuading someone to do something by using threats or force), and abuse. This can be further compounded within the relationship due to legal and societal expectations associated with these institutions.</p> <p>Identification of barriers: Within marriage and civil partnerships where individuals are subject to violence, survivors may feel trapped or find it difficult to leave an abusive relationship. This can be down to societal pressure, financial dependence, fear of judgement, stigma associated with the dissolution of a marriage or partnership.</p> <p>Intersectionality: Considering how other factors such as race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status impact upon marriage and civil partnership. Marginalized groups may face unique challenges and discrimination when accessing support or reporting abuse within these relationships.</p> <p>Support services: With the fast changing demographics in Havering it is important to evaluate the availability and accessibility of support services for survivors of abuse within this characteristic. Havering need to make sure that services on offer in the borough can adequately address the needs and concerns of those legally recognised as in a relationship.</p> <p>Cultural and religious factors: It is important to understand how cultural or religious beliefs and practices associated within a marriage or civil partnership may influence the experiences of violence and abuse. It is important to challenge harmful norms, taking into account the diverse cultural and religious backgrounds of those affected.</p> <p>Prevention and education: Running public awareness campaigns, educational programs, community engagement initiatives help to address this issues.</p>
<p>There is an impact on pregnancy, maternity and paternity</p>	<p>(Neutral)</p> <p>We do not have data on pregnancy/ maternity and paternity in relation to youth violence and domestic abuse. However when thinking of this protected characteristic within the context of violence it is important to consider the following:</p> <p>Parental responsibilities: It is important to examine what challenges are faced by parents in balancing their parental duties with their involvement in violent or abusive behaviours. Furthermore there is a need to evaluate the potential impact on child welfare and the need to provide appropriate support and interventions to ensure the wellbeing of children.</p> <p>Maternity and Pregnancy: For those affected by violence and abuse what are</p>

	<p>the specific risks they face in their settings. For example is it increased physical harm, emotional distress, limited access to healthcare and support? Also what is the potential impact on the unborn child? are there any additional risks which they may be exposed to. For example there is an increased risk of miscarriage, infection, premature birth, and injury or death to the baby. Additional stress and anxiety can affect the development of the baby.</p> <p>Paternity and fatherhood: It is important to understand what role the father or expectant father has in relation to violence, youth violence, sexual assault or domestic abuse. As this will dictate their access level to the child.</p> <p>It is also important to recognise the importance of engaging fathers and addressing their rights, responsibilities and support needs. It is further important to consider the potential role fathers can play as not only protective factors but also as positive role models in the prevention and intervention against violence.</p> <p>Access to support and services: It is important to make sure that there is availability and accessibility of services to pregnant individuals, fathers and parents. Trying to remove or unblock any barriers which they may find in accessing healthcare, counselling, legal aid, or anything else. Also taking into account factors such as language, cultural sensitivities and trauma informed approaches.</p> <p>Promoting equality and positive role models: It is important that Havering works to promote gender equality and challenge harmful gender norms that can contribute to violence and abuse. Having a diverse range of representation and experiences is important to ensure inclusivity and the acknowledgment of different family contexts. For example including same sex couples, single parents, non-biological parents etc. Havering should be working toward promoting positive role models that challenge harmful gender stereotypes and encourage healthy relationships and parenting.</p> <p>By considering the role of maternity, paternity and pregnancy in the context of violence and domestic abuse it is possible to develop more comprehensive strategies and interventions that address the unique needs of pregnant individuals, fathers and parents.</p>
<p>There is an impact on socio-economic</p>	<p>(Positive)</p> <p>By being aware of and addressing simultaneously the factors below, will help to effectively guide and develop a comprehensive strategy that can combat youth violence and exploitation in Havering.</p> <p>Poverty: Areas of the borough where there are higher levels of poverty can create an environment wherein youth are more vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Lack of Economic opportunities and resources can push young people into illegal activities or subject them to exploitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making sure that areas of poverty receive extra support, individuals in poverty are assisted in benefits maximisation etc. <p>Education: Limited access to quality education or low educational attainment can increase the likelihood of young people engaging in violent behaviour or</p>

being targeted for exploitation. Providing educational opportunities and skills training can be vital in preventing these issues.

- Ensuring children are not permanently excluded but supported to stay in education. Making sure children are not hungry at school in order to be able to concentrate and achieve

Unemployment: Unemployment rates among youth can contribute to a sense of hopelessness and desperation, leading some to resort to violence or to be coerced into exploitation. Strategies that focus on job creation and addressing barriers to employment are necessary to address these challenges.

