

Health and Wellbeing Board

7 September 2022

Serious Violence Prevention Strategy

Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to:

1. Endorse the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and will work collaboratively with the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board and Local Criminal Justice Board to support delivery of the strategic priorities set out in the strategy and delivery plan.
2. Endorse the adoption of a public health approach to serious violence prevention as set out in “A whole system multi agency approach to violence prevention”, published by Public Health England.
3. Work with lead officers across named statutory agencies to support the establishment of a delivery fund to ensure the objectives set out in Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy delivery plan are achieved and are affordable within current budgets/resources.
4. Work in partnership to develop a training and awareness programme for front line health practitioners on the Duty and how to identify and refer those at risk of serious violence.
5. Support the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board in the development of and response to Serious Weapon Homicide Reviews that are coming into force as part for the above act.

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 The Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a Statutory Duty for named partner agencies to address the root causes of serious violence. The duty incorporates the requirement for the following agencies to collaborate with each other to prevent and reduce serious violence which includes a duty to plan together to exercise their functions so as to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area (including domestic abuse and sexual offences). Each agency will be accountable for their activity and co-operation.

- Police,
- Local councils,
- Fire and Rescue
- Local health bodies and Integrated Care Boards, and
- National Probation Service

- 1.2 Education Authorities and Youth Offending Services must be consulted in the preparation of a local Serious Violence strategy and the strategy may direct them to carry out a particular action
- 1.3 In exercising their duty, each agency must identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in their area, identify (so far as it is possible to do so) the causes of that violence and prepare and implement a strategy for exercising their functions to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- 1.4 The Duty does not specify a 'lead' organisation or person whose responsibility is to coordinate activity or prescribe a structure within which specified authorities are expected to work. Draft government guidance on the Duty states that it is for the specified authorities to come together to decide on the appropriate lead and structure of collaboration for their area. The Duty is intended to create the right conditions for authorities to collaborate and communicate regularly, to use existing partnerships to share information and take effective coordinated action in their local areas.
- 1.5 The government narrative had been referred to as a "Public Health Approach" to serious violence prevention.
- 1.6 Public Health England, in its publication, "A whole system multi agency approach to violence prevention", sets out three levels of violence prevention:
 - primary prevention (preventing violence before it happens);
 - secondary prevention (an immediate response to instances of violence);
 - and
 - tertiary prevention (focusing on long term care and support).
- 1.7 Investment at a national level has been aligned to areas with high levels of serious violence.
- 1.8 Warwickshire's profile means that national funding has not been available to the county to develop the range of interventions to prevent serious violence. However, the county is surrounded by areas such as West Midlands, Coventry, Thames Valley and Leicestershire. As a result, Warwickshire has become a net importer of serious violence, often driven through the drug related criminality which fuels territory-based violence, personal feuds and violent conflict
- 1.9 It is recognised that prevention is at the core to any successful Public Health approach to violence reduction. It requires a long-term commitment by a range of agencies, individuals and communities to prevent the physical and psychological damage that violence can cause for individuals, families, our communities and wider society.
- 1.10 Taking a preventative approach will also support action towards all three Health and Wellbeing Board priorities, including *helping our children and young people have the best start in life*.

- 1.11 By adopting a long-term approach, predicated on public health and community safety outcomes, Warwickshire has a greater chance to deliver and support families and young people to prevent violence now and for future generations.
- 1.12 Interventions to address serious violence are defined as universal (aimed at a general population); selected (targeted at those more at risk); and indicated (targeted at those who use violence).
- 1.13 The Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model, which is set out in the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy (Appendix 1), combines these universal and selected interventions, supporting those most impacted by serious violence whilst creating a climate where serious violence is not tolerated, thereby protecting future generations.
- 1.14 The strategic priorities include this universal, selected and indicated approach with the objectives of:
- Preventing Violence before it happens.
 - Responding to emerging or immediate risks of serious violence.
 - Developing long term support within communities.
- 1.15 In preparing the Strategy the partner agencies are required to consult with each educational authority, prison authority and youth custody authority for the area and the relevant consultation has taken place. The Strategy which includes the Model as set out above, has also been shared across a wide range of partner agencies and adopted by the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board, including the Education Authority, Youth Justice Service and National Probation Service. The next step is the development of a multi-agency delivery plan, including the identification of resources, through the Integrated care System a Levelling up agenda to deliver key programmes.
- 1.16 The delivery plan will include how agencies work together to demonstrate that the Statutory Duty as set out above has been delivered. Officers are developing an Annual Assurance Statement that captures partnership activity.
- 1.17 The intention is that the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board will work with key stakeholders to maximise the resources available and, importantly, to use their influence across partner organisations to deliver the Serious Violence Prevention Model Strategy.
- 1.18 The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Serious Organised Crime Strategic Group will act as the lead group to agree the priorities and delivery plan to ensure that the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and Model is embedded and delivered.
- 1.19 A key part of demonstrating that the Statutory Duty is being met will be training of frontline practitioners to:
- Understand the duty and what it includes.
 - Recognise the signs related to a individual, group or family being affected by serious violence

- Where to get advice and support
 - Where to refer cases that a single agreed process.
- 1.20 Health partners are key in the development of the training and identifying key frontline staff who will benefit. This can cover a range of services across the health care sector from Family Nurse Practitioners, Local Maternity and Neonatal Services, to primary care and NHS Trusts.
- 1.21 In addition to the Statutory Duty set out above, The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 has introduced Serious Weapon Homicide Reviews. Where a review partner (which will be defined by the Secretary of State but is anticipated to include the Chief Officer of Police, a County and District Council and an Integrated Care Board or Local Health Board) considers that the death of a person was or is likely to have been a qualifying homicide which occurred in England or Wales then the review partner must join with other review partners to conduct a review into the person's death.
- 1.22 A qualifying homicide is one where the person was aged 18 or over and the death, or events surrounding it, involved the use of an offensive weapon. An offensive weapon includes but is not limited to knives, guns or corrosive substances.
- 1.23 Officers are currently working with colleague in the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit to undertake desk top exercises in the Autumn 2022 to ascertain how the requirement will be met and resources required.

2.0 Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no capital implications related to the delivery of the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.
- 2.2 There are revenue implications for delivery the Serious Violence Statutory Duty as set out on paragraph 2.7 below.
- 2.3 The Home Office will require partners to demonstrate how they have met the duty and the steps they have taken to both prevent and respond to the serious violence. This is best achieved by a co-ordinated, multi-agency, countywide approach.
- 2.4 Warwickshire County Council Community Safety Team will take the lead on behalf of partner agencies and use existing resources to provide an evidence base of the progress made in meeting the Statutory Duty.
- 2.5 However, there will be resource implications across all of the statutory partners to support:
- Training of frontline practitioners on the Serious Violence Duty, as set out above.

- Establishing a multi-agency commissioning fund to deliver serious violence intervention programmes, including;
 - a county wide mentoring provision,
 - addressing underlying health based causal factors such as trauma and adversity, chronic ill health, loss or bereavement,
 - developing specific support for 18-25year olds who are seeking a pathway away from violent conflict.
- 2.6 Lead officers within the local authority are seeking to establish a delivery fund, on behalf of all statutory partners, over a three-year period commencing April 2023, with a contribution from all named statutory partners, including Police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, Youth Offending Service, National Probation Service, Integrated Care Boards (ICB) and Education providers. The funding will ensure a collaborative approach in meeting the Statutory Duty to prevent and reduce serious violence across all named partners.
- 2.7 It is anticipated that a partnership commissioning fund in the region of £100-150,000 per annum will be required for a three-year period to deliver the key programmes set out in 2.5 above. Discussions are taking place with partner organisations to establish a commission fund and will continue through the rest of this financial year.
- 2.8 There will be no revenue implications to any organisation until the commissioning fund is established. Any spend will be limited to the fund available within each financial year.
- 2.9 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire has indicated a willingness to consider a match funding proposal if there is a strong indication from other statutory partners to equally contribute.
- 2.10 The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 set out a requirement for local authorities to carry out Serious Weapon Homicide Reviews for all cases of homicides of post 18year olds. The process for these reviews has not been determined. However, there will be a financial implication for partner agencies in meeting the requirements. Officers will aim to minimise the costs of these reviews and provide an update of the financial implications for the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year to the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.

3.0 Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None

4.0 Supporting Information

- 4.1 The supporting information is contained within the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, adopted by the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board in June 2022.

- 4.2 Whilst Warwickshire records significantly lower levels of knife and gun offences, the impact of drug markets through county lines is a growing issue, affecting a number of communities across the County. This is of particular concern in areas where there are high levels of health, societal, educational attainment, causal crime and safeguarding risk factors, or where those risk factors are increasing.
- 4.3 Analysis set out in the Strategy identifies Super Output areas which are most at risk of being impacted by serious violence. These areas mirror the emerging priorities for community safety partnership agencies.
- 4.4 Case study analysis has also identified a number of consistent underlying causal factors for those involved in serious violence. The analysis highlights the following commonalities:
- A history of domestic violence and/or abuse in the family.
 - Exposure to violence within their peer group and wider community.
 - Reference to substance misuse, whether personally or within the family.
 - Experience of bereavement or long-term chronic ill-health in the family.
 - Victimisation including victim of crime or bullying.

5.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 The Warwickshire Serious Violence delivery plan will be developing in the Autumn 2022. This will be led by the Warwickshire Serious and organised Crime Strategic Group
- 5.2 The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board is holding a multi-agency conference on 13th October to help shape the delivery plan and gain partnership support to establish a co-commissioning fund.
- 5.3 Officers will be developing the first Annual Assurance Statement in the Spring 2023, setting out how the Serious Violence Statutory Duty is being met.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy

Background Papers

1. Home Office - Serious Violence Duty Preventing and reducing serious violence Draft Guidance for responsible authorities - www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Cllr Andy Crump Councillors Drew, Golby, Holland and Rolfe.