Inequality: Societal inequality such as income inequality and discrimination, can exacerbate violence and exploitation. Disadvantaged individuals are often more susceptible to violence and exploitation, so efforts should be made to address systemic inequality and promote equality.

Family and community support: the availability of strong support networks within families and communities can play a protective role against violence and exploitation. Initiatives should aim to strengthen family structures, provide positive role models, and foster supportive communities for young people.

Substance abuse and mental health: Substance abuse and mental health issues can contribute to youth violence and exploitation. Implementing prevention and intervention programs that address these issues, along with access to appropriate treatment and support services are essential components of a comprehensive strategy.

- Increased focus on dual diagnosis (substance misuse and mental health) and simultaneously addressing both issues.

Access to services: Limited access to essential services such as healthcare, social welfare, counselling etc. can hinder young people's ability to escape violence or exploitation. Ensuring accessible and appropriate support services is crucial to providing assistance and protection for those affected.

- All age MASH acting as a front door to signposting. Being proactive to offer support not only straight after an event, but several months later.

Cultural and social norms: Cultural and social norms which condone violence, exploitation or gender based discrimination can perpetuate these issues.

Efforts to challenge harmful norms and promote positive, inclusive values and attitudes are essential.

- Adopting policies and practices that create safe and supportive environments and at the same time challenging harmful norms within schools, work, public sector etc. Focusing on supporting individuals to rebuild their understanding and attitudes.

- Community events focusing on Police stop and search. Emphasising on why it is done, how it should be done and your personal rights. Enabling open and honest 2 way dialogue between the community and law

There is an impact on gender

(Neutral)

Any identified issues or needs pertaining to gender reassignment would be

	<p>Respected and considered on an individual basis. Gender reassignment in the context of gangs is likely to generate stigma and distain and can add mental pressure and additional negative impact upon individuals concerned.</p>
<p>There is an impact on Health</p>	<p>(Positive)</p> <p>Youth violence and exploitation are serious issues that affect health and wellbeing of young people and their families and communities. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), youth violence is linked to negative health and wellbeing outcomes and disproportionately impacts on communities of colour. Violence increases the risk for behavioural and mental health difficulties, such as, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicide. It also increases the risk for physical injuries, disabilities and chronic diseases.</p> <p>The violence reduction strategy should aim to prevent, reduce and respond to these harms by addressing the root causes and risk factors that contribute to them. A public health approach to tackling violence involves understanding the drivers of youth violence and gang involvement, such as adverse childhood experiences, lack of youth support and mental health services and socioeconomic deprivation (as listed above). Local structures have been developed in order to discuss and respond to youth violence. This includes multi-agency partnerships, data sharing and community engagement. Providing funding for preventative work such as early intervention, education, monitoring and diversion programs is key.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting family environment and supporting healthy development is done through approaches such as early childhood visitations or parenting skills/ family relationship programs (Ie strengthening families, strengthening communities) - Connecting youth to caring adults and activities is achieved through mentoring programs and afterschool programmes.
<p>There is an impact on social cohesion</p>	<p>(Positive)</p> <p>It is important to understand how underlying factors can contribute to the fragmentation of communities and marginalisation of certain groups within the Borough.</p> <p>Violent incidents can create fear, mistrust and tension amongst community members. This creates Division and Fragmentation which can lead to isolation and a breakdown in social connections.</p> <p>The presence of youth violence and domestic violence can create a climate of fear and intimidation within communities. Individuals may feel unsafe and insecure, impacting on their ability to interact with others.</p> <p>Communities may experience stigmatization and marginalisation. Negative stereotypes and prejudices associated with violence can lead to the isolation and exclusion of individuals, particularly survivors and their families.</p> <p>Traumatic effects of violence may cause individuals to come off of social media. Individuals may start to withdraw, lose trust in others and find it hard to sustain social connections.</p> <p>Violence within a community can weaken social capital (shared values,</p>

	<p>norms and trust that foster cooperation). and as a result weaken community efforts to address issues collectively.</p> <p>Community resilience is key to addressing youth violence and domestic violence within the community. Having organizations, social support structures and local resources helps to mitigate the impact of violence and fosters resilience and cohesion.</p> <p>In Havering we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community engagement events - Social cohesion Strategy - Multi agency community outreach events - Sports work within hot spot areas - Public engagement forums - Safer Neighbourhood boards - Media engagements - Public diversions from crime and violence programs - detached outreach work in hot spot areas to build community trust
How frequently will the EQHIA be reviewed	To be reviewed annually, in line with the Serious Violence Duty Strategy. Anything that requires significant change will be brought up at the quarterly Violence Reduction Strategic Group.
Scheduled date of review	31/01/2025
Lead officer conducting the review	Chris Stannett